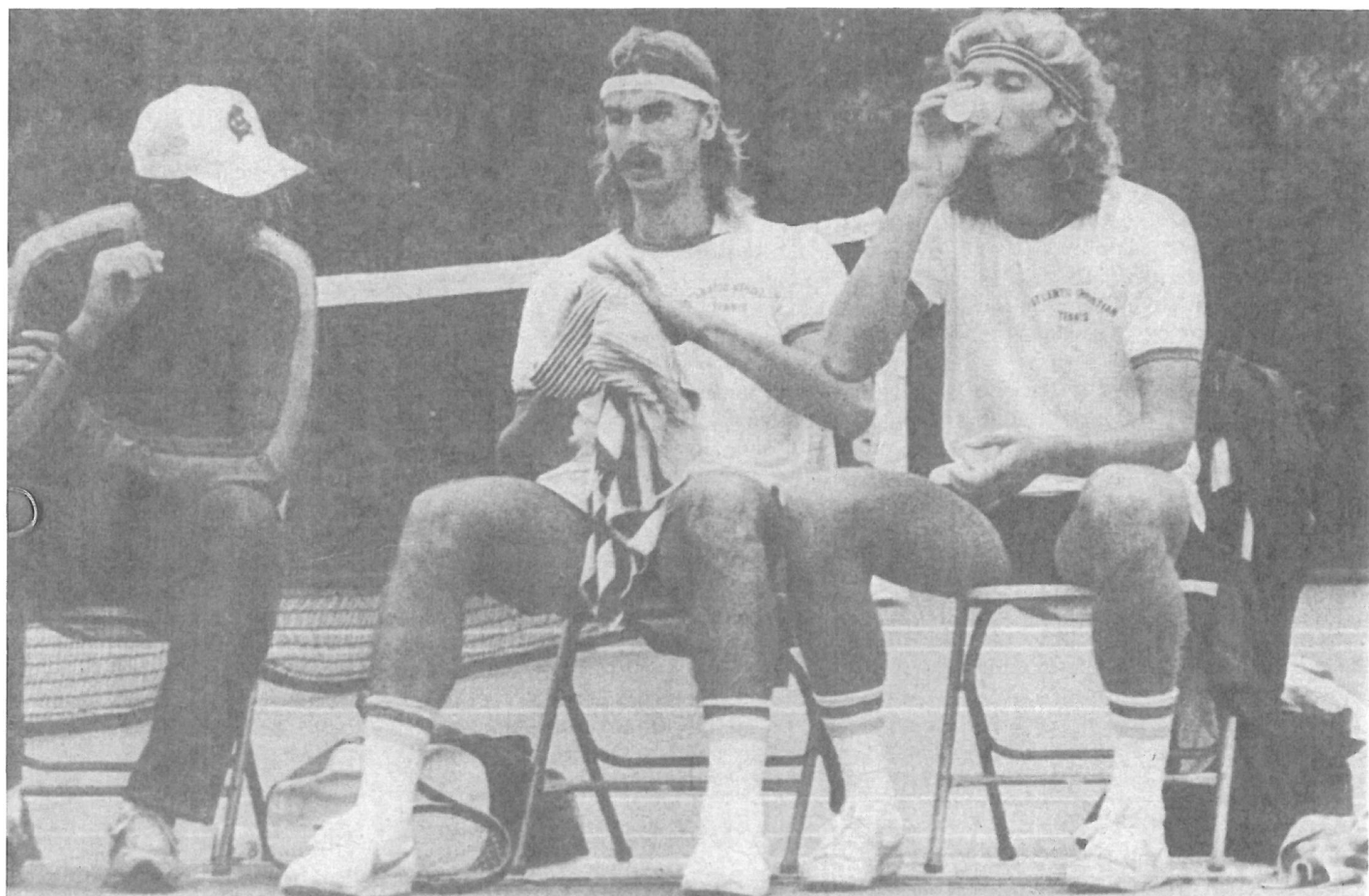
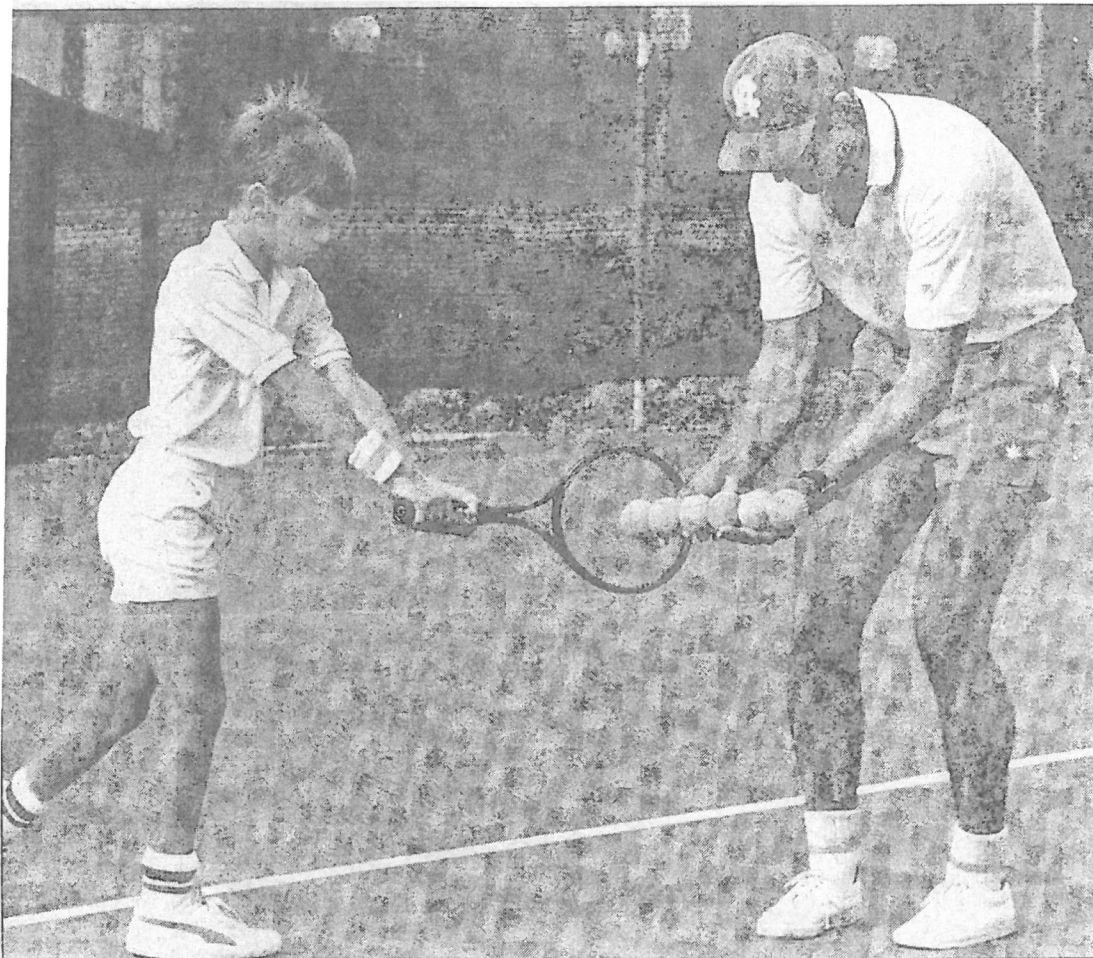


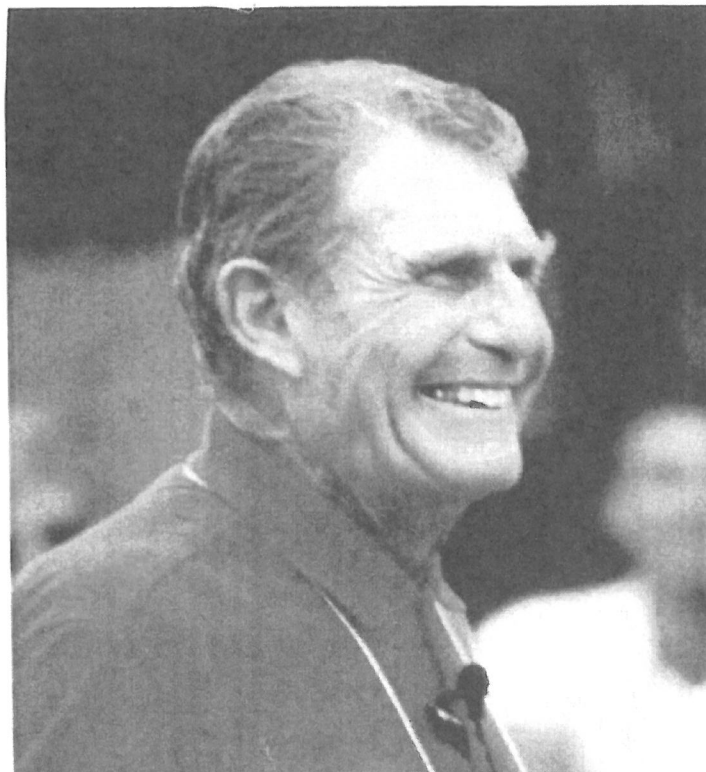
# HELPING BY TOM PARHAM







*Coach Jim Leighton:  
Wake Forest University Tennis Coach.  
"Master Teacher" and teacher of teachers.  
Myself included.*



*Coach Jim Verdick  
Redlands University (California)*

# **HELPING.**

PASSION

THE COACH AND THE CLOUD

THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK OF TENNIS

GENESIS TO REVALATION

NCTF BYLAWS

BOOK COMMENTS

APPRECIATION LETTER (To Donors)

HOW TO BUY THE BOOK

HARRY KRALY....DISTRIBUTION

COMMENTS TO SPONSORS

MORE COMMENTS

FAULT LINES (Video Games)

THE LINK: Tying High School Teams to Player Development

GENESIS TO EDUCATION MODEL

N C TENNIS FOUNDATION

HELPING HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS COACHES

("CARE" deserves "support")

A BIGGER BOAT ---A CRY FOR HELP

MENTORS

JIM VERDIECK

COACHING TEAM TENNIS

ON LOSING

GRIPS

THE EVOLVING SERVICE GRIP

KNOW THE COURT

DANNY & THE FOREHAND CHIP

HACKALOOSKI (HELPING FERERER)

YOU NEED A FRIEND

THE NEXT LEVEL OF TENNIS

MAESTRO (CHARLIE OWENS AND THE DROP SHOT)

VOLLEY REMINDERS

MOVING ALONG (MORE DROPSHOTS)

BORG'S SPEECH

PULLING THE TRIGGER

"I DIDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING" (CHIP BACKHANDS)

HELPFUL HINTS FROM THE COACH

WOMEN AND GROUNDSTROKES

SPORTSMANSHIP

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE TENNIS (DR JOHN)

COACHING EMOTION

THE EASTER BUNNY TEST

THESE RANG TRUE

HELPING COACHES

WISE COLLEGE CHOICES (MALCOLM GLADWELL)



THE OLD COACH

CHAPTER 10 (COACHING TENNIS)

THE BASIC STRATEGY OF TENNIS SINGLES

THE CIRCLE STINGER (PLUS  $\frac{3}{4}$  COURT FOREHANDS)

DOUBLES STRATEGY

## **PART 2: HELPING COLLEGE TENNIS**

THE GORILLA BUREAUCRAT

XENOPHOBIA ?

NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN?

MADE IN THE USA

WAYNE BRYAN (EXERPTS TO USTA LETTER)

THE MOREL LETTER

PASSING THE FLAG

ON FLAGS

THE SIZE OF THE ELEPHANT ON THE COURT

TO THE USTA (ANDY ANDREWS)

AMERICAN COLLEGE TENNIS

THE USTA QUESTIONNAIRE (On Internationals)

KEY BISCAYNE

THE WORLD CUP

NORTH CAROLINA MENS COLLEGE TENNIS

JOHN ISNER

THE FRENCH OPEN 2015



## PASSION

Recently I was described as “passionate” about tennis. A real compliment. Immediately I thought of John Ormsby who wrote a quite thorough history of Six Man Football in North Carolina. I asked John where the drive to do this project came from? He replied, “...I wanted to know more about one subject than anyone alive!”

Life without passion and drive is unappealing to me.

Certainly our children deserve no less.

One of my Sons made me aware of technology’s “cloud”. “Dad, anyone can easily make special knowledge available to all now.”

Being a coach often makes you almost surrogate fathers.

Certainly you care about your players. My passion is care for American junior tennis players and their access to a fair share of our college and university tennis scholarships. I believe there is a direct link between awarding so many of our scholarships to internationals that we have run our own kids out of tennis, and other American sports.

Is this patriotic or xenophobic? Is it illegal to reserve state tax money for our state’s youngsters. Where is the fair “fine line” we can expect?

Passion number two: The model for successful American juniors has been the FAMILY not the ACADEMY model. No ones cares like the parents. Proper parental guidance, local teaching pros, community tennis “angels”, junior tournaments, high school team play, and on to college tennis. Examine our golden era of pros (Evert, Connors, McEnroes, Sampras, etc).

Academies are often filled by throw away kids, limited rich kids, and a selected few who get all the attention. More importantly it is questionable academically and personally.



The work to follow is also a summary of my efforts to 1. Provide a guide for high school tennis teams, coaches and players (THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK of TENNIS). A good and unique aid for many who know little about team tennis. 2. With cooperation with THE NORTH CAROLINA TENNIS FOUNDATION make the book free to all seven hundred high school boys and girls coaches in North Carolina. 3. Now, we design a program to further make available aid to our teams. The final product will work much on an education model: 1. A good book for the teacher (coach) 2. Inexpensive E-Books for the students (the players) and 3. The "library" or resource center. This is being designed. Perhaps our best model is a web-like product called Facebook Groups. We can use this to communicate, instruct, guide, and make information easily accessible.

## The Coach in "The Cloud" (39)

But I'm trying...I'm trying real hard to be a shepherd. -Jules to Ringo, "Pulp Fiction"

My two sons work in technology. They have made me aware of the "cloud". Summing up my understanding, the cloud is a modern, idealistic, even utopian way to gain free access to information. Sort of the internet on steroids. Or, for those of us on the other side of the "digital divide," a giant free library in space.

Prior attempts to impart what I know included "Play is Where Life Is", my "best seller" of 2007. It was such a best seller that my garage had oodles left over. I have given many copies away. I have learned to question readers, knowing how to ascertain whether they have actually read their gift, or parts of it. The book includes my conversation with a revered coach, the late Jim Verdick of Redlands University in California. I once asked Coach Verdick if he had written down his voluminous knowledge of tennis. He said "No." "What happens if you die?" I asked, respectfully. "If I die, it dies" was his answer...one of the few times I disagreed with the legendary coach.

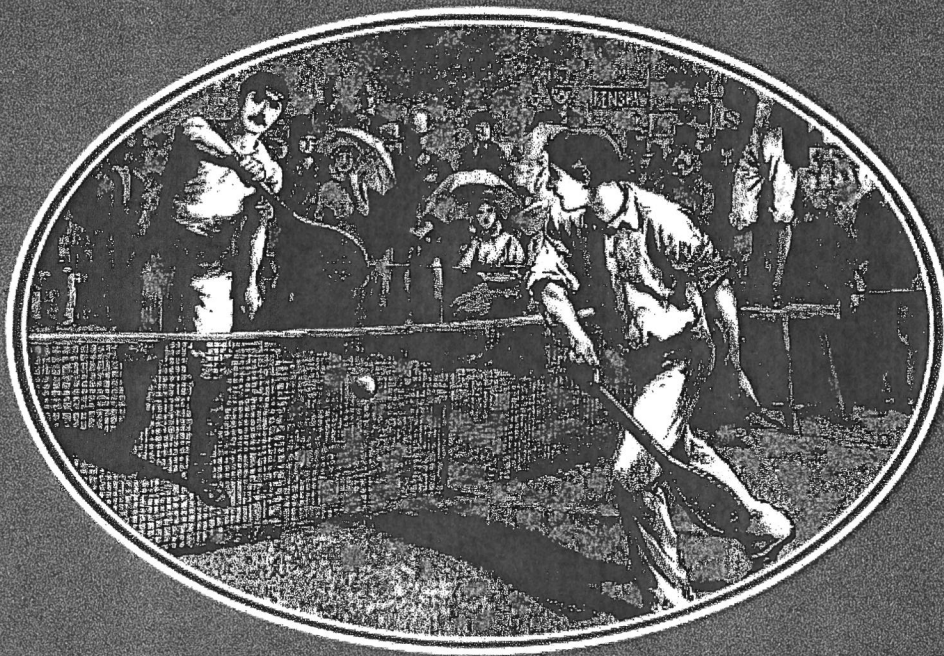
There is an article on my blog entitled "Mentors". It describes how one with a thirst for knowledge in any arena might best learn. Maybe I am a little naive about the drive to learn that exists out there. I have had only one college coach ask for my advice since 2004. After an hour he said, "Coach, I'm supposed to meet someone at the local bar." One hour of learning a profession? My angel wife, Margaret, recently made "All Volunteer". She and I cannot list all the people she helps, or has helped, gratis. Angel she is, Angel I'm not.

MAY 16, 2015JULY 3, 2016 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

# The Little Green Book of Tennis (2nd edition)

- BOOK, NEWS
- 3 COMMENTS
- 

## THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK OF TENNIS



FOR PLAYERS, COACHES,  
TEAMS, TEACHERS, AND FANS

## GENESIS TO REVELATIONS"

"...I tossed him the ball and he missed it. I tossed another and he missed that one too. And another. Then I tossed him a ball and he hit it over the net and into the court! And the look on his face was why I did it all." (Mildred Southern upon induction into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame).

"The Little Green Book of Tennis" is part of a project. My love of sports began in North Carolina seventy plus years ago. This lifetime of study included many sports. My encounter with Jim Leighton led me to zero in on tennis. With Mr. Leighton help I began to gather coaching information from a wide variety of teachers and coaches and players. My career was enhanced greatly. Never a great player in any sport I attempted, I made my goal teaching well.

Upon retirement I began some new efforts. Typing, computers, writing, self-publishing. Mr. Leighton once told me "...Tom, if you write a good book on what I have taught you it will mean more to tennis than anything else, including winning National Championships."

Another great coach, Mr. Jim Verdick, said "...if I die, it dies" when I asked why he hadn't written a book.

I lost another mentor recently. Jim Toney, an Economics professor at Elon University, led me in helping enhance high school tennis facilities in Alamance County. Once that was done he asked "what next?" High school tennis. Specifically high school coaches, players and teams, I answered. "I'll help you", he said. Sadly Parkinson's led him down the ultimate path. Barely audible he chastened me, "...don't you quit!"

Thus this book became more than a book to me. To me it is part of a larger plan to make all of tennis better. But with the main incentive being our youngsters. The NCTF took the following action, after a thorough examination of the book.

\*\*\*Below are the essential actions of the Board, beginning September 23, 2015:

"The NC Tennis Foundation (NCTF) has made available a way for donors to contribute to the NCTF and purchase a book(s) for an active NC High School Coach. NCTF is pleased to help supply Tom Parham's book, "The Little Green Book of Tennis" to our many hardworking coaches who can gain knowledge about tennis to impart to their HS players."

\*\*\*Below are the essential actions of the Board, beginning September 23, 2015:

"... the Board unanimously resolved that the President should appoint a committee to review Tom Parham's book once completed and to make a recommendation to the Board 1. whether the book is appropriate for distribution to high school tennis coaches pursuant to the Foundation's educational purposes; and 2. whether the price of the book reflects its fair market value.



"The Board further resolved that if the above two requirements are met, then the Foundation would attempt to raise charitable contributions sufficient for the purpose of purchasing and distributing a book for each high school tennis coach in the state and if fundraising efforts are successful, would thereafter purchase books for that purpose to the extent that charitable contributions are received."

## BYLAWS

### Purposes:

1. The Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and

shall have no other purposes. Educating the public and providing information as to the lifelong health

benefits of tennis, as well as stimulation of interest

in amateur tennis and good sportsmanship in schools,

playgrounds and public parks in North Carolina shall be

the primary purposes of the Foundation. To this

end, the Foundation shall undertake to give encouragement and instruction to players of all ages and

abilities (including those with disabilities), and to

promote sportsmanship by providing instruction,

exhibitions and other educational assistance.

And it is done. We had a good method stolen from golf 's Harvey Penick's Little Red Book of Golf; a great message gleaned from our great teachers; and group of generous helpers and donors. They kept me from quitting. My sincere thanks. I swore I would never fund raise again. But grant me one further attempt to help our young players nationwide: Until there are more tennis scholarships available for American college players, we will continue the dearth of great American players we are now witnessing. I have written on this subject at length along with others. (see [www.tomparham.wordpress.com](http://www.tomparham.wordpress.com))

In closing please note the two enclosures (1) An appreciation of donors and helpers, and (2) Comments on "The Little Green Book of Tennis".  
Don't you quit.  
Tom Parham

Enclosure (this is a link to comments about the book)

Final list of comments on THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK OF TENNIS

[rrawlings@ncbar.org](mailto:rrawlings@ncbar.org)  
[173.226.92.82](http://173.226.92.82)

Tom Parham has written a superb book on the game of tennis that incorporates more than 50 years of thoughtful study and real life experience. Throughout his remarkable coaching career he remained a student of the game, wherein he would go anywhere and listen to anyone who might broaden what became a vast body of knowledge. This book is in many ways the download of the wisdom he gained by watching, listening, learning and coaching tennis. It is a must read for young players, coaches (especially new ones) and parents. As a coach who came in with no experience to one who left with three national championships

easy read, yet it contains a breadth of knowledge that far outstretches the depth of its pages.

"Coach Parham is a masterful teacher, southern humorist, and sports philosopher who explains tennis strategies and techniques in a way that anyone can "get it". The wisdom gained in a brilliant career has been boiled down to bite-sized pearls of wisdom in "The Little Green Book of Tennis" - a must-read for coaches, instructors, players, and parents. Ron (Smarr) INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS HALL OF FAME

" If you are looking for a tennis book that is both entertaining and thought provoking this is the book for you. Tom Parham's insights and musings are both informative and entertaining. As a former college coach, I found it a great read! This Hall of Famer has the ability to think outside the box and you might just find yourself doing the same thing. Coaches will appreciate his originality and benefit from his years of experience." (Coach Bob Bayliss—Notre Dame Men's Tennis, ITA HALL OF FAME)

Tom, Thank you for sending your new book to me. I have read the Verdieck chapter and you did a great job capturing my dad's thoughts. The NAIA story where I was trying to talk and say what I felt about my dad was actually my induction as the first tennis player into the NAIA Hall of Fame. I still get choked up when I try to express my great pride in my dad and at that event I wanted to give him the credit he deserved. I still have to read much of the book but I am sure it can be a road map for coaches and tennis enthusiasts. My dad focused so much on finding a players weakness and fixing it as well as to put his players into pressure situations and learn to compete and remain poised. Each day of practice there was competition, either a challenge match, a round robin, a steady game, a volley game. Whatever Coach could come up with to test his players not only with their

ability to make shots and eliminate errors but to do it when feeling pressure. Feel free to email me back and I will try to call you. This is my last summer as Director of Tennis. I started here at the Seattle Tennis Club in 1977 at age 28. I am now 67 and it's time to retire. This summer is also the club's 125th anniversary so it will be a very busy end to my career. Hope to speak with you. Doug (Verdick)

Mine is on my desk. Thanks! (Kelly Gaines, Executive Director of the NORTH CAROLINA TENNIS ASSOCIATION)

<https://www.elon.edu/E-Net/Article/116373>

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=mm#inbox/14e5e27ca05c804a?compose=14e6406232138515>

<https://tomparham.wordpress.com/2015/05/16/the-little-green-book-of-tennis/>

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=mm#drafts/14e2ade8a19c3845> ("the challenge)

\* " Tom Parham's recent authorship of his book The Little Green Book of Tennis is a great handbook for young, aspiring tennis coaches but it is also a thoughtful, entertaining (Parham style) read for all tennis buffs .During Tom's forty-plus years of coaching collegiate tennis at ACC(Barton) and Elon University, Tom won numerous conference, district and national championships in both the NAIA and NCAA levels of competition . As Director of Athletics at Elon University for twenty-seven years it was a pleasure and with admiration that I observed his success during his tenure at both institutions. Coach Parham was and continues to be a committed and astute "student" of the game while he is quick to offer praise and credit to such outstanding coaches as Jim Leighton and Jim Verdick for their mentoring that greatly enhanced his knowledge and skill for his teaching expertise .

While I have limited personal experience in the game of tennis, it has been my administrative opportunity to observe numerous tennis coaches at all levels as they performed their respective responsibilities. Tom Parham is certainly among the very best in fulfilling those responsibilities . Tom's book provides a great opportunity for persons who possesses the commitment, dedication and interest to profit from as well as enjoy this read. It is my professional and personal pleasure to recommend this book to you."

Alan J. White  
Athletics Director (Retired)  
Elon University

\* I was very fortunate to find Elon University and Coach Parham when I decided to play college tennis after getting out of the sport in my crucial junior years. At Elon with Parham at the helm I found the love for the sport again. Coach Parham wanted you to love the game when you graduated and never treated his players like a number. He truly cared about them. I learned a lot from Parham not only in the 4 years I played for him but throughout all my years in teaching and coaching tennis. He has been a gracious mentor to me. I was fortunate to follow Coach Parham as the Elon Men's Tennis Coach when he retired in 2004 and have passed much of his knowledge on to my players. A lot of what I learned is written in "The Little Green Book of Tennis" as he



wrote it all down. I believe this book is a must read to all high school coaches and players.

Michael Leonard  
Head Men's Tennis Coach  
Elon University

\*Being a tennis person I was aware of who Tom Parham was because of his success as a coach in the early '70's. I became more thoroughly aware of him through my coach, Jim Leighton. Many know of the relationship I had with Coach Leighton, and on this day I was characteristically asking him to help me with my game, specifically my backhand. When I arrived in Winston Salem Coach Leighton was giving a lesson to Coach Parham.

Coach Leighton had told me about coming in contact with Tom at the NC coaches clinic that had just held it's first tennis clinic, given by Jim Leighton. When Tom left I asked Coach Leighton about him.

Coach Leighton replied "the reason I have given him so much time is that he wants to learn. He is a student of our game and he is doing everything he can to improve himself."

Many may not know that Jim Leighton came from a family life insurance business that could have provided a lucrative career. He in fact loved tennis and chose it as a life time career instead.

And he had much earlier followed the same path of accumulating a body of knowledge, as he saw Parham trying to do now.

Later I asked him again how is was doing? He said "Allen, he has worked hard at it. And I've given him a whole lot more than he had to begin with. As a matter of fact, I give him extra."

When I became the North Carolina coach Tom was at Elon University and we were only thirty miles apart. Now colleagues, we began to meet for lunch, call each other by phone, visit each other's matches and swap information regularly both benefiting from the other. We became friends and I learned a lot about him. He had absorbed much tennis knowledge over the years, along with much success. We stay in touch. We talked frankly about his book. I know he believes firmly that it will serve America's young players, coaches & teams. I know it's foundation. I know this man. Both are solid. I cannot think of anyone more qualified than Tom in regards to his knowledge of the game. If you want a true "student of the game" and excellent coaching skills, he is your man!!! "The Little Green Book" is proof.  
J.Allen Morris

\*Tom Parham is my friend, my coach at Elon University, and a long time advisor. He brought me to America. He skillfully guided me through a new world and a new tennis arena--American College Tennis. We did well. He understood both the game, the team, and me. He is a very well respected professional with success at coaching and teaching at any level.

He is a master teacher and looked at as a integral part of tennis history in North Carolina, the South, and the nation. The book, THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK OF TENNIS is "spot on" in method and message for coaches, players, teams, all levels. Buy it.  
Roland Thornqvist--Head Women's Tennis Coach ---University of Florida Gators

\*Coach,

I just received your "signed" book today! I finished reading the digital copy last weekend. I really liked your advice on Preparing For College Tennis. I think many parents could benefit from that advice.

Wishing you and Margaret and the boys a very Happy 4th of July.

Lots of love -- Paul and Leslie Miller

I played for Coach Parham during the late sixties at Atlantic Christian College. After graduation and entering a career in teaching and coaching, I was a member of the tennis camp staff at Atlantic Christian and Elon University. Much was learned during these twenty-five plus years from my mentor Tom Parham. He had spent years talking with some of the top teaches and coaches including Jim Leighton at Wake Forest, Dennis Van Der Meer, Chet and Bill Murphy, Welby Van Horn, Wayne Sabin, Jim Verdick, and others.

What he did with all of this knowledge was to present it in such a manner that both young and old could understand it. This is exactly what he has done with "The Little Green Book of Tennis". He wrote it all down.

The best book I have ever read on the game of tennis – from teaching techniques, to drills, to strategy. A must read for players and coaches.

Eddie Gwaltney

Teacher/Coach (retired)

I was on the first team that Tom Parham coached at Elon. On this team he inherited a group of lightly recruited kids, primarily from North Carolina and Virginia, who consistently finished around 4th or 5th in the Carolina's Conference. Over the next three years Coach Parham built upon this group of kids as his base, added a few more North Carolina kids along with a couple of key International recruits to create a team that won the first Conference title for Elon in over 50 years, first District title ever and the first team in Elon history to participate in the National tournament finishing in the top ten. He continued to build upon this success and won the National Championship in his fifth year at Elon. To say that Tom Parham knows a little about tennis is an understatement. His team records and individual accomplishments in coaching speak for themselves: 3 National Titles, 25+ players who earned All American honors, 4 National Coach of the Year Awards and he has been inducted into numerous Hall of Fames.

\*Coach Parham has taken all of these experiences from 40 years of coaching success and coupled that with the knowledge that he also gained from working with some of the greatest minds in tennis history to write a book about tennis. In "The Little Green Book of Tennis" he shares his knowledge of how to play and coach tennis in a straight forward and easy manner that everyone can grasp and apply. A must read for all tennis enthusiasts.

Duane Johnson

The opportunity to coach tennis came near the end of my High School teaching and coaching career. Although I had years of coaching experience and loved playing tennis, I had limited knowledge of tennis drills and strategy. My forte was coaching football. Tom Parham, a well respected college tennis coach who coached National championships at Atlantic Christian (now Barton) and Elon, had retired to our local area and somehow heard of my situation and came to my aid. Volunteering his time and sharing his vast tennis knowledge, he was a huge part of our immediate success. Tom had drills for each level of ability the players had, and his tennis strategy was right on. He has tested these skills and strategies over a long and prestigious coaching career, and I was more than ecstatic for my players and me to have his help. Any book that Tom has written would be of great value to any level player or coach.

Doug Sheaffer

Having been on both sides of the net myself (player & coach) it is easy to see where THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK OF TENNIS could be a valuable source of information. Coach Parham inspired many of us to stay in the profession, and just having a coach that was always there to help but also knew what to emphasize and keep it fun, made all the difference'. His personality and determination to help are present all through the book. Whether you are a beginner or a Pro, there is plenty of meat there for everyone.

(Ken Rand, former Old Dominion University Tennis Coach)

Comment Coach Parham has written an unparalleled book(The Little Green...) that is a must-read for tennis fans every where. It should be required reading for all young players who aspire to improve their tennis skills and it will increase their appreciation for the sport itself. Parham has meshed his vast knowledge and experience of the game with the lessons he learned from the greats of the game. His understated humility, combined with his genuine love and respect for those he has encountered in his successful career makes for a remarkable read. Ray Stallings, Former Atlantic Christian College Player.

"This isn't just a book for tennis coaches. It is a book for all coaches." (Joe Robinson, former UNC football staff).

"Dad, redo this. It is 90% gold, but if you clean it up, it can become a timeless jewel." (Dan Parham, founder of NEIGHBORLAND.COM, before the revisions)

"Coach, this is so good.. I wept when I finished reading." (Russell Rawlings, NC Bar)

**The Little Green Book of Tennis is an amazing resource for all tennis players and coaches! As a former high school coach myself, I definitely believe Coach Parham's common sense approach to the game and to team concepts will particularly help the beginning high school coach or player. It's like he has consolidated all of his 40 years of coaching experience into one valuable "tool kit!" I only**

## APPRECIATION LETTER:

"The Little Green Book of Tennis" project was made possible by the donations and efforts of friends of North Carolina high schools varsity boys and girls coaches, players, and teams.

The North Carolina Tennis Foundation reviewed the book and recommended it for our coaches. All active coaches( about 711 coaches) have been given a book, funded entirely by these contributors.

These people also funded some 600 individual players from our state.

North Carolina has a rich tennis history. The love for this history and its coaches, family members, teammates, communities, high schools and colleges, and "tennis angels" became immediately apparent. Below is a list of those cited for remembrance by our contributors:

### WILSON, NC AND ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN/BARTON COLLEGE

Watson Hale, Al Rehm, Tom Parham, Gary McMahan, Tom Cozart (for Zeke Cozart), Krister Eriksson, Turner Bunn, Bob Gilmore, Earl Boykin, Jess Mahan, Wayne Norris (for Ken Rand), Charlie Bedgood (for Buddy), Rita and Raymond Boykin, Jo Rhodes, Joe Russell, Henry Babb, Huitt Mattox, Jerry Woodard, Pete Grine, Rocky Covington, Keith Stutts, Carole McKeel, Joan Adams Jones (for Milton Adams), Larry Schwab, Sally Barnes, Teri Kennedy (for Ralph El Ramey ), Danny Phillips.

### ELON UNIVERSITY AND ALAMANCE COUNTY

Vee Chandler, Kelly Nester (for Frank and Virginia Skillman), Duane Johnson, Eleanor Johnson (for eastern NC small schools), Alamance Junior Tennis (for Jim and Anne Powell), Chai Navawongse ( for Jim Toney), Jim Powell (for Lacy, Willie, and Fogleman), Alan White, Bill Morningstar, Jim Drummond, Bill Steed, Danny Morrison, Todd Nassief, Bennett Sapp (for Ed Perkins), Peter Van Graafeiland, Helen Ellington. Coach Bob Owens (for small schools).

### APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY (FOR TENNIS COACHES, BOB LIGHT AND JIM JONES)

Ron Smarr, Larry Nance, Keith Richardson, Norman Chambers, Jack Armistead, J. W. Isenhour, Ed Lanier, Bobby Cremins, Davis Babb, Lewis Meehan, Robbie Lowe, John Dobbs, Taylor Smarr II, Jim Boykin , Oval James ( for Bob Light ), Bobby Light, Brett Garnett, Joel Denny,

### FOR SPECIAL COUNTIES, SCHOOLS, AREAS

Carteret County (Ronnie Watson and Randy Campbell, and John Desmone), Rockingham County (Deems Webster, Bob Hughes, Boney Spencer, and Blair Webster). Moore County (Coach John Frye of Union Pines and Jack Hussey and Tom Parham for North Moore, Burgin Beale (for Pinecrest—honoring Bill Weathers), Guilford County for Herb Appezeller (by Danny McQueen), Wayne County for John Allen Farfour (by Allen Farfour, David Odom, and George Whitfield),

Buncombe County (by Dewey Andrew), Davidson County for Parks Easter ( by Bob, Ellen, and Ken Easter, Camey Timberlake Dillon, and Bryce Holmes,) Rowan County (by Jeff and Tom Childress), Pitt County (Down East Community Tennis and Henry Hostettler). Henderson County (by Lane Evans), Gaston County (Lane Evans), Dare County (Robert Wells), Broughton high school for Ken Rand (by Wayne Norris) Wake County (Cy King), Orange County (Kitty Harrison), North Carolina high school athletics for Charlie Adams and Dick Knox (by Tom Parham). Cleveland County (for Buck Archer by Jim Corn), Orange County (for Don Skakle by Jim Corn, Kitty Harrison, Tom Parham), Scotland County (for Tony Leonard by Michael Leonard), Charlotte Tennis Association (for Mecklenburg County), Cumberland/Fayetteville Tennis Association (for Cumberland County ), Allen Morris (for Coach Jim Leighton), Jane Preyer (for Durham County.), Lee County (for Peggy Golden), Bubba McLean, Billy Trott (for smaller schools), Dr. John Eatman (for Guilford, Forsyth, Randolph, and Caswell counties ), Russ Jones (in memory of Paul Addison Jones, Myers Park High School '62). Western Wake County schools (by Western Wake Tennis Association.), Dan Parham (for Coach Jeff Frank), Tee Parham (for Coach Ben Varn), Gerry Parham Ritter (for Reverend E.T. Parham--#4 singles at Wake Forest College, 1928).

Al Viglione, Susan Wellborn, Francis Jenkins, Jimmy Smith (for Harnett County)

Plus some more, dear to me: Ed Cloyd, Sam Modlin, Kay Stallings, Jeff Frank, Bobby McKee, Jim Toney, Neill McGeachey, Mildred Southern, Allen Morris, Lacy Hall, Peggy and Tyson Jennette, Bill Rand, Vince and Pearla Lowe, George Flowers,

My special thanks to four people, among many who helped this project "above and beyond":

Coach Ron Smarr, Mr. Harry Kraly, Dr. John L. Eatman, and Mr. Russell Rawlings. Terrific friends.

## THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK OF TENNIS— FUNDRAISING FINALE (Where we are now)

\*\*\*Below are the essential actions of the Board, beginning September 23, 2015:

“... the Board unanimously resolved that the President should appoint a committee to review Tom Parham’s book once completed and to make a recommendation to the Board 1. whether the book is appropriate for distribution to high school tennis coaches pursuant to the Foundation’s educational purposes; and 2. whether the price of the book reflects its fair market value.

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“The Board further resolved that if the above two requirements are met, then the Foundation would attempt to raise charitable contributions sufficient for the purpose of purchasing and distributing a book for each high school tennis coach in the state and if fundraising efforts are successful, would thereafter purchase books for that purpose to the extent that charitable contributions are received.”

So here are my personal thoughts. I want to finish the project. We have raised and covered about 65% of the money needed for coaches. This is exclusive of about 400 books given to individual players. We need about six to seven thousand to add to the nine thousand raised. Frankly, I am about out of bullets. My friends don’t back.

What has worked well is the recognition of coaches, family members, “tennis angels”, teaching pros, and community tennis groups. Our “leaders in the club house” are the Appalachian people who have provided sixty plus books, covering Watauga county along with ten other western NC counties surrounding Boone, NC. These guys did so in honor of NC Hall of Fame and former Appalachian State University tennis coaches, Bob Light and Jim Jones.

Other such coaches honored are Jim Leighton, Don Skakle, Jane Preyer, J.W. Isenhour, Neill McGeachey, Kitty Steele, Jeff Frank, Bobby Mckee, Allen Morris, Ron Smarr, Jim Boykin, Kitty Harrison, Mary Lou Jones, Debbie Southern, etc. Wayne county was covered for Goldsboro’s John Allen Farfour, New Hanover for Frank and Virginia Skillman, Pitt county was covered by their CTA. Wilson county cited Zeke Cozart. Alamance Junior Tennis— Jim and Anne Powell, Lacy Hall, and Jim Toney. Alamance also included “the Tom Sawyer/Huck Finn Doubles Classic”.

These are examples so far. There are tons of NC tennis people we owe. I remind every one that this is my personal and final effort. This not a NCTF fundraiser: Yet my guess is that there are many Hall of Fame members, those living and those close to them, who will agree. True also are NCTA/NCTF members and their Board who have their own leaders, past and present. Think Mildred and Harold Southern, John Peddycord, Tom Peatross, all the league leaders and “pioneers”. How about Grady Elmore and Mary Garber? Referee Rebel Goode? High school coaches themselves: Ron Lee, Lindsey Linker, Steve Spivey, John Frye, and many, many more. Clubs and their pros---Olde Providence and Bo Roddy, Herb Browne, et. al. The Raleigh Racquet Club and “the Southerns” (Happer, Bredenberg, Emmons,



Tennis for High Schools, or "The Little Green Book of Tennis" project had been delayed first, because the original copy had some significant errors in it. And secondly, we have applied for tax exempt status with a reputable foundation, hopeful we can provide that assurance also.

We now have a "revised" edition of the book. It is better in a number of ways. This copy has been done with the help of Tim Noonan and Heritage Histories Publishing. Tim and Heritage Histories produced "Tennis In North Carolina (Celebrating our History)", sponsored by The North Carolina Tennis Foundation.

The purpose of our book and the project is to place this able guide in the hands of young people who play varsity high school and junior tennis in our state. We are funded by corporate and individual donations. The more fundraising we do, the more books we can donate to boys and girls.

The delay caused some questions and slowed contributions. Many have already given, and there are considerable pledges we postponed hoping to be sure about the tax exemption status. Some have made unrestricted gifts. Some have specified area schools or counties to benefit from their contributions. Some have bought books and delivered them personally. There are several counties already covered. Some have honored individuals, family members, coaches, teammates, schools, etc. As stated above we felt like we owed it to our sponsors to investigate the deduction possibilities. Though still believing this may happen, the books are ready and it is time to get them to those who have provided the funding.

Again, the more money, the more books. Checks should be made to:

#### "Tennis For High Schools"

Tom Parham  
202 Blue Crab Court  
Emerald Isle, NC  
28594

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Recent contributions have allowed us to cover about twenty North Carolina County High Schools for all boys and girls playing varsity tennis playing for their schools. This is our major interest, but not our only possibility.

North Carolina has a rich tennis history. Already several gifts have been designated for coaches, family members, "tennis angels", teammates, specific schools. Please consider this manner by which to honor our many worthy tennis people.

If you have questions or wish further details e-mail me at [ethomasparham@gmail.com](mailto:ethomasparham@gmail.com), or feel free to call me at 252-764-3492.

Harry Kraly—accounting for mailing

Harry—there were three major mailings that I put on my credit card. The total for all three of those was \$1,144.16. That, combined with your earlier contributions, completes the NCTF project for NC high school coaches books. Well done and thanks for what you have done.. I am almost covered and all the books have been mailed. Did this on my dime so spring boys coaches and teams will have the books before they disperse for summer. Thanks too, to Drew. Nice young man.

If you need a paper copy of this from me, let me know. Also, as I mentioned, I have the receipts for every mailing. I will keep them unless or when you want them.

Yesterday I was at Elon and saw UNCW win over William and Mary, 4-0. Elon lost to College of Charleston 4/3. Last match was #2—CoC won it 14-12 in third set breaker. Tough loss, but great match.

Ps—I talked at length with Larry Schultz. He said he was unable to lead you to the political light, too.

Glad we re-united. Wish we had more time. tp

## COMMENTS FOR SPONSORSHIP

" Tom Parham has written an excellent book to help High School coaches work with their teams. We are pleased to be partners in getting each active NC High School coach a book by accepting directed donations for this project. The NC Tennis Foundation, a 501C3 organization, is always poised and ready to help our high school programs!"

Extremely well done. Packed with interesting and valuable information. I definitely think players, coaches, teachers and fans would enjoy it — as I have — and find it to be most helpful. Hopefully, copies can be distributed to all N.C. high school coaches and many others. (A, J, Carr, North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, retired from News and Observer)

" I bought this for my father in law, Chet Murphy, who is mentioned in this book. He is a long time tennis player and coach and at 97 years old enjoyed this book immensely!"

Whether you are a beginner or a Pro, there is plenty of meat there for everyone.  
(Ken Rand, former Old Dominion University Tennis Coach)

. Although I had years of coaching experience and loved playing tennis, I had limited knowledge of tennis drills and strategy. My forte was coaching football. Tom Parham, a well respected college tennis coach who coached National championships at Atlantic Christian (now Barton) and Elon, had retired to our local area and somehow heard of my situation and came to my aid. Doug Sheaffer, beginning tennis high school coach.

\*Coach Parham has taken all of these experiences from 40 years of coaching success and coupled that with the knowledge that he also gained from working with some of the greatest minds in tennis history to write a book about tennis. In "The Little Green Book of Tennis" he shares his knowledge of how to play and coach tennis in a straight forward and easy manner that everyone can grasp and apply. A must read for all tennis enthusiasts.

Duane Johnson --Elon All-American

He had spent years talking with some of the top teaches and coaches including Jim Leighton at Wake Forest, Dennis Van Der Meer, Chet and Bill Murphy, Welby Van Horn, Wayne Sabin, Jim Verdick, and others. What he did with all of this knowledge was to present it in such a manner that both young and old could understand it. This is exactly what he has done with "The Little Green Book of Tennis". He wrote it all down. ( Ed Gwaltney, Athletics Director, tennis, football coach)

We talked frankly about his book. I know he believes firmly that it will serve America's young players, coaches & teams. I know it's foundation. I know this man. Both are solid. I cannot think of anyone more qualified than Tom in regards to his knowledge of the game. If you want a true "student of the game" and excellent coaching skills, he is your man!!! "The Little Green Book" is proof.

J.Allen Morris ( Wimbledon quarterfinalist, retired UNC men's tennis coach)

While I have limited personal experience in the game of tennis, it has been my administrative opportunity to observe numerous tennis coaches at all levels as they performed their respective responsibilities. Tom Parham is certainly among the very best in fulfilling those responsibilities . Tom's book provides a great opportunity for persons who possess the commitment, dedication and interest to profit from as well as enjoy this read. It is my professional and personal pleasure to recommend this book to you."

Alan J. White  
Athletics Director (Retired)

. I learned a lot from Parham not only in the 4 years I played for him but throughout all my years in teaching and coaching tennis. Michael Leonard—All-American, current Elon University Men's Tennis Coach.

I have read the Verdieck chapter and you did a great job capturing my dad's thoughts. (Doug Verdieck, 4 time All-American, Coach Verdieck's oldest son)

This Hall of Famer has the ability to think outside the box and you might just find yourself doing the same thing. Coaches will appreciate his originality and benefit from his years of experience." (Coach Bob Bayliss—Notre Dame Men's Tennis, ITA HALL OF FAME)

The wisdom gained in a brilliant career has been boiled down to bite-sized pearls of wisdom in "The Little Green Book of Tennis" - a must-read for coaches, instructors, players, and parents.

