

## It's Time To Volunteer

A Message From USTA Northern President Brent Frueh

**NOTE: The May 2010 USTA Northern portion of TennisLife Magazine is dedicated to volunteering within the organization. We will highlight the opportunities available to those who want to give back to the game, as well as those who are already giving back in a number of different ways. To learn more about volunteering within USTA Northern, please e-mail [info@northern.usta.com](mailto:info@northern.usta.com) or visit [www.northern.usta.com](http://www.northern.usta.com).**

It is time to tell our story! The story of tennis and the role the USTA plays in our great game. If I had the chance, this is what I would write on the back cover of my imaginary book "Tennis in America." If my story intrigues you, I hope you will want to become a character in this magical book!

For those of you tied to our sport most likely as a player, parent or spouse of a player, this book is about you! The possibilities of playing a larger role in the story are endless and I hope you are as excited about Tennis in America as I am and become a USTA volunteer!

Tennis in America is riding an all-time high. Several years ago, it was determined the United States had approximately 23 million tennis players. At that time, the leaders of the USTA set a goal of having 30 million players by 2010. Initially, the goal seemed a bit high, but onward we marched. I am pleased to say by the end of 2009 we reached the 30 million player mark - a month before our self-imposed deadline!

The US Open is the largest attended sporting event annually in the WORLD! Over 700,000 people pass through the gates every year. Amazingly, in a challenged economy, 2009 exceeded the previous year's attendance records, which not many people thought possible. Television ratings were way up and the number of people going online to check out results or watch live feeds of the action also skyrocketed. This is really great news as the US Open is where the majority of the money comes from to support and develop the growth of tennis not only across the United States, but in our Section.



Brent Frueh

At USTA Northern, we have an excellent team of staff and volunteers who are committed to the mission. In 2009, we finished #1 in membership-growth percentage compared to the other 16 Sections across the country. Once again, we are seeing growth in a challenged economy!

Why all of this success? Is it the great crop of professional players that draw interest to our game? Maybe it is the USTA programs and services we offer? Maybe it is USTA League Tennis, USTA Jr. Team Tennis or the Junior Competitive circuit?

Could it be more professional tennis exposure on television? Or perhaps it is the partnerships the USTA is focusing on while branding "tennis" instead of USTA? Could it be our focus on diversity?

There are many more reasons why tennis has become the "in" sport and is growing at rates no other traditional sport can even come close to claiming. However, in my opinion, the top reason for the tremendous growth of tennis and chapter one in my imaginary book is the

dedication of thousands of passionate volunteers and professionals who make a living growing the game of tennis. It is the tireless and non-traditional hours our teaching professionals and tennis industry personnel put into the game. It is the vision of our tennis facilities managers and owners who invest in our game and the grassroots efforts of our Community Tennis Associations. It is the diverse offerings of our Parks and Recreation programs, as well as the hundreds of tournament and program directors and anyone else dedicated to providing a unique customer experience.

But, anyone with an interest in our game can contribute on a variety of levels and become an integral part of this developing story. I have attended the past 10 USTA Northern Awards ceremonies and am always inspired by the stories of the people who give so much to our game. To everyone that plays a part in this story, I salute and thank you for your service.

For those of you who have a few extra hours to spare and want to be a part of making a difference, I encourage you to get involved and volunteer. Be a main character in your community! You will find out what the thousands before you have - the possibilities are endless. ☺



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# USTA Northern

## Taking Applications For 2011-12 Board of Directors

USTA Northern is seeking applicants to serve on its 2011-12 Board of Directors. The term is January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2012. Application materials are available at [www.northern.usta.com](http://www.northern.usta.com) and the deadline to apply is May 17, 2010. For more information about serving on the Board of Directors, please see below or contact **Jay Pfaender**, Board Development Chair, at [jpfaender@drake-bank.com](mailto:jpfaender@drake-bank.com).

### General Instructions for Candidates

The Nominating Committee of USTA Northern invites anyone to submit an application for the USTA Northern Board of Directors. The term length is January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2012.

**Deadline to Apply:** May 17, 2010

**Application:** For an application, please visit [www.northern.usta.com](http://www.northern.usta.com) or call (952) 887-5001.

### Application Review and Interviews

All applications will be reviewed by the Board Development Committee. This is a competitive process as there are many applicants. Following a review of applications, the Board Development Committee may extend invitations to a select group of candidates. Candidates will be notified by phone or e-mail.

### Characteristics of Successful Candidates

Board Development Committee decisions are based on many factors. USTA Northern is looking for candidates who can shape the future of the Section. The Board selection process aims to create a team that, in combination, possesses the full complement of skills necessary to fulfill the Section mission and goals.

The responsibilities of the Board of Directors include:

- Shaping the future of the Section with long-term strategic thinking
- Assessing the performance of the Executive Director
- Creating a set of long-term financial goals
- Serving as a legitimate link between the Section staff and volunteers

Historically, successful candidates selected have possessed some, if not most, of the following skills and experience:

- Significant background in Section volunteer leadership positions
- Previous non-profit experience
- Extensive business, professional, academic, or tennis-related experience
- Success as a person who has actively grown the game of tennis
- The ability to both lead and contribute as a member of a team
- The time commitment to participate fully in the demands of this position
- A "big-picture" view of the needs of the organization and the future of tennis

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. The Development Committee will weigh these and other factors in order to best match candidate's strengths with the needs of the Section.

### Time Commitment for Board Members

Being a Board member requires a significant time commitment. The Board meets once a month for about three hours at a time, in addition to attending various Section programs and activities throughout the year.

### Verification of Application Information

Although we are not accepting letters of recommendation, we may seek feedback from people familiar with an applicant's performance in the roles listed on the application. And, if selected, there will be a formal background check conducted on all current and new Board members.

### Questions

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact **Jay Pfaender**, Board Development Chair at [jpfaender@drake-bank.com](mailto:jpfaender@drake-bank.com).

# USTA Northern

## Boasts National Award Winners

### The Walz Family Named 2010 Ralph W. Westcott National Family of the Year

The Joe, Cindy, Carl, Emily, Andy and Heidi Walz family of Aitkin, Minn., was honored as the 2010 Ralph W. Westcott USTA Family of the Year as part of the USTA Annual Meeting in March. The Family of the Year Award was created in 1965 by the USTA in honor of the late **Ralph W. Westcott** to emphasize that "Tennis is a Family Game." The award is made annually to the family who in recent years has done the most to promote amateur tennis, primarily on a volunteer basis.



From l to r: Andy, Heidi, Joe, Emily and Cindy.

Joe and Cindy became interested in tennis when their children Andy, Emily and Carl started playing the sport in the 90s. There was a girls team at Aitkin, but the boys team was intramural until 1998 when Andy and Carl played on the first varsity team. After winning the 1999 Sub-Sectional title, Carl was tragically killed in a car accident.


It was then that Joe and Cindy dedicated themselves to promoting the good sportsmanship, love and passion that Carl had for the game. They first dedicated a hitting wall at the Aitkin tennis courts adorned with the words "Tennis Begins With Love, In Memory of Carl Walz." The family then set up tennis camp scholarships in Carl's name, which have been given to countless numbers of kids the past 10 years.

Cindy serves as head girls tennis coach and boys assistant coach at Aitkin and was named the 2008 MSHSL Assistant Coach of the Year. Joe, an emergency room doctor, works the night shift so he can coach the Aitkin boys team and volunteer as a coach for

the girls program. They also organize Jr. Team Tennis and adult programs in the summer, and started the Carl Walz Memorial Tennis Tournament two years ago.

Their son, Andy, helped start the boys program at Aitkin where he lettered and helped run summer programs. He now works for Wilderness Inquiry, and through his work, the Walz family went to Kenya and raised over \$25,000 to fund two classroom buildings and tennis teachings. They are hoping to eventually fund nine classrooms at the Kenyan school. Andy's wife, Heidi, is currently in medical school and provides medical assistance to the school in Kenya.

