



NORTHERN

# USTA Northern Highlights

## November 2014

### Membership Numbers

#### **USTA Northern Individual Memberships**

|                | <b>Juniors</b> | <b>Adults</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| October 2014   | 4,810          | 6,967         | 11,777       |
| September 2014 | 4,822          | 6,973         | 11,795       |

#### **USTA Northern Organization Memberships**

|                | <b>Clubs</b> | <b>CTAs</b> | <b>Park &amp; Recs</b> | <b>Schools</b> | <b>Service Orgs</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| October 2014   | 28           | 66          | 44                     | 53             | 26                  | 217          |
| September 2014 | 28           | 65          | 45                     | 58             | 25                  | 221          |

### USTA Northern News & Notes

#### **USTA Northern Community Tennis Workshop, Annual Meeting & Awards Nov. 21-22**

There is still time to register for the USTA Northern Community Tennis Workshop called "Play Your Way" November 21-22, 2014. The workshop, to be held at Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington, Minn., on Friday, and the Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center on Saturday, features outstanding speakers and community tennis leaders, a tournament director's workshop/officials course, networking, the USTA Northern Annual Meeting, the announcement of 2015-16 Board of Directors and the USTA Northern Annual Awards Dinner on Friday, followed by on-court presentations, including world-renowned 10-and-under expert **Mike Barrell** of evolve9, as well as off-court sessions to enhance marketing your programs at a local level. To register, [click here](#).



#### **Tickets Still Available For 2014 USTA Northern Annual Awards Banquet**

Come honor those individuals and organizations who have given so much to USTA Northern at the 2014 USTA Northern Annual Awards Banquet Friday, Nov. 21, from 6-9 p.m. at Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington, Minn. To see a list of winners, [click here](#). Tickets are \$40 each and available by contacting [Lisa Mushett](#) at (952) 358-3282.

#### **Play It Forward Mixed Doubles Social November 22 At Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center**

The Play It Forward Mixed Doubles social is set for Saturday, Nov. 22, at Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center from 5-9 p.m. The event is once again a team event with play at the 6.5, 7.5, 8.5 and 9.5 levels. Food and drink are on the menu, as well as games and prizes. The event is \$25 for USTA members and \$30 for non-members and deadline to register is Tuesday, Nov. 18. Members can [register here](#), while non-members need to contact [Lisa Mushett](#) at (952) 358-3282. Need a partner? We can find one for you!

#### **KFAN Radio Personality Justin Gaard Runs NYC Marathon Raising Money For USTA Northern**

Former Minnesota Class AA State Champion and current KFan Radio personality **Justin Gaard** finished the NYC Marathon in six hours and 18 minutes to raise money for USTA Serves and USTA Northern as part of the "Run For the Cause." Justin raised over \$3,200 in aiding the USTA Foundation and its mission which is to support, monitor and promote programs that enhance the lives of at-risk children and individuals with disabilities through tennis and education within USTA Northern. Thank you Justin, and to all who donated in supporting Justin run his first-ever marathon.



#### **Thank You USTA Northern Sponsors and Partners**



## Junior News

### USTA Northern's President Roshan Rajkumar Addresses Player Safety

USTA Northern's **Mission Statement** is "To promote and develop the growth of tennis." Northern's leadership and staff believe a healthy, fun and safe community for all tennis players, officials, fans and coaches helps our Section live this mission.

When Northern's leadership and staff learned recently of allegations regarding inappropriate contact between a tennis coach and a minor junior tennis player, we began discussing what Northern can do to support anyone abused in our sport.

As the governing body of tennis, it is our hope to provide frequent and ongoing information, training and resources to our members, partners and providers. Northern was a leader in helping the national organization create guidelines in trying to ensure the safety of our youth and minor players. In creating "[Safety, Security, and Sensitivity – Recommended Guidelines for Youth Tennis Programs](#)," Northern and the USTA, as a whole, recognized it takes everyone's best efforts to ensure our Section and our sport is safe for all those participating in it.

