

TENNIS

# Osakis a step above the competition

By Eric Morken  
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Things have come easy for the Osakis tennis team early this season, and nothing changed in a couple more matches early this week.

Osakis dominated a 7-0 match against St. John's Prep on Monday and then handled Benson-KMS 6-1 on the road on Tuesday to move to 4-0.

The Silverstreaks gave up just four games all night against St. John's Prep.

"Everything has been really good. The girls are working hard and playing well," head coach Ryan Maddock said after Monday's win. "We've been playing some inexperienced teams, so they're handling it the way they should handle it. They're not giving anything up, and we'll have some teams with a little more experience coming up later on the schedule."

Tia Dykema, Mara VanNyhuis, Kennedy George and Larissa Hoffarth set the tone in the singles lineup on Monday as all four cruised in straight sets. Dykema has been anchoring the lineup at first singles for years, and VanNyhuis has moved into a more permanent role as the second singles player for the Silverstreaks this year.

VanNyhuis has battled a back injury in the past, and the Osakis coaches played her in the doubles lineup a lot last season to shrink the court a bit. Maddock likes the way she has played so far this season and the pressure Dykema and VanNyhuis can put on opponents from the top of the lineup.

"It really sets the table. Kind of similar to what we had when Tia and Shea Olson played together up there," Maddock said. "It really is a tough 1-2, and then we're happy with Kennedy and Larissa at 3 and 4. We feel like they can definitely play higher



Osakis' MaKenzie Lien (right) and Tessa Stanek celebrate a point during their straight-set win at second doubles on Monday.

up in the lineup. Then we have some younger singles players who if needed would be ready to go as well."

Sophomore Ellie George and senior Brittany Dietrich have moved from third doubles a year ago into the top doubles spot at the start of this season. They won 6-0, 6-1 on Monday.

"Things are going really well," George said. "We played together all last year too, so we've really gotten close, gotten to know each other really well and we know how each other plays."

Maddock feels he has three doubles teams that are all really close in ability. That makes their lineup tough to beat, especially at those second and third spots where Osakis has players that might be playing No. 1 doubles on some other teams.

MaKenzie Lien and Tessa Stanek played second doubles against St. John's Prep and won 6-0, 6-0. Jayden Hensley and Hatti Schmidtbauer completed the sweep with a 6-1, 6-0 win.

"It helps that we have such a strong team,"

Dietrich said of their role at No. 1 doubles. "We're playing against people we're going to see at first doubles. Even playing against hitters like Mara and Tia (in practice) will help us against the better first doubles teams we'll see."

Year in and year out, Osakis has proven to be at another level than most other Class A schools in the area. The Silverstreaks loaded up their schedule this fall to try to play against other high-caliber teams from around the state, but the COVID-19 pandemic changed that with schools limited in how far they are traveling and the inability to play multiple-school tournaments.

The Silverstreaks are happy to be off to an undefeated start, and they are equally as excited to see some more experienced opponents in the coming weeks.

Montevideo and Minnewaska are both programs that could offer a good challenge for the Silverstreaks in the near future. Osakis is scheduled to be in Montevideo on Sept. 15 before returning home to



Photos by Eric Morken / Echo Press

Osakis' Mara VanNyhuis rushes to her left to make a return in her straight-set win at second singles on Monday evening.

face the defending Section 6A champion Lakers on Sept. 18 at 4:30 p.m.

"Win or lose, the better the team is that we're playing, the more fun it's going to be," Dietrich said. "This is fun too, but that's just a different level of challenge. I'm excited that at least we have a few of those. It's not as stacked as our schedule would be, but we're still going to get some good competition in."

Osakis knows some of the top competition it will

face this year comes in practice with a deep roster. Attacking those practices with a purpose has led to consistent success for the Silverstreaks, and it again has them set up well for this season and into the future.

"We have about 16 girls who we feel like we could use on the varsity, and there's even some beyond that who are progressing too," Maddock said. "With the way the season is this year, some of those kids will have to be

patient and keep improving behind the scenes. That isn't a bad thing. We'll lose a lot of seniors this year, but we definitely have some kids behind the scenes who will be ready to go a year from now."

**OSAKIS 7, ST. JOHN'S PREP 0**  
SINGLES - No. 1 - Tia Dykema (O) def. Adrienne Gafre, 6-0, 6-0; No. 2 - Mara VanNyhuis (O) def. Andreigha Kraemer, 6-0, 6-1; No. 3 - Kennedy George (O) def. Gracie Davier, 6-1, 6-0; No. 4 - Larissa Hoffarth (O) def. Tori Grandy, 6-0, 6-0  
DOUBLES - No. 1 - Ellie George/Brittany Dietrich (O) def. Lucy Cheeley/Claire Duffy, 6-0, 6-1; No. 2 - MaKenzie Lien/Tessa Stanek (O) def. Hannah Ansland/Noelle Buehrer, 6-0, 6-0; No. 3 - Jayden Hensley/Hatti Schmidtbauer (O) def. Miranda Louis/Lily Kuhl, 6-1, 6-0

CROSS COUNTRY

## Lakers run to 1st place in tri

By Eric Morken  
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The Minnewaska boys and girls cross country teams both came home with wins from a three-team meet with Benson-KMS and Morris Area-Chokio-Alberta on Tuesday.

The Lakers finished with 28 points on the boys' side, six lower than Benson-KMS. Morris Area was a distant third with 60 points.

Maeson Tank set the tone in the 5K race with a first-place finish in 19:12.5. It was one of four

top-10 finishes for the Lakers as Logan Maanum (third, 19:31.2), Nick Ankeny (fourth, 19:31.9) and Noah Danielson (seventh, 20:08.6) all finished near the front.

