

queens of the COURT

Spread by:
Farah Salek

With a small group, the varsity girls tennis team sets out for a successful season.

rack IT UP

Students weight in about what brand of tennis racket they use and why they choose to use them.

"I use Wilson because it feels well-balanced in weight and the strings are well positioned. It helps me with accuracy when placing balls, and it is also easier on my wrist from constantly doing the same movement."

-Alexandra Murrell '25



making moves

How a freshman has worked her way up to varsity.

Tennis is a no-cut sport, so players are guaranteed a spot on the team. However, **Brooke Barrett '26** being a freshman, did not expect to find her place on the varsity team. When Barrett found out that she made the team she was shocked.

Barrett said, "I never played tennis that often and I never tried to do it competitively. I mainly played with my mom."

Not only did Barrett make it on the varsity team, was also able to land in the top 4 on doubles. However, it came with its own challenges.

"[The first game] was confusing because I didn't know where to be and

we were just starting to get to know each other," Barrett said, "Of course with doubles, too, I have never done before."

Tennis is also a competition of communication, especially between a set of partners competing in doubles.

"Overtime [I have] gotten better since this is a learning experience and the team has gotten closer to one another."

Although there is a lot everyone can improve on, the team members do have their strength.

"[We are improving on] practicing more and figuring out where to place the ball," Barrett said. *story by: farah salek*



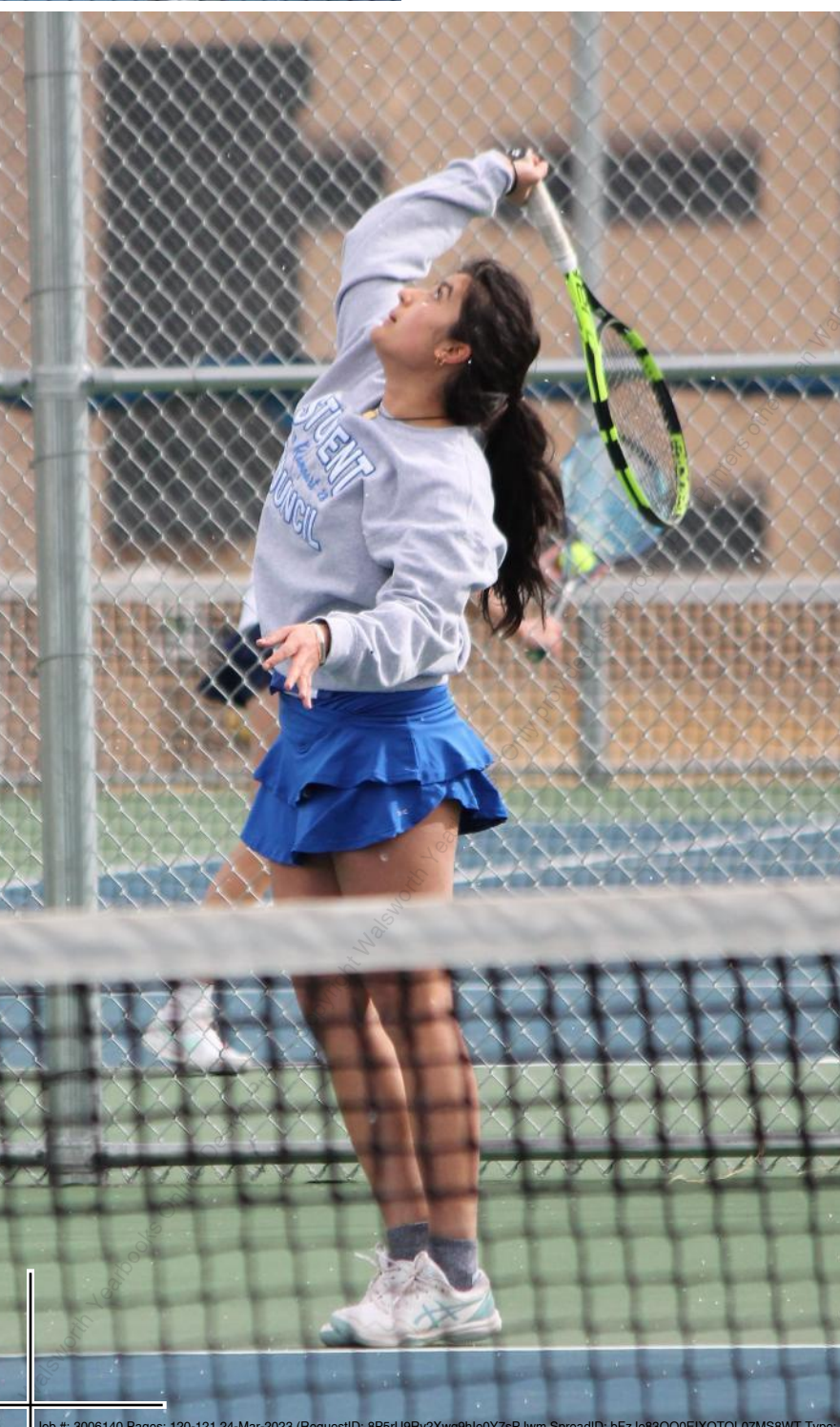
Zoning out. On the court, **Karae Hopkins '24** zones into the mindset of competing. Players experience many mindset shifts throughout the course of a match. "When I get on the court and I am doing a game, I zone out and I focus on the ball, play with intention and play that strategy that I know," Vest said. *photo by: farah salek*