Ron (Smarr) INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS HALL OF FAME

Tom Parham has written a superb book on the game of tennis that incorporates more than 50 years of thoughtful study and real life experience. Throughout his remarkable coaching career he remained a student of the game, wherein he would go anywhere and listen to anyone who might broaden what became a vast body of knowledge. This book is in many ways the download of the wisdom he gained by watching, listening, learning and coaching tennis. It is a must read for young players, coaches (especially new ones) and parents. As a coach who came in with no experience to one who left with three national championships under his belt, he knows of that which he speaks. He has also been a parent of all-star players, and dealt with the parents of dozens more. Buy this book, read it, and if you know anyone who is taking up the game or playing at the high school level, make sure they have a copy and their coach has a copy. It is a quick, easy read, yet it contains a breadth of knowledge that far outstretches the depth of its pages. Russell Rawlings, NC Bar.

I sure am digging your "Little Green Book". What a wonderful reference for a broad cross-section of the tennis world. Especially coaches. I really like your conversational style of writing. It is thoroughly engaging, as you are. I can hear your voice in every passage. It's excellent!

I like the mix of diagrams and anecdotal insights. It is straight-forward and personal at the same time. Great practical advice mixed with a nice balance of life lessons. It is exactly who you are. I would have been surprised if it was anything else.

"I learned how to play tennis from Coach Parham when I was 15 years old. Now some 37 years later as a high school coach I am still learning from Coach Parham. The Little Green Book of Tennis is a must read for every coach, player, and tennis enthusiast out there."

Barry Nethercutt Rocky Mount High School Tennis Coach  
Career Record 520-237

Dear Fellow Tennis Coaches and Friends,

As you all know Tom Parham is making what amounts to a tremendous contribution to tennis in this state. This is true at all levels and especially so in our high schools. Most of you have access to Coach Parham's latest publication, The Little Green Book of Tennis. And I'm guessing that you found the pages practically turned themselves as you read with the same absorbing interest that was mine as I gleaned jewels of information from this superlative treatment of the sport that each of us loves.

I'm asking you to spend just a few snippets of time. Perhaps five minutes or less. Coach Parham has a potential sponsor for his publication and needs a few anecdotal comments, pro or con, regarding the book. A mere two or three sentences passing along your evaluation of the work would be great and will be so helpful in sharing the publication with coaches and programs not yet reached. You might like to note something that you have seen that has impacted your program or will in the future. Or perhaps you prefer to pass along your general overall feeling.

Please email your comments at your earliest convenience to Coach Parham at [ethomasparham@gmail.com](mailto:ethomasparham@gmail.com)

Thank you all so much, especially so at this incredibly busy time of the year...and thank you for all that you do in building splendidly wonderful young people. It's so nice partnering with you in this regard. Your efforts make everyone a winner.

Sincerely

J Frye/John Frye, Union Pines High School

Men's and Women's Tennis [jsfrye@ncmcs.org](mailto:jsfrye@ncmcs.org)

On behalf of all of the high school coaches (and players) in NC, a BIG THANK YOU!! I know they all will benefit from your perseverance and hard work. Thank you for your support of NC high school tennis!!

Best,

Lindsey (Linker)—( NC Tennis Hall of Fame, and career high school boys and girls tennis coach)

"This isn't just a book for tennis coaches. It is a book for all coaches." (Joe Robinson, former UNC football staff).

"Dad, redo this. It is 90% gold, but if you clean it up, it can become a timeless jewel." (Dan Parham, founder of NEIGHBORLAND.COM, before the revisions)

"Coach, this is so good.. I wept when I finished reading." (Russell Rawlings, NC Bar )

"The Little Green Book of Tennis" is part of a project. My love of sports began in North Carolina seventy plus years ago. This lifetime of study included many sports. My encounter with Jim Leighton led me to zero in on tennis. With Mr. Leighton help I began to gather coaching information from a wide variety of teachers and coaches and players. My career was enhanced greatly. Never a great player in any sport I attempted, I made my goal teaching well.

Upon retirement I began some new efforts. Typing, computers, writing, self-publishing. Mr. Leighton once told me "...Tom, if you write a good book on what I have taught you it will mean more to tennis than anything else, including winning National Championships." Tom Parham, Author

Roland ("THUMPER") Thornqvist: "Coach—reading this book is like playing for you all over again. More important than all your trophies and awards is what you taught all of us who played for you. This book shows the man behind the awards and why you were so influential in our lives. It illustrates why I thrived at Elon and gave me the confidence to succeed in America. We love you, Coach." Roland is currently the head coach University of Florida Women's Tennis Team.

Your approach is honest, real, insightful and so full of common sense. The truth and wisdom come shinning through. I loved it and loved your courage to speak candidly" Peggy Golden, Senior player, NC Tennis Hall of Fame.

Thanks a million for your great book, PLAY IS WHERE LIFE IS. I got many, many laughs. The book is very interesting...a treasure indeed." Dan Magill, former University of Georgia tennis coach.

Cy King (North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame): Coach, You have always been such a wonderful storyteller. Thanks for writing this book and capturing the memories of some of the people, places, and times that many of us have grown up with in North Carolina tennis. You have influenced so many and I know that having your thoughts in print will be appreciated by all of us whose lives you have touched."

Tom Parham's first book, was PLAY IS WHERE LIFE IS (2007). Some comments on that book are listed below:

" I have it proudly displayed in my office with my Elon faculty book display. You are the



most scholarly coach Elon ever had.” Leo Lambert, President , Elon University

Fred Young said “...great memory and great humor. You were always a great tennis coach and a wonderful athletic staff member. I am delighted to learn of your literary disposition and skill.” Dr. Young is President Emeritus, Elon University.

“Reading PLAY IS WHERE LIFE IS reminds me that nobody appreciates ‘PLAY’ and understands “LIFE” better than Tom Parham.” Coach Dave Odom, North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame

Dr. Jess Maghan: “What a raw and loving profile of a man, a husband, father, teacher and coach! Tom Parham offers the reader an extraordinary book, packed with humor, pathos, and passion for learning and teaching through the magic of the sportsmanship of tennis. Here we have a classic compendium of the rules, methods, and discipline of tennis wrapped in a heartfelt professional life of a man dedicated to nurturing and protecting collegiate tennis programming. This is no cut and dry tennis manual. Moreover, it is a guide in extolling both male and female students in their individual development of the good character and life values of this quality sport. The instructive energy of the whole book is embodied in the rubric “play is where life is.” Dr Maghan is retired faculty from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Rocky Covington: “Your experiences, stories, philosophy on life, and friendship have impacted my life and the lives of everyone who knows you. Thanks for sharing your life, beliefs, challenges, struggles, and victories—in writing.”

Director of Programs and Player Development, Bill Ozaki of the Southern (USA) Tennis Association says: “ I am using the book towards improving our college tennis situation. Congratulations!

I COACHED COLLEGE TENNIS FOR TWENTY YEARS AT BARTON COLLEGE (FORMALLY ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN COLLEGE), AND TWENTY YEARS AT ELON UNIVERSITY. I HAVE INCLUDED TWO DOCUMENTS. ONE IS A CITATION FOR WINNING THE ELON UNIVERSITY "MEDALLION". IT IS THE HIGHEST AWARD ELON GRANTS.

ON OCTOBER 25, 2015 I WILL RECEIVE THE FIRST AWARD GIVEN BY BARTON COLLEGE THAT IS ALSO THEIR HIGHEST AWARD. (SEE ENCLOSURES),

I WROTE "PLAY IS WHERE LIFE IS " IN 2007 (CATAWBA PUBLISHING). ANOTHER BOOK (APPROVED BY XLIBRIS AND AT THE PRINTERS, ID704150) IS ENTITLED "ALOT (A LEVEL OF THINKING) IS DUE OUT VERY SOON

I HAVE A ACTIVE BLOG ([WWW.TOMPARHAM.WORDPRESS.COM](http://WWW.TOMPARHAM.WORDPRESS.COM)). AND A WEBSITE ENTITLED "PLAY IS WHERE LIFE IS". THERE ARE 70 OR SO POSITIVE COMMENTS ABOUT MY FIRST BOOK ON THAT SITE.

<https://www.elon.edu/E-Net/Article/116373>

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=mm#inbox/14e5e27ca05c804a?compose=14e6406232138515>

<https://tomparham.wordpress.com/2015/05/16/the-little-green-book-of-tennis/>

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=mm#drafts/14e2ade8a19c3845> ("the challenge)

\* " Tom Parham's recent authorship of his book The Little Green Book of Tennis is a great handbook for young, aspiring tennis coaches but it is also a thoughtful, entertaining (Parham style) read for all tennis buffs .During Tom's forty-plus years of coaching collegiate tennis at ACC(Barton) and Elon University, Tom won numerous conference, district and national championships in both the NAIA and NCAA levels of competition . As Director of Athletics at Elon University for twenty-seven years it was a pleasure and with admiration that I observed his success during his tenure at both institutions. Coach Parham was and continues to be a committed and astute "student" of the game while he is quick to offer praise and credit to such outstanding coaches as Jim Leighton and Jim Verdick for their mentoring that greatly enhanced his knowledge and skill for his teaching expertise .

While I have limited personal experience in the game of tennis, it has been my administrative opportunity to observe numerous tennis coaches at all levels as they performed their respective responsibilities. Tom Parham is certainly among the very best in fulfilling those responsibilities . Tom's book provides a great opportunity for persons who possesses the commitment, dedication and interest to profit from as well as enjoy this read. It is my professional and personal pleasure to recommend this book to you."

Alan J. White  
Athletics Director (Retired)  
Elon University

\* I was very fortunate to find Elon University and Coach Parham when I decided to play college tennis after getting out of the sport in my crucial junior years. At Elon with Parham at the helm I found the love for the sport again. Coach Parham wanted you to love the game when you graduated and never treated his players like a number. He truly cared about them. I learned a lot from Parham not only in the 4 years I played for

Tom, Thank you for sending your new book to me. I have read the Verdieck chapter and you did a great job capturing my dad's thoughts. The NAIA story where I was trying to talk and say what I felt about my dad was actually my induction as the first tennis player into the NAIA Hall of Fame. I still get choked up when I try to express my great pride in my dad and at that event I wanted to give him the credit he deserved. I still have to read much of the book but I am sure it can be a road map for coaches and tennis enthusiasts. My dad focused so much on finding a players weakness and fixing it as well as to put his players into pressure situations and learn to compete and remain poised. Each day of practice there was competition, either a challenge match, a round robin, a steady game, a volley game. Whatever Coach could come up with to test his players not only with their ability to make shots and eliminate errors but to do it when feeling pressure. Feel free to email me back and I will try to call you. This is my last summer as Director of Tennis. I started here at the Seattle Tennis Club in 1977 at age 28. I am now 67 and it's time to retire. This summer is also the club's 125th anniversary so it will be a very busy end to my career. Hope to speak with you. Doug (Verdieck)

Mine is on my desk. Thanks! (Kelly Gaines, Executive Director of the NORTH CAROLINA TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Tom Parham is always paying attention, which made him a great tennis coach and, as his friends well know, a great storyteller. Tom is always cogitating, mulling things over, which makes him also an inveterate agitator. He likes to unmask illusions. His book takes us on a journey through a life-time of seeing things differently, often from a perspective of humor. Maybe Tom is Will Rogers reincarnated!

Richard (Richard McBride is a retired Chaplain from Elon University, a fine man, and my friend.) tp

GREEN BOOK OF TENNIS BY TOM PARHAM  
ID 704152

I WANTED TO PASS ON A LIFETIME OF TIME-HONORED AND NEW TENNIS INFORMATION, GATHERED BY FORTY YEARS OF COACHING AND TEACHING. I WAS IMPRESSED BY THE GREAT GOLF TEACHER, HARVEY PENICK, AND THE METHODS HE USED IN HIS LITTLE RED BOOK OF GOLF. MODELING HIS TECHNIQUES, AND DRAWING HEAVILY FROM TWO GREAT MENTORS I LEARNED FROM, I HAVE SET FORTH TENNIS IDEAS THAT WORK, MUCH IN THE MANNER OF COACH PENICK.

STARTING WITH THE EARLY 1970'S AND GOING UP TO CURRENT INSTRUCTION, I HAVE CAPSULIZED WINNING TECHNIQUES AT ALL LEVELS OF PLAY, INDIVIDUAL AND TEAMS.

FROM BEGINNING RECREATION TO PRO LEVEL OF PLAYERS, MEN AND WOMEN THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE:

"YOU MAY NOT LIKE ALL OF MY MUSIC, BUT HANG ON. I'LL FIND YOU."  
(RAY CHARLES).

him but throughout all my years in teaching and coaching tennis. He has been a gracious mentor to me. I was fortunate to follow Coach Parham as the Elon Men's Tennis Coach when he retired in 2004 and have passed much of his knowledge on to my players. A lot of what I learned is written in "The Little Green Book of Tennis" as he wrote it all down. I believe this book is a must read to all high school coaches and players.

Michael Leonard  
Head Men's Tennis Coach  
Elon University

\*Being a tennis person I was aware of who Tom Parham was because of his success as a coach in the early '70's. I became more thoroughly aware of him through my coach, Jim Leighton. Many know of the relationship I had with Coach Leighton, and on this day I was characteristically asking him to help me with my game, specifically my backhand. When I arrived in Winston Salem Coach Leighton was giving a lesson to Coach Parham.

Coach Leighton had told me about coming in contact with Tom at the NC coaches clinic that had just held it's first tennis clinic, given by Jim Leighton. When Tom left I asked Coach Leighton about him.

Coach Leighton replied "the reason I have given him so much time is that he wants to learn. He is a student of our game and he is doing everything he can to improve himself."

Many may not know that Jim Leighton came from a family life insurance business that could have provided a lucrative career. He in fact loved tennis and chose it as a life time career instead.

And he had much earlier followed the same path of accumulating a body of knowledge, as he saw Parham trying to do now.

Later I asked him again how is was doing? He said "Allen, he has worked hard at it. And I've given him a whole lot more than he had to begin with. As a matter of fact, I give him extra."

When I became the North Carolina coach Tom was at Elon University and we were only thirty miles apart. Now colleagues, we began to meet for lunch, call each other by phone, visit each other's matches and swap information regularly both benefiting from the other. We became friends and I learned a lot about him. He had absorbed much tennis knowledge over the years, along with much success. We stay in touch. We talked frankly about his book. I know he believes firmly that it will serve America's young players, coaches & teams. I know it's foundation. I know this man. Both are solid. I cannot think of anyone more qualified than Tom in regards to his knowledge of the game. If you want a true "student of the game" and excellent coaching skills, he is your man!!! "The Little Green Book" is proof.

J.Allen Morris

\*Tom Parham is my friend, my coach at Elon University, and a long time advisor. He brought me to America. He skillfully guided me through a new world and a new tennis arena--American College Tennis. We did well. He understood both the game, the team, and me. He is a very well respected professional with success at coaching and teaching at any level.

He is a master teacher and looked at as a integral part of tennis history in North Carolina, the South, and the nation. The book, THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK OF TENNIS is "spot on" in method and message for coaches, players, teams, all levels. Buy it. Roland Thornqvist--Head Women's Tennis Coach ---University of Florida Gators

\*Coach,

I just received your "signed" book today! I finished reading the digital copy last weekend. I really liked your advice on Preparing For College Tennis. I think many parents could benefit from that advice.

Wishing you and Margaret and the boys a very Happy 4th of July.

Lots of love -- Paul and Leslie Miller

I played for Coach Parham during the late sixties at Atlantic Christian College. After graduation and entering a career in teaching and coaching, I was a member of the tennis camp staff at Atlantic Christian and Elon University. Much was learned during these twenty-five plus years from my mentor Tom Parham. He had spent years talking with some of the top teaches and coaches including Jim Leighton at Wake Forest, Dennis Van Der Meer, Chet and Bill Murphy, Welby Van Horn, Wayne Sabin, Jim Verdieck, and others.

What he did with all of this knowledge was to present it in such a manner that both young and old could understand it. This is exactly what he has done with "The Little Green Book of Tennis". He wrote it all down.

The best book I have ever read on the game of tennis -- from teaching techniques, to drills, to strategy. A must read for players and coaches.

Eddie Gwaltney

Teacher/Coach (retired)

I was on the first team that Tom Parham coached at Elon. On this team he inherited a group of lightly recruited kids, primarily from North Carolina and Virginia, who consistently finished around 4th or 5th in the Carolina's Conference. Over the next three years Coach Parham built upon this group of kids as his base, added a few more North Carolina kids along with a couple of key International recruits to create a team that won the first Conference title for Elon in over 50 years, first District title ever and the first team in Elon history to participate in the National tournament finishing in the top ten. He continued to build upon this success and won the National Championship in his fifth year at Elon. To say that Tom Parham knows a little about tennis is an understatement. His team records and individual accomplishments in coaching speak for themselves: 3 National Titles, 25+ players who earned All American honors, 4 National Coach of the Year Awards and he has been inducted into numerous Hall of Fames.

\*Coach Parham has taken all of these experiences from 40 years of coaching success and coupled that with the knowledge that he also gained from working with some of the greatest minds in tennis history to write a book about tennis. In "The Little Green Book of Tennis" he shares his knowledge of how to play and coach tennis in a straight forward and easy manner that everyone can grasp and apply. A must read for all tennis enthusiasts.

Duane Johnson

The opportunity to coach tennis came near the end of my High School teaching and coaching career. Although I had years of coaching experience and loved playing tennis, I had limited knowledge of tennis drills and strategy. My forte was coaching football. Tom Parham, a well respected college tennis coach who coached National championships at Atlantic Christian (now Barton) and Elon, had retired to our local area and somehow heard of my situation and came to my aid. Volunteering his time and sharing his vast tennis knowledge, he was a huge part of our immediate success. Tom had drills for each level of ability the players had, and his tennis strategy was right on. He has tested these skills and strategies over a long and prestigious coaching career, and I was more than ecstatic for my players and me to have his help. Any book that Tom has written would be of great value to any level player or coach.

Doug Sheaffer

Having been on both sides of the net myself(player & coach) it is easy to see where THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK OF TENNIS could be a valuable source of information. Coach Parham inspired many of us to stay in the profession , and just having a coach that was always there to help but also knew what to emphasize and keep it fun, made all the difference'. His personality and determination to help are present all through the book. Whether you are a beginner or a Pro, there is plenty of meat there for everyone.

(Ken Rand, former Old Dominion University Tennis Coach)

Comment Coach Parham has written an unparalleled book(The Little Green...) that is a must-read for tennis fans everywhere.It should be required reading for all young players who aspire to improve their tennis skills and it will increase their appreciation for the sport itself. Parham has meshed his vast knowledge and experience of the game with the lessons he learned from the greats of the game.His understated humility, combined with his genuine love and respect for those he has encountered in his successful career makes for a remarkable read. Ray Stallings, Former Atlantic Christian College Player.

"This isn't just a book for tennis coaches. It is a book for all coaches." (Joe Robinson, former UNC football staff).

"Dad, redo this. It is 90% gold, but if you clean it up, it can become a timeless jewel."  
(Dan Parham, founder of NEIGHBORLAND.COM, before the revisions)

"Coach, this is so good.. I wept when I finished reading." (Russell Rawlings, NC Bar )



The Little Green Book of Tennis is an amazing resource for all tennis players and coaches! As a former high school coach myself, I definitely believe Coach Parham's common sense approach to the game and to team concepts will particularly help the beginning high school coach or player. It's like he has consolidated all of his 40 years of coaching experience into one valuable "tool kit!" I only wish I had it myself when I started coaching 30 years ago!! (From Lindsey Linker, an all time great North Carolina High School boys and girls tennis coach)

"I bought this for my father in law, Chet Murphy, who is mentioned in this book. He is a long time tennis player and coach and at 97 years old enjoyed this book immensely!"

#### REMAINING COUNTIES:

Buncombe  
Burke  
Cabarrus  
Caldwell  
Catawba  
Chatham  
Cherokee  
Cleveland  
Columbus  
Cumberland  
Davidson  
Durham  
Gaston  
Haywood  
Henderson  
Iredell  
Johnston  
Macon  
Mecklenburg  
Montgomery  
Orange  
PERSON  
Polk  
Randolph  
Robeson  
Rowan  
Rutherford  
Sampson  
Stanly  
Stokes  
Surry  
Swain  
Transylvania

Tyrrell  
Wake  
Warren  
Yadkin

\*

Buncombe *	FEB 17. I prepared this list a week ago. These are counties I have
Burke *	had not much contact with. Most all of the other counties have
Cabarrus	been covered or have books waiting on addresses.
Caldwell *	Since last week several on this list have been contacted and
Catawba	have pledged to helping. These are marked * These others I need
Chatham	help with.
Cherokee*	
Cleveland*	
Columbus	
Cumberland	
Davidson	
Durham	
Gaston*	
Haywood*	
Henderson*	
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Rowan*	
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Sampson	
Stanly	
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Swain*	
Transylvania*	
Tyrrell*	
Wake	
Warren	
Yadkin*	

# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

JULY 24, 2016 JULY 24, 2016 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

### FAULT LINES (168)

[▢ UNCATEGORIZED](#)

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I have a golf acquaintance that is almost 90 years old. Still plays from the regulation tees and shoots well below his age. He is 6'3", weighs about 240lbs and looks like he could play tight end in college right now. I asked him what sports he played in high school? I didn't PLAY anything. I had to work. Tobacco was the worst. (fault line 1).

At 76 (born 1940) my generation was allowed to play. I could be in school, church, working, or on the team. My guess is post WWII boys had fathers who were more willing and able to loosen strings on the family workforce.

The next sports fault line, I think, was that parent who clawed his way to the top through hard work and wanted to give their kids "opportunities I didn't have!" Admirable but sometimes flawed thinking.

Some of these went overboard, giving the kid unlimited time and money for play. Often the youngster began to believe school, work, discipline, were for others. These "pros to come" wound up wondering what happened when the inevitable (for most) work, was unavoidable. "There are two kinds of golf(or tennis) pros: The workers and the players, and all the players are looking for a job!"

One college president said, "...the worst thing for a golfer is to be able to shoot par!" Planning to play for a living is indeed a bad bet.

I don't want to discourage youngsters from trying their best at sports. Handled right there are great hard work and life lessons in sports. What I am seeing too much of is a more frightening fault line.

A recent beach visit by his grandchildren had an "old coach" friend excited. "I may want you to help with these two on their tennis." Ready to help, I waited to no avail. I asked Grandpa what happened? "I asked the two of them to go hit four days in a row. Each time they barely looked up from their video games, thumbs twitching, to mumble "Maybe tomorrow, Pop."

Double fault.

From J.W. Isenhour

<http://cummingsathletics.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/2014CollegeTennisOperatingBudgets.pdf>

Sent from my iPhone

Total spent by colleges and universities on college tennis in 2014, men and women combined: 600million dollars.

THE LINK ( North Carolina tennis to our high school coaches. )

Statement of Mission: To maximize our different resources to aid the development of high school coaches, teams, and players.

Timing: No time like the present. We seem to be in a better position to help our coaches now, for a number of reasons . Among these are (1) THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK of TENNIS is in the hands of the coaches. They have a common guide. (2)TECHNOLOGY.

Amazon.Kindle has a program through which individual players can access the book on E-



Books for .99\$ per copy. This allows the coach to assign mutual practice plans in advance. (FACEBOOK GROUPS allows the coach, players, and support sources to communicate in confidence. People helping can keep up and assess how they may be more helpful.

(4)ADVANCED

ORGANIZATIONS. North Carolina has a history of helpers and “tennis angels”. We have any number of ways our various groups assist many tennis venues. The ones most likely to support high schools specifically are The North Carolina Tennis Association, The

North Carolina High School Athletics Association, The North Carolina High School Coaches Association, The North Carolina Professionals Association, and The North Carolina Tennis Registry. All these people are already in place and serving tennis. Often all that is needed is to ask for help.

Several other sources may join in. My guess is we are simply not asking our NC Tennis Hall of Fame members for their input. This is tremendous reservoir we could tap. While the teaching pros are the ones who can most likely benefit, the great players and tennis

angels of our state have and can be a powerful influence on youngsters.

Our “critical mass” of tennis help would include college coaches and team members.

They are rewarded internally if they help with communities. ASK THE COACH. No one

is more interested in the teams than the player’s parents. And they are powerful.

Many are lobbying for “ a competent coach for our team’s players. “ They realize the value

of high school team membership and will help keep their talented kids leading the way.

The coaches aren't paid much. Often a football staffer is assigned the sport, knowing very little about tennis. There are "horror stories" about some who are assigned. My guess is if you have a person who "cares" about the kids and drives the bus safely, you are lucky. We need to help these people.

More than half the teams in NC are girls teams. Obviously the effects of Title IX have helped our girls to the point of capably giving back to our younger ones. My guess is the surge of league play has now equipped a lot more women who would feel comfortable

sharing what this experience has given them regarding tennis and team tennis.

High schools offer the funding of 20 or so matches per season, plus practices, and learning . That alone develops players.

Teamwork, and how to help your mates are concomitant values. Pros teach them in the off season. Indoor facilities yield year round opportunity for growth.

We need a structure. A committee think tank of the parties above? Assign coaches by volunteers for areas? (by county? City?

Conferences, etc. ) Who is willing to help?

How can you help?

At the East/West NC tennis coaches clinic I offered my home phone number (252-764-3492). If a Coach has a question, call me. I'll do my best to help. All of the people above can do the same.

- Attend practice or a match. Care.
- Play with a kid. Or several. Doubles too.
- Start a "buddy system" with local players and the team's members.

- Pros: Give the teams your old practice balls. I'll guarantee your ball budget is more than his/hers.
- Read the book.
- Old Rackets?
- Explain challenge matches, tiebreakers, odd rules, line calling, how to handle disputes, cheating, etc.
- Help the referees.
- Run errands.
- Support the coach. Teach team.
- Call in scores. Nurture media.



- Sponsorships, private or corporate.

BOOSTER CLUBS have guidelines. School have MONEY RULES. Abide by the rules.

- How you can help is limited only by your imagination. Every thing you do to help , and get the kids to help, lets the coach do something more.
- Courts need maintenance . A tool box, a stiff push broom is a must (without a metal brace it will last a week. With one you can't wear it out.)

- Common plastic buckets help ball pickups and drills. Need a dozen.
- A leaf blower is a life saver. Gets trash off too. Dust, etc.
- Nothing you can do is better than teaching the kids to care for the facility. Lot of trash cans and emptied on time. Tell everyone the banana peelings go in the trash cans (visitors too). So do the ball can lids.
- Make sure there is water.

- There is always one who forgets. Make sure they have their rackets and shoes.
- Where is the bathroom?
- Know security's number. Nearest phone?
- Like earlier mentioned, limitless.

Maybe this document is a good start. The book does not “flow” and therefore which of the 180 lessons would best be used in which order will take some ordering and some perhaps variation. There is considerable need for tech aid in setting up the e-books arrangement and the facebook

groups possibilities that are best. The big job, of course, is getting the volunteers properly aligned with the coaches and teams.

For those of you who have the book or access to it, I have selected lessons that may best be used early on. You may want to read and make other suggestions.

Ten early lessons: 1. Ten Groundstroke Fundamentals (pages 9 and 16). 2. Singles Strategy (page 27). 3. Doubles Strategy (page 34). 4. Grips (page 13). 5. Balance (pages

18,19). 6. Emotions (pages 23-25). 7. Sportsmanship (page 62).

For girls: 8. The Court is Bigger (page 79). 9. Coaching Girls and Women (pages 77-86). 10. The Easter Bunny Test (page 80).

For Boys: 8. Touch and Tighten (page 88). 9. I Didn't Change Anything (page 22). 10. You Need a Friend (page 14).

## THE LINK (CONTINUED)

TO LANE EVANS REGARDING YOUR LAST E-MAIL.

First, I am delighted you and Cy and Tom Parkes have agreed on the basic idea of aiding our high school coaches. Also the idea of clinics and area volunteers from our various resources is spot on.

You are also right about the Coaches Association (Donald Clark), as well as The North Carolina High School Athletics Association, as the real beneficiaries from our North Carolina's organizations. The North Carolina Tennis Foundation, likewise, has education, high schools, and junior tennis as TOP priorities.

Again, I see this as a volunteer group with a variety of ways to contribute. Certainly our above mentioned groups would consider minor funding, if such is needed.

I am sure you guys discussed ways to help. Instruction, advice, assistance with drills, error and technique input, strategy, practice and match observations, liasons with communities and booster organizations and parents, are among the limitless number of ways to help.

There are also area and national organizations (STA, USTA, NCFHSAA, etc.) that might aid if we approach this right.

We need to determine how to structure these efforts to maximize results. In addition to the organizations we have a great group of fine players, tennis angels, parents, pros, college coaches, many who are already be doing this, or who would gladly help a serious appeal.

Please don't underestimate the technological possibilities that are now available. And the book as a guide, and e-books that are quite easy to put in the players hands.

If this gains traction I pledge to help in anyway I can. We will need tech support with design. We need communication with the organizations, and people best suited to appeal to these leaders for their needed support.

I don't know how much good this will do. My strong beliefs run from the real values of our youngsters playing on their high school teams, to tonight as the USOPEN starts, with the USTA spending \$550 million on the facilities. Look at the drawsheets. Maybe our efforts will someday improve even the best of American tennis.



## MONEY PLUS MOUTH

I just offered to be a volunteer assistant tennis coach. My friend, Coach Jim Sheehan, says they are doing a background check on my past. Keep your fingers crossed and your mouth closed. Croatan High School is located in Bogue, NC (Carteret County).

This won't cure world hunger, but I can help these kids. Many of you have and are doing similar things. Coach Smarr immediately aided both Francis Marion University and Pamlico High School, both located near his retirement residence. Should we challenge all our NCTF Hall of Fame members to ADOPT A HIGH SCHOOL TEAM, nearby, and aid them in the best way possible? How about soliciting a list of those already volunteering for boys and girls high school tennis? And at least recognizing them.

Some "food for thought":

1. These are not new ideas, but maybe dormant in certain areas.
2. Some coaches don't want or need help. Some are begging for, or don't know where to find it.
3. Technology makes dispensing information a lot easier and efficient. We can easily aid our specific goal of better NC tennis through better high school coaching.
4. A current "critical mass" has made this easy and inexpensive. Dr. John Eatman and I are exploring a design for the best plan.
5. A sample that may be possible follows much like a typical education design (Example: Teacher (Coach) has a text (THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK of TENNIS is on hand now). The student has a text or the book above at .99 cents per E-book. A cadre of resources are available at very little cost via "FACEBOOK GROUPS" or a web-like site that serves as communication and consultation between our

many sources and the teams.) Daily, weekly and planning for the whole season can easily designed. Got a question, coach? Contact your source or proper advisor.

\*\*\*how do you play a tiebreaker?

\*\*\*what if a player cheats? The other coach “stacks” their lineup”.

\*\*\*how do you set up doubles?

\*\*\* how do you coach the emotional part?

\*\*\*where, specifically, should your hit a back-hand service return in doubles.

As mentioned I don't feel this would be worrisome expense wise . Yet I do feel it is “grant worthy” and the powers that be should be approached. I also believe it is an opportunity to have unique “pilot” that would be a feather in our cap.

An opponent mentioned in a staff football meeting, our head coach said, “...yeah, they are talented, but we can outwork them.” Hope we don't loose that. Might be a moment to outwork them.

Suit your self

My wife, Margaret, is Canadian. Her aunt, Mary Elizabeth, is called Mary Liz. On all pivotal family matters, from trivial to dire, she would ask husband, Uncle Irvin, what they should do?

His pat response? "...suit yourself, Mary Liz. And bring me another Heinikens."

Became family vernacular in my wife's home.

## 2016 High School Coaches Workshop

UNC Greensboro 7/20

On court morning session will take place at the UNC Greensboro courts off of West Drive.

Attendees can park at the parking deck off of Walker Avenue.

### **9:00 am-9:15 am**

Welcome- Kelly Gaines and Jeff Trivette

### **9:15 am-10:15 am**

Michael Leonard led coaching clinic

### **10:15 am-11:30 am**

High School Coach led stations- 20 minute rotations

Jeff Kinlaw- Lumberton High School

Jon Noyes- Carrboro High School

Lee Matthews- Fike High School

### **11:30 am- 1:00 pm**

Lunch on your own

### **1:00 pm- 3:00 pm- Education Building**

Classroom sessions (attendees will have chance to win WSO tickets)

-Donald Clark NCHSTCA 1:00-1:30

-NCHSAA/Max Preps 1:30-2:00

-USTA North Carolina/NC Tennis Foundation 2:00-2:30

-Tom Parham and the Little Green Book of Tennis 2:30- 3:00

Cy and lane additional copiew

Hey Coach...I saw Cy in Asheville the other night and we had a good discussion about how we can attack this issue of helping the High Schools across NC. I also spoke to Tom Parkes the other day as well. I will see him again in Winston-Salem this Saturday as I will be helping with Kids Day and we have a NC USPTA Workshop. I will pick his brain further. Still believe this might be a Pro Relations Committee project. I can speak with you further about that next week after I see these two again and can formulate some sort of a plan. Talk soon...Lane

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I couldn't agree more with the realization "...this is not a new idea", and that people have and are helping many high schools.

I do believe (1) there are a lot who have no help even today (2) we are better equipped to re-activate and re-invigorate the troops.

Technology, the additions and improvement of support groups, the distribution of our "guide book", the ability to e-book the guide inexpensively, and to communicate via "facebook groups" or some website-like central command, can make good coaching assistance much more productive and helpful to the limited newcomers particularly. Maybe some "cage rattling" is a good starting point.

I see a wheel graph with NC high school tennis at the hub and spokes going out to feeding sources: NCHSAA, NCTA/F, NCHSCA, USPTA, NCTF HALL OF FAMERS, COLLEGE COACHES, TENNIS ANGELS, TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE. A "critical mass" that now will contribute all these new "bells and whistles", or possibilities to achieve our goals for high school tennis.

My guess is you two are imagining the "wheel graph" and wondering if i drinking again, but I can't draw on this thing.

Yours in the bond of tennis. tp



East – West (NC) COACHES CLINIC- July 20, 2016 at UNC-Greensboro, NC  
Hosted by Coach Jeff Trivette. Master clinician: Coach Michael Leonard of Elon University.

2PM TO 2:30 PM

Tom Parham, author of THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK of TENNIS, will be on hand to discuss this guide for high school coaches, players, and teams. This book has been distributed to all 711 NC high school coaches of boys and girls tennis.

Coach Parham suggests “...this book does not “flow”, or read from front to back. It is a series of lessons, realizing that each coach, player, and team is at their own level. Some coaches have mastered large numbers of these lessons already. Other coaches may be at a much lesser level and in need of more help. There is a need to read and even study some of the more advanced information.”

The project is supported by the North Carolina Tennis Foundation, who joined forces with Mr. Parham in an effort to support our high school and junior tennis.

Should you need help in maximizing the usefulness of the book, Coach Parham offers the coaches this free service: “Call or e-mail me your concerns, questions, or need for explanation. I was once where you are. I want to help.”

Phone: 252-764-3492

E-mail: [ethomasparham@gmail.com](mailto:ethomasparham@gmail.com)

## NC TENNIS—HELP FOR HIGH SCHOOLS COACHES

I attended the NC High School's tennis coaches clinic in Greensboro last week. This is held and hosted on the UNC-Greensboro campus with Coach Jeff Trivette as chairman. This is the first time in a while I had attended and was impressed as Coach Michael Leonard of Elon University put on a superb doubles clinic for some 150 high school coaches from our state. I attended the first tennis clinic the North Carolina High School Athletic Association held. Wake Forest coach, Jim Leighton was the clinician and there were four coaches at the Latham Park courts. That clinic was the beginning of a different level of desire to be a good coach, for me personally. In 1985 I put on that clinic.

I watched the progress that has been made in high school tennis in our state. The Burlington Tennis Center was and is the site of many state championship tournaments so it was easy to watch many of these.

As I watched the clinic this year I told some one "...there is a lot more CARE in that group than knowledge. Granted several of the coaches demonstrated good skill on the court. I have said all along that a high school coach who cares and drives the van properly is all parents can hope for. Now I think it time to help them. They, by virtue of their attendance and willingness to coach our children, have earned our assistance.

### HOW?

Much is already being done. The NCTA, The USTA, The NCHSAA, The North Carolina High School's Coaches Association are going hard to help. Where help is needed comes from several sources:

\*\*\*\* Pay for these jobs is meager compared to what is asked and expected.

\*\*\*\*The pay will not attract top notch tennis coaches in most instances. Most of the very good ones are volunteers, or close.

\*\*\* The typical "assigned" staffer is often a football coach, one who knows nothing about tennis. Or some similar scenario.

\*\*\*\*More and more are "adjunct", or part time coaches, who don't have even the academic background that teacher/coaches have.

### WHAT CAN HELP?

One way to start is a "THINK TANK" or committee to examine what is possible. We have a tremendous group of fine players throughout the state. We have in place an organization of teaching professionals in NC. Many times the best source is a "tennis angel" who silently plays with youngsters. No one gives more than parents. The club pro benefits from high school families.

There is another largely untapped source in our state. The NC TENNIS HALL OF FAME members. There seems to me to be a group of old pros and young turks in



our select group who could also help the coaches in their area. Many of the hall of famers and pros are the same people. Many already give or have given to tennis in many ways. There are so many ways these people could enhance the knowledge, confidence, and performance of particularly the beginning coaches. I can't list them all. Believe me, you can help.

I would also suggest to these coaches to look for the local angels. My experience is these are great people who only need to be asked. It may be one afternoon a week, It may be a helpful phone call. Showing a drill, filling in for an emergency, play an exhibition, take them to a college match, gift of equipment—old or new, simply attend matches, etc.

I think a good place to start “thinking” would be the coaches, the Pros, the angels ,and the organizations to brain storm the how. The why is obvious. And I think there is ample evidence that this help is available. And I am convinced the link between high school and juniors and parents and these volunteers can thrive. The first place to start is knowledge plus need. Our hall of famers and our professional tennis teachers are where to start.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS? WILLING TO HELP?**

## THE FUTURE—John Eatman

John,

True thanks are in order for your researching the addresses for our project. This was painstaking labor that I found maddening.

Perhaps we are on the cusp of finishing. And while I am glad that is so, I can't help being proud of what has been done, and grateful for all the nice comments that have come in.

This is my last bullet. No more fundraising. Those who have given generously of money, time, and effort can now return my phone calls. And you don't have to come to my funeral.

My gratitude extends to the North Carolina Tennis Foundation. And, while I believe the book can "travel" to other areas, its roots are in North Carolina, as are mine. My belief is both the NCTF and our helpers have fulfilled the goal of providing each active high school boys and girls coach in North Carolina the guide.

Additional and exclusive funds have provided some 500 individual books to current players on our statewide teams.

To be honest, I believe there are others who could benefit: Many colleges and universities have beginning coaches who would surely find pockets of help.

Teaching pros and clubs. Recreation departments. Adult leagues with new coaches and players are prime learners. And camps (how about a book rather than a trophy? Or better, a book for every camper and/or beginning staffers).

How about for Junior tennis tournaments? For winners of divisions, runners-up, sportsmanship winners. Some novice or smaller tournaments could conceivably give each entrant a book upon registration.

Tim Noonans fine book, "Tennis in North Carolina", was a great gift to major contributors to NCTF. As the organization moves toward more fundraising some "on hand" books may be used as favors, or a way to give back that yields more than it costs.

John -Cathy Helmer was in my home this week. I asked her how she began a lifetime of tennis? Cathy said a teenage friend said to her, "...there is the cutest boy teaching tennis at the Wilson Recreation Center named John Eatman". Cathy signed up. I am glad you were on my first team. And that we have remained friends and "tennis people" who help the game's people.

And, I am darn glad you know computers. tp

March 1, 2016 by [ethomasparham](#)

# North Carolina Tennis Foundation (142)

- [Uncategorized](#)
- [1 Comment](#)
- [Edit](#)

Tom Parham's Little Green Book of Tennis  
› Tom Parham's Little Green Book of Tennis

Tom Parham's "Little Green Book of Tennis"

The Little Green Book of Tennis was written by Tom Parham. This book has been touted as the tennis instruction book for the next generation of high school coaches and players. Tom humbly takes no credit for writing the book. Instead, he will tell you that he wants to pass on great information from two of the best coaches in our game—Jim Leighton of Wake Forest University and Jim Verdick of Redlands University. Tom learned and gives credit for his coaching development to all of the various coaches and players he encountered throughout his coaching career. Tom Parham won three national championships and had a 597 – 195 winning record. He was the National Coach of the Year four times, is a member of the North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame and the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

The North Carolina Tennis Foundation (NCTF) is very supportive of high school tennis. In keeping with the many things the NCTF does for high school tennis, we have created a donor designated fund to help get The Little Green Book of Tennis in the hands of all 700 plus high school coaches in North Carolina. Coach Parham has made the book available for \$20 for each active high school coach in our great state.

If you would like to help achieve this goal, just send a check to the NCTF for whatever amount you would like and designate on the check, "Tom Parham's book." We will make sure an active high school coach in North Carolina gets the book!

You may send your check to:

NC Tennis Foundation

C/o Tom Parham's Book

2709 Henry St

Greensboro NC 27405

If you have any questions, please email Kelly Gaines at [kelly@nctennis.com](mailto:kelly@nctennis.com)

Thank you for your consideration!

Here is what others have said about "The Little Green Book of Tennis":

“Coach Parham is a masterful teacher, southern humorist, and sports philosopher who explains tennis strategies and techniques in a way that anyone can “get it”. The wisdom gained in a brilliant career has been boiled down to bite-sized pearls of wisdom in “The Little Green Book of Tennis” – a must-read for coaches, instructors, players, and parents.” Ron Smarr INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS HALL OF FAME

“If you are looking for a tennis book that is both entertaining and thought provoking, this is the book for you. Tom Parham’s insights and musings are both informative and entertaining. As a former college coach, I found it a great read! This Hall of Famer has the ability to think outside the box and you might just find yourself doing the same thing. Coaches will appreciate his originality and benefit from his years of experience.” Coach Bob Bayliss—Notre Dame Men’s Tennis, ITA HALL OF FAME

JULY 30, 2016 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

# HELPING HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS COACHES (171)

- [UNCATEGORIZED](#)
- [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)
- 

## NC TENNIS—HELP FOR HIGH SCHOOLS COACHES

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I watched the progress that has been made in high school tennis in our state. The Burlington Tennis Center was and is the site of many state championship tournaments so it was easy to watch many of these.

As I watched the clinic this year I told some one "...there is a lot more CARE in that group than knowledge. Granted several of the coaches demonstrated good skill on the court. I have said all along that a high school coach who cares and drives the van properly is all parents can hope for. Now I think it time to help them. They , by virtue of their attendance and willingness to coach our children, have earned our assistance.

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## WHAT CAN HELP?

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There is another largely untapped source in our state. The NC TENNIS HALL OF FAME members.

December 18, 2015 by [ethomasparham](#)

## A BIGGER BOAT (138)

- [Uncategorized](#)
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- [Edit](#)

FROM “JAWS”

(“...you’re gonna need a bigger boat!”)

### WRAPPING UP

When I started working on the Little Green Book of Tennis two years ago. I soon realized I needed help. A lot of people helped out, none more than this:

“The NC Tennis Foundation (NCTF) has made available a way for donors to contribute to the NCTF and purchase a book(s) for an active NC High School Coach. NCTF is pleased to help supply Tom Parham’s book, “The Little Green Book of Tennis” to our many hardworking coaches who can gain knowledge about tennis to impart to their HS players.”

Our intention is to give all 750 high school varsity tennis coaches, boys and girls, a copy of this guide. We have already shipped books to 17 North Carolina counties in packages of 20 books (10 for girls and coach, 10 for boys and coach) to each high school in that county. Some 700 books. There are 31 schools with books for coaches.

This has been financed by individual gifts. I hope I have thanked each of you properly. We are far from finished. The GIFTS NOW SHOULD GO THROUGH:  
Address and mail check to:

NORTH CAROLINA TENNIS FOUNDATION  
2709 Henry Street  
Greensboro, NC  
27405

Tag the check at bottom:  
For–Tom Parham’s Book(s)

Here are some others comments:

\* I have “over E-mailed”! — One of many mistakes as a beginner in technology.

I have a “blog” ([www.tomparham.wordpress.com](http://www.tomparham.wordpress.com)) and will now post related links here you may want to see. No more bombardment. And forgive me.

• Chuck Kriese asked me to promote the book and program (“Tennis for High Schools”) on his radio show. Podcasts can be googled any time. Thanks, Coach Kriese!

• Coach Ron Smarr is heading a group of “old coaches” who want to help young coaches, teams and players. I will post a link to this PAY IT FORWARD, and a contact for helping us with this avenue of support and recognition.

• Coach Jeff Trivette of UNC GREENSBORO helps host the tennis clinic for the North Carolina High School Athletics EAST/WEST games. Coach Michael Leonard will host a clinic for coaches. This is a good place to insure distribution to your programs, Coaches. Coach Linsey Linker is helping with NORTH

CAROLINA TENNIS COACHES ASSOCIATION. This is an independent support group for high school tennis in our state.

