



Senior Tennis Times

Newsletter of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc. Jan/Feb 2012

Have you renewed?

There's an easy way to tell!

- If you get this newsletter by US mail, look at the mailing address on the back. There is either "2011" or "2012" after your name. If it's "2012" you have renewed for 2012. **But if it's "2011" you haven't.**
- If you get this newsletter by email, the email itself tells you if you need to renew.

Mail in your renewal now! If you misplaced the renewal letter, you can get the form on our website—click Membership. Or call Ronnae Wagner at 612-516-4182. Senior Tennis for just \$25—the best deal in town.

Gopher Mixer: be there!

It's filled up. **If you signed up, be sure to show up!** Otherwise, you've taken a space someone else wanted. Event is Sunday, January 15, 4:45-7:00 PM. If you discover you can't be there for a very good reason, call Mark Mudra at 952-833-1469 or markmudra@aol.com.

On the inside

Page 3: Mark Mudra announces expansion of the private lessons—now also at Baseline.

Page 5: We repeat "Tennis doubles—a challenge" by Paul Stormo. Last published in 2005, so you probably don't remember the answers!

Page 6: One of those quirky rules questions. This time your editor takes on the Tennis Channel!

Page 7: Another one—when is a hinder *not* a loss of point?

Page 8: Sign up for a February Mixer. Our mixers have been filling up lately, so sign up early to be sure you're included.

Page 11: "Age of the 'Super Brat'" by Steve Wilkinson. About those outrageous stars of the '70's and '80's, Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe, and the challenge to college coaches to teach sportsmanship, despite the "brats" popularity.

Page 12: "Playing the Net." Poems by **Bill Cosgrove** recounting true encounters of the butterfly kind.



Tennis events

By Bob Busch

Happy New Year! With this first column of 2012 we send our best wishes for a *healthy and happy New Year*. Keep swinging in 2012! Playing tennis helps maintain a healthy level of fitness; don't lose it.



Robertsons win Gold Ball

Bill Robertson and grandson Luke of Bloomington won a Gold Ball for winning the USTA National Grandfather/Grandson tournament in La Jolla, California on December 4. Luke is a senior at Bloomington Jefferson High School and a member of the varsity tennis team. It's great to have a local doubles team ranked #1 in the nation.

USA wins gold

The USA Wheelchair Tennis Team won three gold medals in the 2011 Parapan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico in mid-November. Jon Rydberg, the East Ridge High School tennis coach in Woodbury, won the men's doubles gold medal with his partner Stephen Welch. The USA team also won gold in women's singles and doubles. Rydberg lost to the #1 seed in singles after victories against players from Peru and Brazil. Guadalajara was the location of many drug-gang related killings in November. The USA team returned without incident.

Thanks volunteers and contributors

Many volunteers and financial contributors help the excellent inner city tennis programs we have in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area achieve national recognition from the USTA and others. Roger Boyer, Executive Director of InnerCity Tennis, indicated that they

(Tennis events—continued on page 6)

Upcoming Events

February 11, 2012:
Reed-Sweatt Afternoon Mixer
Details and sign up page 8

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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Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

David Sommer612-276-1313

Advertising

Send by email or USPS 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)..... \$165/135

Half page (7.5x4.9) 110/85

Half page on back cover 125/100

Quarter page (3.7x4.9) 70/50

Eighth page (3.7x2.4) 45/30

Business card special 30/20

Horizontal strip ads: \$55 first two inches; \$20 each additional inch. Vertical: \$75 first two inches; \$25 each add'l inch.

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 email dsommer7@usewireless.com.

Membership total: 1455

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Letters to the editor

Editor's note: We welcome letters, and also Peeves. I invite readers to submit their own Peeves. It's OK to be peevish—anonymity protected if you wish.



Can't play; still cares

I can no longer play (physical problem). I just want to support STPC.

—Wallace Neal

Editor's note: this is a note from Wallace's 2012 renewal. Thanks, Wallace!

Rutgers retreat

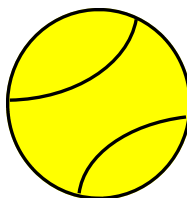
Our annual fun fall retreat at Rutgers, for the Coady Tennis Group, was the best ever. The weather was glorious. We spent time boating, riding, kayaking and just soaking in the sun. The third Annual Coady Tennis



Tournament was held on the tennis courts. The winners this season are Sharon Engel and Sally Enstrom. Pictured left to right, bottom row: Sally Enstrom, Sharon Engel, Joanne Schmid, and Jane Tischbein. Back Row: Ginny Morse, Susan Rosenberger, Libby Hargrove, Linda Shermock, Erlene Herr, Rita Welch, Bonnie Bolton, and Joan Madden.

