



NORTHERN

USTA Northern Highlights

February 2015

Membership Numbers

USTA Northern Individual Memberships

	Juniors	Adults	Total
January 2015	4,706	7,020	11,726
December 2014	4,737	7,014	11,751

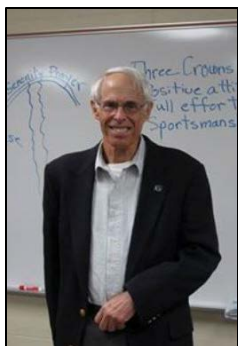
USTA Northern Organization Memberships

	Clubs	CTAs	Park & Recs	Schools	Service Orgs	Total
January 2015	27	64	43	52	25	211
December 2014	27	65	45	52	26	215

USTA Northern News & Notes

Northern Looking To Hire A USTA League Tennis Scheduler

USTA Northern is looking to hire a USTA League Tennis Scheduler for the Twin Cities area. Deadline to apply is March 2, 2015. For more information, [please click here](#), or contact [Kelley Okerman](#) at (952) 358-3287.



USTA Mourning The Death of Steve Wilkinson (1941-2015)

Steve Wilkinson, the longtime men's tennis coach at Gustavus Adolphus College, founder of Tennis and Life Camps and USTA Northern Hall of Famer, passed away on January 21 at the age of 73 after courageously living with cancer for nearly seven years. A visitation for Wilkinson was held January 30, and funeral services the next day at Christ Chapel on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn. For more on Wilkinson's storied life and career, [click here](#).

Save The Date: USTA Member Appreciation Event At Gopher Men's Match March 29

USTA Northern will be hosting a FREE Member Appreciation Event in conjunction with the Gopher men's tennis team on Sunday, March 29, at Baseline Tennis Center. There will be two Cardio Tennis clinics prior to the match (10:30-11:15 a.m., 11:15-12:00 p.m.) with the Gopher match against Indiana starting at 12 noon. Lunch and prizes provided. Space is limited to the first 80 people for the Cardio clinics so register early. To RSVP, contact [Sandy Smith](#) at (952) 358-3288.

McEnroe, Roddick, Chang & Blake To Play At Target Center on April 29

Tickets are now on sale for the Champions Shootout featuring tennis legends **John McEnroe, Andy Roddick, Michael Chang** and **James Blake** April 29 at the Target Center in Minneapolis. To order tickets, [click here](#). Remember: USTA Northern members receive 10 percent off on P2-P5 seating by using the code [USTA10](#). USTA Northern is also looking for volunteers to help that day. If interested, please contact [Lisa Mushett](#) at (952) 358-3282.



Member Appreciation Event Prior To Champions Shootout At Target Center

There will be a Member Appreciation Event prior to the Champions Shootout event April 29 at Target Center from 5:30-7 p.m. USTA members are allowed to bring a guest to the event. To RSVP, contact [Sandy Smith](#) at (952) 358-3288.

Thank You USTA Northern Sponsors and Partners



Rochester-Native Bethanie Mattek-Sands Wins Australian Open Doubles Title

Congratulations to **Bethanie Mattek-Sands**, who grew up in Rochester, Minn., for winning the 2015 Australian Open Women's Doubles title with partner **Lucie Safarova**! Mattek-Sands and Safarova defeated **Chan Yung-Jan** and **Zheng Jie** in the final, 6-4, 7-6 (5) for Mattek-Sands' first Grand Slam title. Way to go Bethanie!

USTA Northern Looking For Officials

USTA Northern is looking for tennis officials. **There is no age limit for officials as high school and college-aged individuals are encouraged to apply.** What job pays \$18 an hour and you can make your own schedule? For more information about what being an official takes, contact [Kristi Bushinski](#).

Junior News

Congratulations Winter Level 3 Winners

Congratulations to the winners and finalists at the 2015 Winter Junior Level 3 at both Baseline Tennis Center and Life Time Fitness – Lakeville.

Boys - Baseline Tennis Center

18s Singles - Toby Boyer (Ham Lake, Minn.) def. **Jesse Sprinkel** (Minneapolis, Minn.) 6-2, 6-2

16s Singles - Jackson Allen (Shakopee, Minn.) def. **Kaleb Dobbs** (Sioux Falls, S.D.) 6-4, 6-4

14s Singles - Sam Dobbs (Sioux Falls, S.D.) def. **Gavin Young** (Apple Valley, Minn.) 6-1, 6-2

12s Singles - Luke Little (Minneapolis, Minn.) def. **Sujit Chopuri** (Minneapolis, Minn.) 6-3, 6-3

