

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund awarded three J. Frank Dobie High School tennis team seniors, college scholarships, on May 4th at the Dobie HS Senior Awards night.

The first Dobie ladies Grand Slam College Scholarship was awarded to Ashley Huynh. She received \$1,000 scholarship and will be attending the University of Houston to study nursing with aspirations of attending medical school.

Ashley has been playing tennis for seven years and attributes her level of tennis play to her Dobie coach Manual Moreno. Moreno has shown her the desire, commitment and passion for coaching the team and how to learn from the mistakes and be a better player.

Ashley is a member of the Key Club and HOSA (Health Occupation Student Association). Ashley found her calling for nursing when she joined the HOSA group at Dobie. When she finishes her nursing degree she plans to become a pediatrician. Ashley's brother, Andrew was a Darren Lajaunie Scholarship recipient last year.

The second ladies Grand Slam College Scholarship of \$,1000 was awarded to Natalie Vo. Natalie will be attending The University of Houston's Honors College to study Honors Biomedical Science. She would like to become a researcher and study vaccines.

Natalie has been playing tennis for four years and looks to professional tennis player Elena Rybakina from Kazakhstan and reigning Wimbledon Champion as her role model. Natalie is impressed with Elena's ability to remain calm, place the ball well on the court and make a comeback when she's behind in her game.

When Natalie is not on the court, she enjoys the Key Club and the Asian Student Association club at Dobie and is an honor roll student.

The Dobie men's Grand Slam College Scholarship recipient of \$1,000 was awarded to Thang Tran. He will begin his college studies at San Jacinto Community College to study Engineering or Medicine. He's torn between becoming a nurse practitioner or an engineer with the hopes of transferring to The University of Texas to finish his Bachelor's degree.

Thang has been playing tennis for six years and his tennis role model is his Dobie coach, Manual Moreno. He looks up to him because of his strict discipline, how sportsmanship is critical to the game and his passion for tennis. With all these

lessons from his coach Thang has been able to get the job done on the courts and have fun. Thang feels that his passion for tennis sets him apart from other players because he hungers for success on the courts.

Thang is a member of the Dobie Chess Club with a rating of 1000. He is an active member in his community by volunteering and a member of the Key Club. He has played the violin for six years. One volunteering experience that he's the proudest of, is his involvement with "Bring Smiles to Seniors", a non-profit group, where he has made over 100 unique cards for seniors.

Thang is also a STEM scholar, taking dual credit and Advanced Placement classes to prepare himself for college and he has committed to enlisting the US Marine Corp.

The Ladies Grand Slam College Scholarship for the Harry Taylor Tennis Center was awarded at First Baptist Academy, May 15, 2023 in Pasadena to senior Kylee McKinney.

Kylee will be attending Texas A&M in the fall to Biology & Math possibly leading to a career in nursing.

Kylee has been playing tennis for 4 years and plans to play intramurals or club level in college. In addition to playing tennis Kylee is an accomplished athlete while playing softball, volleyball and track while maintaining an "A" average. She is proud that she has maintained all "As" from Pre-K through her HS senior year. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, History Honor Society.

Kylee's tennis role model is her sister. Growing up, she would watch her play, borrow her racket and eventually take lessons that would help her get stronger mentally and physically. Her sister taught her never to give up no matter the circumstances. Kylee recently participated in the TAPPS District Tournament and kept her sister's picture with her for motivation.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund has raised over \$6,000 in sponsorships this year. Thank you to all the sponsors and donors to award scholarships to our tennis players. Since 2012 has provided \$67,500 in college scholarships and 37 tennis camp scholarships.

Updates for scholarships, the Annual Tournament and the Used Tennis Racket Drive can be found on this website and on our Facebook Page.