—Linda Shermock

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 a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want materials returned.

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

Email: dsommer7@usewireless.com.

Opinions expressed in articles, letters or advertisements are those of the author, and do not necessarily represent views of the newsletter editor or the Board or officers of STPC.

Mark's corner

By Mark Mudra

Welcome Baseline!

I welcome the **Baseline Tennis Center** into our growing Senior Tennis training program. Through the hard work of **Reven Stephens, John Pratt** and **Dana Young** we can now offer private/group lessons at Baseline on Wednesday and Friday mornings. There will be eight hourly time slots available at the special Senior Tennis rate of \$20/hour for our lesson program. Details: see page 7 of this newsletter, or visit our STPC web site (click Lessons) on how to reserve a court and a pro.

Baseline and the U of M will be the home of the Senior Olympics in 2015 and have hosted the **Gopher Mixer** free of charge the past three years. In 2008 the **USTA** honored the Baseline Tennis Center with its **Outstanding Facility of the Year Award**.

Lesson program

Several members suggested they like the new format for the lesson program where the coaches concentrate on one new stroke each month.

For members who miss class or join the class late, coaches will allocate 25% of the first class each month for review of all previous strokes. This also will help new members so they don't feel behind if they join a class mid-season in January/February for instance.

For instance, in my 1/6/12 class, we will cover volleys, serves, forehands, and backhands.

Stroke of the month for January—return of serve

See next page for coaching points.

National Tennis Rating Program

Check out our web site for information on our new **free** NTRP program beginning in February. Any questions please let me know.

— Mark Mudra markmudra@aol.com, 952-833-1469



Players wanted

Matchpoint, 3.0-3.5 W, Tue/Thu noon-1:30

Subs needed Tuesdays and Thursdays for women's 3.0-3.5 groups. Captain Pat Judge 651-452-1124.

Baseline, 2.5 W, Thursdays 10:00-11:00

Looking for regular and subs. Contact Brenda Zimmerman, 651-645-1662 or bzimm003@yahoo.com

Fred Wells, 3.5-4.0 W, Mondays 8:00-9:30

Subs for women's doubles. Captain Mary Rogers 952-927-8168.

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.

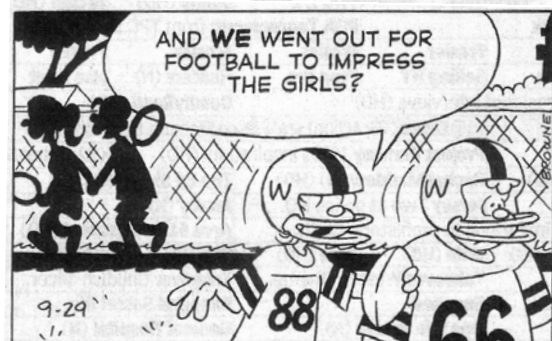
Expert Racket service. Fred Jurewicz 952-496-1018 (H); 612-250-3185. *10% STPC discount.*

Time for fall/winter project? Kitchen, bath, paint, lighting/electrical, plumbing, tile. High quality attention to detail. Home Improvement Specialist 612-710-7055, ericostergaard@yahoo.com.

For sale: new Uggs boots, tan, size 8B, \$90 or best offer. Leola Garvander 612-798-4372.

Old Naples seasonal rental; 2 bedroom, 2 bath; 3 blocks to beach. pamgerl@aol.com

Wanted: used car for our grandson. Call Jo Robles at 763-473-5959 or e-mail jo@jorobles.com.





Taylor Home Maintenance

SERVING THE TWIN CITIES AREA

ALL YOUR HOME MAINTENANCE ISSUES, TO DO LISTS, & REMODELING NEEDS—WE DO IT ALL, IN & OUT. LET ME KNOW YOUR QUESTIONS.

