

Tennis Teams move into TRL play with league title in sight

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Staff Reporter

The tennis teams opened their seasons with matches against some of the best squads in the state with impressive victories and hard-fought losses.

The girls began the season with a tough 5-3 loss to Beaverton. Victories were posted from the second doubles team of Catherine Broadhurst and Taylor Cornel, juniors, along with well-fought losses from their number ones. At singles, Danika Tanning, junior, fell in a tough three set effort. Tanning, who placed fifth at State last year, fell to an opponent who reached

the quarterfinals herself. Although the loss was tough to swallow, she remained positive.

"A match like this just helps me prepare for State," Tanning said. "I want to beat the best kids but I know it's going to be tough."

The number one doubles team of Alix Smith, senior, and Kellie Kawasaki, junior, also took their opponents to three sets before declaring victory.

The girls took on Lakeridge next, one of two other teams that will be competing with West Linn for the Three Rivers League title. The girls came out firing from the first point to last, as they dominated

the Pacers 7-1. The top players for the Lions scored easy victories, as well as wins from the doubles teams of Katherine Millage, junior, and Lisa Kirkemo, sophomore.

"Being on this year's

experienced their first victories on the year, as the team improved its record to 1-0 with a victory over the Warriors. The Lions kicked off the match when Collin Bundy, senior, and Bret Wright, junior, won at

matches. The lone win came at second doubles, where Sam Tingey and Ryan Nesbit, juniors, squeaked out a 6-2, 0-6, 10-8 victory despite some controversial line calls. Shortly thereafter, rain forced the teams to postpone the match.

The boys opened their TRL campaign against a solid Lakeridge team, and fell behind before they even took the court when Rifkin had to pull out due to a pinched nerve in his back. While this required the majority of singles players to play one position up from normal, Christopher Erbin, junior, was the lone singles player who did not need to move up a spot due to Rifkin's injury, and won 6-2, 6-3. The rest of singles struggled to step up, as they all fell in close matches.

The Lions fought back in doubles however, led by the efforts of Bundy/Wright, who won their match 6-4, 6-2. The Lions went on to sweep doubles, which tied the match at 4-4. The Lions fell in the tiebreaker though, putting them a step back to begin the season.

The team responded, however, defeating Clackamas 5-3. The Cavaliers were predicted to take the TRL title this year, but the Lions proved they belong with the league's best, as the win moved them back into a tie for first with Lakeridge.

"We came into this season with the goal of winning league," Wright said. "We have worked hard and played well to remain in that position."



Danika Tanning, junior, waits for a shot during her singles match against Lakeridge. Tanning won her match 6-0, 6-0, leading her team to a 7-1 victory.
Photo by Chelsea Callas

team has been a great experience," Kirkemo said. "The team is full of amazingly talented players, and it's just an awesome thing to be a part of."

The girls team continued their dominance in league, sweeping past Milwaukie, Putnam and Oregon City, all without losing a single match. This sets up a showdown at home against Lake Oswego, a team that has yet to lose this year. It will be played today at 4 p.m.

The boys' team faced a tough non-league schedule as well, as they took on Beaverton, Cleveland and Sunset, all of whom are expected to send multiple players to State this year.

Against Cleveland, the majority of the team

first doubles 2-6, 6-2, 10-7. Miles Rifkin, junior, put the team further ahead with a 7-5, 6-2 victory at second singles. The team also picked up wins from the two freshmen on the team. Andrew Brown, freshman, won at fourth singles 6-3, 6-4, while Ken Tsuruta, freshman, paired up with Blake Beehler, junior, to win at fourth doubles 6-3, 6-2.

"It's cool to be on the team as a freshman," Tsuruta said. "Every time I win it's not necessarily expected, so it's a good position to be in for me."

The boys final warm up prior to TRL play was against Sunset, a team that is ranked in the top 10 in state. The match got off to a bad start, as the Lions lost three of their first four

Strong work habits guide Track Team's improvement

MAX HAYS

Staff Reporter

Strong work ethics and positive attitudes, are hallmarks of both the Boys'



Sarah Chicione and Amy Kestek, seniors, and Danica Jungerman, sophomore, jump over hurdles in the 100 meter event. Both the boys' and girls' teams lost their first meet against Lake Oswego.
Photo by Malia Chong

and Girls' Track teams according to Joe Cerny, head coach, who said if the team continues to work hard they will be a competitive team in league meets.

"Right now we are meeting and going beyond my expectations at the beginning of the season. We have a lot of newcomers who are contributing and learning how to compete at a high school level. We also have great veteran leaders," Cerny said.

In the Lions Mar. 19 meet against Lake Oswego and Apr. 9 meet against Clackamas, the girls' and boys' teams came up short, but won the Sisters Invitational meet at Sisters on Apr. 5. Overall, the season has been good for the Lions and many athletes have turned in personal records.

Individually this season, the boys have seen great performances from Michael Bernert, senior captain, in the 1500 and 800, Ben Morrow, senior captain, in the 3000, Justin McKee, freshman, in the 400, Mitch Gaulke, junior, and Tommy Patrick, senior, in the discus, and Jacob Gianuzzi, sophomore, in the javelin and 100.

For the girls, top performers

have been Sydney Veenker, freshman, in the 100 and in the 200, Diana Crane, senior captain, in the 800, Danica Jungerman, sophomore, in the 300 and 100 hurdles, and Mallory Griffith, sophomore, in the discus.

"I feel that the workouts and progress of the team will lead to success during league meets and at Districts," Crane said.

The next home meet is on March 30 against Milwaukie at 4 p.m. Districts will be held on May 14 and 16 at Clackamas High School.



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