

Captain Marvel

USTA League Team Captain

Captain Marvel first appeared in American comic books in 1939 as the alter ego of Billy Barton, a boy who, by speaking or thinking the magic word “SHAZAM!” Could transform himself into a costumed adult with the powers of super human strength, speed, flight, and other super powers. The word SHAZAM was an acronym of six immortal elders that tell of the powers of Captain Marvel.

S for the wisdom of Solomon
H for the strength of Hercules
A for the stamina of Atlas
Z for the power of Zeus
A for the courage of Achilles
M for the speed of Mercury

Thirty-nine years after the introduction of Captain Marvel, a new and equally marvelous captain appeared on the scene; the USTA team captain!

The year was 1978 and tennis was booming, but there were still few opportunities for recreational tennis players to compete, except in USTA sanctioned tournaments. But that all changed when USTA Southern introduced a pilot



program to study the feasibility of a national league program for recreational players.

The pilot program was a massive success and now forty-five years later, USTA League tennis has grown into the largest recreational tennis league program in the world!

The key to the success of USTA League tennis can be attributed to one thing...or one person...the USTA team captain! With the wisdom of Solomon, the strength of Hercules, the stamina of Atlas, the power of Zeus, the courage of Achilles, and the speed of Mercury, the USTA captain is a superhero to all league players who depend on their team captain to guide them through the challenges of a USTA league season.

Able to schedule team matches at a single bound. Able to leap over a last minute line-up change, the USTA team captain is a marvel to behold, and a hero to us all.

At this magical time of year, if you look up in the sky and see an odd sight, it may be a bird. It may be a plane. It may be superman, or quite possibly, it might be your marvelous USTA team captain...

SHAZAM!