



TENNIS

by Miles Herrera '24

Morgan Schilling *Back-to-Back State Champion*

Two years ago, the Regis Jesuit tennis team looked like they were unstoppable when they won a high school Colorado State Championship. They were so dominant that they won the following year, winning back to back Colorado State Championships. The team was led by one of Colorado's best tennis players, Morgan Schilling '21. Schilling is a four-star recruit and is currently ranked as the 101st best player in the country. Last year, Schilling was the Colorado Player of the Year. He continued his success, recently winning his second consecutive Colorado Singles State

Championship. "It is humbling to me that I have been able to accomplish things that have gotten the attention of local media," Schilling said. "I've never liked to think of myself as better than others. I just have to believe I work harder and love it more."

This year, Schilling and the Regis Jesuit tennis team were looking forward to winning their third consecutive Colorado State Championship, but they fell short to Cherry Creek a few weeks ago.

"I think that people who don't know too much about tennis downplay how mentally taxing it is. Tennis

is a very lonely sport," Schilling said.

Many athletes, no matter how skilled they are, can't handle the pressure of the spotlight. However, Schilling loves it. He seeks the spotlight and wants to win when all the pressure is on him.

"I like the big stage, and I like the pressure that comes with it. It makes it that much more exciting to play and to compete," Schilling said.

Schilling believes that hard work leads to better results. He is a fiery competitor who wants to be a great player. His success can be attributed to his rare work ethic.

GOLF

by Zach Hogan '23

Ryan Occhionero *Competing during a pandemic*

With COVID-19 raging on, many seasons have been delayed until further notice. However, golf was one of the first sports selected to continue their season. As a result, the team has had to overcome numerous challenges. Before practice, players must be screened. If a player has a fever, they must quarantine for at least two weeks, resulting in missed practices and tournaments. Along with this, the team is consistently split into groups at practice, making it harder to gain team synergy. Despite all of this, Ryan Occhionero '21, one of the core leaders of the team, remains optimistic.

"Coach Rogers has had a great impact on our performance this year and deserves most of the credit. He has helped step up all of our games this season with new obstacles and struggles," Occhionero said.

Although the pandemic has introduced countless issues, benefits can still be found. The team has had more time to practice, resulting in greater levels of preparation and confidence. Occhionero has also had time to attend all his classes, an anomaly last year. The newfound time has allowed him to focus on his academics, something he prioritizes.

"I see it as an opportunity to get better with the increased amount of practice we have this season," Occhionero said.

Occhionero will continue to play golf at the collegiate level. However, he is stepping down from competitive golf. He now prefers to dedicate his time to his academics.



PHOTO BY JOHN PLUMLEIGH '21