

Did you say “Love”?

By Allison Camper

Lily Walker and Audrey Austin are Perry's dream team, leading the tennis team to state qualifiers, and the final 8 of all Ohio. The girls killed it in the postseason, after being in the top 4 schools in sectionals and finishing third in districts, which led them to states. “It was a good run and I'm proud of Audrey and I,” says Walker. At States, the girls won their first match and lost the second, finishing 8th overall in the state.

The Championship took place in Cincinnati, with D1 and D2 schools from all over. “We were both more excited than nervous, because it was cool to be down there playing on courts that the professionals use,” says Austin. The pair had a lot of support from their friends and family, as well as from the rest of the team and each other. “She is a great partner and she always knows how to lift me up when I'm down,” Walker says. The days leading up to the competition were full of support

Looking back, Walker appreciates the last three year of tennis. Tennis taught her how to work with her teammates and learn how to manage her time. “Sometimes it's hard balancing school and tennis but it works out,” she says. Walker is currently a junior, but successfully balanced her tight schedule with tennis, and plans to continue playing her senior year.

Walker and Austin both want to play next year, and will most likely play doubles together again. “It was a lot of fun competing and I think we both would want to do it again,” says Austin. The duo will both continue to play next year, and who knows, maybe they'll lead Perry to the states again!