

## **Viking Tennis Players Play Well At Section Individual Tournament and David Bergstrom Advances to State**

Six members of the boys' varsity tennis team traveled to Hibbing, Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, to compete in the Section 7A Individual Tournament. Each team sends 2 singles players and 2 doubles teams to this tournament and the top two in each category, singles and doubles, advance to the state competition. Because of misty rain on Tuesday morning, the competition was moved to Virginia, where they have four indoor tennis courts, along with some nice outdoor courts.

Cook County had both of its singles players, David Bergstrom and Lars Scannell, advance through the first two rounds, and they will face each other Wednesday morning in the semi-finals. In this section tournament, David was seeded #1 and Lars #4, in singles. Junior captain David Bergstrom defeated senior Greg Elvik (Mora), 6-0, 6-0, in the first round, and junior Josh Adams (Pine City), 6-0, 6-0, in the second round. Eighth grader Lars Scannell prevailed through two challenging matches, defeating sophomore Lyle Nyberg (Aitkin), 6-2, 7-5, in the first round, and senior Paul Knoll (Virginia), 6-4, 2-6, 7-5, in the second round.

In the doubles competition, sophomore Justin Goldstein and eighth grader Daniel Ahrendt won their first round match, defeating juniors Adam Stumne and Tim Broz (Pine City), 3-6, 6-2, 6-3. Justin and Daniel had to face the top seeded doubles team in the second round and lost to seniors Cody Mauston and John Morgan (Virginia), 6-0, 6-0. The other CCHS doubles team was eighth grader Jamie Wick and seventh grader Pete Summers. Jamie and Pete had to play the #4 seeded team, seniors Mark Florey and Steve Aro (Eveleth-Gilbert), in the first round and gave them a tough match before losing, 6-0, 6-4.

Junior David Bergstrom and eighth grader Lars Scannell had to start the day, on Wednesday, competing against each other for a spot in the singles finals. Lars always enjoys the challenge of playing against David, who has been dominant this season against all of his opponents. David quickly won the first game, but then Lars started playing his best tennis of the season and David started to feel the pressure of being the top seed in the section. He had beaten all of the top seeded players in the section, earlier this season, but now he had to do it again to advance to the state tournament. The combination of Lars' excellent play and David's nerves made every game a battle. David ended up defeating Lars, 6-2, 6-1, but the score doesn't indicate how competitive this match really was. There were a number of close games that could've gone either way.

In the finals, David had to take on the #2 seeded player, junior Joey Kronzer, from Marshall High School. David knew he had to play well to beat this opponent and the pressure he put on himself continued to affect his, usually consistent, play. David struggled throughout the match and his opponent took advantage of it, handing David his first loss of the season, 6-1, 6-3.

In the third place match, Lars took on the #3 seeded player, junior Blair Seitz, from Virginia., and lost 6-1, 6-0. Lars demonstrated in this tournament that he has a large amount of talent and has an opportunity to be a great player in the years to come.

Due to the way the section tournament is set up, David had to play one more match to find out who would be declared the true second place finisher that would advance to the state tournament. David had to take on Blair Seitz, another tough opponent whom he faced earlier in the season. After David's last match, he knew he had to relax and get his mind right so he could focus on the job, at hand. David was able to overcome some of the struggles he was dealing with earlier and slowly felt his game and confidence come back. He finished the match strong, defeating Seitz, 6-4, 6-0 for second place and an opportunity to advance to the State Single A Individual Tennis Tournament, held June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, in Minneapolis. Congratulations, David!

All of the individual CCHS players played well in their matches and impressed a number of observers at the tournament. They have continued to improve throughout the season as they gained more match-play experience. The team needs more players to field a full team (10), next year, but they have a great nucleus of players to build around.

This is a great way to end the first season of girls' and boys' varsity tennis at Cook County High School. Hopefully, it's a sign of things to come and an opportunity for us to continue to grow the game of tennis in Cook County.