



Senior Tennis Times

Newsletter of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

November
2007

Jumpstart your game

You less-experienced players have a great opportunity to improve your game, at very low cost. Our drills Monday afternoon (1:30-3:00) and Thursday morning (8:30-10:00) at Reed-Sweatt have two courts, with two teaching pros. Less experienced players work on one court; more experienced on the other. This gives you a great chance to get the help you need to rapidly advance your tennis skills.

And right now attendance has been rather low, averaging about 10 players at each of these drills. That means about five players on each court, and lots of attention from our pros. What a deal: 1½ hours of professional instruction for just \$5!

Senior Tennis T-shirts

Your club is offering T-Shirts with our logo on the front of the shirt for sale at cost—just \$5. These shirts are quality 100% cotton, printed in green and black, same as our logo. On the order form on page 4, please write your name and phone number, your captain's name, and quantity. Your shirt will be given to your captain for pickup. If you don't have a captain please make arrangements with one. A list of captains can be found in the September newsletter. Please feel free to call Tom Waki at 612-388-7879 or email him at tamisan2@comcast.net. Use order form on page 4.



Renewal letters coming!

About the time you receive this newsletter, you'll be receiving a letter from STPC with your 2008 renewal. Two important points:

- Follow instructions carefully, and write carefully. We get lots of errors, especially in email addresses.
- Deal with it **now!** If you put it in that heap "to do later" it is too easily forgotten, and then you could miss out on your newsletter and roster.

Tennis Events

By Bob Busch

US Open

Roger Federer is on his way to being recognized as the "greatest to ever play the game." The Swiss star won his fourth US Open in a row and his 12th Grand Slam title. He remains just two behind Pete Sampras in Grand Slam wins.

Federer defeated the 20 yr. old Serbian, Novak Djokovic before 25,230 fans at Arthur Ashe Stadium 7-6(4), 7-6(2), 6-4 in the US Open final. Federer was mentally stronger on the critical points.

Both players received standing ovations after the two and a half hour match. It was a big pay day for Federer. He received \$2.4 million.

Djokovic began the season ranked outside the top 15. During the season he played his way into the top 5 and now plays competitively with Federer and Nadal.

In quarterfinal play, Andy Roddick of the US probably played his best match ever but still lost to Roger Federer 7-6(5), 7-6(4) and 6-2. He served brilliantly, consistently around 140 mph and returned well but couldn't overcome the #1 seeded Federer.

In womens' play, Justine Henin defeated Svetlana Kuznetsova in a two-set match not deserving of a US Open final. Henin also defeated Venus and Serena Williams on her way to the title. For the first time in over 2 years both Serena and Venus are ranked in the top ten.

Wheelchair Tennis

Minnesotan Jon Rydberg of Oakdale won the wheelchair singles competition at the Parapan

(Tennis events—continued on page 5)

Upcoming Events

Valentine Party

February 2, 2008

Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

A nonprofit corporation, P.O. Box 5525
Hopkins, MN 55343
On the web: www.seniortennismn.com

Senior Tennis Times

The Senior Tennis Times is published ten times annually by and for the members of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

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Advertising

Send digital files by disk or e-mail to the newsletter editor by the 15th of the month for publication the following month. **Please send all payments to the newsletter editor.**

Ad rates (first month/additional months):

Full page (7.5x10)\$110/90

Half page (7.5x4.9)85/65

Quarter page (3.7x4.9).....60/40

Eighth page (3.7x2.4)40/25

4-line ad (members only).....10

2-line ad (members only) First three months: free, then \$5/issue.

Membership information changes, newsletter delivery problems, etc.,

can be made by writing Senior Tennis Players Club, P.O. Box 5525, Hopkins, MN 55343 or currentmembers@seniortennismn.com

Membership total: 1510

November 2007, Volume 20, Number 9



What! No letters?

Your editor is heart-broken! No one wrote to him this month. There's only one cure—show your love by sending him those interesting stories, outrageous opinions, complaints, compliments.... Anything to get him out of his funk!

