

CrossCourt

Vol. 3 No. 2

Winter 2007

**Jim Lewis' Inspiring
Tale of Pushing Forward**

**Missouri Valley Crowns Four
Adult League National Champions**

**Notre Dame Becomes
'the Place' for Seven
Missouri Valley Standouts**

**Notre Dame's
Brook Buck**



MISSOURI VALLEY



The USTA Missouri Valley publishes CrossCourt quarterly, focusing specifically on the members and events in the section.

Your feedback is welcome.



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Offering the Tennis Experience

When you really start to study our tennis pathway, you will find there is something for everyone. We have CTAs, NJTLs, public parks and clubs out there offering great opportunities for our youth both in the schools and after school. Programs range from beginning and recreational tennis to high performance, with an abundance of competitive opportunities in between.

The key is finding the program that's right for you. We're working hard to bring tennis to you; we want to make it not only fun - but easy!

We're fortunate to have a sport that can be innovative to meet the needs of its participants. Different scoring formats, one-day events, lots of doubles, team tennis, and leagues are all great ways to meet new friends and fit tennis into your busy schedule no matter your age!

While we've always had appropriate

ball size and racquet sizes for our young beginning players, we've never changed the size of the court...until NOW. Watch for lots of noise about the QuickStart format for 10-and-under players in the coming months.

Also be on the lookout for lots of family involvement with parents as team coaches and league organizers.

When you read your

CrossCourt today, notice how much fun everyone is having on the court; read about Jim Lewis' inspirational drive to play League Tennis and catch up with the seven former Missouri Valley juniors now playing at Notre Dame. But more importantly, note their success on AND off the court.

It takes all of us as a team to offer the tennis experience to everyone in our communities. We value and appreciate all of the volunteers and we need to recruit more! Tennis just keeps on going... thank goodness!

all the Racquet

Mary Buschmann
USTA Missouri Valley Executive Director



The First Wheelchair USTA League Player in the Missouri Valley 2

14 years after a car accident that left him paralyzed from the chest down, Jim Lewis becomes the first Adult League player in the history of the Missouri Valley.

Valley Standouts Flock to Notre Dame 4

South Bend is quickly becoming the land of Oz. There are now seven former Missouri Valley junior standouts making a collegiate career with the Irish.

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In this new CrossCourt featurette, we profile Section President, Richard M. Perry. Flight instructor. Air Force veteran. Judge. Hiker Extraordinaire.

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Way To Go!

Dear CrossCourt,

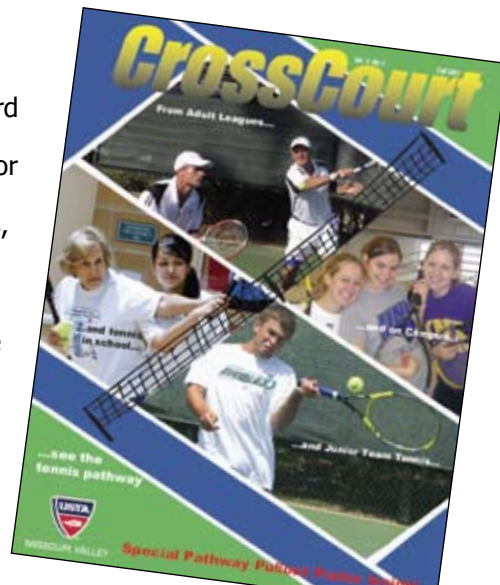
Let me be the first to congratulate Richard on his first issue as editor of CrossCourt.

I think the newsletter is a valuable tool for reaching the members of the Association. Features in this issue like the year that was, an event calendar, wrap up of WTT and promotion of the Section's Annual Meeting are all wonderful coverage of our sport.

But I would encourage you to have more articles on our "folks" like Cameron Hubbs or Tennis Hayes or Donna Farley, and less about programs. I want to read about our many members and what they also do away from their tennis lives.

Continued success with your work! Keep up the great photography.

Scott Hanover
Kansas City, Mo.



Correction

In the Fall 2007 issue of CrossCourt, we mislabeled the picture on the back cover. The photo was of Josh Vorvick.

CrossCourt welcomes your comments and suggestions. If you'd like to see your comments in a future issue, e-mail crosscourt@movalley.usta.com.

Love Game: No-Cut Coaches Promote 'The Tennis Experience'

by Richard Dedor

Most every major high school sport across the country has to cut players before the start of the season. The USTA has taken a stand against this practice with the No-Cut Coaches initiative.

married for 15 years after meeting at a mixed-doubles tennis match. Since then they've grown the tennis program at Lafayette High School in Wildwood, Mo., coaching together since 1993 and bringing tennis to hundreds of boys and girls.

This year, the Lafayette team will boast more than 70 players and there are only so many courts.

"It's a lot of hard work, but the payoff is exhilarating," Donna said.

