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## Bentley Athletics Report

Submitted by Clay Kallam



Junior Ru Smillie Photos provided

### Boys' Soccer:

The North Coast Section playoffs are starting to become familiar territory for the Bentley men's soccer team, which is on track for its second straight appearance in postseason play.

The Phoenix are 12-5 going into the Bay Counties League-East playoffs, having built on their first-ever NCS win last season.

With Mitch Hemerling anchoring the back line, and German exchange student Christoph Laubenthal and Louis Thibault up front, Bentley racked up double-digit wins and recorded its first win ever over BCL-East power Head-Royce.

And since the Phoenix will return many key players, head coach Sean Kwasnicki has high hopes for the future—and a continuing presence in the NCS playoffs.

### Girls' Tennis:

The Bentley women's tennis team heads into postseason with justifiable high hopes, as the Phoenix are 11-2 on the year.

Coach Nathan Jackman's solid group of returners was bolstered by the arrival of transfers Samantha and Kelly Finnegan, who have stepped right into the top part of the singles' rotation.

In addition, seniors Jessica Wilcox and Elise Filter anchor a strong doubles' rotation.

The Phoenix have been a force in Bay Counties' League-East tennis since Jackman took over four years ago, but this might be their best team yet - and with only two seniors and a host of strong sophomores, expect more of the same in the coming seasons.

### Volleyball:

It's been a rough year for Bentley women's volleyball in terms of wins and losses, but coach Kris Keller says it's not a reflection on his team, but rather the strength of the competition they've faced.

"We're playing the best volleyball we've ever played here," says the seventh-year coach, "but everyone else is better too." The Bay Counties' League-East competition is topped by Head-Royce, but almost every team in the league is stocked with club players.

Senior Emily Radler and junior Gabby Cirelli have been the most consistent players for the Phoenix. Sophomore Kylie Han and junior Tina Chapman have both done well at the net, and Cirelli, Han and Chapman will be the foundation for next year's team.



Kelly Finnegan



Kylie Han goes for the dig.

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