



# Jake Keefauver

We are pleased to announce our Moments of Integrity recipient for March/April 2016 is Jake Keefauver. Congratulations Jake, on this honor!

Jake Keefauver, is a freshman at Bentonville High School. In addition to being an excellent student, Jake plays varsity singles tennis for BHS, and was recently named All Conference, which is quite impressive for a freshman. He started playing tennis at the age of 8, and began taking it seriously by age 10. Although tennis can be extremely tough both physically and mentally, Jake has learned to keep his emotions in check on the court over the years. The trophies that line his bedroom are a testament to his dedication and passion for the game.

These accolades would not be possible without the help of several coaches that have guided him on his path. Luke White, the head tennis pro at Shadow Valley Country Club, has been an integral part of Jake's growth since the early years, and has always encouraged Jake in everything he was involved in. Luke even chose Jake as his partner in the Shadow Valley club tournament when he could have chosen any adult. Each of these coaches and role models have taught Jake lessons that he will take well beyond his time on the courts, for which he and his family are incredibly thankful.

When Jake is not on the tennis courts, you will find him long boarding, or at the basketball courts with friends.

Brandon Simmons had the pleasure of meeting Jake back in February and had a few words of wisdom for him and other young adults. Brandon shared with him his definition of integrity. "Integrity is if you are the same person and do the same things when people are watching as you do when you are by yourself." "Sport is a good laboratory, a good test, in building integrity. A lot of good lessons can be learned on the court, as well as in the classroom. Integrity is part of standing up for who you are and what your values are. Surrounding yourself with the right group of friends that are willing to accept that and not challenge you on those things. Peer pressure is super powerful and having a strong group that is like-minded is also quite powerful. Your job, as a young person, is to build a resume of being a good family member, getting good grades, staying active and involved in the community."

**Maud King** – Teacher – "Jake is as competitive in the classroom as he is on the tennis courts. Constantly striving for academic excellence, his level of understanding for the subject is seen throughout all of his assignments and projects. His willingness to help others makes him a great classmate. I have thoroughly enjoyed having him in class."



**Matt Hogan** – Apex Tennis – "I have had the pleasure of coaching Jake Keefauver tennis for the past three years. Jake has always been a great student who is well respected amongst his peers and coaches. Not only is he a highly ranked, competitive tennis player in the state but also a great symbol of fair play, fun and hard work. Congratulations Jake!"

**Nicholas Nersesian** – BHS Tennis Coach – "Seldom do modern high school student athletes live up to the ideal that hard work will bring success, as former generations did, but Jake Keefauver is an exception to that rule. He is a unique individual with strong family values. He is working hard in the off season to get his game right. This is why I would expect BHS Tennis to get back to their championship ways this year."

**Luke White** – Director of Tennis, SVCC & Coach - "I have known the Keefauver's since the mid 2000's, and have seen Jake grow into the confident, polite, and intelligent young man he is today. His attitude and willingness towards changing and adapting no matter how frustrating the work can be is top class and I look forward to seeing all he accomplishes."