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OCTOBER 2018

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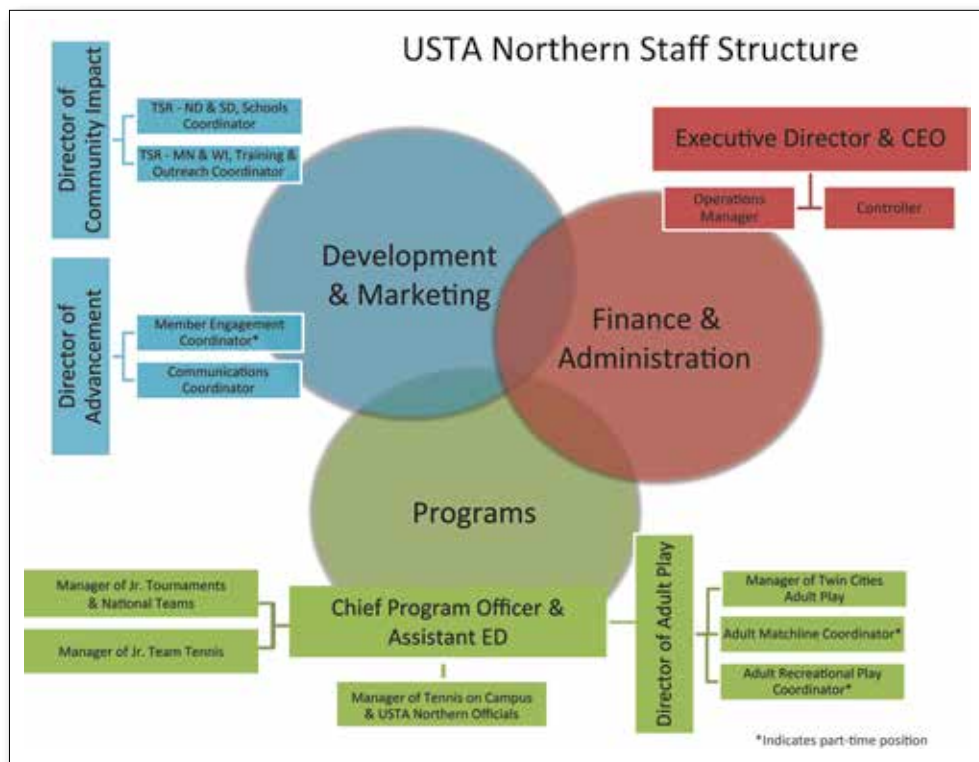
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# NORTHERN EXPOSURE



Greetings from all of us at USTA Northern. If you have questions about getting started or how to get involved, give us a call at (952) 887-5001.



## USTA Northern Annual Meeting

**Friday, Nov. 16 – Saturday, Nov. 17**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Minneapolis – Park Place**

Join fellow volunteers and providers at the USTA Northern Annual Meeting where, for the first time ever, all committees will be together to recap the previous year and look ahead to 2019. This is a unique opportunity to learn more about getting involved with USTA Northern committees to help us grow the game!

If you're a volunteer or provider, visit this link to register:  
<https://form.jotform.com/USTANorthern/Meetings>

# Executive Director Message

As families around the section settle back into the routines of the school year, we are excited to be back at full capacity with the addition of six new staff members who join our dedicated team of professionals at USTA Northern. We're certainly going through a transition with new faces, new roles, and exciting new initiatives. However, the timing seems right for us to be settling in; fall brings about that sense of routine as we reflect on summer fun, the outdoor tennis season, and weekend trips to tournaments and events. Some of us even got to experience the energy and excitement of the US Open in New York City, with all its glory.

This year's US Open, of course, was clouded in controversy as arguably the best female player in the history of the game, Serena Williams, left the grandest stage with us all talking about what we witnessed in the women's final. Tennis made mainstream news, which I am told is always good for the sport, and it certainly gives us the opportunity to take advantage of the spotlight. Just today, a parent conversation at the bus stop centered around tennis, which provided an opportunity to discuss not only my thoughts on the US Open final but also why I love the sport. For me and others at the USTA, the US Open women's final brought a few things to light.

First, it reaffirmed the belief that coaching should be allowed at the US Open. If it's too hard to enforce restrictions consistently, it might be time to allow it across the board. Second, sportsmanship is critical to the growth of the game and with so many eyes on Serena as an inspiration to mothers, kids, and others who play, she was not at her finest in the US Open final. Yes, that first call may have been unfair, but racquet abuse and questioning the integrity of an official are not allowed by any player. Coaches and parents everywhere can use this as a teachable moment and hopefully all would agree that this behavior is unacceptable. And third, sports play a key role in changing minds and behaviors and I am proud that tennis has been at the forefront of positive change throughout its history.

Tennis was the first sport to offer equal prize money to men and women competitors 45 years ago and this year's US Open marked the 50th anniversary of the first US Open final where Arthur Ashe, a black man who some felt shouldn't be allowed to play due to the color of his skin, was victorious. Like Ashe, tennis players throughout history have been key to breaking barriers that exist for some in our society. Yet, these icons are also human and not without faults. Even Serena and Roger Federer, despite all they have done for our sport, are human and make mistakes. However, it is these faults that often teach the most important lessons.

So, let's use this moment to grow. Let's teach our kids about respecting themselves, their equipment, the officials, and their op-



ponents. Let's continue to have conversations about good sportsmanship and gender equity. Let's be proud of the last 50 years and look toward making the next 50 the best ever for the sport. I, for one, am excited about watching Naomi Osaka in her next battle, as she just became a household name and could go on to be our next great tennis icon.

And closer to home, I am proud of the accomplishments USTA Northern has made throughout our history and excited about the new energy we have as we plan for the future. I'm learning from our veteran and new staff, from our board of directors, and from all of the innovative leaders in our tennis clubs and communities. We've been

collecting your thoughts and ideas as we plan for the years to come and will unveil our 2019-2021 Strategic Plan at our Annual Meeting and Conference this November.

