



Tackett, Julian &lt;jtackett@khsaa.org&gt;

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## Tennis Alignment - Oneida Baptist

1 message

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**Laura Stockton** <laura.stockton@oneidaschool.org>

Mon, Nov 4, 2013 at 3:47 PM

To: jtackett@khsaa.org

Cc: Cindy Waslewski &lt;cindy.waslewski@oneidaschool.org&gt;, David Robinson &lt;david.robinson@oneidaschool.org&gt;,"Mr. Larry Gritton" &lt;president@oneidaschool.org&gt;

Commissioner Tackett,

Seven years ago, OBI petitioned the KHSAA office to switch our tennis team to the 14th region, and it was granted. There were several reasons for the request.

1. Geography - Oneida is just as close to the 14th region schools as we are to the 13th region.
2. Region Size - The 14th region has fewer schools than the 13th region, which is easier for scheduling. There aren't so many that you can't fit them all in during the regular season.
3. These two reasons alone may not have merited the move; however, the 13th region school's unwillingness to play on our courts was what finally forced us to ask for the move.

The tradition has been that the 13th region schools are glad for us to come to them and play, but they are not willing to make the return trip. When we tried to stand our ground that we wanted 'home & home' matches, they just dropped us totally from their schedule. The 13th region has so many other schools, that not scheduling OBI had no effect on them. This lead us to contact and schedule more and more with the 14th region schools who have been very cooperative about playing at OBI. We have built a wonderful relationship with these schools.

I can not tell you why they will not play here, I can only speculate. We have four courts, but we do not have lights. That just means we play our home matches later in the season after the time changes and we have more daylight. Our courts were not picture perfect, but their condition was never an issue with the 14th region schools. Our courts were re-surfaced in 2012 and have never been better.

If we don't have any real power to get the 13th region schools to play us 'home & home' then it doesn't make sense for us to move back to that region. Our athletes would be expected to prepare for and enter into post season against virtual strangers because we haven't been competing against them during the regular season. That's not fair to us or them.

If the 13th region schools could get some encouragement from your office about adding a trip to Oneida in their schedule, OBI would not oppose moving back to the 13th region. If it is not appropriate for your office to make such a request and expect to see a change, I would ask that Oneida Baptist tennis remain in the 14th region alignment.

Thank you,

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LAURA STOCKTON

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