

Serving Up VICTORY

SCREAM FOR YOUR TEAM

The team hangs out and says a cheer together before the start of a match. Joseph Gilley (10) said, "I enjoy conversations with friends before and after matches." Ben Konisky (10) said, "We are doing pretty well; I think [our record is] roughly 50 percent. Can't complain." Photo by Kelton O'Connell

GAME, SET, MATCH

Eric Shin (10) and Aiden Shin (12) are doubles partners. Eric Shin said, "I like to practice with my friends, compete with other schools, and be able to use skills that I have learned in practice." Photo by Lillian Ortiz

BASELINE TO VICTORY LINE

Noah Johnson (10) said, "My favorite memory from this tennis season, probably just winning a good game with my partners." Photo by Violetta Pryshchepova



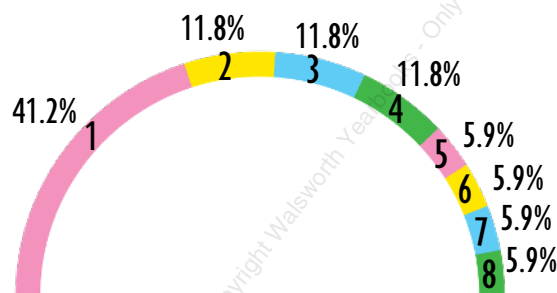
IT'S A HIT

Esteban Crespo (12) reaches for a ball mid-match. "My favorite part of being in tennis is probably hitting balls every day with my partner," Crespo said. He took a break from tennis for a year, and now he is getting back into it. Crespo said, "Getting back into it was hard, but it was fun." Before every match, Crespo has at least three bananas as a snack and drinks lots of water. Photo by Kelton O'Connell



Hit Me With Your Best Shot

Players' Favorite Shots



1. Forehand
2. Serve
3. Volley
4. Dropshot
5. Tweener
6. Backhand Slice
7. Forehand Slice
8. Cross-Court Forehand

MATCH POINT

Brady Murphy (11) prepares to receive a serve. He hits it back, with perfect form, and the competition continues. "My favorite part of being on tennis is probably competing," said Murphy. Photo by Laura Bars



NOT QUITE SERVING

Dev Chopra (9) just missed a serve. "I think it is important to remember that not every match will go the way you want, but it is important to not let that bring you down," Chopra said. Photo by Kelton O'Connell



SHAKE AND TAKE A BREAK

Henry Courtney (9) shakes his opponent's hand after a match. "I chose tennis as my sport to try something new and now I feel like it is a big part of my life," Courtney said. Photo by Kelton O'Connell

It's All About...

...our favorite pre-match snacks.

"The Jimmy John's they give us and a bunch of water."
Nico Luther (9)

"I really like pretzels, and also Goldfish crackers."
Aaryan Desai (10)



MORE THAN A TEAM

Community is something the boys' tennis team did not lack this season. In tennis, "love" means zero, but here we see it is more like infinity. The team sees each other as family; the moments each member likes the most are the ones when they can hang out, like the bus rides. Ben Konisky (10) said, "Favorite team member? I cannot pick. I love everyone on the team." Ezra Cakmak (11) said, "Everybody there supports each other. We are one; if somebody has a problem with another teammate, you talk it out, and you go back to being a unit."

This year's boys' tennis team became more than just simply teammates. They have formed a close-knit family bound by shared victories, tough losses, and the grind of daily practice. "Tennis is my main extracurricular, so it is where I socialize and where I met most of my friends," Esteban Crespo (12) said. Off the court, the team spent countless

hours studying, laughing, and supporting each other through life. Chris Estivill-Kilmer (11) said, "My favorite part of being in tennis is just being part of the team and building relationships."

As the season came to a close, the team reflected not only on their wins, but on the friendships and memories they built along the way. "Everyone is very supportive of each other, especially this year, because most of the team is on almost the same skill level," Hersh Patel (11) said.

Kannan Truong (9) agreed with this sentiment and said, "I really like playing with my teammates."

This year boys had a lot of matches. Kiptyn Hanna (9) said, "My favorite match, was our first match. We were riding the bus and that was just a fun experience."

Navid Safi (9) added, "I liked our first match, that was very fun and I won."

It is clear that the team put 'unity' in 'community,' and they were the highlights of each other's lives.

Story by Laura Bars and Violetta Pryshchepova

"My favorite snack before a match is bananas."
Ian Liou (11)

"I just like to carbo-load: eat a lot of carbs."
Leo Yonkman (12)

"Oranges, because they are hydrating and give me energy."
Omid Safi (10)

Power Players

Who Is Your Favorite
Professional Tennis Player?

"Nick Kyrgios"
Henry Courtney (9)

"Novak Djokovic"
Leo Yonkman (12)

"Nick Kyrgios"
Kannan Truong (9)

"Roger Federer"
Aaryan Desai (10)

"Probably [Roger] Federer"
Leo Yonkman (12)

UP AND OVER

Hersh Patel (11) reaches for the ball with his racket mid-match. It is an action he's been performing for years. "I have been playing [tennis] since childhood," Patel said. After hitting back the ball, he smiles and the match continues.

Photo by Kelton O'Connell



FOR THE WIN

Ramsey Mills (11) is celebrating after winning a point. Winning is something he is on track to do for quite a while, it seems. "I chose tennis because it's one of the most healthiest sports you can play, and it is more of a lifelong sport," Mills said.

Photo by Kelton O'Connell



Boys Tennis | Laura Bars, Violetta Pryshchepova