Year in Review

Oh! What a Year
2017 Executive Director’s Annual Report

2017 was a year of new beginnings and triumphs for the USTA Southeastern Michigan District. The District was fortunate to have a hardworking and dedicated Board President, USTA League Coordinator and Junior Program Coordinator who kept district operations running smoothly between the departure of my predecessor in January and my onboarding at the end of March. Michelle Behr, in her new role as Junior Program Coordinator, planned and implemented for the first time, the Junior Team Tennis Programs and the 2017 Future Qualifier and Midwest District Qualifier. All events were run successfully and professionally. Deb Thallman, continuing in her role as the USTA League Coordinator, led the adult tennis league program through its 13th consecutive year of growth. Donna Kitchen, the new Office Admin and Community Liaison, is a talented graphic artist, former college and tournament player who has strong ties to the community. Already, she has breathed new life into district publications and the website. And lastly, Board President Craig Capelli and the SEMTA Board waltzed me through the smoothest onboarding process I have ever completed in my career. Thank you all for making my first nine months on the job a joy to complete.

As of November 30, 2017, the Southeastern Michigan District ranked fourth in total membership out of the 13 districts which comprise the Midwest Section. This is down one spot from the Third ranking we held at the end of 2016. The district’s total membership for the eleven-month period reported is 9,501 versus 10,007 in November 2016. The decline in membership experienced by the Southeastern Michigan District is in line with the overall decline in total membership experienced throughout the Midwest Section for the last three years (2015 – 82,487; 2016 – 74,227 and 2017 – 67,265).

At the end of 2017, the district’s adult membership is nearly evenly split between male and female members (4,691 male vs 4,804 female). The age disparity among the membership is vast. Over 50% of the district’s membership, 5,065 members, is over the age of 50 and 18% is between the ages of 19-40. Our age demographics are like the overall membership demographics seen across the Midwest Section and nationally. This disparity in age demographics presents an opportunity for the USTA and is the impetus for new Midwest and National initiatives and grant opportunities aimed at helping districts attract and retain tennis players between the ages 19-40. Southeastern Michigan’s 2018 goals include activities to capitalize on these initiatives to attract players ages 40 and under.

Sixty-seven percent, or 8,250, of Southeastern Michigan’s members reside in Oakland, Wayne and Washtenaw counties, respectively. The average age of the USTA League player remains just under 50 years old. The district is exploring various models/structures to attract 40 and under players.

2017 marked the 76th year since the USTA Southeastern Michigan District was first established as the Southeastern Michigan Tennis Association. Throughout its many years of operations, the district’s commitment to the USTA’s mission to promote and develop the growth of tennis has never wavered. Our staff works tirelessly to help our members, clubs and community tennis organizations to coordinate recreational and competitive tennis opportunities for players of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. We all look forward to serving the District for many years to come.

The Southeast Michigan District Staff look forward to working with the SEMTA Board, Community Organizations and area Tennis Clubs to attract more adult and youth players to our sport. And we will continue to work hard to keep our existing players satisfied with what our District has to offer.

Thank you to our Board, committees and volunteers for their continued support and commitment.

Michele Hurst Burton, MBA
USTA Southeastern Michigan, Executive Director
ADULT LEAGUE 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Tennis players in Southeastern Michigan continued their strong support of the District’s USTA League programs. The Southeastern Michigan District (SEM) offers one of the largest Local Leagues in the country and we look forward to many more years of social and competitive Local League play!

SEM continues to lead the Midwest Section in both participation and unique players. This year our District broke the 14,000-participant barrier. Our total of 14,799 registered players is up from last year’s total of 13,371. This is the 13th year in a row that SEM leads the Midwest Section in participation. This also marked the 13th consecutive year that SEM is the leading District in the Midwest for unique, individual players. SEM finished the year with 4970 individual USTA League players.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Midwest</th>
<th>2017 Participation</th>
<th>Unique Players</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults 40 &amp; Over</td>
<td>2,890</td>
<td>14,799</td>
<td>4,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults 55 &amp; Over</td>
<td>846</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults 65 &amp; Over</td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed 18 &amp; Over</td>
<td>1,534</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed 40 &amp; Over</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEM finished first in the Midwest in Combo Doubles</td>
<td>1,852</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEM finished second in the Midwest in Adults 18 &amp; Over</td>
<td>4,230</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Midwest Champions

In 2017, five teams from Southeastern Michigan met the Midwest challenge and advanced to their respective National Championships.

