



National Champion

2022 Mixed 40 & Over 8.0

Tennis Club Sand Point - We Love Kenny Loggins

Over 300,000 tennis players participated in USTA League play in 2022. Of those, 6,100 made it to a National Championship event. Four host sites saw 590 teams battle for the chance to be crowned National Champions. In 2022, one of those crowned was a team from the Pacific Northwest. That team, Tennis Center Sandpoint's - We Love Kenny Loggins was the sole winner of a national title for the PNW when they captured the Mixed 40 and over 8.0 title this past October.



As with all championship teams, the TCSP-We Love Kenny Loggins team faced their share of adversity and challenges on the long road to victory. In fact, the team captain almost missed the team registration deadline...not a great start for the brand new team!

After a Mixed 18 & Over 8.0 match in the fall of 2021, Anna Deliganis and Winston Liu were having drinks at Tennis Club Sandpoint's Willie's Cafe, and talked about forming a Mixed 40+ 8.0 team that could not only make it to Nationals, but could win it.

Anna Thompson, Mini Griffin, and Anh Lao quickly jumped on board as the new team began to take shape. Coach Jeff Richards' classes at TCSP and Mercer Island Beach Club proved to be great opportunities to recruit more players to the roster. With a final roster of fifteen players, the TCSP-We Love Kenny Loggins team was ready for the season.

The local league season in Northwest Washington is some of the most competitive in the PNW, and the new TCSP team barely made it through their first matches, almost having to default a few matches that would have changed the outcome of the season. But midway through the season, the talented team began to hit their stride and any team that they faced was on the Highway to the Danger Zone.

After finishing the regular season undefeated, the TCSP team faced an impressive Amy Yee Tennis Center team in the finals of local playoffs. The match came down to the deciding Court 1 battle where the TCSP team was able to mount a comeback in the second set to secure a spot in the Sectional Championships with a tiebreak victory.

Prior to Sectionals, the team endured several two-hour workouts under the watchful eye of Coach Hans Podlipnik who focused on improving the teams movement, stamina, and doubles strategy.

Team captain, Winston Liu was the person responsible for the team's unique name. He decided to go with an 80's themed name and could think of no better tribute to the 80's than the singer Kenny Loggins. For Sectionals, the team donned Kenny Loggins t-shirts and retro Nike headbands.

The extra training and coaching paid off as the TCSP team swept through Sectionals with a 2-1 victory over the stubborn Boeing Employee Tennis Center team in the finals. Next stop for the PNW champions would be Surprise, Arizona for a shot at a National title!

Coach Hans traveled to Arizona with the team and was instrumental in helping them acclimate to the hot, dry desert conditions.

In the first round, it took a third set match tiebreak to secure a 2-1 win over an experienced New England team. In a match to put them into the semifinals, the TCSP team survived a thrilling match with an undefeated Florida team by coming back from a 6-8 deficit in the deciding match tiebreak, sweeping the final four points of the match.

The final day of the tournament was also the hottest day. Under soaring temperatures, the challenge for the TCSP team was to win not just one, but two matches against the best teams in the country on that final day, if they were to take home the coveted National Championship banner.

In the first match against Middle States/New Jersey, the match once again came down to a match tiebreak in the deciding match to see who would advance to the final. At four-points-all, the point of the entire tournament was played. But as they had done all season long, the TCSP team won the epic point, which broke the spirits of the Middle States team as TCSP closed out the victory to move into the final...which was to begin in about an hour!



Under a blazing hot sun, waiting in the final was the scrappy Intermountain/Idaho team. After a pre-match strategy session from Coach Hans and an inspirational pep-talk from team captain Winston Liu, the TCSP team eagerly took to the courts, pushing aside any thoughts of fatigue after having already played five tough matches.

On court 1, the Intermountain/Idaho team caught fire early and never looked back, closing out a quick victory to put them up one-love. But on court 2, TCSP stuck to a solid strategy and won their match comfortably to level the match at one-all. The match and National Championship would come down to the court 3 match.

With spectators and teammates from both teams crowded around the court 3 match, each point was a pressure-packed affair. Nerves from both teams were evident, but the level of tennis remained high. The title would go to the team that held their nerve as the match reached its conclusion. Had Kenny Loggins been courtside to witness the match, he would have been singing his hit tune from the movie Caddyshack...

I'm alright
Nobody worry 'bout me
Why you got to gimme a fight?
Can't you just let me be?



Kenny would have been proud of the calm, cool, and collected, I'm alright attitude that the TCSP team showed in closing out a very hard-fought deciding straight sets win to capture the National Championship and to bring home a very special banner to the Pacific Northwest!



**2022 Mixed 40+ 8.0 | National Champion
TCSP - We Love Kenny Loggins**

Winston Liu - Captain

Anna Thompson - Co Captain

Kim Lambert
Mini Griffin
Anh Lao
Aaron Miller
Annie Chechitelli
Charles Thompson
Anna Deliganis
Peter Gregory
Jennifer Vans

Blake Garfield
Kim Sahlin
Tam Ly
Jim Vana
Ian Purganan
Antje Volk
Kaci Okumoto
Andy Inthavong