



NEWS

January 2008

USTA NATIONAL CAMPUS CHAMPIONSHIP

Registration forms for the 2008 USTA National Campus Championship presented by Tennis Warehouse are now available online. Go to http://www.nirsa.org/sports/tennis/sport_club/2008/Default.aspx to download an entry packet for your team.

This year's Championship will be held April 17-19 at the Cary Tennis Park in Cary, N.C. Entries will be accepted January 7 - March 21 and the tournament field will be limited to 64 teams, so make sure to get your team's entry in early!



PICTURE THIS!



Members of the Central Washington University Club Tennis Team recently had the opportunity to attend the 2007 Davis Cup Final in Portland, Ore. From left to right, Steve Diaz, Alex Walstead, Erica Mulberg and club president AnnElise Anderson.

STAR OVER TRINITY

Trinity University senior Marney Babbitt knew exactly what she was getting herself into when she started the Trinity Club Tennis Team in the fall of 2006. As the sole captain of the Trinity women's Water Polo Club, coupled with the duties of being a resident advisor, a lifeguard and a babysitter—and a massive 19 credit hours for school—her time was already stretched to the limit. But it was her love of tennis that trumped all else and led this dynamic leader to start Trinity's Tennis On Campus program.



Marney Babbitt (second from right), president and founder of the Trinity University Club Tennis Team, hangs out with her teammates on one of Trinity's 16 tennis courts.

Trinity, a Texas university with 2,500 students and very successful Division III men's and women's varsity tennis programs, did not offer an easy path. At Trinity, all recreational sports activities are run through the Athletic Department. When Babbitt approached the department about starting a tennis club, she encountered a rule the school had in place that would not allow a club sport to be formed if Trinity offered the same sport on the varsity level. But with 16 accessible tennis courts on campus and a large demand from her fellow students, Babbitt was still determined to make the club a reality.



Partnering with classmate Zach Noblitt, Babbitt garnered the full support of Trinity's associate athletic director for Recreational Sports, Jacob Tingle, and the men's and women's varsity tennis coach, Butch Newman. With those two in her corner, she approached the only person on campus that held the power to make an exception to the rule—

Trinity Athletic Director Bob King. With no facility conflicts, the backing of Noblitt, Newman and the USTA, great student leadership and a large demand for the club by students (roughly 40 in the early stages), it was an easy decision to grant the club a probationary first year, after which its success and future would be reevaluated for full club sport status.

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STAR OVER TRINITY

That was all Babbitt and the club needed, and they haven't looked back since. The Trinity Club Tennis Team, now in its second year, has quickly jumped into the lead as Trinity's largest club sport, with more than 60 students and growing. The team has attended five USTA Texas Regional Events and was named the 2007 USTA Texas Club Tennis Team of the Year.

"We had a very successful first year. Not necessarily defined by our wins and losses, but by how much fun we had," says Babbitt. "Many of the club tennis leaders in Texas were very helpful, especially George Chen from UT. We really feel like we're doing good things at Trinity and will continue to be a successful club in the future."

Indeed, good things are happening for campus life through tennis at Trinity. Between the new club tennis team, the varsity tennis teams and several tennis classes, more than 20 percent of the student body at Trinity is involved in tennis.

"The increase in participation numbers in just two years is an amazing thing to see," says Tingle. "It really showed that there was a need for this club and that if you put the right student leadership in place good things will happen."

The impact that Babbitt has had on tennis at Trinity hasn't gone unrecognized. A strong and passionate student leader, she was recently asked to sit on a guest panel during the Tennis On Campus session of the 2007 USTA Staff Training in Destin, Fla.

"Marney is the kind of student leader that we want to showcase," says Glenn Arrington, USTA National Manager, Collegiate Tennis. "She is passionate about tennis and has taken an active role to grow the game on her campus. We're very fortunate to have her as part of the Tennis On Campus program."

Tingle adds, "Marney has been phenomenal. She is one of those special students that doesn't come around very often. But when they do, it's like a bright star that makes the whole department better."

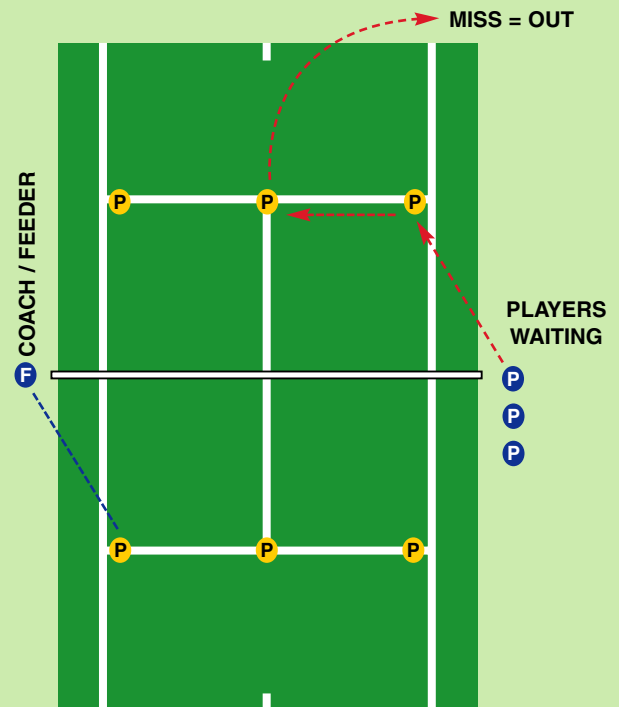
ITA DRILL OF THE MONTH: "PINBALL"

The following drill has been provided by Cari Groce, women's varsity tennis coach at Texas Tech University and 2006 Professional Tennis Registry Coach of the Year.



