

Nguyen wins hearts despite losses at state tournament

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Daily Leader staff report

EMPORIA — Liberal High School senior Susan Nguyen completed her remarkable 4-year run at LHS with her second straight appearance in the Class 5A state tennis tournament on Friday. Nguyen opened with a 6-2-6-0 loss to Kelly O'Farrell of Overland Park Blue Valley Southwest, then fell 9-6 to Molly Porter of St. Thomas Aquinas.



“Susan won the hearts of fans throughout Kansas and brought respect to the Liberal High School tennis program,” said Liberal head coach Bret Irby. “Susan’s accomplishments include two State appearances, a 10th place medal last year, and the Western Athletic Conference’s Player of the Year Award for 2010.”

Ashley Tiefel of Blue Valley won the state singles championship with a 6-2, 6-1 win over teammate Audrey Coventry. Kapaun’s Abby Stevens downed O’Farrell 6-1, 6-2.

Blue Valley won the team title, Kapaun was second and Bishop Carroll third.

“The City of Liberal and Liberal High School could not have asked for a better ambassador to represent them,” Irby said. “In four short years, Susan has matured into a confident, graceful tennis player with beautiful ground strokes.

“It has been my honor and pleasure to have coached this special young lady.”

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