

USTA 

NORTHERN

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2021

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NORTHERN



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Dear USTA Northern Members,

It is Thanksgiving week as I write this and I can't help but think about the gratitude I have for the players, providers, volunteers and staff in our USTA Northern tennis family. We've weathered uncharted territory over the course of the last year and we've come out stronger than ever.

New and lapsed players are joining us on the courts in record numbers and our industry is embracing the tennis boom, with retailers scrambling to stock products, facilities upgrading their cleaning and sanitation protocols, and tennis pros working overtime to meet demand. As we head into the winter season, we are ready to welcome new and regular players back indoors while continuing to be responsible stewards of our members' health.

Our staff and board recently visited the Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center, an award-winning facility that has played host to many section events over the years. We were welcomed by friendly staff and the courts were hopping, yet it was evident that things were operating with pandemic precautions in place. Hand sanitizer was easily accessible, masks were worn by all, and front desk workers were protected by plexiglass at the counter. One thing hadn't changed though: everyone was smiling! I know this because it's not just zoom calls we've mastered during the pandemic, we're also getting really good at reading emotion through a person's eyes alone, and by

the sparkle we saw and the laughter we heard, I guarantee that there were smiles under all those patron masks.

Tournaments also came back this year, with our American Grand Slam back to nearly full capacity amidst vaccine mandates and travel restrictions. I was fortunate to be there, and even with a torrential downpour and nearby tornados, the roof on Ashe Stadium held up and play continued to inspire. Back home in the Northern section, our own Tournament Directors were helping us through another storm, which involved a complete revamp of our junior tournament structure, including a new registration platform that debuted with a few kinks. A very special thanks is due to volunteers, **Ben Maes (Rochester Athletic Club, Rochester, MN)**, **Matt Boughton (John & Fay Menard YMCA, Eau Claire, WI)**, and **Mark Vellek (Huether Family Match Pointe, Sioux Falls, SD)** for their work to improve the player experience in our tournaments this year. I hope those players that haven't tried a tournament in awhile, or maybe have never played in a USTA sanctioned event, will be able to try one in 2022, be it a traditional weekend event, a one-day team tournament or a half day team challenge. There is no shortage of events and many great venues to experience throughout the Northern section, with most events now open to non-residents and free USTA memberships for all junior players! So, if you've got travel plans, consider taking a tennis break from business meetings or book a family vacation around a

new tournament experience for the kids. Better yet, invite your out-of-town friends to play in a Northern section event with you. We're open for play with the best TD's in the country!

And speaking of the best, we're celebrating the retirement of the one and only **Nancy Lundberg**, our Director of Adult Play and Section Leagues Coordinator this December. Many of you have experienced Nancy's dedication to our players and captains, and I hope you'll join me in wishing her a fond farewell. Nancy, we thank you for your passion and service to the mission for the past 17 years!

Thanks to all of you and may you have a joyous holiday season filled with friends, family, and tennis!

A special thank you to our hard working Board of Directors:

Susan Kringlie (President), Liz Hamburg (Section Delegate), Matt Boughton (Vice President), Dave Fishbaine (Second Vice President), Dipu Rahman (Secretary), Bill Stelle (Treasurer), Pam Boorsma, Mason Bultje, Barry Dobson, Marcia Harris, Andrew Holm, Sara Hong, Ben Maes, Jim Marolt, Lisa Stockmo, Scott Sundstrom, and Koua Yang.

USTA NORTHERN HALL OF FAME BANQUET

The 2021 USTA Northern Awards and Hall of Fame Banquet was one to remember. After one year without a banquet due to the pandemic, we were finally able to roll out the red carpet to honor all of our 2020 and 2021 award winners and Hall of Fame inductees. We gathered at the Metropolitan Ballroom in Golden Valley, Minnesota dressed in our best Hollywood Glam attire for a memorable evening full of laughs, good stories, and celebration!



Becky Cantellano gives a welcome speech



Justin Gaard, event emcee



Kuether Family
Family of the Year



Life Time Bloomington South
Member Organization of the Year

NOT PICTURED:

Mark Muntifer - Ward C. Burton Junior Development Award
Jason Olson - Wolfenson-Ratner Community Service Award

James Robertson - Rocky Rockwell Grassroots Official Award
John Ribnick - Jack Dow Adult Development Award
Mark Vellek - Frank Voigt Pro of the Year



Barbara Gage,
Wife of the late
Edwin (Skip) Gage
 2020 USTA Northern
 Hall of Fame Inductee



Bruce Gullikson
 2020 USTA Northern
 Hall of Fame Inductee



Betty and Boy Toy
 2021 USTA Northern
 Hall of Fame Inductees



Dan James
 2021 USTA Northern
 Hall of Fame Inductee



Claire Loftus
 Jerry Noyce
 Junior Sportsmanship Award



Jeff Craig
 Albert Teeter
 Adult Sportsmanship Award



Kaushik Bukkuri
 Jerry Noyce
 Junior Sportsmanship Award



Les Zellmann
2021 USTA Outstanding
Facility Award
 St. James High School
 Tennis Courts



Patty Egart
 Bob Larson
 Media Excellence Award



Sadie Reiners
 2020 Janet Louer
 Junior Team Tennis
 Organizer of the Year

NORTH DAKOTA HALL OF FAME WINNERS

Grand Forks' Greg LaDoucer and Valley City's Erik and Susan Kringlie were inducted into the North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame on Saturday, July 10th at Island Park in Fargo.

LaDoucer has been coaching high school tennis for 29 years. His 583 dual victories and 20 state titles rank among the highest totals in North Dakota high school tennis history. He was named NDHSCA regional coach of the year 15 times, state coach of the year 5 times, and in 2012 LaDoucer was named the NHSACA national high school tennis coach of the year.

In addition to coaching, LaDoucer has also served four terms on the NDHSCA tennis advisory committee and is a past president of the Grand Forks Tennis Association.

Erik and Susan Kringlie have a long history of involvement in tennis through playing, coaching and advocating for the sport at the local, regional and national levels. Erik was a five-year letter winner at Valley City high school and was a four-year letter winner and conference champion at Valley City State University. Erik also coached the Valley City High School tennis team for over 20 years. Susan was a ND state doubles champion and achieved national high school All-American honors in 1991.

Susan and Erik are the founding members of the Valley City Tennis Association, which was formed in 1994. They also founded the Valley City State University tennis club in 2004. Susan serves as President of the USTA Northern section board and Erik is a National volunteer. Both have served on numerous USTA boards and committees, and both are active in the organization and facilitating of junior and adult tournaments and USTA programs.

The Kringlies were awarded the USTA Northern section family of the year in 2016.



Greg, Susan,
and Erik



Susan and
Erik Kringlie

SOUTH DAKOTA HALL OF FAME WINNERS

Cindy Huether of Sioux Falls and Scott Novak of Brandon were inducted into the 2021 South Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame in July of 2021.

