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NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Huether Family Match Pointe Named USTA Facility Winner

Huether Family Match

Pointe in Sioux Falls, S.D., is one of 12 winners in the 36th annual USTA Facility Awards program, which recognizes excellence in the construction and/or renovation of tennis facilities throughout the country. Huether Family Match Pointe will be honored at the Next Generation: A Tennis Innovation Workshop October 11-15, at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld in Orlando, Fla.



The Huether Family Match Pointe in Sioux Falls was one of 12 facilities nationally and two public facilities named 2017 USTA Outstanding Facility winners.

The Huether Family Match Pointe facility boasts six indoor tennis courts in one location, something the Sioux Falls community of 175,000 has not had in more than 20 years. As the only public, non-profit facility in the area, no membership is required in order to use the courts or participate in the facility's programs. Huether Family Match Pointe attendees span a wide range of ages, offering youth lessons, adult lessons and drills, leagues and tournaments while also hosting collegiate matches, high school matches, youth play days and youth outreach programming.

"Great tennis facilities like Huether Family Match Pointe help us to grow the game at the grass-roots level, and we are proud to recognize them for their ongoing impact on the sport of tennis," said **Kurt Kamperman**, USTA Chief Executive Community Tennis and the USTA National Campus. "Huether Family Match Pointe has embraced many of our 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 non-profit 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; Educational Institutions; and Private Facilities that support the USTA and other "growth of the game" programs open to the public.

All 2017 award winners will receive a wall plaque and an all-weather sign, which can be mounted at the facility. Certificates of award will be made available to park and recreation departments, schools and those professionals responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of the facility. In addition, a one-year complimentary membership to the USTA is awarded to each winning facility.

Join The Net Generation



As the national governing body of tennis, the USTA's mission is to promote and develop the growth of tennis. I've been with the Northern section for over 20 years, and over those two decades, I've seen numerous USTA programs, initiatives and services piloted. Some are aces right up the T and still thrive today (USTA Leagues, Junior Team Tennis, School Tennis, Adult and Junior Tournaments), while others (Play Tennis America, Tennis

Welcome Centers and USA Tennis 1-2-3) were double faults for whatever reasons.

Much like running a for-profit business, a non-profit, like the USTA, must continually look for ways to not just keep up, but constantly be "best-in-class" when it comes to sport and recreation. The marketplace is rich with challengers such as traditional sports like football, baseball, basketball, golf, etc. And now, there are other groups looking for a seat at the table including lacrosse, rugby, soccer, gymnastics and dance. Then add the whole new genre of "Extreme Sports," many I did not know even existed until seeing the X-Games in Minneapolis this summer.

We are also fighting another major challenger - Gaming! Whether it is PlayStation, Wii, Xbox or the thousands of other games people play on their mobile devices, getting people to exercise more than just their fingers has presented a truly unique and troubling problem, and perhaps our greatest challenger yet.

Never one to back down from a challenge or try new things, the USTA is excited to introduce its new youth initiative called Net Generation for kids ages 5-18. Net Generation is built around the ideals of empowerment, unity and play with the ultimate objective to connect millions of kids to the lifetime sport of tennis. It is also a platform to celebrate individuality and champion self-expression, inspiring a new generation of players, providers and parents.

Phase I of Net Generation, which is being introduced at the US Open Series tournaments and the US Open, starts with our providers. You know them as clubs, park and recs, schools, Community Tennis Associations, coaches, parent volunteers and certified teaching professionals. We are currently working on this by engaging our providers through conversation, education and alignment, hoping they will join us in being part of the Net Generation.

We are also putting our money where our mouth is by investing in each and everyone one of our Net Generation ambassadors by pro-

viding complementary benefits including new and improved curriculums for all age groups, background screenings to ensure the safety of our children participating in the programs, videos, marketing resources, tablets with pre-loaded tennis apps, tennis equipment and apparel and much more. Anyone providing tennis programming to kids can go online and register at www.netgeneration.com. Once providers have completed the background screening and watched the Safe Play video (please allow 45 minutes to complete the entire registration process), they will have access to all of these benefits in helping deliver tennis to kids of all ages and ability levels. It is a win-win for all who join this fresh and innovative approach to growing the game!

But for it to work, we need all tennis providers to go online and register. Think of www.netgeneration.com like the launch of Uber – the ever-growing ride-sharing program that changed the transportation industry in the past three years. Uber solidified its infrastructure by hiring thousands and thousands of drivers all around the world before ever offering its first ride to the public. The

USTA is handling Net Generation in a similar manner, populating the website with thousands of programs across the Section, before launching it to the consumer looking for tennis opportunities. We need to have all tennis programs registered and listed on www.netgeneration.com so kids and families can find the right options for them.

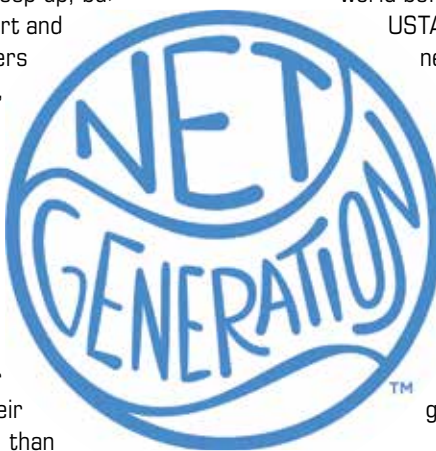
For all those parents of players, players and future players reading this, stay tuned because Net Generation is coming to you with all of these programs registered, background screened and ready to go in early 2018!

This is an exciting time for the USTA and tennis in general. With so many fantastic youth programs in our market, uniting under a single, customer-facing brand, like Net Generation, is vital for the success and growth of the sport. The Net Generation brand is the first of its kind to capture the imagination of providers, kids and parents. It also creates a sense of ownership because the USTA is putting the customer first by meeting the demands and schedules of today's parents and kids.

Inspiring youth to play and be kids again, but on their terms is critical to ensuring the USTA remains relevant in the crowded sports market. Through Net Generation, we will connect all families interested in tennis to their local programs, as well as enabling players to enjoy this sport of a lifetime.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Goldammer".

Mike Goldammer
USTA Northern Executive Director



LET'S SHAPE THE FUTURE OF TENNIS



Net Generation, powered by the USTA, makes it easier and more fun to get kids and teens into tennis. We provide the tools, world-class curricula, marketing materials and training to empower coaches, teachers, parents, volunteers, NJTL networks and community organizations to grow the game.

The next generation of tennis starts now!

Here's what we're serving up:

- Comprehensive print and digital curricula
- Equipment starter kits and/or welcome packs (depending on provider)
- Free online and in-person training
- Marketing campaigns promoting your program
- Free registration with helpful digital tools including a Program Management Center, educational support, and the Net Generation Coaching App



Join The Net Generation today:
NETGENERATION.COM



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2017 USTA Northern Hall of Fame Inductees

Tim Burke (Minneapolis, Minn.) and **Brent Frueh** (Rochester, Minn.) will be inducted into the USTA Northern Hall of Fame on Friday, Nov. 17, at Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington, Minn., as part of the 2017 USTA Northern Annual Awards Dinner. The celebration of USTA Northern's best opens with a reception from 6:00-7:00 p.m., followed by dinner, awards and the Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased by contacting **Lisa Mushett** at mushett@northern.usta.com or at (952) 358-3282.

The USTA Northern Hall of Fame started as the Minnesota Hall of Fame in 1979. **Bob Larson**, who was editor of *Midwest Tennis Magazine* and a resident of Edina, Minn., founded the Hall of Fame and inducted seven people in the original class including **JJ Armstrong**, **Jeanne Arth**, **Ward C. Burton**, **Bill Kuross**, **Norm MacDonald**, **Muriel Magnusson Cooper** and **Frank Voigt**.

In the late 80s, the Northwestern Tennis Association approached Larson about the Minnesota Hall of Fame expanding and becoming the Northwestern Tennis Association Hall of Fame, which would induct people not only from Minnesota, but also individuals in North and South Dakota and Northwestern Wisconsin. The Northwestern Tennis Association became the USTA Northern Section in March of 1988, and finally its current name, USTA Northern in 2005. The Hall of Fame changed its name both times as well.

The USTA Northern Hall of Fame currently has 108 members with the additions of Burke and Frueh, and is housed at the Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center in St. Paul, Minn., thanks to a generous gift from 2003 Hall of Fame inductee **Fred Wells**.

Tim Burke Minneapolis, Minn.

Originally from Rochester, Minn., Burke, who started teaching tennis at age 16, earned finalist honors in doubles at the state tournament for Mayo High School. He played two years at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., where he was the MIAC singles and doubles champion in 1970. Burke then transferred to the University of Minnesota and played for the Gophers in 1972.

