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DHS Tennis Opens Season Thursday

MARCH 21ST 2012 BY UNKNOWN

DHS Tennis Opens Season Thursday

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

The DHS Tennis team has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming season; the Bearcats advanced one player to State last season, and are extremely young in 2012.

Head coach Leanne Dooley noted the double-edged sword of youth on her squad; she doesn't have much experience coming back, but will only lose two players (one with no experience on the Varsity level) to graduation this year.

"I've got three experienced Varsity players returning; the bottom part of the Varsity will be kids that played JV last year and have little to no Varsity experience," Dooley said. "I only had two seniors last year, and we only have two seniors this year: Tyler Miller and Dalton Putnam, who played baseball until this year. I've got a couple juniors who are showing great promise; Kyle Willis played on varsity all season last year."

Miller, the lone returning senior and a 2011 State qualifier, is expected to be the Number One player this spring. Dooley noted that there was still some speculation on the team's doubles pairings for the year.

"Tyler will be my one, Sam Ward my two, and Kyle [Willis] my three; I don't see that changing," she said. "We haven't decided what we're going to do on doubles yet - three games out of the match have to be doubles, and I've only got one solid set of doubles in

Tyler and Sam. It may not stay that way, and I might just let them play with who they want to play with. It will make them happier, but they won't win as much. We'll have to wait and see - we have a long way to go and a short time to get there."

Dooley noted that two of the Bearcats'

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tougher opponents, Kennett and Charleston, were unable to field teams this season. The 'Cats have a nine day layoff in April, but were able to fill the other hole with an additional match against the Sikeston Bulldogs on May 1. The Bearcats also picked up Notre Dame as an annual opponent, after facing them twice last season.

"We picked up Notre Dame this year; we played them twice last year and beat them, but their program is just starting out," she said. "They have beautiful facilities and a wonderful coach, so they'll come along fast. I like going over there and playing - I like their coach and the way he teaches the game."

The Bearcats are set to open the 2012 season on Thursday (March 22) afternoon, when they host the Poplar Bluff Mules in a JV and Varsity match. Things are set to get underway with doubles matches at 4:00 p.m., and singles matches immediately following.

Click here to download the 2012 Tennis schedule.

Photos above:

Top: Tyler Miller returns a serve during practice on Monday afternoon. The senior looks to return to the MSHSAA State Tournament in 2012.

Bottom: Joseph Greer (left) and Dalton Putnam (right) learn proper technique from assistant coach Roy Dooley.

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Lady 'Cats Win Big In 'Hits For Hope' Game

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Lady 'Cats Win Big In 'Hits For Hope' Game

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

The DMS Lady Bearcats continued their winning ways on the volleyball court Tuesday night. Both squads recorded victories over the Bernie Mules in the annual 'Hits for Hope' fundraiser, with all proceeds going to **18 FORE Life**.

The seventh grade squad had a tough test in their match; they were forced to go to three sets for the first time this season. Head coach Melissa Hahn - who was also in her first three-set matchup as a coach - was proud of her team's effort in the high-pressure situation.

"That was tough; it was tough for me, because I've never been to three sets as a coach. They pulled it out and I was proud of them for that," she said. "It was good for them to see that pressure, so we could find out how they would do. I wasn't thrilled with the second set; we got down and it took us a while to get back up, and we need to work on that. The seventh grade also needs to work on serve-receive. Our girls have relied on their serving in the last few games, but there were times that they weren't ready for it to come back over."

The seventh graders posted 25-7 wins in the first and third sets, with Bernie taking the

second set 18-25. Ashlyn Wyman and Lexi May led the way with 12 and eight point rallies for the Lady 'Cats.

In the eighth grade contest, the Lady 'Cats cruised to 25-10 and 25-4 victories. Ashlyn Werneck and Julia Hahn both posted seven serve rallies for the Lady 'Cats in the second set.

"I was extremely pleased; the girls I put out on the court communicated well. When it came back over, when had a pass-set-hit most of the time," Hahn said of the eighth grade squad. "I think they had good chemistry, and I was proud of their intensity. Our serves were on, they were talking on the floor."

"We finally got Julia Hahn hitting the ball hard - she had some awesome hits and I was proud of that," she continued. "Ashlyn Werneck had great serves all night, and she had a couple great hits as well."

Despite the lopsided score, Hahn was quick to give the Lady Mules credit for their skill.

