

Another 'smashing' season for boys' tennis team

By Scott Williams

Although very few people are aware of it, we have a very talented and very successful tennis team here at Mather. Last year they captured second place in city-wide competition.

The varsity team consists of top-seeded Noel Dimalanta, second-seeded Fred Zalcmán, third-seeded Jack Fishman, fourth-seeded Bruce Appelton, fifth-seeded Stuart Jankelovitz, sixth-seeded Tom Kong, and seventh-seeded Bill Schiller. This year their regular season record was 10-1, and on May 19, they played Kennedy High School in the city-wide quarter-finals. Noel Dimalanta won the first singles match, 6-4, 6-4; Fred Zalcmán lost the second singles match, 6-0, 6-4; and Jack Fishman won the third singles match, 6-3, 6-3. In the first doubles match, the team of Stuart Jankelovitz and Bruce Appelton remained undefeated for the season by winning 6-1, 6-0; and Tom Kong and Bill Schiller won the second doubles match 6-3, 6-3. By defeating Kennedy, Mather advanced to the semi-finals, and as we go to press they are scheduled to play a south-western school at Jackson Park.

In their regular season, the team was nearly flawless. Their first match was a 5-0 victory over Lakeview, with everybody winning their matches 6-0, 6-0,

except Tom and Bill Schiller who won 6-0, 6-1. This match, which was entirely dominated by Mather, was just a prelude to upcoming victories for the team.

Against Roosevelt, Noel Dimalanta lost a tough match 7-5, 6-4. Both of our doubles teams won on forfeits because Roosevelt had no doubles teams to compete. This 4-1 victory gave the team a 2-0 record. The team's one and only loss of the season came against Lane. While watching this match, I saw several examples of poor sportsmanship on Lane's part. In a match that required line judges because of the Lane player's questionable calls, Noel Dimalanta lost. Unfortunately, Fred Zalcmán and Jack Fishman also lost their matches, while the team of Stuart Jankelovitz and Bruce Appelton tolerated jeering and name-calling from their opponents in the second set of their victorious match 6-4, 7-6. Tom Kong and Bill Schiller lost the second doubles match, and Mather had taken their only defeat gracefully.

After they lost to Lane, Mather seemed to take their wins one after another. They beat Taft 5-0, Sullivan 5-0, and then they overpowered Senn 3-2. The match against Senn was a very significant one to the team because they knew that if they

beat Senn they would almost be assured of a spot in the playoffs.

They continued their winning streak for the remainder of the season defeating Waller 5-0, Von Steuben 5-0, Foreman, 4-1, Clemente 5-0, and in their final match of the regular season they beat Kelvyn Park 5-0.

Our very respected tennis team, up until this year, was coached by Mr. Sidney Rothstein. But after Mr. Rothstein's retirement, Mr. Alfred Lieteau took over as coach of the team. The team seems to have made the change smoothly without any affect on their performances. Bruce Appelton says that the players have accepted Mr. Lieteau as a most worthy replacement for Mr. Rothstein. "I think Mr. Lieteau is a very good coach. He gives us good strategy and before matches, he relaxes us more than Mr. Rothstein did."

Mather is a definite contender for the city-finals, and the team is extremely confident going into the semi-finals, as Bruce Appelton said earlier in the season, "We're good enough to win city. We have a very well-balanced team."

As the school year comes to an end, after all of the football seasons, all of the basketball seasons, and all of the baseball seasons, it is clear to all - Mather is a tennis school!