Tennis Becomes Top Priority For USTA

Ten- & Under Tennis, featuring the QuickStart Tennis play format, is quickly becoming a top priority for the USTA and the Northern Section as it is the future of tennis. 10-Under Tennis is designed and structured for kids to learn, rally and play quickly in a way that is both enjoyable and rewarding.

Although different than what most adults grew up with, tailoring tennis equipment and court sizes for those under the age of 10 makes sense. Think about it...you do not see young kids playing soccer or baseball with adult-sized equipment or on regulation-size fields, now with 10-Under Tennis using the QuickStart Tennis play format, you will not see tennis players doing that either. You also won’t see players waiting in lines to hit the ball or see tennis balls bouncing over a child’s head. What you will see is kids having success and enjoying the game right away, while wanting to come back for more and developing a passion for this lifetime sport.

“Scaling tennis down to the size of children promotes greater participation and ensures that young kids can play tennis much more quickly,” said Kurt Kamperman, Chief Executive, Community Tennis, USTA. “10-and-Under Tennis is critical to the long-term growth of our sport, and ultimately will help us develop new generations of talented players.”

One of the biggest challenges facing 10-Under Tennis is educating the masses, whether it is parents, facilities, teaching professional or others, about the advantages of using the modified equipment, court sizes and training techniques found with the QuickStart Tennis play format.

“Kids have immediate SUCCESS with QuickStart Tennis,” USTA Northern President and Rochester Athletic Club Teaching Professional Brent Frueh said. “We have to sell this concept to everyone that is working with tennis. Many people are afraid to change, but once you witness the success...it means everyone will be having more fun.”

USTA Northern has over 121 registered 10-Under Tennis programs which use the QuickStart Tennis play format. To find a program in your area, visit www.10andundertennis.com or contact Christine Nickels in the USTA Northern office at (952) 358-3290.

QuickStart Tennis Play Format: 101

Racquets

For an adult player to succeed at tennis, racquet control is essential. Same goes for kids. But since kids are smaller than adults, kids have trouble controlling full-size racquets. They’re too long, they’re too heavy, and the grips are too large. Kids need racquets that are proportionate in length and weight and have a grip that fits their smaller hands.

• For 8 & under, the racquet should be 19, 21 or 23 inches.
• For 10 & under, the racquet should be 23 or 25 inches.

Balls

Kids need a ball that’s sized and paced to their playing abilities. A regulation tennis ball moves too fast, bounces too high and is too heavy for their smaller racquet. Each age group, therefore, uses a ball better suited to their size and unique playing ability.

• For 8 & under, a red felt ball moves slower, bounces lower and travels less distance.
• For 10 & under, an orange felt ball moves a little faster and travels farther than the ball used with the younger group, but it still has a lower bounce than the original.

Court Dimensions

The QuickStart Tennis play format uses courts and nets that are scaled to the size and ability level of young children.

• For 8 & Under, children will play on a court that is 36-feet long and 18-feet wide. The net is 18 feet long and 2-foot, 9-inches in height. Portable nets and support systems are available from many manufacturers, or temporary nets can be constructed using tape or caution tape tied to existing nets, fences or even chairs.
• For 10 & Under, a regulation net is used on the 60-foot court. If you are not using an existing court and net, the net height for the 60-foot court is three feet. The sidelines are 21 feet for singles and 27 feet for doubles.

Scoring

The scoring system has been modified as well. Gone is the traditional 15, 30, 40, deuce system.

• For 8 & Under, there are only seven points in a game, so match play is short and sweet. Kids play the best of three games; the first to score seven points wins the game. The first to win two games wins the match. The longest the match will last is approximately 20 minutes.
• For 10 & Under, players should play the best-of-three sets; the first to win four games wins a set. For the third set, the first player to win seven points wins the match.

Tournament Play

The USTA just passed a new rule effective for the 2012 competition season that is similar to the International Tennis Federation rule adopted earlier in 2010.

• For kids ages 9 & 10, tournaments must be played on 60-foot courts using orange low-compression tennis balls and regulation nets (3 feet at the center) or, for those more experienced and more skilled players, on 78-foot courts with green lower-compression balls. **USTA Northern is adopting the 60-foot, orange ball option only and will implement the rule effective one year earlier than both the USTA and ITF starting January 1, 2011.**
• Tournaments for those 8 & Under are to be played on 36-foot courts using red foam or felt balls and nets at a height of 2 feet, 9 inches.

“Competition is an important element of learning and growing the game, and now all children 10 & Under will have the proper platform with which to compete,” said Lucy S. Garvin, USTA Chairman of the Board and President.
Put QuickStart Tennis Lines On Your Courts Today!

With the 10 & Under Tennis movement taking over tennis programming, now is the time to put permanent QuickStart Tennis Lines on your courts! The Cook County Tennis Association in Grand Marais, Minn., did just that and was one of the first facilities in USTA Northern to paint permanent lines on three of their brand new courts.

“The lines have been great for the 10 & Under Tennis program here,” John Muus, Girls High School Tennis Coach, said. “Permanent QuickStart Lines are definitely worthwhile if you have a good number of junior players in your program who are going to use them. I am glad that we have them.”

Some other communities who have painted permanent QuickStart Lines on their existing courts include Shakopee, Rosemount, Cold Springs and Park Rapids in Minnesota and both Watertown and Sioux Falls in South Dakota. In Sioux Falls, the city is working with all 24 of their elementary schools to paint QuickStart Lines on the playgrounds (they have completed three courts thus far), in addition to the eight permanent 36-foot courts they have at Spellerberg Park. The Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center in St. Paul, Minn., also just completed a permanent 60-foot court there.

Did you know USTA Northern offers a grant to those facilities and communities wishing to paint permanent lines on its courts? The current cost for lining courts ranges from $250-$500 per court. For more information on how your community can benefit from permanent QuickStart Lines or the grant program, please contact Becky Cantellano at cantellano@northern.usta.com or at (952) 358-3291.

The above QuickStart Tennis poster is available to both individual and organizational members. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact Lisa Mushett at mushett@northern.usta.com or at (952) 358-3282.
Congratulations to the 2010 USTA Northern Award winners. The honorees, from all corners of the Section, were recognized at the 2010 USTA Northern Award Banquet Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington, Minn.