"I've got to give Bernie credit; the score was not reflective of how that game was. There were some rallies that we wound up on top of that really helped us," Hahn said. "Bernie brought a great team over, they had some awesome servers and good hitters. We have to stay fired up; next week we have the Bernie Tournament, and we'll see them there and again in the County Tournament."

The Lady 'Cats will be back in action on Thursday night, when they hit the road to take on Advance. The seventh grade squad is scheduled to get things underway at 6:00 p.m.

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'Cats Thump Green Wave In Season Opener

MARCH 21ST 2012 BY UNKNOWN

'Cats Thump Green Wave In Season Opener

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

The Dexter Bearcats opened the 2012 season with a bang on Tuesday afternoon, capitalizing on a five RBI effort from Chase Young in an 11-4 victory over the Malden Green Wave.

With runners on first and second, Young stepped to the plate with a 9-6 lead in the bottom of the sixth. After falling 1-2, Young fouled off seven straight pitches and finally shot a drive into left-center for his fourth and fifth RBI's on the day.

"The at-bat by Chase Young in the end was incredible. He fouled off about seven really good pitches, and then shot the ball out there to left field," head coach Brian Becker said of his shortstop. "You tip your hat to their pitcher; you know he had to be frustrated, but sometimes you just have to tip your hat to the guy that comes out on top."

"That's why he's in the three hole; he's going to come up a lot of times with runners on base, and he's a really good hitter," he continued. "I think people know that about him; he's just a real good ball player."

Becker was pleased with the win, but noted a pair of fielding errors midway through the

contest as key areas that needed improvement.

"It wasn't pretty at all, but any time you can start the season 1-0 and not 0-1, it's a good start," he said. "We saw a lot of positive things and a lot of negative things, but that's the way the first game looks a lot of times. We had some opportunities early in the game to break it open and we didn't get the job done, but later in the game we had some big hits by Chase [Young] and Jordan [Miller]."

The game was tied at 1-1 after the first inning; solid pitching by starter Owen Flowers (2 2/3 IP, 3 K, 3 BB, 3 ER) gave the 'Cats a chance to take the lead in the bottom of the second. Josh Overall came up with a leadoff single before Owen Flowers was able to make it to second on a fielding error. Logan Northern was thrown out at home on a fielder's choice, but not before Overall and Flowers both crossed the plate. Young's one out double drove Cody Neldon home to give the 'Cats a 4-2 lead.

The
Green

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Wave were able to tie the game at 4-4 in the third, but Overall (4 1/3 IP, 7 K, 2 BB, 0 ER) was rotated from second base to the mound with two down and got the 'Cats out of the inning without allowing another run to score.

Flowers started a perfect 4-6-3 double play in the fifth inning to give the 'Cats some momentum heading into the bottom of the fifth. With the bases loaded, Jordan Miller picked up his first hit of the day - a bases-clearing double - to increase Dexter's lead to 9-4 lead.

"Jordan started out the game not-so-hot; he made a couple boo-boo's on defense, and didn't have very good at bats early in the game. He stepped up there in the end and got a big hit for us, and that's what we need," Becker said. "Guys are going to struggle, and when they do, they've got to push that aside and keep plugging along. He did a good job of stepping up for us there late in the game."

Becker was impressed with the efforts of both his pitchers in the contest; it was Overall's first time on the field since missing the majority of last season after shoulder surgery.

"Josh did a heck of a job. He came in and threw strikes, and Coach Pixley told him after the game that it could very well be the first time he's pitched and not hit somebody," Becker said, laughing. "[It was his] first game back; I thought he did a good job, and I thought Owen did a good job as well. [Owen] had trouble hitting his spots there in the

third inning, but overall I thought both pitchers did a good job."

The Bearcats will be back in action Wednesday (March 21) afternoon when they head to Kennett in the first Class 3, District 1 contest of the season. The Indians made a deep run into the playoffs last season after downing Dexter in the District Championship game.

"Any time you go down to Kennett, it's going to be tough. Whenever they have a team like they have this year, it's doubly tough," Becker said. "They lost a few, but they have a lot of kids back from last year's team, and you know going down there that they'll be hard to handle. We're going to go down there and do our best, and we'll see what we can do."

