



TENNIS TEAM ADAPTS TO ADVERSITY IN SEASON

NEW PLAYERS SAVE TEAM FROM FORFEITING

Thomas Dibattista

Junior Reporter

The Berwick High School Boys Tennis Team season began on March 1, 2026. The season ran from March until May, ending with Singles and Team Districts at Kirby Park in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

In the very beginning of the season, the team faced an unprecedented challenge. They did not have enough players to have a full starting lineup. In tennis, seven people are needed to make a full lineup consisting of first singles, second singles, third singles, first doubles, and second doubles. At the start of the season, only four positions could be played by Berwick, instead of the usual five. If a team cannot play the full five positions because of a lack of players, they must forfeit a win in that specific area to the opposing team. This problem was soon resolved when more students began to join the team, so that a full lineup could be played, and potentially won. Many of the new students who joined this year also had to learn how to keep score, on top of picking up a racquet for the first time in a competitive environment.

After more people joined, the line-up consisted of Nate Hook playing first singles, Ethan Packer playing second singles, Hayden Wark playing third singles, Quinn Kishbaugh and Ian Davis playing first doubles, and lastly Thomas DiBattista, Aiden Jones, and Jayson Hess rotating on second doubles and playing at exhibition. There are two seniors on the team this year. Those two seniors are Nate Hook and Ethan Packer. The coaching staff for the 2025- 2026 season included Head Coach Blake Whitmire and Assistant Coaches Dennis Cole and Steven Crake.

The 2025 - 2026 season opened with an away scrimmage match against Central Columbia. Unfortunately, Berwick lost. Nevertheless, the season went on, and hard work continued. Among the hardest teams that Berwick faced were MMI Preparatory School in Freeland, PA, and Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School in Kingston, PA. Other schools that Berwick Tennis faced off against were Holy Redeemer, Wyoming Area, Pittston, and Lake Lehman. Wins for the team included Pittston and Wyoming Area.

Kishbaugh, who plays first doubles and who just joined the team recently, said, "I'm loving it." He also said one of his favorite sayings is "Down the middle, solves the riddle," referring to hitting a ground stroke down the service line into the middle of the tennis court. He attributed this saying to Coach Crake. Many of the players have also expressed the desire to practice more in the off-season, including Sunday and summer sessions.

Head Coach Whitmire said, "We have an excellent group of student athletes and a good mix of upper and lower class men. In all the returning players from last year, I have seen great improvements to their game." Whitmire was optimistic about all the players learning more throughout the season and was also looking forward to a good and fruitful rest of the season.

Anyone who is interested in joining the boys' tennis team should contact Bo Orlando and the Athletic Office of Berwick High School.



Freshman Aiden Jones and Junior Thomas Dibattista on the court.
Photo by Callie Shultz



Sophomore Ian Davis returns a serve.
Photo by Callie Shultz