Youngest daughter, Emily, played on the Aitkin varsity team since eighth grade and served as a Tennis & Life Camps instructor at Gustavus Adolphus College. She is currently a student at the University of Minnesota, majoring in education. Emily went to Kenya as part of the University of Minnesota Studies in International Development Program and implemented tennis as part of the physical education curriculum during her stay abroad. She also volunteered at Sidilu Oval – a make-shift tennis facility on the edge of Kiberia – where she taught tennis lessons and donated racquets, balls and grips.

"Their story is one that inspires many to reconsider what we are doing with our lives and how we can live our lives more meaningfully," **Neal Hagberg** said. They are so deserving of the award and others should be inspired by their example." 




### Steve Wilkinson Wins ITHF Educational Merit Award

Former Gustavus Adolphus head men's tennis coach and USTA Northern Hall of Famer **Steve Wilkinson** has been named the 2010 recipient of the International Tennis Hall of Fame Educational Merit Award. Wilkinson was honored as part of the International Tennis Hall of Fame Annual Awards Luncheon March 20 in Dallas.

Wilkinson retired in 2009 after 39 years on the job and is the all-time winningest coach in men's tennis collegiate history with over 920 victories. Wilkinson's squads have won two NCAA Division III titles (1980 and 1982) and his players have claimed six national doubles titles, and four national singles titles. He has coached 46 players to 87 All-America honors and five CoSIDA Academic All-Americans.

One of the most prominent coaches in collegiate tennis history, Wilkinson has been involved in numerous national tennis organizations having served on the executive committees of the United States Professional Tennis Association, the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, and the United States Tennis Association. He was inducted into the Iowa Tennis Hall of Fame in 1974, the Northern Tennis Association Hall of Fame in 1983 and the United States Tennis Association Missouri Valley Hall of Fame in 1999.

Wilkinson has also played a key role in the fundraising and construction of the Gustavus Adolphus tennis facilities. In the summer, Wilkinson and his wife, **Barbara**, run Tennis and Life Camps on the Gustavus campus.

In addition to his coaching abilities, Wilkinson was also an outstanding player. He played at the University of Iowa where he finished second in #1 doubles at the Big Ten Championships his senior season. After college, Wilkinson played competitive tennis for many years and was ranked #1 in the United States in the 45-, 50-, 55- and 60-and-over divisions. He has represented the United States in the Dubler Cup, Perry Cup and Austria Cup competition, winning the world championship in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1989, and finishing second in Berlin, Germany in 1992. 

# How You Can Volunteer With USTA Northern!

**"One Team, One Goal!"**  
This was the battle cry of USTA Chairman of the Board and President **Lucy Garvin** as she addressed USTA Northern members at the 2009 Hall of Fame Banquet last October in ensuring the long-term success of the USTA and tennis in general.

Now is the time! Do you want to get involved with helping grow the game of tennis? Whether you are a player, parent, teaching professional, coach or just a fan, there are numerous opportunities available to volunteer with USTA Northern.

"If we are not working together, we will not accomplish much," Garvin said. "For a time, we moved away from utilizing the skills of our members and volunteers. It is time for all of us to come together for the growth and development of tennis throughout the United States and the world."

Here is your chance to give back to the community and the game of tennis!

## Become A USTA League Tennis Captain

USTA League Tennis is the largest recreational tennis program in the United States with over 325,000 total participants and 5,000 in USTA Northern. But USTA League Tennis would not be successful without its captains! There are over 500 dedicated captains within USTA Northern serving teams and giving back to the game each season.

What does it take to be a captain? Anyone with a little time and some organizational skills is an excellent candidate to give back in this capacity. USTA League Captains organize their teams, set the line-up, help enforce the rules and regulations of the Section, record the scores and encourage their teammates and opponents to have fun and good sportsmanship while playing.

"I have captained 29 teams over the past seven years," Twin Cities player **Dale Collette** said. "The reason I captain is it allows me to provide more tennis opportunities to my tennis friends on a regular basis. I would definitely recommend captaining as a way to meet a lot of new people and make a lot of friends!"

To learn more about being a USTA League Captain in your community, contact your Area League Coordinator (visit [www.northern.usta.com/leagues](http://www.northern.usta.com/leagues) to find your ALC) or contact **Nancy Lundberg** at [lundberg@northern.usta.com](mailto:lundberg@northern.usta.com) or at (952) 358-3286.

## Serve On A USTA Northern Council or Committee

USTA Northern is a volunteer-run organization that depends on input and representation of its members. The Section is always looking for individuals to serve on its Councils and Committees. Candidates serve two-year terms and are welcomed from all geographical areas of the Section, varied ethnic and cultural backgrounds and diverse tennis backgrounds.

The primary roles of a council and committee member include:

1. Recommending ideas, thoughts and changes to Council/Committee Chair and Staff Liaison on any new or existing

programs, services or initiatives the Council/Committee oversee.

2. Review, monitor and evaluate those programs and activities connected to Council/Committee duties to ensure the Council/Committee and Staff Liaison meet its goals.
3. Work together with volunteers and staff in the spirit of cooperation and teamwork.

There are six Councils and 14 Committees that make up USTA Northern including:

**Adult Tennis Council** – To advise and support staff and volunteers at all levels with promoting and expanding adult tennis programming which include collegiate initiatives, innovative play, adult/senior tournaments and USTA Leagues.

- Collegiate Committee
- Leagues Committee
- Leagues Grievance Committee
- Tournament Play Committee
- Twin Cities League Committee

**Community Development Council** – To advise and support staff and volunteers at all levels with promoting and expanding community development initiatives which include Section awards, Community Tennis Association's and NJTL Chapters, section grants and scholarships and Public Facility Assistance.

- Awards Committee
- CTA/NJTL Committee
- Grants Committee
- Public Facility Assistance Committee

**Diversity Council** – To advise and support staff and volunteers at all levels with promoting and expanding diversity as an integral part in all facets of our organization, as well as tennis programs throughout the section.

**Junior Tennis Council** – To advise and support staff and volunteers at all levels with promoting and expanding junior tennis programming via Jr. Team Tennis and Player Development.

- Jr. Team Tennis Committee
- Player Development Committee

**Membership Council** – To advise and support staff and volunteers at all levels in their efforts to increase membership, both individual and organizational, to retain existing members and to add value to member benefits.

**Officials Council** – To advise and support staff and volunteers at all levels with promoting and expanding our officials initiatives which include assignments, recruitment, tournaments and training. Act as the Officials Appeal Committee.

- Tournaments and Assignments Committee
- Training and Recruitment Committee
- Disciplinary Committee

Applications will be accepted for all USTA Northern Council and

Committee positions beginning in June of 2010. For more information about the Councils and Committees or serving in this capacity with the Section, please contact **Mike Goldammer** at [goldammer@northern.usta.com](mailto:goldammer@northern.usta.com) or at (952) 887-5001.

## Get Involved With QuickStart or USTA Jr. Team Tennis In Your Community

Do your children participate in QuickStart Tennis or Jr. Team Tennis in your community?

There are many ways parents can get involved. As an organizer or coach, be specific with what role you would like parents and volunteers to play and what the commitment level will be. Make sure they know what their responsibilities are and what your duties as the coach or organizer are. As a parent or volunteer, ask where you might be needed. Here are some examples of how you can get involved!

### Become a Team Manager and assist the coach or organizer with some of the following details

- Administration duties for their team(s)
- Complete and submit necessary league forms to USTA Northern office
- Register teams and players on TennisLink
- Work with the coach and the Area League Coordinator to schedule matches against opposing teams
- Register team(s) for any tournaments they wish to participate in
- Record scores in TennisLink after each match
- Provide information to coaches, players, and parents in regard to rules, practice and match schedules, uniforms, equipment, required forms, etc.
- Coordinate transportation to and from each away match
- Assist coach at tournaments and matches
- Conduct player and coach evaluations at the end of the season
- Assure coaches comply with committee and USTA Jr. Team Tennis league policies
- Check player eligibility in accordance with USTA Northern league policies

### Promotion – Public Relations Coordinator

- Help promote the program in the community to increase participation
- Submit pictures and results to local newspapers, as well as to the tennis organization's Web site
- Schedule and coordinate an end-of-the-year party
- Prepare certificates and awards for an end of the season party (if applicable)

### Transportation

- Ensure that all players have a way to get to the matches
- Provide transportation, if needed



Get involved with Jr. Team Tennis in your community as a coach or parent volunteer.