Cari Groce

The Pinball Drill focuses on quick reflexes, solid footwork and strong volleying while at net, and easily accommodates eight to 12 players on one court. Three players spread out across the service line on both sides of the court. The feeder, who stands at one net post, puts a ball into play and the six players play the point out until someone misses. The player who misses immediately moves out and the remaining two players on that side of the court "bump" up one spot, away from those waiting to "bump" in. (This line should be formed at the opposite net post from the feeder.) The next person in line quickly pops into the free slot on the court and the feeder puts the next ball into play. The game moves very quickly. To add some variation to the game: speed up or alter the feed, make everyone call the ball (if a player doesn't call the ball they are out), etc. Be creative, be on your toes and have fun!



YOUR TENNIS WAREHOUSE DISCOUNT

As you and your teammates start looking at your second semester schedule and the USTA Campus Championships, don't forget to take advantage of the discounts offered to your Tennis On Campus program through Tennis Warehouse. Whether you're looking to outfit your entire team with head-to-toe uniforms, need a new racquet or just need a few sets of string—they've got it. Plus, when you call to place your order and identify your Tennis On Campus program, Tennis Warehouse will discount your purchase.



2007 USTA/ITA AWARDS

Gustavus Adolphus College men's tennis coach Steve Wilkinson is the national winner of the USTA/ITA Campus Recreation Award, and Ouachita Baptist University Director of Tennis Craig Ward has been named the national winner of the USTA/ITA Community Service Award. Both coaches were honored December 15 at the ITA Coaches Convention.

The USTA/ITA Campus Recreation Award honors an ITA coach who has done an outstanding job implementing the USTA Tennis On Campus program or a similar recreational tennis program on campus in an effort to grow tennis participation within the campus community. The USTA/ITA Community Service Award honors an ITA coach for significant contributions in developing community-based tennis programs. This year's national winners were selected from a group of USTA sectional winners determined in the fall. These awards, which began in 2003, were open to the more than 2,000 ITA head and assistant coaches at the NCAA Divisions I, II, and III, NAIA and junior/community college levels.

"Steve and Craig are great examples of coaches who give back to their communities and campuses, and our hope is that their efforts continue to inspire other varsity coaches to emulate the great work they are doing," says ITA Executive Director David A Benjamin. "We strongly believe that campus recreation programs and community service are vital for today's college coach to become involved in, and these awards help highlight the coaches who have made those crucial efforts."

Wilkinson is in his 38th year as the men's varsity tennis coach at highly successful Division III Gustavus Adolphus and has taken great steps to promote the game of tennis on campus there. He runs three tennis leagues that play in the fall and spring, including an Intermediate League with six teams, an Advanced Singles League and an Advanced Doubles League. In the month of January, Wilkinson provides free indoor recreational tennis for all Gustavus students three days a week. He has also established two competitive intramural teams on campus that compete at the USTA Campus Championship – Northern and have hosted extramural competitions against the University of Minnesota.

Ward is in his 17th season as director of tennis for the men's and women's programs at Ouachita Baptist and has made promoting tennis within the Arkadelphia community a priority. Some of the many accomplishments and programs that he can be credited with include: four outdoor courts completed in 1990 that are free and open to the



Craig Ward (left), Ouachita Baptist University director of tennis, and Steve Wilkinson, men's varsity tennis coach at Gustavus Adolphus College, were honored on December 15 at the ITA Coaches Convention.

public; the establishment of five USTA leagues, including leagues for women and seniors; a junior program that meets once a week September through April; numerous doubles clinics throughout the year, a junior kids' free clinic and play day used to educate players about USTA Jr. Team Tennis; and many more. Meantime, Ward has worked to organize homecoming events for faculty and alumni and has involved his tennis teams in Tiger Serve Day, in which students, faculty and staff go out into the community and volunteer.

"The USTA is proud to be associated with these very special coaches," says Glenn Arrington, USTA National Manager, Collegiate Tennis. "We recognize the many challenges varsity tennis coaches face and tip our hat to those that go above and beyond the call of duty like this year's winners have. The extra efforts coaches put into their campus and community activities pay dividends for everyone involved in and around the sport of tennis."

