

TENNIS

Text by Gary Curreri



BOYS FIRST TEAM



CODY FLANZER
Douglas junior. **Pos.:** No. 1 singles
Comment: Three-year varsity starter finished 10-5 after reaching Class 4A state quarterfinals; won district singles title; reached state semifinals in doubles with Skye Catena.



GIANLUCCA MASSA
Cypress Bay junior. **Pos.:** No. 2 singles
Comment: Went 10-0 in singles; won second consecutive individual state title at No. 2 singles and helped Lightning to second consecutive state championship.



DIMITRI SALZMANN
Archbishop McCarthy sophomore
Pos.: No. 1 singles
Comment: Second-year starter went 6-1, won district title and reached Class 2A state semifinals.



RYAN SMITH
Cypress Bay senior. **Pos.:** No. 1 singles
Comment: Two-time Sun Sentinel Player of the Year finished 9-1 in singles and 10-1 in doubles with Gianluca Massa. Smith, a Vanderbilt commit, reached state finals in singles and doubles.



CHRISTOPHER MORIN KOUGOCHEFF
Cypress Bay sophomore. **Pos.:** No. 3 singles
Comment: Kougoucheff, who moved from France, finished 14-1 and won the Class 4A state championship at No. 3 singles.

JAKE ALBO/CAMILO ESCOBAR



Sagemont senior/junior.
Pos.: No. 1 doubles
Comment: The duo finished 10-2 at No. 1 doubles and was state runner-up at No. 1 doubles. Helped Lions win second state title in three years.

RYAN KHAN/DAVID OMSKY



University School juniors.
Pos.: No. 1 doubles
Comment: The duo went 11-2 at No. 1 doubles. Omsky, who has been a starter for six years, and Kahn, who has been a starter for three years, won district, regional and state individual doubles titles before losing in the overall doubles championship.

SECOND TEAM

- Zachary Ebenfeld, American Heritage, Fr.,
- Ryan Khan, University School, Jr.
- Lucas Mendelson, West Broward, Sr.
- Steve Plutt, Cypress Bay, So.
- Christopher Tasker, Sagemont, Fr.
- Christopher Morin Kougoucheff, Michael Plutt, Cypress Bay, So./So.
- Cody Flanzer, Skye Catena, Douglas, Jr./Sr.

HONORABLE MENTION

American Heritage: German Ayubi, Romare Gonzalez, Noppawat Satpretpy; **Archbishop McCarthy:** Bruno Dedeshi, Andrew Puglisi; **Calvary Christian Academy:** Michael Mendez; **Cardinal Gibbons:** Dominique Northeide; **Cooper City:** Nate Promkul; **Coral Glades:** Gustavo Fernandez; **Coral Springs:** William House; **Coral Springs Charter:** Connor Hollander; **Douglas:** Aaron Jablon, Greg Sovie; **North Broward Prep:** Xander Gomez, Giuliano Rengifo; **Pine Crest:** Sam Derr, Ismail Ercan, Chad Resnik; **St. Thomas Aquinas:** Diego Recht, Esteban Recht, Daniel Torres; **Sagemont:** Austin DeBruyne, Andrew Quiros; **Somerset Academy:** Daniel Austidillo, Andres Austidillo, Reynaldo Golindano, Brandon Shanklin; **Taravella:** Yan Gapeev, Ryan Moed; **University School:** Michael Heller, Matthew Luna; **Westminster Academy:** Brendan Abernathy, David Carter; **West Broward:** Zach Lane.

COACH OF THE YEAR



STEVEN BROWNE
Sagemont
2013 record: 7-4; Overall: (third season; 23-10).
Comment: Won the Class 2A state championship for the second time in three years with a relatively young team. Browne's team had just two upper-classmen returners and several sophomores and freshmen. "I was pretty happy with the performance," he said. "I thought we were good enough to qualify for state, but I honestly didn't think we would win it."

GIRLS FIRST TEAM



KELLYN ABBANAT
Douglas sophomore
Pos.: No. 1 singles
Comment: Won district and regional titles in singles and doubles with Kaela Bynoe; went 16-2 and reached state quarterfinals in singles.



INES DE BRACAMONTE
Pine Crest sophomore
Pos.: No. 3 singles
Comment: Completed a perfect singles season at 17-0 by winning the state championship at No. 3 singles; was also 6-1 in No. 2 doubles.



SHENE DISBERGEN
Cypress Bay freshman
Pos.: No. 2 singles
Comment: Won state title at No. 2 singles and helped Lightning take second in the state; played No. 1 singles during season.



JENNIFER MOORES
Fort Lauderdale senior
Pos.: No. 1 singles
Comment: Went 13-2 and won district title at No. 1 singles and doubles; reached state semifinals at individual singles and individual doubles.



STEPHANIE TAYLOR
Pine Crest eighth grader
Pos.: No. 1 singles
Comment: Three-year starter won district and regional titles at No. 1 singles; finished 10-4 and reached state semifinal.



JAKE ALBO

Boys Player of the Year Sagemont senior

Season highlights: Albo won the Class 1A individual singles title and overall singles title in helping the Lions win their second state championship in three years. Albo finished with a 14-1 record in singles and 10-2 record in doubles. His career record at Sagemont was 87-5 for singles and doubles. "Looking back at the four years in my high school career, it was a blast," Albo said. "I had great team members and great coaches; it was just a lot of fun to play and compete with those players."