- I have talked to both First Tee of Austin and Mr. Harvey Penick's son, Tinsley, about the link between red book of golf and our green book of tennis. They were very nice.
- I am particularly proud of the support of my former players at Atlantic Christian/Barton College, and Elon University. Their gifts have combined with other friends, some tennis people and some not, to raise about \$15,000.
- The ability to give through the Foundation will give us a boost. And credibility. I am glad not to be selling on my own.
- There are other states interested in what North Carolina is doing with this unique idea. We already have a "presence" in South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and Florida. Some interest too from the USTA, the Southern Tennis Association, the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, and the National Federation of High School Athletics. Tennis camps are interested. The League teams and coaches see its possibilities for improving their programs as do recreation departments.

In conclusion, fundraising is not my cup of tea. Yet , this project is dear me. I believe I wrote a good book; one Mr. Penick, Coach Leighton, Jim Verdick, and others, would sanction as (1) a great method (Mr. Penick's), (2) a great message from "our tennis masters", (3) a great purpose in our young people, and finally (4) a fine network of people, tennis people, North Carolinians, Southerners, Americans.

Help us out!

PS. I promise to never ask anyone for money again. And you don't to come to my funeral.

Thanks,

Old coach

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND COMMENTS ON THE BOOK:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=mm#drafts?compose=151b0d30019d7646>



February 27, 2012 by [pasturespoint](#)

## Mentors (17)

- [excerpt](#)
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In the mid-eighties I began writing a coaching manual. Maybe I'll add the next twenty years experience to that in a "tennis coaching book" later. If I do, one person will be responsible. Coach Jim Leighton of Wake Forest University.

North Carolina had, for years, featured the East-West High School All-Star Games. The state added more sports, then girl's all-stars, and the games progressed. My team had just won a trip to the NAIA Nationals. Hell, we finished fifteenth in the nation. The first tennis clinic being held in Greensboro was an afterthought. Coach Norfolk was going to the Basketball Game and I figured I'd pile in with him. My running buddy, Jack Hussey, was at the clinic, as always, and we were off. We were all over Guilford County, and Greensboro as well. Norfolk was in the bed when I sneaked in the shared motel room, very late. The tennis clinic was the next morning. I knew Norfolk was awake because he smoked 11 "Viceroy's" before taking a morning leak.

I drug my ass out of bed just in time to make the 9:00 clinic at Latham Park in Greensboro. There were four coaches there including me. Coach Leighton rolled up with racquets & balls. He wore traditional white and it matched his hair. He looked just like "Colonel Sanders". After pleasantries and introductions he began speaking in a new language. Two puzzled coaches left in ten minutes. The other at noon.

Coach Leighton was a master teacher, and my first introduction to someone that knowledgeable about the game. I was fascinated. One of his players, Paul Caldwell, was with him. When the other guy left, leaving only me, I was embarrassed, both by how much Leighton knew, and my own misjudgment about my greatness. I offered to abandon the afternoon session. I was delighted, and impressed, as Coach responded, "Tom, we've agreed to stay until 4:00. I can tell you are interested in learning. As long as you'll stay, we'll stay."

Our college offered two hundred dollars per year for "professional growth" at convention trips. I never again spent mine on anything but my new mentor, Coach Jim Leighton. He would try to refuse my money, but I'd have paid triple. I was in his home, at his club, at his varsity practices, watching tapes on everything from his current players to sequential pictures of Ellsworth Vines. He had just completed "Inside Tennis: Techniques of Winning." This book, much of the information by Leighton himself, also included contributions by Dennis Van Der Meer, Welby Van Horn, Chet and Bill Murphy, Wayne Sabin, Pauline Betz Addie and others. I loved Leighton and the book. I had so many questions. I'd book time in his Buena Vista Road home in Winston-Salem. We'd talk about the book, and with explanations by Coach Leighton, I felt like Moses on the Mount.

The USTA held our annual Teacher's Convention just prior to the US Open in Flushing Meadow. One year Jim and I made almost every session. Every coach seemed to want to use his session to further his tennis standing. At one session Leighton's bullshit detector kicked in. A coach was trying to sell a lame idea as the end of all tennis instruction; Leighton politely questioned the man's premise. The clinician sloughed off this old white-haired guy's puzzlement. Again coach queried, "I want to make sure I'm understanding what you're saying." An abrupt, "Am I not speaking plainly enough?" was his answer. Selling the same lame premise, the clinician was startled when Leighton rose and stated, "Sir, you

are addressing the tennis teachers of America and beyond. Never have I heard such a crock of baloney.” He turned to me and said “Get up Tom, we’re getting out here!” I followed beside him.

One day at the New York host hotel he asked, “Do you want to hear someone who knows tennis?” My immediate response was “Sure!” Coach said, “Meet me in the lobby at 6:30 AM for breakfast.” I joined Coach and Chet Murphy in a downtown café. Chet and Bill Murphy were Californians who knew the biomechanics of tennis. I’d heard Chet Murphy as a clinician. He seemed nervous, my having heard so much about him, but once the first technical question was asked, he was off and running. This morning Leighton did something I’d never seen him do. He deferred to Murphy, asking questions the way I’d asked of him. And while there was great mutual respect, I’ve got to say Murphy was impressive. I was all ears. This was a time when all kinds of research was being done in tennis. I was pleased with the next question asked by Coach Leighton, “Chet, how do you feel about what we’ve done?” (Meaning the old time proponents of “classic” tennis instruction.) Chet thought a moment and said, “We should have let them hit more western grip forehands. Other than that everything was right.”

Coach Leighton was buried the day the “Jimmy Powell Tennis Center” was dedicated at Elon in 1988. It was in Wait Chapel on the campus that had named their stadium after this fine man, coach and friend. People say you don’t have to play to be a coach. Or that you don’t have to have much other than good players (“You can’t make chicken salad, ‘till you get the chicken.”) My feeling is I became a much better coach after meeting my mentor. I know it made me money. I taught everyone in Wilson and the surrounding area for years. I took Leighton’s advice and sought out private sessions with Dennis Van Der Meer and Welby Van Horn. They couldn’t have been nicer to me.

## Post navigation

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August 6, 2012 by pasturespoint

## Jim Verdieck (40)

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Not every athletic contest is the Super Bowl or the Final Four. Great games occur everywhere. There were some great contests, team efforts and fine people in NAIA tennis. I'm grateful I saw twenty-eight tournaments. Dick Gould of Stanford was the "Coach of the Era" (25 years) in the period of time I coached. No doubt he was the best.

But, our absolute best was Jim Verdieck, a competitor, the coach at Redlands University (California). Jim was the best at winning I ran into, in any sport. And he was already a legend when my team made its 1970 trek to Rockhill Tennis Club in Kansas City, home of the NAIA Championships. Verdieck was a strong willed football – tennis coach. His teams won 12 of 13 NAIA titles, starting about the mid-sixties.

I'd admired him and then befriended him. I need to write some of what I saw, one could learn a lot from Redlands and their coach. I asked him one time why he didn't write about his vast knowledge. Our kids were about to face each other. He pointed to the court and said, "See that match. If you told me we could win that match if I'd write 200 pages, I start right now."

I asked where, over his coaching years, the non-scholarship Redlands team would rank in California, including the Division I giants of USC, UCLA, Stanford, Pepperdine and all the rest. "Sixth." The teams wore national championship warm-ups. Only for Kansas City. No one got to the courts before Redlands. We mimicked that too.

"But what if it dies," I asked about his knowledge.

"If I die, it dies."

He proved true to his word. Suffering a major heart attack, he was told he needed an emergency treatment.

"Not before Kansas City."

Told he may die if he went, he boarded the plane.

He knew his business. Janice Metcalf, a fine California player, played #6 on one Redlands men's team. It was early 1970 and there were no girl's teams in the NAIA. I was on the rules committee that denied Coach Verdieck's appeal for a substitute for Janice, who'd injured her knee after the substitution deadline. The rule was clear and Coach Verdieck accepted the decision.

He flew Janice out for her first round match, which she won easily, and then boarded a return plane to Redlands. Redlands University won the national title by that one point. When I asked Verdieck about that move he explained. "I'd figured the draw pretty close. I knew Janice could probably beat this kid easily, and told her to walk off if it was bad at all."

Perhaps as impressive as Jim were his sons, Doug and Randy. Doug won NAIA singles all four years. He won the doubles, I think three times, twice with Randy. When Coach Verdieck was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame, Doug flew from Hawaii to introduce him. As Doug tried to speak, tears, not words, came. He backed out and tried again with the same results. Another attempt. The NAIA official next to him stood as if to relieve him. "No, dammit, no. I flew all the way from Hawaii to do this and I'm gonna do it." Angry now – his level voice stated: "My dad is the greatest," and sat down.

Coach Verdieck told me that three times he had lights approved for the university courts. Somehow the school procrastinated every time they said yes. Later he found out that when he'd tell his wife the lights were to be installed, she nixed the deal. She simply went to the administrators saying, "If you put lights up, he'll stay there all night, and I'll leave him."

His roster included twenty-four players – a very large team. Not only that, each week every player in the top eight had a one hour private lesson with Verdieck. Sixteen remaining players got a half hour per week with him. This, in addition to team responsibilities.

Upon learning he'd retired at age 65, I called to congratulate him. He was within sixty or so wins of 1,000 wins. No one else is close.

"Did you consider staying until you break that barrier?" was one of my questions.  
"No, I promised my wife if I got to 65, I'd stop. A deal's a deal."

Though he quit coaching he couldn't give up teaching. I asked Coach Verdieck early on if he knew Dennis Van Der Meer. Not only is Van Der Meer the world's most prolific tennis teacher, he was very close to my mentor, Jim Leighton. Verdieck said, "Know Dennis? I taught him 90% of what he knows!" When I asked Coach Leighton if he knew Coach Verdieck, he said no. I told him of the Verdieck comment about Dennis Van Der Meer. Leighton was appalled, and said he intended to ask Dennis about that! A couple of years went by and I asked Leighton if he'd asked about Verdieck. Leighton admitted that Dennis had responded, "Yes, that's probably about right."

In retirement, Verdieck worked with Dennis at Sweetbriar College, in the mountains of Virginia. I called Coach Verdieck and asked if I could hire him. "What for?" he asked. I told him I wanted to know more about coaching and that he was the one who I most respected. I'd been coaching 25 years at this point. Still not convinced, he argued that his knees had gotten so bad he couldn't move enough to hit many balls. I replied, "Coach, I just want to talk with you." He contended he didn't talk much, but to come on and we'd probably be done in thirty minutes. My wife went with me and waited patiently for three and a half hours. "Tom, we have to set the babysitter free at 8:00 pm."

You're never too old to learn, and I learned a lot that day. When I became Director of Athletics the first thing I did was book an hour with five different athletic directors I admired. Dylan said you had to get up close to the teacher if you want to learn anything.

## Post navigation

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### One Comment

1. *Trista Barton* [September 6, 2013 at 8:45 pm](#) ([Edit](#))

Mr. Parham, I came across your blog entry and was touched deeply. Coach Jim Verdieck was my grandfather and to read how he touched

EXCERPT FROM CHAPTER 10, 2008, OCT 10, 2010 by DANA

## Excerpt from Chapter 10 : Coaching Team Tennis (6)

- EXCERPT
- 4 COMMENTS
- 

If my knowledge about coaching college tennis were judged on what two topics I was most often asked to speak on, it would be (1) How to get on a college team and (2) Doubles.

The United States Tennis Association produces a document for prospective student athletes. I'd like to emphasize a few points:

- 1) If you really want to play, go where you can play.
- 2) It's been said that many athletes gravitate to one level beyond their ability. There's never been a "happy substitute."
- 3) In college tennis if you don't get to play your first year, you probably won't get to play. This is not always true but do you want to gamble?
- 4) When tryouts were allowed, I'd have my #4 player play a set with the prospect. If the prospect played closely with #4, he had a chance at our school. It was amazing to me how many times a prospect, having just lost 6-1, would tell a parent, "I'm better than that guy."
- 5) Transferring, if you make a mistake, is not always easy to do.
- 6) The single most important issue in college tennis is the international issue.

I would like to state firmly that I believe tennis players who want to play college tennis should play high school tennis. Many talented players (and their parents) think this is a waste of time. I disagree. "Prima Donnas" sometimes haven't learned the team concept, and don't function well in college tennis. College tennis requires personal sacrifice. You can learn a lot about that on even a limited high school team. Plus you are playing for your school.

Having coached fifty plus international tennis players, I have this strong comparison to make with American junior tennis: the American player can fire the American teaching pro! If the pro makes the player work too hard the junior will tell the parent, "I don't like him/her." New Pro! Internationals beat these kids like a "borrowed mule."

Nowhere is this more evident than in junior girls. The pro hits easy balls left to right and collects the check from a happy client. That girl, confronted with an awkward mis-hit or a good drop shot has no clue. Most act as if some tennis etiquette has been broached. The girl's national 14's was held in neighboring Greensboro, NC for several years. I can tell you that the winner almost always: (1) had the best drop shot and (2) had done a lot of work defending against the drop shot.

# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

APRIL 3, 2012JULY 16, 2013 *by* PASTURESPOINT

### On Losing (26)

☐ [INSTRUCTION, UNCATEGORIZED](#)

☐ [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

☐

At one athletic meeting, our Sports Information Director made repeated notice that one of our coaches was approaching 200 wins. While I had 597 in my career, what struck me at the meeting was the “other side.”

I blurted out, “I’m getting near 200 losses.” They looked at me strangely.

My point: If I lost 200 matches, that’s about 1000 times I’ve had to deal with a singles player or doubles team who had lost. You’d better know how to handle losing, and your players who’ve lost.

There are much bigger losers than in athletic contests. If you deal, as I did, with several thousand students, athletes, faculty, townspeople, coaches and their families, there are inevitable tragedies. I lost one young player. I mourn him daily.

Your players will turn to you when times are tough.

My first prayer at every season’s start was for safety in the van. No one drove but me. I prayed that prayer every trip.

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# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

JUNE 28, 2012 JULY 16, 2013 *by* PASTURESPPOINT

### Check your Grips in the "Hit-Spot" (36)

 [BOOK, EXCERPT, INSTRUCTION](#)

 [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



The most irrefutable physical law in tennis is that "...the ball will be directed where you point the racquet at the moment the strings meet the ball." This sounds simple enough but it is a fundamental that is often overlooked by a beginner who is trying to think of ten things at once.

As a tennis instructor, one can heighten his class' attention with the mere suggestion of the proper backhand grip discussion. Almost immediately, pupils will pick up their racquets and search for this mystic grip that will cure their frustrating backhand problem. While no grip will atone for poor position or improper "hit-spot," an understanding that grip change reinforces wrist strength is essential.

No matter how one explains this necessity, students have a period of time in which the decisions of which way, and how much, the hands turn are confusing. The same is true of all grips when one progresses to the point that all strokes have been explained. In order to cope with this indecision, a teacher can facilitate grip change understanding by having students check their grips in the various "hit-spots."

Most beginners tend to check their grips in the "ready", or "waiting" position. By checking grips in the hit-spot a beginner can immediately relate grips and their relationship to "the most irrefutable physical law in tennis." One can also more easily ascertain the value of proper grip to wrist reinforcement.

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# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

JUNE 8, 2012 JULY 16, 2013 *by* PASTURESPOINT

### Evolving Service Grip (34)

 [INSTRUCTION](#)

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Two teachers I admired taught service grip differently. Van Horn in his film, taught the “tray position” which featured a western grip for beginning serves. Many high school girls serve this way. It’s actually logical because their grip “matches their stroke”. (Remember: “Grip must match stroke”)

Perhaps the most impressive service lesson I observed was giving by Coach Verdieck at a junior clinic held in Kansas City, in conjunction with the NAIA’s. His beginners started with the servers grip, and astonishingly many of these youngsters succeeded immediately. Dennis Van Meer used a similar use of the servers grip for beginners.

In our area we had to fight the western grip beginners. They didn’t understand “pronation” and “forearm rotation”. And then there was the great “wrist snap” controversy, and the revelation that the top edge of the racket turned down upon follow through.

My advice was to “evolve” into a server’s grip, encouraging your high school girl or junior to shift her right hand to the left, little by little, all the while adjusting the stroke to the new grip. Pretty soon, arm strength development, wrist function, and an upward throw motion developed the topspin “whir” that allowed the ball, though hit up, to spin down into the service court.

Painful, slow teaching, sometimes.

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)



FEBRUARY 27, 2012JULY 16, 2013 *by* PASTURESPOINT

## Know the Court (19)

- [EXCERPT](#)
- [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)
- 

I know I gave one player above a thousand career points or more. It had a strange origin. I taught badminton in PE classes. Soon, thinking myself a pretty good player, I encountered one Anand Jaggi, Professor of Economics. Anand was ranked 13th in the world of badminton. And was his “State Champion” in his native India.

Rarely did I get a point. He won the singles, doubles and mixed doubles state badminton championships, held annually at Duke University. And I soon noticed an “uncanny” ability he had. He never played the shuttle-cock when it would land out of bounds. It was “dropped” or let alone.

While my badminton ego suffered, I took this logic to my tennis team. We need to “learn the court”, or like Dr. Jaggi, not hit out of bounds points. We adopted this policy:

1) In practice, if you have any doubt let it go and lets see if you are right

2) In a match, with any doubt, go ahead and play it

Soon I could see our players use better and better judgement. We would occasionally let one drop in, but our percentage grew drastically.

The player that benefited most from this was Chai Navawongse, a Thai left-hander who came in on “everything”. Chai had played doubles with Pandorn Schriciphan, so he came in “with game”. Soon, however, I noticed he was playing anything close. There may be 10-20 points a match he played that would have been out. Some, way out.

I explained the “Jaggi” or “learn the court” theory. A bright youngster, and fine player, you could see the light click in his head. Before long he was close to Jaggi in judgement, rarely playing an out ball, simply pointing “out” with the left hand.

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# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

APRIL 3, 2012JULY 16, 2013 *by* PASTURESPOINT

### Danny and the Forehand Chip Return (27)

📖 [INSTRUCTION, UNCATEGORIZED](#)

📖 [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

📖

Danny Colangelo was Elon's only four time first team all-American in any sport. He was talented, tough and durable.

I learned from Danny how valuable the net player was in doubles. No matter who I played Danny with, he'd play so well at the net his partner, if he didn't double fault three or four times, would hold serve.

Danny could learn too. I convinced him at his level he needed to add an underspin forehand return. Danny was going to play people who serve so well he wouldn't have time for a giant backswing. He mastered it immediately and used it to great advantage.

What I learned was part two of the "learning." Danny realized that he if hadn't had that return, others hadn't either. He began to hit his quality serves at talented opponents forehands.

Danny told me he saved that shot for a "back-up" point on the tour, and was always surprised how many good players couldn't hit it.

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# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

APRIL 3, 2012MAY 4, 2014 *by* PASTURESPOINT

### Hackalooski (25)

[!\[\]\(cbe2492b119e39e02a1dab2af4a4b296\_img.jpg\) INSTRUCTION, UNCATEGORIZED](#)

[!\[\]\(e474458956c9a37fbf9586ddb60a7fa1\_img.jpg\) LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

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Two suggestions from a "Hackalooski":

First a Definition of "Hackalooski" : A poor golfer giving advice to good golfers.

As a high handicap, old tennis coach turned lousy golfer, I often have these two observations:

A) Golfers don't like to be told anything technical, particularly on the golf course. While I agree this can be annoying, I have this suggestion for groupings of golfers: While rotating among a group of men I hear comments about the other players ("He ought to do this, etc"). I often agree with them on obvious mistakes. My guess is an "inner group" Coaching Session would yield a lot of worthwhile and accurate suggestions from the group to each individual.

B) Please allow me one "cross over" suggestion from baseball and tennis: Famed tennis pro Welby Van Horn stated, "Balance is the clue to good tennis and footwork is the clue to good balance. "I think this is the most violated and easily corrected golf techniques.

Watch the feet of a pro (or good) golfer at the end of their follow through. I think that K.J. Choi has the best balance. While baseball and tennis players take a step forward on the left foot (Note: For right handers), golfers keep their foot stable. This is your anchor foot. It puts you on balance. It is slightly "open", or set at 60 degrees. Power comes from efficiency of stroke. This power comes from from the right hip, specifically the "iliac crest", turning. As the hip completes its turn, your back or right foot winds up on your "tip toes". It is your "adjustment" foot. Your front foot puts you on balance, your back foot keeps you on balance.

Watch the good ones.

Golf Digest ran an article on the technique at the end of 2011. Lost my copy...

June 26, 2012 by pasturespoint

## Tennis Practice: You Need a Friend (35)

- [excerpt, instruction](#)
- [1 Comment](#)
- [Edit](#)

A teacher of sports skills soon realizes his tasks:

- (1) he must have a concept of what the skill looks like when correctly executed
- (2) he must see where others are going wrong
- (3) he must be able to correct their execution
- (4) and he must be able to lead them through a proper program to eventual proper execution on a reflex, or match basis

Tennis is no exception. A good teacher will “set up” enough practice balls so that errors are corrected. This is a main task, and good teachers, pros and coaches work doggedly at it. There are some common misconceptions on the part of pupils however. Perhaps it is worthwhile to examine a few of these. First – no teacher can tell a player how to play. He can only teach the player how to practice. It’s like a person taking piano lessons and never touching the keys – he simply cannot learn without actual practice on the piano.

Some people conceive of tennis as lessons. Tennis is play. As a City Tennis Director I have observed people repeatedly taking beginners’ lessons from one year to the next. When I ask them how they’ve done since last year they often reply “...oh, I haven’t played since the lessons,” or “...I could never find anyone to play with.”

These people haven’t understood a basic fact regarding improving one’s tennis game: you are dependent on other people. There are some ways to detain this fact, namely lessons, ball machines, backboard practice, racks of shag or practice balls – yet no one avoids the inevitable. You must have someone you can count on to play or practice with. Very often you hear “... I like to play with better people” and perhaps to play with an equal is best. But to play with anyone is better than not playing at all.

Another element also emerges. Very often the most natural practice possibilities, i.e. family member, friends, neighbors, or rivals, are somehow eliminated because of various reasons. “Oh- I can’t play with my father, he shouts at me all the time,” is one excuse. “I can’t stand to lose to her...” is another. “I can’t count on them to be there on time, or to play hard when they come...” is frequent. At this point I feel the player should have a “heart-to-heart” with their potential practice partner. The gist of which would conclude: “Look, I need you to get better, and I know you want the same. Let’s set a regular time, keep our mouths shut, and promise each other we’ll work as hard as we can while we’re on the court. Also we’ll swap practice hits on an equal basis.”

“Swap practice hits?” What does this mean? It means that if you are, and have, a dependable friend you can set up the practice balls rather than pay a pro a fee for such service (or fail to practice because of an absent coach). This agreement has enormous potential for specific shot improvement, yet will go awry quickly unless each person is conscientious about hitting his share of the set-ups. It also helps for players to make note of their weak shots and their friend’s weak shots during play. Also, a sincere effort must be made by the players to set up the practice balls realistically. (Communication helps here!) Again, it helps to “blend” shots that go together naturally: For example, player one practices serving at the backhand while player two

practices his backhand return. Next the players reverse roles. Drills can be fitted together in a limitless number of patterns and shots, yet some are time-honored and should be emphasized.

Even coaching college men who were quite talented, one had to sell the players on the value of drilling, and their dependency on each other to practice properly. Of course, more than two can practice together. A coach would never allow absenteeism, tardiness, or the "...I just don't feel like practicing hard today" excuse. For player A to improve, Player B must extend himself. The entire team's improvement is dependent upon each member's maximum effort to extend their teammate into improvement.

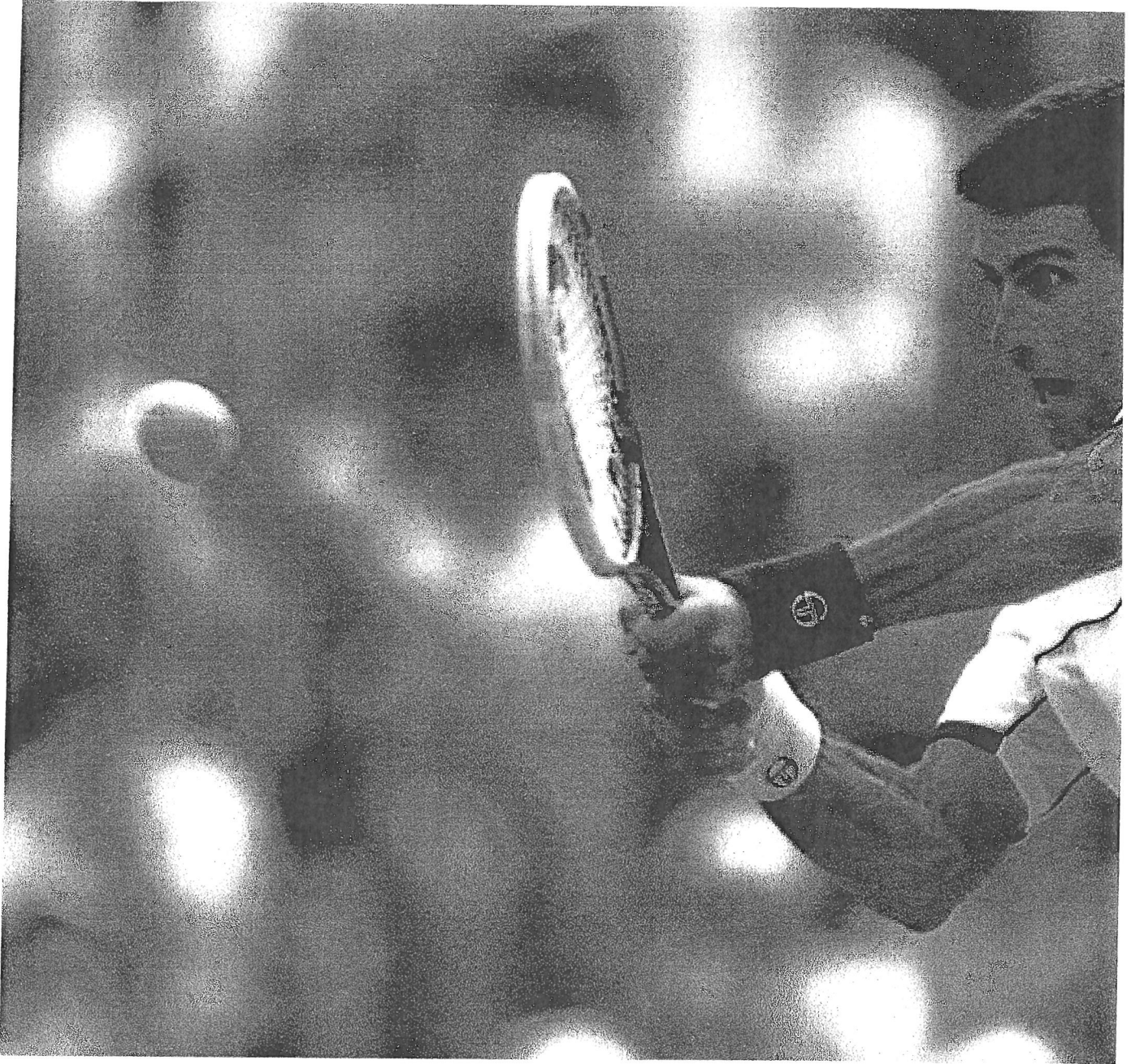
A sack, or rack, or bag of practice balls is a common sight around tennis courts today. Surely you should hit "tons" of practice services. You can bounce hit, backboard practice and work on the ball machine. You can take lessons from the best...but to really improve, friend, you need a friend!

## Post navigation

December 20, 2010 by Dan

## The Next Level of Men's Tennis (10)

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Novak Djokovic's win over Rafa Nadal in the 2011 Men's US Open Championship showed tennis fans a new level of play in the history of the sport. I've discussed Nadal's ["Circle"](#) strategy to defeat Federer and the rest of the men's tour consistently. But Djokovic has taken the baseline game to a new level. He has perfected deep, heavy shots that keep Rafa out of his circle.

Djokovic and his team have engineered their rise to the top of the men's game much like Andre Agassi's team did. A rigorous fitness regimen and diet have amplified his natural counter-punching style, and he is returning serve and hitting passing shots as effectively as any player ever. I can't remember a Grand Slam final (grass, hard, or indoor) where the first service percentage carried almost no statistical advantage. Neither Nadal nor Djokovic benefited from their normally deadly first serves. It makes you wonder if Pete Sampras could have held service while serve-and-volleying against Djokovic.

This also makes me wonder about the upward evolution of the game, and who will achieve the next level. Djokovic has almost perfected "corner to corner" baseline strategy. One thing that does seem to be growing in effectiveness is the drop shot. The old adage that "you can't drop shot on a hard court" is being tested more at the top level.

There are four corners on each side of the court. Two are up at the net. The only player I have seen who could hit a un-returnable drop-shot from the base line was Charlie Owens. Many watched Charlie dismantle quality players with a disguised, feather like drop shot that confounded even great players. Maybe there is someone coming along with this unique touch, who combined with the other tennis skills needed will produce the next level in the never ending evolution of tennis.

Women players might be well advised to note this possibility. And to be aware that not only should she be able to hit drop shots, she must be able to defend against them. My guess is that many players and teachers have realized there are four corners on each side of a tennis court.

## Post navigation

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July 29, 2016 by [ethomasparham](#)

# MAESTRO (172)

- [Uncategorized](#)
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## MAESTRO

Not long ago I received a call from a man named John Ormsby from Southern Pines , NC, once a hotbed of Six Man Football. I had played this game designed for small schools and told him what I knew. His book entitled THE HISTORY OF NORTH CAROLINA 6-MAN FOOTBALL is quite detailed. Completing our interview I asked John if he had played the game. No. Why then did he do this detailed work on a seemingly obscure topic? He replied, "... I wanted to be more knowledgeable than anyone on one subject. One tennis player comes to mind when I ask "who was the most unique player I saw play": Charlie Owens. The South , and North Carolina specifically, had some great "post-boom" open tennis greats. And great players to copy. Allen Morris had a backhand we marveled at. Tim Wilkison was a boy genius no one could out work. John Sadri's serve stunned everyone, including McEnroe. But, Charlie.

Allen Morris recently told me "... Charlie beat me one time in a close match, but playing him was so much fun, I really did mind losing. Much. "

Maybe fun is the operative word for Charlie. Personally I never saw anyone close who could play as well while entertaining every one. It wasn't clowning. Charlie was a world class player that simply had a bag of tricks. Mostly defensive tools, such as a deathly placed lob. Chips and angles, changes of pace and strategy. "WHERE DID THAT COME FROM"?

Satchel Paige said he called his money pitch his "BE BALL", because it "always be where I want it to be." Charlie's ace was that drop shot.

Now a fine teaching pro at Landfall Country Club in close by Wilmington, NC, Charlie granted me some old coach conversation time. Below I have copied writings I have done related to the modern day need to add this tool to American games. The first is from about 2010 until this article. Please excuse the repetition, but I became more convinced of the need to cope with this tactic in American tennis.

The more I wrote the more I thought, I wonder what Charlie would say about this?

Here are some thoughts the "master" shared:

1. The most adamant statement contradicted that this was pure talent. That those great hands were simply heaven sent. No way. He cited several older men from his local club who spent the time beating him with lobs, drop shot, and guile. As a small youngster, one older "wizard "beat me 100 times before I beat him at his own game. He never beat me again". No, those "tools" were hard earned, no short cuts, but a lifetime of fun and victory.
2. He agreed with the special qualities of this game. It tires opponents at a whole new level. It frustrates and angers even high quality players. It is an option and is capable of making an opponent play in an new and unpracticed game
3. Mini-tennis is the best way to practice the skills needed. Plus play practice.
4. He shared names to remain unspoken who, some world class players, could not adjust to this game.
5. He agreed there are four corners on each side of the court.
6. He agreed women are included in the use and defense of this tactic.
7. "There is no graceful way to run up and dig it out. That's hard."
8. "Every one needs plan B".
9. Families have to support the hard work and discipline required of the student by the pro.
10. It has to be hit "up some"

THANKS, CHARLIE.



BELOW ARE SOME EXCERPTS AND ARTICLES FOR MY BLOG THAT SHOW A PATTERN OF DEVELOPING BELIEF IN THE DROP SHOT , AND AN AMERICAN TENNIS NEED ( WWW.TOMPARHAM.WORDPRESS.COM):

(2016)

2. In pro tennis both men and women have learned the virtues of the drop-shot. One—it tires opponents quickly.  
Secondly, it has a subtle psychological effect that discourages opponents. Years back I suggested Djokavic and Murray were the most diligent in pursuing it's perfection. Didn't the 2016 French Open prove that. American juniors: Take heed. Develop your drop-shot. And your DEFENSE AGAINST THE DROP SHOT. That starts with conditioning and footwork/posture.

June 6, 2016 by ethomasparham  
THE FRENCH OPEN (2016)

- Uncategorized
- Leave a comment
- Edit

BLOG #10—THE NEXT LEVEL OF TENNIS (December 20, 2010).

BLOG #132 — THE FRENCH OPEN 2015 (June 5, 2015)

The theme of blog #10 predicts the increased use of the drop shot at the high levels of the game. The French Open 2015 doubles down on this idea.

The Men's singles finals yesterday was Andy vs the Joker. Since 2010 my strong feeling has been that these two had realized the value of the offensive and defensive demands of great drop shots, and worked the hardest at developing the necessary skills.

Yesterday's rain delay and other duties caused me to abandon my drop shot chart. Over the first several games Novak won 5 of 6 drop shot attempts. He had a wide open down the line pass on the one point he lost. Andy tried two and won both points when I had to miss a lot of the match.

I would love to know the feeling of these two champions as to 1. doesn't an effective drop-shot have a particularly tiring or fatigue potential 2. as well as a psychological damage that is a corollary weapon. I don't think this is going to "back off" any. And I would remind all players that you have to develop defensive quickness, and movement patterns and postures that offset this demon.

June 5, 2015 by ethomasparham  
THE FRENCH OPEN 2015 (132)

- Uncategorized
- 1 Comment
- Edit

The quote below is from a blog article I wrote in 2010 (#10 THE NEXT LEVEL):

"This also makes me wonder about the upward evolution of the game, and who will achieve the next level. Djokovic has almost perfected "corner to corner" baseline strategy. One thing that does seem to be growing in effectiveness is the drop shot. The old adage that "you can't drop shot on a hard court" is being tested more at the top level.

There are four corners on each side of the court. Two are up at the net. The only player I have seen who could hit a un-returnable drop-shot from the base line was Charlie Owens. Many watched Charlie dismantle quality players with a disguised, feather like drop shot that confounded even great players. Maybe there is someone coming along with this unique touch, who combined with the other tennis skills needed will produce the next level in the never ending evolution of tennis.

Women players might be well advised to note this possibility. And to be aware that not only should she be able to hit drop shots, she must be able to defend against them. My guess is that many players and teachers have realized there are four corners on each side of a tennis court."

# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

JULY 11, 2013 NOVEMBER 26, 2014 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

### Volley Reminders (61)

▢ [EXCERPT](#)

▢ [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

▢

Here are some volley “reminders” (also check girls section)

- You need a “bump volley”
- “Touch and tighten” (“touch the volley as you simply tighten your hands.”)
- “Volley away from the source”
- There are seven volleys. “Keep in a volley spot”
- “Churn and burn”
- “Recoil”
- “Use your legs to volley”
- Hit a forehand overhead if at all possible
- Low volleys go straight and deep and your opponent gets to hit it again.
- High volley should be for winners. Often hit “down” and “away” from the source.
- Use your legs and movement to “keep it in a volley – spot”
- Overheads
  1. Get your racket ready
  2. Get to the ball in perfect service “hit-spot”
  3. Watch the ball longer than you think is necessary
  4. Use the “hit-turn” method if possible. Don’t jump or “scissor kick” unless you have to. Keep your feet on the court.

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)

July 6, 2012 by ethomasparham

Moving Along (37)

- instruction
- 4 Comments
- Edit

I just watched the Wimbledon men's single semi-finals. If you go to these three strategy articles in review, I think you will find I was pretty close: (1) Basic Tennis Strategy (2) The Circle Stinger and (3) Rafa vs. The Joker.

In the latter, I predicted this season would feature a lot more drop shots (Andy Murray vs. Baghdadis for example). To follow up, or evolve, as a teacher/coach, it then seems we must learn defense against the drop shot. In addition to the basic strokes of tennis there are auxiliary shots (returns, approaches, passing shots, etc. ) with different techniques to be mastered. Drop shots are one of these now more than ever. There are also an unlimited "awkward" shots in tennis (for example a backhand overhead, or running down a "shanked shot").

These shots, including defending against drop-shots, must be identified, the proper techniques practiced, and implementation mastered. Please remember, players and parents, that this isn't easy work. Don't abandon the insightful pro who pushes this mastery, for a guy who simply moves you left and right. \*\*\*\*But the number one rule (I suspect for many women) is...I won't make you hit awkward balls (up and back movement) if you won't make me. Deal, left and right only. This one puzzled me. And I tried to develop "Plan B." Simply stated, "Plan A," or rallying corner to corner, is okay as long as you can win this way. Once you realize she's better at this, then we'd better modify.

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# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

JULY 11, 2013 JULY 18, 2013 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

### BORG'S SPEECH (58)

☐ [EXCERPT](#)

☐ [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

☐

Borg taught a magnificent lesson one day on TV. Having just beaten McEnroe in “the greatest match ever” I watched commentator Bud Collins interview the Wimbledon Champ. Collins asked Borg how he did it? Borg, stoic as ever said simply: “legs.” Nothing more. Collins had several minutes in his hands and rambled on in a commentary I don’t remember.

Then, Borg, having thought some, took the mike from Bud. His comments were:

1. I was very nervous inside
2. I thought, surely I will lose.
3. I told myself, I must put these thoughts out of my mind.
4. I will not quit under any circumstances.

End of clinic. Pretty good advice for a lot of areas.

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)

# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

JULY 11, 2013JULY 18, 2013 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

### Pulling the trigger (55)

 [EXCERPT](#)

 [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



I think Peter Van Grafailand was the nicest kid I coached. That's saying a lot, but Peter is a "sweetheart". And he did struggle. It's tough to watch the good kids take a pounding. I finally figured out how to help Pete.

He didn't know "how hard" to hit it when. Bad judgment led to over hitting, taking unnecessary chances, and "pulling his trigger to quick". Once we taught PVG how to keep it in play patiently until he got "his shot" he got better fast. I was delighted. Pete was characteristically grateful. "Don't pull your trigger until you have your shot", PVG.

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)

July 11, 2013 by [ethomasparham](#)

# I Didn't Change Anything (59)

- [excerpt](#)
- [Leave a comment](#)
- [Edit](#)

A few comments on groundstrokes and women. I was “pre-two handler,” in 1961. Pancho Segura showed the world how to hit one, but conventional wisdom said, “Two hand backhands are only for those who can’t hit a one hander.” No Evert, No Connors, Borg, Austin, etc. I’m glad many young ones didn’t listen. Pretty soon the tennis world realized not only can a lot of people hit it two handed, it’s often a better shot offensively. The two-hander gave many average players something they’d never had: Offense or topspin. Until the two-hander college men followed this regimen: They’d practice like heck on hitting a one-handed top-spin backhand. Then, when the match was on the line they’d revert to their more trusted under spin backhand ball. There were certainly exceptions, but by and large this statement is true: “Most average college men players can’t hit a reliable one handed topspin ball.”

Once the two-hander got “certified” you began to see average high school players who could “tattoo” a topspin two-hander and the game changed forever, for the better.

However, a valuable tool was neglected for many. Coach Jim Verdieck of Redlands gave me one of his business cards. It had an interesting sentence on it: “I didn’t change anything, I gave you a new one.” I asked him what he meant. Essentially he said the two handers were so protective of their new found weapon, the under spin one-hander was abandoned. The under spin one-hander is a tool every truly complete player would possess. Too many awkward and/or short shots (approaches, service returns, defensive cross courts) are best hit by one hand under spinners.

Very often these balls are very difficult to handle with two handed top spin “full” or lengthy shots.

Like golfers, you have to have a lot of “tools” in your bag of tricks. The “chip” or “slice,” is truly a great tool to master. Think “wedges,” golfers.

And slices are tough for little people, young girls, especially. And its tough to add it once you’ve neglected it in “formative years”.

One reason it’s difficult is that people don’t understand the value of the “hit- spot” regarding two different backhands. While the two handed backhand is “much like a one handed forehand”, and therefore it works best when hit off the front foot. One-hander’s must be hit about the width of one’s shoulders in front of the front “balance” foot.

When teaching adult women a “hush” would come over the group. These “strugglers with the backhand” would grip the racket just as I; yet neglect movement to the “hit-spot.” Good backhands come from good grips and good “hit- spots.” I’d bark: “Good hit-spots make good shots. Lousy “hit-spots” make lousy shots. Lousy “hit-spots” make wristy shots, and wristy shots are lousy shots.”

The term “hit-spot” is a direct steal from Coach Verdieck. My guess is Dennis Van Deer’s early unique contribution to tennis instruction was teaching pupils to understand the pupil’s adjustment to the bouncing ball. Van Der Meer and Verdieck were friends.

Once I became better at conveying “movement to the hit-spot” my players at all levels got better quickly.

And the one handed slice may be the one most helped by proper “hit-spot”.

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## Helpful Hints from the Coach (42)

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1. The most important thing to remember in tennis is to “look at the ball”: Point of contact concentration. (There comes a time when in order to win you must forget about how you’re hitting and concentrate on where you’re hitting. Don’t work on strokes when playing an important match. Concentrate on point of contact and where to hit. You have to assume your strokes are right. “You can’t hit well when thinking about how to hit.”

2. Correct one error at a time. Don’t ball up your mind trying to do too many things at once.

3. Move in as far as you can on volleys. If you can get on top of the net – be there. Don’t hit it up if you can take one quick step in and hit it down.

4. Volley low balls deep. Angle high volleys.

5. When playing at the net and on the right hand side, use a continental grip . Many good players volley on both sides with a continental grip.

6. Use your left hand to adjust your grip from forehand to backhand. It is good insurance.

7. Don’t cut your shots too fine. This is to say don’t try to hit within 6 inches of the line when a ball inside 3 feet will do. Don’t make it any harder than you have to. Many players do all the work to get the set up shot and then blow the shot by trying to hit a great shot. Finish the point. Put the cap on it. “Good players, don’t miss easy shots.” Short overheads are the most common spot for this error.

8. You can work on your weaknesses by forcing your self to execute them in play – practice situations. For example, if your second serve is weak, play your practice matches with one serve only. Or, if your patience and consistency is hurting, force your self to practice without coming to the net. For backhand problems – avoid running around it in practice. Force yourself to execute your weakness.

9. If a player is a weak volleyer, yet strong baseliner you can often draw him in by hitting short balls. Probably his backhand approach will be weak. Hit a short ball, to his backhand; his weak backhand approach might give you an easy pass.

10. Basically a player has to decide whether he is going to play offensively or defensively. Many college players can be beaten simply by keeping it back in, or “skyballing” them to death. Develop a game suited to your ability. Don’t try to do things you can’t do percentage-wise. Then add new wrinkles when you’ve mastered your play.

11. Often you can open the way to a weakness by hitting to a strength. For example, a player with a weak backhand will often run around it. If he overplays the forehand hit it sharply to his forehand for a



placement, or perhaps to move him wide to the forehand, thus forcing him to hit a backhand on the second return.

12. Often a player's apparent strength is actually his weakness. For example, many players have a weak looking but steady deep backhand; and, while their forehand is well paced and looks good, is actually a poor percentage shot because the player tries to do too much with it.

13. One strategy that works well often, particularly against slow, lazy opponents, is the "drop-shot and lob" strategy. Drop shot them and when they lope up to the net simply lob over their heads. Do over and over again.

14. "Never change a winning play – always change a losing plan."

15. Pressure pays off. Some players can't stand it. It takes a lot of ability to apply constant pressure but it pays big dividends. Take the ball on the rise to apply pressure. Move in and take the court away from him.

16. Some players employ the "center theory" against certain players. If you approach down the center you eliminate passing angle. This often works against weak but accurate angle hitters. Some slow court players hit well on the run but can't get anything on a ball hit straight at them. Players with a great return of serve should often be served at "down the center."

17. One of the most difficult shots to get any pace on is a high or medium lofted backhand that is deep. Matches have been won in this one strategy. The best place to return a high backhand is to a high backhand. Some big hitters are completely frustrated by this simple shot.

18. Against net rushers, low chips with angle often frustrate them. If you can chip it low they often have to volley up and it opens them for an easy pass.

19. High spin serves at the backhand are often effective (Roswell vs. Roche, U. S. Open 1970)

20. Welby Van Horn – Balance is the clue to tennis (a) You have to know how to hit it (b) You have to get to it so you can hit the way you know.

21. It might be good to approach on your short forehands only. If your backhand approach is weak, crosscourt it to eliminate angled shots as you back up.

22. Cross courts get you out of trouble.

23. Approach down the line; Approach crosscourt at obviously weak passing shots.

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June 5, 2012 by [pasturespoint](#)

## On Groundstrokes and Women (33)

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I was “pre-two handler,” in 1961. Pancho Segura showed the world how to hit one, but conventional wisdom said, “Two hand backhands are only for those who can’t hit a one hander.” No Evert, No Connors, Borg, Austin, etc. I’m glad many young ones didn’t listen. Pretty soon the tennis world realized not only can a lot of people hit it two handed, it’s often a better shot offensively. The two-hander gave many average players something they’d never had: Offense or topspin. Until the two-hander college men followed this regimen: They’d practice like heck on hitting a one-handed top- spin backhand. Then, when the match was on the line they’d revert to their more trusted under spin backhand ball. There were certainly exceptions, but by and large this statement is true: “Most average college men players can’t hit a reliable one handed topspin ball.”

