Cook County Tennis Association’s

FISHERMAN’S PICNIC

TENNIS TOURNAMENT

August 4th—6th, 2017
Grand Marais, MN

Tournament play starts Friday afternoon.

For more information go to:
www.facebook.com/cookcountytennis/
www.cookcountytennis.wordpress.com
USTA Northern welcomes two long-time members of the Section – Mya Smith-Dennis and Rumeal Setts – to the staff as the new Training & Outreach Coordinator and Tennis Service Representative for Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin and Junior Teams Assistant, respectively.

Smith-Dennis replaces Tony Stingley, who left USTA Northern in February to work as the Manager of Schools Tennis for USTA National in Orlando, Fla. He will be working with diversity and inclusion initiatives, wheelchair and adaptive tennis programs and on-court trainings. He also is USTA Northern’s community tennis representative in Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin. Setts is working with the Junior Team Tennis and Tennis on Campus programs and replaces Tricia Moorhead, who is the new manager of Team Northern for the Section.

A native of Savage, Minn., Smith-Dennis comes to USTA Northern after working as a tennis professional at Life Time Fitness – Bloomington South in Bloomington, Minn. He played collegiately at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., where he was a four-time All-American and was the 2012 NCAA Division III Finalist in men’s doubles. He also won the NCAA Division III Central Region Championship in singles that year. Prior to that, Smith-Dennis played junior tennis in the Section and was ranked in the top 10 of Boys 18s.

A graduate of Gustavus in 2014 with a degree in communications and a minor in management, Smith-Dennis was an assistant coach for the men’s tennis team there for one year (2014-15) and was a supervisor and instructor for GAC’s world-renowned Tennis and Life Camps during the summer months for three years. He worked as an instructor at the Sandy Lynch Tennis Camps and has been part of the USTA Northern’s multicultural outreach efforts for many years as a player, coach and volunteer.

“I’m very excited to begin this journey with USTA Northern,” Smith-Dennis said. “I grew up playing tennis in this Section, and I feel blessed to be in a position to share my passion for the sport with others.”

Setts started playing tennis at the age of 14 when his mom gave him the ultimatum of having to play either golf or tennis after school. Setts chose tennis and played at Coon Rapids (Minn.) High School, where he was a member of one of the best teams in school history. While still in high school, he went back to coach his former middle tennis team and volunteered with the Little Cardinal Tennis program in Coon Rapids.

Setts graduated from the University of Minnesota with a communications degree in 2015. While at Minnesota, he was a member of the Tennis On Campus program. He served as a part-time coach at Coon Rapids High School and was a teaching pro at Public Indoor Tennis in Spring Lake Park, Minn. During the summer of 2015, he was a Junior Team Tennis intern with USTA Northern and currently plays USTA Leagues and Adult Tournaments.

“Words cannot describe how excited I am to become the Junior Teams Assistant for the Northern team,” Setts said. “Professionally, I have worn a number of different hats, but I find myself happiest when I have the opportunity to share my love of tennis with others. I look forward to growing and sharing tennis within the Northern Section.”
**Brian Boland**, originally of St. Cloud, Minn., and currently the head men's tennis coach at the University of Virginia, has been hired as the new USTA Player Development Head of Men's Tennis. Boland, who will start his new position at the conclusion of the college season, will oversee all training and coaching of male junior, collegiate and pro players by USTA Player Development, as well as manage all USTA national coaches on the men's side.

“Brian brings a unique skill set to Player Development, a combination of management and coaching expertise, which enabled him to build a championship culture at the University of Virginia,” Martin Blackman, USTA Player Development General Manager, said. “He’s long been an innovative leader in the world of college tennis and athletics and is the right person at the right time to take us to the next level.”

Boland, 45, was a three-sport star and captain at St. Cloud Tech High School playing tennis, hockey and soccer. He played collegiate tennis at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., and met his future wife, Becky, on the tennis courts there during a summer camp his junior year. He eventually transferred to Indiana State, following Becky who was starting a PhD program there, and graduated in 1995.

Planning on attending law school after graduation, Boland’s college coach, Rob Oertel, announced he was leaving Indiana State and taking the head job at the University of Denver. Boland was soon approached by a former Sycamore teammate asking him to apply for the head job. The rest is history.

In five seasons, Boland led Indiana State to a 121-32 record, winning three conference titles and earning two NCAA Tournament berths. He was named Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year four times and coached 11 all-conference players.

In 2002, he was hired as head coach at Virginia. He has built the program into one of the most successful in the country, leading the Cavaliers to a 419-57 record (prior to the 2017 season) and three NCAA team championships in the last four years. He was named the Intercollegiate Tennis Association’s (ITA) Coach of the Year twice, in 2008 and 2016, and the United States Olympic Committee National Coach of the Year in 2013. He has coached his players to three NCAA singles titles, three NCAA doubles titles, three ITA National Player of the Year awards and 42 ITA All-America honors. Many of his players have gone on to play professional tennis including Brian Vahaly, Somdev Devvarman, Dominic Inglot, Treat Huey and Jarmere Jenkins.

“This is an incredible opportunity for me and my family and I feel honored and privileged to lead our men’s national coaches and serve all of Team USA,” Boland, who has four children (Briana, Bryce, Brendan and Brooke), said. “This is a very exciting time for American tennis. I believe wholeheartedly that Team USA is blessed with the brightest coaches in the game, a pipeline of players that merit our support and a sense of urgency nationwide to propel American tennis to the top of our global sport.”

---

**Q&A With Brian Boland…**

**Q.** What are some of the things you would like to accomplish as Head of Men’s Tennis?

**A.** My primary goal is to continue to build a culture within Team USA that exemplifies the character, commitment, communication and camaraderie we will need, not only to win Grand Slams, Davis Cups and Olympic medals but, more importantly, to make sure our culture sets our players up for success in their lives after tennis.

Under my leadership, the development of the person will be just as important as the development of the tennis player, because the two clearly go hand in hand. In addition, I would like for every stakeholder within Team USA to consider our USTA National Campus at the very least a second home, where they can come to collaborate with our men’s national coaches and work together to maximize the potential of our players.

**Q.** Talk about the state of men’s tennis now in the U.S. Do you think it will be long before we have another Grand Slam winner or players at the very top of the game?

**A.** I’m not a big believer in timelines, result goals or focusing on other aspects of the process that we cannot control, but I do believe American men’s tennis is clearly headed in the right direction. We have a crop of veteran pros that continue to make strides inside the Top 100, 50 and 20 in the world, and we also have a lot to be excited about with the next generation of American players that are gradually making a name for themselves on the ATP Tour. Best of all, the camaraderie and friendship amongst this current group of male professionals seems to be a positive one, which is a great sign for the future of our U.S. Davis Cup team, led by Jim Courier, whom I am very much looking forward to working with and doing whatever I can to support his team.
The United States Tennis Association is a complex entity at both the National and Sectional levels. On the one hand, it is a huge corporation that brings in millions and millions of dollars annually through the US Open. On the other, the USTA is a non-profit and must think and act like one when focusing and funding its mission of growing and developing the sport for people of all ages and ability levels from diverse backgrounds.

Having recently attended the 2017 USTA Annual Meeting for the first time as Northern’s President, it was eye opening to me how National, and each Section office, navigate this tricky paradigm. People often forget that the USTA, although it is big business, is still an organization run primarily by volunteers (like me) and staff, and that every Section faces different opportunities and challenges along the way in striving to achieve the organization’s overall mission. It is amazing how each Section is so unique in circumnavigating this ever-changing industry. We are no different in Northern and are fortunate to have a team of leaders, staff and volunteers who share a common vision and are aligned and transparent in our approach to growing the game.

The Annual Meeting was very exciting as it was the first time many of us saw the new USTA National Campus in person. What an amazing place! Orlando is known as the land of theme parks and the National Campus is like a tennis Disneyland with 100 courts of all sizes and surfaces spread across 64 acres. In addition to the endless court space, this public facility features a pro shop, racquet bar and dining facilities on-site. It also has 24 courts equipped with Smart Court technology and B4 courts that feature live-streaming 24 hours a day so you can always check out what is going on at the "Home of American Tennis." To learn more about all the amazing things the National Campus has to offer; visit www.ustanationalcampus.com, or better yet, book a trip there today and be a part of the excitement.

In addition to the National Campus, the USTA as a whole is launching important new initiatives in 2017 starting with Net Generation – the new "brand" for youth tennis rolling out to providers this summer; and to consumers leading into and during the US Open. Stay tuned for more information about Net Generation and how it will entice our youth to find themselves in the game.

Another huge endeavor on both a National and Sectional level is a complete transformation of the organization in the digital space. You might have already seen pieces of this with the launch of the new USTA.com at the end of February. The new website is customized to the consumer by allowing the site to access his or her location and then providing program information and tennis opportunities specific to you. For example, if you are a tournament player in Rapid City, it will feed you options for tournaments in your area, or if you are a league player in the Twin Cities, you can automatically renew your membership and team registration without reentering the same information year after year.

Also, starting in late May, our Northern Section website will become one with usta.com. Gone will be the current northern.usta.com url and site as we know it, as all information specific to USTA Northern will now appear on usta.com (but you must allow your location to be used for local information to appear). The purpose of this is to provide a one-stop shop – both local and national – for the consumer regarding tennis opportunities and USTA programming in your area.

You will also be seeing more robust content in the social media space on a National and Section level in the coming months, so check us out on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram and You Tube if you have not already. (Keywords: USTA for National content and USTANorthern for Section content).

The final step of the digital transformation is scheduled for 2018 with a complete overhaul of the TennisLink registration system. USTA Northern Executive Director Mike Goldammer is on the National TennisLink Transformation Task Force and is working closely with this project. If you have any comments or suggestions in making TennisLink a more user-friendly product for both the consumer and the provider, please reach out to him at goldammer@northern.usta.com.

