By ROY ALLEN

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Seward County freshmen Ronzai Saurombe and Alejandro Gonzalez made history Saturday, becoming the first Saints tennis team in history to win a National Championship.

The pair cruised to the title match on Saturday, where they had no problem with third-seeded Fresno City College, winning 6-4, 6-2, to capture the 2013 ITA National Championship in Junior College Doubles.

Saurombe and Gonzalez were the most unexpected team to reach the finals after entering the tournament as the lowest seed.

The first set was a tight one between the Saints and the Rams, with the teams going back and forth to 3-3. A Seward break put them ahead 4-3.

Gonzalez held serve to put the Saints on top 5-3, but Fresno held their own to take the score to 5-4.

With Saurombe serving for the set, the Saints and Rams put on an epic display of endurance in a game that lasted 26 points and 10 dueces before Seward came out on top to take the set 6-4.

The Saints were on a roll in the second set, quickly breaking the Rams twice to take a 4-0 lead.

The championship was within reach.

The Saints took the score to 5-1, and were just one game away from a national title. Seward had a chance to break and take the match, but Fresno City held them off for the time being, making the score 5-2.

Serving for the match, Saurombe came up clutch, just as he has in nearly every match of his young Seward County career.

The Seward freshman held serve and won the game for the Saints, making Seward County the 2013 ITA National Champions of junior college doubles.

With their title in tow, the Saints then played in a unique event in which ITA organizers titled the Super Bowl.

The four small college champions (Junior College, NCAA Division II, NCAA Division III, and NAIA) champions would battle in a four team, winner take all tournament with an invite to the NCAA Division I National Tournament on the line.

The Saints freshmen duo of Saurombe and Gonzalez drew the NCAA Division III duo of Branter Jones and Palmer Campbell from Middlebury College in one half of the semifinal bracket.

The teams traded breaks early in the first set to 2-2 before Saurombe uncharacteristically was broken to give the Panthers a 3-2 lead.

The teams traded the next two games to 4-3, but Middlebury took the final two games of the set

to win 6-3.

The Saints couldn’t regain their momentum from earlier in the tournament, as they were broken two more times early in the second to fall behind 3-0.

Things didn’t get any better as the match came to a close. Saurombe and Gonzalez simply ran out of gas, falling 6-1 to end their weekend in Fort Myers.

Saurombe and Gonzalez entered the weekend as the first ever Seward County men’s players to earn a trip to the ITA National Tournament.

They came out of it as the first Seward tennis team on either the men’s or women’s side to earn a National Championship.

The pair improves to 14-2 together in their first fall in Liberal, and will look to bring home another championship on Oct. 25 and 26, when they travel to the Tabor Tournament to wrap up the Saints 2013 fall schedule.