*Letters to the Editor are wanted!
This is your space to express an opinion or relate an interesting experience.*



Tennis schedules

Our "final" fall/winter tennis schedule was published in the September newsletter. However, we continue to get changes. With so many of our members having Internet access, we suggest you simply go to our website, www.seniortennismn.com, to get the latest. If you don't have a computer, ask a friend to do it for you.

As a non-profit organization, the Senior Tennis Players Club gratefully accepts donations, memorials and estate gifts.



Mission Statement

The primary purpose of the STPC is to provide tennis playing opportunities to people 50 and older for their mental, physical, and social well-being; and to support the growth of tennis.

Newsletter Submissions

To help make the newsletter as correct as possible, please submit all items in writing only, by mail or email. The deadline is the 17th of the month for publication the following month. All material submitted for publication is subject to editing. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope if you want materials returned.

Send your submissions to: David Sommer, 3657 17th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407-2805.

Email: editor@seniortennismn.com.

We need help and input from writers, artists, and photographers.

Percy's tennis rhythms



By Percy Hughes

Well, we're indoors again, team. Summer was really summer. I have to remind everyone that now part of your equipment has to include \$5.00 to pay the indoor court time fee for our club lessons. Remember, outdoor lessons are free, but in the

meantime, enjoy every moment you're "winging" on a tennis ball. I'm like a broken record about so many things: 1) how are your strings; 2) your shoes; 3) water jug's not leaking; 4) did you have an athlete's meal before your court-time? I hope you're starting to think about our founding father's **Jack Dow Tournament** in the Spring. Jack was a great gentleman—I shall never forget him. He formed this great club in 1982, with two

coaches, **Virginia Morgan**, and yours truly. Virginia and her daughter moved out west, and I'm still here. ☺ I'm not much for traveling outside of Minnesota, much less living elsewhere. Any questions for me—problems, please call me. 612-866-1102. I promise to get to you, hopefully, pretty quick.

Corruption in our great sport? I don't believe it, but we'll have to wait and see. Have you ever harbored a thought that some of our major tournaments might have some fixed matches? In the Star Tribune's Saturday, October 13, 2007, sports section, page C2, there is quite an article about this possibility. **Wow!** For me it's hard to believe. In tennis? Gosh, the only cheating in tennis that I know of is ... yes, you guessed it, **no foot faults!**

Perc

Warm-up

By David Sommer

"It's not about me; it's about us," says tennis pro Tim Burke. That means that the warm-up is a time for both players to get their feet, hands, and eyes working together. It's **not** the time to show what a hot-shot you are, or to intimidate your opponent with your powerful ground-strokes or put-away volleys. Here's what the pros and advanced amateurs do, and a good procedure for all of us:

1. Hit some medium-pace ground strokes from the baseline.
2. One player move to net while other stays at

baseline. Player at baseline hits medium-pace groundies to player at net; player at net hits **friendly volleys** back. (**Friendly** means hitting back to the baseline, not trying for winners.)

3. Player at net asks for some overheads.
4. Player at baseline comes to net and player at net moves back. Repeat steps 2 and 3.
5. Hit a few serves.

Working cooperatively, this can all be done in 10 minutes or less. In doubles, of course, the warm-up is done straight ahead, not cross-court, so that both players on each side get a good warm-up. Use more than three balls to minimize time chasing balls. I always come on the court with some practice balls.

Want ads

These two-liner want ads are available to all STPC members. Your ad is free for three issues. After that, there is a charge of \$5 per publication.



Interested in Head racquets & clothing? Consult Percy Hughes 612-866-1102 for what's best for you.

Expert Racquet service. Fred Jurewicz (952) 496-1018 (H); (612) 250-3185. *10% STPC discount.*

Branson, MO biannual timeshare FOR SALE. 1st \$1500 or more by 12/07. Cris 612-508-2722.

Carefree, AZ fully furnished townhouse available to rent Sept-Dec, free tennis. 651-631-1044.

Rent Villages, FL. Free golf and nightly entertainment. Activities for everyone. Available Dec. 2007 and May through Dec. 2008. 2BR, 2BA, den, nice house.