On the court, USTA Northern is offering a new team tennis program for juniors called World Team Tennis (WTT) starting this summer. All a provider needs are two courts, two girls, two boys and 90 minutes for this fast-paced format played at all levels. WTT includes modified scoring, substitutions, power-up points, overtime fun and a t-shirt for the players, while it is easy and inexpensive to administer for providers with no individual player match requirements, no USTA membership needed or TennisLink fees incurred. It is a great option for those local programs looking for team play opportunities, but not all the administrative extras that come with traditional Junior Team Tennis.

The Section is also ramping up its Tennis In Your Parks program in the Twin Cities area by working with Park and Rec programs in delivering programming for beginning and intermediate adult players in the Northern suburbs (Vadnais Heights, Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Roseville) as well as the Southwest suburbs (Shakopee, Bloomington) and the East suburbs (Mendota Heights and Inver Grove Heights). Add these new locations to the existing Park and Rec programs in Minneapolis, Apple Valley and Burnsville and there are many new entry points for adults wanting to play tennis. I love this initiative as I was 40 when I started playing and am constantly telling people, "It is never too late."

Whew! As you can see, there are so many exciting things going on right now with the USTA at both a National and Section level. We are working hard in creating even more value for you – our members and providers – while finding new ways to connect with those who are new to tennis. Like anything, it is a work in progress and takes time. There will be immediate successes, as well as a few bumps in the road along the way, but if we all are aligned and transparent in working toward that common vision, as we are in Northern, more people will be finding themselves in the game.

Liz Hamburg
USTA Northern President
University of Minnesota head women's tennis coach Chuck Merzbacher announced his retirement from coaching at the conclusion of the 2017 season.

"After 28 years of being a Division I head coach, I've decided to make this year my last one. I am honored to be able to retire as a Gopher," Merzbacher, of Eden Prairie, Minn., said. "I have been fortunate to work alongside hall of fame athletic directors and coaches at four prestigious universities. I have enjoyed coaching wonderful and talented student-athletes for almost three decades. It has been an honor to be in their lives."

His retirement wraps up a career with the University of Minnesota that saw Merzbacher succeed as both a coach and student-athlete.

Merzbacher returned to his alma mater in August 2002, taking over the Gopher women's tennis program from Tyler Thomson. After a 10-15 first season, he led the Gophers to three consecutive winning seasons, including 17-win campaigns in both 2013-14 and 2014-15. Merzbacher has compiled a 67-56 record leading the Maroon and Gold as of April 13.

While coaching three different all-conference players, Merzbacher oversaw tremendously successful students in the classroom. At least five of his student-athletes have been named Academic All-Big Ten each of the past three seasons, and his team has won the athletics department's Women's Athletics Team Academic Award in three of his four full seasons as head coach. Merzbacher has also been instrumental in getting his team out into the community working with InnerCity Tennis, USTA Northern and many other tennis providers in the Twin Cities.

"I have been fortunate to coach student-athletes that worked equally as hard in the classroom and community as they did on the court," Merzbacher said. "I am proud of the many student-athletes I have seen go on to succeed in their careers and lives after tennis."

When Merzbacher returned to the Twin Cities in 2012 to coach the Gophers, he came home to a place where he had a decorated career as a Gopher player. He was a part of two Big Ten Championships (1984 and 1986), helping the team to a 42-7 conference record during his career. He graduated from Minnesota with 137 career wins, a program record that still stands today. He was a three-time All-Big Ten selection and a two-time NCAA qualifier.

"From his record-setting years playing tennis here as a student-athlete, to his tenure as our head women's tennis coach, Chuck has given so much of himself and his talents to the University of Minnesota. We can't thank him enough for what he's done for our tennis programs," said University of Minnesota Athletics Director Mark Coyle. "No one has more passion and a deeper connection to Gopher athletics than Chuck. I admire his love and dedication to his alma mater. Chuck Merzbacher is and will always be a Gopher great."

After serving as Minnesota's assistant coach in 1987, Merzbacher spent several years playing professional tennis before returning to college tennis as the head men's tennis coach at Northern Illinois. During his three years with the Huskies, Merzbacher was twice named Mid-Continent Coach of the Year.

Merzbacher made the jump to coaching women's tennis in 1992, taking over as the head coach at Kansas, where his team rattled off four straight Big Eight titles. He earned Big Eight Coach of the Year honors twice (1993, 1994) and was the Central Region Coach of the Year in 1993. His Jayhawk teams were an amazing 39-1 in conference competition during his time leading the program.

His success at Kansas landed Merzbacher the head coaching job at Ohio State in 1996, where he coached until 2012. During his 16-year tenure with the Buckeyes, Merzbacher led his squads to nine NCAA Tournament appearances and a total of 209 victories, becoming the winningest coach in program history.

All-told, Merzbacher has racked up over 400 career wins and coached six individual All-Americans. Collectively, his teams have claimed seven conference titles and have made 12 postseason appearances.

"I have poured my heart and soul into the Gophers, Buckeyes, Jayhawks and Huskies. I leave this great profession with no regrets," Merzbacher said. "It has been quite the journey. I look forward to supporting this Gopher tennis team and the all of Gopher athletic teams from the stands."
When you see the former Kathy O'Brien, now Kathy Alex, standing on the court, you can feel the passion and love she has for tennis.

One of seven kids, Alex’s mom would round up the brood and take them to the local rec center while she played tennis. Alex wanted to play, but her mother told her she couldn’t until she was able to hit 10 in a row. Up to the challenge, Alex hit against the wall for hours a day and soon received that invitation.

When Alex was 15, her father, who was a professor at UC-San Diego, moved the family to Switzerland for a year. It was there Alex, who was also a gymnast and played softball, saw her passion and love for tennis. It was like God had put tennis in her heart from that point on.

They returned from Switzerland in May. She immediately started practicing 5-6 hours a day and “got good pretty fast,” but with seven kids and busy parents, Alex had to take it upon herself to find hitting partners and matches.

“I rode my bike everywhere hoping to find people to play with me,” Alex said. “That was the day I decided I really wanted to PLAY tennis. It was like God had put tennis in my heart from that point on.”

They returned from Switzerland in May. She immediately started practicing 5-6 hours a day and “got good pretty fast,” but with seven kids and busy parents, Alex had to take it upon herself to find hitting partners and matches.

“When I could not find anyone to hit with me, I was hitting against the wall.”

Luckily for Alex, she lived down the street from tennis legend Wonderland’s Ladies Singles Championship in 1962 and a three-time Grand Slam doubles titlist with partner Billie Jean King during her career. Susman would hit with her often.

“She did a lot of favors for me,” Alex laughed.

At that time, Alex was playing tournaments 52 weeks a year and was one of the top-ranked juniors in the country. She played on the USTA Junior Federation Cup Team for three years and competed in the World University Games in Mexico City. Trying to figure out what to do next, her father had always stressed the importance of education and wanted her to attend UCLA.

“My dad always instilled in me that I could do anything I put my mind to. It became my dream to play tennis at UCLA.”

A science major, she became the first four-time All-American in UCLA history, led her team to the NCAA title in 1981 and earned finalist honors at the 1982 NCAA Championships in doubles.

She went on to play professional tennis, achieving a career high of 158 in singles and 30 in doubles. She played doubles in the US Open main draw four times and Wimbledon once. One of her most memorable matches occurred when she and partner Terry Holladay played Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver on Center Court in the round of 32 at the 1983 US Open. Navratilova and Shriver were in the middle of their record-long 109 match winning streak, when Holladay and Alex took them to a third set before falling 6-2.

“I remember thinking, ‘We should have beaten them,’” Alex said.

It was not long after that match when Alex decided she had had enough of pro tennis at the age of 24.

“The pro tour was uncomfortable and lonely,” she said. “It was such a grind and I did not have the finances to keep going.”

Alex soon returned to UCLA and finished her degree. She taught high school chemistry for a year before being hired as the head tennis coach at Marymount University, where she coached for 15 years. Also during that time, she met her husband, Chris, and they went on to have nine kids – Rebekah (30), Johanna (28), Rachel (26), Kosta (24), Abraham (21), Luke (19), Petro (16), Christo (13) and Emmanuel (11).

In 2002, Kathy and Chris, who is Greek-American, decided to move the family to Greece so they could experience their father’s heritage first-hand. While in Greece, Kathy was hired to teach tennis at a high performance academy where she was introduced to the European progression of developing champions with red, orange and green balls.

“Teaching in Greece was a game changer. I started focusing on technique and learned how to develop kids. I saw 6 year olds playing with red balls on smaller courts and rallying. Not just taking a lesson, but actually playing the game.”

After 10 years, the family moved back to the United States and landed in the Twin Cities, where Alex is now the Head Coach of 12U Development at InnerCity Tennis in Minneapolis, working with many of USTA Northern’s best players that age. All nine of her kids play tennis – some recreationally and others more seriously. Johanna and Abraham played in college. After playing football and basketball, Luke came back tennis his junior year of high school and played in the state tournament. Petro, Christo and Emmanuel are all highly-ranked in the USTA Northern junior system. Her husband served as a ball kid at the Indian Wells tournament for years and is a self-admitted hacker. This year, it was Christo’s turn to shag balls at Indian Wells.

Alex also achieved another milestone last year as she led the Mahtomedi High School girls to their first-ever Minnesota Class AA State Team Championship, defeating 19-time defending champion Edina along the way. Johanna and Abraham served as her assistant coaches.

