



USTA TEXAS NEWS & NOTES

USTA Texas van all wrapped up in tennis

We got a new van. Not just with our new USTA Texas Executive Director **Van Barry**, but, an actual USTA Texas cargo van that could be rolling to your town soon. It is freshly wrapped in tennis decor. We are going across Texas to spread the benefits of playing tennis. Thanks to our partner **Covert Ford Lincoln** in Austin for their support in helping us serve tennis in style.



USTA launches new wheelchair tennis app

One of the fastest-growing wheelchair sports in the world, wheelchair

tennis boasts a vibrant community of players, coaches and fans who enjoy taking part in tournaments, camps, events and recreational programs. The new Wheelchair Tennis Community app makes it easy for you to connect with those who share your love of the game. Get the app and stay in touch with the fun of wheelchair tennis! Download app at <http://bit.ly/1s9Z02B>



USTA Texas NJTL Art Contest: Win tickets to Men's Clay Court Championships

Create and you could win tickets to the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship in Houston (open to all contestants age 18 and under participating in an USTA Texas NJTL chapter). Contestants will compete in one of the five age categories and must create a piece of artwork showing how playing tennis has helped them to overcome a past weakness. Artists may use any colorful medium that includes markers, paint, pastels, colored pencils, crayon, digital art or photography. Final piece of artwork must be two-dimensional and appropriate for mounting. Deadline **Feb. 20, 2015**. Official rules: <http://bit.ly/126vN7q> and Entry form at <http://tinyurl.com/USTATexasArtContest>



Tournament ID number key for registration

Now that you have eyeballed the tournament schedule list via the tournament guide or online, you can register for a USTA Texas sanctioned Future Stars, 10 and Under, junior or adult tournament. A great time playing tennis awaits you but the key is knowing the Tournament ID number to register and the registration deadline. Go to www.tennislink.com and enter the tournament ID number or you can search for a tournament using the USTA Texas monthly schedule shortcut page at <http://bit.ly/1wvLVNK>



USTA Texas Diversity Grant application deadline Jan. 30

Texas youth tennis players are eligible to apply for the \$1,000 individual, \$1,650 two child family, or \$1,875 three child family Texas Diversity Grants. The Texas Diversity Grant strives to reach players who are in need of financial assistance with expenses relating to both tournament preparation and tournament play. Grant recipients serve as role models and ambassadors to the multicultural community and to the sport of tennis. Deadline **Jan. 30, 2015**. Register and more info at <http://www.texas.usta.com/About-Us/diversity/>

Texas Wins Third 80's Women's Intersectional Team Championship

The Texas 80's Team won its third consecutive title at the 2014 USTA National Women's Intersectional Team Event – Hard Court Championship held in San Antonio at the McFarlin Tennis Center. Congrats to Larry Eichenbaum, Tournament Referee; Carol Cofer, Austin; Peggy Francis, Burnet; Mary John Lynch - Co-Captain, Rockport; and Margaret Canby – Co-Captain, San Antonio.



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My USTA Texas Intern Experience

BY NATHAN GONZALEZ

Tennis is a sport of passion, a sport of competitiveness, and a sport of fun.

I first witnessed this as a seventh grader at my junior high, which was also the first time I held a tennis racquet. I'll never forget the words my coach told me after I swung and hit the ball.

"Wow, you're a natural," she said while she raised her sunglasses.

From that moment on, I knew tennis would change my life forever.

Tennis became one of my top priorities, as I joined tennis clinics and formed a team with some friends to compete in Junior Team Tennis. Several years later, tennis was my life. I played for my high school team. I trained with a tennis professional and I traveled the state when I could to play USTA events. I was so intrigued by the sport and it helped my teenage years run smoothly. As a USTA Member, I received the magazine in the mail frequently, and read them all front to back about 20 times. I watched tennis every time it was on TV and looked up to many tennis players.

After high school I fell off the tennis wagon and focused on college, but still yearned to get back on the court. I played recreationally when I could due to a busy college schedule. When the end of my spring 2014 semester came around I started researching

internships for the summer. I came across this one and immediately started adjusting my materials to apply.