18s Doubles - Nick Beaty (Wayzata, Minn.)/**Sprinkel** def. **Rajadurai Arul** (Shakopee, Minn.)/**Aaron Goodman** (Minneapolis, Minn.) 8-1

16s Doubles - Allen/Dobbs def. **Ben Ingbar** (Minneapolis, Minn.)/**Jake Kuhlman** (Grand Forks, N.D.) 8-3

14s Doubles - Hunter Heck (New Brighton, Minn.)/**Joe Mairs** (Edina, Minn.) def. **Michael Cao** (Shoreview, Minn.)/**Varun Iyer** (Rochester, Minn.) 8-2

12s Doubles - Little/Alec Sargent (Rochester, Minn.) def. **Chopuri/George Nottley** (Lake Elmo, Minn.) 8-4

Girls - Life Time Fitness - Lakeville

18s Singles - Alexis Nelson (St. Paul, Minn.) def. **Hayley Haakenstad** (Chanhassen, Minn.) 6-3, 6-4

16s Singles - Sophia Reddy (Eden Prairie, Minn.) def. **Savanna Crowell** (Savage, Minn.) 6-3, 6-2

14s Singles - Lainey Axell (Plymouth, Minn.) def. **Lauren Ferg** (Eagan, Minn.) 6-1, ret.

12s Singles - Karin Young (Apple Valley, Minn.) def. **Arlina Shen** (Eden Prairie, Minn.) 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4)

18s Doubles - Haakenstad/Caitlyn Merzbacher (Eden Prairie, Minn.) def. **Bella Lambert** (Wayzata, Minn.)/**Nelson** 8-2

16s Doubles - Crowell/Grace Goble (Rapid City, S.D.) def. **Olivia Paradise** (St. Paul, Minn.)/**Frankie Trella** (Eden Prairie, Minn.) 8-4

14s Doubles - Axell/Madeline Suk (Minnetonka, Minn.) def. **Ferg/Cecilia Obetz** (Minneapolis, Minn.) 8-5

12s Doubles - Nore Ann Heintz (Duluth, Minn.)/**Lauren Splett** (Mahtomedi, Minn.) def. **Surena Vu** (Maplewood, Minn.)/**Vunissa Vu** (Maplewood, Minn.) 9-8 (1)

Edina Girls Tennis Honored With Minnesota Milestone Award

The **Edina High School Girls Tennis Program** in Edina, Minn., was honored with the Minnesota Milestone Award as Minnesota's most inspiring and influential student-athletes, coaches and athletic leaders were recognized at an award ceremony on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, in conjunction with the 29th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day – a nationwide celebration recognizing the accomplishments of individuals in the promotion and advancement of girls' and women's sports. Some amazing facts about the Edina Girls Tennis Program:

- They won their 18th consecutive and 33rd overall title (including the three Edina East won when there were two Edina high schools) in 2014.
- Edina's 18 straight titles, under the leadership of **Steve Paulson**, are a national record.
- None of the members of the team were alive in 1996, the last season Edina failed to win the Minnesota state girls team title.
- Edina's 18 consecutive state championships is the nation's longest streak for girls' tennis in history, and among all U.S. high school sports, it ranks 24th.



USTA Northern Looking For Facilities Or Organizations To Host Entry-Level 8 Tournaments

USTA Northern is looking for facilities and/or organizations to play host to the new Level 8 tournaments. Level 8 tournaments are beginning, entry-level tournaments that are non-ranking, non-eliminating, half/one day events and no USTA Membership is required. These events are for 12U and 14U and will be played with the green ball. To learn more, please contact [Pat Colbert](#).

Gopher Women To Host Campus Kids Day February 20 Against Drake

The Gopher women will be hosting a Campus Kids Day on Friday, Feb. 20, as they play Drake at 6 p.m. at Baseline Tennis Center. Free pizza and prizes for kids who attend!

USTA Northern To Host A Junior Team Tennis Forum On March 21

USTA Northern will host a Junior Team Tennis Forum on March 21 at Cowboy Jack's Restaurant in Bloomington, Minn., from 3-6 p.m., to go over all of the changes for the 2015 season. For a list of those changes, [click here](#). For more information, or to RSVP, contact [Brandon Jackson](#).



Adults/Seniors News



Twin Cities ONE DOUBLES & Summer League Registration Open; NEW MIXED ONE Doubles For Spring!

Registration is going on NOW for Twin Cities Spring ONE Doubles Leagues starting in April and Summer Leagues beginning in May.

For ONE Doubles, find 2-4 people and play one doubles position weekly for 4-6 weeks at either Baseline Tennis Center or Life Time Fitness - Bloomington South. Women play on Tuesdays and Men on Wednesdays. Also ... NEW for the Spring is MIXED ONE Doubles which play on Thursdays at both locations.