At this gathering, we will also bring together more than 100 volunteers who lead our section for meetings, education, and networking. These volunteers sit on our board of directors and on various committees such as our Junior Competition, Adult Leagues, Awards, and Finance Committees. Their meetings during the conference will be open to the public and anyone with an interest in attending is welcome. We are doing this for the **first time ever** in our section's history as a way to bring new ideas to the table and be transparent about our decision-making process.

This year, we will also be seeking new volunteers for a 2019-2020 term on our committees so attendance at the Annual Meeting and Conference is a good introduction to the USTA Northern organizational structure and how we all work together - staff and volunteers - to grow the game. We invite anyone with an interest in giving back to our sport to get involved as a committee member which will allow you to shape policies and advise on crucial decisions that affect our work. The application for committee involvement is open throughout the month of October and can be accessed at [www.usta.com/northern](http://www.usta.com/northern) where you'll also find a bit more detail on volunteer opportunities and expectations.

I hope to see many of you in November when we can continue the conversation about how to grow our game and the benefits of tennis. In the meantime, I hope the fall offers some great tennis weather as we get ready to head back indoors for the winter season.

See you on the courts!

Becky Cantellano

A handwritten signature of Becky Cantellano in black ink.



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## Lessons learned from the US Open

Another Grand Slam season has come to pass and it is time to take our annual review of the US Open to see what we can learn and apply to our own games. To begin with, let's look at the universal language of sport – numbers!

Craig O'Shannessy, who has been consulting with Novak Djokovic – this year's men's singles winner – and is in charge of analytics for the ATP and WTA, always has some interesting insights as to what goes on in matches. Some stats are more important than others and the most important stat is the magic number 55, which refers to the percentage of points won during a typical match if one wants to become the best player in the world. In a typical match, the winner loses 45 percent or more of the points played. Takeaways from this: we should not berate ourselves or get angry when we lose a point as we are going to lose a lot of them and the margins between winning and losing a typical match are extremely narrow.

If you look at the top-ranked male player in the world and wonder why he is so good, it is more than just incredible stroke-making. It has more to do with the fact that he is focused and gives full effort on every point; you can never take even one point for granted, as many people get careless or lose a bit of concentration when they reach game point. A prime example of this is Roger Federer losing serve after being up 40-15 with a chance to lead John Millman two sets to love. Federer went on to lose his next service game after being up 40-15 to try and force a tiebreaker.

The 70/20/10 rule applies across skill levels, ages and genders. In general, 70 percent of singles points are four shots or less, 20 percent are five to nine shots long and 10 percent last longer than nine shots. Does this mean one shouldn't work on consistency? Absolutely not! But it does mean more emphasis should be placed on the quality of shots at the start of a rally. How many players really practice their serve or return despite them being the two most important shots in the game? It can be memorable and fun to have an exceedingly long point but it may not be in your best interest to practice for them the majority of the time.

What about Naomi Osaka and her numbers? It should be no surprise that she won the US Open based on her statistics. Here are some highlights:

- **85** – Tournament-leading percentage of break points saved by Osaka compared to the average of 55 percent
- **92** – Tournament-leading percentage of service games won by Osaka
- **2<sup>nd</sup>** – Osaka's ranking in second service points won at the US Open
- Osaka **broke** serve more than her opponents **held** serve against her

This was a hugely impressive display, winning the tournament while dropping only one set along the way.

If you're thinking the pros are so good we cannot learn anything from these stats, these are eerily similar through all levels of play down to 12U. Some other takeaways that always surprise people is that going to the net leads to a much higher winning percentage than staying back. The average baseline winning percentage is typically around 46 percent and errors outnumber winners. Sixty-five percent of points end in errors and 35 percent in winners at the pro level; the error rate is even higher at the amateur level.

Having a plan can make a difference for all players. If you are playing people of your skill level, where you hit the ball tends to be more important than how you hit the ball. O'Shannessy wrote an interesting article on how not to play Rafael Nadal. It highlights some interesting tales of how, as he puts it, "adapting or dying" can change a rivalry. From 2006 to 2010, Nadal was dominating Djokovic with his favorite pattern. Djokovic changed his pattern by playing close to the baseline and hitting more backhands down the line and beat Nadal seven times in a row after that. Richard Gasquet, who lost for the 15th time in a row to Nadal at this year's French Open, was asked about changing strategies and he replied that he just tried to play his game.

While it is important to play to your strengths, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing and expecting a different result. Perhaps Gasquet is waiting for two more matches and then he can repeat the quote of the late, great Vitas Gerulaitis: "No one beats Vitas Gerulaitis 17 times in a row."

Remember to practice situations that happen in a match and, when not playing, continue to learn by watching the sport at all levels. Good luck and I wish you success on your quest to the magic number 55.

Questions or comments can be directed to me at [brgtennis@aol.com](mailto:brgtennis@aol.com).

### PUERTO RICO

*In early September, the USTA, the 17 USTA Sections and the USTA Foundation announced a pledge to donate \$350,000 to restore tennis facilities and restart tennis programming throughout Puerto Rico following the impact of Hurricane Maria last year. Learn more about the effort to help one of our fellow Sections by visiting [ustafoundation.com/SupportPR](http://ustafoundation.com/SupportPR).*



# North Dakota & South Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame Class of 2018

### THE GAMBUCCI FAMILY Grand Forks, N.D.

The Gambucci Family, led by patriarch and multi-sport coach Serge and his supporting and devoted wife Eleanor, successfully promoted the sport of tennis not only in Grand Forks, but throughout the entire state of North Dakota for decades.



