

## **Judge tennis coach pleased with season**

Despite bad draw at state tournament, Bulldogs finished 6th

By Tom Quinn,  
Deseret Morning News

Almost anyone involved with high school tennis knows that the draw — the way the brackets are put together — can make or break a team's chances at state.

Unfortunately for the boys at Judge Memorial, the Bulldogs had to square off against the state champion Logan Grizzlies in the second round at each and every position, a fact that effectively limited how far they could advance in the tournament.

"For the second year in a row, we got kind of a tough draw," said Judge head coach Lani Wilcox. "It would have been interesting to see how far we could have gone with a better draw."

In spite of their bad luck, the Bulldogs put together a successful season in 2007, taking second place to archrival Park City at the Region 10 tournament before finishing sixth at the 3A state tournament in May.

Among the Bulldogs' top performers was Noel Hollingsworth, who came into the state tournament as the No. 2 seed at first singles and posted a convincing first-round victory before falling to eventual state champion Brandon Nielson of Logan.

Fellow junior Trey Kennedy followed suit, routing his first-round opponent before being eliminated by a Logan Grizzly. Senior Dustin Matinkhah suffered a similar fate at third singles, as did the doubles tandems of Dan McCoy and Andrew Lam and Keegan Reedy and David May.

"Things could have gone a little better for us, but I think that overall we had a pretty good year," said Wilcox.

Although the Bulldogs will miss the contributions that Matinkhah and McCoy made to the team both on and off the court, most of the team will be back, and the fact that Wilcox has a pool of talented junior varsity players from which to draw should help fill the void left by the Class of 2007.

"We've got a bunch of really good ninth- and 10-graders," Wilcox said. "I'm looking forward to seeing what they can do for us next year on the varsity team."

Sean McCoy, for example, dominated the JV circuit last season and could be ready to make a name for himself in varsity competition next spring.

Furthermore, both Hollingsworth and Kennedy will be back next season, meaning that the Bulldogs will have one of the top 1-2 punches in the state in 2008. And with the second doubles team returning intact, the Bulldogs will no doubt be in the mix for the Region 10 title next year.

"On paper, it looks like we have a pretty strong team," Wilcox said. "We're looking forward to having a good year."



*Judge's Jaxon Myaer (12) and Tyson Moll (3) celebrate a run during 3A playoffs at Utah Valley State.*



*A Judge Memorial player beats the throw back to second base during a 3A playoff game against Dixie in Orem.*