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CrossCourt

SUMMER 2013

THE SERVE Bradley Frye, Boys 12s champion at the 2012 Sweet 16 Championship, answers **CrossCourt's** questions about his game.

LOVING LEAGUES

Read all about how members in the USTA Missouri Valley are benefitting from the 2013 USTA League restructuring.



17 30

SUMMER 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Your guide to everything Missouri Valley this summer!

ON COURT WITH
Pat Purcell of St. Louis helped the United
States retain the Maureen Connolly Cup for the seventh consecutive time in the women's 55-age division. **GrossCourt** caught up with Purcell to talk about her international playing experience.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jason Mathes (pictured with Pete Sampras) is the new president of the St. Louis district. Find out why he got involved and how you can do the same.

NET NOTES Get the latest news from all around the USTA Missouri Valley.





with Bradley Frye

Overland Park, Kansas

Q: When and how did you get started playing tennis?

A: I began playing tennis when I was four years old. I watched my older brother and sister play. I looked up to them and wanted play tennis like them.

Q: What's your favorite thing about the sport?

A: My favorite part of tennis is the competition.

Q: What is your best tennis memory?

A: My best memory is getting to the quarterfinals of USTA Winter Nationals last December.

Q: What is one item you can't go without in your tennis bag (besides your racquet)?

A: I cannot go without my band for stretching my shoulder.

Q: On-court, what's your best shot?

A: My best shot is my inside-out forehand.

Q: Who is your favorite tennis player, and why?

A: My favorite player is Roger Federer because he is an all court player, which is my game style. He also makes his "tweeners," which I will hit at times in my matches.

Q: What is your favorite subject in school?

A: My favorite subject is creative writing in English.

Q: Do you play any other sports?

A: In addition to tennis, I play basketball and soccer.

Q: On a typical Saturday afternoon, what do you like to do?

A: On a typical Saturday, I play tennis for a few hours, play basketball outdoors, hang out with friends and sometimes play video games.

Q: What would be your ultimate tennis dream?

A: My ultimate dream is to play Center Court at the US Open.



Bradley Frye participated in a high performance youth tennis workshop at the USTA Missouri Valley Annual Conference in December 2012. He is pictured with Tom Gullikson, Geoff Russell, Chanda Rubin and Todd Dissly.

The USTA Missouri Valley's thoughts are with those who have been affected by the recent natural disaster in Moore, Oklahoma. We also continue our support for the community of Joplin, Missouri as it rebuilds and recovers from the 2011 tornado that destroyed much of the city.

1 MISSOURIVALLEY.USTA.COM SUMMER 2013



USTA League, the world's largest recreational tennis league, has changed its structure and format for the 2013 season, and players throughout the Missouri Valley section are reaping the benefits. Gone are the monikers "Senior" (50-and-over) and "Super Senior" (60-and-over), replaced instead by a more representative grouping based on age. Previously, the vast majority of USTA League participants fell into the "Adult" category (18-and-over), with far fewer in the "Senior" and "Super Senior" categories.

"USTA League Restructuring has offered new adult league formats, including additional opportunities for players to play more within their age group," said Lori Therrien, Program Manager of Adult Competition for the USTA Missouri Valley. "Players who can play frequently will find more opportunity to play against opponents closer to their age and ability."

Player feedback and other data showed a need for age restructuring in order to provide more and better play opportunities, both for competitive and social reasons. Under the old model, players were of the same rating but not necessarily of the same playing style or fitness level. The restructuring ensures more frequency of play opportunities at more appropriate age divisions. More mature players still have the option of playing in the lower age levels, but now also have a group reserved for those closer to their age.

These changes are helping to put more people on the courts in the Missouri Valley. The section had more than 18,000 participants in 2012 and is already seeing growth in its participation numbers since the changes were implemented.

"Districts are showing anywhere from an 11 percent to 25 percent increase in participation over this time last year, due to players having more options and opportunities to play leagues," said Therrien. "Our section as a whole is showing an 8.7 percent increase in participation over this time last year."

Susan Nealy, a 55-and-over League player from Lenexa, Kansas, said the restructuring has been a positive adjustment. As a member of the Heart of America district board and Adult Council, Nealy helped implement the changes in her district.

