Opportunity is knocking and we are answering the call. It has been 6 months since I assumed the role of President of USTA Northern. So much has already happened and so much more is in the works. Let me share a little bit about what is going on in your Section.

USTA Northern is one of 17 sections that make up the USTA. One of my responsibilities is to represent our Section at national meetings where all the Section leaders and National Board of Directors get together and talk about tennis. We discuss all aspects of the game including grassroots programming, junior competition, adult leagues, diversity and inclusion initiatives, professional tennis and much more. Our goal is to grow the game by attracting more people to the sport, while making sure the existing players have memorable experiences.

I am incredibly impressed with the quality of our leadership throughout the country. Both the staff and volunteers are an amazing group. I have met many USTA National staff members who are incredibly motivated to serve the game. I have met a group of Section and National leaders who not only have busy professional and private lives, but spend an incredible amount of time giving back to the USTA as volunteers. The time we spend together motivates all of us to work harder for the people involved in our sport.

Our USTA National President, Jon Vegosen, has chosen a theme for his tenure: Tennis – The Sport of Opportunity. There are so many things tennis can do for people. Health, friendship and a sense of community are only some of the things tennis provides. Jon’s theme also applies to the leadership of the organization. We have so many volunteer opportunities to make tennis in America even better.

One purpose of bringing the Section leadership together is to get everyone on the same page. We are working hard as a group to address national concerns. One initiative you have hopefully heard about is 10 and Under Tennis using the QuickStart play format. The future of tennis is directly related to our ability to get more young kids involved in the sport and at an earlier age.

People often ask us why there are so few American tennis professionals succeeding in international competition right now. One reason is obvious when you look at the numbers. The United States has 120,000 juniors playing competitive tennis. France has over 500,000 kids participating even though we have a population base that is five times larger. The USTA has spent a tremendous amount of time and money working on this issue and the answer is clear - we need more kids playing tennis and having immediate success.

This is where the QuickStart Tennis format comes into play. It’s designed for kids to make the game fun and allows them to succeed instantly. The QuickStart Tennis play format incorporates shorter courts, smaller racquets, larger and slower bouncing balls, lower nets and more condensed scoring for kids 10 and under. Perhaps the best thing about 10 and Under Tennis is with small modifications we can use our existing courts to implement this new format. We are working hard to get new blended lines painted on existing courts or building QuickStart Tennis specific courts, making the format even easier to use and more accessible for kids, parents and grandparents.

This is the kind of program that takes a National effort over a long period of time to succeed. I am proud to announce that USTA Northern is in the thick of it. We are working with our partners and organizational members to move the process along as rapidly as possible, and they are jumping on board!

At our last USTA Northern board meeting, the Board of Directors participated in a 36-foot court QuickStart Tennis tournament. Everyone had a blast! Not only did the Board see the value these courts can, and will bring, to kids, they were convinced this format could be used for beginning adults. In fact, it would be a great teaching method for seniors new to the game as well.

10 and Under Tennis is just one of the initiatives we are working on at a national and local level. We are part of a large team working together to grow the game. There is so much opportunity for us to succeed, and I am proud to be in the thick of it on your behalf.
Are you ready for some great tennis? The Champions Series is coming to the Twin Cities on Friday, Sept. 30 as Andre Agassi, John McEnroe, Michael Chang and Jim Courier battle it out at Target Center for one great night of tennis. Tickets for the matches and unique interactive VIP experiences, including clinics with the players and player receptions, are on sale now at www.ChampionsSeriesTennis.com.

The Champions Series is a circuit for former tennis champions over the age of 30. It was created in 2005 by InsideOut Sports + Entertainment, the New York based firm that is co-owned by former SFX executive Jon Venison, and former top-ranked player Jim Courier.

“We are thrilled to reunite seven legends who have won an astonishing 52 Grand Slam singles titles among them,” said Venison, Founding Partner of the Champions Series. “This is the greatest generation of champions ever assembled and an unprecedented opportunity for sports fans around the U.S. to reconnect with them.”

Minneapolis is the fourth of 12 stops during the five-week tour that will also visit other high profile cities such as Washington D.C., Boston, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Chicago.

“Competing against my friends and foes in front of fans across the country is going to get my adrenaline pumping” said Courier. “The player lineup and format of the circuit is ideal for me and my peers to quench our competitive thirst while showcasing tennis to many cities that lack pro tennis events. May the best man win.”

Along with Agassi, McEnroe, Chang and Courier, the tour features players Bjorn Borg, Pete Sampras and Mats Wilander. The athletes will compete for a prize pool totaling $1 million to be shared by the top three finishers at the conclusion of the season. Each of the 12, one-night tournaments will feature four champions paired off in one-set semifinals competing for ranking points, culminating with the winners contending for the title in an eight-game pro-set championship match.