“Honestly, tennis has brought so much to my life on all different levels,” Alex said. “To be able to give back to the community and give kids a chance, no matter their economic or social position, is what is so special about InnerCity Tennis. In my family life, my goal was to give the kids something they could do recreationally with their friends as they got older, while keeping physically fit. Tennis is something they can do their entire lives.”
**Junior Tennis Update**

**USTA Northern Coaches & Players Represent At National Team Championships**

Congratulations to USTA Northern coaches Matt Boughton (Eau Claire, Wis.), Jon Pickett (Eau Claire, Wis.) and Scott Boyer (Rochester, Minn.) on their selection to coach teams at the National Team Championships in Mobile, Ala., and Tucson, Ariz., in March.

The following Northern players also participated in the event including Alex Exsted (Shakopee, Minn.), Hunter Heck (St. Paul, Minn.), Nore Ann Heinitz (Duluth, Minn.), Emmanuel Alex (Arden Hills, Minn.), Sarah Shahbaz (Ham Lake, Minn.), Isabella Suk (Stillwater, Minn.) and Hank Trondson (St. Paul, Minn.).

**Isabella Suk Wins Professionalism Award At Team USA Camp**

Congratulations to Isabella Suk (Minnetonka, Minn.), who received the Professionalism Award at the Team USA Camp as selected by camp leader Brian Wilson of USTA National.

**Rochester Athletic Club Hosts Team USA Camp**

The Rochester Athletic Club in Rochester, Minn., played host to 25 of the Section’s best junior players during USTA Northern’s Team USA Camp in April. Led by USTA National Coach Brian Wilson, the camp themed “All-In,” focused on movement, serve and return, the next shot, volley and transition and professionalism. There was also an information session for all parents and personal coaches of the athletes.

Invited players included Zoe Adkins (Maple Grove, Minn.), Christo Alex (Arden Hills, Minn.), Emmanuel Alex (Arden Hills, Minn.), Jack Allaben (Mahtomedi, Minn.), Julia Baber (Rochester, Minn.), Sujit Cheppuri (Minneapolis, Minn.), Amanda Diao (Blaine, Minn.), Maxwell Exsted (Savage, Minn.), Matthew Fullerton (Edina, Minn.), Tygen Goldammer (Rosemount, Minn.), Allen Gong (Eagan, Minn.), Noah Hong (Minneapolis, Minn.), Isabella Suk (Minnetonka, Minn.), Sarah Shahbaz (Ham Lake, Minn.), Erik Smith (Edina, Minn.), Ingrid Smith (Edina, Minn.), Isabella Suk (Minnetonka, Minn.), Hank Trondson (St. Paul, Minn.), Kevin Turlington (Rochester, Minn.), Vunissa Vu (Maplewood, Minn.), Emmeline Wang (Hamel, Minn.), Sydney Wolpert (Hopkins, Minn.) and Karin Young (Apple Valley, Minn.).

Coaches included Matt Boughton (Eau Claire, Wis.), Scott Boyer (Rochester, Minn.), Jaime Gaard Chapman (Hopkins, Minn.) and Craig Gordon (Farmington, Minn.), Ben Maes (Rochester, Minn.), Jon Pickett (Eau Claire, Wis.), Felicia Raschiatore (Excelsior, Minn.), Steve Taul (Rochester, Minn.) and Mark Vellek (Sioux Falls, S.D.).

**Karin Young Invited To Team USA National Camp**

Congratulations to Karin Young (Apple Valley, Minn.) as she has been invited to the Team USA National Camp May 12-14 at the USTA National Campus in Orlando, Fla.

**Early Development Camp Selections & Dates**

The following junior players were selected to participate in the USTA Northern Early Development Camps: Winston Arvidson (Chanhassen, Minn.), Tej Bhagra (Rochester, Minn.), Sydney Breit (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Joshua Brower (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Noah Carpenter (Plymouth, Minn.), Julian Cole, Jacob Colton (St. Paul, Minn.), Connor Cruse (Rapid City, S.D.), Raya Dittfurth (St. Michael, Minn.), Gabe Dozois (Rochester, Minn.), Cooper Garry (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Tarun Gopalakrishnan (Plymouth, Minn.), Leyton Griffith (Minneapolis, Minn.), Clark Haglin (Fort Ripley, Minn.), Elsie Hagan, Ronan Hartwig (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Zoya Hasan (Edina, Minn.), Will Heidtke (Eagan, Minn.), Alisa Ivanov (Maple Grove, Minn.), Bergen Jacob (Rochester, Minn.), Maya Jamous (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Katie Johnson (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Wellstone Jones (Bloomington, Minn.), Caleb Keneal (Rochester, Minn.), Timothy Kong (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Drew Lindstrom (Rosemount, Minn.), Aoihe Loftus (Rochester, Minn.), Claire Loftus (Rochester, Minn.), Thomas Loucks (Edina, Minn.), Alexander Lupu (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Anika McDowell (Sioux Falls, S.D.), River McKenzie (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Rocky McKenzie (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Molly Miller (Bloomington, Minn.), Alex Mohama (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Jacob Morgans (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Kaleb Ngwensdson (Apple Valley, Minn.), Marie Pelletier (Brandon, S.D.), Anthony Perrill (Wayzata, Minn.), Daniel Puimala (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Simar Puri (Edina, Minn.), Bergen Quello (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Rishi Ranjith (Plymouth, Minn.), Chase Rima (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Jacob Salisbury (Plymouth, Minn.), Drew Seehusen (St. Louis Park, Minn.), Isabella Starkman Senn (White Bear Lake, Minn.), Peter Stich (Sioux Falls, S.D.), August Stroh (Minnetonka, Minn.), Junze Sun (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Conor Sweeney (Minneapolis, Minn.), Soren Swenson (North Oaks, Minn.), Ethan Turunen (Maple Grove, Minn.), Srawika Varedu (Eden Prairie, Minn.), Nana Vang (Bloomington, Minn.), McKenzie Vickerly, Spencer Wang (Hamel, Minn.), Noah Wisniewski (Rochester, Minn.) and Alexander Young (Apple Valley, Minn.).

The first Early Development Camp was April 8 at Life Time Fitness – Lakeville. The coaches included Craig Gordon (Lead Faculty Coach), Isabella Edin, Julie Bowles, Viet Pham, Clay Sollenberger, Justin Jennings, Ben Maes, Sabine Tetzloff, Jenna Kuhlman, Andres Osorio and Adrian Rodriguez-Sandoval. Coaches at the second camp in Sioux Falls on May 6 included Gordon, Vellek, Kevin Plank, Mitch Barr, Jessie Daw and Brittany Gaster.

Future EDC camps in 2017 include Sioux Falls (October 14), Rochester (May 13, September 9) and Lakeville (October 7).
Jackson Allen And Isabella Lambert Named To USTA National Leadership Team

Congratulations to Jackson Allen (Shakopee, Minn.) and Isabella Lambert (Minnetonka, Minn.), who were two of 32 juniors nationwide named to the USTA National Junior Leadership Team which recognizes America’s finest junior tennis players who exhibit leadership, sportsmanship and character on and off the court. Former Northern player Paul McCallie, now of Norcross, Ga., was also named to the team.

Allen is a multiple-time Section champion and had been ranked #1 in USTA Northern for 12s, 14s and 16s when he suffered two stress fractures in his lower back during the summer of 2014. He was relegated to the sidelines for six weeks, missing all of the big summer tournaments, but it was at that moment when Allen realized how much he cared about the game.

“Having to sit out gave me time to reflect on my game and where I wanted to take it,” Allen said. “At the time of my injury, I was ranked about 120th on tennisrecruiting.net. Once I was able to return to the court, I was hungry for success and practiced with new motivation.”

The next summer, Allen was a doubles semifinalist at the Boys 16s in Kalamazoo, Mich., the most watched tennis tournament by college coaches in the nation. Allen then went on to win the Minnesota Class AA Boys Singles Championship in 2016 and rose to Blue Chip status on tennisrecruiting.net. Allen, who is currently ranked #33 in the nation and #1 in USTA Northern in Boys 18s, graduated a semester early from Shakopee High School and joined the University of Minnesota's men's tennis team in January.

Coached by Viet Pham at the Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center, Jackson also gives back to the game on multiple levels. He was a USTA Northern Junior Team Tennis intern in 2014. Currently, he works with the Shakopee Tennis Association in his hometown and is a volunteer mentor with the Section’s Team Northern High Performance junior program.

Lambert is currently ranked #2 in the Section and 107th nationally after winning the 2016 Minnesota Class AA Singles Championship. She has been ranked in the top 10 of the Section her entire junior career and won the USTA Northern Girls 16s Section Championship in 2014. She has been named Athlete of the Week three times at Minnetonka High School and won the Girls USTA Northern Level 4 Sportsmanship Award for Girls 18s in January. She has played Junior Team Tennis over the years and is a committed to play tennis at the University of Minnesota starting in fall of 2018.

Academically, Lambert has been a member of the A Honor Roll and volunteers at a local homeless shelter. Her older sister, Aria, also was a former Minnesota Class AA state singles champion and played college tennis at Minnesota, graduating in 2016.

“Tennis is one of the few things in my life that I know will always be there,” Lambert said. “Whatever I am going through at the time, I know I can always go and play tennis and forget about those other things.”

Breck’s Grace Zumwinkle Named USA Today National Hockey Player of Year

Congratulations to former two-time Minnesota Class A State Doubles champion Grace Zumwinkle (Excelsior, Minn.), who was recently honored as the All-USA Girls Hockey National Player of the Year by USA Today. Zumwinkle was also named Minnesota’s Ms. Hockey and scored the game-winning goal for the United States against Canada in the gold medal game of the Under-18 Women’s World Championships. She will play college hockey for the University of Minnesota in the fall.

Junior Spotlight…In My Words

Kevin Tran, St. Paul, Minn.

Ever since my freshman year, I wanted to be someone others could look up to. I started playing tennis that season for Harding High School in St. Paul, Minn. I was very close to running track, but glad I didn’t as I love the family I have made through tennis.