### Communication

- Distribute information when needed to the other parents (i.e. - if a match time/location changes, inclement weather, etc.)

## Serve Your Local CTA or NJTL – Or Start Your Own

Many communities boast a Community Tennis Association or National Junior Tennis & Learning program to help grow tennis locally.

A Community Tennis Association is any incorporated,

geographically defined, not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization that supports or provides programs which promote and develop the game of tennis. There are many different types of CTAs, depending on the needs of your community. To learn if there is a CTA in your community or how to start a CTA, visit [www.usta.com/cta](http://www.usta.com/cta) or contact **Becky Cantellano** at [cantellano@northern.usta.com](mailto:cantellano@northern.usta.com) or at (952) 358-3291.

The National Junior Tennis & Learning program was founded in 1969 by **Arthur Ashe**, **Charlie Pasarell** and **Sheridan Snyder** and is a nationwide network of community tennis organizations seeking to develop the character of young people through tennis and education. NJTL's are unique because they offer a variety of on-court programming, as well as educational and life skills components designed to enhance a player's overall development. To find an NJTL in your community or to start one, please visit [www.usta.com/njtl](http://www.usta.com/njtl) or contact **Tony Stingley** at [stingley@northern.usta.com](mailto:stingley@northern.usta.com) or at (952) 358-3289.

## Be A Part Of The Big Serve Advocacy Initiative



The Big Serve is the USTA's advocacy initiative. The effort is aimed at connecting the passion of USTA members and the larger tennis community with the public policy needs of the communities in which they live. We know that tennis is a sport that can change lives and improve communities, but our charge as tennis advocates is to convince community leaders of this in order to gain their support for:

1. The building or renovating of places to play
2. Creating new opportunities to play during after-school hours
3. Protecting varsity tennis and creating opportunities to play recreational tennis on college campuses.
4. Adopting-A-School – learn more about this initiative at <http://www.usta.com/USTA/Home/Coaches/AdoptASchool.aspx>

If you are currently involved in a local campaign for any of the above, the USTA may be able to help. Explore resources and stories of inspiration at <http://thebigserve.usta.com/> or contact Cantellano at USTA Northern to set up a consultation regarding your specific situation.

For more information on other ways you can give back to the game and volunteer within the Section, please call (952) 887-5001 or e-mail [info@northern.usta.com](mailto:info@northern.usta.com).

# USTA Northern Junior Anthony Rosa

## Never Too Young To Give Back To The Game

**E**leven-year-old **Anthony Rosa** of Eden Prairie, Minn., was looking for a way to make a few additional dollars last summer. Admittedly, there are “not a lot of jobs out there for kids my age,” but that did not deter this little entrepreneur as he tried to figure out what he could do to make some money.

His mother, **Gretchen**, a tennis teaching professional at Life Time Fitness – Eden Prairie, suggested her son could teach QuickStart tennis lessons to the younger kids in the neighborhood as a way to earn some money. Ranked 13th in Boys 12s in USTA Northern, Anthony had seen his mom teach lessons over the years and work with his little brother, **Christopher**. Anthony also knew he had good knowledge of not only the game, but the equipment used on the court, and set out to start his summer business.

On his own, he first developed a brochure for his ‘tennis academy’ and went door-to-door in the neighborhood introducing himself and explaining what he was offering and why their kids should get involved. He then borrowed a QuickStart Tennis net and obtained some low-compression tennis balls that were not being used from a storage closet at Life Time Fitness – Eden Prairie. He then found some 23- and 25-inch racquets for his pupils to use. Finally, the pieces were in place and he was open for business.

With the help of his mom, Anthony set up his equipment in the middle of the neighborhood cul-de-sac. Soon his first customer came to take his first lesson, while the student’s curious parents set up lawn chairs on the sidewalk to “see what was happening.”

“I was really proud of him,” Gretchen said. “To come up with his own brochure and then to go door-to-door and tell the neighbors about his business was pretty impressive. The expectations were low to start with, but it did not take long to see that he was a natural. He really loves the game and this was a great fit for him. It was also a good way for him to give back to the game.”

Anthony first taught his pupils the right grip to hold the racquet. Then he focused on forehands and backhands and then volleys. He incorporated some fun drills and games he had learned through his own tennis lessons over the years with coaches **Todd Bowlby** and **Kevin Whipple** to keep things fresh and exciting. He made about \$250 last summer, charging \$10 a lesson.

“Teaching isn’t really something you practice,” Anthony said. “I just use what my coaches have told me over the years and put it in a way that little kids will understand. I also try to play some games and make it fun for the kids. I actually think it helps that I am just a kid because I know what kids think is fun and not so fun.”

**Gordon Reid**, who is the head tennis professional at Life Time Fitness – Eden Prairie, also recognizes what a special person Anthony is and how he is giving back to the game. He sent Anthony



Anthony (center) with Maddie and Mason Brown.

an e-mail back in November in response to a new student who started taking lessons at the club after seeing Anthony teach the other neighborhood kids last summer. That student, four-year-old **William McClenahan**, plans to take lessons with Anthony this summer.

“I have heard that you have been doing a great job getting the kids in your neighborhood introduced and addicted to tennis,” Reid writes. “I am thrilled to hear that you have been taking what you learn from your teachers and passing on your love of the game to others. All those kids

are very fortunate to have someone like you to look up to.”


Teaching also helps Anthony improve his own game and keep everything in perspective. He started playing when he was three and each day likes the game more and more.

“Tennis is a second life for me,” Anthony says. “On the court, I am a different person. It is really intense for me and you live for that as a player. Every time you win a point, you feel so good. Even if you lose a match, it is still fun. For me, the fun is in the challenge every time I go out there and play. I am also a creative person and teaching comes naturally for me.”

So what is next for this 40-year-old in an 11-year-old body? He plans on purchasing more equipment for the summer and is looking to offer group rather than just private lessons so he can introduce more kids to the game this summer. He already has six players reg-

istered for the summer, including two new kids to the neighborhood who heard about his program. He also wants to work at the local country club so he can start learning as much about the business as he can for the future.

“I would like to play tennis in college and earn a scholarship,” Anthony said. “I also hope a job in tennis comes along some day because I really want to do that.”

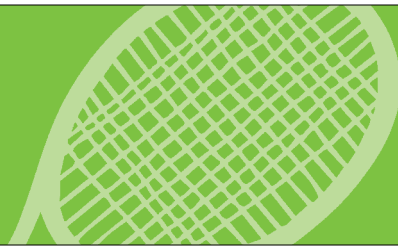
For now though, this 11-year-old is just happy spreading the word about tennis and hopes others will enjoy it as much as he does. 



Anthony with Lincoln Baune

# Volunteer Spotlight

Ellen Doll  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



**Education:**

BS Degree from the University of Minnesota, 1979

**People Who Have Influence Me the Most:**

My mom and dad – they have always believed in me; Rosamund and Ben Zander, authors of “The Art of Possibility.”

**Family Members:**

Jay Swanson (husband) & daughters Madeline and Isabella Swanson

**Hobbies:**

Cooking & baking, reading

**Occupation:**

Community Volunteer



Ellen Doll

*Q. How did you become involved in tennis?*

**A.** Tennis has always been one of my favorite sports. At age 9, my girlfriend and I began riding our bikes to nearby public tennis courts and taught ourselves to play. Watching the Helgeson Brothers practice, we took note of their form and dedication, hoping to incorporate some of it into our own games.

*Q. What is your involvement with tennis now?*

**A.** I'd like to work on rebuilding more courts in the Minneapolis public parks. With the success we've had, it's hard to call it quits... and there is no question about the need. I am also currently a board member for USTA Northern and serve on the USTA National Tennis in the Parks Committee, as well as on the Northern Tennis Foundation and the Reed Sweatt Family Tennis Center Board of Directors.

I play in daytime singles leagues, social and family doubles. I also play regularly with life-long friend, Amy Quinlivan, who was my tennis partner in the seventh grade, proving the adage that tennis is a life-long sport that fosters life-long friendships.

