



USTA GUIDE TO TENNIS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

FOREWORD by James Blake



UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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FOREWORD

by James Blake



So you're about to begin the process of selecting a college, and you want tennis to be a significant part of your college years. What an exciting time this is for you and your parents! It's also one of the most important decisions you'll ever make.

When I made the decision to go to college, I had already had offers to turn pro, but I knew I wasn't ready either mentally or physically for the pro scene. Going to college gave me the opportunity to mature, study, meet great friends, and play tennis for the pure joy of the game. I wouldn't trade my time in college for anything.

Whether you play varsity or recreational tennis in college, you will reap enormous benefits, because tennis helps players develop more than their game. You'll learn important life skills like sportsmanship, tenacity, time management, and teamwork. Tennis on campus introduces you to a diverse group of people who all share a love of tennis. Not only is tennis the sport for a lifetime

(it can be played long after football players and other athletes abandon activity for the couch), but also the friends you make in collegiate tennis become friends for a lifetime.

Collegiate tennis also opens up a whole new world of opportunity to travel across the country where you will meet people you wouldn't otherwise and experience different ways of living—an education in itself.

Whether you plan on a pro tennis career or to enter business or a profession after graduation, making tennis a part of your college years will enrich your life while you're in college and for all the years beyond.

This *USTA Guide to Tennis on College Campuses* is packed with all kinds of useful information that will help you select the college that's right for you. Enjoy your college tennis experience. I hope you find it as exciting and fulfilling as I did.

PREFACE

For high school juniors and seniors, deciding on what college to attend is always a challenge. Now add to that standard challenge the requirement that the college of choice must have good tennis-playing opportunities and the stakes get even higher. The *USTA Guide to Tennis on College Campuses* is designed to give these students and their parents (as well as college freshmen and sophomores looking to change schools) the tools they need to make this important decision.

Currently there are more than 300,000 varsity high school tennis players and thousands of other high school students who enjoy competitive tennis in a more recreational setting. The *USTA Guide to Tennis on College Campuses* is a comprehensive resource for locating tennis programs—varsity or recreational—at more than 2,000 colleges and universities across the country and for identifying their requirements for entry. In other words, if you want to play tennis in college, whatever your level and whatever your interest, whether able-bodied or a wheelchair player, this guide will provide you with the information you need to make the choice that's right for you.

In addition to the all-important information on collegiate varsity and recreational programs, this guide provides information on the tennis organizations that can help the prospective collegiate tennis player (USTA, ITA, and NIRSA), the collegiate athletic organizations (NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA), internet links to college directories that identify varsity and recreational tennis programs, scholarship opportunities, and suggested readings and other resource materials for helping the student player prepare for college interviews and make application. For those student players who are interested in a career in the tennis industry, although not on the pro tour, the guide points to where the opportunities lie and which colleges offer programs to prepare the student for such careers.

To help students and parents easily research information on the tennis organizations, collegiate governing bodies, and other entities discussed in the guide, internet links and other contact information are provided in the text directly where the topic is covered and, when applicable, in an aggregate list at the end of each chapter. The Appendix then provides more detailed contact information for all organizations and resources covered in the guide.

This *USTA Guide to Tennis on College Campuses* was developed to revise and update the *Guide for Prospective College Tennis Players*, which was last published in 1998.

Through tennis, students learn lifelong skills: social, mental, and physical. They learn what it takes to win—and how to deal with losing. They learn that perseverance, practice, and keeping their eye on their goal lead to success. And they make great friends and have lots of fun. Colleges are in the business of teaching students lifelong skills, and tennis supports that goal like no other sport.

Today there are more exciting opportunities for collegiate tennis-playing experiences than ever before. Read on and make tennis an important part of your college years. You'll find that the benefits of collegiate tennis extend far beyond the court.

INTRODUCTION

The **United States Tennis Association (USTA)** is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the United States and the recognized leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis in the United States, from the grassroots to the professional level. That includes collegiate tennis!

A not-for-profit organization founded in 1881, the USTA now has more than 675,000 individual members and more than 7,000 organizational members, thousands of volunteers, and a professional staff—all dedicated to growing the game. As the map below indicates, the USTA is divided into seventeen geographical sections that administer the business of the USTA on a state or multi-state level.

The USTA has been actively involved in collegiate tennis for over 125 years. It sponsored the first intercollegiate men's tennis championships in 1883 and was the first organization to sponsor a women's national collegiate tennis tournament in 1958. In 2004, the USTA Board of Directors adopted a resolution that reaffirmed its commitment to and support of intercollegiate varsity tennis. And in 2005, it approved a new junior-collegiate player development initiative, which included additional staff, money, and other resources devoted to the development of junior and college players.

The Player Development Division of the USTA oversees junior and collegiate varsity tennis in the United States, while the Community Tennis Division oversees recreational tennis on college campuses. The USTA has numerous people who can help you as you explore your college and tennis-playing options. At the national level, a National Manager, Collegiate and Corporate Tennis, and an Administrator of Junior and Collegiate Competition run programs at high school and college campuses throughout the country to ensure that students know they have many varsity and recreational alternatives for enjoying tennis during their college years. For more information on the USTA, log onto www.usta.com.

Each of the seventeen sections has a collegiate contact. These sectional contacts are involved with everything having to do with college tennis in their particular section. They work with varsity tennis programs, tennis sport clubs, intramural programs, and high school players. They also work closely with the Intercollegiate Tennis Association and the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association, as does the national office, to promote tennis on college campuses. The collegiate contact in your section is an invaluable resource for you. Please see the Appendix for contact information.

1. USTA New England
2. USTA Eastern
3. USTA Middle States
4. USTA Mid-Atlantic
5. USTA Southern
6. USTA Florida
7. USTA Caribbean
8. USTA Midwest
9. USTA Northern
10. USTA Missouri Valley
11. USTA Texas
12. USTA Southwest
13. USTA Intermountain
14. USTA Pacific Northwest
15. USTA Northern California
16. USTA Southern California
17. USTA Hawaii Pacific



The USTA is fortunate to have outstanding allies to assist it in its efforts to promote and develop the growth of American collegiate tennis at the varsity and recreational levels. These allies include the **Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA)** and the **National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA)**.

Long recognized as one of the best organized collegiate sports associations, the ITA is a 50-year-old non-profit service organization that serves as the governing body of collegiate tennis in the United States. Comprised of men's and women's tennis coaches and student-athletes from all three National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) divisions, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), junior colleges, and auxiliary members who are dedicated to the growth and promotion of college tennis, the ITA promotes both the athletic and academic achievements of the collegiate tennis community. The ITA administers a number of regional and national championships, rankings, and awards programs that benefit all levels of collegiate tennis. Together with the USTA, the ITA promotes wheelchair tennis opportunities on college campuses. The ITA and the USTA sponsor campus and community outreach awards to recognize college coaches who have developed community-based and recreational tennis programs on their campuses and in their communities. For more information on the ITA, log onto www.itatennis.com.

NIRSA is the leading resource for professional and student development, education, and research in collegiate recreational sports. What started out as a meeting of 22 men and women from 11 colleges in 1950 has evolved into an association of over 4,000 members and 825 colleges and universities nationwide. Today, NIRSA professionals manage large operating budgets that directly impact millions of people on campuses around the country. NIRSA, along with the ITA and World TeamTennis (WTT), plays a key role in hosting the USTA Campus Championship—the pinnacle of the USTA college campus recreational tournaments—each year. NIRSA and the USTA also sponsor the Tennis Ace Awards, which honor NIRSA Institutional, Professional, and Student members who have implemented NIRSA-endorsed USTA tennis programs on campus and recognize efforts to grow recreational tennis participation. For more information on NIRSA, log onto www.nirsa.org.

RESOURCE AIDS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

United States Tennis Association (USTA)—www.usta.com

Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA)—www.itatennis.com

National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA)—www.nirsa.org

Complete contact information for the USTA, ITA, and NIRSA can be found in the Appendix.

Part I

SO YOU WANT TO
PLAY TENNIS IN COLLEGE?

Chapter 1

Choosing a Path That's Right for You

As a reader of this guide, you've already made two important decisions: One, you want to attend college, and two, you want tennis to be a significant part of your college years. You probably know that today more than ever a college education is critical to a successful and productive future. In addition to the substantive knowledge and critical thinking and social skills one acquires from a college education, there is an enormous difference between the mean annual earnings of those individuals who attend and graduate from college and those who do not. As NCAA President Myles Brand wrote in *A Career in Professional Athletics: A Guide for Making the Transition (2004)*: "No matter how long or successful your professional career may be, you will have a long life afterwards that will benefit from an excellent education. In the long run, getting your degree will be the most important career move you make."

So what else do you need to know about yourself as you go about choosing a college? Following are lists of academic, tennis, and general criteria for you to consider in the selection process. Only you can determine how important each criterion is to your ultimate choice. These questions will help you evaluate what is and isn't important to you in the selection of a college. In addition, not only should the school you select be compatible with your interests and goals, but also with your abilities.

Academic Criteria

- Do you want a rigorous academic environment? (Realistically assess your ability in making this decision. Will you meet the entrance requirements, and will you be able to manage the academic workload?)
- Is attending a prestigious institution important to you?
- Does the school have the academic program you want?
- How extensive is the library?
- What are the backgrounds of the faculty members?
- Are there academic support staff and programs?
- What is the average class size?
- Are you intellectually compatible with the student body?
- Will this school help you prepare for the career you are interested in?
- Does it offer placement services?

Tennis Criteria

- Do you want to play varsity or recreational tennis?
- What are the tennis coach's background, reputation, and teaching philosophy? Is this someone you could see yourself working with and being compatible with for four years? (Ask yourself the same questions of the assistant coach.)
- Would you still want to attend this school if the tennis coach (or assistant coach) were to leave during your time there?
- What is the quality of the tennis team?
- Where would you likely be in the team lineup and how much would you get to play?
- How important is being in the starting lineup to you?
- Would you have the opportunity to develop as a tennis player?
- What are the team players' backgrounds and would you be compatible with them?
- How often and long are practices?
- Is the coach supportive of the academic needs of team players?
- What are the off-season practice requirements?
- How many indoor and outdoor courts are available for the tennis team?
- What is the overall quality of the tennis facilities?
- Are tennis racquets and shoes supplied by the school?
- Does the college provide conditioning training, emotional support, and nutritional counseling?

Other Criteria

- Can you afford this college or university and if not, does it give financial aid or will you qualify for other sources of financial aid or scholarships? (See Chapter 3 for more on financial aid and scholarships.)
- How important are other campus activities to you, for example, fraternities, sororities, clubs, concerts, movies, dances, etc., and does this college or university provide them?
- Is the diversity of the student body (or lack thereof) acceptable to you?
- Is the student/teacher ratio acceptable?
- Do you want to attend college in a big city, small city, college town, or rural area?
- Do you have a preference regarding where the school is geographically—North, South, East, or West?
- Do you prefer to be within a short commuting distance to your home? Or is distance from home not a factor in your decision?
- Is climate a factor in your decision?
- What do you want in living accommodations? Dorms or off-campus? Single sex or co-ed? Air conditioning? Private bathrooms or shared showers?
- Is the location of your housing to classes and the tennis facilities important to you? Will you have a car?
- Is the quality of the cafeteria or other food services acceptable?

Reviewing the above criteria and determining how much value you put on each of them early in the college search process will simplify your ultimate selection. Further, by realistically evaluating your chances of being accepted and doing well at any of the colleges that interest you will minimize chances of disappointment and increase the likelihood of choosing a school where you will be happy and successful for the next four years.

Chapter 2

What Kind of Tennis Experience Do You Want?

