

# DeLong comes back from injury to sweep No. 1 singles as Bluestreaks claim 3rd at tennis meet

TOWANDA — Recovery from an injury is possibly the longest period of an athlete's life. Bluestreak freshman Jack DeLong knows this too well, as he has been sidelined for a chunk of the tennis season with a knee injury.

But last Thursday, the Neodesha tennis team competed at Circle High School here and DeLong returned to this game — No. 1 singles — to go undefeated in three matches, and help the Bluestreaks to a first-place team finish.

The 'Streaks tandem of J'Vonte White and Lauklon Roebuck also placed first with a 3-0 mark in No. 2 doubles, while Tayte Leck and Kylan Turner placed third playing No. 1 doubles.

"For the past few weeks Jack has been back to playing singles, which had always been his game, pre-injury," noted Head Coach Jason DeLong.

"Match after match, it's been hard for Jack to watch his opponent carry off the game balls to the winners' table, reporting the score.

"Jack has felt defeated because the scores clearly show he has lost; but, he's making gains and personal wins during most of his matches."

In that No. 1 spot DeLong plays primarily juniors or seniors; his coach commented that those upperclassmen "might be the games' winners, but Jack gives it all he's got."

"Playing opponents at or above his skill level is making him a more finessed player,"

Coach DeLong continued. "My heart is full of pride watching him.

"While the extra hours he puts in outside of practice times may annoy me, due to fighting him for other things he needs to do, his drive to be better and his love for the game is something I wish could be bottled up for later use, for other things."

The Bluestreak tennis team competes against Class 4A schools most of the season and will meet five Wichita private schools as well as four public schools from that area in regional competition. De-

Long noted that most of those schools play each other in regular-season matches.

"It can be a defeated feeling before even starting," he said, but concluded with the thought that "play(ing) 'up' is just what the 'Streaks will have to do."

Class 3-2-1A regional competition starts Friday at Wichita Collegiate. Other schools in this regional pool are Ellsworth, Haven, Hutch-Trinity, Lindsborg-Smoky Valley, Classical School of Wichita, the Independent School, and Wichita Trinity Academy.

## Jet tracksters set PRs at Oswego

OSWEGO — Eliot Ard picked up a pair of silver medals and was part of a fifth-place relay team while several of his Altoona-Midway Middle School teammates turned in personal best times when the Jets competed in the tough Oswego Invitational here last Thursday.

Despite some good times, those three medals were the only ones brought home by AMMS from the Oswego Invitational, which has no divisions (No separate divisions for A-B or by grade level).

In addition, all of the field events were cancelled due to extremely wet grounds in that area.

"We had an outstanding meet, regardless of the medal count," said AMMS co-coach

David Batzer "I think it was our best overall performance of the year."

"Obviously we were disappointed that the throwers couldn't compete at this meet, but I would just like to comment on how great the runners did," added AMMS co-coach Chary Weilert. "The goal is to improve every meet, and the runners gutted it out on every race and ran their best times. I am very proud of their determination."

Ard continues to shine in the distance events for the Jets. He turned in PR times in both of his silver medal performances, clocking in at 5:48.77 in the 1600 meters and 12:35.7 in the 3200-meter run.

"Eliot continues to shine for the team," Batzer said. "I'm really hoping he can break

## NHS yearbook staffers earn awards at state journalism competition

Being a staff member for your high school's yearbook entails more than compiling a collection of memories to be cherished long after the tassels have been turned. These young journalists are also learning about writing, graphic design, advertising, and deadlines. Last month, several members of the Neodesha High School yearbook staff competed in the KSPA-sponsored state journalism contest.

The regional competition took place in February. Students were given guidelines and information and then wrote a story, submitted a photo, or created a graphic meeting the criteria. Those placing first through sixth place at region-

als were eligible to advance to state competition.

Each student who competed at regionals placed in at least one category: Hailey Blankinship, Haylee Lyon, Bailey Van Nice and Ashley Weller. Results from the state-level competition were announced May 2 with Tucker Leck earning first, second, and fourth places; Dalia Johnson taking second place; and Abbey White taking fourth. The staff finished fourth overall in sweeps.

Leck, a senior, placed in all categories in which he competed, bringing home the gold medal in Yearbook Copy Writing. He also placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Feature Writing and 4<sup>th</sup> in Editorial Writing.

Johnson, a junior, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Action Sports Photography, her first year competing in this category.

White placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Editorial Cartoon. She was given a prompt with specifications on size and subject matter, and then she hand-drew her entry.

The staff overall finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Class3A category in the sweeps category, after Humboldt, Halstead, and Jefferson West high schools.

"I am exceptionally proud of this group's accomplishments," said Amber Botts, Journalism teacher at NHS.

"This is Tucker's third year to place at state in Editorials, and his first time to place in Yearbook Copy, which is tremendous. Dalia's photo was amazing. It was a challenge to get it since the guidelines were to shoot a spring sports practice, which limited time and options.

"Abbey's Editorial Cartoon was excellent. She has been competing in this category off and on since she was a freshman, but she's developed her cartooning over the last four years with 'Abbey's Animals'. I'm proud of how far they all have come,"

Botts commented that Neodesha competed in a tough region, so even qualifying at regionals is an honor, and a number of NHS students performed well. Regional competition combines Classes 3A-4A, putting Neodesha in with mostly 4A and suburban 3A schools.

"They should be very proud of qualifying," Botts said.

## Beekeepers meet today at ICC West

The Montgomery County Beekeepers Association will meet at 6:30 p.m. today, Thursday, May 8 at Independence Community College West, 2615 West Main Street in Independence. Honey production, which includes the "when and how" to add honey supers to honeybee colonies, will be the main focus of the program.

Adding supers is the best way to maximize honey production from bee colonies, and harvesting as much honey as possible is the goal of most beekeepers. There will be time for discussions, as many beekeepers come with questions for which they are seeking answers.

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**City of Garnett, Kansas, Comprehensive Plan**

The City of Garnett requests proposals from qualified consultants or firms to review city comprehensive plan and develop comprehensive plan for the City. The new, updated plan will provide vision, goals, objectives, and policies to guide the City's development and redevelopment for the next 20 to 25 years. The plan will guide the City Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, staff, developers, property owners, and residents on the appropriate growth and redevelopment for the City. The updated plan will integrate all aspects of urban development, including demographics, land use, public facilities and infrastructure, transportation, environmental, and economic growth recommendations. A critical component of the plan will be setting a vision for the City's development and redevelopment, including areas in the City and possible annexation land. The vision component will need to analyze existing and future infrastructure needs and how technology will play a role in community outreach and City operations.

The qualified consultant will need to take a creative and innovative approach to reviewing the needs of the community, while obtaining public input about the plan. The planning process shall develop a comprehensive vision for the City, business opportunities, amenities and programs, as well as complement the recently-completed parks plan.

**SUBMITTAL DEADLINE**

One (1) electronic copy in PDF format, in accordance with this RFP, will be accepted **no later than 3:00 PM CST on May 30, 2025** and shall be submitted via the following email address: [dwilson@garnettks.net](mailto:dwilson@garnettks.net)

**Full document and information are available at [www.simplygarnett.com](http://www.simplygarnett.com).**



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