Career Highlights of Players Competing In Minneapolis

**ANDRE AGASSI**
- Former world #1
- Eight-time Grand Slam champion
- One of 7 players in history to have completed the “career Grand Slam”
- Two-time Davis Cup champion

**MICHAEL CHANG**
- Former world #2
- Youngest Grand Slam champion ever
- Youngest man to win a main draw match in the US Open
- First player of Asian descent to enter world Top 10

**JOHN McENROE**
- Former world #1
- Seven-time singles Grand Slam champion
- Five-time Davis Cup champion
- Youngest man ever to achieve the world #1 ranking

**JIM COURIER**
- Former world #1
- Four-time Grand Slam champion
- 2005 International Tennis Hall of Fame Inductee
- 29 career titles

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Love Tennis? There’s more to love at Life Time, including leagues, private lessons for kids and adults, group drills and junior programs. What’s more, we can help improve your game off the court, too, with expert personal trainers, yoga, pilates and group fitness. Whatever your interests, Life Time has it all.
Life Time Fitness has a history of doing everything big and the implementation of 10 and Under Tennis in their clubs is no exception. The fitness industry giant agreed to paint 60-foot blended lines on 127 tennis courts, which is every court within its 15 tennis facilities nationwide, except for two in Boca Raton (Fla.) and the six clay courts at their Eden Prairie (Minn.) location. They also recently painted two permanent 36-foot courts at the Bloomington South facility and are offering a full array of 10 and Under tennis programs nationally.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with the USTA in growing 10 and Under Tennis participation in the United States," Layne McCleary, National Tennis Director, said. "We take our commitment to growing the game very seriously and have been offering the QuickStart Tennis play format in our classes for a number of years."

In May, the Bloomington South club also hosted the first official 10 and Under "Play Day" in USTA Northern. Over 50 kids from around the Twin Cities participated in the two-hour event which gave most kids their first taste of organized competition. Teams from Fridley, Apple Valley, South St. Paul, Richfield and Woodbury participated in the fun. Pizza and prizes were awarded at the conclusion of the event.
10 and Under Jr. Team Tennis Also Growing

With the addition of blended lines on many courts throughout USTA Northern and the implementation of the QuickStart Tennis play format, 10 and Under Jr. Team Tennis is growing at a record pace. In only its second year, the league has grown from four to 10 teams, including representatives from the Life Time Fitness facilities in Fridley, Lakeville, St. Louis Park and White Bear Lake. There is also the possibility of having a season-ending Play Day at the conclusion of the league.

“It is very exciting to see USTA Jr. Team Tennis growing in our youngest divisions,” USTA Northern Director of Junior Teams Christine Nickels said. “Similar to their older siblings, these kids absolutely love the opportunity to compete with their friends as part of a team, and it has been fantastic to see them develop as players in a fun and encouraging environment.”

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*FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY. Offer valid from 12:01 ET 4/15/11 through 11:59 p.m. ET 12/31/11. Individual must be ages 10 or under to qualify at time of enrollment. To qualify for offer, individual must meet all qualifications at time of enrollment. All paper enrollment forms must be received prior to conclusion of promotion, 12/31/11 11:59 p.m. ET and before individual turns eleven.

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South Dakota Boys State Tournament

May 19-21, 2011 • Sioux Falls, S.D.

Sioux Falls O’Gorman won the 2011 South Dakota high school boys tennis championship with 770 points. Sioux Falls Washington finished second with 558 points and Sioux Falls Lincoln was third with 500.5 points. O’Gorman also won five of the six individual singles titles, and all three doubles championships.

O’Gorman’s Brad Entwistle won his first South Dakota State Flight 1 singles championship with a 6-1, 6-2 winner over Tyler Osterloo of Mitchell. Other flight winners were Elliott Czarnecki (Flight 2) who beat James Ferrier of Rapid City Stevens 6-2, 6-2; Adam Kianicka (Flight 3) defeated Scott Miller of Sioux Falls Washington 6-2, 6-4; Tony Rauschenbach (Flight 4) beat Michael Schroeder of Washington 3-6, 7-5, 6-2; Luke Haffeman of Sioux Falls Washington (Flight 5) beat Tommy Entwistle 1-6, 6-1, 7-5 and Ben Czarnecki (Flight 6), defeated Dylan Zastrow of Sioux Falls Washington 6-0, 6-3.

In doubles, the team of Brad Entwistle and Elliot Czarnecki won the Flight 1 title, Kianicka and Rauschenbach won in Flight 2, and the team of Tommy Entwistle and Ben Czarnecki completed the sweep of doubles for O’Gorman at Flight 3.

North Dakota Girls State Tournament

May 26-28, 2011 • Minot, N.D.

Grand Forks Red River’s girls tennis team won its 10th consecutive North Dakota state championship with a 5-0 sweep over Bismarck High in the team final. Mimi Yunker defeated Alek Haugen 6-3, 6-2 at #1 singles. Samantha Anderson won at #2 singles by the score of 6-0, 6-2 to beat Jazmyn Oban. Cindy Lim won her #3 singles match over Rachael Dodd 6-0, 6-1. In doubles, the #1 team of Shirlene Luk and Lalganghi Marasinghe beat Tyne Oberlander and Erin Haugen 6-0, 6-2. The #2 doubles team of Alexis Caoili and Paige Relling won their match 6-0, 6-1 over Jenna Andre and Meghan Dunnigan to complete the sweep.

Red River also won both the individual singles and doubles titles as well. Anderson won her second consecutive singles title with a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Yunker in the finals. The doubles team of Luk and Marasinghe also repeated as state champions, as they defeated Caitlin Bakke and Mary Roller of Bismarck St. Mary’s 6-1, 7-6.