I immediately fell in love with the sport and did whatever I could to play more. That summer, I joined the Saint Paul Urban Tennis program, and soon after, the SPUT Winter Warriors Leadership Academy, which held workshops allowing me to explore my personal values and ideas of self – in addition to free indoor court time on Saturdays. I have participated every summer at SPUT, except last year when I was selected to attend the Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America at Princeton University which prepares the nation’s youth to earn acceptance into top-tier colleges and become the leaders of tomorrow.

Over the years, tennis has allowed me to invest in my mind and body, while relieving the stress of school. Saint Paul Urban Tennis has given me the platform to make many friends, meet inspiring coaches, maintain a healthy lifestyle and give back to my community.

One of those coaches is Koua Yang, who has been an amazing role model during my high school years. The most important thing I’ve learned from him is that success is beyond yourself. When you can empower 10 people, and inspire them to empower 10 more people, and so on, you have created a domino effect that continues to better the lives of many others.

Now, as I am about to graduate as valedictorian of my class, I will become the first person in my family to attend college. I am going west to Stanford University and am very excited for the out-of-state college experience. I am thinking about studying aerospace engineering, economics or public policy and playing club tennis.
Learn More About Team Tennis

Q. What is Team Tennis?
A. Team Tennis is about getting kids of similar ability levels on teams and playing matches against other squads of a comparable skill level in a fun, but competitive atmosphere. The motto of team tennis is “Fun, Fitness and Friends.”

Q. What are the different levels offered for Team Tennis?
A. USTA Northern offers three different Team Tennis programs. Each of those programs has a division which fills the needs of a player at any level. With the exception of 10 and Under Team Tennis, matches consist of one set of boys and girls singles, one set of boys and girls doubles and one set of mixed doubles.

Junior Team Tennis (JTT)
- 14 and Under Intermediate (Below 3.5 JNTRP)
- 14 and Under Advanced (3.5+ JNTRP)
- 18 and Under Intermediate (Below 3.5 JNTRP)
- 18 and Under Advanced (3.5+ JNTRP)

World Team Tennis (WTT)
- 12 and Under Beginner (Orange Ball, 60’ court)
- 12 and Under Intermediate (Green Ball, 78’ court)
- 12 and Under Advanced (Green Ball, 78’ court)
- 14 and Under Beginner (Green Ball, 78’ court)
- 14 and Under Intermediate (Yellow Ball, 78’ court)
- 18 and Under Beginner (Green Ball, 78’ court)
- 18 and Under Intermediate (Yellow Ball, 78’ court)

10 and Under Team Tennis
- 10 and Under Intermediate (Orange Ball, 60’ court)
- 10 and Under Advanced (Orange Ball, 60’ court)
- 8 and Under Intermediate (Orange Ball, 60’ court)

Q. What is new or different about Junior Team Tennis this year?
A. JTT has four major changes in 2017:
1. **12 and Under Divisions:** Since there is no national championship for 12 and Under Divisions and they do not have to adhere to national regulations, this group will now play in the newly created World Team Tennis (WTT) program (read more below).
2. **JNTRP:** The use of the rating system (JNTRP) has been implemented to determine player levels. Any player rated 3.5 and above will have to play in the advanced division at any age. Like in years past, players are allowed to play up in a division. (Example: A player rated 3.2 is allowed to play advanced). For more information on junior ratings, visit www.usta.com/juniorratings.
3. **Area Championship:** Player eligibility has changed from one required match to two required team matches prior to the Area Championships. Team eligibility has changed to require teams to play in at least three team matches over a period of three or more days.
4. **Cost structure:** Fees are now based on the team instead of the player. Any team tied to a facility, CTA, Community Ed or Park and Rec will have the option to request an invoice for their organization to pay. Players still have to be USTA members and register on TennisLink (paying the $4 processing fee). The registration fees are:
   - Local season: $125/team for Twin Cities; $100/team for all other areas (includes t-shirts for 10 players)
   - Area Championships: $100 per team
   - Section Championships: $150 per team

Q. World Team Tennis (WTT) is new this year. What was the reason behind offering this program and how does it differ from JTT?
A. WTT has been introduced to address the needs that many providers, players and coaches have expressed the last few years. You only need two boys and two girls to form a team, players do not need to be USTA members and there is no need for providers or players to use TennisLink. Like JTT, WTT will still offer the chance for players to compete in a Section Championship, but instead of qualifying, entry is open to every team on a first-come basis. It is fun and easy to administer. WTT will also feature the following:
   - Substitutions
   - Overtime and Supertiebreaks
   - Power-up point
   - Team-based fee
   - Local Season: $125/team for Twin Cities; $100/team for all other areas (includes t-shirts for 10 players)
   - Section Championships: $125 per team

Q. What is 10 and Under Team Tennis?
A. 10 and Under Team Tennis is an introduction into team-based competition in a light, fun environment. We use a series of gender-neutral, team-based Play Days so the programs are able to sign up when they have availability and not worry about adhering to a weekly schedule. Teams must have a minimum of four players and meet on the designated days of play for a two-hour event that culminates with treats of some kind. Team registration at these events is limited to the first 4-8 teams that register, but we have will have a large season-ending event where everyone who registers can play.

For more information about Team Tennis or to find a team, please contact Brandon Jackson at Jackson@northern.usta.com or at (952) 358-3291.
In addition to traditional Junior Team Tennis, USTA Northern is offering a new, different and fun Team Tennis offering in 2017 called World Team Tennis. All you need are 2 courts, 2 girls, 2 boys and 90 minutes for this fast-paced format played at any level. There are no individual match requirements, organizers do not have to use TennisLink, and best of all . . . IT IS EASY AND INEXPENSIVE TO ADMINISTER!

Why Do You Want To Offer WORLD TEAM TENNIS?

- No TennisLink registration or its fees
- No USTA Membership required
- Fun, fast format with surprises including modified scoring, substitutions and overtime
  - 2 boys, 2 girls (maximum of 8 players)
  - Orange, green & yellow ball levels
  - Only 2 courts needed
- Done in 90 minutes
- No individual player match requirements
- T-shirt for every player registered
- Team Registration in May, Local Matches in June/July, Section Championships in July

Questions?
Contact Brandon Jackson at Jackson@northern.usta.com or at (952) 358-3291.
**Tennis Lessons from Creative Artists**

Before tennis was in my life, I had music. Every night, my home was filled with the sounds of jazz played on the trumpet by my father — fantastic sounds that captured my imagination. Soon, I too entered the creative realm as I began to study classical and jazz guitar. In turn, this led to a fascination with musicians, artists, writers and the entire creative process.

As sports began to enter my life in a larger way, I soon discovered these artists had an astonishing amount of insights that directly applied to tennis training and competition. The following are a few lessons I learned from the revolutionary artists Charlie Parker, Pablo Picasso and Robert Frost which have helped teach me to become a better tennis player and coach.

**Charlie Parker on Purposeful Practice**

As a lifelong jazz aficionado, I have spent many hours studying and listening to the work of the legendary jazz saxophonist Charlie Parker, the father of the be-bop style, who was integral in completely transforming the way jazz improvisation was approached. One of Parker’s most memorable quotes is, “Learn the changes and then forget them.” Here, Parker was referring to the fact that all musical improvisation over a melody is based on an underlying chord structure and there are numerous scales whose notes can be effectively utilized to create a new melody in the performer’s solo. However, this musical philosophy can also be directly applied to our tennis world.

“Learn the changes” is directly related to understanding the framework for successful point construction on court. Executing the standard high-percentage patterns of play, learning when to attack, to defend, or to hold, and developing complete skills in all areas of the court are crucial elements in sound tennis point play. Furthermore, a deep understanding of how to utilize both time and space are core concepts that need to be ingrained in any great tennis or musical mind.

“Then forget them [the changes]” references Parker’s wisdom that these skills have to be so well ingrained that the player doesn’t think about the skills before performing them effectively. The only way to achieve such mastery is to engage in tremendous amounts of deep and purposeful practice. This demands many hours of intensive, attentive work that focuses on detailed error correction in order to achieve the numerous correct repetitions required for high-level skill acquisition. Purposeful practice is the key to operating on instinct, which leads to effective improvisation in both the jazz and tennis worlds.

**Pablo Picasso on the Growth-Based Mindset**

Pablo Picasso, the prolific artist who helped to co-found the Cubist movement, was once famously quoted as saying, “I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it.” To discover that one of the most important and accomplished artists in history was always striving to improve and learn new things provides remarkable insight into his character. Essentially, this statement illustrates that Picasso embodied a growth-based mindset as he exhibited an open and intimate understanding of his strengths and weaknesses. Furthermore, Picasso shows that he wasn’t afraid to fail as he wholeheartedly embraced the challenge and difficulty associated with learning something new, ultimately demonstrating an understanding that this is absolutely essential to continuous growth.

For a variety of emotional reasons, people often protect themselves from situations that make them feel as though they are failing, preferring the safety and comfort of rehearsing skills that they already have achieved. On the tennis court this happens everyday as players and coaches overindulge in skill maintenance, spending too much time performing previously mastered exercises without purpose. This fixed mindset is ultimately limiting as opportunities for growth only occur for those who are willing to challenge themselves and engage in the struggle of learning new skills and tasks. Picasso understood that failure and understanding one’s personal limitations are truly at the core of improvement and success.

**Robert Frost on the Contrarian Approach**

The great American poet Robert Frost once mused, “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I — I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.” These words demonstrate the value in a contrarian mindset. Frost illustrated how being an independent, critical thinker who chooses a different path from the masses can lead to incredible opportunities for personal growth and self-discovery.

This style of thinking directly applies to our sport as there are incredible edges to be had by learning to differentiate our training, game-styles, and thinking from our opponents in an equally smart, yet less popularized way. In a competitive tennis landscape, doing exactly what everyone else is doing doesn’t separate you from the crowd, and yet so many individuals prefer the road more travelled, finding comfort in the confirmation bias of their peers. Looking through the lens of contrarianism can improve problem solving, inspire new thought and creativity, and help you to separate from the competitive pack through the development of different tennis skills and styles.

