

USTA SOUTHERN ARIZONA (SAZ) NEWSLETTER



Tucson, Arizona

www.saz.usta.com

Volume 1, Issue 1

WINTER 2013

Editor: Marge Garneau, sazeditor@gmail.com

BRYAN BROTHERS COMING TO TUCSON!



**8TH Annual Gootter Grand Slam,
2:30 PM Sunday, March 17, 2013
@ The Lodge at Ventana Canyon
Celebrity Pro-Exhibition with
Bob & Mike Bryan World #1 Doubles Team
With Tennis Great Murphy Jensen
& UA Head Football Coach Rich Rodriguez
For Tickets and additional information
Visit www.gootter.org**

President's Corner – Mike Capp

I would like to introduce myself as the new USTA-SAZ President. I grew up in Tucson, played tennis at Sahuaro High School, then I played on the tennis teams at Fresno State University and the University of Arizona (okay, I'll admit it, this all occurred in the 70's-early 80's!). I moved to Southern California for 7 years after graduating from the U of A, then I attended law school, and I practice law to this day.

I played USTA league tennis for years, although I do not compete anymore, I am proudly a USTA life member! I now teach tennis as a hobby and I have been the volunteer assistant coach for the Pima Community College Women's Tennis team for 5 years.

It's an honor to now serve as the USTA-SAZ President (albeit a short tenure) and to write the first article, as President, in our first newsletter!

It seems the first question or inquiry I receive as the USTA-SAZ President invariably involves

"TMI". Frankly, I wasn't sure how to answer these questions. So I thought I would do a little research, I checked out the USTA website.

The current USTA (National) Target Market Initiative ("TMI") "targets" 10-and-under tennis. It is clear the USTA is committed to the promotion of 10-and-under tennis. Beginning January 1, 2012, the USTA sanctioned tournaments and junior leagues for kids that are aged 10 and under. These tournaments, and leagues, utilize smaller courts; use 3 levels of tennis balls for kids aged 8 and under, and 9 to 10, respectively, these tennis balls are designed to bounce slower and lower for the kids; use racquets that are smaller, and utilize new simpler scoring which allows for shorter matches. Offering accommodations for kids is a proven concept that has worked for other sports, such as basketball (lower rims and smaller basketballs) and soccer (smaller fields). It makes sense to make a game easier for a child to play.

According to the USTA website, in

an article written by E.J. Crawford, "...over the past 2 years, the USTA has invested in 44 target markets throughout the country" and constructed almost 10,000 youth-sized courts in the country since 2010.

In 2012, Tucson was chosen by the USTA as a target market. What this means is that over the next 3 years, Tucson will receive \$50,000 from USTA National to help fund support training, marketing, painting blended lines and building "10U" courts. In addition, the USTA SWS and USTA SAZ will provide a total of \$50,000 (\$25k in year 1, \$15k in year 2 and \$10k in year 3), for a total of \$100,000 to Tucson for the 10U "TMI".

This truly is an exciting time to be involved in tennis in Tucson; I'm looking forward to it!

Contact Mike at
sazpresident@gmail.com

NEWS FROM *new* MANAGING DIRECTOR – Jeff Brack

I am thrilled to be part of what should be a banner year for Southern Arizona tennis! For the first time, we now have a staff made up of a 10 & Under Tennis Coordinator, League Coordinator, Community Tennis Coordinator and Managing Director. This is an exciting move forward for our association and should help us develop a better product and cultivate higher participation and frequency of play in our community.

The Target Market Initiative (TMI) Grant that USTA SAZ has been awarded by USTA National, and supported by the USTA Southwest Section's Matching funds, is a

tremendous privilege that only two communities in the country are selected for annually. This three-year grant is specifically targeted at jumpstarting youth tennis participation in our community by funding programs, marketing and court lining for the new international standards for 10 & Under Tennis.