Growing the game while building life-long players is the ultimate goal of the coaching duo.

"We understand what being part of an activity can add to the high school experience," Scott said.

Of course, having 70 girls out for tennis can be challenging, not only strategically but financially as well.

"We could have cut our top players without even

knowing it," Donna said, adding another reason for no longer cutting players because you never know what kind of talent you will find.

To get around the influx of players, the Stauffers received the Missouri Valley



photo courtesy of Donna Stauffer

Two of the girls from the No-Cut team celebrate with Coach Stauffer in the spring of 2007.

No-Cut Coaches Grant giving them the resources to hire an additional coach for the prep squad.

With so many players, sometimes the practice schedule can be hectic. But in the end, the experience outweighs any negative.

The efforts of the Stauffers have caused a few other No-Cut programs to start in the St. Louis area and this will only have positive effects.

"Because we don't cut anyone, the girls who do come out know they will be accepted and belong to something," Donna said.

For their efforts, Scott and Donna were awarded the 2006 USTA Missouri Valley High School Coaches of the Year award.



photo courtesy of Donna Stauffer

Coach Stauffer with the District 4 Lafayette No-Cut girls tennis team.

By the time school started this fall, 69 high school coaches will be a no-cut program, offering young players the chance to find a life-long love affair with the game.

Scott and Donna Stauffer have been

When Jim Lewis tossed up the first ball to serve in his 3.0 USTA League Tennis doubles match this past October at Kings Point Racquet Club, there wasn't much made of the moment. No camera bulbs flashed to capture that first serve for posterity. No loud cheers resounded from the peanut gallery, or any other sounds could be heard adding poignancy to the occasion. Just the ball ricocheting off Lewis' strings as he set it into play.

It was a beautiful sound to this 36-year old from St. Louis, because it meant for the first time in a long time when Jim Lewis served, he was playing on a level playing field.

St. Louis wheelchair player Jim Lewis' competition against able-bodied players has pushed his game forward

by Jeff Sikes

That afternoon, Lewis became the USTA Missouri Valley's first wheelchair player to participate in an official USTA League Tennis match, partnering with his able-bodied team captain Hank Gogloza to a straight sets victory over two able-bodied partners. Lewis has since gone on to play four other matches for his league team with two other league partners and has notched a 4-1 record in league play since that first October day.

"I'd always played with a few able-bodied players just hitting around, and I'd always hear about all the tournaments or league matches they would play," said Lewis. "To actually be able to



Lewis (l) and Kevin Green (r) celebrate their 2007 US Open USTA National Wheelchair Championship this year. Lewis went 8-1 in the event en route to both the singles 'A' and doubles 'A' championships.

play against able bodied players in actual competition though, it's pretty special."

After some encouragement and advice on how to get involved from locals in the St. Louis area, including his good friend and fellow USTA League player Steve Robertson, and St. Louis District Tennis Association Executive Director Mary Vassar, who helped him sort out which level he should come in at, Lewis decided it was time to join a league.

ABLED

"I'd heard that (wheelchair players) could play in Leagues, but I was always a little hesitant to take part," said Lewis. "Once I got to know these guys and a little more about it, I decided this would be the year. It's been a challenge so far (playing against able-bodied opponents), but it's been great fun."

FLYING HIGH As a youngster in Searcy, Ark., Lewis took up the sport and liked it, playing for a couple of years in junior high. But he turned to golf once high school rolled around, and the racquets gathered dust.

"I didn't stick with tennis, and I regret that so much now seeing all the sport has done for me now," said Lewis.

Those racquets would continue to gather dust as Lewis headed off to college at Washington University in St. Louis in the late-1980's. In January of 1993, after returning for the Christmas break to work at the medical library during his residency at WU, Lewis was hit head on in a late night car crash.

A WHOLE NEW WORLD That accident left Lewis paralyzed from the chest down, though the use of his arms was unaffected. The incident threw his world into flux and involved a laborious and lengthy rehabilitation period. Lewis did finish his medical residency that year, but moved back to Arkansas for a short while to be near family and to help ease the transition to his new life.

It was back in Arkansas where Lewis resumed his athletic pursuits, getting into wheelchair basketball with a team called the Rollin' Razorbacks. But it wasn't until the late 1990's – after moving back to St. Louis to work at his alma mater - that Lewis would find tennis again. Like many wheelchair athletes in St. Louis, Lewis was led back into sports through the Gateway Confluence and Wheelchair Sports Foundation, a group that encourages wheelchair athletes to use sports as a rehabilitation and socialization tool.

"It was there I got back into the sport and got into it really heavy," said Lewis. "Because I was still able to use my hands and reach out to the sides, tennis was still a good option. I took to it again with a pretty strong passion."

