

# Collegiate's Schnur is T-D boys tennis player of the year

Max Schnur, All-Metro Boys Player of the Year, is the first recipient of a new tennis award at Collegiate named for him.

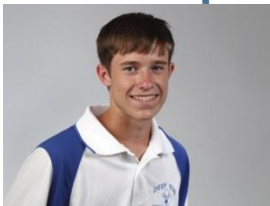
When the boys' tennis season ended at Collegiate in May, Conquest was trying to figure out an award to give Max Cougars' No. 1 singles and doubles player who had just completed his sixth year on the team. "I ended up just saying that we gave him what he gives us every day, which is the max," Conquest said. "So we created a new tennis award at Collegiate called



The Max. The first recipient of the award was Max Schnur." That was fitting, not only because of the name connection, but for what Schnur has contributed to the Cougars' program since he began playing in the top six in singles as a seventh-grader. His biggest attributes include "his leadership, on and off the court, in the weight room," Conquest said. "No one has been as driven and as good a model for the rest of the kids as he has been in practices and matches, as well. "It was under his leadership that Collegiate won the Prep League championship for the first time in school history. We also won the state (Virginia Independent Schools) title twice. He's willing to make whatever sacrifices he needs to for the team." Schnur was unbeaten in singles and doubles against Prep League and Central Region public school opponents this year and helped the

Cougars win their third straight Prep League crown. The Cougars' bid for a third consecutive VIS title came up short in the state final. For all of his accomplishments, Schnur has been named the 2011 Times-Dispatch boys tennis player of the year. As one of the co-captains, Schnur said it was his job to make sure the rest of the team stayed on the right path. "I sort of felt like a third coach sometimes," Schnur said. "Just the fact that I knew that guys were looking up to me because I was the number one guy and I was a senior. A lot of times Andrew [Elliott] and I were leading practice. It was almost like being a player-coach. I really enjoyed the challenge. It was a lot of fun and a big honor to be one of the captains." Schnur, who credits Jamie Hevron and Damian Sancilio for helping him develop his game, has worked quite a bit in the weight room in the past year to improve his strength and endurance. He'll take his talents to Columbia University in the fall to continue his education and play for the Lions. In the only meeting this spring with last year's T-D player of the year, Hunter Koontz of Deep Run, Schnur prevailed 6-3, 6-4. Koontz went on to win the state Group AAA singles titles for the second year in a row. "We hardly ever play when it's not close," Schnur said. "I was really fortunate when we played that time. He's a great player."

## Times-Dispatch 2011 All-Metro boys tennis team

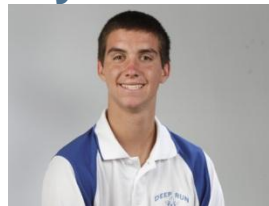


**Evan Charles** School: Deep Run Year: Senior

**The Skinny:** Playing No. 2 or No. 3 singles and No. 1 doubles with Hunter Koontz, Charles capped

his four-year career with second consecutive state Group AAA doubles and state team championships. Charles and Koontz lost to Max Schnur and Brady Straus (8-6 in a pro set) in early April and didn't lose again, repeating as Central Region champions. Charles will play in college at Mary Washington.

**One thing about you most people don't know:** "I love outdoor activities like fishing and biking."



**Hunter Koontz** School: Deep Run Year: Senior

**The Skinny:** Koontz, a four-time All-Metro pick and last year's player of the year, completed a second straight

three-peat, winning the Group AAA singles and doubles titles and leading Deep Run to the state team championship. The team was undefeated. He lost three singles matches (twice to fellow All-Metro picks Edgar Vitkovski and Max Schnur) and was undefeated with Charles in doubles. Koontz was the district and region player of the year. He's headed to Virginia Tech. **One thing about you most people don't know:** "My small hand is my lucky hand." [He is right-handed and all the fingers on that hand are smaller than his left.]



**Brett Moorhead School:** Cosby **Year:** Sophomore

**The Skinny:** Moorhead played No. 2 behind Tyler Carey all season until district tournament time when he defeated Carey

for the Dominion District singles title. Moorhead, undefeated during the regular season in singles and doubles, reached the Central Region singles final before losing to Hunter Koontz.

**One thing about you most people don't know:** "I play piano and water ski. I took piano lessons for five years and still play by ear."



**Brady Straus School:** Collegiate **Year:** Sophomore

**The Skinny:** Straus, playing No. 2 singles and No. 1 doubles with Max Schnur, is a first-team All-Metro pick for the second year

in a row. He defeated Evan Charles of Deep Run and Michael Holt of Mills Godwin in singles matches and was undefeated with Schnur in doubles play. He'll move into the Cougars' No. 1 singles spot next year. **One thing about you most people don't know:** "I was a bigger soccer player until a year and a half ago."



**Edgar Vitkovski School:** Mills Godwin **Year:** Senior

**The Skinny:** Vitkovski repeats as a first-team All-Metro selection. He was the only player to beat Hunter Koontz

twice this season (regular-season and state final team matches) and was runner-up to Koontz in the Colonial District singles final. Vitkovski teamed with Michael Holt to finish as district, region and state runners-up in doubles.

## Second Team

- Tyler Carey** – Cosby – Senior
- Michael Holt** – Mills Godwin - Senior
- Liam Sullivan** – James River - Sophomore
- Arjun Venkatasubramanian** – Henrico – Senior
- Shyam Venkatasubramanian** – Henrico – Freshman
- Matt Waddell** – Deep Run - Junior