

TENNIS

IT'S TIME TO HIT
THE COURTS

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After what feels like a century, winter is finally over and hopefully it stays that way. Spring is here and the boys and girls tennis teams have started back up; both teams are ecstatic to hit the courts.

Boys tennis began the season with a game against the Hoover Huskies on April 5 at Hoover High School. With tough hits and striking serves, the team pulled through with their first win of the season. Weekly practices consists of conditioning and scrimmages that successfully help the team prosper.

Freshman, Jamehl Inthabounh is playing tennis for North and is reliving his childhood memories. Inthabounh says he used to play in third and fourth grade and when he came to high school, he planned on being apart of the team. "Tennis is a game that's pretty easy, you just have to get pretty good at it but it's easy to learn. Other sports are fun to play but I'm not really good at them," he says.

As many new players enter the courts and join the team, many have come back to play tennis for the Polar Bears. Junior, Akai Thiphavong has been playing tennis for three years and is eager to play better because of his teammates and says, "My teammates push me to become better, by challenging me. Knowing that some of them are better than me, I push myself and they push me to become better."

Markes Carter, a senior at North has been dedicated to the sport since he was six years old and continues to flourish. Carter plays tennis because of the peace it brings him, and the fun he has on the courts with his teammates.

Carter says, "The team is very diverse and different, but when we need to we all come together, as one family."

The girls tennis team on the other hand has grown immensely. It is filled with girls who genuinely love the sport and want to improve their skills. They too, have practices weekly to strengthen their muscles and gain skills in order to succeed. The girls tennis team also played against the Hoover Huskies but at home on April 2. As the girls practice, they seem to gain much more than skills, but a positive team dynamic that will surely help them in the game.

The girls' captain, sophomore Valeria Guerra has been on the courts since she was little when she watched her older sister swing the racket. She says, "I keep playing because it's a really good sport, it keeps me active and playing here with all my friends is a really good feeling."

Sophomore, Cherry Tran had only joined tennis her freshman year because she heard there were cute uniforms but later on she discovered that tennis was the sport for her. Going from such a small team, to a great group of girls, each all share a special bond with one another. Tran expresses, "I think we are just like a family because we are all so close to each other."

All in all the boys and girls tennis teams have a lot going for them this season. Both share unique qualities that unite the team as family.

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