As a summer communications/marketing intern I experienced many things that have always sparked my interest. I learned the precise details behind events and tournaments, and the functions of the marketing and the communications

department. My responsibilities were to write numerous articles for magazines, Facebook, and Twitter. It was like a dream come true to see my name on the website and magazine of USTA Texas. My Intro to Photography class came in handy because I also traveled to tournaments to capture pictures of people playing tennis.

This summer was the inaugural season of the Austin Aces and I got to volunteer for their home matches. No big deal right? Just breathing the same air as people I've followed since the age of 13. I received an opportunity to join many other USTA volunteer and employees from around the state at the semiannual meeting in San Antonio.

My two days there were extremely eye opening. I had no clue there were so many unique committees working diligently to make tennis in Texas better. I met incredible people who cared so much about the sport and growth of tennis. I also witnessed my first USTA Texas League sectional tournament and it was incredible. The pride and passion each player had for their team, their city, and themselves was amazing. It was great to see so many people come together and have fun while playing

tennis.

I'm glad I applied for the intern position because it was a familiar place. It felt home and I knew I would be comfortable working with a sport that I've known for most of my life.

I was the first person in my family to ever think about the sport of tennis. It's quite entertaining to this day when I think about how many times I still have to repeat how to keep score to my family. But then again I love it. It's because of me that my family even follows tennis on TV, and it's because of me that my little cousins want to play

tennis in junior high. But it's because of USTA Texas that really sparked my passion for the sport. And that's what I hope to do in the future. I want to work as a publicist for a tennis athlete and promote the sport around the world. If that doesn't work out I'm still fine with repeating myself to family and friends and playing the sport that lasts a lifetime.

I'd like to thank each and every person at the USTA Texas Section for making my summer memorable,

especially **Derick Hackett** and **Stephanie Arena** for giving me the opportunity to be apart of your work. I've learned a lot of things that I can utilize for the rest of my life and experienced things that I will never forget.

Nathan Gonzalez is recent graduate of Texas Tech University in Public Relations. He is a native of Odessa, Texas and plans to enter graduate school.



Nathan Gonzalez

Internship Opportunity

A Learning Experience

Our interns from ACC, Occidental College, Texas Tech, St. Edward's and UT at Austin gained valuable experience at USTA Texas

- Write features for our website and Texas section magazine *Inside Tennis*
- Created videos, newsletters, social media plans and update junior listings
- Grow the sport of tennis by attending community and sectional events
- Bringing tennis playing opportunities to people of all ages, abilities, and disabilities through a variety of tennis programs and initiatives

Opportunities in Community Development, Communications, Public Relations, Marketing, Publishing & Graphic Design

For more information about our Community Development, Communications / Marketing Internship programs, qualifications and deadlines go to
www.texas.usta.com/About-Us/employment



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Abilene, Austin, Dallas, Houston, NETT Win Fall JTT Titles

Photo gallery and JTT video can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/12RIOSIA>

The USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis Fall Section Championships were held Nov. 14-15 with the 18U – 10U Advanced, Intermediate and Beginners divisions battling it out in Abilene, Texas.

The event featured 480 players and 82 teams headquartered at the Rose Park Tennis Center. Play was held at 10 sites around the city and concluded with a player's party and award ceremony at PrimeTime Entertainment complex.

At the Friday coaches meeting, with a forecast of a high around 37-degrees in Abilene for Sunday, USTA Texas changed to a one day format which led to a fun Saturday of all day play. Great idea since snow flurries greeted everyone Sunday morning.

USTA Texas also conducted a pilot program with gender-neutral match play in the Intermediate and Beginning divisions and with 10 and Under Green Dot ball JTT play. We also conducted the USTA national pilot of single gender play in the Advanced divisions.

USTA Texas would like to thank its supporters of the event Whataburger, John Newcombe Tennis Ranch and Tennis Warehouse.

Listed below are the results from the 2014 JTT Fall Sectional in Abilene.