Minnesota Boys State Tournament

June 7-10, 2011 • Minneapolis, Minn.

In the Minnesota Boys High School Tournament, Rochester Mayo won the Class 2A title with a 4-3 victory over Wayzata and Breck won 5-2 over Rochester Lourdes in Class 1A. Rochester Mayo won three of four singles spots, and got its fourth point at #3 doubles. At first singles, Rochester Mayo’s Thomas Nath defeated Dustin Britton 6-2, 6-1. Third singles went to Ingrid Neel with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Michael Anderson. Neel, a seventh-grader, played boys tennis rather than girls tennis this spring and went 3-0 in the state tournament. Mayo’s Eric Rustad defeated Wayzata’s Jason Lee 6-0, 6-0 to capture the fourth singles spot and Michael Poeschla and Nicholas Ackerman of Mayo won the deciding point, beating Matt Halverson and Ketan Kulkarni 6-1, 6-7 (5-7) and 6-1.

Breck’s Daniel Carpenter defeated Luca Farrugia 6-0, 6-1 at #2 singles. By the same score, Breck’s #3 singles Joey Gamer picked up the win over Hadi Berbari of Lourdes. Breck then won all 3 doubles positions. At #1 the team of Andrew Engel and Felix Mettke defeated Brian Utz and Kyle McGraw 6-4, 6-1. Max Berman and Trotter Oberrender defeated Ross Haller and David Turlington 6-3, 5-7, 1-0 (6) at second doubles. Tucker Sjoblad and Austin Wong won 6-4, 6-2 over Tomas Benzo and Alan Schembri-Wismayer to pick up the point at #3 doubles.

Individually, Forest Lake junior Dusty Boyer won the Class 2A singles title with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Rochester Century senior Eric Frueh for his third consecutive state title. In Class 1A, Myles Tang of Breck defeated John Hill from St. Paul Academy 7-6 (1), 6-3 to win the title. In the class 2A doubles tournament, the team of Martin Beck and Luke Elifson from Minneapolis South defeated teammates Noah and Jesse Sprinkel 6-2, 6-1 in the championship match. Ford Traft and Kai Skallerud from Blake were the winners in 1A as they defeated Max Hommeyer and Birk Mitau from St. Paul Academy 6-3, 6-1.

Wisconsin Boys State Tournament

June 10-11, 2011 • Madison, Wis.

Eau Claire Memorial boys tennis team made it to the WIAA Division 1 Semifinals before falling to Homestead by the score of 5-2. The team of Michael Roden and Matt Reagan picked up a win for Memorial at first doubles. TJ Jungblutch and Alex Rentzepis won their match at third doubles to pick up Memorial’s other point.
The 2011 Junior Sectionals were held June 10-16, 2011. The girls played at the Baseline Tennis Center in Minneapolis, while the boys played at both Lakeville South High School and Life Time Fitness – Lakeville. Congratulations to the 2011 Junior Sectional winners and others who qualified to represent USTA Northern on summer Zonal, Intersectional and National teams.

2011 Girls Junior Sectional Winners

**SINGLES**
- **Girls 12s** - #1 Sophia Reddy (Eden Prairie, Minn.) def. #3 Zoe Klass-Warch (St. Paul, Minn.) 6-2, 6-2
- **Girls 14s** - #3 Alexis Nelson (St. Paul, Minn.) def. #2 Kate Rosenow (Rochester, Minn.) 6-1, 6-1
- **Girls 16s** - #7 Patricia Zhao (Maple Grove, Minn.) def. #1 Mimi Yunker (Grand Forks, N.D.) 6-4, 6-4
- **Girls 18s** - #1 Ingrid Neel (Rochester, Minn.) def. #2 Amber Washington (St. Paul, Minn.) 6-2, 6-4

**DOUBLES**
- **Girls 12s** - #1 Samantha Czarnecki (Sioux Falls, S.D.)/Reddy def. #2 Klass-Warch/Isabella Lambert (Excelsior, Minn.) 8-1
- **Girls 14s** - #1 Rosenow/Kylie Boyer (Rochester, Minn.) def. #2 Haley Haakenstad (Chanhassen, Minn.)/Sofia Terzic (Rochester, Minn.) 8-2
- **Girls 16s** - #4 Helen Klass-Warch (St. Paul, Minn.)/Yunker def. #3 Summer Brills (Minneapolis, Minn.)/Zhao 8-4
- **Girls 18s** - #1 Washington/Melanie Yates (New Brighton, Minn.) def. Neel/Jessie Aney (Rochester, Minn.) 8-2

2011 Boys Junior Sectional Winners

**SINGLES**
- **Boys 12s** - #1 Anthony Rosa (Eden Prairie, Minn.) def. #2 Jackson Allen (Shakopee, Minn.) 6-1, 6-2
- **Boys 14s** - #2 Kavir Kumar (Minneapolis, Minn.) def. #3 Jesse Sprinkel (Minneapolis, Minn.) 6-1, 6-7, 6-1
- **Boys 16s** - #1 Elliot Sprecher (Cadott, Wis.) def. #2 Myles Tang (Minneapolis, Minn.) 6-4, 7-5
- **Boys 18s** - #1 Dusty Boyer (Ham Lake, Minn.) def. #8 Erik Nordahl (Eden Prairie, Minn.) 4-6, 6-4, 7-5

