

# Jiung Jung

WITH TWO TENNIS STATE TITLES and multiple United States Tennis Association (USTA) tournament titles, performing under pressure with a notion to succeed sets singles tennis player Jiung Jung apart from the pack. However, claiming his impressive titles required determination and grit.

"Winning State last year was much harder than the year before that," he said. "I got fourth my freshman year, so I didn't really have that many expectations going into my sophomore year, and I ended up just doing really well. But then last year there were expectations from the beginning, and that was pretty hard to keep up with sometimes."

What initially served as a fun hobby for the 8-year-old Jung, who had just moved from Ohio, developed into a sport that would take him far. At 11 he competed in his first USTA tournament and has enjoyed a great deal of success since.

"Winning State was a very big accomplishment," he said. "But also, some of the USTA tournaments I've played in I've won, and those were probably a higher level than State. There's

a lot of pressure just with State, though, because you're playing for West so you want to win even more."

Besides West's tennis team, Jung plays on Wings, a competitive ultimate frisbee team organized by West students. Wings attends tournaments throughout the school year competing against other teams that represent their high schools.

"This year we have a shot at making Nationals, which is pretty cool, especially because we started the program only around four years ago," Jung said.

The team dynamic when playing ultimate Frisbee contrasts sharply with singles tennis, which drew Jung to join Wings.

"A lot of tennis, and competitive tennis especially, is really individual and you kind of get used to a stoic setting, and everyone is for themselves," he said. "But with Ultimate, it's a team sport and you have more motivation to win because other people are relying on you, too."

For the past four years, Jung has been involved in the *West Side Story*. Starting in the required Introduction to Journalism course, he then served as a reporter for two years and now acts as copy editor of the Web Staff.

"You have to take the Intro class and I knew that counted as an English credit. So, I was just like 'I might as well take this' and I ended up really liking it," he said. "[As copy editor] I have to look at all of the posts before they are published onto the website to check for grammatical errors or if an essential piece of the story is missing."

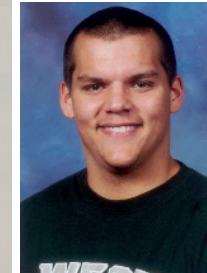
Because of the many activities Jung is a part of and the sense of community he has found in West High tennis, he decided to stay in Iowa City when his parents moved to North Carolina for their jobs. For part of his junior year, Jung lived with tennis coach Mitch Gross and as a senior he is living with teammate Jack Wenzel.

Despite that challenge, Jung has continued to strive for success and has learned more about himself during high school.

"I would definitely say just going to West High has made me a more confident person. With whatever you are doing, you are expected to be really good at it, or one of the best even," Jung said. "I know with Frisbee, tennis and newspaper, they are all really well-known things. So, there's a standard you are put to, which I think has helped me a lot."

—By Julia Austin

# seniors



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Wyatt Jones



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Michael Kurth  
Joshua Kwok  
Gage Lake-McNeese  
Andrew Lamkins  
Jory Lamp  
Devontae Lane



Not pictured: Ahmed Idris, Gabriel Ingersoll Weng.



Not pictured: Jiung Jung, Noelle Jung, Nephath (John) Kihura.

118 PEOPLE

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