18U Adv. Boys Winners - Austin

18 and Under Advanced Boys

1. Austin (Polo Black)
2. Denton (TNT)
3. Dallas (Slam Jammers)

Whataburger Sportsmanship Award: Imran Siddiqi, Houston (BARC Bulldogs)



18U Adv. Girls Winners - Dallas

18 and Under Advanced Girls

1. Dallas (Slam Jammers)
2. Houston (BARC Bulldogs)
3. Kerrville (Kerrville Tennis Academy)

Whataburger Sportsmanship Award: Cyra Oh, Denton (Sharapova)



18U Int. Winner - Abilene

18 and Under Intermediate

1. Abilene (Amigos)
2. Oakmont (Oakmont Dream Crushers)
3. Odessa (Diamondbacks)

Whataburger Sportsmanship Award: Kelly Beaten, Odessa (Diamondbacks)



14U Adv. Boys Winners - Houston

14 and Under Advanced Boys

1. Houston (BARC Bulldogs)
2. Abilene (Chargers)
3. Dallas (Slam Jammers)

Whataburger Sportsmanship Award: Jered Wilson, Dallas (Slam Jammers)



14U Adv. Girls Winners - Dallas

14 and Under Advanced Girls

1. Dallas (T Bar M)
2. Austin (Austin Tennis Academy)
3. Houston (BARC Bulldogs)

Whataburger Sportsmanship Award: Ruth Hill, Abilene (ACC Aces)

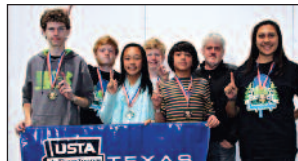


14U Int. Winner - Dallas

14 and Under Intermediate

1. Dallas (T Bar M)
2. Houston (BARC Bulldogs)
3. NETT (That Team)

Whataburger Sportsmanship Award: Jackson O'Hair, Amarillo (Alley Cats)



14U Beg. Winner - NETT

14 and Under Beginners

1. NETT (Kellar Blue Flash)
2. Houston (Young Guns)
3. Laredo (Flying Aces)

Whataburger Sportsmanship Award: Currien Cole, Abilene (Slingshots)

12 and Under Advanced Boys

1. Austin (Polo Grey)
2. Houston (HRC Terminetters)



12U Adv. Boys Winner - Austin

3. Dallas (T Bar M)

Whataburger Sportsmanship Award: Skylor Carter, Dallas (T Bar M)



12U Adv. Girls Winner - Dallas

12 and Under Advanced Girls

1. Dallas (T Bar M)
2. Austin (Southies)

Whataburger Sportsmanship Award: Kate Wurster, Dallas (T Bar M)



12U Int. Boys Winner - Houston

12 and Under Intermediate

1. Houston (Huber Smash)
2. Austin (Zat Pack)

Whataburger Sportsmanship Award: Stefanie Large, San Antonio (Alamo Heights)

10 and Under Intermediate

As a pilot program all 10 and Under Intermediate JTT participants received medals. The nine teams played in three groups which allowed for more play opportunities.

Group A

1. Houston (BARC Bulldogs)
2. Dallas (SJ Dealey)
3. Austin (The Green Herd)



10U Group A Winner - Houston

Group B

1. Austin (Cimmaron Hills)
2. Abilene (Rockin Racquets)
3. Odessa (Aces 10)

Group C

1. Laredo (Grip-N-Rip)
2. Amarillo (Grand Slammers)
3. East Texas (Hollytree)

Whataburger Sportsmanship Award: Lucy Schmell, Austin (The Green Herd)



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www.tennis-warehouse.com/?from=ustatx

Texas JTT and League Teams Bring National Championships to Lone Star State

USTA Texas is so proud of its league and Junior Team Tennis players and teams that represented the state by winning national USTA League and JTT Championships in 2014.

North Richland Hills Advanced Wins Junior Team Tennis 18U Adv. National Championship



A team from North Richland Hills, representing the USTA Texas Section, captured the National Championship title at the 2014 USTA Junior Team Tennis 18-and-Under Advanced National Championships, held at the Cayce Tennis and Fitness Center in Cayce, S.C. The team is coached by Bobby Reeves. The team is made up of Domonique Garley, Cannon Jones, Riley Reeves, Jonathan Sheehy, Joshua Sheehy, Michelle Torres (Sportsmanship Award winner) and Parker Wynn.