Albert Teeter Adult Sportsmanship Award

Doug Matuska (St. Paul, Minn.) is the winner of the Albert Teeter Adult Sportsmanship Award given to the adult player who best displays fairness, is generous, is a gracious winner and good loser.

Matuska has played USTA Leagues and Tournaments for over 15 years. He has participated in as many as 15-20 tournaments around the Section in a calendar year and has often finished the season ranked in the top 10 of the Section in both singles and doubles. He has participated on a number of USTA League teams that have qualified for championship play and has volunteered on the USTA Northern Leagues Committee. He is a USPTA teaching professional and serves as a tournament director for the annual May Adult Tournament at the Reed Sweatt Family Tennis Center in Minneapolis.

“Doug is my role model on how other adults and even junior players should approach the game,” Mike Vidmar, General Manager of the Reed Sweatt Family Tennis Center, said. “He is very respectful of other players and tournament officials, even if he disagrees with their decisions. He also loves to discuss tennis strategies and techniques to anyone who approaches him.”

Jerry Noyce Junior Sportsmanship Award

Matt Baker (Rosemount, Minn.) is the boys winner of the Jerry Noyce Junior Sportsmanship Award given to the junior player who not only displays the finest qualities of sportsmanship during tournament play, but who also demonstrates exemplary conduct away from the court.

A varsity player at Rosemount High School since ninth grade, Baker is entering his second year as captain of the team, while playing No. 1 singles. A two-time team most valuable player and all-conference selection in 2010, he leads off-season conditioning and practices for all three teams at Rosemount and coaches middle school players coming into the program. He serves as manager for the girls tennis team as well. He is ranked in the top 10 of his class out of 522 students with a 3.9 grade-point average.

“Leading in the classroom and on the court, Matt has shown an incredible passion for the game of tennis and the highest level of respect for both his teammates and opponents,” Jeanne Ewen, former Rosemount Boys Varsity Tennis Coach, said. “He is extremely respectful and always treats an opponent like he would like to be treated.”

Sierra Halverson (Burtrum, Minn.) is the girls winner of the Jerry Noyce Junior Sportsmanship Award. The junior is the No. 1 ranked player in USTA Northern for Girls 16s and No. 2 in Girls 18s. She won the 2010 Junior Section championship in Girls 18s and participated on the USTA Northern Girls 18s National team. Listed on the Prince Top 100 Players List, Halverson won the Northern Section Sportsmanship Award at the 16 Zonal Tournament in Waco, Texas, in 2009. She also volunteers her time by helping with the USTA Northern Stars group and works with younger kids in the St. Cloud area.

“Her positive attitude in good times and bad – fighting and competing, showing respect for her teammates, opponents and the game itself and leading by example is what earned her the Sportsmanship Award in 2009,” her 16 Zonal Tournament coach Kevin Rust said. “She left it all on the court.”

Bob Larson Media Excellence Award

Eric Perkins of KARE-11 TV (Golden Valley, Minn.) is the 2010 Bob Larson Media Excellence Award winner given to a newspaper, television or radio person who has provided exemplary coverage in the Section. An Emmy-winner, Perkins joined KARE 11 in November of 1996 as a sports reporter. His coverage of tennis has been exemplary during his time at the station with local stories on senior tennis, wheelchair tennis and junior tennis. He also did a “Perk at Play” segment on tennis officiating in 2009.

He has participated in numerous tennis exhibitions over the years for USTA Northern and this year teamed with fellow KARE-11 employee David Watkins in setting the World Record for the longest tennis match ever played. Perkins and Watkins played for 36 hours, 36 minutes and 36 seconds in a fundraiser for the Gustavus Adolphus Relay For Life campaign in St. Peter in May.

“Eric has been an ardent supporter of tennis over the years,” Lisa Mushett, USTA Northern Director of Marketing and Communications, said. “Eric is always one of the first people to respond when there is a tennis story to be told and is always game to showcase his tennis talents on the court to help the organization.”

Rocky Rockwell Grassroots Officials Award

Tim Kurtt (St. Paul, Minn.) is winner of the Rocky Rockwell Grassroots Officials Award given to an official who has done
outstanding work at the grassroots level. Kurtt has been a certified USTA Official since 2001. He is an ITF Bronze Badge Chair official and has worked eight US Opens, four Australian Opens and five Wimbledon. He also was one of only nine American officials named to work the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Locally, he has refereed two ITA Division I Midwest Regional Tournaments, two Big Ten Championships and two Division III National Championships, in addition to a number of other USTA Northern tournaments. Kurtt served as the President of the Northern Tennis Officials Association for two years and Secretary for four years. A USTA Life Member who has played USTA League Tennis and qualified for a number of National Championships, he also was the Chair of the USTA Northern Officials Council for 4 years and was USTA Northern’s National Officials Committee Representative for 6 years.

“Tim was instrumental in bringing the officials organization under the USTA Northern umbrella,” Pat Colbert, USTA Northern Officials Council Liaison, said. “This has resulted in a smoother process for assigning officials, as well as providing more educational opportunities, better evaluating of officials and ensuring a more professional relationship with the Section. Without Tim’s persistence, energy and hard work, we would not be at the level in officiating that we are at today.”

Jack Dow Adult Development Award

The Jack Dow Adult Development Award, which honors the individual whose efforts have had the greatest impact on improving adult competitive and recreational play for that year, goes to Jeff Hoyt (Otsego, Minn.). A teaching pro at Life Time Fitness – St. Louis Park in St. Louis Park, Minn., Hoyt continues to grow the adult tennis programs there. Program participation has grown by over 130 percent at his club, while he grew the number of adult programs at St. Louis Park from two to seven and increased the number of adult events from 11 to 33. He also created a Mother/Daughter Gala which includes doubles play followed by a catered meal, fashion show, live music, gift bags and prize drawings. That concept is being introduced to all of the Life Time clubs nationwide. Winner of the 2009 Life Time Fitness Champion Award, he has also coached USTA League Teams, taking a 2.5 team to Nationals in 1998.

