The Pepperdine women’s tennis team will compete in the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament for the third straight year on Friday. The Waves, ranked eighth, will take on the top-ranked team from the West Coast, No. 1 North Carolina Tar Heels in Champaign, Ill. Pepperdine defeated the Tar Heels in the second round of the tournament’s semifinals last year.

The 21-6 Waves advanced to face No. 1 North Carolina thanks to their impressive 4-0 victory over ninth-ranked San Diego State in the Regionals on April 13 at Pepperdine’s Adkins-Moore Stadium.

Pepperdine grabbed an early lead over Miami in double play. Freshman Saman Sandhu and sophomore Janice Tsai grabbed a 6-2 win after the first four games were split between the squads. Then, graduate student Shiori Fukuda and fellow senior Tainaha Pachulla won their match 6-3.

Fukuda won all six of the doubles matches she played this season. Pachulla won her third consecutive tournament match 6-1, 6-0. Fukuda then won her sixth set 6-1, 6-1. Pachulla won her match 7-6 (2), 6-0 to cement the Waves’ victory. Tsai, junior, and graduate student Victoria Flores won in various stages of their matches when Pepperdine garnered the winning point.

Pepperdine defeated Denver 4-3 on April 15 and 4-3 the opening round of the tournament on May 6, 2021. This year, they beat USC 4-1 in the second round. Pepperdine’s men’s tennis squad is ranked 10th for the NCAA Tournament. The group beat Washington 4-0 in the opening round in Corvallis, Ore. However, on May 6, the Waves lost the next day to South Carolina’s Mountaineers. The squad concluded the season with an 18-8 record.

The winner of the Waves’/Tar Heels match will advance to the tournament semifinals. Pepperdine’s victory over North Carolina in 2021 propelled the Waves to the national championship match, which they lost to Texas. 

Zen Running Club hands out goodies after run canceled due to city’s safety concerns

“The race is on! We will have a 5K race starting at 7 a.m. Saturday, May 14, as we continue our run club events at the Malibu Farmers Market,” Race Director Erica Segel said. “We hope we have inspired a few people to go and move their body today and have some fun with us,” she said.

The 14th annual Run Malibu Half-Marathon 5K is scheduled for Nov. 5 and 6 at Zuma Beach. The Zen Running Club also started a collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club Malibu, a beneficiary of the half-marathon. For more information on the Half-Marathon, visit runmalibu.com.

INSPIRING WOMEN

Continued from B1

Why is general, the community events are important because others, you just invited,” Segel said. “One of the first things I did is that I wanted to partner up with a charity that was relevant to the community.”

Segel spoke passionately about the Boys & Girls Club, an organization that provides volun-
tary after-school programs to kids. Through the club, Segel met the club’s chief professional officer, Kayce Earment, and direc-
tor of community affairs and outreach, Stigen Constantza.

“They’re amazing women, and what they do for the community is unparalleled,” Segel said. “Like so many, I thought Why does Malibu need Boys & Girls Club? It’s a critical community.” But they were the ones that opened tenders stripped by the booth and had an op-
portunity to try on the plant-based sustainable pair of running shoes. The shoes are made from plant-based sustainable cotton.

Participants such as Morris J. Smyleh work with Erca Segel in creating prominent content and Segel said the event was filled with good energy.

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