ABLE-BODIED In the ensuing years, Lewis has slowly ascended up the wheelchair ranks and is now the true definition of a frequent competitor, competing at regional and national wheelchair competitions, as well as mixing in a regular practice schedule each week. He's improved from the C level up to the A level, putting time and ceaseless effort into getting better, in large part

Photo courtesy of the St. Louis Post Dispatch

See ABLED ■ page 6

Teacher, Coach Grows Tennis Through Volleyball, Basketball Teams

by Richard Dedor

Growing the game using other sports has been a vision of Cindy Rasche's for years. This fall, with the help of an Iowa District Grant, the dream became a reality.

The grant money was to be used to bring students from other sports and clubs from the middle school to an after-school tennis program to introduce the game.

Rasche met with school principals and coaches at local middle schools and offered "scholarship money" to bring their players in for tennis lessons. She sold it by explaining it would help their volleyball skills. In addition, at the end of every session, there would be snacks and fellowship time.

"By doing this, we were hoping to get more kids involved in our indoor lesson program," Rasche said.

"Also, because of this program, we're hoping more kids will come out for high school tennis because of the experience they had in middle school."

Overall, 125 kids took part in the first-year program. "The kids really enjoyed themselves," Rasche said.



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Where The Kids Are

A Local Pro Brings Tennis to Campus

by Richard Dedor

With over 25 colleges and universities in the Missouri Valley providing a Tennis on Campus program for their students, it is quickly becoming 'all the rage' on campuses.

A short listing of the schools includes Iowa State, Kansas State, East Central College, Nebraska, and Oklahoma Christian University.

These colleges have made it a priority to provide recreational programming to their students and with the aid of the USTA's Tennis on Campus program, it's an easy sell.

In the last year, the University of Oklahoma started their club team and it has taken off. The process wasn't easy, but it has been rewarding.

Westwood Tennis Center's (Norman, Okla.) Director of Tennis, David Minihan, noticed a market that wasn't being tapped into.

"The school was only having one intramural tournament in the fall... that was it," Minihan said.

That led Minihan to approach Oklahoma's intramural department where he asked to implement the Tennis on Campus program. To his surprise, they



The University of Oklahoma's Tennis on Campus Club is growing in size and enjoying what collegiate tennis has to offer.

welcomed him with open arms.

"We agreed to do all the leg work and planning, but they were totally open to it," Minihan said.

From there, they proceeded with the traditional fall intramural tournament, but the turnout was low. Very low.

Westwood opened their doors to the students involved in the program and they started to donate their time to two practices a week. They even incorporated a little Cardio Tennis into the practices.

Then it happened. The students started to come.

The tennis club grew from six original members to 60 today. The small intramural tournament held that first fall – the number of participants exploded to over 200 this fall.

All in all, the experience has been a positive one for Minihan and his club, but most importantly, the students involved.

"There are tons of college students out there," Minihan said. "From just the leisurely player to the competitive ones, we just cater to

everybody."

The same thing is starting to happen at Oklahoma State. Freshman student Kristin Keany participated in the fall intramural tournament, but wanted more than just a one-day, four match event.

"I wanted a year-long season," Keany said.

OSU currently has 15 people on their club, but she hopes to keep growing just like OU has.

Irish Eyes Smile on the Valley

Seven Former Missouri Valley Juniors Now Make Their Home in South Bend

by Jeff Sikes

Maybe it's the lure of an unparalleled university experience. Maybe it's the consistent quality of the men's and women's tennis programs and their ability to churn out top-flight players. Maybe it's just good fortune or good scouting.



photo courtesy of Notre Dame Athletics
Callaghan has found a collegiate home at the University of Notre Dame.

Whatever it is, the University of Notre Dame tennis program has definitely been a pipeline of sorts for the last few years for former USTA Missouri Valley juniors. Both men's and women's rosters at the school are filled with some of the section's most talented former players. It also appears that trend won't be changing anytime soon.

Currently, there are seven roster spots filled by former USTA Missouri Valley junior players at Notre Dame, four on the women's side (Brook Buck, Kelcy Tefft, Colleen Rielley and

Kali Krisik) and three on the men's (Sheeva Parbhu, Brett Helgeson and Patrick Callaghan). You might expect those numbers from an

in-state university like the University of Kansas or Oklahoma. But at a school like Notre Dame, located in the northern Indiana town of South Bend, which boasts a large contingent of out-of-state players among its diverse student population and athletic programs, it's almost unheard of.

THE NOTRE DAME FAMILY The connections to the school run deep, most especially for Notre Dame women's coach Jay Louderback, who hails from Wichita, Kan. Louderback, who came to the school in 1989 and has been a consistent winner ever since, has been a stalwart supporter of the Valley's juniors, and built his programs using largely homegrown talent. Having risen up the ranks as a player himself in the Valley back in the early 1970's, he knows the rigors of the junior circuit help make kids better prepared for college ball.