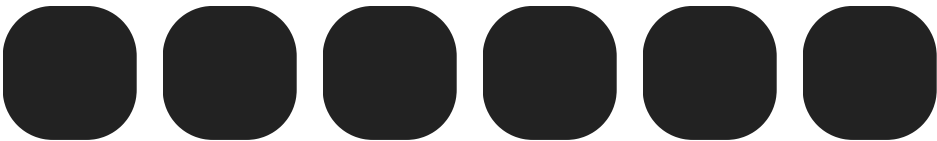
The game is set to get underway at 4:00 p.m.; Jordan Miller is expected to get the start for the Bearcats.

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Bearcat Golfers Rebuilding In 2012

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Bearcat Golfers Rebuilding In 2012

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

The DHS Golf team has found great success in recent years. Under coach Eric Sitze, the squad finished third in the state two years ago, and last season, the Bearcats sent four to the state championships.

The team has lost four seniors in the last two years, but two of them (Jon Bowman and Chance Holden) moved to on play golf at the collegiate level.

"We're reloading this year. We finished third in state two years ago, and last year I took four to state," Sitze said. "I've lost four Varsity golfers in the last two years; Jon [Bowman] and Chance [Holden] went on to play in college, and we've lost Brennan Justice and Logan Robey, who were three year varsity players. We have 11 kids on the team this year; we can play five in tournaments and six in matches, and I have three guys back that played Varsity last year."

Cody Stevens is the team's lone senior; the three-sport athlete has already signed to play golf and football at Missouri Valley College. Ryan Joyner, a junior, and Myles Urhahn, a sophomore, both saw significant time on the varsity level last season.

"Cody [Stevens] has played a ton, /images/Sports/2012/Golf/20120313_IMG_6005.jpg and he just signed a golf scholarship, and we also have Myles Urhahn and Ryan Joyner," Sitze said. "Both played a little bit of Varsity last year; Myles is just a sophomore, and he's shaved a few strokes off his scores from last year. Ryan's scores still aren't very low, but he's got time to improve. I've had a freshman, Brandon Strickler, turn in a decent score or two, so we'll see how he does."

"Cody's shot some really good scores so far this year," Sitze added. "He's got a lot of

experience over the last two years, and I expect great things from him this year."

Sitze noted that, on a team level, things would be hard this year due to their youth, but he expects good individual performances from his veterans.

"Team-wise, it will be a struggle this year, but on an individual level, we should have a few guys do pretty well," he said. "I'm letting them get a feel for their game and seeing where they are based on scores right now."

One of the biggest challenges for any golfer, regardless of age, is the short game - shots close to the green. Sitze noted this as one of the biggest challenges for his golfers early in the season.

"The biggest hurdle early is mostly their short game - you can make up a lot of strokes around the green," he said. Any year, if you watch these guys play golf, they lose a lot of strokes on the green in chipping and putting."

Only four of the Bearcats' matches are at their home course - Hidden Trails Country Club - this season, but Sitze said he prefers to have his team on the road and on harder courses.

"We really like to play on the road a lot. When you get to district and state-type courses, they all have bent greens, so they are a lot faster," Sitze noted. "We have Bermuda grass here, so it's a little slower. We also don't have the tiered greens and sand traps that a lot of other courses have."

The Bearcats are set to open the 2012 season on Friday, March 23, in a four team match with New Madrid County Central, Malden, and Bloomfield. The match is set to get underway at 4:00 p.m. from Hidden Trails Country Club.

[Click here to download the 2012 schedule.](#)

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Waldner, U-14 Girls Win Tournament

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Waldner, U-14 Girls Win Tournament

The West Kentucky United U-14 girls soccer team won the Cincinnati Elite Spring Thaw Tournament. Pictured from left to right in the front row: Anna Ferguson (Hickman County), Ashley Zimmerman (Lone Oak), Kaitlin "Cookie" Cook (Marshall County), Skylar Hargrove (Graves County), Callie Thomas (Graves County), Allie Fiske (Marshall County), Bailey Wood (Marshall County) and Linda Arakelyan (Murray). Back row: Coach Aaron Fenton (Mid Continent University Assistant Coach), Allison Whitfield (Louisville), Macy Wessel (Massac County, IL), Erica Zetter (Mayfield), Hannah Bowles (Caldwell County), Allye Darnell (Graves County), Ashlyn Willett (Graves County), Jannie Wiles (Marshall County), MaKayla Waldner (Dexter, MO) and Julie Kinsolving (Caldwell County).

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