

May 9, 2024 was Senior Awards night at J. Frank Dobie High School. The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund was there to award college scholarships to two Dobie tennis seniors.

The ladies recipient of the Darren Lajaunie Grand Slam Dobie College Scholarship is tennis senior Loan Leena Nhu Pham. She was awarded a \$1,000 College scholarship to attend the University of Texas in Austin to study Biology with the goal of becoming a Pediatrician.

Loan (Leena) has demonstrated her good sportsmanship conduct as Dobie's team captain in her senior year as she ensured her teammates had a successful season. One of her strengths is getting the best out of her teammates during training and match play.

She takes inspiration from tennis legend, Serena Williams who was her role model. Serena taught her to be strong and no matter where you are from you can achieve anything.

Leena is a member of the National Honor Society, Dobie's Key Club, AP Capstone and the Asian Student Association (ASA). She feels these clubs have shaped her to better serve her community and become a better student. She also logged 30 hours of community service to her portfolio.

She received the Coaches Award in her freshman year received the Steve Jamal "Dobie Pride" award in her junior year. She also placed second in the Darren Lajaunie Memorial tournament in the girls doubles division, in addition to becoming team captain in her senior year.

The men's recipient of the Darren Lajaunie Grand Slam Dobie College Scholarship was awarded to tennis senior Ryan Le. Ryan was also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the University of Houston to study Business with the hopes of getting a job in Supply Chain and Logistics.

Ryan has been playing tennis for 6 years and plans on playing club level tennis in college.

Ryan's greatest strength is his fighting spirit. He draws his inspiration from professional tennis player Andrey Rublev because he too has a fearless nature. Ryan pushes himself to get the job done whether it's in the classroom or on the tennis court.

He is the Vice President of the Key Club which has given him organizational and leadership skills. His greatest tennis achievement was playing in Deer Park for the District title which secured him a First Team All-District position. Some of other leadership roles include the Public Relations Chairperson for Student Council and treasurer for the VSA club.

His ultimate goal is to give back to the community so he can make a positive impact on others.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund has raised over \$2,000 in donations this year. Since 2012, has provided \$69,500 in college scholarships and 37 tennis camp scholarships.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund has undergone a few changes in 2024. We are no longer holding tennis tournaments or mixers. This was a difficult decision to make due to the low tennis tournament participation in the area.

The tournaments and silent auctions were an additional avenue to raise money for the scholarships. We appreciate all the help everyone has given us over the years to make each and every tournament a success.

The Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarship Fund is a 501© 3 charity and now focuses on fund raising through donations. We will proudly offer tennis camp and college scholarships to junior tennis players at J. Frank Dobie High School and at the Harry Taylor Tennis Center in Pasadena, TX.

Donations are always accepted and are tax deductible. If you'd like to make a donation, please send your check made out to "Darren Lajaunie Tennis Scholarships". Our address is: DL Tennis Scholarships, 3106 Mossy Elm Court, Houston, TX 77059. We will be happy to send you a tax receipt for your records.

Updates for scholarships, and the Used Tennis Racket Drive can be found on the website at www.DLtennisscholarships.com and on our Facebook Page.