



NORTHERN

# USTA Northern Highlights

## April 2017

### Membership Numbers

#### USTA Northern Individual Memberships

	Juniors	Adults	Total
March 2017	4,579	6,889	11,468
February 2017	4,577	6,897	11,474

#### USTA Northern Organization Memberships

	Clubs	CTAs	Park & Recs	Schools	Service Orgs	Total
March 2017	25	61	48	79	22	235
February 2017	25	62	47	81	22	237

### USTA Northern News & Notes

#### USTA Northern Hires Mya Smith-Dennis As Training & Outreach Coordinator/TSR For Minnesota/NW Wisconsin

USTA Northern welcomes **Mya Smith-Dennis** (Savage, Minn.) as the Section's new Training & Outreach Coordinator and Tennis Service Representative for Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin. Smith-Dennis will be working with diversity and inclusion initiatives, wheelchair and adaptive tennis programs and on-court trainings. He will also serve as USTA Northern's community representative in Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin.

Smith-Dennis comes to USTA Northern after working as a tennis professional at Life Time Fitness – Bloomington South in Bloomington, Minn. He played collegiately at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., where he was a four-time All-American and was the 2012 NCAA Division III Finalist in men's doubles. He also won the NCAA Division III Central Region Championship in singles that year. Prior to that, Smith-Dennis played junior tennis and was ranked in the top 10 of USTA Northern in Boys 18s.



#### St. Cloud Native Brian Boland Hired As USTA National Head of Men's Tennis

**Brian Boland**, originally of St. Cloud, Minn., and currently the head coach of the men's tennis team the University of Virginia, will take over the role of USTA Player Development Head of Men's Tennis at the conclusion of the 2017 college season. In his new role, Boland will oversee all training and coaching of male junior, collegiate and pro players by USTA Player Development, and he will manage all USTA national coaches on the men's side. Boland, 45, was a three-sport star and captain at St. Cloud Tech High School playing tennis, hockey and soccer. He played collegiate tennis at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., before transferring to Indiana State after his junior year.



#### Next Member Appreciation Event April 23

USTA Northern will play host to a FREE Member Appreciation event on April 23 as the Gopher men play Indiana at 12 Noon at Baseline Tennis Center. **The match will most likely be played outdoors so please dress accordingly.** FREE Cardio Tennis kicks off the day with two sessions indoors from 10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.-12 Noon. Food and prizes will be provided following Cardio Tennis. To RSVP, please contact [Sandy Smith](#) at (952) 358-3288 and let her know what Cardio Tennis session you will be attending and your NTRP level.

### Thank You USTA Northern Sponsors and Partners





### See Tennis Greats At Western & Southern Open

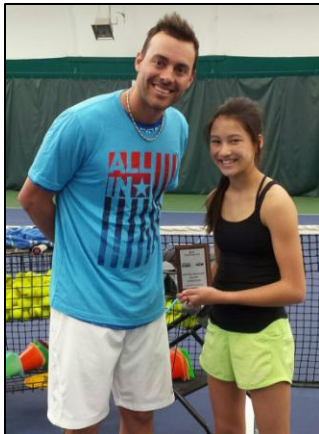
Join Cross Court Travel at the Western & Southern Open this summer. Box seats to this fantastic tournament and modern upscale accommodations in the heart of Cincinnati await! Two package options: Tennis Lovers Opening Rounds, 4 nights Saturday, Aug. 12-Wednesday, Aug. 16 OR Championship Weekend, Thursday, Aug. 17-Monday, Aug. 21. Book now for this small group travel experience!

Go to our website [www.crosscourtravel.com](http://www.crosscourtravel.com) for details or e-mail **Brenda** at [brenda@crosscourtravel.com](mailto:brenda@crosscourtravel.com).