*Gambucci Family*

Serge, who died at the age of 91 in 2014, coached the boys' tennis team at Grand Forks Central High School to three state team titles and 11 state individual champions. He also coached hockey, leading Central to the first 10 North Dakota state hockey titles and finished his career with a 258-38 record in 15 seasons. He is a member of five Halls of Fame including the Grand Forks Central Athletic Hall of Fame, the North Dakota Coaches Hall of Fame, the Grand Forks Public Schools Hall of Fame, the St. Cloud State University Hall of Fame and the United States Hockey Hall of Fame; he also has a hockey arena in Grand Forks named after him.

All seven of the Gambucci children won state individual championships. Oldest son Bill was the first to win a state championship, taking home the singles crown in both 1967 and 1968. Jim won the 1968 doubles and 1969 singles title, followed by Mary Ann (1969-71 singles), Nancy (1972 doubles), Carol (1973-74 doubles), John (1974-76 doubles, 1977 singles) and finally Ann (1978 doubles). All were all-conference and all-state recipients and team most valuable players. Bill, Jim, Carol and John joined their father as members of the Grand Forks Central High School Hall of Fame, and today, the Gambucci grandchildren are continuing the family tennis tradition.

"The Gambucci Family has contributed so much to promote tennis in North Dakota," nominator **Shelly Gunderson** said. "The Gambucci home was right across the street from five tennis courts in Grand Forks and was known as 'Tennis Central.' They mentored so many kids, resulting in an unprecedented growth of the sport. They are truly the First Family of North Dakota Tennis."

### DR. JOHN "JACK" PFISTER Wahpeton, N.D.

The late Jack Pfister, who died in 2011 at the age of 90, was a player and promoter of North Dakota tennis. A three-time North Dakota high school singles champion from 1936-38, Pfister played at the University of Minnesota, competing at the #3 singles position. After college, he served in World War II from 1944-46 before returning to Wahpeton to start a dental practice. Pfister won the North Dakota Closed



*Pfister Plaque Acceptance*

men's singles title from 1953-55 and teamed with his father, Herbert, to win the Northwest Tennis Association Father/Son event in 1949.

A tremendous community member, Pfister financially supported many tennis events across the state. He also donated tennis equipment to local schools in Wahpeton, as well as the spectator benches for the new tennis courts in the city. He was the President of the North Dakota Dental Association, was a 10th District Trustee for the National American Dental Association and implemented the dental hygiene program at North Dakota State School of Science. He also served as the Director of the Wahpeton National Bank, and was a member of the City Council, Special Assessment Commission, Chamber of Commerce, Community Development Corporation and Greater North Dakota Association.

"Jack Pfister was an unbelievable tennis enthusiast," nominator and 2016 North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame inductee **Lee Nagel** said. "He was an outstanding player at the high school, college and adult levels, but it was his love and passion for the sport of tennis that, combined with his role as a community leader in Wahpeton, makes him so deserving to be in the North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame."

### JESSIE DAW

*By Terry Nielsen*

When the SD Tennis Hall of Fame was started in 1991, it was to honor people in one of three categories: as a tennis player, coach or contributor. Jessie Daw, 2018 inductee, scores a high grade in all three categories.



*2018 inductees Jessie Daw and Tom Krueger with members of the South Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame*

As a coach during graduate school, she assisted men's and women's tennis at the University of Idaho (Division I). Then, after working as a teaching professional in the Twin Cities, she was named women's coach at Illinois State where she was named conference coach of the year. After earning her doctorate at Illinois, she taught and coached women's tennis at Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD (2001-2014).

As a contributor, she used her sport psychology and education background to help grow the game of tennis. Jessie has served three terms (six years) on the board of directors and chaired committees involved with Community Tennis, National Junior Tennis and Learning, and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She is in her first term of a USTA national committee called the Local Play and Competition committee.

Jessie was nine or ten when her mother signed her up for lessons at Woodlake and McKennan Park. Tournaments came at age 11 and by age 12, she had won the SD Closed and the big Aquatennial tournament in the Twin Cities.



# North & South Dakota Halls of Fame

After winning the SD Open in 1979, she represented the Section at the national Seventeen Magazine Tournament of Champions. Because of her play early that summer, she qualified for USTA national tournaments for the first time.

Before college, Jessie reached national rankings of #103 in 18s singles and #20 in 18s doubles, earning her a full tennis scholarship to Illinois in the Big Ten Conference.

With a Masters of Science degree from Idaho and her Doctor of Philosophy from Illinois, Jessie has been called on countless times for sports presentations over the years. She helped develop curriculum at Northern State and has given back big time to tennis as payback for what the sport has meant to her. She helped resurrect junior tennis in Aberdeen and, in 2009, was the ITA-USTA Northern Section Community Outreach Award Winner. Other honors include the 2011 National Association of Girls and Women in Sport Pathfinder Award, the 2014 SD Association of Health, PE, Recreation and Dance Honor Award, the USTA Northern Wolfenson/Ratner Community Service Award and the 2018 Professional Tennis Registry Member of the Year for SD.

Touching others' lives through friendship and coaching means the most to Jessie, of course.

Said former Northern player, Bridget (Henderson) Coppersmith of Yankton: "Playing for Jessie was a real honor. It gave me a chance to continue my tennis career after high school when she started the tennis program at Northern. She pushed me to achieve successes in my game that I thought were impossible, growing my confidence through her coaching. I learned mental toughness, self-confidence, self-appreciation and have memories of college tennis I will forever cherish."

## TOM KRUEGER

*By Terry Nielsen*

For Coach Tom Krueger, winning is huge, but winning with integrity is the ultimate standard bearer as the tennis coach at Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls. As one of the most successful coaches in SD prep history, Krueger is being inducted into the SD Tennis Hall of Fame in 2018.

Since becoming the Patriots head coach of both the boys (in 2007) and girls team (in 1995), his teams have compiled a dual record of 541 wins and 139 losses, while winning a total of 12 state team titles. Seven of those championships were by the girls' teams from 1997 to 2001, then again in 2016 and 2017. His boys are on a five year winning streak, starting in the 2014 season.