Cindy has worn many hats surrounding tennis, serving for many years as Executive Director for the Sioux Falls Tennis Association. She initially led fundraising efforts with her husband, Mike, to rebuild the Augustana University campus tennis complex. While there, Cindy was a key part of a small group that successfully raised money to build the first indoor public tennis facility in Sioux Falls. Both facilities bear the name Huether, recognizing Cindy, Mike, and daughter Kylie, for their financial leadership.

Scott served as a Division I tennis coach at the University of South Alabama for 16 years. Alongside his wife Lorraine, Scott now runs one of the largest public tennis facilities in the country in Mobile, Alabama. He was previously a winning coach at his alma mater, Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota, then at Gustavus Adolphus in St. Peter, Minnesota.



Cindy
Huether



Scott
Novak

PHOTOS FROM SHUHEI: INSIDE THE TOKYO OLYMPICS

Most days, Shuhei Suzuki is a physical therapist at TRIA Orthopedics. He spends his time caring for patients with all sorts of goals, from returning to their favorite sport to simply getting back to gardening or walking without pain.

But this past summer, Shuhei was at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, providing care for mens' tennis athletes from across the globe. Shuhei was just one of three candidates from across the world to be chosen as an official physical therapist for the men's Olympic tennis tournament.

First day nerves: "With an event this big, there is a lot of prep that goes into it. Leading up to the event, I definitely felt the nerves and stress of such a big event. But once we arrived and the events began, everything went smoothly and fell into place."

A day in the life: "A day at the Olympics included waking up early — and going all day long. Our role as physical therapists was to provide on and off-the-court evaluation, treatment and preventative care for the players throughout the event."

Hot weather injuries: "It was very hot and humid — about 93 degrees Fahrenheit with humidity. We helped provide heat-related care in addition to caring for normal tennis injuries, like ankle sprains, tendon problems or shoulder problems."

Translating, as needed: "Another aspect of my role at the Olympics was my unique position as a Japanese man working for the Olympics. I spent time translating between the local Japanese staff and the medical staff as well as explaining some nuances of Japanese culture. It was an interesting experience to be a bridge between many different people there."

One night at home: With Olympic protocols, Shuhei got to spend a short 36 hours with his family — but made it count. "At the end of my trip, I spent the night at my parents' house, which is my childhood home, about an hour outside of Tokyo. It was great to spend some time with them!"

We're sending our congratulations to Shuhei for his unique role at the Tokyo Olympics!



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of USTA Northern



NORTHERN





SMALL TOWN SCHOOL EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

ST. JAMES HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS COURTS RECEIVE 2021 USTA OUTSTANDING FACILITY AWARD

One of 25 Tennis Facilities from Across the Country Honored for Excellence

The USTA announced that the St. James High School Tennis Courts in St. James, Minn., is one of 25 winners in the USTA's annual Outstanding Facility Awards program, which recognizes excellence in the construction and/or renovation of tennis facilities throughout the country.

The St. James High School Tennis Courts provide a great opportunity for members of their small community to experience and learn the game of tennis. Located in a very diverse community and lower on the economic spectrum, the main goal for these courts was to provide the opportunity for kids to try, and hopefully fall in love, with the sport. Community instruction, camps, and tournaments are put on during the summer to help facilitate the growth of players in the area. "Great tennis facilities like the St. James

High School Tennis Courts help us to grow the game at the grassroots level, and we are proud to recognize them for their ongoing impact on the sport of tennis," said Craig Morris, Chief Executive, Community Tennis, USTA. "St. James High School Tennis Courts have embraced many key tennis initiatives and kept the sport at the forefront of its community each year."

To be considered for an award, facilities must be under the jurisdiction of a park and recreation department, an educational institution, a nonprofit corporation or be a private or commercially-owned-and-operated facility that offers both USTA and public programming designed to help grow tennis.

Facilities were judged on the following criteria: overall layout and adaptation to site; excellence of court surface and lights; ease of maintenance; accommodations for players, spectators and press/officials;

aesthetics; graphics (including the use of signs and landscaping); amenities such as casual seating for spectators, food services and social areas; and the facilities' participation in USTA programs.

Nominated facilities were voted on in the following categories: Public Courts that are either small tennis centers with 2-10 courts or large tennis centers with 11 or more courts; Private Facilities that support the USTA and other "growth of the game" programs open to the public; and Educational Institutions such as colleges, universities, public and private grade schools, middle schools, or high schools.

Les Zellman, Activities Director for St. James High School, spoke on behalf of the high school at this year's Awards and Hall of Fame Banquet where we honored and celebrated their Outstanding Facility Award.



ESSAY WINNERS

Content contributed by USTA

In October, ten student-athletes from around the country were announced as winners of the 23rd annual NJTL Essay Contest by the USTA Foundation. The winners, ranging in age from 10 to 18, all participate in National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) chapters nationwide and were selected from more than 1,100 entries submitted this summer. To enter the contest, students were asked to answer the following question in an essay of fewer than 350 words: “Robert Ryland was an accomplished tennis player and coach. He was known for seeing the possibilities in those he coached and within himself. Mr. Ryland was the first African-American professional tennis player and the first African-American to play in the NCAA National Championships. What facts about his story inspire you to break boundaries and excel in school, sports, and to follow your dreams? What are your possibilities?”

Kaleb Ngwendson from The Fort and Leedia Xiong from St. Paul Urban Tennis won their categories in this year’s essay contest and will represent Northern in New York City next year. Kaleb won the boys 13-14 age group and Leedia won the girls 11-12 age group.

“We want to congratulate and applaud this year’s essay contest winners whose leadership, discipline and work ethic is truly what the NJTL network is all about,” said Dan Faber, Executive Director, USTA Foundation. “We also want to thank our presenting sponsor Deloitte who once again has stepped up for kids across the country and joined our efforts to ensure kids have access to the powerful combination of tennis and education, and opportunities that will empower them to achieve their dreams on and off the court.”

Deloitte, part of the largest global professional services network, returned as the presenting sponsor of the NJTL Essay Contest and virtual ceremony.

“It is an honor to support our next generation of leaders,” said Dr. Terri Cooper, Deloitte’s vice chair of external diversity, equity and inclusion. “We are proud to play a part in helping students dream big and seize the opportunities that await them and we are looking forward to celebrating their accomplishments at the virtual ceremony in October.”



Kaleb
Ngwendson



Leedia
Xiong



INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Mya Smith-Dennis is USTA Northern's Manager of Diversity, Inclusion, and Education.

Earlier this year, you gave a vision of what you'd like to see USTA Northern become in the D&I space. How do you feel the organization is progressing toward that vision?

We are making progress in every area of the organization. The long-term goal is to have diversity, equity, and inclusion be embedded in every aspect of USTA Northern. This year was primarily focused on internal change within the organization to get us set up for success in 2022.

2021 saw the successful debut of the "Innovation Challenge" in this section — can you tell us more about how it started and what its goals are?