## **Junior News**

### Top Juniors Participate In Team USA At Rochester Athletic Club

The Rochester Athletic Club played host to 25 of the Section's best junior players during USTA Northern's Team USA Camp in April. Led by USTA National Coach **Brian Wilson**, the camp themed "All-In," focused on movement, serve and return, the next shot, volley and transition and professionalism. There was also an information session for all parents and personal coaches of the athletes. Invited players included **Zoe Adkins** (Maple Grove, Minn.), **Christo Alex** (Arden Hills, Minn.), **Emmanuel Alex** (Arden Hills, Minn.), **Jack Allaben** (Mahtomedi, Minn.), **Julia Baber** (Rochester, Minn.), **Sujit Chepuri** (Minneapolis, Minn.), **Amanda Dia** (Blaine, Minn.), **Maxwell Exsted** (Savage, Minn.), **Matthew Fullerton** (Edina, Minn.), **Tygen Goldammer** (Rosemount, Minn.), **Allen Gong** (Eagan, Minn.), **Noah Hong** (Minneapolis, Minn.), **Annika Munson** (Stillwater, Minn.), **Nolan Ranger** (Edina, Minn.), **Nicole Ridenour** (Minneapolis, Minn.), **Sarah Shahbaz** (Ham Lake, Minn.), **Erik Smith** (Edina, Minn.), **Ingrid Smith** (Edina, Minn.), **Isabella Suk** (Minnetonka, Minn.), **Hank Trondson** (St. Paul, Minn.), **Kevin Turlington** (Rochester, Minn.), **Vunnisa Vu** (Maplewood, Minn.), **Emmeline Wang** (Hamel, Minn.), **Sydney Wolpert** (Hopkins, Minn.) and **Karin Young** (Apple Valley, Minn.). Coaches included **Matt Boughton** (Eau Claire, Wis.), **Scott Boyer** (Rochester, Minn.), **Jaime Gaard Chapman** (Hopkins, Minn.), **Craig Gordon** (Farmington, Minn.), **Ben Maes** (Rochester, Minn.), **Jon Pickett** (Eau Claire, Wis.), **Steve Tacl** (Rochester, Minn.) and **Mark Vellek** (Sioux Falls, S.D.).



### Isabella Suk Receives Professionalism Award

Congratulations to **Isabella Suk** (Minnetonka, Minn.) who received the Professionalism Award from **Brian Wilson** (left) at the Team USA camp.

### Karin Young Invited To Team USA National Camp

Congratulations to **Karin Young** (Apple Valley, Minn.) as she has been invited to the Team USA National Camp May 12-14 at the USTA National Campus in Orlando, Fla.

### Team Northern Headed To USTA National Campus April 26-30

Seventeen members of Team Northern are heading to the new USTA National Campus for a team training trip April 26-30 in Orlando, Fla.

### Junior Summer Endorsement Lists

Congratulations to all of the junior players who will represent USTA Northern on various Zonal, Intersectional and National Teams this summer, as well as those who qualified for individual summer national tournaments. For the list of Boys 12s and 14s, [click here](#). For Boys and Girls 16s and 18s, [click here](#).

### Early Development Camp Selections & Dates

Congratulations to the following players who were selected to participate in the USTA Northern Early Development Camps.

**Winston Arvidson** (Chanhassen, Minn.); **Tej Bhagra** (Rochester, Minn.); **Noah Carpenter** (Plymouth, Minn.), **Jacob Colton** (St. Paul, Minn.), **Raya Dittfurth** (St. Michael, Minn.), **Gabe Dozois** (Rochester, Minn.), **Tarun Gopalakrishnan** (Plymouth, Minn.), **Leyton Griffith** (Minneapolis, Minn.), **Clark Haglin** (Fort Ripley, Minn.), **Zoya Hasan** (Edina, Minn.), **Will Heidtke** (Eagan, Minn.), **Alisa Ivanov** (Maple Grove, Minn.), **Bergen Jacob** (Rochester, Minn.), **Wellstone Jones** (Bloomington, Minn.), **Caleb Kennel** (Rochester, Minn.), **Aoife Loftus** (Rochester, Minn.), **Claire Loftus** (Rochester, Minn.), **Thomas Loucks** (Edina, Minn.), **Molly Miller** (Bloomington, Minn.), **Kaleb Ngwendson** (Apple Valley, Minn.), **Anthony Perrill** (Wayzata, Minn.), **Simar Puri** (Edina, Minn.), **Rishi Ranjith** (Plymouth, Minn.), **Jacob Salisbury** (Plymouth, Minn.), **Drew Seehusen** (St. Louis Park, Minn.), **Isabella Starkman Senn** (White Beak Lake, Minn.), **August Stroh** (Minnetonka, Minn.), **Conor Sweeney** (Minneapolis, Minn.), **Soren Swenson** (North Oaks, Minn.), **Ethan Turunen** (Maple Grove, Minn.), **Sravika Vadrevu** (Eden Prairie, Minn.), **Nana Vang** (Bloomington, Minn.), **Spencer Wang** (Hamel, Minn.), **Noah Wisniewski** (Rochester, Minn.), **Alexander Young** (Apple Valley, Minn.) and **Drew Lindstrom** (Rosemount, Minn.).

