

**Report from Easter LTA Regional Representative
LTA Board Member-Kathrin Sieberth**

Baton Rouge CTA Update:

At the May CTA meeting, the GBRCTA Spring Fiesta Tourney was discussed and Yvette Marshall reported that 162 people participated and a net of \$420.83 was submitted. Fun & successful event.

My last report included submission of a grant request to the CTA by Richey Weaver for help with his junior tourney. Grant was denied and the reasons given were that it did not comply with the requirements or the mission of the CTA.

Hal Gorman, Prince Rep., was present at the May CTA meeting and talked about how he would like to get league players to purchase Prince tennis balls. He would also like to become a sponsor for CTA local events.

June CTA Meeting: Camille Siegel spoke about the City Championship League and that it was a huge success! They made \$9000 for the CTA! They'd like to pursue 4.0 & 4.5 men's teams for the fall.

Byron Stewart spoke about the happenings at City Park. Mr. Stewart grew up near City Park, played college tennis, lived in New Orleans for a time, then returned to Baton Rouge 2 years ago. He's a lawyer by trade, but teaches tennis on the side. (USPTR cert.) The Park has been very active with courts fully booked, but with primarily adults. He's like to introduce the sport to children (beginners) who may not otherwise ever get the opportunity to try tennis. They are having a free Open House Series beginning this Saturday from 8:30am-10:30am and continuing every Sat. thru July 26, for kids ages 6-16. Yvette Marshall is gathering any gently worn tennis rackets to be used for this event. The Breugh brothers are scheduled to help and Mr. Stewart would greatly appreciate any involvement from other area Pros, donated equipment, volunteers, etc in helping make this series a success.

Christian Life Academy update: The CTA did give the school some funds for equipment (\$1200) but voted against helping with the court resurfacing project. They felt that this particular facility would not be able to be used by

the community. It has no bathroom facilities, locked gates, etc. and the CTA felt that their priorities were to the community and not individual schools.

I did speak to the CTA board about the Freshwater Elementary School and their requests. Raul was not there, but they will relay my message about fielding unknown questions to the LTA.

Bocage will host the Cancer Services tournament this weekend. This is a large charity mixed doubles event that raises \$\$ for Cancer Services.

I have tried several times to contact both Gloria Berthelot & Diane McMurray regarding their CTA activities, but as of today, I have not heard back from them. If I should hear from them before Saturday, I will include their report in my presentation.

Kathrin Sieberth

Southwest Louisiana Report for June 21st USTA Louisiana BOD

- The reopening of Lake Charles Racquet Club on April 18th with the Bryan Brothers exhibition, the Recreational Coaches Workshop (attended by 21), the QuickStart clinic for kids 10 and under, and the Cardio Tennis Workshop hosted by the TIA's Michele Krause
 - The hiring of Bobby Walker as the new tennis director at Lake Charles Racquet Club – Bobby is the Chairman of the Junior Recreational Committee for the USTA Southern Section
 - Summer grand opening of Graywood Country Club's tennis, swim and fitness facility – Ronnie Walters as the new tennis director
 - Lake Charles Recreation and Parks receives a \$750 Diversity grant to promote QuickStart tennis in their summer program
 - Reorganizing the Lakes Area CTA with Johan Kjellsten as the new president
 - Alexandria's Country Day School where Francisco Acuna teaches mornings will embrace the QuickStart format and put permanent lines down on their 2 tennis courts
 - Very successful USTA Louisiana Junior Team Tennis Championship in Lafayette June 7th with 200 competitors at Bowles Tennis Center and Thomas Park
 - Louisiana State Closed Junior Qualifying held in Lafayette from May 31st –June 4th with 338 competitors and Alflac returning as title sponsor. Great response and accolades from players, coaches and parents
 - QuickStart format used for Junior Team Tennis in Lafayette with over 70 players, also in New Iberia with 30 plus players. Will continue with summer Junior Team Tennis as well and add fall home-school players. Several parent orientations presented.
 - Nearly 100 kids attended the ACTA/Coca-Cola clinic at Bowles Tennis Center June 9-12. A parent orientation was given for QuickStart format and was well received. The Lafayette Daily Advertiser did an article with photos on the event, with focus on the QuickStart format.
 - QuickStart 3 hour Parents/Coaches Course given June 13th in Jonesville for their CTA in preparation for their summer youth programming
 - Lafayette Parish Schools to implement QuickStart as a team-based play and learn program for fall school after-care program at 18 elementary schools
 - City of Crowley to build 6 new tennis courts this summer and offer QuickStart and adult grass-roots programming at the new facility. RCW hopeful for Abbeville/Crowley/Eunice area to train program providers
 - Acadiana had a very successful USTA Flex League spring season in Acadiana with 75 participants. Continuing with summer league to start June 30th and added doubles to format.
 - A USPTA Cardio Tennis Specialty Course is being offered Friday, June 27th from 12:30pm to 4:30pm at Red Lerville's Health and Racquet Club. The course is open to all interested parties and the sign-up has been brisk, with over 20 pros and program providers so far. Michele Krause of the TIA's Cardio Team will present.
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Lake Charles – Special Event Bryan Brothers