We started 2021 by gathering data from people that play tennis and people that don't. The Diversity and Inclusion Task Force and staff conducted interviews,

focus groups and surveys to gain insight. We wanted to hear from people that we haven't been able to in the past and better understand how to recruit and retain diverse players. We identified 5 major themes in our findings. Staff and volunteers participated in a 5-week Innovation Challenge to solve some of these issues.

Which idea won the Innovation Challenge and what are the next steps?

It was a close competition, but the group addressing the lack of diversity in tennis won. In 2022, we're launching our Community Cultivators Project. We're connecting with people who are passionate about growing and diversifying tennis in their areas, listening to them to see how we can assist them with their vision and what resources we can give to help. This will be a 3-year partnership with grant money, equipment, resources, and technical assistance to help them grow. Each year, we'll search for new people to bring into our network.

USTA Northern held its first open Article Club in November. What is Article Club and will there be future open Article Clubs?

We started Article Club in September of 2020. Every two weeks, staff and

board meet to discuss topics that affect marginalized communities. We read an article or watch a Ted Talk and then have open discussions. At the end of every Article Club, we try to brainstorm what we can do within our circle of influence to improve the topic we discussed.

We held our first Article Club open to anybody in our section on November 17th on mental health in sports. It was an open and honest conversation and the first step towards progress. There were some good ideas on how to keep the conversation going. Going forward, we'll host an open Article Club once a quarter on a variety of topics.

Looking back on 2021, what do you feel went well and what would you like to improve next year?

USTA Northern has done a lot of work in 2021 to better understand the people we serve and set a culture of being innovative. We must be willing to try new ideas and fail in order to grow and make lasting change.

Next year we'll take these learnings and put them into practice. We've done a lot of internal work, so now it's time to be an example for others and become a leader in the diversity, equity, and inclusion space.

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



THANK YOU, NANCY!

After 17 years of dedicated service, USTA Northern wishes to announce the retirement of Nancy Lundberg as the Director of Adult Play. In her role, Nancy oversaw all adult programming for the section and during her tenure, she helped the programming expand from simply USTA leagues and tournaments, to a full menu of competitive and recreational products.

"Nancy's contributions to the growth of tennis in USTA Northern go far beyond adult programming," Becky Cantellano, Executive Director and CEO of USTA Northern said. "She is a true professional with a passion for serving our customers and a leader within our team. We will miss her tremendously, but are on solid footing because of the impact she's made and feel incredibly fortunate to have been blessed with the best SLC in the nation for so many years!"

In 2015, Nancy led her team in the launching of the Tennis In Your Park (TIYP) adult lesson and drill program, a much needed form of social play. Since then, TIYP has seen exponential growth, helping new and returning adult tennis players to get back into the game at record numbers across parks all over the Twin Cities. Her work with TIYP is the epitome of USTA Northern's mission; to promote and develop the growth of tennis.

Nancy has also introduced extremely innovative league formats, such as the highly successful ONE Doubles and Singles Leagues, now one of USTA Northern's most popular programs. With

that, she also executed over 50 Sectional Championship events, sending thousands of players to compete at National Championships. Her ability to construct and maintain a high quality product for adult tennis players has shone throughout her tenure.

As interest and popularity in adult programs grew, so did her department. Nancy built a talented and passionate team of staff and volunteers that were also dedicated to supporting adult participation growth. "The impact that Nancy has had on adult tennis is incomparable," her adult team said. "The knowledge and experience she takes with her can't be replaced. She is an integral part of our success and we will miss her leadership, dedication, and passion she brought to our adult team everyday. We know she is onto bigger and better things as she steps into retirement and we are more than happy for her as she starts this new journey. She is our boss but more importantly our friend."

"What she has done for the growth of adult tennis in USTA Northern has been incredible!" Pat Colbert, Assistant Executive Director and coworker of Nancy for the past 17 years added. "Because of her vision, hard work, and assembling a professional, dedicated team, adult tennis will be in good hands for years to come. She is not only a colleague, but a friend. I will miss her, but am also happy for what lies ahead for her in retirement! All the best!"

Another one of her many accomplishments includes her



commitment to improving the administrative processes and regulations to support USTA Northern's players and organization. From getting emails and calls at midnight after year-end ratings are published or getting flooded with complaints about a player's ratings throughout the year, Nancy handled those situations with grace and patience. She always put captains and players first and supported the Northern Section at the national level. "She listened and understood first, and explained second," Taylor Heltne, Manager of Twin Cities Adult Play said. "No one did it better."

Following her retirement, Nancy sets her sight on connecting with old tennis friends and spending time as a grandma. She has left an incredible mark on USTA Northern and her legacy will live on.

From Nancy Lundberg:

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunities USTA has provided me with over the past 17 years. It has been my honor to serve our league captains and players for 12 years as the Section League Coordinator. I know that our recreational and competitive adult players are in good hands with the team we have assembled to continue to grow tennis in the Northern Section. I came because of the job; I stayed because of the people."

Thank you, Nancy!

THE BATTLE OF THE MISSISSIPPI

Over the Summer, the inaugural L2 Battle of the Mississippi Intersectional junior tournament took place at three separate sites in three sections. USTA Northern, USTA Midwest, and USTA Missouri Valley teamed up to implement a new opportunity for the sections to compete against one another. The three locations duked it out for a chance to take home the traveling trophy - The Ox - which was awarded to the section that earned the most points across all three tournaments. Each round was one point towards the section total and points were then calculated between the four age divisions.

USTA Northern welcomed 16s to Minneapolis, while USTA Midwest hosted the 14s in Indianapolis and USTA Missouri Valley held the 18s in Oklahoma. The tournament followed a dominant duo format, with one boy and one girl per team, and each team played two gendered singles matches following a mixed doubles match. Spots were filled quickly as the word spread for this exciting new event as co-ed play is not a common trend for USTA Tournaments.

It was a weekend full of spectacular competition, fun, and positivity as players were able to represent their section in a new and exciting way at The Battle of the Mississippi. Midwest took home The Ox in year one after accruing 84 points. Northern tallied 53 points and Missouri Valley had 37.

Who will take over the reign of The Ox after the 2022 Battle of the Mississippi? Stay tuned.



12s in Indianapolis



14s in Indianapolis



16s in Indianapolis

USTA Northern Notable Finishes:

14s hosted by Midwest:

Barbara S. Wynna Tennis Center, Northern Central High School, Indianapolis, Ind.

Champions: Tej Bhagra and Cassandra Li

16s hosted by Northern:

Baseline Tennis Center, Minneapolis, Minn.

2nd place: Emmanuel Alex and Ashwika Thotakura

4th place: Rocky McKenzie and Isabelle Einess

Tej Bhagra and Cassandra Li,
14s Champions



Ashwika
Thotakura



Emmanuel
Alex



Isabelle
Einess



Rocky
McKenzie

JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER!