Austin Captures Junior Team Tennis 14U Advanced National Championship

A team from Austin, representing the USTA Texas Section, captured a national title at the 2014 USTA Junior Team Tennis 14-and-Under Advanced National Championships, held at the Cayce Tennis and Fitness Center in Cayce, S.C. The Austin Tennis Academy beat Southern from Madison, Miss., 58-30, in the championship match. The Austin team is coached by Brian Notis. The team is made up of Tyler Anson, Kyler Bender, Callie Creath (Sportsmanship Award winner), Bailey Forgas, Kristin Kerrigan, Iolanda Maria Perim, Jesse Wikso and Georgia Wright.

"It was a total team effort," said Notis, whose team beat Southern



last year for third place. "We faced a tough road to get here but our depth was just too much today, especially in doubles."

Dallas Wins Mixed 40 & Over 9.0 National Championship



A mixed doubles tennis team from Dallas, representing the USTA Texas Section, captured the national title at the USTA League Mixed 40 & Over 9.0 National Championships held at the Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex in Surprise, Ariz. The Dallas team defeated a team from Danville, Calif., 2-1 in the Championship match. The team is captained by Krista Carlson and features Ricky Ramos, Lynh Pham, Christopher Bartholomew Culley, Teri Ware, James Ribman, Mercedes Fernandez, Jason Moore, Stephanie Haines and plays at the Wagon Wheel Tennis Center.

Dallas 4.0 Women Win 18 & Over League National Championship

The women's tennis team from Dallas representing the USTA Texas Section, captured the national title at the USTA League Adult 18 & Over 4.0 National Championships held at the Jim Reffkin Tennis Center in Tucson, Ariz. The Dallas team defeated a team from Los Angeles, Calif., 4-1 in the Championship match. Earlier they defeated Long Island, N.Y., 4-1. The team included Alan Graham (Head Coach) Sarah Armstrong



Hamlin, Carolyn Diehl Heinrich, Suzanne Shipp Baird, Dawn Jones, Anna Head Moss, Ashley Crum Begert, Blythe Koch (Captain), Danielle Daugbjerg, Elizabeth Floyd, Julie Lilly, Erin Webb, Allison Parks, Leslie McCall, Janina Solomon, Adi Kourim (Assistant Coach), and plays at the Dallas Country Club.

The Woodlands Men Win 55 & Over 8.0 League National Championship



The men's tennis team from The Woodlands, representing the USTA Texas Section, captured the national title at the USTA League Adult 55 & Over 8.0 National Championships held at the Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex, Surprise, Ariz. The Woodlands team defeated a team from Chesterfield, Mo., 2-1 in the Championship match. The team is captained by Andre Beridon and features David Valenti, Matthew Muddiman, Ronald Wells, Tim Blanchard, Darrel Thorson, William McKee, Michael Spearman (Co-Captain) and plays at The Woodlands Park and Recreation.

Dallas 3.0 Men Win 18 & Over League National Championship

A Texas Section team from Dallas claimed first-place honors by beating a Northern California Section team from Napa, Calif., 5-0, in the Championship match. They reached the final earlier in the day with a 5-0 semifinal win over a team from the Pacific Northwest Section.

"It was a great weekend," Texas captain Keith Clark said. "We all enjoyed meeting the other players and seeing a great display of sportsmanship. They work hard, and it was well deserved."



The team consisted of Liming Xiu, Alexis Ticzon, Yung-Sheng Liu, Stewart Jack Kipness, Max Huang, Chein-Ming Chung, Keith Clark (captain), Wei-Ben Lai (co-captain), Lee Birnbaum, John Gaetz, Danny Sung, Nick Butler, Jerry Peng, Yu Min Low, Caden Lott and Joe Zhou.

Numerous Texas Teams Capture Second-Place at Nationals

There were numerous Texas league teams that finished as second place runner ups at the 2014 USTA League Championships. Those teams include the San Antonio 4.0 Men (40 & Over), Houston 9.0 Men (55 & Over), Dallas 9.0 Women (55 & Over), Houston 8.0 Women (55 & Over), Dallas 4.5 Women (18 & Over), Austin 3.0 (40 & Over), and the Houston 4.0 Men (18 & Over).