*Q. When I am not playing tennis, I am...*

**A.** Working on grant applications.

*Q. What's the best thing about tennis?*

**A.** It's a lifetime sport. Tennis is a great all-around workout and according to a study done at Southern Connecticut State University, tennis players scored higher in vigor, optimism and self-esteem while scoring lower in depression, anger, confusion, anxiety and tension than other athletes or non-athletes. I believe it.

*Q. What is the most fun you have had involving tennis?*

**A.** I love playing tennis in Kenwood Park (Minneapolis) and listening to the comments. I cannot tell you how gratifying it is to see the courts filled with players from morning until night, day after day.

*Q. To make tennis better, we should?*

**A.** Continue to be a voice for quality tennis facilities, providing

support to organizations that will make tennis accessible to more people from all walks of life.

*Q. How did you become a tennis volunteer?*

**A.** The tennis courts in the Minneapolis parks were in deplorable condition, and with dwindling resources, it seemed unlikely that the Park Board had plans to restore them. Rather than waiting for public funding, we gathered a talented group of volunteers and took on the first tennis court renovation project.

*Q. What do you enjoy most about volunteering?*

**A.** It makes me happy to know that the work we are doing will have a lasting effect on the neighborhoods. Beautiful tennis courts in a neighborhood impact the quality of life.

*Q. What can we do to get more tennis volunteers?*

**A.** There is plenty of passion out there - maybe you just need to ask.

*Q. What would you say to someone who is interested in volunteering with the USTA or serving on the Board or a Council or Committee in the future?*

**A.** How fun to take part in a meeting that is nothing but “tennis talk.”

# Find Your Team!

Summer Registration Happening Now For USTA Northern Jr. Team Tennis!



NORTHERN

USTA Jr. Team Tennis is the largest junior recreational tennis league in the country. This is the "Little League" for tennis. As the players grow into their skills, the format is adapted to best meet their needs whether using the QuickStart format or playing traditional tennis. JTT is a combination of practice and match play with an emphasis on skill development, fun, teamwork and friendly competition. The local season consists of competing against other teams of similar age and ability level. Teams can choose to participate in a Championship series and try to advance all the way to a national championship.

There are five levels of JTT ranging in age from 8-18. Within these levels are novice, intermediate and advanced divisions. The teams are coed and consist of at least six players – three boys and three girls – based on similar ages and skill levels. Matches include boys singles, girls singles, boys doubles, girls doubles and mixed doubles and all team matches are determined by a total-games-won format.

Last year, almost 2,000 kids participated in USTA Northern JTT and that number continues to rise as more emphasis is placed on growing leagues for elementary and middle school players! Players register directly through a local tennis provider who is forming USTA Jr. Team Tennis teams. To find a team or to learn more about your local league, please contact your Area League Coordinator (see below).

There is a base league fee of only \$15. Additional costs vary by program based on number of practices, experience level of coaches, etc. Often times the \$15 league fee is just rolled into the local programming cost. USTA Membership is also required (\$19/year).

Included with a USTA Junior Membership and JTT league registration are these great benefits:

- An official team shirt courtesy of NIKE
- Access to Tennis Link – the online player registration and tracking system
- Team matches
- Opportunities for your team to advance to Area, Section and possibly National Championships

- Ability to participate in USTA Sanctioned Tournaments
- A subscription to *Smash Magazine*
- Access to scholarship opportunities
- Access to retail discounts

"Jr. Team Tennis allows kids who drill together to play together," Life Time Fitness – Fridley JTT organizer and JTT parent **Brian McCoy** said. "This key concept brings a spirit of camaraderie and kinship that is great for players and programs."

## 2010 USTA NORTHERN JR. TEAM TENNIS POSTSEASON PLAY

### Area Championships (various locations)

July 12-13: Northern Minnesota Area Championship - Brainerd, MN

July 14: North Dakota Area Championship - Jamestown, ND

July 15-16: South Dakota Area Championship - Brandon, SD

July 19-20: Twin Cities/Southern Minnesota Area Championships (Apple Valley, Coon Rapids, Lakeville, Minneapolis, Shakopee)

### Section Championships (Minneapolis, MN)

July 25-26: 14U and 18U Advanced Section Championships

July 27-28: 14U and 18U Intermediate Section Championships

July 29: 12U Intermediate and Advanced Section Championships

### National Championships (Surprise, AZ)

October 22-24: 14-and-under National Championships

October 29-31: 18-and-under National Championships

## Meet Your USTA Jr. Team Tennis League Coordinators

Christine Nickels, <b>Section League Coordinator</b> , nickels@northern.usta.com		
Jean Forbes, <b>Section League Assistant</b> , forbes@northern.usta.com		
Hayley Horning Shibley, <b>ND Tennis Service Representative</b> shibley@northern.usta.com	Chris Dummermuth (May 2010), <b>SD Tennis Service Representative</b> dummermuth@northern.usta.com	
<b>Area League Coordinators</b>	<b>Chippewa Valley, WI - Brenna McCormick</b> mccormbk@uwec.edu	<b>Rochester, MN - Jennifer O'Hara</b> johara@rochesterathleticclub.com
	<b>Fargo/West Fargo/Moorhead - Chad Anderson</b> Anderson@west-fargo.k12.nd.us	<b>Sioux Falls/Brandon, SD - Jeff Nelson</b> jeffn@westwardhocountryclub.com
	<b>Northern MN - Gary Conda</b> gconda@yahoo.com	<b>St. Cloud, MN - Chris Anderson</b> c_d_Anderson@yahoo.com
For the Greater Twin Cities and all other areas, contact the Section League Assistant at forbes@northern.usta.com		

# Parents and Kids —

## Check Out “Let’s Play Tennis!”

**F**ormer USTA Northern staff member and current high school tennis coach **Patty Egart** of Anoka, Minn., has written a new tennis book aimed at parents and kids. “Let’s Play Tennis! A Guide for Parents and Kids by Andy Ace” takes parents and kids on a fun-filled journey from the sporting goods department to the tennis courts where they can learn the strokes through fun games and drills. The story and full-color illustrations, also done by Egart, will help players of all ages get out on the courts and learn to play tennis quickly!

“This is a great tool for parents who have a family member starting the great sport of tennis,” **Brian McCoy**, USPTA Northern Division President and Head Tennis Professional at Life Time Fitness – Fridley, said. “The information that is contained within Andy’s story is invaluable for those who are beginning their journey in tennis and those who would like to support them in their adventure. Teaching pros and organizers at all levels would be wise to provide this fun and educational material to their students.”

A first-time author, Egart is a former physical education teacher with a degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) Certified Professional. She worked in the USTA Northern office for eight years and was responsible for starting collegiate and corporate tennis programs. She has coached boys and girls high school tennis for 15 years and has three children who also play tennis. In 1999, she founded the Anoka-Ramsey youth tennis program. Over 400 children ages 3-18 participate in QuickStart and USTA Jr. Team Tennis programs each year in Anoka Ramsey.

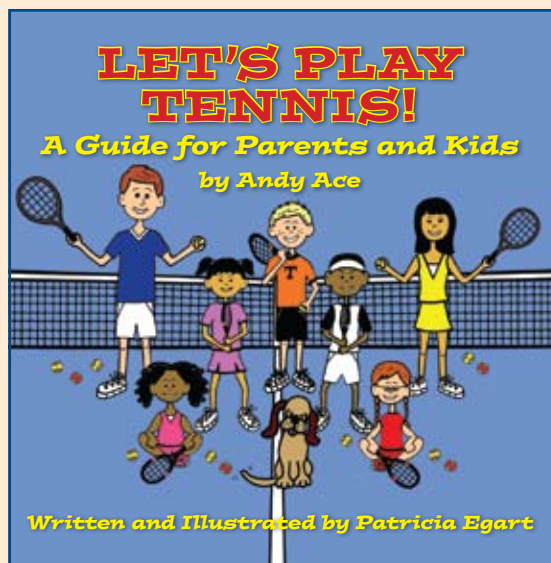
The book, which is fully endorsed by USTA Northern, is available starting in mid-April through the USTA Northern office. To order, please visit [www.northern.usta.com](http://www.northern.usta.com) or call (952) 887-5001. You can view sample pages of the book at [www.andyacetenis.com](http://www.andyacetenis.com).