Two SEM teams finished 3rd in the country: 40 & over 3.5 women from Oakland Hills and 40 & over 4.0 women from Troy Racquet Club.

Additionally, the Midwest representative in the 40 & Over 3.0 Women hailed from Southeastern Michigan for the fourth year in a row.

More information about our Midwest Champions is listed at the end of this report.

Local League Changes

In 2017, SEM adjusted our Mixed Doubles League seasons to offer 2 seasons each in our 18 & Over and 40 & Over Mixed Leagues.

The two additional leagues strongly contributed to the 10.7% increase in participation. However, when reviewing other SEM leagues separately, those leagues showed a 2.79% increase compared to last year. Last year’s total increase was 3.5% for all leagues.

In addition to increases in Mixed, Southeastern Michigan also saw increases in our 40 & Over Adults, Combo Doubles and Team Singles.

Southeastern Michigan’s League growth by percentage year over year was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mixed 18 &amp; Over</td>
<td>49.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed 40 &amp; Over</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Singles</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult 40 &amp; Over</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combo Doubles</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult 18 &amp; Over</td>
<td>-2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult 65 &amp; Over</td>
<td>-4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult 55 &amp; Over</td>
<td>-10.10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In 2017, the District League Coordinator, Deb Thallman, continued to conduct Captains’ Meetings as either webinars or conference calls. Webinars were recorded and made available online at our District website. Deb also held a conference call for all captains advancing to our Summer District Championships. She reviewed rules and procedures that pertain to playoffs during these calls. This allowed captains to prepare their teams in advance for any additional rules for playoffs.

CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

District Championships – 2016 Combo Doubles

Combo Doubles playoffs were held January 7-8, 2017 at Deer Lake Athletic Club. A total of 22 teams competed in a total of 22 matches. Champions were crowned in 5.5, 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5 for women and 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5 for men.

OFFICIALS

Mel Kropko retired as the Southeastern Chair of Officials at the end of 2017. Shiraz Bhagawagar was appointed as the new Chair effective January 1, 2018. Mike Berry will serve as the Vice Chair of Officials.
2017 District League Championships

Troy 18 & Over 2.5 Women's Team
Seated, l-r: Ana Matuza, Amy Garrett  Standing, l-r: Ann Marie Valentina, Heather Tack-Captain, Jennifer Friedenberg

Franklin Athletic Club 18 & Over 3.0 Women
Seated, l-r: Tammy Freitag, Sue Wright, Heather Erickson-Captain Standing, l-r: Amelie Vanier, Susie DaMarco, Mia Weinberg, Leamnne Sherman, Anne Steffen, Samantha Ruma

Birmingham Racquet Club 18 & Over 3.0 Women's Team
Seated, l-r: Alyson Brown, Andrea Jacobson, Helen Cleary Standing, l-r: Kate Bandol, Susan Lassen, Kitta Currier, Kristie McCormick, Kristy Korth-Captain, Rosie Deveison

Peachtree 18 & Over 4.0 Women’s Team
Seated, l-r: Maxine Kennebrew, Kristin Vogelihehe, Kristine Deguzman-Captain, Joan Matsui, Angela Kuljenia Standing, l-r: Lisa Schmeder, Dawn Brodi, Kathy Hanley, Karen Pozolo, Sydney Rusu, Diane Rusu

Chippewa 18 & Over 4.0 Women
l-r: Angela Bogan, Cristina Rodriguez, Brittany Antoni, Leigh Formisola-Captain, Sheryl Leicher, Kaita Vangwepa, Sharon Tabbs, Laura Hanselman

Troy Racquet Club 18 & Over 3.0 Men
Front, l-r: Sir Christa, Greg Reese, Daniel Rodrigues  Back, l-r: Michael Ross, Deet Bucellato, Dale Greve-Captain, Steve Dimsdale, Bill Friday

Franklin 18 & Over 3.5 Men’s Team
Seated, l-r: Lenny Waldman, Michael Rosko-Captain, John McIlravy, Andrew MacLeod Standing, l-r: Terry Strohecker, John Steinberger, Steve Cupples, Steve Owens, Marc McDonald, Albert Lee, Storm Kirschenbaum  Not Pictured: Gregory Galle, Michael Ziegler, Thomas West

Eastside 18 & Over 4.0 Men
Seated, l-r: Brian Kean-Captain, Sean McBrady, Dan Gallina, Kevin Irving Standing, l-r: John Vanatst, Max Starling, Jeff Sciallano, Jack Gallant, Louis Wyre, Robert Eger

