

Now. Own. Won.

Julia Bethune (11) gets all new gear

RACKET: "It was definitely an adjustment, getting used to it with the weight and all, but I'm liking it now."

SHIRT: "The shirts are super comfortable, so I can wear them to play tennis and also just everyday, which is really nice."

SHOES: "The shoes were actually a little bit small for me, so I'm planning on giving them to someone else on the team."

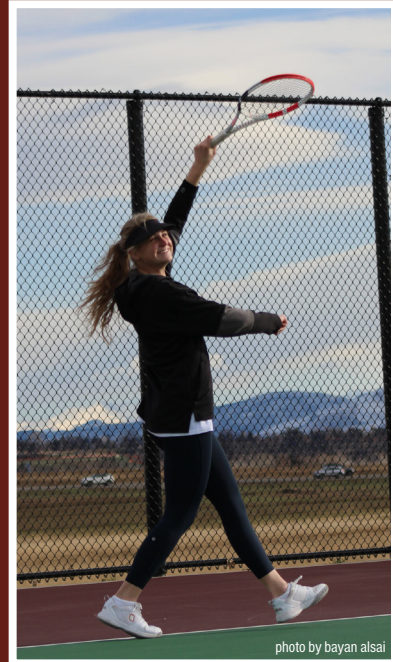


photo by bayan alsai

WHAT A RACKET Hitting a powerful smash, Julia Bethune (11) practices her serve while waiting for the ball. After getting all new gear, it took her a some time to get used to playing with it all. "I lost my home to the Marshall Fire, and I think it's super cool that Babolat donated all this stuff, and I'm just super grateful," Bethune said.

MOVING IN Moving towards the ball, Areli Calderon (11) gets ready to hit a forehand fed to her in a movement drill during practice. The goal of it was to move to the correct position to hit the ball, and to overall get the best shot possible. "Forehands are one of the fun strokes," Calderon said. "I think they're my favorite, and it's one of the easiest. It's important to get to the ball, so sometimes I sort of freak when I'm going for the shot, but you just have to go for it."



photo by bayan alsai



photo by jamie byther

CONTACT POINT Both eyes on the ball, Emma Vandrey (10) practices serving during a point-based drill. This season, she first worked on her serves by sitting on a bench in order to get the right arm movement. "It was a strange technique that I'd never seen before, but at the end of the day it was helpful to learn how to toss higher, so you can get a more powerful serve," Vandrey said. "The coaches have been super helpful about working on our serves this year."



photo by jamie byther

Players focus on developing their technique as season begins



photo by jamie byther

SPINNING IN With a look of concentration on her face, Langley Nakari (12) extends her arm through the air to put spin on the ball. Adding spin is crucial to keep the ball in, and makes it more difficult to return. "Serving is the most important stroke in tennis because it starts off the whole game," Nakari said. "I add topspin, which makes the ball bounce differently when it lands. I've been serving the same way since I was in eighth grade." **AT THE NET** Reaching for the ball, Carly Gunning (11) makes contact while playing at the net. Proficient net play is very important to working well with teammates while playing doubles. "The team is amazing," Gunning said. "There's a great sense of teamwork, and everyone is super supportive of each other and willing to learn."

photo by jamie byther and bayan alsai
GIRLS TENNIS

wall ball

Team plays inside because of snowy weather

“Playing indoors is definitely more of a challenge since they're isn't as much space, so I prefer the court, but I think the wall is super helpful for learning control.”
—Ally Younkin (12)



photo by jamie byther



photo by jamie byther

ALL FUN AND GAMES Chloe Bufkin (9), Lucy Phillips (9), and Sydney Kuhl (11) enjoy their practice playing Duck, Duck, Goose. **NO MATTER THE WEATHER** Ally Younkin (12) practices her hits against the wall in the gym because of the weather.

who's most likely to... Team votes on varsity superlatives



photo by jamie byther

Dance in between points
"I was a dancer up until last year, so I've been dancing for a while. And also, it makes me and the rest of the team smile a bit."
— Annabelle Thrash (11)



photo by bayan alsai

Ace a serve
"I'm left handed, so my serve is really different from everybody else's. When I hit the serve, it spins the opposite way of where everyone expects. So I have a pretty big advantage with that."
— Sydney Kuhl (11)



photo by bayan alsai

Use trick shots
"I use my hand eye coordination and also I'm sure to stay focused on doing the best job. It's important to just stay persistent."
— Michelle Zhang (10)