

# **Welcome to PHS Girl' Tennis!**

**Please read a special welcome letter from our  
Varsity Coach, Marc Hossack:**

## **The Heart and Soul of our Girls Tennis Program at Ponderosa High School**

**I was a high school athlete once. Today, however, I no longer remember the wins or the losses...and I think at the end of the day, that is the point of successful programs and coaches' personal missions.**

**Here is what I do remember. I remember sitting on the soccer field at half time eating orange slices, believing that they would have magical powers for my second-half performance. I remember waking up early and eating my mom's "hockey bread" and then being in the locker room where my dad put on my equipment and laced up my skates for battle. The end-of-the-year parties at Coach Montgomery's house were legendary--all of our families got together in the yard and laughed and had fun. I remember listening to Coach Kaplan go around the locker room, breathing positivity into each of us before and after our games. Pasta nights with Coach Schinto and Coach Fairburn or film nights were special bonding memories. Watching the Varsity Team as a freshman under the lights with my friends dreaming that "maybe one day" it could be me out there. I remember overnight camps and tournaments with my teams and going off to college as a recruit.**

**The things I remember are all about shared experiences with players and families who loved one another and were on a journey together, believing that where we were headed was noble and good. Not once do I remember any of my coaches saying, "Son, I am going to teach you about life;" in fact, I thought they were all just trying to make me better at moving either a black-and-white ball or a puck. They did**

accomplish that goal, by the way--but for these great coaches, I do not believe that was the point either.

Sports and my relationship with sports as a player, a coach, and a dad has changed my life for the better. I believe with all my heart that our girl's program at Ponderosa is required to be special and extraordinary and that is where you come in. I believe it takes each one of us to do what we can to provide an experience that our girls desperately need from all of us. Our most important victory as I see it is not going to be defined by wins and losses in the shortness of a season (or even several seasons) but rather what happens because we all come together to make a difference.

Now some of you competitive types are probably thinking I am reaching into a bag right now to give you a participation ribbon. Look, there is a time and place for this idea, and I have plenty of them myself but I also have 6<sup>th</sup> place trophies in my shoebox somewhere. As we all know, life doesn't hand out participation ribbons for most of us. I will not apologize for our desire to get some wins along the way, but more importantly than the win or loss is how we go about it. The process and life change required to win are what create the victories; and ironically, the losses are always the most effective at teaching. Our Varsity program and season is intense and highly competitive as it should be but we also have a Junior Varsity program that is designed to improve, excite and build on those who want to play tennis and be a part of a team.

Whether you are an aspiring Varsity family, or maybe just trying tennis for the first time, there is a place for you within our program if you will help us make this a shining light at a time we desperately need to see more clearly.

As the leader of the program, the one promise I can give you is that I will do my very best to make a positive difference in the lives of those in our program and its orbit and just ask that you do your part in the time we are together.

**Mustangs on Three; One, Two Three...MUSTANGS!**

**Coach Marc**