Junior Team Tennis encountered a variety of changes in 2021 coming off a year full of uncertainties in 2020. With the National Championships being benched for the year for all USTA Sections, we adjusted to highlight our local season. Player interest boomed as we had comparable participation to 2019's busy season as well as our Section's Championship Tournament.

JTT attracted new and returning programs this year! There were 96 teams within 22 programs that participated in the 5 week season -- 63 of those teams registered for the 2021 Section Championships.

SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP WRAP-UP:

Results:

18U Advanced

1. ICT Advanced
2. Heat Strokes (Sioux Falls)

18U Intermediate

1. Fred Wells
2. Mandan Spin

14U Intermediate

- Gold Bracket
 1. Hall of Framers (Sioux Falls)
 2. ICT Blue
- Silver Bracket
 1. Eau Claire
 2. Mandan

12U Green Ball Participants

- SPUTniks 12U
- Hastings U12
- Rosemount Shamrocks
- Serves You Right (Sioux Falls)

The Section Championships took place at our host sites, Lakeville North High School and Lakeville South High School, from July 23rd to July 28th. Due to excessive heat and rain on the last day of the tournament, Lakeville LifeTime and InnerCity Tennis helped us move the competition indoors. InnerCity Tennis generously donated their courts for the day, helping to keep our dedicated JTT Teams cool, safe, and dry.



**18U Advanced
Sportsmanship Award
Winner**
Ellie Pirtle



**18U Advanced
Sportsmanship Award
Winner**
Michael Tang



**18U Intermediate
Sportsmanship Award
Winner**
Alex Bergerson



**18U Intermediate
Sportsmanship Award
Winner**
Kate Walbourn



**18U Intermediate
Sportsmanship Award
Winner**
Warren Smalldridge



**18U Intermediate
Sportsmanship Award
Winner**
Kim Harvey



14U Intermediate Gold Bracket 1st Place
Hall of Framers Individual Team



14U Intermediate Gold Bracket 2nd Place
InnerCity Tennis Blue



14U Intermediate Silver Bracket 1st Place
Eau Claire



14U Intermediate Silver Bracket 2nd Place
Mandan



18U Advanced 1st Place
InnerCity Tennis



18U Advanced 2nd Place
Heat Strokes



18U Intermediate 1st Place
Fred Wells



18U Intermediate 2nd Place
Mandan Spin

TENNIS IN YOUR PARK BLOSSOMS IN 2021

New and returning adult tennis players got into the game in record numbers in parks all over the Twin Cities in 2021. USTA Northern's Tennis In Your Park (TIYP) program, a core component to growing the game in the Northern section, partners with communities and Park and Recs to offer high-quality, fun lessons for adults in their local neighborhood parks. Communities do a great job of reaching out to their residents to encourage adults to get on court, and USTA Northern's fantastic group of 22 instructors provide a high-quality and fun lesson experience that keeps players learning tennis shots and improving their fitness on court. It's a win-win combination for all! What started in 2015 with 70 players has grown to nearly 1000 registered players in 2021 — doubling over the previous year offered in 2019.

The Tennis In Your Park season wrapped up with a TIYP Cup Event held in 3 park locations (Kenwood in Minneapolis, Eastview in St Paul and Round Lake in Eden Prairie) for players from all corners of the Twin Cities to participate and use their new and improved skills while meeting other players. With continued events in the parks and indoor opportunities at facilities, the potential for more growth is off the charts.





JUNIORS IN THE TOP 150 OF THE NATIONAL STANDING LIST (AS OF 11/17/2021)

BOYS 12S:

73	Brody Barbeau
88	Chase Rima
125	Varin Tangeti
150	Alexander Young

GIRLS 12S:

44	Aoife Loftus
132	Sam Williams
137	Aisha Atayeva

BOYS 14S:

3	Max Exsted
33	Kaleb Ngwendson
39	Tej Bhagra
104	Brandon Pham
112	Tarun Gopalakrishnan

GIRLS 14S:

60	Cassandra Li
93	Claire Loftus

BOYS 16S:

100	Rocky McKenzie
105	Collin Beduhn
116	Emmanuel Alex

GIRLS 16S:

126	Kelsey Phillips
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BOYS 18S:

4	Bjorn Swenson
126	Matthew Fullerton

GIRLS 18S:

140	Selah Stibbins
145	Karin Young

USTA NORTHERN ADULT LEAGUE

The 2021 USTA Northern Adult League Section Championships were held over the course of four weekends throughout various facilities and clubs in the Twin Cities metro area, including Baseline Tennis Center, Life Time St. Louis Park, and InnerCity Tennis. There were over 86 teams across all four of the league championships and 1,250 of players who participated for their chance to qualify and play for a national championship. At the conclusion of section championships, the Northern Section sent 30 teams across the country to compete in the USTA League National Championships at the Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over levels, as well as the 18 & Over Mixed and 40 & Over Mixed Doubles levels.

Northern had a few notable Championship Sunday finishes on the national stage. Mary Beth McDonald captained two teams that placed in the top three; the 18 & Over 4.5 Women finished in 2nd place and the 40 & Over 4.5 Women's team placed 3rd. On the men's side, the 18 & Over 4.0 team captained by Chanda Duwearatchi also earned a 3rd place finish. It is extremely difficult and competitive to make it to Sunday at a national championship and our teams represented our Northern Section proudly. Congrats to all the teams and players who participated at our Northern Section Championships as well as those who moved on to compete at the National Championship Level! Go Team Northern!

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS



18 & Over 3.5 Men - Team Edwardson

From left to right: Alex Trevino, Eran Singer, Koushik Dutta, Daniel Ryan, Nik Larsen, Phil Chase, Aaron Chung, Paul Schoenecker, Raj Jain, Steve Huck.



Mixed 18 & Over 7.0 - Team Ewen

Back row left to right: Cameron Sloan, Sarah Johnson, Jeff Mandell, Max Wilkinson, Tom Johnson, Erik Breault, Arnold Ringstad.
Front row left to right: Lori Powell Knutson, Jeanne Ewen (Captain), Beth Ann Sloan, Amy Selby.



Mixed 18 & Over 6.0 - Team Douville

Front row from left to right: Elizabeth Olig, Lori Johnson, Ellen Dobbins, Stacy Douville (Captain), Cory Borthwick, Donnette Tanner, Joanie Gold.
Back row from left to right: John Tanner, Jim Borthwick, Cam Olig, Jeff Johnson, Rod Vaught, Tim Brengman, Keith Dobbins, Brian Douville.



18 & Over 3.5 Women - Team Summers

From left to right: Kerri Lee, Rachel Conrad, Christine Shellenbarger, Angela Summers (Captain), Tracy Beecher, Jill Abbott, Lisa Satermo, Maret Worwa. Not Pictured: Becky Carlson.



Mixed 18 & Over 8.0 - Team Ewen

Back row left to right: Dave Casperson, Paul Kilburg, Nate Kline, Tom Neary, Tony Mosser, Stephanie Crawl, Cameron Sloan.
Front row left to right: Rhonda Green, Christina Kilburg, Rachael Renneisen, Lori Mosser, Cecilia Grass Neary.