Focusing on the goal. Keeping her eye on the ball, **Sadie Hust '25** focuses on making her serve. Hust tries not to over analyze the score of a game, but rather the small steps she can control. "I mainly focus on playing out the next point and only winning the next point," Hust said. *photo by: farah salek*



Challenging the mind. Looking across the net at her opponent, **Sara Vest '23** gears up for the match. Vest enjoys the mental and physical aspects of the game. "It is a mental game because you have to be kind to yourself and not beat yourself if you miss a shot because that will have an impact on the entire game. It is hard not to be competitive but I also focus on having fun," Vest said. *photo by: farah salek*

Change isn't easy. Locked in on the next contact, **Clarie Hu '25** stays confident in her skill. The game of tennis doubles comes with many challenges. "I have been trying to communicate with [my partner] as much as possible so that we know how we should play, and where to go, but the team is also a community so everyone helps each other," Hu said. *photo by: farah salek*



TOP DAWGS

The highest ranked players on varsity.

At the top. Playing singles or doubles helps the tennis team balance their skill level for competition.

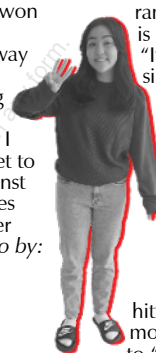


Alexandra Ross '26 is a freshman that rank's first in the singles line up. "I am super happy that I am 1st; it has some of its own challenges because now I will go up against the 1st in singles which is the person that has the highest skill level." *photo by: farah salek*

All about routine. **Karae Hopkins '24** takes 2nd place in singles. Hopkins values the effort that she has put in. "I won the spot by working my way up and challenging those in that place. I will also get to go up against 3rd doubles on any other team." *photo by: farah salek*



Hitting top three. **Sara Vest '23** ranks 3rd in singles. Vest typically plays doubles, so being ranked in singles is a new journey. "It was tough since I wasn't with someone else because they would normally cover the front or the back. I have more impact on the game and hitting the ball more than I used to," Vest said. *photo by: farah salek*



New environment. Spiking the ball into the air, **Rucha Katdare '25** plays her best at her match. The team has had some new assistant coaches and it has helped the team feel like an extremely positive environment to be in. "We have new assistant coaches this year and we are learning a lot through them and our coaches from last year, so it's created a positive environment to be in," said Katdare. *photo by: farah salek*



Worth it all. **Aahana Paul '25** reaches for the ball at the peak of the serve. Paul had to get to know her new partner but stays optimistic for a great season ahead. Paul said, "It can be hard to get used to change so fast but I am looking forward to trying our best and trying to make it a fun season." *photo by: farah salek*

A must have. Playing doubles in tennis requires a lot more than singles does. **Alexandra Murrell '25** explains that "Since I have a new partner we have to have good communication because if we don't talk then we won't know who covers where and it can get confusing, and Since we do doubles and singles at practice then that is a good time to get to know one another well." *photo by: farah salek*