There are many opportunities to make tennis a part of your college years. The choice depends on you. Collegiate tennis breaks down into two major categories—varsity and recreational tennis—and is offered at more than 2,000 schools throughout the country.

Varsity vs. Recreational Tennis

Varsity tennis programs offer students the opportunity to participate in competitive intercollegiate tennis throughout the United States. If you are interested in a professional tennis career, you will definitely want to consider collegiate varsity tennis. Even if you haven't decided on a pro tennis career, if you prefer a more structured and competitive tennis experience, you may also be suited for the varsity route. Varsity programs are funded by the school, hire coaches, recruit, and make competitive cuts. Varsity tennis is offered at more than 1,100 colleges and universities throughout the country (these schools have over 2,000 Men's and Women's teams), many of which offer scholarships for players. Championship tournaments are a highlight of the varsity tennis year.

Recreational tennis offers many of the benefits of varsity tennis, such as intercollegiate competition, being part of a team, regular practices, and travel opportunities, but is not as structured nor does it require the same time commitment as varsity tennis. Recreational tennis options include intramural competition, tennis sport clubs, and on-campus leagues, all of which are exciting, friendly, and fun. No matter what your level of experience or proficiency, whether an able-bodied or wheelchair player, there's a recreational tennis program for you right from the minute you enter college. And as with varsity tennis, tournaments and campus championships are integral components of recreational tennis programs.

Wheelchair tennis players can and are encouraged to participate in both varsity and recreational tennis on college campuses. Oftentimes play is in the form of up/down tennis, which is a wheelchair player competing alongside an able-bodied player. In addition, the USTA National Collegiate Wheelchair Tennis Championship provides an opportunity for wheelchair student-athletes to compete against other wheelchair players while representing their respective colleges. Wheelchair tennis is one of the fastest growing and most challenging of wheelchair sports, and opportunities for collegiate wheelchair players are steadily increasing.

Collegiate varsity and recreational tennis are discussed in detail in Part II and Part III, respectively, of this guide.

Are You Thinking of a Career in the Tennis Industry?

A career in the tennis industry can be fulfilling, lucrative, and rewarding. The opportunities are endless—certified tennis teaching professionals, tennis directors, club managers and owners, high school or college coaches, manufacturers' representatives, sport science consultants, pro shop managers, and tennis industry administrators and executives to name but a few. Others use their undergraduate degree, tennis-playing experience, and network of people they meet in tennis to branch out into business and professional careers related to or outside of tennis, such as law, magazine publishing, or retail. Playing tennis in college will enrich your career possibilities even if you do not pursue a pro tennis career.

Part IV of this guide provides more information on tennis industry careers and accredited collegiate Professional Tennis Programs that will directly prepare you for these careers.

Chapter 3

Financial Aid

Today the cost of a college education often tops six figures—a sobering thought for most American families. As a result, all but the most affluent usually need some kind of financial aid to help them put their sons and daughters through college. Fortunately, there is help out there. There are three primary sources of aid: (1) need-based aid, which includes grants that do not have to be repaid and do not require a service commitment, and loans, which do require repayment and at times a service commitment, (2) merit-based aid, which is generally given to students in recognition of special skills, talent, and/or academic ability, and (3) scholarships, which can be awarded on the basis of need, ethnicity, merit, or any number of other criteria.

If you will need financial aid to attend college, your first line of assistance is your high school guidance counselor or college financial aid officer. These professionals can help you sort through the maze of possible funding sources, advise you on how to approach these sources, and help you fill out applications and other forms. Since there are a limited number of scholarships to some college tennis programs, many prospective tennis players who need financial aid seek it from a variety of sources—grants, loans, and general or academic scholarships.

Tennis-Related Financial Aid and Scholarships

Financial aid and scholarships specifically awarded on the basis of tennis background and plans to pursue tennis in college are discussed below.

NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA Schools

There are three major collegiate governing organizations: The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), and the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). These three organizations will be discussed in greater detail in Chapter 5. Our purpose in citing these organizations in this chapter is to tell you that the colleges and universities affiliated with them offer tennis scholarships and/or other sorts of financial aid.

It is very important for prospective student-athletes and their parents¹ to understand certain criteria related to the awarding of athletic scholarships, including the following:

¹ All references to parents in this guide include legal guardians as well.

- Athletic scholarships awarded by member schools of the three collegiate governing associations are for one year only and must be renewed annually.
- Athletic scholarship are awarded in a variety of amounts, ranging from full scholarships (which include tuition, fees, room and board, and books) to very small scholarships (e.g., books only). Prospective student-athletes should check with the tennis coach or financial aid officer of the colleges they are interested in to determine how athletic scholarships are allocated.
- The total amount of financial aid a student-athlete may receive and the total amount of athletic aid a team may receive can be limited. Check with the financial aid officer on the college's policy in this regard.

The NCAA, which is comprised of approximately 1,000 colleges and universities, has three divisions. As of 2006, of these 1,000 colleges, approximately 900 had varsity tennis programs that provided 744 Men's teams and 880 Women's teams. Divisions I and II schools offer tennis scholarships—a maximum equivalent of 4.5 scholarships per year for the men's program and 8 for the women's in Division I and 4.5 in the men's and 6 in the women's in Division II. Although Ivy League schools (which are NCAA Division I schools) and all NCAA Division III schools do not give athletic scholarships, financial aid based on need and/or academics is available. For more on scholarships and financial aid through the NCAA, go to www.ncaa.org.

The NAIA is comprised of 300 accredited four-year colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. As of 2006, approximately 129 of these schools had varsity tennis programs that provided 113 Men's teams and 133 Women's teams. NAIA schools offer a maximum of five Men's and five Women's tennis scholarships annually. For more on financial aid opportunities at the NAIA, go to www.naia.org.

The NJCAA is comprised of 510 two-year colleges and institutions accredited by state and/or regional accrediting agencies. As of 2006, 106 of these schools had varsity tennis teams that provided 87 Men's teams and 97 Women's teams. Schools in this organization offer a maximum of eight men's and eight women's tennis scholarships annually. For more on the NJCAA, go to www.njcaa.org.

USTA Tennis & Education Foundation

The USTA Tennis & Education Foundation (USTA T&EF) is the charitable and philanthropic arm of the USTA and supports organizations and programs that enhance the lives of people through tennis and education. Each year, the USTA T&EF awards scholarships to high school seniors who have excelled both academically and in tennis. The Foundation targets youth from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds. For information on USTA T&EF scholarships, go to www.usta.com, click on "About Us" and then on "Tennis & Education Foundation."

USTA Sections

Several of the seventeen USTA sections provide financial support toward college expenses to deserving students within their sections. Each section that offers scholarships establishes its own criteria and timetable. Contact your USTA section (see Appendix for contact information) to see if it offers collegiate financial aid and, if it does, whether you qualify for this aid.

General Financial Aid and Scholarships

While your first inclination—and it's a good one—might be to apply for an athletic or tennis scholarship or financial aid, keep in mind that you are not limited to aid related to athletics and that you, the student player, can apply for general aid and scholarships just as your peers can. In fact, there are many more opportunities for aid that is not related to tennis than for tennis-related aid. Further, even if you receive a tennis scholarship, you may still need additional financial aid to cover your college costs.

The sources of financial aid are limitless—grants, student loans, scholarships, work-study programs. Early on in your senior year of high school, you should file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is mandatory if you apply for any kind of Federal aid, including Pell Grants, Perkins Loans, Stafford Loans, and Federal Work Study. The form is also used by private colleges and universities and individual states for grants and loans. The application is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Sources of General Financial Aid

Listed below are major sources of scholarships and financial aid.

- **Colleges and Universities:** Remember those NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA schools we discussed above? Well, in addition to the limited tennis-related aid that these schools provide, they offer multiple types of aid that are not related to tennis. The tennis coaches at the colleges you're interested in can give you this information or you can go to the Web site of the school and look up financial aid. **Most scholarship/financial aid components of school Web sites are incredibly detailed and provide a quick way for you to identify all sources of aid a particular college or university offers.** Be sure that you know the requirements for application of the schools you apply to, for example, some schools only provide need-based aid and all have an academic requirement. Then carefully complete the application.
- **Government Programs:** As mentioned above, you must file your FAFSA form to apply for Federal grants and loans. A helpful guide is *Funding Education Beyond High School: The Guide to Student Federal Aid, 2006-07*. It can be found at www.studentaid.ed.gov. See below for additional Web sites that provide information on government scholarships and other financial aid.
- **Foundations**
- **Professional Associations**
- **Employers (Your parents or your own)**
- **Civic and Community Groups**
- **Private Loans**

Financial Aid/Scholarship Web Sites

As mentioned above, colleges and universities have very detailed financial aid links on their Web sites, so be sure to review these carefully. In addition, there are many scholarships/financial aid search Web sites that can put you in touch with sources of aid you might not otherwise know of and help you with the application process. There is usually no charge to use these Web sites. Listed below are just several of these Web sites, all of which were active at the time this publication went to press. (Please note: The USTA does not endorse any of these sites.)

- www.allscholar.com
- www.brokescholar.com
- www.careersandcolleges.com
- www.collegeboard.com
- www.collegenet.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.federalstudentaid.gov
- www.findtuition.com
- www.freescholarshipguide.com
- www.gocollege.com
- www.scholarshipcoach.com
- www.scholarships.com
- www.studentaid.ed.gov
- www.students.gov
- www.usdepartmentofed.com (search for college financial aid)

At this point, it is important to caution the user of this guide regarding unscrupulous individuals or services who try to take advantage of those seeking financial aid for college. We suggest you read “Can You Spot a Scholarship Scam?” It can be found on the College Board Web site at www.collegeboard.com. Go to “For Parents” and click on “Can You Spot a Scholarship Scam?”

RESOURCE AIDS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

United States Tennis Association (USTA)— www.usta.com

NCAA—www.ncaa.org

NAIA—www.naia.org

NJCAA—www.njcaa.org

USTA Tennis & Education Foundation (USTA T&EF)—Go to www.usta.com, click on “About Us” and then on “Tennis and Education Foundation.”

USTA sections—See the Appendix for contact information.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)—Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Funding Education Beyond High School: The Guide to Federal Student Aid, 2006-07
—Go to www.studentaid.ed.gov.

How to Go to College Almost for Free, Benjamin R. Kaplan, 2002.

“Can You Spot a Scholarship Scam?”—Go to the College Board Web site at www.collegeboard.com and click on “For Parents.” Under “For Parents,” click on “Can You Spot a Scholarship Scam?”

The addresses for a number of scholarship/financial aid Web sites are provided above.

Complete contact information for the USTA national and sectional offices and the NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA can be found in the Appendix.

Part II

VARSDTY TENNIS

Chapter 4

What Is Varsity Tennis and Is This the Right Path for You?

Varsity tennis programs are available at NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA colleges and universities throughout the country—more than 1,100 schools in all that provide over 2,000 Men's and Women's tennis teams. These programs offer highly competitive intercollegiate competition. Varsity programs are funded by the school, hire coaches, recruit, and make competitive cuts. Many schools with varsity teams offer tennis scholarships for players (as discussed in Chapter 3). As a varsity tennis player, you will be known as a student-athlete, a title that puts the emphasis where it belongs—on academics and tennis.

If you want a truly competitive tennis experience while representing your college or university in the camaraderie of a team environment, varsity tennis is for you. You will not only improve your game, but also you will learn responsibility, perseverance, time management, sportsmanship, and the importance of teamwork, all necessary qualities for future success whether on the pro tour or in a business or professional career. The broad opportunities to travel to other parts of the country for tournaments will teach you about different lifestyles and values, and nothing quite matches the excitement of the National Collegiate Championships—the capstone of the varsity tennis year.

