

Executive Director Makes Annual Two Week Trip Around USTA Northern

For the third consecutive year, USTA Northern Executive Director **Mike Goldammer**, his wife, **Tiffany**, and children **Caden** (2) and **Tygen** (1) spent their summer vacation getting to know the members of the Section. The 17-day trip started with the family piling into an RV on June 27, heading Southwest to Winona, Minn., for a meeting with **Janet Horsch** and concluding on July 14 in Hutchinson, Minn.

Stops in between included many places the Goldammers had not visited the two previous trips in hopes of learning what people were doing to grow tennis in the smaller communities. The RV made frequent stops in Minnesota including Bemidji, Crookston, Detroit Lakes, Hutchinson, Mission Township, Owatonna, St. Cloud, St. James, Sleepy Eye and Thief River Falls. There were also visits to South Dakota communities such as Brandon, Mitchell, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Spearfish and Sturgis, while North Dakota tennis hotbeds including Bismarck, Dickinson, Fargo, Minot and Williston were also on the map. All told – the Goldammers visited a whopping 23 communities in 17 days!

After concentrating on the tennis clubs and larger, more established tennis communities the first two years, he decided on hitting the grassroots level more in 2006. He visited many Community Tennis Associations and locally-run programs along the way, keeping in mind the goals he established before taking off on his journey including:

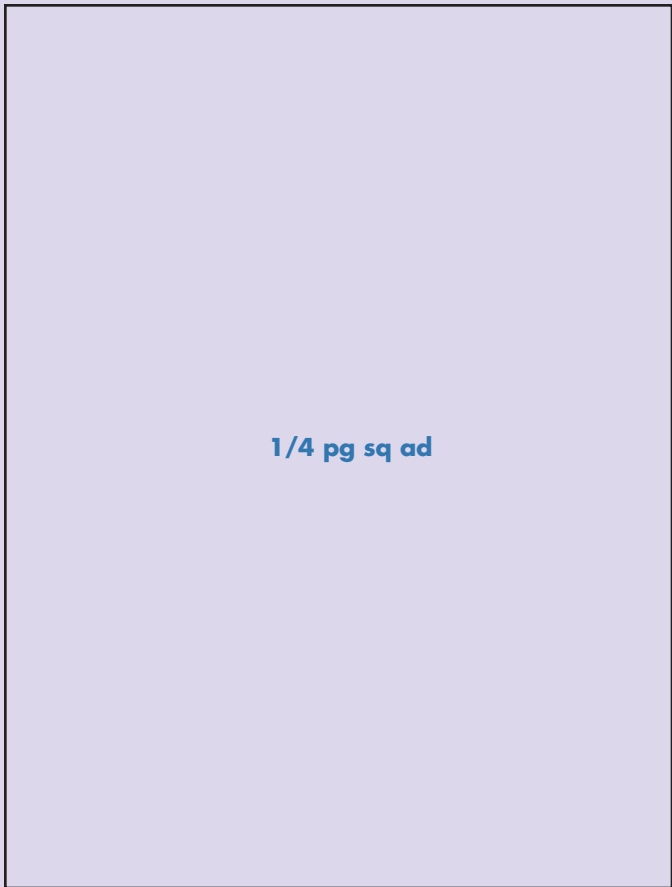
1. Further enhancing and developing existing partnerships and relationships with current customers and members
2. Developing partnerships and relationships with new contacts
3. Being available to the community and/or program in answering questions, listening to concerns and updating them on what is happening in the USTA
4. Being able to observe programs around USTA Northern and see what is happening in “real time”
5. Letting each of our members know that USTA Northern is committed to servicing and supporting their needs and helping them grow the game of tennis in their areas

After all of his visits, Goldammer was encouraged by what was happening and saw that tennis is indeed growing in the Section. He found in almost all of the communities, numbers were higher than the previous year and record participation was the norm rather than the exception. He also saw that there was not just one way to grow, teach, market, promote or learn tennis. Each community had its own way of doing things, but in the end, the results were similar – more tennis players.

“I came away from these meetings so inspired,” he said. “Community tennis leaders are doing so much in bringing tennis to the masses. Many of the people I met with are “volunteers,” working so hard for little-to-no money in return. They are doing it for the love of the sport.”

Goldammer also realized that there are still many challenges that face these communities, including the lack of indoor tennis courts in the outstate area.

“Without indoor facilities, tennis will continue to be just a recreational sport played 2-5 months out of the year,” Goldammer said. “Just imagine what could happen if these already motivated and tennis-enriched communities offered programming all-year round?”



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The Goldammers made their yearly trip around the section. From left to right Mike, Caden, Tiffany and Tygen.



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It's Your Game:

Regional Community Tennis
Workshop November 3-5 At Fort
Snelling Tennis and Learning Center

It is time for the players and coaches to take back their game as the USTA Northern Community

Tennis Council will play host to the Ninth Annual Regional Community Development Tennis Workshop on November 3-5, 2006, at the Fort Snelling Tennis and Learning Center in St. Paul, Minn.

The workshop reaches out to CTA members, park and recreation employees, community education staffs, teaching pros, facility personnel and any other tennis movers and shakers who want to learn more about the game of tennis. On-court and off-court sessions are available to all attendees, including USTA Northern staff, Board of Directors and many council members.

For the second consecutive year, USTA National is providing support for this regional event with the intention of drawing attendees from the Intermountain, Midwest and Missouri Valley sections.

The theme for this year's event – It's Your Game - mirrors the new USTA national marketing campaign. The keynote speaker for the workshop is **Kathy Francis**, Managing Director of Marketing and Development for USTA. The pre-workshop activities begin on Friday, Nov. 3, with a Community Tennis Rally followed by a Tennis Organizer Workshop. Also on Friday, **Bill Mountford**, Director of Tennis at the USTA National Tennis Center, will lead a Recreation Coaches Workshop.

Saturday and Sunday workshop sessions will focus on topics useful to all in attendance. Several learning tracks are offered to assist attendees in choosing the sessions most beneficial to them.

Also included in the weekend activities will be the USTA Northern's Annual Meeting during lunch on Saturday, introduction of new USTA Northern board members for 2007-08 and the Sectional Awards Banquet on Saturday night.

In addition to great information and the networking opportunities available, attendees also receive a gift, workshop manual, opportunities for tennis play, meals, snacks and new friendships.


For more information or to register, please contact **Nancy Lundberg** at (952) 358-3286 or at lundberg@northern.usta.com. 

Tennis Triangle

The Metro Tennis Alliance introduced the Tennis Triangle to the Twin Cities area in the 1960's encouraging competitive tennis in either a ladder or round-robin system with published match assignments.

Today, through the Tennis Triangle, the Metro Tennis Alliance is introducing a system which any club or organization can implement at any time, will not interfere with any other scheduled activity, allows players to join when they want and play as often as they like. It also provides quick placement with other players of similar ability, encourages play by eliminating restrictive and cumbersome rules and allows for potential playoffs within or between clubs and organizations.

The Tennis Triangle provides all scheduling of matches, reporting of scores and instantaneous repositioning of players, along with the general management of the club or organizational activities through a website set up and linked by the Metro Tennis Alliance.

For more information, please visit www.TennisTriangle.com or contact **Phil Walter** at the Metro Tennis Alliance either by e-mail at MetroTennis@mm.com or by calling him at (952) 933-2585. 

IT'S YOUR GAME™



Margot Willett

Named Executive Director of Fort Snelling Tennis and Learning Center



Margot Willett, Marc Stingley, Lisa Stingley, Linda Langeness, Judy Long

The Fort Snelling Tennis and Learning Center in St. Paul, Minn., named **Margot Willett** the new Executive Director of the facility beginning June 1. She replaces **Dan Shannon**, who moved to Montana in order to pursue other opportunities.

Shannon continues to be involved with Fort Snelling, serving as the President of the Board of Directors.

The Fort Snelling Tennis and Learning Center and the Wells Education Center programs are the vision of the late **Fred Wells**, who realized the tremendous character and fitness-building aspects of tennis as a life-long sport. The Fort Snelling Tennis and Learning Center operates as a public tennis facility with seven state-of-the-art tennis courts, an exercise room, a computer lab and over 4,000 square feet of classroom space for use by the public and the educational outreach programs of the Wells Education Center.

Willett was hired in November 2003 as Director of Education and Development of the Wells Education Center - the youth development component of the Tennis and Learning Center that provides tennis, education, nutrition and life skills opportunities for kids, primarily from low-income backgrounds. She holds her doctorate in education and brings many years of experience in the nonprofit and education arena.