After graduating from the U, Burke joined the Peace Corps as an English teacher in Africa. Burke was named the National



Tennis Coach for Nigeria, leading them to a gold medal at the All-African Games in 1973.

He returned to the Twin Cities, serving as the Director of Adult and Junior Camps at Carleton College and the Minneapolis Tennis Club before becoming co-director at the Richfield Teaching Center with current USTA Northern Hall of Famer Greg Lappin. There he created a program called Adult STP, similar to today's Cardio Tennis, offering pre- and post-performance testing for its participants.

During this time, Burke started wheelchair tennis in the Section, coaching 30 players between 1983-93. He was the head of wheelchair tennis for both the USPTA Northern Division and USTA Northern and served as Twin Cities National Wheelchair Team head coach, as well as the personal coach of nationally-ranked player **Scott McNiese**. He was the tournament director of the wheelchair division at the National Public Parks Championships and won a gold ball in the Stand-Up/Sit-Down Division. He still works today with USTA Northern's wheelchair programs at Sister Kenny in Minneapolis.

Burke has served as the head pro at Normandale Tennis Club and Minnesota Tennis Camps at Baseline Tennis Center and was an assistant coach at Bethel University from 2008-12. He also worked with former Minnesota state high school champions **Dusty** and **Toby Boyer** and has been a volunteer coach at Harding and Humboldt High Schools in St. Paul and Minneapolis Southwest High Schools. Currently, he is a teaching professional at Life Time Fitness Fridley and Assistant Girls Varsity coach at Minneapolis Southwest High School with fellow USTA Northern Hall of Famer Susie Neet.

A member of the USTA for over 50 years and the USPTA, Burke served as a USPTA Northern Division Board Member for 35 years, including as President, and was a member of the USPTA National Nominating Committee. He was named the USPTA Northern Division Pro of the Year in 2004 and led the USTA Northern "Tennis Across America" campaign in the 90s.

An avid USTA League and Adult Tournament player and captain, Burke has won six League section championships and was a member of the USTA Northern 50 & Over League National Championship team in 2004. He won the National Public Parks doubles title in 1984 and 1990, the USTA Northern 35s Doubles Section title (1985), as well as a gold medal in doubles and a silver medal in singles at the 2015 National Senior Games.

Burke's reach is still worldwide as he returned to Cape Town, South Africa, in both 2012 and 2015 teaching tennis to four different low-income townships in the area and donating tennis racquets to these communities. He is a published author and accomplished speaker, penning **The Strategy Circle**, and presenting at a number of conferences in the Section.

Burke and his wife **Shelia Hickey** of South Bend, Ind., have two daughters, **Anna** and **Maggie**, and two grandsons **JJ** and **Charlie**.

Brent Frueh **Rochester, Minn. (originally from Minot, N.D.)**



Frueh was born and raised in Minot, N.D., where he started playing tennis as a sophomore in high school. He played collegiately at Minot State University before transferring to the University of North Dakota in 1987, where he walked on the team. He finished his collegiate career, winning conference championships in singles and doubles, as well as leading his team to the conference title in 1989.

After graduation, Frueh moved to Bismarck, N.D., where he worked as the Facility Manager at Capital Racquet and Fitness Center and also was responsible for the tennis program for Bismarck Parks and Recreation. While at Capital Racquet and Fitness, tennis participation exploded with over 400 kids playing in summer tennis programming. Frueh introduced a United States Tennis Association (USTA) pilot program called Rallyball and designed the first "mini tennis court" in the United States at Sertoma Tennis Courts in Bismarck, putting the city on the tennis map nationally and well before the 10 and Under Tennis phenomenon hit the United States. He also ran a tennis carnival with over 200 participants annually and organized the tennis community to march in the Annual Band Day Parade. For the parade, Frueh created a moving tennis court that went down the streets of Bismarck while

volunteers handed out free tennis racquets with directions on where to find tennis programming to kids along the parade route.

He also coached the girls tennis team at Bismarck Century High School from 1990-2001. During that time, they became a powerhouse in the West Region of the state and were a regular fixture at the state championships. Century won state titles in 1997 and 2001 and had an 115-match western North Dakota dual match winning streak before Frueh left in 2001.

A USPTA and PTR certified coach and a USTA High Performance Coach, Frueh moved to the Rochester Athletic Club in Rochester, Minn., in 2001, and was promoted to the facility's General Manager in 2012. In his career, he has coached over 20 junior players to state championships in both Minnesota and North Dakota.

He also has been a long-time volunteer with USTA Northern, serving on its Board of Directors from 1995-2012. In 2009-10, he was the Section's President. He has served on the USTA National level where he completed four terms on the Junior Competition Committee and has been a member of three USTA Presidential Task Forces.

For his efforts, Frueh was a four-time North Dakota High School Coach of the Year and a national finalist for High School Tennis Coach of the Year in 2001. He also earned the USTA National Eve Kraft Community Service Award and the USTA Northern Community Service Award in 1999. In 2002, Frueh and the Rochester Athletic Club staff received the USTA Northern Ward Burton Junior Development Award. He was named the PTR Newcomer of the Year Award (2000), the USPTA Northern Division Community Service Award winner (2004) and USPTA Pro of the Year (2009). He was inducted into the North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame in 2016.

Frueh is married to **Shari** and they have two children, **Emily** and **Eric**. Eric played tennis at the University of Minnesota and was a member of the 2015 Big Ten Championship team.

Nominate Deserving Individuals/Organizations For Annual Awards

Recognize those individuals and organizations that have gone above and beyond to grow the game of tennis in your community. USTA Northern is accepting nominations for its 2017 Annual Awards in the following categories:

- Albert Teeter Adult Sportsmanship Award
- Jerry Noyce Junior Sportsmanship Award
- Member Organization of the Year
- Family of the Year
- Wolfenson/Ratner Community Service Award
- Frank Voigt Pro of the Year
- Jack Dow Adult Development Award
- Ward C. Burton Junior Development Award
- Bob Larson Media Person of the Year.

The 2017 Awards Directory which includes past winners and criteria, as well as nomination forms can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/2wEb1bj>. Nominations are due no later than Friday, Sept. 15.



The USTA Northern Awards Dinner and Hall of Fame Inductions will be Friday, Nov. 17 at Minnesota Valley Country Club. Tickets are \$50. For more information, or to order tickets, please contact **Lisa Mushett** at Mushett@northern.usta.com or at (952) 358-3282.

North Dakota & South Dakota Halls of Fame Induct New Members

North Dakota

David Geatz, originally of Grand Forks, N.D., and **Terry Paukert**, also of Grand Forks, N.D., were inducted into the North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame Saturday, June 24, at Choice Health & Fitness in Grand Forks as part of the China Garden Open.

Geatz, who is currently the head coach at the University of Pennsylvania, was born and raised in Grand Forks. He played tennis at Red River High School from 1972-75, where he was a member of the state championship team in 1973. He also won the state doubles title with partner **Rich Dahlen** that year and was the North Dakota state singles champion in 1974 and 1975. He finished his high school career with a 104-3 record, with the three losses coming his freshman season. The next three years, he won 90 straight matches and was named to *Sports Illustrated's* Faces in The Crowd in 1975. He was later inducted into the Grand Forks Red River High School Athletics Hall of Fame.

He went on to play college tennis at the University of New Mexico where he earned all-conference honors in 1979, and won the conference doubles title with partner **Jess Bec-Mueller** that same year. After college, he played professionally in Europe where he won eight tournaments.

After earning his degree in University Studies from New Mexico in 1981, Geatz returned to his alma mater as the head men's tennis coach from 1983-88, leading his team to a Top 20 ranking and earning Western Athletic Conference and NCAA Regional Coach of the Year honors.

Geatz then served as head coach of the University of Minnesota men's program from 1988-2006. During his tenure, the Gophers won five Big Ten championships and compiled a 45-match winning streak in conference play. He was a three-time Big Ten Coach of the Year and earned NCAA Regional Coach of the Year accolades once. His teams appeared in 12 straight NCAA Championships, and were ranked as high as #10 nationally. He also coached All-American **Harsh Mankad**, who was ranked #1 in the



David Geatz

nation in singles.

After leaving the Gophers, Geatz served as the Director of Tennis at the Hong Kong Country Club in Hong Kong, before returning to the collegiate ranks as the Associate Head Coach at Ohio State in 2007-08. He was then hired as the men's head coach at Cornell in 2008, and in 2009, coached both the men's and women's teams at Cornell until being hired as the **Albert G. Molloy** Head Coach of Men's Tennis at Penn in 2011.