Many successful pro players credit their college experience as being the best preparation for a professional tennis career. To their way of thinking, attending college before turning pro is definitely an advantage.

I knew I wasn't ready for the tour at 18. My game wasn't ready.... Playing in college was so important for me...an amazing chance to grow in tennis and as a person.

--Laura Granville, two-time NCAA Champion at Stanford and now a top 50 pro on the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour.

Before I went to college, my father told me these would be the best years of my life. They were! During my years at Northwestern, college tennis enhanced my growth as a player and a person. My game improved immensely, and my teammates are friends who will last my lifetime.

--Todd Martin, #1 college player in his sophomore year at Northwestern University and two-time Grand Slam runner-up. Martin held a career high singles ranking of #4 on the ATP Tour.

Playing two years of college tennis helped me to mature as a player and a person. It also made the transition to the pro tour much easier and prepared me for many other responsibilities.

--Lori McNeil, semifinalist at the US Open in 1987 and at Wimbledon in 1994. McNeil held a career high singles ranking of #9 on the WTA Tour and was winner of 10 singles and 32 doubles titles.

My college tennis experience was vital to my development as a professional player and more importantly as a person. It provided me the opportunity to compete at a high level, be part of a team, learn to balance the demands of practice, matches, travel, and school work, and interact with students with different interests.

--Rodney Harmon, NCAA doubles champion and quarterfinalist at the 1982 US Open.

And you don't need to become a tennis pro to reap the benefits of playing varsity tennis in college. It's evident that most collegiate varsity tennis players will not turn pro when they leave school; nevertheless, the attributes gained from being on a varsity team will help you in whatever career or profession you enter after college.

Playing tennis in college was important for me on many fronts. While obtaining an outstanding education, I learned important time management and leadership skills and broadened my horizons by traveling to thirty states. In addition, my game improved, I had a lot of fun competing, and I made some great friends. My positive experiences on and off the court at college have been a major factor in my desire to volunteer and give back to this great game.

--Jon Vegosen, a successful attorney in Chicago and a USTA volunteer at the district, sectional, and national levels, played varsity tennis at Northwestern University for four years.

When to Start Planning for College and What's Unique in the Application Process for the Student-Athlete

If you want to play varsity tennis in college, it is never too soon to start planning. Even as a high school freshman, you should begin thinking about the part of the country, class size, and academic environment in which you want to spend your college years (see Chapter 1). And, of course, as a prospective student-athlete, you will want to know which colleges offer the varsity tennis-playing option that you'll be most happy with. You should also begin to compile your tennis records early on; college coaches are especially interested in your record of matches against ranked players.

The remaining chapters of Part II will cover the key topics you need to understand when evaluating and selecting a college or university with a varsity tennis program. Here we will just briefly summarize the two areas that make selecting and obtaining entry to college different for the student-athlete than for the general population.

Academics

As a prospective student-athlete, you need to be concerned about three areas of academic preparation.

1. The courses and grades you need to graduate from high school.
2. The courses and grades you need to get into the colleges and universities you will ultimately apply to.
3. The courses and grades you need to meet the requirements of the three major athletic collegiate governing bodies: the NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA.

The general population of students applying to college need to be concerned only about the first two, but the student-athlete must meet the third academic requirement as well.

Meet regularly with your high school guidance counselor to make sure you are taking the courses you need to graduate. Start researching colleges you think you might like to attend to understand their requirements for entry, and become familiar with the NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA core academic and test requirements. Remember, the academic requirements of the athletic governing bodies may not be the same as those of the college you want to attend, so you need to know both. The three athletic collegiate governing bodies and issues of academic eligibility are covered in depth in Chapters 5 and 6.

Amateurism

Simply put, the prospective student-athlete must be an amateur in the sport he or she wishes to play on a college varsity team. Amateurism eligibility and maintaining amateur status are covered in Chapter 6.

Chapter 5

What the Prospective Varsity Tennis Player Needs to Know About the Collegiate Athletic Associations

As a prospective student-athlete, it is important that you be very familiar with the three major collegiate athletic governing organizations, the different tennis-playing options each offers, their requirements for team eligibility, and their recruitment methods. The three organizations are the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), and the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

NCAA

The NCAA, which was established in 1906, serves as the national governing body for over 1,000 colleges and universities, approximately 900 of which offer varsity tennis for more than 1,600 tennis teams. The member colleges and universities develop the rules and guidelines for athletic eligibility and competition for each of its three divisions. One of the differences between the three divisions is that Divisions I and II schools may offer tennis scholarships, while Division III schools may not. It's also important for the college-bound student-athlete to know that of the three collegiate organizations, the NCAA (and especially Divisions I and II) has more stringent requirements for eligibility and recruitment than the NAIA and NJCAA. A student-athlete who can meet NCAA Division I and II requirements should have no problem qualifying for NCAA III, NAIA, or NJCAA eligibility.

In Chapters 6 and 7 of this guide, we will outline the key things the prospective student-athlete needs to know about the NCAA. However, the reader is advised to review the *NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete* for in-depth information on important topics, including academic eligibility, amateurism eligibility, registration with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse, and recruitment practices. To review or print the guide, go to the NCAA Web site at www.ncaa.org and click on "Eligibility and Recruiting." And while you're there, check out all the other useful information about the NCAA.

NAIA

The NAIA is comprised of 300 accredited four-year colleges and universities in the United States and Canada, of which approximately 129 offer varsity tennis programs for almost 250 tennis teams. NAIA schools typically offer smaller class sizes and close-knit campuses, the flexibility to transfer without missing a season of eligibility, fewer recruiting restrictions, championship opportunities, and a more streamlined process of establishing academic eligibility. NAIA's focus

is on the education and character development of the student-athlete. For more information on NAIA schools, review “A Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete” and other important topics at www.naia.org.

NJCAA

The NJCAA is comprised of 510 two-year colleges and institutions accredited by state and/or regional accrediting agencies, of which 106 offer varsity tennis programs for more than 180 tennis teams. The Association promotes and fosters junior/community college athletics while keeping within the high academic standards of its member institutions. Junior colleges can be a great way to begin your collegiate tennis experience. After two years, the student-athlete then has the opportunity to transfer to a four-year college for his/her junior and senior years without missing a season of athletic eligibility. For more information on NJCAA schools, review “Information for a Prospective NJCAA Student-Athlete” and other useful topics at www.njcaa.org.

Chapter 6 covers the important issue of eligibility as it relates to the three athletic governing organizations, while Chapter 7 provides an overview of their recruitment methods.

RESOURCE AIDS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

NCAA—*Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete* is available along with other useful information about the NCAA at www.ncaa.org.

NAIA—“A Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete” is available along with other useful information about the NAIA at www.naia.org.

NJCAA—“Information for a Prospective NJCAA Student-Athlete” and other useful information about the NJCAA is available at www.njcaa.org.

Complete contact information for the NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA can be found in the Appendix.

Chapter 6

Eligibility—Academic and Amateurism

During your quest to find the college or university that will provide a varsity tennis program that's right for you, there is probably no topic that you will encounter more frequently than “eligibility.” It can be confusing, but it needn't be. Put simply, the distinction you need to understand here is really in regard to two kinds of eligibility—academic and amateurism—for athletic participation at an NCAA, NAIA, or NJCAA college or university. As with most other criteria, the NCAA has the most rigorous requirements for both kinds of eligibility.

It is also important to understand that establishing academic and athletic eligibility for any of the three major collegiate athletic governing organizations does not mean that you will also automatically be accepted by the school you are interested in. You still need to go through the regular application process that the school requires.

Chapter 6 outlines academic and amateurism eligibility requirements (both at the time when the student is seeking to enroll in college and after enrollment in college) of the NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA.

NCAA Eligibility

The evaluation and determination of academic and amateurism eligibility are handled differently by the three NCAA divisions. Here's how it breaks down:

- In NCAA Divisions I and II, the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse analyzes and determines both academic and amateurism eligibility for athletic participation in their colleges and universities,
- In Division III, certification of academic and amateurism eligibility is determined by each NCAA Division III college or university, not by the clearinghouse.

The NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse is not a part of the NCAA, but an organization that works with the NCAA to determine a student's eligibility for athletics participation. It follows NCAA bylaws and regulations in analyzing and processing a student's high school academic records, ACT or SAT scores, and key information about amateurism participation to determine the student's initial eligibility. Students who want to participate in sports during their first year of enrollment at an NCAA Division I or II college or university must register with the clearinghouse.

Prospective student-athletes should register with the clearinghouse for both academic and amateurism eligibility determination after their junior year in high school. (Student-athletes who feel there might be some question about their amateurism status can register for the amateurism component during their junior year.) The preferred registration method is online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. Prospective student-athletes may also register by mail. Please see the clearinghouse Web site or the *NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete* for detailed information on registration, including how to complete the Student Release Form, which does the following:

- It authorizes each high school you have attended to send the clearinghouse your academic transcript, test scores, proof of graduation, and other necessary academic information.
- It authorizes the clearinghouse to send your academic information to all colleges that request your eligibility.

Academic Eligibility

NCAA Division I

Students enrolling in a Division I college or university who want to participate in athletics during their first year of enrollment must:

- Graduate from high school.
- Complete a 14-core course requirement for the Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse through 2007. In 2008 and thereafter, students must complete a 16-core course requirement. (Ask your high school guidance counselor for a list of NCAA-approved core courses or you may view them at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. On the General Information page of that Web site, select “List of Approved Core Courses.”)
- Earn the minimum required grade point average (GPA) in the core courses.
- Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches the core course GPA and test score sliding scale as determined by the clearinghouse. (See the *NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete* for how this is calculated. The guide is available at www.ncaa.org.) The SAT score is calculated using the verbal/critical reading and math subsections of the test, while the ACT score is calculated using the math, science, English, and reading subsections of the test. The writing component of the ACT and SAT is not used to determine qualifier status.

NCAA Division II

Students enrolling in a Division II college or university must:

- Graduate from high school.
- Complete the 14-core course requirement for the Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse.
- Earn a minimum GPA of 2.0 in the core courses.
- Earn a combined SAT score of 820 or ACT sum score of 68.

To maintain academic eligibility in Division I and II schools, student-athletes must demonstrate satisfactory progress toward a recognized baccalaureate or graduate degree and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 and be taking an average of 12 credit hours per semester.

NCAA Division III

NCAA Division III does not use the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Division III colleges and universities determine initial academic eligibility for participation in sports at their schools. They also determine requirements for maintaining academic eligibility once students are enrolled in a Division III college. Prospective student-athletes should contact the Division III schools they are interested in attending for information on academic eligibility

Amateurism Eligibility

NCAA Divisions I and II

As of August 1, 2006, the NCAA Amateur Clearinghouse (which is a part of the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse) became the processing center for determining the amateurism eligibility of all freshman and transfer prospective student-athletes enrolling in an NCAA Division I or II member school on or after August 1, 2007.

A prospective student-athlete must be certified as an amateur to participate in varsity-level tennis. The types of activities that will be reviewed to determine amateur status are listed at the end of this chapter. Additional information regarding NCAA amateurism requirements is available at www.ncaa.org.

NCAA Division III

NCAA Division III colleges and universities determine amateurism eligibility for participation in sports at their schools. Prospective student-athletes should contact the Division III schools they are interested in attending.

Once enrolled in college, all three NCAA divisions require the student-athlete to maintain amateur status throughout college. The rules vary slightly among Division I, II, and III schools. The coach or athletic director of the school in question can provide the student-athlete with this important information.

