

PACIFIC NORTHWEST Adult League E-Newsletter

January 17, 2024

Read the latest news regarding Adult Competition in the Pacific Northwest!



Mixed 40 & Over National Champions!

Congratulations WSC-LAO 9.0 Team

The Mixed 40 and Over 9.0 team from Woodinville Sports Club, captained by Anh Lao, travelled to the USTA National Campus in Orlando, Florida this past November for the Mixed 40 & Over National Championships and brought home a National title to the Pacific Northwest!

The team was primed for Nationals after making it through an extremely challenging Northwest Washington league season undefeated. Team member, Connie Min tells the team's amazing story.

After winning the Mixed 40+ 8.0 National Championship in 2022, captain Anh Lao thought, "Why not do it again for 9.0?" Along with 8.0 teammates Tam Ly, Charles Thompson, and Annie Chechitelli, Lao recruited 4.0's Bally Bang, Dayna Eberhardt, Suzanne Eichenlaub, and Connie Min; 4.5's Denise Zwald, Alex Greninger, Winston McClanahan, Sarah Schodde, and Gina LaPorta; and 5.0's Nick Bass and Josh Basha, to form a deep, powerhouse 9.0 team that went undefeated through Sectionals.

The team suffered its first and only loss of the season in their debut match at Nationals, dropping two courts in super tie-breaks against a tough crew from Southern. The loss was a reality check that luckily came at the beginning of the tournament. Lao described it as a "blessing in disguise because it made us hungrier and more focused." With renewed determination, the team rallied to win their remaining seven matches.

Lao credits the team's success to the dedication of every player to improve their games. In addition to the twice-weekly match play she organized, every teammate played on other gendered teams, set up their own practice matches with other league players, helped each other out with tips, and participated in local tournaments. Many members also benefitted from coaching by Hans Podlipnik, a former ATP doubles specialist.

With so much time spent playing with and against each other, the group quickly bonded, sharing a common goal of putting the needs of the team first. According to Lao, this made the team easy to captain. "Several of us went to cheer on the team even though we knew there was a chance we wouldn't play. Sometimes being a cheerleader is just as important as being the player." Friends and family members from Seattle and Arizona rounded out the cheering squad at every match.

Lao is grateful for the friendships created and the amazing experiences the team had on the road to the National Championship. "Breaking up is the sad part of going to Nationals, but man is it worth it." The team continues to practice together and Lao is already planning for next year. Why not do it again for 10.0?

Connie, thank you for sharing your team's story and congratulations to the entire WSC-Lao team on winning a National Title!

We look forward to seeing what comes next.

2023 USTA PNW Sportsmanship Award

Your votes for the 2023 USTA PNW Sportsmanship Awards have been counted, and we have winners for each region. Exceptional sportsmanship is a critical element for maintaining fun and fair league play, so it is with great pride that we announce our exceptional sportsmen and sportswomen from the 2023 season.

Congratulations to all nominees and winners, you are making a huge difference in people's lives by being role models to us all.

2023 Sportsmanship Award Winners

Alaska: Joe Buckwalter

Eastern Washington: Brian Cunnington

Northern Oregon: Nikki Nadig

Northwest Washington: Jeff Borgida-Frog & Volley Team

Southern Oregon: Marianne Bradshaw

Southwest Washington: Wendy Clarke

Over the next few months, we will be highlighting our Sportsmanship Award winners. For this month, the honor goes to Wendy Clarke from the Southwest Washington region.

Wendy wrote:

Being selected for the Sportsmanship Award was something I never expected. It's quite an honor, one that brought tears to my eyes. Tennis has brought me a tremendous amount of joy and allowed me to meet so many incredible people. When I'm on the court it's important to me that it be fun and fair which means I might engage with my opponent a bit more than most, in a

friendly way. But you know what, there's no better feeling than meeting your opponent at the net, win or lose, and chatting about what a great match we just had. Even better is when that conversation continues off the court. That's how new friendships are formed.

A few comments from Southwest Washington players:

Wendy typifies the best of tennis etiquette and sportsmanship.

Wendy always acknowledges good shots and follows the rules.

I made a new friend, even though Wendy and her partner won our match!

Way to go Wendy and all of our award winners!

To nominate a player for their exceptional on and off court commitment to sportsmanship, you can find the link [HERE](#).