A USTA League and tournament player throughout his career, Geatz was a member of the USTA Northern 5.5 National Championship team in 2004.

"Dave Geatz is arguably the best tennis player and tennis coach the state of North Dakota has ever produced," current University of North Dakota head tennis coach and North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame member **Tom Wynne** said. "As a player, he has had success at the state, section and national level as a player and is one of the top collegiate tennis coaches in the nation. Though he spent a great deal of time in Minnesota and other parts of the country, he still identifies himself with North Dakota."

"I am very honored to be inducted into the North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame," Geatz said. "I have always been proud to consider North Dakota my home. I grew up with a lot of special people including the (Tom and



Terry Paukert

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA HALL OF FAME

Tim) **Wynnes, Terry Paukert** and **Jerry Caulfield**, who are all members of the Hall of Fame. It is a special moment for me to join them."

Also a native of Grand Forks, Paukert played both high school and college tennis in North Dakota - at Grand Forks Central and the University of North Dakota, respectively, where he was the doubles partner of fellow North Dakota Tennis Hall of Famer **Tim Wynne**.

After college, he began his long and storied career as a high school tennis coach which spans over 40 years including time at East Grand Forks (1978-97, 2004, 2006 and 2012-13), Grand Forks Central (1999-2008) and Grand Forks Red River (2011, 2015-current). He has been part of two North Dakota team championships, coached two doubles champions and four singles titlists, including two wins by his son, **Charlie**, at Grand Forks Central in 2003 and 2004.

Paukert has coached both boys and girls in his illustrious career. He served as a board member of the Community Tennis Association which built the Register Tennis Complex in Grand Forks. Throughout his career, he has organized free tennis programs in the city for all high school students to grow their tennis knowledge and skills, while offering free individual lessons and racquet stringing to those who would not otherwise be able to play tennis.

He was named the Minnesota State High School Coach of the Year in 1992, and was honored in 2006 with the Ward C. Burton Junior Development Award presented to an individual or organization who has promoted the growth of tennis for juniors and served the junior tennis community in USTA Northern. In 2013, he was inducted into the Grand Forks Central High School Athletics Hall of Fame, and in 2016, received the Thomas J. Clifford Award given to an University of North Dakota alum who serve as an athletics coach at the high school or collegiate level and has been notably successful in their respective sport.

"Throughout his career, Terry has kindled and grown the love for tennis in the Grand Forks community," nominator **Ryan McGuigan** said. "While speaking to Terry, he said, 'Tennis is a money sport, but it doesn't have to be.' This is what led him to give free instruction, drills and supplies to many kids over the years, giving those the opportunity to play tennis who may not have otherwise had that chance."

"Receiving this honor is humbling because I am not looking for recognition and I really enjoy what I do," Paukert said. "It is a way to keep me connected and in the game. All I am looking for is a smile and a thank you. I know most of the people in the Hall of Fame and am very honored to have my name mentioned with theirs."



Duke Paluch (left) and Jim Sorrell (right)

South Dakota

Two of the top tennis players ever to come out of South Dakota, **Jim Sorrell** from Sioux Falls and **Duke Paluch** of Rapid City, were inducted into the South Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame on Sunday, July 23, at McKennan Park during the Asfora/Clayton SD Adult Open.

Sorrell was one of the first players from South Dakota to play national tournaments and won three state singles titles for Sioux Falls O'Gorman from 1981-83. He also won four consecutive doubles titles and led the Knights to four straight South Dakota team championships starting in 1980. Dr. Sorrell is a gastroenterologist in Lincoln, Neb.

A high school singles finalist in 1978 for Rapid City Stevens, Paluch claimed his first state singles title the following year. He earned All-American honors, playing for legendary coach **Steve Wilkinson** at Gustavus Adolphus, where he was inducted into that school's athletic Hall of Fame in 2010. Paluch has been a teaching professional, club owner and manager in Boulder, Colo., the past 30 years.

Also honored were longtime tennis player, coach and school administrator **Tony Simons** and the "**Pioneers of SD Tennis, early 1900's to 1950's**," who received South Dakota Tennis Achievement Awards. Simons excelled at Madison High School and led his team to conference titles while at Dakota State University, where he is part of that school's Hall of Fame. The "Pioneers of SD Tennis, early 1900's to 1950's" recognized dozens of players who made a significant mark on tennis, either as players, coaches or contributors.

ADULT UPDATES

Caitlyn and Chuck Merzbacher Win Father/Daughter National Championship

Congratulations to **Caitlyn** and **Chuck Merzbacher** (Eden Prairie, Minn.) as they won the 2017 USTA National Father/Daughter Grass-court National Championships at Longwood Cricket Club in Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Caitlyn, who plays at the University of Minnesota, and Chuck, who recently became the head men's tennis coach at Tennessee-Chattanooga after serving as Gophers women's head coach for five years, won five matches en route to the title. They opened with a 6-0, 6-0 win over **Luis** and **Isabelle Borgen** (Concord, Mass.). Then the duo defeated **Alex** and **Olivia Chen** (Weston, Mass.) 6-4, 6-1, before upsetting the #2 seed of **Jacqueline Sperling-Hosseini** (Wauwatosa, Wis.) and **Michael Sperling** (Mequon, Wis.) 3-6, 6-0, 6-1. In the semifinals, the #5 seeds handled fourth seeded **Peter** and **Alexandra Dewire** (Hingham, Mass.) 6-2, 6-2 before winning the Gold Ball with a 6-1, 6-4 win over third seeded **Peter** and **Erica Krisan** (Marietta, Ga.).

6.0 Men's 65 & Over Team Place Second At Nationals



The Twin Cities men's 65 & Over 6.0 team, captained by **Eric Narvaez**, earned finalists honors at the USTA League National Championships in Surprise, Ariz. Northern finished tied for first in its flight with Pacific Northwest with a 2-1 record. In round-robin play, Northern defeated Southern 3-0, before falling to Northern California 2-1. They then rallied to defeat Pacific Northwest 2-1, eventually winning the flight in the matches-won tiebreaker 6-5.

Northern then faced Southern in the semifinals, defeating them 3-0. In the championship match, Northern took the first set at the #1 and #3 doubles position against a tough Southern California team, but could not win the second set, sending both matches into a third-set tiebreaker. Northern came out on the short end of both matches and lost at the #2 doubles position for a 3-0 defeat.

Members of the team included Narvaez, **John Goulett**, **Greg Headrick**, **Patrick Ledray**, **Kenneth Cram**, **Gary Bilbrey**, **Michael Schneider**, **Allen Miller** and **Kenneth Borle**.

Ruby Rott Wins Silver Medal At National Senior Games

Ruby Rott of St. Paul, Minn., won the silver medal in the women's 80s draw at the National Senior Games in Birmingham, Ala. Rott lost a heartbreaker to **Ann James** (Pataskala, Ohio) 6-2, 2-6, 12-10 in the Gold Medal match.

Fred Budde and Randy Crowell Finished Ranked #1 In Nation

Congratulations to **Fred Budde** (Eden Prairie, Minn.) and **Randy Crowell** (Prior Lake, Minn.) who finished 2016 as the #1 ranked doubles team in the country for Men 60 & Over.

#Sip N' Serve Young Adult Events In Rochester A Success



The Southeastern Minnesota Tennis Association launched its inaugural #Sip N' Serve Young Adult Series this summer at Kutzky Park in Rochester, Minn. Open to anyone, the group met on Tuesday nights from July 18-August 8, providing a casual tennis setting aimed at young adults ages 21-39. Taught by tennis teaching professionals, the series had activities for players of all ability levels and food and adult beverages were provided.

League Captains Party

USTA Northern said thank you to its league captains at its League Captains' Appreciation Party August 2 at Minnetonka Tennis Club in Minnetonka, Minn. Captains and a guest enjoyed free food and drinks and were eligible for prizes including US Open tickets and lessons from local teaching professionals.