40 & Over 3.5 Women - Team Gilchrist

Front row left to right: Blair Pogue, Vicki Sheaffer, Julie Zellmer, Donna Sommerfeldt, Chanda Cook, Amy Murphy Sullivan, Carlene Forsythe.
Back row left to right: Shannon Quinn, Sandy Law, Sara Moran, Sally Gilchrist (Captain), Tina McAlpine, Christine Leach, Ann Gabrielli, Andi Galvin.



18 & Over 3.0 Men - Team Zehren

From left to right: Jackson Becker, Tim Johnson, Bob Christiansen, Nabeel Qazi, Brian Cherney, Douglas Zehren (Captain), Mike Schmidt, Mike Hilden.



40 & Over 4.0 Women - Team Reiling

From Left to Right: Leslie Nicholson, Julie Woodstra, Franny Barry, Lynda Stout, Patty Barr, Lydia Crouser, Jennie Kawaters, Ann Cadwallader, Kerry Reiling (Captain), Kara Fairbairn, Kristin Heywood, Maura Smiley, Shae Rohling, Michelle Paule.



18 & Over 3.0 Women - Team Wernet

Front row left to right: Kathryn Dehn, Lori Youmans, Katie Wernet (Captain), Heather Legris, Tia Fjelstad.
Back row left to right: Gina Shuck, Sarah Van Camp, Bridget Kaminski, Valerie Larsen, Katrin Stuzer, Sarah Curfman.



55 & Over 8.0 Men - Team Henneman

Front row left to right: Alan Steed, Ken Gutzman, Bill Henneman (Captain), Ed Freeman, Tim Johnson, Gary Simpson.
Back row left to right: Shu Lee, Bruce Goad, Doug MacGibbon, Steve Cieslukowski, Mike Kasner.



55 & Over 7.0 Women - Team Brown

From left to right: Sarah LeDoux, Amy Haugen, Sue Dando, Barb Brown (Captain), Kitty Yancey, Marcia Harris, Jacie Hurd.



55 & Over 8.0 Women - Team Toleu

Back row left to right: Karen Berg, Lynne Kaufman, Johanna Hanson, Heather Fernandez, Joan Bakken, Mary Donovan, Carol Steiger
Front row left to right: Maura Smiley and Karla Toleu (Captain).



40 & Over 3.0 Women - Fjelstad

From left to right: Sarah Curfman, Ellen Boss Krohn, Karen Hansen, Tia Fjelstad (Captain), Azita Bernet, Nicole Weleccki, Jennifer Lewis.



40 & Over 4.5 Men - Team Gullikson

Front row left to right: Ollie Sommers, Bill Kron, Carl Wahlstrand, Eric Gleason
Back row left to right: Nick Hupton, Derek Garcia, Matt Nar, Rick Slachta, Jesten Seim.

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS



55 & Over 7.0 Men - Team Narvaez/Kimball

Front row left to right: Gary Simpson, Thanh Pham, Tu Van, Bill Boyes, JungYong Park.
Back row left to right: Steve Cieslukowski, Rick Hancks, Eric Narvaez (Captain), George Kimball (Captain).



55 & Over 9.0 Men - Team Cychosz

From left to right: Bill Kron, Brian Biernat, Dan Boulay, Chris Combs, Ken Cychosz (Captain), Mark Alevisos, Karl Lambert, Will Prest, Ben Streitz.



Mixed 18 & Over 9.0 - Team Meger

Back row left to right: Rick Slachta, Robert Cardenas, Job Farnsworth, Nick Ciapetta, Matt Narr.
Front row left to right: Laurel Krebsbach, Cami Czech, Patrice Meger (Captain), Carol Wahlstrand, Julie Opfer.



40 & Over 3.5 Men - Bigby

Front from left to right: Tim Finnerty, Aaron Peck, Mark Sulzbach, Larry Wong
Back from left to right: Phil Chase, Tim Ogerman, Ron Saver, Scott Krohn.
Not pictured: Co-Captains Carl Bigby, George Kimball, Eric Naverez.



Mixed 40 & Over 7.0 - Team Schneider

From left to right: Michael Schneider (Captain), Jenny Liu, John Genz, Sherri Ruf, Ron Saver, Vicki Bachmann, Tom Genz, Dani Genz, Eric Narvaez (Co-Captain).



Mixed 40 & Over 8.0 - Team Toleu

Back row from left to right: Larry Valtinson, Justin Webster, Mark Van Ert, Michael Kasner, Chris Shol, Michael Long.
Front row from left to right: Michelle Finley, Pam Van Ert, Randa Schuster, Maura Smiley, Lana Pinnock, Chriss Hixon, Karla Toleu (Captain).



18 & Over 4.5 Women - Team McDonald

Front row left to right: Cheryl Riise, Marla Zitelman, Shirlene Luk, Marybeth McDonald (Captain), Erica Toppin, Tory Borovsky.
Back row left to right: Rachel Latour, Jennifer Miller, Megan Raway, Jodi Schley, Taylor Heltne, Nikki Livingston, Hannah Bieno.



40 & Over 4.5 Women - Team McDonald

Front row left to right: Katie Resch, Elisabeth Hurlbert, Beth Strand, Cheryl Riise, MaryBeth McDonald (Captain), Jodi Hanish.
Back row left to right: Sara Humann, Molly Breunig, Suzie Heideman, Rachel Latour, Jennifer Heitzman, Jennifer Miller, Trish Goodrich.



40 & Over 4.0 Men - Team Duwearatchi

Front row left to right: Trai Nguyen, Ian Gideon, Miguel Padilla, Chad Engel, Chandha Duwearatchi (Captain).
Back row left to right: Jerome Hartmann, Robert Wylly, Kaci Langums, Craig Ballentine.



18 & Over 4.0 Men - Duwearatchi

Front row left to right: Jerome Hartmann, Ian Gideon, Chandha Duwearatchi (Captain), Tim Edmund, Luca Willauer, Trai Nguyen, Kaci Langums.
Back row left to right: Craig Ballentine, James Robertson, Charlie Race, Brad Digre, Jack Nazy, Brian Jacobsen, Reed Krider.



18 & Over 4.5 Men - Team Rademacher

Front row left to right: Nick Bates, Brady Rademacher, Neil Rademacher (Captain), Tyler Bates, Bryan Baumann.
Back row left to right: Jeff Fontaine, Burke Anderson, Kevin Hilpert, Alex King, Josh Stainer, Scott Wall.



Mixed 40 & Over 6.0 - Team Olig

Front row left to right: Donnette Tanner, Joanie Gold, Stacey Douville, Elizabeth Olig (Captain), Suzy Griffith, Ashu Ghorpade.
Back row left to right: Brian Douville, John Tanner, Tim Brengman, Cam Olig, Kendall Griffith, Kiran Dwarakanath.



