

The Spartans have been busy on the tennis courts now that the weather has been better. The Spartans traveled to San Ramon on Tuesday February 28 to take on the always tough Wolves. The Spartans traveled without their Super Sophomore Jeff Kubota. This was also the first match that they traveled with their dual sport athlete Luke Happel after finishing up with a visit with the DLS Soccer team to the finals of NCS.

Unfortunately missing your #2 player causes a huge line up adjustment and things didn't go well for the Spartans. Danny Nomura won at #1 singles in straight sets 6-2, 6-1. Matt Trinkus, moving up to #2 lost a tight match 6-4, 6-4. Griffin Ivanov pulled out a tough 3 setter at #3. Luke Happel playing in his first match of the year, shook off the rust and won a close one 6-4, 7-5. That was it for the Spartans and they ended up losing the match 6-3.

On Thursday we had practice at DVC, had a real healthy dinner at In-n-Out and then headed down to Fresno for the largest high school tennis tournament in the Nation with over 100 teams participating on Courts all over the Fresno-Clovis area. The Spartans were in a pool with Valencia, Santa Barbara, and La Quinta (Westminister not the desert). The format was 3 singles and 3 doubles. We won all 3 of our singles matches with Danny Nomura, Matt Trinkus, and Luke Happel. We lost all 3 doubles matches so the match was tied 3-3. Not so fast! The tiebreaker is # of sets won and since both Luke and Matt lost a set and our doubles all lost in straight sets we lost the match.

Next we played Santa Barbara High and lost 4-2. Danny Nomura won at #1 and Griff Ivanov won at #3 and we lost at #2 singles with Matt Trinkus playing a very close match. We lost all three doubles matches.

Next we played La Quinta and had a clean sweep 6-0. All of our singles and doubles players won their match. After that match we went directly to the Spaghetti Factory and had a nice team dinner. Bob Trapp, Lisa Behring, Blake Haley, and Adrian Ivanov were able to join the team for dinner. A great thanks goes out to Bob Trapp, Lisa Behring, and Adrian Ivanov. We couldn't have made the trip without them.

The next morning we played back to back matches against Piedmont High and Jesuit High. Against Piedmont High Danny Nomura, Jeffrey Kubota, and Giff Ivanov all won their singles matches. We lost all three doubles matches but Ravine Wijesuriya and Ryan Sheffield went 3 sets so we were able to win the match on # of sets won. So there Valencia!

Things didn't go well against Jesuit. They are a loaded team. Danny Nomura had his only close match of the tournament and won in a third set tie-breaker 11-9. He was down 9-7 facing 2 match points and came back and won 4 straight points to win the only match for the Spartans. We ended up losing the match 5-1.

On Tuesday, March 7th we had a match with the defending NCS Champions Dougherty Valley. Again the Spartans weren't a full squad as the #1 player, Danny Nomura, had a wrist injury. Dougherty Valley is a very talented team and new to the EBAL, and Spartans ended up losing 8-1. The only victory was at #4 singles with Luke Happel winning his match 6-4, 6-3. Of course the schedule had us playing the 3 toughest teams in the league right out of the box and without a full squad.

What a difference a full squad makes. The Spartans traveled to Cal High on Thursday March 9th and won their first league match of the year. The first Spartan off of Court 3 was Senior Co-Captain Matt

Trinkus. He cruised to victory faster than Danny Nomura and that says something. Spartan 1, Cal 0. Next off the Court was Danny Nomura winning 6-4, 6-2. Spartans 2, Cal 0. Having a full squad was a good thing and also having a solid doubles lineup certainly helped. Next off the Court was #2 doubles Ravine Wijesuriya and Rick Trapp dominated their opponents serving big and coming to the net. They won 6-3 6-2. Spartans 3, Cal 0.

Jeffrey Kubota had a tough match against Senior Roger Wen and lost 6-1, 6-3. Spartans 3, Cal 1. Next match off was #4 singles, Griff Ivanov. He won his match in straight sets. Griff is getting better with every match and is hitting some big inside out forehands deep to his opponents backhand. He's also coming to the net on short balls and putting away volleys. Spartans 4, Cal 1.

Luke Happel lost a close match on Court #5 7-6, 7-5. Luke is getting better with each match and is in unbelievable condition due to his soccer. His groundstrokes and serve are getting better with each match. Spartans 4 Cal 2

Now we just need 1 more match for victory. #1 doubles, Kyle Haley and Ryan Sheffield are down a set and #3 doubles Chris Behring and Nicolai Kindy-Baillet are down 4-1 in the first set. Will Wright is playing in his second match of singles in his DLS career at #6. I'm thinking it's going to come down to Will Wright winning his match with players from both teams watching from the sidelines. Haley and Sheffield go down to a very good doubles team. Spartans 4, Cal 3 with two matches left. They had such bad scoreboards that are falling on the grounds and I'm thinking Chris and Nicolai have lost the first set and are in a tight second set. Will has won the first set and is up a break in the second. Then he loses his serve but immediately breaks back for a 5-4 lead in the second. Great serving, coming to the net and putting away an overhead and all of a sudden it 40-15, triple match point. Will hits a big serve and his opponent hits it into the net, game, set, and match. Spartans 5, Cal 3.

Now everything is focused on #3 doubles. I'm thinking since the match is clinched that the 3rd set will be a 10 point tie-breaker. Chris Behring is serving and wins the games and him and Nicolai come up to the net to shake hands. They had come back from down 1-4 in the first to win 6-4, 6-2. What a come back and what a performance by the doubles teams. Winning two out of 3 doubles matches in a league match. Spartans 6, Cal 3. That's the same score that Dougherty Valley beat Cal High.

This team is on a roll. Now we've got Acalanes today. We've got our team at full strength and now we're ready to rumble.

GO SPARTANS!!