Our staff is also excited about expanding on the success of adult leagues, by not only increasing participation, but also providing new options to the menu including the increasingly popular Flex Leagues. Additionally, we are eager to take a fresh look at Junior Team Tennis

(JTT) and ensure that our kids have the opportunity to play in this fantastically fun and developmentally rich program. Team play is at the heart of life-long competition – high school, college (varsity or club), adult league, etc. We want to make sure that our youth community takes advantage of it! It is going to be a great year and I, along with your new staff, look forward to making tennis accessible, engaging and fun for each and every one of you!

Contact Jeff at:
sazdirector@gmail.com

JUNIOR COMPETITIVE NEWS – Evan Phillips

Our area has produced a number of outstanding junior players, with several of them highly ranked nationally in their age group. These kids are disciplined, and dedicated, and work hard, and one of the aims of the junior competition committee is to help make our community more aware of their achievements. At present, the following kids are ranked in the top 100 nationally: Maddie Pothoff, Yash Parikh, Shawn Parks, and Harsh Parikh. Robert Seby, Greg Anderson and

Jamie Schroer were all highly ranked, but recently moved up into higher age groups. Their rankings should improve dramatically soon. We would like to see more tennis players in our community support our competitive juniors by attending junior tournaments. There is some really good tennis going on at these events, and many first time spectators are amazed at how good these kids are. Recently, we have had a number of junior events at entry-level

tournaments cancelled due to a lack of entrants. I'd encourage our local teaching pros to enter their junior students in tournaments. If kids don't start competing at an early age, it is difficult to develop into high level players. Winners of the High School Invitational were Yash Parikh a freshman from Salpointe and Caroline Amos a sophomore from Salpointe.

Contact Evan at:
evphil50@comcast.net

ARIZONA WILDCATS PLAY MATCHES @ REFFKIN

On February 16th and 17th at the Reffkin Tennis Center the 7 and 2 Arizona Men's Tennis Team played host to the New Mexico Lobos and the UC Riverside Highlanders. On Saturday, the Cats claimed the doubles point against the Lobos but only claimed two singles victories in a 4-3 loss. On Sunday, the Cats swept play against the Highlanders with wins on two doubles courts, one left unfinished, and six singles victories. Freshman Matt Dunn made his first appearance of 2013 on Sunday with a win on court six. Junior Kieren Thompson remains undefeated in 2013 singles play with wins on courts four and two, respectively.

NEXT HOME MATCHES:

March 14 vs. TCU 11:00am @ U of A

March 20 vs. Oklahoma 12:00pm @ U of A



TENNIS TIPS FROM THE PRO - Evan Phillips

Evan Phillips teaches tennis at La Mariposa. He has won over 150 tournaments and given over thirty thousand hours of instruction. Over the past few years he has developed some of the top juniors in the Southwest section. See more of Evan's tips on You Tube under Phillips Tennis Method.

When most players are taught the topspin forehand, they are told to brush up on the ball, bringing the racquet-head high up above the opposite shoulder, finishing over the shoulder and behind the back. The mantra that is constantly repeated by the instructor is, "low to high".

It is possible to hit topspin this way,

but it is easy to pull up on the ball and fall backwards. This can cause too much spin and the ball will go into the net; or it can be too flat, and fly over the baseline.

I believe a better way to hit topspin is to use the windshield- wiper. The player would brush up on the ball, but when the racquet points up, it goes back down, across and in front of the body, just like your windshield wiper. The teaching phrase would be, "low to high to low".

The advantage with this follow-through is that you can hit topspin with your weight going forward. This will give you more control and power.

The way the hand and wrist work on this swing, is to move to the left (for the right-hander) as the arm comes across the body. This is the same feeling you have when you turn a door-knob to the left. It is important not to let the wrist flip forward, as this would cause the ball to go down.

Here is a perfect windshield-wiper by a player who has won a few tournaments. Notice how his weight is moving forward.



Meet **SARA KAUFMAN**
Our New
LEAGUE COORDINATOR
saztennis@gmail.com



WESTWARD LOOK TENNIS

Westward Look has eight courts with five of them lit for night play. They provide player match service, round robins, leagues, match play and clinics. Lessons, clinics and social tennis for all ages and abilities are available.

There is a Junior Development Program and programs for Adult Tennis.

Courts are located at:

245 Ina Road, Tucson, Az.

For more information contact:

Tom Letisto,

Director of Tennis.