Eastside 18 & Over 4.5 Men’s Team
Seated, l-r: Brian Kean-Captain, Alejandro Gomez-Martinez, Roberto Gomez-Martinez, Jim Beardslee Standing, l-r: Ryan Stevens, Brandon Still, Matt Prigorac, Daniel Frank, Peter Wagner

Fond Memories of the Summer of 2017
District Championships – Adults 40 & Over and Adults 18 & Over

Adult 40 & Over Championships were held July 28-30 at Plymouth Canton Educational Park. A total of 29 teams competed. There were 21 women’s teams and 8 men’s teams. A total of 46 team matches were played with a total of 153 individual scheduled matches.

Adult 18 & Over Championships were held August 4-6 at Plymouth Canton Educational Park and Schoolcraft College. A total of 57 teams competed. There were 39 women’s teams and 18 men’s teams. A total of 80 team matches were completed with a total of 386 individual scheduled matches.

Combined totals for the two age groups were: 96 teams competed (60 women and 36 men). A total of 126 team matches were played. A total of 539 individual matches were scheduled.

District Championships – Adult 55 & Over

Summer Mixed Doubles and Adult 55 & Over Playoffs were held September 8-10 at Wessen Indoor Tennis Club. A total of 9 teams in the 55 & Over League competed in 10 matches.
With the multiple seasons of mixed doubles, the District also hosted multiple playoffs:

- **Fall 40 & Over Mixed playoffs** were held December 11, 2016 at LifeTime. A total of 6 teams competed in a total of 3 matches.
- **Spring 40 & Over Mixed playoffs** were held July 15-16 at Wessen Indoor Tennis. A total of 9 teams competed in a total of 10 matches.
- **Winter 18 & Over Mixed playoffs** were held March 11-12 at Franklin and Wimbledon. A total of 12 teams competed in a total of 13 matches.
- **Summer 18 & Over Mixed playoffs** were held Sept 8-10 at Wessen Indoor Tennis. A total of 8 teams competed in a total of 7 matches.

Additionally, the District Championships for 40 & Over Mixed and 18 & Over Mixed were played September 8-10 at Wessen Indoor Tennis. One match finals were held in both age groups for 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0.
Midwest Sectional League Championships

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS & NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Five Southeastern Michigan teams captured Midwest Championships and advanced to their respective Nationals.

MIDWEST CHAMPIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL</th>
<th>CLUB</th>
<th>CAPTAIN</th>
<th>NATIONAL SITE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40 &amp; O Women 3.5*</td>
<td>Oakland Hills Country Club</td>
<td>Kristy Korth</td>
<td>Ft Lauderdale, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 &amp; O Women 4.0*</td>
<td>Troy Racquet Club</td>
<td>Michelle Livingston</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 &amp; O Women 4.5+</td>
<td>Bloomfield Tennis</td>
<td>Stacey Lareau</td>
<td>Mobile AL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 &amp; O Women 9.0</td>
<td>Huron Valley Tennis Club</td>
<td>Missy Pollick</td>
<td>Orlando FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 &amp; O Mixed 10.0</td>
<td>Eastside Tennis &amp; Fitness</td>
<td>McCall Monte</td>
<td>Mobile AL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* finished 3rd in the country
Midwest Sectional League Championships - 40 & Over

Troy Racquet Club 40 & Over
3.0 Men Leslie Czarnecki-Captain

Oakland Hills Country Club 40 & Over
3.5 Women Kristy Korth-Captain

Eastside Tennis & Fitness 40 & Over
3.0 Men Wright Mitchell-Captain

Beverly Hills Club 40 & Over
4.0 Men Shawn Snell-Captain

Midwest Sectional League Championships - 55 & Over

Sports Club W. Bloomfield 55 & Over
6.0 Women Carol Frankel-Captain

Franklin Athletic Club 55 & Over
9.0 Men Brian Bez-Captain

Bloomfield Tennis 55 & Over
8.0 Women Retta Vandenberghe-Captain

Schoolcraft College 55 & Over
8.0 Men Bill Urbanski-Captain

Huron Valley Tennis Club 55 & Over
9.0 Women Missy Pollick-Captain
Wimbledon Racquet Club 18 & Over  
6.0 Mxd  Kerri Gustafson-Captain