"The addition of the 40-and-over age division has been the biggest improvement," said Nealy. "It has leveled the playing field, so to speak, because the younger, faster and more skilled competitors can be hard to keep up with after age 40. The option to play 18-andover is still there, though, so now there are just more opportunities."

Bob Faust, a St. Louis district board member and frequent USTA League player, agrees.

"A lot of planning went on behind the scenes to set the new League in motion," said Faust. "No one was quite sure what to expect. In our district we are currently playing the 40-and-over League and participation has exceeded our expectations. There are now Leagues that cater to all age groups."



Faust, who is also a league coordinator and a team captain, has seen the USTA implement many changes over the years but the current league restructuring is the most substantial shift he can recall.

"Initially many players seemed skeptical that all the changes would be welcomed, but now that the leagues are in place and underway, the feedback has been positive," said Faust. "I believe the future for USTA League tennis is brighter."

Players aren't the only ones seeing the benefits, however. Facilities are seeing increased involvement and league coordinators have been working to take advantage of every court time available for more match play. Coordinators are also building relationships with public parks to use courts that may be available for League play. New facilities are even being built to help create more options for play.

New clubs or courts being built is an exciting event for all of our league coordinators as that creates more court availability," said Therrien. "For example, in Des Moines, a new Life Time Fitness Center with 12 indoor courts will offer many new court hours for the Iowa District League Program. We're extremely excited to see the changes taking place throughout the section.

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Regardless of where or what level one plays, Nealy encourages everyone to get involved with USTA League or even to captain a team.

"Take advantage of all the opportunities available." said Nealy. "Volunteers work very hard to make the tennis experience the best for the district. Players can play in their level with players in the same age range or younger if they choose. Contact a level coordinator or anyone on the Adult Council. It can be very rewarding and help tennis expand even more. What I love most about League play is primarily the camaraderie, and then the opportunity to advance and meet people across the section and nation," said Nealy. "It truly is the sport of a lifetime—even with bad knees!"



2013 SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP DATES AND LOCATIONS

Adult Section Championship I August 8-11, 2013 Des Moines, Iowa

Des Moines, Iowa Adults 18 & Over: 3.0, 4.0, 5.0

Adults 40 & Over: 3.5, 4.5

Adult Section Championship II August 22-25, 2013 St. Louis, Missouri Adults 18 & Over: 2.5, 3.5, 4.5 Adults 40 & Over:

3.0, 4.0

Super Doubles
Section Championship I
September 11-17, 2013
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Adult 65 & Over:
6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
Adult 18 & Over Mixed Doubles:
5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0

Super Doubles
Section Championship II
September 25-October 1, 2013
Springfield, Missouri
Adult 55 & Over:
6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
Adult 40 & Over Mixed
Doubles: 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

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2013 SUMMER EVENTS IN THE USTA MISSOURI VALLEY

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Green = National event
Dark Blue = Pro Circuit event
Purple = World TeamTennis ev