"Margot has been the primary reason for the success of our youth programs," Shannon said. "She's assembled an exceptional group of staff and volunteers that do great

things with our kids. It's a natural progression for her to lead the organization going forward."

The roles of current employees **Lisa Stingley** and **Marc Stingley** are also expanding as Lisa is now the Tennis Center Director and Marc is the Director of Tennis Programming. In her new position, Lisa oversees all aspects of tennis center operations including court reservations, special events and club management. Marc is managing the fee- and scholarship-based multicultural youth tennis programs, adult lessons and USTA Leagues.

In addition, **Judy Long** is still the Lead Teacher of the Wells Education Center, providing program and curriculum development, overseeing volunteers and keeping kids motivated and inspired on a day-to-day basis. **Linda Langeness**, who was Fred Wells' Executive Assistant for over 30 years, is the Business Manager for the Tennis and Learning Center.

"We've been very lucky to have these outstanding people as part of our organization," continued Shannon. "I have a great deal of confidence in them. They are going to give our customers great service and create a warm and empowering atmosphere for the kids who come to our facility. I know Fred would be pleased with this direction and the people continuing his legacy"

For more information on the Fort Snelling Tennis and Learning Center and the Fred Wells Education Center, please visit www.tennisandlearning.org.



Life Time Fitness Operating Former Northwest Athletic Clubs In Twin Cities

Life Time Fitness announced on July 26 that it will operate eight former Northwest Athletic Club health and fitness facilities located in the Twin Cities including 98th Street, Arena, Burnsville, Crosstown, Moore Lake, Oakdale, St. Louis Park and Flagship, while two other clubs - Normandale and Hiway 100 - closed the first week of August.

"These lease agreements allow us to bring several additional Life Time Fitness centers to the Twin Cities community, along with expanded and improved product and service offerings to our members," said **Mike Gerend**, chief operating officer of Life Time Fitness, Inc. "Moving forward, we intend to make rapid, significant enhancements, including facility upgrades and the implementation of programs, to match the look and feel and member experience attri-

butes that consumers have come to associate with the Life Time Fitness brand."

USTA Northern realizes this change in ownership will impact tennis in the Twin Cities area, although it is too early to tell in exactly what capacity.

"We look forward to working with Life Time Fitness in the future in continuing to grow the game of tennis in the Twin Cities area," **Mike Goldammer**, USTA Northern Executive Director, said. "We know there are many questions concerning what this transition means for USTA League Tennis and tennis in general in the Twin Cities. It is too early to know right now, but please be assured that USTA Northern is working closely with Life Time Fitness as they enter the tennis industry locally. We will keep you up-to-date on any new information as we receive it."

Three Members Of USTA Northern Enjoy First-Hand Look Of Wimbledon

USTA Northern was well-represented at the 2006 Wimbledon championships as **Eric Butorac** (Rochester, Minn.) played in the qualifying doubles draw, **Tim Kurtt** (St. Paul, Minn.) officiated the qualifying and junior boys events and former semifinalist **David Wheaton** (Tonka Bay, Minn.) earned finalist honors in the Gentleman's 35-and Over Doubles Draw.

SHORT BUT SWEET: BUTORAC PLAYS HIS FIRST WIMBLEDON

Eric Butorac had been working hard hoping to make a change in his upcoming tennis schedule. The up-and-coming doubles specialist on the ATP Tour was in a race against time as he and partner **Chris Drake** were playing as many tournaments as they could around the world hoping to accumulate enough points to receive an invitation into the Wimbledon qualifying doubles draw. Finally, in Bogotá, Columbia, their mission was accomplished as Butorac and Drake won a challenger event in February giving them enough points to book their tickets to Wimbledon.

After playing a tournament in Switzerland, Butorac and Drake arrived only two days prior to the start of the qualifying tournament, but were ready to play when that special moment arrived.

"It was a great opportunity," Butorac said. "Chris and I had worked so hard the previous six months to get our ranking high enough to qualify. It had been a goal our whole life, especially the last six months, to make it there. It was pretty cool to finally step out on the court."



The Butoracs enjoy Wimbledon (from left to right) Tim, Jan, Jeff and Eric.


Eric Butorac (serving) and Chris Drake warm-up before their first round match.



Unfortunately Butorac and Drake, who were seeded first in the qualifying draw, lost to **Frederic Niemeyer** of Canada and **Glenn Weiner** of the United States 2-6, 7-6 (6) and 6-3 in the first round and their Wimbledon dream was over in less than two hours. Making it even worse, the duo had a match point in the second set and could not convert. Adding insult to injury was the fact they were the fifth alternates for a Lucky Loser spot into the main draw. The top four made it.

"It was a let down losing so quickly," he said. "We wanted to go higher, but you win some matches like that and lose some too. Just to be playing at Wimbledon felt pretty good."

Although his stay in the actual tournament was shorter than he would have liked, Butorac enjoyed his time in London. He was joined there by his family, including his dad, **Tim**, who is the owner of the Rochester Tennis Center in Rochester, Minn., and spent almost two full weeks on the grounds. He was able to practice daily on the fresh cut grass and really take in what the tournament was all about.

"It was cool to have my dad there while I practiced next to the big names," Butorac said. "I had worked my whole life to get to Wimbledon and I finally made it. It was such a cool experience." 

Eric Butorac Plays Bryan Twins In ATP Doubles Final


Eric Butorac (Rochester, Minn.) and partner **Jamie Murray** of Great Britain lost to **Bob and Mike Bryan** in the doubles final of the Countrywide Classic in Los Angeles, Calif., in July. Butorac and Murray, playing together for the first time and both making their first-ever appearances in an ATP doubles final, fell 6-2, 6-4 to the number-one ranked doubles team in the world.

The Bryans, who picked up their 30th career doubles title, dominated the opening set as Butorac and Murray showed their nerves in losing the first set 6-2. In the second set, the duo got into a rhythm and had two break points and two other deciding points on the Bryans' serve in the no-ad format, but failed to convert. At 4-4, Butorac was broken and the Bryans went on to victory.

"These are great young players," Bob Bryan said after the match. "I was talking to Jamie and they didn't even think they would make it in the tournament, so to get to the finals is a great accomplishment for them."

It was an amazing week for the 2001 NCAA Division III doubles champion and Murray as they were the last team accepted into the main draw at the tournament. Butorac in fact had flown to Montreal for a Challenger tournament when he was called and told to turn around because they had indeed made it. He didn't even make it out of the airport before hopping a return flight to Los Angeles.

They opened the tournament by defeated second seeded **Travis Parrott** and **Jim Thomas** 6-2, 6-3. In the quarterfinals, the duo beat **Scoville Jenkins** and **Phillip Simmonds** 6-4, 7-5. The semifinals saw this upstart duo rally back from a first-set loss to **Jeff Coetzee** and **Dominik Hrbaty** and win in a thriller 4-6, 6-2 and 11-9 in the third-set tiebreaker.

"Everything kind of clicked for us during the week," Butorac, who was ranked 83rd in the world doubles rankings after the Los Angeles event, said. "It was fun to play the number-one team in the world. It was my first experience playing someone that good. We were nervous, but it also gave me the chance to see where I am and what I have to do to improve." 



Butorac (left) and partner Jamie Murray advanced to the finals of the ATP event in Los Angeles.

Just Soaking It All In

By *Tim Kurtt*

My London experience was amazing! The qualifying draws were held at Roehampton - home of the ITF (International Tennis Federation), the WTA (Women's Tennis Association), the LTA (Lawn Tennis Association) and the Davis Cup - with Wimbledon only a short distance away. Roehampton oozes with tennis traditional and history.




During qualies week, I worked with officials from all over the world, including eight of us from the United States. It's a different feeling, not only working in a foreign country, but to represent your country. It's a very humbling experience.

The grass courts are so quiet. The only sounds you hear are the players hitting the ball and officials calling the balls out. It is so tranquil. Just imagine a large area of flat grass with a grass running track, cricket pitch and tennis courts arranged in a line. The players are dressed in white, with dark green screens, balls kids in dark green and the umpires in dark blue. It is truly an amazing sight.

During the second week, I was a court supervisor and chair umpire for the Roehampton Junior Grass Court Championships. This is a lead up tournament to the Junior Wimbledon Championships. The tournament referee and the chief umpire were from London and there were nine court supervisors from eight different countries. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with such a diverse group.

The biggest surprise, and honor, was to be selected to chair the boys singles final. The match was a close three-set match, with the #1 junior player in the world winning. He went on to win the Boys Singles Championship at Wimbledon the next week.