The first camp was April 8 at Life Time Fitness – Lakeville. The coaches included **Craig Gordon** (Lead Faculty Coach), **Izabella Edin**, **Julie Bowles**, **Viet Pham**, **Clay Sollenberger**, **Justin Jennings**, **Ben Maes**, **Sabine Tetzloff**, **Jenna Kuhlman**, **Andres Osorio** and **Adrian Rodriguez-Sandoval**. Future Camps in 2017 include Sioux Falls (May 6, October 14), Rochester (May 13, September 9) and Lakeville (October 7).

### **Learn More About New Team Tennis Offerings**

It's New, It's Different, It's For Everyone! In addition to traditional Junior Team Tennis, USTA Northern is offering a new, different and fun team tennis offering in 2017 called World Team Tennis. All you need are 2 courts, 2 girls, 2 boys and 90 minutes for this fast-paced format played at any level. There are no individual match requirements, organizers do not have to use TennisLink, and best of all - IT IS EASY & INEXPENSIVE TO ADMINISTER. Also...No USTA Membership is required. To learn more, contact [Brandon Jackson](#) at (952) 358-3291.

### **Registration Open for Twin Cities Spring Girls Team Tennis**

Registration is now open for the Twin Cities Spring Girls Team Tennis League at InnerCity Tennis. Dates of play are April 23, April 30 and May 7. Cost is \$30 a player and participants will be placed on a team or can request to play with other friends registered. Divisions are based on Junior NTRP Ratings. Register [HERE](#) by April 19, 2017. For more information, contact [Brandon Jackson](#) at (952) 358-3291.

### **Stars & Trophies 10U Youth Progression For Kids Ages 7-10**

USTA Northern is mandating a new system of play for kids ages 7-10 years called the Stars & Trophies 10U Pathway. Designed to help players develop their fundamentals and get the most out of tennis, the Stars & Trophies 10U Pathway rewards kids for competing and inspires them to play more often. The mission is to clear each level by collecting a combination of 20 virtual participation stars and/or trophies. Players are able to collect stars and trophies through Play Days, Stars & Trophies 10U Orange and Green Ball Tournaments and 10U Junior/World Team Tennis. To learn more about the Stars & Trophies 10U Pathway, to register for your FREE Player account and to see how your child can earn stars and trophies, [click here](#). For a schedule of events around the Section, [click here](#). Questions? Contact [Tricia Moorhead](#) or [Pat Colbert](#).

## **Adult News**

### **Summer League Registration Open In Twin Cities**

Registration is going on now for summer USTA Leagues in the Twin Cities. For more information, [click here](#) or contact [Kelley Okerman](#). Looking for a team or more players for your existing team? Use our [Matchline](#) service.

### **Providers ... Make \$200 By Starting New 2.5 League Teams**

Tennis providers ... help us get new players into the game and hooked on the sport of a lifetime! USTA Northern is offering a \$200 incentive to any tennis professional who forms a women's 2.5 USTA League team for the summer season. Questions? Contact [Kelley Okerman](#) at 952-358-3287.

### **Tennis On Campus Nationals April 13-15 At USTA National Campus**

Good luck to the **University of Minnesota** and **North Dakota State University** as they will represent USTA Northern at the Tennis on Campus National Championships April 13-15 at the new USTA National Campus in Orlando, Fla. Minnesota, who earned finalists honors in 2015, is in the same pool as Texas (Austin), South Carolina and UC-Santa Barbara, while NDSU is paired against Arizona, Georgia and Maryland. Follow all the action at [www.tennisoncampus.com](http://www.tennisoncampus.com).

## **Community Tennis News**

### **USTA Northern Hosting Facility Directors Forum April 20 In Bloomington, Minn.**

USTA Northern is playing host to a Facility Directors Forum April 20 from 8:00-9:30 a.m. at Mugshots Coffee Company (10518 France Ave. S.) in Bloomington, Minn. The forum is FREE and open to all who would like to attend. For more information, contact [Christine Nickels](#).

### **National 10U Workshop At Rochester Athletic Club**

USTA National is coming to the Rochester Athletic Club for a FREE 10U "Train The Trainer" Workshop May 12 from 10 am.-2 p.m. Earn USPTA/PTR Continuing Education credits and get FREE lunch. To register, [click here](#).