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| USTA National Women's 18 Senior 65,75,85 Indoor Championship (cont'd) 25 Adult League Section Championship II (cont'd) | Adult League Section Championship I (cont'd) Men's Pro Circuit (cont'd) | USTA MV Summer Section Championship (cont'd) National Public Parks Tennis Championships (cont'd) | SUNDAY National Family Tennis Championships (cont'd) Men's Pro Circuit (cont'd) National Public Parks Tennis Championships (cont'd) | USTA MV Futures IA (cont'd) USTA MV Futures OK (cont'd) Men's Pro Circuit (cont'd) | USTA MV Futures NE (cont'd) USTA MV Futures OK (cont'd) | Husband and Wife National Hard Court Championships (cont'd) USTA MV Futures MO (cont'd) USTA MV Futures OK (cont'd) | US Open National Playoffs Missouri Valley Qualifying Tournament (cont'd) USTA MV Futures (cont'd) | USTA MV Sweet 16 (cont'd) USTA SmashZone (cont'd) STASTATION SUNDAY | USTA MV Futures (cont'd) | USTA MV Segment 2 Super II (cont'd) Jim Thorpe Games Oklahoma Civ. Oklahoma | All Stars Day (cont'd) ALL Stars Day USTA MV Segment 2 Super I (cont'd) | |
| 19 26 us Open August 26-September 9 Flushing Meadows, New York | USTA National Women's Senior 65,75,85 Indoor Championship Midtown Athletic Club Overland Park, Kansas | Men's Pro Circuit Edwardsville Illinois | MONDAY USTAMV Jr. Team Tennis Section Championships LaFortune Tennis Center Tulsa, Oklahoma | 22 Men's Pro Circuit Godfrey, Illinois | Springfield Lasers vs. Texas Wild Men's Pro Circuit John Missouri | Springfield Lasers vs. Boston Lobsters 115775 215775 8 | 1 | 24 MONDAY | 17 | 0 1 | 8 | MONDA |
| 20 US Open USTA Wheelchair Tennis Championships August 27-September 1 Dwight Davis' Tennis Center St. Louis, Missouri | 13 | 6 | TUESDAY 30 | Springfield Lasers vs. 23 Sacramento Capitals (Sam Querrey) | 16 | 9 | 2 | TUESDAY | 18 USTA MV Segment 2 Sweet 16 Plaza Tennis Center Kansas City, Missouri | 11 | 4 | |
| 21 | 14 | 7 | WEDNESDAY 31 | PHO CAR. 24 | 17 | 10 | ω | 26 WEDNESDAY | 2013 19 SWEET | 12 | ⊘ i | NEO NEO NEO |
| Adult League Section Championship II Dwight Davis Tennis Center St. Louis, Missouri 29 | 15 | Adult League Section 8 Championship 1 | THURSDAY USTA MV Summer Section Championship Westwood Tennis Center Norman, Oklahoma | 25 | Springfield Lasers vs. 18 Sacramento Capitals | 11 | 4 | US Open National Playoffs Missouri Valley Qualifying Tournament Homestead Country Club Prairie Village, Kansas | 20 | 13 AMERICAN FAMES | 6 | |
| 30 | 16 | 9 | FRIDAY 2 | National Family Tennis Championships Plaza Tennis Center Kansas City, Missouri | 19 tures complex tures | USTA MV Segment 2 Futures Koch Family Tennis Center Omaha, Nebraska USTA MV Segment 2 Futures Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Springfield Lasers vs. Orange County Breakers (Andy Roddick) | Husband and Wife National S Hard Court Championships Plaza Tennis Center Kansas City, Missouri USTA MV Segment 2 Futures Country Club of Missouri Columbia, Missouri USTA MV Segment 2 Futures Lafortune Tennis Center Tulsa, Oklahoma | Crand Street Cate Kansas City, Missouri 28 USTA MV Segment 2 Futures Oklahoma City, Oklahoma FRIDAY | 21 | 14 USTA MV Segment 2 Futures Dwight Davis Tennis Center St. Louis, Missouri | USTA MV Segment 2 Super II Koch Tennis Center Omaha, Nebraska | MAY 31 USTA MV Segment 2 Super I Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Oklahoma City, Oklahoma |
| Arthur Ashe Kids Day National Tennis Center USTA Semiannual Meeting & Conference August 31-September 4 New York, NY | 17 | 10 | SATURDAY 3 | National Public Parks Tennis Championships Cooper Tennis Complex Springfield, Missouri | 20 Springfield Lasers vs. Philadelphia Freedoms (Sloane Stephens) | 13 | 6 | Davenport, Jowa Davenport, Jowa Davenport, Jowa 29 SATURDAY SATURDAY | 22 USTA SmashZone | 15 | 8 | All Stars Day Koch Tennis Center Omaha, Nebraska |



Pat Purcell of St. Louis, Missouri, helped the United States retain the Maureen Connolly Cup for the seventh consecutive time in the women's 55-age division. Most recently, Purcell won both singles and doubles titles at the Women's 55 Indoor Championships. In 2012, she won a doubles bronze at the 55 Indoors and was a finalist in 55 doubles at the grass. We caught up with Purcell to chat about her experiences.

Q. Tell us how you found yourself in the game of tennis. How did you start playing

A. My father, Tom Purcell, decided that I should play tennis and made it my primary sport. At eight, I started taking free tennis lessons offered through the St. Louis Parks with a legendary teacher, Elmer Smith. Mr. Smith's favorite saying was "Accuracy before power." My older brother, Tom, spent a lot of time hitting with me and as I got older, we would have epic fight-to-the-death, on-court singles battles.