I was also given a grounds pass to Wimbledon for the middle Saturday and enjoyed walking around the grounds and museum. I really didn't even watch tennis, it was more important to me to soak up everything that surrounded the event! 

David Wheaton Celebrates The 15th Anniversary Of His Biggest Win

Where does time go? It seems like only yesterday this upstart American in his spar-spangled headband surprised the world by advancing to the singles semifinals on the hallowed lawns of Wimbledon. In fact, July 4, 2006, marked the 15th anniversary of **David Wheaton's** life-changing victory over **Andre Agassi** at the All-England Lawn and Tennis Club.




A little older now, Wheaton played the Gentleman's 35-and-Over doubles draw this year with partner **T.J. Middleton** of Atlanta, losing a heartbreaker in the finals. The duo lost a grueling three-set match to **Todd Woodbridge** and **Mark Woodforde** of Australia 6-7 (5), 7-5 and 7-6 (4), earning finalist honors for the second consecutive year after winning the tournament in 2004.

Wheaton looked to be making more magic as the duo came into Sunday's final with a perfect 4-0 record. In the round-robin portion of the tournament, Middleton and Wheaton opened with a 7-6, 6-1 win over **Gary Wayne Donnelly** of the United States and **Slobodan Zivojinovic** of Yugoslavia. In their second match, the tandem defeated **Goran Ivanisevic** of Croatia and **Henri Leconte** of France 6-4, 6-4. They remained unbeaten with a 6-3, 6-2 win over **Neil Broad** and **Mark Petchey** of Great Britain, earning a trip to the semifinals. In that match, the Americans defeated Sweden's **Andres Jarryd** and France's **Cedric Pioline** 6-3, 7-6 (3) in gaining their third consecutive final.

"This year was an exciting year for T.J. and I," Wheaton said. "We had a Court One barn-burner-of-final against the Woodies (Woodbridge and Woodforde) and a Centre Court match against Ivanisevic and Leconte on July 4 - exactly 15 years to the day after my Centre Court quarterfinal victory over Agassi in '91. It was rewarding to play well after all the preparation. Plus, I held serve the entire tournament...which may have been a first for me!"

Even with the loss, Wimbledon remains a special place to Wheaton and his entire family.

"The All England Lawn Tennis Club just has a unique feel to it - the ambiance, the tradition, the grass...but even more, the memories of watching Wimbledon tennis as an aspiring young junior player. I appreciate it more now that I'm older and don't play full time on Tour." 

Spring State Tournament Reviews

MINNESOTA

Edina High School won its 22nd title with a 5-2 defeat of arch-rival Eden Prairie in the finals of the 2006 Minnesota Boys AA State Tournament, while Mounds Park Academy won its second consecutive Class A title with a 6-1 victory over Blake.



Sophomore Michael Sicora became the youngest Minnesota boys state champion since 1997.

After splitting the singles against Eden Prairie, doubles was the difference as Edina swept all three matches despite losing the first set in two of them. In the Class A finals, Mounds Park Academy won three of the first four matches in straight sets, but the doubles were all stretched to third sets when juniors Ben Yates and Brendan Byrne won 7-6, 1-6, 6-1, securing the victory.

Individually, Minneapolis' Nick Lebedoff of Blake became the first back-to-back winner of a Minnesota state singles title since 2001, defeating Max Busch of Duluth Marshall 6-4, 6-4 in the Class A bracket, while Buffalo's Michael Sicora pounded Derek Peterson of Apple Valley Eastview in the Class AA singles tournament 6-0, 6-1. Lebedoff finished with a perfect season and was the first player in either class to win consecutive titles since Edina's Justin Gaard did it in 2000-01. Sicora became the youngest boys singles champion since Blake ninth-grader Ross Greenstein won the A crown in 1997.

In the Class A doubles final Justin Peterson and Jean Francois David of St. Peter High School beat Dan Melum and Connor Brown of Mounds Park Academy 7-6 (5), 6-4. In the AA doubles championship, Rochester Mayo's Phillip Loprinzi and Cole Patterson beat Tyler Rice and David Torres of Mounds View 6-3, 6-3, winning the first boys tennis championship of any sort for the school since 1974.

NORTH DAKOTA

Grand Forks Red River won its fifth straight North Dakota Girls State Team title with a 3-2 win over Bismarck Century. Grand Forks won at first and third singles and first doubles as Liza Wischer, Callie Ronkowski and the team of Brynne Wischer and Amirah Ahmed won.

In the individual tournament, Liza Wischer won her fifth consecutive state singles title, cruising past Bismarck Century's Hallie Welk 6-0, 6-1. The one game Wischer lost to Welk was the only game she dropped in four tournament matches. The junior has a career record of 108-0 in high school competition.

Williston's Rachel Hennessy and Emily Sell fought off three match points bringing the West region its first girls state tennis title of any kind in four years after defeating Brynne Wischer and Ahmed 4-6, 7-6 and 7-5.

Brynne Wischer, who played in four state doubles championship matches, winning two of them, was named the North Dakota Senior Tennis Athlete of the Year.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Rapid City Stevens won the South Dakota Boys State Team title and also claimed seven individual state championships at the 2006 tournament. Stevens won the team title with 750 points, outdistancing second-place finisher Sioux Falls O'Gorman by 161 points.

In the individual finals, O'Gorman's Roman Dojcak won the Flight 1 championships with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Corey Paluch of Stevens. In South Dakota, six singles champions are crowned - one per flight and three doubles winners.

Stevens won four of the five remaining flights, as well as all three doubles draws. Billy Paluch won Flight 2 with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 win over Nolan Wiese of O'Gorman. In flight three, Gib Moyle of Stevens defeated O'Gorman's Jameson Goetz 7-5, 6-4. Eighth-grader Jack Hamburg of Stevens won flight four with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Cale Barber of Rapid City Central and teammate JJ Shultz won Flight 6 with 6-2, 6-2 win over second-seed Andrew Billion of O'Gorman. O'Gorman's Brad Entwistle broke the Stevens stranglehold with a 6-0, 7-5 victory against Cody Malik in the Flight 5 final.

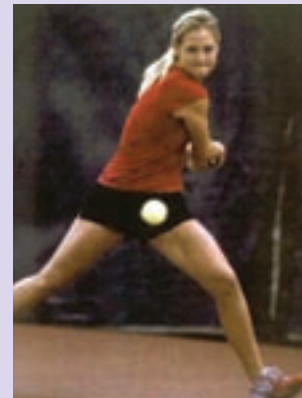
In doubles, Paluch and Paluch took Flight 1 with a 6-1, 6-4 defeat of O'Gorman's Dojcak and Wiese. In Flight 2, Hamburg and Malik won with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Evan Sims and Barber of Central and Moyle and Shultz won the flight 3 title with a 6-4, 6-3 defeat of Watertown's Donny Towle and Kyle Christianson.

The all-tournament team included Dojcak, Billy Paluch, Moyle, Hamburg, Corey Paluch, Malik, Wiese, BJ Flynn of Brookings; Shultz and Yanik Graf of St Thomas More. The Spirit of Max Award winner was Ryan Barber of RC Central.

WISCONSIN

Eau Claire Regis High School advanced to the semifinals of Wisconsin Division II State Boys Team Tournament before losing 4-3 to Madison Edgewood. Edgewood then lost to the University School in the finals 7-0.

Individually, USTA Northern did not have any individual winners. The doubles team of Alex Ebberts and Eric Wollum of Eau Claire Memorial did win two matches before falling in the quarterfinals of the Division I doubles tournament to Dave Goose and Tim Hoesly of Brookfield Central 6-3, 6-0.



Liza Wischer won her fifth consecutive North Dakota state singles title and is 108-0 in her career.

USTA Northern Junior News

MICHAEL SICORA AND WHITNEY TANEY WIN SINGLES AND DOUBLES AT JUNIOR SECTIONALS

Minnesota state high school champions **Michael Sicora** (Buffalo, Minn.) and **Whitney Taney** (Edina, Minn.) led the list of winners at the USTA Northern Junior Sectional Championships June 10-14 in the Twin Cities. Winners of each flight received automatic invitations to USTA National, Zonal, Intersectional and other national tournaments.