55 & Over 6.0 Men - Team Bigby/Narvaez

From left to right: Dan Kuna, Gary Huber, Glenn Holden, Patrick Ledray, Eric Narvaez, Igor Mikhailenko, George Kimball, Mike Ericson, Carl Johanson, Carl Bigby, Al Hoen.



55 & Over 6.0 Women - Team Ensign

From left to right: Sue Ensign (Captain), Sandy Henk, Dyanne Kerr, Julie Hoffer, Laura Sheak, Kathleen Hultman, Teri Heltne, Jan Bryan.



BRINGING PRIDE TO THE COURTS

Stonewall Tennis Minneapolis Participants

Scott Sundstrom has a lifetime worth of experiences on the tennis court. The Lino Lakes, MN native grew up playing in the Northern section, participating in USTA Junior Tournaments, Junior Team Tennis, Zonals, and World Team Tennis; he's done it all. Today, some of his roles include being a Level 1 USPTA Certified Teaching Pro, the Head Coach of the boys and girls team at Mounds View High School, a member of the USTA Northern Board of Directors, and a difference maker in the LGBTQ+ Community.

When a friend of Scott's asked him to play on a Stonewall Sports Kickball team a few years ago, he discovered a safe and inclusive environment for the LGBTQ+ community. A safe space he knew was needed for queer tennis players.

"In July of 2019, I was sitting in a USTA Northern board meeting centered on diversity and inclusion and I thought I should make tennis a part of Stonewall Sports Minneapolis. I contacted the President of the organization and he trusted me to head it up and we've been rolling with it since."

Scott acted as the Tennis Commissioner for Stonewall Sports Minneapolis, a LGBTQ+ and Ally community-based sports league that values each player for who they are and what they bring to the community. In August, Scott transitioned the role to Tyler Copeland.

"People in the [LGBTQ+] community are apprehensive to play sports because

they're intimidated, they don't feel welcome, or they can't be their authentic self," Scott states, "Stonewall Sports allows for you to be your true self and bring that to the sport. You feel comfortable being silly and crazy, and if you make a mistake you don't feel bad. There are no negative feelings."

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, Scott started Stonewall Tennis Minneapolis to provide a safe and inclusive environment for queer people to play tennis with a goal to gear it towards social play. This summer, he has implemented a program that will allow the players to participate in fast-paced, high energy drills with lots of movement and going from court to court.

"We've had to rethink what tennis is and what it could look like. The focus isn't on winning, which is unique about our programming. . . It's fun, fast-paced, and allows for people to mingle and get to know each other. Everyone just comes together to play and have fun."

After kicking off just a couple months before the global pandemic, the Stonewall Tennis league had 28 players in the Fall, Winter, and Spring sessions throughout 2020 and earlier this year, which was maximum participation. This summer, they have 48 registered players and many others itching to join.

"We are continuing to grow," Scott adds, "There have been many friendships that have blossomed due to Stonewall Tennis programming and many players

have caught the 'tennis bug' and are wanting to play all the time. I wanted to provide a space where people could network and hit on their own time, join a USTA League team together, or play tournaments together. Today, we are definitely at that point."

Stonewall Tennis has been an outlet for queer tennis players throughout the metro area to meet up with others in the LGBTQ+ community and play together while being their truest selves. Scott hopes the success of his initiative can impact the 22 other Stonewall Sports chapters throughout the country to add a tennis league to their cities.

"Many of my closest friends are through Stonewall Sports. I am grateful for the positive environment the organization has created. As a kid, I never imagined playing sports with a group of queer people. It's been a great experience."

Stonewall Tennis Minneapolis is a judgment-free and safe environment that inspires tennis players in the community to be their true selves and encourages them to come back. Scott wants players seeking a place to express their genuine identity to know that there is always space for them.

"Find your ally. Find places where you feel comfortable and safe to be yourself. Connect with coaches who see you as a whole person and who support you. It's difficult to be vulnerable, but things get so much better when you just let go and live authentically."

TRAINING CAMP RECAP

MINNESOTA VIKINGS TRAINING CAMP

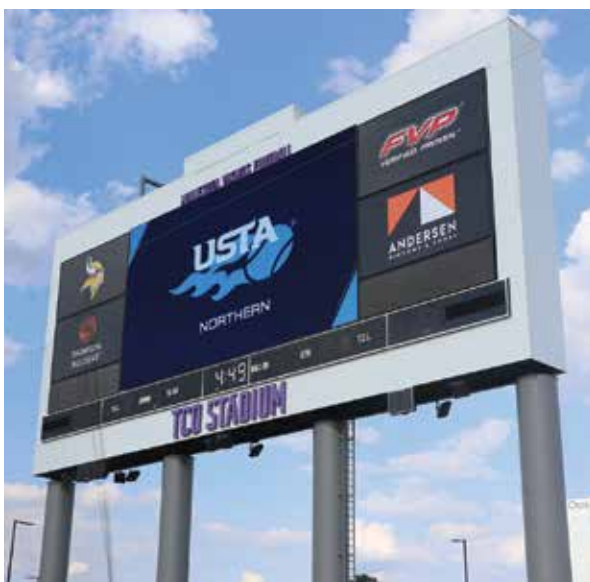


For the first time ever, USTA Northern was a part of the 2021 Minnesota Vikings Training Camp with an interactive station located in the Kids Zone on the TCO Stadium turf. We had four mini courts and a tent in the east end zone where we gave fans of all ages the opportunity to swing a racquet and experience the joy of tennis. Over the course of 9 days, we were able to touch over 3,500 individuals at our activation and grow the love for the game. Coming directly from the events manager for the Vikings, "It was one of the best activations we have had. The feedback was very positive and people want to see it again in 2022!" Each day we gave away two family packs which included two racquets, a can of low compression balls, and a backpack for families to bring home to practice on their own. A group of volunteers, including USTA Northern board members, helped staff the activation and played a key role in the event's success. It was a highlight of our summer and we are already making big plans for 2022!



US OPEN VIEWING PARTY

Drive-in movie meets tennis, that's what our inaugural US Open Viewing Party at TCO Stadium was like! In 2021, we invited tennis fans from all over Northern to watch the US Open with us on the turf. We kicked off the night with lawn tennis and various games, and ended it watching Medvedev and Gasquet attempt to advance to the next round. Before the sunset, we sent a special hello to New York from Minneapolis with a group wave from the field up to a drone. The event welcomed tennis fans of all ages to come together and share their love for the game. Music was pumping and the drink of the night was the Honey Deuce. The event highlight was awarding one lucky winner with a Golden Ticket to the 2022 US Open in New York City!