NAIA Eligibility

Academic Eligibility

The NAIA does not use a clearinghouse to determine either academic or amateurism eligibility. To meet the academic eligibility requirements of NAIA schools, an entering freshman must: (1) be a graduate of an accredited high school or be accepted as a regular student in good standing as defined by the enrolling institution, and (2) meet two of the three following requirements:

- Achieve a minimum of 18 on the Enhanced ACT or 860 on the SAT. The SAT score is calculated using the verbal/critical reading and math subsections of the test, while the ACT score is calculated using the math, science, English, and reading subsections of the test. The writing component of the ACT and SAT is not used to determine qualifier status.
- Achieve a minimum overall high school GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Graduate in the top half of his or her high school graduating class.

For information on academic eligibility requirements for transfer students and more detailed information on eligibility in general, go to www.naia.org.

To maintain academic eligibility once enrolled in an NAIA school, a student-athlete must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits per semester, be making normal progress toward a baccalaureate degree, and maintain the GPA required of the institution he or she is attending.

Amateurism Eligibility

A prospective student-athlete must be an amateur as defined by the NAIA. Further, he or she must maintain amateur status throughout college. Your athletic director or faculty athletics representative can provide you with information on all amateur regulations as defined in the NAIA bylaws or you can review the NAIA bylaws at www.naia.org.

NJCAA Eligibility

Note: Due to the unique academic and athletic situation of each individual and the complexity of NJCAA eligibility rules, it is recommended that prospective student-athletes discuss their athletic eligibility with the athletic personnel at the NJCAA college they are interested in attending.

Academic Eligibility

The NJCAA does not use a clearinghouse to determine either academic or amateurism eligibility. Entering freshmen can meet the academic eligibility requirements of NJCAA schools in one of the following ways:

- Be a high school graduate, receive a high school equivalency diploma, or pass a national test such as the General Education Development Test (GED).
- Non-high school graduates can establish academic eligibility by completing one term of college work during which they have passed 12 credits and achieved a GPA of 1.75 or higher. This term must be taken after the student's high school class has graduated.
- Students who are completing high school while simultaneously enrolled in 12 or more credits at a college are eligible for athletic participation if they complete a NJCAA High School Waiver form and have it signed by their high school principal and their college president. This option is available only to those students whose high school class has not graduated at the time the student enrolls in college.

Transfer students should refer to Article V, Section 10, of *Eligibility Rules of the National Junior College Athletic Association*, 2006-2007 to make sure they meet all eligibility transfer requirements of the NJCAA. The publication is available for \$12.00 from the NJCAA National Office. Send a letter and check to: NJCAA, 1755 Telstar Drive, Suite 103, Colorado Springs, CO 80920. This publication can also be downloaded from the NJCAA Web site. Go to www.NJCAA.org and click on Forms—Eligibility, go to the next to the last item on the list, which is “2006-2007 NJCAA Eligibility Pamphlet,” and click on it.

To maintain academic eligibility, student-athletes must have passed 12 credit hours with a 1.75 GPA in their previous full-time term or have a total accumulation of 12 credit hours for each previous full-time term with a 2.00 GPA or higher or, as a first season participant, must have passed a minimum accumulation of 24 semester credit hours (36 quarter semester hours) with a 2.00 GPA or higher for the initial term of participation, regardless of previous term or other accumulation requirements. The student-athlete must also be making progress toward graduation.

Amateurism Eligibility

A prospective student-athlete must be an amateur as defined by the NJCAA. Further, he or she must maintain amateur status throughout college. To be sure of your amateur status, check the NJCAA amateur rules, which can be found in Article V, Section 11, *Eligibility Rules of the National Junior College Athletic Association*, 2006-2007 (see above section on Academic Eligibility for cost and contact information).

Benefits and Activities That Can Impact Amateur Status

The high school tennis player and the college student-athlete need to be very careful not to engage in activities that might negatively impact their amateur status and thereby preclude them from playing varsity tennis in college. To be absolutely sure that they are in compliance with the amateurism requirements of the three collegiate athletic governing bodies, these players should check with their coaches, athletic directors, or the handbooks of and/or personnel at the NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA. Listed below are some of the primary activities that may cause a current or prospective college varsity tennis player to lose amateur status:

- Signing a contract with a professional team.
- Receiving a salary for participating in athletics.
- Accepting prize money for athletic activities that exceeds expenses.
- Participating in tryouts, practice, or competition with a professional team.
- Receiving benefits from an agent or prospective agent.
- Agreeing to be represented by an agent.
- Accepting payment of educational expenses from an individual (or entity) other than the prospect's parents.
- Delaying enrollment in college and participating in organized competition during the time of delayed enrollment.

RESOURCE AIDS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

See resources listed at the end of Chapter 5 and in the Appendix for the NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA contact information and publications.

Eligibility Rules of the National Junior College Athletic Association, 2006-2007. This publication is available for \$12.00 from the NJCAA National Office. Send a letter and check to: NJCAA, 1755 Telstar Drive, Suite 103, Colorado Springs, CO 80920. This publication can also be downloaded from the NJCAA Web site. Go to www.NJCAA.org and click on Forms—Eligibility, go to the next to the last item on the list, which is “2006-2007 NJCAA Eligibility Pamphlet,” and click on it.

NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse—www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. For complete contact information for the clearinghouse, see the Appendix.

Chapter 7

Recruitment Rules

For the prospective student-athlete, an understanding of the recruitment rules of the three collegiate athletic associations is equal in importance to an understanding of their academic and amateur eligibility requirements. Recruiting for athletic teams is done by college coaches. When a college coach calls a student, sends written materials, watches the student practice or play, or makes in-person contact, that is called recruiting. As with eligibility requirements, the NCAA has more stringent recruitment rules, especially for Division I, than either the NAIA or the NJCAA. In this chapter, we will highlight the recruitment rules of the NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA.

Recruitment Terms

Before outlining the recruitment rules of the collegiate athletic organizations, prospective student-athletes and their parents should understand the following recruitment terms:

Contact: A contact is said to occur any time a college coach has in-person contact with you or your parents.

Dead Period: The college coach may not have any in-person contact with you or your parents at any time during this period, although the coach may write and telephone you or your parents during this time.

Quiet Period: The college coach may not have in-person contact with you or your parents off the college campus. He/she may not watch you play or visit your high school, but may write and telephone you or your parents during this period.

Contact Period: During this time, a coach may have in-person contact with you and/or your parents on or off the college campus. The coach may also watch you play, visit your high school, and write and telephone you during this period.

Official Campus Visit: Any visit to a college campus by you and your parents paid for by the college. The college may pay for your transportation to and from the college and for room and meals during your visit and provide three complimentary admissions to campus athletic events. Before an official visit, you must provide the college with a copy of your high school transcript (NCAA Division I only) and SAT, ACT, or PLAN scores. During your senior year, you are limited to one official visit per college up to a maximum of five official visits to Division I or II colleges. You may make an unlimited number of official visits to Division III colleges, but only one per college.

Unofficial Campus Visit: Any visit to a college campus by you and your parents paid for by you or them. You may receive three complimentary admissions to a home athletic event during an unofficial visit. You may make as many unofficial visits as you like at any time during high school. The only time you cannot talk to a coach during an unofficial visit is during a dead period.

Tryout: A tryout is any physical activity (e.g., practice session or test/tryout) conducted on a college campus or elsewhere (regardless of the location, the tryout is arranged by or on behalf of the college) at which a prospective student-athlete reveals, demonstrates, or displays his/her athletic ability in a sport. Generally, tryouts are not allowed during visits to NCAA Division I and Division III schools. They are allowed at NCAA Division II schools only if certain criteria are met (contact the NCAA for more details). See NAIA and NJCAA recruitment rules in this chapter for their policies on tryouts.

NCAA Recruitment Rules

NCAA Division I	GRADE 10
Recruiting materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may receive brochures for camps and questionnaires
Phone calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may make calls to coaches at your own expense College coaches cannot call you
Off-campus contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No off-campus contact is allowed
Official campus visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No official campus visits are allowed
Unofficial campus visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may make an unlimited number of unofficial campus visits
	GRADE 11
Recruiting materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may begin receiving September 1 of your junior year
Phone calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may make calls to coaches at your own expense Coaches may call you once per week starting July 1 after your junior year
Off-campus contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowed starting July 1 after your junior year
Official campus visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No official campus visits are allowed
Unofficial campus visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits
	GRADE 12
Recruiting materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowed
Phone calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may make calls to coaches at your own expense Coaches may call you once a week
Off-campus contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may contact coaches as often as you want Coaches may contact you no more than three times during your senior year

NCAA Division I	GRADE 12 (Con't.)
Official campus visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed beginning opening day of classes of your senior year • You are limited to one official visit per college up to a maximum of five official visits
Unofficial campus visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may make an unlimited number of unofficial visits
Evaluations and contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to seven times during your senior year

NCAA	Division II	Division III
Recruiting materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After September 1 of your junior year, coaches are allowed to begin sending you printed recruiting materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may receive printed recruiting materials at anytime
Phone calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College coaches may call you once per week beginning June 15 between your junior and senior year • You may make calls to coaches at your own expense 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no limit to the number of calls a coach can make to you • DIII coaches may contact you as early as your freshman year • You may make calls to coaches at your own expense
Off-campus contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning June 15 between your junior and senior year, college coaches may have off-campus contact with you or your parents or legal guardians • Coaches are limited to three in-person contacts off-campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After your junior year, coaches may have contact with you or your parents or legal guardians
Official campus visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed beginning opening day of classes of your senior year • You are limited to one official visit per college up to a maximum of five official visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed beginning opening day of classes of your senior year • You are allowed an unlimited number of official visits, but only one official visit per college
Unofficial campus visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlimited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlimited

NAIA Recruitment Rules

As mentioned above, the NAIA recruitment process is less cumbersome than the NCAA's. It has few restrictions on contacts between a prospective student-athlete and a coach. NAIA recruitment rules are as follows:

- **Recruiting materials:** You may receive printed recruiting materials at any time.
- **Phone calls:** There are no limits set by the NAIA.
- **Off-campus contacts:** There are no limits set by the NAIA. Some states, however, may impose limits. You should check with the schools you are interested in.
- **Official and unofficial campus visits:** There are no limits set by the NAIA. Each NAIA institution, however, sets its own limits. You should check with the schools you are interested in.
- **Tryouts:** Individual or group tryouts can only be conducted on campus if tryouts are a general part of the institutional policy for the procurement of students with special talents.

NJCAA Recruitment Rules

NJCAA recruitment rules are as follows:

Recruiting materials: You may receive printed recruiting materials at any time.

Phone calls: There are no limits set by the NJCAA.

Off-campus contacts: There are no limits set by the NJCAA.

Official campus visits: A school may pay for one visit to its campus for a stay not to exceed two days and two nights.

Unofficial campus visits: There are no limits set by the NJCAA.

Tryouts: Before allowing a high school student to try out, a member college shall determine if tryouts are allowed by the existing State High School Activities Association regulations in the athlete's home state.

For further clarification of NJCAA recruiting rules, see Article VIII, B of *Eligibility Rules of the National Junior College Athletic Association, 2006-2007*. The publication is currently available for \$12.00 from the NJCAA National Office. Send a letter and check to: NJCAA, 1755 Telstar Drive, Suite 103, Colorado Springs, CO 80920. It can also be downloaded from the NJCAA Web site. Go to www.NJCAA.org and click on Forms—Eligibility, go to the next to the last item on the list, which is “2006-2007 NJCAA Eligibility Pamphlet,” and click on it.