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Once I became better at conveying “movement to the hit-spot” my players at all levels got better quickly. And the one handed slice may be the one most helped by proper “hit-spot.”

I do think a lot of good college men had forehand trouble because of a subtle flaw in “hit-spot”. Whereas backhands are tougher to learn my guess is many young boys could hit forehands with any number of “hit-spots.” Backhands, they internalized early on, must be hit “right there” or in the perfect backhand hit spot. Then as they advanced, a ball they tried to hit in a faulty forehand position let them down and caused a lot of frustration. Once I could convince them of this error and the principle of perfect “forehand hit spot,” they’d get better too.

Keeping the ball in the perfect “hit-spot” is tennis magic.

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March 11, 2012 by pasturespoint

## Thornquist and Sportmanship (22)

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My language gets me in trouble, but I already know I'm going to heaven...I voted against George W. Bush, and God sent me Roland Thornquist.

About 25 Swedish men played for me. Ron Smarr, long time Men's Tennis coaching friend, and NCAA National Coach of the Year in 2004, got me started. Ronnie's "hand-me-down" letters included one from Roger Ossmin, of Linkoping, Sweden. He had an interesting resume result: Bjorn Borg, beat him 6-3, 7-5. He had to be pretty good to be on the same court with Borg, who was tearing up world tennis. Many Swedes would excel in the post-Borg era. They were bright, tough, attractive and understood team tennis. They took me for a ride, Atlantic Christian and Elon, too.

"Thumper" Thornquist was beautiful. All smiles, 6'6" tall, and just blossoming as a player. People repeatedly ask me how I recruited him. They assumed a gigantic sales coup. Stefan did it. A "pipeline" is a coach's dream. One kid begets the next. Stefan Hager, a senior Swede, told me about Roland.

"He might come to Elon, coach."

Roland didn't like the junior tennis circuit. It was lonely and required a lot of travel. I always let the current Swede talk to their "recruits" in their own language. Two minutes of watching Stefan eyes told me the conversation was going well. He handed me the phone. My great recruiting job went like this:

"Roland, we can give you a scholarship in the spring."  
"I'll be there," were the first words he spoke.

International recruiting is like "buying the proverbial pig in a poke." I always checked them out with the other kids. My deal was play hard, get your degree, and we'll replace you with a countryman. They felt a responsibility to the next Swede, whomever he may be.

I knew Roland was good, but when he lost the first three games of his first match, I gulped. Not to worry! Nerves settled down, he went on to win that match 6-3, 6-0. And the next 44 matches. He lost three sets all year, won the NAIA Singles title and teamed with Stefan to win the doubles. We had four North Carolina starters in addition to the 2 Swedes. It was very unusual for the NAIA team winner to have an American starter in the 80's and 90's. Four "plain vanilla" Tar Heels were proud as punch. Roland was like having a tough big brother in a fight. He "buoyed" the rest of us. He was also selected as the "Freshman of the Year" in NAIA tennis. And he won the NAIA Sportsmanship Award. It was a dream season. We were treated to dinner at the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh. Jim Martin served as host. We were cited in the Congressional Records, sponsored by Congressman Howard Coble of our District.

Roland was a potential pro and I knew it was in his best interest to move "up." Still it was hard for us. I think we both shed tears as he transferred to UNC Chapel Hill to play for Coach Allen Morris, a great player, and friend, and protégé of Coach Jim Leighton.

Roland was in the top two or three college players in America. And, as a junior, he was also given the NCAA Division I Sportsmanship Award. This award is a one-time award, but an odd thing happened. Playing in the NCAA Division I Indoor Singles Championship in 1993, senior Roland was down a set to Georgia's Mike Sell, a fine player. This final match was on ESPN and Sell served a second serve. Down 4-5, 30-40, it was a precious service break point for the set. The lineman called the serve out. Double fault, set to Thornquist. One set each. The puzzled commentators watched Thornquist as he spoke to the chair umpire. Then one commentator said, "Well, you don't see that everyday." Thornquist had overruled the linesman on his opponent's behalf. Roland told me he'd seen the ball hit the line and he couldn't have returned it. He gave Sell the point. He did win the second set and the third. More than that, he exemplified the best in sport.

At the Spring Coaches Convention, the question of the Sportsmanship award came up for vote. It was noted Roland, though a logical candidate, was ineligible. An unattached Coach rose in the meeting and suggested, "Men, we can give this award to anyone we wish, but Roland Thornquist deserves the award. I move we waive the rule for one year." Roland won his third National Sportsmanship Award.

Dean Smith, Carolina's basketball legendary coach found out about Roland and had him on his TV show. Smith had himself won a rather significant sportsmanship award that year: "Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year."

Coach Smith commented, "You know, I've never argued with the official to call that foul on us, rather them. Roland's one up on me!"

Coach Smith helped Roland get the women's coaching job with Roy Williams' school then, the Kansas Jayhawks. Williams came back to Carolina, and Roland did too. Carolina bolted into the top ten women's tennis teams. Roland then accepted the Gators job at Florida. In his second year, his girls won the NCAA Division I Women's title.

Roland has never failed to cite Elon...as a great place to start.

February 1, 2012 by [Dan](#)

# Preparing for College Tennis (15)

- [book, excerpt, instruction](#)
- [3 Comments](#)
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Dr. John Eatman, Professor at UNC-Greensboro, was my first number one tennis player. Through the years, Dr. Eatman has continued playing and promoting tennis. We talked at length about how one should select the right college to play for. John summarized some major points in this hand out for prospective student-tennis athletes.

The following comments were prepared with input from college coaches. They reflect a general view of the ideas of the coaches rather than the views of any particular coach. They are offered as aid to NCTA junior players and their parents in the difficult process of finding the right college for a junior player to further his or her education and advance his or her tennis.

## **What does playing college tennis offer me?**

College tennis offers the participant a number of things besides just the ability to continue to advance as a tennis player. College tennis is very much a team sport. Much junior competition is clearly focused on individual achievement while college tennis has definite team goals. You will make a number of contacts that are useful in later life as well as demonstrate you can contribute to a team effort in a very competitive environment. College tennis can also contribute a lot to your social life and help you establish you as a member of the college community. Many of the people that you meet as a member of a college team will become lifelong friends.

## **What are the opportunities for playing college tennis?**

Most colleges have men and women's tennis teams and most of these teams will have between 8 and 12 team members. Thus, while there are many opportunities for playing college tennis, there are also many junior players who want to play. Since the United States is the only nation with well established collegiate competition, US college tennis is very attractive to foreign players. Consequently, there are many persons interested in playing college tennis and the competition for a spot on college teams is quite competitive.

## **What are things I should consider in selecting a school?**

Selecting a college is one of the more difficult things that a young person has to do. There are many factors to consider. Ideally, a person should have a career goal that can help with the decision. Realistically, most students do not have a definite career goal to which they are committed. Assuming that you are interested in selecting a school that offers you the academic and tennis opportunities that you desire, the following factors (shown in order of importance) should be considered:

### **1. Academic Environment of the School**

Your purpose in attending college should be to get an education. The odds of any player "making a living" as a tennis player is quite small. Therefore, it is important to select a school that is compatible with your academic goals and abilities. In order to do this, an honest self-assessment is essential to your prospects of making a good choice.

2. Social Environment of the School  
This is very difficult to consider and many times is given too much weight by a young person. Using this as the sole criteria often leads to making an unsatisfactory choice in terms of other criteria. One good way to try to assess this aspect of a school is to visit the institution while it is in session and visit with some typical students. Visits in the summer or holidays can convey a mistaken impression of the real environment. Most colleges will arrange visits if you do not know anyone attending the school. Do not be afraid to visit and find out about the school. This is also a big help in assessing the academic environment.
3. Cost of Attending the School  
The cost of attending colleges continues to increase and is a financial burden for most families. The base cost of attending college should not discourage you from considering the college since there are many opportunities for financial aid. Basically, a college may offer scholarships (aid not requiring work or pay back) for academic merit, athletic ability and financial need. Often a student will receive some combination of these. It is important for you to explore all three avenues since they will not be the same for all colleges. Athletic scholarships are quite limited. The NCAA, for example, allows for women's tennis. Many, probably most, colleges offer less than the maximum. Thus, in any one year, a college may have very limited athletic scholarship monies available. This will generally translate into the awarding of partial scholarships. Typically, scholarships are awarded on an annual basis so they are not guaranteed. A lot of players attend college based on a "promise" of future scholarship aid. Since a situation can change in a year, there is usually no real guarantee that a promise can or will be fulfilled.
4. The Tennis Coach  
The tennis coach will have a major impact on your college tennis. In essence, you are "stuck" with the coach who is at the school you attend. Thus, it becomes important to find out about the coach and his or her mode of operation and ways of dealing with the team. This is difficult to assess. Visiting the school and watching a match or practice session is a help. It is also useful to talk with the players on the team. In dealing with a college coach before attending the school, a player should be open and direct with the coach and expect the same from the coach. Coaches do not like to be misled by prospective players any more than a player wants to be misled by a prospective coach. A coach should be willing to give you an honest appraisal of your chances of making the team and getting to actually play. Some coaches are guilty of inaccurately representing your chances of playing and some players are guilty of misrepresenting their abilities and interest in attending a particular school. The main guide here is to ask a question if you have one and answer questions asked of you honestly. Relating to this is the problem of recruiting rules. The rules for collegiate recruiting do limit the opportunities for a player to visit a school and talk with a coach. The NCAA has extensive regulations. For example, a coach has to be very careful in talking with a potential recruit at a tournament. A formal campus visit is usually a key part of the recruiting process. It is often better for you or your parents to call a coach if you have questions when you are being recruited by a college than for a coach to call you. You should remember that a coach's recruiting priorities are subject to change and that his/her interest in you can increase or decrease during the year as other recruits and current players make their plans known. At any point in time, a coach probably has a priority assigned to his potential recruits. While the coach may not always want to tell you about how you are really rated, you should not be afraid to ask for a clean statement of your status on the coach's recruiting list.
5. The Players on the Team  
Obviously, you will spend a considerable amount of time with players on the team if you are a member of a college tennis team. It is also obvious that the team members will change over time as current players move on and new players arrive. Thus, it is very useful to meet the players when you visit a college to try to assess your general compatibility. The quality of the players on the team should be a guide as to whether you can play on a team and at what position. If playing college tennis is important to you, then you should try to honestly evaluate whether you have a realistic chance of making the starting lineup. A lot of players find that they cannot play for a team after they arrive at a school.
6. The Schedule  
The schedule that a team plays can tell you a lot about what is expected. Some schedules involve a great deal of travel and this can impact your academic pursuits. The schedule can also show you



what the competitive aspirations for the team are since most colleges try to develop a team that will be competitive given their schedule. You should look at the team's recent schedule and their record to see how well they are meeting their aspirations. It has been said that the typical college team should expect in the long run to finish with a record of 50% wins and 50% losses. A team that is consistently under this is probably overmatched and perhaps putting too few resources into its team, while the reverse might be true for a team with very few losses.

7. The Tennis Facilities

The tennis facilities can be broadly defined as the courts and the training facilities. Ideally, a college should have enough quality courts to provide practice facilities for both men's and women's simultaneously. The courts should be in good shape and many will have viewing areas. While many schools do not have their own indoor courts, a number of schools will have at least some access to indoor courts. This is obviously a more important consideration in colder climates. In addition to courts, it is useful to look at things such as the dressing rooms that the teams use and what type of other facilities (weight rooms, sports medicine facilities, etc.) they have. In some cases, the facilities may be available on only a limited basis because of their use by other teams and the general student population.

8. The Operational Budget

The operational budget for a college team is what the school allocates for travel, equipment and other such items. The operational budget for colleges can vary widely. It is a mistake not to understand what the college is going to provide for the team and what that players are required to provide for themselves. The coach should give you details of the operational budget. For example, one team might provide a player with 2 pairs of shoes. Another team will provide no shoes and a third team might provide 4 pairs of shoes. The families of most junior players have spent a substantial amount supporting the player in junior competition and now that family is facing the financial burden of college. Given this, it is best to not have any surprises by expecting an operational budget that is different from that which actually exists.

### **What are coaches looking for in junior players?**

This is a difficult question since coaches do have different perspectives and their needs are not always the same. In general, a coach would like a player who would be a good student, capable of competing in singles and doubles, have good practice habits, have a good on-court attitude, and be dependable and fit. The academic expectations of the school and the coach will need to match. A coach generally will not want to recruit a player who cannot (or will not) be able to make the grade academically. Most coaches want to recruit players that they know can graduate, stay eligible for competition and will not require constant supervision.

While junior rankings are important, most coaches are interested in how a player will compete at the college level. Thus, a junior ranking is not a guarantee that a coach will assume that you will be a good player on the collegiate level. Some very good junior players have not competed successfully at the collegiate level and other players have done better at the collegiate level than in the juniors. In addition, junior rankings often do not measure a player's capability in doubles since many junior players do not play doubles regularly. Doubles at the collegiate level is important since the doubles decides many collegiate matches. Being able to play successful doubles (or not being very good at doubles) can be a real deceasing factor in a school's level of interest in a player.

College tennis is a tough arena for competition. Players need to work hard each day and "come to play" for each match. The season can be a burden when you are balancing academics and tennis. Consequently, a coach will value very highly a player who will work hard in practice, stay focused in his/her matches and manage his/her academic burdens themselves. Increasingly, coaches are concerned about players who do not have a lot of composure in matches. No coach wants to deal with a "prima donna" and many feel the presence of such allayer on a team is a detriment to the team.

Most junior players have a physical adjustment to make in moving to college tennis. At the college level, most of your matches (in challenges and against other teams) will be against a player who is perfectly



capable of defeating you. This makes physical conditioning important. A lot of junior players are not as fit as college coaches require. Thus, getting in excellent condition and staying there is a pre-requisite for college tennis success. A lot of players have lost an opportunity to make a college team by not showing up for fall or spring practice in good shape. A coach is also less likely to recruit a player whose fitness the coach has cause to question.

**Here are some other suggestions for potential college players:**

1. Check the website for the school's rosters. These are common now and reflect the number of internationals, the number of seniors, people you may know and their ability level. If possible, find out where people you know play in the lineup-then compare your ability to theirs.
2. My golfing pro buddy said: "There are two kinds of people at a golf course, the workers and the players, and all the players are looking for a job." Tim Wilkison is the only person in the entire history of North Carolina to earn a real living playing tennis. The odds are slim to nothing. Don't put playing ahead of a degree.
3. That said, if you really want to play college tennis, don't be talked out of it. It's great for those who are suited to it.
4. Go where you can play. It's your responsibility to find the right "fit". The "perfect fit" is school, scholarship, coach, teammates and starting position. Sometimes you may have to "give" on one or two of these variables.
5. I heard a coach say one time "...most kids gravitate to programs that are one level too high. Then they don't play." There has never been a happy substitute. My experience tells me if you can't start your first year you probably never will.
6. Go to a school where you will be happy if injured, etc. and can't play. Most good kids are happy at most good schools of their choice. But if you make an initial mistake, nobody (kid, coach, parents) will be happy and it can get messy.

The United States Tennis Association produces a document on the same subject. I'd like to emphasize a few points:

1. If you really want to play, go where you CAN play.
2. Its been said that many athletes gravitate to one level beyond their ability. There's never been a "happy substitute".
3. In college tennis if you don't get to play your first year, you probably won't get to play. This is not always true but do you want to gamble?
4. When tryouts were allowed, I'd have my #4 player play a set with the prospect. If the prospect played closely with #4, he had a chance at our school. It was amazing to me how many times a prospect, having just lost 6-1, would tell a parent, "I'm better than that guy."
5. Transferring, if you make a mistake, is not always easy to do.

February 16, 2012 by [pasturespoint](#)

## Coaching Emotion (16)

- [excerpt](#)
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There are three main “parts” you have to coach: Physical, Mental and Emotional. The emotional part is the toughest to deal with. However, there are really only two villainous emotions; fear and anger. And they are both self-directed.

Macky Carden, our Elon football coach, told me, “When they get that old sinking feeling, you’ve got to change their minds.”

That “old sinking feeling” exists in a lot of places, one is on the tennis court. “Frozen elbows” cause practice to be worthless. Few people can play when angry at themselves. Maybe McEnroe was “actually nervous” when he created those incidences. Angry, maybe, was better than scared for Mac. Only he knows.

One freshman player’s father accompanied him to my office upon reporting to Elon. He brought a bag that contained thirteen broken racquets. The father wanted to know if I would appeal to Wilson Sporting Goods to replace the “faulty” \$100.00 racquets.

The fault wasn’t the racquet, it was the anger with which they were being thrown or banged. I attempted to fix the real flaw, the self-directed anger that ruled the boy’s game.

No one would practice harder. But to no avail. Within moments this young man would go into a tantrum, chastising himself in a hopelessly damaging tirade. He didn’t get angry much with others. It was self-directed and a killer. It took a long time to change this attitude, but without changing, I wouldn’t allow him to represent us. It took a lot of patience for him to learn to quit “beating yourself up.”

**Here are several comments about the emotional part of coaching:**

1. Some players don’t have the “nervous system” of a tennis player. Sorry.
2. The only ones that do you any good as a team player are those who can handle pressure. It’s in college tennis. Either you can handle it or lose. You can learn to deal with it.
3. Blood flow, more specifically “venous return,” causes “butterflies.” Proper warm up can help get rid of the “jitters”. For many they go away once you exercise.
4. There is a psychological “proper level of arousal” for athletes. Not too “torqued-up” but you do need your game face. Different strokes for different folks.
5. Psychologically tough people make the best college tennis players.
6. What pressure does to the “one piston” player is amazing. I saw a lot of #1 seeds lose in the National tournament due to early round “nerves”.
7. If you “hang in there” it is truly amazing what can happen. Some call it “momentum” but “pressure” is a more influencing variable. Tennis is truly unique in that “one point can turn the match around.” This is a “core” belief.

Perhaps one of my premier coaching attempts centered around pressure and playing “ahead”. You are either Tied, Ahead or Behind. Behind and tied are motivators enough. Playing while ahead is a critical emotional moment.

I don’t know how many matches I saw unfold like this:

*Player A is ahead 5-3 in the third set. His opponent is serving. In the back of Player A’s head drifts this dangerous thought: “Even if I lose this game, I can serve out the match.”*

All this results in a lackluster effort at another, and match winning, service break. The opponent breaks for 5-5 and the “momentum” has reversed itself. Now the pressure, and it’s power, has shifted dramatically.

Teaching “killer instinct” is key. Ahead a service break? Get a second.

I think that the most vulnerable points are “ahead points”, 40-15 and 30-0. These are the ones that twenty year olds lose concentration on, thus allowing that “old sinking feeling” to re-enter.

When ahead, keep the pressure off yourself by staying ahead.

Borg taught a magnificent lesson one day on TV. Having just beaten McEnroe in “the greatest match ever,” I watched commentator Bud Collins interview the Wimbledon Champ.

Collins asked Borg, “How did you do it?”

Borg, stoic as ever, said simply, “Legs.” Nothing more.

Collins had several minutes on his hands and rambled on in a commentary I don’t remember.

Then, Borg, having thought some, took the mic from Bud. His comments were:

- 1. I was very nervous inside...*
- 2. I thought, surely I will lose...*
- 3. I told myself, I must put these thoughts out of my mind.*
- 4. I will not quit under any circumstances!*

End of clinic. Pretty good advice for a lot of areas.

Young coaches-Reread ten times.

August 28, 2012 by pasturespoint

## The Easter Bunny Test (41)

- [book, excerpt, instruction](#)
- [Leave a comment](#)
- [Edit](#)

Once, my assistant Bob Owens had just been hitting ground strokes to one girl after another, corner to corner. Imre Kwast, a Dutch player, came close to me and said “That’s what the gulls like!” And it’s true, they like to be directed. I batted my head against the wall, trying to encourage them to design their own practices, but “they are different” this way.

One day I asked Imre, “Do you have Easter in Holland?

“Why certainly” she said, surprised.

“Do you have the Easter Bunny?” I asked

“Sure,” she giggled, “We have the bunny too.”

I asked the team, “What’s the best thing that could happen to you in an Easter egg hunt?”

Where was this going was the look on their faces. Finally one girl answered:

“If you know where the eggs were hidden it would surely help!”

“Exactly” I replied.

“I’ve watched teams for forty years, I know where the points are, and I’ll tell you.”

From then on they called me the Easter Bunny. When I’d see them execute a point I’d advised them on, I’d whisper “bunny point”. Other men coaches contended: “They’ll practice all week on something I’ve taught them, but come to match time they forget it.” I’d smile to myself every time I got to say “Bunny point.”

This test was given to all team members. Richard Dutton always won.

“EASTER BUNNY TEST”

Here are some “hidden points”. Fill out and return. Limit your answers to 35 words or less except for numbers 3, 12, 13, 39, and 40. Best papers, men and women, will be rewarded.

The page numbers in parentheses indicate where the question is answered in “Play is Where Life Is”. Several, questions 20, 22 and 36, are explained on the test.

Answer in 35 words or less, based on fall practice:

- “Hone your return” (page 296)
- “Churn and Burn” (page 213)
- 7 volley spots (page 313)
- Use your legs to volley (overhead) (page 313)
- “Recoil” (page 313)
- “On the rise” (page 315)
- “Andy Moll” Drill (page 328)
- “2 and in” (pages 276 and 314)
- “Shank” target (pages 226 and 276)

- going in (pages 226 and 276)
- backing up (pages 226 and 276)
- 10. Which knee is down on a low backhand volley (right handers)? (The left.)
- 11. “Hit-turn” serve (Overhead) (pages 312 and 329)
- 12. “Doubles is a 1-2 game” (pages 296 and 299)
- 13. “Duties of all 4 doubles players” (pages 298 and 299)
- 14. Where is the under spin ball best used (which shots)? (page 276)
- 15. “Touch and tighten” (page 276)
- 16. Short corner (significance) (pages 298 and 299)
- 17. Cardinal sins in doubles (page 300)
- 18. “Chip and Charge” (page 322)
- 19. “Chip and Rip” (page 323)
- 20. They approach cross court. Your response: (Down the Line)
- 21. “Spot specific” on volleys (too!) (page 328)
- 22. “The most important ground stroke” (Cross Court Backhand, if both players are right-handed)
- 23. Get the return out of “the hole” (page 323)
- 24. “The Cagey Cage” (page 309)
- 25. The values of hitting on the rise (pages 321 and 277 Item#6)
- 26. Borg’s speech (page 325)
- 27. Don’t change the “line of the ball” (page 295)
- 28. Who serves first for us in doubles? (The server who gives our team the best chance to win. This may not be the best server.)
- 29. Double faults are: (page 297)
- 30. Know when to “pull the trigger” (page 330)
- 31. “The harder they hit it, the... ” (Easier you swing...page 313)
- 32. “Z” shaped return (page 332)
- 33. Compare the “hit spot” for a backhand two-hander to a one-handed backhand slice (page 311)
- 34. “Pulling the top spin backhand” (page 327)
- 35. “Learn the court” team policy on dropping a questionable ball (pages 332 and 333)
- 36. Two rally suggestions: (1. Hit ground strokes off the first bounce only. Second bounce hits are not legal, plus make you hustle to the ball and hit some awkward shots. 2. There is no need to hit balls that are out of bounds. Just knock them down, or let them go, and start a new in-bounds rally.)
- 37. Recommended technique on backhand overheads (page 329)
- 38. High volley – down and at an angle (pages 324, 329 and 358)
- Low volleys – straight and deep and they get to hit it one more time
- 39. List what helped you this fall.
- 40. List what you need work on and how you plan to work on it.

## Post navigation

[← Previous Post Jim Verdieck \(40\)](#)

[Next Post → Helpf](#)

MAY 6, 2012JULY 16, 2013 *by* PASTURESPOINT

## These Rang True (31)

- [EXCERPT PHILOSOPHY](#)
- [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)
- 

Here are some quotes on strategy from people I respect. These “rang true” for my many players in many matches.

Find out what your opponent can’t do, or doesn’t like to do, and make them do that.” Jack Kramer

(Think Nadal over Federer in 2007 French Open. Target? Federer’s backhand.)

Don’t change the “line of the ball” unless you are sure you can make the shot. Otherwise cross-courts “ad nausea.” Two-handed back- hands down the line shots will “slide wide” too often, believe me. T. Parham

When asked what he would do differently, Ken Rosewall replied, “..I would hit a lot more balls cross court.”

Cross-courts get you out of trouble. Jim Verdieck demanded the cross court ball from his team.

Get yourself in a position to “volley away from the source” Verdieck

Any ball hit extremely deep in either corner allows a good attacking possibility Verdieck (“2 and in”)

The simple strategy of tennis singles: “Attack the short ball” Dennis Van Der Mear

Good approach shots make easy volleys J. Leighton

No shots in “no man’s land” is a myth T. Parham

Rule 1 – Find a good doubles partner

Rule 2 – Get along with him/ her

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)

JULY 30, 2016 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

# HELPING HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS COACHES (171)

- UNCATEGORIZED
- LEAVE A COMMENT
- 

## NC TENNIS—HELP FOR HIGH SCHOOLS COACHES

I attended the NC High School' s tennis coaches clinic in Greensboro last week. This is held and hosted on the UNC-Greensboro campus with Coach Jeff Trivette as chairman. This is the first time in a while I had attended and was impressed as Coach Michael Leonard of Elon University put on a superb doubles clinic for some 150 high school coaches from our state. I attended the first tennis clinic the North Carolina High School Athletic Association held. Wake Forest coach, Jim Leighton was the clinician and there were four coaches at the Latham Park courts. That clinic was the beginning of a different level of desire to be a good coach, for me personally. In 1985 I put on that clinic.

I watched the progress that has been made in high school tennis in our state. The Burlington Tennis Center was and is the site of many state championship tournaments so it was easy to watch many of these.

As I watched the clinic this year I told some one "...there is a lot more CARE in that group than knowledge. Granted several of the coaches demonstrated good skill on the court. I have said all along that a high school coach who cares and drives the van properly is all parents can hope for. Now I think it time to help them. They , by virtue of their attendance and willingness to coach our children, have earned our assistance.

### HOW?

Much is already being done. The NCTA , The USTA, The NCHSAA, The North Carolina High School's Coaches Association are going hard to help. Where help is needed comes from several sources:

\*\*\*\* Pay for these jobs is meager compared to what is asked and expected.

\*\*\*\*The pay will not attract top notch tennis coaches in most instances. Most of the very good ones are volunteers, or close.

\*\*\* The typical "assigned" staffer is often a football coach, one who knows nothing about tennis. Or some similar scenario.

\*\*\*\*More and more are "adjunct", or part time coaches, who don't have even the academic background that teacher/coaches have.

### WHAT CAN HELP?

One way to start is a "THINK TANK" or committee to examine what is possible. We have a tremendous group of fine players throughout the state. We have in place an organization of teaching professionals in NC. Many times the best source is a "tennis angel" who silently plays with youngsters. No one gives more than parents. The club pro benefits from high school families.

There is another largely untapped source in our state. The NC TENNIS HALL OF FAME members.

DECEMBER 29, 2013MAY 3, 2014 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

# MALCOLM GLADWELL, DAVID AND GOLIATH, AND WISE COLLEGE CHOICES (83)

- [UNCATEGORIZED](#)

- [1 COMMENT](#)

- 

Malcolm Gladwell's new book, DAVID AND GOLIATH has an interesting viewpoint regarding one's choice of institutions for pursuing higher education. He suggests being a "big fish in a little pond" yields better results than the other way around. Being in the top third of your class breeds esteem, whereas being in the lower third (albeit a third with fine students) often discourages those who are always looking up at those who out-perform them.

I don't remember a lot said at some 45 commencement speeches I attended. One statement I do remember was that the best way to become educated America was in good small colleges in America. Gladwell further acknowledges that even at some of our very best schools, exceptions are made. And often these exceptions are given to athletes. And while many exceptions are given "...thinking we are doing them a favor", he suggests maybe the results are not the outcomes we would want. Having been involved in college athletics for some forty plus years, Gladwell makes one ask questions, since so many exceptions go to athletes. Are we putting these youngsters into situations they cannot function or feel positive in?

The real value of athletics lies in the lessons learned therein. Doesn't the student have to be capable of, and willing to learn the lessons? Choosing the right school seems critical to marginal students and athletes.

## One Comment

Gerry Ritter

[DECEMBER 29, 2013 AT 4:30 PM \(EDIT\)](#)

Also read David and Goliath and agree he makes a good case for some students

I think he also pushes the theory that disadvantages should not be a determining factor

[Reply](#)

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)



# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

JULY 11, 2013JULY 18, 2013 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

### The Old Coach (57)

▣ [EXCERPT](#)

▣ [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

▣

In 1983 I had a “Swedish revolt” on my hands. I had learned about “morning acclimatization’s” from the NAIA Nationals. The Swedes want to sleep longer. Chief spokesman, Thomas Linne, was 6’5” and looked like Alice Cooper.

“Why we got to get up so early”? I explained what I knew to be true. This tournament was often won by those who handled the early rises best. Besides, what difference does it make if you get up at 5:15am rather than 6:00am, both hurt like hell.

Thomas and I went back and forth. My point was I knew this tournament better than he and his newcomer countrymen. I finally told Thomas about ten unlikely things that would happen in the tournament. “You crazy”, said Thomas. “I know these guys, they not going to lose to those guys.” He better than him!” “No way he loses” etc.

My teams had played Kansas City twenty times. Lo and behold about eight of those ten unlikely predictions came true. We won the NAIA in 1984. Flying home I asked Thomas what he learned from the experience. He wrote the backhanded compliment on a notebook I held: “I learned to listen to an old man who’d been there. Even if I thought he didn’t know very much.” I used this sentence to preface my coaching handbook.

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)

February 21, 2008 by [Dan](#)

## Excerpt from Chapter 10 : Coaching Team Tennis (6)

- [excerpt](#)
- [4 Comments](#)
- [Edit](#)

If my knowledge about coaching college tennis were judged on what two topics I was most often asked to speak on, it would be (1) How to get on a college team and (2) Doubles.

The United States Tennis Association produces a document for prospective student athletes. I'd like to emphasize a few points:

- 1) If you really want to play, go where you can play.
- 2) It's been said that many athletes gravitate to one level beyond their ability. There's never been a "happy substitute."
- 3) In college tennis if you don't get to play your first year, you probably won't get to play. This is not always true but do you want to gamble?
- 4) When tryouts were allowed, I'd have my #4 player play a set with the prospect. If the prospect played closely with #4, he had a chance at our school. It was amazing to me how many times a prospect, having just lost 6-1, would tell a parent, "I'm better than that guy."
- 5) Transferring, if you make a mistake, is not always easy to do.
- 6) The single most important issue in college tennis is the international issue.

I would like to state firmly that I believe tennis players who want to play college tennis should play high school tennis. Many talented players (and their parents) think this is a waste of time. I disagree. "Prima Donnas" sometimes haven't learned the team concept, and don't function well in college tennis. College tennis requires personal sacrifice. You can learn a lot about that on even a limited high school team. Plus you are playing for your school.

Having coached fifty plus international tennis players, I have this strong comparison to make with American junior tennis: the American player can fire the American teaching pro! If the pro makes the player work too hard the junior will tell the parent, "I don't like him/her." New Pro! Internationals beat these kids like a "borrowed mule."

Nowhere is this more evident than in junior girls. The pro hits easy balls left to right and collects the check from a happy client. That girl, confronted with an awkward mis-hit or a good drop shot has no clue. Most act as if some tennis etiquette has been broached. The girl's national 14's was held in neighboring Greensboro, NC for several years. I can tell you that the winner almost always: (1) had the best drop shot and (2) had done a lot of work defending against the drop shot.

A strong piece of advice I have for freshmen, once they have selected a school, is to be match ready on day one of September. Many players take the summer after graduation off, having fought the junior tennis and high school wars for years. They assume they'll go to college, get in shape again, and work their way in the lineup. Wrong.

College tennis today is essentially year round — it often features individual tournaments in the fall, team matches in the spring, and personal competition in the summer. Some schools play in tournaments as early as the second week of September. Very often challenge matches for positions on the team happen almost immediately upon arrival.

Challenge matches are perhaps the most important college matches you will play. Early fall and cold February matches can determine your college career. Challenge match policies are also extremely important. My essential guidelines were:

1) Challenge matches earn you a spot in the lineup, match play preserves the spot. These are perhaps the most grim matches in college tennis.

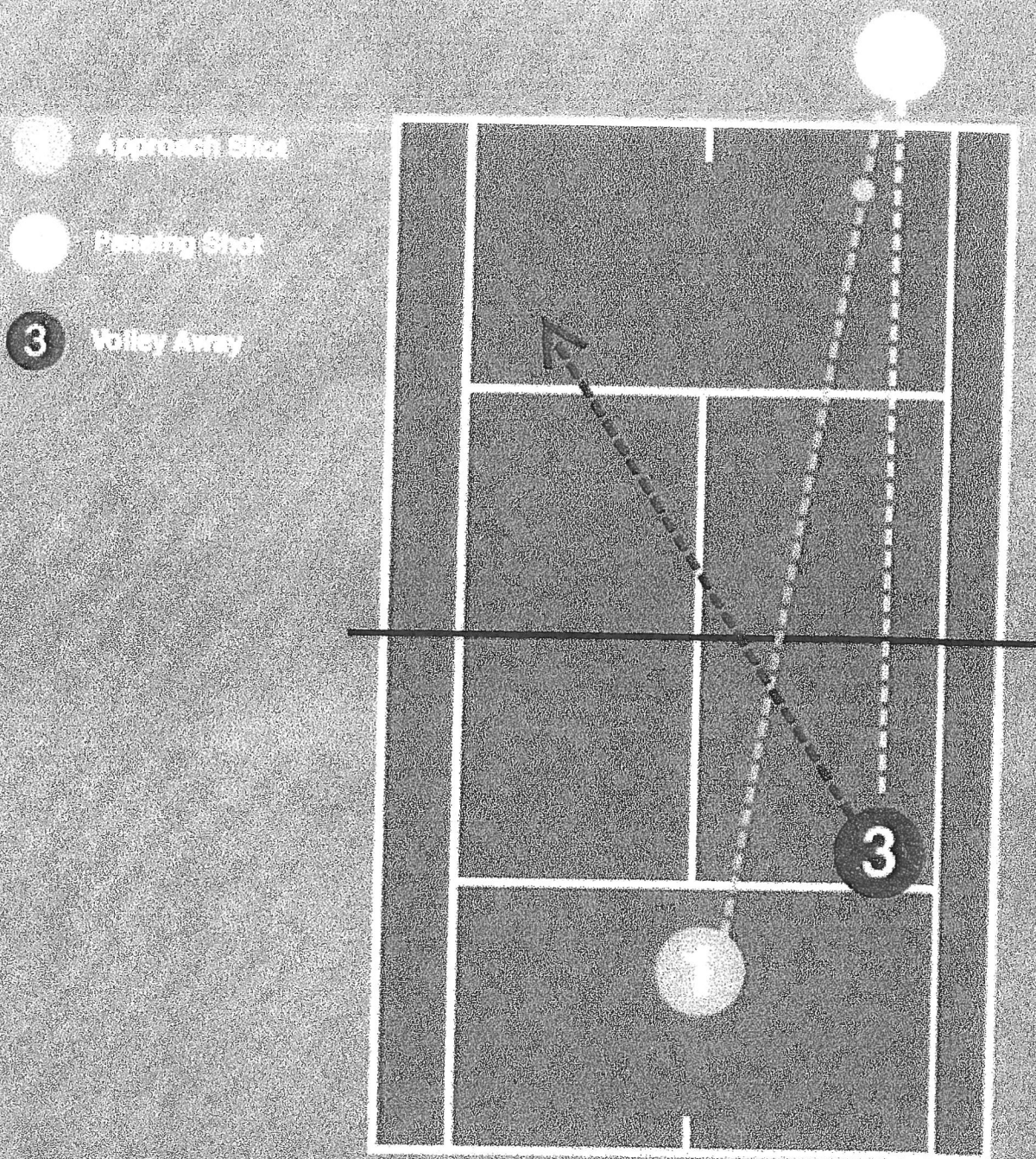
2) The two most important challenge matches were between: #6 and #7, as this determines if a player starts; and #8 and #9, as this determines if a player travels with the team. The coach should always witness these matches.

I always felt eight players was the ideal number for a team. This does vary. Two seasons in my 35 year career, I played the same lineup every match with no subs on the team. One of these years we were undefeated — pure luck. Girls teams need more players. But too many gets “testy.” I never cut any team I had until NCAA rules on squad size and gender equality forced me too. Many kids will come out just to hit with a good player. Those kids don't get much help with a win-oriented coach who's working with the top kids. Regardless, many subs go on to teach tennis. They love the game. I tried to keep them around, for the games sake.

## Post navigation

# The Basic Strategy of Tennis (8)

Fig. 1



I once asked a great college tennis coach, Jim Verdieck, what would happen to his tennis knowledge if he died. He responded, "If I die, it dies." Consequently, I would like to share the knowledge I've compiled

November 27, 2010 by Dan

## Tennis Tactics : The Circle Stinger (9)

- [news](#)
- [7 Comments](#)
- [Edit](#)

Here are a few observations of singles tennis strategy, some conventional and some new. Strategy can be defined simply as how you plan to win. Great teachers deliver memorable sound bites: “attack the short ball” (Dennis Van der Meer); “get in a position to volley away from the source” (Jim Verdieck). A very successful high school coach once told me, “Hit it at his backhand and go to the net.” Jack Kramer boiled it down to “Find out what your opponent can’t do and make him do that.”

Tactics are the tools you use to implement your strategy. Coach Jim Leighton defined the “basic unit of play” as: (1) the approach shot, (2) the passing shot, and (3) the first volley.

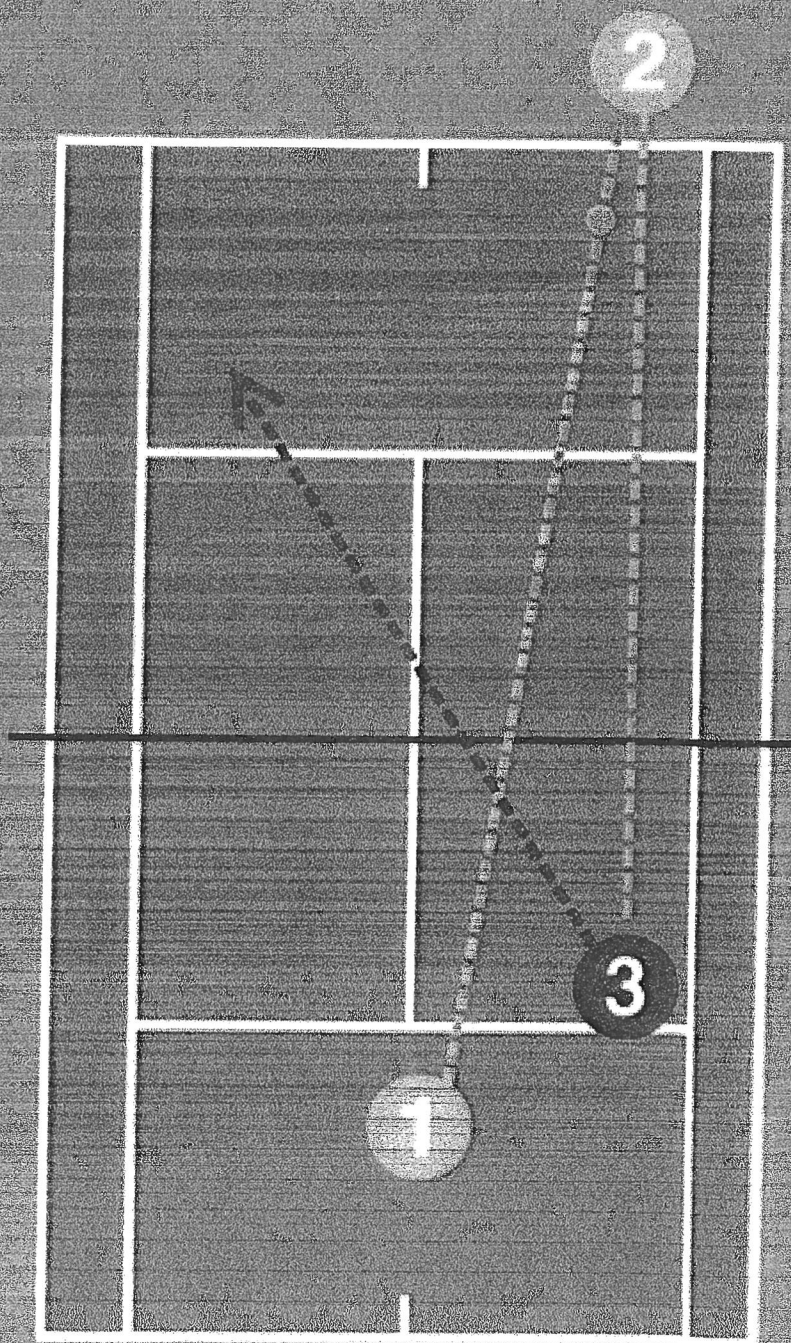


Fig. 1

1 Approach Shot

2 Passing Shot

3 Volley Away



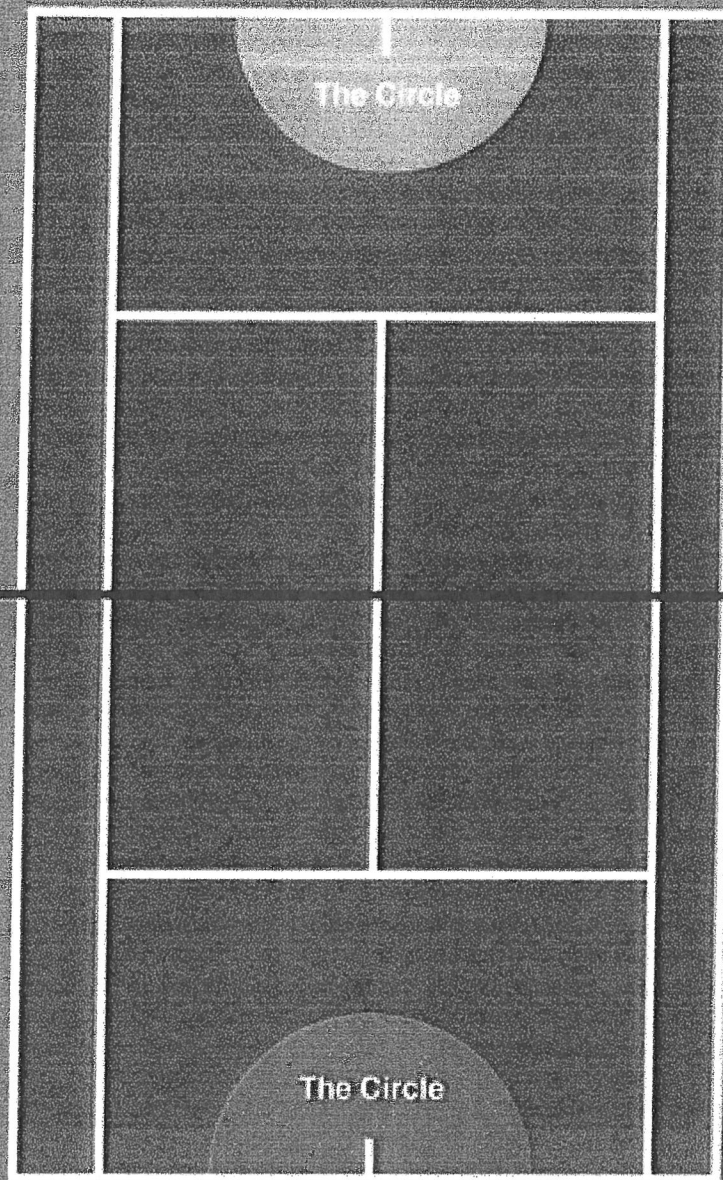
In Leighton's book "Inside Tennis, Techniques of Winning," Coach Leighton pointed to Wayne Sabin's ABC's of Tennis Strategy: (1) Hit it in, (2) Hit it deep, (3) Hit it to your opponent's weakness, (4) Move your opponent side to side.

While there is truth to the old suggestion of staying out of "no-man's land" on a tennis court, mid court shots (approach shots, service returns, balls hit on the rise, etc.) must be mastered. These shots establish an aggressive court position. Given two right handed players, Leighton & Sabin suggest a firm approach down the line at the weaker backhand. This is intended to force a weak passing shot, to be volleyed to the opposite corner.

One of nine players is left handed. The two handed backhand is often your opponent's better passing shot. Differing opponents dictate different approaches, as do your own abilities. However, there is a common thread in all of these suggestions — tennis players are statistically vulnerable to firm attacks on their backhand.

The success of the Spanish players, most notably Rafa Nadal, is reason to examine a new version of a conventional attacking approach shot. Witness the wear of the grass at Wimbledon. No longer is there a "serve and volley" alley of brown on the court. There is a new pattern of wear. There is a "Circle" of wear just inside the base line that indicates a shift in post-service attack.