"I know the talent that comes out of there, and I think the Valley has been a good training ground for the kids we've recruited from there and gotten them ready to play," said Louderback. He has also brought a family connection to Notre Dame with niece Krisik (Arkansas City, Kan.) joining the team in 2006.

Family connections were a part of Rielley's (Overland Park, Kan.) decision-making process as well. Her father Richard was a nationally-ranked junior, and played at Notre Dame. Football Saturdays were a regular part of the Rielley household, and she heard all about the school from her father when it came time to choose a college. When Helgeson (Overland Park, Kan.), one of Rielley's best friends from the Mike Wolf Tennis Academy took the plunge to Notre Dame a year before, it only solidified the decision

I think that's something we all kind of remember - even the girls - that we came from and started our rivalries and friendships from all those tournaments traveling to places like Kansas City or St. Louis.
-Sheeva Parbhu



Three-time Big East All-Tournament Team (Singles: 2005, 2006; Doubles: 2005)... currently ranked no. 91 in singles and #9 with fellow Missouri Valley player Tefft... four-time Oklahoma state singles champion... has played No. 1 and No. 2 in both the singles and doubles lineups... owns Notre Dame freshman record for doubles victories (27)... won five Super National USTA doubles titles with Tefft... born Dec. 31, 1985.

BROOK BUCK

Four-year letter-winner at Iowa City West high school... former top-ranked player from the state of Iowa... peaked at No. 81 in the national recruiting rankings... captured two state singles championships... helped scholastic team win a pair of state titles... born Aug. 29, 1987... intends to major in economics and political science.



PATRICK CALLAGHAN



Big East All-Tournament Team (Singles: 2006)... currently ranked no. 66 in singles... arrived at Notre Dame ranked eighth in USTA 18-and-under national singles ranking... including third among incoming college freshmen... finished his freshman season with a 23-11 overall record, including 16-10 in dual action... went 1-0 at No. 2, 11-8 at No. 3 and 4-2 at No. 4... born April 12, 1987.

BRETT HELGESON

Four-year letter-winner at Arkansas City High School... captured the the Kansas class 5A state singles championship in both 2002 and 2003... won a doubles title in a USTA National Open... has been ranked as high as no. 75 nationally in singles... went 85-1 in high school career and did not lose a match over freshman and sophomore seasons... born Feb. 11, 1988.

KALI KRISIK

for Rielley.

"When I was a lot younger, I wanted to be a pro, or go play at Notre Dame and then go play pro," said Rielley, who is now in her second year with the Irish. "It really wasn't a thought to go anywhere else."

The fact that Louderback has coached eight All-Americans in his span at Notre Dame, regularly boasts a schedule full of Top 25 teams and have finished in the Top 30 in 17 of the last 19 years, helps sway prospects like Rielley, who was the No. 1-ranked girl in the nation in Girls' 18's in 2005.

The men's team has been equally impressive, rolling off a 28-4 record a year ago en route to a final national ranking of No. 6 and a Round of 16 appearance in the NCAA's. This year the team will face 11 of the Top 25 teams in the country, and is led by two players – Helgeson and Parbhu (Omaha, Neb.), who have both climbed inside the top 65 in the NCAA rankings this year. Parbhu has twice been named an NCAA All-American, in 2005 and 2006, and has also been the team MVP twice in his career, which will come to a close this spring.

"(Playing at Notre Dame) and the experience of it all has been second to none," said Parbhu.



photo courtesy of Notre Dame Athletics
Rielley dreamed about playing for the Irish and now is living out that dream.

"I couldn't have made a bad decision going anywhere to play, but (Notre Dame) has really challenged me in so many ways. There are a lot of smart people here who know what they're doing, and you have to keep up or get passed by.

As far as tennis goes, I couldn't have asked for better coaches or closer friends than I have had here."

One of Parbhu's closest friends is his teammate Helgeson, whom Parbhu helped sway when Helgeson, now a junior, was on the recruiting trail. Helgeson estimates the two played "maybe eight or nine times" from their junior circuit days, with each winning a couple of times. Doubles partners from their junior days, Parbhu and Helgeson still keep up a trend that started way back then, warming-up together before almost every match.

"I think I hold the lead in all of our USTA matches played from the junior days, and I like to remind him of that," said Parbhu. "I think that's something we all kind of remember – even the girls – that we came from and started our rivalries and friendships from all those tournaments traveling to places like Kansas City or St. Louis."

Like Parbhu and Helgeson, Buck (Yukon, Okla.) and Tefft (Enid, Okla.) on the women's side forged their now sister-like relationship back in their formative years playing Oklahoma USTA tournaments. The girls won five USTA National Open events together in doubles through the 18's juniors division, and, have continued to play together as partners in college since Tefft joined the team in 2005, one year behind Buck.

