

The Challenge

It's called "The Challenge." Any member of the Boys' Tennis Team may "challenge" a higher-seeded team member to a match on weekends. If the challenger wins, HE will likely play for the team the following week while the loser sits on the bench. Until, perhaps, the next "challenge" ...?

"The Challenge" is risky business with an interscholastic sports team; it could destroy team morale and equilibrium. It could also create a hungry, competitive squad, void of complacency. Coach George Esposito accepted this risk, and it paid off with a 17-5 record in 1985.

Team Captain Tim Terista and Team MVP Bill Baker led a squad of 16 Raider "lob-sters" that featured pleasant surprises from all four grade levels at SPFHs. Despite the loss of several returning Seniors to other obligations and injuries, the Raiders were a well-balanced team with an emphasis on cohesiveness.

"The Challenge" proved to be a successful motivation for the underclassmen, especially Freshman Steve Walsh, who played either singles or doubles in almost every match. Coach Esposito stressed the importance of doubles play whenever possible as a contributing factor to victory. The doubles team of Bill Swisher and Steve Saul were successful enough to reach the Semi-Finals of the County Tournament. "Lob-sters" Terista and Baker did their share, in singles competition, to help the team to advance to the Quarter-Finals of the County Tournament.

The 1985 Boys' Tennis Team met "the challenge" of a tough schedule with class and teamwork!



A blast by Dave Blitzer, doubles player, whose return in '86 is crucial to continued Raider success.

Members of the 1985 Boys' Tennis Team. Top Row, L-R: Coach Esposito, M. Starr, T. Terista, D. Blitzer, B. Baker. Bottom Row, L-R: D. Laudati, R. Lieberman, B. Swisher, S. Saul.



Tim Terista demonstrates why tennis is the perfect sport for non-aggressive, laid-back people ... like Connors and McEnroe?