Eastside Tennis & Fitness 18 & Over  
7.0 Mxd  Marilyn Zampardo-Captain

Wessen Indoor Tennis 40 & Over  
9.0 Mxd  Becky Tanguay-Captain

Eastside Tennis & Fitness 40 & Over  
7.0 Mxd  Marilyn Zampardo-Captain

Wimbledon Racquet Club 40 & Over  
6.0 Mxd  Kerri Gustafson-Captain

Detroit Tennis (Cook) 65 & Over Men's 7.0

Port Huron Tennis House 18 & Over  
9.0 Mxd  Tracey Carlton-Captain

Wessen Indoor Tennis 40 & Over  
9.0 Mxd  Becky Tanguay-Captain

Eastside Tennis & Fitness 40 & Over  
7.0 Mxd  Marilyn Zampardo-Captain

National League Championships - 65 & Over

Detroit Tennis (Cook) 65 & Over Men's 7.0

Detroit Tennis (Cook) 65 & Over Men's 7.0

Port Huron Tennis House 18 & Over  
9.0 Mxd  Tracey Carlton-Captain

Lions & Tigers . . . Oh My!
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
The Community Development focus in 2017 was geared toward engagement and diversity.

HIGHLIGHTS

Metro Detroit Youth Day Organization
District Staff, Board Members, community volunteers from the Motor City Tennis Club and Grosse Pointe North High School tennis team provided free tennis lessons and prizes to over 100 youth who participated in the one-day program at Belle Isle. The one-day event attracts over 3,000 metro Detroit area youth to Belle Isle for a fun-filled day of play and education.

The Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church Back to School Rally
District staff set up mini courts in the church parking lot to offer youth and adults the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis and play time.

Eastside Youth Foundation Youth Sports Day
Multiple sports organizations set up stations to introduce youth to new sports. We set up mini courts and provided rackets and foam balls for youth. District Staff, Board Members and Community Volunteers taught youth the fundamentals of tennis and games to introduce youth to the fun learning to play offers.

Got Ability Sports LC3
This is a new CTA established by Bryan Wilkinson to promote wheelchair tennis. The district provided a $500 grant to support programming and donated the district’s four wheelchairs to the organization.

Motor City Tennis Club
Southeastern Michigan was a Silver Sponsor for the organization’s 72nd Tri-City tournament and dinner. Players participated from clubs located in Chicago, Cleveland and Toledo. The district also donated giveaways. For the organization’s grab bags.

Pinckney Area Community Tennis Association
The district donated balls and giveaway items for the CTA’s annual tournament and Holiday Tennis Mixer.

Greater Detroit Tennis Alliance
Newly formed organization comprised of metro Detroit area tennis instructors and the Southeastern Michigan District who have the goal of promoting and growing tennis among youth of color attending school or residing in metro Detroit. Member organizations: People for Palmer Park, Stoepel Park Tennis Academy, Motor City Tennis Club, Clark Park Coalition, and Flat Out Tennis.
New Regulations for Junior Accounts

In 2017 USTA restructured their online account format to comply with the federal regulation COPPA (Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act). This new regulation requires online providers to obtain parental consent when dealing with personal information pertaining to a child 13 and under.

Due to this new requirement, accounts for players 13 and under must be linked to a parent account.

The new regulation largely affected the district’s Summer JTT numbers. In past years the district created the USTA accounts for players and completed their registration into the summer program. The majority of our numbers for the Summer programs were players under 13. Moving forward we will need the parents to create all accounts, but the district will still be able to register players into programs.

Junior Tournament Participation

While there were fewer junior tournaments offered in Southeastern Michigan in 2017, participation was up slightly when compared to 2016 (4,776 in 2017 versus 4,761 in 2016). There is an ongoing national push to increase tournament participation by including shortened tournaments in the form of Single Day Show Downs. For 2018, the district and Midwest Section are offering monetary incentives to encourage tournament directors to increase the number of tournaments offered and number of participants. The district increased the number of individuals invited to the 2018 Tournament Director Training with the hope of building up the number of providers.

Junior Team Tennis

The Southeastern Michigan USTA non-advancing Junior Team Tennis program continues to be one of the largest in the Midwest Section with approximately 1,400 participants in 2017. The program continues to be divided between “advancing” and “non-advancing” tracks. Non Advancing is the largest component of JTT. The non-advancing travel league program runs over two seasons: Fall – October through December and Winter – January through February.