This past November, the duo captured Notre Dame's second



photo courtesy of Notre Dame Athletics
Senior Sheeva Parbhu has twice been team MVP while becoming only the second Nebraska native to be selected as a tennis All-American for the Irish.

See IRISH ■ page 7

ITA All-American (2005-06)... Team MVP (2004-05, 2005-06)... currently ranked No. 30 in singles... two-time Nebraska state champion... the second Nebraska native ever to be an All-American for the Irish in any sport, coincidentally joining another men's tennis player from Omaha, Bill Brown, who was a first-team selection in 1967... won Nebraska state championships as a sophomore and senior... four-year letter-winner as the No. 1 player at Millard North High School... finished with a record of 23-0 in his senior campaign... born July 30, 1986.



SHEEVA PARBHU

Currently ranked No. 110 in singles... three-year letterwinner at Bishop Miege High School... first Notre Dame signee ever to have

been ranked no. 1 in the USTA girls' 18's... combined with teammate Kali Krisik to take each of the last four Kansas state singles titles in class 5A... did not lose a match over her final two seasons of high school... born Feb. 9, 1988.



KALI KRISIK

Big East All-Tournament Team (Singles: 2006)... currently ranked No. 125 in singles and no. 9 in doubles with Buck... paired with Buck to win five Super National USTA doubles titles... she is the first Irish player ever to begin her career with a national ranking in doubles... went undefeated and won Oklahoma state singles championship in only season of prep tennis while playing for Chisholm High School... born Dec. 25, 1986.



KELCY TEFFT

Getting to Know...

Richard M. Perry

In this new section of CrossCourt we will feature a member who has an interesting personality trait, skill, or hobby. To suggest someone for this feature, email crosscourt@movalley.usta.com.

USTA Missouri Valley Section president Richard M. Perry has been playing tennis for nearly 45 years and his contributions to the game as a player and volunteer in the last four and a half decades have been numerous. Growing up in Oklahoma, Perry learned the game by hitting against a shoe store wall in his hometown of Oklahoma City. Perry was even a back-to-back Oklahoma state high school doubles champion in 1963 and 1964.

His game was good enough to take him to Oklahoma City University on a tennis scholarship, but his diversity of jobs since is what sets Perry apart as a true renaissance man. He became a math teacher soon after college, then later joined the Air Force, becoming a flight instructor and teaching young men to fly T-38's at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Okla.

After separating from active duty in the Air Force in 1974 (though he later returned and served an additional 20 years in the reserves), Perry put the law degree he earned from OCU to good use.



President Perry takes a moment to relax on a hike through Boucher Rapids on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon.

He started out first as an attorney for Oklahoma Insurance Commission, then moved into private practice, and later became a municipal and then district judge. Perry was named Oklahoma Judge of the Year in 2001.

CrossCourt: Which is harder – being an air force pilot, being a judge, or returning a 110 mile per hour serve?

Richard M. Perry: They each have their moments of

excitement (laughter), and they're all pretty much difficult at times. There's an old saying that instructor pilots use about flying and the challenge it is: "Hours and hours of boredom interspersed with moments of stark terror." A lot of things were pretty straightforward as a judge, but there were plenty of difficult moments also.

CC: You're a tennis player, but many people know you as a "hiker extraordinaire" as well. What got you into hiking?

RMP: Our family has always been into camping, and we do it on nearly every

trip and family vacation we can. You get to see a lot of natural beauty, and it certainly saves a lot of money that you'd spend elsewhere on something you wouldn't remember as much.

CC: What's the prettiest place you've been to?

RMP: I'd have to say my hike to the Havasupai Reservation (Havasupai Canyon) in the Grand Canyon. The waterfalls there are so beautiful.

CC: How did you get into tennis?

RMP: I went out for basketball in the ninth grade, and made the third string freshman team. I analyzed that, and realized by the time I was a senior, I'd still be third team. I decided to go into something else, so I went out for the tennis team. I didn't letter that first year, but did fairly well after that.

CC: What has tennis meant to you and your life?

RMP: Well, it truly is the sport of a lifetime. Like many people, I've made many a lifetime's worth of friends playing tennis. It's a sport you can do at even an advancing age, so I enjoy that everyday. I love golf and have played it for awhile as well. But you can go out and play tennis for an hour and a half, and still get a good workout, and it's hard to do that in golf.

CC: How do you think the sport of tennis can help people?

RMP: I think it teaches some really good life lessons we all can use – both of winning and losing. You don't always attain your goals, and that's just part of life, just like you don't always win a tennis match. But it can still be fun and you can learn quite a bit even when you don't.

CC: What is your most lasting tennis memory?

RMP: I've had an awful lot of them. So it's hard to single one out. Being a state champion in high school for the first time was pretty special.



Perry, seen at Mooney Falls, is an avid hiker and has even built a website – www.allhikers.com – dedicated to his other passion. He has resided in Enid for 25 years, and has been married to his wife Mary for 38 years. He has one son, Ryan, and one daughter, Beth.