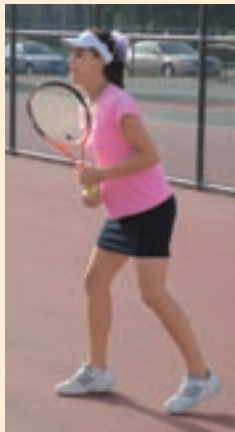
In the most anticipated match-up of the tournament, Sicora defeated top-seeded **Andrew Lee** (Eden Prairie, Minn.) in the Boys 18s final 7-6, 6-2, while Taney extended her unbeaten streak in USTA Northern to 174-0 since 2002 with a 6-2, 6-0 win over **Christina Keesey** (Northfield, Minn.) in the finals.

In girls 16s, top-seeded **Niltooli Wilkins** (Burnsville, Minn.) defeated **Alexa Palen** (Rochester, Minn.) 6-3, 6-3 in the finals. The boys 16s saw seventh grader **Wyatt McCoy** (Shoreview, Minn.) defeat South Dakota Flight 2 state champion **Billy Paluch** (Rapid City, S.D.) in the finals 6-0, 6-3.

Aria Lambert (Excelsior, Minn.) won the girls 14s with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over second seed **Makenna Borg** (Eden Prairie, Minn.). Top-seeded **Hamish Weerasinghe** (Edina, Minn.) defeated second seed **Jack Hamburg** (Rapid City, S.D.) 6-4, 6-4 in the boys 14s final.

In girls 12s, **Samantha Anderson** (Thompson, N.D.) beat **Meganna Vasireddy** (Golden Valley, Minn.) 4-6, 6-1 and 6-3 in the finals. **Thomas Nath** (Rochester, Minn.) won the Boys 12s with a 6-3, 6-1 win over unseeded **Christian Phelps** (Eau Claire, Wis.).

Doubles champions were also crowned as Sicora and **Bryan Kelly** (Arden Hills, Minn.) defeated Lee and **Harrison Whiteley** (Wayzata, Minn.) 9-8 in the boys 18s final.



Aria Lambert won both the girls 14s singles and doubles title at the Junior Section Championships.



Rochester's Amrik Donkena (left) and Scott Thomas (right) finished second in the 16s boys doubles, falling in a tiebreaker 9-8.

Justin Haag (Eden Prairie, Minn.) and **McCoy** won the boys 16s with a 9-8 win over **Amrik Donkena** (Rochester, Minn.) and **Scott Thomas** (Rochester, Minn.). **Mya Smith-Dennis** (Savage, Minn.) and **Weerasinghe** won the boys 14s with a 9-8 win over Hamburg and **Ben Kopecky** (Rochester, Minn.). **Joey Anderson** (Thompson, N.D.) and Nath claimed the

boys 12s crown with an 8-2 win over **Maxwell Olson** (Edina, Minn.) and **Matthew Schull** (Eagan, Minn.).

In girls 18s, Taney and **Liza Wischer** (Grand Forks, N.D.) took home the title with an 8-2 win over **Abby Buxton** (Eden Prairie, Minn.) and **Dana Van Bruggen** (Buffalo, Minn.). Second seeded **Hannah Dake** (Excelsior, Minn.) and **Kathryn Schmidt** (Minnetonka, Minn.) beat top-seed **Michelle Weerasinghe** (Edina, Minn.) and Wilkins 9-8 in girls 16s. **Borg** and **Lambert** won the girls 14s with an 8-5 win over **Katie Jespersen** (Elk River, Minn.) and **Taylor Washington** (St. Paul). In girls 12s, **Vasireddy** and **Melanie Yates** (New Brighton, Minn.) beat Anderson and **Lalanqi Marasinghe** (Grand Forks, N.D.) 9-8. 🔄

Ryan Hoverson (Grand Forks, N.D.) and **Meganna Vasireddy** (Golden Valley, Minn.) were the USTA Northern Sportsmanship winners



Meganna Vasireddy (middle)

Ryan Hoverson

at 12 Zonals in Omaha, Neb. Vasireddy also won the overall tournament Sportsmanship Award voted on by other players and coaches.

Whitney Taney and Michael Sicora Place Second At National Open

Whitney Taney (Edina, Minn.) placed second in the singles draw at the 2006 USTA National Summer Girls 18s Open in El Paso, Texas, while **Michael Sicora** (Buffalo, Minn.) was second at the 2006 USTA National Summer Boys 16s Open in Lexington, Ky.

Taney won five matches at the El Paso Youth Center before falling to **Lauren Megale** of Boise, Idaho, 6-2, 6-2 in the finals. Taney opened the tournament with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over **Kristin Gray** (Tulsa, Okla.). She followed that with a 6-4, 6-3 win over **Amy Zhang** (Plano, Texas) in the round of 32. In the round of 16, Taney beat **Caroline Davis** (Bronxville, N.Y.) 7-5, 6-2 and then rolled over **Carolyn Simmons** (Houston, Texas) 6-1, 6-1 in the quarterfinals. In the semifinals, she beat **Alexandra Lehman** (St. Louis, Mo.) 6-4, 6-0 before losing to Megale in the finals.

Sicora won five matches before losing to sixth-seeded **Harry Fowler** of Houston 6-4, 6-4 in the finals at the Boone Tennis Center. He beat **Brian Alden** (Barrington, Ill.) 6-2, 6-1 in the first round, followed by a 6-2, 6-3 win over **Henry Levin** (Dallas) in the second round. He then defeated **Zachary Rigsby** (Simpsonville, S.C.) 6-3, 6-4 in the round of 16, before besting **David Holiner** (Dallas) 6-2, 6-3. In the semifinals, Sicora defeated **Robert Hall** (Bowling Green, Ky.) 6-3, 6-1 before losing to Fowler. 🔄

Getting to Know

USTA Northern Junior
Whitney Taney



Whitney Taney beat two world-ranked players when she participated in the USTA Northern Women's Professional Tournament.

Whitney Taney of Edina, Minn., currently boasts a 317-0 combined record in USTA Northern tournaments and Edina High School matches. As of August '06, Taney has not lost a USTA Northern or high school match since 2002, compiling a 174-0 record in the Section and a 143-0 mark through her junior season at Edina. Taney won the Minnesota State High School doubles title as both an eighth and ninth grader and the Minnesota State AA singles championship in 2004 and 2005. She has also won 54 consecutive USTA Northern tournaments.

Taney, who finished 2005 ranked ninth in the nation in Girls 16s singles and fifth in Girls 16s doubles, is currently ranked 16th nationally in Girls 18s singles. She received a wild card into the qualifying singles and doubles draw of the USTA Northern \$50,000 Women's Professional Tournament at the Fort Snelling Tennis and Learning Center in St. Paul, Minn., last February, where she won two matches against world-ranked opponents.

Graduating in May of 2007, Taney is planning on playing college tennis, although she is undecided where she will enroll at this time. She currently has a 3.8 overall grade-point average and has been a member of the High Honor Roll each year since 2001. She is the youngest of three girls for **Ted** and **Jane Taney**.

Q. How old were you when you started playing tennis?

A. I started playing tennis when I was about 7 years old. I started competing in USTA Northern tournaments when I was about 10 years old.

Q. How did you get involved in playing tennis?

A. My father, who played tennis for the University of Minnesota, introduced me to tennis. It worked out great with his knowledge of the game because it helped me learn the game much faster, and in turn, made it more fun to play.

Q. What is your earliest tennis memory?

A. One of my earliest tennis memories was playing for the Edina tennis team as a seventh grader. What made it so special was how nice the girls on the team treated me. Being a seventh grader I didn't know what to expect, but they made it very comfortable for me.

Q. What is your greatest tennis accomplishment?

A. To finish 2005 with a ranking of #9 in the country in singles and #5 in doubles in USTA Girls 16s. Another great accomplishment was winning my fourth straight individual high school state championship in 2005 and being named a 2006 High School All-American. Also, Edina winning its ninth straight team state championship.

Q. What is the best part of your game?

A. The best part of my game is trying to stay focused and mentally tough. Also, being able to set up the point while still staying consistent because you can never win the point if you can't keep the ball in the court.

Q. What is your favorite part about playing tennis?

A. Competing - It's fun to compete against all different players locally and nationally. It's also fun to work on things on the practice court, and then see the results during the match.

Q. What are your tennis aspirations?

A. I want finish up my senior year and help my teammates win a 10th consecutive team championship. After high school, I want to go to college and play Division I tennis, and most importantly, get a good education. I also think it would be fun to play on the Women's Circuit for a year or two. I love tennis and I can hardly wait to compete at the next level.


Q. Who is your favorite tennis player and why?

A. Roger Federer. I love watching him play because he looks so confident and relaxed. Secondly, his game has so much variety to it. It's amazing how much he can do with the tennis ball.