2018 TWIN CITIES LEAGUES

DATES, DEADLINES & DAYS OF PLAY



LEAGUE TYPE	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Adult 18 & Over		3.5 Men & Women	4.0 Men & Women	2.5 Women 4.5 Men & Women	3.0 Men & Women 5.0+ Men & Women		
Adult 40 & Over		4.5+ Men & Women	3.0 Men & Women	3.5 Men & Women	4.0 Men & Women		
Adult 55 & Over		6.0 & 8.0 Men & Women			7.0 & 9.0 Men & Women		
Women Summer Daytime Adult 18 & Over		4.0 Women	3.5 Women	3.0 Women	4.5 Women		
Mixed 18 & Over	6.0 & 8.0					7.0 & 9.0	
Mixed 40 & Over	7.0 & 9.0					6.0 & 8.0	
ONE Doubles			Women	Men	Mixed		
LEAGUE SEASON	REGISTRATION OPENS		TEAM REGISTRATION DEADLINE		PLAY SEASON		
EARLY START Adult 18 & Over Adult 40 & Over Adult 55 & Over Mixed 18 & Over	August 1, 2017		Friday, August 25, 2017 (for Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over and Adult 55 & Over) Thursday, September 7, 2017 (For Mixed 18 & Over)		October 2, 2017 - December 17, 2017		
WINTER Adult 18 & Over Adult 40 & Over Adult 55 & Over Mixed 18 & Over	After Year End Ratings are published (December 1, 2017)		Friday, December 8, 2017		January 5 - March 31, 2018		
SPRING ONE Doubles Mixed 40 & Over	January 15, 2018		Friday, February 23, 2018		March 20 - May 3, 2018		
SUMMER Adult 18 & Over Adult 40 & Over Adult 55 & Over Mixed 18 & Over	January 15, 2018		Friday, April 6, 2018		May 4 - July 31, 2018		
FALL ONE Doubles	January 15, 2018		Friday, July 20, 2018		August 14 - Sept 27, 2018		

Catrina Thompson Named Women's Head Coach At University of Minnesota; Ward Assistant



Catrina Thompson

Former Notre Dame assistant coach **Catrina Thompson** was hired as the new University of Minnesota women's tennis coach, while Litchfield, Minn., native **Brian Ward** will join her as the assistant coach. Thompson becomes the seventh head coach in Gopher women's tennis history and is the first woman to lead the program since USTA Northern Hall of Famer **Ellie Peden** did from 1975-83.

Thompson served as an assistant at Notre Dame the past three years, helping the team advance to the NCAA tournament each year and coaching three different individual NCAA qualifiers. During her tenure at Notre Dame, Thompson coached five All-ACC honorees and contributed to the Irish extending their consecutive NCAA appearances streak to 22 straight seasons. While at Notre Dame, the Irish were honored by the NCAA with the Academic Progress Rate (APR) award, given to the top performing women's tennis programs in the classroom.

Prior to her coaching stint in South Bend, Thompson was an assistant at Boise State for two seasons. In her second season at Boise State, she earned the 2013 Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Mountain Region Assistant Coach of the Year. Her student-athletes in Boise collected six All-Mountain West recognitions during her time with the Broncos. Thompson began her collegiate coaching career in 2010-

11 as a volunteer assistant coach for the Ivy League Champion Yale Bulldogs.

As a student-athlete at Notre Dame, Thompson was a three-time All-American playing doubles alongside her twin sister, **Christian**. With her sister, Thompson racked up a program-record 104 double victories. She won the 2005 Riviera/ITA All-American Doubles Championship and was a finalist in both 2004 and 2006. She was also a two-time Most Outstanding Player at the Big East Championships and served as Notre Dame's team captain her senior season. As a professional player, she won four doubles titles in her career.

Ward comes back to Minnesota after two seasons as an assistant coach under former University of Minnesota men's tennis head coach **David Geatz**, who now is the head coach at Penn. Ward had previously served at his alma mater Georgetown as a volunteer assistant in 2012 and as a full-time assistant role in 2013.

Ward graduated cum laude from Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business in 2012 with a degree in business administration. While with the Hoyas, Ward was a twice named to the Big East All-Academic team, and was a two-time letterwinner after transferring to the school from Creighton. In 2014, Ward obtained his Master's Degree from Georgetown in Sports Industry Management.



Brian Ward

USTA Northern Mourns Deaths of Bill Clayton, Rogina Cusac, Jerry Nachtigal and Paul Stormo



Bill Clayton



Paul Stormo

USTA Northern is mourning the losses of **Bill Clayton** (Sioux Falls, S.D.), **Rogina Cusac** (Bismarck, N.D.), **Jerry Nachtigal** (Sioux Falls, S.D.) and **Paul Stormo** (Edina, Minn.). Clayton was a long-time tennis supporter in growing the game in South Dakota. Cusac served as a captain, player, adult organizer and coach for all of North Dakota and organized the North Dakota/South Dakota Adult Women's Series for many years. Nachtigal was instrumental in the building



Rogina Cusac



Jerry Nachtigal

of the Huether Family Match Pointe in Sioux Falls, while Stormo became a tennis teaching pro in his 50s focusing on novices, seniors and underprivileged youth. All will be greatly missed.



In July, teammates and friends of the late Rogina Cusac honored her memory by continuing a tradition Cusac started three years ago of playing a weekend series against a team of ladies from South Dakota with the winner advancing to the USTA Northern League Section Championships in August.

Tony Larson Wins Ninth Aquatennial Tennis Classic



Tony Larson

Tony Larson (Glenbrook, Ill.) won his ninth singles title and **Alexis Nelson** (St. Paul, Minn.) her third singles crown at the 2017 Aquatennial Tennis Classic in downtown Minneapolis.

The doubles duo of **Andres Osorio** (New Hope, Minn.) and **Sion Wilkins** (Maple Grove, Minn.) won their fourth Aquatennial men's doubles title, while **Sarai Flores Diaz** (Mexico) and **Blanka Szavay** (Hungary) took home the women's doubles crown and **Nick Beaty** (Wayzata, Minn.) and Nelson won their first mixed title together.

In the finals, **Larson**, the top seed,

defeated second-seeded **Alejandro Valarezo** (Ecuador) of Washburn University 6-2, 6-3, while Nelson, who is a sophomore at Cal-Berkeley, defeated the second seed and former Stetson University player **Diana Bukajeva** (St. Paul, Minn.) 6-4, 6-0. In doubles, the top-seeded Osorio and Wilkins, who played doubles together at the University of Minnesota, handled former Gustavus Adolphus All-Americans **Kevin Whipple** and **Nick Crossley** 6-1, 6-1. Flores Diaz and Szavay defeated former Gophers **Julia Courter** (St. Paul, Minn.) and **Tasha Pintusava** (Bloomington, Minn.) 7-5, 7-5. Beaty and Nelson defeated the brother-sister team of **Jessa Richards** and **Joey Richards** 6-3, 3-6, 1-0 (8).

The 2017 tournament was supported by **USTA Northern**; Champion Sponsors **Artis Reit**, **LifeTime Fitness**, **Minneapolis Downtown Council**, **Tetchy Tech** and **Sport Court North Minnesota** and Advantage Sponsors **Baseline Tennis Center**, **PGA Superstore** and **Take Care Chiropractic**. This was an official associated event of the Minneapolis Aquatennial.



Andres Osorio and Sion Wilkins



Alexis Nelson



Nick Beaty and Alexis Nelson



Sarai Flores Diaz and Blanka Szavay



USTA Northern would like to thank all of the sponsors of the 2017 Aquatennial Tennis Classic including (from L to R) Catrina Thompson of Baseline Tennis Center, Mike Johnson of Life Time Fitness, Jeff Johnson of Tetchy Tech, Dr. Sawyer Hildebrandt and Dr. Michael Oste of Take Care Chiropractic & Wellness, Craig Jones of Sport Court Minnesota, Sean Reilly of Artis Reit and Leah Wong of Minneapolis Downtown Council. Not pictured is Terrill Bell of PGA Superstore.

Jessie Aney/Jack Hamburg Win Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic

Congratulations to **Jessie Aney** (Rochester, Minn.) and **Jack Hamburg** (Minneapolis, Minn.) on winning the Open Division at the Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic. Aney and Hamburg, who were playing for the first time together, defeated **Tobias Wernet** (Minneapolis, Minn.) and **Alexis Nelson** (St. Paul, Minn.) 7-6 (5) 7-5 in the finals. **Larissa Mavros** (Minneapolis, Minn.) and **Kevin Werwie** (Lakeville, Minn.) won the Masters Division with a 5-7, 6-2, 1-0 (6) win over **Tim Burke** (Chaska) and **Amy Jamieson** (Prior Lake, Minn.) while **Susan Rudd** (St. Paul, Minn.) and **Dan Shannon** (Minnetonka, Minn.) once again won the Grand Masters Division with a 7-6 (2), 6-4 win over **Chris Combs** (White Bear Lake, Minn.) and **Katie Resch** (St. Paul, Minn.).

The Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic is the largest mixed doubles tournament in the Section and has raised over \$5 million for Pediatric Cancer Research at Children's Hospitals in Minnesota. This year, Shannon was the leading fundraiser securing over \$58,000 for the cause.



Susan Rudd and Dan Shannon won the Grand Masters event.