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2014 USTA Texas Community Development Awards Winners

USTA Texas announced its 2014 Community Development Award winners. This is our version of a clearing house award presentation. We came unannounced with video cameras in hand to congratulate our 2014 USTA Texas Community Development Award



winners. The winners you will see are not actors. They are real USTA Texas Community Development winners surprised live by our now famous USTA Texas CD Prize Patrol. No purchase necessary to enter our sweepstakes but making an impact in your community through tennis does drastically increase your chances. Thank you again for your contribution to making tennis great in Texas.

North and South Texas video link shortcut: <http://bit.ly/1yQvpa8>

Congratulations to the deserving award winners:

DIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: **Vickie Jennings** - Houston

NJTL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR Level 3: **SATA** - San Antonio

CTA EXCELLENCE: **Northeast Tarrant Tennis Association**

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: **Jackie Payne** - Amarillo Area Tennis Association

USTA TEXAS CTA OF THE YEAR AWARD: **Corpus Christi Tennis Association**

JTT COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR: **Mark Hodge** - Dallas

JTT ROOKIE COORDINATOR: **Eric Huntley**, Lubbock

JTT PROGRAM OF THE YEAR: **Denton Junior Team Tennis**

10 AND UNDER PROGRAM OF THE YEAR: **Fort Stockton ISD** - Fort Stockton

NORTH STAR AWARD: **Raul Munoz** - Corpus Christi

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR: **Ron Woods** - Corpus Christi

NO CUT COACH OF THE YEAR: **Manuel Moreno Jr.** - Houston

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Austin, Dallas, NETX, North Houston and San Antonio Win 65 & Over Texas Sectional

The 2014 USTA Texas 65 & Over Sectional Championships was held in New Braunfels, Texas from Nov. 7-9, at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch. Local winners from across the state gathered to play for the Texas title. Teams from Austin, Dallas, NETX, North Houston and San Antonio took home USTA Texas 65 & Over section league titles.

NOHO (North Houston) out-paced San Antonio with a perfect 4-0 record on their way to the 2014 Texas League 65 & Over 6.0 Ladies Championship. The NOHO team captained by Shirley Donaldson includes Cindy Totina, Kit Lashbrook, Cynthia Helen Bausch, Annemarie Dworak, Judy Trahan, Emelyn Cason Stalnaker, Cassie J. Moore, Carol Romeis and Barbara C. Ohara.



San Antonio defeated Dallas 2-1 on their way to the 2014 Texas League 65 & Over 7.0 Ladies Championship. San Antonio defeated Austin to reach the championship match while Dallas defeated Fort Worth to meet San Antonio. The San Antonio team is captained by Kathy Horan and includes Mary J. Tasker, Shirley J. Coleman, Jill K. Stoeber, Judy C. Adams, Vicki White and Susan E. Erhardt.



Dallas defeated Fort Worth 2-1 to win the 2014 Texas League 65 & Over 8.0 Ladies Championship. The Dallas team playing out of the Canyon Creek Country Club in Richardson is captained by Bren Chaney and includes Patricia Crosby, Ann Walker, Fran Zartler, Judy Archbold, Carolyn Henderson, Mary Chaffin and Ellen Euting.



NETX defeated San Antonio with a 3-0 record on their way to the 2014 Texas League 65 & Over 6.0 Men's Championship. The NETX team is captained by Samuel Hopkins and includes Jimmy Bearden, Michael K. Pangburn, Ramsay Walker, Richard R. Spears, Roy Lee, Ken Coulon and John Lawrence Malloy.



San Antonio defeated Wild San Antonio 2-1 on their way to the 2014 Texas League 65 & Over 7.0 Men's Championship. The San Antonio team that plays out of the Club at Sonterra is captained by Calvin Einar Mein and co-captained by John Widhelm. The team includes Thorne W. Robalin, Michael H. Schlatter, George R. Chall, Robert Dewitt Smith, Horace Ayers, Robert B. Harwin, Richard Stogsdill, Bill Burnett, Randy Keeth and John T. Clark.



