

Beautiful weather brought about 50 people to come out and play in a round robin tennis format for the 11th Annual Darren Lajaunie Memorial tennis tournament hosted by the Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund.

Round Robin play was all day Saturday with 12 Dobie tennis team members showing great force on the courts.

The tournament also supports a small silent auction, which brought in \$1,550 for the scholarship fund.

This year the HTTC scholarships were awarded at the tournament with players and spectators in attendance. The boy's top recipient for the 2022 Center Court Camp Scholarship was awarded to Elijah Everett. He is a high school freshman tennis player from First Baptist Christian Academy in Pasadena and has been playing tennis for the last three years.

He has set his goals to be better at tennis sportsmanship and leadership and wants to set a good example for other players at his school. One step he has taken to reach some of those goals is to complete as much homework as possible before going to tennis lessons. He puts his school work first and takes it very seriously and is willing to skip tennis practice if he needs to finish his homework.

Elijah also has been in band for three years, a member of the Student Leadership Institute and Student Council. He has volunteered at the San Jacinto Monument to set up candles at the San Jacinto Monument to honor the fallen soldiers from the

battle of San Jacinto and has sorted books to send to countries where books are in great need.

This year there were two finalists for the Grand Slam College Scholarship. The first recipient of \$1,000 was awarded to First Baptist high school senior, Binh Dang. Binh is no stranger to the Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund. She was awarded camp scholarships in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Bin is from Viet Nam and has been playing tennis for 4 years. Binh is planning on attending University of Houston to study nursing.

Bin was taught the lesson of good sportsmanship from her Coach, John. She has taken those lessons from him and has applied them on the court to demonstrate good sportsmanship to everyone.

She has been a member of the First Baptist Varsity Tennis Team the last three years and has taken home a few trophies from DL Tournament in addition to placing First in Mixed Doubles at TAPPS District in 2021.

The second recipient of the Grand Slam College Scholarship from the Harry Taylor Tennis Center of \$1,000 was awarded to Abigail Everett.

Abby is also a senior at Frist Baptist Academy and like her teammate, is not a stranger to the DL Scholarship Fund. She has been playing tennis for over 6 years and has won tennis camp scholarships in 2018 and 2019. She will be attending LeTourneau University in the fall to study computer science and game development.

Abby has been a Varsity tennis player for the last four years and has won several titles in the TAPPs divisions, she is the recipient of her High School Coaches Award in her junior and senior years, not to mention a few trophies from the Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tournament. In addition to her excellent grades Abby enjoys playing the clarinet in her high school band. Her hard work of balancing her studies, band practices and tennis has given her the confidence she needs to tackle the future.

This year the Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund awarded three J. Frank Dobie High School tennis team seniors college scholarships, on May 10th at the Dobie HS Senior Awards night.

Taking top honors for the Dobie girl's Grand Slam College Scholarship was Megan Rodriguez. She received \$1,000 scholarship and will be attending Texas A&M University to study Civil Engineering.

Megan has been playing tennis for four years and has been inspired by Professional Tennis Player, Australian tennis player Ash Barty because of the way Barty focuses on precision and accuracy during her matches. Megan admires not all Barty's shots look effortless.

Jennifer is a member of the Varsity Orchestra, Key Club, National Honor Society and the Mariachi Club. She began playing violin in the 5th grade and plans to continue to play in college.

Megan joined the varsity tennis team as a freshman and has become the number one female on the team. She has placed 3rd at District in Doubles and placed 2nd in Doubles at the Larmar Westbrook Invitational.

There was a tie in the men's Grand Slam College Scholarship and the first recipient of \$1,000 was awarded to Lael Martinez.

Lael will be attending Texas State University in San Marcos to study Kinesiology and Exercise Science in the fall, with the hopes of becoming a sports medicine physician.

He has been playing tennis for six years and as a Doble tennis player has placed in at District each year. Senior year he has placed number 1 in Doubles and #2 in Singles.

Lael looks to Roger Federer for his tennis inspiration because he is a role model on and off the court. Lael admires Federer's work ethic and charity work and would like to emulate him on and off the court.

Lael is a member of the French National Honor Society, Band member, Key Club and a member of the National Hispanic Society.

The final \$1,000 Grand Slam College Scholarship was awarded to Doble senior Andrew Huynh.

Andrew will be attending the University of Texas in Austin to study Natural Sciences with a goal to become a psychiatrist.

Andrew has been playing tennis for six years and has been on varsity since junior year. As a freshman Andrew and his tennis partner placed 3rd in District. Andrew credits self-discipline and self-motivation to balance his busy tennis and academic schedule. He is a member of the orchestra and Latin Club.

Andrew thanks Coach Moreno for all the important tennis concepts and life lessons that have shaped him into the tennis player he is today.

This year marked the 11th Annual Darren Lajaunie Memorial Tennis Tournament. The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund has provided \$63,500 in college scholarships and 37 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 Annual Tournament and the Used Tennis Racket Drive can be found on the website at www.DLtennisscholarships.com and on our Facebook Page.