Further, the USTA is partnering with the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) in adopting their SafeSport program recommendations concerning misconduct in sport. With the help of the USOC, we created "[Safe Play Conduct, Policies & Guidelines](#)" that strictly prohibits inappropriate conduct as outlined in the document. Further, in Northern and across the USTA, all Junior Team Tennis coaches and team managers, as well as officials, must pass a background check, complete a thirty-five (35) minute "Safe Play" video, which can be found on the USOC's website, and read [Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis](#).

Let us all remember that together We Are Northern, and together we stand in trying to keep our Section healthy, fun and safe.

### Benton Bourget Wins 18+ Intermediate National Sportsmanship Award

**Benton Bourget**, from the Eau Claire YMCA Indoor Tennis Center, was named the overall winner of the 18s Intermediate Sportsmanship Award at Junior Team Tennis Nationals. Bourget followed in the footsteps of his sister, **Devon**, who won the 14s Intermediate Sportsmanship Award at Nationals in 2012.



### Junior Team Tennis Nationals Results

The **Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center** finished 11th in the Advanced Division, while **Twin City Tennis Camps** was ninth and the **Eau Claire YMCA Indoor Tennis Center** was 10th in the Intermediate Division at the 18U Junior Team Tennis National Championships October 23-26 in Cayce, S.C. At 14s Nationals, **Life Time Fitness - Bloomington South** placed seventh, while the **Life Time Fitness - Fridley** was 13<sup>th</sup> October 16-19, also in Cayce, S.C.

### Jenny Arnfelt Named JTT Organizer of the Year

**Jenny Arnfelt**, of the Shakopee Tennis Association and Minnetonka, Minn., is the 2014 Junior Team Tennis Organizer of the Year. The award recognizes an individual for his or her efforts in expanding an existing Junior Team Tennis league or developing a new league within the Section. Arnfelt is the face of Shakopee Junior Team Tennis, which has exploded in recent years. The summer of 2014 saw Arnfelt organize 11 JTT and three 10 and Under in-house teams, while hosting an Area Championships for the fourth straight year. She is responsible for all administration and implementation of the JTT program, as well as the training of the coaching staff. Arnfelt has set the standard for JTT organizers as she markets the program year round, implements a standardized training system for the coaching staff and is the assistant tournament director for the Area Championships. She also manages the Shakopee Tennis Association Youth Lesson program which boasts 350 participants each summer and funnels players into the JTT program. She is the head coach for the Shakopee High School boys and girls varsity tennis teams. The boys won the conference title for the first time in school history last spring, while the girls had a doubles team advance to the state tournament in 2014. She organizes junior tournaments and plays an integral part on the board of the Shakopee Indoor Tennis Steering Committee.

### USTA Northern Junior Sectional Has New Dates for 2015

The Girls and Boys Level 3 will be June 12-15, 2015. The girls will play at Baseline Tennis Center, while the boys will be at Lakeville South High School in Lakeville, Minn.

### Congratulations Minnesota State Tournament Winners

Congratulations to Edina's **Caitlyn Merzbacher** and Holy Family's **Danielle Gannon** for winning the Minnesota State Class AA and A Singles Championships, respectively. Merzbacher defeated Chanhassen's **Hayley Haakenstad** 6-1, 6-2, to win her second straight Minnesota state title, while Gannon defeated **Brylee Seitz** of Virginia 6-1, 6-2 to win her first championship after advancing to the finals in 2013. In doubles, The Blake School's **Jane Fraley** and **Libby Rickeman** beat

twin sisters **Paige** and **Taylor McLeod** of Benilde- St. Margaret's 6-1, 6-0. It was the first state title for Fraley and Rickeman. In Class A, **Grace Zumwinkle** and **Kendall Kozikowski** of Breck won their first state championships with a 6-1, 6-2 win over **Taylor Banitt** and **Maddie Adel** of Cannon Falls. In the team competition, **Edina** won its 18<sup>th</sup> straight Class AA title, while **Holy Family** won its first-ever team title. Edina's 18 consecutive wins is the longest streak in Minnesota state history and is the longest in girls tennis nationally according to the National High School Federation Record Book.

