

WHEN ALL THINGS JUST BOUNCE BACK TO WIN

AS THE BOYS TENNIS TEAM WATCHED the University High School team enter the tennis court at Riverdale Ridge on Sept. 15, they were determined to win, according to Jake Halverson '22. The team had lost their four prior tournaments, so captains Halverson and Ryan O'Callaghan '22 had players focus on their specific goals and skills to be ready to face the team. The tournament ended with the combined team beating University 4-3.

From then on the boys continued to win matches against teams like Mountain View and Severence. In the Windsor tournament, Halverson and his partner, Peyton Miller '22, were tied in sets against their opponents from Greeley West.

"We were in the finals of the tournament and we were playing for first place. We

Boys Tennis team regroups midseason with Ryan O'Callaghan '22 taking second at Regionals

story by e.aho
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had lost in the first set and we had to bring it back in order to win the tournament so that was pretty important to us because we were able to win the tournament," Halverson said.

Alongside Halverson, O'Callaghan played in singles tournaments for the first time in his three years on the team. He was able to go to Regionals on Oct. 6 and win second place. According to O'Callaghan, the reason for his success was the practices before his tournaments and matches.

"There's practice for a reason and you just have to trust your practice going into it. You just have to trust your shot or it'll get to your head," O'Callaghan said. "Our team came together and we were able to win some matches and meet a lot of our goals that we set for ourselves."



KICKIN' IT UP. Brandon Skillman '24 lifts his leg during warmup routines at practice on the Riverdale Ridge tennis courts on Sept. 15. This was Skillman's first year on the tennis team, and he was partnered up with Ivan Kantala '25. Students at the high school had to travel to Riverdale to practice and play for their team. "While it would have been nice to have practice closer to our school rather than traveling to Riverdale, my favorite part of the season was working with the others like Ivan," Skillman said. *photo by j. ripko* **HERE IS MY ADVICE.** Jake Halverson '22, with his partner Peyton Miller '22, talk with Head Coach Tom Miller and his assistant coach on the Riverdale Ridge High School tennis courts on Oct. 5. As the Regional tournament was the next day, Halverson's coaches began to debrief what was to be expected before, during, and after Regionals were over. "We were just going over our seed and what our bracket was going to look like and our chances of going to State. We always debrief what will happen in the Regional tournament," Halverson said. *photo by j. ripko* **I'M READY TO PLAY.** Wyatt Eisenach '23 holds a tennis ball in his left hand and a tennis racket in his right, preparing to serve the ball at practice on Oct. 5. Eisenach competed in doubles tournaments with Joshua Eng '22, who was a student at Riverdale Ridge. "Last year I had no idea what I was doing and I was on the junior varsity team. This year I actually had a grasp on how to play," Eisenach said. "Every single match Josh and I played, we tried our best." *photo by j. ripko*



TAKE A LAP. Ryan O'Callaghan '22 and Jake Halverson '22 run side by side around the tennis court before speaking with the team at a practice on Oct. 5. Before practice would begin, O'Callaghan and Halverson would begin a regular warmup routine and run a few laps around the tennis court. "We just run to warm up. Me and Ryan aren't partners but we like to warm up, practice together, and just catch up before practice," Halverson said. *photo by j. ripko* **PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT.** Ryan O'Callaghan '22 holds a tennis racket up to prepare to hit an oncoming tennis ball while practicing on Oct. 5. Practices were treated just like a real tournament and O'Callaghan wanted to make every practice count so he would be prepared for tournaments. *photo by j. ripko*



RYAN O'CALLAGHAN '22

"While I was competing at Regionals, it was a very grueling final match. I started to cramp up and emotions played heavily into that match because I wanted to make it to State. Placing second out of ten teams really makes me feel accomplished and that all of my hard work throughout the season in every practice and at every match was solidified and paid off."

IT'S JUST MUSIC TO MY EARS

story, photos & design by e.aho

Angel Bustillos '25 surprises Jane Archuleta, English teacher, with birthday music



STUDENT
Angel Bustillos '25, who has played guitar for three years.

TEACHER
Jane Archuleta, English teacher, who has taught at Brighton High for 27 years.

THE MOMENT
Bustillos knew that Archuleta's

birthday was on Sept. 11, so he shared with her that he was going to surprise her with a song while playing his guitar. According to Archuleta, she didn't believe him at first, but when he walked into her third period class, he began playing his guitar and singing.

"It makes me feel good to play guitar. It's an escape from

everything. I just wanted to play for her birthday because she's a great teacher," Bustillos said.

A BIRTHDAY REACTION
"It was just something you don't get every day on your birthday. It was such a nice surprise. I was just super impressed with his talent and his willingness to share his talent with me," Archuleta said.

WHAT'S A GUILTY PLEASURE SONG YOU PUT ON BLAST?

JOLLY MOSES '25
"I don't have a favorite song, but if I had to choose one it would be, 'Sundress' by ASAP Rocky because I like the beat and the melody."

SARAH CARDILLO '22
"My guilty pleasure song is definitely, 'Rich Girl' by Gwen Stefani because I want to be rich some day. Whenever it comes on, I turn it up full blast."



MORGAN YOSHIMOTO '24
"I like to play, 'Change the World' by Eric Clapton because my dad has a video with an edit of that song and it really just means a lot to me."

LILY SMITH '23
"It would be 'Scream' from the High School Musical soundtrack because in the movie, Troy is feeling a lot of emotions and I can relate to that."

AUSTIN TALBOTT '25
"It depends on my mood, but if I'm in a good mood, then it's 'Believer' by Imagine Dragons because they're yelling in the song and you can yell with it."

ELIZABETH FRITCHELL '24
"Probably anything country. I would pick a song, 'Drunk (And I Don't Wanna Go Home)' by Elle King and Miranda Lambert because it's an upbeat yet sad song."



RYAN GREEN '22
"'Hollywood's Bleeding' by Post Malone. It's got an amazing bass drop and it builds up to it, so as it's building up to it I get hyped and excited."

RYLEE JENKINS '22
"It would have to be 'Heartless' by Kanye West. I've listened to this song ever since I was a kid and I know all the lyrics."

AND THIS SHOULD CONVINCE YOU WE ALWAYS CAUSE A RACKET
Boys Tennis, Fire, Angel Bustillos