Jr. Team Tennis

Minimal changes were made to the Jr. Team Tennis format for the 2017-18 season. The JTT program is still comprised of a non-advancing and advancing track with non-advancing being the largest component.

2017-18 Non-Advancing

Open to Members and Non-members (New from 2016)
Registration Cost Increase - Members pay $15, Non-members pay $20 (up from $10 in 2016)
2 hour timed matches - singles and doubles
No gender requirements

2017-18 Advancing

Moved to June 2018 (2016-17 ran concurrently with non-advancing)
USTA Membership required
3 boy / 3 girl gender requirement
8 game pro-sets singles and doubles

Tournaments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 - 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Tournaments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jr. Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unique Jr. Players</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unique Adult Players</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JTT Advancement to Section and National Championships
The Advancing Season will be moved to one weekend at the end of June with the intention of giving coaches a better chance of forming teams that meet the age eligibility and gender requirements.

2017 Jr. Team Tennis
Southeast Michigan Track District Champions
Non Advancing Teams (18’s – Wimbledon March 10-11 / 10-14’s – Deer Lake March 18-19)

18 INT – 18 flight winners, 6 teams attended
Champion – Liberty Snakebirds / Finalist – SCWB E-Lemon-Ators

18 ADV – 2 flight winners, 2 teams attended
Champion – Liberty Devil Kats / Finalist – DRHC Crispy Forehands

14 INT – 7 flight winners, 5 teams attended
Champion – Eastside Network / Finalist – Huron Valley Storm

12 BEG – 2 flight winners, no teams attended
Champion – SCWB Survivors

12 INT – 8 flight winners, 7 teams attended
Champion – Huron Valley Rolling Thunder / Finalist – SC Novi “Prince”

10 ADV – 4 flight winners, 2 teams attended
Champion – SC Novi “Wilson” / Finalist – SCWB Soup-a-stars

Advancing Teams
18 INT – Huron Valley Whirlwinds
18 ADV – Port Huron Rebels
14 INT – Huron Valley Storm
12 INT – SC Novi “Prince”

After a year of the Jr. Rating System in effect, we’re slowly starting to see the number of computer rated players climb. 10U players cannot generate a rating and 12U players are not required to have a rating, but can still generate a rating playing against computer rated players.

In our Fall 2017 JTT season out of 841 rating eligible players, 490 had a computer generated rating, and 208 were self-rated.

The average ratings for each division are as follows:
12U Intermediate - 2.0
14U Intermediate - 2.3
14U Advanced - 2.7
18U Intermediate - 2.7
**USTA Midwest Southeastern Michigan Teachers’ In-Service**

On a brisk November day, USTA Midwest Section staff delivered a highly energetic, thought-provoking Net Generation “In-Service Training” to Monroe area P.E. Teachers. Outgoing Tennis Service Representative George Lowe led the exercises while the new TSR, Evan Valeri, looked on appreciating his predecessor’s ability to maintain the attention of this crowd. Thanks to the Monroe Y for hosting this event, and a special thanks to Lynn Hayward and Jerry Escheck for organizing the event and securing phenomenal parting gifts for the participants.

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**KUDOS**

**National Champions**

Congratulations to Southeastern Michigan’s own Olivia Weiss for winning the Super National Championship G14 Doubles title with partner Sanjana Tallamraju of Indiana.

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Parents and players, submit your accomplishments, stories, and photos to the Southeastern Michigan District Office and you might be featured in a future newsletter, issue, on FaceBook or Instagram. Please email pictures, stories and a short description of your accomplishments to tennis@semich-usta.com. We Love to Celebrate the Successes of Our Junior and Adult players.

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*Just So You Know...*
District 18 & Over and 50 & Over Division winners & finalists advance to Sectional Championships scheduled for February 23-25, 2018 in Midland, Michigan and Racine, Wisconsin, respectively.

**Southeastern Michigan NTRP Championships at Wimbledon (18 & Over) & Deer Lake (50 & Over)**

- **Ladies 4.0 Singles**
  - Kate Farwell - Winner
  - Eneida Haxhiraj - Finalist

- **Men 3.5 Singles**
  - Surya Prakash Manepalli

- **Ladies 4.0 Doubles**
  - Sonia Sheppard
  - Ty Moss

- **Men 3.5 Doubles**
  - Gerard Rizarri
  - Anthony Wilhelm

- **50+ Men 4.0 Singles**
  - Steve Wachs

- **50+ Men 3.5 Singles**
  - Bill Genna

- **Men 4.5 Singles**
  - Alejandro Gomez-Martinez
  - Ritwik Khar

- **Men 4.0 Doubles**
  - Alejandro Gomez-Martinez
  - Alexander Winney

- **Men 4.0 Singles**
  - Ritwik Khare

**Entry Fee:** $50/singles, $25/doubles player

**Divisions:** MW 18 & Over: 3.5, 4.0, 4.5; MW 50 & Over: 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 (Singles & Doubles).