While Parker, Picasso, and Frost didn’t have athletics in mind when they spoke these remarkable phrases, there is much we can learn from their wisdom, work ethic and unique world perspectives that apply to our tennis journeys. Being a successful tennis competitor or coach requires a deep understanding of the incredible value found within deep purposeful practice, a growth-based mindset and a contrarian approach. Hopefully, these concepts will help to inspire thought and reflection as they assist in your on-court endeavors. Mastering these skills and concepts is a daunting task, but as Frost memorably said, “The best way out is always through.”
**Tennis On Campus**

**Minnesota Places Fourth; NDSU 63rd At Nationals**

The University of Minnesota placed fourth and North Dakota State 63rd at the 2017 Tennis On Campus National Championships at the USTA National Campus in Orlando, Fla. The fourth-place finish marked the second time in the last three years the Gophers have advanced to the Final Four. They placed second in 2015.

On Day 1, Minnesota finished 3-0 in pool play and qualified for the Gold Bracket after defeating UC-Santa Barbara 21-18 in the total-games-won format followed by South Carolina 26-19 and the University of Texas-Austin 30-19. Minnesota then opened bracket play by edging Penn State 27-24 in the round of 16. The Gophers followed that with a 27-24 win over Central Florida, sending them to the semifinals where they lost a heartbreaker to UC-Irvine 23-25.

The Gophers defeated North Dakota State 30-8 in the finals. In the third-place match, Carleton A defeated Winona State 30-7. The Silver bracket championship saw Minnesota B beat North Dakota State B 30-7, while the Carleton B defeated Wisconsin-River Falls 25-12 for third place.

Kudos also to Gustavus Adolphus, who received the Team Spirit Award.

**Minnesota Wins 14th Consecutive Tennis On Campus Title**

The University of Minnesota remained the only team to win a USTA Northern Tennis On Campus Section Championships, claiming its 14th consecutive championship at the 2017 USTA Northern Tennis On Campus Sectionals at Life Time Fitness – Lakeville.

The Gophers defeated North Dakota State 30-8 in the finals. In the third-place match, Carleton A defeated Winona State 30-7. The Silver bracket championship saw Minnesota B beat North Dakota State B 30-7, while the Carleton B defeated Wisconsin-River Falls 25-12 for third place.

Kudos also to Gustavus Adolphus, who received the Team Spirit Award.

**Former Junior Players Finding Tennis On Campus A Great Option at Minnesota**

All Chloe Hall, Zoe Lindbloom and Anthony Rosa wanted was to keep playing tennis when they got to college. The trio, who all finished their junior careers ranked near the top of the Section, took different routes, but ultimately ended up at the same destination — playing Tennis on Campus for the University of Minnesota, and couldn't be happier.

Hall, from Prior Lake, Minn., had many college tennis options, but in the end decided not to play at the varsity level. Once arriving at Minnesota, she ran into another former Northern junior player Kate Rosenow of Rochester, Minn., who was a member of the Gopher Tennis on Campus program. A former two-time Minnesota state doubles champion herself, Rosenow told Hall about the program and encouraged her to try out for the team.

“I had never heard of Tennis on Campus before I got on campus,” Hall, who received the USTA Foundation College Education Scholarship which is a $10,000 award given to high school seniors who have excelled academically, demonstrated community service and participated in an organized tennis program, admitted. “I knew Kate, and a couple of other people on the team, and they told me how much fun it was. I wanted to keep playing tennis and this was my chance to do it.”

After finishing her junior career ranked in the top five of the Section, Lindbloom played one year of varsity tennis at Division III Trinity College in Connecticut before deciding to come back closer to home. Wanting to still play tennis, Lindbloom ran into Minnesota women’s tennis coach Chuck Merzbacher, whose daughter, Caitlyn, had played against Lindbloom in juniors. Merzbacher told her about Tennis on Campus (and that Minnesota was pretty good) and gave her the name of former Gopher varsity player Kelsey Frechet. Frechet, another former Minnesota state champion, had played varsity tennis for the Gophers for one season before joining the Tennis on Campus team that finished second at the National Championships in 2015.

“When I talked to Kelsey, she could not say enough great things about Tennis on Campus,” Lindbloom, of Wayzata, Minn., said. “She was right. It is so different from my varsity college tennis experience. The group dynamics and team atmosphere are great. The co-ed aspect is really fun too.”

Rosa, who was a two-time Minnesota state doubles champion at Eden Prairie (Minn.) High School in 2015 and 2016, agrees. Never having heard about club tennis at Minnesota, he ran into a former high school teammate on campus, Salam Bachour, who is the current Minnesota Tennis on Campus club leader. Bachour encouraged Rosa to check it out, and the program has been a perfect fit.

“I really like Tennis on Campus because it is flexible and fits into my schedule,” Rosa said. “I am also pretty carefree so it gives me the chance to hit some balls and just enjoy playing the game again without the added pressure of varsity tennis. I have also learned how to play mixed doubles, which has been fun. We never had a chance to do that when we played juniors.”

Another aspect of Tennis on Campus that has surprised the group is the level of tennis they have encountered throughout the season.

“People always ask me about the level of play, but it has been very high. I have had good matches all year,” Hall said.

Including at the National Championships, where Minnesota finished fourth at the new USTA National Campus in Orlando, Fla. “It is really cool that we can compete for a National title,” Lindbloom said. “Honestly, I did not even know there was a National Championship until well into the season. We had a great time and cannot wait to come back next year.”
Website Changes Coming For USTA Northern On May 15

On May 15, you will see some major changes with the USTA Northern website. Gone will be the existing site and current url www.northern.usta.com as everything on a local, sectional and national level will be found at one web address – www.usta.com.

This new and personalized website experience will be the destination for tennis players regarding play opportunities, court information, equipment, skill development and much more. All news and social media information is populated based on your location in a much more consumer-friendly manner.

At this point, all local information is based on your computer’s IP address and you must allow the site to access your location. If you do not, then you will only be able to see www.usta.com’s global content, and not the content specific to your location.

For more information about the site, or to offer feedback once the site is launched, please contact Lisa Mushett at mushett@northern.usta.com or at (952) 358-3282.

USTA Northern Seeking Nominations for 2017 Hall of Fame Inductees

Recognize those individuals who have given a lifetime to tennis by nominating them for the USTA Northern Hall of Fame. Nominations are currently being accepted for the Class of 2017 online at http://bit.ly/2p5eqE2. Deadline for submissions is Friday, July 21. For more information about the USTA Northern Hall of Fame or for a list of criteria considered, please contact Lisa Mushett at mushett@northern.usta.com or at (952) 358-3282.

Help Raise $$$ For Serving Up Love By Running Twin Cities Marathon Events

USTA Northern would like to thank those individuals who are participating in its Serving Up Love Running Team September 30-October 1 at the Twin Cities 5K, 10K, 10 Mile and Marathon including: Marathoners: Steve Brum (Eden Prairie, Minn.), Amy Lamparske (Tonka Bay, Minn.), Christine Nickels (St. Louis Park, Minn.), Vanessa Sexton (Lakeville, Minn.), Tom Nickels (St. Louis Park, Minn.), Jenny Arnfelt (Minnetonka, Minn.), Kari Seurer (Minneapolis, Minn.) and Jenny Gaard (Minnetonka, Minn.);

10 Mile: Kara Kreutzer (Lakeville, Minn.), Lisa Proepper (Apple Valley, Minn.), Becky Cantellano (St. Paul, Minn.), Dave Brenner (Minneapolis, Minn.), Christine Horton (Prior Lake, Minn.), Lisa Edison-Smith (Fargo, N.D.), Penny Andrist (Fargo, N.D.), Kelley Nelson (St. Paul, Minn.), Jenny Paxton (St. Louis Park, Minn.) Jennifer Swenson (North Oaks, Minn.), Michael Russell (Andover, Minn.) Sunny Klein (Jordan, Minn.) and Joseph Sommers (Prior Lake, Minn.)

10K: Sarah Cornelius (Minneapolis, Minn.) and Alex Scheglowski (Lakeville, Minn.).

USTA Northern still has openings for runners to join the team in the 5K, 10K and Marathon events. Those interested in running the 10-mile race can also join the team, but must gain entry through the public lottery in July as our allocated spots are taken for that particular event.

All runners are encouraged to raise money for the USTA Northern Serving Up Love campaign which supports all giving opportunities within the Section including grants, scholarships, the Urban Youth Tennis & Education initiative and Play It Forward high school equipment donation program.

For more information, or to join the team, please contact Christine Nickels at (952) 358-3290 or at nickels@northern.usta.com.

Recycle Your Unused Devices For Serving Up Love Campaign

USTA Northern staffers Vanessa Sexton and Christine Nickels will be running the marathon for Serving Up Love.
is partnering with Minneapolis-based company Tetchy Tech to benefit the USTA Northern Serving Up Love campaign.

Tetchy Tech will buy back your devices, giving you the opportunity to donate 100 percent of the buy-back price if you choose to the Serving Up Love campaign which supports youth tennis initiatives in USTA Northern. Tetchy Tech also pledges 5% of all money paid out to sellers who do not choose the Give Back option to a dedicated Give Back Fund which also benefits Serving Up Love and other selected non-profits in the Twin Cities. No matter what option you choose, USTA Northern and the environment benefit. It is a win-win-win for everyone!

Tetchy Tech accepts working and broken devices including Apple iPhones, iPads, iPods, Apple TVs and Apple Watches. They also accept Android smartphones and tablets from Samsung, LG, Motorola and HTC.

Get started today by visiting www.tetchytech.com/usta to donate your device. For more information, please contact Sandy Smith at ssmith@northern.usta.com or at (952) 358-3288.