Congratulations Junior Sectional Winners

Congratulations to the following winners and finalists of the 2017 USTA Northern Summer Junior Section Championships which took place at Baseline Tennis Center and Lakeville North High School.

Girls 18s Singles: **Isabella Lambert** (Minneapolis, Minn.) def. **Sophie Reddy** (Eden Prairie, Minn.) 6-2, 6-1

Girls 16s Singles: **Nicole Copeland** (Edina, Minn.) def. **Karin Young** (Apple Valley, Minn.) 6-2, 7-6 (8)

Girls 14s Singles: **Vunnisa Vu** (St. Paul, Minn.) def. **Aili Hietala** (Duluth, Minn.) 3-6, 6-1, 6-1

Girls 12s Singles: **Amanda Diao** (Blaine, Minn.) def. **Annika Munson** (Stillwater, Minn.) 6-3, 6-1

Girls 18s Doubles: **Reddy/Libby Rickeman** (Wayzata, Minn.) def. **Kylie Mullaney** (Edina, Minn.)/**Francesca Trella** (Eden Prairie, Minn.) 8-2

Girls 16s Doubles: **Delaney Schurhamer** (Woodbury, Minn.)/**Nicole Snezhko** (Plymouth, Minn.) def. **Cecelia Obetz** (Minneapolis)/**Young** 8-5

Girls 14s Doubles: **Nore Heinitz** (Duluth, Minn.)/**Vu** def. **Zoe Adkins** (Maple Grove, Minn.)/**Annika Elvestrom** (Wayzata, Minn.) 8-4

Girls 12s Doubles: **Reegan Mullaney** (Edina, Minn.)/**Munson** def. **Diao/Emmeline Wang** (Hamel, Minn.) 8-2

Boys 18s Singles: **Sebastian Vile** (Rochester, Minn.) def. **Jackson Allen** (Shakopee, Minn.) 6-4, 1-6, 6-3

Boys 16s Singles: **Varun Iyer** (Rochester, Minn.) def. **Gavin Young** (Apple Valley, Minn.) walkover-injury

Boys 14s Singles: **Sujit Chopuri** (Minneapolis, Minn.) def. **Bjorn Swenson** (North Oaks, Minn.) 3-6, 6-4, 6-2

Boys 12s Singles: **Tygen Goldammer** (Rosemount, Minn.) def. **Max Exsted** (Shakopee, Minn.) 6-4, 1-6, 1-0 (6)

Boys 18s Doubles: **Allen/Kaleb Dobbs** (Sioux Falls, S.D.) def. **Jake Kuhlman** (Grand Forks, N.D.)/**Nikita Snezhko** (Plymouth, Minn.) 8-5

Boys 16s Doubles: **Joe Mairs** (Edina, Minn.)/**Young** def. **John Kasner** (Orono, Minn.)/**Hunter Roeth** (Lakeville, Minn.) 9-8 (2)

Boys 14s Doubles: **Chopuri/Swenson** def. **Sam Skanse** (Edina, Minn.)/**Luke Westholder** (Edina, Minn.) 8-1

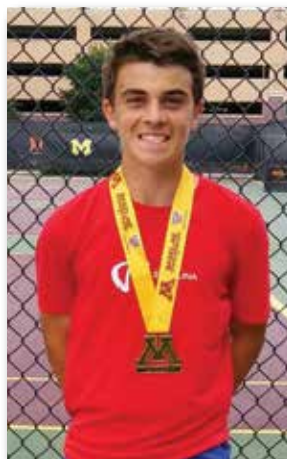
Boys 12s Doubles: **Emmanuel Alex** (Arden Hills, Minn.)/**Hank Trondson** (St. Paul, Minn.) def. **Exsted/Goldammer** 9-7.



Isabella Lambert



Vunnisa Vu



Sebastian Vile

Tygen Goldammer Wins National Level 2 Doubles Title; Jackson Allen, Karin Young Finalists



Tygen Goldammer

Congratulations to **Tygen Goldammer** (Rosemount, Minn.), who won the doubles title at the USTA Boys 12s Level 2 in Grand Rapids, Mich., in June. Goldammer and partner **Aiden Kim** (Milbank, Mich.) won four matches en route to the title. The duo, who was the #1 seed in the tournament, opened with a 6-2 win over **Noah McDonald** (Charlotte, N.C.) and **Ervin Perkowski** (Lincolnshire, Ill.). Goldammer and Kim then knocked off **Nikita Filin** (Wilmette, Ill.) and **Piotr Andrzejewski** (Des Plaines, Ill.) 6-1. After receiving a walkover in the

semifinals, the tandem defeated **Michael Mascarin** (St. Clair, Mich.) and **Daniel Stojanov** (Novi, Mich.) 6-2.

Jackson Allen (Shakopee, Minn.) earned finalist honors in singles and doubles at the USTA National Boys 18s Level 2 Tournament at the Plaza Tennis Center in Kansas City, Mo., in May. Allen, who was seeded #2, won four matches before falling in the finals to top-seeded **Alex Brown** (Urbandale, Iowa). Brown also bested Allen in the doubles finals as he and partner **Brady Draheim** (Prairie Village, Kan.) defeated Allen and **Carson Haskins** (Ballwin, Mo.).

Karin Young (Apple Valley, Minn.) earned doubles finalist honors at the USTA National Girls 14s Level 2 in Plainfield, N.J. Young and **Saige Roshkoff** (Haverford, Pa.) won three matches before falling in the finals to **Mya Bird** (Norfolk, Va.) and **Robin Montgomery** (Washington, DC) 7-5.

14s Zonal Teams Win Sportsmanship Award; Mullaney/Wisniewski Win At 12s

USTA Northern's 14s team received the Team Sportsmanship Award at the 2017 Zonals event in Kalamazoo, Mich. Members of the team include **Zoe Adkins** (Maple Grove, Minn.), **Sonia Baig** (Minneapolis, Minn.), **Sujit Chopuri** (Minneapolis, Minn.), **Joshua Christensen** (Rochester, Minn.), **Alex Christo** (Arden Hills, Minn.), **Annika Elvestrom** (Deephaven, Minn.), **Allen Gong** (Eagan, Minn.), **Tiannah Gu** (West Fargo, N.D.), **Aili Hietala** (Duluth, Minn.), **Tharun Inturi** (Shakopee, Minn.), **Emily Jurgens** (Excelsior, Minn.), **Ava Leonard** (Sioux Falls, S.D.), **Luke Little** (Minneapolis, Minn.), **Andrew Liu** (Eagan, Minn.), **Nicole Ridenour** (Minneapolis, Minn.), **Alec Sargent** (Rochester, Minn.), **Sam Skanse** (Edina, Minn.), **Ingrid Smith** (Edina,



14s Zonal Team

Minn.), **Seleh Stibbons** (Minneapolis, Minn.), **Bella Suk** (Minnetonka, Minn.), **Bjorn Swenson** (North Oaks, Minn.), **Kevin Thomas** (Minnetonka, Minn.) and **Luke Westholder** (Edina, Minn.). Coaches were **Sion Wilkins** (Maple Grove, Minn.) and **Danny Kantar** (Minneapolis, Minn.).

At 12s Zonals in Omaha, **Reegan Mullaney** (Edina, Minn.) and **Philip Wisniewski** (Rochester, Minn.) earned Sportsmanship Awards.

Baseline Tennis Center Hosts Girls 16s Level 2; To Host Level 1 National Indoors in November

Congratulations to **Baseline Tennis Center** in Minneapolis, who played host to a Girls 16s Level 2 USTA National Tournament July 1-4 and to Rapid City Park and Recreation which played host to a USTA Regional Level 3 Boys and Girls Tournament July 12-14 at the Sioux Park Tennis Courts.

Baseline Tennis Center was also selected to host the Girls 16 Level 1 National Indoor Championship November 24-27, 2017.