**DOUBLES**
- **Boys 12s** - #1 Allen/Jake Kuhlman (Grand Forks, N.D.) def. #2 Joseph Tarvestad (Medina, Minn.)/Sebastian Vile (Rochester, Minn.) 8-6
- **Boys 14s** - #1 Gregory Wischer (Grand Forks, N.D.)/Nicholas Beaty (Wayzata, Minn.) def. Rosa/Richard Ciamarra (Woodbury, Minn.) 8-5
- **Boys 16s** - #1 Charlie Adams (Wayzata, Minn.)/Sprecher def. Mark Conrad (Plymouth, Minn.)/Joey Richards (Eden Prairie, Minn.) 8-3
- **Boys 18s** - #2 Eric Frueh (Rochester, Minn.)/Nordahl def. #1 Boyer/Thomas Nath (Rochester, Minn.) 8-5

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www.northern.usta.com
Dusty Boyer of Ham Lake, Minn., won his third consecutive Minnesota Class AA Singles Championship in early June at the Baseline Tennis Center. The junior at Forest Lake High School has the opportunity in 2012 to become the only person in Minnesota Boys tennis history to win four consecutive Class AA singles titles. Boyer is currently ranked first in the Section.

Q. When did you start playing tennis?
A. I started playing when I was 3. My dad (David), who played college tennis at North Dakota, would take me out and mess around.

Q. Who has had the biggest influence on your tennis?
A. Probably my coach, Jon Hardman, at Life Time Fitness - St. Louis Park. I have played with him since I was 6 years old. He has always been there for me and made tennis fun.

Q. What is the best part of your game?
A. My backhand is really steady. I try to keep groundstroking with my opponent until I get a short ball and then finish the point with a forehand. My net game is also pretty good.

Q. Where can you improve?
A. My serve for sure. I don't make a high percentage of first serves. It is tough for me to go through a whole tournament because my shoulder gets sore when I miss a lot of serves.

Q. Who do you work with?
A. I take a private lesson from John once a week. I also hit with Tony Larson three times a week.

Q. Which do you prefer - singles or doubles?
A. Doubles can be a little more fun. You play more freely when you play doubles, but I like singles too.

Q. What was it like winning your first state tournament as a freshman?
A. I was shocked the first year I won. I wasn’t even close to making it to state my seventh and eighth grade years. At that time, I also played baseball and basketball so I did not concentrate fully on tennis. After my eighth grade year, I decided to just focus on tennis and I improved a lot.

Q. Then you won your second title. What was that like to be a back-to-back champion?
A. I played pretty good, but honestly, Eric Frueh (of Rochester Century) had me beat and just missed a backhand. We went into a tiebreaker and I got lucky and won.

Q. Coming into this year, Wyatt McCoy (of Mounds View) was the heavy favorite and everyone seemed to forget about you. Was that extra motivation for you?
A. It was. No one thought I had much of a chance to win this year, but I had always had close matches against Wyatt and had beaten him a couple of times. I knew if I played well and executed like I could, it would be a close match (he won 6-4, 6-4 and then beat Frueh in finals 6-2, 6-3).

Q. Mentally you seem to excel and nothing really bothers you. Have you always been that way?
A. I have always played well in pressure situations. I used to be a pitcher when I played baseball, and whenever I played basketball, I always had the ball in my hand to shoot free throws when the game was on the line. It seems like I always was in the middle of things during the pressure moments growing up so it does not really bother me.

Q. I know this is a long ways off, but if you win again next year, you would be the only four-time Minnesota Boys State Class AA singles champion. Have you thought about what that would mean to you?
A. Not really. I never put a lot of pressure on myself. I just try to go out there and play and whatever happens, happens. There are a lot of good players once again next year, so it will be tough to win it for a fourth time.

Q. Your brother, Toby, is a pretty good player as well. Do you play with him a lot?
A. I hit with him and my dad pretty much every day.

Q. When you are not playing tennis, what do you like to do?
A. I like to play video games and hang out. I still play basketball a lot because it is such a great workout.

Q. What are your plans for summer?
A. I am going to play a few National tournaments and hopefully raise my national ranking. I also plan to workout out a lot.

Q. What do you want to do after you graduate next year?
A. I definitely want to play college tennis somewhere. I haven’t really looked into anything specific yet so I am still pretty open.
**Tennis Happenings With Bruce**

by Bruce Gullikson

**Mickey Maule** recently entered the top-25 in world rankings for the men’s 40s and hopes to climb further up the charts as the year progresses. Bravo Mickey!!!

**Steve Wilkinson**, legendary college coach from Gustavus Adolphus, will be helping to coach **Eric Butorac** at Wimbledon this year (read more about this on page 24).

**Change of Scene update...**

- **Phil Metz** has moved from Life Time Fitness - Bloomington South to Life Time Fitness - Lakeville.
- **Bill Stark** is now teaching at the Reed Sweatt Family Tennis Center in Minneapolis. He used to be at Life Time Fitness - Lakeville.
- **Kate Malland**, formerly of Life Time Fitness - Lakeville has accepted the position of Tennis Coordinator at the new state-of-the-art Life Time Fitness facility in Colorado Springs, Colo.
- Former Apple Valley High School coach **Susan Furtney** is now teaching at Life Time Fitness - Crosstown.