At The Pro Shop 917-2466

This is the first USTA-SAZ Newsletter, designed to inform the tennis community about all things tennis in Tucson. We invite your suggestions, as well as your tennis-related announcements. Please email Chuck Dunn at saztreasurer@gmail.com.

JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIPS - Veronica Karp

Every summer, SAZ supports local tennis facilities with numerous scholarship opportunities for junior tennis players.

New for 2013; all facilities that receive funding for 2013 SAZ Summer Scholarships will be required to participate in USTA Junior Team Tennis. Facilities will be required to form teams and

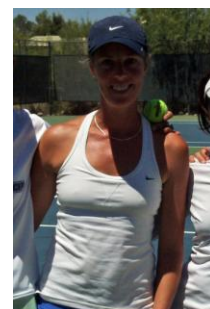
compete locally, possibly moving onto USTA JTT Sectional and USTA JTT National competition.
Contact Veronica at sazscholarship@gmail.com

**WATCH FOR SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP
INFORMATION ON THE SAZ WEBSITE**

www.saz.usta.com

Meet **Renee Lopez**

Our Target Market
Coordinator. Contact Renee
at 248-1043
saztaut@gmail.com



Tucson Community Tennis Program

Established in 1993, the Tucson Community Tennis Program is Tucson's only private, non-profit organization bringing free tennis to elementary and middle school children. TCTP's focus is on multi-cultural schools in Tucson's inner city, where funding is too limited to provide physical education instructors. Go to our website: <http://www.tctpforkids.org/home>

FEATURED JUNIOR PLAYER

Maddie Pothoff

Maddie is the 2012 USTA Southwest Female Junior Player of the year and the 2012 USTA SAZ junior Female Player of the Year

TENNIS RULES TIP with ED OSNOWITZ

HOW TO BEGIN A MATCH

ALL MATCHES SHOULD BEGIN WITH EITHER THE FLIP OF A COIN OR THE SPIN OF A RACQUET.

THERE ARE 4 CHOICES TO MAKE:

THE WINNER OF THE TOSS CAN CHOOSE:

- 1) SERVE
- 2) RECEIVE
- 3) CHOOSE AN END TO BEGIN PLAY
- 4) DEFER AND LET THE OPPONENT CHOOSE.

THESE CHOICES SHOULD BE MADE PRIOR TO THE WARM UP. WARM UP ON THE SIDE YOU WILL PLAY YOUR FIRST GAME. IF ALL PARTIES AGREE PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MATCH, YOU MAY WARM UP YOUR OWN PARTNER. IF AN OPPONENT REFUSES TO WARM UP WITH YOU THEY FORFEIT THE OPPORTUNITY TO WARM UP. THEY MAY NOT GET SOME ONE ELSE FOR THE WARM UP BUT YOU MAY.

IN SINGLES YOU ARE ALLOWED TO GET AN OUTSIDER TO WARM UP WITH YOU.



WHEELCHAIR TENNIS...Meet Amanda Kraus

I am fortunate to work with the USTA SAZ board as Vice President and chair of the Wheelchair Tennis committee, as Southern Arizona is home to an incredibly vibrant and dynamic wheelchair tennis community. Wheelchair tennis is a priority for the USTA and to that end SAZ offers many opportunities for players of all levels.

The major difference for wheelchair tennis is that the ball

can bounce twice. It is possible to compete around the country and internationally in the many USTA and ITF sanctioned events. In fact, three Tucson players represented the USA in the 2012 London Paralympics in July.

AZ hosts weekly initiatives for players. Programming varies over the year, based on players' interests, but includes: drop-in play, clinics, "boot camps", and Run and Roll tennis, which pair a wheelchair player with a non-

wheelchair player in a doubles match.

Please come out to the USTA-ITF Fab-U-Life Southwest Desert Classic February 15-17 at El Conquistador to check out some excellent tennis.

Interested in learning more or getting involved?

Contact Amanda at:
sazvicepresident@gmail.com

Please visit <http://www.saz.usta.com/> for all the Southern Arizona Tennis news!!