Call Scott Taylor

* Senior Tennis Member
References Available

Phone: 928-710-8333
E-mail: Mtn1775@gmail.com

●● STPC lessons and drills—September through April—All levels ●●

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

Location	Day	Time	Skill	Cost	Instructor, Phone, Email
Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center 4005 Nicollet Ave S Minneapolis 612-825-6844	Mon	1:30-3:00 PM	All	\$7.00	Dilcia Pederson 612-824-6099 dilcia.pederson@innercitytennis.org
					Duncan Welty 952-933-8592 idwelty@q.com
	Thu	8:30-10:00AM	All	\$7.00	Duncan Welty 952-933-8592
					Paul Stormo 952-944-6286 pjstormo@aol.com
Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center. 100 Federal Drive, Minneapolis	Tue	12:30-2:00	All	\$7.00	Brandon Heath 612-252-8367 ext 2 brandon@fwtec.org
Williston Fitness & Sports 14509 Minnetonka Drive Minnetonka 952-939-8370	Wed	5:30-7:00PM	All	\$7.00	Duane Ryman 612-865-9517 dhrtennis40@hotmail.com
PublicIndoorTennis.Com 7833 Highway 65 N.E. Spring Lake Park, MN 55432	Tue	1:00-2:30 PM (start 1/3/2012)	All	\$7.00	Mark Mudra 952-833-1469 markmudra@aol.com
	Fri	1:00-2:30 PM	All	\$7.00	

Free or low-cost lessons* are offered as part of your STPC membership. New members are encouraged to take advantage of them.

* Lessons are free during outdoor season; they cost \$7 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	Information
PublicIndoorTennis.com 7833 Hwy 65 N.E., Spring Lake Park	Mon	\$18	7:00-8:30 PM Two groups: 2.5-3.0 NTRP 3.0-3.5 NTRP	Call 763-231-3109 for reservation. Each group limited to six players.
Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center 4005 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis	Tue Thu	\$9.00	9:00-10:00 AM	Call 612-825-6844 for reservation.
Williston Fitness Center 14509 Minnetonka DR. Minnetonka, MN 55345	Mon	Williston member \$8, non-member \$10	3:00-4:00, 2.0-2.5	Call front desk to sign up: 952-939-8370
	Wed		8:00-9:00 am, 3.0-3.5	
	Fri		8:00-9:00 am, stroke & play	

Drills for Jan/Feb

Note: each month all our instructors will place greater attention on one subject. For Jan/Feb:

Return of serve

- Hybrid stroke—not volley and not ground stroke
- Short back swing

- Move thru the shot
- See ball early (at the toss).

Drills Monday, December 26 at Reed-Sweatt will take place as usual.

World Class Innovation

...unleashing human potential



Bill Peter, the founder of this organization, is a very active member of the Senior Tennis Players Club. Bill states, "Twenty-five years from now, skilled observers will analyze the greatly increased average standard of living for all humans on earth, and will conclude that the driving force was INNOVATION. World Class Innovation promises to help you challenge innovation myths, share learning experiences in new ways, stimulate billions of new neuron connections in your brain, unleash your imagination, learn new skills of collaboration, and learn to lead your organization to effective innovation in the next ten years. We invite all Senior Tennis players and their friends to three exciting coming events at The Normandy Inn & Suites in downtown Minneapolis."

World Class Innovation Workshops

February 26, 2012 "Sunday Brunch & Innovation Workshop"

March 26-30, 2012 "Innovation Fundamentals Workshop"

June 4-6, 2012 "Disney's Approach to Business Excellence"

To learn more and register: www.worldclassinnovation.com Click on Exciting Events

Tennis doubles—a challenge

By Paul Stormo

It has been 21 years that I have been teaching tennis to the Senior Tennis Players Club. It is hard for me to believe that I have been teaching that long, but I still remember very fondly the first lessons I gave under the tutelage of Percy Hughes and Ginny Owens. Teaching tennis has been fun, but learning from the members has been rewarding.

One thing that has bothered me in the last few years is how much more fun the game of doubles would be if it were better understood by the players. I include all levels of play when I make this statement. I assume I can exclude those who were well-coached in high school or college, but I suspect my statement applies to most.

In order to bring better understanding to the doubles game, I have created a series of questions that I hope you will answer. We won't keep score. It is for your benefit only.

The answers to the questions are found at the end of this article. If you don't agree with my answers or want to discuss the answer, drop me an e-mail at pjstormo@aol.com.