“Jeff Hoyt has been the main driver in building the adult program at Life Time Fitness - St. Louis Park over the past 3 years by introducing more than 350 players to tennis,” Layne McClear, National Tennis Director for Life Time Fitness, said. “Almost all of these players had never picked up a tennis racquet before and are now regulars in drills and leagues.”

Ward C. Burton Junior Development Award

The Ward C. Burton Junior Development Award is given to the individual or organization whom has promoted the growth of tennis for juniors and served the junior tennis community in USTA Northern. Bryce Barnard (Rapid City, S.D.) has single-handedly developed junior tennis at Arrowhead Country Club in Rapid City.

Since his arrival 7 years ago, the program has grown on all levels. He has worked with such USTA Northern junior standout as Jack Hamburg, who has been ranked No. 1 in Boys 16s and won five South Dakota State singles championships, and Sydney Moyle who just won the Girls Flight 1 Singles title at the 2010 South Dakota State Tournament.

Prior to his stint at Arrowhead Country Club, Barnard worked at the Rochester Athletic Club in Rochester, Minn., creating their highly-renowned Top Gun program. During his time there, he helped develop 25 national-level players including Division I participants Jill, Alyssa and Alexa Palen, Caitlin Loprinzi and Jarett Casino.

A top-level player himself who played at Indiana State from 1990-95, Barnard has been Sectionally ranked No. 1 many times in his career and won the 2002 Albert Teeter Adult Sportsmanship Award. He was also named the 2010 PTR Northern Division Junior Development Coach of the Year.

“Bryce makes tennis fun and interesting,” Moyle said. “With him, I am always moving to the next level in my game. He keeps motivating me and encouraging me to get better. He is everyone’s favorite coach.”

Wolfenson Ratner Community Service Award

Becky Blue (Sioux Falls, S.D.) will received the Wolfenson/Ratner Community Service Award given to the person for his or her outstanding fieldwork in recreational tennis. It is also awarded for significant contributions in developing community-based tennis programs through community centers, parks and Community Tennis Associations. Blue is the president of the Brandon Tennis Association in Brandon, S.D., which was named the USTA National Community Tennis Association of the Year in 2008.

During her tenure as president, the BTA built an eight-court tennis complex that opened in June of 2008. Immediately, USTA adult leagues and summer tennis opportunities for junior players were implemented including Jr. Team Tennis, in which they held an area championship in 2009. The new courts also allowed the Brandon schools to develop a tennis curriculum for its physical education classes and implement a No-Cut Policy for its players.

Recognizing the need to join multiple stakeholders in the community for the project to be successfully completed, Blue worked with the school system, as well as the city and people of Brandon. Through their efforts, the BTA raised more than $200,000 in private donations, almost $60,000 from the USTA through grants and $120,000 from the school board. They have also recruited a number of key volunteers to ensure future growth of tennis in the Brandon area.

Blue also has consulted with other communities on how they can accomplish what she did in Brandon and has served as a speaker at a number of USTA Northern workshops and events.

“Becky is an outstanding proponent of tennis in Brandon,” Jean Bender, President of the Brandon Valley School District, said. “Her
creativity and leadership have contributed significantly to the development of community-based tennis programs in Brandon.”

**Family of the Year**

The Marc, Ximena, Alex and Steven Christianson Family of Washburn, Wis., is the 2010 USTA Northern Family of the Year. The award honors a family that has been outstanding in promoting tennis both on and off the court. For the past 13 years, the Christianson family has been the driving force of tennis in Washburn. They are involved in all aspects of growing tennis including teaching and organizing lessons and events, playing in leagues and tournaments, maintaining the local courts in Washburn and serving on the board of the local Community Tennis Association.

Marc has brought tennis into the schools creating a middle school/high school physical education unit and encouraging each school to become an Organizational Member. Ximena has been a member of different USTA Northern Community Tennis committees, has served as the USTA League Area Coordinator in Washburn and as a team captain and has written many grants for court improvements, trainings and equipment. Alex and Steven have participated in USTA Recreation Coach Workshops and taught summer youth programming in Washburn. Alex has also captained many USTA League Tennis mixed doubles teams, advancing to Nationals in 2008.

The Washburn Tennis Association was named the 2000 Community Tennis Association of the Year under their leadership and Marc and Ximena were named the 2010 Washburn Tennis Association Volunteers of the Year.

“The Christianson Family is a great role model for tennis in the Northern Section,” Betty Swiston said. “We have seen tennis grow from just 20 adults to over 120 players of all ages in 2010. The Christianson Family and tennis are synonymous with each other and go hand-in-hand.”

**Frank Voigt Professional of the Year Award**

Greg Wicklund (Edina, Minn.) of Edina Country Club and Life Time Fitness – Bloomington South is the winner of the Frank Voigt Professional of the Year Award, which goes to a tennis teaching professional who demonstrates leadership skills on and off the court. One of the most highly regarded coaches in Minnesota, Wicklund has worked with many of the Section’s best players over the years including David Wheaton, Whitney Taney, Chris Laitala, Cesar Vargas, Ann Nguyen, Jackie Moe and Justin Gaard. He has also singlehandedly built the junior tennis program at Edina Country Club which boasts over 300 members that participate in everything including lessons, tournaments, mixers and USTA Jr. Team Tennis. A USPTA P1 teaching professional, Wicklund served as an assistant coach under Jerry Noyce at the University of Minnesota from 1982-88, winning three Big Ten titles during that time.

Wicklund, who won Big Ten Singles and Doubles Championships while a player at the Minnesota, is still one of the area’s best players. He has been ranked many times in the USTA Northern Section, and in 2009, won the men’s 50s singles title at the Pacific Southwest Championships - a Super Category II National Tournament – in Newport Beach, Calif.

Off the court, Wicklund gives back to the game by providing free lessons to a number of charities and serving as a columnist for USTA Northern’s TennisLife Magazine for many years. He also has written for Tennis Midwest, the Edina Sun and the Edina Country Club newsletter.

“Greg is an excellent coach and he shares his knowledge freely with others,” fellow player and USTA Northern treasurer Brian Biernat says. “He is a student of the game and can always give you one or two insights that will win you the match. He knows how to do it himself and he knows how to teach it as well.”