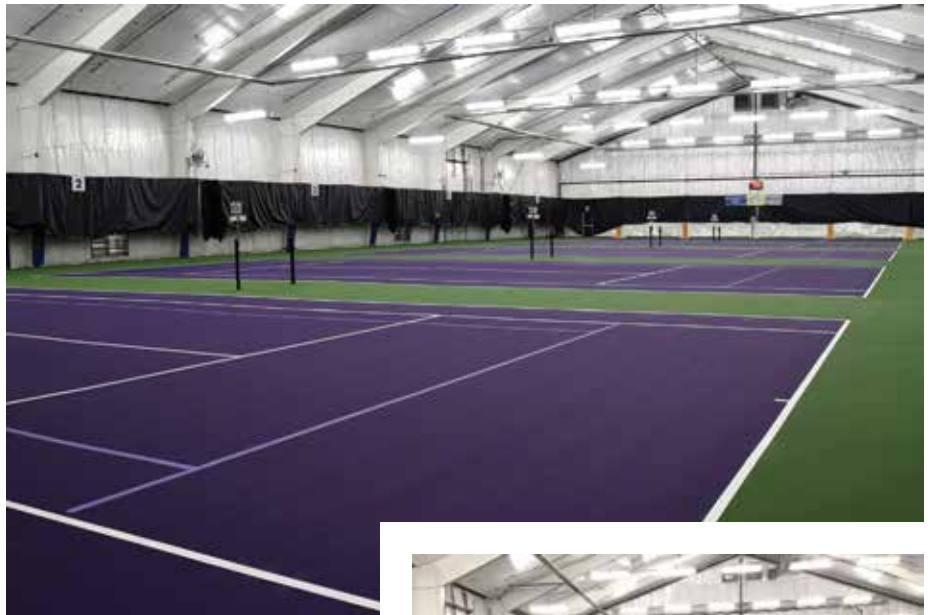




WILLISTON FITNESS CENTER

The five tennis courts at Williston Fitness Center in Minnetonka, Minnesota, are home to approximately 170 players throughout their many indoor and outdoor sessions. They have a popular junior tennis program for kids ages 4-18 where they learn teamwork, communication, balance, agility, hand-eye coordination, problem solving, and reliance, all while having fun and making friends. With 18 classes per session of red, orange, and green ball players, Williston Fitness Center was in need of implementing 10 and under lines on their courts. Doing so would allow them to coach young players effectively using smaller courts, racquets, and appropriate balls.

USTA Northern awarded Williston with a \$1,750 grant to assist with the installation of the 10 and under lines on their five indoor courts and additional expenses. The grant allows the facility to continue to offer red, orange, and green ball programs to young players so they can exercise, learn the great game of tennis, make friends, and achieve whatever they set their minds to.



2021 has been a crazy year in many aspects including the world of tennis. While it has been a while since the US Open has been played, it has been an even greater time since I have been asked to write for Northern Exposure. So, I thought it would be interesting to go over things learned from what many people, myself included, think was the most entertaining and interesting US Open ever.

1. For the first time in more than 20 years, there was no Federer, Nadal, or Serena in the singles main draw but, as many superstar athletes have learned - some the hard way - the sport is bigger than the individual. While these historically great players and personalities are fun to watch at any tournament, much less a Slam, the tennis was perhaps the most captivating that it has ever been. Youngsters such as Alcaraz, Fernandez, Raducanu, and Brooksby made the tournament memorable and historic with their play and accomplishments. The established stars such as Medvedev, Djokovic, and Auger-Aliassime dazzled, and players such as Andy Murray showed they still have some game left to play.

2. Five sets should remain for Slams in men's draws, as there were 10 matches where someone came from 2 sets down to rally and win, and 33 five-set matches in the men's draw. They were all dramatic and entertaining. To top it off, there were 10 fifth-set tie breakers which is the ultimate in drama and, yes, the USTA should pat itself on the back for getting the fifth set tiebreaker correct. (Are you listening, Melbourne, Paris, and Wimbledon? There should be uniformity.) However, the USTA should also be aware that I don't think any fan or player was asking to have Kommen tiebreakers. If the pros don't need it, why do amateurs?

3. The men's doubles final looked like a time machine as all the players were serving and volleying (quite well). It is certainly true that the majority of doubles players serve and stay back these days, but Rajeev Ram made the finals in Australia and won the US Open serving and volleying. At the

young age of 39, Nicholas Mahut served and volleyed and won the doubles in Paris. Pavuk and Mektic also served and volleyed to a Wimbledon crown. This doesn't mean everyone has to start doing this but it certainly shows that one can be successful doing it if they know how.

4. Shelby Rogers was inspired by one of the all-time great quotes, "Nobody beats Vitas Gerulaitis 17 times in a row," and she had an epiphany that all players, amateur or pro, should take heed when talking about her upset of number one-ranked Ash Barty. "I have lost to her every time, so try something different," Rogers said. That is every coach's dream, as most players have a bit of insanity in them by playing the same way and expecting different results. Remember most growth takes place out of our comfort zone.

5. Youth served as there were more teenagers in the quarters of the men's and women's draw than there had been in two decades. Medvedev and Raducanu winning were both unexpected and refreshing.

6. You don't play the match on paper. Most people thought it was a foregone conclusion that Djokovic would win the grand slam. However, Medvedev expressed that he was there to stop Djokovic. He let his racquet do the talking in an impressive straight sets finals victory. Remember, everyone is beatable and everyone is capable of both treeing and choking. Compete hard every match and you will often be rewarded, even if you do not play your best.

7. History was made when Emma Raducanu became the first qualifier to ever win a Grand Slam event. She did so in impressive fashion, winning her first time playing at Flushing Meadow and not dropping a set in the process.

8. Fans make any event. The electricity of fans at Flushing can be felt all over a match under the lights at the US Open. Energy from the fans is as good as it gets. Hopefully we will be out of the pandemic by the time next year's US Open comes.



9. No one makes it by themselves. Emma Raducanu's accomplishment was historic, unfortunately her soon thereafter splitting with her coach is common practice of players when they achieve a level of success and most of the time it is a mistake. It took Osaka almost two years to get back to winning a slam after dismissing her coach. Marcelo Rios reached number one in the world then fired his coach and his ranking plummeted like a stone. Most great champions understand that it ultimately comes down to them, as Brad Gilbert knew as much about tennis when Aggassi was 141 in the world as he did when he was number one. Sometimes changes are necessary but history would indicate that most players are quick to fire and most often regret their choice.

10. Even the greats can learn. Many people thought that after Medvedev beat Djokovic, that he now had his number. The next time they played in the finals of the Paris masters, Djokovic changed strategies and took advantage of Medvedev's deep return position by serving and volleying successfully 17 of 22 times and beating him.

11. Rules always need to be scrutinized. Pros are no different than other players as many will try to employ gamesmanship with exceedingly long bathroom breaks or medical timeouts that are not necessary, but simply used to stop an opponent's momentum. The tennis is too good at the US Open to allow blatant abuses of rules or the rules should be changed.

12. Enjoy the moment. Most of us will not have the privilege to play on center court at the US Open but that doesn't mean you shouldn't play with a smile on your face and enjoy the competition. The joy amongst the various players, especially Leyla Fernandez, was mesmerizing and inspirational.