1. On a doubles team, which partner has priority in taking the shot?
 - a. The player hitting the forehand.
 - b. The player hitting the backhand.
 - c. The player closest to the net.
 - d. The better player.
2. You arrive to play a doubles match and your new partner announces that she/he does not come to the net. What do you do?
 - a. Ignore them and play your usual attacking game.
 - b. Stay back at the baseline with them during the match.
 - c. Compromise by playing the match in "no man's land."
 - d. Refuse to play.
3. What do the lines mean on a tennis court?
 - a. They define the boundaries for the players.
 - b. They define whether a shot is in or out.
 - c. They mean nothing.
 - d. They define "no man's land" which is "no-no"

(Tennis doubles—continued on page 9)

(Tennis events—continued from page 1)

recently achieved a record of 250 registered volunteers at Reed Sweat Family Tennis Center for the programs at 40th & Nicollet in Minneapolis.

- Thanks to volunteers who deliver the Fred Wells Tennis & Learning, St. Paul Urban and InnerCity Tennis programs.
- Thanks to financial contributors—you make these programs possible.
- Thanks to captains for coordinating play for our senior players in probably the largest tennis club in the USA.

Spain Wins Davis Cup

Spain won its fifth Davis Cup title 3-1 over Argentina in December. The championship final was played in Seville, Spain. Rafael Nadal won two singles matches with an easy win over Juan Monaco 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 and a tough win over Juan Martin del Potro 1-6, 6-4, 6-1, 7-6. David Ferrer also defeated del Potro for the third point for Spain in a long five-set match 6-2, 6-7, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3. Argentina won the only doubles match as David Nalbandian/Edwardo Schwank defeated Fernando Verdasco/Feliciano Lopez 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

The USA Davis Cup Team was drawn to face Switzerland in the 2012 Davis Cup First Round to be played Feb. 10-12, 2012. Roger Federer has committed to play for the Swiss team. The match will be played on indoor clay in Fribourg, Switzerland.

ATP World Tour Final

Roger Federer defeated Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in late November 6-3, 6-7(6), 6-3 to win his sixth ATP Final at this season-ending tournament. Federer finished the year with a seventeen-match winning streak. The Bryan

brothers from the USA were eliminated 7-6(6), 6-4 by Max Mirnyi and David Nestor in the doubles semi-final. The Bryan brothers will finish #1 in the world for the seventh time in nine years. Eric Butorac from Rochester and partner Jean-Julien Rojer of the Netherlands Antilles finished the year ranked 9th in the world in doubles and just missed qualifying for the ATP World Finals Tournament held in London.

Pete Rose Loves Tennis

Some of you remember Pete Rose, the Cincinnati Reds baseball All Star who took up tennis in the 1970's and played doubles five days a week. Rose, the all time hit leader, is pictured in the Nov-Dec issue of Tennis in a promotional photo that was taken to promote a tennis exhibition long ago with Bobby Riggs.

Gopher Tennis

The best tennis value in the Twin Cities is free at the U of M Baseline Center. Be sure to put the matches for Gopher Men and Women on your calendar. The men open on January 21 and the women on January 27. Following are the dates of home matches.

Gopher Men's Tennis		
Date	Time	Opponent
01/21/12	6:30 PM	Marquette
02/11/12	4:00 PM	Arizona
02/12/12	1:00 PM	DePaul
02/25/12	Noon	Wisconsin
03/23/12	6:30 PM	Michigan State
03/25/12	Noon	Michigan
04/06/12	3:00 PM	Penn State
04/08/12	Noon	Ohio State
04/20/12	3:00 PM	Nebraska

Gopher Women's Tennis		
Date	Time	Opponent
01/27/12	6:00 PM	Iowa State
01/28/12	3:00 PM	Creighton
02/03/12	5:00 PM	William & Mary
02/05/12	11:00 AM	Washington
02/24/12	6:00 PM	Missouri
02/26/12	11:00 AM	Virginia Tech
	4:30 PM	Carleton
03/30/12	6:00 PM	Northwestern
04/01/12	Noon	Illinois
04/13/12	3:30 PM	Indiana
04/15/12	Noon	Purdue
04/22/12	Noon	Iowa

"Easy sitter" or let?

By David Sommer

The Tennis Channel carries amusing (and usually correct) "Court Calls" by the comedian Jon Lovitz posing as a chair umpire. Situation: player has an "easy sitter," but before he hits it a ball rolls onto the court behind him and opponent calls "Let!" Player hits the "sitter" for an apparent winner. Question: is it point over or let?

To my surprise, Lovitz asserted that opponent should award the point to the player who had the easy sitter.

He cited only the general idea of "sportsmanship" which is "found in the code." Well, I found no such thing! The Code does encourage players of "good will" to agree on a solution to any problem not specifically covered. Further, there is no description of an "easy sitter." I would say that opponent may easily have been distracted by the rolling ball, and this could have interfered with his possible play following the presumed smash. This lowly 3.5 player has managed to return overhead smashes by guessing correctly where it is going, so the notion of an "easy sitter" doesn't make a lot of sense. My call: **let!** Anyone disagree?