Summer offers Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over Leagues, as well as 18 & Over Mixed and 40 & Over Mixed. There are plenty of options to "Play Tennis Your Way" this spring and summer. Find one that works for you and get registered today. For more information, contact [Kelley Okerman](#).

Looking For A Team Or Partner? Use Matchline!

Looking for a team or partner to play league this spring or summer? USTA Northern can help with its FREE Matchline Service which places players looking for teams on a squad. We have over a 96% placement rate. For more information, contact Matchline at matchline@northern.usta.com.

Tennis on Campus Sections February 28-March 1

The 2015 USTA Northern Tennis On Campus Section Championships are February 28-March 1 at Life Time Fitness – Lakeville. Come see the University of Minnesota try to win its 12th straight Section title. Admission is FREE.

David Nash Wins Naples and Sterling Oaks Tournaments

Congrats **David Nash** (Bloomington, Minn.) as he won the Naples 70 and Over Singles title and then the Sterling Oaks Category 2 Singles and Doubles in early February in Florida.

Community News

InnerCity Tennis, St. Paul Urban Tennis and Fred Wells Tennis & Education Receive Grants

The USTA Foundation, the national charitable organization of the USTA, awarded \$741,500 in grants at the end of 2014 – both program grants and capacity building grants – to 44 organizations nationwide, including **InnerCity Tennis** in Minneapolis, the **Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center** and **St. Paul Urban Tennis** in St. Paul. All were recognized for their efforts in providing tennis and education to under-resourced youth and individuals with disabilities, as well those organizations with a need for program infrastructure support.

USTA NJTL Regional Training on A.C.E. May 2-3, 2015

Save the date for a USTA NJTL Regional Training on the Academic Creative Engagement (A.C.E.) curriculum May 2-3, 2015 at the Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center. Designed to improve kids' attitudes and behaviors around math, literacy and school climate, A.C.E. is an out-of-school academic curriculum connected to the Common Core State and National Educational Standards and the sport of tennis. Activities encourage academic achievement, health and wellness, and social and emotional skills. For more information, contact [Christine Nickels](#).

Wilkinson, Hagberg And Tennis & Life Camps Honored By Positive Coaching Alliance

Congratulations to the late **Steve Wilkinson** and **Neal Hagberg** of Tennis & Life Camps for being named Development

Zone™ Leadership Fellows by the Positive Coaching Alliance. The Leadership Fellows create a Development Zone culture in which high school and youth sports develop better athletes, better people.

Marc White New Pro In Minot, N.D.

Welcome to **Marc White**, from Murrells Inlet, S.C., who is the new pro in Minot, N.D. He is USPTA & PTR certified and is a PTR certified national tester. White started February 9. Welcome to USTA Northern!



Mai Der Yang Wins Positive Coaching Alliance – Minnesota Scholarship

Congratulations to Washington Technology Magnet School tennis player **Mai Der Yang** (St. Paul, Minn.) for receiving a \$1,000 Positive Coaching Alliance - Minnesota Triple Impact Competitor college scholarship!

Want To Volunteer With USTA Northern? Register In Our Volunteer Network

Are you passionate about tennis and interested in giving back to the game you love? Then you've come to the right place. USTA Northern has a rich history of dedicated volunteers, all of whom share the same fundamental drive that gives them the passion to volunteer: they all love tennis. Prior

volunteer experience is not required! [Fill out a volunteer form today](#). For additional information, please contact [Sandy Smith](#) at 952-358-3288.

USTA Northern Offers A Premier Provider Program

In an effort to publicly recognize and thank local providers who go above and beyond to offer tennis programming in their community, USTA Northern has initiated a **Premier Provider Program**. Members of this elite program receive exclusive benefits and receive priority for future grants. Deadline to apply is October 1, 2015. For more about the program and an application, [click here](#). Questions? Contact [Sandy Smith](#).



Minnesota Tennis Coaches Association Clinic February 27-28 at Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center in St. Paul

The Minnesota Tennis Coaches Association Clinic is February 27-28 at the Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center in St. Paul, Minn. The schedule includes a fabulous line-up of presenters, including keynote speaker **Jorge Capestany**, an internationally recognized speaker who holds the unique distinction of being both a USPTA Master Professional, as well as a PTR International Master Professional. Also included in the weekend is a Positive Coaching Alliance Clinic and presentations from respected local tennis coaches. Cost: \$50 in advance/\$70 at the door. Individuals do not need to be high school coaches to attend. To learn more, contact **Rick Engelstad** at engelstad@isd578.org.