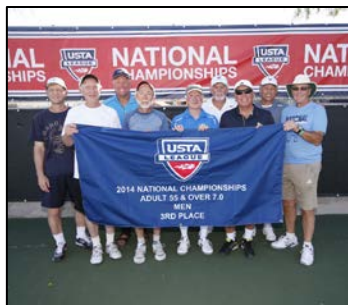
### Wisconsin State Tournament

Congratulations to **Eau Claire Memorial** (Division I) and **Baldwin-Woodville** (Division 2) for advancing to the team state championships in Madison, Wis. Memorial's **Catherine Lindsay** placed fourth in singles in the Division 1 tournament, while **Britta Pressler** and **Devon Bourget** advanced to the quarterfinals in Division 2 Doubles.

## Adults/Seniors News

### USTA Northern Teams Competing At USTA League National Championships

[Click here](#) to follow USTA Northern at the League National Championships which run from now until the end of November! Good luck to all the teams and players participating.



### Men's 55+ 7.0 Team Places Third, 55+ 6.0 Team Fourth At Nationals

The 7.0 55 and over men from St. Paul Academy in the Twin Cities, captained by **Eric Narvaez** and **Peter Haan**, finished third overall at the 2014 USTA League National Championships in Surprise, Ariz.. Northern won its flight 2-1 after taking the matches-won tiebreaker 7-6 against Middle States and 7-5 versus Caribbean. Northern beat Caribbean 3-0, then lost to Middle States 2-1 before beating Mid-Atlantic 3-0. In the semifinals, Northern lost to eventual champion Southern 2-1. In the third-place match, Northern defeated Southern California 2-1, winning a third-set match tiebreaker in the deciding match. Members of the team included **Thomas Peterson**, **James Drahos**, **Mark Holte**, **Cary Bowers**, **Richard Iverson**, **John Jerlow**, **Gary Simpson**, **Daniel Whalen**, **Randy Sanders**, **Robert Lang**, **William Reuland** and **Don Conroy**.

The **55 and over 6.0 men**, also captained by Narvaez and Haan, finished fourth overall after winning its round robin 4-0. Northern defeated Northern California, Pacific Northwest and Southern California 3-0 and Intermountain 2-1. In the semifinals, Northern fell 2-1 to Florida, losing a third-set match tiebreaker at the #2 doubles position. In the third-place match, Northern lost two more third-set tiebreakers in falling to Pacific Northwest 2-1. Members of the team included Narvaez, Haan, Drahos, **Joseph Spolidoro**, **Steven Schwartz**, **Robert Ehrich**, **Mark Duthow**, **Holte**, **Petersen**, **Jeffrey El**, **Jeff Sutphen** and **Richard Branstner**. Florida beat Southern for the championship 2-1.



### ONE Doubles Section Championships Dec. 5-7 at Life Time Fitness – Bloomington South

The USTA Northern ONE Doubles Section Championships will be December 5-7 at Life Time Fitness – Bloomington South. For more information, contact [Kelley Okerman](#).

### USTA Northern Board Member Jessie Daw Wins SDAHPERD Honor Award

Congratulations to USTA Northern Board Member **Jessie Daw** (Aberdeen, S.D.) who was given the 2014 SDAHPERD Honor Award November 7-9 at their state convention.

## Community News

### Community Leaders Attend Tennis Development Workshop in Atlanta

The following people were awarded scholarships to attend the 2014 Community Tennis Workshop November 6-9 in Atlanta including **Greg Emerson** (Altoona, Wis.), **Oliver Summers** (Fargo, N.D.), and **Becky Cantellano** (St. Paul, Minn.). Pre-TDW capacity building meetings for National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) chapters were held on November 5-6 with staff and board representation from InnerCity Tennis and St. Paul Urban Tennis.