Carleton College head women’s coach **Luciano Battaglini** was recently named the 2011 National Division III Women’s Coach of the Year by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

The North Metro Tennis Association is organizing the Waddell & Reed Summer Series, a series of adult tournaments in the Twin Cities area. All the tournaments are USTA Northern sanctioned events and have the typical NTRP divisions of play. At the end of the series, the top finishers in each division can win prize money (i.e. - a 3.0 player can win prize money, up to $400, competing for only against other 3.0 players). Overall, the Series will be awarding about $3,000 in prize money throughout the NTRP, Age Group and Open divisions.

The North Metro Tennis Association is also drawing for a trip for two to the 2012 US Open, which will include two US Open sessions, airfare and transfers (possibly hotel as well, we don’t know yet). You get entries into the drawing for this, and other great prizes like new Prince gear, for each tournament event you enter. You can also get entries by referring a friend to play in the series. If you have further questions go to www.NorthMetroTennis.com. Thanks to **Robbie Hank** and the North Metro Tennis Association for helping build adult tournament play!

**Harsh Mankad**, formerly of the ATP tour and now teaching at Public Indoor Tennis in Spring Lake Park, Minn., has this tip on doubles positioning.

**Q.** How far should I stand from the net when my partner is serving in doubles?

**A.** This is often a question I get from players I meet at the club, and the answer depends on a few factors.

First, it is important to understand that there is no right or exact position where one must stand and position himself/herself at the net. The right position to stand depends on one’s height. So a taller player can stand closer to the net because they can reach higher, and they are tougher to lob. A shorter player runs the risk of getting lobbed easier if they are too close to the net.

Second, it depends on how good your movement is getting back. If you are very athletic and can get back quickly, and jump well, then you can feel confident covering the lob even if you are close to the net. But if your backward movement is not your strength, then I would advice you to stand a little further back, maybe mid-way between the service line and the net or even a step further back.

Another factor to consider is how good is the opponent’s lob? If the opponent has a good lob either off the return of serve or off a baseline shot, you have to adjust and respect their ability to lob, and therefore stand a few steps back. No harm in backing up; all you are doing is putting yourself in a better position to cover the opponents strong shot (in this case it’s their lob) and making them hit another shot. One other reason to back up and stand a step or two further back at the net is if the opponent is crushing balls at you and you are finding it hard to handle the pace and consequently missing volleys. Backing up will give you an extra split second to see the ball and react by getting your racquet in the correct position and making clean contact with the ball.

Finally, be present to the situation and recognize how often your opponents are hitting the lob. If they haven’t hit a lob the whole match or during the past few games, then you can move closer to the net in order to cover their ground strokes. Executing an aggressive volley, as well as creating more angles, is much easier from a position that is closer to the net.

**Henry Lake**, talk show host on KFAN 1130 in the Twin Cities, was given some great advice by Hall of Fame baseball player **Ernie Banks** who told him he needed to add tennis to his fitness routine as it is a fantastic workout. Who knows ... maybe in a couple years fellow KFAN employee **Justin Gaard**, a two-time Minnesota boys singles champion from Edina back in the day, may have someone to hit with over his lunch hour.

As always if you have information, news, photos, or trivia send them my way brgtennis@aol.com

Hope to see you on the courts!
Congratulations to the following junior players on their selection to the Section’s Northern Stars program, a high performance camp of the Section’s rising stars ages 12 and under. Coaches for the 2011 camps include Justin Baker, Craig Gordon, Ryan Myhre and Pat Colbert.

10 AND UNDER GROUP: Anna Beaty (Wayzata, Minn.), Regan Dolezal (Woodbury, Minn.), Lauren Ferg (Eagan, Minn.), Emily Norman (Rochester, Minn.), Samantha Nichols (St. Paul, Minn.), Monterey Knewtson (Fargo, N.D.), Nicole Copeland (Edina, Minn.), Samantha Stephenson (Plymouth, Minn.), Evann Welty (Wayzata, Minn.), Anna Letto (Excelsior, Minn.), Zach Evans (Sioux Falls, S.D.), Isaac Cheruiyot (Rochester, Minn.), Ryne Reger (Blomington, Minn.), Garrett Springer (Lakeville, Minn.), Spencer Adam (Eau Claire, Wis.), Caleb Fridinger (Woodbury, Minn.), Tanner Parr (Edina.

12 AND UNDER GROUP: Francesca Trella (Eden Prairie, Minn.), Meagan Brown (Elk River, Minn.), Catherine Lindsay (Eau Claire, Wis.), Libby Rickeman (Wayzata, Minn.), Olivia Paradise (Mahtomedi, Minn.), Zoe Klass-Warch (St. Paul, Minn.), Steffi Tetzloff (Rochester, Minn.), Jose Williamson (Minneapolis, Minn.), Carter Mason (Eden Prairie, Minn.), Anuraag Bukkuri (Woodbury, Minn.), Sebastian Vile (Rochester, Minn.), Maxim Zagrebelny (Eagan, Minn.), Tanner Lundberg (Baxter, Minn.), North Knewtson (Fargo, N.D.), Joseph Tarvestad (Rochester, Minn.), Sam Morgenthaler (Rochester, Minn.).