**Member Organization of the Year**

Saint Paul Urban Tennis (St. Paul, Minn.) is the 2010 Member Organization of the Year recognizing its outstanding service and setting the standards in which all organizations should strive to achieve. SPUT brought tennis to over 4,000 kids at over 55 sites in 2010. All 85 SPUT instructors were also trained and implemented the QuickStart Tennis play format. Of the 55 sites, 22 of these sites were non-tennis court sites where QuickStart nets were used in parking lots, playgrounds and other areas to deliver lessons. A reading program was also delivered to kids at 10 sites and involved over 1,200 youth.

Celebrating its 20th Anniversary, SPUT also was instrumental in bringing professional tennis to Minnesota through the Eric Butorac Minnesota Tennis Challenge with proceeds benefitting the organization. Operating on a budget of about $250,000, the organization provided financial assistance to 68 percent of its participants in 2010.

SPUT is a USTA Capacity Building Chapter and participates in all NJTL activities. Its year-end tournament involved over 600 kids with 135 of these kids playing on 36’ and 60’ courts. The group also hosted a number of USTA sanctioned tournaments and formed a QuickStart High Performance Training Camp with the Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center in St. Paul, Minn.

An active participant in the Arthur Ashe Essay Contest, SPUT produced its second national winner in as many years. They also had a national winner in the Arthur Ashe Art Contest.

“St. Paul Urban Tennis is more than a model youth tennis organization,” USTA Northern Executive Director Mike Goldammer said. “Not only do they service a large youth population to tennis, they do so with innovation, high standards and tremendous passion. They work with thousands of kids from diverse backgrounds and abilities and strive to develop well-rounded youth in tennis and life. They are very deserving of this honor.”

www.northern.usta.com
They began playing tennis when they were youngsters growing up in Dubuque, Iowa, and they all played collegiate tennis for the University of Iowa.

However, for three sisters who now reside in Minnesota, the 2010 USTA League 4.5 Senior National Championships marked the first time they have played together on a team in a USTA National Championship.

The three sisters, Debby Day and Maggie Winchell of Minneapolis, along with Amy Cass of Rochester, play for the USTA Northern Section 4.5 women’s senior team based out of Golden Valley Country Club in Golden Valley, Minn.

“It’s just great being here with my sisters,” Day said. “We play a lot together during the year, but it’s a different experience coming here and playing together. It’s wonderful.”

In the past, two of the three sisters have played together on teams that have advanced to the USTA League Nationals.

“Debby and Amy have been to Nationals together multiple times, but this is the first time I’ve been on the team with them,” said Winchell. “That’s an exciting experience. Our whole team is fun. We’re competitive, but not to the point where we lose sight of why we play tennis, which is to enjoy the sport and the people we meet in the process.”

Even though the three sisters had never played on the same team until now, Winchell did accompany Day and Cass to a USTA National Championship in a supporting role three years ago.

“We’re very competitive sisters. We play against one another and with one another throughout the year,” Cass said. “I live a little bit further away, so it’s really a treat for me to be able to travel with them.”

Cass says one the best things about playing in a USTA National Championship is meeting other people.

“We always enjoy the party that the USTA puts on,” Cass said. “To me, that is one of the most fun parts, meeting the people that you play against.”

Congratulations to the following teams for winning their respective USTA Northern Tri-Level League Section Championship either during the season or in tournament play October 2-3 at Life Time Fitness-Lakeville. All teams, except the 3.0 women, advance to the 2011 Tri-Level National Championships during the professional tournament in March at Indian Wells, Calif.

3.0 Women: Suzanne Harman (Minneapolis, Minn.) and Brenda Martinson (Minneapolis, Minn.)

3.5 Women: Amy Babcock (St. Paul, Minn.), Renee Schneider (Afton, Minn.) and Patrice Meger (Stillwater, Minn.)

4.0 Women: Laurie White (Minneapolis, Minn.), Nikki Johnson (St. Paul, Minn.) and Heather Perla (Minneapolis, Minn.)

4.5 Women: Karen Neis (Golden Valley, Minn.), Barbara White (Apple Valley, Minn.), Sara Campbell (Minnetrista, Minn.) and Dana Beck (Farmington, Minn.)
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Getting To Know
North Dakota State Champion Parker Lawley

Senior Parker Lawley of Fargo South High School in Fargo, N.D., won his first North Dakota State Singles Championship in October. He also was named the 2010 North Dakota Senior Athlete of the Year and has won numerous USTA Sportsmanship Awards over the years, including the boys overall award at the 2010 USTA Northern 18-and-Under Jr. Team Tennis Section Championships. Learn a little more about the newest North Dakota State Champion.

Q. How did you start playing tennis?
A. I became involved in tennis at the neighborhood courts just two blocks away from my house when I was 7 years old. At 9, I decided to pick it up year round and play competitively.

Q. What are your tennis strengths?
A. I think the strongest parts of my game are my serve and net game. I have started to serve and volley more frequently as I have gotten older in singles, and especially in doubles. My groundstrokes are solid and I try to get into net when I can in a rally.

Q. Where can you improve your game?
A. I think the most important thing to get to that next level is to work on taking control of points off my groundstrokes and staying aggressive. Continuing to work on my fitness and conditioning is also important to me because you can always improve in that department.

Q. Who do you work with?
A. My regular coach has been Ryan Myhre since I began playing competitively and I also work with Oliver Summers.

Q. What was it like to win the state tournament in your senior year?
A. It was a great way to go out. I have played in the top spot for my team all 6 years so having seen and played against all the state champions before me only made me want that title more.

Q. You have won a number of Sportsmanship Awards over the years. Why is being a good sport so important to you?
A. Growing up, I have seen a lot of really great tennis players both in skill and etiquette. Watching those players really gets you into the game and makes you want to be like them. When I play, I try and be a role model to those players watching me. I believe showing good sportsmanship not only can give you a good reputation, but may help your game.

Q. What is your best tennis moment?
A. Although I have many memorable moments throughout the years, my state championship match this year was probably my biggest highlight. It was a great match and one that could have gone either way. A huge crowd was also present to add to the excitement of the match.

Q. What are your best USTA memories?
A. Attending the USTA Zonal events are a couple great tennis memories of mine. Playing and traveling with a team is always fun, and I have met a ton of new people on those trips. I think the Zonal tournaments in Omaha when I was 11 and 12 years old are my fondest tennis memories. We would play sidewalk tennis, honestly, until the minute we had to go play and then start again the minute we left the court. Some of the players on that trip I am still good friends with today.

