

Only one rain delay this year moved the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center (HTTC) in Pasadena, TX, to June 4-6, 2021. There were about 40 people that came out to play in a round robin format to support the Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund.

Smiling faces on players and spectators enjoying sunny skies and great tennis on the courts this year. Match play began Saturday morning and finished up Sunday afternoon. Only one small sprinkle delayed play on Sunday for about 15 minutes. The rain dried up quickly and everyone was back on the court. Last year the tournament was cancelled due to Covid-19 so players were eager to get back out there and play in this charity event.

The tournament also supports a small silent auction, which brought in \$825 for the scholarship fund.

This year the HTTC scholarships were awarded at the tournament with players and spectators in attendance. The girl's top recipient for the 2021 Center Court Camp Scholarship is Binh Dang. She is a high school junior tennis player from First Baptist Christian Academy in Pasadena and has been playing tennis for the last two years. She is an international student from Viet Nam and was a Center Court Tennis Camp Scholarship recipient in 2019 and 2020.

Binh is a member of the National Honor Society and was elected to the position of Secretary. She is a member of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and has made the Varsity team at First Baptist for a second year. She is also a member of Mu Alpha Theta at school.

Binh is inspired by US professional tennis player Cori Gauff (Coco Gauff) because of her determination and hard work training for tennis matches. Binh hopes that she too will be able to be an inspiration to young ladies on the court.

The second recipient for the Center Court Girls Division is Josephine Krueger who is also a junior at First Baptist Christian Academy in Pasadena. Josephine will receive a half Summer Camp Scholarship and has been playing tennis for four years. She has demonstrated her hard work on the courts by being organized and dedicated to practicing tennis several hours a day, several days a week.

The professional tennis player that she admires the most is Raphael Nadal from Spain. She admires his power and strength in each game he plays, which sparks her motivation to play harder on the courts.

She is also a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and the junior class representative for the Student Council.

The boy's recipient for the 2021 Center Court Camp Scholarship is Jaden Lartigue. He is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade tennis player from First Baptist Christian Academy in Pasadena and has been playing tennis for a year. He is on the Honor Roll at First Baptist.

Jaden works hard practicing with his teammates and family as often as he can. He balances his homework and tennis schedule by utilizing his spare time to study and squeezes in practices at a local court. Jaden is "determined to get better at tennis" and doesn't want to give up his goal of team tennis.

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

Taking top honors for the Dobie girl's Grand Slam College Scholarship is Jennifer Ho. She received \$1,000 scholarship and will be attending The University of Houston to study Nursing.

Jennifer has been playing tennis for six years and has been inspired by Professional Tennis Player, Naomi Osaka because of her determination and growth as a tennis player. Naomi motivates Jennifer to do her best for every tennis match as well as academically.

Jennifer is a member of the National Honor Society, the Health Occupation Student Association (HOSA) which has inspired her to studying nursing and a member of the and the Asian Student Association at Dobie.

Julia Bui is the other tennis senior received a \$500 college scholarship to attend the University of Houston – Clear Lake to pursue a career in Biochemistry. Julia has been playing tennis for six years and would like to continue to play in local tournaments while attending college.

The player that inspires her the most is her brother, Dat Bui, because he introduced her to tennis when she was younger and helped shape her love for tennis.

Julia is a member of the National Honor Society and has been on the Dobie Varsity Tennis Team for the last three years.

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

This year marked the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament. The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund has provided \$58,500 in college scholarships and 36 tennis camp scholarships since 2012.

Thank you to all the donors and sponsors over the last ten years that have contributed to make these scholarships possible for our junior athletes.

Updates for scholarships, the tournament and the Used Tennis Racket Drive can be found on the website at [www.DLtennisscholarships.com](http://www.DLtennisscholarships.com) and on our Facebook Page.