2023 USTA PNW Captain of the Year Award

Our incredible USTA Leagues in the PNW would not happen without the efforts of our team captains. These unsung heroes repeatedly go the extra mile to build teams that become tennis families. Your efforts are recognized and the outpouring of nominations for our prestigious Captain of the Year award is proof of that.

Congratulations to all nominees and winners, you are making a huge difference in people's lives.

2023 Captain of the Year Award Winners

Alaska: Joaquita Martin

Eastern Washington: Scott Dawson

Northern Oregon: Kristi Tompkins

Northwest Washington: Ozzy English

Southern Oregon: Travis Anderson

Southwest Washington: James Wonneberg

Over the next few months, we will be highlighting our Captain of the Year Award winners. For this month, the honor goes to James Wonneberg from the Southwest Washington region.

James wrote:

I'm so honored to receive this award! Every time I work on my scheduling spreadsheet it makes me smile, because we seriously have the BEST teammates that any captain could ask for. Shout out to Tacoma Lawn Tennis Club for supporting us, and a huge thank you to the USTA for making league play possible.

Congratulations James and all of our award winners!

A few comments from James' teammates:

James always gives the opponent the benefit of the doubt and respects everyone's abilities & line calls.

James is a great partner, teammate & captain with a great attitude and competitiveness.

James is fair with the lineups and communicates well with all members of the team.

To nominate a player for their exceptional on and off court commitment to sportsmanship, you can find the link [HERE](#).

2023 Facility of the Year Award Winner

Tennis Center Sand Point

Congratulations to **Tennis Center Sand Point** for being named USTA PNW Facility of the Year for 2023.

Players are blessed in the Pacific Northwest with some of the most beautiful and well-managed tennis facilities, so it is a huge honor to be named the Facility of the Year. Tennis Center Sand Point is a favorite of Northwest Washington tennis players who enjoy playing league matches, local playoffs, and tournaments at the tennis center.

Let's hear from TCSP General Manager, Johann Tan on what this recognition means to him:

Tennis Center Sand Point (TCSP) is honored to be recognized by the USTA as the 2023 PNW Facility of the Year! This acknowledgment is particularly special considering all the great clubs and facilities in the region. We are truly humbled to be honored with this award. Since opening in 2013, TCSP has enjoyed its relationship with the USTA and its Adult Recreational League playing host to teams and local playoffs. TCSP is proud to have hosted nearly 1,000 adult league teams over the past 10 years and looks forward to continuing to be a contributing member to the PNW's league culture.

Recognizing the collaborative effort required for success, TCSP extends gratitude to its partners and supporters. The City of Seattle is a fantastic partner allowing TCSP to operate a full-service tennis facility in its second largest park. A special shout-out to the staff of Willy's Cafe for providing a lively venue for members and visitors to enjoy food and beverages. We also thank Dickson's Tennis Services for providing a great pro shop equipment and stringing service to the community. TCSP gives a heartfelt thanks to the dedicated staff that tirelessly work to provide a great environment to play, learn, and gather in community.

We believe that tennis is as strong as ever in the PNW and that the sport has more room to grow. TCSP looks forward to continuing to serve the PNW tennis community through its relationships with the USTA and other organizations in the coming decade. On behalf of our entire

organization, thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Thank you again for this nomination and award. We are appreciative of the recognition!

Happy Holidays!

Johann Tan

General Manager | Tennis Center Sand Point

Comments from players about Tennis Center Sand Point:

TCSP fosters a very welcoming atmosphere. All who work here are gracious, encouraging and helpful to tennis players of all levels.

Convenient location, convenient parking, best courts in the area (in terms of space, ceiling height, lighting), nice place to hang out and watch matches from the upstairs cafe.

TCSP provides programs to all levels and a very social and familial atmosphere that makes everyone comfortable to learn and play tennis.





Tennis On Campus Sectionals

PNW Teams Advance to Nationals

The Tennis On Campus Sectional Championships were held recently in the Portland area, with the top 3 teams advancing to April's TOC National Championships. According to Tournament Director, AnnElise Kahklen, the tennis was incredible again this year.

Tennis on Campus, the collegiate USTA product, held its annual Sectional Championship at Tualatin Hills Tennis Center in November. There were 30 teams and over 250 college players who came together and competed using the World Team Tennis format. There are nine Universities that have clubs team in the Pacific Northwest, with the top three teams of University of Washington, University of Oregon, and Oregon State University besting the rest of the competition. Those three teams will be advancing to Nationals where they'll represent the PNW in Rome, Georgia this April.