Q. How long have you played tennis? What USTA-affiliated events and programs have you been/are you involved in?

A. At nine, I started playing local sectional Missouri Valley and national junior tournaments. At Washington University, I played two years on the men's team and after Title IX passed in 1975, the remaining two years on the women's team. Locally, I played until 35 then took 20 years off from competition as I owned a tennis club, coached others and developed and ran adult leagues. I I especially enjoy coaching USTA teams. When I turned 55 three years ago, I started playing the Nationals again in my age division.

Q. Describe your experience competing for the Maureen Connolly Cup. How did you come to have such an opportunity?

A. Based on national tournament results, a USTA committee chooses who they consider the top four players in the Women's 55 division to represent the U.S. On my team it was Diane Barker from Charleston, SC and Susan Wright from Grand Junction, Colorado playing the singles and I was partnered with Tina Karwasky from Glendale, California in the doubles. Our entire team did not lose a match during the entire tournament beating Spain, Argentina and Germany in our flight. In the semis we beat Australia and in the finals. Great Britain.





A. Winning the Connolly Cup in March for the USA against the best players in the World in Antalya, Turkey, is my absolute career highlight. It is hard to top winning a World Championship. And when you play doubles on red clay, you need to re-learn what

works, for example, that return of serve wide in the alley is not such a good idea.



From left: Diane Barker, Susan Wright, Tina Karwasky, Pat Purcell

Q. Do you have any advice for people about getting involved in tennis?

A. Find a tennis pro that you like and take a few lessons. Your pro should be able to get you involved in league play which you should do as soon as possible. Put yourself on a USTA team with a group of players who like to practice so you always have people with whom to play. And go to your local tennis shop so they can help you choose a great racquet. Don't scrimp on your racquet or your shoes. And buy good looking tennis clothes as tennis players can be snobby if you show up dressed for a pick up game of basketball.

Q. What do you like to do when you're not on the court?

Q. What 13 things are in your tennis bag right now?

A. Wilson racquets, Kinesio tape, small scissors, Bandaids, grip tape, extra set of Wilson NXT string, towel, Firm Grip spray, a new can of balls, clean socks and wristband, bottle of water and a bottle of Endura.



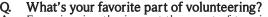
Tell us about your role with the USTA Missouri Valley. I am the president of the St. Louis District and a member of the USTA Missouri Valley Board of Directors.

How and why did you get involved in the organization? It occurred to me that if I was going to get involved in the community, at least it should be doing something that I love. Although it took awhile to figure out exactly what to do, the answer came in 2008 while having lunch with a couple of tennis buddies at a Panera restaurant. 30 minutes later on the back of a napkin stained with coffee and Diet Coke, our big idea was to start a USTA Community Tennis Association

and help the USTA raise funds to be used for junior grants and tennis

Do you play tennis yourself? How did you get started?

A. My mother introduced my sister and I to the sport about the age of five. She was an active interclub player and used to bring us along. She made good use of the childcare services the indoor club offered. The club was managed at the time by a Missouri Valley legend, Judy Dippold, known for her dedication to USTA junior development. Together, she and my mother made sure to get us into a program. I eventually tried my luck at junior level tournaments and eventually found the courage to try-out for my high school No-Cut team. Although I've never been a stand-out on the court, I love the sport immensely and have a passion for both watching and getting involved in the tennis community.



scholarships.

A. Experiencing the impact the sport of tennis can have in changing people's lives for the better. I think folks would be surprised that volunteering can be just as rewarding as being on the court. Whether at a section or even district level, there is great pride in knowing that you are a part of something like this.

Q. How would you encourage others to get involved?

A. Make the commitment to seek out your local district leadership and simply ask to get involved, even if you are not sure how or what you can do to help. Everyone has value and can make a difference -- whether as a community service volunteer, co-captain, captain, referee, umpire, tournament director, committee member, board member – there is a place for you.



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Net Notes

NEWS FROM AROUND THE USTA MISSOURI VALLEY

BUTCHEE NAMED PTR KANSAS MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) recently announced its annual awards at the 2013 PTR International Tennis Symposium in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

Kerlin Butchee of Olathe, Kansas, has been named PTR Member of the Year for Kansas. This award is presented to a PTR member in the United States who has shown dedication and diligence in promoting and supporting tennis

Butchee has been a PTR National Tester since its inception in 1976. He is currently the Director of Tennis at the Elite Squad Tennis Club. Previously, he has had numerous tennis director positions, both private and commercial, throughout the country. A USTA/RCW and 10 and Under Tennis Trainer, Butchee is the founder of the 4x4 player training system.