**Draw Sizes:** 32 Singles, 32 Doubles

**Draw Type:** Eight 4 player round robins that play into four 8 player compass draws.

**Scoring Format:**
- Best of 3, Fast 4 Sets, tiebreaker at 3 games all (tiebreak first to 5 points, win by 1).
Shanoli Kumar
2017 Female Hoxie Award Winner

Shanoli is a three year All-State performer and will be a two-time team captain at Northville High School. She won the State Championship at #2 singles as a freshman and reached the finals as a sophomore. She was a quarter finalist at #1 singles this past spring as a junior. She also helped her Northville team win state titles in both 2015 and 2017. Shanoli has been a recipient of the MHSAA Academic All-State Award (2015-2017) and was named a KLAA Scholar-Athlete.

She has been one of the top players in Southeast Michigan throughout her junior career and has been ranked among the top 40 players in the Midwest in both the Girls 14 and 16 and under divisions. Shanoli was selected to play both Zonals and Winter Nationals in 2016. She is currently a 3 star recruit.

Shanoli always conducts herself with class and dignity both on and off the tennis court. She has won sportsmanship awards in 8 USTA tournaments, including the USTA Open Regional (G16-November 2015) and Midwest Level 2 Open Championships (G18-July 2016).

She is an extremely dedicated student who excels in the classroom. Shanoli currently maintains a 3.98 GPA with a challenging curriculum of Honors, AP and IB classes. She is a member of the National Honors Society and the Northville High School Mustang Leadership Council. She is also a recipient of the Northville High School Academic Excellence Award.

Shanoli has been quite active in her school and the community. As member of the National Honors Society, she has participated in numerous school volunteer events. Additionally, Shanoli is a member of Cheer for Kids Club where she decorated cards for children in hospitals, and KIND (Kids Influenced by Noble Deeds) where she has donated her time at retirement homes and in food banks. She is also a member of the Indian-American Student Association, the Baking Club and the French Club.

Shanoli plans to attend The University of Michigan where she plans to major in Chemical Engineering and play tennis at the club or varsity level.

Kobie Mueller
2017 Male Hoxie Award Winner

Kobie began playing tennis at the age of five, first with a sponge ball in his Chicago living room before getting on the court while visiting his grandparents in Michigan. He quickly became passionate for the game and, after the family moved to Florida, began taking lessons at the local tennis club. He soon found success, winning the Boys 8 and Under Little Mo Eastern Region and earning the #1 seed in the National Tournament.

In 2008 when Kobie's grandfather became ill, the family moved to Ann Arbor to be closer, and Kobie has been a part of the Southeastern Michigan District ever since. He is coached by his uncle with whom he has developed an especially close relationship on and off the court. Kobie is currently ranked 30th in the Midwest, was a recipient of the USTA Midwest Sportsmanship Award and was a member of last year's Southeast Michigan's Boys 18s Team Cup Championship Team.

At Huron High School, Kobie is the co-captain of his team, and is playing the #2 singles position. He was a finalist in his flight at the 2017 Division 1 MHSAA State Championships. He was and has been named All-State three straight years. Kobie won four Regional, four SEC conference titles, and earned the distinction of never having lost to a rival Ann Arbor high school opponent.

Kobie is a National Merit Commended Scholar and an AP Scholar with Distinction with a 3.94 GPA. He is president of the Huron High School Computer Science Club and is a member of the Physics World Cup Team, BPA Financial Analyst Team, and National Honor Society. He has been involved in much volunteer work, especially at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum where he mentors a workshop teaching computer programming. Additionally, he has been a volunteer tennis instructor to elementary and middle school students through the Ann Arbor city program.

In his free time Kobie enjoys playing basketball, chess, card games, and hanging out with his friends and family. He also plays the trumpet and piano.

Kobie is thankful to the USTA for developing his growth in tennis and life. Through tennis, he has learned the importance of preparation, resolve, perseverance, and responsibility, skills he can apply towards future challenges. Kobie appreciates the friendships he has established and has great respect for all the tournament directors, officials, and personnel. He is proud to represent the Southeastern Michigan District.

