



CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR JULIE PETERS

Congratulations to **Julie Peters**, the USTA PNW 2022 Female Captain of the Year! USTA League players in the Southwest Washington region have grown accustomed to Julie's leadership both on and off the court. Her warm smile and emphasis on sportsmanship and fun greet every player on both sides of the net when playing a Julie Peters team.

Let's learn a bit more about Julie:

Where are you from?

I am from Olympia, WA.

How long have you been playing tennis?

I started playing tennis in 2017 and became interested in tennis while on vacation in Mazatlán, Mexico!

What do you love most about tennis?

I love the friendships and the people I have met playing tennis the most. I felt really lucky during COVID when we all started working at home and feeling isolated that we had connections with people that we would not have had if it weren't for tennis. These connections and people kept us sane and not so lonely.

What is a tennis-related accomplishment you're most proud of?

I have been the co-captain of a W3.0 team, with Violet Clerget, who is a really smart and wonderful tennis captain. I've learned everything from her as a captain, and we're very proud of the teams who we've had the pleasure of working with. I am proud of our wins and losses. I am most proud of the friendships and sense of community we have.

What are your tennis goals for the future?

Well, last season the W3.0 VAC 55 and better team finished first place in our flight. We are off to Sectionals in August! I hope we have a great time and are successful in getting to Nationals! There is a lot of great competition, but we feel like we got this.

I would like to see our clubs become more diverse, as there are lots of great tennis players who are people of color; I'd like to help figure out more ways to make our clubs more accessible and inviting for them.

Why do you love being a USTA Captain?

Well, keep in mind if you are thinking about becoming a captain, part of my motivation as a new player was just trying to find opportunities to play more and meet people. By setting up courts, and coordinating practice days and times - my goal of playing more and meeting people was pretty easily achieved. I would encourage people who are even considering being a team captain to step up. We have lots of room for new teams and new people and welcome all. I love playing tennis, I love the competition, I love getting out and being physical and I love all of the new friendships I have made along the way.



What do tennis players in Southwest Washington have to say about Julie?

Julie is an amazing leader and person. She creates a culture of supportive sportsmanship and works hard to make everyone feel valued. She also makes sure we all get play time. Win or lose, Julie is always there to greet us with a cheer and smile!

Julie is always complimenting the other team when they make a great shot and is always encouraging with her partner.

She is the best! Very organized getting courts and is extremely kind, fair and fun!!! She's been a huge inspiration to all on her team!

Julie works with other team captains to make sure everyone is happy with start times and shared her reserved warmup court with opponents.

Great organizer. Our team has matching outfits!!