### Officials Recertification Process Going On; Everything To Be Complete By November 27

Officials... a reminder that all of your work needs to be recorded in Nucula, as well as taking the online Safe Play class and passing the background check before November 27. [Click here for more information](#). Questions? Contact [Tim Kurtt](#).

### Jugar al Tenis! Check Out This New Hispanic Tennis Video

USTA Northern is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by encouraging Hispanics to get into the game. [Check out this great video](#) produced by the USTA Northern Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

### **2014 USTA Northern Play Event Schedule**

Play Events and Play Days are being offered around USTA Northern. For a complete list of registered events as of November 11, [click here](#).

### **Interested In Learning More About Being An Official in USTA Northern?**

USTA Northern is looking for more officials. If you are interested in learning more, contact [Kristi Bushinski](#). Also, [click here](#) to read the latest USTA Northern Officiating Newsletter Overrules.

### **2015 Community Tennis Guides Available December 1**

The 2015 USTA Northern Community Tennis Guide will be available December 1. All USTA Organizational members will receive a free copy via mail. The guide is also accessible online at [northern.usta.com](http://northern.usta.com). If your organization needs additional copies, please contact [Christine Nickels](#).

### **10 and Under Tennis Line Grants Still Available**

Matching funds (up to 75% of cost) are available through USTA and USTA Northern for creating permanent courts/lines for 10 and Under Tennis. For more information, contact [Christine Nickels](#).

## **Other USTA Northern Notes, Special Offers and Promotions**

### **Visit The USTA Northern Online Store**

Looking for USTA Northern branded apparel? Then visit the [USTA Northern online store](#). There are plenty of selections available for adults and juniors with your choice of the USTA Northern, USTA Jr. Team Tennis or USTA League logos.

### **FREE USTA Membership For Kids 10 and Under**

The USTA is offering a free 1-year membership to all first-time members who are 10 and under between now and December 31, 2014. To register your child, please [click here](#) and enter source code FYF14PRV or call (800) 990-8782.

### **FREE USTA Marketing Materials Available**

USTA has developed an ad customization system where you can design marketing materials for use in your community for things such as USTA Jr. Team Tennis, USTA League Tennis, 10 and Under Tennis, Youth Registration Night and much, much more. To use this FREE system, please [click here](#).

### **Stay Connected To USTA Northern Via Social Media**

Stay up-to-date on the latest information regarding USTA Northern through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Photobucket or our Web site.

**Web Site:** [www.northern.usta.com](http://www.northern.usta.com)

**Facebook:** "Like Us" at [www.facebook.com/ustanorthern](http://www.facebook.com/ustanorthern)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/ustanorthern](http://www.twitter.com/ustanorthern)

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/ustanorthern](http://www.youtube.com/ustanorthern)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com](http://www.instagram.com); Keyword: USTA Northern

**Photobucket:** [www.photobucket.com/ustanorthern](http://www.photobucket.com/ustanorthern)

### **Tennis Providers: Take Advantage Of Free USTA Membership For Kids Ages 10 And Under**

Did you know that kids 10 and under, who are first time members of the USTA, can receive a FREE USTA junior membership for 2014? To receive the FREE membership, you can complete a [bulk membership form](#) or [click here](#).

### **First-Year Free Members Can Renew For Only \$10**

Renew your 2014 10 and Under First-Year Free (FYF) introductory membership for only \$10. Use Source Code **10N14**. Deadline to renew is December 31, 2014

## **Upcoming Tournaments and Events**

For a list of junior tournaments coming up in USTA Northern, [click here](#). For a list of adult tournaments, [click here](#). For a calendar of Section events, [click here](#).

For more information about USTA Northern information and events, please contact **Lisa Mushett** at [mushett@northern.usta.com](mailto:mushett@northern.usta.com) or at (952) 358-3282.