Q. Who are your inspirations?
A. I have a number of people that inspire me, including my family and friends. The most inspirational people I have met in my lifetime are people that have made a living off the things they love to do, no matter what it is.

Q. What challenges do you face in your tennis game living in Fargo?
A. It sometimes can be challenging to find guys to hit with in Fargo, but the thing I envy most about tennis in big cities is the group play. I would love to have a group of junior players to hit with on a regular basis.

Q. Who is your favorite tennis player?
A. I don’t have a particular favorite, but I enjoy cheering for the underdog.

Q. What is next for you in your tennis career?
A. I want to play tennis in college and am looking at colleges to play for. I am looking forward to developing my game further.

Q. What things do you like to do outside of tennis?
A. At Fargo South, I play varsity baseball as a pitcher and outfielder. I am very involved in my high school’s DECA chapter and am the Chapter President this year. I work at Courts Plus Fitness Center as a racket stringer. I also enjoy passing time with friends and having time to relax.

Q. How do you balance tennis with the rest of your life?
A. It’s hard to balance your time when you’ve got a lot of things going on, but I try my best. When I am really busy with things other than tennis, finding court time is sometimes a problem, but I do pretty well sneaking it in the days I want to play. I have definitely had to become more efficient with homework the last couple of years so I can find time for everything else in my life! My life is constantly going and I love opportunities to sit back and relax.
Junior Tournament Changes For 2011

The following are updates and changes all players and parents should be aware of for the 2011 junior tournament season. If you have further questions, please contact Pat Colbert, Director of Junior Competition, at (952) 358-3283 or at colbert@northern.usta.com.

- The winner of a Level 7 tournament will now receive 50 points as opposed to 49 points. This will allow them to move directly to a Level 6 tournament if they so choose.
- Tournament directors have the option of playing third- and fourth-place matches for Level 6 and Level 7 tournaments starting in 2011.
- The summer Level 4 tournament traditionally held in June at the Rochester Athletic Club in Rochester, Minn., will now be played in March starting in 2011.
- The 2011 Level 3 Junior Section Tournament will be split between Baseline Tennis Center in Minneapolis and Lakeville South High School (Life Time Lakeville-Lakeville for indoor backup) in Lakeville, Minn. Girls will play at Baseline Tennis Center June 10-13, while boys will play at Lakeville South High School June 13-16.
- Starting in 2011, USTA Northern will have four USTA Regional Tournaments and two USTA National Opens. Please check the tournament schedule for further information/updates about these exciting new tournaments available in 2011.

Grand Forks Red River Wins 13th Consecutive North Dakota Boys Team Title

Grand Forks Red River won its 13th consecutive team championships at the 2010 North Dakota Boys State Tournament at the Tom O’Leary Courts in Bismarck, N.D., while Parker Lawley of Fargo South won his first-ever state singles championships and the doubles team of Joey Anderson and Gregory Wischer of Red River won the doubles title.

Red River defeated Fargo South in the championship match 4-1 at Capital Racquet and Fitness Center. Red River swept every match but the No. 1 singles position where Lawley earned South’s lone win with a 3-6, 6-2, 6-0 victory over Erik Johnson.

Lawley and Johnson would meet again in the individual singles final, where Lawley, a senior, prevailed once again 7-5, 7-6 (2) for his first state title. He was also named the North Dakota Senior Athlete of the Year.

Anderson, a freshman, and Wischer, an eighth grader, swept Zach Holmen and Brady Spooner of Bismarck Century 6-0, 6-0. Anderson and Wischer ended the season undefeated.

Sidney Moyle Wins South Dakota Flight 1 Singles Crown

Sioux Falls O’Gorman won its fourth straight team title and also claimed three individual state championships at the 2010 South Dakota Girls State Tennis Tournament in Rapid City, S.D. O’Gorman won the team title with 701 points, outlasting second-place finisher Rapid City Stevens who had 693 points.

In the individual finals, Sidney Moyle of Rapid City Stevens won her first state championship with a 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 win over Hannah Van Demark of O’Gorman in Flight 1. In South Dakota, six singles champions are crowned - one per flight - and three doubles winners.

Meg Townsend of Sioux Falls O’Gorman won her first Flight 2 crown with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Lexie Klimisch of Yankton. Erin Hoffmann of O’Gorman won her first Flight 3 title with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Taylor Messinger of Stevens.

Lindsey Tibbles of Stevens won the Flight 4 championship with a 3-6, 7-6, 6-0 win over Kristen Hanson of Aberdeen Central. Lexie Hammerquist of Stevens won the Flight 5 title with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Jenna Czarnecki of O’Gorman. In Flight 6, Kristina Hammerquist of Stevens defeated Alexis Kosiak of O’Gorman 7-6, 6-4.

In doubles, VanDemark and Townsend defeated Moyle and Messinger 7-5, 7-5 for the Flight 1 title. In Flight 2, Hoffmann and Katie Schwabach beat Cassie Malik and Kristina Hammerquist 6-2, 6-1. Tibbles and Lexie Hammerquist defeated Czarnecki and Kosiak in the Flight 3 finals 6-3, 6-3.

The 2010 All-Tournament team included Moyle, Townsend, Hoffmann, Tibbles, VanDemark, Schwabach, Messinger, Lexie Hammerquist, Klimisch and Joey Bosch of Sioux Falls Lincoln.

Shealyn Bakke of Watertown was the winner of the 2010 Spirit of Max Award and Brandon Valley High School won the Team Spirit Award.
Eric Butorac Wins Doubles Title At Japan Open

Eric Butorac (Rochester, Minn.) and his partner Jean-Julien Rojer of Netherlands Antilles won their first ATP World Tour doubles title together at the 2010 Rakuten Japan Open in Tokyo, Japan, in October. Butorac and Rojer defeated Andreas Seppi of Italy and Dmitry Tursunov of Russia 6-3, 6-2 in the finals. For the win, Butorac earned 500 points and the duo split the winner's check of $76,950.

