

First Season Brings Second Place Finish in 2009 U.S. Middle School Team Squash Championships

In response to the exploding popularity of squash at both the high school and collegiate levels, top elementary schools in the U.S. are adding squash to their sports programs. This winter Country Day launched its own squash team, and its first season was a success.

Country Day was one of four teams to reach the division finals of the 2009 U.S. Middle School Team Squash Championships at Yale University in New Haven, CT. Twenty-eight teams competed at the Championships. The Country Day team took second place in the B Division. In addition to the excitement of competing, the GCDS players at the Championships had the opportunity to watch Yale University play Princeton University in one of the season's marquee college squash matchups.

Last November, numerous Upper School students expressed interest in joining the team. Two teams of nine students were formed from the students who signed up first. The co-ed teams were each a mix of seventh, eighth, and ninth grade students with novices and experienced players evenly distributed between the two teams.

The GCDS teams practiced at Sportsplex in Stamford, where they were instructed by Kumail Mehmood and the other Sportsplex squash pros. These instructors also accompanied the

teams to matches, in addition to the three coaches from Country Day—Dr. Xuan, Mrs. Abreu, and Mrs. Kast.

The GCDS Squash Team: (front row) Mrs. Kast, Christopher Pavelic, Will Hallisey, Arnie Welles, Hale King, Teddy Lamont, MacKenzie Burns, Niclas Ladd, Dr. Xuan. (back row) Coach Sahil, Coach Kumahl, Elise O'Brien, Chase Hughes, Charlotte Searle, Cassidy Lowther, Sydney Rivers, Leslie Antell, Elizabeth Michler, Charlotte Said, Olivia Mosely, Kyla Rabb, Coach Luke, Coach Mauricio. Not pictured: Daniel Weld.



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