

Junior Team Tennis (JTT) Update  
Report to ATC Board  
December 3, 2013

Spring 2013

- 82 players total (47 beginners, 23 intermediate, 12 advanced)
- 14 Teams (8 beginners, 4 intermediate, 2 advanced)
- Six match season, practices started 2-3 weeks prior (8-9 practices)
- Changes to play format/scoring: beginners (three 10 minute sets, total points), intermediates (two doubles courts per team, total games), advanced (combination of singles and doubles, use of all four courts if needed)
- Partnered with USTA Norcal: \$10/player cost paid for T-shirts, certificates (one for every player + sportsmanship awards) , end of the year freebies, two tennis balls per player
- Benita/Bill provided team pictures for every player/coach
- USTA Norcal provided free volunteer t-shirts and additional free t-shirts when changes were needed

Fall 2013

- 58\* players total (30 beginners, 20 intermediate, 8 advanced). \*two advanced players paid but never played.
- 11 Teams (6 beginners, 4 intermediate, 1 advanced)
- 6 match season, practices started three weeks prior (9 practices)
- One change to play format/scoring for beginners only (three 12 minute sets for 36 minutes of total play, scoring still total points).
- Changed beginning ball from foam to red low compression ball (25% compression), changed intermediate ball from green to orange low compression (50% compression) , kept advanced ball the same (regular yellow ball).
- Continued partnership with USTA Norcal at \$10/player cost and extra freebies
- Benita/Bill provided team pictures for every player/coach
- Individual player pictures provided by parent/coach Dave Tearpak (Tearpak digital). Every player received one free individual picture (option of purchasing more at [www.tearpakdigital.com](http://www.tearpakdigital.com))
- On Nov 10, one week after the fall season concluded, 32 players (16 from Amador & 16 from Calaveras) played in an optional inter-county match (red ball singles only using official USTA red ball format). Players were divided into two groups of 16 by ability and each players played six 7 minute singles matches. Amador won 1214-1037 (total points)!

USTA Norcal Information

- \$10/player per season cost includes: T-shirt, certificates, end of the year freebies, two balls per player, partnership with USTA Norcal
- \$20/player annual cost includes: 1 year USTA membership for every child (new players under 10 get a free membership)
- Additional benefits of working with USTA Norcal: free volunteer t-shirts, extra shirts if changes are needed, information on a variety of Jr. tennis opportunities.
- USTA Norcal Contacts:
  - Darren Wenger (Jr. Team Tennis USTA Norcal Section Coordinator)

- Summer Verhoeven (Red/Orange/Green Player Development Coordinator)
- Jennifer Castle (USTA Norcal Area Field Service Representative)
- Recommendation is to continue relationship with USTA Norcal

### Some Current Challenges

- Finding reliable and consistent coaches to teach/coach kids effectively
- Providing kids with opportunities given that we live in a rural area
- Capacity/scheduling issues based on the number of courts
- Player absences from matches/practices

### Looking ahead...

- Spring 2014 dates set and on the web site. Expecting a big turn-out. Need will be there for coaches and court usage.
- Continue to experiment with different formats for play and scoring (ROG, scoring formats, etc) to make the format most effective for kids and practical.
- Look at the possibility of organizing red/orange ball singles competitive play in Jan/Feb. Informal, no charge?
- Consider setting up a Junior tennis workshop for coaches. Needs to be tailored to our local needs up here.
- Consideration of an 8 and under red ball/10 and under orange ball USTA sanctioned tournament. Can we pull this off up here (split between Amador/Argonaut/Detert)?
- Consider organizing a group trip to the Sacramento Capitals in summer, 2014 (for Juniors to be exposed to professional level tennis)
- Participation in upcoming events when possible: Future Tennis Champions, Player development camps, etc.
- Offer/help promote summer opportunities that build player development at all levels.
- Link players/parents with coaches that can help build skill level at all levels. Could the web site expand to play this role (highly effective model in Folsom).
- Consideration of plays days, workshops, fun tennis events
- Pipe dream...tennis complex, more courts (6-8 together would be ideal for tournaments).
- More permanent shade structure at Argo HS.
- Recognize early talent and support those players/families (opportunities, put them in touch with local, explain how USTA tournament system works)
- Recreational vs. Competitive. Providing opportunities for both types of players.