Carolyn Riley Named To Nominating Committee

Carolyn Riley (Edina, Minn.) has been named to the USTA National Nominating Committee for 2011-12. Membership on the USTA Nominating Committee is one of the highest positions one can hold within the organization as it nominates the Chairman of the Board and President, as well as the rest of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors who will represent the USTA for the next two years.

Mickey Maule Places Second At National Grass Courts

Mickey Maule (Wayzata, Minn.) earned finalist honors in singles at the Men’s 40 National Grass Court Championships at the West Side Athletic Club in Forest Hills, N.Y. Maule won five matches, defeating the No. 2, No. 9 and No. 4 seeds in the process before losing to current 40-and-over World Champion Mario Tabares of Miami, Fla.
North Dakota Community Development Workshop

"It's Your Game, "It's Your State, It's Your Community" was the theme of the 2010 North Dakota Community Tennis Workshop October 16 at the VFW Sports Arena in Bismarck, N.D. Saturday's events began with three educational sessions presented by USTA Northern staff members. Becky Cantellano focused on funding opportunities. Then Cantellano and Hayley Horning Shibley looked at CTA best practices. Pat Colbert also presented a session on the USTA Northern junior tournament system.

Networking took place later in the day, along with discussions about what is new in USTA Northern and North Dakota tennis. The North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame Committee met and both the Bismarck Mandan Tennis Association and the North Dakota Tennis Associations held their Annual Meetings. The PTR also held a workshop in conjunction with the CTDW at Capital Racquet and Fitness in Bismarck, N.D.

Gustavus Women Win Singles and Doubles ITA Division III Regional Titles

The Gustavus Adolphus women's tennis team turned in a strong performance at the USTA/ITA Midwest Regional highlighted by Sam Frank (Mahtomedi, Minn.) winning the singles title and Megan Gaard (Edina, Minn.) and former USTA Northern Section intern Marianne Barau (St. Peter, Minn.) winning the doubles title.

Frank, who was seeded ninth in the tournament draw, defeated Gaard 6-2, 6-4 in the championship match, while Gaard and Barau, who were seeded No. 1 defeated teammates Frank and Maria Bryan (Edina, Minn.) 7-5, 6-3 (No. 2 seed) in the doubles final.

Alexis Nelson Named To USTA Multicultural Training Camp

Congratulations to Alexis Nelson (St. Paul, Minn.) who was one of 12 girls and 24 overall players selected to participate in the USTA Player Development Multicultural Training Camp to be held October 16-17, 2010 at the USTA Training Center in Boca Raton, Fla. USTA National Coaches Richard Ashby and Kent Kinnear will be conducting the training camp for players born in 1998 and 1999.

Minot Tennis Association Seeing Results With Adopt-A-School Program

It all started back in November of 2009 with a free set of tennis equipment from the USTA Adopt-A-School Program as the Minot Tennis Association was looking for a way to bring tennis to children in the area. Next was a $3,000 grant from USTA Northern in February to help deliver tennis to those kids by ordering equipment for all 15 elementary schools in the Minot area. Finally in August, the Minot Tennis Association used that equipment to host a teacher's in-service presented by USTA Northern and given by North Dakota Tennis Service Representative Hayley Horning Shibley.

In all, 18 teachers and physical educators participated in the one-day in-service which focused on the QuickStart play format used for 10-and-Under Tennis. The program also showed all attendees how to adopt tennis programming into their current physical education offerings. Now, all elementary schools in Minot are teaching a tennis unit as part of their physical education classes and will have the high school coach or a teaching pro come to the school and talk to the students about the benefits of tennis as part of the unit.

The Minot Tennis Association hopes that by introducing tennis to every elementary student in the area, that interest in the sport will grow and lead to an increase in tennis programming in the coming year. Only time will tell. For more information about how the Adopt-A-School program worked for Minot, please contact Scott Delorme at Scott.Delorme@sendit.nodak.edu.
Age: 61

Hometown: Mendota Heights, Minn., originally from Syria

Family: Married, two daughters

Employment: Teaching Pro at Match Point Tennis Center in Lakeville, Minn.

Q. How were you introduced to tennis?
A. By my father. He was a tennis teaching pro.

Q. What is your earliest tennis memory?
A. I don’t know how old I was, but I used to watch my dad hitting with my older brother. They were having so much fun and I thought I wanted to play with them too!

Q. Name some of your tennis achievements?
A. I was the Syria Junior Singles Champion in the 14-, 16- and 18-and-under divisions. In the United States, I was the Minnesota Junior College Singles and Doubles Champion (with partner Doug Moore) from 1972-74. Doug and I went to nationals both years. I also participated at USTA League Tennis Nationals as a player and a coach.

Q. Who are your favorite tennis players?
A. In the past, I built my game after Ken Rosewall’s style. Later in life… Pete Sampras, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer.

Q. What is the best thing about being a teaching pro?
A. Enabling and helping the students to reach their potential. That never gets old.

Q. How long have you been a teaching professional?
A. I started in 1974.

Q. Who are the people who have influenced you the most?
A. My father was a big Influence on my tennis. Twin Cities teaching professional Bruce Gullikson then challenged me to keep up on tennis education. He said, “Raw talent is not enough,” and he is right.

Q. What is your best tennis memory?
A. When my father and I won our first doubles tourney when I was 14. Also when my daughters, Angie and Nicole, made the varsity tennis teams in 7th or 8th grade.

Q. What is the most fun you have had playing tennis?
A. Winning the MJCC Championships. Also, making USTA League Nationals - first as a player, then as a coach.

Q. What is your most memorable teaching experience?
A. Teaching my own daughters tennis. It is a bit different. Also, when I had to teach a wheelchair player how to serve for the first time in my life.

Q. If you were not teaching tennis, what would you be doing?
A. Teaching French and fishing a lot.

Q. The advice I give every student is…?
A. The three Rs: Read, React and Recover. It covers it all.

Q. What is the best advice you ever received?
A. The late Ernie Greene used to say, “Control your emotions on the tennis court.” I always remember that line from The Godfather and just apply it to my tennis, “When you play tennis it’s not personal, it’s business.” Finally, “Check your emotions in the locker room, go on the court, and do what you have to do when you have to do it.”