Despite all the trophies and great memories with each title, Tom says his proudest moments "have come when parents and coaches comment on the integrity and class of my players. I have players who put in tremendous hours on the courts in the offseason to be as great as they are during the season, and as great as they are on the court, they are even more as people and students. Winning as much as we have been is a blessing and a lot of fun, but it would mean nothing if we didn't win with integrity on the court and treat our opponents with respect."



*Jessie Daw and Tom Krueger*

Through 2018, he has coached 53 state singles champions and 27 state singles finalists (all flights) as well as 27 state doubles winners and 14 state doubles finalists (also, all flights 1-6). In 2002, he was the Ole Odney Award winner through Augustana as alumni coach of the year, was head coach of the year for all sports at LHS in 1999, conference coach of the year five times and was head coach of the year for the Sioux Falls school district in 2017-18.

Pressed about a playing highlight for himself, Tom remembers what he calls his "one brush with greatness!"

He was playing the Rochester, MN, tournament as a teenager, on the court next to David Wheaton (future tennis professional, Wimbledon semi-finalist). "Midmatch, David got sick, threw up all over the court, then went on to win the match," Tom said.

## 2018 SOUTH DAKOTA TENNIS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RUTH REHN

*By Terry Nielsen*

A long time key official with the SD Activities Association, Ruth Rehn, is being honored with the 2018 SD Tennis Achievement Award for over 30 years of advancing high school tennis in South Dakota.

Ruth grew up in southeastern South Dakota during the 1950-60's when females had very limited opportunities for organized sports. She made the best of life on the farm near Lyons (Tri-Valley High grad 1966) playing anything she could participate in, "as long as it was outdoors!"

Ruth was hired by the SD High School Activities Association in 1974 as the first female administrator to develop and promote the girls sports programs of the state. "From my first day at the SDHSAA until my retirement in 2008, I championed the cause of equal opportunity for girls in sports throughout the state and nation. With the passage of Title IX in 1972, and the inspiration of Billie Jean, "I was armed to make my mark in developing greater opportunities, respect and recognition for girls' athletics," Ruth said.

Ruth's service to others has been noted with induction into the SD Sports Hall of Fame (as well as three other Halls of Fame). Other awards include: Howard Wood Dakota Relays honorary referee, as well as ten other national and state distinguished service awards.

Mignonne Volin Schwebach, who has the distinction of being the first official SD girls high school singles champion (1969), later served on the South Dakota State University Athletic Advisory Council with Ruth. "Ruth was very well respected on that committee for her input," Mignonne said, "and whenever we had questions concerning high school athletics, she would listen intently and offer very sound advice."

As Ruth notes from Billie Jean, "our lifetime of experience can provide others an experience of a lifetime." Ruth was so glad to be a part of tennis, a game which helped shape the lives of so many young people.



*Tennis Achievement Award - Ruth Rehn*

# Local Facility Honored For Excellence by USTA



The Life Time White Bear Lake Athletic Club in White Bear Lake, Minn., was announced as one of 24 winners in the 37th annual USTA Facility Awards program in July. This awards program recognizes excellence in the construction and/or renovation of tennis facilities throughout the country. As a recipient of the award, the club was honored at the USTA semi-annual meeting at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City on Aug. 30.

The White Bear Lake facility offers five indoor and five outdoor tennis courts, with classes available for all ages and all skill levels while continuously working with nonprofit organizations to promote and grow tennis in the city of White Bear Lake.

Originally built in 1988, the facility has undergone more than \$6 million of improvements as recently as 2017 and hosted 14 tournaments with a total of approximately 900 participants in 2017. Most notably, the Pine Tree Apple Classic tournament remains a huge

part of the White Bear tradition, raising nearly \$6 million for cancer research.

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.

White Bear Athletic Club received a wall plaque and an all-weather sign, which can be mounted at the facility.





## NTRP 2019 National Championships

In 2018, the USTA launched a new national adult tournament using the NTRP rating system to create level-based competition at the 18 & Over and 50 & Over age groups. National champions were crowned in men's and women's singles and doubles at the 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5 levels in both 18 & Over and 50 & Over age groups.

Due to the huge success of the 2018 event, the 2019 NTRP National Championships will be expanded to include the 3.0 level for 18 & Over and 50 & Over age groups as well as the 5.0 level for the 18 & Over age group.

### Want to Play?

The USTA Northern Section has an allotted number of spots available for the NTRP National Championship. USTA Northern's quota is one player in each singles division and one two-person team in each doubles division.

To play, you must register for the tournament and also be the highest-ranked eligible player in the 2018 year-end USTA Northern NTRP level. The highest-ranked player in the 2018 USTA/Northern Adult NTRP final rankings for singles 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 divisions will be selected for their respective NTRP level in the Adult 18 & Over division. For the 5.0 division, we will use the Open Singles ranking lists, but only include players rated 5.0 or below.

The highest-ranked player who is 50 years of age or older in the 2018 USTA/Northern Adult NTRP final rankings for singles 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 divisions will be selected for their respective NTRP level in the Adult 50 & Over division.

The highest-ranked doubles team in the 2018 USTA/Northern Adult NTRP final rankings for doubles 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0 divisions will be selected for their corresponding 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 NTRP level in the 18 & Over division. Both players must be rated at or below the given NTRP level.

For the 50 & Over division, the highest-ranked doubles team for doubles 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0 will be selected for their corresponding 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 NTRP level in the Adult 50 & Over

division. Again, both players must be rated at or below the given NTRP level.

If you have any questions on the selection criteria or process, please contact USTA Northern.

### Player Responsibility

When you accept entry to the National NTRP Championship, it is your responsibility to appear. If you decide to withdraw before the entry deadline, please withdraw from the tournament online and inform USTA Northern immediately so another player can be added to the event. If you must withdraw from a tournament after the entry deadline, please notify the tournament director and Northern office immediately.