Q. What do you like to do when you are not playing tennis?

A. I love playing tennis, but when I am not playing I enjoy going to all different type sporting events, going to movies, concerts, spending time with my family and hanging out with my friends. I think it is important to have a balance in life.

Q. Any tennis superstitions you might have?

A. When I finish practicing; I have to make sure I finish with a good shot. That way I leave the court with a positive feeling. 

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Record Number Participate

In Jr. Team Tennis Section Tournament

Are You In? It looks like more and more juniors are as 2006 was another record-setting year for Jr. Team Tennis in USTA Northern. Almost 1,500 kids participated in program this year which promotes fun, fitness and friends in a team environment for juniors of all ages and skill levels, up from 1,300 in 2005. An all-time high of 79 teams and over 725 kids participated in the 2006 Jr. Team Tennis Section Championships July 24-27 at three sites in the Twin Cities. Last year, 70 teams played in the Section tournament, up from 53 in 2004.

"Jr. Team Tennis in USTA Northern continues to pick up speed," **Christine Buysse**, Community Tennis Assistant and Jr. Team Tennis Coordinator, said. "The most rewarding aspect is seeing the success communities are experiencing with this program locally. About 1,500 juniors were able to gain valuable match-play experience while enjoying the fun of being part of a team."

At the Section tournament, **Hibbing** (Minnesota) won the Advanced bracket and **Sioux Falls** (South Dakota) claimed the Intermediate title at the 18-and-Under event, while **Moore Lake A** (Fridley, Minn.) was the Advanced bracket winner and **Virginia** (Minnesota) the Intermediate victor at the 14-and-Under competition. Hibbing and Moore Lake A qualify for the Jr. Team Tennis Advanced National Championships October 27-30 in San Diego, Calif., while Sioux Falls and Virginia plays in the Intermediate National Championships October 20-22 in Tucson, Ariz.

Hibbing defeated Sioux Falls 20-19 in the title match in the total-games-won format. Hibbing jumped out to an early lead with a 6-0 win by **Max Busch** over **Michael Hanna**. Sioux Falls' **Brittany Gaster** rallied her team back within one with a 6-1 victory over **Paige Patchin**. Sioux Falls then took an 18-14 lead heading into the mixed doubles as **Brad Entwistle** and **Kevin Rance** won their match 6-3 and **Danielle Gilbert** and **Theresa Petrasko** won their contest 6-4. Hibbing made its winning comeback when Patchin and Busch defeated **Jameson Goetz** and **Emily Gaster** 6-1 in the final match, giving Hibbing a 20-19 victory. Moore Lake won three sets compared to two for Fort Snelling.

The Sioux Falls 18-and-Under Intermediate team had a much easier time in the finals as they defeated Hutchinson 28-16. Sioux Falls took a 12-5 lead after the singles as

Evan Gardner won his match 6-1 and **Sarah Hamre** beat **Ashley Ebert** 6-4. Hutchinson closed the gap to 12-11 after the boys doubles match, but the team of **Kristi Meyer** and **Meg Townsend** solidified the win with a 6-0 victory over **Nora McGraw** and **Alex Braun**. Sioux Falls closed out the match as Gardner and Hamre won 6-5 in mixed doubles.

In the 14-and-Under event, Moore Lake dominated the Advanced tournament, winning the championship flight round robin by 31 games. Moore Lake finished with 141 games, followed by Moore Lake B with 110 games and Reed Sweatt with 105. Members of Moore Lake A included **Summer Brills**, **Cassandra Brown**, **Dusty Boyer**, **Katie Johnson**, **Grant Leisner**, **Tucker Saxon**, **Max Thompson** and **Melanie Yates**.

The Virginia Intermediate team also dominated in the finals as they defeated Benson 30-13. Virginia took a 12-4 lead after the singles as **Craig Garrett Hendrickson** won his match 6-3 and **Amanda Arbogast** beat **Abby Fragodt** 6-1. The Virginia boys doubles team of **Jordan Krebsbach** and **Cody Mauston** beat **Brandon Edlund** and **Mike Goulet** 6-4 and the girls doubles team of **Casey Mauston** and **Alexis Gunderson** beat **Chelsey Goff** and **Laura Alsaker** 6-2. In the mixed doubles contest, **John Morgan** and **Culey Westin** beat **Pete Moe** and **Catherine James** 6-3.

Zach Bastiansen of Minnetonka and Patchin were named the 2006 Sportsmanship Award winners for the Advanced 18-and-Under tournament, while **Hannah Miller** of Mankato and **Kurt Larson** of Redwood Falls won the Sportsmanship Award for the Intermediate 18-and-Under event. **Kale Walch** of Minnetonka and **Danielle Keller** of Apple Valley VAA 3.5 won the Sportsmanship Award for the 14-and-Under Advanced tournament, while **Derek Persons** of South St. Paul and **Tiffany Raddatz** of Redwood Falls won the Sportsmanship Award for the 14s Intermediate event. **Brainerd** and **Shakopee** were named the Team Spirit Award winners in both events.

"The Sectional Championships are a phenomenal way to wrap up the Jr. Team Tennis season," Buysse said. "They showcase why this is a core program for us. I was blown away by the high levels of sportsmanship, team camaraderie and competition displayed during the tournament. These juniors know how to have a good time!" 🎾



Sioux Falls - 18-and-Under Intermediate

Moore Lake A - 14-and-Under Advanced

Hibbing - 18-and-Under Advanced

Virginia - 14-and-Under Intermediate

CROSSCOURT

USTA NORTHERN NEWS, ACTIVITIES & HAPPENINGS

USTA NORTHERN LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

USTA Northern (www.northern.usta.com) launched a new website on July 11 that mirrors the USTA National (www.usta.com) website. The new Northern site features the "Find A Partner, Find A Court, Find A Program" component similar to the National site, as well as news and information about a variety of topics including adult and junior competition, community tennis, membership and sponsorship. It also has a new events calendar so you can keep up with the latest happenings in USTA Northern. The Section would love to hear your comments and suggestions on the site. Please e-mail any feedback to **Lisa Mushett**, Director of Marketing and Communications, mushett@northern.usta.com or call her directly at (952) 358-3282.



ANN ELIASON, BERNADETTE MCCANN AND JERRY POPE WIN NATIONAL PUBLIC PARKS TITLES

Ann Eliason (Minnetonka, Minn.), **Bernadette McCann** (Minneapolis) and **Jerry Pope** (Minneapolis) won titles at the 2006 National Public Parks Tennis Tournament in July at the National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y. Eliason and McCann won the Women's Open Doubles title with a 6-0, 6-1 win over **Danielle Hughes** of Forest Hills, N.Y. and **Jennifer Labus** of New York City. In the men's 75 singles tournament, **Jerry Pope** took the crown with a 6-1, 4-6, 10-7 win over top-seeded **Melvin Lewis** of Inglewood, Calif. Eliason also placed second in the Women's 35 Singles tournament, falling to **Jami Patterson** of Brazil, Ind., 6-4, 6-2 in the finals.



Bernadette McCann (left) and Ann Eliason (right) won the women's open title at the 2006 National Public Parks Tournament.

USTA NORTHERN SERVES AS A SPONSOR FOR PRAIRIE ROSE STATE GAMES



USTA Northern was a sponsor of the 2006 North Dakota Prairie Rose State Games July 14-16 in Bismarck, N.D. Over 130 tennis participants marched in the Opening Ceremony behind a tennis banner and giant

tennis racquet. Overall, the Prairie Rose State Games had over 5,000 athletes participate in over 48 different activities. They had eight new sports this year including dodgeball and curling. They also had over 600 volunteers participate in the event and over \$150,000 in sponsorships.

MINNESOTA LEADS NATION IN NO-CUT POLICY ADOPTION

The state of Minnesota leads the nation in the number of coaches who said they adopt a no-cut policy when it comes to high school tennis participation. Overall, 455 coaches said they participate in the No-Cut Policy program, with Minnesota accounting for 81 of these coaches. The next closest state is Michigan with 68. To learn more about the No-Cut Policy program or to register yourself as a No-Cut Policy coach, please visit <http://www.usta.com/coaches/custom.sps?iType=12362&icustompageid=17304>



The USTA spent four days in Minneapolis/St. Paul filming people for the "It's My Court" promotional campaign.

Loring Park in Minneapolis (July 20) and Augsburg Park in Richfield (July 21).

