

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

## Meet the All-Area Boys Tennis Team

**Zach Allen**  
Daytona Beach News-Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The story of the 2026 boys tennis season belonged to Matanzas.

The Pirates entered the postseason 15-0 after beating several heavy hitters, such as Ponte Vedra, Bolles and Gainesville. They went on to become regional champions to earn a spot in the FHSAA Class 3A team bracket.

Matanzas improved to 18-0 and advanced to the Final Four with a 4-3 triumph over top overall seed Innovation. The Pirates eventually lost to Wiregrass Ranch in the state semis, but it tied the farthest Matanzas had ever made it in the playoffs in program history.

The Pirates' No. 1 singles player, Daniel Patsula, also finished as the individual runner-up.

But there was plenty of talent from around the Volusia-Flagler area, so let's meet the 2026 All-Area boys tennis team.

## First Team

**Brayden Erlandson, University:** Erlandson went 11-4 as University's No. 1 singles player, and he was half of the Titans' No. 1 doubles pair that went 12-2.

**Jeffrey Martin, Seabreeze:** Martin won a singles district title to stamp his ticket to the FHSAA tournament in the No. 1 singles bracket. He also was a part of the Sandcrabs' No. 1 doubles pair that won a district crown.

**Raimy Miral, Spruce Creek:** Miral was the Five Star Conference champion at No. 1 singles. He posted an 11-4 record as the Hawks' top singles player and added an 11-5 No. 1 doubles mark on their way to the state tournament.

**Daniel Patsula, Matanzas:** Patsula went 12-1 as Matanzas' No. 1 singles player and advanced to the FHSAA Class 3A individual singles final, where he finished as the runner-up. He helped lead the Pirates to an appearance in the team state semifinals and was 11-2 in No. 1 doubles matches as well.

**Adam Stochel Polubiec, Matanzas:** Stochel Polubiec finished the 2026 season with 12-2 record. He was the Pirates' primary No. 2 singles player, boasting a



Seabreeze's JJ Martin watches his backhand return during Regional doubles action, Tuesday, April 22, 2025. DAVID TUCKER/NEWS-JOURNAL

7-2 record at that slot, and he was 15-1 in doubles matches.

**Stanislav Valenteychik, Matanzas:** Valenteychik was 14-0 in singles matches as a senior. The majority took place at No. 3 singles, where he went 8-0, but he also went 3-0 at both No. 1 and No. 2 singles. Valenteychik delivered the clinching victory in the Pirates' upset over No. 11 Innovation in the state quarterfinals at No. 3 singles. Valenteychik's doubles record was 13-1 — 8-1 at No. 2 doubles and 5-0 at No. 1.

## Second Team

**Owen Brady, Matanzas:** Brady went 10-3 in singles matches, including a 5-2 record at his usual position of No. 4 singles. He went 12-3 in doubles matches with eight of those wins occurring at Line 1 alongside Patsula. His performance at No. 1 doubles in the FHSAA bracket helped Matanzas reach the state semifinals.

**Nicolas Herrera, University:** Herrera was the No. 2 singles Five Star champion, and the only winner that wasn't a part of Spruce Creek or Seabreeze. Herrera finished

the season 12-3 with an 11-3 record at No. 2 singles. He earned a 12-2 record in No. 1 doubles alongside Erlandson.

**Alexander Engblom, Matanzas:** Engblom went 10-4 this season, including a 6-3 record at No. 5 singles. He went 2-0 when he played at No. 2 singles and 2-1 at No. 4 singles.

**Tej Patel, Seabreeze:** Patel was a Five Star Conference champion in No. 3 singles, where he was highly-productive for the Sandcrabs. Patel finished the season 8-2 in the third spot and picked up an additional win in his lone match at No. 1 singles. He finished the year 9-2 in doubles matches.

**Hunter Shuler, Seabreeze:** Shuler accompanied Martin as a No. 1 doubles district champion for Seabreeze, earning them an invitation to states. Shuler finished the season 7-3 at No. 2 singles as well.

**Indigo Stout, Spruce Creek:** Stout was a Five Star champion at No. 1 doubles alongside Miral. Stout was most productive in doubles matches, where he went 11-6 at the No. 1 spot this season. He also had a 4-1 record in No. 3 singles matches.

## Honorable Mention

**DeLand:** Harrison Bitler, Blake Griffin, Oliver Hall, Stephen Lin, Weston Millett  
**Father Lopez:** Eddy Azpiri, Tristen Lohman, Abraham Rosa

**Matanzas:** Tyler Lemmon  
**New Smyrna Beach:** Luke Hinkle, Fernando Miranda

**Pine Ridge:** Giovanni Matos, Gustavo Souza Lima

**Seabreeze:** Jordan Anthony, Ben Upchurch

**Spruce Creek:** Aiden Cappellico, Aarav Desai, Brayden Kim

**University:** Jackson Partlow, Logan Tanner

## Boys Tennis Coach of the Year

**Jens Oliva, Matanzas:** Oliva led the Pirates to one of the most successful seasons in Matanzas tennis history. The Pirates finished the regular season with a perfect 15-0 record, and his entire top five had winning records at their respective positions. Despite being unseeded, Matanzas upset top-ranked Innovation at the FHSAA Class 3A championships, earning a trip to the state semifinals. The Pirates were one game short of advancing to their first-ever state championship, but an 18-1 overall record and a Final Four appearance puts them in the upper tiers of Volusia-Flagler area teams, regardless of sport.