The TOC programs are open to all levels of players so if you know of a college tennis player who isn't already connected, reach out to [AnnElise Kahklen](#) and she can connect them with their Tennis on Campus program!

Congratulations to all TOC teams. Best of luck at Nationals!

2024 Tournament Calendar & NTRP National Sectional

With the new year comes an opportunity to plan out your 2024 tournament schedule. Have you set your tennis goals yet? Hopefully play more, work less is on your list! To help you plan your 2024 tournament schedule, you can find our updated Master Tournament Calendar [HERE](#).

Are you planning on playing at the 2024 NTRP National Championships? Here is more about the player selection process:

NTRP Nationals Player Selection:

The Pacific Northwest receives two quota spots in every division at NTRP National Championships. One spot is reserved for the automatic qualifier and one spot is for whomever's name is the highest listed on the last-published [National Standings List](#) prior to the entry deadline. Therefore, if you meet the NTRP Rating and Tournament Ranking Qualifications listed below you are eligible to register for NTRP National Championships.

NTRP Rating Qualification

- Players must have a valid NTRP (C, A, T, or D) at the time of entries closing. Players with a valid Mixed Exclusive (M) rating may use this rating for Mixed Doubles only. Players with a Self (S) rating will not be accepted. If a player with a T or M rating is required to Self Rate to play in USTA League, these players may still register if their T or M rating was valid when they self-rated.
- Players may only participate at their current level as of the entry close date.

Tournament Ranking Qualification

- 18+ - Players must be on the National Standings List for the division they are registering for in order to be selected.
- 40+/55+ - Players must be on the National Standings List for the division they are registering for in order to be selected. If no tournament is offered at the respective 40+/55+ division and no registered players are listed on the respective ranking list, a section may apply for a waiver. The player, at a minimum, must be on the 18+ list for the 40+/55+ division they are applying for.

Remember that REGISTRATION DOES NOT GUARANTEE SELECTION for players who are not selected by automatically qualifying. All players must register on-time in order to avoid being placed on the alternate list.

[Here](#) is a link to the About NTRP: National Championships page for more information.

[Here](#) is a link to see the winners from the 2023 NTRP Sectional Championships.

Here's to a great year of tournament tennis in 2024!

Archive:

Read more about what's going on in the PNW!

[December 2023 Newsletter](#)

[November 2023 Newsletter!](#)

[October 2023 Newsletter!](#)

[September 2023 Newsletter! - What type of Doubles Partner are you?, Thank You Coco!, Coordinator's Corner, Walk Up Song, What Is Flex Singles?, Do You Know The Rules?](#)

[August 2023 Newsletter! - Register Fall Leagues, Sportsmanship Shines in the PNW, Summer and Fall Tournaments, John McEnroe Speech, Coordinator's Corner, Junior Pathway, Vote Facility and Captain of the Year!](#)

[June 2023 Newsletter! - Father's Day Tribute, 2023 US Open Giveaway, Become an Official, Help Wanted!, Summer Season, Roving Eye, Coordinator's Corner](#)

[May 2023 Newsletter! - NTRP Doubles Championships, Mother's Day, T-Shirt Design Winner, Award Nominations](#)

[April 2023 Newsletter! - NTRP National Championships, Summer Leagues, EZ Guide, Ring Culture](#)

[March 2023 Newsletter! - Part 2: National Champions, Tennis News, Roving Clinic, Tournament Season, Defenders](#)

[February 2023 Newsletter! - Shine a Light On Sportsmanship!, Tennis Growth: Live Long & Prosper, T-Shirt Design Contest, Part 1: National Champions, The Roving Eye: Foot Fault](#)

[January 2023 Newsletter! - National Champions, Captain of the Year Female, Captain of the Year Male, Sportsmanship Award, Facility of the Year, 2023 Tournament Calendar!](#)

[December 2022 Newsletter! - Captain Marvel, T-Shirt Design Contest, Coach Developer Workshop, USTA PNW #1, Store Front Reminder, SWW Mixed 18 Playoff Recap](#)

[November 2022 Newsletter! - My Tennis Journey, Summer Flex Singles Recap, 2023 League Registration, USTA Member Benefits, The Roving Eye](#)

[October 2022 Newsletter! - Bananas, Around the League, Nominations, Event Spotlight, Ball Hopper](#)