USTA NATIONAL SHOOT'S NATIONAL PROMOTION IN TWIN CITIES

Many came to tell their story about what tennis meant to them as part of a national USTA promotion July 18-21 in the Twin Cities. The USTA was filming for the "It's My Court" campaign that will air on www.usta.com. The tour made stops at One Financial Plaza in downtown Minneapolis (July 18-21); Reed Sweatt Family Tennis Center in South Minneapolis (July 19-20);

TWO COMMUNITIES RECEIVE PUBLIC FACILITY FUNDING GRANTS THROUGH TENNIS IN THE PARKS; VIRGINIA, MINN., EARNS SPECIAL PROJECTS GRANT

Three USTA Northern communities were awarded public facility funding grants through the Tennis in the Parks Initiative including the **City of Champin, Minn.** (\$2,500 for Richardson Park) and the **Kenwood Isles Tennis Association** (\$55,000 for Kenwood Park in Minneapolis).



The city of Virginia, Minn., received a grant to help complete its indoor tennis facility.

The **City of Virginia, Minn.**, was awarded a Special Projects Grant from USTA Northern in the amount of \$35,000 for its Quad Cities Tennis for All project. Plans and information about this new indoor tennis facility can be found at <http://quadciestennisforall.com>.

ERNIE PETERSON SPEAKS TO MECTA GROUP AT FORT SNELLING

Nationally-renowned tennis coach **Ernie Peterson** visited the Fort Snelling Tennis and Learning Center as part of the Multi Ethnic Community Tennis Association's USTA Excellence grant. Peterson and his daughter, **Jewel**, who played at USC and on the USTA Pro Circuit for many years, took 22 high-performance junior players on the court Friday night for drills and games. On Saturday, Ernie met with the parents encouraging them to let their "kids be kids" and not pushing them too hard into a tennis-only environment. He talked at length about letting kids have other interests in addition to tennis and not make the same mistakes he made with Jewel. After this powerful presentation, Ernie and Jewel took the kids back onto the court with the help of **Roberto deFrias** and **Marc Stingley** before a pot-luck dinner was enjoyed by all.



Renowned teacher Ernie Peterson did a three-day clinic with kids and parents in June.

USTA NORTHERN AND SPECIAL OLYMPICS MINNESOTA PARTNER FOR TENNIS EVENT



USTA Northern and Special Olympics Minnesota teamed together for an event on June 10 at the Fort Snelling Tennis and Learning Center in St. Paul, Minn. Sixteen athletes, 30 unified doubles partners, family members, coaches, Special Olympics staff and 22 volunteers participated in the event including USTA staff members **Christine Buysse**, **Tony Stingley**, **James Poehler** and **Nancy Lundberg**. Athletes participated in individual skills events and also played singles matches and unified doubles matches.

NICK LEBEDOFF AND WHITNEY TANAY NAMED NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS ALL-AMERICANS



Nick Lebedoff

CROOKSTON TENNIS ASSOCIATION WINS US OPEN TICKET RAFFLE

The **Crookston Tennis Association** in Crookston, Minn., was one of five Community Tennis Associations nationally to win two tickets to the 2006 US Open as part of the CTA US Open Ticket Raffle. Others included the **Peninsula Tennis Patrons Association** in Grafton, Va., the **Biggest Little Tennis Association** in Reno, Nev., the **West Georgia Tennis Association** in Carrollton, Ga., and the **South County Community Tennis Association** in Wakefield, R.I. In addition, the CTA of the Year - the **Summit Tennis Association** of Summit, N.J. - received four tickets to the Open.

Nick Lebedoff (Minneapolis) and **Whitney Tanay** (Edina, Minn.) were named to the 2006 National High School Tennis All-America Team by the National High School Tennis All-American Foundation. It was the second consecutive year Lebedoff earned the honor, while it was Tanay's first citation. To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must maintain

above-average academic and citizenship records, compete on a high school tennis team and garner an individual national ranking. Past notable winners of the award include **Pete Sampras**, **Todd Martin**, **Kimberly Po** and **Taylor Dent**.

Move Over

Bob and Mike: Twin Cities Twins Make Tennis A Lifetime Sport

Look out **Bob and Mike Bryan**. The Twin Cities have their own set of doubles-playing twins who have been making an impact on the local scene longer than you have been alive. Although the world's number-one ranked doubles team might not be shaking in their adidas shoes, women in the Twin Cities have long been looking for a way to beat this dynamic duo, all the while trying to figure out which one is which.

Identical twins **Judy Freeman** and **Jill Greer** started playing tennis in the street outside of their St. Louis Park, Minn., home when they were young kids. There were not any courts near their home so they made the street their personal tennis mecca.

"There was this huge hill where we played," Freeman said. "The downhill person never missed a ball. If she did, she would have a long way to run, so we learned to cover a lot of ground."

When the twins were 13, they moved to the other side of St. Louis Park where there were public tennis courts about a mile away behind City Hall. Freeman and Greer played every day, even making friends with all of the cops at City Hall because the closest water fountain was inside the building. They also had to share court time with the St. Louis Park boys high school team (there were no girls tennis teams in the late 60s), often playing practice matches against them. One day, the physical education teacher came up to the twins and asked if they would be interested in skipping school to play in the Lake Conference Girls tennis tournament. They did and beat perennial power Edina in the finals. Both earned blue ribbons which they still have over 35 years later.

After graduating from St. Louis Park in 1971, the two enrolled at the University of Colorado so they could ski. Bringing their tennis racquets with them to Boulder, the two were playing when then coach **Dusty DeLario** saw them and invited them to try out for the women's team. They did, and much to their surprise, they made it.

"We couldn't believe we actually made the team," Freeman said. "We would always joke that we played ghetto tennis because we taught ourselves how to play and never took a lesson."

In 1973, the women's tennis program took on a whole new life with the implementation of Title IX. Instead of playing teams only in Colorado and wearing uniforms that were not even the school colors, they now were traveling around the country playing the best players in the United States. Three years ago, Colorado celebrated the 30th Anniversary of Title IX and presented both Freeman and Greer with the letters they earned while in Boulder.

After college, Freeman and Greer continued playing and teaching tennis as both worked with the Minneapolis Park Board and Oak Ridge Country Club. Jill then taught for highly-respected coach **Dick Gould** at Mountain View Country Club in California. Off the court, the twins also cultivated their other passion – art. Freeman is a renowned artist who specializes in Ketubahs, or Jewish wedding contracts,



Identical twins Judy Freeman (left) and Jill Greer (right) have played USTA League Tennis since its inception in 1980.

among other things, while Greer is an equally-talented photographer. At one time, Freeman created a piece for the now Prime Minister of Israel and has her work hanging "down the hall from Van Gogh" at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, while Greer has traveled the world over in her photographic endeavors.

Artistic on the court as well, the life-long doubles partners have developed their own "language." Like the Bryan Brothers, one is left handed (Greer) and the other right handed (Freeman). They often dress alike confusing their opponents which Freeman says "normally gives us three games a match." When playing they know they are about as unconventional as they come, developing a number of unique formations they named themselves including the "Y" and the "Pitcher-Catcher."

"We always joke that we have four legs and one brain," Freeman, who is one minute older than Greer, said. "We know we don't play conventionally. We either have one person out there or three. We have to play as a team because we know we have the same pluses and minuses so we are really good or really bad."

Really good most of the time, the twins are fixtures in USTA League Tennis presented by Chrysler. They have participated in the programs since its inception in 1980, and after 24 years of "collecting silver balls," the sisters finally qualified for the 4.0 Seniors National Championships last season.

"It took us only until we were 50 years old to qualify for the national tournament," the twins joked. "It was a really great experience to get there and see how everything is run."

As kids, adults, and now, entering the golden years of their lives, the game of tennis has given so much to both Freeman and Greer. Whether it is all of the people they have met on the courts or the laughs they have shared as sisters and teammates, tennis has been the root of many memories for this special pair.

"No one ever made us play tennis," Greer said. "We just played because we wanted to play. Besides it is really in to be a twin in tennis right now." 🎾

Racquet Ramblings

with
Greg Wicklund



Who is he?

- He hails from Marion, Ohio, 35 miles north of Columbus, population 35,000 and is home of former President **Warren Harding**.
- He played college tennis for the Northwestern Wildcats and was an all-Big Ten player his junior and senior seasons (1993-94).

- He served as an assistant coach at Alabama for three years.
- He coached the women's tennis team at the University of Denver from 1999-2000.
- He became men's tennis coach at Denver and posted a 71-68 record over the past six seasons achieving a 13-9 mark and fourth-place finish last year in the Sun Belt Conference.
- He coached the Pioneers to an Intercollegiate Tennis Association ranking of 66.
- He is married to former Gopher player **Dana Peterson**, who was a four-time letterwinner from 1993-96 at the U and served as a Gopher women's assistant coach from 1997-99. She then coached the women's team at Denver until this year.