13. Look for future articles on Deadly Drops and also proper alignment. Enjoy the holidays and hope to see you on the courts.

MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY CLAY COURTS

At the beginning of the year, USTA Northern awarded the Minneapolis Community Clay Courts (MCCC) with a grant to begin construction on the new Waveland Triangle Clay Courts. Their vision was to create a nationally recognized, unique public park experience for everyone in Minneapolis. With the development, they were able to bring together people of different ages and socioeconomic backgrounds to use and maintain the courts, similar to a community garden. It was a project that promoted health, well-being and community.

Construction on the project officially began in July and converted two existing asphalt tennis courts in poor condition to the brand new clay court surfacing. The new surfaces are noticeably softer and create a tennis experience that puts less stress on players' joints, allowing people to continue playing as they age. The vision and impact of the MCCC's mission was extremely popular and they received support and donations from 12 organizations and 418 individuals. Funds raised toward the USTA Northern Matching Grant summed to \$34,317.

On October 9th, 2021, the Waveland Triangle Clay Courts officially opened and became the first free public clay court facility in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The accessibility of the courts allows people from all backgrounds to enjoy a unique athletic experience.



TEAM RUNNING FOR LOVE AT THE TWIN CITIES MARATHON

On October 3rd, 2021, Team Running For Love laced up their shoes once again in a partnership with Twin Cities In Motion (TC Marathon) to raise funds to ensure that all kids have access to the sport of tennis. By running on Team Running For Love, our runners were able to raise funds for USTA Northern's grant and scholarship programs or specify a tennis charity of their choosing that would directly benefit from their efforts. Together our team raised \$4,470!

Julia Beckley, an adaptive athlete from Fort Collins, Colorado, completed the marathon and raised \$1,100 for Ironwood Springs Christian Camp. The camp is located in southern Minnesota and serves over 15,000 people per year. Their purpose is to provide an atmosphere and opportunity for adults and children to get to know themselves, others and God better. The outdoor tennis courts at the ranch are a place to enjoy a game of tennis for all abilities!

Ricky Moua (marathon) and Koua Yang (10-miler) ran on Team Running For Love to raise funds for Como Park Athletics. Together, the duo raised \$3,345 for athletes at Como Park High School. Thank you to everyone who donated in support of **#TeamRunningForLove!**



2021 MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS LEADERSHIP AND TENNIS CAMP

The 2021 Middle School Girls Leadership and Tennis Camp offered a week-long experience for middle school girls from underrepresented communities to connect them with each other and female coach mentors. The program helped to create a community of women, retain girls in tennis programs, and provide encouragement and opportunities for them to advance in the sport. While at camp, the girls were able to see themselves represented by their female mentors, feel heard and seen, gain confidence in sharing their ideas and opinions, improve their tennis skills,

learn and practice leadership skills, establish a stronger sense of self, and meet new people. Our very own Junior Team Tennis and Junior Recreational Coordinator, Natalie Stevens, spoke at the camp to share her background in sports and how growing up as a female athlete gave her confidence and made her a stronger leader.

USTA Northern joined in a partnership with Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center, Her Next Play, InnerCity Tennis, and Saint Paul Urban Tennis to make the event happen.



AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY TENNIS COURTS GET A MAJOR TRANSFORMATION!

The tennis courts at Augustana University were in major need of repair when Head Tennis Coach, Marc Kurtz, began his 18th season with the Vikings earlier this year. Located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota with a population around 200,000 people, the Augustana Courts are not only home to the Vikings tennis team, but are also used for GreatLIFE's Junior Tennis Lessons, Junior Team Tennis summer programming, tournaments, league play through the Sioux Falls Tennis Association, and are entirely open to the public. Throughout the past four years, many tennis events have had to move to other locations in Sioux Falls because of the court's deep cracks.

Over the summer, USTA Northern assisted Augustana in repairing their courts with a \$10,000 grant so they could resurface the courts and ensure they would be functional for many years to come. The transformation was outstanding! Now the Vikings and public have safe, solid, and centrally located tennis courts to improve their game.

BEFORE



AFTER



RIBBON CUTTING

LOVE MORGAN COURTS

Over the past few years, Morgan courts in Minnehaha Creek Park fell into serious despair. The courts are positioned within the Lynnhurst neighborhood in South Minneapolis, a prime location for community members to play tennis, and also home to the Washburn High School Boys' and Girls' tennis teams. Eventually, recreational tennis players and the Washburn teams stopped using the courts due to concern about potential injuries. This forced the Washburn Boys' tennis team to travel 30 minutes to a Bloomington park for varsity practices.

In early August, construction on the courts finally began after three years of fundraising between the Minneapolis Park Board and Love Morgan Courts/Support the Courts to replace the Morgan Tennis Courts. USTA Northern contributed \$5,720 to the Love Morgan Courts initiative and on September 12th, the courts debuted their tremendous revision. The ribbon cutting ceremony included a fun afternoon for tennis players of all ages and skill levels to show off their skills and learn from volunteer, Tim Burke, and pros from USTA Northern and InnerCity Tennis.



Before



After



2021 HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS TEAM GRANT

In an effort to continue to bring new players into the game safely and to continue delivering high quality tennis to retain current players, grants are available to support public high school tennis teams that are experiencing financial hardships and/or exponential growth in their tennis program.

Public high schools residing in the USTA Northern section are eligible to apply for a grant amount up to \$500 to be used towards expenses needed to support the growth of high school tennis and for purchases of supplies and equipment needed to implement COVID-19 safety protocols to protect coaches and players.

In 2021, USTA Northern awarded a total of \$18,700 to high schools that applied for the grant around Wisconsin, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota.

WISCONSIN:

Altoona High School
Chippewa Falls High School
Hudson High School
Menomonie High School

SOUTH DAKOTA:

Brandon Valley High School
Jefferson High School
Lennox High School
Milbank High School
Mitchell High School
Rapid City High School
Roosevelt High School
Spearfish High School
Watertown High School

NORTH DAKOTA:

Valley City High School

MINNESOTA:

Aitkin High School
Brainerd High School
Como High School
Duluth East High School
Hastings High School
Humboldt High School
Johnson High School
Harding High School
Pine City High School
Rosemount High School
Saint James High School
South Minneapolis High School
Waseca High School

TOTAL: \$18,700

TEDDIES FEST

Roosevelt High School hosted Teddies Fest over the summer to help and grow and sustain their tennis program. The community outreach and fundraising event helped to introduce new kids to the sport of tennis and support community tennis players. It was an all day event that took place at Lake Hiawatha Park and welcomed all community members.

Teddies Fest included a doubles tournament for recreational level players in six divisions and free community activities geared toward introducing kids to the sport of tennis. Roosevelt High School tennis players volunteered their time to teach youth players the basics of the game. Attendees also enjoyed concessions, a silent auction, face painting, and many booths to shop.

USTA Northern donated \$1,928 in support of Teddies Fest and had a spectacular time at the fun summer event!



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