Q. What is the biggest difference between coaching adults, seniors and juniors?
A. With the seniors, it is mobility. With adults, it is consistency. With juniors it is both mobility (specifically their footwork) and consistency. I don’t believe power should be emphasized at an early age. Later on, power is fine, but not at an early age.

Q. To make tennis better, we should…?
A. In my humble opinion, tennis is great as it is. Not every new change lately has made tennis better, but I admit I like the Hawkeye system for line calls. I also like a bit slower game.

Q. How can people get involved either in lessons, programs or become a tennis volunteer in your area?
A. Match Point Tennis Center is a family club owned and operated by Pete and Pam Haukos. Everyone should come on in and check it out. It has the best prices in town and you do not have to be a member to play there. We have classes and programs for all ages, ball machines and great deals on court time. Our adult programs on all levels are going great and our junior programs are doing the same.

The sky is the limit when it comes to volunteering. All you have to do is call the USTA Northern office and they will guide you to where help is needed. They have a great handle on all of the opportunities available including local and section tournaments, officiating, senior tennis, local park and recreation junior programs and much more.
UNCORK. UNWIND.
The South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City, S.D., needed a little help in getting something started. That something was an organized Tennis On Campus program, but with the help of a $1,000 Community Tennis Grant from USTA Northern, the group is on its way to becoming the 13th school in the region to participate in this up-and-coming program.

Junior Jamie Vickery, from Luverne, Minn., and 10 others, formed the Hardrocker Tennis Club last year. A former high school tennis player, Vickery's initial hopes for the club were to bring people together on the SDSM&T campus to play some tennis, while relieving some of the stress that can consume a college student's life. That stress reliever is working as the Hardrockers have grown to over 35 members this fall and average 15-20 people participating weekly in organized play.

“I have noticed students here can tend to focus a bit too much on schoolwork and often forget about getting exercise,” Vickery, an electrical engineering major, said. “We hope the club encourages people to get out at least once a week to relieve some stress and participate in some physical activity.”

Currently, the Hardrockers have two hours of open court time scheduled each week. The group provides everything needed to play, except racquets, and is open to anyone who is interested in playing tennis. It has its more experienced players work with beginning players in teaching the proper stroke mechanics of the game and also organizes tournaments throughout the year.

“One of our goals is to help every member get to where they want to be with their tennis skills whether they are beginners or more experienced players,” Vickery said.

The group has used some of the Community Tennis Grant they received from USTA Northern to purchase balls, hoppers and other equipment for the group. It plans to use more of the money to purchase indoor court time during the winter months so people can continue to play year-round. It also hopes to develop a full-out Tennis on Campus program where they would travel to other schools and tournaments in the region, although the group has been challenged with the low number of female students enrolled at the school.

“Our goals are very simple,” Vickery said. “We are group of passionate students that want to spread the joy of tennis. We want to get students out of their dorms and away from homework. We also want to give students and professors a chance to play competitively against each other and other schools. But most of all … we just want people to come out and play!”

The USTA's Tennis On Campus program provides college students with opportunities for team camaraderie, social networking and rivaled competition through tennis without the rigors of a varsity program. Perfect for athletes who have chosen not to make the jump from high school to college varsity, Tennis On Campus offers coed team-based play, regional and national championship competition and helps students maintain active and healthy lifestyles through their college years.

Currently, the program is offered on over 500 college campuses and services over 30,000 students nationwide, including 13 schools in USTA Northern. Four other Section schools – South Dakota State, St. Cloud State, University of Mary and Minnesota State – Mankato are hoping to start programs in the coming year.

“It is fantastic to see more colleges adding tennis sport clubs,” Christine Nickels, USTA Northern Tennis On Campus Coordinator, said. “Tennis On Campus is instrumental in keeping players engaged in tennis after high school and strengthening a passion for the sport that we hope stays with them for the rest of their lives.”

For more information about starting a Tennis On Campus program at your school, visit www.tennisoncampus.com or call Nickels at (952) 358-3290.
Minnesota Tennis Challenge. The challenge will also feature Butorac
Doubles Championship, will be coming to the Fred Wells Tennis &

Tennis Happenings
With Bruce
by Bruce Gullikson

What's new with your favorite teaching professionals, college and high school coaches?
- Carleton College women's head coach Luciano Battaglini, last year's USPTA Northern Division College Coach of the Year, has been busy traveling this year as he coached the USTA Northern 16s Zonals team in Waco, Texas, and ran a race in Italy. He now is in Sweden running another race.
- Former Gophers men's tennis coach Jerry Noyce is as active as ever as the CEO for the Health Enhancement Research Group, but still manages to carry Greg Wicklund in their weekly doubles match.
- Barb Meyer is teaching at Life Time Fitness-Oakdale and shooting a lot of video of players using Dartfish software. You can find out more about her filming at www.meyertennis.com.
- Mike Goldammer, USTA Northern Executive Director, is still swaying a mean racket as evidenced by his run with University of Minnesota sophomore Alexa Palen to the finals of this year's Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic at Life Time Fitness – White Bear in White Bear Lake, Minn.
- The Pine Tree Apple Tennis Classic raised over $193,000 for children's cancer research at Children's Hospitals. Bravo to all players, staff and sponsors for this awesome achievement.
- Oliver Summers, a USPTA pro from Courts Plus in Fargo, N.D., is also a bit of a t-shirt designer. A recent t-shirt design of his said, 'A million dollars in prize money, a 70-68 fifth set... these are all things you will not find at the Red River Open.'
- Famed tennis coach Nick Bollettieri was in town recently doing a fundraising clinic for Kidspeed and InnerCity Tennis in Minneapolis. A good time was had by all who attended the event held at Life Time Athletic Club Eden Prairie in Eden Prairie, Minn.
- Amy Jamison is the latest member of the tennis staff at the Reed Sweatt Family Tennis Center in Minneapolis.
- Congrats to Jeannie Ewen who helped spearhead the Rosemount (Minn.) effort as the Best Tennis Town in the United States. While they didn’t win, they did receive $2,000 for being an honorable mention selection and finishing in the Top 10.
- Shawn Myszka of Explosive Edge Athletics (www.explosiveedgeathletics.com) works out Eric Butorac, former Gustavus Adolphus star and now ATP Tour star doubles player. Want to train like a star? Get tested by Shawn and his staff and see what you need to do to get your physical game pumped up!