Congratulations Spring State Tournament Champions

Congratulations 2017 spring state tournament winners including:

MINNESOTA BOYS

Class AA: Team: Minnetonka

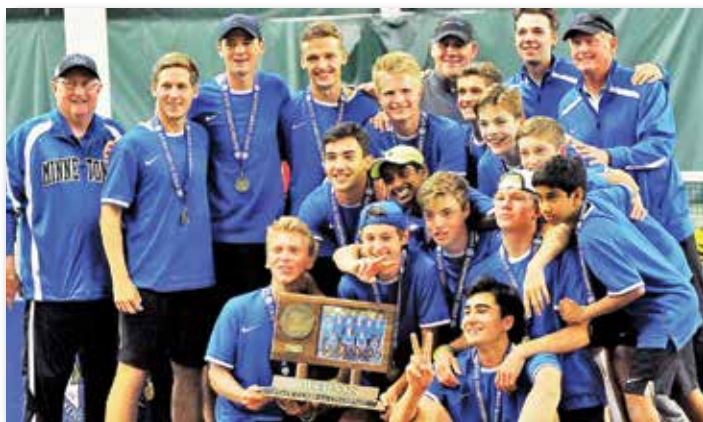
Singles: Ben van der Sman (Woodbury East Ridge High School)

Doubles: Nick Aney/Varun Iyer (Rochester Century)

Class A: Team: The Blake School

Singles: Jack Barker (The Blake School)

Doubles: Christopher Hall/Ben Ingbar (The Blake School)



Minnetonka won its second consecutive Minnesota Class AA Team title.

NORTH DAKOTA GIRLS

Team: Grand Forks Red River

Singles: Monti Knewtson (West Fargo Cheyenne)

Doubles: Maddie Anderson/Maddie Johnson (Grand Forks Red River)

SOUTH DAKOTA BOYS

Team: Sioux Falls Lincoln

Singles: Flight 1: Kaleb Dobbs (SF Lincoln);

Flight 2: Sam Dobbs (SF Lincoln); **Flight 3:**

Aidan DeBoer (SF Lincoln); **Flight 4: Arjun**

Choudhry (SF Lincoln); **Flight 5: Graham Leonard** (SF Lincoln); **Flight 6: Dawson Segrist** (Rapid City Stevens).

Doubles: Flight 1: Dobbs/Dobbs; Flight 2: DeBoer/Choudhry; Flight 3: Leonard/Akshay Choudhry (SF Lincoln).



Kaleb Dobbs won his third South Dakota Flight 1 Singles Title.

Minnesota Wins Iowa/Minnesota Border Battle

Team Minnesota defeated Team Iowa at the first-ever **Alex J. Kuhn**

Invitational at the All Iowa Lawn Tennis Club in Charles City, Iowa. Members of the Minnesota team included **Amanda Diao** (Blaine, Minn.), **Annika Munson** (Stillwater, Minn.), **Sarah Shahbaz** (Ham Lake, Minn.), **Vunnisa Vu** (Maplewood, Minn.), **Matthew Fullerton** (Edina, Minn.), **Nolan Ranger** (Edina, Minn.) and **Hank Trondson** (St. Paul, Minn.) **Scott Courter** (St. Paul, Minn.) served as the coach.



Minnesota opened the match by winning the girls singles points.

Iowa then stormed back to win the boys singles point, before Minnesota claimed both the boys and girls doubles points. On Sunday, Minnesota took the mixed doubles point, earning the 4-1 victory.

On The Road with CBS Evening National News was also there during the event.



TEAM TENNIS

Life Time Fitness Bloomington South Wins Both 18U Advanced And Intermediate JTT Divisions

Congratulations to Life Time Fitness Bloomington South who won the 18U Advanced and Intermediate Divisions at the 2017 Junior Team Tennis Championships at Baseline Tennis Center. Both teams advanced to JTT Nationals at the USTA National Campus in September. The Advanced team defeated **Twin City Tennis Camps (MIT)** 39-16 in the finals, while the Intermediate squad beat **Saint Paul Urban Tennis** 35-24. Members of the winning Intermediate team include: **Allison Agerland, Benjamin Anderson, Benjamin Schriener, Brendon Sebring, Duncan Hohenstein, Isabella Lynch, Jack Puyang, Jessica Ip, Kyle Scislow, Lexi Bau-**

man, Luke Wyly, Maggie Buechler, Nicolette Keller, Rachel Saxen and coach **Spencer Jones**. Team members of the Advanced team are **Allen Gong, Cole Weitzel, Derek Davis, Erik Beckers, Evann Welty, Harrison Tuttle, Henry Smith, Isabella Lambert, Jake Swanson, Kathryn Mulvey, Lexi Lehman, Luke Haddorff, Nisal Liyanage, Savanna Crowell, Yelena Hallman** and coach **Craig Swanson and Spencer Jones**.

Congratulations to the following Sportsmanship winners: **Tommy Peterson** of Eau Claire, Wis., **Simon Grow Hansen** of St. Paul Urban Tennis and **Megan Larson** of Rosemount, Minn.



Life Time Fitness Bloomington South: 18U Intermediate Champions



Life Time Fitness Bloomington South: 18U Advanced Champions



Burnsville Gold: 14U Intermediate Champions



Life Time Fitness Fridley: 14U Advanced Champions

Sportsmanship Winners



Tommy Peterson - Eau Claire YMCA



Megan Larson - Rosemount Gold



Allen Gong - Life Time Fitness Bloomington South



Vumisa Vu - Saint Paul Urban Tennis



William Matzak - Hastings



Brooke Beier - Foley



Simon Grow Hansen - Saint Paul Urban Tennis

Life Time Fitness Fridley, Burnsville Gold Win 14U JTT Titles

Congratulations to **LifeTime Fitness – Fridley** and **Burnsville Gold** who took home the 14U Advanced and Intermediate championships, respectively, at the 2017 USTA Northern Junior Team Tennis Sections at Baseline Tennis Center. Both teams now qualify for the USTA JTT National Championships at the new USTA National Campus in Orlando, Fla., in September.

Life Time Fitness - Fridley defeated **St. Paul Urban Tennis** in the Advanced finals 40-18, while Burnsville beat the **Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center** 40-20 in the Intermediate finals. Members of the winning team from Fridley include: **Aili Hietala, Amanda Diao, Bjorn Swenson,**

Grace Kalan, Johnny Yue, Matthew Fullerton, Rohan Harle, Sujit Chepuri, Zoe Adkins and coach **Brian McCoy**. Winning team members from Burnsville include: **Aaron Beduhn, Addie Bowlby, Aidan Suarez, Brooke Haddorff, Collin Beduhn, Hannah Lake, Henry McCormick, Josh Robb, Mara McMahon, Samantha Bowlby, Tyler Haddorff** and coach **Ryan Haddorff**.

Congratulations also to our Sportsmanship winners including: **Vunnisa Vu** of St. Paul Urban Tennis (14U Advanced Girls), **Allen Gong** (Life Time Bloomington South (14U Advanced Boys), **Brooke Beier** of Foley (14U Intermediate Girls) and **William Matzak** of Hastings (14U Intermediate Boys).

First Year of World Team Tennis A Huge Success

Over 1,200 kids participated in USTA Northern's new World Team Tennis program, an alternative team play opportunity to the traditional Junior Team Tennis program. The program aimed at getting players of similar ability levels on teams and competing against other squads of a comparable skill level in a fun, but competitive atmosphere. The program offered play for intermediate level players from ages 10-18, as well as an advanced division for kids 12s and under.

Teams consisted of two girls and two boys who did not have to be USTA members. It also used an alternative play format which allowed substitutions, overtimes and power-up points. All teams advanced to a Section championship at the end of the season, but were not eligible for National Championship play.

Over 70 teams competed in the inaugural World Team Tennis Section Championships at four locations (Lakeville North High School, Lakeville South High School, Century Middle School and Life Time Fitness - Lakeville) in Lakeville, Minn. Congrats to the winners and finalists.

10U Advanced: Twin City Tennis Camps MIT Blue

10U Intermediate: InnerCity Tennis

12U Advanced: Life Time Athletic White Bear def. **Huether Family Match Pointe** (Sioux Falls)

12U Intermediate: Fargo def. **Hastings Blue** 22-20

14U Intermediate: Hibbing Rangers def. **Huether Family Match Pointe** 22-18

18U Intermediate: Fargo def. **Eden Prairie Black** 28-10



Hibbing: 14U Intermediate Champions



Fargo: 12U Intermediate Champions



Life Time Athletic White Bear: 12U Advanced Champions



Fargo: 18U Intermediate Champions

How to Better Serve our Parents

In July, I had the distinct privilege of serving as the head coach for the USTA Northern 14 and Under Zonal team that recently competed in Kalamazoo, Mich., for the third consecutive year. This elite tournament boasts tremendously strong competition, and throughout the event, our players battled hard, showed great effort and bonded strongly as a team. While my job at Zonals is to help the players, I also try to be available and assist the parents as much as possible. However, since I'm spending my entire day on-court coach-



ing players throughout these grueling matches against the nation's best players, I never truly feel I am able address some of the difficult challenges our parents face.

That is why I'm writing this article for the parents. In my opinion, coaches need to take far more time to speak with parents and address the biggest obstacles they face with regards to helping their children succeed on-court. With an increased dialogue between coaches, players and parents, we can ultimately help everyone to have a far more enjoyable, rich and rewarding experience that set all of these young athletes up for success.

