

Bob Swanson Scholarship

Congratulations



2009 BOB SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS,

(L to R): Aaron Mayes of Elk Rapids, Brandon Arradaza of Eastlake, Lynn Swanson, Kristin Heinrich of Ludington and Krista Tuomela of Iron Mountain.

The 10th Annual Bob Swanson Memorial Tennis Tournament was held at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Traverse City again this year over the weekend of February 19, 20 and 21, 2009. Though this popular tournament, affectionately called, "THE BOB," was originally conceived as a gathering to remember Bob Swanson, his friends decided that they should do something more tangible to commemorate the life, philosophies and ideals of a great guy who loved people and playing the game of tennis.

Therefore, each year, scholarships are awarded to qualified high school seniors playing organized tennis within our NMTA District (which includes the northern half of the Lower Peninsula and all of Michigan's Upper Peninsula).

These scholarships are not necessarily awarded to those student-athletes with the highest GPA or USTA Rankings but, rather to those unique and energetic people who love to play the game of tennis and those who closely embody the character and qualities of Bob Swanson which made him, so special to so many. He was a natural leader with a flair for fun, fair play and good sportsmanship. Overall, Bob was an enthusiastic champion of the sport of tennis.

The committee looks for these "Bob-Like" attributes in each year's applicants. Our outstanding class of 2009 includes: Aaron Mayes of Elk Rapids, Brandon Arradaza of Eastlake, Kristin Heinrich of Ludington and Krista Tuomela of Iron Mountain. By embodying the attributes that remind us all of our good friend Bob Swanson, these four young people will each receive \$ 1,000 Scholarship to put toward their first year of college tuition.

"The Bob Fund" is supported in part by the proceeds of "The Bob" tournament as well as the direct and generous contributions from the individuals, sponsors and various organizations who understand the positive effect this special tournament has on all of those involved. What began as a "fun time event" has morphed into a tradition that continues to grow in strength of participation as well as in strength of meaning. In fact, over the past 10 years, 42 of these BOB SCHOLARSHIPS have been awarded for a total of \$ 55,000!!!!

We all thank everyone who participates in the event every year, we are already looking forward to the 11th annual tournament anniversary next winter and we anticipate continuing this outstanding tournament and scholarship program for many, many years to come.

Therefore, those wishing to receive more information about how to become a participant in "The Bob," as a player, staff, donor, spectator or even just to attend the always fun Awards Dinner, you should contact either Ruth Smith at 231-331-6810 or write to "The Bob Fund" at P. O. Box 35, Alden, MI 49612-0035. Thanks again to Bob's parents for their continued participation and also to Bob Swanson himself for being a person who deserves such a great event for all of us to celebrate who he was, remember what his life was about and to continue applauding him and his love for all of us who continue to keep his favorite game alive.

Margaret and Dick Ruemenapp
Salute the Players of Northern Michigan
Congratulations to the
Class of 2009