ABLED ■ from page 2

because of his willingness to play against able-bodied opponents like his buddy Steve Robertson, a tournament and league player in St. Louis.

Lewis' next goal is open-level wheelchair competition and playing against able-bodied players in league and USTA sanctioned events like the USTA Missouri Valley NTRP Indoor Section Championships he played around Thanksgiving of this year.

"(Playing against able-bodied opponents) is like playing tennis on speed for a wheelchair player," said Lewis. "But it's great practice because it makes

everything so much quicker for you when you do go back to playing wheelchair versus wheelchair. If you can get used to that level, then it's going to really help out your game. It certainly has helped mine."

That hard work turned into hardware for Lewis. This past September at the Barnes Tennis Center in San Diego, Calif., Lewis captured the Men's 'A' Singles title at the 2007 US Open USTA National Wheelchair Championship, the de facto national championship event for wheelchair players in the United States. He also picked up the Men's 'A' doubles event with fellow St. Louisan Kevin Green, and reached the finals of the mixed doubles event with Naomi

Ishimoto of Japan, leaving him one match short of a tournament trifecta.

Much of Lewis' recent success he attributes to getting out and playing with able-bodied players. He's seen his success and thinks other wheelchair players could and should make the transition.

"This sport has given me a second life in so many ways. One, it's great exercise. Two, it's such a challenge and incredible fun. Three, it's got to be one of the most social sports around. I've met so many new people and made so many friends on the tennis court."

ever college Grand Slam event, winning the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) National Indoor Championships in Columbus, Ohio.



photo courtesy of Notre Dame Athletics
Krisik, a two-time Kansas state singles champion has family connections at Notre Dame that helped solidify her choice to play for the Irish.

Tefft is even going to be Buck's bridesmaid next summer when Buck gets married to another former USTA Missouri Valley junior, Andy Connelly, a University

of Tulsa player, who is related to a former Notre Dame female player, Lauren Connelly.

"It's funny to think of us all as juniors back in the day, since we've all grown up along the way together," said Tefft. "Of course, we remembered Colleen and Kali and knew about them before they even got here just because they were from the Valley."

Said Buck: "This is a great place to play for sure. But, coming here initially and already having girls from the Missouri Valley and even a couple on the guys' team has made things easier on us and made us all close. It's really nice to go into something like college and have that common support group and familiarity already in place when you get there."

Men's coach Bob Bayliss thinks the school is attractive to recruits from this part of the country, as evidenced by the crop of Missouri Valley talents that have gone to the school in the past few years



photo courtesy of Notre Dame Athletics
A 2006 Missouri Valley Hall of Fame Inductee, Louderbeck has found the Missouri Valley to be a hotbed for collegiate talent. Currently, three of his nine players are from the Valley.

including Eric Enloe, Casey Smith, Kiki Stastny, and Connelly.

"I think it's more good luck on our part that we've been able to get so many of these great kids from the Valley," said Bayliss. "We're looking for really good players who are really good students. Not to sound corny here, but the Heartland, Middle America-type values system seems to ring truer in the Missouri Valley section than in a lot of places. I think that makes Notre Dame appealing to them as much as it makes them as players and students appealing to us."

Coaches, Volunteers Gather to Grow the Game

High school coaches and Missouri Valley volunteers descended upon an ice-covered Kansas City the weekend of Dec. 7-9, to learn new coaching techniques and grow their knowledge of the best practices in growing the game.

Over 50 coaches from all seven districts took advantage of the coaching expertise during the full-day training session. The morning session was dedicated to training and classroom learning, highlighted by Scott Moody, founder of Centers for Athletic Performance (CAP) who led a discussion on athletic development and sports performance based results.



Francis & Jean Baxter of Edmond, Okla., tennis volunteers for over 30 years were awarded the 2007 President's Award.

The afternoon concluded with Matt Knoll, Head Men's Tennis Coach at Baylor University showing the best ways to teach doubles.

The on-court training was followed in the evening with the Battle of the Brain, kicked off by Scott Hanover of the Plaza Tennis Center. Showing their prowess

knowledge of trivia, the Iowa district won the first leg of the Battle of the Brain & Brawn.

Along with the committee meetings, three workshop sessions were held, focusing on various aspects of growing the game. Advocacy was the focus of the first session, with panelists coming from a wide range of backgrounds.

"You absolutely need to work with your communities to be successful with any advocacy effort," Jodie Adams, Parks Director, Springfield County Parks, said.

QuickStart Tennis was also introduced to very watchful eyes. Local instructors, as well as Anne Davis, the USTA National Product Manager of Recreational Programming, explained the importance of QuickStart and how best to implement it in your program.