Kobie intends to study Engineering. He has been accepted early to the University of Michigan School of Engineering.
Southeastern Michigan’s Senior Team Placed Fifth in 2017!

The 2017 Midwest Senior Team Championships were held May 20-25 in East Lansing.

This year Southeastern Michigan placed 5th with a total of 432 games won. (with 9 of 13 Districts participating). Wisconsin dominated with a total of 494 games won. Chicago, the 2016 Champion, clinched 2nd place with 485 games won.

A special CONGRATULATIONS to our division winners:
Women's 75 – Karen Caine & Janet Remen

Thank you to Men's Captain Ben Tasich and Women's Captain Wanda Spencer for their recruiting efforts and to all the players who represented the Southeast Michigan District!

Southeast Michigan was represented by the following teams:

M35: Erick Podgorny & Robert Riley
M45: Andres Torres & Steve Wagel
M50: David Lord & Charles Volland
M55: Marc Larkin & Larry Stark
M60: Len Baziu & Tim Loula
M65: Dennis Cavanaugh & Gary Hoslet
M70: Bill Barrett & Robert Hinshon
M75: Ben Tasich & Alexander Zinkovsky
W35: Loraine Black & Whitney Wasielewski
W45: Julie Brizard & Kristen Charlton
W50: Angela Bogan & Pamela Cabot
W55: Susan Kuchenmeister
W60: Lucy Gorski & Wanda Spencer
W65: Sheryl S. Leicher & Patti L. Vanslingerlandt
W70: Faye Heller & Sherry Johnson
W75: Karen Caine & Janet Remen

Craig Capelli
2017 Beyer Award Winner

Craig, a native of Springfield, Ohio, has been a competitive tennis player all his life. He was a nationally ranked junior player in his youth. And after graduating high school, Craig continued his love of the game by playing four seasons on the Eastern Michigan University Men’s Varsity Tennis Team. After college, Craig continued to play and compete in local, sectional and national events. He represented the Midwest Men's Open Team at Nationals in 2000 and 2001.

Craig is a USPTA Certified Teaching Professional with 25 years of teaching experience. He has been the General Manager and Director of Tennis at the Chippewa Tennis Club in Ypsilanti, Michigan since 2000. Craig has also served as the Head Coach for the Eastern Michigan Women’s Tennis Team.

Craig has been a hardworking volunteer with the USTA Southeastern Michigan District and the Midwest Section for many years. He has been a Southeastern Michigan Tennis Association (SEMTA) Board Member for the past six years, including the past two years as President. Craig has served on the SEMTA Adult League Committee for four years, he is a former member of the SEMTA Self-Rate Appeals Committee, and he is a former SEMTA Ratings Verifier.

Craig often plays tennis with his wife Betsy. In the past, he and Betsy have won and successfully defended their Mixed Doubles title in the Ann Arbor City Tournament. They reside in Ann Arbor with their two children, Katie, 17, and Ashley, 13, who also play tennis.
USTA ADULT PROGRAM GRANTS: AGES 18-39

GRANT OVERVIEW
The USTA is offering grants to providers who want to run events and programs for 18-39 year old players. Event administration and marketing support is available after a few easy steps.

PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW
Providing a social and fun environment is the key to success for any program. Keep your players engaged with a variety of introductory, fun or competitive opportunities. Make your facility the hub of activity in the community by offering tournaments and social leagues.

TEAM UP TOURNAMENTS
A classic with a twist!
Criteria includes:
• 1/2 day to single day event
• Non-elimination draw format (round robin, compass draw, etc.)
• Pick from Fast Four, Best of 3 Tie Breaks or timed matches scoring format
• NTRP divisions
• TennisLink required

SOCIAL LEAGUE
For anyone looking for fun, time with friends and flexibility!
• 4-8 week program
• Organizer determines league format
• Any skill level
• Individual or team registration

THERE’S LOCAL USTA SUPPORT TO HELP GROW YOUR PROGRAMS
Michigan Tennis Service Representative
Evan Valeri
evan@midwest.usta.com

HOW CAN A TSR HELP YOU AND YOUR PROGRAM(S)?
• On-court and off-court trainings
• Starting a Community Tennis Association
• Facility Assistance – technical and financial assistance to renovate or build new courts
• Starting an NJTL (National Junior Tennis & Learning) chapter for under-resourced youth
• Adult programming ideas
• Net Generation
• Youth Tennis
• Kids’ Tennis Clubs and School Tennis
• Play events and other events for new audiences
• Junior Team Tennis
• High School
• Grants and incentives
• Free advertising
• Custom marketing materials

My local TSR Bill is a Rock Star! Having a local USTA representative who is a consistent presence at our Club and is just a phone call away has such an impact on the success of our programs and events. I am thankful every day for our relationship and his support. Bill is a guiding force in tennis in our area.