### 2019 DATES AND LOCATIONS:

#### 18 & Over Men's & Women's 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 Singles

Academia Sanchez-Casal, Naples, FL  
Friday, March 29 – Sunday, March 31, 2019  
(This tournament will be played on clay courts.)

#### 18 & Over Men's & Women's 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 Doubles

Academia Sanchez-Casal, Naples, FL  
Friday, April 5 – Sunday, April 7, 2019  
(This tournament will be played on clay courts.)

#### 50 & Over Men's & Women's 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 Singles

Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex, Surprise, AZ  
Friday, March 29 – Sunday, March 31, 2019

#### 50 & Over Men's & Women's 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 Doubles

Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex, Surprise, AZ  
Friday, April 5 – Sunday, April 7, 2019

### Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic

Congratulations to Diana Bukajeva and Andres Osorio on winning the Open Division at the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic. This was Bukajeva's fourth year participating in the PTATC and Osorio's second. They defeated Tooli Wilkins and Julian Dehn 6-3, 6-0 in the finals.

Meghan Kimber and Kevin Werwie won the Masters Division with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Ali King and Justin Seim. Susan Rudd and Dan Shannon captured the Grand Masters Division with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Kathy Bjornson and Bob Marolt.

The Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic is a premier mixed doubles tournament held annually in August. It features more than 100 of the area's top men's and women's tennis players and has raised nearly \$6 million for children's cancer research. The 2019 Pine Tree Apple Classic will be held Thursday, Aug. 1 – Sunday, Aug. 4 at Life Time in White Bear Lake.



# Congratulations Junior Sectional Winners

Congratulations to the following winners and finalists of the 2018 USTA Northern Summer Junior Section Championships which took place at Baseline Tennis Center and Life Time – Lakeville.

### SINGLES

**Girls 18s - Nicole Copeland** (Edina, Minn.) def. **Madeline Suk** (Minnetonka, Minn.) 6-2, 1-6, 6-4

**Girls 16s - Karin Young** (Apple Valley, Minn.) def. **Nore Ann Heinitz** (Duluth, Minn.) 6-1, 6-1

**Girls 14s - Vunnisa Vu** (St. Paul, Minn.) def. **Selah Stibbins** (Minneapolis, Minn.) 6-3, 1-6, 7-5

**Girls 12s - Annika Munson** (Stillwater, Minn.) def. **Emmeline Wang** (Hamel, Minn.) 6-0, 6-2

**Boys 18s - Hunter Heck** (St. Paul, Minn.) def. **Matthew Kregness** (Wayzata, Minn.) 6-0, 6-1

**Boys 16s - Bjorn Swenson** (North Oaks, Minn.) def. **Sujit Chepuri** (Minneapolis, Minn.) 6-2, 6-2

**Boys 14s - Oskar Jansson** (Minneapolis, Minn.) def. **Allen Gong** (Eagan, Minn.) 2-6, 6-2, 6-3

**Boys 12s - Will Lieberman** (Mahtomedi, Minn.) def. **Tej Bhagra** (Rochester, Minn.) 6-3, 6-3

**Girls 18s - Nicole Copeland** (Edina, Minn.)/**Madeline Suk** (Minnetonka, Minn.) def. **Lauren Ferg** (Eagan, Minn.)/**Kathryn Mulvey** (Woodbury, Minn.) 7-5

**Girls 16s - Nicole Snezhko** (Plymouth, Minn.)/**Karin Young** (Apple Valley, Minn.) def. **Nore Ann Heinitz** (Duluth, Minn.)/**Aili Hietala** (Duluth, Minn.) 6-1

**Girls 14s - Sarah Shahbaz** (Ham Lake, Minn.)/**Selah Stibbins** (Minneapolis, Minn.) def. **Reegan Mullaney** (Edina, Minn.)/**Paige Sargent** (Rochester, Minn.) 6-1

**Girls 12s - Ancele Dolensek** (Rochester, Minn.)/**Claire Loftus** (Rochester, Minn.) def. **Greta Holmes** (Maple Grove, Minn.)/**Emmeline Wang** (Hamel, Minn.) 6-3

**Boys 18s - Hunter Heck** (St. Paul, Minn.)/**John Kasner** (Orono, Minn.) def. **Nick Aney** (Rochester, Minn.)/**Maxim Zagrebelny** (Eagan, Minn.) 6-3

**Boys 16s - Joe Mairs** (Edina, Minn.)/**Gavin Young** (Apple Valley, Minn.) def. **Sujit Chepuri** (Minneapolis, Minn.)/**Bjorn Swenson** (North Oaks, Minn.) 7-6(4)

**Boys 14s - Allen Gong** (Eagan, Minn.)/**Oskar Jansson** (Minneapolis, Minn.) def. **Ojas Bhagra** (Rochester, Minn.)/**Luke Fridinger** (St. Paul, Minn.) 6-2

**Boys 12s - Will Lieberman** (Mahtomedi, Minn.)/**Carter Magistad** (Stillwater, Minn.) def. **Hugh Perrill** (Wayzata, Minn.)/**Owen Skanse** (Edina, Minn.) 6-3

### Congratulations Spring State Tournament Champions

Congratulations to the 2018 Spring state tournament winners including:

### MINNESOTA BOYS

**Class AA Team: The Blake School**

**Singles: Sebastian Vile** (Rochester Mayo)

**Doubles: Nisal Liyanage/Sourabh Terakanambi** (Eastview)

**Class A Team: Rochester Lourdes High School**

**Singles: Demetri Bush** (Duluth Denfeld)

**Doubles: Pavao Veldic/Kevin Turlington** (Rochester Lourdes)

This was Blake's first year competing in Class 2A and it is the first school in state history to win a title in Class A one season and Class 2A the next.