Over 50 Kids Participate With Gopher Women’s Tennis Team At InSport Clinic

Energy filled the Baseline Tennis Center on the University of Minnesota campus as InSports and USTA Northern kicked off the first Gopher Tennis InSports Day on March 4! Over 50 individuals, ages 8-13, experienced a day full of tennis activities followed by the Gopher women tennis match against Wisconsin.

The kids participated in a series of stations while working on their serving and stroke techniques. The stations included games like instant rally progression, circle volley, tennis four square, throw ball and tic-tac-toe relays.

Another fantastic component of the day was the Goal Setting Session where kids wrote down and shared their own personal goals for that day and in their sports endeavors. Gopher freshman Karyna Bihel shared with the kids her career, school, short-term and long-term goals.

The day wrapped up with a Healthy Eating Session thanks to MATTER as they provided healthy MATTERboxes for all InSports Days participants.

The kids also had the opportunity to meet the Gopher tennis players, stand on the court for the coin toss before the matches and stand beside them for the National Anthem and the introduction of the starting lineups.

A special thank you to Youthprise, Baseline Tennis Center, MATTER, the Gopher Women’s Tennis Team and all of the volunteers that made the day a huge success.

Over 30 Athletes and Luke Jensen Participate In Jensen-Schmidt Tennis Academy

Over 30 athletes, a number of volunteers and former French Open Doubles Champion Luke Jensen participated in the Jensen-Schmidt Tennis Academy’s Down Syndrome Clinic April 8-9 at Life Time Fitness – Fridley.

Founded by Vince Schmidt of St. Louis, whose son Jonas has Down Syndrome, and Luke and Murphy Jensen in 2005, the Jensen-Schmidt Tennis Academy meets the sport-specific needs of children and young adults with Down Syndrome. Through a high level of motivational exercises and positive attitudes, the staff is dedicated to giving students training in tennis, all the while having fun and building relationships.

This is the second year Life Time Fitness – Fridley has played host to the clinic, and a special thank you for Deanna Kapas, who did such a wonderful job organizing this awesome two-day event.
ADULT TENNIS UPDATE

ONE Doubles Champions Compete At Indian Wells

Congratulations to the USTA Northern team that competed at the Tri-Level National Championships in Indian Wells, Calif., in March during the BNP Paribas Open. The women finished 2-1 and the men 1-2.

Members of the team included: Jodi Kruse (Rochester, Minn.), Pam Sinicrope (Rochester, Minn.), Kristen Yuan (Rochester, Minn.), Ron Ingalls (Center City, Minn.), Eric Narvaez (St. Paul, Minn.), Gary Simpson (Minneapolis, Minn.), Peter Haan (Hastings, Minn.), Joy Mancini (St. Paul, Minn.), Addie Lordemann (St. Paul, Minn.), Miranda Ebner (Minneapolis, Minn.), Chandha Duwearatchi (Bloomington, Minn.), Craig Ballentine (Minneapolis, Minn.), Justin Long (Minneapolis, Minn.), Brian Jacobsen (Minneapolis, Minn.), Brady Radermacher (Eagan, Minn.), Dipu Rahman (St. Paul, Minn.), Neil Radermacher (Eagan, Minn.), Chris Thornton (St. Paul, Minn.), Denise Thoen (Bloomington, Minn.), Astrid Perez (Minneapolis, Minn.), Tory Borovsky (Northfield, Minn.) and Lennae Grahn (Rosemount, Minn.).

ONE Doubles SOLD OUT In Twin Cities

Thank you to everyone who registered to play ONE Doubles this spring in the Twin Cities. We saw tremendous growth and were completely full – even after adding a third location of play this spring at Life Time Athletic – St. Louis Park. Take a look at the numbers:

2016: 189 teams, 522 players
2017: 230 teams (an increase of 21.7%), 618 players (an increase of 18.4%)

Save The Dates For Summer Tournament Fun

2017 USTA Northern Sectional Championships, June 23-25 at Baseline Tennis Center

The USTA Northern Hard Court Section Championships are scheduled for June 23-25 at Baseline Tennis Center. The event is even age groups in singles and NTRP in men's and women's singles, doubles and mixed. For more information, contact Mason Hemmer at hemme039@umn.edu.

32nd Annual Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic, August 3-6 at Life Time Athletic - White Bear

The 32nd Annual Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic is scheduled for August 3-6 at Life Time Fitness - White Bear. Visit https://www.childrensmn.org/childrens-events/ptatc/ and get involved in this great event which raises money for cancer research at Children's Hospitals in Minnesota.

65 & Over Category I Men's Nationals August 15-20 at Eden Prairie Life Time Athletic

Eden Prairie Life Time Athletic is playing host to the Men's 65 & Over Category I National Indoor Championships August 15-20. The event is open to all men 65 and over. To register for the tournament in Tennis Link, use Tournament ID 550004117. For more information, contact Greg Lappin at lappingreg@gmail.com.

32nd Annual Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic, August 3-6 at Life Time Athletic - White Bear

The 32nd Annual Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic is scheduled for August 3-6 at Life Time Fitness - White Bear. Visit https://www.childrensmn.org/childrens-events/ptatc/ and get involved in this great event which raises money for cancer research at Children's Hospitals in Minnesota.

65 & Over Category I Men's Nationals August 15-20 at Eden Prairie Life Time Athletic

Eden Prairie Life Time Athletic is playing host to the Men's 65 & Over Category I National Indoor Championships August 15-20. The event is open to all men 65 and over. To register for the tournament in Tennis Link, use Tournament ID 550004117. For more information, contact Greg Lappin at lappingreg@gmail.com.
Tennis In Your Parks Program Expanding In 2017

USTA Northern is expanding its Twin Cities Tennis In Your Parks adult tennis lessons program to include communities in the Northeastern, Eastern and South Metro suburbs, in addition to its eight existing locations in Minneapolis and Burnsville.

The program is aimed at new or returning players to the game and offers lessons and a play component by USTA trained instructors. Play begins the first week of June and goes 10 weeks until late July or early-August.

To register, contact your local Park and Recreation website or contact Kelley Okerman at okerman@northern.usta.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNITY</th>
<th>PARK (ADDRESS)</th>
<th>EVENING</th>
<th>LEVELS AND TIMES</th>
<th>SESSION DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NE METRO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roseville</td>
<td>Pochahontas Park</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>B 6:15 - 7:15 pm</td>
<td>June - July (no class July 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2540 Pascal Street 55113</td>
<td></td>
<td>AB/ 7:15 - 8:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rosebrook Park</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>B 6:15 - 7:15 pm</td>
<td>June - July (no class July 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2950 Fry Street 55113</td>
<td></td>
<td>AB/ 7:15 - 8:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brighton/Arden Hills</td>
<td>Hidden Oaks Park</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>B 6:15 - 7:15 pm</td>
<td>June 14 - July 26 (no class July 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1550 28th Avenue NW, 55112</td>
<td></td>
<td>AB/ 7:15 - 8:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falcon Heights</td>
<td>Community Park</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>B 6:00 - 6:55 pm</td>
<td>June 15 - July 27 (no class July 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2050 Roselawn Ave W 55113</td>
<td></td>
<td>AB/ 7:00 - 7:55 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vadnais Heights</td>
<td>Kohler Meadows Park</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>B 6:30 - 7:30 pm</td>
<td>June 15 - July 27 (no class July 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>365 County Rd F E  55127</td>
<td></td>
<td>AB/ 7:30 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINNEAPOLIS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLK Park</td>
<td>4055 Nicollet Ave S 55409</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>B 6:00 - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>June 4 - August 6 (no class July 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AB/ 7:15 - 8:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathews Park</td>
<td>2318 28th Ave S 55406</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>AB 6:00 - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>June 5 - August 7 (no class July 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:15 - 8:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webber Park</td>
<td>4400 Dupont Ave N 55412</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>B 6:30 - 7:30 pm</td>
<td>June 5 - August 7 (no class July 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AB 7:30 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logan Park</td>
<td>690 13th Ave NE 55413</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>B 6:00 - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>June 6 - August 8 (no class July 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AB 7:15 - 8:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLK Park</td>
<td>4055 Nicollet Ave S 55409</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>AB 6:00 - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>June 6 - August 8 (no class July 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:15 - 8:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Hiawatha Park</td>
<td>2701 E 44th St 55406</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>B 6:00 - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>June 7 - August 9 (no class July 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AB 7:15 - 8:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waite Park</td>
<td>1810 34th Ave NE 55418</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>B 6:00 - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>June 7 - August 9 (no class July 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AB 7:15 - 8:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armatage</td>
<td>2500 W 57th St 55410</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>B 6:00 - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>June 8 - August 10 (no class July 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:15 - 8:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenwood</td>
<td>2101 W Franklin Ave 55405</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>AB 6:00 - 7:00 pm</td>
<td>June 8 - August 10 (no class July 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:15 - 8:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH METRO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inver Grove Heights</td>
<td>North Valley Park</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>B 6:15 - 7:15 pm</td>
<td>June 5 - July 17 (no class July 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2800 70th Street East 55076</td>
<td></td>
<td>AB/ 7:30 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington</td>
<td>Bryant Park 1001 West 85th Street 55431</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>B 6:15 - 7:15 pm</td>
<td>Session 1: June 5 - 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Session 2: July 11 - 25, August 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnsville</td>
<td>Neil Park 13501 Upton Ave 55337</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>B/AB 10:00 - 11:00 am</td>
<td>June 6 - July 18 (no class July 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B 6:15 - 7:15 pm</td>
<td>June 7 - July 19 (no class July 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mendota Heights</td>
<td>Friendly Hills Park 2360 Pueblo Lane 55120</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>B 6:15 - 7:15 pm</td>
<td>Session 1: May 25 - June 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AB/ 7:30 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Session 2: July 13 - August 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHAKOPEE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shakopee High School</td>
<td>100 17th Ave W 55379</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>B 6:00 - 7:15 pm</td>
<td>June 5 - July 17 (no class July 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:15 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday B 6:00 - 7:15 pm</td>
<td>June 8 - July 20 (no class July 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:15 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday Match Play/Drill</td>
<td>June 7 - July 19 (no class July 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 - 8:30 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Friday Match Play/Drill</td>
<td>June 9 - July 21 (no class July 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 - 9:00 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B 9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Become A Student Of The Game

Roger Federer... Tom Brady... LeBron James... Maya Moore... Serena Williams – five of the most famous and gifted athletes in the world. Besides being exceptional on the court or field, what is the one special quality that separates them from their contemporaries and elevates them into the stratosphere?