National Letter of Intent

The National Letter of Intent (NLI) program is a voluntary program administered by the Collegiate Commissioners Association (CCA). By signing a National Letter of Intent, a prospective student-athlete agrees to attend the designated college or university for one academic year, and the institution agrees to provide financial aid to the student for that academic year.

Started in 1964 with 7 conferences and 8 independent institutions, the program now includes 55 leagues and more than 500 participating institutions. All NCAA Division I schools, with the exception of the Service Academies, schools in the Ivy League, and half of the Patriot League, participate in the program. Most fully active NCAA Division II schools also participate. NCAA Division III, NAIA, and junior and community colleges do not participate in the program. The NLI has the following advantages:

- Once a prospective student-athlete signs a NLI, other institutions participating in the NLI program are prohibited from recruiting the student.
- Student-athletes are assured of an athletic scholarship for one full academic year.
- Institutions are assured that the student-athlete will attend their school, and they do not need to continue recruiting for that position on the team.

There are two signing periods for the National Letter of Intent, an early one in November, which lasts for one week, and another that starts in early April and ends on August 1 of each year. Before signing a NLI, you should also be sure you are academically eligible for the school in question.

The Web site for the NLI program has comprehensive information on the program, including detailed guidelines, frequently asked questions, and signing dates. To review, go to www.national-letter.org or call (205) 458-3013.

NAIA and NJCAA Schools

Although NAIA schools do not participate in the NLI program, some conferences may require a letter of intent from the prospective student-athlete. You should check with the conference office of each school you are interested in to determine its policy.

The NJCAA uses its own Letter of Intent. The NJCAA Letter of Intent is valid only for NJCAA schools and has no jurisdiction over NCAA or NAIA colleges. A student can only sign one NJCAA Letter of Intent. In doing so, the student agrees to attend the designated college or university for one academic year, and the institution agrees to provide financial aid to the student for that academic year. An NJCAA Letter of Intent may not be signed before mid-January of your senior year.

RESOURCE AIDS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

See resources listed at the end of Chapter 5 and in the Appendix for the NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA contact information.

National Letter of Intent Program—Web site: www.national-letter.org; telephone number: (205) 458-3013

Chapter 8

Finding the Right School for You

Now that you understand eligibility requirements and recruitment methods governing varsity tennis participation in college as well as the role of the NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA, it is time to begin the serious task of selecting that all-important college that you will attend for the next two or four years. Hopefully, you have maintained good grades and kept track of your tennis records, especially matches against ranked players. If these two areas need further work, start now and don't let up on either.

By your junior year of high school, you should begin the process of identifying the college you want to attend. As you do, keep in mind that as a prospective student-athlete, you have to meet two entrance or acceptance requirements: (1) those of the school you want to attend, and (2) those of the national athletic governing body that the school in question is a member of. These are not necessarily the same, so you have to know the requirements of each and meet both.

Compiling a List of Prospective Schools

Perhaps one of the best ways to begin this complex process is to factor in all the academic, tennis-related, and general criteria that you want a college to meet (refer to the list of questions in Chapter 1). If, for example, you know you want to attend a college on the West Coast, there's no reason to look at Princeton or James Madison University. If a school with an enrollment of fewer than 5,000 students appeals to you, you might consider the University of Minnesota-Crookston or Barnard College, but not Boston University or Florida A&M. Do you prefer a city or small town environment? How important is an active social life to you? Do you want or need to be within a short commuting distance from your home? By honestly answering all of these questions, you will save yourself a great deal of time in narrowing down your list of potential colleges.

Once you have established the criteria you want a college to meet, begin to compile a list of schools that do. You can do this in a number of ways, one of the most efficient being to use the College Tennis Connect (CTC) database of schools with varsity tennis programs. For just \$29.00 a year (at the time this publication went to press), the CTC database allows you to search more than 1,200 schools (i.e., every school in the United States and Canada with an active varsity tennis program) by state, geographic area, enrollment size, major, and athletic governing body. Using these search criteria, a student can compile an initial list of colleges and then do research on each of these colleges through direct links in the CTC database. Each CTC school page provides the conference the school belongs to, the names and direct links to the tennis coach or coaches, a financial aid link, and a link to the school's home page. In just a very short time, you can review useful information on any number of colleges (including their test score, GPA, and course requirements) and narrow your list to the schools you would like to investigate further. Go to www.collegetennisconnect.com for more information.

The College Board's Web site (www.collegeboard.com) has a College Search link that allows you to search its database of colleges by a number of criteria at no cost. Although this link contains a lot of useful information, because it is geared toward the entire population of potential college students, it does not provide as targeted and easily navigable information of most use to the prospective tennis student-athlete as the CTC database does. (The College Board Web site does include colleges that have recreational tennis programs, something the CTC Web site does not feature. This information will be useful for those students who want to play tennis in college, but do not want to play on a varsity team. We will cover collegiate recreational tennis in Chapter 10.)

Another important online product targeted for students who want to play varsity tennis in college is the *Directory of Collegiate Varsity Tennis Programs*, which was compiled by the USTA based on information provided by the ITA. This new directory contains information on almost 500 college varsity programs. It is a dynamic directory; more colleges will be added to it over time. For each college listed, the online directory provides the name and e-mail address of the tennis coach, the collegiate athletic association and division the school belongs to, how many scholarships, if any, the school offers, and other pertinent information for the prospective college-bound student-athlete. To review this directory, go to www.usta.com, click on Future Champions, click on Jr. & Collegiate Competition, click on Collegiate Tennis.

Finally, you can also research individual schools through their Web sites at no cost, but this requires a great deal more time.

Do Your Research

Once you've compiled a tentative list of schools, talk to parents, relatives, friends, alumni of the schools, people you know who are attending the schools, your teaching pro, your high school tennis coach, college counselors, teachers, administrators—anyone who can provide additional information about these schools and their tennis programs and their assessment of you in regard to each school. Be open to adding other schools to your list—or deleting some—based on what you learn.

Write to these schools expressing your interest in them and requesting information. Don't write form letters; personalize them. Go back to those college Web sites and do additional research. Double check each school's admissions requirements, and make sure you understand and can meet the academic and amateurism eligibility requirements of the athletic governing body of the schools you are interested in attending.

Although some of the athletic governing bodies have restrictions regarding when coaches can begin calling you (e.g., coaches in NCAA Division I schools cannot call until after July 1 of your junior year), there's nothing to stop you from calling them. The tennis coach will have a major impact on your college tennis career. Take the time to find out all you can about the coach's background, reputation, and coaching philosophy. Is this someone you would want to be associated with for the next number of years? Make your needs—academic, scholarship, position as a tennis team member, and others—known to the coach. Ask to talk to some current team members.

Attend College Nights and College Expos, which are events held by USTA national or sectional staff or tournament directors prior to the beginning of a tournament. Some of these events offer opportunities for prospective student-athletes to meet one-on-one with college tennis coaches and to learn about the school's tennis team and players. To find out where College Nights and College Expos will be held in your area, contact your USTA section (see the Appendix for contact information).

School Visits

You've heard the saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words." The same might be said of a school visit. Nothing quite compares to seeing college campuses upfront and personal in the college-selection process. You will gain a "feel" for the school that isn't possible from reading a catalog, researching online, or talking to people.

When to Visit

In planning your college visits, keep in mind the distinction between an official and unofficial visit (see Chapter 7). Briefly, you may make as many unofficial visits (i.e., where you or your parents pay all expenses related to the trip) as you want, but there are restrictions on official visits (i.e., where the college pays all or part of your expenses). Additionally, official visits to an NCAA school cannot be made before your senior year. Keeping these requirements in mind, your school visits should occur:

- Only after you have determined that a particular school meets your needs.
- Usually during spring of your junior year or early fall of your senior year.

Schedule your visit four to six weeks ahead of time to ensure you will be able to meet with the tennis coach and other key individuals with whom you want to meet.

Be Prepared

Nothing turns off a college administrator or tennis coach more than a prospective student who turns up for a school visit unprepared. Be sure to:

- Read the college catalog and review its Web site.
- Read the recruiting materials the coach sent you.
- Make a list of questions that weren't answered by the materials you received or the Web site.
- Bring your high school profile, unofficial transcripts, and player profile with you.

The Visit/Interview

Relax! Remember the interview is a two-way street. You want to learn just as much about the college as the college wants to learn about you. Be honest. Listen well. You don't need to do all the talking. Have a list of questions in mind before your visit. It is best to use open-ended questions rather than questions that call for a "yes" or "no" answer. Start your questions with the five Ws—who, what, where, when, and why? You can also ask questions that start with "how" or "tell me about." When answering questions, talk about your strengths, interests, accomplishments, goals, and what you are looking for in a college experience.

Visit the academic departments you are interested in, and talk to faculty and students in those departments. Talk to the tennis coach and members of the tennis team. Be sure to check out the library, classrooms, labs, tennis facilities, gym, cafeteria, and living arrangements. And don't forget to read the campus newspaper.

Questions to Ask the Tennis Coach

- How would you describe your coaching style?
- Where do you see me fitting on the team?
- How many players in the starting lineup are freshmen or sophomores? (If there are quite a few and if they are stronger players than you are, when will you get to play?)
- How many positions on the team are available and what level of player(s) are you looking for?
- Where do you see this team next year? In four years?
- How much time is spent practicing/traveling/playing?
- How many team members have an athletic scholarship?
- How many international players are on the team?
- What is your philosophy on recruiting international players?
- How secure is the tennis program's longevity? That is, is there any possibility of it being dropped during the next four years?
- How long do you expect to remain as coach at this school?
- Please tell me about training and conditioning programs.

Questions to Ask Members of the Tennis Team

- How fair is the coach in dealing with team members?
- What is the team's match schedule? Practice schedule?
- How are practice sessions organized and run?
- Does the coach honor scholarship obligations? If not, why not?
- How have you improved as a player since joining this team?
- What do you like most about the other players on the team?
- What is the team GPA?
- Do you have ample time to succeed academically?
- Would you make the same choice of school again? Why? Why not?

After the Visit

- Write a follow-up letter to the tennis coach, admissions officer, and other significant people you met and thank them for their time. If you are still interested in their school, be sure to enthusiastically express your interest.
- Evaluate each school (see below) and assess your chances of being accepted at the schools that interest you.
- Ask yourself: WOULD I REALLY ENJOY LIVING, STUDYING, AND PLAYING TENNIS AT THIS COLLEGE FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS?

Evaluating Colleges/Tennis Programs

When you visit a number of colleges, it is often difficult to remember everything you learned about each or even what you liked and didn't like about each. To avoid this, it is helpful to evaluate each school immediately after your visit. This way when it comes to decision time, you can compare these evaluations and make a reasoned choice. The following College/Tennis Program Rating Chart has been developed for this purpose. Assign a value of 1 to 10 for each criterion listed, with 1 being the lowest rating and 10 being the highest. Duplicate the form as often as you need to.

College/Tennis Program Rating Chart

(Assign a value of 1 to 10 for each criterion listed, with 1 being the lowest rating and 10 being the highest. Duplicate the form as often as needed.)

