

FC beats EHS in boys' tennis sectional

Written by George Browning
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This tennis season ended like many other have over the past two decades for the Eastern Musketeers – with a loss to Floyd Central in the sectional championship game last Thursday at FC.

The difference this year compared to most, is the way the Eastern players fought at a couple of positions.

Grant Newcomb lost his number two singles match against freshman Chris Boone, but the score was 6-4, 7-5.

Jordan Gray also lost at number three singles, but managed to win the second set. He lost 3-6, 6-2, 3-6.

Eastern lost the other three sets, but scored points in all of them but number two doubles.

At number one singles, Alex Doeblor lost to Ryan Plunkett, 6-0, 6-1.

The Musketeers' number one doubles team of Clayton Marshall and Terry Chism lost to Jack Stoner and Chris Collier 6-1, 6-1.

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At number two doubles, Floyd Central's Austin Ivey and Alex Saxon beat Trace Myers and Payton Sparks, 6-0, 6-0.

Eastern Head Coach Greg Heldman said even though his team lost 5-0, there are positives.

"Like always, Floyd Central is a solid team," he said, "yet unlike other years, we had opportunities to win a couple of points. Hopefully, this will motivate us to improve and become even more competitive next year."

Eastern will replace only one player from this year's roster and that's Gray, who is a senior.

Heldman said Gray has shown an unbelievable work ethic over the four years of high school tennis and it paid off.

"Jordan has probably hit more tennis balls during the off-season than anyone I have coached," Heldman said. "He has really worked hard to improve his game and it has been a pleasure to see how this dedication has led to his development from his freshman year to now. Jordan will be missed by me and his teammates."

Eastern was 6-9 on the season and finished with a Mid Southern Conference record of 3-6.

Floyd Central advanced to regionals, which they will host.

The Highlanders took on the winner of the New Albany sectional Tuesday night. Results from that match were not available at press time.

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The winner of that match will play in the regional championship today (Wednesday) at 5 p.m.