Tennis and football? It’s a match made in, well, Happy Valley. The weekend of October 14 featured one of the biggest college contests of the fall season—Michigan vs. Penn State. And there was a football game played, too.

While many club tennis teams shy away from mixing their passion for tennis with football weekends, the Penn State club tennis team embraced it! Capitalizing on a healthy rivalry, both on the court and on the gridiron, the Nittany Lions invited the Michigan Wolverines to Happy Valley, Pa., for a Big Ten rivalry weekend. Penn State, the 2006 USTA Campus Championship-Middle States champion, also welcomed Penn and Villanova, the 2004 and 2005 Middle States champions, respectively, for the tennis action.

On game day, instead of predicting the weekend’s football score by playing EA Sports’ NCAA Football ’07, the students from PSU and Michigan settled their score on the tennis courts. Hungry for tennis and a little tailgating, the teams played abbreviated doubles sets in the chilly and gusty conditions. The competition on court proved to be as intense as the football game that followed. While Lee Corso was busy with his antics on ESPN’s College Game Day, tandems Jackie Davidson and Lauren Subosits and Travis Weidman and Chris Cappello were busy helping Penn State establish an early lead with tight, 6-5 victories. Michigan closed the gap during the second round of play, but Steve Eaglen and Diego Rodriguez sealed the Nittany Lions’ 12-matches-to-6 victory with another 6-5 win. Having settled one rivalry on court, the teams then migrated to Beaver Stadium to cheer on their football brethren.

“It’s great that a team can do a trip like this,” says Justin DePietropaolo, the former Penn State club tennis team president and current USTA Middle States TSR. “Students get riled up as it is, seeing opposing teams before a football game. Playing those same opposing fans on the tennis court ups the stakes a little bit more.”

The Michigan club tennis players got their money’s worth out of the trip, however. In addition to sneaking in some winter-weather tennis, they watched as their Wolverines—perhaps motivated by the club tennis team’s earlier loss—pulled out a 17-10 victory over Joe Paterno and the Nittany Lions. But while the two schools parted ways with a split decision for the weekend, one thing remains clear: Mixing big time college football and club tennis is a touchdown for everyone involved!
This drill has been provided by Billy Pate, men’s varsity tennis coach at the University of Alabama and a three-time National Junior College Coach of the Year. The focus is on doubles skill development, positioning, teamwork…and fun.

Like SEC football, the Battle in the Trenches drill emphasizes a fast-paced repetition “in the trenches,” and works on fundamentals on difficult shots often seen in doubles. Many coaches of all levels use similar drills, but this variation is what makes the Crimson Tide roll! Each player should partner with a teammate. One team starts as defender while the remaining teams are on the opposite side as attackers. The defenders earn one point for each point they win against the attacking team and the attackers must win three straight points to replace the defender. The drill ends when the defenders accumulate 11 points, at which time Pate incorporates fitness penalties for the losing teams.

The attacking team starts in “no man’s land” and plays a volley as their first shot, as fed by a coach. The defending team must start with their heels right on the service line for each point. This draws the focus on touch, angle and placement. If the attacking team wins the first point, they are fed another volley. If they win that point, the coach feeds an overhead. The defenders need to backpedal toward their own baseline to gain more time and hopefully put a defensive lob back in play. For added excitement and to test their skill, Alabama plays overheads (and all other shots) off of the back fence/wall.

**BILLIE JEAN KING’S TENNIS TIPS, COURTESY WTT**

**The Reflection of Tennis in Your Daily Life**

A tennis player’s commitment to tennis benefits the activities surrounding his/her daily life. Being organized and disciplined for tennis helps players learn how to balance their days and also to understand the difference between involvement and commitment. Playing tennis aids in accepting delayed gratification and recognizing clarity in life. Visualization is a big part of this process in learning at what level the player wants to be committed.

**PICTURE THIS**

(LEFT) The University of New Mexico club tennis team, a new addition to the club tennis world, recently held its first tournament! To set up a match with UNM, contact Tony Heames at aheames@unm.edu.