\$2700/month. 952-935-5670.

Cancun vacation for 6, Feb 9-16. Gorgeous pent-house with tennis, all amenities. \$1700. 952-935-4674.

Rent Marco Island, FL Jan 18-25, 2008, \$225/night 2BR 2BA on the beach, **free** tennis. Gary 763-545-4998

Prince PBM405 ball machine \$495, Bob Clark, Edina, 952-944-1315.

Please donate decent used racquets for at-risk high school students at Lincoln Hills Education Center. Call Marsha Jarvela (763)971-8997/(612)790-1246, marshajarvela@yahoo.com.

For sale: complete Total Gym exercise set. New condition. \$30. 952-935-6656.

Timeshare for rent, 1 week, 2BR, 2BA, kitchen, 5 star, Sleeps 6, \$1200; Use US or international. 763-544-9757

Nick Bollettieri autograph. Free! David 612-276-1313

●● STPC lessons and drills—all levels ●●

Some court locations are subject to change during the season. No reservations necessary.

Location	Day	Time	Skill	Cost	Instructor	Phone
Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center 4005 Nicollet Ave S Minneapolis 612-825-6844	Mon	1:30-3:00 PM	All	\$5.00	Dilcia Pederson	612-825-6844
					Duncan Welty	952-933-8592
	Thu	8:30-10:00AM	All	\$5.00	Percy Hughes	612-866-1102
					Paul Stormo	952-944-6286
Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center. 100 Federal Drive, Minneapolis	Tue	11:00-12:30	All	\$5.00	Tom Bauman	651-738-6726
Williston Fitness & Sports 14509 Minnetonka Drive Minnetonka 952-939-8370	Tue	5:30-7:00PM	All	\$5.00	Duane Ryman	612-865-9517

Free or low-cost lessons* are offered as part of your STPC membership. New members are encouraged to take advantage of them. After twelve lessons, you will receive a free can of balls and a certificate of accomplishment and congratulations from the STPC president. You should notify your instructor when you have completed twelve lessons.

* Lessons are free during outdoor season; they cost \$5 when indoor (to pay for court time). You may continue taking lessons as long as you are a member of the club.

●● Private Club Drills Open to STPC Members ●●

Location	Day	Cost	Time	Phone
Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center* 4005 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis	Tue Thu	\$7.50	9:00-10:00 AM	612-825-6844 Call for reservation.

***Additional classes for all skill levels available, open to seniors and younger players.**

Players wanted!

Women 2.5-3.0

Reed-Sweatt, Tues. 11:00-12:30. Need regulars & subs.
 Norma Johnson 612-374-2460, nomaj@juno.com

Men, women 2.5-3.5

Play Thursday 12:30-2:30, Reed-Sweatt. Please call Cee Pautz, 952-944-5920.

Men, women 3.0-3.5

Wooddale, in Woodbury, Wed. 7-8:30 AM. Call Connie Alt, 651-450-4580. conniealt@yahoo.com

Evening or weekend group at Crosstown

We are trying to form a group to play at Crosstown. This is to serve especially members who are still working. **However**, we need a few more 3.0-3.5 players as regulars or subs. Contact Marty Plitnick (612) 247-7412 or martyplitnick@comcast.net.

T-Shirts Order Form

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Captain: _____

Size	S	M	L	XL
Chest	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48
Quantity				

The price of each T-shirt is \$5.

Make check payable to: STPC

Mail check and form to: Tom Waki
 4199 Starbridge Ct
 Eagan, MN 55122

(Tennis events—continued from page 1)

American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Rydberg defeated Robinson Mendez of Chile 6-1, 6-1.

ICT Needs Volunteers

Add a weekly volunteer commitment to your schedule. Expanded programming for the InnerCity Tennis programs increases the need for volunteers. The fall and winter schedule includes the free Saturday program from 1:30–4:30 at the Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center for youths ages 3-17. In addition, the following programs are scheduled during the week:

Headstart

Fraser Learning Center (Tuesdays)

McKnight School (Thursdays)

Learning for Leadership Charter School in NE Minneapolis (Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays)

Golden Eagle Native American Center (Tuesdays & Thursdays)

Urban Ventures (Fridays)

To volunteer or obtain more information please call Paul at 612-824-6099 and visit the website at www.innercitytennis.org.