Austin defeated San Antonio 3-0 on their way to the 2014 Texas League 65 & Over 8.0 Men's Championship. The Austin team that plays out of the Grey Rock Tennis Club is captained by Don Primosis and



includes Del Campbell, John Moore, Douglas D. Kerin, Larry Eichenbaum, Karl F. Kamrath Jr., Brad W Beal, Roger Steven Kiser, Craig Cox, Kerry L. Orr, Jack Clow, Steve P. Thurber and Gene Waters.

65 & Over photos by Ron Guse

NETX, San Antonio Win 55 & Over Mixed Texas Sectional

The 2014 USTA Texas Mixed 55 & Over League Sectional was played in Waco, Texas from Nov. 14-17. Two new doubles team champions were crowned with NETX taking the 7.0 division title and San Antonio winning the 8.0 division.

The 7.0 champion NETX team went undefeated with a perfect 2-0 record out lasting Fort Worth, SETX and Austin. The NETX team is captained by Chuck Cox and included Karina Mitchell, Venita Peacock, Kathy Cox, Clark Lynn, Robert S. Guy, John Hart, Charles Wilcox, Stephen Duke Taylor, Nancy F. Hart, Candice N. Gast Wilcox, Duane L. Griffith, Karma Crisp, Patty Schnitker, Bryan Mitchell and Richard Peacock.



San Antonio won the 8.0 division going 2-0 over Dallas, Midland and Austin. Playing out of the Alamo Heights Tennis Center the team is captained by Roy Salinas and co-captained by Judy Stahl. The team includes Elizabeth Renee Ojeda, Norma Trevino, Carl Bain, Sissy Rigney, Joel O. Hinojosa, James W. Landess, Judy Stahl, John Carstens, Ruben Castillo, Luis Carlos Aguilera and Susan Marie Fuller.





COMPETITIVE'S CORNER

By Steve Cobb

USTA TEXAS DIRECTOR OF COMPETITIVE TENNIS

Salute your solution

Let's start the New Year talking about problem solving. No, not how to get rid of the extra 10-pounds you picked up over the holidays, or how to make ends meet now that your holiday bonus is gone – I'm talking about problem solving during competition.

Last year, we discussed formulating a game plan and strategies for when to stick to it, and when to bail on it. A key element to that is being a problem solver. The skills to make you good at this are one of the many life benefits gained from competitive tennis. As coaches, we continually implore our players to be good problem solvers, and keep their mind in a productive place while trying to swing the match in their favor. Do they understand what we mean?

The first step toward solving a problem in a tennis match is identifying WHAT the problem is – which I think can often be much harder for a player than identifying the solution. Let's look at an example. We will assume our player is trailing after the first set, as problem solving probably won't come into play as often when winning. My experience has been that in post match analysis, or live on court coaching, players tend to respond to determining the problem in one of two ways.

The first common response is to over analyze. "When I approach, I'm not bisecting the angle properly and then getting passed crosscourt too often," or "All that work I've done on my new backhand

volley technique is breaking down and I'm making too many errors." Both may be valid, but the SIMPLE problem turned out to be that "My approach shots aren't good enough!"

The second typical response is to generalize with statements such as "I suck" or "I can't hit three balls in a row." Though these may have an element of truth, they don't really help the player get to the REAL problem in order to get to a REAL solution. The player needs to find the CRITICAL problem in the simplest terms.

Some good examples of simple problems and solutions are: "I'm not getting enough first serves in" – possible solution, take a little off the first, use some better margins around my targets and raise that percentage.

Or

"Making too many dumb errors, too early in the point" – so, maybe be willing to grind a little longer – stay in the rally with better shot tolerance, and be a little more selective about when to attack.

Or, very often

"I need to make my opponent uncomfortable. To determine what the opponent likes LEAST and throw that at them as often as possible."

No matter the scenario, work toward accurately determining the PROBLEM, and that will make finding the clear and simple SOLUTION easier. Start solving some of your mid-match problems so the final scores will more often be a problem for your opponent.

