

Courage Critical to Success in Sports

(continued from page 11)

through participation in sports, theater, or other extracurricular activities,” said Mr. Goldberger. “I want to give children the opportunity to find an avenue in which they shine.”

Mr. Goldberger also commented on D-E’s embracing of the model of coach/teacher as key to his interest in joining the school’s staff. About 50 percent of coaches are Dwight-Englewood faculty members, which permits educators to interact with children outside of the classroom. “Independent school teachers are always looking to connect with their students, and coaching is one way to accomplish that,” said Mr. Goldberger. “Kids want teachers who are vested in them as people, not just students. It’s motivating to them. And motivated kids perform the best.”

Two of Mr. Goldberger’s goals are to increase the sense of pride that student-athletes feel by participating in sports, and to spread that enthusiasm throughout the D-E community. “I will strive to make the athletic experience as rich and rewarding as D-E’s rigorous academic program, and I want students, staff, parents, and alumni to be excited about our teams’ accomplishments,” said Mr. Goldberger. “I would like to grow Upper School participation in athletics, field highly competitive teams, and increase community attendance at our games. All of this is attainable.”

Upper School Principal Joseph Algrant is pleased to have Mr. Goldberger join the Dwight-Englewood team. “Eli brings a high level of excitement and experience to our athletic program,” he said.

Prior to joining Beaver Country Day School, Mr. Goldberger was a mathematics teacher for grades seven, eight, and nine at The Rectory School in Pomfret, Conn., where he also coached the boys’ varsity basketball and tennis teams. He began his career in education as a middle school teacher and varsity coach in 1990 at the Rumsey Hall School in Connecticut.



Tennis Team Goes to State Semi-Finals

“Some of the best inspiration I could give my team was to remind them of *The Little Engine That Could*, recalls D-E Varsity Girls Tennis Coach and Middle School Admissions Director **Jordana Kirsch Berger ’99**, in reflecting on her team’s stellar performance this past season. The Lady Bulldogs embraced the lessons conveyed by the children’s literature classic and, in the words of Coach Berger, “they took risks, stepped up to the plate with new team members and partners, and showed a tremendous amount of camaraderie. They also were respectful of other teams, which in my opinion is so important as well.”

Berger says that the dynamic created by the combined athletic talents of **Lauren Urbont ’12**, doubles players **Neesha Khanna ’09** and **Jennifer Stone ’09**, and **Gabrielle Fromer ’10**, to name a few, contributed to the team’s outstanding performance. “As the youngest player and the only 9th grader on the team,

Lauren showed incredible spirit. Neesha and Jennifer were newly partnered as our first doubles team this year, after playing 3rd singles last year, but didn’t have that stop their determination. And Gabrielle has focus that rivals that of adult players – she is a rock.”

When asked how her team embraces the D-E core value of courage, Berger noted: “Despite the nature of this sport, the entire team ran with the idea of collectively learning from individual strengths, and rising up to new challenges. I believe that this is definitely what courage is all about.” As one of four teams to make it to the State semi-finals, the D-E Varsity Girls Tennis Team can take tremendous pride in how they play out this D-E core value. ■

Mr. Goldberger attended the Westminster School in Simsbury, Conn., and earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology at the College of Wooster in Ohio. He will coach the boys’ Varsity Basketball Team at D-E this year. ■