### NORTH DAKOTA GIRLS

**Team: Minot**

**Singles: Shaelyn Johnson** (Grand Forks Red River)

**Doubles: Monti Knewtson/Mimi Gu** (West Fargo Sheyenne)

### SOUTH DAKOTA BOYS

**Team: Sioux Falls Lincoln**

**Singles, Flight 1: Sam Dobbs** (SF Lincoln)

**Flight 2: Chris Harris** (SF Wash-

ington) **Flight 3: Graham Leonard** (SF Lincoln) **Flight 4: Rahul Giri** (SF Lincoln) **Flight 5: Dawson Segrist** (Rapid City Stevens) **Flight 6: Gavin Schmit** (SF Lincoln)

**Doubles, Flight 1: A. Nguyen/S. Smith** (SF Roosevelt) **Flight 2: A. Loes/B. Miller** (Mitchell) **Flight 3: C. Hellwig/S. Titus** (Aberdeen Roncalli)



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### Max Exsted

Max Exsted of Savage, Minn., captured both a gold and silver ball this summer in USTA national tournament play.

Exsted trains at InnerCity Tennis in South Minneapolis and is currently ranked #10 in the nation.

"The National Clay Court tournament is one of the most prestigious junior tennis events in the world," ICT Executive Director John Wheaton said in a press release. "All of us at InnerCity Tennis are so proud of Max's achievement. Beyond his talent on the court, his work ethic, positive attitude and integrity are equally impressive."

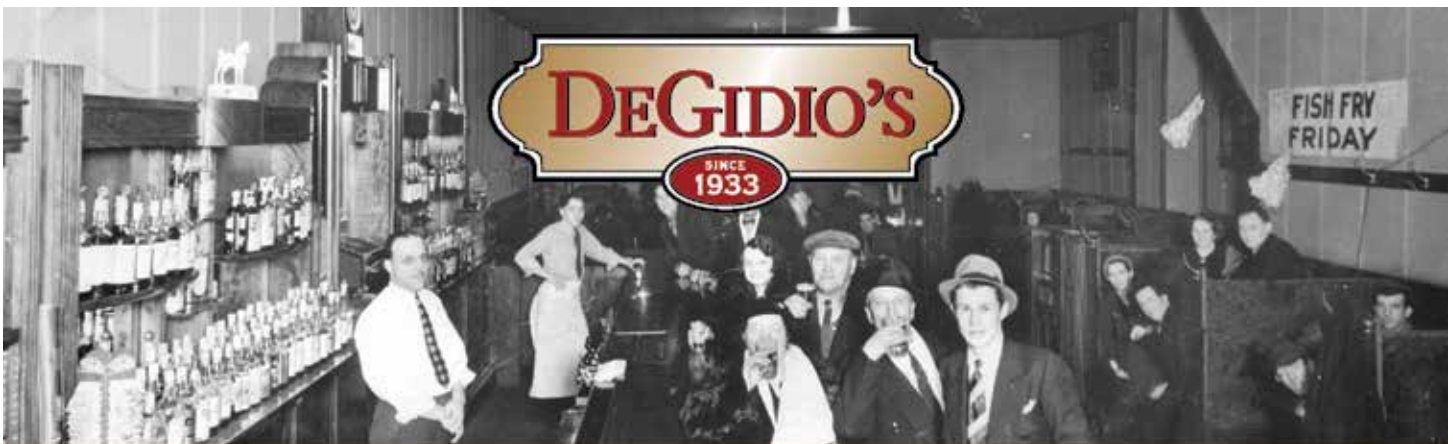
Exsted and his partner, Rudy Quan of Sacramento, captured the gold ball in doubles during the USTA Boys' 12U National Clay Court Championships in Orlando, FL, and the silver ball at the USTA National Hard Court Championships in Mobile, AL. Congratulations, Max!



Photo Credit: Manuela Davies



Photo Credit: Manuela Davies



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# Junior Team Tennis

*Life Time St. Louis Park won both the 14U and 18U Advanced Championships and Life Time Bloomington South won both the 14U and 18U Intermediate Junior Team Tennis Divisions.*

*The 2018 USTA Northern Junior Team Tennis Section Championships were held July 23-26 at the Baseline Tennis Center on the University of Minnesota campus. The event opened with the 14U Advanced and Intermediates, followed by the 18U Advanced and Intermediates. In all, 34 teams and more than 700 kids participated in the JTT Section Championship. Congratulations to all the teams and individual sportsman-ship winners!*

## 14U Advanced and 18U Advanced Championships

Life Time St. Louis Park finished the 14U Advanced round-robin flight with 76 total games won. St. Paul Urban Tennis was second with 46 total games and received a wild card to the USTA JTT National Championships.

Life Time St. Louis Park won the 18U Advanced title defeating Life

Time Bloomington South in the finals 40-17.

## 14U Intermediate and 18U Intermediate Championships

Life Time Bloomington South won the 14U Intermediate title defeating Inner City Tennis in the finals 33-22.

Life Time Bloomington South won the 18U Intermediate title defeating St. Paul Urban Tennis in the finals, 37-28.

All four winning teams qualified for the USTA JTT National Championships at the USTA National Campus in Orlando, FL, in November.



## POINTS COUNTING UP

Starting Oct. 1, 2018, all combined ranking points will now count up, from the player's lower age group to the next highest age group – 20 percent of the lower age group will count towards the next highest age group, regardless if a player has no results in the older age division. Points will only count up one age group – For example – 14s results will count only in 16s and not also in 18s. If you have questions, please contact **Katie Bergmann** at [katie@northern.usta.com](mailto:katie@northern.usta.com).

## WORLD TEAM TENNIS

For the second year running, more than 35 teams participated in USTA Northern's World Team Tennis program, an alternative team play opportunity to the traditional Junior Team Tennis format. The program aims to get teams of similar ability levels competing in a fun, competitive atmosphere. The program offers opportunities for intermediate level players ages 10-18.