## Boys Tennis Player of the Year

**Daniel Patsula, Matanzas:** Patsula is only a sophomore, but he's already earned an accolade after a successful 2026 campaign. He named Matanzas' No. 1 singles spot all season and won his first 12 matches, helping to lead the Pirates to their appearance in the Class 3A Final Four. Patsula's only loss was in the individual state championship, but that meant he'd already secured his name as one of the premier tennis players in Florida. His doubles record was also impressive, finishing 11-2 at the No. 1 spot. Patsula won his first nine doubles matches, not dropping any until April 14 at the district tournament, more than two months into the season.

## Meet the 2026 All-Area Girls Tennis Team

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Spruce Creek continued its run in the Volusia-Flagler girls tennis scene in 2026.

The Hawks won a fifth consecutive district championship, claimed a regional trophy and qualified for the FHSAA Class 4A quarterfinals. Of course, they also swept the Five Star Conference tournament to extend their streak to 84 consecutive individual victories at the all-local clash.

This year's All-Area girls tennis team features a mix of players from across Volusia and Flagler counties. And here it is.

## First Team

**Giselle Adekunle, Spruce Creek:** Adekunle went 16-8 with regional, district and Five Star titles at No. 1 singles and doubles. Her efforts led Spruce Creek to a team berth at the FHSAA Class 4A championships.

**Khloe Akopian, Spruce Creek:** Akopian has a similar resume as her teammate, just at No. 2 singles. Akopian finished the year 13-5 at the No. 2 spot, and she and Adekunle went 22-4 at No. 1 doubles. Akopian was a singles champion at the Five Star Conference and district meets.

**Makayla Erlandson, University:** Erlandson went 9-4 in No. 1 singles and 6-5 at No. 1 doubles to lead the Titans in 2026.

**Tatiana Leontyeva, Flagler Palm Coast:** Leontyeva finished the season 8-4 at No. 1 singles for Flagler Palm Coast. She went 7-3 at No. 1 doubles with partner Aasi Bharucha.

**Kyla Milwee, Spruce Creek:** Milwee helped continue Spruce Creek's streak of Five Star Conference titles with a victory at No. 3 singles, and she won doubles titles at the regional, district and Five Star levels. The freshman was 12-7 at No. 2 doubles.

**Ofelia Stout, Father Lopez:** Stout put together an impressive 12-4 record at No. 1 singles for the Green Wave. She



Spruce Creek's Khloe Akopian hits a forehand return against Creekside during the girls tennis regional finals on April 23, 2026, at Spruce Creek High School. NADIA ZOMORODIAN/NEWS-JOURNAL

recorded wins over players at larger schools, such as Flagler Palm Coast, University and Seabreeze.

## Second Team

**Sophia Calderwood, Spruce Creek:** Calderwood went 6-3 at No. 4 singles for Spruce Creek, who won Five Star, district and regional team titles. She was also a Five Star Conference singles champion.

**Sage Day, Spruce Creek:** Day finished the season 11-3 in top-five singles matches, including a 6-3 mark at No. 5 singles, where she was a Five Star champ.

**Aasi Bharucha, Flagler Palm Coast:** Bharucha went 6-3 at No. 3 singles for the Bulldogs. She was part of a doubles pair that finished 7-3 at the No. 1 spot.

**Madelyn Hate, Matanzas:** Hate went 10-6 with a 6-2 record at No. 1 singles for Matanzas. She also finished with an 11-6 doubles record, including a 9-6 mark in the top pairing.

**Elizabeth Patsula, Matanzas:** Patsula went 13-6 in singles matches, split across spots 2 through 4. Her most pro-



Flagler Palm Coast No. 1 singles player Tatiana Leontyeva hits a forehand return during Five Star Conference tennis tournament in Daytona Beach, Friday, March 7, 2025. NIGEL COOK/NEWS-JOURNAL

ductive position was No. 2 singles, where she finished 4-0, but she also went 6-4 at No. 3 and 3-2 at No. 4.

**Irina Tabacilla, Spruce Creek:** Tabacilla went 10-8 in singles matches throughout the lineup, but her bread and butter was doubles. She and Milwee recorded a 12-6 record, primarily at the

No. 2 spot, and won region and district titles.

## Honorable Mention

**DeLand:** Sydney Hoover, Julia Yocum

**Father Lopez:** Danica Schuster  
**Flagler Palm Coast:** Mia Swierczynski

**Matanzas:** Anna Isaeva, Olivia Rabbat

**New Smyrna Beach:** Sienna Avelone, Jenna Belitz, Gracie Harding

**Pine Ridge:** Kaylie Pilloud, Edna Zavalva

**Seabreeze:** Karma Candelaria, Leena Harman

**University:** Elizabeth Sarro

## Girls Tennis Coach of the Year

**Jeremy Davies, Spruce Creek:** Davies was named the 2026 Teacher of the Year by Volusia County Schools, and now he can add another Girls Tennis Coach of the Year title to his resume. The Spruce Creek Hawks were, once again, the Volusia-Flagler area powerhouse under Davies' leadership. Spruce Creek swept the Five Star Conference tournament for the fourth year in a row, marking 84 consecutive victories for the Hawks. Then, Spruce Creek won its fifth straight district championship before advancing through regionals to book a ticket to the FHSAA Class 4A quarterfinals.

## Girls Tennis Player of the Year

**Giselle Adekunle, Spruce Creek:** Adekunle was the best player on the best team in the area, but her resume also speaks for itself. The senior won singles and doubles titles at every major tournament this season, including victories in the postseason district and regional meets and at the local Five Star Conference tournament. Her 16 wins at No. 1 singles were more than any other girl's win at any position in the lineup, and she was half of a doubles pair that finished the season with an impressive 22-4 record.