**Fig. 2**



Once the server serves, he takes an extra step into the court. Not to serve and volley, but to establish an aggressive position inside the Circle. What is hoped for is a defensive return. A shortened whipping,

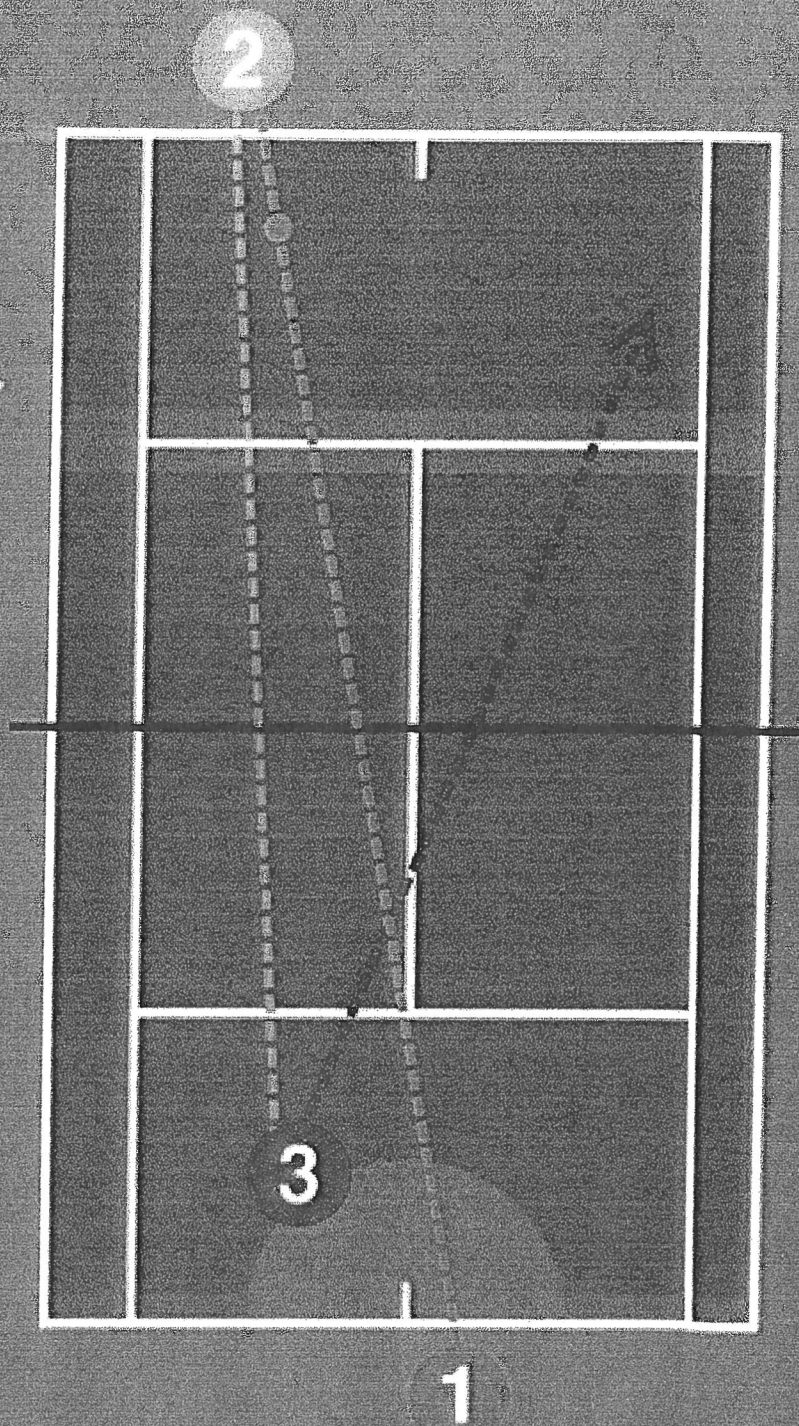


topspin ball taken inside the baseline can put more pressure on the opponent, than the conventional, underspun approach shot. The modern player's ability to hit "on-the-rise" has created a new game.

A trump card, based on this idea, is the shot Nadal uses so effectively against Roger Federer. Nadal's shortened, topspin, crosscourt attack from the Circle on Federer's backhand is a very effective tactic. As great as Federer is, the relentless pressure from Nadal's stinger from the Circle eventually yields "unforced" errors, a short ball, or an open court.

Fig. 3

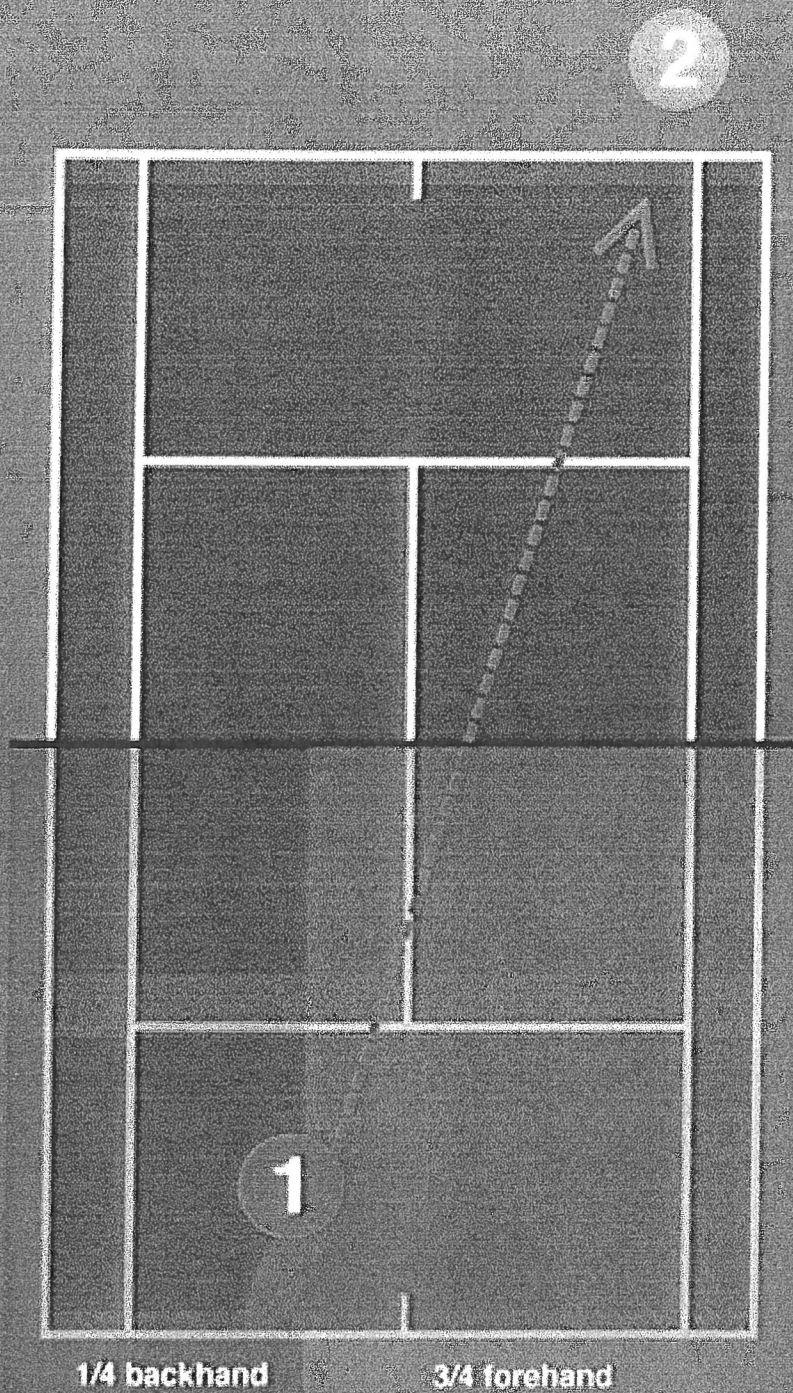
- 1 Nadal's Deep Groundstroke
- 2 Short Return
- 3 The "Circle Stinger"



An on-the-rise approach from within the Circle can produce more pressure than a volley from behind a serve, or a traditional underspin approach shot. The reason, of course, is that most volleys and approach shots are underspun and lack the speed of an aggressive, stinging, topspun attack.

What about right-handers and the Circle? The answer is the “inside-out” forehand, turning 3/4 or more of the court into forehands.

Fig. 4



1/4 backhand

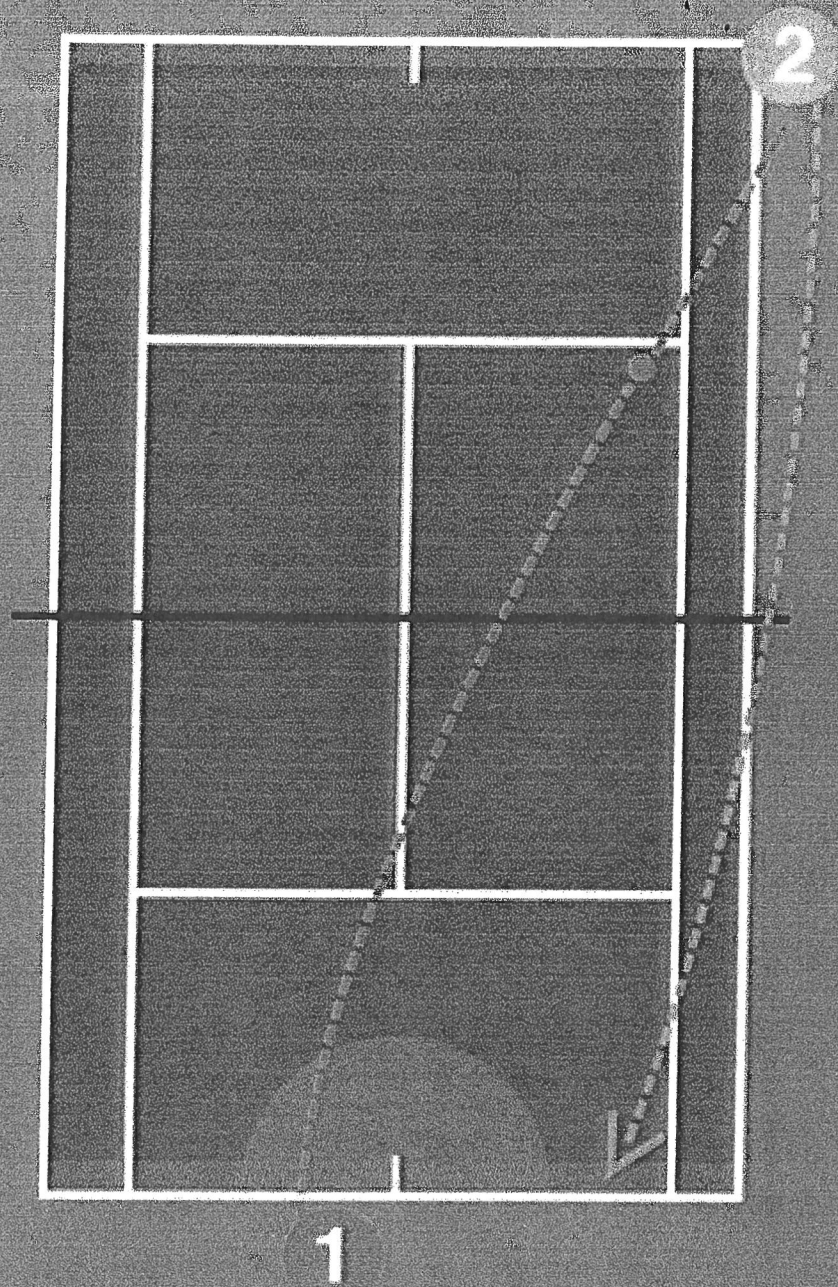
3/4 forehand

Running around your backhand is nothing new. While some frown on it, given a much better forehand than backhand, many players use their footwork to turn marginal backhands into more potent forehands. The most effective of these forehands are hit from within the Circle.

One may argue that a forehand from the Circle leaves one vulnerable to the down-the-line passing shot, and that's true. It's much like the left hander's hooking serve to the right hander in the 'add' court. When McEnroe leftied his hooking serve there, a few players including Bjorn Borg had an ability to pass him, threading the needle to a very difficult down the line spot to hit. But the percentages were in McEnroe's favor, as the percentages favor the stinging pressure of the Circle attack.



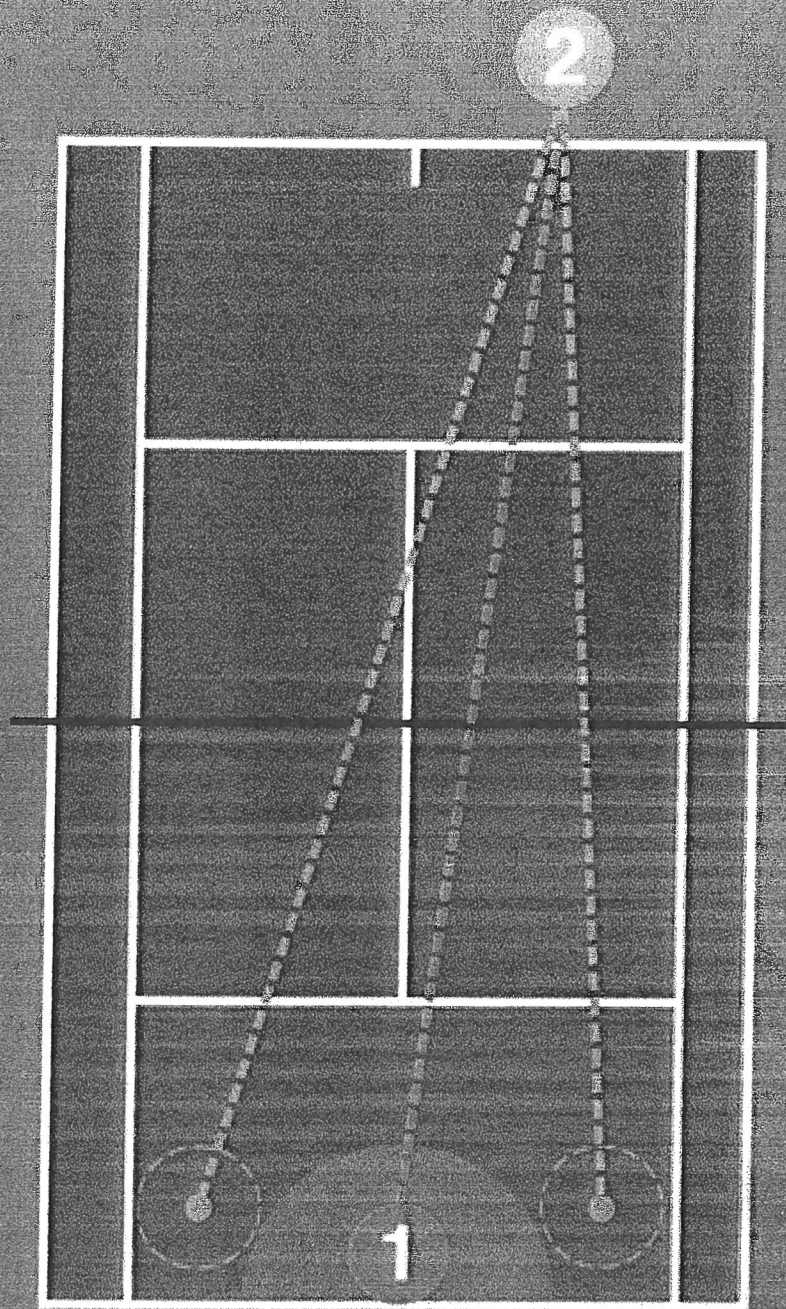
Fig. 5



There seems to be a battle for position in the Circle in many of today's strategies. If a good coach teaches a player to implement the Circle tactic, they should also teach how to defend it.

Deep, well hit service returns can force the attacker back. Ground strokes are now required to be heavier, and deeper. These shots run the opponent out of the Circle, and now you have a chance, with better ground strokes and returns, to get yourself in the Circle, thus turning defense into offense.

Fig. 6



So, you now have some more shots to perfect: (1) the Circle attacking shots, and (2) the inside-out forehand from the backhand side. Remember you have to have good leg and foot work to do this, and you must hit



more balls on the rise. Your goal is the "Circle Stinger," which now has the advantage of being cross court and at the backhand.

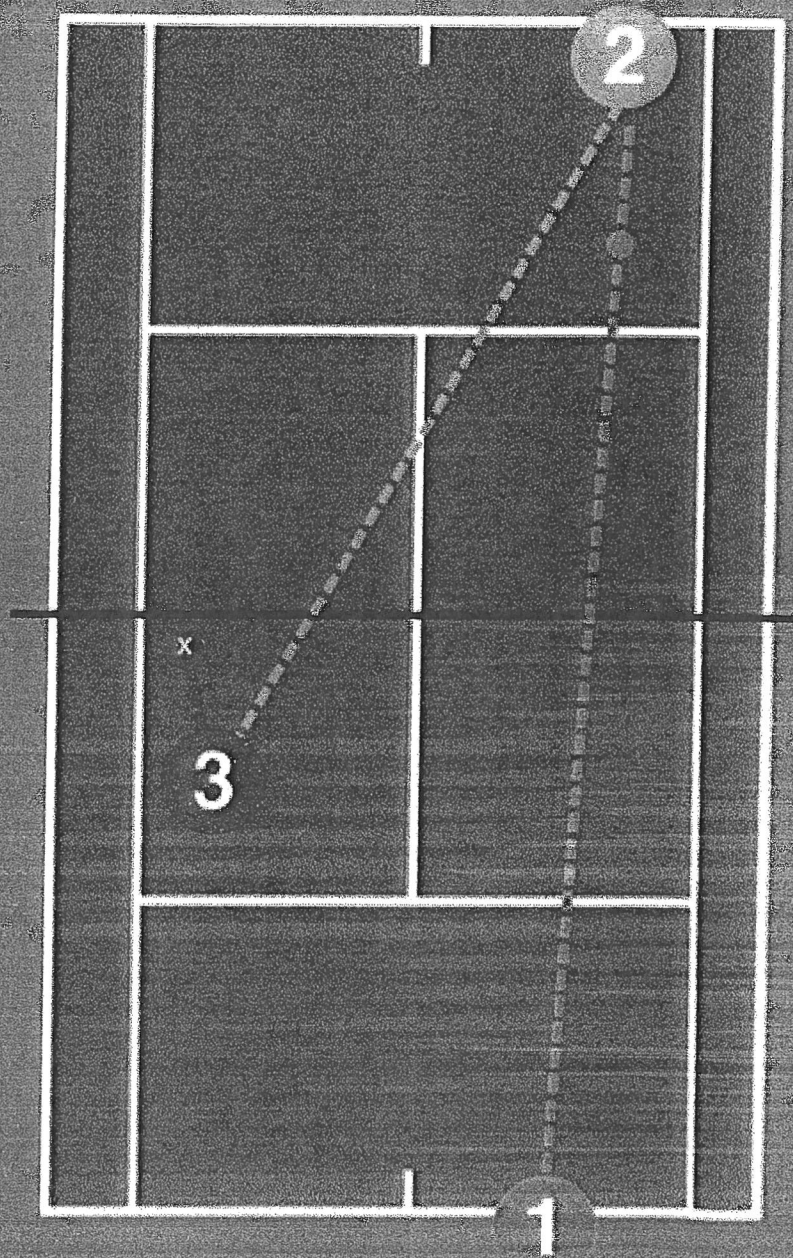
#### **A few more tactics**

Pros should play more balls cross court. Cross court balls are safer. Hit one more cross court ball before you try a counterpunching, two handed backhand down the line. It is more difficult to change the direction of the ball from a timing perspective. Those backhands are often late, sliding wide off the sideline. Watch for yourself and you'll believe.

As Yogi Berra has said, "You can observe a lot by watching." I spent another great week at the US Open this year. Even against the world's best approach shots, passing shots hit soft enough on an angle create errors or vulnerable volleys.

Fig. 7

- 1 Average Groundstroke
- 2 Underspin Dropshot
- 3 Forced Error or Easy Pass

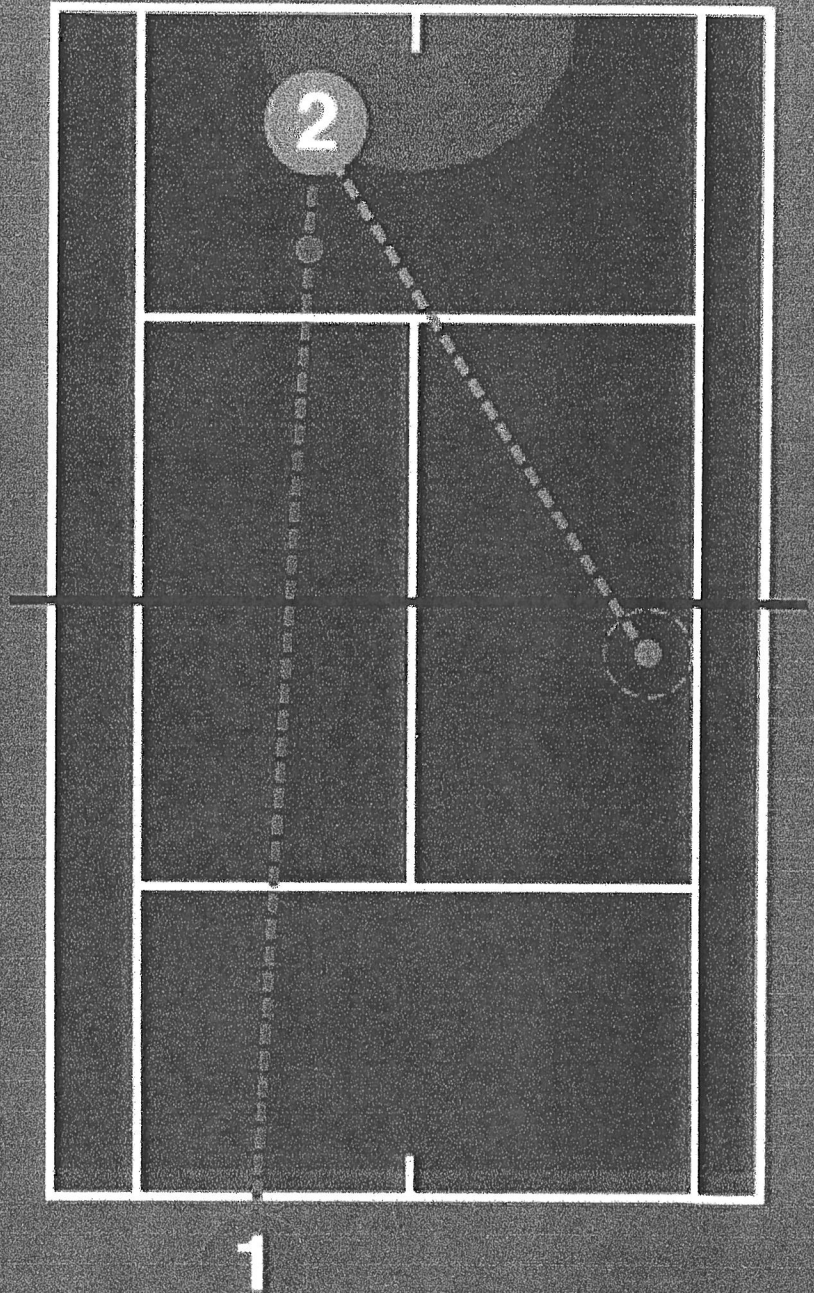


And while conventional wisdom says, don't drop shot on a hard court, Federer, Nadal, Verdasco and other top professionals now use a forehand drop shot, hit with disguise from the Circle to the open court. Once

you establish the dominance of the Circle Stinger, this shot becomes another weapon. It takes great touch and a lot of practice.

**Fig. 8**

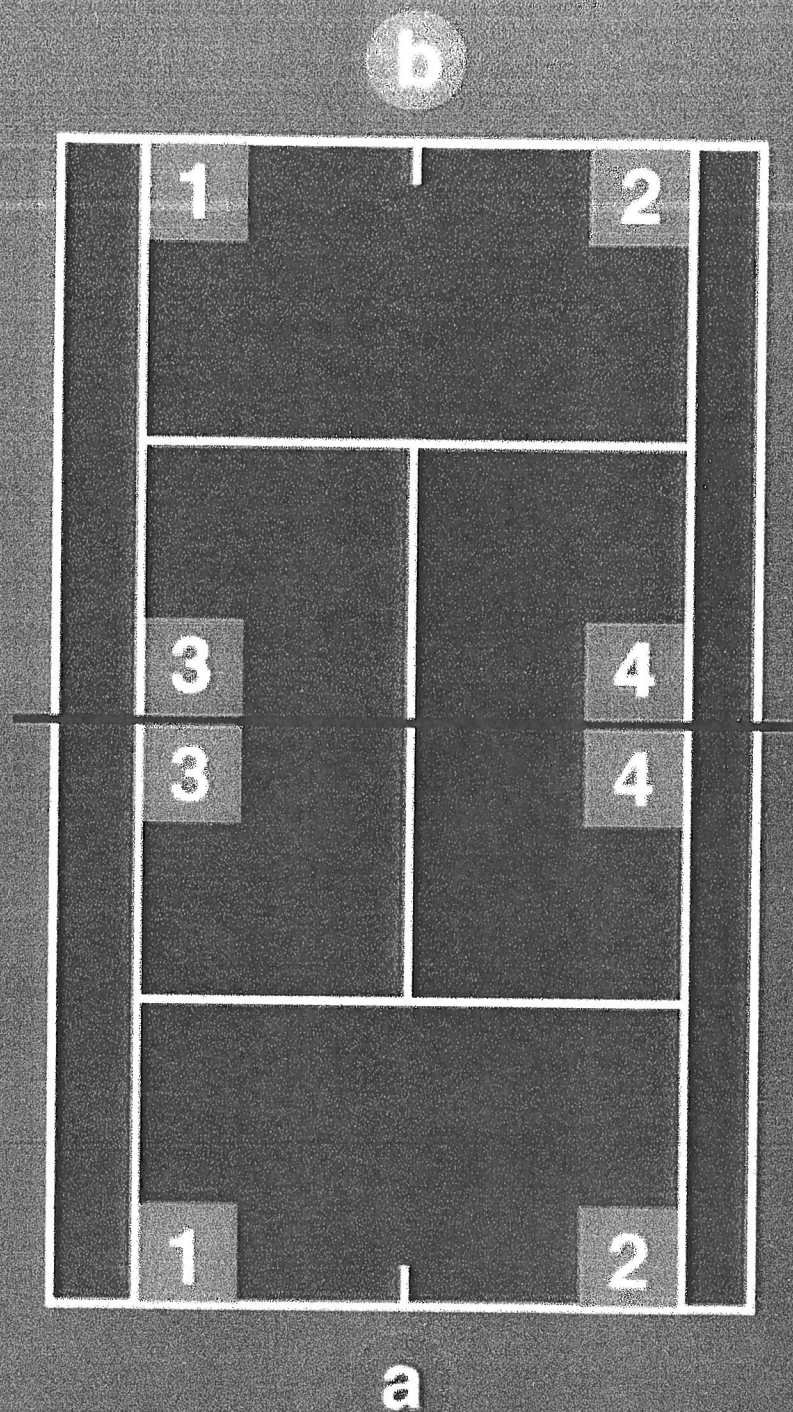
- 1** Shallow Groundstroke
- 2** Dropshot from "the Circle"



Women and junior girls should develop use of the short corners on your opponent's court. If I had any advice to young girl players, it would be to make your opponent move up and back. Most girls don't practice these shots enough. Learn how to move up and back yourself. Practice the footwork, and force your opponents to prove they've done the same work.



Fig. 9



The week before the US Open, Mardy Fish beat Andy Roddick in a memorable match in Cincinnati. Mardy played excellent defense with a cross-court, looping, forehand “flop” shot. When an

attacker with Roddick's strength is hitting a forehand at 90%+, the flop is effective, yielding fewer mistakes. You can't outhit some players' best shots. A deep, looping topspin crosscourt ball can't be easily attacked. Great players like Fish, or Gael Monfils, swing the racket head at different speeds. They don't "pull the trigger" until they're in the Circle and ready to fire. Be patient.

The hardest time to play is when you are ahead. I watched a top 10 men's player get up 30-0, 40-0, or 40-15 in several key games. But he didn't play those points tough, and eventually lost the games. Don't play loose points when ahead. And don't play loose games when up a service break. When you do, pressure shifts from them to you. Stay hungry when you're ahead.

#### **A closing thought**

The point penalty system and Cyclops line calling machines have helped control the poor sportsmanship that once damaged the reputation of tennis as a ladies' and gentleman's sport. Innovation in the rules and technology has returned respect to the game. That is a positive change for a great game that is still evolving strategically, and as fun to watch as it has ever been.

## **Post navigation**

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July 24, 2016 by [ethomasparham](#)

# THE GUERRILLA BUREAUCRAT (169)

- [Uncategorized](#)
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## THE GUERRILLA BUREAUCRAT

“You’re gonna need a bigger boat” (JAWS)

To change an organization you need someone powerful within the organization to champion your cause. My “cause” is American children and college tennis.

The problem is the decline of high quality players in America.

I am not alone. It is commonly discussed, but “... the wind is blowing but the trees ain’t moving.”

I was advised long ago, but the CEO of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS, having lost my argument, “...you are right, don’t quit!”

My guess is the missing link to convincing the “Gorilla Bureaucrat” is data.

To survey the issue of change someone has to collect the data (it is certainly there) which would take passion and funding.

Here is what I speculate and how I would begin to collect the data:

PRIMISE: American tennis players would improve drastically if college tennis scholarships were not given predominantly to internationals.

### Plan

1. Collect data (where, what, how?)

2. Where? The major divisions in college athletics are NCAA, 1,11,111, and NAIA (smaller colleges), men and women. Coaches, Athletic Administrators, Sports Information Departments, Conferences and National offices, local media, the USTA, The Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA), tennis publications, the players themselves.

3. What? EXAMPLES

\*\*\*Rosters from the past. Top eight teams, top eight players’ homes. How many scholarships were awarded and to whom. Percentage of allotment awarded to internationals? State or private institutions.? How much to in-state players.

\*\*\*\*Conference and National records: Who won the team titles and how many starters were American. Singles winners? Doubles winners. How many all conference selections went to Americans? How many All -Americans were American, year by year. Rankings year by year by the ITA (Their-homes towns), Seeded players in National tournaments (homes).

4. How? The rub lies herein. Someone has to do the work. Someone is going to have to pay the bills. Who should? The NCAA and the USTA for sure. Private money from those who love tennis and our kids.

### Problems?

1. The first question is, is it legal to reserve a % of scholarships “off the top” for our kids? This will likely have to be litigated. Care enough about your children, to risk court action and expense, tennis?

2. You would eliminate some great international people and players. Them or us?

3. The quality college of tennis players would go down for a period of time. However my belief is the quality of American college players, juniors, and pros would eventually improve. And I am almost positive attendance at college matches would grow rapidly.

#### THE LINE CHART

The NAIA had a 1 foreign player limit in 1970. Once the door was opened wide it spread to all levels, men and women. And with other sports joining in, men and women.

Between 1970 and 2016 there have two stark developments. Scholarships for Americans have plummeted and American player quality has done the same. My chart on the issue would look somewhat like this. Facts would confirm nearly on the button (MY GUESS).

\*\*\*\*\*CHART (reflects two variables for the years from 1970 to 2016: (1) Scholarships to Americans at top tennis schools and (2) the quality of America's top pros.

The tennis "boom" began in 1968 ("Open" tennis"). There were several nations that produced many great players in the next 30 years. The Australians, the Swedes, Spain, and certainly America. I have two blog articles posted on <http://www.tomparham.wordpress.com>, , that roughly lists Americans who were in some way influenced by American college tennis (blog 114), and year by year listings of the top ten pros (blog 113 ).

The other dramatic chart would be to compare top ten ranked American pros annually from 1970 until now. Name the top ten women today?

In the 70's and 80's the men's number 6, 7,8 etc. featured names like Connors, McEnroe, Ashe, Tanner, Ralston, Riessen. Our top eight would have a shot at every major. For the last 5 years no American man has made it to round 3 in any slam. \*\*\*(Sam Querrey just made Round 4 at Wimbledon).

Where are these guys? Arthur Ashe, Stan Smith, Jay Berger, Harold Solomon, David Wheaton, Patrick McEnroe, Todd Martin, John Sadri, Bob Mckinley, Brad Gilbert, Michael Pernfors, Peter Fleming, Clark Graebner, Brian Gottfreid, Dick Stockton, Charles Pasarell, Jack Kramer, Chuck McKinley, Bob Lutz, Rafael Osuna, Tony Trabert, Barry McKay, Frank Froehling, Vic Seixias . Cliff Richey, Brian Teacher, Jimmy Arias, Aaron Krickstein, Paul Annacone, Elliot Telscher, Tim Wilkison, Andre Agassi, Michael Chang, Jim Courier, Pete Sampras, Malavai Washington, Vince Spadea, plus many others.

\*\*\*These people have had close ties to American college tennis. Some went on to coach in America and at American colleges. Many of these were internationals who came to American college tennis and honed their skills to the professional level. Most would not have done so without scholarships and the collegiate experience. Our Davis Cup team just lost to Croatia! There were fifty men who played on this year's international Davis Cup zonal teams who were, or currently are, on American Collegiate rosters. No doubt with grants we subsidized. More clearly: We are paying them and training them to beat us. Reminds me of POGO (... we have seen the enemy and it is us!)

\*\*\*My career began before Title IX and women's intercollegiate tennis. As late as 1970 there were some women on men's teams. The women followed suit as far as recruiting internationals. My knowledge of their players is limited, thus the article above comes from the men's teams.

Conclusion: Is there a "Big Gorilla" who shares these concerns?

1. THE USTA? They have the money to go to court. Their mission is heavily oriented to our young people. It is the "United States" Tennis Association.
2. THE NCAA? They have money too, but their real efforts are toward big money sports. Would they risk a lawsuit? Are they "actors of the state?" The "National" Collegiate Athletic Association?
3. THE ITA? Would most of their members vote for American inclusion? They did one time!
4. MONEY? What if major private money wanted more Americans, American quality players? Example? Oracle is now sponsoring college tennis. What if the CEO (Larry Ellison) felt strongly his funding should include significantly more American support?



5. TAXPAYERS? Nationally, state, local? Just another form of foreign aid, not trade?
6. INSTITUTIONS? Why is my donor money paying for them and not my kids. Isn't this an unnecessary add-on to runaway tuition?
7. PARENTS? You wouldn't offer my kid any help, yet your roster is totally international. And you often lose.
8. SMALLER SCHOOLS? When will Presidents, Athletics Directors, Trustees realize "we are just giving our product away". The "arms race" in minor sports yields little, costs tons.
9. STUDENTS: My athletic fees are supporting those people? Are they helping with my student loan?
10. TEACHING PROS AND HIGH SCHOOL COACHES: No more kids taking lessons, buying products. No more kids going out for my team. Better kids electing other sports.

I also hope The National Federation of High School Athletics would weigh in with their concerns and data for not only tennis but all sports.

## Post navigation

[← Previous Post](#)

# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

MARCH 16, 2016 MARCH 16, 2016 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

## XENOPHOBIA? (145)

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[!\[\]\(de95854c7ee024cfadc48187bbb781b2\_img.jpg\) LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



Being from the South opens one up to quick criticism. My particular myopia centers around the world of college sports, mostly tennis. This began in 1972. Just this year I've made a "comeback". My blog has 15 articles on the subject(s) published this year. Below I have listed related comments, if anyone is paying attention. If you read only one along with this one, go to #122.

Once again the only two American winners, save the Williams sisters, are college products. John Isner and the Bryan twins won the Davis Cup round.

My strong belief is that the only hope for future top American players, is the allotment of scholarships to our youngsters. Many youngsters are not playing football and basketball for whatever reason. Tennis needs to position itself to attract these youngsters as their next option of choice.

Ah, but the law. The constitution and NATIONAL ORIGIN. I think the Morel Letter (see blog 116) gives tennis the "out" needed. There again, that Southern thing!

Anyway—to start the new year how about the SIX BY SIX plan? There are six singles players in the standard team format. There are also 6 slots for doubles (2 players per team, 3 teams). How about this:

Six of the twelve slots must be filled by Americans?

Bob Burton said the NCAA should be restricted to ten rules. Add one? You have to eliminate one.

So here come the nit pickers: How do you allot scholarships? fill out your lineups? injuries? etc.

Call it the Parham 6x6 plan. But the details and rules? That is for the next Xenophobe.

RELATED ARTICLES BY NUMBER: 111,112,114,116,117,119,120,122,125,126,127,128,132,136,137.

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)

# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

APRIL 13, 2015 APRIL 13, 2015 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

### NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN? (125)

▣ [UNCATEGORIZED](#)

▣ [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

▣

CHECK OUT THE ARTICLE OR LINK BELOW.

THE USTA LEADERSHIP PROFESSES THE WORTH OF COLLEGE TENNIS. HAS IT SUNK IN THAT THERE IS A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DWINDLING OF OUR TOP PLAYERS FROM WORLD RANKINGS, AND THE MASS EXODUS OF TENNIS SCHOLARSHIPS FROM AMERICAN YOUNGSTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS?

<http://nyti.ms/1lCAAXd> (FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES) ([http://p.nytimes.com/email/re?location=InCMR7g4BCKC2wiZPkcVUkkePbRwSAQe&user\\_id=ab848eb6d3518137414e7f826554e08d&email\\_type=eta&task\\_id=1428784805467767&regi\\_id=0](http://p.nytimes.com/email/re?location=InCMR7g4BCKC2wiZPkcVUkkePbRwSAQe&user_id=ab848eb6d3518137414e7f826554e08d&email_type=eta&task_id=1428784805467767&regi_id=0))

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)

JULY 16, 2011MAY 4, 2014 *by* DAN

## Made in the USA (12)

- PHILOSOPHY
- 4 COMMENTS
- 



I was a small college tennis coach most of my career. In the 1970s, international players took over college tennis and the scholarships awarded for tennis. It started with the small college men, spread to small college women, and then on to NCAA Division 1 men and women.

There was much discussion about this issue. Those favoring the argument for limiting foreign scholarships lost, myself included. Forty years hence, observing a progressive downward spiral of American's professional tennis rankings, I wonder if there is a connection between the two.

Did American families, parents, and players, realizing the drastic change in supply of college tennis scholarships, redirect would be top players? The financial commitment from a family that's needed to produce a world class player is staggering. Those who commit have only two possible financial paybacks: the rare professional success, or a college scholarship. Eliminate scholarship likelihood, and the bet is questionable at best. Shouldn't American tennis organizations support parents in their commitment? College tennis scholarships (or the lack thereof) send a powerful message in America.

If it is in the best interest of American organizations, a reservation of college scholarships for Americans seems to be a start. Note that I am not unaware, or unappreciative, of the many fine internationals who have helped colleges, universities, and their tennis programs. How about a goal of 50% of tennis scholarships reserved for Americans?

4 Comments

March 25, 2015 by [ethomasparham](#)

# THE MOREL LETTER (116)

- [Uncategorized](#)
- [Leave a comment](#)
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April 14, 1992

I.T.C.A. P.O. Box 71 Princeton, NJ 08544 Gentlemen:

I have recently learned that the I.T.C.A. has taken the position that any regulation of foreign tennis players is prohibited by law. I have thoroughly researched and reviewed the law regarding this issue and wish to inform you that the law does not prohibit such regulation.

If your association has legal counsel, I'm confident that he is full conversant with the law of the higher education, and specifically, that as it pertains to intercollegiate athletics. I encourage you to confer with your counsel on this very important issue. If he does not concur with my opinion, or if you do not have legal counsel, I am readily available to discuss this issue with you or him by telephone, or, if need be, in person. Moreover, I am willing to provide you, or him, with all of the law as it pertains to this issue so that this matter can be decided on the basis of a policy decision. This problem is not going to go away. If anything, it is going to become worse as it pervades other sports in addition to tennis, track and soccer, the predominantly foreign athletic teams.

The issue should be fully discussed and decisions made regarding it on the basis of merit. The respective members of your Board, and those of other similar associations, should state what their position is, and then vote on it on the basis of policy. The law permits you to do that in regulating the number of foreign tennis players that may participate at various levels of intercollegiate tennis. No association should hide behind the shield of the law in order to avoid considering this very difficult issue.

The National Junior College Athletic Association (N.J.C.A.A.), based upon their legal counsel's analysis, which concurs with mine, has provided for regulations as to the number of foreign students that may participate. Their action, and that of your Association, is not "State action". They are permitted, as your Association is, to do this under the law. Minnesota also had adopted regulations, which the total number of foreign athletes is limited. There are a variety of methods, too numerous to mention here. Some regulation is done based upon the ratio of the total number of foreign students to the total students enrolled; some are as a percentage of the total team members; and some are simply by number.

As stated above, I am willing to confer with you or your counsel on the state of the law on this very important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours, John L. Morel

## MEMORANDUM

April 23, 1992

To: ITCA Board of Directors, Sheila McInerney, Jeff Frank, Rick Evrard, Dan Calandro From: David Benjamin

Re:

Foreign Player Scholarships

As we all know, one of the most controversial areas involving collegiate tennis is the issue of scholarships given to foreign players. Over the past years, we have been asked innumerable questions about this by the media as well as members of the USTA and many concerned parents. It has always been our understanding that there are Constitutional constraints preventing an Association from passing any formal legislation which would limit scholarships given to foreign players. Last week I raised this question with Rick Evrard, NCAA Director of Legislative Services, who said his initial instinct was that it could be met with legal opposition, but he would look into it further.

This week I have just received the enclosed letter from an Illinois attorney, Mr. John Morel, in which he

MARCH 25, 2015 MARCH 26, 2015 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

## wayne bryan (usta excerpts)–117

- [UNCATEGORIZED](#)
- [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)
- 

I have been spectacularly unsuccessful in getting this elephant in our American living room removed. I have made speech after speech to coaches and parents in this country and they are 100% behind me and I've spoken to the college coaches national meeting in Florida on three occasions in recent years and I've hit this topic as hard as only Wayne Bryan can – – – to no avail.

Have only American kids playing college tennis and the crowds will be even bigger and the tennis just fine and exciting. Open college tennis up to the whole world and make it world class and our US kids are diminished. Why not make High School Tennis world class too? Why not have all the foreign coaches come over and take all the jobs away from our American coaches? College tennis should not be a world class sport. It should be for our American kids. And the scholarships should go to them and be helpful to their parents who pay all those taxes and who have supported their children and their tennis and their academics every step of the way.

It is time for the USTA to stand up and be counted on this issue. It is our USTA juniors who are losing out and paying the price. This glut of foreign players is chilling US junior tennis. When there is no fruit or flowers on the top, the vine dies.

Other Misc. Input:

1) Address the glut of college players in American college tennis. This is the big elephant in our tennis living room. The USTA has never taken a stand on this. They even put out a White Paper saying basically that there is no problem. I chaired a panel discussion on this two years ago and the four USTA Staffers at the table all said American kids are "no good" and "lazy". Huh?! There are several million dollars in tennis scholarships going to foreign players whose parents do not spend dollar one in taxes for education in this country. In this dire economy this is unconscionable it seems to me.

One foreign player per team? – – – fine – – – helps international good will and is a nice broadening experience for the guys on the team – – – six foreign players?! – – – I say the emperor has no clothes. I say burn it down and start over again. Time for a revolt. Carthage must be destroyed!

I have been spectacularly unsuccessful in getting this elephant in our American living room removed. I have made speech after speech to coaches and parents in this country and they are 100% behind me and I've spoken to the college coaches national meeting in Florida on three occasions in recent years and I've hit this topic as hard as only Wayne Bryan can – – – to no avail

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)





states that the "law does not prohibit such regulation." I plan to discuss this matter in more detail over the phone with Mr. Morel, and to follow up with further conversation with the NCAA and other appropriate authorities.

In the meanwhile, I am bringing this matter to your attention in order that you might discuss this with the coaches at our ITCA Annex Membership Meetings in May. If the points raised by John Morel are correct, it might be time for the ITCA and the NCAA Tennis Committee to explore this issue in depth.

I would appreciate having your ideas and reactions from the coaches after your discussions at the ITCA Annex Meetings.

Best Wishes.

Yours truly,

David A Benjamin – Executive Director

P.S. I am enclosing a fact sheet put together by Joe Lynch about foreign players and collegiate rankings.

June 7, 2016 by [ethomasparham](#)

# PASSING THE FLAG (153)

- [Uncategorized](#)
- [3 Comments](#)
- [Edit](#)

Preamble:

1. I admit myopia on this topic.
2. I always admit my use of international tennis players to my great advantage.
3. These people and many opponents are stellar players and people.
4. Blog # "XENOPHOBIA" lists blogs written over the years on this subject.
5. The comments below are repeated, new, and a challenge to those with similar feelings to explore the issue further. I have several questions that I don't have the resources or time to verify.

First- some good local news. Going into the 2016 NCAA Championships three Atlantic Coast Conference men's tennis teams were seeded in the top six, including #1 Virginia who won the championship. UNC-Chapel Hill won the ITA national indoor title. Wake Forest beat UVA for the Deacons first ever ACC men's tennis title. The women had some very similar accomplishments.

However, the 2016 French Open results were much the same for American pros. North Carolina's John Isner making the second round. No other men's singles in sight for the fourth year in a row. Again our best shows came from John and the Bryan Brothers (both college products), and Serena and Venus (who avoided USTA influences early on). And, of course Shelby Rogers made the quarters, no small accomplishment. Shelby, interestingly, was home schooled.