Luciano Battaglini Named ITA Division III Coach of the Year

Carleton College women’s tennis coach Luciano Battaglini was named Division III Coach of the Year by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA). Battaglini led Carleton to a 16-6 record in 2011 and finished the year ranked 20th in the nation. He now has an overall record of 46-26 in 4 years.

Award Nominations Being Accepted, Due September 16

USTA Northern is currently accepting nominations for the 2011 Annual Awards to be presented on Saturday, Nov. 19, at Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington, Minn. Nomination forms are available at www.northern.usta.com and are due back no later than September 16, 2011. For more information on the USTA Northern Annual Awards, please contact Lisa Mushett at (952) 358-3282 or at mushett@northern.usta.com.

Geoff Young Named Central Region Coach of Year

University of Minnesota head men’s tennis coach Geoff Young was named the ITA Central Region Coach of the Year. Young, who guided the Golden Gophers to a 19-6 record this season, was one of 12 regional coaches across the country to be honored by the ITA.
Minnesota finished with a 19-6 overall record and advanced to the Big Ten Tournament Championship in May and was ranked as high as 16th in the nation.

New USTA Mobile App Covers Leagues & Tournaments

Stay connected with your game even when away from the courts with the new USTA Mobile App for your iPad™, iPhone®, iPod touch® devices. Now you can get even more out of your USTA League and Tournament experience from anywhere at any time! Features of the new application include the ability to:

- View league schedules, standings and scores
- Find a tournament and review the draw, competitors, results
- Review tournament seeds
- Get directions
- Report league scores
- Review player records
- Scout the competition

Playing USTA League and Tournaments just got a whole lot easier and even more fun. Find the USTA Mobile app in the iTunes store.

Wyatt McCoy Earns Finalist Honors at 18s National Open

Wyatt McCoy (Shoreview, Minn.) earned finalist honors at the USTA 18s National Open held at the Baseline Tennis Center on the University of Minnesota campus in May. McCoy’s run ended with a loss to Ronnie Schneider of Bloomington Ind., 7-5, 6-2 in the finals. The tournament consisted of 32 of the nation’s top boys and girls players. Other USTA Northern players in the field were Dusty Boyer (Ham Lake, Minn.), Tucker Saxon (Dellwood, Minn.) and Thomas Nath (Rochester, Minn.) in the boys draw. In the girls tournament, Alexis Nelson (St. Paul, Minn.), Madeline Buxton (Eden Prairie, Minn.), Caroline Ward (Edina, Minn.), Amber Washington (St. Paul, Minn.) and Kelsey Frechette (Rochester, Minn.) all played.

Check Out This Sweet Ride

USTA Northern staff members will be driving in style this summer as the Section “wrapped” two company cars with images that scream tennis. Check out the cars and be on the lookout as one comes to your community soon.
Wilkinson, Butorac
Join Forces Again At Wimbledon

Even though Eric Butorac has not officially played under the tutelage of Hall of Fame coach Steve Wilkinson since he graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minn., back in 2003, he has never really left the watchful eye of his former coach. They still talk by phone once a week discussing anything from how to beat the Bryan Brothers to staying positive during those trying times both on and off the court when playing on the ATP Tour. So when looking for a little extra help for him and partner Jean-Julian Rojer when taking to the sacred lawns of Wimbledon in June, Butorac knew exactly who he wanted in his corner.

“I felt having ‘Wilk’ with me at Wimbledon would be a great asset,” Butorac said. “He knows my game as well as anyone and has helped me perform at my highest level in the past. I thought if there was ever a chance for him to get to Wimbledon, it would be this summer, and luckily, he agreed.”

Although the two have always wanted to work together in an official capacity, this was the first summer it was even a possibility as Wilkinson and his wife, Barb, have operated the highly successful Tennis & Life Camps on the Gustavus campus the past 34 years. Twice before, the two had connected in an informal arrangement at the Australian Open when, coincidentally, Wilkinson was teaching a class for Gustavus in Melbourne during the tournament. This time, Wilkinson describes it as almost a “symbolic passing of the torch” since neither he nor Barb have ever missed a Tennis & Life Camp during those 34 years.

“It was very kind of Eric to offer me the opportunity to come to Wimbledon,” Wilkinson, who had been to the hallowed grounds of the All-England Club, but never during the tournament, said. “Being behind the scenes will definitely allow me a greater perspective on things, and talking to different coaches and players about tennis will be very enlightening.”

Sadly, this also might be Wilkinson’s last chance to walk the sacred lawns as he has been engaged in an on-going battle with an aggressive form of cancer that continues to spread throughout his body. Since December, Wilkinson has undergone two surgeries – one in December and another in April – and an intensive radiation treatment in early June, but like the true champion he is, he is not giving up.
and always looking at the positives. “Everything is good,” Wilkinson said. “Unfortunately, the cancer is metastasizing and new tumors appear, but we continue to fight.”