CRITERIA	School A Date:	School B Date:	School C Date:	School D Date:
ACADEMIC CRITERIA				
Academic quality				
Academic reputation				
Quality of desired major course of study				
Quality of faculty				
Library depth and scope				
Classroom facilities				
Average class size				
Student/faculty ratio				
Can I handle the academic workload?				
TENNIS-RELATED CRITERIA				
Quality of varsity tennis team				
Quality of school's conference/level of competition				
Coach's coaching philosophy				
Coach's experience				
Coach's teaching ability				
Do I like the varsity coach?				
Assistant varsity coach's experience				
Quality of tennis schedule				
Can I manage the tennis schedule?				
# of days and hours of practice Can I manage the practice schedule?				
How much would I get to play?				
Where would I be in the lineup?				
Opportunity to improve my tennis				
Can I handle academics on this team?				
Compatibility with team members				
Quality of tennis facilities				
Conditioning/training				
GENERAL CRITERIA				
Cost of attending this college				
Annual scholarship/financial aid				
Compatibility with student body				
Student demographics and diversity				
Campus social life				
Quality of dorms or other housing				
Quality of cafeteria or other food services				
Distance from home				
Climate and geographic location				
What do I like most about this school?				
What do I like least about this school?				

Once you have completed all of the above steps, you will be able to generate that all-important list of the schools you will actually apply to. Further, having done the hard work of researching and visiting schools, asking questions, and evaluating what you saw and heard, you can have the confidence that these schools should meet your primary academic and tennis-playing goals.

Parents as Partners

The primary role of parents in the college-selection process is one of SUPPORT. Parents should serve as sounding boards for the many and often complex decisions their children will make during this time, raise questions that their children might not otherwise consider, and be honest in regard to the financial contribution they can make toward these college years. Parents can also play an important role in interceding on behalf of their children if a college coach becomes overly aggressive in pursuing them (young people often have a hard time saying no to authority figures). The important thing for parents to keep in mind is that this is a time for their children to pursue their goals and dreams and they, the parents, need to let them do that. In short, parents should play the role of “consultant/adviser” rather than “manager.”

RESOURCE AIDS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Directory of Collegiate Varsity Tennis Programs. Go to www.usta.com, click on Future Champions, click on Jr. & Collegiate Competition, click on Collegiate Tennis.

College Board—www.collegeboard.com

College Tennis Connect (CTC)—www.collegetennisconnect.com

Complete contact information for the College Board and College Tennis Connect can be found in the Appendix.

Chapter 9

Applying to Colleges

By fall of your senior year in high school, you should have the list of schools you want to apply to in hand. So let's get started. Once again, as a prospective student-athlete you have to meet two admissions criteria—the college's and the tennis team's.

Applying for Admission to the College

Taking the college admissions part first, go to the Web page and/or catalog of each college on your list and review the following:

- GPA requirements
- SAT or ACT requirements
- Class rank requirements
- Impact of extracurricular activities and summer experiences
- Financial aid policies
- Essay requirements
- Recommendations needed
- Early decision policy and, if applicable, decision date
- Deadlines for application
- Recommended way to file applications—electronically or by mail
(If you file your applications by mail, be sure to keep copies of your applications.)

Now, start filling out those applications. Be thorough, honest, and accurate. If there is something on the application that is unclear, ask your high school counselor or the college's Admissions Office for clarification. Many college Web sites have a list of Frequently Asked Questions. Check this out first; it's likely to answer your question.

The Early Decision and Early Action processes require a few words. When you apply to a school under Early Decision, you are telling the school that it is your first choice and that you are prepared to make a commitment to attend that school if you are accepted. It is a binding contract between you and the school. Most schools make these decisions in December. You can only apply to one school on an Early Decision basis, so make sure it's the school and tennis team you really want. If, on the other hand, you apply to a school on an Early Action basis, you are under no obligation to attend that school if you are accepted and you usually have until late April or early May to notify the school of your intention to accept or decline their offer of acceptance. Please note that college tennis coaches are less likely to help you get admitted if you apply on an Early Action basis, because by doing so you are indicating that you are not committed to attending their school even if you are admitted.

Securing a Position on the College Tennis Team

Let's now turn to securing a position on the varsity tennis team of the colleges on your list. You will need to send the following directly to the head coach of the team:

- A well-written cover letter. Keep it short and simple. Provide basic information about yourself, both academic (GPA, SAT/ACT scores, the type of program you are taking, etc.) and tennis-related (current rankings and standings, best wins—and losses, strokes on which you are working to improve, sportsmanship awards, etc.). Add significant information on extracurricular activities and interests; coaches want players with broader interests than just tennis. Express your enthusiasm for becoming a member of the team and why you think you would be a good fit for it. If you will be seeking an athletic scholarship, indicate this in your letter. Be sure you know the coach's name and address it to him or her—no “Dear Coach” letters please. Finally, double-check that all of the information in your letter is correct and proofread it carefully. (See the end of this chapter for a sample letter.)
- Your Player Profile, which includes your contact information, name of and contact information for your high school and private tennis coaches, basic academic information, style of play, and your current ranking. (See the end of this chapter for a sample Player Profile.)
- Your USTA Player Record, which includes your USTA national and/or sectional junior tournament results, wins and losses, overall record, and current ranking. Your USTA Player Record can be found at www.usta.com. **If you do not have a USTA Player Record or if you have results in addition to USTA tournament results that you would like to record and send to college coaches**, you can create a list of your significant tournament wins and best losses and dates played over the last couple of years. For example, see below:

Player Name: Lisa Gruenwald			Residence: New York, NY			
Date	Age Division	Tournament	Opponent	Score	Result	
8/16/05	Girls' 18	12th Annual City Champs	Haydee Thompson	6-3; 6-4	Won	
8/18/05	Girls' 18	12th Annual City Champs	Olivia Remy	4-6; 6-4; 5-7	Lost	
3/13/06	HS Tennis	Vs. Valley High	Emma Lawrence	6-2; 6-3	Won	
5/12/06	HS Tennis	Vs. McDonalds Prep	Olivia Remy	6-3; 4-6; 6-4	Won	

- Your Tournament Schedule, which includes the events you will be playing over the next several months. Coaches who haven't had a chance to see you play will know to look for you at these events if they are there.
- Some schools like to receive a video or DVD in which you introduce yourself, demonstrate your tennis strokes and technique, and show parts of an actual match. Check with the schools to which you are applying to see if they want a video.

If you are seeking an academic scholarship from a school that requires you to sign a National Letter of Intent (see Chapter 7), keep in mind the early and final signing periods for this letter and how they relate to the acceptance date for general admission to the school. The following pages include samples of a cover letter to the tennis coach and a Player Profile.

Sample Cover Letter to the Tennis Coach

Your Name
Your Address
Your Telephone Number and/or Your E-Mail Address

Date

Name of Coach
Name of School
Street Address
City, State, Zip Code

Dear Coach *Be sure to use the coach's name:*

I am ___ years old and a *senior* at Name of your high school. My current GPA is ____, and my SAT scores are ____ (verbal) and ____ (math). I plan to major in _____ and have heard that Name of college has an excellent undergraduate program in this area as well as a successful tennis program. *(If you have a definite career goal, you can state it here.)* I am very interested in attending Name of college and playing for the School mascot.

In this paragraph, briefly describe your tennis background, your work ethic, and the areas of your game you have been working on with your coach. Describe your capabilities and interest in both singles and doubles play and why you feel you would be a good fit for the college team.

In this paragraph, describe your extracurricular activities, including other sports you play. If you are a class officer, member of the Honor Society, or if you have received any major awards, include this information.

Enclosed are my player profile, USTA player record, and tournament schedule. I have submitted my player profile to the USTA Prospective Student-Athlete Database, where my rankings, tournament results, and academic information will be updated as new information becomes available. *(If you have not yet submitted this information to the USTA Prospective Student-Athlete Database, tell the coach you will be submitting it soon—it's best to provide a specific date by which you will have done this.)*

Please send me information on your school and tennis program and on what scholarship opportunities may be available for the fall of 20___. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Signature

Enc.: Player Profile, USTA Player Record, and Tournament Schedule

Player Profile Form

Player Contact Information

First Name		Last Name		Middle Initial	
USTA #		Date of Birth			
USTA Section					
Address					
City		State		Zip	
Phone #		E-mail			
Parents					

Height _____ Weight _____

Plays (circle all that apply) Right-handed Left-handed Two-handed backhand/forehand

Style of play All-court Baseline Serve-and-volley

Private coach _____ Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Academic Information

High School Graduation Date _____

GPA _____ SAT _____ ACT _____

Name of high school _____

Tennis academy _____

Are you attending high school online? YES NO

Have you registered with the NCAA Clearinghouse?
(Note: you should register after your junior year in high school) YES NO

Proposed college major _____

Do you need a scholarship or financial aid? YES NO

Current Rankings

Current Standings National _____ Sectional _____ Age Division _____

2005 Final Rankings National _____ Sectional _____ Age Division _____

2004 Final Rankings National _____ Sectional _____ Age Division _____

Current ITF Combined Ranking _____

High School Tennis

HS tennis coach _____ Phone # _____

Position on team _____ Current W/L record _____

Other Interests/Activities

Part III

RECREATIONAL TENNIS

Chapter 10

Recreational Tennis on College Campuses

Welcome to the other side of the collegiate tennis world—recreational collegiate tennis! Here young men and women of all playing levels can find their niche. Previously under the tennis radar, recreational tennis opportunities now abound on college campuses. Whether you're new to the game, just play socially with friends, have played competitive tournaments, or play on your high school tennis team, there is an opportunity for you. Chapter 10 will explore collegiate recreational tennis options and give you the tools for selecting a college that meets both your academic and tennis-playing needs.

Who Is the Typical Collegiate Recreational Tennis Player?

There are many faces of the collegiate recreational tennis player, but all share a lot of the same traits—the desire to play competitive matches, to be part of a team, to have fun, and to connect socially with other students who have similar interests. Oftentimes students arrive on campus to find that they may fall short of the talent or dedication needed to play on the varsity squad. For others, the academic challenges that college presents make the decision to play recreational tennis a more preferred choice. No matter what your situation, the courts and players are out there waiting for you—listen to what some recreational collegiate tennis players have to say about their choice.

I knew I wanted to go to a Big Ten school, but I also knew that the last thing I wanted was the commitment of a Big Ten varsity tennis program. Lucky for me, my college's club team was a great option for someone who didn't want the commitment of varsity or wasn't quite good enough for it, yet wanted to maintain their game by playing a few times a week.

—Amy Erskine, Birmingham, MI

In my opinion, club tennis did more to introduce me to a diverse group of people than any other activity during my four year. ...Most importantly, I was able to continue doing something I love with people who shared that love. Tennis is the sport for a lifetime, and thanks to club-level athletics, it need not take a break during college.

—Andrew DeSilva, West Bloomfield, MI

After playing tennis competitively for years, I had no plans to play and felt a bit lost. Then I learned about the club tennis team and began meeting some really great people. ...I can honestly say that joining the club tennis team has been the most positive, fun, and consistent group I've been part of at college.

—Katie Johnstone, Deerfield, IL

The traveling opportunities are great fun. I love seeing other schools and playing against their teams.

—Kellie James, Honolulu, HI

The transition from being an undergraduate Division I varsity athlete to club tennis enabled me to keep playing at a competitive level even with my demanding grad school schedule.

—Jen Wong, Buffalo, NY

Collegiate Recreational Tennis Options

Collegiate recreational tennis breaks down into two primary components: **intramurals** and **sport clubs**. Many schools offer both types of programs for students.

Intramurals

Intramural tennis is generally run by the college's intramural or recreational sports department and played on the college's campus. Play options can vary from campus to campus, but generally follow the form of a fall or spring campus tournament. While this can be rewarding for some, it lacks the opportunity for consistent play throughout a season and many of the health and social attributes that playing regularly on a team provides. Fortunately, this is changing—more and more campuses are now adding co-ed team tennis programs to their schedule. This slight change has generated a huge amount of support from campus players and has steadily increased the importance and need for quality tennis facilities on campuses nationwide. The level of play in intramural league programs can range from beginner to intermediate/advanced. A tennis sport club (described below) helps fill a vital role for more competitive play on campus.