Here are some questions and "food for thought" for anyone concerned about the future of American tennis:

1. Does the USTA realize they are spending \$500,000,000 plus for a roof and that when it is done perhaps no Americans will qualify for the USOPEN?
2. Did we actually spend 17 million dollars on USTA Player Development with this kind of results?
3. What are the plans on the horizon to correct this problem? Are we willing to listen to new or valid suggestions?
4. If so, has this been thoroughly thought out: There is a direct correlation starting from 1970 until 2016 between the number of scholarships given to American college tennis players to the current dearth of highly ranked American pros. Further, an examination of the top ten Americans during the 70's and 80's reveals the quality of those players compared to the top ten men and women today. My belief is the best elite training system world wide is the American College/University athletic programs. Ask Isner 1. were you selected for USTA elite programs? 2. Did your participation at GEORGIA prepare you for your best shot at pro tennis? 3. Did you have a scholarship? 4. Would you have selected GEORGIA had they not provided that grant?
5. An e-mail I received from a "tennis person" suggested there was 860 million dollars spent on college tennis programs. Is that true?
6. Want the best rationale for scholarships, from the #1 sport world wide--soccer? Fact: Our men have never won the World Cup. With the advent of Title IX in 1970 our USA women have won three times! The 23 woman roster this time featured all women with college play and college scholarships. I was asked where the Olympic training camp for women was by a colleague from Elon University. Reply: Thirty five miles east. (Six of the twenty three had played for Anson Dorrance's UNC Tar Heels.)
7. Change comes fast. In 2015 Duke's women's golf team finished 2nd in the NCAA. It was on NATIONAL TV. The BLUE DEVILS roster housed no American women. Coaches depend on winning to keep their jobs. I'll guarantee young women golf coaches made note of Duke's roster. (And how many good young Asian players are coming along). While this may be new to some it is not to many, myself included. In 1970 the NAIA voted down a "one only international can play in the NAIA Nationals" rule. A

grizzled old coach stood and predicted, "...if you allow this, in about two years a Texas team will bring in an all Mexican team and it's all over!" He was wrong. The next spring Mercyhurst College (PA.) produced the team winner consisting of six "freshmen" from Finland. Our coaches made note of that. I know I did. And you can't blame the coaches. Our high schools feature African American men's basketball players almost exclusively. Soon the Colleges followed suit. High school girls, then college women. Perhaps no sport changed ethnicities faster than women's college basketball from mostly white to mostly black.

My guess is that football and basketball will continue to feature more black players. Not one thing wrong with that. However it has social and sport implications. First is the concussion issue that is on the front burner now. My strong belief is that many black kids join the military because of unfair and limited options. Is it not wrong to steer any group of young people to war's dangers and horrors? It doesn't stretch the intellect too far to see similarities with the ever growing dangers of football. Are we forcing some smaller kids into an arena where they are dangerously over matched?

Back to tennis, and there is a connection. As bigger and better athletes reject football and maybe even basketball, wouldn't it be wise for tennis to make a bee-line to recruit them to the tennis court? I can tell you right now those people are selecting other sports in the South. Soccer and now Lacrosse are draining these guys and girls their way.

Want one main reason? Duh- college scholarships?

A popular and long held notion is that pro tennis youngsters should avoid college. I believe now more than ever those are rare creatures. Most of our elites have come out of a basic structure or path. First the home and the parents: Chris Evert, Jim Connors, McEnroe, the Bryans, the Williams sisters, and the most recent ones Isner, Steve Johnson, and now Shelby Rogers. The best players in the world can be cited (Rafa and Uncle Tony. The Joker is making a case for "best ever" and he came for a one court Serbian town with a woman pro). Most Americans had connections to college tennis, or at least it was in the back of their minds. The next step was the local pros. Try Pete Sampras and Dr. Fischer. Clubs and their pros were a main cog in the wheel.

Another quantum change when so many academics took kids away from their homes too soon. No matter who or how much you pay some one, will they pay the same amount of attention as a loving parent. Some academics were guilty of throw away kids, drugs, limited education, and limited help for those other than the ones who could make the academics shine.

Colleges do a much better job at a more mature age. As academics purport to do, colleges house, feed, train student/athletes with a lot more worthwhile education thrown in. Both are expensive. The expense and the value of scholarships all the more reason to motivate tennis as a sport choice for the talented.

One personal guess is that Title IX was unjustly blamed for some schools who dropped tennis. I wonder how many Athletic Directors silently came to a conclusion similar to this?

1. All sports are counted in the standings for our 'Conference Cup'?
2. We are in a conference with four good tennis teams with all foreign teams and we give 8 girls and 4 1/2 boys grants to internationals.
3. I can find a better place for that size of budget.

Families, free play, clubs and pros, junior tournaments, to college. Injury doesn't take away your education. Maybe four years of college tennis is the answer.

There is one specific place I believe American tennis should focus on getting better. Many high schools don't have teams. Many teams have limited budgets. Many coaches receive little or no compensation. Many local pros could help train new or limited coaches and players. Some talented

players elect to not play high school tennis. My strong belief is that playing for your team is important. And I believe a pro and coach working together can be very productive. The game is the best teacher. To play an extra twenty matches for your high school can't hurt.

My book, THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK of TENNIS is geared at helping junior and high school teachers, coaches, players and teams. Private funding provided this guide for all 711 boys and girls high school coaches in North Carolina's public schools.

I am still wondering about data that a group of "worker bees" or tennis organizations could find out.

1. I betcha 75% of scholarship aid in tennis goes to internationals.
2. I wonder how many at all levels (NCAA I, II, and III, and NAIA, and Junior Colleges) have an all foreign team. State schools?
3. What percentage of awards go to predominantly international teams? All conference, all regional, all americans, outstanding player, outstanding freshman?
4. How many second children elected another sport after seeing a sibling lose a valuable grant to a first choice school.
5. Isn't it about time some of our organizations screw up their courage and use their time, money and efforts to make these facts available to American parents and players. The USTA, NCAA, ITA, NFHSAA, athletic directors, administrators.
6. What legal statute keeps us from taking care of Americans first. What does the legal term "state actor" mean to this issue. What really came down when the ITA voted in an allotment of 50% aid for our kids, then acquiesced to the "big boys"?
7. Would anyone foot the bill for a court decision? How about running a bluff. Try this: 1. The NCAA has a ton of money 2. The USTA has a ton of money. 3. The NCAA really cares about the money sports, i.e. football and basketball. Tennis, not so much. If the USTA, whose first love is tennis, walked to the courthouse with a big of money, who would blink first?

# ON FLAGS (136)

- UNCATEGORIZED
- LEAVE A COMMENT
- 

CHICAGO (April 14, 2015, U.S. Soccer) – With 55 days until the USA's opening match of the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup, U.S. Women's National Team head coach Jill Ellis has named the 23 players who will represent the United States on women's soccer's grandest stage Tuesday. The roster will not become official until it is submitted to FIFA on May 25, which is the deadline for all teams to submit their final squads.

Six former University of North Carolina Tar Heels have been named to the team – the most from any university program. The Tar Heel contingent includes Heather O'Reilly, playing in her third World Cup, Lori Chalupny and Tobin Heath, playing in their second World Cups, and Ashlyn Harris, Meghan Klingenberg and Whitney Engen all playing in their first World Cups. Chalupny is the most veteran Tar Heel in the group, having last competed at UNC in 2005. O'Reilly's last season was 2006 while Engen, Harris and Heath finished in 2009 and Klingenberg in 2010.

Broken down by alma maters, the team includes six players from North Carolina, two each from UCLA, Stanford, Penn State and Virginia and one each from Washington, Santa Clara, Monmouth, Notre Dame, Rutgers, Portland, California, USC and Florida.

Stole the information above! Below, it's mine.

- \* Soccer is the most popular sport in the world.
- \* The USA men's team has never won the World Cup.
- \* Title 1X became law in 1970. Most widely known beneficiary? Women's sports.
- \* No other country enforces such a law.
- \* July 5, 2015, USA women win third World Cup title, since Title 1X.
- \* Now is the time to wave a flag. An American one.

We watched the game on TV. With pride. We were joined by guests from Burlington, NC, one of whom asked "... where is their national training center?"

My reply? The largest is thirty miles from you. UNC-AT Chapel Hill. Of the 23 roster members above, all 23 went to college. Anson Dorance, Coach at UNC is legend.

College athletics are the most productive training center for elite athletes and teams anywhere in the world.

Is tennis watching? All the soccer girls probably had sizable scholarships. And without the scholarships how many would be where they are now?

Tennis has cut this foundation off. Our funding is "foreign aid", shipped all over the world, while we can't seem to find a fair and legal way to reserve money for our own children.

Americans want top level players. People are searching for help. I repeat: Restore reasonable college scholarships funding for tennis. And the foundation for player development in our country.

April 18, 2015 by [ethomasparham](#)

## THE SIZE OF THE ELEPHANT ON THE COURT (127)

- [Uncategorized](#)
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There are some new terms floating around on the American college/university sports scene. Two that are linked are “The autonomy movement” and “The Power Five”. Perhaps a clarification is in order. Boiled down in simple terms, these will mean money is now in charge of college sports. Who knows how it will all unfold. Speaking for my sport, tennis, and others non-revenue sports, (aka everything other than football and men’s basketball) this may not be all bad. Here is another disguised new term: “Preferred Walk-on”. Simple definition? “We prefer not to give you a scholarship”! Or, “does not play”. Rare exceptions granted, those six to seven guys at the end of the bench don’t play much basketball, and get less money than that playing time. The same is true in college tennis. The money goes to the top six or seven players. And more to the one player than the sixth. Stated simply again, the aid flows to the top of the lineup. At the end of this article there is a link to recent column from the New York Times. It professes a commitment on the part of the USTA to college tennis. What is not included in the column is the enormity of American college tennis scholarship aid given to international players. Though I am somewhat encouraged by the mood today, it is late in coming and almost surely related to the abysmal lack of top pro Americans. This, in turn, affects the whole health of the game of tennis in the USA. I have fought this imbalance since 1970. Look the recent blog articles and the books I have written. But I’m about “out of gas”. I am firing me last bullets. And I write this hoping some younger tennis enthusiasts will jump in the fray. It ain’t easy. But youth is a great advantage. AND TECHNOLOGY. My sons say I’m on the other side of the digital divide. But I’m savvy enough to know the data is there to expose just how rampant the discrepancy is. The college season is drawing to a close for 2014/2015. All divisions (NCAA 1,2,3 and JUNIOR COLLEGES, and the NAIA) have playoffs with a conference, then regional, then national tournament. Here are some technology available data worth examining: 1. Remember the “preferred walk-ons of tennis (most often Americans) get little aid. Therefore when examining the percentage of aid given to internationals check school websites for hometowns of the top six people that play in “big matches”. Example: Four of the top six are international? 2/3 of the aid goes to those guys! 2. What are those percentages for the top ten teams in all divisions. Want a real shocker? Check that stat for the last ten years. Women too. 3. What are those percentages for the conference, then, regional, then national winners. The higher you go, the higher the percentage. Betcha so! 4. Here is another kicker: Conference, Regional, and National tournaments will have awards (team champs, runner-up, all-conference, all-regional, all american, mvp, freshman of the year. Check where these hail from. Americans rarely are on those lists There is a lot to be learned. I don’t have any skin in the game now. Just a love for the game and our kids. Hoping for a “worker-bee” disciple. LET ME KNOW AND GOOD LUCK. [nytdirect@nytimes.com](mailto:nytdirect@nytimes.com) (REMEMBER TO CHECK THIS)

March 25, 2015 by [ethomasparham](#)

## TO THE USTA (112)

- [Uncategorized](#)
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DEAR ANDY,

AGAIN, CONGRATS AND THANKS FOR YOUR TENNIS LEADERSHIP. HERE IS THE "PACKET" MY EARLIER E-MAIL ALLUDED TO. INCLUDED ARE VARIOUS ARTICLES REGARDING AMERICAN COLLEGE TENNIS AND THE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONALS RECEIVING AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIPS. TONS OF OPINIONS, YET NO REAL SOLUTIONS. THE BRYANT GUMBEL "REAL SPORTS" SEGMENT WITH THE MCENROES REKINDLED MY CONCERN AND BELIEF THAT THE USTA IS MISSING SOME OBVIOUS FACTS AND POSSIBILITIES. WHILE THE PACKET IS CUMBERSOME, PLEASE TRY TO FOLLOW THE VARIETY OF EVENTS AND HISTORY THAT CAUSES ME TO "THEORIZE". TO SUMMARIZE LET ME STATE MY CASE: THE AWARDING OF A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF AID TO INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS HAS INFLUENCED THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TO NOT CHOOSE TENNIS FOR UNTOLD TALENTED AMERICAN YOUNGSTERS. THE NAIA AND JUNIOR COLLEGES BEGAN THIS TREND IN THE EARLY 1970'S. IT SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE. I PARTICIPATED. AND BENEFITTED, ALL THE WHILE REALIZING FOR EVERY SCHOLARSHIP TO INTERNATIONALS, ONE DENIED AN AMERICAN JUNIOR. WHAT I HOPE TO MAKE PEOPLE AWARE OF IS THE INSIDIOUS AFFECT THIS HAD ON HIGH QUALITY PLAYER DEVELOPMENT IN USA.

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN I WHAT IT COSTS AN AMERICAN TO COMPETE AT THE ELITE LEVEL. THERE ARE ONLY TWO MAJOR WAYS TO RECOUP PARENTAL/FAMILY INVESTMENT : 1. PRO TENNIS ( IN NC ONLY ISNER, WILKISON, AND SADRI MADE ANY LIFETIME \$) AND 2. COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS. THE RISING COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION MAKES SCHOLARSHIPS MORE VALUABLE AND MORE APT TO AFFECT THE CHOICE OF SCHOOL AND SPORT TO PURSUE. WHILE ACADEMIES HAVE HAD SOME SUCCESS IN TENNIS, MOST IN AMERICA HAS BEEN BY INTERNATIONALS. THAT, AND GIVEN THE EVIDENCE THAT OUR PARENTS ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT ACADEMIES AND/OR PREFER TO KEEP THEIR KIDS AT HOME. THIS HAS LIMITED VALUE. TO BE BLUNT, THE USTA HAS COME UNDER FIRE JUSTIFIABLY FOR THE LACK OF RESULTS FOR THE TREMENDOUS MONEY POURED INTO "PLAYER DEVELOPMENT".

AT AGE 74 I AM TIRED OF AMERICANS JUST BITCHING. SOME SOLUTIONS ARE NEEDED IN ANY NUMBER OF ARENAS. COLLEGE TENNIS IS ONE OF MY DEEP LOVES. HOW ABOUT A THINK TANK WHO INVESTIGATES THESE POSSIBILITIES:

FIND A WAY TO ALLOT USTA MONIES TO THE INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE A PROVEN TRACK RECORD FOR SUCCESS—-(A. AMERICAN FAMILIES AND (B) COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
THE 50/50 SCHOLARSHIP PLAN IS A WORKABLE POSSIBILITY.



USTA INCENTIVE PLANS (SCHOLARSHIP AID) TO INDIVIDUALS AND/OR INSTITUTIONS THAT REWARD AMERICAN AID. FOR EXAMPLE GIVE AID TO VARIOUS COLLEGE DEVISIONS THAT GIVE LARGE PORTIONS OF SCHOLARSHIP AID TO AMERICANS . THIS WOULD TAKE CARE AND THOUGHT. BUT ISN'T IT TIME?

March 25, 2015 by [ethomasparham](#)

# AMERICAN COLLEGE TENNIS (111)

- [Uncategorized](#)
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THERE IS NOTHING MORE POWERFUL THAN AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME....VICTOR HUGO

I recently wrote a letter to North Carolina and America's tennis friend, Andy Andrews (see Blog article 112).

The intent of that letter was to suggest to the USTA a theory or perhaps one reason there has been such a drastic drop off among top ranked American players. My strong feelings are that the theory (summarized below) is quite close to the problem:

THE AWARDING OF A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF AID TO INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS HAS INFLUENCED THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TO NOT CHOOSE TENNIS FOR UNTOLD TALENTED AMERICAN YOUNGSTERS.

Two items of support for this theory is an examination of past top ranked American (Men). Blog number 113 has a list of top Americans from 1960-2013. Compare the 2010-2013 numbers 5 through 10 today to any of 5-10 in the late 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's, or early 2000 rankings. Harrison vs Connors?

Blog 114 lists the members of the INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS HALL OF FAME. See any top pros who had college ties?

Computers make tennis history available. Just check out the number of International players who have had American college experience. Patrick McEnroe says the route for Americans is 99.9 the college route. Could Patrick have played pro without his college training? Would he have played college tennis without a scholarship?

While the USTA says about 20% of all college tennis players are international, they don't reveal what % of scholarships go to internationals. Analyze the top five teams in DIVISIONS I AND 2 OF the NCAA the NAIA AND JR. Colleges the last twenty years for these facts: NOT their total rosters, but the lineup players in crucial matches. Where did the scholarship allotments go, percentage wise. Where were the "All-Americans" from? All awards winners? Did American kids not only get cut out of scholarships, but the chance to win or excel?

"Fool me twice, it's my fault". Americans have opted out of tennis. No sizable grant? My second kid will play soccer. Maybe #2 child was Connors! Think he would draw some fans to New York for the USOPEN? That begs other questions. Doesn't the USTA have most to gain by the restoration of college tennis grants for Americans? 550 MILLION for a roof and no Americans past round 2. We only had ISNER and Steve Johnson (both college players) to win a second round match in the last US OPEN, WIMBLEDON, and the Australian. At the rate we are going, no American will qualify by the time the roof, etc. are completed.

THE LAW? This the sticky wicket with them all. "Unconstitutional"? Can't do it legally? Xenophobic? Check the latest USTA Comment (see blog 115 on "Frequently Asked Questions"). Alludes only to a question from the 70's about a track issue. Milktoast?

Blog 116 is a copy of a letter that was issued by the lawyer/Father of one of my players. Illegal? The NCAA not a "state actor" therefore permitted to make that choice if it is in the best interest of the organization? Quite frankly the NCAA and it's affiliate, the ITA, aren't the ones hurting. College tennis has a great product. Just our kids losing out. And the USTA?

The USTA has spent 17 million dollars on a system that has come no where near the historic nurturing of

the COLLEGE AND FAMILY influences. Our only big winners today are “family” products (the Williams sisters and the Bryan twins) and college’s Isner and Johnson.

We got shot down with the 50/50 plan (50% of scholarship aid has to be reserved for Americans)???

Doesn’t say no internationals. Doesn’t say you can’t give them a scholarship. Doesn’t say internationals can’t play on the team. Wonder what % of top internationals paid there own way to American colleges? (Foreign trade vs Foreign aid?).

How important is a college scholarship when some total catalog cost is 70k a year at some schools? When college debt exceeds credit card debt in the USA? Where is the “carrot” to play tennis as a talented junior, if the grants aren’t possible. Harsh statement? I can promise your there are American colleges that recruit ONLY internationals.

I feel like Charlton Heston on this issue. But the time has come for others to help.

What about a USTA “think tank”. Don’t we have any lawyers? The last I heard a ton of money will find a good lawyer. The USTA got any poker players? I bet there is a legal way. At least run a good bluff at litigation. Bet the NCAA wouldn’t take the football/men’s basketball money to risk on an expensive trial?

I think it is right and legal. But somebody has got to “...screw up some courage”. Only those who love American tennis will do it.

PS. Blog 117 shows excerpts from the Bryan twins Father, Wayne.

MADE IN THE USA (BLOG 12) IS RELATED

March 25, 2015 by [ethomasparham](#)

# AMERICAN COLLEGIATE VARSITY TENNIS AND INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (“FAQ”)—115

- [Uncategorized](#)
- [1 Comment](#)
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## AMERICAN COLLEGIATE VARSITY TENNIS AND INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (“FAQ”)

This FAQ is designed to provide answers to the questions that are often raised concerning international players and collegiate varsity tennis.

The issues surrounding the participation of international players in American collegiate tennis have spurred much conversation among American junior players, their coaches, their parents, our Association, and the tennis world at large. This has been an emotionally charged and often divisive topic. There is a wide range of beliefs regarding these issues, and, apparently, much misinformation. This one issue is part of a very complicated fabric, which is the landscape of American collegiate varsity tennis. This is a very complex, nuanced issue with many intersecting/inter-related variables creating the current situation.

### 1. Why are there so many international players playing tennis?

The increase in international players is part and parcel of two phenomena: (a) increased globalization (or as author and New York Times columnist, Tom Friedman, has described it, a “flatter” world), and (b) the tennis explosion around the world.

The world in general is becoming a much more international place in so many respects. As Friedman has written, “technology and geo-economics” are “fundamentally reshaping our lives — much, much more quickly than many people realize.” Everywhere we turn, globalization is evident. International communication is becoming instantaneous. Outsourcing is becoming rampant. The ranks of a number of other sports — for example, basketball, golf, soccer, and swimming — are becoming much more international, and these trends are continuing.

The seismic change in tennis began with the advent of Open Tennis, which led to major investments in player development by tennis federations throughout the world. The results of this global interest in tennis began to surface in the 1980’s in Davis Cup, Fed Cup, the Grand Slam events, and in American college tennis. Smaller countries like Spain and Croatia are making their mark in the international tennis arena. The college tennis landscape is a reflection of what is occurring on the world stage. In most countries, tennis is one of the two or three most popular sports and

attracts the most talented athletes. In the United States, tennis is competing for athletes with a host of other sports, including football, basketball, baseball, and soccer.

### 2. What is the percentage of international student-athletes playing varsity tennis at American colleges and universities?

Across all divisions, international players comprise roughly 19% of all women tennis players and just under 27% of all men tennis players at American colleges and universities.

#### Percentage of International Players in Varsity College Tennis

According to the NCAA’s 2006-2007 Student-Athlete Race and Ethnicity Report (the most recent data available to the public):

NCAA Division  
 Men's Varsity Tennis  
 Women's Varsity Tennis  
 Division I  
 38.4 %  
 49.9 %  
 Division II  
 30.9 %  
 20.5 %  
 Division III  
 3.6 %  
 2.7 %  
 Divisions I, II, and III  
 26.7 %  
 19.0 %

3. What does the current scholarship landscape look like for our best American juniors?

While many people claim that the number of international student-athletes is limiting the ability of top American junior tennis players to receive tennis scholarships, the data from a recent study suggests that this is not the case. The overwhelming number of the Top 300 boys and girls (approximately 85% of the boys and 87% of the girls) are receiving college tennis scholarships. Some are choosing to attend Ivy League or top Division III Schools, which do not offer athletic scholarships. In addition, some are attending other schools but not on athletic scholarships even though some of them could have accepted an athletic scholarship elsewhere. Men are at a definite disadvantage regarding available tennis scholarships. This is because there are only 4.5 scholarships for men, as compared to 8 for women, allocated for respective NCAA Division I teams. Men are, in fact, at a disadvantage in three non-revenue sports (tennis, gymnastic, and volleyball).

An analysis of the USTA 2007 rankings of the top 300 Boys and Girls 18 revealed the following:

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Boys:

- Of the top 300 Boys 18s in the final 2007 year-end rankings eligible to attend college, over 85% received tennis scholarships
- Of the 40 who did not receive tennis scholarships, 19 went to Ivy League Schools (1 to Brown, 1 to Columbia, 3 to Cornell, 2 to Dartmouth, 5 to Harvard, 3 to Penn, 3 to Princeton, and 1 to Yale), which do not offer athletic scholarships
- Eight others chose to attend other Division III schools (including Amherst, Bowdoin, University of Chicago, Emory, Washington University of St. Louis, and Williams), which also do not offer athletic scholarships
- 13 chose to attend other schools (including Boise State, Cal, Florida State, George Washington, Michigan, Notre Dame, St. John, Utah, and USC), but not on athletic scholarships, even though some of them could have accepted an athletic scholarship elsewhere

Girls:

- Of the top 300 Girls 18s ranked in the 2007 year-end rankings, 245 were eligible to attend college (the other 55 were younger than high school seniors)
- 213 of the 245 (87%) received college scholarships
- Of the 32 that did not receive tennis scholarships, 21 went to Ivy League Schools (4 to Brown, 2 to Columbia, 1 to Cornell, 5 to Harvard, 2 to Penn, 5 to Princeton, and 2 to Yale), which do not offer athletic scholarships
- A number chose to attend other Division III schools (Amherst, Carleton, University of Chicago, Emory, Middlebury, Wellesley, and Williams), which do not offer athletic scholarships
- And the remaining few chose to attend Cal, Michigan State, USC, and UCLA, but not on athletic scholarships, even though some of them could have accepted an athletic scholarship elsewhere

It is important to note that a number of female scholarships go unused each year.

4. Why are there so many international student-athletes playing varsity tennis at American colleges and universities?

First, the United States is the only country that offers significant scholarship support for intercollegiate sports. The combined academic-athletic package is extremely attractive to tennis players seeking to attend

college, including international student-athletes. American college tennis is a natural magnet, offering the best of both worlds — a college degree and the opportunity to compete at a high level. Second, varsity college coaches naturally want to win, and in many instances they are under a great deal of pressure to win from their Athletic Directors. There is

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significant prestige and money involved for programs that finish highly ranked in the year-end Learfield Sports Directors' Cup. Presidents and Athletic Directors are often under tremendous pressure from alumni and trustees to put the "school on the map" with a strong showing. There are examples of coaches that have been fired by their Athletic Directors for refusing to recruit international student-athletes.

Sometimes, due to factors such as type of school, level of program, facilities, location, or climate, American college coaches who want to improve the level of their program have a difficult time recruiting outstanding American juniors. If they are struggling to attract top American talent but can recruit similarly skilled or even better skilled international student-athletes, many coaches will do so.

5. What does the balance of top international student-athletes to top American student-athletes look like at the NCAA Division I level for both genders?

In comparing American and international student-athletes in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Rankings from March 2009 (Top 100, Top 50, and Top 20), the following was noted:

Men:

Ranking	Percent (& Number) of Americans	Percent (and Number) of International Players
Top 100	38% (38)	62% (62)
Top 50	36% (18)	64% (32)
Top 20	40% (8)	60% (12)

Women:

Ranking	Percent (and Number) of Americans	Percent (and Number) of International Players
Top 100	51% (51)	49% (49)
Top 50	56% (28)	44% (22)
Top 20	60% (12)	40% (8)

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6. What are the benefits of international student-athletes playing American varsity collegiate tennis teams? Top coaches contend that international student-athletes enhance the level of varsity competition and increase player development for all concerned. International student-athletes "raise the level of the game," including for our American collegians. The better players every team has on the court, the argument goes, the better each and all players get. Everyone seems to agree that international student-athletes have raised the level of play tremendously over this past period.

Moreover, the chance for Americans to compete on a regular basis against top players their age from Europe, South America, and Asia provides important benefits for the American collegians who will be facing a significant amount of international competition once on the pro tour. Having international student-athletes as teammates and competing against international student-athletes also broadens the horizons and enriches the life experiences of American college student-athletes.

7. What are the rules to ensure international student-athletes are age appropriate and have been held to the

same amateurism standards that American student-athletes have been held to?

The NCAA leadership just recently took the bold step of recommending that the one- year “grace period” for tennis should be reduced to a period of six months or less, effective either August 1, 2011 or 2012. This legislation has not yet been finally approved by the NCAA Board of Directors, but a decision is expected later in the spring of 2010. Currently, prospective student-athletes may take a year after high school before matriculating without losing any eligibility (i.e. having to sit out the first year of matriculation and also losing a minimum of a year of eligibility). This legislation encourages tennis playing student athletes to continue their educational path from high school to college, by allowing only a six month hiatus from their studies without penalty. The intent is to create a more level playing field based on age, experience, and opportunity, and in doing so, to discourage coaches from recruiting older and more experienced players who have already had a number of years on the professional tour as an amateur.

NCAA Bylaw #14.2.3.2 also ensures that tennis student-athletes must begin full time collegiate enrollment before their twentieth birthday. If they do not, student-athletes can be penalized by having to sit a year in residence and can run the risk of being penalized season(s) of eligibility. The NCAA Eligibility Center evaluates all Division I and Division II prospective student athletes’ amateur and academic status.

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8. Does the NCAA limit the number of international student-athletes that can receive scholarships on American collegiate varsity tennis teams?

There are no NCAA limits on international student-athletes. There could be significant, if not insurmountable, legal hurdles for the NCAA to try to limit the number of international student-athletes that can receive scholarships on American varsity collegiate tennis teams. An early attempt by the NCAA to do this in the 1970’s in track was deemed discriminatory. Several respected experts have recently advised the USTA that the situation is the same pertaining to tennis and other varsity sports today. Neither the USTA (the governing body of tennis in the U.S.) nor the ITA (the governing body of varsity college tennis) has jurisdiction to institute such a prohibition or limitation on its own. At its own discretion, however, any individual college or university could explore its options in this regard. Certainly, the USTA encourages individual coaches, colleges, and universities to actively recruit outstanding young Americans. Further, it should be noted that there have been a number of highly successful collegiate varsity teams comprised of all American players, including some that have won NCAA championships.

9. What opportunities are available for junior players to compete with or practice with college varsity tennis players?

In 2009, over 100 USTA/ITA Campus Showdown events were hosted on college campuses. Campus Showdowns are one day, short format events open to all: juniors, college players, adults, and pros. Junior players and their parents have loved the format and the opportunity to play with and against current college players on a college campus.

In addition, the ITA Summer Circuit presented by the USTA also provides junior players an opportunity to play with and against current collegians, and junior participation has grown over the last few years. The circuit has grown to include 23 regional events with the top players competing in the ITA/USTA Summer National Collegiate Championships in mid August.

10. What is the USTA’s strategy for increasing the American talent pool?

The USTA has made a strong commitment to improve the quality of competitive play of American junior tennis players, with the goal of dramatically increasing the number of highly qualified American juniors prepared to play college varsity tennis at the highest levels. Patrick McEnroe, General Manager of the USTA’s Player Development program and Captain of the American Davis Cup team, has said, “The more outstanding American junior players there are, the more scholarships they will receive, and the fewer international players American college coaches will need to recruit. American junior tennis players simply must continue to get better and better.” He has also made it clear that going to college is the one pathway for 99.9% of our

6

American juniors and a primary pathway to pro tennis for even the very best collegiate players.

Elements of the strategy include but are not limited to the following:

- a. Adopt and fully utilize the QuickStart format to expand and retain the base of the player pyramid.
- b. Create and disseminate a unified coaching philosophy and a common coaching language among development coaches.
- c. Establish Regional Training Centers across the country that will work in concert with our National Training Centers to help identify and develop America’s next generation of champions.



- d. Create a national junior competition calendar that affords time for training, is affordable and ensures the healthy development of future college and professional champions.
- e. Administer a comprehensive program that systematically supports and promotes college varsity tennis as the focal point for the vast majority of junior competitive players while also serving as an important developmental opportunity for those aspiring to play professional tennis.
- f. Provide college coaches and communities with player development/advocacy tools to embed college programs in the community. The following tools are easy and inexpensive to incorporate into the fabric of the campus program.
  - Campus Showdowns
  - Campus Kids' Days
  - Campus QuickStart
- g. Increase the number of College Information Sessions, Forums, and Showcases at the Sectional level.
- h. Review, evaluate, and disseminate sport science and sports medicine information relevant to tennis.
- i. Ensure that our juniors and college players are training and competing against each other on a regular basis through the auspices of any and all of the following:
  - UST A/IT A Campus Showdowns
  - IT A Summer Circuit presented by the UST A
  - USTA Pro Tour Transition Camps
  - USTA/ITA Summer Collegiate Team
  - USTA Junior National Team Dual Matches

7

11. Where can I learn more information about college tennis?

- On the website of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association at <http://www.itatennis.com>.
- On the website of the United States Tennis Association at <http://www.usta.com/PlayerDevelopment/CollegeTennis.aspx> (for varsity college tennis) and at <http://www.tennisoncampus.com/site3.aspx> (for recreational college tennis).

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## Post navigation

[← Previous Post INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS HALL OF FAME MEMBERS –MEN \(114\)](#)

[Next Post → THE MOREL LETTER \(116\)](#)

### One Comment

1. [ethomasparham](#) April 13, 2015 at 1:21 pm ([Edit](#))

: <http://nyti.ms/1ICAAXd> (NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN? OPEN THIS LINK.

[Reply](#)

# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

MARCH 27, 2015 MARCH 29, 2015 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

### KEY BISCAYNE TENNIS (119)

 [UNCATEGORIZED](#)

 [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



FIRST ROUND MEN'S RESULTS: ONE AMERICAN, STEVE JOHNSON, LOST IN THE FIRST ROUND. NO OTHERS QUALIFIED. SECOND ROUND—JACK SOCK AND ISNER WIN. ALL OTHERS OUT. SECOND ROUND WOMEN'S RESULTS: ONE AMERICAN, VENUS WILLIAMS, WON FIRST ROUND. THREE OTHER AMERICAN WOMEN ENTERED. DIDN'T WIN A SET. SERENA AND VENUS STILL KICKING AFTER THIRD ROUND.

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)

# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

MARCH 29, 2015 APRIL 1, 2015 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

### THE WORLD CUP (120)

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World Cup soccer competition began in 1930. The United States men have never won it. Soccer is more widely played world-wide than any sport.

Title IX was implemented in 1970. The World Cup for women began in 1991. Our women have won twice. No other country has a "Title IX". Sports and sociology go hand in hand. Women's college basketball has become markedly better, rapidly and recently, as more and more black women are enlisted. While the same is true historically for men's college basketball, there has also been a major shift personnel-wise: Or the influx of international basketballers.

College track and tennis and soccer have a similar history.

Integration and Title IX were milestones long overdue. The law does affect who plays. Need based scholarships dictated a whole new landscape in American athletics. MUCH good has transpired. There is food for thought. Five years ago I told all kinds of parents and friends that Title IX would provide tremendous opportunities for our girls, through golf scholarships. In just five years later, I wonder. Have you witnessed the women's world golf rankings. The number of Korean players at the top is truly impressive. Due in no small part to a frenzied number of young Korean aspirants, putting in the lengths of practice sessions we reserve for school.

How long before we see college coaches bringing in entire rosters of girl golfers, borderline if not pro, from overseas? Tennis blinked and boom, no scholarships left for us.

What happens if internationals usurp collegiate basketball scholarships?

Was Title IX intended to offer opportunities for our women, or someone else? Other sports? Those to come?

# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

APRIL 1, 2015APRIL 11, 2015 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

### NORTH CAROLINA MEN'S COLLEGE TENNIS (121)

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☐

The USTA (United States Tennis Association) states that 22% of American college men's tennis scholarships go to internationals. That is a partial picture at best.

Keep in mind that total rosters include about 10-12 players and the better players start in the 1 to 6 positions. Quite often the lower ranked players play very little and therefore get very little scholarship aid.

A TOTALLY different picture emerges if one examines the percentage of aid that goes to the top players and how many of these get the lion's share of 4 and one half men's grants-in-aid.

The following schools are in North Carolina: Duke, UNC Chapel Hill, Wake Forest, NC State, UNC Wilmington, Appalachain, Elon, Davidson, East Carolina, and UNC Greensboro. Our best teams. If you examine these teams top players, the ones 1 thru 6, in **important** matches, statistics change.

Remember—the top guys get the scholarships. COMBINED NUMBER OF INTERNATIONALS IN THE TOP SIX OF THESE SCHOOLS? — 33! Six of these schools are state universities. Number of North Carolina kids in the ten schools combined?— 3! Final real statistic for tennis aid in our state this season/year? 91% international, 3% to our kids. Want another probability—this is true all over, yet worse the further south you go. TRUE TOO at NCAA 11 schools, NAIA, and Junior Colleges. Women too. Other sports also involved...Women's golf soon to be impacted by oriental influx. There is a lot of undisclosed truth about all this.

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)

# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

APRIL 3, 2015 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

### JOHN ISNER? (122)

 [UNCATEGORIZED](#)

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NORTH CAROLINA'S JOHN ISNER IS THE TOP MALE TENNIS PLAYER IN THE NATION. NO ONE ELSE IS CLOSE. SADLY.

NOT LONG AGO THE WORD ON THE "TENNIS STREET" WAS "...IF YOU WANT TO BE A PROFESSIONAL TENNIS PLAYER, DON'T GO TO COLLEGE?

COUPLE OF QUESTIONS:

1. IF JOHN HAD NOT GONE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA AND MATURED AS A PLAYER AND PERSON OVER THOSE 4 YEARS, WOULD HE HAVE BECOME THE QUALITY OF PLAYER HE IS TODAY? ASK HIM.
2. IF HE HAD NOT RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP WOULD HE HAVE PLAYED THOSE FOR YEARS AT GEORGIA?
3. CHECK THE HISTORY OF OUR TOP TEN PLAYERS. WHAT PERCENTAGE HAD COLLEGE EXPERIENCE?
4. HOW MANY INTERNATIONALS WHO HAD AMERICAN TENNIS SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NOW PLAYING PROFESSIONAL TENNIS?

I CHECKED NUMBER 3 RECENTLY. BEST GUESS? 75%

I CHECKED NUMBER 4 ALSO. BEST GUESS? ABOUT 40.

,

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](http://BLOG.AT.WORDPRESS.COM)

JUNE 5, 2015 MARCH 16, 2016 by ETHOMASPARHAM

# THE FRENCH OPEN 2015 (132)

- UNCATEGORIZED

- 1 COMMENT

- 

The quote below is from a blog article I wrote in 2010 (#10 THE NEXT LEVEL):

"This also makes me wonder about the upward evolution of the game, and who will achieve the next level. Djokovic has almost perfected "corner to corner" baseline strategy. One thing that does seem to be growing in effectiveness is the drop shot. The old adage that "you can't drop shot on a hard court" is being tested more at the top level.

There are four corners on each side of the court. Two are up at the net. The only player I have seen who could hit a un-returnable drop-shot from the base line was Charlie Owens. Many watched Charlie dismantle quality players with a disguised, feather like drop shot that confounded even great players. Maybe there is someone coming along with this unique touch, who combined with the other tennis skills needed will produce the next level in the never ending evolution of tennis.

Women players might be well advised to note this possibility. And to be aware that not only should she be able to hit drop shots, she must be able to defend against them. My guess is that many players and teachers have realized there are four corners on each side of a tennis court."

As I write this Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic are fighting it out in the 2015 semi-finals of the French Open. These two guys both have led the way in the predicted upsurge of the effective dropshot in modern tennis. The Joker was particularly adept in his quarters win over Rafa. Not only does the drop shot win points, it tires and discourages opponents. This ties to what seems obvious about the next "level of play" Nadal cited the Joker's fitness level as being the back-breaker. The dropshot included in the wear and tear process.

Other observations from the French:

1. NOTHING has changed on the American front. Three men posted early tournament wins (Isner, Johnson, and Jack Sock), Again, all these guys had a college background and all have publicly said without college experience they would not be out there. Same story for doubles and the Bryans (College stars). None went without a scholarship. Serena is in the finals. She didn't go to college, but neither did she go the USTA route. It seems to me the 17 MILLION USTA academy dollars produced little in our country. Or any "academy". Unless you figure it this way: The academies housed, fed, coached and ostensibly schooled its clients. Isn't this what a college program does. While Isner, our top ranked man, opted for college rather than turning pro, maybe the University of Georgia was a better "academy". John thinks so. I do too.

P.S. A storm threat just halted the Joker and Andy. 3/3 in the fourth and while I wanted to see who would survive and win, I'm glad they stopped. One of these warriors may have died before quitting out there. What heart. And what a message to youngsters about the next level of play. You better be in shape. Agassi revived his career by getting super shape.

Be prepared to watch some dropshots and running. Here had a one word evaluation: "I EGS"

# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

JUNE 6, 2016 JUNE 6, 2016 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

### THE FRENCH OPEN (2016)

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[!\[\]\(642aa997563f9a325b310230bb5078b7\_img.jpg\) LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

[!\[\]\(2b376d1a92330ab09dad2665d2f89bf5\_img.jpg\)](#)

BLOG #10—THE NEXT LEVEL OF TENNIS (December 20, 2010).

BLOG #132 —THE FRENCH OPEN 2015 (June 5, 2015)

The theme of blog #10 predicts the increased use of the drop shot at the high levels of the game. The French Open 2015 doubles down on this idea.

The Men's singles finals yesterday was Andy vs the Joker. Since 2010 my strong feeling has been that these two had realized the value of the offensive and defensive demands of great drop shots, and worked the hardest at developing the necessary skills.

Yesterday's rain delay and other duties caused me to abandon my drop shot chart. Over the first several games Novak won 5 of 6 drop shot attempts. He had a wide open down the line pass on the one point he lost. Andy tried two and won both points when I had to miss a lot of the match.

I would love to know the feeling of these two champions as to 1. doesn't an effective drop-shot have a particularly tiring or fatigue potential 2. as well as a psychological damage that is a corollary weapon. I don't think this is going to "back off" any. And I would remind all players that you have to develop defensive quickness, and movement patterns and postures that offset this demon.

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)



June 16, 2016 by ethomasparham

# A COLLEGE TENNIS SURVEY?(159)

- [Uncategorized](#)
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Is this possible? From the organizations listed below:

NCAA DIVISIONS I,II,III AND NAIA COLLEGE TENNIS PLAYERS (MEN AND WOMEN). And the USTA.

Schools and Conferences and National administrators research and compile data from 1980 until this year. Identify institutions as state or private.

1. Rosters. Ratio of internationals to American citizens.
2. International's position in the lineup.
3. Scholarship allotment. % of total to internationals.
4. League and National winners (team, singles, doubles , mvp, freshman of year, academic awards by internationals.)
5. National tournaments: Seeds. Post tournament final 16 singles, final 8 doubles. By nationality.
6. Number of Conference and National team members in top six from state the school is located in.

Also comments on:

- A. What American pros have come strictly from the "Academy Process"?
- B. How many international pros in the last thirty years have gained experience from American Collegiate tennis?
- C. Compare American pros who have had some college experience to those who go "strictly professional"?
- D. How many "players" in the Intercollegiate Tennis Hall of Fame had professional tennis experience?
- E. Compare alumni contributions from Americans to Internationals.
- F. There have been and are being some super college tennis facilities. Historically and currently, where do major gifts come from?

G. College tennis constantly deals with limited spectator interest. Many cite the format. Would attendance grow or alter if the teams were half American? Given a lesser ability of many American players, would attendance fall off further? Stay the same? Increase?

H. Which would be the most likely outcome given half American starters:

— attendance would decrease due to lesser quality of play. More losses.

— fellow students, families, friends, fans would accept the lesser play for the familiar faces?

— over a period of time would American juniors react to more opportunities and scholarships in their choice of sports? Would the generations of Americans improve more through college opportunities and experience enough to encourage more attendance?

— Compare the American top ten men and women players in the 70's, 80's, 90's to today's best. How many "old-timers" played college tennis? Why are our few top players those with college backgrounds (Isner, the Bryans, Steve Johnson)?

DIV

WHY

I

I am against such a protectionist policy. Instead let's do a better job of making our young players better! Institutional aid, whether it be tennis, engineering, hockey, whatever, should be up to each school to determine who gets awards

We need foreign players to play in the top 3 positions to be competitive in Division I

I believe it is discrimination against foreigners who want to come to US to get an education. Scholarships should be given to the best players possible regardless of nationality

I feel if this is contested in court,

we will lose with discrimination

Smaller Division I schools can't attract the top US players. To compete, we must recruit foreign players

In general, I agree with the limitation idea. I do not believe in a team of all foreigners. However, in a given year, I would not want flexibility taken away from me. It is conceivable I would slightly exceed the 50%

Very simple, I want to compete with the best. Can't do that with the American players I can get

Not enough quality American players to go around to all Division I, II, III, NAIA. It will hurt small schools to remain competitive with major institutions and to at least get on a schedule

Recruiting US players is more expensive. Not fair to programs with less than the maximum number of scholarships

Schools with 8 scholarships could have 4 foreign players whereas schools with only 6 scholarships like us could only have 3 foreign players!!!

Oral Roberts U has students from over 40 countries. Your letter was not objective on the subject! If this rule passes, the large schools will become more dominant and the backwater sites will dwindle

We do not offer scholarships at Ivy League schools. However, we have 2 out of 18 players as foreigners. One is on complete financial aid & the other no aid

First choice is to recruit American student-athletes, but want choice to recruit foreign athlete as well. "The Mix" is also a great learning tool for our team

This vote should be done by division and gender

I am against any restrictions

Everyone should be limited to 2.25 scholarships for foreigners not 50% of budgeted scholarships

Reasons forthcoming

This proposal is discriminatory against foreign student-athletes. If this is adopted, I am confident it will not hold up in court

Foreign players add depth to college tennis and their participation enlightens American players knowledge of other cultures

It is difficult to recruit against the top USA schools without using foreign players

Adds to standard. Plenty of scholarships through Division II & III schools. Our school enjoys broad student base. Colleges strongly oppose this proposed policy

I think the proposal needs further study - possibly send a questionnaire survey to all coaches

Colorado State does not feel it should evaluate foreign players any differently for eligibility for scholarships. Feel that foreign competition raises level of play. We will be fully funded to 8 in women in three years

I believe the fundamental issue is of professionalism, not nationality. Everyone besides the college tennis world seems to know it's a global economy!

It is unAmerican to limit. I recruit players not countries

University recruits international students

SMSU cannot attract the better American tennis players, so in order to have a competitive Div. I team, I must use foreign tennis players

I am extremely opposed to giving significant \$ to foreign players

Fund raise for 1 partial each year

Smaller schools need foreign players to be competitive against large or SEC schools. Equal opportunity. Keep college tennis strong

By limiting the foreign scholarships you protect the powerhouses. You take away an avenue for the weaker teams to get better and compete with the top teams. By limiting foreign aid the rich will get richer!