One of the most prominent coaches in collegiate tennis history, Wilkinson took over the Gustavus tennis program in 1970 and coached Butorac’s dad, Tim, in the mid-70s there. His teams compiled a 334-1 record in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and his 929 overall wins are most victories in the history of collegiate men’s tennis. Wilkinson’s squads won two NCAA Division III titles (1980 and 1982) and he coached 10 Division III National Champions in his career, including Butorac who won the 2003 doubles title with current Gustavus assistant coach Kevin Whipple and “shared” the singles title with Whipple that same year (Whipple defaulted the singles finals so Butorac and Whipple could focus on winning the doubles championship).

When asked about his favorite Wilkinson memory, Butorac tells the story of when he was in the semifinals of the 2003 NCAA singles tournament. He was down a set and a break when Wilkinson came over to talk to him on a changeover.

“I was telling him how I did not know how I was possibly going to win the match against the top-ranked guy in the country,” Butorac recalls. He made me laugh, smile, focus on what I could do and cherish my time competing in my final NCAA tournament. I enjoyed it so much I ended up pulling out the match in three sets.”

Off the court, Wilkinson has also touched Butorac in so many ways, but the first real memory of his “coach” was when he first arrived at Gustavus after transferring from Ball State University. He was struggling in class and needed to finish a paper. The two of them sat in Wilkinson’s kitchen most of the night looking through old books and encyclopedias working through the project so Butorac could complete it on time.

“I knew at that point that Steve was there for me not only as a tennis player, but also as a student and a person,” Butorac said. “Steve has meant everything to me from my tennis game to who I am as a person. Other than my parents, he has been by far the most influential person in my life. It really means a lot to me that we can share this experience together at Wimbledon.”

Note: Eric Butorac and his doubles partner Jean-Julien Rojer lost in the second round, while Butorac and mixed doubles partner Olga Govortsova advanced to the third round.

Eric Butorac played both men’s and mixed doubles at Wimbledon in 2011.
What A Community Tennis Association Can Do For You!

Community Tennis Associations (CTAs) are any incorporated, geographically defined, not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization that supports or provides programs which promote and develop the growth of tennis. There are four types of CTAs including:

- **Single-Purpose** – delivers only one program or service and does not address needs of entire community
- **Multi-Purpose** – offers more than one program/service but is still not a full-service organization
- **Umbrella** – delivers a full menu of programs & services to the entire tennis community
- **Coalition** – facilitates the delivery of tennis programs & services through a diverse group of organizations (could be other CTA’s, clubs, park & rec agencies, YMCA’s, etc.)

Here are four examples of what Community Tennis Associations are doing around the Northern Section in promoting and developing the growth of tennis.

**Black Hills Tennis Association (Rapid City, S.D.)**

“The Hills are Alive”...with tennis thanks to the efforts of the Black Hills Tennis Association in Rapid City, S.D. Some of the great work this group of volunteers has done includes:

- Over 350 children from General Beadle Elementary School physical education classes enjoyed a taste of tennis May 18-20 thanks to BHTA volunteers and an Adopt-A-School grant from USTA National.
- In North Rapid City, the Association assisted with the Ateyapi mentoring program by teaching tennis to over 40 fourth and fifth graders for three days.
- The Middle School program is expanding this year to provide tennis to over 85 students in 10 different schools throughout the city.
- The Black Hills Tennis Association reviewed and revised the application process for BHTA Scholarships and provided $1,000 in scholarship funds to the Rapid City Parks and Recreation Department for summer lessons.
- City officials, players and volunteers gathered in October for the Parkview Tennis Facility ribbon cutting. Not only did the BHTA assist the Rapid City Parks and Recreation Department to secure a $25,000 USTA National grant, it raised its own funds and presented a check for $50,332.50 to the Rapid City Area Schools for the project.
- In addition to hosting the Black Hills Common Cents Junior and Adult Open along with other local tournaments, the BHTA welcomes the USTA Regional Tournament Segment-Level 3 in September 2011.

“It is most certainly a very exciting time to be active in tennis in the Black Hills area,” board member Stephanie Barton said. “With increased community involvement and support, opportunities for tennis lovers of all are increasing regularly.”

For more information, contact Liz Hamburg at lizserves@gmail.com.

**Cook County Tennis Association (Grand Marais, Minn.)**

The Cook County CTA is centered in Grand Marais, Minn., which is a town of about 1,500 people located on the north shore of Lake Superior, 120 miles north of Duluth. Geography, climate and location all point to the fact that tennis is a sport totally unsuited for this area, but with a lot of legwork, combined with USTA support, this group turned Cook County into a tennis hotbed.

What this group has accomplished in the last 15 years is truly amazing including:

- Combining city and county money, private donations and USTA National and Section grants, to redo their tennis facility, adding two courts and a viewing area.
- Convincing Cook County High School to add boys and girls high school tennis to its athletic program.
- Hosting over a half dozen USTA sanctioned tournaments every summer and providing leagues for both adults and juniors.
- Providing the opportunity for everyone in the area to learn and play tennis.

Cook County CTA president John Muus credits the USTA Schools Program for establishing a high level of interest that could be built upon by a group of organized and dedicated CTA board members.

For more information, contact Muus at jcmuus@boreal.org.
Sioux Falls Tennis Association
(Sioux Falls, S.D.)