**Q. How did you come up with the idea to write this book?**

**A.** I founded a youth tennis program for the communities of Anoka and Ramsey in 1999. I tried to get parents to coach the first year, but only had six volunteer parents that first year.

I have been a bit jealous of the parental involvement I see in other sports. I always see softball parents chalking lines, soccer parents setting up nets and cones, and moms at hockey arenas wearing “Hockey Mom” hats. Have you ever seen a “Tennis Mom” hat? I keep trying to get parents involved on court but they always say, “I can’t help with tennis. I have never played and don’t feel confident.”

In the meantime, I had been looking for tennis books to recommend to all my players and parents, but could never find any. Then I had parents request information from me to understand what their kids had learned, as well as how they can keep playing with



their kids and how to involve them in indoor programs and tournaments.

Finally, I had a “Eureka” moment where I thought, ‘Maybe parents would get more involved if they knew what a groundstroke is, what a rally is, as well as a bit about tennis etiquette and scoring?’ I initially set out to write a simple, but comprehensive handout with illustrations. The handout turned into 32-page, full-color book.

**Q. Where did you come up with the characters?**

**A.** I originally wrote three fiction stories about the Tennis Tigers, a youth tennis team featuring the characters I have in this non-fiction book. I made up the names - Andy Ace, Danny Deuce, Chip, Alley Ace, and Lucy Love

- to be fun, appealing and to be about tennis. I am currently working on illustrating the first fiction book that will be released later this year. I am still looking for names of the parents and some of the kids on the cover! If anyone has any ideas, let me know!


**Q. You did all of this – the writing and illustrations - from scratch with no prior experience. Talk about the process of going from an idea to a physical book?**

**A.** First, I wrote down everything I thought would be helpful to a parent and child to get started playing tennis. Then I set out to illustrate the “handout.” I took a lot of art in high school because I loved it and my art teacher thought I should major in art in college, but I also loved sports so I majored in physical education instead.

I knew I wanted cute, simple and colorful cartoon drawings so I went to the library and to bookstores to get information on cartooning and art software programs. I then sketched and sketched until I fell in love with the “Andy Ace” face. My next challenge was to draw the cartoon characters playing tennis. I got out all my tennis magazines and instructional books and used them as a guide to create the stroke drawings.

I then showed the book to **Becky Cantellano** and **Mike Goldammer** at USTA Northern and they encouraged me to publish the book. I contacted **Judith Palmeteer** of Amber Skye Press and she guided me through what it exactly takes to get a book published.

**Q. Who is the main audience for this book?**

**A.** The target audience is children and parents and grandparents of children ages 5-12. I hope it will be used to enhance the experience of a child who is in a tennis program. I hope it is a book that will be read together by a parent and a child, makes it into the sports bag and is used on the tennis court. I hope a non-tennis-playing parent will be able to use this book to start playing tennis with their child and having fun together! 

# CROSSCOURT

## Dan James Named 2010 PTR Wheelchair Professional of the Year

**Dan James** (Oakdale, Minn.) was named the PTR Wheelchair Professional of the Year at the PTR International Tennis Symposium February 12-18 in Hilton Head, S.C.

At Minnesota's Life Time Fitness - St. Louis Park, James held his first wheelchair drill clinic in October 1992.

Since then, he has coached the game on six continents. James has been one of the key players in the growth of wheelchair tennis. He coached 12 World Team Cups for the USA, and three Paralympics (Sydney, Athens and Beijing), as well as the first-ever Parapan American Games (Rio '07). His teams and players have earned 11 medals, including five gold, four silver and two bronze.

James has made several ITF Silver Fund trips to Bolivia, Guatemala, Kenya and Tanzania, bringing wheelchair tennis to developing nations. In 2003, he was named Racquet Sports Industry magazine's Wheelchair Champion, and in 2007, earned IWTA (International Wheelchair Tennis Association) Coach of the Year honors. He also is the only American serving on the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee.



Dan James - center.

## Mya Smith-Dennis and Hamish Weerasinghe Win National Open 18s Doubles Title



Hamish Weerasinghe (l) and Mya Smith-Dennis.

**Mya Smith-Dennis** (Savage, Minn.) and **Hamish Weerasinghe** (Edina, Minn.) won the doubles championship at the 18s National Open at the Queens Club Racquet Club in Cincinnati, Ohio in February. They opened the tournament with an 8-3 win over Joey Fritz (Cincinnati, Ohio) and Jimmy Roebker (Ft. Mitchell, Ky.). In the round of 16, they beat seventh-seeded Tyler Gardiner (Novi, Mich.) and Jackson Withrow

(Omaha, Neb.) 9-7. In the quarters, they defeated Douglas Barnard (Indianapolis, Ind.) and Winston Lin (Williamsville, N.Y.) 8-4, and then beat fourth-seed Jason Luu (Fairfax, Va.) and Quoc-Daniel Nguyen (Dunn Loring, Va.) 9-7. In the finals, the duo beat their third seeded teams of the tournament - top seeds Casey MacMaster (Ft.

Collins, Colo.) and **Nelson Vick** (Stillwater, Minn.) 8-5.

Vick also has a strong singles tournament, losing in the semi-finals. The third seed, Vick opened the tournament with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-0 win over Gardiner. In the round of 32, Vick defeated Mark Goldberg (Beachwood, Ohio) 6-4, 6-1. He then handled Nolan Paige (Fairfield, Conn.) 6-4, 6-3 and then beat Withrow in the quarters 6-4, 6-4. In the semifinals, Vick fell to second-seeded Justin Shane (Falls Church, Va.) 6-4, 6-4.

## Kavir Kumar and Gregory Wischer Finish Second At National Open

In Lake Charles, La., the doubles team of **Kavir Kumar** (Minneapolis, Minn.) and **Gregory Wischer** (Grand Forks, N.D.) placed second at the 12s National Open at the Lake Charles Racquet Club. The top-seed in the tournament, they won three matches before falling to second seeded Charles Tan (Austin, Texas) and Jean Thirouin (Houston, Texas) 8-4.



Gregory Wischer

Kavir also placed fourth in the singles draw, where he won four matches before losing to second seeded Cole Lawson (Spring, Texas) in the semifinals 6-1, 6-1. He then fell to Thirouin in the third-place match 6-4, 6-3.

Wischer won the consolation championship with a 6-1, 4-6, 12-10 win over Avery Liu (Plano, Texas).

## US Open National Playoffs Northern Section Qualifier in St. Cloud June 14-20

The Open is now open as Apollo High School in St. Cloud, Minn., will play host to the US Open National Playoffs Northern Section Qualifying Tournament June 14-20. The event is open to anyone 14 years of age or older and the men's and women's champions from each of the sectional qualifying tournaments advance to the US Open National Playoffs to be held in conjunction with Olympus US Open Series tournaments this summer.

The entry fee for each of the sectional qualifying tournaments is \$125. All players competing must have a current USTA membership valid through August 30, 2010. Each sectional qualifying tournament is limited to 256 players, and players will not be seeded by any means.



Participants can be of any playing level, from aspiring novice to seasoned professional, giving everyone an equal opportunity to advance.

To register, visit <http://tennislink.usta.com/tournaments/tournamenthome/tournament.aspx?T=93368>

For more information contact **Mark Muntifering** at (320) 493-7206 or by e-mail at [monty@charter.net](mailto:monty@charter.net).

## Enjoy New Member Benefit Through Vehicle Advantage



Designed to save you, your employees and your family members hundreds - and perhaps thousands - of dollars on your next new or used vehicle purchase or lease, **Vehicle Advantage** offers a hassle-free buying/leasing experience. A one-stop service for all types of vehicles, Vehicle Advantage negotiates the lowest price based upon your selection criteria, through your local dealer-Nationwide-at no additional cost to you. Visit [www.vehicleadvantage.com](http://www.vehicleadvantage.com) or call (866) 847-4395. Partner Code: USTA-1.