Teams consist of a minimum of two girls and two boys and players do not have to be USTA members to participate. It also uses an alternative play format allowing substitutions, overtimes and power-up points. All teams advanced to a Section championship at the end of the summer but were not eligible for National Championship play. More information on the WTT format can be found at [wtrec.com](http://wtrec.com).

Teams from the Twin Cities, Sioux Falls, Fargo, Valley City, and Mandan competed in the World Team Tennis Section Championships at Lakeville North High School, Lakeville South High School, and Life Time Lakeville. Congratulations to the Section championship winners and finalists.

**12U Intermediate: Fearhand (Fargo) def. St. Paul Urban Tennis 29-13**

**14U Intermediate: Ace of Clubs (Sioux Falls) def. Mandan Littles 25-24**

**18U Intermediate: Fargo #1 def. Eden Prairie Red 24-21**

Shout out to the most creative team names this year: Sioux Falls for "2 L's make a W" and Columbia Heights for Fire Breathing Rubber Duckies!





## Team Tennis



WTT: 12U Champions Fearhand



WTT: 12U Finalist St. Paul Urban Tennis



JTT: 14U Advanced St. Louis Park



JTT: 14U Advanced St. Paul Urban Tennis



JTT: 14U Intermediate Bloomington South



WTT: 18U Champions Fargo #1



WTT: 14U Finalist Mandan



WTT: 14U Champions Ace of Clubs



JTT: 18U Intermediate Bloomington South



# Adult Updates

The **55 & Over Adult League Sectional Championships** were held July 28 and 29 at St. Paul Academy. Fifteen teams competed in round robin play.

The following teams will be representing Northern at the 55 & Over National Championships on clay in Orlando during October.



55 & Over 7.0 Men - Narvaez



55 & Over 7.0 Women - Brown



55 & Over 8.0 Men - Dalton



55 & Over 8.0 Women - Conway

**7.0 WOMEN** - Captained by **Barb Brown** and **Penny Prescott**, playing out of Williston Fitness Center

**8.0 WOMEN** - Captained by **Kay Conway** and **Ruth Church**, playing out of Life Time Lakeville

**7.0 MEN** - Captained by **Eric Narvaez** and Peter Haan, playing out of St. Paul Academy

**8.0 MEN** - Captained by **Paul Dalton**, playing out of Baseline Tennis Center

Also advancing to the 55 & Over National Championships by winning their local league seasons are:

**6.0 WOMEN** - Captained by **Sue Ensign** and **Julies Hoffer**, playing out of Life Time Crosstown

**6.0 MEN** - Captained by **Eric Narvaez** and **George Kimball**, playing out of St. Paul Academy

**9.0 MEN** - Captained by **Ken Cychosz**, playing out of Life Time Eden Prairie

The **18 & Over Adult League Sectional Championships** were held Aug. 10-12 at Inner City Tennis, Life Time St. Louis Park and Baseline Tennis Center. Sixty-two teams competed in round robin play during the weekend.

The following teams will be representing Northern at various locations at the 18 & Over National Championships in early October.



18 & Over 2.5 Women - Sundick

**2.5 WOMEN** - Captained by **Barb Sundick** and coached by **Barb Meyer**, playing out of Oak Ridge Country Club

**3.0 WOMEN** - Captained by **Dawn Wildfeuer** and **Roxann Pike**, playing out of the Rochester Athletic Club

**3.5 WOMEN** - Captained by **Kim Wolson**, playing out of Golden Valley Country Club

**4.0 WOMEN** - Captained by **Amy Benike** and **Kristen Kolpek**, playing out of the Rochester Tennis Connection

**4.5 WOMEN** - Captained by **Connie Palacio**, playing out of Life Time Oakdale Village

**3.0 MEN** - Captained by **Dan Edwardson**, playing out of Life Time St. Louis Park

**3.5 MEN** - Captained by **Irfan Sandozi**, playing out of Life Time Fridley

**4.0 MEN** - Captained by **Aaron Johnson**, playing out of Life Time Bloomington South

**4.5 MEN** - Captained by **Bruce Gullikson** and **Ken Cychosz**, playing out of Life Time Bloomington South

Also advancing from local league play to the 5.0+ Men's National Championships is the team captained by **Brian Utz**, playing out of St. Paul Academy.



18 & Over 3.0 Men - Edwardson



18 & Over 3.0 Women - Wildfeuer



18 & Over 3.5 Men - Sandozi



18 & Over 3.5 Women - Wolson



18 & Over 4.0 Men - Johnson



18 & Over 4.0 Women - Benike



18 & Over 4.5 Men - Gullikson



18 & Over 4.5 Women - Palacio



The **40 & Over Adult League Sectional Championships** were held Aug. 24-26 at Baseline Tennis Center. Twenty-nine teams competed in round robin play during the weekend.

The following teams will be representing Northern at various locations at the 40 & Over National Championships in late October:

**3.0 WOMEN** - Captained by **Tia Fjelstad** and **Jennifer Lewis**, playing out of Life Time Eden Prairie

**3.5 WOMEN** - Captained by **Cathy Carney** and **Julie Damico**, playing out of Life Time Lakeville (The Section Champion team for the 40 & Over 3.5 Women was the **Val Ronning** team out of Sioux Falls, SD. They were unable to advance to nationals. The second place Carney/Damico team agreed to fill in to represent Northern.)