Who is he? By now I'll bet you have guessed it – he's **Geoff Young**, the new University of Minnesota men's tennis coach, replacing **David Geatz**, who led the Gophers the past 18 seasons.

Gopher athletic director **Joel Maturi** calls Coach Young "a good fit for us." A "good fit" indeed! All together, readers: "Huzzah! Huzzah! Huzzah! A warm and hearty welcome Geoff to the Minnesota tennis program."

► **A Royal Classic: King Gustav and Queen Silvia** of Sweden came to the 1980 US Open. The royal couple, however, couldn't get into the final because they had forgotten their tickets. Eager to see the competition and Sweden's star **Bjorn Borg**, the king tried to talk to a security guard at the gate into letting them pass. The King's identification tag read "Carl Gustav." The guard from Brooklyn wasn't impressed. He'd never heard of Carl Gustav. "But I am the King of Sweden," Gustav told the guard. With typical Brooklyn skepticism, the guard grinned, pointed to Gustav's wife and said, "Oh yeah? And I suppose she is the Queen...."

► **Scholastic Pacesetters, 2006:** Edina—**Whitney Taney**, **Michelle Weerasinghe**, **Maria Bryan**, **Caroline Sherman**, **Jen Berg**, **Emily Warner**, **Megan Gaard**; Eden Prairie—**Abby Buxton**, **Rebecca Heupel**, **Rebecca Snyder**, **Makenna Borg**, **Ali Crocker**; Benilde-St. Margarets—**Elsa Perushek**; Burnsville—**Toolil Wilkins**; Chaska—**Samantha Sarkis**; Breck—**Brittany Faber**; Minnetonka—**Aria Lambert**; Sibley—**Laura Young**; Hopkins—**Kathryn Schmidt**; Eastview—**Megan Williams**; Roseville—**Deborah Barany**; Rochester Lourdes—**Alexa Palen**; Rochester Century—**Emily Rogers**; Elk River—**Katie Jespersen**; Buffalo—**Dana Van Bruggen**

► **Courtside Comedy:** Under the watchful eye of her tennis pro, Barb took out her racquet, launched the ball above her head and swung. "Any advice?" she asked.

Her pro answered, "Well, I think your ball will go more accurately and effectively if you take the cover off the racquet."

► **Now We Are Collegians:** **David Stark** (Lakeville, H.S.)—University of Minnesota; **Alex Seaton** (Edina H.S.) will transfer from Colgate to Minnesota; **Sierra Krebsbach** (Mounds View H.S.)—Gustavus Adolphus; **Jake Schwartz** (Southwest)—University of Oregon; **Xiong Yang** (Arlington)—St. Cloud State; **Hilary Rice** (St. Paul Academy)—University of Puget Sound; **Dana Kotval** (Como Park)—Wisconsin-Stout; **Jonnie Bloemers** (South St. Paul)—Boston University; **Katie Stachowiak** (Harding)—Wisconsin-LaCrosse; **Jackie Sperling** (Homestead, Wis)—Minnesota; **Liz Tusler** (Neenah, Wis.)—Minnesota.

► **Pun-On-Court:** "That's what I like," explained a tennis player when the tournament director brought over a tray of hors d'oeuvres. "The platter of little treats upon the court."

► **A Note From Sally Dunphy:** "We seem to accumulate old tennis balls around our home. Any good use for them? And our answer is:

- Put three or four tennis balls in the dryer with your down-filled coat to help fluff the down
- Cut a tennis ball in halves or quarters and tape them to sharp corners that might be dangerous to small children
- For a foot massage, step on a tennis ball on the floor and gently roll your foot around on the ball (Send your ideas to Racquet Ramblings, 98TH Street)

► **In Memoriam:** Belated sympathy to the family and friends of tennis, hitting partners and tennisists – **Dorothy Clark Blackmun**, St. Paul, who met her husband, Supreme Court Justice **Harry Blackmun** at the St. Paul Tennis Club; **Charles B. Sweatt**, Wayzata; **Marjorie Warner**, Minneapolis; **Dr. Alex Hayday**, Minneapolis; **Janette Burton**, Deephaven; **Donald "Mac" MacDonald**, Minneapolis; **Mary Lampe**, St. Paul; **Frank Kendall**, Minnetonka; **Jack Pfaff**, White Bear Lake.

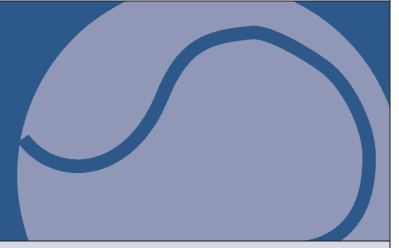
► **Courtly Congrats To:** Gustavus grad **Eric Butorac** and **Jamie Murray** who reached the final of the ATP Countrywide Classic in Los Angeles, losing to the world's #1 doubles team of **Bob and Mike Bryan** 6-2, 6-4... former Gopher **Adrien Debreyne** of France who won both the singles and doubles (with **Andres Osorio**) at the Aquatennial tournament... new High School All-Americans **Whitney Taney** (Edina) and **Nick Lebedoff** (Blake)... **Jerry Pope** celebrated his Diamond (75) Jubilee, then won the National Public Parks 75 singles title in New York... Impressive!

► **For the Road: Q.** Where do ball boys and ball girls go to dance? **A.** To the Tennis Ball. 🎾

USTA Northern Resources

Helping Tennis Blossom In Altoona, Wisconsin

By Lisa Mushett



Middle school teacher **Greg Emerson** had a vision. A long-time tennis player himself, Emerson wondered what it would take to bring the sport to his small community of Altoona, Wis., located just outside of Eau Claire. He knew there was interest as both boys and girls in the area were looking for other sports to participate in besides the traditional football, basketball and volleyball. But how to cultivate that interest into tennis programming, especially with limited resources, was Emerson's biggest challenge.

Familiar with the USTA through his own tennis endeavors in the past, Emerson wondered what they had to offer in terms of getting the sport into schools. The physical education teacher quickly learned that the USTA has a full-fledged School Tennis program that provides on-site instruction for teachers and staff, as well as discounted equipment including racquets, balls and short-court nets.

Emerson took advantage of that program back in 2002, and was able to get tennis into the physical education curriculum. This initial introduction in school created a buzz that spilled over into after-school programming.

Three years ago, Emerson encouraged the school board to fund a middle school boys after-school tennis program for the five schools in the district. He succeeded, and in 2006 the district was awarded USTA funds to expand the league and implement feeder programs at the elementary school level. As a result, the middle school league saw participation rise with over 20 boys on the Altoona team alone, competing against the other middle schools in the region including Eau Claire Regis, Eau Claire South, Eau Claire Northstar and Eau Claire Delong.

"It was really exciting to see the interest in tennis at our school, but then when the other schools came on board and we could play each other, it just took off," Emerson said. "We are so thankful to the school district for funding this program."

After the success of the middle school program, Emerson started thinking bigger. Since 1989, Altoona has offered a girls high school tennis team, but never supported a boys team. Emerson wanted to change that. He rallied many of the past and current players and parents of his middle school program into asking for a varsity tennis team at Altoona High School. After much debate, Emerson and the boys convinced the school board to give it a try. Starting in 2007, Altoona will sport a boys team, but only as a two-year pilot program that will have to be brought back in front of the board at its conclusion. A \$2,000 grant provided by USTA will off-set initial costs, and both the USTA and the school board are looking to the Altoona tennis community to develop and sustain the program in years to come.

Funding is definitely the biggest challenge facing the Altoona boys, although other local schools would like to change that. With the announcement of the pilot program in Altoona, the excitement of tennis in the region is spreading like wildfire as Augusta, Fall Creek and Pepin High


Schools have all contacted Emerson about starting teams at their schools and the girls of Barron High School just completed their first season of play.

"We have a great opportunity in the next two years," Emerson said. "There is so much interest in developing the boys tennis team and tennis in general. The numbers keep growing which is a great sign in hopes of sustaining the team."

Emerson and his tennis counterparts in the area are carrying over the energy from the schools program into summer programming as well. The numbers in both Altoona and Eau Claire for 2006 are up as Altoona had over 100 kids participate in their three-week program, while Eau Claire has a waiting list of people wanting to play summer tennis.

So what does Emerson suggest in helping start tennis in your community?

