

Spring Sports Season Previews

-The Balding Eagle, March 26-

With baseball and tennis seasons starting in in the past few weeks, we wanted to do season previews this week for all of our spring sports teams.



Girls' and boys' tennis this spring, like girls' and boys' cross country last fall, are in their first season here at GCS. The dynamic duo of Talor Troyer and Scott Phillips have worked the players hard these past few weeks to get them into shape, sharpen skills, and establish seeding for upcoming matches. The teams compete against Winston Academy tomorrow at Ivy Park.

As this is a new sport for many of our players, there is some work to do on things like technique and serving. But at the same time, both coaches credit the players for working hard to maximize each workout and improve as much as possible.

Coach Troyer noted dealing with “pace” as a challenge the team must overcome between now and the end of the season. She also mentioned, however, that many things in the game of tennis can only be improved through playing experience, which all our players are gaining more of every week.

“Looking forward to our first match,” said Coach Troyer. “Everyone has worked hard to improve.”

As far as standout players, Junior Aspen Harris and Freshman Noah Phillips come to mind. Coach Troyer noted both as leaders at this point in overall skill.

All in all, the attitude around the program is positive, hard work is taking place every workout, and both coaches are having a great time with both teams.

Coach Troyer added, “It has been fun to help kickstart tennis at Grace. Watching the kids get excited about learning a new sport has been an incredible process to be a part of.”



Eagle baseball, like many teams, enters the 2021 campaign very thankful to be playing this year after a Covid-shortened season last year. The squad is a little light on upperclassmen this year, but the roster boasts

a high number of younger players who are working hard and improving every day.

A key to success this year will be the pitching of Senior Wes Agnew and Sophomore Grayson Skelton. When either of the teams top two pitchers have a strong game, the Eagles feel they can beat anybody.

And the importance Agnew and Skelton have to the team doesn't stop on the mound; the two also represent the Eagles' best two offensive players. Coach Charlie Agnew mentioned them as standout offensive threats on whom the team depends every single game.

"We need a big game from Wes and Grayson every day," said Coach Agnew. "Even though we are developing a lot of younger guys, if Grayson and Wes have strong games, we are instantly competitive."

Though GCS has a relatively thin roster, the team often plays JV and Varsity games in the same day for the development of younger players. Coach Agnew mentioned how important this is to the future of GCS baseball.

Though the spring weather has resulted in many cancelled or rescheduled games so far, the Eagles continue to find a sunny day here or there to squeeze in a game. The team is 2-4 so far and is coming off a 6-0 win at Starkville Christian earlier this week.

Coach Morgan added, "We have improved a ton since that first game a few weeks ago. Defense is getting there, and I think situational hitting has also improved."

When asked about his outlook on the season, Senior Wes Agnew said, "We are young and inexperienced in many areas, but if we get good pitching and common sense defense, we can play with anybody."

With Eagle and Lady Eagle tennis in action tomorrow morning and baseball back in action next week, we want to encourage you to get out and support your GCS spring sports!