Professional Group/Individual Request for Lessons



STPC introduces our new Group/Individual Lesson Program. Lessons run by STPC professionals you know and who know you. You can arrange for one of our pros to work with you or your group of tennis friends. We currently have two facilities available—Public **Indoor** and **Baseline**. Follow the instructions for whichever you prefer.

Facilities available

Public Indoor Tennis.com

7833 Highway 65 N.E.

Phone: 763-231-3109

Web site: www.publicindoortennis.com

Special court rate for STPC members \$25.00/hour

Times available:

Mondays: 12:00 noon, 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM

Wednesdays: 11:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 1:30 PM, 2:30 PM

Thursdays: 2:00 PM

Fridays: 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 2:30 PM

Saturdays: 5:30 PM

Sundays: 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 11:30 AM

Procedure for Public Indoor

1. Reserve 1, 1½ or 2 hours court time.
2. Email information* to Mark Mudra, (markmudra@aol.com). He will arrange a pro to cover your lesson.
3. You will be notified by email from the professional of confirmation of your lesson.
4. You must bring a check to the professional at the lesson made out to Senior Tennis Players Club (STPC), for the lesson. Amount is \$35 for 1 hour, \$47.50 for 1½, \$60 for 2 hours.*

* Include the following in your email to Mark:

- Your name, email address, and phone number
- Court Information. (You are responsible to arrange and pay for court.) Reserved at [facility], time, and date.
- Optional information: professional requested, stroke/tactic etc. you'd like to focus on.

Baseline Tennis Center

1815 4th Street SE, Minneapolis. 612-625-1433

U of M campus next to Mariucci/Ridder Arena

Web site :www.baselinetenнисcentermn.com

Directions and parking: visit STPC website and click Tennis Schedule. Then click for Baseline map and parking.

Special court rate for STPC members: \$20/hour. Must book through Mark Mudra to get this rate.

Times available:

Wednesdays: 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM

Fridays: 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM

Procedure for Baseline

1. Email with your requested time and date to Markmudra@aol.com. Include your name, phone, and email address.
2. Mark will confirm time and date in an email to you. Then reply to Mark with additional information, such as professional requested, stroke/tactic you'd like to focus on.
3. Bring \$20.00/hour at time of lesson and pay Baseline at front tennis desk.
4. You must bring a check to the professional at the lesson made out to Senior Tennis Players Club (STPC), for the lesson. Amount is \$35 for 1 hour, 47.50 for 1½, \$60 for 2 hours.

General

You are responsible to contact the professional of any changes after confirmation. Any changes must be agreed on by both parties or you will be responsible.

Only the person setting up the lesson needs to be a member of STPC. The group can consist of family, friends, teammates, etc.

Any questions please email or call : Mark Mudra, markmudra@aol.com, 952-833-1469

Hack, cough, gasp!

By David Sommer

Server's partner coughed loudly during serve. Receiver didn't try to return ball. We played a let. Correct? **Yes!** Under **Hindrance** in the **Rules** we find: "If a player is hindered in playing the point by a deliberate act of the opponent(s), the player shall win the point. However, the point shall be replayed if a player is hindered in playing the point by ... an unintentional act of the opponent(s)...."

Reed-Sweatt Afternoon Mixer



Saturday, February 11, 2012

1:00-4:00 PM

Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center, 40th & Nicollet, Minneapolis

Open to Singles and Couples. Mixed Doubles. Rotating Partners.

Only the first 40 players to enter will play!!

Cost: \$13 for tennis and food; \$3 food only

Light snack food and beverages. Bring your own water bottle.

Play will be 1½ hours at a time. You will be called as to when you will play.

Questions? Call Mary Ann McGuire 612-929-2038 or Ann Barten 612-724-0712.

Please detach and mail in this registration form.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Skill Level: 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0

I agree that any participation by me in the activities of, or sponsored by, the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc. (STPC), a nonprofit organization, including, but without limitation, activities such as tennis lessons, clinics, drills, rating sessions, camps, trips, playing in or attending tennis games, tournaments, groups or social events, shall be at my sole risk; and I hereby release and hold harmless STPC and its officers, directors, members, employees, agents, tennis pros, tennis clubs, courts and facilities used or licensed by STPC, and all independent contractors with STPC (all being "Associated Others") for all claims of damage, whether due to injuries to person or property; to any direction, conduct, scheduling or claimed discrimination, nonfeasance or malfeasance, or otherwise, arising out of, or occurring in connection with, any such activities or conduct of STPC or such Associated Others.