SUPER SENIOR MEN FIND SUCCESS AT USTA LEAGUE NATIONALS

Two men's USTA League teams from the Missouri Valley section earned top finishes recently at the 2012 USTA League National Super Senior Championships.

The 7.0 Super Senior men from Topeka, Kansas, took third place and the 8.0 Super Senior men from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, finished second in their division.

The Oklahoma City team fell to Pacific Northwest (Portland, Oregon) 0-3 in the Championship match. Earlier in the day, they defeated a team from Collier County, Fla., 2-1 in the semifinals.

The team is captained by Stephen Shaw and features team members Marden Winkler, Stephen Painton, Roger Dabney, Richard Perry, Bob Thompson, Bill Riggan, Monty Roper, John Minke, Charlie Redbird, and Ron Brewer. The team plays at the Oklahoma City Tennis Center.

The 7.0 Kansas district squad reached the semifinals after winning their round-robin pool earlier in the weekend, before falling 3-0 to the eventual champions from USTA Southern. However, the team rallied and topped USTA Puerto Rico in the third-place match by a tally of 2-1.

The team members are as follows: Bob Bundy (captain), Steve Mumert, James VanEmburgh, Andrew Valdivia, Duane Pomeroy, Ronald Taylor, Michael Escobar, Robert Goodwin and Rodney Bleich.



7.0 Super Senior men's team from Topeka, Kansas



7.0 Super Senior men's team from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

BART AND NADIA FESTIVAL



Oklahoma Tennis Service Representative, Laura Puryear, works with a child during the Bart and Nadia Sports and Health Festival in Oklahoma City in February. The festival featured a wide range of sports activities for children and 10 and Under Tennis was prominently featured as a great way to introduce kids to tennis.

SMASHZONE WILL VISIT DAVENPORT, IOWA IN JUNE

The USTA announced the return of SmashZone, which will hit the road for a 22-city tour to introduce youth tennis to kids and parents across the country. SmashZone began as the premier fan interactive attraction at the US Open before being showcased across the country. Since its inception in 2011, SmashZone has attracted more than 2 million people to its tennis courts.

This spring marks the third year of the tour, and it will be part of the Quad City Air Show in Davenport, Iowa on June 22-23.

The Quad City Airshow is an annual event at the Davenport Municipal Airport and is the largest airshow in the state of Iowa. It is in the top ten for the longest and best airshows in the U.S. The show has hosted all of the North American Military Demonstration Teams, and several International performers.

SmashZone Mobile Tour introduces audiences to tennis in a fun and interactive way by making stops at fairs, festivals, airshows, retail

environments and city centers. At SmashZone, children have the opportunity to play tennis games in a fun, festive atmosphere that allows participants to get active playing tennis from the start.

HAVE NEWS?

If you have a news items that may be worthy of inclusion in "Net Notes", e-mail crosscourt@movalley.usta.com or mail us at CrossCourt, 6400 West 95th Street - Suite 102. Overland Park, Kansas 66212.

NEW FACES IN THE SECTION OFFICE

Net Notes



Nikki Chambers joined the USTA Missouri Valley team in March of 2013 as **Competition Coordinator** and oversees all aspects of competitive tennis for the USTA Missouri Valley. She serves as the staff liaison for the Junior Competition Committee, and works to administer, enhance and develop junior and adult competitive play within the section including tournaments, rankings and the Missouri Valley tournament schedule.



Jaren Glaser is the new Kansas Tennis Service Representative. Her duties include promoting recreational tennis programs, encouraging tennis growth across the Kansas District through clubs, schools, CTAs, park and recreation agencies and service organizations as well as promoting partnership opportunities various events.



Whitney Wilson joined the USTA Missouri Valley in May of 2013. As Youth Pathway Manager, Whitney is responsible for the growth of 10 and Under Tennis, Jr. Team Tennis and Tennis on Campus programs across the USTA Missouri Valley.



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