



2007 Acalanes' Men's Tennis Season Overview

By Coach Brad Rieser

Courtesy of: Acalanes' Booster Club

After losing 15 senior members of the 18 players on the 2006 varsity squad, we knew this season's boys' tennis team was in for a challenging year. With 35 kids trying out for the 12-15 open varsity spots, the pre-season tournament was very competitive to determine who would make the varsity team. Many matches had to be played to provide a fair chance for all, and, as such, we entered into the first of our 19-game season against Campolindo without any official team practice or decision on what our doubles line up would be. We lost that one and continued to experiment a bit as the season rolled along, playing many challenge matches and trying various doubles combinations to achieve the strongest roster possible. Unbelievably, due to our match schedule and a bit of untimely rain, the squad had it's first real team practice just before the second half of the season began! Yet, despite these challenges, the team proved to be incredibly deep and we

defeated all but the three strongest teams in the 10-team league, eventually tying with Las Lomas for fourth place in the DFAL, with a winning league record of 10-8, 11-8 overall, which included two tough 5-4 losses that came down to the last individual match and could have gone either way.

In the season ending DFAL tournament, we placed 11 individuals in the tourney with the doubles team of Evan Kline and Jarret Nelson, both of whom mostly played singles all season, were the second seeded team and advanced admirably to the semifinals. Our other players in the event (Aaron Boltz, John Grimes, Sam Behbehani in singles, Alex Henze, David Fisher, team captain Yoonho Ji, Blake Padua, Jay Yarlagada, and Jason Cheung in doubles) performed well but got tough draws, dropping their matches to seeded players/teams in the early rounds. Nevertheless, all had fun trying and valued the learning experience.

The 2007 boys varsity tennis team will be remembered as a team with a new bunch of diverse players that showed tremendous depth and a real passion to compete, surpassing all expectations to achieve a very respectable winning record that could easily have been even better. Already, the team is looking forward to next season, returning all varsity players except two terrific seniors, Sean Kersten and Jay Yarlagada, who teamed at #3 doubles to earn one of the top records in the league at their position and voted by the coaches All League Honorable Mention. Their fine play, sportsmanship, and team spirit will surely be missed.



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