## Minnesota and Wisconsin Students Eligible For In-State Tuition As Part Of Ferris State Professional Tennis Management Program

Did you know that Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich., offers a Professional Tennis Management program? In addition, high school students in both Minnesota and Wisconsin are now eligible for the Great Lakes Scholarship which offers in-state tuition to out-of-state students. For more information about the program, visit [www.ferris.edu/ptm/](http://www.ferris.edu/ptm/). For more information about the Great Lakes Scholarship, visit [www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/greatlakes.html#freshman](http://www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/greatlakes.html#freshman).



## Minnesota-Maroon Wins Seventh Consecutive Tennis On Campus Section Championship

The **University of Minnesota-Maroon** defeated **North Dakota State I**, 26-20, in the finals of the 2010 USTA Northern Tennis On Campus Section Championships February 20-21 at Life Time Fitness - Lakeville in Lakeville, Minn. It was the seventh straight Section championship for the University of Minnesota and both teams advance to the Tennis On Campus National Championships April 15-17 in Surprise, Ariz.

Minnesota opened the finals with a 6-0 win by **Michael Perzel** and **Charlie Ellson** in men's doubles, but NDSU charged back winning the women's doubles 6-5 and the men's singles 6-3 making the score 14-12 with women's singles and mixed doubles remaining. Minnesota's **Melanie Vu** then defeated **Erin Swanberg** 6-3, giving Minnesota a 20-15 lead heading into the mixed doubles. Minnesota's **Michael Kraft** and **Rachel Goldberg** defeated **Kelly Rensink** and **Adam Gustad** 6-5 to ensure the 26-20 win.



Champions: University of Minnesota - Maroon



Finalists: North Dakota State I

"This was the closest finals match we have had," University of Minnesota captain **Mai Lan Leong** said. "It is really nice to see other schools in our Section getting better and stepping up their play. We had to work really hard to win this one."

Members of the winning Gopher squad include Leong, Ellson, Goldberg, Kraft, Perzel, Vu, **Erik Sahlin**, **Beth Schulte** and **Danielle Abraham**.

For North Dakota State, it was redemption of sorts to advance to the National Championships. NDSU received a wild card bid to Nationals in 2009, but could not attend the championships because the team decided to fight the floods that threatened Fargo, N.D., where the school is located, instead of traveling to the National Championships. This year, they hope they can play at Nationals.

"We just hope it does not flood," team captain Gustad said. "We are so excited to be representing not only NDSU, but those who played on the team last year."

Members of the NDSU team include Goodin, Gustad, Rensink, Swanberg, **Luke Brodeur** and **Kyle McGuigan**.

University of Wisconsin Stout-White won the Silver Flight with a 22-21 win over South Dakota 2. South Dakota 1 won the consolation championship with a 27-23 win over NDSU 2. **South Dakota 2** won the overall team sportsmanship award, while UW-Superior's **Janessa Demers** and Valley City State's **Jeremy Luttio** were the women's and men's Sportsmanship Award recipients, respectively.

# Getting To Know...

## Junior Player Elliott Sprecher

**E**lliott Sprecher of Cadott, Wis., is ranked #1 in Boys 14s for USTA Northern and 14th nationally. A relative unknown, Sprecher burst onto the National scene in 2009 when he became the first player in USTA Northern to win the Nike National Masters Series event in Stanford, Calif., and qualify for the Nike International Masters Tournament in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. At the International tournament, Sprecher beat the #1 seed in the tournament and advanced to the quarterfinals.



Elliott Sprecher

**Q. How did you start playing tennis?**

**A.** When I was eight, my family and I happened to see **Justine Henin** playing on TV and thought it looked fun. We went to the park and tried it out, got a few lessons. I picked it up rather quickly, but I didn't start playing tournaments for a couple more years.

**Q. Do you have anyone in your family who plays tennis?**

**A.** Everyone in my family started playing at the same time I did. Neither of my parents played in college or had any other previous experience, but my mom has gotten quite good, and I still hit with her from time to time. Right now though, I'm the only one who plays regularly or competitively.

**Q. What are your tennis strengths?**

**A.** As far as strokes go, my forehand and serve are my best shots. I can rely on them to open up the court for me. When you consider the overall picture, my size is one of my biggest advantages. I'm tall for someone my age, and that's invaluable at the junior level. But for the moment, my primary strength is simply consistency rather than power. I win most of my tennis matches by just being more solid than my opponent from the baseline.

**Q. Where can you improve your game?**

**A.** I've been working on coming forward more, penetrating the court, trying to flatten out my drives. I have a tendency to stay too defensive. The more I can make my way to the net, the better.

**Q. Who do you work with to improve your game?**

**A.** I take occasional lessons from **Bruce Gullikson**, who works at the Life Time Fitness – Bloomington South. He's helped me immensely to hone my aggressive play and volley technique. Also during the summer, I work with **Daniel Nabedrick** at Golden Valley Country Club. I owe them both a lot, as well as many others I

haven't specifically named. Of particular note is **Erica Heshelman**, who worked with me at my local club in Eau Claire. When we first moved to Wisconsin five years ago, I'd just started playing tennis, and she was my first instructor who pushed me to be the best I could be. She nurtured my game into a strong foundation that I could continue building off of as I got older.

**Q. You do not play high school tennis... talk about how you improve as a player, especially living in Cadott.**

**A.** Since I'm homeschooled, I have more opportunity to improve my game on my own. At the moment, I think playing junior tournaments and traveling every so often to different academies is the best option for me. I find excellent competition there from players who have very diverse styles.

**Q. You must have to travel a lot to play – both locally, Sectionally and Nationally. Talk about that.**

**A.** Traveling is something I've really had to accept and condition myself to do. Where I live – a farm in Northwestern Wisconsin – there is certainly no tennis powerhouse. Even the closest sectional tournaments in Minnesota are at least two hours away. I've become well accustomed to the drive. Minneapolis is where I do a lot of my training, and I use the airport there whenever I fly.

**Q. Where is the best place you have been thus far?**

**A.** Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic. Nike had all the players stay at a Club Med resort by the ocean. I've never been so happy to be a tennis player; the whole experience was surreal, once in a lifetime. I'm not quite sure anything will ever be able to top the satisfaction I had when I realized, in a small way, my work was beginning to pay off.

**Q. What are your best tennis moments?**

**A.** Obviously winning the Nike Junior Tour National Masters was a high point, as far as tournaments go. But, along other lines, when I was training for a week at Bollettieri's, **Nick Bollettieri** came to watch me for a bit. While he was looking on, I proceeded to strike one of the best forehands of my life for an on-the-run winner down the line. Bollettieri stared at me, clapped his hands, and said, "Now son, that's how to hit a damn forehand! That's the way!" The shot was seventy percent luck, but receiving such a compliment from one of the game's most prominent figures is definitely a moment I'll never forget.

**Q. What was it like to beat all those seeded players when you won the Nike National Masters in 2009?**

**A.** It felt good to take people by surprise, and to stage a few upsets. Coming into the tournament unseeded proved to be a blessing in disguise. When I faced the top three seeds, I think they underestimated me, didn't see me as a true threat since I came from Wisconsin. It also helped to deal with the pressure and stay loose. I'm pretty sure the only time I had a bad case of nerves the whole tournament was match point up against **Joseph Di Giulio**, the number one seed, in the semifinal. I won the point – and the match – on a shanked volley winner. But hey, I'll take it!

**Q. Talk about playing at the Nike International event in Punta Cana. What was that like?**

**A.** It was an honor to be there. I can honestly say it was the best week of my life, and I wish it could have lasted longer. Besides representing the U.S. in competition and winning matches, I greatly enjoyed mingling with all the kids from different countries in the evening. I made friends I would never have met otherwise, and had the chance to participate in the many activities Nike scheduled. Sailboarding was hard! Still, it was impossible not to have a good time. Nike outdid themselves. The entire week was a tennis player's dream.

**Q. You beat the #1 seed there as well. How do you prepare to play someone like that?**

**A.** Coming in, I recognized the chance to make a name for myself, and really wanted to take advantage of the opportunity. I didn't go into the match thinking "It's just another match." I prepared myself mentally for a strong player and a grueling battle. I knew he was a full-timer at Bollettieri's, so he got some of the best coaching in the world. I just went in determined to try my best and mix things up, go for my shots, take some chances when they presented themselves, but play solidly.