The decision on who to recruit and offer scholarships to should remain with the coaches and not be mandated by the ITA 10% of student body is foreign; 2 foreign athletes were valedictorians in the past 4 years; cultural growth

Foreign players help raise the standard of tennis competition

In order to compete at a high level, sometimes I must have a foreign #1 because high quality American kids like Florida & California

It is legal to discriminate even nation origin - we must not close out foreign player, but bring up our USA standards

I believe it is the school's decision who they award the scholarships to for a year. In 19 years of coaching, I have had 7 foreign athletes. It is something I don't want to do constantly, but it should be my decision

DIV

WHY

Before recruiting foreign players, I tried to recruit Americans but had no luck. The foreign players that we have had here have been the greatest in all aspects

- I MSU administration encourages the University to recruit international students so to diversify the campus and to promote multi-culturalism
- The only way most Midwest schools or cold climate schools can compete is through the recruitment of foreign players
- More effort should be put on fighting restrictions instead of putting more on ourselves
- It would make it impossible for a new team to compete with the best teams. No highly ranked American junior will go to a non-ranked university
- While the number of foreign athletes are increasing there are still sufficient scholarships available for American players at the Division I level
- We are all foreign. Clearly the world is becoming more open not closed. Hurts my school's ability to compete
- I think ITA is out of line. We're out of bounds talking about this. There are other much more important issues
- I will respond in depth with a letter
- I vot yes, but in the case of the guy's team, I think the limit should come on the # of players not funds
- The only way I can compete with bigger schools is by having the best from overseas. You will kill smaller programs if this goes through
- For a smaller school to compete and have a chance of a top 25 ranking, this may be the only way
- A small school like ours will have a hard tim recruiting the top Americans to be competitive with the bigger schools
- It would be a huge disadvantage to Northern schools, to schools with small recruiting budgets, or with less facilities. It would lower the standard of college tennis and lower the number of schools that would be competitive. We should be after the best student-athletes possible like every universtiy area (match, engineering etc). Any restriction would just help the current elite programs
- My institution only allocates 3. this would limit me to 1.5 foreign players
- It allows us to compete at a national level
- I could write a dozen pages. It would have a NEGATIVE impact on college tennis
- Some universities are not able to draw top American players. In order to be competitive, foreign players are necessary
- Can't get American players to play here for what little money we have to offer. The Americans aren't as good students and student-athletes
- Let's allocate for the entire student-body too! Foreign to me is simply outside state boundaries
- Let's allocate for the entire student-body too! Foreign to me is simply outside state boundaries
- Our program should be able to award scholarships to whomever - US or foreign - and not have our hands "1/2" tied
- These players add to your programs! Foreign players are our best student-athletes. Think globally, act locally. Also, I don't like the tone of this ballot! Culturally, we're close to Canada than Texas!
- Will explain in letter
- Letter to follow
- It is easy for the already established programs to recruit American and foreigners, but younger programs often have to get foreigners to be competitive
- I don't feel that it is proper to establish quotas on this basis. I would prefer bona fide students with 550+ TOEFL
- I believe that this is completely discriminatory & potentially illegal
- I believe this policy is discriminatory and illegal. This is an NCAA matter, not an ITA. Normal NCAA procedures should be followed
- It sounds a lot like discrimination. It also protects the bigger universities by allowing them to bring the better American players
- I strong support 50% limit. I strongly oppose 25% limit
- I heard this argument in the 60's when blacks integratd basketball, my objection is illegal to foreign players
- USTA is not at all helpful in identifying American prospects. Foreign players add cultural diversity
- I welcome any great player regardless of national origin
- I feel tennis is a international sport, not just US. Also, players tend to have high goals from foreign countries
- Because it is very hard to get high ranked juniors to come to Utah
- See enclosed
- Too many unanswered questions. I'm not opposed to concept just not sure that proposal is fully thought through
- I think it is up to the institution awarding the scholarships to decide how the scholarships should be distributed
- Recruiting competition for US athletes is tough enough. They all want to go to the big schools and have a condescending attitude toward the smaller programs. Foreign students are more receptive
- A limit will impede a program that is attempting to develop & outside of ITA jurisdiction
- This policy is discriminatory. Also it is more restrictive than NCAA regulations - this makes no sense to me
- It discriminate against foreign players. Sunbelt (South & Pacific Coasts schools would have an advantage)

DIV

WHY

I

Level of play would drop & hurt top American players. Also would reduce parity  
This rule will benefit the schools who are consistently strong and hurt smaller schools  
Maybe only allowing 3 foreign players aid would be okay, otherwise too restrictive. Have always tried for US kids first  
We need to work on the waiver policy

II. We provide great financial need; work study etc...

Northwood U is a private institution and reserves its rights to allocate scholarship money to any student athlete that meets NCAA eligibility requirements

Everyone is equal in my mind

In the long run it hurts tennis on the college level

Discrimination: how can you (ITA or NCAA) decide whom to give the money. How about the NCAA tells basketball coaches how many white or black players can get scholarship

This is not a totalitarian country. This is a free society. We are not xenophobic.

Improves the level of collegiate tennis & foreign students are better students

We only give parts of scholarships

Improves the level of collegiate tennis. Foreign students are better students

We are educators. Students are students, players are players - ours come to graduate

It boosts US tennis & put money & resources into America & its people

We should not be larger than NCAA rulings. Equal opportunity for all student-athletes wishing to get an education

The Pace AD questions whether this is enforceable in that an institution is being told who can attend that institution

There are already enough limiting rules - we don't need any more

I don't think a coach, a program or a school should be told (limited) who they can and cannot recruit

III

NAIA

It is an international sport I am opposed to limitations

Scholarships should be open to anyone. Proposal will only weaken the already high standards

I believe the quality of play will drop. Our university enjoys foreign students on campus

For many American player, if they can't play Div I tennis, they aren't interested in small college tennis. International student-athletes are

Not enough talent from American sources to compete at our current level

At a small school with limited scholarships, the foreign players are more willing to pay to come to US

The target areas of our university are: use quotas for admissions. 43% of student body if foreign

Discrimination policy; will affect quality on play for all participants

Because you will lose NAIA schools out of the ITA membership

Small school (425) in a very rural area. Very difficult to attract good US players here

As a highly restricted university, we get students only to enter aviation/aerospace education unlike liberal arts with all types of programs

Because you will lose NAIA schools out of the ITA membership

There aren't enough good American players for NAIA schools. Only the very good and very bad schools want this

Before recruiting foreign players I tried to recruit Americans but had no luck. The foreign players that we have had here have been the greatest in all aspects

I would prefer Divisional play in NAIA, with no limitations on Division I

# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

AUGUST 9, 2015 DECEMBER 27, 2015 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

### FOLLOW THE TRAIL (137)

- ☐ [UNCATEGORIZED](#)
- ☐ [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)
- ☐

North Carolina has produced 3 real moneymakers from professional tennis. One, Tim Wilkison, turned pro at age 17. John Isner and John Sadri attended college 4 years on tennis scholarships before going pro. Sadri and Isner both credit college tennis for their success.

From the 1970's until today, the number of scholarships awarded to internationals has spiraled upwards, as grants for Americans declined in response.

Within this same time period Americans among the upper tier of professional tennis has declined to the point of alarm. Obviously the two are connected.

Scholarships are the only reasonable financial reward for American athletes. Professional tennis as a possibility has proven a particularly unreasonable bet.

American women's sports have produced two interesting related examples.

Our women just won their third soccer world cup since Title IX (1970). Of the 23 roster members on the USA squad this year, all 23 attended college. My guess is that all were on sizable soccer grants.

Duke University's women's golf team finished 2nd in NCAA this spring. There was not an American on the roster.

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)

JUNE 24, 2016 JUNE 25, 2016 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

## JOBS (165)

- UNCATEGORIZED
- 1 COMMENT
- 

THIS JUST IN FROM "SB NATION".

"International players ruled the draft

There were 14 international players selected in the first round of the 2016 Draft, from Dragan Bender at No. 4 overall to the surprising Georgios Papagiannis pick by the Sacramento Kings near at the end of the lottery. That's an NBA record for the first round for international players, although six of those 14 were attending colleges in the United States last season rather than playing overseas.

The NBA brags about being a global game as frequently as it can, but if a record-setting international haul doesn't prove them right, then what will? Basketball is becoming more globally accessible and more young athletes are attempting to make the move into the NBA, which can only be a good thing."

14 BUMPED AMERICANS. HOW MANY KIDS ARE BOUNCING THE BALL WHO WILL RUN INTO THIS EVENTUALLY.

### One Comment

ethomasparham 

JUNE 25, 2016 AT 10:15 AM (EDIT)

PS- Cat Barber, undrafted

[Reply](#)

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)



APRIL 18, 2015 APRIL 18, 2015 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

# THE SIZE OF THE ELEPHANT ON THE COURT (127)

- [UNCATEGORIZED](#)
- [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)
- 

There are some new terms floating around on the American college/ university sports scene. Two that are linked are "The autonomy movement" and "The Power Five". Perhaps a clarification is in order. Boiled down in simple terms, these will mean money is now in charge of college sports. Who knows how it will all unfold. Speaking for my sport, tennis, and others non-revenue sports, (aka everything other than football and men's basketball) this may not be all bad. Here is another disguised new term: "Preferred Walk-on". Simple definition? "We prefer not to give you a scholarship"! Or, "does not play". Rare exceptions granted, those six to seven guys at the end of the bench don't play much basketball, and get less money than that playing time. The same is true in college tennis. The money goes to the top six or seven players. And more to the one player than the sixth. Stated simply again, the aid flows to the top of the lineup. At the end of this article there is a link to recent column from the New York Times. It professes a commitment on the part of the USTA to college tennis. What is not included in the column is the enormity of American college tennis scholarship aid given to international players. Though I am somewhat encouraged by the mood today, it is late in coming and almost surely related to the abysmal lack of top pro Americans. This, in turn, affects the whole health of the game of tennis in the USA. I have fought this imbalance since 1970. Look the recent blog articles and the books I have written. But I'm about "out of gas". I am firing me last bullets. And I write this hoping some younger tennis enthusiasts will jump in the fray. It ain't easy. But youth is a great advantage. AND TECHNOLOGY. My sons say I'm on the other side of the digital divide. But I'm savvy enough to know the data is there to expose just how rampant the discrepancy is. The college season is drawing to a close for 2014/2015. All divisions (NCAA 1,2,3 and JUNIOR COLLEGES, and the NAIA) have playoffs with a conference, then regional, then national tournament. Here are some technology available data worth examining: 1. Remember the "preferred walk-ons of tennis (most often Americans) get little aid. Therefore when examining the percentage of aid given to internationals check school websites for hometowns of the top six people that play in "big matches". Example: Four of the top six are international? 2/3 of the aid goes to those guys! 2. What are those percentages for the top ten teams in all divisions. Want a real shocker? Check that stat for the last ten years. Women too. 3. What are those percentages for the conference, then, regional, then national winners. The higher you go, the higher the percentage. Betcha so! 4. Here is another kicker: Conference, Regional, and National tournaments will have awards (team champs, runner-up, all-conference, all-regional, all american, mvp, freshman of the year. Check where these hail from. Americans rarely are on those lists There is a lot to be learned. I don't have any skin in the game now. Just a love for the game and our kids. Hoping for a "worker-bee" disciple. LET ME KNOW AND GOOD LUCK. [nytdirect@nytimes.com](mailto:nytdirect@nytimes.com) (REMEMBER TO CHECK THIS)

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)

# TOP TEN RANKED AMERICAN MEN TENNIS PLAYERS — 1960-2013 (113)

## TOP 10 U.S. MEN'S RANK

1960

1. Barry MacKay
2. Bernard Bartzen
3. Earl Buchholz Jr.
4. Charles McKinley
5. R. Dennis Ralston
6. Jon Douglas
7. Ronald Holmberg
8. Whitney Reed
9. Donald Dell
10. Chris Crawford

1961

1. Whitney Reed
2. Charles McKinley
3. Bernard Bartzen
4. Jon Douglas
5. Donald Dell
6. Frank Froehling III
7. Ronald Holmberg
8. Allen Fox
9. Jack Frost
10. William Bond

1962

1. Charles R. McKinley
2. Frank Froehling III
3. Hamilton Richardson
4. Allen Fox
5. Jon Douglas
6. Whitney R. Reed
7. Donald Dell
8. Eugene Scott
9. Martin Riessen
10. Charles Pasarell

1963

1. Charles R. McKinley
2. R. Dennis Ralston
3. Frank Froehling III

4. Eugene Scott
5. Martin Riessen
6. Arthur Ashe Jr.
7. Hamilton Richardson
8. Allen Fox
9. Tom Edlefsen
10. Charles Pasarell

1964

1. R. Dennis Ralston
2. Charles R. McKinley
3. Arthur Ashe Jr.
4. Frank Froehling III
5. Eugene Scott
6. Ronald Holmberg
7. Hamilton Richardson
8. Allen Fox
9. Clark Graebner
10. Martin Riessen

1965

1. R. Dennis Ralston
2. Arthur Ashe Jr.
3. Cliff Richey
4. Charles R. McKinley
5. Charles Pasarell
6. Hamilton Richardson
7. Mike Belkin
8. Martin Riessen
9. Ronald Holmberg
10. Tom Edlefsen

1966

1. R. Dennis Ralston
2. Arthur Ashe Jr.
3. Clark Graebner
4. Charles Pasarell
5. Cliff Richey
6. Ronald Holmberg
7. Martin Riessen
8. Frank Froehling III
9. E. Victor Seixas Jr.
10. Charles R. McKinley

1967

1. Charles Pasarell
2. Arthur Ashe Jr.
3. Cliff Richey
4. Clark Graebner
5. Martin Riessen
6. Ronald Holmberg
7. Stan Smith
8. Allen Fox
9. Eugene Scott
10. Bob Lutz

1968

1. Arthur Ashe Jr.
2. Clark Graebner
3. Stan Smith
4. Cliff Richey
5. Bob Lutz
6. Ronald Holmberg
7. Charles Pasarell
8. James Osborne
9. James McManus
10. Eugene Scott

1969

1. Stan Smith
2. Arthur Ashe Jr.
3. Cliff Richey
4. Clark Graebner
5. Charles Pasarell
6. Bob Lutz
7. Thomas Edlefsen
8. Roy Barth
9. Jim Osborne
10. Jim McManus

1970

1. Cliff Richey
2. Stan Smith
3. Arthur Ashe Jr.
4. Clark Graebner
5. Bob Lutz
6. Tom Gorman
7. Jim Osborne
8. Jim McManus
9. Barry MacKay
10. Charles Pasarell

1971

1. Stan Smith
2. Cliff Richey
3. Clark Graebner
4. Tom Gorman
5. Jimmy Connors
6. Erik van Dillen
7. Frank Froehling III
8. Roscoe Tanner
9. Alex Olmedo
10. Harold Solomon

1972

1. Stan Smith
2. Tom Gorman
3. Jimmy Connors
4. Richard Stockton
5. Roscoe Tanner
6. Harold Solomon

7. Erik van Dillen
8. Clark Graebner
9. Richard Gonzalez
10. Brian Gottfried

1973

1. Jimmy Connors
1. Stan Smith
3. Arthur Ashe Jr.
4. Tom Gorman
5. Cliff Richey
6. Charles Pasarell
7. Marty Riessen
8. Erik van Dillen
9. Brian Gottfried
10. Bob Lutz

1974

1. Jimmy Connors
2. Stan Smith
3. Marty Riessen
4. Roscoe Tanner
5. Arthur Ashe Jr.
6. Tom Gorman
7. Dick Stockton
8. Harold Solomon
9. Charles Pasarell
10. Jeff Borowiak

1975

1. Arthur Ashe Jr.
2. Jimmy Connors
3. Roscoe Tanner
4. Vitas Gerulaitis
5. Eddie Dibbs
6. Brian Gottfried
7. Harold Solomon
8. Bob Lutz
9. Cliff Richey
10. Dick Stockton

1976

1. Jimmy Connors
2. Eddie Dibbs
3. Arthur Ashe Jr.
4. Harold Solomon
5. Brian Gottfried
6. Roscoe Tanner
7. Dick Stockton
8. Stan Smith
9. Vitas Gerulaitis
10. Bob Lutz

1977

1. Jimmy Connors

9. Bill Scanlon
10. Mel Purcell

1982

1. Jimmy Connors
2. John McEnroe
3. Vitas Gerulaitis
4. Gene Mayer
5. Alex Mayer
6. Johan Kriek
7. Eliot Teltscher
8. Brian Teacher
9. Steve Denton
10. Brian Gottfried

1983

1. John McEnroe
2. Jimmy Connors
3. Jimmy Arias
4. Gene Mayer
5. Bill Scanlon
6. Eliot Teltscher
7. Johan Kriek
8. Sandy Mayer
9. Brian Teacher
10. Brian Gottfried

1984

1. John McEnroe
2. Jimmy Connors
3. Johan Kriek
4. Eliot Teltscher
5. Jimmy Arias
6. Aaron Krickstein
7. Vitas Gerulaitis
8. Gene Mayer
9. Brad Gilbert
10. Mark Dickson

1985

1. John McEnroe
2. Jimmy Connors
3. Kevin Curren
4. Tim Mayotte
5. Johan Kriek
6. Paul Annacone
7. Brad Gilbert
8. Eliot Teltscher
9. Scott Davis
10. Greg Holmes

1986

1. Jimmy Connors
2. John McEnroe
3. Brad Gilbert

4. Tim Mayotte
5. Kevin Curren
6. Robert Seguso
7. Aaron Krickstein
8. Johan Kriek
9. David Pate
10. Tim Wilkison

1987

1. Jimmy Connors
2. John McEnroe
3. Tim Mayotte
4. Brad Gilbert
5. David Pate
6. Eliot Teltscher
7. Paul Annacone
8. Jimmy Arias
9. Kevin Curren
10. Andre Agassi

1988

1. Andre Agassi
2. Jimmy Connors
3. John McEnroe
4. Tim Mayotte
5. Aaron Krickstein
6. Kevin Curren
7. Brad Gilbert
8. Michael Chang
9. Robert Seguso
10. Dan Goldie

1989

1. John McEnroe
2. Brad Gilbert
3. Michael Chang
4. Andre Agassi
5. Aaron Krickstein
6. Tim Mayotte
7. Jay Berger
8. Jimmy Connors
9. Kevin Curren
10. Jim Courier

1990

1. Andre Agassi
2. Pete Sampras
3. Brad Gilbert
4. John McEnroe
5. Jay Berger
6. Michael Chang
7. Jim Courier
8. David Wheaton
9. Aaron Krickstein
10. Richey Reneberg

1991

1. Jim Courier
2. Pete Sampras
3. Andre Agassi
4. Michael Chang
5. David Wheaton
6. Derrick Rostagno
7. Jimmy Connors
8. Brad Gilbert
9. John McEnroe
10. Richey Reneberg

1992

1. Jim Courier
2. Pete Sampras
3. Michael Chang
4. Andre Agassi
5. Ivan Lendl
6. John McEnroe
7. Aaron Krickstein
8. MaliVai Washington
9. David Wheaton
10. Richey Reneberg

1993

1. Pete Sampras
2. Jim Courier
3. Andre Agassi
4. Michael Chang
5. Todd Martin
6. MaliVai Washington
7. Ivan Lendl
8. Richey Reneberg
9. Brad Gilbert
10. Aaron Krickstein

1994

1. Pete Sampras
2. Andre Agassi
3. Todd Martin
4. Jim Courier
5. Michael Chang
6. MaliVai Washington
7. Ivan Lendl
8. Richey Reneberg
9. David Wheaton
10. Aaron Krickstein

1995

1. Pete Sampras
2. Andre Agassi
3. Michael Chang
4. Jim Courier
5. Todd Martin
6. MaliVai Washington

1978

1. Jimmy Connors
2. Vitas Gerulaitis
3. Brian Gottfried
4. Eddie Dibbs
5. John McEnroe
6. Alex Mayer
7. Roscoe Tanner
8. Harold Solomon
9. Arthur Ashe Jr.
10. Dick Stockton

1979

1. John McEnroe
2. Jimmy Connors
3. Roscoe Tanner
4. Vitas Gerulaitis
5. Arthur Ashe Jr.
6. Eddie Dibbs
7. Harold Solomon
8. Peter Fleming
9. Gene Mayer
10. Brian Gottfried

1980

1. John McEnroe
2. Jimmy Connors
3. Gene Mayer
4. Vitas Gerulaitis
5. Harold Solomon
6. Brian Gottfried
7. Eddie Dibbs
8. Roscoe Tanner
9. Eliot Teltscher
10. Stan Smith

1981

1. John McEnroe
2. Jimmy Connors
3. Gene Mayer
4. Brian Teacher
5. Vitas Gerulaitis
6. Eliot Teltscher
7. Roscoe Tanner
8. Brian Gottfried

2. Stan Smith
3. Marty Riessen
4. Roscoe Tanner
5. Arthur Ashe Jr.
6. Tom Gorman
7. Dick Stockton
8. Harold Solomon
9. Charles Pasarell
10. Jeff Borowiak

1975

- Arthur Ashe Jr.
- Jimmy Connors
- Roscoe Tanner
- Vitas Gerulaitis
- Eddie Dibbs
- Brian Gottfried
- Harold Solomon
- Bob Lutz
- Cliff Richey
- Dick Stockton

1976

- Jimmy Connors
- Eddie Dibbs
- Arthur Ashe Jr.
- Harold Solomon
- Brian Gottfried
- Roscoe Tanner
- Dick Stockton
- Stan Smith
- Vitas Gerulaitis
- Bob Lutz

- Jimmy Connors
- Brian Gottfried
- Vitas Gerulaitis
- Eddie Dibbs
- Dick Stockton
- Harold Solomon
- Stan Smith
- Roscoe Tanner
- Bob Lutz
- John McEnroe

7. Patrick McEnroe
8. Richey Reneberg
9. David Wheaton
10. Aaron Krickstein

1996

1. Pete Sampras
2. Michael Chang
3. Andre Agassi
4. Todd Martin
5. MaliVai Washington
6. Jim Courier
7. Richey Reneberg
8. Alex O'Brien
9. Chris Woodruff
10. Vincent Spadea

1997

1. Pete Sampras
2. Michael Chang
3. Jim Courier
4. Chris Woodruff
5. Jeff Tarango
6. Richey Reneberg
7. Todd Martin
8. Vincent Spadea
9. Jonathan Stark
10. Alex O'Brien

1998

1. Pete Sampras
2. Andre Agassi
3. Todd Martin
4. Michael Chang
5. Jan-Michael Gambill
6. Vincent Spadea
7. Jeff Tarango
8. Jim Courier
9. Justin Gimelstob
10. Steve Campbell

1999

1. Andre Agassi
2. Pete Sampras
3. Todd Martin
4. Vincent Spadea
5. Jim Courier
6. Michael Chang
7. Chris Woodruff
8. Jeff Tarango
9. Jan-Michael Gambill
10. Justin Gimelstob

2010

1. Andy Roddick
2. Mardy Fish
3. Sam Querrey
4. John Isner
5. Michael Russell
6. Robert Kendrick
7. Ryan Sweeting
8. Taylor Dent
9. Donald Young
10. James Blake

2011

1. Mardy Fish
2. Andy Roddick
3. John Isner
4. Donald Young
5. James Blake
6. Ryan Sweeting
7. Ryan Harrison
8. Sam Querrey
9. Michael Russell
10. Bobby Reynolds

2012

1. John Isner
2. Sam Querrey
3. Mardy Fish
4. Andy Roddick
5. Brian Baker
6. Ryan Harrison
7. Michael Russell
8. James Blake
9. Tim Smyczek
10. Rajeev Ram

2013

1. John Isner
2. Sam Querrey
3. Tim Smyczek
4. Michael Russell
5. Donald Young
6. Bradley Klahn
7. Ryan Harrison
8. Jack Sock
9. Dennis Kudla
10. Rajeev Ram

March 25, 2015 by [ethomasparham](#)

# INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS HALL OF FAME MEMBERS –MEN (114)

- [Uncategorized](#)
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ITA Men's Hall of Fame  
Printer-friendly

2015

Fred Kniffen (UT Tyler & Tyler JC – C)  
Jim Schwitters (Hawaii – C)  
+Jay Berger (Clemson – P)  
Mark Merklein (Florida – P)  
Jeff Morrison (Florida – P)  
Tim Russell (Northwestern – Con.)

2014

+Matt Anger (USC – P)  
Billy Chadwick (Mississippi – C)  
Doug Conant – Northwestern – Con.)  
Timon Corwin (Kalamazoo – C)  
Juan Farrow (Southern Illinois-Edwardsville – P)  
+Alex Kim (Stanford – P)  
James Wadley (Oklahoma State – C)

2013

Bobby Bayliss (Notre Dame – C)  
Dennis Emery (Kentucky – C)  
Paul Goldstein (Stanford – P)  
Kelly Jones (Pepperdine – P)  
John Peterson (Tyler Jr College – C)  
Alan Schwartz (Yale – Con.)  
+Harold Solomon (Rice – P)

2012

+Patrick Du Pre (Stanford – P)  
Chuck Kriese (Clemson – C)  
Paul Scarpa (Furman – C)  
Ron Smarr (Rice, Colorado, South Carolina, Wingate – C)  
Jon Vegosen (USTA – Con.)  
+David Wheaton (Stanford – P)

2011

Simon Aspelin (Pepperdine – P)  
Scott Davis (Stanford – P)  
Marcel Freeman (UCLA – P)  
+Jim Grabb (Stanford – P)  
+Gene Mayer (Stanford – P)

E. Gullikson (Northern Illinois – P)  
 R. Gullikson (Northern Illinois – P)  
 Johnson (Pennsylvania – P)  
 L. Mapes (Baylor – Con.)  
 Purcell (Murray State – C)  
 Russell (Tennessee – P)  
 J. Scanlon (Trinity – P)  
 Stifflinger (Stanford – P)

Tran (Texas – P)  
 Dewhurst (Penn – P)  
 Tach (SIU-Edwardsville – P)  
 Ming (Michigan/UCLA – P)  
 H. Hovey (Brown/Harvard – P)  
 It (Texas A&M – C)  
 Guso (SIU-Edwardsville – P)  
 Nons (Southwestern Louisiana/LSU – C)

ندن (UCLA – P)  
 Garland (Yale – P)  
 Hackett (Yale – P)  
 Perry (UCLA – P)  
 rez (USC – P)  
 np (Grossmont – C)

es (Texas – P)  
 ll (Texas – P)  
 glas (Stanford – P)  
 Gardner (Harvard – P)  
 an (San Jose State – C)  
 Martin (UCLA – P)  
 nroe (Stanford – P)  
 lafox (Corpus Christi – P)

Brown (California – P)  
 peland (Rollins – C)  
 Palmer (Tennessee – C)  
 ol (Miami – P)  
 Gorman (Seattle – P/C)  
 enker (Stanford – C)  
 ewagen (St. John's – C)

er (Kalamazoo – C)  
 eFevre (Southern Illinois-Carbondale – C)  
 Hunter (Cornell – P)  
 hos (Pierce – C)  
 it (Harvard – P)

Matt Mitchell (Stanford – P)  
 +Jared Palmer (Stanford – P)  
 Richey Reneberg (SMU – P)  
 Ferdie Taygan (UCLA – P)  
 Bill Wright (California and Arizona – C)

2005  
 Mike Estep (Rice – P)  
 +Sammy Giammalva (Texas – P/C)  
 +Paul Haarhuis (Florida St. & Armstrong Atlantic)  
 Jim Osbourne (Utah – P/C)  
 +John Sadri (NC State – P)  
 Frank Phelps (Hamilton College – Con.)

2004  
 Jim Delaney (Stanford – P)  
 +Gardner Larned (William & Mary – P)  
 Billy Lenoir (Arizona – P)  
 Larry Nagler (UCLA – P)

2003  
 Bill Bond (Southern California – P)  
 George M. Church (Princeton – P)  
 Dick Leach (Southern California – C)  
 +Bob McKinley (Trinity (TX) – P/C)  
 Jim Russell (NCAA/USTA – Con.)  
 +Robert Van't Hof (Southern California – P)

2002  
 +Paul Annacone (Tennessee – P)  
 Bernis Duke (Oral Roberts – C)  
 Richard Harte (Harvard – P)  
 Erick Iskersky (Trinity/TX – P)  
 +Rick Leach (Southern California – P)  
 +Tim Mayotte (Stanford – P)  
 Julius Seligson (Lehigh – P)

2001  
 Mercer Beasley (Tulane and Princeton – C)  
 Tom Chivington (Foothill – C)  
 Ramsey Earnhart (Southern California – P)  
 +Brad Gilbert (Pepperdine – P)  
 +Fred McNair (North Carolina – P)  
 Dae Snyder (Arizona and Texas – C)  
 +Brian Teacher (UCLA – P)  
 Watson M. Washburn (Harvard – P)

2000  
 David Benjamin (Princeton – Con.)  
 Brian Eisner (Michigan and Toledo – C)  
 John Hammill (Miami (Fla.) – C)  
 Crawford Henry (Tulane – P)  
 Mikael Pernfors (Georgia – P)  
 Henry W. Slocum, Jr. (Yale – P)

Jonathan Stark (Stanford – P)  
 Tim Cass (New Mexico/TX A&M – C)

2010  
 Mahesh Bhupathi (Ole Miss – P)  
 Daniel Courcol (Mississippi State – P)  
 +Zan Guerry (Rice – P)  
 +Rodney Harmon (Tennessee/SMU – P)  
 Leif Shiras (Princeton – P)  
 +Jay Lapidus (Princeton/Duke – C)  
 Kent DeMars (South Carolina – C)  
 Craig Tiley (Illinois – C)  
 Steve Wilkinson (Gustavus Adolphus –  
 Gordon Smith (Georgia – Con.)

2009  
 Byron Black (USC – P)  
 Wayne Black (USC-P)  
 Brain Garman (Cornell/Western Michigan)  
 +Greg Holmes (Utah – P)  
 Bruce Manson (USC – P)  
 Jose Noriega (San Diego – P)  
 Brad Pearce (UCLA – P)  
 Peter Rennert (Stanford – P)  
 Paul Torricelli – (Northwestern – C)

2008  
 +Steve Denton (Texas – P)  
 David DiLucia (Notre Dame – P)  
 Tom Jacobs (NCAA – Con.)  
 +Donald Johnson (North Carolina – P)  
 +++Patrick McEnroe (Stanford – P)  
 Jerry Noyce (Minnesota – C)  
 Jim Pugh (UCLA – P)  
 +Robbie Weiss (Pepperdine – P)  
 +Chris Woodruff (Tennessee – P)

2007  
 Col. John L. "Judge" Beaver (Georgia –  
 Steve Bryan (Texas – P)  
 Joc Cabri (Lander – C)  
 Harry Likas (San Francisco – P)  
 Matt Lucena (Cal-Berkley – P)  
 +Todd Martin (Northwestern – P)  
 +Allen Miller (Georgia – P)  
 +Alex O'Brien (Stanford – P)  
 Tom Parham (Elon College – C)  
 +Al Parker (Georgia – P)  
 MaliVai Washington (Michigan – P)

2006  
 Jeff Borowiak (UCLA – P)  
 Tom Edlefsen (Southern California – P)  
 +Dan Goldie (Stanford – P)  
 Dick Gould (Stanford – C)



Allison (Texas - P/C)  
 Ashe (UCLA - P)  
 As Dwight (Harvard - C/Con.)  
 A. Larned (Cornell - P)  
 gan (UCLA - P)  
 are (Tulane - C)  
 al Penick (Texas - C)  
 medo (USC - P)  
 suna (USC - P)  
 Ralston (USC - P)  
 oder (Stanford - P)  
 l. Sears (Harvard-P)  
 ley (USC - C)  
 ert (Cincinnati - P)  
 . Whitman (Harvard - P)

yer, C - Coach, Con. - Contributor

- THE + INDICATES SOME NOTABLES

1987

Oliver S. Campbell (Columbia - P)  
 Clarence C. Chafee (Williams - C)  
 Herbert Flam (UCLA - P)  
 Henry James (Utah - C)  
 George M. Lott, Jr. (Chicago - P)  
 +Barry MacKay (Michigan - P)  
 +Charles Pasarell (UCLA - P)  
 William Potter (Florida - P)

1986

Mike Blanchard (Wilson - Con.)  
 E.G. Chandler (California - P)  
 Joseph C. Cook (Harvard - P)  
 +Jimmy Connors (UCLA - P)  
 Lt. Joe Hunt (USC and Navy - P)  
 John Kenfield (North Carolina - C)  
 Jim Leighton (Presbyterian/Wake Forest - C)  
 Dick Savitt (Cornell - P)

1985

Jack Barnaby (Harvard - C)  
 Bernard Bartzon (William & Mary - P)  
 M.G. Chase (Brown/Yale - P)  
 W.J. Clothier (Harvard - P)  
 John Conroy (Princeton - C)  
 Robert Falkenberg (USC - P)  
 Bryan M. Grant (North Carolina - P)  
 Jack Kramer (Con.)  
 Bill Lufner (Presbyterian/Miami - C)  
 Gene Mako (USC - P)  
 Chet Murphy (California - C)  
 +Charles McKinley (Trinity - P)  
 Don McNeill (Kenyon - P)  
 Ham Richardson (Tulane - P)  
 Holcombe Ward (Harvard - P)

1984

William C. Ackerman (UCLA - C)  
 Paul Bennett (Northwestern - C)  
 Dwight Davis (Harvard - P)  
 Dale Lewis (Indiana/Miami - C)  
 Robert C. Lutz (USC - P)  
 Clarence Mabry (Trinity - C)  
 +Gardner Mulloy (Miami - P)  
 William Murphy (Michigan - C)  
 Francisco Segura (Miami - P)  
 Victor Seixas (North Carolina - P)  
 +Stan Smith (USC - P)  
 +William Talbert (Cincinnati - P)  
 James H. Van Alen (Con.)  
 John Van Ryn (Princeton - P)  
 Richard N. Williams II (Harvard - P)

1993

Thomas G. Bartlett (Tennessee - P)  
 Glenn Bassett (UCLA - C)  
 Jack Bushman (LSU - Con.)  
 Donald L. Dell (Yale - P/Con.)  
 +Ronald Holmberg (Tulane - P)  
 J. Allen Morris (Presbyterian - P)  
 Eugene L. Scott (Yale - P/Con.)  
 John F. Skillman (Yale - C)

1992

William J. Clothier (Harvard - Con.)  
 Al Malloy, Jr. (Penn - C/Con.)  
 Frank Stewart (UCLA - Con.)  
 John H. Doeg (Stanford - P)  
 R. Lindley Murray (Stanford - P)  
 Jack Tidball (UCLA - P)  
 Arthur Larson (Pacific, P)  
 Clare Riessen (Northwestern - C)

1991

+Clark Graebner (Northwestern - P)  
 Alex Mayer (Stanford - P)  
 R.T. Sawyer (Mississippi State - C)  
 Don Skakle (North Carolina - C)  
 Roscoe Tanner (Stanford - P)  
 +W.T. Tilden II (Pennsylvania - P)

1990

Rollo Anderson (Kalamazoo - C)  
 Stan Drobac (Michigan State - C)  
 +Brian Gottfried (Trinity - P)  
 +Richard Stockton (Trinity - P)  
 R.D. Wrenn (Harvard - P)

1989

Edwin Faulkner (Swarthmore - C)  
 Keith Gledhill (Stanford - P)  
 Frank Guemsey (Rice - P)  
 Wilber Hess (Rice - P)  
 W.P. Knapp (Yale - P)  
 Dan Magill (Georgia - C)  
 Whitney Reed (San Jose State - P)  
 +Martin Riessen (Northwestern - P)

1988

Fred B. Alexander (Princeton - P)  
 Tom Fallon (Notre Dame - C)  
 Allen Fox (UCLA - P/C)  
 Winthrop C. Lenz (Princeton - Con.)  
 Clifford Sutter (Tulane - P)  
 Ernest Sutter (Tulane - P)  
 Jim Verdieck (Redlands - C)



MAY 9, 2015 by ETHOMASPARHAM

# ANYONE?...BUELLER? (128)

- UNCATEGORIZED
- 2 COMMENTS
- 

In an earlier comment, I suggested that American collegiate sports seemed to be following college tennis in giving scholarships in startling amounts to international players. And, I speculated that women's golf might be on the verge of doing the same thing. Duh!

Last week the Raleigh News and Observer ran an article about how many women golfers in the southern USA regional NCAA qualifier were international. Duke is ranked 3 in the nation. Their roster lists seven players, one from France, one from South Korea, two from Ireland, one from Nova Scotia, one from India, and one from China.

I hear "diversity" often, as justification for this. For diversity, why doesn't the coach mix in an American girl?

Any way you slice it, its still baloney.

1.If you give them a scholarship its foreign aid. If they pay the rate at Duke (60k annually?) it is foreign trade. How many do that?

2. Title 1X was intended to be fair to American women. For every grant issued internationally an American girl loses and opportunity for a Duke education. Probably because she scores 3 shots a round more than an international.

3. It is spreading like kudzu.

MY high school football team, playing in the homecoming game, gave up a quick touchdown. Then we fumbled on the first play on offense. In our defensive huddle our captain concluded, "...we better get a toe-holt on this son of a bitch."

(See blog article 120 (THE WORLD CUP-March 29, 2015.)

## 2 Comments

Alan White

MAY 9, 2015 AT 1:30 PM (EDIT)

Something tells me that you were that captain !!!!!

Sent from my iPad

Reply

ethomasparham 

MAY 9, 2015 AT 1:43 PM (EDIT)

NOPE. CHARLIE BROWN. ONE 5 BROWN BROTHERS. AMONG THEM. LEON THE INFAMOUS

Reply

## American College Tennis – One Perspective

Enclosed is a packet of information. Most of it was written over a long period of time and addresses the issue of international tennis players in American colleges and universities. I have long believed this issue is our most significant problem.

After forty years of teaching and coaching in college, I feel compelled to offer some suggestions - for what they are worth – and to whomever. We continue to struggle with the international issue, the format, and with our integrity. I also would like to suggest some ideas for the betterment of college tennis to coaches, future players, American parents, to referees, and to our governing organizations.

In the enclosed “To Whom It May Concern” article, I made the point (in 1993) that I’m not against international players; just a reasonable amount of aid reserved for Americans. I cite two of my former outstanding Swedish players. An update is in order. Roland Thornqvist is now the women’s tennis coach at the University of Florida, the number one ranked team in NCAA I. Peter Lindstrom was the 2002 Elon University “Young Alumnus of the Year,” and his citation stated Dr. Lindstrom, “... was the main architect of the Virtual GIS Visual simulations system which was been used in some of the largest military field exercises in recent history.”

That being noted, let’s also revisit some other questions of my 1993 (ten years ago) concern. Reading the coaches objections to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association’s attempt to reserve 50% of scholarship aid for Americans, there seemed to be strong opposition based on matters of (1) legality, (2) diversity, (3) the limited American talent pool, and (4) the strength of California and Florida as well as “big schools.”

First, the legality issue. Please read the data on legality by Jack Morel, a former Elon player’s lawyer/father. “Quota,” like “affirmative action,” is a buzz word in politically correct America. Synonyms for quota are portion, share, allotment, allowance, and ration. Harmless enough. How about a “tithe”? Ministers? Is that bad? What’s the difference? Why can’t we allot tax payers’ money for their own children?

The ITA, in fact, approved this type of plan. My suspicion is they lost the courage of their conviction when threatened with withdrawal warnings from certain all-foreign teams. Too bad. Maybe in light of the state of corrupt behavior in college basketball this year, we need to be on alert. **(See newspaper article, Addendum #1.)**

Corruption. That’s a strong word. How about some more synonyms: dishonest, false, dishonorable, untrustworthy, deceptive. When we have one specific “tennis rule” in the NCAA rule book (no pros, three-year red shirts, 22-year-old freshmen, etc.) and members repeatedly violate or circumvent it or even aid in falsifying documents and statements, are we corrupt? Have we copied the “money sports”? Has the recruitment of internationals cost us our soul?

The evolution of corruption in college tennis in the last thirty years has a chronology somewhat like this:

- Early 1970’s coaches begin to vote against limiting internationals.
- Almost immediately teams with total foreign lineups appear.

- They win.
- People imitate the winners. (See newspaper articles.)
- Coaches recruit borderline pros. Amateurism becomes an issue. No way to check. The issue is not policed.
- Other coaches: Hmmm!
- Championships, awards, "spoils of war" go to internationals. So does the scholarship money. Simulates the nuclear wars race: "You've got one. I'll get two."
- Pro's become commonplace on college teams.
- Players on professional teams are recruited although in violation of the amateurism rule.
- "Mid-year recruit" becomes the "way to go!"
- Mid-years who don't pan out are "subtlety fired."
- The "tennis rule" is penned.
- Immediately internationals are advised to defer graduation by one course, play the circuit, take the remaining course, and "beat the tennis rule."

Not that any coach would now advise an international to falsify a document, or fabricate a new one. Ever hear of "tampering with transcripts," collegiate basketball?

How about diversity? The enclosed letter to the "Chronicle of Higher Education" was not published. Too xenophobic or bigoted, I suppose.

I really wonder about what the national makeup of national championship rosters, conference champions' rosters, award winners, all-conference choices, etc. would reveal over the past thirty years. Yet, I haven't seen too much rush to recruit wheelchair players or homosexuals. I repeat – diversity on many teams would be the child of a taxpayer from that school's state.

How about the talent pool? Twenty years ago, proponents howled that internationals would broaden our American talent base. All I've seen is limited opportunity for our kids to play or receive a scholarship. What percentage of total tennis scholarship aid goes to internationals? How does limiting our opportunity help our tennis game? Read: Davis Cup loss to Croatia!

My belief is American tennis parents are waking up. Florida parents are way ahead on this issue. Others should know what has happened in Florida. Many universities are beginning to "tier" their programs. Third tier programs get no scholarships. Tennis is often a third tier sport. (See Virginia schools, for example.)

Title IX has caused lots of debate. For whatever reason, many schools have dropped tennis. How's this for logic by athletic directors: Hey, we can't beat those schools with six foreigners anyway. Why not save the scholarships we give tennis and look good on title IX?

There are a growing number of coaches who may not disagree with financial need aid only. What if we gave financial aid to our poor tennis players? Isn't it intended for our needy? I'd rather have financial help for our needy kids than foreign aid given in the name of diversity. You can be guaranteed that if the scholarship money disappears, so will many international tennis players.

grizzled old coach stood and predicted, "...if you allow this, in about two years a Texas team will bring in an all Mexican team and it's all over!" He was wrong. The next spring Mercyhurst College (PA.) produced the team winner consisting of six "freshmen" from Finland. Our coaches made note of that. I know I did. And you can't blame the coaches. Our high schools feature African American men's basketball players almost exclusively. Soon the Colleges followed suit. High school girls, then college women. Perhaps no sport changed ethnicities faster than women's college basketball from mostly white to mostly black.

My guess is that football and basketball will continue to feature more black players. Not one thing wrong with that. However it has social and sport implications. First is the concussion issue that is on the front burner now. My strong belief is that many black kids join the military because of unfair and limited options. Is it not wrong to steer any group of young people to war's dangers and horrors? It doesn't stretch the intellect too far to see similarities with the ever growing dangers of football. Are we forcing some smaller kids into an arena where they are dangerously over matched?

Back to tennis, and there is a connection. As bigger and better athletes reject football and maybe even basketball, wouldn't it be wise for tennis to make a bee-line to recruit them to the tennis court? I can tell you right now those people are selecting other sports in the South. Soccer and now Lacrosse are draining these guys and girls their way.

Want one main reason? Duh- college scholarships?

A popular and long held notion is that pro tennis youngsters should avoid college. I believe now more than ever those are rare creatures. Most of our elites have come out of a basic structure or path. First the home and the parents: Chris Evert, Jim Connors, McEnroe, the Bryans, the Williams sisters, and the most recent ones Isner, Steve Johnson, and now Shelby Rogers. The best players in the world can be cited (Rafa and Uncle Tony. The Joker is making a case for "best ever" and he came for a one court Serbian town with a woman pro). Most Americans had connections to college tennis, or at least it was in the back of their minds. The next step was the local pros. Try Pete Sampras and Dr. Fischer. Clubs and their pros were a main cog in the wheel.

Another quantum change when so many academies took kids away from their homes too soon. No matter who or how much you pay some one, will they pay the same amount of attention as a loving parent. Some academies were guilty of throw away kids, drugs, limited education, and limited help for those other than the ones who could make the academies shine.

Colleges do a much better job at a more mature age. As academies purport to do, colleges house, feed, train student/athletes with a lot more worthwhile education thrown in. Both are expensive. The expense and the value of scholarships all the more reason to motivate tennis as a sport choice for the talented.

One personal guess is that Title IX was unjustly blamed for some schools who dropped tennis. I wonder how many Athletic Directors silently came to a conclusion similar to this?

1. All sports are counted in the standings for our 'Conference Cup'?
2. We are in a conference with four good tennis teams with all foreign teams and we give 8 girls and 41/2 boys grants to internationals.
3. I can find a better place for that size of budget.

Families, free play, clubs and pros, junior tournaments, to college. Injury doesn't take away your education. Maybe four years of college tennis is the answer.

There is one specific place I believe American tennis should focus on getting better. Many high schools don't have teams. Many teams have limited budgets. Many coaches receive little or no compensation. Many local pros could help train new or limited coaches and players. Some talented

players elect to not play high school tennis. My strong belief is that playing for your team is important. And I believe a pro and coach working together can be very productive. The game is the best teacher. To play an extra twenty matches for your high school can't hurt.

My book, THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK of TENNIS is geared at helping junior and high school teachers, coaches, players and teams. Private funding provided this guide for all 711 boys and girls high school coaches in North Carolina's public schools.

I am still wondering about data that a group of "worker bees" or tennis organizations could find out.