See You There: The Bryan Brothers, fresh off winning the US Open Doubles Championship, will be coming to the Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center in December to participate in the Second Annual Minnesota Tennis Challenge. The challenge will also feature Butorac and his partner Jean-Julien Rojer, who just won the 2010 Japan Open in October. Former ATP player and current Tennis Channel Analyst Justin Gimelstob will also participate in the Challenge. To order tickets, visit www.ebmntc.com.

quotable quotes
- "He can't cook." (1989 French Open Champion Michael Chang, on being asked to list Pete Sampras' weaknesses
- "The difference between involvement and commitment is like ham and eggs. The chicken is involved; the pig is committed." (18-time Grand Slam Singles Champion Martina Navratilova)

Junior Watch: Former Minnesota AA state singles champion Wyatt McCoy (Shoreview, Minn.) has chosen to attend Notre Dame next year.

Wicklund's Wit, Wisdom and Wisecracks: I would like to take some space to give a sincere thank you to Greg Wicklund for all the articles he has contributed through the years to TennisLife Magazine for USTA Northern. Greg started writing in college and somedays hopes to finish his term paper. I asked some folks their impressions of Greg and this is what they had to say...
- Donald Trump ... "Nice Hair!"
- Dave Peterson, former NCAA Division III champion from Gustavus Adolphus, said ... "Of all the players I have played through the years, Greg was certainly one of them."
- Tony Williams claims Greg's uncanny accuracy was developed by learning to hit the cracks on the public court next to his house in Minneapolis.
- John McEnroe when told of Greg's decision to stop writing said, "You cannot be serious!"

Greg was a state singles finalist for Minneapolis Roosevelt High School and later became an All-Big Ten performer at the University of Minnesota. He was ranked first in the Section several times in both singles and doubles and was a part of the Men's 35 Sectionals team that won the National Championship. Recently, he won the men's 50s singles championship at the 2009 Pacific Southwest Championships National tournament in Newport Beach, Calif.

Greg's Wisdom ... Things You Should Never Forget
- Three shots you should never miss are your approach shot, return of second serve and first passing shot
- Keep your tossing arm up on your serve if you are hitting into the net
- Move though your volleys
- Angle to the ball
- Mix up your serves

While you may not see Greg at the typewriter anymore, you can still see him helping out students of all ages and levels at Edina Country Club in Edina, Minn., and at Life Time Fitness - Bloomington South. Thanks Greg ... We appreciate everything you have contributed over the years.
“Serving Up Love” is the mantra for the newly-rebranded fundraising arm of USTA Northern called the Northern Tennis Foundation. Originally incorporated in 1990 as Friends of Tennis, Inc., and reorganized in October of 2010 as the Northern Tennis Foundation, the 501(c)(3) new mission is to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations through the lifetime sport of tennis. The organization works in cooperation with USTA Northern in offering a variety of scholarships for young players.

Those opportunities provided by the Northern Tennis Foundation include a Youth Tennis Scholarship, which gives families with financial hardships support in helping their kids participate in competitive tennis programs. Funds can be used for tournament expenses, program registration fees and indoor court costs. Recipients must demonstrate a commitment to academic success and community involvement to be eligible for the scholarship.

The Foundation is also offering Diverse Player Scholarships which assist juniors of diverse heritage in pursuing their tennis-related interests. Applicants are typically just starting to play competitive tennis, but show a great deal of commitment and potential for becoming outstanding players. This opportunity helps such individuals overcome barriers that limit their ability to advance in the sport.

“Tennis has meant so much to me and my family,” USTA Northern Vice President and Northern Tennis Foundation Board Member Jeff Baill said. “I am really excited to be part of this Foundation that will provide children with the opportunities that we were so fortunate to have.”

The Foundation will also recognize those individuals who have devoted much of their life to tennis and made a lasting impact on the game in USTA Northern through the Section’s Hall of Fame. The USTA Northern Hall of Fame was started as the Minnesota Hall of Fame in 1979 by Bob Larson. The Hall of Fame currently has 92 members and is housed at the Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center in St. Paul, Minn. A new class of Hall of Fame members will be inducted in 2011.

Serve up some love through a donation to the Northern Tennis Foundation! Let tennis do for others what it has done for you. All financial contributions are completely tax deductible and can be made by mail, in person, or online through www.givemn.org.

Would you like to be contacted about any of the following opportunities? Please check all that apply.

☑ I am interested in a leadership role (Board or Committee member)
☑ I am interested in helping out with events
☑ I have ideas

Please send completed donor card to:
Northern Tennis Foundation
Attn: Becky Cantellano
1001 W 98th Street, Suite 101, Bloomington, Minn. 55431
Fax: 952-887-5061 • Phone: 952-358-3291
Email: Cantellano@northern.usta.com

USTA Northern Day At Water Park of America To Benefit Northern Tennis Foundation
Join us Sunday, Dec. 12, from 3:30-8:00 p.m. for USTA Northern Day at the Water Park of America in Bloomington, Minn. All proceeds from the event benefit the Northern Tennis Foundation. This event is for all USTA Northern members and their friends and family. Tickets are only $7 per person, but act fast as space is limited. To order tickets, visit http://ezregister.com/events/1956/. For more information, please contact Sandy Smith at ssmith@northern.usta.com or call (952) 358-3288.

Become A Founding Member of the Northern Tennis Foundation
USTA Northern members have a unique opportunity to become a Founding Member of the Northern Tennis Foundation. Founding membership is available for a limited time only, yet those who become Founding Members will remain in this special category and will always be recognized as early supporters. Your financial contribution to the Foundation and status as a Founding Member will truly reflect your love of the game and enable the Foundation to share the many benefits of tennis with others in need. Founding Membership benefits include recognition in all USTA Northern publications and a plaque commemorating your exclusive status.

To earn Founding Member status, you must contribute a minimum donation of $1,000 by July 31, 2011. For more information about the Northern Tennis Foundation, or to become a Founding Member, please contact Becky Cantellano at cantellano@northern.usta.com or at (952) 358-3291.

Support the Northern Tennis Foundation Today!