Positive Coaching Alliance Clinic February 27 at Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center in St. Paul

The Positive Coaching Alliance is hosting a workshop February 27 from 6-8 p.m. at Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center. The workshop introduces the Principles of Positive Coaching: Honoring the Game, Redefining Winner and Filling the Emotional Tank, with complementing tools and exercises for coaches to improve their student-athletes on and off the field. The cost is \$20* which includes workshop, book and dinner. Note: *PCA clinic is included for individuals also attending the MN Tennis Coaches Association Clinic. To register, contact **Rick Engelstad** at engelstad@isd578.org.

USTA Multicultural Grant Deadlines Extended To February 27

Deadlines for the following Multicultural Grants have been extended to February 27, 2015. For more information, contact [Tony Stingley](#).

- **Althea Gibson Leadership Grant:** This grant is for competitive junior tennis players who have a top 100 national ranking and are aspiring to achieve a national and/or international ranking. The player must be training and competing in tournaments year-round and have a history of strong national tournament results. You must be ranked in the top 300 nationally and in the Top 50 of the Section. Two grants awarded nationwide for \$2,500 each.
- **Okechi Womeodu Scholar Athlete Grant:** Rewards players who work to excel as much in the classroom as in sports. Must be training and competing in tournaments year-round, have a history of strong national tournament results and a minimum GPA of 3.0. You must be ranked in the top 300 nationally and the top 50 of the Section. Two grants awarded nationwide for \$5,000 each
- **Pancho Gonzalez Scholar-Athlete Grant:** Must be on Latino or Hispanic heritage, but be a United States Citizen. Based on a number of factors including the success of the player in the previous year (e.g., end-of-the-year USTA rankings, performance in national and international tournaments, etc.) and recommendations/commentary about the individual's team spirit and leadership qualities. The grant funding is intended to be awarded to junior player(s) aspiring to achieve a national and/or international ranking. The recipient(s) should have a history of strong national tournament results. You must be ranked in the top 300 nationally and the top 50 in the Section.
- **Asian-American Scholar-Athlete Leadership Grants:** In honor of the achievements of Asian-American tennis pioneers who paved the way for millions who followed, we look to reward a player (s) who work to excel in leading

others both on and off the court. The recipients (s) must be training and competing in tournaments year-round. You must be ranked in the top 300 nationally and in the top 50 of the Section.

- **Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender (LGBT) Scholar-Athlete Leadership Grant:** In honor of the achievements of LGBT tennis pioneers who paved the way for millions who followed, we look to reward a players (s) who work to excel in leading others both on and off the court. The recipients (s) must be training and competing in tournaments year-round. You must be ranked in the top 300 nationally and the top 50 of the Section.
- **Native American Scholar Athlete Leadership Grant:** In honor of the achievements of Native American tennis pioneers who paved the way for millions who followed, we look to reward a player (s) who work to excel in leading others both on and off the court. The recipients (s) must be training and competing in tournaments year-round. You must be ranked in the top 300 nationally and the top 50 of the Section.

Other Scholarship Updates

The deadline for the [Northern Tennis Foundation Scholarship](#) program is April 20, while the [USTA Northern Tennis Camp Scholarship](#) deadline is May 20, and the [Positive Coaching Alliance's Triple Impact Competitor College Scholarship](#) program deadline is May 31.

USTA Recognized By Affinity Magazine For LGBT Economic Empowerment

Congratulations to the USTA as it was named one of the top corporations in America for LGBT Economic Empowerment in 2015.

USTA Adds Same Gender Couple Events To Adult Tournaments

The USTA is adding same-gender couples' doubles tournaments to its 2015 adult competition tennis calendar. The groundbreaking announcement opens the door to new play opportunities for same-sex spouses, those in civil unions, domestic partners, and spousal equivalents, making the USTA's popular adult competition more diverse and inclusive.

Jugar al Tenis! Check Out This New Hispanic Tennis Video

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

The Asian Community Loves Tennis Too! See Why In This New Video

USTA Northern is also encouraging players of Asian/Pacific Islander descent to get into the game. See why tennis is quickly becoming a sport of a lifetime for this community [in this video](#) produced by the USTA Northern Diversity & Inclusion Council.

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

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 Junior 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

Facebook: "Like Us" at www.facebook.com/ustanorthern

Twitter: www.twitter.com/ustanorthern

YouTube: www.youtube.com/ustanorthern

Instagram: www.instagram.com; Keyword: USTA Northern

Photobucket: www.photobucket.com/ustanorthern

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, 2015. To register your child, please [click here](#) and enter source code FYF15PRV or call (800) 990-8782.

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 or at (952) 358-3282.