

By JOHN HENSON  
Harlan County Schools

Future Harlan County High School tennis teams will likely have bigger wins as the program continues to grow, but March 27, 2012, will go down in history as the date of the program's first victory as the HCHS boys team downed visiting Pineville 6-3.

"We are very proud of our boys and girls," said coach Wes Bailey. "They have worked very hard. Having a first year program with zero experience has been tough. But, with the determination of myself and coach Curt Rezek and these kids, HCHS tennis is here and will be competitive for years to come."

Singles winners for the Bears included Caleb Bailey (8-2 over Byron David Asher), Gavin Boggs (8-0 over Chris Harding), Joey Eldridge (8-1 over Dylan Asher) and Nathan Halcomb (8-1 over Dylan Gottfried). Sean Halcomb and Eldridge defeated Byron Asher and Dylan Asher 8-3 in doubles and Boggs and David Lee defeated Harding and Nelson 8-0.

Winners for the HCHS girls included Hannah Huff over Allie Patterson 6-4 and Jessyca Stamper over Heather Bingham 6-2. The Harlan County girls won 2-1 overall.

Bailey looks forward to the future of the program.

"The expectations coming in were not very high because of the inexperience...win a match here or there in singles or doubles...but to win a team match is a really great accomplishment for our teams," he said. "I appreciate (HCHS Principal) Mr. (Bob) Howard having the confidence in me with getting this team started. We are just scratching the surface with the potential that we have here in Harlan County with our tennis teams."

Harlan County will return to action April 12 at Middlesboro and play host to Oneida Baptist on April 13.