How Can I Help You?

The first action coaches can take to better serve our parents is to start a dialogue, and the first question we have to ask is, "How can I help you?" It amazes me how many private and group lessons are conducted on a daily basis without a real understanding of the specific wishes of the clients. Parents are employing a coach's services for a reason, and if we can better identify their desires then we can most effectively serve them and their children. Instead of wasting time trying to figure out what these individuals need, first take some time to figure out what the parents actually want.

How Can We Reach These Goals?

Once you have identified the desires of the parents, you can now more effectively figure out the best way to reach these goals. Here the coach can utilize their distinctive expertise, creativity and wisdom in designing a developmental plan which will serve as a road map for the student's training and success. A sound plan will also help set the parents' minds at ease as it allows them to understand how their needs are being addressed. Furthermore, the parent always has unique insights into their own child, and they can help provide valuable information that can assist in the effective creation and execution of these plans.

As a side note, please understand that I am not promoting a dictatorship where parents begin ordering their coaches around the court determining what and how they teach! No good relationship can ever progress in this manner. What I am encouraging is regular, healthy and open communication with parents which can assist in the overall developmental progress of their children. While it has been famously said that, "Good fences make good neighbors," we cannot forget to leave a gate in the fence for helpful ideas and in-

sights to come through in the process.

Creating Greater Connectivity

Once the initial dialogue has begun, you need to have ways to continue the discussion. Personally, I have found it extremely helpful to schedule check-in times with my parents to review their children's tennis development. Having a phone conversation, sharing a coffee or even exchanging a few text messages can go a long way in creating greater connectivity between coaches and parents. These meetings are crucial for sound team building as they serve to instill confidence in the developmental plan, increase coach/parent camaraderie and help all parties to voice their observations and concerns. Occasionally, I will even have meetings that include the player as well, which is also exceedingly valuable. Essentially, all parties need to have a voice, feel valued and believe in the plan. Without trust and communication, you are creating a sub-optimal learning environment and limiting the potential growth of your students.

Please Help Me In Continuing The Dialogue

No tennis player is an island. As a high-performance tennis coach I absolutely believe the stronger the connections between coach, parent and child, the better the young athlete will perform. No one knows his or her own child more than you, so here is how you can help me to perform my job better. If continuing this conversation sounds useful to you, I would greatly appreciate a quick email to dannykantar@gmail.com that contains the biggest challenge you face as a tennis parent. By better understanding your unique challenges, I can more effectively serve the larger tennis community by helping to implement strategies that address these issues in the future. Developing a successful junior tennis player is a highly complicated task, but by increasing the communication between both the coach and parents, we can set the stage for a more successful journey for all of these young athletes.



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The More Things Change

French novelist Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr once said, "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose."

For those of you not fluent in French, this translates into the famous saying, "the more things change, the more things stay the same," which resonates with many aspects of life including tennis. While there is no doubt every generation of people, and or players, make some progress, we tend to look at life as a straight line going forward, when in reality it may be more like a circle making a loop.

Most of you might be saying, "Bruce...that's pretty deep. Get to the point already." Not wanting to bog all of you down with my philosophical musings (and there are a lot of them), here are the nuts and bolts of the professional tennis game in 2017. Take a look at the 2017 Wimbledon Champions and Finalists: Men's Singles Champion **Roger Federer** (Age 35, just turned 36); Women's Singles Finalist **Venus Williams** (Age 37); Mixed Doubles Champion **Martina Hingis** (Age 36); Women's Invitational Doubles Champion **Martina Navratilova** (Age 60); Men's Invitational Doubles Champions **Lleyton Hewitt** (Age 36) and **Mark Philippoussis** (Age 40); Men's Doubles Champions **Lukas Kubot** (Age 35) and **Marcelo Melo** (Age 33) and Women's Doubles Champions **Elena Vesnina** (Age 31) and **Ekaterina Makarova** (Age 29). In a day and age where you hear that younger and newer are always better, I am here to argue is it really?

Yes...the aforementioned players are some of the all-time greats, but the moral of the story is fundamentals may go in and out of style, but never out of effectiveness like the serve and volley. At Wimbledon, Roger's opponents won 64% of their serve-and-volley points, 59% of their approach points, but yet only an astounding 37% of baseline points against him.

Since they have been keeping stats on serve and volley at Wimbledon, the percentage of players who serve and volley has decreased dramatically over the years. Remember when players like **Boris Becker** rushed and crushed the net all the time on the hallowed grasscourts, resulting in the frontcourt area to be just as brown and barren as the baselines, if not more? Believe it or not, players like Becker used to serve and volley over 70 percent of the time back in the day, winning almost 71 percent of the points when doing so. Today, players still win 71 percent of the points, but players do not use the tactic nearly as much. In fact after Wimbledon (and maybe a few drinks), Federer called out the younger generation, telling them they need to learn how to volley.

If you are an incessant debater, you could say, "Well...five of Roger's seven opponents came in to net more than Roger did during their matches." And you are correct. They all had winning percentages when they did that too, but Roger, who did not drop a set the entire tournament, did not have to come in to the net as much because opponents were so generous by playing poorly from the back of the court and not getting to the net more.

Older players generally are smarter than younger players as

they are more experienced, but the majority of other factors that the media touts as being so novel in 2017 giving certain players a perceived edge are actually just similar practices coming full circle.

No one will argue the fact that nutrition is a huge component of athletic success. Things like Paleo and Mediterranean diets have been around for years, but are now in vogue with athletes. Look at **Novak Djokovic**. Much of his recent success has been attributed to his change in diet back in 2009 when he eliminated gluten and dairy, as well as most sugar. Now, his pantries are stocked with vegetables, beans, white meat, fish, fruit, nuts, seeds, chickpeas, lentils and healthy oils.

Djokovic's change in diet also led to increased mental toughness. But honestly, mental toughness has been around for years. The practices might have different names, but the philosophies are still the same. Today, the big practice is meditation to help reduce anxiety so one can play calmer and stay in the moment. The classic book *The Inner Game of Tennis* written by **Tim Galloway** in 1972, is a must read for all tennis players. Galloway tells the reader to stop overanalyzing everything and do not let your inner critic slow you down. Instead, allow your natural instincts to take over when playing the game. Remember when the Vikings used to be a perennial playoff team and **Fran Tarkenton** drew up plays in the dirt? That would never happen in today's modern, more sophisticated game because there is too much information overload and not enough common sense and natural instinct being utilized by athletes. Athletes have become more like robots than humans when out on the court or field.

Fitness is very important as well, and again, we go back to a lot of older practices such as yoga and Pilates among others. Yoga started in northern India more than 5,000 years ago, while Pilates, also known as "contrology," was developed early in the 20th century by **Joseph Pilates**. Both are still going strong today and most elite athletes incorporate a similar training methodology in their daily routine. Perhaps **Milo of Croton** was way ahead of his time incorporating progressive overload training into his wrestling practices.

Remember... we study history to learn from the past, not to ignore it or make fun of it. Yes technology has changed many aspects of the game, but the dimensions of the court are the same. The fundamentals of tennis still should be the fundamentals.

As the great **Jimmy Connors** once put it, "Youth is wasted on the young."



Mya Smith-Dennis

Training & Outreach Coordinator

Q. What is your position and how long have you been at USTA Northern?

A. I am the new kid on the block, having started in April of 2017. I am the new Training & Outreach Coordinator which involves working with diversity and inclusion, wheelchair and adaptive tennis and on-court trainings. I also serve as the Tennis Service Representative for Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin.

Q. What is your tennis background? How did you find yourself in the game?

A. I have been playing tennis since I could walk. I played tournaments in the Northern section growing up.

Q. Where did you go to college and what was your major? Did you play tennis in college?

A. I first went to Illinois State University and played a year of Division I tennis. I then transferred to Gustavus Adolphus College where I received a degree in Communications and a minor in Business Management. I played tennis at Gustavus for three years and was an All-American there. I also finished second at the 2012 NCAA Division III National Championships in doubles.

Q. Describe your job responsibilities.

A. I train coaches on how to teach Red, Orange and Green Ball tennis to beginning players of all ages, but especially kids. I help run wheelchair and adaptive tennis programs. I organize and run booths at community events around the section and am the staff liaison for the Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Q. What is the favorite part of your job so far?

A. I love getting to know people from around the section and giving them resources to help build and expand their programs.

Q. What are two of your top memories while working with USTA Northern?

A. I've really enjoyed working with Special Olympics and helping out at their area and state games. The athletes were so respectful and really enjoyed competing. The St. Paul Cinco de Mayo festival this year also stands out. There were so many people that stopped by and wanted to play tennis. Outreach events are always fun because I get to meet a lot of new people and expose them to my favorite sport.