(RIGHT) Participants at the 2006 Florida State University Doubles Championship. The University of Florida (Men) and University of Miami (Women) won the tournament.
2007 USTA Campus Championship Registration


Club Tennis Fundraising Guide

The USTA recognizes that financing your club tennis team is not easy. To better help your team meet its fundraising goals, we are working on compiling a club tennis fundraising guide that will highlight proven practices that have worked for club tennis teams and other collegiate club sport teams across the country. We need your help! If you and your club have run a successful fundraiser, whether it was a one-time event or an ongoing effort, please e-mail it to [tennisoncampus@usta.com](mailto:tennisoncampus@usta.com).

Club Tournament Promotion

Are you hosting a club tennis tournament? Looking to get a few more schools involved? List your tournament information on the Tennis On Campus facebook group bulletin board and/or wall ([http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2204692793](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2204692793)) and join the numerous other club sport tournaments listed on the NIRSA sport club tournament web page ([http://www.nirsa.org/sports/sport_club_tournaments.aspx](http://www.nirsa.org/sports/sport_club_tournaments.aspx)).

Fall Club Tournament Highlights

While spring is club tennis championship season, the fall is quickly turning into club tennis tournament season. This year, more club tennis tournaments took place in the fall than ever before! Check out some of this fall's highlights:

- **Vanderbilt Tournament – 9/16-9/17**
  - Winner: Vanderbilt
  - Runner-Up: Georgia Tech

- **Florida State University Doubles Championship – 9/30-10/1**
  - Winners: University of Florida (Men) and University of Miami (Women)
  - Runners-Up: Florida State University (Men) and University of South Florida (Women)

- **Tennessee State Campus Championship – 9/30-10/1**
  - Winner: Vanderbilt 'A' (Men) and Vanderbilt (Women)
  - Runners-Up: Vanderbilt 'B' (Men) and Tennessee Tech (Women)

- **The Fall Brawl – 9/30-10/1**
  - Winner: University of Virginia
  - Runner-Up: Georgia Tech

- **Central Texas Regional Tournament – 10/14**
  - Semifinalists: University of Texas, Tyler Junior College, University of Texas-San Antonio, and University of Texas-Bevo
  - (Tournament cancelled in semis—rain)

- **Knightro Cup – 10/14-10/15**
  - Winner: University of Florida (Men) and University of Miami (Women)
  - Runners-Up: Florida International University (Men) and University of Central Florida (Women)

- **South Carolina State Campus Championship – 10/14-10/15**
  - Winner: Georgia Tech
  - South Carolina State Champion: College of Charleston

- **Dallas/Fort Worth Regional Tournament – 10/21**
  - Winner: University of North Texas
  - Runner-Up: Baylor

- **West Texas Regional Tournament – 10/21**
  - Winner: University of New Mexico
  - Runner-Up: Texas Tech

- **University of Southern California Tournament – 10/28**
  - Winners: USC and UCLA

- **2nd Annual Badger Classic – 11/3-11/5**
  - Winner: Miami University (OH)
  - Runner-Up: University of Wisconsin

- **Houston Regional Tournament – 11/4**
  - Winner: University of Texas (White)
  - Runner-Up: University of Texas (Orange)

- **The Gatorbowl – 11/4-11/5**
  - Finalists: University of Florida and University of Georgia (Men) and University of Central Florida and University of Georgia (Women)
  - (Tournament cancelled in finals—rain)

- **Crimson Indoor Championships – 11/10-11/12**
  - Winner: University of Georgia
  - Runner-Up: Valdosta State University

- **University of New Mexico Tournament – 11/10-11/12**
  - Winner: University of Colorado ‘A’
  - Runner-Up: University of Colorado ‘C’

- **USTA Virginia Fall Tennis Invitational – 11/18-11/19**
  - Winner: University of Colorado ‘A’
  - Runner-Up: University of Colorado ‘B’

Continued from page 1

**USTA SUPPORTS STUDENT LEADERSHIP**

Foundation provides opportunities through professional development, research, scholarships and also support of the NIRSA Foundation Career Opportunities Center. It’s up to you to get involved today: [http://www.nirsa.org/about/foundation/Default.aspx](http://www.nirsa.org/about/foundation/Default.aspx).

The NIRSA Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to enhancing the future effectiveness of the collegiate recreational sports community and to maximizing that community’s impact on society.