The nice spike in adult league play during the spring in Lake Charles can be largely attributed to a growing overall interest in organized tennis in our area. Much of this positive increase is due to several newly constructed tennis facilities opening up as well as getting the Lake Charles Racquet Club fully operational. Some very timely on-the-ground league work has been done by its new director of tennis, Bobby Walker, a veteran USTA contributor from Rome, Georgia.

To kick off the spring season and properly celebrate the Grand re-Opening of the tennis facility following Hurricane Rita, the Lake Charles Racquet Club hosted a special event called “the Bryan Brothers’ Tennis Shootout” which was open to the general public. A true tennis team work effort led by club president, Robert Piper, and with strong behind-the-scenes USTA support from Mike McNulty, the event was a huge hit among tennis fans in the region.

During the weekend, Bill Phillips and Phil Trahan conducted a successful USTA work shop and Quick Start clinic involving close to 100 children. National Cardio Tennis Program Manager and Speakers Team Director, Michele Krause, was flown in from Tampa to conduct a Cardio Tennis clinic held on Sunday morning to members of the club.

On the media side, live interviews on centre court with local KPLC news were conducted during exo, numerous newspaper articles featured the arrival of the Bryans, an electronic billboard campaign promoted the event and Prince recorded a new racquet commercial at the club. In attendance were about 500 tennis fans and the Bryans finished off the evening by playing guitar & drums on a centre court stage along with a popular area band.

Other side activities included a “Chance-to-Play-with-the-Bros” tournament sponsored by Prince, an artist drawing showing the Hurricane-damaged club house + the Bryan’s chest bump, keys to the city handed over by the mayor and a mixed doubles tiebreak with members of the McNeese Cowgirl tennis teaming up with the Bros. The twins are truly great guys to be around who made room in their busy schedule (from D.C., to L.C. and then off to M.C.) for a worthy tennis cause.

To wrap up, Graywood Country Club will formally open their new tennis and fitness club June 21/22nd. A facility with 6 brand new hydro clay courts will be a welcome addition to tennis in our region. Later this fall, they also plan on hosting an exo involving prominent players so stay tuned for what should be another great tennis display in Lake Charles. Last but not least, our CTA board is shaping up nicely with only a few vacant seats left to fill.

Southeast Report Louisiana/USTA
Second Quarter 2008

Nomata has completed printing on the Marketing Packet and plan to mail in early August. This much needed tool will increase numbers for fall registration and serve as a tool for future Board members. The Spring Junior Team Tennis was a huge success with 220 participants, which is a 50% increase from 2007. Our Community Coordinator continues to perform in an outstanding manner. Fun Friends and Fitness will begin in the Fall with media support including print and possible radio. WBTT is also on board.