**Q. You caught everyone by surprise at both the Nike National and International event. What is it like now to not be the underdog and unknown anymore?**

**A.** Obviously the publicity that followed was nice, but I miss being the underdog. Now when I play a tournament, people know I've had big wins, so they come against me with a different mindset. They don't underestimate me like they often did. On the other hand, I've gotten several excellent training opportunities now that I'm a little more well-known, and my name is out there as a viable contender for national tournaments.



**Q. Will you need to leave Wisconsin and attend a tennis academy to continue your tennis progress?**

**A.** I've been invited to Bollettieri's a couple times, as well as the USTA Player Development center in Florida. I'll keep traveling to academies down South or out West once in a while,

but I'm not going to train at one full time. I can still get instruction up here, and I have good support. There is no reason to leave permanently.

**Q. What are your tennis goals – college, satellites, etc.?**

**A.** Going pro is always the dream, but college is definitely a better option for me and that's what I'm working toward. If I can get a solid scholarship somewhere I'll be content. But you never know – if I start having great results in the 16s or 18s nationally - I might try playing a few low-level pro events and see how I do. But that's a ways off yet. Right now it's best to concentrate on the present.

**Q. What are your outside interests besides tennis?**

**A.** I'm a Packers fan, and used to be a **Brett Favre** fan, though obviously my views on Favre have changed drastically. Since I live on a farm, I enjoy four-wheeling and snowmobiling as primary outdoor activities. I also enjoy playing golf - on a good day I can shoot in the low 80s. And before I got into tennis, baseball used to be my thing. I could play all the positions.... very poorly.

**Q. How do you balance tennis with your every day life?**

**A.** It's not a problem for me. On a normal day, I'll practice for up to two hours at my local club, and once in a while will make a trip into Minneapolis. Tennis is habit now, like going school or work. It is just another part of the day for me. It's gotten to the point where I feel strange if I don't practice during the day.

**Q. What would you tell someone who is looking to start playing tennis?**

**A.** If you don't play for the love of the game, don't bother playing at all. When first starting, just have fun and enjoy it, don't put pressure on yourself to perform. The sport takes time to grow into, but when you do, it will last for a lifetime.

**Q. Anything else you would like to add...**

**A.** I'm indebted to everyone who's helped me get to this point, especially to my supportive parents and those working at our local YMCA tennis facility, where I often hit four or five days a week. It's been a blessing traveling all over the country, working my tail off while competing and getting better. My game still has a long path ahead of it in order to fully develop, but one of my favorite things about tennis is that you can always continue to improve, always keep finding that higher gear. What else can I say – it's an amazing sport! 🎾

## We Regret The Error

The final 2009 Year-End Rankings for Men's 60 Singles was wrong in the 2010 USTA Northern Yearbook. Here is the corrected list. We regret the error.

### Corrected 2009 Year End Rankings - Men's 60 Singles

1 Dick Nelson	Hopkins	MN
2 Rick Schultz	Eagan	MN
3 Ron York	Eagan	MN
4 Bob Busch	Edina	MN

# Community

## Tennis Update

### RCW and QuickStart Trainings Scheduled Throughout the Section

Want to increase the number of people using your tennis courts? Looking for a way to volunteer within your community? Participate in a Recreational Coach Workshop (RCW) or QuickStart Tennis Workshop this summer and give back to the game.

An RCW is an interactive, on-court training program designed for tennis teachers and coaches working with players of all levels, abilities and ages at the recreational level. The workshop covers training on the QuickStart Tennis format, teaching large groups and effective team practices. For more information, please visit [www.usta.com/rcw](http://www.usta.com/rcw).

A QuickStart Tennis workshop is designed for beginning tennis teachers, parents and coaches working with young people ages 10 and under. The workshop is an interactive, on-court experience that provides attendees with age specific information and included warm-up activities, skill development, games and cool-down activities. For more information, please visit [www.partners.quickstarttennis.com](http://www.partners.quickstarttennis.com).

For more information about future RCW or QuickStart Trainings or to schedule one in your community, contact **Tony Stingley** at (952) 358-3289 or [stingley@northern.usta.com](mailto:stingley@northern.usta.com).

#### 2010 RCW and/or QuickStart Tennis Workshops in mid-May or June

##### Sunday, May 16 (9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.)

Kuehn Park RCW, Sioux Falls, S.D. Contact **Cindy Huether** at [cshuether@sio.midco.net](mailto:cshuether@sio.midco.net) or at (605) 336-9396

##### Thursday, June 3 (6:00-9:30 p.m.)

Brandon Valley Community Tennis Complex QST Workshop, Brandon, S.D. Contact **Becky Blue** at [beckyblue@mac.com](mailto:beckyblue@mac.com) or at (605) 359-6677

##### Friday, June 4 (9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.)

Bollinger Tennis Courts RCW, Jamestown, N.D. Contact **Steve Listopad** at [slistopa@jc.edu](mailto:slistopa@jc.edu) or at (701) 261-5562

##### Saturday, June 5 (9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.)

University of Minnesota – St. Paul Campus RCW, St. Paul, Minn. Contact **Brandon Jackson** at [jack0452@umn.edu](mailto:jack0452@umn.edu) or at (903) 452-1870

##### Saturday, June 5 (1:00-4:30 p.m.)

Longview Tennis Center QST, Duluth, Minn. Contact **Sarah Hurst** at (218) 213-8338 or [shurst21@yahoo.com](mailto:shurst21@yahoo.com)

##### Sunday, June 6 (1:00-4:30 p.m.)

Roosevelt Tennis Courts QST, South St. Paul, Minn. Contact **Pepper Meyer** at (651) 457-9110 or [mpmeyer@comcast.net](mailto:mpmeyer@comcast.net)

### Still Time To Host A Tennis Block Party

Tennis Block Parties are an integral part of the USTA's Tennis Month promotional platform designed to grow and develop the game of tennis. They are easy to organize and provide an

opportunity to promote your local tennis programs to players of all ages and abilities. These events can be hosted at any facility and should feature tennis instruction, interactive games and attractions for players of all ages and abilities.

Registration is going on now to host a 2010 Tennis Block Party. To apply to host a tennis block party, please visit [www.usta.com/blockpartyregistration](http://www.usta.com/blockpartyregistration).

Your site may also qualify for a complimentary Netknacks prize pack or a visit from one of USTA Northern's visiting pros. To be considered, please complete the new Donation Request Form found at [northern.usta.com](http://northern.usta.com) and submit to [cantellano@northern.usta.com](mailto:cantellano@northern.usta.com) no later than 6 weeks prior to your event date.

For more information or to schedule a Tennis Block Party in your community, contact **Lisa Mushett** at [mushett@northern.usta.com](mailto:mushett@northern.usta.com). To find a Tennis Block Party in your area, visit [www.usta.com/blockparty](http://www.usta.com/blockparty).


#### 2010 Tennis Block Party Schedule (as of March 15)

<b>May 1 –</b> Winona, MN	<b>May 14-</b> Dickinson, ND	<b>May 27</b> Jamestown, ND
<b>May 2 –</b> Sioux Falls, SD Apple Valley, MN	<b>May 15 –</b> St. Louis Park, MN Casselton, MN	<b>June 5</b> Shorewood, MN Mendota Heights, MN Minnnetonka, MN
<b>May 8 –</b> Rosemount, MN	<b>May 22 –</b> Inver Grove Heights, MN Apple Valley, MN (Eastview) Crookston, MN	
<b>May 12 –</b> Valley City, ND		

### Marketing Materials Available Online For Organizations

The USTA has developed an ad customization system where you can design marketing materials for use in your community for things such as USTA Jr. Team Tennis, League Tennis, Tennis Block Parties and much, much more. To use this FREE system, please visit [www.usta.com/ctmarketing](http://www.usta.com/ctmarketing).

### Next Community Tennis Grant Deadline is June 1

The next Community Tennis Grant deadline is June 1, 2010. Community Tennis Grants are for starting or expanding community-based tennis programs and activities. Two grant types are available in 2010: Project/Program Support and Organizational Capacity Building. Funding amounts range from \$250 - \$3,000, depending on size of the organization and scope of the project. Grant review typically takes about one month and awards will be given until funds are depleted. For more information, please visit [www.northern.usta.com](http://www.northern.usta.com) and click on the Funding and Support tab or contact **Becky Cantellano** at [cantellano@northern.usta.com](mailto:cantellano@northern.usta.com) or at (952) 358-3291. 

