

# A Big Year for PHU Wrestling

*Looking back on the 2021-2022 wrestling season*

By: Cassie Santella

The 2021-2022 wrestling season was one to remember. For the first time in history Florida girls wrestling was an officially sanctioned sport, and Clare Booe a sophomore at PHU earned first place in her weight class at the state tournament making her a two-time state champion. The boys JV team went undefeated all season and the boys varsity team had multiple boys move on to the state tournament.

Chris Greil ('22), had a successful senior season making it all the way to the state finals and earning a spot on the podium.

"The most memorable part of the season this year would have to have been right before my state finals match. They announced every individual throughout the stadium and it was such a euphoric feeling," Greil said.

Greil has chosen to continue his wrestling career in college at Lindsey Wilson College in Kentucky.

"The first reason I decided to continue at the collegiate level was that I didn't feel done with the sport, it has given me some amazing opportunities



and I'd love to be able to have continued success in it. The second reason would be for my education. I'm focusing on becoming a physical therapist so I am able to help others after I'm done with college. Lastly I'd

like to further my knowledge of the sport to help aid youth after I'm done and able to help coach," Greil said.

Clare Booe ('24) wrestled on the schools first ever girls team after wrestling on the boys team her freshman year.

"My favorite parts were when everyone got to win their first matches and being on the first sanctioned team was exciting to know we are just the beginning of a new generation of athletes!" Booe said.

For many, wrestling is more than just a sport. Wrestling opens up a door to new

experiences and life lessons for athletes. Friendships are made and the team becomes a second family.

"The reason I joined wrestling was I needed an outlet for myself after my father died. The wrestling team became my second family and I'm forever grateful for what they have done for me," Greil said.

Every year new opportunities open up in the sport of wrestling. It's a growing sport for girls and boys both at the high school and collegiate level. This year big steps were taken in the state of Florida and it's exciting to see the direction its heading.

# Watch Me Swing

*PHUHS's tennis team made their school proud this year, fighting hard in this season's tournaments.*

By: Beatrice Shen

Tennis, in essence, has been around since the 12th century. At the time, the game was played by striking a ball with the palm of the hand, giving it the French name "jeu de paume" (game of the palm). In the 16th century, rackets were put to use and the game was formally coined as "tennis." Gaining support in England and France, the game continued growing in popularity into the renowned sport it is famous as today.

This year, PHUHS's tennis team had a great season, the boys team winning - out of their

- matches, and girls bringing home a nearly undefeated record of - to 1.

"It doesn't matter how much older or more experienced your opponent is, always try your best the whole time," captain of the boys team, Lucas Tethal ('25).

In their success, the girls managed to beat rival team, Eastlake, making them the North Pinellas PCAC Tennis Champions for the 2022 season. At the county-wide finals, the girls placed 2nd in the entire county, only being defeated by South Pinellas Champions St.

Pete High.

"I had a great time this year with the tennis team," graduating captain of the girls team, Hailey Sherell ('22), said. "All the girls are such great people and it was a lot of fun!"

On April 13th, the tennis team participated in the end-of-season districts tournament as a great way to close the season. Congratulations to the girls' third seeded player Nia Balieva ('23) who made it to the finals of her division, placing second overall.

"Districts was so much fun, it

allowed me to make connections with my teammates and introduced me to much more challenging players," Balieva said. "Especially when I got to the finals where I got the chance to grow my skills as a player."

PHU is looking forward to next year's season!