Signature _____ Date _____

Send check for \$13 payable to STPC before February 5 to:
Mary Ann McGuire, 5017 Sheridan Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55410

territory.

4. You are playing a match and your partner is having trouble returning the ball away from your opponents' net man. You suggest to your partner that a lob return might work. She/he responds that lobs are for sissies. What do you do?
 - a. Get in a better ready position to try to return the volley from your opponent.
 - b. Back up a few feet to give you more space to return the opponent's volley.
 - c. Move back to the base line with your partner.
 - d. Argue with your partner that a lob is a perfectly legitimate shot.
5. You are playing a very important match. You and your partner have won the first set 6-4, but are behind in the second set 1-3 because your partner's serve is very weak. The rest of her/his game is pretty solid. Your partner is about to serve. What do you do to win this game?
 - a. You begin using signals; you poach and fake poach every point.
 - b. You show your partner how to serve more effectively.
 - c. You move back to the baseline with your partner.
 - d. You try distracting your opponents with movement and noise.
6. Your partner has hit a very wide shot to your opponents. Your partner then moves to cover the down-the-line shot which has him standing very near the doubles alley. Where do you go?
 - a. Halfway between my partner and opposite alley to cover the rest of the court.
 - b. Wait to see where the opponents hit the ball.
 - c. Ten feet from my partner and closer to the net.
 - d. Move back in the court to cover the expected lob.
7. At a social tennis gathering you, a 4.0 player, are paired with a 4.0 partner playing against two 3.0 players. It is obvious very early in the match that you can win 6-0, 6-0. What do you do?
 - a. Win the match quickly so that you and your partner can move on to the next match.
 - b. Suggest that you change partners so that each team has a 4.0 and a 3.0.
 - c. Goof around with silly shots to make the match interesting.

- d. Hit no winners, but keep the ball in play.
8. Player A hits a **short** lob while his partner, player B, is at the net. What does player A do after hitting the lob?
 - a. He moves toward the center of the court and gets in the ready position.
 - b. He runs toward the net with his racquet in front of him.
 - c. He yells "short".
 - d. a and c.
 9. You and your partner like to play at the net, but your opponents are hitting ground strokes at your feet which you either hit into the net or up high which allows them to pass you. What do you do?
 - a. Move back closer to the service line.
 - b. Move closer to the net.
 - c. Go back to the base line.
 - d. Try hitting drop shots.
 10. Player A, at the net, steps over the center line to poach a return. What are the next moves by player A and his partner player B?
 - a. A moves back to his side of the court and B stays on his.
 - b. A stays where he is after poaching the ball and B moves to the other side of the court.
 - c. A stays where he is after poaching the ball and B crosses behind A and moves toward the net.
 - d. A stays where he is and B moves toward the center of the court in anticipation of the lob.

Answers—think before you look!

1. Which partner has priority in a doubles match?

In almost all cases (c) is the correct answer. The person closest to the net has total authority to cross over the entire width of the court to take a shot if she/he believes they can make it. The partner farthest from the net can see the cross and can cover the empty court behind her/his partner. One of the exceptions to this rule is the lob which we will cover in a later question.

2. Partner says she/he won't come to the net. What to do?

You could try (a) your usual attacking game, but if your partner will not come to the net, you are left "naked." Your opponents will repeatedly drive the ball through the very large gap between you and your partner.

(Tennis doubles—continued from page 9)

Accept your partner's choice (b) and go back to the baseline. If you are good, you and your partner can drive your opponents crazy with lobs. Incidentally, "no man's land" is definitely a misnomer. Ernie Green, who played in many national senior tournaments, played his entire match from "no man's land". By moving in from the baseline closer to the net he was able to narrow the court. As we get older we will take any help we can get.

3. What do the lines mean on a tennis court?

Lines on the tennis court mean only one thing: (b) they define whether a ball is in or out. If you said the lines mean nothing you are not wrong. In terms of player positions on the court they mean nothing. Too often players feel they must get to a certain spot to hit a shot. That is true, but it has very little to do with the lines. I think we might be better off teaching tennis if the only lines we have on the court are the outer doubles lines. Players would have to learn position based on where your opponents will hit from and where the likely shot will go. I will explain this in later issues of this newsletter.