Q. Outside of tennis, tell us some of your hobbies and interests.

A. I enjoy spending time with my family, playing basketball and watching sports.

Q. Favorite Food?

A. Pizza

Q. Favorite TV show?



A. The Office

Q. Favorite Movie?

A. Toy Story

Q. Favorite Musical Group – artist?

A. Does favorite Artist count? **Chance the Rapper.**

Q. Favorite Place to Visit?

A. New Zealand. I've only been once, but it was amazing.

Q. Family? Married? Animals?

A. I have three older brothers, a sister-in-law, parents and three nephews. I'm not married. My family has two dogs. I'm thinking of adopting one of my own.

Q. If you did not work at USTA Northern, what would be your ultimate job?

A. That's difficult. I love what I do. I would probably want to be a college tennis coach.

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

A. A professional tennis player.

Q. Who are your heroes and why?

A. My mom is my hero, because she is passionate about helping others. She just retired this year after working as a Special Education teacher for 35+ years. She looks for any possible way she can to make someone else's day better.

Q. If you could have dinner with any three people, who would they be and why?

A. **LeBron James**, he's my favorite basketball player; **Arthur Ashe** because he did so much to change tennis for the better. Lastly, I would pick **Martin Luther King Jr.** as he has impacted the world in a major way.

Q. If you could take 24 hours and do anything you like, what would it be?

A. Simple, spend time with my family relaxing and eating good food.

COMMUNITY TENNIS UPDATE

Community Tennis Workshop Oct. 11-15 In Orlando



The country's largest gathering of USTA staff, tennis professionals, industry and community leaders and representatives, manufacturers, wholesalers and media will

be attending A Next Generation: Tennis Innovation Workshop October 11-15, 2017 in Orlando, Fla. Formerly known as the USTA Tennis Development Workshop and the USPTA's World Conference, events include an opening night reception, a day at the new USTA National Campus, many on- and off-court workshops, the Awards Luncheon and much more. For a schedule of events and workshops, visit <http://bit.ly/2fmk9ln>.

Full registration is \$339 if made by September 8 and \$389 after September 8 or \$175 per day. The host hotel is the Renaissance Orlando SeaWorld with a \$169 room rate and \$22 daily parking rate.

To learn more, please contact **Christine Nickels** at nickels@northern.usta.com or at (952) 358-3290.

Community Tennis Grant and High School Facility Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the following communities and organizations who received USTA Northern Community Tennis Grants in May:

- \$2,900 to **Bismarck Parks and Recreation** to pilot adding tennis at five existing BLAST after-school program sites.
- \$3,000 to **Southdale YMCA** to add tennis to their sports offerings starting with a new summer tennis lesson program.
- \$3,000 to **Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center** to create a new TennisWorks STEM Camp in partnership with Macalester College.

Also, the following high schools, received Facilities Equipment Grant (\$500 to each):

- **Minnesota** - **Harding High School, Mankato Public Schools, and Sleepy Eye High School**
- **Wisconsin** - **Menomonie High School**
- **North Dakota** - **Valley City Public Schools**

Three Communities Receive USTA National Facilities Grants

Congratulations to the following USTA Northern communities who received Facility Grants from USTA National including:

Merrifield, Minn. - \$10,000 for the resurfacing of four 78-foot tennis courts complete with blended 36- and 60-foot lines at Mission Township Park.

Rochester, Minn. - \$5,000 to renovate three existing 78-foot tennis courts with an asphalt overlay and blended 36-foot and 60-foot lines at Kutzky Park.

Thief River Falls, Minn. - \$15,000 for the reconstruction of four existing 78-foot tennis courts complete with 36- and 60-foot blended

lines, as well as new fencing and establishment of American with Disabilities Act (ADA) pedestrian access.

A goal of the Facility Grant is to provide communities access to safe, appealing and functional tennis environments with the essence of this initiative being to assist communities, leveraging their tennis facilities to promote lifelong healthy activity, and improve their programming by advancing the latest tennis innovations for all program types.

Add Blended Lines To Your Tennis Courts Today For FREE

The USTA offers grants for resurfacing, reconstruction, and new construction of tennis courts. If your community is preparing for a tennis court project in 2018, now is the time to inquire about facility grants and technical assistance. Also, USTA National is offering to cover 100 percent of the costs to add blended lines to your existing tennis courts through December 1.

For more information, contact **Christine Nickels** at (952) 358-3290 or at nickels@northern.usta.com.

Nick Bollettieri and David Wheaton Dedicate New Courts In North Minneapolis

InnerCity Tennis Foundation and Hospitality House Youth Development — with the help of legendary tennis coach **Nick Bollettieri** and Minnesota's own former top ATP Tour player **David Wheaton** — hosted a ribbon-cutting event April 28 at the Hospitality House in Minneapolis to dedicate new outdoor tennis space and programming for kids in North Minneapolis. After the ribbon-cutting, about 75 kids in the Hospitality House after-school program took to their courts for the very first time as Bollettieri and



Wheaton, along with staff and volunteer instructors from InnerCity Tennis, hosted a free clinic.

Section Winners of USTA Foundation Essay Contest

Congratulations to the USTA Northern winners of the USTA Foundation Essay Contest. This year, the question was, "In addition to tennis, education and life skills are extremely important to the development of our youth. Which one of the three components above is most important to you, and how will it help you throughout your life?"

2017 USTA Foundation Essay Section Winners

Boys 10s: Alvin (Jongho) Lee, InnerCity Tennis

Girls 10s: Julia Lynch, InnerCity Tennis

Boys 12s: Anthony Scheglowski, InnerCity Tennis

Girls 12s: Lily Thom, Huether Family Match Pointe

Boys 14s: Luke Fridinger, Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center

Girls 14s: Maura Walsh, St. Paul Urban Tennis

Boys 16s: Ji Hong Ni, Columbia Heights Tennis

Girls 16s: Meadow Kinder, Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center

Boys 18s: Anuraag Bukkuri, InnerCity Tennis

Girls 18s: Samantha Thao, InnerCity Tennis

Three Receive USTA Foundation College Scholarships

Kevin Tran of St. Paul, Minn., **Joshua Carlberg** of Aitkin, Minn., and **Michael Heile** of Prior Lake, Minn., were three of 31 students to receive college scholarships from the USTA Foundation. All received \$10,000 awards.

Tran received the Rosalind Walter Scholarship Award, presented to high school seniors who are academically achieving students of good character and who share Walter's belief in always putting forth one's best effort and in giving back to one's community to make it a better place. The scholarship is named in honor of Walter, an active member of the USTA Foundation Board since its inception. Walter was responsible for funding the first



Kevin Tran

City of LeSueur (Minn.) Celebrates Grand Re-Opening Of Its Courts

The city of LeSueur, Minn., celebrated the grand re-opening of its courts on Saturday, July 8, with cardio tennis, games, food and more. USTA Northern staff member **Christine Nickels** was in attendance and presented a check to the group from USTA Northern for \$4,190.



Joshua Carlberg

USTA Foundation scholarship in 1994. Tran, who plays tennis with St. Paul Urban Tennis and is part of its Youth Leadership Council, was the valedictorian at St. Paul Harding High School this year and the tennis team captain. A member of National Honor Society, he will attend Stanford in the fall and is the first member of his family to attend college.

Carlberg and Heile earned the USTA Foundation College Education

Scholarship given to high school seniors who have excelled academically, demonstrated community service and participated in an organized tennis program.

A member of the tennis program at Aitkin High School for five years, Carlberg earned honorable mention All-Conference honors. He also participated in wrestling, football, Knowledge Bowl and Student Council and was in National Honor Society and on the A Honor Roll. He is attending Bethel University this fall.

Heile was a captain and four-year letterwinner in tennis, earning All-Conference Honorable Mention accolades. He also lettered in band and swimming, serving as a Section Leader and captain. He earned a superior rating at the Solo Ensemble Contest and was honorable mention All-Conference in swimming. He is an Eagle Scout and a member of the National Honor Society, while serving on the Student Leadership Council and working in the children's nursery at his church. He is attending Iowa State University this fall.

Each year, the USTA Foundation awards scholarships to deserving youth who have participated in USTA and other organized youth tennis programs such as the National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) network, have demonstrated high academic achievement, and require financial assistance for college matriculation. This year, the USTA Foundation awarded over \$300,000 in scholarships.



Michael Heile



Join the **SMARTSM** revolution

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- Junior Varsity and Varsity kids
- Sectional, National and International performance players



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