Jeff Chandley, Director of Tennis
Atlanta Athletic Club
Atlanta, GA

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College and Individual Scholarship Funding Available

Tim & Tom Culliford Scholarship — A $2,500 scholarship is presented annually to one female and one male junior tennis player from the USTA/Midwest Section. The scholarship is designed to provide assistance to those who have demonstrated financial need and have shown ability, aptitude and promise as students and as tennis players.

Hooked on Tennis Scholarship — A $1,000 scholarship is presented annually to one female and one male junior tennis player from the USTA/Midwest Section. The scholarship is designed to provide assistance to those who have demonstrated financial need and have shown ability, aptitude and promise as students and as tennis players.

Richard Bradley Memorial Scholarship — A $2,500 scholarship is presented annually to one African American junior tennis player from the USTA/Midwest Section. The scholarship is designed to provide assistance to those who have a passion to work in the tennis industry, have demonstrated financial need, and have shown ability and aptitude as students and as tennis players.

Anne Krupp Memorial Scholarship — A scholarship is presented annually to one or more junior or adult players from the USTA/Midwest Section for an annual total of $2,500. This scholarship is designed to provide additional training or assistance with travel to participate in Adaptive Tennis, Special Olympics, or Wheelchair Tennis. It is also presented to an individual(s) who display excellent sportsmanship on and off the court, and exhibit the true spirit of Anne.

The deadline to apply for the scholarships is March 1, 2018, and visit midwesttennisfoundation.com/scholarships to obtain a scholarship application.

Individual and Program Grant Funding Available

The USTA/Midwest Tennis & Education Foundation:
- Provides grants to community-based youth tennis programs including Community Tennis Associations, Park and Recreation Departments, and other service organizations.
- Assists schools in the USTA/Midwest Section in meeting equipment needs to teach students tennis in their physical education classes.
- Provides grants to community-based adult tennis programs that service these populations: wheelchair, adaptive and veterans with disabilities.
- Subsidizes activities of the USTA/Midwest Section Junior Diversity Committee.
- Supports designated USTA/Midwest Section high performance junior teams that represent the Section in national competitions.
- Assists youth players who have demonstrated talent through USTA, Midwest and/or District rankings, and are in need of financial support to compete at higher levels. Achievement should be more definitive as the applicant gets older.

Individual Player Grant: Grants are awarded to junior tennis players of all abilities several times each year. The following factors are considered: age, standings, annual improvement, number of events played, academic performance, income/financial need, and good sportsmanship.

EntouRaj for Kids Junior Tennis Grant: This $1,000 award is provided annually to one junior player who is between 14 and 18 years of age competing at the national level, displaying tennis improvement, and in need of financial assistance. Funding will be provided to pay for tournament and player development expenses which include airfare, lodging, entry fees, meals, and coaching.

Dorothy Kohl Future Star Achievement Award: This award (up to $20,000 awarded annually) is provided to highly ranked national female players who are between 13 and 18 years of age. Funding will be provided to pay for tournament and player development expenses which include airfare, lodging, entry fees, meals, and coaching.

Program Grant: Grants are provided to community-based youth tennis programs of all types, as well as schools needing equipment to teach tennis in their physical education classes. Grants are also provided to community-based adult programs that service adaptive tennis, wheelchair tennis and veterans with disabilities.

Remaining deadlines to apply for USTA/Midwest Tennis & Education program and individual grants this year are as follows: April 1, July 1 and October 1. Visit midwesttennisfoundation.com/grants to obtain a grant application.

The deadline to apply for the EntouRaj for Kids grant is April 1, and the deadline to apply for the Dorothy Kohl award is April 1 and July 1. Visit midwesttennisfoundation.com/grants to obtain the applications.
TRICK SHOT SHOWDOWN
Get creative and show us moves we’ve never seen.
Join the thousands of kids and pros across the country showcasing their tricks and skills!
Don’t forget to tag @usta with #TrickShotShowdown
Upload your videos to net generation.com

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