The sessions concluded with the full gamut of the tennis pathway. Every program that a junior could participate in, including Jr. Team Tennis, USTA Schools Tennis, No-Cut high school tennis and Tennis on Campus was

showcased.

All in all, attendees were given the full array of information and networking opportunities to assist in growing the game.

The culmination of the weekend comes with the Annual Awards and Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon. The 2007 Hall of Fame Class included Barbara Fackel (Rock Island, Ill.), Ken Flach (St. Louis), and Bob McKinley (College Station, Texas).

Following that, 34 section awards were handed out to various individuals and organizations who, in 2007 showed a commitment to excellence, on and off the court. The inductees and award winners are only a few of the pioneers involved in growing the game in our section.

Thanks to everyone who attended this year's conference. Next year's conference will be held Dec. 5 - 7, in Overland Park, Kan.



Matt Knoll (above), Head Men's coach at Baylor led the afternoon session of the coaches' clinic, showing new doubles and coaching techniques. Brining a new tennis concept, Anne Davis (below), USTA National Product Manager, Recreational Programming, presented QuickStart Tennis, the new format for 10-and-under tennis programming.



For more information on the 2007 Annual Conference, go to the net at missourivalley.usta.com

Net Notes

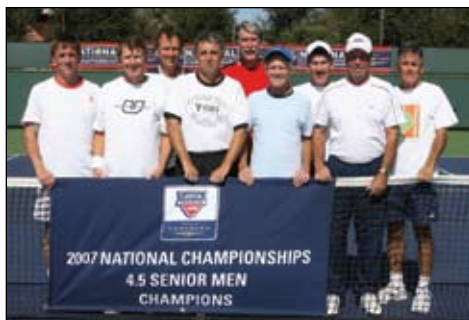
MISSOURI VALLEY USTA LEAGUE TEAMS FARE WELL AT NATIONALS: USTA Missouri Valley teams came up aces at 2007 USTA League National Championship presented by Chrysler events held this past September-November, with four championship winning squads. More than 29 teams from the section competed at events held in Indian Wells, Calif., Tucson, Ariz., and Las Vegas, Nev.

The men's 4.0 Senior team from Overland Park, Kan. brought home the title from the event held at the Randolph Tennis Center in Tucson, October 12-14. The team went 5-0 posted a 5-0 record at the event and defeated a team from Birmingham, Ala. (USTA Southern) in the finals.



Team members were captain **Chris Cox**, **Eric Engstrom**, **Greg Russell**, **Wayne McKamie**, **Steven Hannett**, **Stuart Phillips**, **John Tidrick**, and **John Cope**.

The Men's 4.5 Senior team from Merriam, Kan. captured the title at the event that took place at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, Oct. 19-21. The team dropped their opening match, but rattled off five straight team victories, including a 2-1 victory over a team from Sacramento, Calif. (USTA Northern California) in the final.



Members of the team included team captain **Bob Dickerson**, **Mark Whiting**, **Ken Watson**, **Phil White**, **Rodney Lawrence**, **Bill Debaun**, **Andrew Scott**, **Wilbur Jones** and **Michael Cooper**. Another member of the team, **Greg Smith**, did not make the trip.

The USTA Missouri Valley also had two winners – an 8.0 team from Kansas City and a 9.0 team from Tulsa, Okla. – at the USTA National Western Regional Mixed Championships in Las Vegas, Nev., November 16-18.

Kansas City's 8.0 team posted a 4-2 record at the event, and defeated a team from Hawaii 2-1 to grab the crown.



The team was captained by **Todd Vorachek**, and included other team members **Axel Novion**, **Beth Ruf**, **Laurie Novion**, **Jason Johnson**, **Cynthia Vanderpol**, **Dave Moore**, **Jyl Webb**, **Jan Claussen**, **Cyndi Penyock**, **Mitch Bennett** and **Jane King**.

Tulsa's 9.0 mixed bunch recorded a 5-1 record at the event, including a 3-0 victory over a team from Henderson, Nev., (USTA Intermountain) in the final to grab the Oklahoma district's first championship since 2004.



Captained by **Bryan Dick**, other team members of the 9.0 winning squad were **Doug Stone**, **Ashley Evans**, **Eric Reber**, **Kelli Collins**, **Stan Perry**, **Kevin Torline**, **Tammy Mathias**, **Kelly Press** and **Charl Bornman**.

NORMAN ATTENDS DAVIS CUP FINAL: Genesis Tennis Director **Simon Norman** (Wichita, Kan.) attended the United States versus Russia Davis Cup final that was played in Portland, Ore., November 30 - December 1, as part of the USTA High Performance Coaching Program.

Twenty certified coaches from around the country, including Norman, were chosen to attend the Davis Cup matches as well as be involved in lectures, meetings, match analysis and discussions. The goal was to create an experience that addresses current trends in technique, tactics and training.