I am guessing if you asked any of them, the responses would be similar as they are never satisfied. Whether it is the physical, mental, emotional or strategic aspects of their respective sport, their thirst for more knowledge is never quenched. As mentioned in the last issue of *Northern Exposure*, older athletes are not just competing, but in many instances, dominating. How is this possible? Sports are supposed to be a young-person’s domain.

Former President Ronald Reagan once said in a debate, “I will not hold my opponent’s youth and inexperience against him.” Reagan, who was thought to be too old to serve as an effective President, proved everyone wrong during his two terms in office as leader of the free world.

In sports, the veteran players and teams, like Reagan, are taking advantage of their opponent’s inexperience. In many sports, you hear an announcer comment about a younger player’s potential, saying, “Wait until they learn how to play the game.” Such statements drip in irony since they have been playing the game their entire lives. Grant-ed, as you move up to the professional level, the speed of the game changes, but the fundamentals stay the same.

You also hear announcers often rave about a player’s “high IQ for the sport.” Often times this is true, but why? Although they are born with amazing athletic ability, top players know that is not enough anymore and take it upon themselves to continue learning. Whether it is asking that extra question, seeking out additional coaching, studying video, journaling or taking that much needed break to get their body and mind back to peak physical condition, elite athletes are putting themselves in a position to get better every day. They are curious by nature, always asking questions, seeking out additional coaching, studying books out there including *The Inner Game of Tennis* by W. Timothy Gallwey, *Winning Ugly* by Brad Gilbert, Corinne Chen’s *Momentum in Tennis*, Think to Win by Allen Fox and Edgar Giffenig’s *Developing High Performance Tennis Players*. Some non-tennis books I recommend include *The Art of Learning* by Josh Waitzkin, *Mindset* by Carol Dweck and The Four Hour Chef by Tim Ferriss.

Be prepared to play. Minnesota’s own tennis great David Wheaton talks about the importance of preparation saying, “Be punctual, have your equipment, tape your racket, do your stretching and all those other types of things before you get to the court so you are ready to practice effectively.”

Don’t be afraid to ask for other people’s opinions whether it is your coach, opponent or partner. See what they think could improve your game as they probably have some great insight and bring a different perspective.

Most importantly, be a student for life as learning is living. We should all be students in everything we do. That is how we grow. And have fun doing it. It is easier to learn something when you have a passion for it.

And probably the best advice of all...I was given a t-shirt as a Christmas present a few years ago that said, “When all else fails, do what your coach told you to do in the first place.”

Words to live by.
Q. What is your position and how long have you been at USTA Northern?
A. I am the Director of Marketing & Communications and the Aquatennial Tournament Director, working for USTA Northern since 2004.

Q. What is your tennis background? How did you find yourself in the game?
A. I started playing tennis in fifth grade. In the summer, I would hit against my garage to kill time during the day before playing softball at night. I also played with my dad every Saturday morning at the local park. I played middle school and high school tennis before taking a 12-year break from the game. I started playing again when a friend of mine asked me to join her USTA League Team in South Bend, Ind.

Q. Where did you go to college and what was your major?
A. I was a double major in journalism and speech communications at the University of Texas in Austin and then went to graduate school at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. I worked in college athletics doing media relations for 13 years (including for the Notre Dame football team) before coming to USTA Northern.

Q. Describe your job responsibilities?
A. I handle all communications, marketing, media relations, digital and social media for the Section, as well as many of the special events like the Aquatennial Tournament, the Hall of Fame and Awards Banquets.

Q. What is your favorite part of your job?
A. It is fun to see people finding so much joy in the game and getting to tell those stories. It is also very rewarding to honor the people and organizations who have done so much for the game through my work with the Awards and Hall of Fame committees.

Q. What are two of your top memories while working with USTA Northern?
A. I am not sure I can narrow it down to only two things. Every year, some pretty amazing things happen to our members - whether it is winning a tournament, an award or growing the game of tennis in their local community. I love telling these stories in hopes other people take a moment to recognize their efforts.

Q. Outside of tennis, tell us some of your hobbies and interests.
A. I love baseball and go to Spring Training every year in Arizona. Before it was trendy to be a Cubs fan, I attended Opening Day at Wrigley Field for 12 straight years and did not even live in Chicago. Now that I have kids, it is impossible to find time and watch an entire game, but I did shed a few tears when the Cubs won the World Series last fall. It still does not seem real.

Q. Favorite food?
A. Chicken fajitas

Q. Favorite TV show?
A. Dance Moms and This Is Us

Q. Favorite Movie?
A. Bull Durham

Q. Favorite Musical Group?
A. Raul Malo and The Mavericks – I have probably seen them 30 times in concert over the years.

Q. Favorite Place To Visit?
A. Phoenix, Arizona for baseball spring training

A. Married to Andrew for 15 years and we have two daughters Reagan (11) and Ryann (almost 7).

Q. If you did not work at USTA Northern, what would be your ultimate job?
A. A sports radio talk show host or a baseball announcer on ESPN (Jessica Mendoza… I want your job).

Q. When you were growing up, what did you want to be?
A. TV sportscaster

Q. If you could take 24 hours and do anything you like, what would it be?
A. I would like to be sitting in the front row at Wimbledon watching Roger Federer and Nick Kyrgios and have the match never end.
Schedule Your Rally The Family Event For May or June

USTA Northern is encouraging all organizations and providers to host a FREE Rally The Family Event for your community in May or June. This initiative focuses on introducing tennis to all ages and ability levels using modified equipment in a family setting. There are marketing grants available for those providers running an event for the first time. Please let the Section office know your date so we can add it to our master list of events that will be promoted throughout the spring, by contacting Lisa Mushett at mushett@northern.usta.com.

Org Member Discount T-Shirt Program Back

Organizational Members... the popular Discount T-shirt Program is back in 2017. T-shirts are only $6. Orders must be completed during the following ordering windows:

- May 26-June 5, 2017 (ship date June 19)
- June 16-26, 2017 (ship date July 10)

To order online, visit http://bit.ly/2pmsVAO. For more information, please contact Sandy Smith at (952) 358-3288.

May and June Are The Time For Trainings!

USTA Northern offers many low-cost tennis training opportunities for teachers, coaches, parents and others interested in growing the game.

March Community Tennis and 2017 Adopt-A-Court Grants Recipients

Congratulations to the following communities and organizations who received Community Tennis Grants in March and 2017 Adopt-A-Court Grants.

Community Tennis Grants
- $800 to Cook County Tennis Association (Grand Marais, Minn.) to support a pilot Parent Organized Play (POP) Tennis program in the schools and for the public.
- $1,970 to Owatonna Tennis Association (Owatonna, Minn.) to support new adult beginner and intermediate group lessons.

Adopt-A-Court Grants
- $2,425 to support the resurfacing of four tennis courts in Mission Township, Minn.
- $4,000 to support the renovation of three tennis courts in a 15-court complex at Kutzky Park in Rochester, Minn.
- $4,190 to support the resurfacing of eight tennis courts at Le Sueur-Henderson High School in Le Sueur, Minn.
- $10,000 to support the reconstruction of four tennis courts at Engelstad Park in Thief River Falls, Minn.
- $10,000 to support the reconstruction of two tennis courts and the construction of two new tennis courts at Miller Park in Willmar, Minn.
• National 10U Workshop At Rochester Athletic Club on May 12: USTA National is coming to the Rochester Athletic Club for a FREE 10U “Train The Trainer” Workshop May 12 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Earn USPTA/PTR Continuing Education credits and get FREE lunch. To register, visit http://bit.ly/2nOXMs3.

• Red, Orange, Green Coach Training on June 10: Join us for a Red, Orange, Green Coach training for summer tennis coaches June 10 at the Edina Community Center in Edina, Minn., from 9 a.m.–12 Noon. Cost is $15 per coach. To register, visit http://bit.ly/2nORxoi.

For more information about bringing a training to your school or community, contact Mya Smith-Dennis at mya@northern.usta.com or at (952) 358-3289.

City of Saint Paul, SPUT Enter Partnership At Eastview Recreation Center

The City of Saint Paul announced a new management agreement with Saint Paul Urban Tennis to bring its proven success in providing youth and adult programs to Eastview Recreation Center as SPUT will assume day-to-day management of the facility, including providing continued recreational opportunities to the surrounding community.

“I couldn’t be happier that Saint Paul Urban Tennis has chosen Eastview Recreation Center as headquarters for its phenomenal youth programming, which combines tennis, educational enrichment and leadership training for 5 to 18-year-olds,” said St. Paul councilmember Jane Prince, who represents the area. “Reopening Eastview will return a vital community resource to East Side kids and families.”

As part of its five-year agreement with the City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul Urban Tennis will ensure that $5,000 for routine repairs and maintenance to the recreation center building is available at the start of each year, and will be solely responsible for interior maintenance and minor repairs.

