

## **“Dodging the Tennis Target on Our Back!”**

The B-CC girl's tennis team has always been one of the top teams in Montgomery County along with Walt Whitman, Churchill, and Walter Johnson. With that said, we have always been the team to beat and to keep at bay throughout the fall season. Knowing that every other team in the county was out to dominate us, it just made us stronger as a team and built an exceptional rapport amongst the girls as well. Throughout the years this team has grown to become faster, stronger, quicker and solid complex tennis players. Anytime you find that a team is improving and going undefeated, a target is then placed on their backs. We, B-CC have now been the target for all the other county teams to aim at. It is interesting to read the pre-season review in the Gazette to see not only what the others teams feel but what the writer has to say about the team you are a part of. We've been known as the “black horse” and now we are the team with the target on our backs. Words, labels or terms like that only make us stronger and want to finish on top in the county!

As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, we were 8-0 and had swept several of those teams. So far the biggest match up that we have completed was against Walt Whitman. B-CC hasn't beaten them in over 7 years and every year we were getting closer and closer. This year was the year for history in the making! This was a home match for us, so not only did we have the home courts that we practice on daily but we had a larger turn out of spectators that day as well. It was a gorgeous day in Bethesda, not too hot, not too windy and the girls were fired up! Beating Whitman was one of their seasonal goals every year, and we came up just short last year. This year was different, our team was positively different. This was also a nervous time for parents, players and I, as the coach. The girls started out extremely strong and confident and things were looking up. I believe Whitman was somewhat blown away with our team, so they started fighting back just as hard. There were several matches that became so intense and stressful, as if this was the U.S. Open. Some matches went 3 sets and as the scores were coming in to me, the pressure was increasing for the girls and I. This match came down to our #3 Doubles team, Cameron Kelly and Kayla Hanley. At this point Whitman took 3 and we took 3 for this match. The mood was set; both teams were all there cheering their teammates on. Cameron and Kayla kept their composure and pulled the win off with flying colors! The girls were so satisfied with their performance, team camaraderie, and meeting one of their seasonal goals.

These girls are outstanding athletes and I have been very lucky to be part of this exceptional tennis team and the growth of these young ladies. We are losing 9 seniors this year; Taylor Newman, Marie Fanjoy, Madison Yeutter, Ellie Magner, Lauren Hoover, Kristan Mallett, Cameron Kelly, Katherine Potocka and Isabel Sacker-Bernstein. They will all be missed and they all played an important role on this team for the past several years. Our underclassmen include; Anna Rozenberg, Emma Baker, Sophia Asmuth, Kayla Hanley, Hannah O'Malley, Elayne Deelen, Claudia Fitall, Molly Rubel, Seana Leys, Maartje Fritsche, Sarah Katz, Naomi Smith and Margo Hall. Keep up the great work ladies!!

**Written by:  
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