

The Impact Team Tennis Junior National tournament was something I had never heard of before, so when I was presented the opportunity to play on a team at the USTA National Campus I had no idea what to expect. My great friend Mia and I traveled to Orlando together and met up with our new team, which we had never met before. We knew this was a special experience since all of the other teams had either done this event before together, or competed in the same teams previously. It was a very new environment for our whole team, seeing as none of us had competed in an event like this before, and we had never met our own team members. Right after meeting our new team, I could tell that this would be an extremely fun experience just because we were paired with people who had stellar personalities and a real love for the game of tennis. As the competition progressed, we all fell into our positions on the team, fitting together like puzzle pieces. Our team coach Trey, helped us connect with one another and create a really positive team environment that pushed us to compete well as a whole. We faced excellent teams that would push us past the extent of our tennis abilities, which would help prove to ourselves that we can play better tennis than we ever thought we could. Our team fought hard for every match, and the end result would normally end in an overall loss, but we never lost our positive morale once. The wins and losses didn't affect us because at the end of every day, we all knew that each and every one of us gave it our all for the team. Our team would go out to dinners together and do fun activities like Top Golf after competing, which brought everyone closer together and further strengthened our bond. On the last day of the competition, we got our first win and the sportsmanship award. After all of our hard work, we saw that it had paid off in the end. Overall, this experience was unreal and I'm honored to have been presented this incredible opportunity. Playing on a co-ed team is something that most people don't get to experience, and it is such a fun time for everyone. Personally, I've learned that good communication, positive

morale, hard work, and trust is key to playing on any team. Your sports ability will make a good team, but it's your personality that will make a great team. I have made some of the best memories yet during this tournament, and I can truly say that I've met some of the greatest people in my life as well.