

Brooke Feldman Serves Up Perfection on the Court

Brooke Feldman is a freshman at Liberty High School, and tennis has always been big part of her life. Feldman has been playing tennis for about nine years but she didn't realize that she was actually very passionate about the sport until about six years ago.

She started playing tennis when she was younger because she lived very close to a tennis court and she would have lessons during the summer months. At first, these lessons were just for fun but eventually the sport became her favorite.

Feldman has tennis practice for about five hours each week and then on her own time she goes to the gym. Her personal trainer suggested that she try boxing classes so now she also attends classes twice a week, which is something she really enjoys.

"Boxing helps me build my arm strength, which helps in tennis and is very important," says Feldman.

She takes a lot of initiative and practices on her own. She constantly is training to improve her skills and get better. She goes to the gym a few times throughout the week to stay conditioned during the off season. Her hard working qualities are what has made her the tennis player she is today, and earned her a spot on the varsity tennis team.

"My favorite memory from tennis is from this past season was when we were playing at sectionals," said Feldman.

Feldman was a part of the OLHS Girls Varsity Tennis team this past tennis season, and she plans to play this season too. Her favorite part of the sport is getting to support and cheer on her teammates while they play,

Feldman during the first tennis match of season in August against Pickerington. Feldman is very excited to start this year's tennis season and get to play with her team again. "I'm really looking forward to playing in matches again," says Feldman. Photo Courtesy of Brooke Feldman



and when her teammates come to support her too.

Her teammates inspire and encourage her to try her best and work hard.

"Usually not a lot of people come to the matches apart from the players' parents, and they are normally pretty quiet. Getting to hear my teammates cheer me on while I play makes me super motivated and excited to start the match," says Feldman.

To Feldman, the most difficult part of playing the sport is the solidarity of it. Normally, players play by themselves and their coaches aren't always there to watch and give corrections to the players. The players have to take on the responsibility of giving themselves critiques and being self aware about their strengths and weaknesses. Tennis is mostly an individual sport, so people who play tennis have to be independent and up for the challenge of playing by themselves. Being a member of the tennis team at school has given Feldman the opportunity to experience tennis as a team sport, but she still has to play on the court alone.

"The best piece of advice that I can give to other tennis players is to just stay consistent. It's definitely hard to keep a positive attitude during games or practices, especially if you aren't playing well. It's important to not give up and be mentally strong," says Feldman.

She knows that not every game or practice is going to go perfectly, but she doesn't let that stop her from trying her hardest.

Tennis has been a consistent part of her life, and it has helped her become a hard working, dedicated, and independent person. "Playing tennis has shaped me into the person I am today, and getting to play makes me so happy," says Feldman.



Feldman (far left) and her teammates at the beginning of the season back at the start of the school year. During the off season, Feldman has been conditioning and practicing to get ready for this upcoming season. "Getting to play with the varsity team has been a great experience because I have so many people to look up to," says Feldman. Photo Courtesy of Brooke Feldman.



Feldman during one of her matches when her team faced Pickerington in August. Her favorite part of playing is getting to hear her teammates cheer her on from the sidelines and getting to support her teammates too. "My teammates are always so supportive, and it really means a lot to me," says Feldman. Photo Courtesy of Brooke Feldman.