Sport Clubs

Tennis sport clubs are the really big news on campus today! Sport clubs are organized by students for students through the school's recreational sports department. Tennis sport clubs offer students a variety of options for frequent organized competitive team play. Co-ed club tennis teams practice together, play against each other, compete together against other schools in intercollegiate competition, and socialize together. Often students who have played intramural tennis form tennis sport clubs to gain a richer more competitive and frequent playing experience. The beauty of club tennis teams is that club members create the program that is right for them. Because sport clubs are a recognized part of a college's recreational sports department, club tennis teams are typically insured by the school when they represent the school in intercollegiate competition.

Student leadership and involvement are key elements to the success of sport clubs. As such, a tennis sport club offers much more than just the opportunity to play tennis. It serves as an important learning experience for the members who engage in fund-raising, public relations, organization, budgeting, and scheduling as they form, develop, govern, and administer the club's activities.

How to Start a Tennis Sport Club

If you are considering a college or university that doesn't currently have a tennis sport club, you can help to get one started. Many students have done this. The USTA has a guide to help you. For more information and a copy of *Form a Sport Club Tennis Team on Campus: A Guidebook*, please send an e-mail to tennisoncampus@usta.com.

Compiling a List of Prospective Schools

There are a number of excellent databases that can help the high school student locate a college with a recreational tennis program that meets his or her needs. The *USTA Directory of Collegiate Recreational Tennis Programs* is an online list of over 300 colleges and universities in the United States that have recreational tennis programs, either sport clubs or intramurals. The Web site address of each college is provided for easy access to information about the tennis programs available at the school. Most Web sites also provide schedules of play and information about the tennis staff and facilities, policies and procedures, FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions), and other topics that the prospective student player will find interesting and useful. Colleges are arranged alphabetically by the seventeen USTA sections and then within each section alphabetically by state. When using this directory, if you are unable to find tennis programs on a specific college's Web site, call the college's athletic director or the recreational sports department for guidance. For information on this directory, go to www.usta.com/campus. This is a dynamic directory in that more schools are constantly being added to it.

The College Board's Web site (www.collegeboard.com) allows you to search its database of colleges by a number of criteria, including geographic region, enrollment, academic program, cost, etc. This database contains comprehensive information about the colleges in it, including admissions criteria, deadlines, fees, etc. Because of this and because it is geared toward the entire population of potential college students (not just those who want recreational tennis to be a part of their college experience), it does not provide as targeted information on tennis programs as the *USTA Directory of Collegiate Recreational Tennis Programs*. However, it contains more colleges than the USTA directory currently does, so you might use this database to narrow your search by geographic region, academic program, enrollment, or some other criteria, and then dig into the list of schools it turns up to see what kinds of tennis programs each might offer. Some may not offer tennis at all; others might offer varsity, recreational, or both varsity and recreational programs. See below box for detailed instructions on how to get to tennis programs on the College Board's Web site.

COLLEGES WITH RECREATIONAL TENNIS PROGRAMS

For a list of U.S. colleges and universities that offer recreational tennis programs, go to the *USTA Directory of Collegiate Recreational Tennis Programs* at www.usta.com/campus.

To search the College Board Web site to identify colleges with recreational tennis programs, go to www.collegeboard.com and click on For Students. Go to Find a College and click on College Search. Under College Matchmaker, go to Type of School and click on Activities and Sports. Under Sports, go to Tennis (either Men's or Women's).

Tennis on Campus

The United States Tennis Association (USTA), Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA), National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA), and World TeamTennis (WTT) have enthusiastically tapped into what is happening on today's college campuses. With the goal of growing tennis in the college market, these four organizations partnered to form *Tennis on Campus*, a program designed to help colleges create and expand recreational tennis opportunities for their students through team-based co-ed play and the expansion of tennis sport clubs. By offering a variety of supporting resources such as customizable marketing kits, start-up funding, and promotional goods, the USTA and its partners help campuses and their sports leadership foster programs that meet the needs of their students. In addition, the USTA provides organized competitive play opportunities—regional leagues and sectional and national championships—that extend the fun and competitive outlets of these campus programs.

To learn more about *Tennis on Campus* and how it can enhance or help start a recreational tennis program at the colleges you are considering attending, go to www.usta.com/campus.

The rest of this section describes several components of the *Tennis on Campus* program, including their growth since the program was implemented in 2000. It will make clear that as a participant in recreational tennis at the college you choose, you can definitely play competitive intercollegiate tennis, be part of a cohesive group, and have a lot of fun doing it.

USTA Campus Championships—Section and National

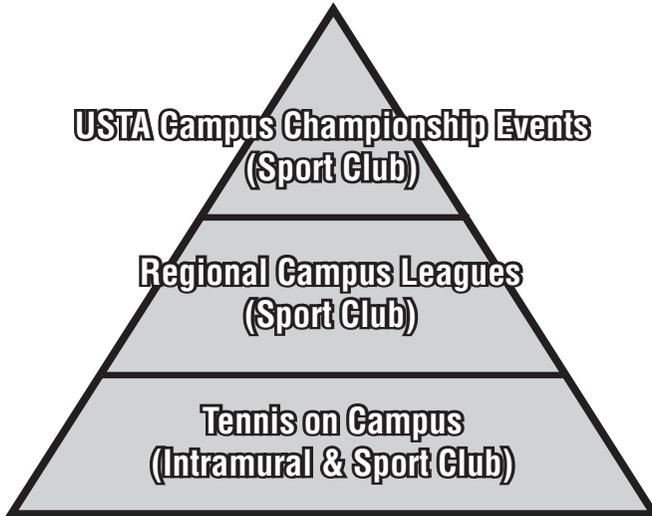
In 2000, the USTA and its partners developed a National Campus Championship (now called the USTA Campus Championship) to provide the excitement of national competition for recreational campus tennis programs. In 2000, its inaugural year, 10 teams with 89 players participated. Six years later, 64 teams with nearly 500 players took part in the championship.

Recognizing that not every collegiate recreational tennis team can participate in the national championship, the USTA worked with each of its 17 geographic sections to establish USTA section championships (USTA Campus Championship—Section Events). These events provide an outlet for a greater number of players. In its first year, 2003, only 3 sections participated; in 2006 all 17 sections did—a strong indication of interest on the part of campus tennis club teams around the country. For more information on the USTA Campus Championship Events, go to www.usta.com/campus.

Regional Campus Leagues

Regional Campus Leagues provide an organized structure for club play—schedules are made, matches are played, records are kept, etc.—as well as a full schedule of other schools to play against. Leagues provide a regular season for sport club tennis teams and generally culminate with post-season play at the USTA Campus Championship Events. League results are often used for seeding purposes at respective section USTA Campus Championships, thereby giving recreational collegiate tennis a seamless regular and post-season. Starting with just a few leagues and 22 teams in 2004, there were 10 leagues and over 120 campus teams participating in 2006. For more information on regional campus leagues, go to www.usta.com/campus.

The following diagram sums up recreational tennis opportunities on campus. The diagram highlights each of the program options discussed in this chapter. What all of this means for you, the prospective college student who wants recreational tennis to be an integral part of your college years, is that there are multiple opportunities for competitive fun team-based play both on campus and by extension on regional campus leagues and at section and national campus competitions.



Bridging the Gap Through Recreational Collegiate Tennis

In the past, many high school varsity tennis players who did not go on to play varsity tennis in college simply (and unhappily) stopped playing tennis during their college years. Many never got back to it or did so only after many years. Now, collegiate recreational tennis bridges the gap between high school varsity tennis and college graduation for these hundreds of thousands of players by providing organized competitive tennis throughout their college years. While providing opportunities for fun and friendship during college, recreational tennis keeps tennis skills primed.

During summer breaks and upon graduation, there are a variety of play options available for young adults. USTA League Tennis (www.usta.com; click on Tournaments and Leagues) and World TeamTennis (www.wtt.com) are two of the most popular leagues available nationwide and both offer an opportunity for advancement to a national championship. By contacting respective league coordinators in your immediate area, you may be able to ensure a chance to join a team and play all summer long.

With all of the recreational choices mentioned above every student can continue to enjoy the health and social benefits of playing tennis while in college. Recreational collegiate tennis will keep you playing the sport you love during your college years and have you ready to continue the sport for a lifetime when you graduate.

RESOURCE AIDS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

For a list of U.S. colleges and universities that offer recreational tennis programs, go to the *USTA Directory of Collegiate Recreational Tennis Programs* at www.usta.com/campus.

To search the College Board Web site to identify colleges with recreational tennis programs, go to www.collegeboard.com and click on For Students. Go to Find a College and click on College Search. Under College Matchmaker, go to Type of School and click on Activities and Sports. Under Sports, go to Tennis (either Men's or Women's).

For information on the *Tennis on Campus* program and a copy of *Form a Sport Club Tennis Team on Campus: A Guidebook*, go to www.usta.com/campus.

For information on how to start an on-campus program and for customizable flyers, posters, and other helpful material, go to www.usta.com/campus.

For more information on USTA Campus Championship Events, go to www.usta.com/campus.

For more information on Regional Campus Leagues, go to www.usta.com/campus.

For information on USTA League Tennis, go to www.usta.com and click on Tournaments and Leagues.

For information on World TeamTennis, go to www.wtt.com.

For information on the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association, go to www.nirsa.org.

Part IV

TENNIS INDUSTRY
CAREERS

Chapter 11

Tennis Industry Careers

Because you are using this guide to help you choose a college—a college that marries your specific academic and social requirements with your strong desire to play tennis while attending college—this chapter on tennis industry careers is likely to be of particular interest to you. If you love tennis, you can immerse yourself in the tennis world after graduation through your career choice, even if you don't become a professional tennis player.

What Are Your Tennis Industry Career Options?

A career in the tennis industry can be fulfilling, lucrative, and rewarding. And the opportunities are endless! Tennis industry jobs are available literally all over the world. Many of these careers involve teaching tennis or coaching, for example, by becoming a certified tennis teaching professional, tennis director, or high school, college, or private tennis coach. Other career options relate to the operation or management of tennis entities, for example, as tennis club or facility managers, tennis camp directors, pro shop managers, tennis clothing and equipment manufacturer sales representatives, and builders of tennis courts. Newspaper, magazine, and television journalists and writers of books and newsletters can specialize in sports and tennis (e.g., Bud Collins, Bob Larson, and Peter Bodo), while sport science consultants and professional trainers are increasingly sought after. In addition, there are organizations that specialize in delivering tennis services, such as Peter Burwash International (BPI).

Further, all the major tennis industry organizations require bright people who are passionate about tennis to manage and administer their programs and other activities. Take just one organization, the USTA, as an example. The USTA, the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the United States, is the largest tennis organization in the world, with 17 geographical sections, more than 675,000 individual and 7,000 organizational members, and thousands of volunteers. Its Community Tennis Division strives to grow the game of tennis at every level with a goal of making the game accessible to everyone; its Professional Tennis Division manages all aspects of the USTA's involvement in the professional sport, including the US Open and 94 Pro Circuit events, among others; its Player Development Division provides American junior, collegiate, and young professional players with opportunities to reach their maximum potential. To accomplish all of this, the organization needs talented professionals and executives in finance and accounting, marketing, sales, sponsorship, public relations, membership, program management, publishing, business operations, legal, human resources, and many other disciplines. The same applies to the other tennis industry organizations—ITA, WTT, USPTA, PTR, NIRSA, etc.—where thousands of career opportunities are waiting for you. Why not choose a lifelong career that captivates your interests, affords opportunities to travel and meet interesting people, and offers multiple avenues for growth?