Pro Rankings 1982

Men

1. John McEnroe
2. Jimmy Connors
3. Guillermo Vilas
4. Ivan Lendl
5. Vitas Gerulaitis

Women

1. Martina Navratilova
2. Chris Evert
3. Tracy Austin
4. Andrea Jaeger
5. Hana Mandlikova

Prize Money 2007

1. Federer - \$4,263,620
2. Nadal - \$4,255,435
3. Djokovic - \$2,336,100
1. Henin \$2,534,430
2. S. Williams \$1,799,034
3. V. Williams \$1,505,523

Quote of the day: “Nobody beats Vitas Gerulaitis 17 times in a row.” (after finally beating Jimmy Connors in an exhibition match following sixteen straight losses.)

*Note: Statistics are as of August 13, 2007 and “The Way it Was” Rankings as of August 9, 1982.

In Memory...



Firmin Alexander

Firmin Alexander, “Ace,” age 81, of Apple Valley, died on August 23, 2007. Survived by loving wife of 57 years, Janet (Maeurer); many children and grandchildren. School teacher/administrator for 30 years in the St. Paul Public High Schools. Civic activities: MN State Zoo Board, Republican Party and many others. Mary Kaminski remembers Firmin: “He was a Board member in 1996, elected Vice President in 1997. When Jim Tor-noe died in April, 1998 in his first month as President, Firmin was asked to take over. Here was his reply in the Minutes of May, 1998: ‘I, Firmin, will serve with gusto and do whatever needs to be done between now and the 1st of September, 1998.’ He



did that until Bob Tischbein was elected President. Firmin was great to work with—I remember him well!” Janet Alexander said “He was still playing tennis with the group at the Reed-Sweatt Tennis Center. I am not sure how many years he was playing, but it was probably 25 years at least.”

Lorraine Nietz

Lorraine Nietz, age 86, of Minneapolis, passed away September 17, 2007. Lorraine was a member of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and was retired from the Minneapolis Downtown Public Library. She was an avid tennis player. She is survived by brother, Donald H. Nietz and many nieces and nephews. Barb Webb remembers “As a member of STPC she was a captain at Reed-Sweat. Unhappily, she suffered a stroke eight years ago while playing at Bass Lake Courts. She was never able to play again. However, she continued her interest in the game and enjoyed hearing about and remembering her tennis friends.”

Old dogs learn new tricks

By Thomas Bauman

Duane Ryman, Paul Stormo and I attended the World Conference on Tennis, hosted by the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA). It was held at the Saddlebrook Resort in Wesley Chapel, FL, and included educational seminars, speakers such as Nick Bollettieri, Todd Martin, and Anne Smith, who shared their insights on various topics from tennis teaching to nutrition.

It was so encouraging to see that more than half of the delegates from the Northern section of the USPTA were seniors. This has a lot to say about the passion these senior Pros have for the game of tennis and the desire to update their teaching by paying for and attending a conference like this. You should see things

on the court that we learned to make tennis more rewarding for you. For myself just the ways to get to the basics and have you work on little changes that can become big advantages in your game was worth the time and money. The word from Bill Tym, USPTA Hall of Fame, that “there is no right or wrong way in tennis; just a better way” helps me in my teaching to not add so many corrections—just let it flow, and if I see a chance to provide a better way I know how to do that. The conference not only had 100 sessions on teaching, but it allowed us to play world class tournament tennis on clay courts, and the opportunity for all of us to get together and talk shop about tennis in Minnesota. Take the time to thank any of your pros for their passion for the game and the ways they help share it with you, and ask them what they loved about the conference. **Because these old dogs learned some new tricks.**

Jim Taylor’s memoir

By Kathy Murphy

Jim Taylor joined STPC in 1997 and continued to play tennis regularly, usually at the Reed-Sweatt Center, until illness and the infirmities of aging caused him to hang up his racket in late 2005. Shortly thereafter, the memoir of his life which he had written, with the help of his wife STPC member Kathy Murphy, was accepted for publication. Scarletta Press of Minneapolis published the book in September 2007.

