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Game, Set, Match!

In July 2018, I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in the World Team Tennis Junior Nationals. At the beginning of summer, I was disheartened at not making the 2018 Zone Team Championships. So you can imagine my delight when I was invited to represent the Eastern Team at the WTT Junior Nationals! This event provided a unique opportunity to make new friends, play on a team, display good sportsmanship, and play great tennis. It is challenging to summarize my unforgettable experience in 500 words, but I believe that the terms of scoring in tennis reflect my main takeaways from the event.

My participation in the WTT Nationals can be compared to a point, in the sense that I was a small component of the event. Each participant represents a point within the overall match that is the WTT event. Players, coaches, and staff came together and worked tirelessly to help the event run smoothly and be as engaging as possible.

There are not only about six points in a game, but there were also six players on each team. The Eastern team of which I was a member had three girls and three boys, plus our coach, Coach Rob. WTT gave me the opportunity to meet and bond with players from my section whom I did not know well. Our team became so close during the event that even afterwards we made efforts to keep in touch on a regular basis. I particularly enjoyed the coed aspect of the team because there are few tennis opportunities that allow you to play and compete in a coed environment. The WTT event taught me that to be a reliable team player, you need to encourage and cheer on your teammates. I recognized that I played my best tennis when my teammates cheered from the sidelines. Even though this was a competitive event, we learned to support each other and work together to compete to the best of our abilities.

A set is indicative of the many teams that came together to play tennis and compete. There are numerous games within a set, similar to how there were numerous teams participating in the event. I was able to meet players of different ages and tennis levels from states such as California, Michigan, Hawaii, and more. We had so much in common from tennis and the commitment and sacrifice we shared as high schoolers.

Finally, the "match" is representative of the WTT event overall. I found it inspiring to see players across the nation come together to compete in a common interest and support the sport that we love. We were all fans, players, and team members over those three days.

To conclude, the WTT Junior Nationals was a truly life changing experience and I am thankful to have had the opportunity to participate. This experience reignited my passion and appreciation for tennis and has helped motivate me to push myself in all endeavors.