4. Partner says lobs are for sissies. What to do?

Never, never, never argue with your partner on the tennis court. The only words you should have for your partner are words of encouragement and support. No matter how bad she/he is playing. It is not likely that getting in a better ready position or moving back a few feet will do much good if your opponents are teeing off on your partner's return. If your partner won't change, then you must change. (c) is the right answer. Move back to the baseline to give yourself a chance.

5. Partner has weak serve. What to do?

Answer (d) is a rule violation. The rule book states that any unnecessary movement or noise that is used solely to distract your opponent is illegal and your opponents can call a hinder which means you play the point over. If I were playing in this situation I would try (a) first. There is a fairly subtle difference between (d) and (a) but if you do poach a few times and your opponents see you moving at the net they will be distracted, but not consider it a hinder. If my opponents are upset by my net movement or there is no change in the outcome I would move to (c) and go back to the baseline. Do not try (b) during a match—save instruction for the practice court.

6. (c) is the correct answer. In doubles you should imagine that you and your partner are attached together with a ten foot chain. Every move by one partner requires a corresponding move by the other. Let me point out that most senior doubles teams cannot cover

more than about two thirds of the court. That means that you have to give up about one third. The key to winning is to always give up the one third that is most difficult for your opponents to hit, which is usually the angled cross court. Never, never, never let your opponents hit the ball between you. That is the reason for the ten foot cord.

7. I strongly prefer (d). This was how Arthur Ashe played when he played with his wife as his partner against inferior players. I would consider (a) and (c) to be quite insulting if I was the 3.0 player. In tennis it is usually obvious who is the better player. There is no need to rub it in. (b) would be a good alternative to (d) if the 3.0 players would accept the suggestion. Some might not. Most tennis players like to play with players better than they are, but only if the better player is a good sport. Arthur Ashe is a good example of a good sport.

8. My preference is for (d). If you hit a short lob it is likely that your opponents will respond with an overhead. Your partner, at the net, is very vulnerable. To yell "short" in that situation is to warn your partner to get out of the way or at least be prepared to receive the overhead. The statistics show that most overheads are hit down the middle of the court so moving to the center gives you a chance of returning the shot. One word of caution: Keep the yell to your partner down to one or two words. Any more can be considered a hinder by your opponents.

9. My preference is for (b). The closer to the net, the lower the chances that your opponents can hit at your feet. Drop shots will work when your opponents are deep, but you must be very good to pull it off. Seldom do players have that much touch.

10. This situation is very common on the doubles court. Very often it results in an "I" formation with one partner near the net and the other near the baseline on the same half of the court. Opponents can hit a winner to the empty half. (c) is the preferred answer, but if player B is very slow footed then (b) is better than the alternatives.

Comment: Unless you know your opponents lob often, do not try to anticipate lobs. If you and your partner are slow footed, stay farther from the net so that if a lob is hit you can get to it. Don't start backing up because you expect a lob. This will leave you vulnerable to a reasonably well-hit ground stroke, which is a more likely shot. In my 40 years of playing tennis, I have never played against or with a really good lobber. Three reasonably good lobs in a row is the maximum I have ever seen. After three the lob is usually short or long.

Age of the “Super Brat”

By Steve Wilkinson

In 1981, Ian Barnes of the Daily Express in London gave John McEnroe the title “Super Brat” after his embarrassing behavior at Wimbledon. In a second-round match against Tom Gullikson, McEnroe threw a fit after disagreeing with a line call by umpire Ted James. “You guys are the pits of the world, you know that,” he yelled. When McEnroe was docked a point, and then another point by referee Fred Hoyles, he wailed, “You cannot be serious!” The label “Super Brat” and his quotes have lived in infamy. John even chose the latter quote as the title for his 2002 memoir.

McEnroe went on to win Wimbledon in 1981, but his outrageous behavior led the tournament committee to deny him membership in the All England Club, an honor that had been automatically bestowed to all previous champions. In response, John skipped the dinner that honored the winners saying, “I don’t want to sit around with 70 to 80 year old stiffs who criticize my behavior.” The women’s champion Chris Evert tried her best to apologize for the actions of her fellow American.

