

Tennis Season Comes to an End

By **Alex Lipford**
Staff Writer

The 2009 tennis season will forever be known as the year that Heard County High School's tennis program made that step up to the next level. Head coach Brad McLain and assistant coach Reatha Burson really did their homework over the offseason and it came to show this year. Over the past three years, the team has steadily become a force to be reckoned with in region 5-AA. This year, the team reached the pinnacle of what so many other programs strive to become. Both the guys' and the girl's teams finished the season seeded high enough in the region to host the first round of the state playoffs.

At the region tournament, the teams played their hearts out.

When asked about how the teams performed, McLain said "I thought we played our best tennis of the year." On the guys side, Justin Mantle "played really well" while both Brandon Cofield and Cody Jordan really "stepped it up." At the girl's meet, Hannah Burson "proved that she is the best girl in the region." Also, Susan Avery and Breanna Davis gave all of their opponents "fits."

In the state playoffs, both teams got matched against teams that are year in and year out tennis powerhouses. The opponent for the girls' team was Westminster, while the guys faced Lovett, which actually had one player that was ranked nationally. Although both teams played really well, neither team was able to advance to the next round of the state playoffs.

Overall, this year's tennis season

will be a season to remember. When asked about his thoughts and feelings about this year, McLain said "I think we are beginning to build a tradition in a sport no one ever thought we would have any success in." According to McLain, the MVPs this year are Neel Patel and Hannah Burson because they both "raise everyone else's level of play." Honorable mentions for MVP include Justin Mantle because "you can always count on him for a win" and Rebekah Tatum because she is such "a solid player" and her "great region record." With the new tennis courts that are scheduled to be built at the new school and the outstanding coaching the tennis program at Heard County High School should continue to thrive in the coming years.

2009 Tennis Team

Boys

Neel Patel 10th
Justin Mantle 12th
Zach Burson 12th
Cody Jordan 11th
Will Lewis 12th
Joseph Head 11th
Brandon Shadrix 9th
Bryan Reeves 9th
Brandon Cofield 11th
Tyler Floyd 9th

Girls

Hannah Burson 11th
Kristin Smith 11th
Rebecca Heard 9th
Cydney Long 10th
Kaylie Long 11th
Jordan Finch 9th
Rebekah Tatum 11th
Susan Avery 11th
Blake Alford 11th
Breanna Davis 9th

SOUTHEAST SIDING

-Vinyl Siding

-Hardie Board Siding

-Metal Roofing

-Gutters

-Pressure Washing



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