Norman has been a USTA High Performance Certified Coach since 2002, and also serves on the section's Junior Competition Committee. He has been a USTA Missouri Valley coach at inter-section competitions and also serves as coach of Competition Training Center (CTC) events held in the section. He was the Section's "Outstanding Contributor to Youth High Performance Programs" in 2006.

DISTRICTS INDUCT NEW HALL OF FAME MEMBERS: The Oklahoma District and the Heart of America District recently added new members to their Hall of Fames. The 2007 Oklahoma Hall of Fame class included former **Lisa Barry-Berg** (Green Brae, Calif.), current USTA Missouri Valley president **Richard M. Perry** (Enid, Okla.) and standout junior, college and adult player **Arnold Short** (Oklahoma City). The three were inducted at the Oklahoma District Tennis Association Annual Meeting held at the Greens Country Club in Oklahoma City on November 17.

The Heart of America District held its annual banquet at The Milano at Crown Center in Kansas City on November 15, with longtime Kansas City teaching pro **Paul Smith** (Mission, Kan.) and **Jim Mathis** (Leavenworth, Kan.) being added to the 2007 Hall of Fame class.

Do you have tennis news you'd like to share? Let us know.
Send information to webupdate@movalley.usta.com and give us the scoop on tennis happenings from your area.

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TIP Initiative Continues to Succeed in the Valley

by John Terpkosh

Tennis is growing in the USTA Missouri Valley? Yes, in memberships, participation and tennis courts.

All over the section new tennis court projects are being planned, scheduled or being built and some with the assistance of a national USTA grant called Tennis in the Parks (TIP).

In 2007, 17 organizations in our section applied for TIP funding from the USTA to assist or improve their facilities – work totaling \$5.1 million. Six applicants were approved by the USTA that will effect projects worth over \$1.5 million in Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

The six funded projects were approved for \$200,000.

The Tennis in the Parks Initiative is sponsored by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the USTA with the focus on three platforms; programming, infrastructure and advocacy. Nearly 70% of all tennis is played on public courts and park and recreation agencies are largely responsible for

programming these tennis activities.

We are very excited about all the applicants that have applied for TIP funding over the years. If your agency is looking at any type of facility construction and want to learn more about the initiative, go to www.nrpa.org/usta.



photos courtesy of Lisa Spragg
The Logan-Rogersville School District was awarded a \$25,000 TIP grant this past spring. They then hosted the Central Ozark Conference District Tournament.

\$125,000 Awarded in TIP Funding

The Missouri Valley Executive Director Mary Buschmann was traveling through Missouri and Oklahoma with some rather large checks in tow.

In the final round of TIP funding, the Missouri Valley was awarded over \$125,000 in grant funds to support growing tennis in the public parks.



Buschmann was at the following locations to present the checks:

The City of Rolla (Mo.) was awarded their \$2,600 check on Dec. 12. On Dec. 18, over \$75,000 was handed out to two locations. The City of Norman (Norman, Okla.) was awarded over \$28,000 and the Enid Crosslin Park Tennis Complex (Enid, Okla.) was awarded \$50,000.

Kennett School District (Kennett, Mo.) will receive their \$50,000 check on Jan. 17.

January 11-13

BG12-16, B18 Indoor January Futures
Various Sites

January 18-20

BG10 Indoor January Futures
Tulsa, Okla.
B12 Segment I Super
Kansas City, Mo.

January 22-25

Kansas Recreation and Park Association
Conference
Wichita, Kan.

January 25-27

G12, BG14, B16, BG18 Segment I Super
Various Sites

February 1-3

BG10 Segment I Super
St. Joseph, Mo.
G16 Segment I Super
Westwood, Kan.
B12 Indoor February Futures
Lawrence, Kan.
G18 Segment I Futures
Kansas City, Mo.

February 8-10

BG18 Segment I Sweet 16
Wichita, Kan.

February 10

Iowa District Semi-Annual Meeting
Little Amana, Iowa

February 15-17

BG10, G12, B14, BG16, BG18 Indoor
February Futures

February 22-24

BG12-16 Segment I Sweet 16

February 25-29

Missouri Recreation & Park Association
Conference
Lake of the Ozarks, Mo.

February 29- March 2

G14 Segment I Indoor February Futures
Wichita, Kan.

March 1-2

Tennis on Campus Championships –
Missouri Valley
Norman, Okla.

March 6-8

Central District AHPERD Convention
Omaha, Neb.

March 8

USTA Missouri Valley Semiannual
Meeting
Marriott Overland Park

March 11-14

National Legislative Forum (NRPA)
Washington D.C.

March 14-16

BG10-18 Segment I March Futures
Tulsa, Okla.

March 28-30

BG10 Segment I Sweet 16
Westwood, Kan.

March 31-April 2

Iowa Park and Recreation Association
Conference
Council Bluffs, Iowa

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Details on page 9



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