"Go and find that self starter who wants to get involved," Emerson said. "Once you find this person, then have them connect with the USTA and take advantages of all the things they have to offer. There are so many workshops and clinics to help you in starting the program that is right for your community. We are so grateful to USTA for helping us get to where we are today."

To learn more about what Emerson is doing in Altoona and the surrounding communities, e-mail him at gemerson@altoona.k12.wi.us. For more information about the USTA Schools Program, contact **Tony Stingley** in the USTA Northern office at Stingley@northern.usta.com or at 952-358-3289. 

Did You Know? SCHOOL TENNIS QUICK FACTS

- USTA Northern has the highest number of no-cut high school tennis programs in the country with over 115 coaches indicating that they have a no-cut policy!
- Greg Emerson is one of two physical education teachers that USTA Northern employs to evaluate school tennis resources and provide support to colleagues – the other is Corky Foley in Rapid City, S.D. Both have been instrumental in developing after-school programs at their schools!
- USTA offers free training, curriculum, and start-up equipment to teachers interested in implementing a tennis unit in physical education
- USTA Northern is recruiting parent coaches to get involved with after-school tennis programming. No teaching experience necessary!
- USTA Northern boasts one of the strongest tennis coaches associations in the country – the MN State HS Coaches Assoc. – visit them online at www.mshsca.org/tennis

USTA Northern

Events and Happenings

Former Gopher Adrien Debreyne Wins 2006 Aquatennial Singles and Doubles Titles

Adrien Debreyne won both the singles and doubles title at the 2006 Aquatennial Plaza Tennis Invitational July 10-21 at One Financial Plaza in downtown Minneapolis.

Debreyne, who just completed his eligibility in the spring at the University of Minnesota and is currently doing an internship in the USTA Northern office, won three matches in claiming the singles title with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over **Tony Larson** of Alexandria, Minn. Debreyne, of Mons en Baroeul, France, earned \$500 for the singles victory.

Debreyne then partnered with former Gopher teammate and 2004 Aquatennial singles champion **Andres Osorio** of Quito, Ecuador, in taking the doubles title with a 6-1, 7-5 win over **Kevin Whipple** of St. Cloud, Minn., and **John Schollmeier** of Blue Earth, Minn. Debreyne and Osorio, who shared \$500 between them, won five matches en route to the title.

In the mixed doubles final, top-seeded **Robin Coverdale** of St. Paul, Minn., who was the 2004 Mixed Doubles champion, and **John Trondson** of St. Paul beat Whipple and **Sierra Krebsbach** of North Oaks, Minn., in a three-set thriller 7-6, 6-7, 1-0 (11-9 third set tiebreaker). Coverdale and Trondson shared \$500.

This marked the 11th year of the Aquatennial Plaza Tennis Invitational. Many special events surrounded the tournament including the KARE-11 Tennis Challenge featuring television personalities **Belinda Jensen** and **Eric Perkins**, the 2006 Serve & Volley Challenge, two Cardio Tennis clinics and a Sponsor Recognition ceremony. The USTA also shot promotional videos for its new fall campaign called "It's My Court" at the tournament.

A special thank you goes out to the 2006 Invitational sponsors including: **Coca Cola Midwest Bottling Company**, **D Brian's Deli**, **Deloitte and Touche USA, LLP**, **Dorsey & Whitney, LLP**, **K&B Copy Group**, **Sit Investment Associates**, **Sport Court of Minneapolis**, **USTA Northern**, **Van Clemens & Company** and **Zeller Realty Group**. The tournament was an official associated event of the 2006 Minneapolis Aquatennial.



Adrien Debreyne



Over 80 People Attend Welcome Back To Tennis Event



USTA Northern and the **International Council on Active Aging (ICAA)**, in conjunction with **UCare Minnesota**, **Reed Sweatt Family Tennis Center**, the **Greater Twin Cities Tennis Association (GTCTA)** and **Senior Times** newspaper, sponsored a Free Welcome Back to Tennis event presented by UCare Minnesota June 10 at the Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center in Minneapolis. Over 80 beginning and existing players participated in the event designed for active adults 50-and-over interested in tennis.

For the beginners, the event emphasized how to ease into the game safely and comfortably by learning the basics of tennis including proper stroke technique and introducing the latest in equipment. For the existing player, the day began with seminars by local nutrition expert **Ronda Stingley** and certified personal trainer **Chris Dixon**. Stingley touched on weight management and portion control for aging adults, while Dixon addressed topics such as injury prevention and led the participants through a proper warm-up before they took to the court for tennis games and drills.

At the conclusion of the on-court events, everyone came together for a healthy lunch courtesy of the Greater Twin Cities Tennis Association and Fat Lorenzo's restaurant in South Minneapolis. A number of prizes, including free tennis racquets courtesy of Wilson, were given away and all participants had the opportunity to register for continued tennis programming through the Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center.



To learn more about the great benefits in sponsoring the 2007 event, please call **Sandy Smith**, Director of Membership and Sales, at (952) 358-3288 or e-mail her at ssmith@northern.usta.com.

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Northern Tennis Officials Association

State of the Union

by Tim Kurtt

When I was elected as President of the Northern Tennis Officials Association (NTOA) over a year and half ago, I made a number of goals for myself to help the members become better officials. Those goals included:

- 1) Increasing the focus of NTOA from the Twin Cities to sectionwide
- 2) Improving the relationship with the officials staff and trainers from USTA National
- 3) Improving the relationship with USTA Northern
- 4) Increasing the number of opportunities to work
- 5) Increasing the number of training opportunities
- 6) Increasing the number of officials to staff tournaments adequately

The obvious question is why? The NTOA faces a number of challenges that have put tremendous stress on our organization and working officials. First, our membership is the smallest, with only Caribbean having fewer numbers. Second, our membership numbers have stayed relatively flat while more experienced officials have given up on-court duties and others have begun working more on a national level. Third, USTA Northern started putting minimum officiating staffing levels on certain tournaments requiring more officials on a regular basis. Lastly, our operations function on a volunteer basis with the number of individuals willing to contribute their time having diminished over the years.

So how are we doing on my goals?

- 1) For the first time, the state tournament in North Dakota was staffed with officials. This was funded with grants from both National and USTA Northern. We hope to expand this opportunity to both the girls and boys tournaments, while being funded by the state league.

In South Dakota, two sectional schools were held.

John Carnahan worked as chief/trainer for the state tournament this spring, again with funding from National and USTA Northern. This was very successful and the South Dakota State High School League has committed to keep officials working in the future.

- 2) We have the full support of the National office and trainers, receiving grants totaling \$2,000 this year to help fund our training activities around the Section. This year, five national trainers traveled to our section for four schools, two clinics and seven days of on-court evaluations.
- 3) We have made great strides in gaining the support of USTA Northern. It is important to fortify this relationship to help grow the game and stay in step with tennis in the Section. We have received monies from USTA Northern in the amount of \$2,500 this year for training.
- 4) As I mentioned above, our opportunities to work around the Section are increasing. This is very evident in the Twin Cities area with junior tournaments. Many now require an increased level of officials.



There are many officiating opportunities in USTA Northern. For more information, contact Tim Kurtt at TIMKURTT@aol.com

On the professional level, we have one tournament (USTA Northern Women's Professional Tournament) located in St. Paul, Minn. We use this tournament to recruit and to gain valuable professional line experience.

- 5) This year, there have been four sectional schools, two provisional schools, three chair clinics, two opportunities for evaluation by national T/Es, one line clinic and our trainers have spent time with each new official, as well as evaluating existing officials. We have continued our policy of helping any official wanting individual attention. In fact, this is the best way to learn, by getting on the court and practicing. Group training sessions were identified and scheduled; however attendance was lacking. This area must be improved.
- 6) Increasing the number of officials to adequately staff tournaments is most challenging for our organization. Throwing new bodies at the problem has not worked in the past and is still the case. Improving the overall quality of our officiating seems to be the key to recruiting new and better officials. As others watch us work and see how we benefit the sport of tennis, by creating a fair and comfortable atmosphere to play in, our recruiting opportunities grow. The best new officials are generally officials that are known in the tennis community and known by other officials. Our professionalism on-court will lead to more and better officials in USTA Northern.

Is the hard work done? Not even close. It will take many more hours of hard work by everyone in our association. Whatever you can contribute to help us obtain our goals will help our membership become better officials.

Note: If you are interested in becoming an official or learning more about the Northern Tennis Officials Association, please contact **Tim Kurtt** at TIMKURTT@aol.com. 