

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund (DLTSF) was able to award tennis camp and college scholarships to applicants this year even though the Covid-19 virus has affected us all. Winners received a letter and certificate in the mail explaining the results.

Two junior tennis players from Harry Taylor were awarded summer camp sessions. The girl's recipient for the 2020 Center Court Camp Scholarship is Binh Dang. She is a sophomore tennis player from First Baptist Christian Academy in Pasadena and has been playing tennis for the last 15 months. She is an international student from Viet Nam and was a Center Court tennis camp scholarship recipient in 2019.

Binh enjoys volunteering at her local library because it gives her a chance to work with other teenagers along with improving her social skills. She is a member of the Student Council, choir and United States Tennis Association (USTA).

The tennis player that has inspired Binh the most is 13 year-old, Gigi Hays from France. Binh follows her on Instagram and watches Gigi's workout videos so she can improve her game and be inspired. Binh is a member of her school's Varsity tennis team thanks to all the hard work she has been doing. She would like to continue to play tennis in high school and maybe college.

The boy's recipient for the 2020 Center Court Camp Scholarship is Ryan Ruzek. He is also a sophomore tennis player from First Baptist Christian Academy in Pasadena and has been playing tennis for two years. Ryan and has developed a real love for the sport and has dedicated himself to improving his skills on the

court. He has been an ambassador for tennis at his school recruiting several of his friends to play on the team with him.

Ryan spends some of his free time volunteering at the Houston Food Bank, with the Galveston homeless ministry and Exploration Green Planting. He has also participated in a missionary trip to Maine.

He has been inspired by professional tennis player, Switzerland's Roger Federer and his coach John Thomas from Harry Taylor Tennis Center because they both care about the sport and they both strive to improve constantly when they play and train.

Ryan is a member of the National Honor Society, named "Band Student of the Year", and a member of the USTA. He has also clutched the #1 boys tennis ranking at his school. Ryan plans on playing tennis in high school and hopes to help out with classes at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center.

This year the Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund awarded six J. Frank Dobie High School tennis team seniors college scholarships.

Taking top honors for the Dobie girl's Grand Slam College Scholarship is Katelyn Huynh. She received \$1,000 scholarship and will be attending San Jacinto Community College to study Nursing.

Katelyn says that tennis is important to her because it has become an "outlet of balance" for her. It has given her a social, academic and physical balance she needs in her life. She also attributes Health Occupation Student Association

(HOSA), Key Club and Math Club for balancing out the rest of her activities. She has been a part of Dobie's tennis team for four years.

The tennis player that has inspired her the most is Coach Moreno because he goes above and beyond to help any and all of the tennis players willing to improve their game.

Taking top honors for the Dobie boy's Grand Slam College Scholarship is Sebastian Delgado. He received \$1,000 scholarship and will be attending Texas Tech University in Lubbock to study Kinesiology.

Sebastian has been playing tennis for four years and two of them have been as team captain. He instituted "Team Socials" to bring his teammates together and develop team bonding leading to a more successful team.

Sebastian is a member of the Dobie Academic Decathlon team, Dobie Sports Medicine, Key Club, HOSA, Chess Club and JROTC and a YMCA basketball coach. He has been able to balance all his activities with hard work and time management.

The tennis player that inspires him the most is Nikoloz Basilashvili from the country of Georgia. Sebastian loves his forehand skills and how he takes charge of his game. Sebastian's tennis goal is to try out for the Texas Tech team and eventually open a tennis center in the South Belt area.

Four other Dobie tennis seniors received scholarships. Thailony Trevino, a four-year tennis veteran received a \$500 scholarship and will be attending San Jacinto

Community College to study Medical Billing and Coding. She volunteered at Rice University as a ball girl during collegiate tennis matches. Thailony placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Spring Fling Tournament with her doubles partner and first place in the Ron Westbrook Invitationals mixed doubles division.

She is inspired by Serena Williams because of the focus, will and desire to push hard to win.

Gisell Morales also a four-year tennis veteran received a \$500 scholarship. She will be attending University of Houston – Clear Lake to study Pre-Dental. Gisell was also a tennis team captain who helped take charge and bring the team together by bonding on and off the courts. One of her favorite memories is when she and her doubles partner won the “A” Girls Doubles title at Lamar University. Gisell was also a part of the HOSA, Key Club and Student Council at Dobie.

Kristy Morales is a five year tennis veteran received a \$500 scholarship. She will be attending University of Houston – Clear Lake to study Business. Kristy has been busy balancing her tennis, academics and extra-curricular activities like HOSA, Key Club and Student Council at Dobie.

The professional tennis player that has inspired her the most is Roger Federer because of his love of tennis, skill on the courts and persistence on the courts.

If you think you're seeing double on the courts you're correct, Kristy and Gisell are twin sisters.

Our final Dobie tennis senior received a \$500 scholarship is Son Truong. Son will be attending the University of Houston to study Business. He has been playing tennis for five years.

Son attributes his personal growth to tennis because of the support he has received from his teammates and coach. The tennis player that has inspired him the most is his teammate and captain, Sebastian Delgado, because of the hard work and determination he has dedicated to his academics and tennis.

Son spends his weekend volunteering at his church, assisting with church school and in the office. He is also a teaching assistant for the Vietnamese school.

He is a member of Dobie's Key Club and Business Professional of America. His greatest tennis achievement was placing second at District.

We congratulate all our scholarship winners and wish them luck with their future.

This has been an unusual year for all of us and we are going to hold the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament beginning on Friday June 26 through Sunday June 28, 2020 at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena if government officials lift the stay at home ban.

If you are interested in playing and supporting this charity tennis tournament, please check the website home page for the entry form at [DLTennisscholarships.com](http://DLTennisscholarships.com) or stop by Racquet Pro in Webster or the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena for an entry form. Updates for scholarships, the

tournament and the Used Tennis Racket Drive can be found on the website and here on our Facebook Page.