### **Red, Orange, Green Coach Training June 10**

Join us for a Red, Orange, Green Coach training for summer tennis coaches June 10 at the Edina Community Center in Edina, Minn., from 9 a.m.–12 Noon. Cost is \$15 per coach. To register, [click here](#). For more information contact [Mya Smith-Dennis](#) at (952) 358-3289.

### **Nominate Deserving Individuals For Volunteer Week**

USTA Northern is celebrating National Volunteer Week, April 23–29, and we would love to recognize a tennis volunteer(s) in your community! Please complete this short [nomination form](#) by April 17.



### **March Community Tennis and 2017 Adopt-A-Court Grants Awarded**

Congratulations to the following communities who received March Community Tennis Grants and 2017 Adopt-A-Court Grants.

#### **Community Tennis Grants**

- \$800 to **Cook County Tennis Association** (Grand Marais, Minn.) to support a pilot POP Tennis program in the schools and for the public.
- \$1,970 to **Owatonna Tennis Association** (Owatonna, Minn.) to support new adult beginner and intermediate group lessons.

#### **Adopt-A-Court Grants**

- \$2,425 to support the resurfacing of four tennis courts in **Mission Township, Minn.**
- \$4,000 to support the renovation of three tennis courts in a 15-court complex at **Kutzky Park in Rochester, Minn.**
- \$4,190 to support the resurfacing of eight tennis courts at **Le Sueur-Henderson High School in Le Sueur, Minn.**
- \$10,000 to support the reconstruction of four tennis courts at **Engelstad Park in Thief River Falls, Minn.**
- \$10,000 to support the reconstruction of two tennis courts and the construction of two new tennis courts at **Miller Park in Willmar, Minn.**



#### **Over 30 Athletes and Luke Jensen Participate In Jensen-Schmidt Tennis**

Over 30 athletes, many volunteers and former French Open Doubles Champion **Luke Jensen** participated in the Jensen-Schmidt Tennis Academy's Down Syndrome Clinic April 8-9 at Life Time Fitness – Fridley.

#### **Help Raise \$\$\$ For Serving Up Love By Running Twin Cities Marathon Events**

USTA Northern still has openings for runners to participate on its Serving Up Love running team at the Twin Cities 5K, 10K and Marathon in October. Those interested in running the 10-mile event can also join the team, but must gain entry through the public lottery in July as our spots are full. For more information, please contact [Sandy Smith](mailto:Sandy.Smith@ustanorthern.org) at (952) 358-3288. We would also like to thank all of those committed to running for the team already including: **Marathoners: Steve Brum, Amy Lamparske** (Excelsior, Minn.), **Christine Nickels** (St. Louis Park, Minn.), **Vanessa Sexton** (Lakeville, Minn.), **Tom Nickels** (St. Louis Park, Minn.), **Jenny**

**Arnfelt** (Minnetonka, Minn.), **Kari Seurer, Jenny Gaard** (Minnetonka, Minn.); **10 Mile: Kara Kreutzer** (Lakeville, Minn.), **Lisa Proepper** (Apple Valley, Minn.), **Becky Cantellano** (St. Paul, Minn.), **Dave Brenner, Christine Horton** (Prior Lake, Minn.), **Lisa Edison-Smith, Penny Andrist, Kelley Nelson** (St. Paul, Minn.), **Jenny Paxton, Jennifer Swenson** (North Oaks, Minn.), **Michael Russell, Sunny Klein, Joseph Sommers; 10K: Sarah Cornelius** (Golden Valley, Minn.) and **Alex Scheglowski** (Lakeville, Minn.).

#### **Schedule Your Rally The Family Event For May or June**

USTA Northern is encouraging all organizations and providers to host a FREE Rally The Family Event for your community in May or June. This initiative focuses on introducing tennis to all ages and ability levels using modified equipment in a family setting. There are marketing grants available for those providers running an event for the first time. You can also complete a [donation request form](#) if you are in need of a visiting pro, prizes, etc. Please let the Section office know your date so we can add it to our master list of events that will be promoted throughout the spring, by contacting [Lisa Mushett](mailto:Lisa.Mushett@ustanorthern.org) at (952) 358-3282.