USTA/ITA CAMPUS RECREATION AWARD – SECTIONAL WINNERS:

Florida – Derrick Racine, University of West Florida
Middle States – Kathy Sell, Princeton University
Northern – Steve Wilkinson, Gustavus Adolphus College
Pacific Northwest – Gail Patton, Southern Oregon University
Southern – Connie Keasling, Murray State University
Texas – Cari Groce, Texas Tech University



USTA/ITA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD:

Eastern – Da-lai Wu, City College of New York
Florida – Sasha Schmid, Stetson University
Intermountain – Kristen Hall, University of Wyoming
Middle States – Martin Coyne, Bloomsburg University
Midwest – Dann Nelson, Southern Illinois University
Missouri Valley – Chase Hodges, Drake University
New England – Filipe Miguel, Bridgewater State College
Northern California – Dave Griffin, Sacramento City College
Pacific Northwest – Gail Patton, Southern Oregon University
Southern – Craig Ward, Ouachita Baptist University
Southwest – Don Ball, New Mexico State University
Texas – Jason Haynes, Lee College

WORLD TEAMTENNIS TIPS



Elaine Wingfield,
Director, WTT Collegiate
Competition



This World Team Tennis Tip was provided by Elaine Wingfield, Director, WTT Collegiate Competition and rules aficionado.

The warm-up time between sets in WTT has recently increased from three to five minutes. As always, court monitors at the USTA Campus Championships will hold firm with this time. Here are a few suggestions that will help you maximize these two extra minutes and your overall warm-up:

- You are given a can of three balls for each court. This doesn't mean that you can't use a few more of your own balls for the warm-up, though, thereby decreasing the amount of time spent picking up balls and increasing your hitting time.
- Sometimes court monitors will give you a two-minute warning during your warm-up and other times they will simply tell you that your five minutes are up. Have your team come up with a routine for warm-ups—like in other team sports. One teammate or your coach can time how long you hit ground strokes, volleys, overheads and serves. After you get the routine down, you'll be surprised by how accurately you'll be able to gauge time while warming up, even without someone timing you.
- Many times, prior to the singles sets, only one player from each team goes onto the court. This is a great opportunity to have a teammate warm you up. The extra player in the warm-up gets the same benefits of hitting some balls and will be more ready to play if a substitute is needed—or can just get a little more warm-up time in before playing mixed doubles.

FALL TENNIS ON CAMPUS EVENT RESULTS

We're excited about the USTA Campus Championships that we offer for our Tennis On Campus programs, but there are also some awesome events that individual clubs run on their own. We're just as excited about these great events and their successes. Check out a few of them:

Blue Devil Invitational, Sept. 22

Host: University of Wisconsin – Stout
Winner: University of Minnesota "A"
Runner-up: University of Minnesota "B"

Florida State University Doubles Tournament, Sept. 22-23

Host: Florida State University
Men's Winner: University of Florida "A"
Women's Winner: University of South Florida

Maryland Club Tennis Fall Invitational, Sept. 22-23

Host: University of Maryland – College Park
Winner: Georgetown University
Runner-up: Villanova University

Fall Brawl 2 – Battle in the Carolinas, Sept. 29-30

Host: UNC – Charlotte
Winner: North Carolina State University
Runner-up: University of Georgia

Southern California Kick-Off Tournament, Oct. 6

Host: UCLA
Winner: UC – Irvine
Runner-up: Biola University/UC – San Diego/CSU – Santa Barbara

Gopher Invitational, Oct. 6-7

Host: University of Minnesota
Winner: University of Wisconsin
Runner-up: University of Minnesota

Syracuse University Open, Oct. 7

Host: Syracuse University
Winner: Syracuse University
Runner-up: Cornell University

Gator Bowl, Oct. 13-14

Host: University of Florida
Men's Winner: University of Florida
Women's Winner: University of Central Florida

1st Annual Pioneer Invitational, Oct. 19-20

Host: Denver University
Winner: Colorado University "A"
Runner-up: Colorado University "B"

UC - Davis Fall Kick-Off Tournament, Oct. 20

Host: UC – Davis
Winner: UC – Berkeley "A"
Runner-up: UC – Berkeley "B"

Third Annual Badger Classic, Nov. 2-4

Host: University of Wisconsin
Winner: University of Wisconsin
Runner-up: University of Texas

Minot State Invitational, Nov. 10

Host: Minot State University
Winner: North Dakota State University
Runner-up: Minot State University

Knightho Cup, Nov. 10-11

Host: University of Central Florida
Men's Winner: University of Miami (Fla.)
Women's Winner: University of Florida "A"

Southern California Social Doubles Mixer, Nov. 18

Host: UCLA
Blue Winner: Pat William (UCLA) & Joy Akahoshi (UC – Irvine)
Gold Winner: Robert Yee (USC) & Taylor Stallings (UCLA)

Cal State Northridge Tournament, Dec. 1

Host: Cal State Northridge
Winner: UC – Irvine "A"
Runner-up: UCLA

If you and your club have run an event like these, let us know about it at tennisoncampus@usta.com