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VAN'S ADVANTAGE

By Van Barry
USTA TEXAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PRESENTED BY  JOHN NEWCOMBE
TENNIS RANCH

Building Upon USTA Texas Foundations

Let me start by saying that it is my great honor to serve as your Executive Director.

As a lifelong Texan I fully appreciate the outstanding tennis traditions we have within our state and I look forward to helping build upon those foundations. I have personally benefitted from many of those programs and the wonderful people who are the driving force behind their success. This is the primary reason why I'm now in this new role to serve our section and each of you in a way that will be truly impactful.

To all who have reached out to me upon my appointment to this position, I would like to thank you for your kind words and encouragement. I would also like to join you in thanking Ken McAllister for his outstanding service to our sport, our state and this organization for the past 24 years. We have all gained from his leadership. I've had the opportunity to spend considerable time with Ken over the past several months and he has given me invaluable information and guidance as I make the transition.

I would be remiss if I didn't also send a heartfelt thank you to the River Oaks Country Club "family." I had the privilege of spending 22 years at an amazing facility and it was indeed a labor of love in every way. The membership and staff have been so kind and gracious to me and my family and I will be eternally grateful for their support.

As we look ahead I will be outlining the programs, plans and the priorities we have for our section in this column throughout this year and beyond. Building upon our institutions while balancing the need for innovation in today's changing sports and business climate will be imperative for our continued growth and success. We have the necessary resources and assets available to us that will allow for the growth, development and investment in our sport. Our objective will be to utilize those strengths in the most effective manner to achieve our section's long term strategic plan.

And finally to all our committee members and volunteers, on behalf of the entire section staff, thank you for your time, energy and service to our section. It is greatly appreciated. As always, I will welcome any questions, comments and observations you may have. I can be reached be reached at vbarry@texas.usta.com.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Frank Kelly
USTA TEXAS PRESIDENT

PRESENTED BY



Forging Ahead into 2015

A very special thanks to our retired executive director **Ken McAllister** who lead the Texas Tennis Association (USTA Texas) for 24 years. Ken was a true professional and great leader whose dedication to the game of tennis as well as his dry wit will be missed by many.

Ken has left the Texas Section in much better shape than when he found it, both financially and structurally. Also, his Community Tennis Association plan completely changed the tennis delivery system in Texas - certainly a great legacy. Hopefully, after his book comes out sometime in 2016, Ken will apply to become a volunteer and continue to share his knowledge and abilities on the other side of the Texas tennis fence. So, how about it Ken, can we expect to see you in 2017?

Moving ahead, our new executive director **Van Barry** was the former director of athletics at River Oaks Country Club in Houston for more than 20 years. Among Van's many accomplishments, he was responsible for securing River Oaks as the host for the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships. He provides a tremendous amount of leadership and experience and will help guide our section for many years to come. Obviously, with new leadership comes change. I encourage everyone to embrace the new ideas and innovative concepts that a change in leadership can bring.

For 2015, USTA Texas has a detailed and specific Strategic Plan. The updated plan for this year can be found on the USTA Texas website. USTA Texas will emphasize pathways in youth and young-adult tennis as well as diversity and inclusion. These are areas where we must experience growth and success or our mission to promote and develop the growth of tennis will be in jeopardy.

Our recently appointed or elected volunteers and staff will meet along with our partners from the USPTA Texas Division over the weekend of February 20-22 at the Horseshoe Bay Resort on the shores of Lake LBJ. This unique meeting of the combined groups will kickoff our next two-year cycle for our volunteers.

My apologies to the volunteer applicants who were not selected for committees this term. We had a deep and talented pool from which we selected our volunteers with about 100 more applicants than we had positions to fill.

I wish you all a safe and prosperous New Year and great luck in the future!

JOIN OR REACTIVATE YOUR USTA MEMBERSHIP

- Your membership supports tennis in Texas. You can volunteer at local Community Tennis Associations and at USTA Texas events.
- Compete in recreational leagues or tournaments with players of your skill level and ability
- Exclusive member pre-sale for US Open tickets and discounts at local tournaments
- Annual subscriptions to tennis publications, including the Texas Inside Tennis edition and more!

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