#### **Scheduled Events**

May 10 Valley City, N.D., Valley City Rec Center, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

#### **Org Member Discount T-Shirt Program Back**

Org Members ... the popular Discount T-shirt Program is back in 2017. T-shirts are only \$6. Orders must be completed during the following ordering windows:

- April 14-24, 2017 (ship date May 8)
- May 26-June 5, 2017 (ship date June 19)
- June 16-26, 2017 (ship date July 10)

To order online, [click here](#). For more information, please contact [Sandy Smith](mailto:Sandy.Smith@ustanorthern.org) at (952) 358-3288.



#### **Next Community Tennis Grant Deadline May 1**

The next deadline for Community Tennis Grants is May 1. For more information, [click here](#) or contact [Christine Nickels](mailto:Christine.Nickels@ustanorthern.org) at (952) 358-3290.

#### **High School Tennis Facility Grants Available**

High School Tennis Facility Grants are available to help with basic facility needs (scorecards, nets, brooms, roll-drills, etc.). Deadline to apply is May 1. [Click here](#) for the application.

### **Do You Have High School Players In Need Of Tennis Equipment?**

If you have players who do not have the financial resources to purchase tennis equipment, USTA Northern may be able to help. Please communicate their needs by completing this [short form](#).

### **Tennis Equipment Grants Up To \$300 Available**

Replenish your tennis equipment with a buy one, get one free matching equipment grant (up to \$300). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Need Prize Packs or Marketing Grants For FREE Community Events?**

Prize pack coupons or \$100 marketing grants are available to communities hosting free community tennis events, such as a Rally the Family or Tennis Block Party events, in the months of May and June. Request support by [clicking here](#).

### **USTA Northern Still Taking Donations For Play It Forward Campaign**

With the upcoming high school tennis season, many teams are still looking for new or gently-used tennis equipment. Please bring any donations to the USTA Northern office at 1001 W 98<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 101, Bloomington or contact [Sandy Smith](#). If you know of a high school team in need, please complete the following [request form](#).

### **Set Up A Tennis Trainings Today**

USTA Northern offers many low-cost tennis training opportunities for teachers, coaches, parents and others interested in growing the game. For more information about bringing a training to your school or community, [click here](#) or contact [Mya Smith-Dennis](#) at (952) 358-3289.



### **Donate Today To The Urban Youth Tennis & Education Campaign And Have Your Donation Matched**

USTA Northern and Youthprise have joined forces to support tennis and education programs targeting underserved youth in the Twin Cities through the Urban Youth Tennis & Education Campaign. This initiative directly supports the collaborative efforts of local partners (InnerCity Tennis, Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center and St. Paul Urban Tennis) that bring tennis to underserved youth and use the sport as a channel for emotional, physical and academic development. Youthprise has pledged to match all donations, up to \$125,000!

Contributions collected since the start of the campaign are making an impact this school year by funding a series of free indoor tennis nights, a Level 8 tournament series, shared bus transportation to tennis and leadership

programs and a new pathway manager position.

[Click here and donate today](#). Or you can send a check, payable to Youthprise, and note in the memo line: Urban Youth Tennis & Education Fund to Youthprise, 615 First Avenue NE, Suite 125, Minneapolis, MN 55413.

### **Org Referral Program Back; Receive \$5 For Each New Member You Recruit**

Want to grow the game of tennis and be rewarded? USTA Northern is offering a Member Referral Program to our Organizational Members. For every new adult or junior USTA member you recruit, USTA Northern will reward you \$5. [Click here for a bulk membership form](#).

### **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.

### **New FREE USTA Marketing Resources Site**

The USTA has introduced a new Marketing Resources site that is much more robust and easier to use. The site has two areas – Learn and Promote. Through the Learn area of the site, many video and workbook resources are available on a variety of topics including Rules and Regulations, Sales, Tips/Videos/Drills, USTA Program How-To and more. The Promote side offers FREE marketing tools such as posters, flyers, press releases and more. To take advantage of the site, visit [www.usta.com/marketingresources](http://www.usta.com/marketingresources).

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

### **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

**Text Message:** [Click here](#) to opt-in and receive text messages and emails.

### **FREE USTA Membership For Kids 10 and Under For 2017**

The USTA is offering a free 1-year membership to all first-time members who are 10 and under between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017. To register your child, please visit [www.usta.com/membership](http://www.usta.com/membership) and enter source code **FYF17CNS** 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](mailto:mushett@northern.usta.com) or at (952) 358-3282.