**4.0 WOMEN** - Captained by **Kerry Reiling** and **Lynda Stout**, playing out of Life Time St. Louis Park

**3.0 MEN** - Captained by **Carl Bigby**, playing out of Life Time Lakeville

**3.5 MEN** - Captained by **Don Crofut** and **Daniel Le**, playing out of Life Time Bloomington South

**4.0 MEN** - Captained by **Jim Kappas** and **Jeff Moe**, playing out of Life Time Oakdale Village

**4.5 MEN** - Captained by **Bruce Gullikson** and **Ken Cychosz**, playing out of Life Time Bloomington South



40 & Over 3.0 Men - Bigby



40 & Over 3.0 Women - Fjelstad



40 & Over 3.5 Men - Crofut



40 & Over 3.5 Women - Ronning



40 & Over 4.0 Men - Kappas



40 & Over 4.0 Women - Reiling

Also advancing from local league play to the 4.5+ Women's National Championships is the team captained by **Lennae Grahn** and **Marybeth McDonald**, playing out of Life Time Bloomington South.

The **Mixed Doubles 18 & Over League Sectional Championships** were held Sept. 7-9 at Coon Rapid High School. Twenty-nine teams competed in round robin play.

The following teams will be representing Northern at the Mixed Doubles 18 & Over National Championships Nov. 9-11 in Mobile, AL:

**6.0** - Captained by **Dan Edwardson** and **Jeff Nelson**, playing out of Life Time Bloomington South

**7.0** - Captained by **Jeanne Ewen**, playing out of Life Time Bloomington South



40 & Over 4.5+ Men - Gullikson



40 & Over 4.5+ Women - Grahn



6.0 Mixed Doubles - Edwardson



7.0 Mixed Doubles - Ewen



8.0 Mixed Doubles - Johnson



9.0 Mixed Doubles - Humann

**8.0** - Captained by **Sarah Foley** and **Aaron Johnson**, playing out of Life Time Bloomington South

**9.0** - Captained by **Sara Humann**, playing out of Life Time St. Louis Park

Three teams qualified through local league play for the **Mixed Doubles 40 & Over National Championships**, being held Nov. 16-18 in Orlando, FL:

**6.0** - Captained by **Carl Bigby**, playing out of Life Time Bloomington South

**7.0** - Captained by **Carl Bigby** and **Eric Narvaez**, playing out of Life Time Bloomington South

**8.0** - Captained by **Suzanne Harman** and **Jay Obenauer**, playing out of Baseline Tennis Center

Three teams thus far have qualified through local league play for the **USTA League 65 & Over National Invitational Tournament**, being held late January/early February 2019 in Surprise, AZ.

**6.0 MEN** - Captained by **Eric Narvaez** and **Patrick Ledray**, playing out of St. Paul Academy

**7.0 WOMEN** - Captained by **Carol Thies**, playing out of Life Time Bloomington South

**8.0 WOMEN** - Captained by **Sue Stedman**

### Tennis in Your Park

A core component in growing the game of tennis is getting more people on the court – and keeping them there. USTA Northern's "Tennis in Your Park" program works to get more adults playing tennis consistently by providing high-quality lessons in their communities.

Originally introduced in 2015, the program has grown rapidly. In its first year, Tennis in Your Park contracted with one community. A couple years later, that number has grown to 12 and sites have been expanded in Minneapolis while the number of participants has jumped from 129 to more than 300. **USTA Northern's Adult Recreational Play Coordinator Kathy Schneider** oversees the program and credits communities and instructors for providing a fun, educational environment every session.

"The communities do such a great job getting the word out to their residents – they understand what the needs of their communities are, and how best to connect with them," **Schneider said**. "The instructors are key to providing a positive, learning experience – when players have fun on court, they want to keep playing!"

Maintaining and growing a pool of quality instructors is critical to the success of the program. This season, 20 instructors have been hired and trained.

Along with building a pool of dedicated and passionate instructors, the curriculum has been evolving over the last four years. The Net Generation Community program has been adapted to address the specific needs of the Adult player, with an emphasis on instant rally success.

"As a novice instructor, both the training class and Net Generation lesson plan binder were extremely helpful. It was nice to have a detailed lesson plan for each class, if needed," **said instructor Mark Encell**. "I followed the lesson plans very closely for the first couple



*Carter Bayne and class*

classes and from there on was more comfortable improvising more; but to have them as a reference guide was invaluable."

Schneider believes there is significant potential for growth. In addition to expanding the Tennis in Your Park Program, instructors can help direct interested players to Adult USTA 2.5 leagues and Mixed 5.5 leagues, as well as indoor play opportunities at facilities in the area.

**Instructor Carter Bayne's** focus is on creating an enjoyable, active, and social atmosphere to all the participants in his classes; but he benefits from the positivity as well.

"Every group just seems fantastic in their own way and it really makes me feel inspired about growing and maintaining the fantastic tennis community we have in the Twin Cities," **Bayne said**.

Additionally, interest in the sport itself is only one of the reasons behind the burgeoning popularity.



*Tennis in Your Park class*



## Community Tennis Updates

Tennis around the country has grown in popularity due to its health benefits, with more people playing for the cardiovascular workout and social engagement.

"Participants enjoy learning new skills and getting exercise in a welcoming, social, FUN environment right in their community park," **Schneider added.** "The Net Generation Community 'Learn to Play' curriculum does a great job of promoting early success, with a focus on serve, rally and play."

As the demand for the program continues to grow, Schneider plans to explore new options to add daytime programs and additional parks.



(L to R) Instructors Tammy Anderson, Heather Pederson, Michael Jacob, Dan Westerhaus, Brian Rusche, Aaron Peck

## VCSU Vikings Team Accepts Club of the Year Award

The Valley City State University Vikings Club Tennis team made the trip to New York during the US Open to accept the national Tennis on Campus Club of the Year Award.

Each year, the USTA Tennis on Campus program honors a club that has made significant contributions to the USTA Tennis on Campus program on their respective campus. To qualify, clubs must demonstrate progress in multiple criteria, like increased participation and quality,

creative marketing and fundraising, development of outreach efforts linking their program to the community and more.

The Tennis on Campus program was established in 2000 and the Club of the Year award began in 2009. Past winners include Cornell University, the University of Alabama, and North Dakota State University.

Congratulations to the Vikings on earning their award – keep up the good work!





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