# Racquet Ramblings

with  
Greg Wicklund



**M**y erstwhile penpal (and now online word-smith) **Jodi Johnson** of St. Paul asked this question recently: "How is Life Time Fitness doing these days?"

To answer my frugal friend, I found the following:

- **Kara Thompson**, International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association spokesperson explains in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, "A lot of health clubs are opening nationwide and that certainly breeds healthy competition within a given area."

- **Tony Gikas**, Piper Jaffray Research Analyst, also in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, points out, "Despite the recession, the \$16 billion U.S. fitness club industry continues to grow at 5-10 percent a year." Gikas gives Life Time Fitness a high rating with its tennis courts, pools, large-format gyms, cafes and climbing walls – where families and singles can enjoy themselves for the day.

- **My take:** Life Time Fitness is doing just fine...thanks for asking Jodi!

**THE MILE-HIGH TOURNEY:** When he became upset with his lower-than-expected seeding at the Denver Mile-High Tournament, 1973 French Open winner **Ilie Nastase**, with tongue-in-cheek, stated, "I'm taking this to the highest court in the land!"

**FRANK JAMISEN, MY DOWN UNDER PENPAL WRITES:** On the telly (Jay Leno's show), your First Lady **Michelle Obama** said her husband's "most annoying habit" was beating her in tennis. C'mon Mr. President, let the First Lady win once in a while – O.K.? ...We hear **Andy Roddick's** wife, **Brooklyn Decker**, isn't too happy with her sitcom roles which have been rather self depreciating. Maybe Mrs. Roddick can improve her mojo with some of the Mr. Roddick's macho ... One of our favorite female players, **Ana Ivanovic** of Serbia, is now dating one of Australia's favorite pro golfers **Adam Scott** ... your suburbanite **Mardy Fish** of Edina told *Tennis* magazine his best friend, country singer **Jake Owen** and his down-home music, puts the Minnesotan in a good mood – for better overheads, Mardy? ... **John McEnroe** declared recently that **Roger Federer** is the best tennis player of all time. We ain't buying that John! Down here we know the greatest was – and still is – **Rod Laver**, the only man to win all four Grand Slam events in one year!

**TENNIS PARENTING:** **Danny** – "Why don't tennis players spit like the baseball players?" **Dad** – "There's no need for spitting in tennis. Why spit when you can screech at 85 decibels like the

**Williams Sisters**, shriek at 100 decibels like **Maria Sharapova** or roar at 109 decibels like **Michelle Larcher de Brito**?" **Danny** – "I hear 'ya Dad!"

**COURTSIDE COMMENDATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:** Former Edina Hornet star and now Michigan junior **Whitney Taney** who has been named Big Ten Athlete of the Week for a second time ... Edina native **Mardy Fish**, who with **Sam Querrey**, won the doubles championship at the SAP Open in San Jose, Calif. ... **Mardy** reached the semifinals of the Delray Beach, Fla., Open by defeating **Jeremy Chardy** of France ... **Eric Butorac**, of Rochester, Minn., and **Rajeev Ram** were quarterfinalists at the RMK Championships in Memphis, Tenn. ... at the SA Open in Johannesburg, South Africa, Eric and Rajeev were finalists ... **Bethanie Mattek-Sands** of Rochester and **Meghann Shaughnessy** were finalists at the RMK Championships in Memphis ... **Bethanie** now takes part in the Ace Authentic trading card releases.

**DOWN-UNDER BLUNDER:** "Yes, my husband's laid up, a victim of tennis." "But I didn't know he even played the sport." "He doesn't. He sprained his larynx at the Australian Open."

**BELATED SYMPATHY:** To Families and Friends Of Departed Tennis Players, Hitting Partner and Tennisers – **David Cochran**, Shorewood; **Lea Kasum**, Stillwater; **Gregory Cole**, Minneapolis; **Jack Kirschbaum**, St. Louis Park; **Charles Stenvig**, Minneapolis; **Trudy Hughes**, Minneapolis; **Robert Markman**, Edina; **James Schneider**, Minneapolis; **Thomas Stedman**, Apple Valley; **Gregory Sprunck**, St. Paul; **Bob Campbell**, Shorewood; **Sylvester Turbes**, St. Paul; **Garland Davis**, Woodbury; **Jack Anderson**, Hopkins; **Mary Richardson**, Minneapolis; **Dr. George Hilgermann**, Deephaven; **Mary Carlin**, Minneapolis; **Douglas Farnham**, East Gull Lake; **Willem Dieperink**, Afton.

**DEEP THOUGHTS:** I like checkers better than tennis. Of course, that is only because I can win at checkers....

**BOOKS TOO GOOD TO MISS:** "Getting A Grip: On My Body, My Mind, My Self" by **Monica Seles**. 2009 (out in paperback in April) ... "Living Through the Racket" by **Corina Morariu** (2009) ... "Beefy's First Lesson" by **Juandell Brunner**. 2009 (order at amazon.com) ... "Tennis Doubles Beyond Big Shots" by **Greg Moran** with **Kelley Moran**.

**Q.** Was **James Craig**, star of "The Devil and Daniel Webster," a tennis player?

**A.** According to the "Film Encyclopedia," Craig "excelled at tennis" whenever it was possible to play. It's a tenneric fact!

**REMEMBER THE OLYMPIC MOTTO:** "Citius, Altius, Fortius – Swifter, Higher, Stronger." Think of the Olympic motto as part of your game! 🎾

# Diversity Initiatives

Within USTA Northern

By Roshan Rajkumar

**U**STA Northern's Diversity Council, a group of 11 volunteers and 1 staff member, meets bi-monthly to ensure diversity remains a focus in the mission of this great Section and its goal to grow the game of tennis. Diversity Council members also serve as part of several Section councils and committees to insure any decisions made are inclusive for everyone.

Instead of focusing on membership numbers, the Council has focused on a grassroots approach to bringing the game of tennis to traditionally under-represented groups within our Section. Whether it is tennis in the schools, outreach through attending cultural festivals or participating in health and wellness forums throughout the Section, the Council has found itself welcomed by African-American, Asian, Hispanic, Native American and Hmong groups.

The Council finds itself growing the good word of tennis and of USTA Northern by building relationships with tennis players, coaches, enthusiasts and community leaders. Through these



authentic relationships, the Council has found potential leaders within these groups to help promote the game of tennis to others within their communities.

## Buy A T-Shirt And Support USTA Northern Diversity Initiatives



USTA Northern is offering a new t-shirt promoting diversity in tennis. T-shirts are \$20 and all proceeds from the sales will go towards the USTA Northern Diversity Initiative. To order a t-shirt, please contact **Tony Stingley** at [stingley@northern.usta.com](mailto:stingley@northern.usta.com) or at (952) 358-3289.

In the coming months, the Diversity Council efforts will focus on events at local Cinco de Mayo celebrations and Rondo Days in St. Paul, Minn., and Juneteenth festivities in Minneapolis. We will look for continued involvement at the Hmong-American New Year celebrations in Minneapolis and St. Paul, and seek out future events to promote our sport within the Native American and Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgendered (GLBT) communities.

Another goal of the council is to increase diversity on the Section's volunteer council and committees. If you have ideas on how the Diversity Council can help you promote the game of tennis, please contact **Tony Stingley** in the USTA Northern office at (952) 358-3289 or at [Stingley@northern.usta.com](mailto:Stingley@northern.usta.com).



ENCUENTRA INTENSIDAD  
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## MI AÑO TIENE CINCO ESTACIONES:

OTOÑO, INVIERNO,  
PRIMAVERA, VERANO Y  
LA LIGA DE LA USTA.

### FORMO PARTE DE UNA LIGA DE LA USTA

porque dentro de esas líneas blancas, me olvido de todo. Sólo importan mis compañeros y yo, dando lo mejor por el equipo. Y cuando el juego termina, la celebración es más intensa.

*Rebecca Culbert*

Encontrando inspiración desde 2003



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