Preparing for a Career in the Tennis Industry

The best way to prepare for a career in the tennis industry is the same as you would prepare for any career, that is, by combining a quality education with hands-on experience and networking with professionals who will serve as advisors and mentors. Although most people working in the industry today have gone through traditional educational programs, several colleges and universities now offer programs specifically geared to prepare you for positions in the tennis industry. These programs usually offer a four-year degree in recreation, business administration, marketing, or another discipline with a concentration in Professional Tennis Management (PTM). PTM programs allow students to combine their interest in tennis with academic preparation. Internships are often an important component of PTM programs. These internships give students valuable hands-on experience working at country clubs, resorts, public tennis facilities, tennis camps, and in tennis organizations. Graduates of these programs receive both their academic degrees and certification as tennis professionals, which together give them a definite advantage as they enter the marketplace. In fact, these schools have a high success rate in placing their graduates. The following schools currently have certified Professional Tennis Management programs:

Ferris State University
Professional Tennis Management
14342 Northland Drive
Big Rapids, MI 49307
Tom Dagle, PTM Director
Telephone: 231-591-2219
daglist@ferris.edu

Hampton University
School of Business
Hampton, VA 23668
Robert Screen, PTM Director
Telephone: 757-727-5361
robert.screen@hampton.edu

Methodist College
Professional Tennis Management
5400 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28311
Pete Peterson, PTM Director
Telephone: 800-488-7110, ext. 7147
ppetersen@methodist.edu

Tyler Junior College
Tennis Tech
P.O. Box 9020
Tyler, TX 75711
Kimm Ketelsen, PTM Director
Telephone: 800-687-5680, ext. 2473
kket@tjc.edu

APPENDIX

TENNIS ORGANIZATIONS,
ONLINE DIRECTORIES, AND
OTHER RESOURCES
TO AID THE PROSPECTIVE
COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT-ATHLETE

USTA NATIONAL

United States Tennis Association (USTA)

70 West Red Oak Lane
White Plains, NY 10604
Telephone: 914-696-7000
Web site: www.usta.com

This is the USTA headquarters address.

Please contact this office for all general questions relating to the USTA and for information regarding:

- Men's Futures & Challenger Circuits
- Women's Satellite & Challenger Circuits
- USTA Membership
- Multicultural Player Grant information

USTA Junior and Collegiate Competition

7310 Crandon Blvd.
Key Biscayne, FL 33149
Telephone: 305-365-8782
E-mail: jrcomp@usta.com or collegetennis@usta.com

For information regarding:

- National Junior Tournament Schedule
- Comments about tournaments listed on the schedule
- National junior ranking procedures and general information
- Grievance complaints
- Questions regarding player record corrections
- USTA Prospective Student-Athlete Database
- Collegiate Web site and information
- Competition Training Centers

USTA Player Development

7310 Crandon Blvd.
Key Biscayne, FL 33149
Telephone: 305-365-8782

For information regarding:

- Coaching Education information
- National/International Competition and Training Grant information
- USTA Endorsement for ITF Tournaments
- Sport Science and USTA Anti-Doping Program information

USTA Community Tennis

70 West Red Oak Lane
White Plains, NY 10604
Telephone: 914-696-7000
E-mail: tennisoncampus@usta.com

For information regarding:

- Tennis on Campus
- USTA Campus Championship
- USTA Campus Championship—Section Events
- Regional Campus Leagues
- Sport Club Tennis

USTA Tennis & Education Foundation

70 West Red Oak Lane

White Plains, NY 10604

Telephone: 914-696-7000

Web site: www.usta.com, click on "About Us" and then on "Tennis and Education Foundation"

USTA SECTIONAL OFFICES

Contact information for the seventeen USTA sectional offices is listed below. Please contact the sectional office in your geographic area (see section map on page 1 to determine in which section you live). Your sectional office can provide you with information on the following:

- Sectional and district junior ranking information, endorsement procedures, tournament schedules, and grievance complaints
- National wild card applications and procedures
- USTA Jr. Team Tennis information
- Tennis on Campus
- USTA Campus Championship—Section Events

Caribbean

PO Box 40439

San Juan, PR 00940

(787) 726-8782

www.caribbean.usta.com

Eastern

4 West Red Oak Lane

Suite 300

White Plains, NY 10604

(914) 698-0414

www.eastern.usta.com

Florida

1 Deuce Court

Suite 100

Daytona Beach, FL 32124

(386) 671-8949

www.ustaflorida.com

Hawaii Pacific

1500 South Beretania St

Suite 300

Honolulu, HI 96826

(808) 955-6696

www.hawaii.usta.com

Intermountain

1201 South Parker Road

Suite 200

Denver, CO 80231

(303) 695-4117

www.intermountain.usta.com

Mid-Atlantic

7926 Jones Branch Drive

Suite 120

Mc Lean, VA 22102

(703) 556-6120 or 800-532-8782

www.midatlantic.usta.com

Middle States

1288 Valley Forge Road

Suite 74

Valley Forge, PA 19482

(610) 935-5000

www.middlestates.usta.com

Midwest

1310 E. 96th St.

Suite 100

Indianapolis, IN 46240

(317) 577-5130

www.midwest.usta.com

Missouri Valley

8676 West 96th Street
Suite 100
Overland Park, KS 66212
(913) 322-4800
www.missourivalley.usta.com

New England

110 Turnpike Road
Westborough, MA 01581
(508) 366-3450
www.ustanewengland.com

Northern

1001 W. 98th Street
Suite 101
Bloomington, MN 55431
(952) 887-5001
www.northern.usta.com

Northern California

1350 S. Loop Road
Suite 100
Alameda, CA 94502
(510) 748-7373
www.ustanorcal.com

Pacific Northwest

4840 SW Western Ave
Suite 300
Beaverton, OR 97005
(503) 520-1877
www.pnw.usta.com

Southern

5685 Spalding Drive
Norcross, GA 30092-2504
(770) 368-8200
www.southern.usta.com

Southern California

PO Box 240015
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(310) 208-3838
www.scta.usta.com

Southwest

2720 E. Thomas Road
Suite B170
Phoenix, AZ 85016
(602) 956-6855
www.ustasouthwestsection.com

Texas

8105 Exchange
Austin, TX 78754
(512) 443-1334
www.texas.usta.com

COLLEGIATE TENNIS ORGANIZATIONS

Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA)

174 Tamarack Circle
Skillman, NJ 08558-2021
Telephone: 609-497-6920
Fax: 609-497-9766
Web site: www.itatennis.com
For information regarding:

- Collegiate events
- Collegiate rankings
- Varsity Campus/Community Outreach

National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA)

4185 SW Research Way
Corvallis, OR 97333-1067
Telephone: 541-766-8211
Fax: 541-766-8284

Web site: www.nirsa.org

For information regarding:

- USTA Campus Championship
- Sport Club Tennis

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC GOVERNING BODIES

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

700 W. Washington Street
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222
Phone: 317-917-6222
Fax: 317-917-6888
Web site: www.ncaa.org

For information regarding:

- Rules interpretation
- Academic and amateurism eligibility
- NCAA legislation—tennis specific
- Amateur status with regard to NCAA (prize money vs. expense money)
- NCAA *Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete* (A single copy is available free of charge.)

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)

23500 W. 105th St
P.O. Box 1325
Olathe, KS 66051-1325
Telephone: 913-791-0044
Fax: 913-791-9555
Web site: www.naia.org

For information regarding:

- Rules interpretation
- Academic and amateurism eligibility
- NAIA legislation—tennis specific
- Amateur status with regard to NAIA (prize money vs. expense money)
- NAIA "Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete" (A single copy is available free of charge.)

National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)

1755 Telstar Dr., Suite 103
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
Telephone: 719-590-9788
Fax: 719- 590-7324
Web site: www.njcaa.org

For information regarding:

- Rules interpretation
- Academic and amateurism eligibility
- NJCAA legislation—tennis specific
- Amateur status with regard to NJCAA (prize money vs. expense money)
- “Information for a Prospective NJCAA Student-Athlete” (A single copy is available free of charge.)

ONLINE DIRECTORIES/DATABASES OF COLLEGES WITH VARSITY AND RECREATIONAL TENNIS PROGRAMS

Varsity Tennis (See Chapter 8 for more details on these directories.)

College Tennis Connect (CTC). Go to www.collegetennisconnect.com

Directory of Collegiate Varsity Tennis Programs, compiled by the USTA based on information provided by the ITA. Go to www.usta.com, click on Future Champions, click on Jr. & Collegiate Competition, click on Collegiate Tennis.

College Board. Go to www.collegeboard.com and click on For Students. Go to Find a College and click on College Search. Under College Matchmaker, go to Type of School and click on Activities and Sports. Under Sports, go to Tennis (either Men’s or Women’s).

Recreational Tennis (See Chapter 10 for more details on these directories.)

USTA Directory of Collegiate Recreational Tennis Programs. Go to www.usta.com/campus.

College Board. Go to www.collegeboard.com and click on For Students. Go to Find a College and click on College Search. Under College Matchmaker, go to Type of School and click on Activities and Sports. Under Sports, go to Tennis (either Men’s or Women’s).

OTHER COLLEGIATE TENNIS RESOURCES

There are many organizations, publications, Web sites, and other resources that can help the prospective student-athlete locate and finance a college that will meet his or her needs. The resources listed below are just a few of them to get you started.

College Board

45 Columbus Avenue
New York, NY 10023-6992
Telephone: 212-713-8000
Web site: www.collegeboard.com

College Tennis Connect

Richard A. Lipsey, Publisher
P.O. Box 2378
Princeton, NJ 08543
Telephone: 609-896-1996
Web site: www.collegetennisconnect.com

NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse

301 Act Drive
Box 4043
Iowa City, IA 52243-4043
Telephone (toll-free customer service line): 877-262-1492
Fax: 319-337-1492
Web site: www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

The National Directory of College Athletics

College Directories, Inc.
P.O. Box 450640
Cleveland, OH 44145
Telephone: 440-835-1172
Toll Free: 800-426-2232
Web site: www.collegedirectories.com

Two editions—one for men and one for women—are published annually. These directories list junior and senior collegiate athletic programs for all sports.

Additional Reading Materials:

Barron's Profile of American Colleges, Barron's Education Series
Funding Education Beyond High School: The Guide to Federal Student Aid, 2006-07
How to Go to College Almost for Free, Benjamin R. Kaplan, 2002
Paying for College Without Going Broke, Kalman Chany and Geoff Martz, 2003
Peterson's Annual Guide to Undergraduate Study, Peterson's Guides, Inc.

See Chapter 3 for scholarship/financial aid Web site addresses.

USTA Guide to Tennis on College Campuses

This guide provides high school juniors and seniors who want to play competitive tennis—either varsity or recreational—in college with the information they need to make that all-important college choice. The *USTA Guide to Tennis on College Campuses* is a comprehensive resource for locating tennis programs at more than 2,000 colleges and universities across the country and identifying their requirements for entry. It includes:

- Online directories of colleges with varsity and recreational tennis programs.
- Information on tennis organizations (USTA, ITA, and NIRSA) that can help the prospective collegiate tennis player.
- The eligibility requirements and recruitment rules of the three collegiate athletic associations (NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA).
- Scholarship and other financial aid opportunities.
- Important points on how to prepare for college interviews and make application.
- Internet links for immediate access to information on colleges, financial aid, and the tennis and athletic associations.



UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION

70 West Red Oak Lane
White Plains, NY 10604-3602
www.usta.com