The Sioux Falls Tennis Association has been around for over 100 years. The Association currently has 260 members with 300 league participants, 712 in the junior tennis programs and tournament entries of over 600 – all in a town of just 155,000 people. Some highlights from the SFTA include:

1. SFTA was one of the first sites in the nation to build permanent QuickStart courts in partnership with the USTA and the city of Sioux Falls. Sioux Falls currently has eight permanent, 36-foot courts and is planning to add QuickStart lines to two of its eight-court facilities this summer. The SFTA is also currently working with the school district to add QuickStart lines to all of the 24 elementary school playgrounds.

2. The SFTA has been working with city and private groups to revitalize the tennis courts. Major improvements have been reconstructing the six tennis courts at Augustana College, lights at Kuehn Park’s eight-court facility, a new tennis shack at the McKennan Park facility and new lights this summer for McKennan Park. Five other city courts have also been resurfaced or reconstructed in the past year.

3. The biggest project to date for the SFTA will be fundraising for a new seven-court public indoor facility. The SFTA has recently approved for the Chamber Appeal Drive.

The SFTA did not do this on their own as they built partnerships and relationships within the community and encouraged their members and others to be an advocate for the sport of tennis!

For more information, contact Cindy Huether or Tracy Johnson at (605) 336-9396 or at sfta@live.com.

Bismarck-Mandan Tennis Association
(Bismarck & Mandan, N.D.)

The Bismarck-Mandan Community Tennis Association was organized as a tennis group in 1972. At the end of 2010, it had 125 adult members. To date in 2011, they have added 20-25 new members. This increase is due primarily to their local leagues. They also have a thriving youth program where the young people are involved in progressive doubles leagues, USTA Jr. Team Tennis and local junior leagues. Some highlights of the group include the following:

1) Recently, the BMTA has made a commitment to do more community outreach. Their first event was with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and they are looking to add a Special Olympics Program.

2) The BMTA held a Century Tournament where the age of the doubles partners needed to total at least 100 years old.

3) Growth in its junior programming encouraged Capital Racquet and Fitness to paint permanent QuickStart lines on its courts.

President Kevin Allan says their success has come from building in tennis activities as part of its annual meeting; creating more social tennis events for its members (wood racquet tournaments, etc.) and non-tennis events and using its members to volunteer for tennis and non-tennis activities.

For more information, contact kallan@umary.edu.

Flood Waters Threaten Pierre’s Griffin Park Tennis Courts

The Griffin Park Tennis Courts in Pierre, S.D., have so far survived a close call as flood waters threatened to inundate the courts finished only two years ago. The flood waters were expected to remain constant through mid-July and maybe longer, but the community is holding its collective breath hoping rain levels remain low throughout the summer. Although the courts have missed the flood’s path, the facility’s amenities are underwater and there is no electricity causing the 15th Annual Capitol City Open to be moved from Pierre to Aberdeen, S.D.

A special thank you to Northern State University and the Aberdeen Park and Rec Department for allowing them to host the tournament at Northern State as proceeds from the tournament will help with clean up efforts at Griffin Park once the water recedes.
Tennis continues to grow in Grand Forks, N.D., with the construction of Choice Health & Fitness, named after the Red River based financial institution who helped jumpstart the project in March when it pledged $2.75 million to the building of the facility. “Their sponsorship gave us the cornerstone we needed to inspire never-before seen collaboration for a community project of this magnitude,” Grand Forks Park District director John Staley said.

Within the $23 million facility is a new indoor tennis center that features six courts with 10 and under blended lines painted on each of them. The court surface will be an asphalt surface (they are currently bidding out that project) and will be painted green with the blended lines a lighter shade of green. There is also a mezzanine area between the two banks of courts which allows one to watch the action on both sides, a pro shop and racquet stringing area and two hospitality rooms. The facility will serve as the home of the University of North Dakota women’s tennis team and soon-to-be started men’s program and boasts a players’ room and coaches offices.

The city has already sold the naming rights for the tennis complex, which will be announced later this summer, as well as for each of the six indoor courts. The facility will eventually house six outdoor courts as well with the entire project expected to be completed in the fall of 2012. Once finished, the old Center Court Fitness Club will be either sold or razed.

In addition to the tennis facilities, Choice Health and Fitness includes gymnasiums, aquatic exercises and leisure pools, group exercise rooms for spin bikes and aerobics, running and walking tracks, machine and free-weight spaces, cardio areas, physical training and therapy areas, young child and youth rooms, a juice/snack bar, lounge, community and party rooms and locker rooms.

Located within Altru Wellness Village, the facility is entirely owned and operated by the Grand Forks Parks District. Forty-two acres of land was donated to the project worth an estimated $2.8 million. In addition, through fundraising efforts, the YMCA will receive an estimated $3 million through grants and donations which will go to the project. Other entities are also leasing space within Choice Health & Fitness including Altru Health System, the USDA Human Nutrition Research Center and WelCore Health. Other partners of the project include the Y Family Center, the University of North Dakota, Senior Citizens Center, Special Olympics, North Valley Arts Council, City of Grand Forks, the Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks and the Region and the Natural Resources Soil Conservation.

“What makes Choice Health and Fitness unique is the community partnerships involved in the facility,” Staley said. “Together they offer a combination of fitness, medical, research, nutrition, recreation and arts all under one roof.”