The other “Super Brat” was Jimmy Connors. His on-court behavior could be vulgar—giving the finger to a linesman or strutting around the court with the tennis racket handle between his legs. Sometimes he yanked on the handle in a grotesque, suggestive manner. In 1977 he insulted the Wimbledon establishment by refusing to participate in the parade of former champions at the tournament’s centenary celebration. The following day he was loudly booed at the tournament, which probably did not bother him. Jimmy was strictly anti-establishment, refusing at first to join the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) and playing in only three Davis Cup matches, even though he was ranked #1 in the world for five consecutive years.

When Bjorn Borg retired in 1982, the presence of a sportsmanlike alternative to the “Super Brats” disappeared. McEnroe and Connors detested each other, which added to the fireworks when they played. Only once did they play Davis Cup on the same team—in 1984 in Sweden during the Davis Cup final. The experience ended in disaster. They seemed to bring out the worst in each other. Connors came within a penalty point of being defaulted for exceptionally vile language. William Simon, a former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, called their behavior in Sweden “one of the most disgusting and vulgar displays of childishness ever seen

in a world-class sporting event.”

The next year, Randy Gregson, president of the USTA, sent letters to Davis Cup applicants asking them to sign a list of guidelines for good behavior. McEnroe refused to sign, considering the pledge an insult to his character. Consequently, McEnroe did not play for the US Davis Cup in 1985. Neither did Connors, but for him the pledge was not the reason. He already had concluded in 1984 that he did not want to play Davis Cup again. By his own admission, he was not a “team person.”

The age of the “Super Brats” brought a new dimension to poor sportsmanship—the loss of civility. For McEnroe and Connors, the umpires often became the “scum of the earth.” The “Super Brats” directed their profanity-laden tirades and accusations toward officials, ball girls, and opponents—whoever happened to irritate them at the moment. Many sports fans in the United States were drawn to both their talent and inappropriate behavior.

However, their popularity produced difficult challenges for many coaches who, together with me, wished to advocate civil relationships to our collegiate players. To counter the influence of the “Super Brats,” I designed the Arthur Ashe Award, emphasizing his legacy of sportsmanship. One player in each collegiate division would receive it. The award’s criteria came straight from the Karen Gibbs Award, designed four years earlier for Tennis and Life Camps at Gustavus. They were (1) sportsmanship, (2) academic excellence, (3) humanitarian concerns, and (4) playing accomplishments. Coaches’ committees would pick the winners, based on the criteria.

In 1983, one of the first national winners of the Arthur Ashe Award was Rich Skanse (84) from Gustavus. In 1982, he won the NCAA III doubles title with Shaun Miller (82), as Gustavus earned the NCAA III team title. Rich wrote in his award application:

I have come to realize ... that I do not want to judge or be judged by what I have attained, but by who I am.... I try to show my humanitarian concerns through the way I present myself, both on the court and off. When I play tennis, I try to be considerate, fair, and to respect my opponent. I witness for who I am by the way I treat my opponent.

***Editor’s note:** this is just part of a chapter from a forthcoming memoir by Steve. He talks of other winners of the award and includes some guidelines for good sportsmanship in non-umpired matches. His guidelines go somewhat beyond The Code, but following it will avoid most unpleasantness on court. Click [Links](#) on our website. Read it!*

Playing the Net

(Thursday night tennis, May 17, 2007)

I'd never seen a butterfly on
the net,
Or one that stayed around for
long, and yet,
He flitted and perched right
there in front of me,
Hesitant and fragile, but playful and free.
No country this, or sport, for aged men
Alert to contradictions, who will then
Take wonder at the long chaotic flight
We each had followed to that single night,
To those few seconds just before the serve
When he could make me think that I deserve
His sudden flash of unexpected beauty,
And make those seconds serve the solemn duty,
To play a game—to poach, to put away,
To win the point, the game, the match, the day—
As he, without concern, went on his way.
And I stayed up, and back, to make the play.



Playing the Net, Deuce

(Friday noon tennis, May 18, 2007)

That butterfly died the very next day,
I saw him lying in the service box.
What did him in I really can't say,
I suppose it could have been the pox.
Or maybe he collapsed of fright
As someone, like me, with a mighty groan,
Whacked at the ball with all his might
And sent him off to his heavenly throne.
It could have been a bad cold, I s'pose,
Or a case of severe butterfly gout,
But I'm not sure they have a nose,
Much less a foot—which I seriously doubt.
Maybe AIDS did the little guy in,
As he exercised his sexual preference,
He could've been part of a wild fly-in,
Where safe sex was given no deference.
Perhaps a victim of lepidoptera-cide,
In some mad insect's killing spree,
Or even butterfly suicide
Running rampant through his community.

—Bill Cosgrove