City Park has received funds mentioned in my last report but little or no change has occurred regarding the court conditions. Many of our players have voiced their displeasure regarding their condition; we have suggested they choose alternative sites for leagues such as Audubon or UTC. . I have reservations regarding the courts and hope to meet with City Park officials soon to discuss their intentions before scheduling for Combo State.

We are presently organizing for the November Combo State and have hotels in place. We have booked several and will forward to Freddy Bailey for posting.

Sharon Lester and Lynda Santopadre attended the CDW and found it to be informative with much repetition; I would not recommend the same person attend two years in succession.

Our school programs are growing; additional schools will participate this fall. In addition, new groups have inquired about the JTT programs we offer. Nomata plans to help with the Parks and Rec tournament in July.

Please excuse my absence, I will be traveling to Dallas on Friday for business, I wish all the very best. Lynda Santopadre

Northern Regional Report – Philip Campbell

1. On February 5, 2008, We had 275 juniors participate in Junior Team Tennis in the spring session.
2. On March 5, 2008, 18 Adult players consisting of men and women participated in Adult Team Tennis. This event rotated to different clubs on Saturdays.
3. On March 1, 2008, the Adult “Fun, Friends, and Fitness” spring, had 56 players participate in this program. Sites were rotated to the various clubs throughout the city.
4. Our Junior Novice Circuit that consists of junior tournaments for novice players has a total of 110 players participating in these tournaments.
5. Our NJTC “Traveling kids Tennis Tour” spring had 120 juniors participating in this event which started March 10,2008.
6. The Kids “Fun, Friends, & Fitness” spring had a total of 28 beginning kids participating in this new program.
7. On May 31, 2008, we had 71 kids from ages 5-10 participate in our Quick Start program with parents helping out with this new popular program.
8. On June 7, 2008, we had our popular “Fun, Friends, and Fitness” program summer with 37 participants. This event continues to bring new players into the game of tennis.
9. We are continuing to promote tennis by the following methods: putting ads in the newspaper, posters, banners, and our website to recruit more new players for our grassroots programs.
10. We continue our pathways to move players into Team Tennis and USTA Leagues.

Northshore Regional Representative's Report – Bruce Kingsdorf

Our final league numbers are in and confirm that tennis on the Northshore continues to grow.

In the Mandeville/Covington area we increased our 2007 Men's Adult numbers from 222 to 241 in 2008 and our Men's Senior numbers from 77 to 80. On the women's side, we saw a dramatic increase from 334 Adult players in 2007 to 473 in 2008 and from 47 Seniors in 2007 to 60 in 2008. Mixed doubles leagues have now begun and we hope to see a corresponding increase in participation. During the 2007-08 period, we increased our USTA membership from 797 to 1118.

During the Memorial Day weekend, Mandeville/Covington again hosted Adult State (this year session II) with a record 691 participants. By this same time next year, we expect to have a new 12 court local private facility in operation and hope to be able to utilize some or all of these courts when we host 2009 Adult State.

On the developmental side, Fun, Friends and Fitness was completed during 5 consecutive Saturdays in April and May with a total of 18 participants. 9 participants have so far committed to continuing with additional lessons or clinics. Our local Junior Grand Prix is scheduled for July 18 and a Kid's Tennis Fair is scheduled for September.

The Slidell CTA reports that Mixed doubles teams are presently forming and the numbers and interest look similar to 2007.

The Slidell CTA hosted a successful Recreational Coach's Workshop in late May. Bill Phillips was the instructor and the attendees included students seeking training for summer tennis camp jobs, school teachers and coaches, parents and tennis pros.

Wilson Open junior tournaments are scheduled for June, July and August and a Junior Grand Prix is scheduled for September.

Although there is no new progress on the proposed public tennis facility for East St. Tammany Parish, Parish officials appear to remain behind the idea of including a tennis facility in the proposed new sports complex.