Zach Palmer was 13th in 21:26. James Ward (18th, 22:35) and Jace Kovarik (20th, 23:41.1) also ran varsity.

The Minnewaska girls also ran away with a win with 21 points. Benson-KMS finished with 46, and Morris Area-Chokio-Alberta was third with 68.

Sydney Hagen paced the field by winning the 5K in 22:06.4. Kierarra Wilmes was third (22:16.4) and Sydne Chevalier was fourth (22:37.2).

Minnewaska runners were all over the top-10 as Elsey Hagen (sixth, 22:53.2), Ava Chevalier (seventh, 23:07.7), Emma Kovarik (eighth, 23:24.5) and Sydney Perry (10th, 23:33.8) added to a deep performance for the Lakers. Alexx Carlson also ran varsity and finished 17th in 25:12.7.

GIRLS TENNIS

## Streaks keep rolling with win over Benson-KMS

By Jared Rubado  
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The Osakis girls tennis team is proving to be a tough squad to beat again this year with a 6-1 win over Benson-Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunberg.

The Silverstreaks swept all four singles matches on Tuesday afternoon, including a 6-0, 6-1 win for Mara VanNyhuis and a 6-1, 6-0 win for Kennedy George. Larissa Hoffarth and Tia Dykema also won their matches in two sets.

Osakis' second and third doubles teams picked up victories as well. Sydney Rach and Kady Triebenbach beat Eleanor Habben and Tay-

lor Samuelson 6-3, 6-2, while Lexi Sychalla and Helena Zajac defeated Lilly Miller and Bella Quisberg 6-2, 6-2.

Benson-KMS' No. 1 doubles team tallied its only point of the night. Susan Knutson and Halle Bundy took down Ellie George and Brittany Dietrich. The Silverstreaks are 4-0 this fall.

**OSAKIS 6, BENSON-KMS 1**  
SINGLES - No. 1 Tia Dykema (O) def. Stacy Johnson 6-2, 6-3; No. 2 Mara VanNyhuis (O) def. Elise Duncan 6-0, 6-1; No. 3 Kennedy George (O) def. Hannah Helms 6-1, 6-0; No. 4 Larissa Hoffarth (O) def. Elle Klescher 6-0, 6-2; DOUBLES - No. 1 Susan Knutson-Halle Bundy (B) def. Ellie George-Brittany Dietrich; No. 2 Sydney Rach-Kady Triebenbach (O) def. Taylor Samuelson-Eleanor Habben 6-3, 6-2; No. 3 Lexi Sychalla-Helena Zajac (O) def. Lilly Miller-Bella Quisberg 6-2, 6-2; Exhibition doubles matches - Mackenzie Lien-Tessa Stanek (O) def. Milgo Acidi-Anna McNeill 6-2, 6-2; Jayden Hensley-Hatti Schmidtbauer (O) def. Alana Edwards-Libby Rohner 7-5, 6-1

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"We didn't start well at second and third doubles," Ronning said. "They battled. You can't have your best stuff every day. I told several players that while they were in the middle of their match. 'Don't expect your best stuff every day, but you got to work with what is working today.' I'm happy with the way they kept fighting."

The top doubles team of Kaylee Svec and Whitly Netland won 6-3, 6-2, while Anna Doherty and Mackenna Aure won 2-6, 6-3, 6-1. Holm, Sarah

Jiang and Jaya Hatlestad all won in singles to help their team stay perfect through three matches.

"(Rocori) upset Moorhead," Ronning said. "In Moorhead's eyes it's an upset. Maybe in Rocori's eyes it's not, so they're coming in here with a lot of confidence. For us to do that to a team that's going to be in the middle-to-upper portion of the conference, it's a good win."

**ALEXANDRIA 5, ROCORI 2**  
SINGLES - No. 1 - Brianna Holm (A) def. Kathryn Headlee, 6-4, 6-0; No. 2 - Adeline Loesch (R) def. Tabea Roggenbuck, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; No. 3 - Sarah Jiang (A) def. Katie Kaluza, 6-2, 6-3; No. 4 - Jaya Hatlestad (A) def. Kaylene Andrusick, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3  
DOUBLES - No. 1 - Kaylee Svec/Whitly Netland (A) def. Shelby Garding/Kristen Weiling, 6-3, 6-2; No. 2 - Anna Doherty/Mackenna Aure (A) def. Abby Jopp/Ava Peters, 2-6, 6-3, 6-1; No. 3 - Teanna Horn/Mackenzie Galazen (R) def. Maci Tilleskior/Rachel Wegner, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5



Eric Morken / Echo Press

Alexandria's Sarah Jiang won in straight sets at No. 3 singles on Tuesday to help the Cardinals to a 5-2 win over Rocori.

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Sadie Boraas got in on the scoring spree to push the game to running time with 19 minutes left. Jones tallied her second goal of the game to make it 7-0 before Randazzo completed the hat trick with under a minute left to play. Alexandria is playing with a high level

of confidence early on this season.

"We are still trying to figure out how to play with each other, but we feel good out there," James said. "It's coming together really well. We have some new players, but they are adapting well to this team."

Like many teams around the state, the Cardinals don't know what the rest of the season will look like with the COVID-19 pan-

demic.

"Like coach always says, we never know if a game will be our last this year," James said. "We always need to give it our all and put everything into our practices."

While the Cardinals are excelling on both ends of the pitch, their depth allows them to stay fresh from start to finish. Roos has options up and down the roster to separate Alexandria from their

opponents.

"It's great when we bring players off the bench, and there's very little difference from the girls we have starting," Roos said. "To be able to put players in and not have a significant drop off makes us coaches feel fortunate. We have a lot of strong returning varsity players, and the newcomers to the varsity team are going to do great things as well."

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