“We are thrilled to call Eastview Recreation Center home, and to continue this strong and longstanding relationship” said Becky Cantellano, Executive Director at Saint Paul Urban Tennis. “The success of our program is due in large part to the partnerships we have established, and since 1991 the City of Saint Paul has been vital in helping us transform the lives of youth in our community through the game of tennis.”

Saint Paul Urban Tennis had been located at Griggs Recreation Center, but decided to pursue an opening at Eastview Recreation Center because it provides more amenities to incorporate into their programming and recreational goals. St. Paul Parks and Recreation will also provide additional staff to support programming and operations at the facility.

Sioux Falls’ Cindy Huether Announces Retirement From SFTA

The Sioux Falls Tennis Association (SFTA) announced the retirement of Executive Director Cindy Huether effective March 31.

Recently named the National Tennis Advocate of the Year by Tennis Industry Magazine, Huether has served Sioux Falls in so many positive ways. A member of the SFTA Board of Directors since 2002, Huether took over the Executive Director role in 2009. During her tenure, Huether worked with local elementary schools introducing tennis to children and teachers, coordinated with the school district in painting permanent lines on 24 elementary school playgrounds and increased youth and adult lessons, leagues and tournament play in the area. Also under her direction, Sioux Falls became only the third community in the United States to build permanent 36- and 60-foot courts.

She has also been a driving force in improving tennis facilities – both indoor and outdoor – in Sioux Falls with her biggest accomplishment being the grand opening of Huether Family Match Pointe at the Sanford Sports Complex in April of 2015. She and her husband, Mike, were also the leading benefactors in the construction of the Huether Tennis Centre at Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

Huether has served on and chaired the USTA Northern CTA/NJTL Committee, was a USTA official and coached a “no-cut” tennis program at Sioux Falls Washington High School. She currently serves on the Board of Match Pointe and volunteers for a number of other organizations in Sioux Falls - all while fulfilling her duties as “First Lady” as her husband is in his second term as mayor of the city.

In 2012, the Huethers were named the National Ralph Westcott Tennis Family of the Year by the United States Tennis Association, marking the first and only time a South Dakota family has earned this distinction.

USTA Northern would like to thank Cindy for all of your hard work and dedication in growing the game of tennis in Sioux Falls and the surrounding communities.
Thank You USTA Northern Volunteers

USTA Northern celebrated National Volunteer Week in April by honoring those who have been nominated by their communities and organizations for giving so much to the game of tennis.

Lia and Shane Bradley
Dickinson, N.D.

Lia and Shane Bradley serve as head coach and assistant coach, respectively, for the Dickinson High School girls tennis team and are very active supporters of tennis in their community. The Bradleys promote all tournaments in the region to their players, encouraging them to participate. As part of the Dickinson Tennis Club, the husband-wife team organized a tennis tournament this past March, the first one in many years in Dickinson. Lia and Shane play competitively, along with their daughter Valeria. They are very enthusiastic about tennis and are helping to grow tennis in Dickinson.

Casey DeJong
Alexandria, Minn.

The Alexandria Area Tennis Association recognizes its “young at heart” volunteer - 86-year-old Casey DeJong - who is a charter member and current vice-president of the organization. DeJong serves as a volunteer coach with both adults and youth in the community, supporting the organization’s mission of promoting and providing tennis opportunities to residents and visitors of all ages in the Alexandria area.

He regularly plays tennis himself, while still finding time to feed balls for Adult Drop-In tennis and organizing other adult play opportunities. His devotion and interest in youth are visible through volunteer coaching at the week-long Golden Kiwanis Club Free Tennis Camp for second through fifth graders. In addition, he shares nurturing instruction and coaching with elementary through junior varsity level youth at our local summer tennis lesson sessions and jamborees. This past winter, DeJong also helped coach several sixth- through 10th-grade students from Alexandria, Osakis and Parkers Prairie at an indoor practice venue.

Theresa Felderman
Mandan, N.D.

Theresa Felderman has been a driving force behind the formation of the Mandan Tennis Booster Club which helps support Mandan High School and Mandan Middle School tennis. She has organized meetings, developed bylaws, filed the necessary paperwork with the state to help the club incorporate, developed fundraising ideas and initiated a centralized communication channel for the club. Serving as the first President, she has helped recruit new members to this start-up organization.

Jerry Hartmann
Owatonna, Minn.

Jerry Hartmann is a very active tennis volunteer in the Owatonna community as he volunteers his time on the Owatonna Tennis Association (OTA) board and as an assistant coach at Owatonna High School.

Hartmann has put in a significant amount of time in reinvigorating the OTA as he was a key member of the team which hired Kelly Baker as the new tennis director at West Hills Tennis Club. He did the exploratory and historical research in regards to the position, formulated the interview questions and participated in all 17 resume reviews, six phone interviews and three in-person candidate visits.

He has also worked with OTA President Rick Velasquez in bringing the school district and park and recreation department together in discussing options of repairing the dilapidating tennis courts previously used for junior varsity matches and practice in Owatonna. He also partnered with Owatonna Youth 1st in developing a local tennis brochure and fundraising campaign selling ad space at West Hills. Proceeds from the fundraiser will allow the OTA to invest more in programs, grants and equipment for youth and adults in the tennis. Financially, Hartmann is responsible for filing the Association’s taxes and helped the group regain its 501(c)3 status.

In addition, Hartmann has also put in countless hours assisting with both the boys and girls high school tennis teams at practices and matches, providing encouragement and identifying areas of improvement for each player.
Lydia Healy
Sioux Falls, S.D.

Lydia Healy has served on the Sioux Falls Tennis Association Board of Directors for a number of years, coordinating the League program and all adult tennis activities. Now she has been charged with taking over as the Executive Director of the organization after the retirement of previous ED Cindy Huether in March. Healy is also an avid player and supporter of the game on all levels in the community.

Madeline Nguyen
Sioux Falls, S.D.

A high school junior, Madeline Nguyen has volunteered to help with Match Pointe events through the past year. She often is one of the first to volunteer has has helped with our Citi/EmBe youth outreach tennis lessons, as well as with our Play Day events. If volunteers are ever needed, and Madeline is available, she steps up and does a fantastic job.

Carolyn Riley
Minnetonka, Minn.

Carolyn Riley has been a long-time tennis volunteer on the local, sectional and national levels. Learning to play tennis after the birth of her first child, Riley found her true calling in the volunteer realm, first serving as president of the Bloomington Tennis Ladder in the early ‘70s and then coaching girls’ tennis in the Edina Girls Athletic Association.

Her work with USTA Northern (then called the Northwestern Tennis Association) started around the same time as she volunteered for local professional, collegiate and national tournaments selling ads, writing program articles and housing visiting players participating in those events. She also has served as Chair of the Communications and Awards committees over the years.

She began her service with the USTA at the national level nearly 25 years ago, serving on the USTA Meetings and the USTA Sectional Communications Committees. Following that, she was a member of the USTA Awards Committee for 14 years (1997-2010), including four years as vice chair and four years as chair. She was named to the USTA Nominating Committee from 2011-2014, and was the Council Chair for the USTA Volunteer Development Council in 2015-16. Most recently, Riley was asked to head one of the most prestigious committees within the organization - the USTA Professional Tennis Council, which oversees Pro Circuits; Davis Cup, Fed Cup & Olympic Team Events and Officials.

In 1996, Riley’s family was named the USTA Northwestern Tennis Association Family of the Year, and won the USTA National Ralph W. Westcott Family of the Year in 1997.

Paul Thibedeau
West Fargo, N.D.

Paul Thibedeau of West Fargo, N.D., was a late-comer to the game. A golfer as a kid, it was not until ninth grade when Thibedeau saw his friends ride by on their bikes with tennis racquets strapped on their backs headed to high school practice. Not knowing the first thing about tennis, but not one to be left behind, Thibedeau joined them and was playing #1 singles by his senior year.

He went on to play at the University of North Dakota, and after graduation, came back to Fargo to teach part time at Courts Plus. After moving into a full-time role, he also took ownership of the pro shop during a time when tennis equipment was starting to evolve. Through a pro shop connection, Thibedeau was asked to string racquets for the pros at the 1998 US Open and at the 1999 Key Biscayne event. While there, he was able to meet with a number of equipment reps and learned first-hand about the technology taking over the game.

Once returning home, the self-admitted ‘racquet-a-holic,’ would visit pawn shops and thrift stores looking for old racquets. Then in 2001, Courts Plus decided to bring the pro shop under its umbrella. During the transition, Thibedeau walked away with 40-50 racquets, eventually putting them in a closet.

Thibedeau then coached at Concordia College and at a lake resort the next seven years before deciding to take a tennis sabbatical and revisit his golf roots in 2008. Seven years later, after turning 45, Thibedeau realized he could now play people his own age in age-group tournaments and decided to give tennis another try.

He went back to the same closet where the now dusty racquets still remained - hoping to find one that felt comfortable as he made his return. He had also purchased a few more online over the years, accumulating quite a collection, when he read in a USTA Northern newsletter that the organization was collecting racquets and other new or gently used tennis equipment for high school programs in need through its Serving Up Love initiative.

Wanting to give back to the game that had given him so much, Thibedeau blew off the dust and refurbished each racquet with new grips and strings. He then called USTA Northern North and South Dakota Tennis Service Representative Carolyn Kramer, who ironically was the first person Thibedeau ever gave a lesson to as a certified teaching professional, and donated two dozen racquets to the cause in 2016. Recently again in 2017, he donated another 24 racquets just in time for the high school seasons in North Dakota and Northwestern Minnesota.

“I never realized there was such a need until I kept reading it in the newsletter,” Thibedeau said. “Now I plan to keep collecting racquets and giving them to Carolyn every year. It is such an easy way to give back and I really enjoy doing it.”
LIFE TIME TENNIS BUILDS STRONG KIDS

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING

AGES 5–18

REGISTER AT LIFETIMEFITNESS.COM/JRTENNIS