

Marine City tennis comes together for big year

Matt Sheehan , Times Herald 3:13 p.m. EDT October 8, 2016

The Marine City boys tennis season is over, but the Mariners are looking back on a great season.

However, it very well could have not been as successful as it was.

The true meaning of “team player” was put to the test in a few ways, starting with a few seniors. Nic Flasher – who was the No. 1 singles player heading into this year – was slid down to No. 2 singles while Jarrod Belli was moved from singles to doubles.

The move paid off in a big way for the Mariners as they went undefeated through the MAC Gold season and also won their conference championships, beating Warren Woods-Tower by one point.

“I was happy for my seniors,” Mariners head coach Joe Daly said. “We’ve come close the last two years where one match here or one match there would have been the difference.”

Along with the winning, Daly was impressed this season with how his team came together to achieve their goal of owning the MAC Gold. With the selfless play, it allowed the Mariners to strictly focus on winning.

“We had some kids that got bumped from singles to doubles or moved down from No. 1 to No. 2, and those all happened to seniors,” Daly said. “None of them complained, none of them pouted and none of them created team drama. And they all did well in their new spots.”

Nic Flasher found success in No. 2 singles all season, and freshman Aubrey Comment was also a star in the No. 1 singles spot as he compiled a winning record in the regular season.

“For him to be able to not only step into that singles spot, but also have a winning record, it’s not easy for a freshman,” Daly said.

Belli and his No. 1 doubles partner, Brett Monarch, also had a stellar season with just three losses on the year to be a reliable duo all season long.

“Those guys, I could count on them for a win every time,” Daly said.

And thanks to solid talent mixed with strong team chemistry, the team as a whole could have been counted on wins all season long.

“We had a really successful season, and we had a lot of kids improve over the course of the year,” Daly said.



Marine City's Brett Monarch serves during the Division 3 regional tournament on Oct. 7, 2016. (Photo: Matt Sheehan/Times Herald)

Marine City starting roster

No. 1 singles: Aubrey Comment
No. 2 singles: Nic Flasher
No. 3 singles: Bradley Monarch
No. 4 singles: Mac Ferrone
No. 1 doubles: Brett Monarch/Jarrold Belli
No. 2 doubles: Joey Spencer/Dylan Parker
No. 3 doubles: Neil MacKenzie/Nathan MacKenzie
No. 4 doubles: Randy Kammer/Nolan Gilbert



Marine City head coach Joe Daly talks with Jarrod Belli and Brett Monarch between sets at the Division 3 regional tournament on Oct. 7, 2016. (Photo: Matt Sheehan/Times Herald)