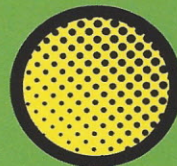


GIRLS' TENNIS



(L to R) Matilyn Griffin, Mariah Risher, Taylor Virden, Anni Crook, Kendall Bell, Alicia Roberson, Abigail Lee (kneeling), Campbell "Cami" Crook, Daryn Hooker, Madison Strickland, Megan DeWitt

The ball is high in the air. Junior Madison Strickland takes a deep breath. Then, like a lightning bolt after a strong gust calms, her racquet cracks the ball clear over the net and deep into the opposite box. She exhales. These are the scenes the team describes when they explain their love for the sport. While team members report score performance was down from last year, senior player Alicia Roberson says the intensity was surging in comparison--and with good reason: the team of twelve has six seniors this year. "We definitely miss them," said Junior Kendall Bell. "We depend on them so much for guidance." Together these Lady Cougars have learned perseverance and integrity of the game far beyond the skills that make them successful as a team.



Twin Seniors Anni and Cami Crook say they've grown together through tennis. The two held the #1 and #2 spots respectively this season.



L to R: Senior Alicia Roberson reported being impressed with sophomore Lov'ea Good's commitment to the sport, despite being entirely new to it. Juniors Kendall Bell, Madison Strickland, and sophomore Matilyn Griffin are all eager to move up in the team ladder, a sentiment many in the team express.



"I'm a very consistent, shot-by-shot player," Daryn Hooker (12) says. Daryn, #4 this year, was a power player and got several critical wins.

Right: Doubles partners Abigail Lee (9) and Mariah Risher (12) walk onto the court. Mariah, after the match: "Doubles requires you to put your trust in somebody else's skills. I think it's a great chance to grow because of that." Right, second from right: Megan DeWitt (10) savors a team huddle. "I'm worried about the future of the team; we need to recruit more and push our players."

