

This is a great season for the Lady Lions. The Lady Lions had only one day of practice before their first match against Charlotte Latin and lost their season opener.

This was followed by yet another one day of team practice before facing a strong Charlotte Catholic team. The Lions won the top three singles matches but lost the bottom three. The match came down to doubles and another loss, this time by only one match. The Lions, by the third match, began to spin the season around to their winning ways.

Brianna Norris, nick named "Binky" has greatly contributed to the team again. Brianna is an 8th grader who started at #1 against Charlotte Latin, due to the absence of Christy Core, who was recovering from a wrist injury. Brianna was State Champion in singles and doubles last year. Brianna played #2 against Charlotte Catholic and defeated her opponent.

New to the team is Junior, Adrienne Moorefield. Adrienne returned to CDS and to the tennis team and is currently playing #6 singles. If you are going to beat Adrienne, coach Crutchfield says "You'll have to pack a lunch." Adrienne is known for long rallies and long matches. She reminds the team of former team captain Brook Norris, a very smart player who played with a lot of heart.

The Hyatt sisters, Olivia and Madeline, worked very hard over the summer by practicing together (iron sharpening iron). The sisters chose to work on one another's game, rather than entering camps, taking private lessons and playing several tournaments. The hard work has paid off. The girls are hitting a solid ball and are off to a great start.

Arielle deBrun has come on strong this year. She has moved from the #7 position last year to #5 this year. Arielle had a tremendous come back against Weddington High School, by winning the second set after being down 6-4 in the 1st set and trailing 4-1 in the second. Arielle won the second set 6-4 but lost the third set tie-breaker. This was a pivotal match for Arielle who hit winners to come from behind rather than waiting on her opponent to make mistakes. Coach Crutchfield believes that that match will prove to be a key turning point for Arielle and will launch her into a solid and successful tennis season.

The team has two new 8th graders this year, Mackenzie Moser and Lara Liszka. These girls won their first varsity doubles match against Charlotte Latin at #3 doubles. Other team members are Emily McBroom who worked hard with dad almost every day, over the summer, in the heat, to improve, last year's Conference Champ Katie Core, who is nursing an ankle injury and is slowly recovering and transfer student Cori Floyd who has come on strong to help the team at #3 Double. Cori and her partner Arielle deBrun have similar hitting styles and complement each other very well.

Biblically speaking, "The first shall be last," is our #1 player Christy Core. Christy is the team's only senior. She is nationally ranked among the nation's best female tennis players. It is exciting to watch Christy Core play with her big serve and power hitting ground strokes. "She has been a joy to coach," says coach Crutchfield. "Often there is more in a coach than what he gets to use on a regular basis and it takes a player, who is on another level, to pull it out of him. Coaching Christy has been more college coaching style than high school. I use only a few words before or after the match, during times when the subject is not about tennis, but using the game to apply it to life and from time to time an occasional calm encouragement by sharing an observation during the match." "She has been a tremendous blessing to me and I will truly miss her". "I told Christy that it is both a privilege and an honor to know that history will reveal that I had a small part to play in the overall success of Christy Core, one of the best female tennis players in the history of the sport."

"This year our goal is to win the State", says Coach Crutchfield, "to do this we need to come together as a team." Come see the Lady Lions play. They are exciting to watch. The MAC Conference Tournament will be hosted by CDS at the tennis courts on Thursday October 18, beginning at 8:30 am.