Those of us who played with Jim knew that he had visual impairments, and we all appreciated his guide dog Copper, who sat patiently (usually) while Jim dished up his cuts and slices. What most of us did not know is how Jim lost his vision and how he had spent his previous years.

Willow in a Storm: A Memoir tells the story of Jim’s forty years of incarceration in the federal penal system following his robbery of a Minnesota bank and his subsequent inadvertent killing of the banker in 1955.

This book is a powerful, comprehensive and honest look back at what at first appears to have been a wasted life, but lifts off toward its conclusion into a unique lesson about how to live and survive as a human, not just in the US penal system, but also in the few decades each of us is allotted to live on this earth. Jim was severely brain-injured in an unprovoked attack by another inmate in 1987; some of his injuries did heal and his vision improved over the many years since.

Publishers Weekly says “That Taylor eventually finds peace, going so far as to ‘thank God for confinement because it gave me time to change,’ speaks to the enormous heart of this honest, affecting account... this tale proves emotional, forthright and inspirational.”

Jim continues to live at home with Kathy but he now suffers from dementia. Kathy continues to play tennis weekly. If you are interested in reading this engrossing story, ask for it at your local bookstore, or order it from Amazon. Alternatively you might ask your local library to secure a copy for their collection and circulation.

Tip from an amateur

By David Sommer

The situation: your partner is serving, and the receiver is blasting you, passing you, or lobbing you.

The answer: you’re playing too close to the net. Many of us “hug” the net, thinking this will make our volleys more reliable. It does, but we also have less time to react when challenged by a talented opponent. So do as the pros do: back up a few steps so you’re about midway between the net and the service line. Or if that

doesn’t work, back up nearly to the base line.

Important: Do not move over into the alley. True, the opponent won’t try to pass you down the alley. He/she will ignore you entirely, since you’ve now given up $\frac{3}{4}$ of the court, leaving plenty of space to hit powerful returns down the middle as well as cross court. You’re letting your partner do most of the work.

STPC new members, renewals, and changes

Name Rating Primary phone Other phone Address / Email

Celebrating captain Mary

By Chuck Wenz

On April 30th the Wooddale STPC groups captained by Darlene Moynagh and Mary Wenz retired to Axel's Bonfire for an end-of season farewell. Mary Wenz was ending about 17 years of captaining three courts of evenly mixed doubles, first at the old Decathlon Club and later at the Wooddale Recreation Center. She was honored with a surprise Certificate of Appreciation, a flowering plant, a tennis ball can of candy, and a souvenir tennis racquet of considerable character. In the photo, Darlene is holding the certificate, and Mary is seated next to her.



Cruise stories

By David Sommer

On an Alaska cruise last summer I met Jeremy Levin, a strong (4.5+) player. He had some wonderful tennis stories to share:

As a 15 year old, he played Jimmy Connors, then 14. Connors was brash, rude, etc., as you'd expect. Jimmy said "I'm the best junior player in the country." In warm-up, Connors blasted hard shots at Jeremy (see "Warm-up" article elsewhere for proper procedure).

Connors against Sandy Mayer: On serve in 5th set, score 4-5, as they passed at net: "For a while there, I thought you had me."

Jeremy visited Forest Hills, after the US Open moved to Flushing Meadows. He wanted to see the famed Center Court, but "no admittance." Deflated, he asked if he could take a lesson from a resident pro. Yes—cost \$100. He and pro went out to courts. Then pro said, "Oh, I see there's no one on center court—let's go there."

Harry Hopman, who coached Rod Laver and Ken Rosewall, gave them their ironic nicknames: "Rocket" because Laver was slow (at first) and "Muscles" for Rosewall's unimposing physique.