Comment: Albo, who played varsity tennis for five years, has 10 state titles to his credit - winning the state team title in 2011 and 2013. The Florida State University commit won No. 2 singles as a sophomore and No. 1 doubles; last year he won at No. 1 one singles, both the individual and overall titles and repeated that again this year. He began the year ranked No. 4 in Florida, No. 9 in the Southeast and No. 27 nationally in Boys 18s. Won Boys 14 Super Nationals and recently played in a Men's Open event at the Jimmy Evert Tennis Center in Fort Lauderdale and lost in the quarterfinals. At age 11, he had a decision to play tennis or baseball and decided to follow in his dad's footsteps and play tennis. "Jake came through [at state] like normal. He was a great leader for the young players we had on the team. In the finals, he played a smart tactical match. He knew his opponent was tough and did a great job," said Sagemont coach Steven Browne.

I GIVE HATS OFF FOR MY ATHLETIC SUCCESS TO:

"... my dad, Victor, because he pushed me to be the best athlete I could be since I was 7 years old."



COURTNEY MEREDITH

Girls Player of the Year Westminster Academy junior

Season highlights: Meredith became the first girl at Westminster Academy to win an individual state singles championship when she defeated Jupiter Christian's Kylee Shipley in the Class 1A individual singles final 6-2, 6-1. Meredith went on to lose to defending champion, Rasheeda McAdoo (American Heritage-Delray) in the overall singles final and finished the season 8-2. "Honestly I didn't expect to win the state championship because in high school tennis in Florida, there is pretty good competition," Meredith said. "I was just going in there to have a pretty good time and I ended up doing pretty well."

Comment: This is Meredith's first year attending high school after being home schooled her previous two years. She said there was an adjustment period, and things have worked out well. "My game adjusted fairly well because I still play tennis for four hours after school. I just had to stay up later to get my schoolwork done. My sleep suffered, but it was well worth it," she said. She is in the top 30 in the country in Girls' 18s. She is going to Mobile, Ala., for a southern tournament and then plans on playing in the National Clay Court and National Hard Court events this summer. She is interested in playing college tennis at either Auburn or Wake Forest. "She was an inspiration to the team with her leadership and her ability. She is one of the best players that I have seen or ever come across in terms of girls," said Westminster Academy coach Russ Coningsby.

I GIVE HATS OFF FOR MY ATHLETIC SUCCESS TO:

"... my family because they have always been there supporting me and they have never given up on my dreams."

PIERINA IMPARATO/SHENE DISBERGEN



Cypress Bay freshmen
Pos.: No. 1 doubles
Comment: The duo finished 10-1 at No. 1 doubles and lost in Class 4A state finals at No. 1 doubles to help team to second place in state.

KELLYN ABBANAT/KAELA BYNOE



Douglas sophomores
Pos.: No. 1 doubles
Comment: The duo was 13-2 in doubles winning the district title; won state title at No. 1 individual doubles and lost in overall doubles.

HONORABLE MENTION

American Heritage: Caroline Beuchele, Susana Chinchilla, Chiara Goodman, Aleksj Gottleib; **Archbishop McCarthy:** Ariana Tejero; **Coral Glades:** Mia Degirolmo; **Cypress Bay:** Sibel Can; **Douglas:** Seasia Catena, Ashley Giorgione, Kasia Kasperski; **Everglades:** Aicha Diallo; **Hollywood Christian:** Mikaela Pierce; **Monarch:** Giovanna DeAlmeida, Kendra Bunch; **Pine Crest:** Kaeli Malik, Dax Seidlin, Katarina Stevanovich; **North Broward Prep:** Leslie Babb, Brittany Golden, Taylor McHarg; **Posnack:** Alyssa Zlatkin; **Somerset:** Megan Horwitz, Nicole Luzbel, Emiliana Martinez, Erika Ponce; **St. Thomas:** Nia Bryant, Gaby Lobban, Taylor Rose, Antonella Santenusano; **Taravella:** Alicia Kohler; **University School:** Danielle Obolovitch, Leah Bush; **Westminster Academy:** Christina Calhoun, Maggie Helmholtz.

SECOND TEAM

- Jenai Charles, Everglades, Jr.
- Barrie Eisenberg, Cypress Bay, Sr.
- Michelle Eisenberg, Cypress Bay, Fr.
- Emily Groeneveld, Calvary Christian, Sr.
- Katherine Wiley, Cardinal Gibbons, Fr.
- Jaclyn Rock, Jennifer Moores, Fort Lauderdale, Sr./Sr.
- Anastasia Koveshnikova, Genesis Palermo, Sagemont, Sr./Jr.

COACH OF THE YEAR



BRETT KURTZ
Pine Crest
2013 record: 12-0; Overall: (sixth season; 55-7)
Comment: Guided the Panthers to their first appearance in the state tournament in 32 years. Pine Crest took third this season despite relying on underclassmen in the lineup. "They were all great friends. It was a great experience to make it to states with such a young team. It will be even more exciting to take a title in the future," Kurtz said.

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