1. I betcha 75% of scholarship aid in tennis goes to internationals.
2. I wonder how many at all levels (NCAA I, II, and III, and NAIA, and Junior Colleges) have an all foreign team. State schools?
3. What percentage of awards go to predominantly international teams? All conference, all regional, all americans, outstanding player, outstanding freshman?
4. How many second children elected another sport after seeing a sibling lose a valuable grant to a first choice school.
5. Isn't it about time some of our organizations screw up their courage and use their time, money and efforts to make these facts available to American parents and players. The USTA, NCAA, ITA, NFHSAA, athletic directors, administrators.
6. What legal statute keeps us from taking care of Americans first. What does the legal term "state actor" mean to this issue. What really came down when the ITA voted in an allotment of 50% aid for our kids, then acquiesced to the "big boys"?
7. Would anyone foot the bill for a court decision? How about running a bluff. Try this: 1. The NCAA has a ton of money 2. The USTA has a ton of money. 3. The NCAA really cares about the money sports, i.e. football and basketball. Tennis, not so much. If the USTA, whose first love is tennis, walked to the courthouse with a big of money, who would blink first?

July 28, 2013 by [ethomasparham](#)

## ROME BURNING? (76)

- [Uncategorized](#)
- [2 Comments](#)
- [Edit](#)

In the early part of the last century the North Carolina legislature passed a law prohibiting the teaching of evolution in the public schools. Asked about this action a young Sam Erwin concluded that the one good thing about this action is that it "...absolves the monkeys of the jungle of any responsibility for the behavior of the human race in general, and the North Carolina Legislature in particular." If the Republicans get by with their intentions in Raleigh, it won't be the News and Observers fault ( "...lot of water under the bridge, lot of other stuff too. Don't get up gentlemen, I'm only passing through" ( THINGS HAVE CHANGED-BOB DYLAN). Lots of issues. I recently expressed my concerns about education and what's going on with teachers. A retired highway patrolman said he had carried a gun his whole career, and his profession had often been neglected compared to N.C.teachers. I don't question that profession and all they do and risk. Firemen, Policemen, and the Military. I did note later that he had retired at age 52 And that perhaps soon, wise teachers may want to carry a weapon also. School teachers have long been underpaid. Add integration and discipline problems and many good teachers, coaches, and administrators have abandoned education. If we continue to whittle away at this rate (abandoning tenure, cutting out aides, larger class sizes, no reward for increased education, no scholarships for talented future in-state teachers, larger classroom sizes, undermining the values of public schools and funding for them, etc.), who will fill the slots? Think for a minute. Fire Donald and hire Daffy? Who do you hire, Mr. Superintendent, or N.C.legislator, when no competent people will take the jobs? Haven't we seen too many sorry people who gravitate to youngsters, if allowed. Who takes a job no one else will have? Aren't some of the problems we have with tenure because we had to hire improperly vetted dregs. How can the proposed changes not make things horribly worse!

The old school tennis coaches will remember when we had to referee our own matches. Talk about a mess. Finally they funded one official. Often these people were retirees: Nice people who were underpaid but wanted to help. Pretty soon some of the young coaches who hadn't witnessed matches minus a referee, took this as an opportunity to argue with these sometimes volunteers, or underpaid godsend. It wasn't long before you couldn't find an official. And those you got didn't know an "unforced error" from most first marriages. It is time, North Carolina, to get up on your hind legs and stop this ruinous, dangerous bunch. PS. Two contemporary authors of note made comments that are related: 1. Pat Conroy from MY READING LIFE: "...if anyone knows a more important profession than teaching i wish they would let me know what it is before I die." And 2. From Malcolm Gladwell's OUTLIERS: Paraphrasing Mr. Gladwell's "outlier" concerning education, he contends that the most important factor in education is that each individual child must have at an early age (pre-kindergarten) a loving person who reads to the child and conveys the importance of reading to that child.



November 11, 2014 by [ethomasparham](#)

## AMNESTY FOR AMERICA? (104)

- [philosophy](#)
- [1 Comment](#)
- [Edit](#)

People in my state, North Carolina, read daily about the “UNC ATHLETIC SCANDAL”. Lots of opinions and pretty heated topic because of the importance of sports in our area. Particularly college Men’s Basketball. What to do about this conundrum? Pretty tough issues involved. “...once the \*X##@ is out of the bull!”—Willie Nelson.

There are a lot of similarities between this and the immigration issue in America. Like kudzu, the problems are everywhere and growing. Not to minimize the Chapel Hill problems, but this not theirs alone: “I’m just the leper with the most fingers left.” Lots of staff meetings in college and universities (Athletic Directors, Academic Advisors, Coaches, etc.). NOTE: CEO AND TRUSTEES TOO!

Is it time for some straight talk. Stout action. What is this really about? Sports? Money? Ego? Education? RACE? All of the above and maybe more, much more? Remember all the people who have gotten in trouble talking about race in America (Jimmy “the Greek” for example?) Yet how do we deal with the “...elephant in the room”? In 2007 I wrote PLAY IS WHERE LIFE IS. I braved the following comment that may have been prescient:

“Much has been written about the “Black Athlete”. There is no question in my mind about the talent level of these athletes. Coming from the the South and being a minister’s son there was little question, early on about God. Certainly, in my mind he was male, white and looked a whole lot like Santa Claus. Surely too, he was lovable, kind, and simply a good “supreme being”. After watching sports in America the last forty years my guess about God’s nature is more Machiavellian. After watching America make a religion out of sports, while at the same time mistreating the black population so badly, I picture God’s role differently. My guess is we’ve put so much emphasis on sport He’s peeved. Think not? Watch where parents are at 11:00 am on Sundays if their child is in a soccer match. Hmm? Did God say “I’ll give these fanatics a dilemma!” He then put this glorious athletic talent in many of the Black population, and now He’s “up there” giggling at what America is doing with sports. Please don’t get me wrong. The Black athletes have paid their dues in practice, injury, and sweat just like anyone. Probably more so. Integration caused a lot of headaches in the alignment of conferences, etc. Who plays and who you play, is important, and alignment turned things upside down.

I do believe Proposition 48 (the academic guidelines for collegiate eligibility) yielded a lot of good. I wonder about the S.A.T and fairness, but it is a “hard” number. My guess is the best barometer for academic success is the athlete’s class rank. With exceptions, most of those who could achieve class rank had enough ability to succeed. Some can’t spell S.A.T. Some people are aberrant bastards who have no business in higher education. It always irked me to know that the beauty, education, and joy of collegiate sports was often wasted on an “athlete” who had no intention of benefiting from the true value of Sports in Education.”

David Epstein’s book, THE SPORT GENE, is truly informative. True research on nature vs. nurture in the development of elite athletes. I recommend it to anyone interested in sports and related research. Just very limited few comments from THE SPORT GENE:



"The broad truth is that nature and nurture are so interlaced in any realm of athletic performance that the answer is always: it's both".

"No one can argue that there was selection of the fittest slave." (Yannis Pitsiladis)

"I believe there is a superior athletic gene in us." (Michael Johnson, sprinter)

"Here's the conclusion of Peter Matthews, the track-and-field statistician who compiled those numbers:"In these days of computer games, sedentary pursuits, and driving our children to school—It is the 'hungry' fighter or the poor peasant who has the endurance background, and the incentive to work on it, who makes the top distance runner."

The News and Observer has jumped all over the "Carolina Scandal". Who knows what will come down as truth. One obvious fact is race as an issue is in bold print.

Comments from the public on an N & O article entitled UNC SCANDAL, with literacy advocate, Mary Carey, posing the blunt question "...why do we fail to teach so many black males how to read?" (Nov. 10, 2014).

Samples of public comments:

..."why couldn't these athletes maintain eligibility through standard classes?" The answer; because we as a state and as a nation don't teach young black males how to read."

"I can tell you first hand that the reasons many of them are struggling readers are very complex. Many of them come from families of very weak readers who don't have the time, energy or resources to reinforce the first thing that is happening at school. ... This is a cultural problem as much as it is an educational problem. "It is complicated and hard to watch and as most kids move on and those who have never valued reading lag and then get stuck behind it is heart breaking."

"I taught MY children how to read. My children taught THEIR children how to read. It takes parents to learn to read—parents who read to their children. Kindergarten is almost too late, if the home is not a center of learning."

"Their communities are failing them for telling them that getting an education is pointless."

"Give the parents a livable wage so they won't have to work two or three full time jobs, and they might be able to devote some time to their kids education. And stronger families overall, including present fathers, are also critical."

If we really want solve or better the issue, then "...let us not talk falsely, the hour is getting late." The fact that nature and nurture, right or wrong or a combination of both, have produced some truly marvelous black American athletes is obvious and a truth. By the same token it is immoral not to recognize and take significant responsibility for the same kind of results the sins of slavery have yielded.

Solution? No easy answers here. I once had to dig up a septic tank with a shovel. My "supervisor" said "...just keep pecking away at it."

Another observation came from coaching tennis. Tons of internationals. Doesn't take long to realize there are good and bad of all denominations. Swedes, Dutch, American, black, white, men, women, gay or straight, young or old. People should be judged on their individual merit.

M.L. Carr of Boston Celtics fame, was recently inducted into the NORTH CAROLINA SPORTS HALL OF FAME. Inductees and their spouses opened ceremonies with an entering parade. Some were shocked to see M.L. being accompanied by a male? His acceptance explained that the man with him, a white man, had taken taken a young black Wallace N.C. youngster with no ties, and mentored him all the way to hall of fame status. Carr added information about his current efforts his foundation offers to at risk kids. Maybe one at a time is one way.

I buy any copy of DAYS OF GRACE by Arthur Ashe I can find. Eventually I find a young African American to give it to. Bill Cosby is another leader. listen to leaders. Bob Dylan looking back,"...I would be kinder." Simple. I found local examples. Leo Barker coached with us briefly at ELON. Coach Barker was an all pro linebacker with the super bowl Cincinnati Bengals. A black Panamanian and one of 16 siblings he was impressive any number of ways. Not long after his first practice I overheard one of our black standouts comment, "... Coach Leo, he doesn't go for that victimology crap. My friend and great coach Henry Trevathan speaks truth. He made have issued our fundamental challenge recently in a private conversation: "Tom,it is useless to try anything until families start to function again." Malcom Gladwell says reading lovingly to every child is indispensable. Without this parental effort failure is imminent.

Parenting.

My golfing buddy, Jimmy Smith, is one of eleven. What would your Dad do if you or your siblings were accused of wrong doing? I asked. "We had to tell him the whole truth and pledge not to do it again. Still had to take his punishment, but truth yielded some lesser sentence. Lying was hell to pay."

How about Amnesty for College Athletics. The deafening silence out there now surrounds the arena.

Nobody telling Daddy the truth? Hoping he doesn't find out about me?

How about we all fess up, take the medicine and start clean. Put admissions back in charge of admission.

No ticky,no laundry! Best first move? Stop admitting the thugs of any kind, no matter how good they are.

They take up valuable slots that good kids will fill. Most all who replace the thugs will be black. The smart ones are good too!

Maybe college sports programs are not alone. Some others may need a cleansing moment. The business world, the catholic church, religion, politics....AMNESTY FOR AMERICA.

JUNE 18, 2016 JUNE 18, 2016 by ETHOMASPARHAM

# THUGS (161)

- UNCATEGORIZED
- 1 COMMENT
- 

Back to the “vacuum theory”. Earlier I was warned about using the word “thug” to describe some athletes. I had used the term as a quote from a current college football player on a top ten Division I team. The paraphrased estimate was that of the 100 best football players on his team about 60 were thugs, who neither had the ability nor the inclination to be a legitimate student.

Question one: Are there not thugs among every race, gender, nation?

Next—is the current paradigm for football teams 20-60-20? Or twenty better, brighter kids with lesser ability, sixty thugs, and another twenty who though not quite ready or good enough, have the ability to benefit from the opportunity now availed to them?

Assuming the Admission Departments would not admit the inadmissible, who would fill the void when all the thugs were vacuumed out?

“Now you are sounding like a racist, Coach. You want some white kids to fill the void”!

I doubt that would happen. Each year less and less affluent youngsters elect to play football. Good or bad? True either way.

Given the great vacuum who would be the recipients? Surely a black youngster. Maybe smaller, a step slower, etc. But also with his earlier education efforts and a real desire for and belief in, education and upward mobility, isn't he a better choice in the long run. We have seen what happens to the thugs, post eligibility. But in the long run wouldn't everyone from the youngster to the country benefit, given the “cleansing”?

Ah, but that earlier “admissions assumption”.

We just got a ruling on UNC CHAPEL HILL. Lots of “rock throwing”. But it is not a Carolina problem. It is not just an athletics problem, or just an education problem, or a race problem. It is a money problem. Follow me:

1. Your school hires an admission chairperson who will uphold sound guidelines. WHAT NEXT?
2. A coach wants thug wonderful in to save the day. (or his job). Admission holds firm. NEXT?
3. Coach goes to Athletics Director: “If we don't get this guy in he's going to Dastardly University next door”
4. A.D. off to the President's office thinking “...if we lose a couple of more years....”
5. So far “Captain Admissions” hasn't wavered, but isn't that the President who called.
6. The Prez hangs tough. His next call is from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.
7. “President Waffles, if we don't compete, three of the “Deep Pockets Five” say to pull their donor cards.”

MONEY DOESN'T TALK, IT SWEARS. (DYLAN).

The “Carolina Scandal” is the “moment” again (remember Bill Friday and The Knight Commission). But the issue is money.



# ELON

## COLLEGE

OFFICE OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

June 10, 1993

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This letter is an open letter to anyone interested in College tennis from a college coach who has been coaching for thirty years.

I went to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National Tennis Meeting this year and listened to the comments regarding the preponderance of international students. Due to the fact that our school is moving to the NCAA-II, I uncharacteristically made no comment. At the same time, this issue has been a real problem for me and a number of other people for a long time. As I listened to the arguments for no limit, no quota, or no restrictions on the number of international players in American college tennis, I could not help but have some real questions about what is going on.

First of all, let me preface everything I say by the fact that I have not only coached some outstanding international players, I have witnessed some great tennis kids, boys and girls from all over the world. For example, I coached Roland Thornqvist his first year in American college tennis before he went to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Yet, it appears to me that unless we have some sort of limit to what's going on, we are going to become totally engulfed by the international players. Some of these kids are great people and great students. This year I coached an international player who is perhaps the brightest student I have ever come in contact with. While I have strong feelings for limits, I have never one time suggested that we should prohibit any foreign kids from playing in American college tennis. Contrarily, the old argument that for years and years kept many from taking a stand has been shot down, and I think that was proven by the NAIA in 1993. The NAIA lawyers concluded that if, in fact, the NAIA wanted to limit the number of foreign players, it had the legal ability to do so. A father of one of my tennis players is a lawyer. He researched the law to the point that he concluded that neither the NAIA nor the NCAA are "state actors", and therefore, not beholding the constitutional law. Therefore, anything that a private organization wants to do for the good of the organization, they can do. I think this should probably be the case. Many NAIA coaches held on to "unconstitutional" a long

NAIA National Champions  
Football... 1980, 1981  
Golf... 1982  
Tennis... 1990



time, but this year these coaches concluded by a vote of 51 to 7 that they did not want limitations. Not that they could not have any limitations, they simply did not want any.

When I sit and listen to their arguments, a number of facts bother me and I cannot avoid questions. While I only coach men's tennis, this is also becoming an issue for many American collegiate sports such as basketball, golf, soccer, track, women's sports, and for high school sports. And I would have some real serious questions for the people who so strongly propose that we continue down this path. One question would be: "Don't the people involved realize that for every international player we bring into this country, we bump an American? We bump an American child's opportunity to gain a scholarship and we bump an American child's opportunity to win."

Over and over I hear coaches saying, particularly in the small colleges, that "... my school is not good enough to attract a great or a good American player." If I were the president of a coach who said that at a National meeting, I would probably fire that employee. I heard at our NAIA meeting this year the statement that "American girls are so sorry that they won't practice for five minutes." That is really a problem for me, having seen the great American girls, particularly in our neighborhood, who practice 300 days a year - two hours a day plus. For a person to say that the American child is a sorry person or player who won't practice, I find that offensive.

Probably, the most offensive statement that I hear made is that the people who are for a limit or quota are bigoted people who are against the Jewish people as well as the African American player. My question to these people is: "Who is bumping our American Jewish kids or our African American players?" They are not the children of the Ku Klux Klan! It is very difficult for me to be accused of bigotry by a coach who is willing to sell out the children of the country where he/she coaches. These are the people who will simply order a foreign kid as if placing an order from the L. L. Bean Catalog, because it is easier to do.

I hear people argue that we are now moving toward "diversity" in this country. But when we reduce our draw of 256 NAIA players to 30 out of 32 foreign players, how diverse is this as far as American kids go? What opportunity does an American have to win moving through this field?

Two years ago in a NAIA meeting, I proposed that we move to a principle that allowed us to give two-thirds of all institutionally controlled scholarship money, athletic or otherwise, to American players. This does not mean that a foreign kid could not play, nor does it mean that an international player could not be given a scholarship. It simply means that two-thirds of our money would be reserved for our own children. The way many small college coaches with two or three scholarships are operating now is they give the money to their top players. They need a good one, two, or three players at the top of the line-up, so what they do is give that money



to the international players and then count on the Americans to walk on, or to fight for what little money is left.

The problem of amateurism seems to me to be effecting all arenas of collegiate sports, and I think tennis has its own special problems. I think it is an indefensible position to say to me as an American parent that my child has to be an amateur, but because we cannot police the foreign countries they are allowed, in fact, to do about anything they want to do. In the NAIA ten years ago, the way to win the National tournament was to play with some borderline washout professionals who did not have anything else to do but come over here, be fed, and play tennis. Now we have moved to the point, and I think this pervades all divisions of college tennis, that really the only people who have a chance to win are people who are not borderline pros, they are people who have already played professionally.

I had an 18-year old American freshman this year who played the round that determined whether he was All-American or not against a freshman who was 25 years old and was rumored to have been number 250 once on the ATP computer. Two years ago a girl, if serious rumors hold true, played in the NAIA who had made \$43,000 and won a car. When the NCAA Rule Book's first rule on amateurism says: "...if he/she has ever taken pay for play then they are ineligible," and we allow people from other countries to do this and turn our back on it, not only are we being hypocritical we are really limiting our own children to the point that they will never have a chance to win. When one of the top ranking officers in our own college tennis organization says that "My intention is to recruit professionals, too," then I think we have got a problem on our hands. As I have said, I think this applies to more sports than tennis. Perhaps when one of the two money sports, one being football and one being men's basketball, becomes involved somebody may pay attention. When we discuss Civil Rights issues in America, we may learn from the African American community that if we give college basketball scholarships to people from all over the world, we are taking away one of their really clear-cut opportunities. Certainly, African Americans should have any opportunity that any child has in America, but to give basketball scholarships to foreign kids in large proportions may be where we really see this issue come to the fore and I think justifiably.

I would ask the NAIA coaches who argue openly for no limitations, "What were your impressions when you saw Division I superpower recruiters come to our NAIA tournament?" This is a tournament that is not for junior colleges, but a tournament comprised of 4-year schools. And to watch these people parade around in their team uniforms! How did they feel about that? These big-time coaches realize that 3 out of the top 8 quarterfinalist in the NCAA Men's Division I in 1993 were players who have played in the NAIA. I really wonder about the ethics of openly recruiting NAIA players and allowing it to happen.

My fellow coaches argue that the "paste is out of the tube", that there is nothing that they can do about the situation. I contend that




we can do something. We can go to international tennis organizations and tell them to educate their 14-15 year old kids that these are American rules that apply as far as academic admission, eligibility, and amateurism in America. If you want to be qualified to play American college tennis, abide by these rules from the ground up. Then computerize this thing and go back to these countries and ask them if their players are eligible according to our rules. If not, their kids are ineligible. If the countries are not honest about their players, prohibit all players from that country from playing over here.

After thirty years of coaching, I don't really blame the coaches. The coaches are like rats in a maze trying to find a way to win. The "American win syndrome" has dictated a whole lot of these problems. There is no question about that. I think it is up to the NCAA, NAIA, USTA, ITA, etc. Again, American parents should demand of the coaches and of the institutions that we provide opportunities for American children. Monetarily there are only two kinds of returns: (1) if you have an extremely talented player - and I have had maybe one or two who could feed themselves playing the game, then that is one opportunity to recoup all the money that goes into your tennis juniors in this country, and (2) the only other way that you can make any financial restitution for all the parental involvement, and the involvement of the juniors, is that a kid gets a college scholarship. I attended the ITA (Intercollegiate Tennis Association) Board Meeting two years ago and the ITA asked the USTA for money for college tennis. Scott Perelman commented, "...that we asked the USTA too much with little help - that the wind was blowing but the trees were not moving." My contention to the USTA is that if the ITA asks you for money you need to say to them "... that we will help your college tennis if you will provide scholarships for our American children."

In conclusion, I urge the major tennis powers, organizations, taxpayers, parents of America to really investigate this issue. It is not a big-time money issue like football or basketball, but it is important to our children. I think the time has come that we have some sort of control over the scholarship allotment for our kids. It is also mandatory that we deal with the amateurism issue. If we are ever going to have any kind of control, or measure of playing field for college tennis, we need the same set of rules for both admission and eligibility for all players regardless of what country they may call home.

Sincerely,

  
Tom Parham  
Men's Tennis Coach

TP:dg



INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS COACHES ASSOCIATION

David A Benjamin, Executive Director

**MEMORANDUM**

April 23, 1992

To: ITCA Board of Directors, Sheila McInerney, Jeff Frank, Rick Evrard, Dan Calandro

From: David A Benjamin

Re: Foreign Player Scholarships

As we all know, one of the most controversial areas involving collegiate tennis is the issue of scholarships given to foreign players. Over the past years, we have been asked innumerable questions about this by the media as well as members of the USTA and many concerned parents. It has always been our understanding that there are Constitutional constraints preventing an Association from passing any formal legislation which would limit scholarships given to foreign players. Last week I raised this question with Rick Evrard, NCAA Director of Legislative Services, who said his initial instinct was that it could be met with legal opposition, but he would look into it further.

This week I have just received the enclosed letter from an Illinois attorney, Mr. John Morel, in which he states that the "law does not prohibit such regulation." I plan to discuss this matter in more detail over the phone with Mr. Morel, and to follow up with further conversation with the NCAA and other appropriate authorities.

In the meanwhile, I am bringing this matter to your attention in order that you might discuss this with the coaches at our ITCA Annex Membership Meetings in May. If the points raised by John Morel are correct, it might be time for the ITCA and the NCAA Tennis Committee to explore this issue in depth.

I would appreciate having your ideas and reactions from the coaches after your discussions at the ITCA Annex Meetings.

Best wishes.

Yours truly,

David A Benjamin  
Executive Director

P.S. I am enclosing a fact sheet put together by Joe Lynch about foreign players and collegiate rankings.

P.O. BOX 71, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08544  
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WILLIAM M. GOEBEL  
OF COUNSEL  
RICHARD F. DUNN  
(1988-1993)

April 14, 1992

I.T.C.A.  
P.O. Box 71  
Princeton, NJ 08544

Gentlemen:

I have recently learned that the I.T.C.A. has taken the position that any regulation of foreign tennis players is prohibited by law. I have thoroughly researched and reviewed the law regarding this issue and wish to inform you that the law does not prohibit such regulation.

If your association has legal counsel, I'm confident that he is fully conversant with the law of the higher education, and, specifically, that as it pertains to intercollegiate athletics. I encourage you to confer with your counsel on this very important issue. If he does not concur with my opinion, or if you do not have legal counsel, I am readily available to discuss this issue with you or him by telephone, or, if need be, in person. Moreover, I am willing to provide you, or him, with all of the law as it pertains to this issue so that this matter can be decided on the basis of a policy decision. This problem is not going to go away. If anything, it is going to become worse as it pervades other sports in addition to tennis, track and soccer, the predominantly foreign athletic teams.

The issue should be fully discussed and decisions made regarding it on the basis of merit. The respective members of your Board, and those of other similar associations, should state what their position is, and then vote on it on the basis of policy. The law permits you to do that in regulating the number of foreign tennis players that may participate at various levels of intercollegiate tennis. No association should hide behind the shield of the law in order to avoid considering this very difficult issue.

The National Junior College Athletic Association (N.J.C.A.A.), based upon their legal counsel's analysis, which concurs with mine, has provided for regulations as to the number of foreign students that may participate. Their action, and that of your Association, is not "State action". They are permitted, as your Association is, to do this under the law. Minnesota also had adopted regulations

I.T.C.A.

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April 14, 1992

which the total number of foreign athletes is limited. There are a variety of methods, too numerous to mention here. Some regulation is done based upon the ratio of the total number of foreign students to the total students enrolled; some are as a percentage of the total team members; and some are simply by number.

As stated above, I am willing to confer with you or your counsel on the state of the law on this very important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

  
John L. Morel

JLM:cjs

## FOREIGN PLAYERS IN VOLVO TENNIS/COLLEGIATE RANKINGS

	Women	Men
<b>Division I</b>	27%	45%
<b>Division II</b>	16%	48%
<b>Division III</b>	15%	7.8%
<b>NAIA</b>	52%	94%
<b>JU CO</b>	60%	88%
<b>CA JU CO</b>	5.7%	18.2%

- \* 12 of Top 25 men's teams (48%) have 0 or 1 foreign player in the top six
- \* 9 of Top 25 men's teams (36%) have 2 or 3 foreign players in the top six
- \* 4 of Top 25 men's teams (16%) have more than 3 foreign players in the top six

- \* 14 of Top 25 women's team (56%) have 0 or 1 foreign player in the top six
- \* 9 of Top 25 women's teams (36%) have 2 or 3 foreign players in the top six
- \* 2 of Top 25 women's teams (8%) have more than 3 foreign players in the top six
- \* 9 of Top 10 women's teams have 0 or 1 foreign players in the top six
- \* No Top 20 women's teams have more than 50% foreign players in the top six
- \* 21 of Top 25 women's teams have less than 50% foreign players in the top six

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WILLIAM M. GOEBEL  
OF COUNSEL

RICHARD F. DUNN  
(1888-1963)

April 15, 1992

Ms. Dede Allen  
201 South Biscayne Boulevard  
10th Floor  
Miami, FL 33131

Dear Ms. Allen:

I have recently learned that a number of college and university, and national and regional tennis associations have taken the position that any regulation of foreign tennis players is prohibited by law. I have thoroughly researched and reviewed the law regarding this issue and wish to inform you that the law does not prohibit such regulation.

If your association has legal counsel, I'm confident that he is fully conversant with the law of the higher education, and, specifically, that as it pertains to intercollegiate athletics. I encourage you to confer with your counsel on this very important issue. If he does not concur with my opinion, or if you do not have legal counsel, I am readily available to discuss this issue with you or him by telephone, or, if need be, in person. Moreover, I am willing to provide you, or him, with all of the law as it pertains to this issue so that this matter can be decided on the basis of a policy decision. This problem is not going to go away. If anything, it is going to become worse as it pervades other sports in addition to tennis, track and soccer, the predominantly foreign athletic teams.

The issue should be fully discussed and decisions made regarding it on the basis of merit. The respective members of your Association, and those of other similar associations, should state what their position is, and then vote on it on the basis of policy. The law permits you to do that in regulating the number of foreign tennis players that may participate at various levels of intercollegiate tennis. No association should hide behind the shield of the law in order to avoid considering this very difficult issue.

The National Junior College Athletic Association (N.J.C.A.A.), based upon their legal counsel's analysis, which concurs with mine, has provided for regulations as to the number of foreign students

Ms. Dede Allen

-2-

April 15, 1992

that may participate. Their action, and that of your Association, is not "State action". They are permitted, as your Association is, to do this under the law. Minnesota also had adopted regulations which the total number of foreign athletes is limited. There are a variety of methods, too numerous to mention here. Some regulation is done based upon the ratio of the total number of foreign students to the total students enrolled; some are as a percentage of the total team members; and some are simply by number.

As stated above, I am willing to confer with you or your counsel on the state of the law on this very important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

John L. Morel

JLM:cjs

P.S. I wasn't sure at which address to mail this, so I have sent a copy to your New Jersey and Florida addresses.





## INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

David A Benjamin, Executive Director

May 5, 1994

To: Division I, II, NAIA ITA Coaches  
From: David A Benjamin  
Re: ITA Scholarship Dispersment Policy/NCAA Amateur Eligibility

Dear Coach:

As you are aware from our earlier correspondence, a solid majority of ITA coaches voted in favor of the ITA referendum concerning the allocation of the tennis scholarships. A comprehensive breakdown of the vote is provided in the Winter/Spring ITA NewsMagazine.

The ITA Board of Directors subsequently appointed a special Subcommittee\*, co-chaired by Lin Loring (Indiana) and Kent DeMars (University of South Carolina), which convened over two conference calls to discuss the details of this scholarship dispersment policy and to prepare a policy implementation proposal.

There will be further discussion at all of the ITA Annex Membership meetings, scheduled during your national championships, to determine if additional fine-tuning of this policy is necessary prior to implementation and presentation for adoption to conferences and the NCAA.

The Subcommittee will also be putting forth a suggestion for a special player certification form to be used to assist in confirming amateur eligibility status. This, too, will be discussed in depth at the ITA Annex Membership Meetings.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are also enclosing excerpts of an interpretation of NCAA Bylaw 12.1.2, dealing with Amateur Eligibility status, provided by NCAA Legislative Services; as well as information from the NCAA Eligibility Office explaining how infractions were handled this past year.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the ITA Meetings in May.

Best wishes.

Yours truly,

David A Benjamin  
Executive Director

DAB:N  
Enclosures

\* Subcommittee members: Kent DeMars (South Carolina, Co-chair); Lin Loring (Indiana, Co-Chair); Jan Brogan (Cal); Jessie Dwire (Syracuse); Jeff Frank (Davidson); John Kreis (Alabama); Ann Lebedeff (Cal Poly Pomona); Murray Murdoch (Cedarville); Dick Leach (USC).

*The Governing Body of Collegiate Tennis*



## **INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP ALLOCATION PROGRAM**

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*In response to the wishes of a solid majority of its membership, and in an effort to encourage the growth of American collegiate tennis, the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) is implementing a new policy which mandates that a minimum of 50% of tennis scholarships and/or scholarship funds available at any ITA members institution be awarded to United States citizens or permanent residents. This program will be phased in, beginning in the academic year 1995-96. The basic elements of this program are outlined below:*

### **A. SCHOLARSHIP ALLOCATION**

A minimum of 50% of tennis scholarships and/or scholarship funds must be awarded to domestic players (i.e. US citizens or permanent residents). The one exception to this policy is described below.

1. Men's programs with the full NCAA Division I allotment of 4.5 scholarships must award a minimum of two scholarships to domestic players. Because of the difficulty of splitting up a half scholarship, fully funded men's programs may award the remaining 2.5 scholarships as they choose.

### **B. TIME SCHEDULE**

Starting in the academic year of 1995-96, institutions exceeding the 50% rule must begin awarding all scholarship aid for the fall of 1996 to domestic players until the 50% target is reached.

### **C. APPEALS**

Exceptions to the allocation policy and time schedule must be requested in writing through appeal to an ITA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE which will be established by the ITA Executive Committee.

### **D. COMPLIANCE**

Any institution failing to comply with above sections A or B will not be eligible for ITA rankings, awards programs (i.e. All-American status), and will not be invited to participate in ITA sanctioned or administered events.

### **E. NCAA and CONFERENCE ADOPTION**

The ITA Executive Committee will move as quickly as possible to have the NCAA and its member conferences adopt this program.

# NCAA Interpretation of Amateur Eligibility Rules

*Excerpted from a Report submitted to the ITA on April 19, 1994  
by the NCAA Legislative Services Office*

**Based on NCAA Amateurism Legislation: Bylaw 12.1.1-(a); 12.1.1-(b); 12.1.2-(f); 12.1.2-(g); 12.1.2-(h) and 12.2.3.1:**

It is permissible for an individual to participate in a competitive event (e.g., tennis tournament) in which prize money will be awarded conditioned on an individual's place finish or performance in the event, provided he or she does not receive prize money for participating in the event. This would include the promise of prize money to be received following completion of the individual's intercollegiate athletics eligibility in the applicable sport. It is permissible for an individual to receive actual and necessary expenses from a nonprofessional organization that is sponsoring the event, provided such expenses are not conditioned on the individual's place finish or performance in the event.

An individual jeopardizes his or her eligibility if the individual accepts pay in the form of cash that is based on or tied to the individual's place finish or performance in the competitive event, even if such earnings do not exceed the individual's actual and necessary expenses to participate in the tournament.

\* \* \* \* \*

***Please review the following situations where an individual will not have jeopardized eligibility for intercollegiate competition in tennis:***

*An individual participates in a competitive event (e.g., tennis tournament) sponsored by a non-professional organization in which prize money is awarded to participants based on their place finish in the event. Prior to the competition, the nonprofessional sponsor has agreed to provide the individual's transportation to and from the event as well as \$100 for each day the individual participates in the competitive event to cover the individual's meals and lodging (assume that the \$100 a day is a reasonable amount to cover meals and lodging). The individual participates in the event for three days and could receive \$1,000 based on his or her place finish in the event. The individual accepts the \$300 (and transportation expenses to and from the event) and the return ticket home.*

or

*An individual participates in a competitive event (e.g., tennis tournament) sponsored by a nonprofessional organization in which prize money is awarded to the participants based on their place finish in the event. The nonprofessional sponsor has agreed to reserve a pool of funds to provide actual and necessary expenses to the amateur participants in the competition. The pool of funds will be based on the potential earnings based on the place finish of all the amateur participants in the event. In other words, if a participant decides not to accept the prize money based on place finish, the earnings will be retained by the nonprofessional organization sponsoring the event and will be placed in a pool to cover the actual and necessary expenses of amateur competitors. The sponsors agree to provide each amateur participating in the event a reasonable amount of expenses (e.g., \$100 a day) to cover the individual's actual and necessary expenses while participating in the event. The individual participates in the event for four days and could receive \$2,000 prize money based on his or her performance in the event. The sponsor provides the individual with \$400 and transportation to and from the event to cover his or her actual and necessary expenses.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Nonprofessional sponsors of competitive events that wish to make funds available to cover the actual and necessary expenses of amateur participants in the event may do so provided the expenses are a uniform, reasonable amount to cover the participant's actual and necessary expenses are not based in any manner on the individual's place finish or provided directly out of the individual's prize money earnings in the event. It is advisable for such an agreement to be included either in the application or entry form for the event or for some arrangement to be made with the individual prior to participation in the event. Thus, the individual will understand that he or she will be receiving a uniform, reasonable amount of funds to cover actual and necessary expenses for each day of participation in the event, regardless of how well he or she performs in that event. Such an arrangement will not jeopardize the individual's amateur status in the applicable sport.

\* \* \* \* \*

The ITA is in the process of developing an NCAA approved form for an amateur tennis player to present to a tournament director of a prize money event prior to his or her participation in a tournament. Once completed by the participant and signed by the tournament director, this form will serve as acceptable documentation for NCAA Amateur Eligibility purposes. We expect to have this form completed and approved by NCAA Legislative Services in time for distribution at our ITA Annex Membership Meetings this month in Athens, GA and Notre Dame, Indiana.

## Summary Provided by NCAA Eligibility Office

April 29, 1994

The recent and numerous incidents of violations of the NCAA amateur eligibility rules have precipitated a great deal of concern among ITA collegiate tennis programs. The ITA has voiced these concerns to the NCAA Legislative Services and NCAA Eligibility offices, and asked that an explanation be provided to the ITA membership of how the NCAA has been dealing with the amateur eligibility violations in 1993-94, and how they intend to deal with these violations in the future.

### 1993-94

According to the NCAA Eligibility Office, the present terms by which a student-athlete may retain his or her amateur eligibility status and not be in violation of NCAA legislation include:

1. The player completes the USTA amateur reimbursement form and is reimbursed for his/her actual and necessary expenses, and/or
2. The player is reimbursed for his or her actual and necessary expenses through an amateur pool

The NCAA Eligibility Office Staff has further determined that although the following situation constitutes an NCAA technical violation, immediate restoration of amateur eligibility status without conditions would be provided if:

1. The player loses in the first round of a tournament and accepts prize money for the first round loss, and
2. The player does not advance further than the first round

### 1994-95

It should be noted that the NCAA has, in its estimation, handled the amateur eligibility violations presented in 1993-94 with leniency\* and, in the future, increased conditions for restoration may be imposed, except for prospective student athletes already recruited, who will begin college in the fall of 1994.

\* Most players who were found in violation of NCAA amateur rules have had their eligibility status restored after immediately sitting out the equivalent of 10% of their team matches (e.g., in most cases three matches).

# TENNIS SCHOLARSHIP DISPERSEMENT REPORT

## OVERALL RESULTS

A total of 554 forms were received, of which 285 were from coaches of men's programs and 269 were from coaches of women's programs.

Of the 554 forms received, 402 (73%) were in favor of the proposal that 50% of an institutions allocated tennis scholarships be awarded to American players (PROPOSAL). Of these 402 in favor, 202 were coaches of men's programs and 200 were coaches of women's programs. Of these 402 in favor, 65 had no tennis scholarships to offer, making the adjusted total in favor of the PROPOSAL 337. This translates to 61% per of the total forms received.

Of the 554 forms received, 193 (35%) were in favor of the 75% of an institution's allocated tennis scholarships being awarded to American players. Of these 193 in favor, 97 were coaches of men's programs and 96 were coaches from women's programs. Of these 193 in favor, 31 had no scholarships to offer, making the adjusted total in favor of 75% to American players 162. This translates to 29% of the total forms received.

Of the 554 forms received, 152 (27%) were opposed to any proposed limit in dispersement of an institution's allocated tennis scholarships. Of these 152 opposed, 83 were coaches of men's programs and 69 were coaches of women's programs. Of these 152 opposed, 12 had no scholarships to offer, making the adjusted total opposed to the PROPOSAL 140. This translates to 25% of the total forms received.

## DIVISION I

A total of 341 (62%) forms were received by Division I coaches. 172 were from coaches of men's programs and 169 were from coaches of women's programs.

Of the 341 forms received, 234 (69%) were in favor of the proposal that 50% of an institutions allocated tennis scholarships be awarded to American players (PROPOSAL). Of these 231 in favor, 114 were coaches of men's programs and 117 were coaches of women's programs. Of these 341 in favor, 23 had no tennis scholarships to offer, making the adjusted total in favor of the PROPOSAL 208. This translates to 61% per of all Division I forms and 37.5% of the total forms received.

Of the 341 forms received, 107 (31%) were in favor of 75% of an institution's allocated tennis scholarships being awarded to American players. Of these 107 in favor, 48 were coaches of men's programs and 59 were coaches from women's programs. Of these 107 in favor, 10 had no scholarships to offer, making the adjusted total in favor of 75% to American players 97. This translates to 17.5% of the total forms received.

Of the 341 forms received, 107 (31%) were opposed to any proposed limit in dispersement of an institution's allocated tennis scholarships. Of these 107 opposed, 58 were coaches of men's programs and 49 were coaches of women's programs. Of these 107 opposed, 12 had no scholarships to offer, making the adjusted total opposed to the PROPOSAL 96. This translates to 28% of all Division I forms and 17.5% of the total forms received.

*Continued...*

## ***DIVISION II***

A total of 134 (24%) forms were received by Division II coaches. 68 were from coaches of men's programs and 66 were from coaches of women's programs.

Of the 134 forms received, 111 (83%) were in favor of the proposal that 50% of an institutions allocated tennis scholarships be awarded to American players (PROPOSAL). Of these 111 in favor, 57 were coaches of men's programs and 54 were coaches of women's programs. Of these 111 in favor, 24 had no tennis scholarships to offer, making the adjusted total in favor of the PROPOSAL 87. This translates to 65% per of all Division II forms and 16% of the total forms received.

Of the 134 forms received, 56 (42%) were in favor of 75% of an institution's allocated tennis scholarships being awarded to American players. Of these 56 in favor, 33 were coaches of men's programs and 23 were coaches from women's programs. Of these 56 in favor, 11 had no scholarships to offer, making the adjusted total in favor of 75% to American players 45. This translates to 33.5% of all Division II forms and 8% of the total forms received.

Of the 134 forms received, 23 (17%) were opposed to any proposed limit in dispersement of an institution's allocated tennis scholarships. Of these 23 opposed, 11 were coaches of men's programs and 12 were coaches of women's programs. Of these 23 opposed, 0 had no scholarships to offer, keeping the adjusted total opposed to the PROPOSAL 23. This translates to 17% of all Division II forms and 4% of the total forms received.

## ***DIVISION NAIA***

A total of 79 forms were received by NAIA coaches. 43 were from coaches of men's programs and 36 were from coaches of women's programs.

Of the 79 forms received, 58 (73%) were in favor of the proposal that 50% of an institutions allocated tennis scholarships be awarded to American players (PROPOSAL). Of these 58 in favor, 30 were coaches of men's programs and 28 were coaches of women's programs. Of these 58 in favor, 16 had no tennis scholarships to offer, making the adjusted total in favor of the PROPOSAL 42. This translates to 53% per of all NAIA forms and 7.6% of the total forms received.

Of the 79 forms received, 30 (38%) were in favor of 75% of an institution's allocated tennis scholarships being awarded to American players. Of these 30 in favor, 16 were coaches of men's programs and 14 were coaches from women's programs. Of these 30 in favor, 10 had no scholarships to offer, making the adjusted total in favor of 75% to American players 20. This translates to 25% of all NAIA forms and 3.6% of the total forms received.

Of the 79 forms received, 21 (27%) were opposed to any proposed limit in dispersement of an institution's allocated tennis scholarships. Of these 21 opposed, 13 were coaches of men's programs and 8 were coaches of women's programs. Of these 21 opposed, 1 had no scholarships to offer, making the adjusted total opposed to the PROPOSAL 20. This translates to 25% of all NAIA forms and 3.6% of the total forms received.



# CONFERENCE BREAKDOWN

*Seven conferences were broken down for the purposes of this report:*

## **ACC**

A total of 15 forms were received from members of the ACC. This represents 4.3% of the total Division I forms and 2.7% of the total forms received. Of the 15 forms, 100% were in favor of the proposal that 50% of an institution's allocated tennis scholarships be awarded to American players. Of the 15 forms, 7 coaches from men's programs voted in favor and 8 coaches of women's programs voted in favor.

## **BIG 10**

A total of 16 forms were received from members of the Big 10 Conference. This represents 4.6% of the total Division I forms and 2.8% of the total forms received. Of the 16 forms, 13 (81%) were in favor of the PROPOSAL, and 3 (19%) were opposed. Of the 13 in favor, 8 were coaches of men's programs and 5 were coaches of women's programs. Of the 3 opposed; 2 were coaches of men's programs and 1 was a women's program coach.

## **BIG SKY**

A total of 9 forms were received from members of the BIG SKY Conference. This represents 2.6% of the total Division I forms, and 1.6% of the total forms received. Of the 9 forms, 4 (44%) were in favor of the PROPOSAL and 5 (55%) were opposed. Of the 4 in favor; 2 were coaches of men's programs and 2 were coaches of women's programs. Of the 5 opposed; 2 were coaches of men's programs and 3 were coaches of women's programs.

## **ECAC**

A total of 63 forms were received from members of the ECAC. This represents 18% of the total Division I forms, and 11% of the total forms received. Of the 63 forms; 50 (79%) were in favor of the PROPOSAL and 13 (21%) were opposed. Of the 50 in favor; 21 were coaches of men's programs and 29 were coaches of women's programs. Of the 13 opposed; 9 were coaches of men's programs and 4 were coaches of women's programs.

## **PAC-10**

A total of 11 forms were received from members of the PAC-10. This represents 3.2% of the total Division I forms received, and 1.9% of the total forms received. Of the 11 forms; 8 (73%) were in favor of the PROPOSAL and 3 (27%) were opposed. Of the 8 in favor; 3 were coaches of men's programs and 5 were coaches of women's programs. Of the 3 opposed; 2 were coaches of men's programs and 1 was a women's program coach.

## **SEC**

A total of 18 forms were received from members of the SEC. This represents 5.2% of the total Division I forms, and 3.2% of the total forms received. Of the 18 forms; 13 (72%) were in favor of the PROPOSAL and 5 (28%) were opposed. Of the 13 in favor; 5 were coaches of men's programs and 8 were coaches of women's programs. Of the 5 opposed; 3 were coaches of men's programs and 2 were coaches of women's programs.

## **SWC**

A total of 13 forms were received from members of the SWC. This represents 3.8% of the total Division I forms, and 2.3% of the total forms received. Of the 13 forms; 10 (77%) were in favor of the PROPOSAL and 3 (23%) were opposed. Of the 10 in favor; 4 were members of men's programs and 6 were members of women's programs. Of the 3 opposed; 1 was a men's program coach and 2 were coaches of women's programs.



DIV

WHY

Before recruiting foreign players, I tried to recruit Americans but had no luck. The foreign players that we have had here have been the greatest in all aspects

- I MSU administration encourages the University to recruit international students so to diversify the campus and to promote multi-culturalism
- The only way most Midwest schools or cold climate schools can compete is through the recruitment of foreign players
- More effort should be put on fighting restrictions instead of putting more on ourselves
- It would make it impossible for a new team to compete with the best teams. No highly ranked American junior will go to a non-ranked university
- While the number of foreign athletes are increasing there are still sufficient scholarships available for American players at the Division I level
- We are all foreign. Clearly the world is becoming more open not closed. Hurts my school's ability to compete
- I think ITA is out of line. We're out of bounds talking about this. There are other much more important issues
- I will respond in depth with a letter
- I vot yes, but in the case of the guy's team, I think the limit should come on the # of players not funds
- The only way I can compete with bigger schools is by having the best from overseas. You will kill smaller programs if this goes through
- For a smaller school to compete and have a chance of a top 25 ranking, this may be the only way
- A small school like ours will have a hard tim recruiting the top Americans to be competitive with the bigger schools
- It would be a huge disadvantage to Northern schools, to schools with small recruiting budgets, or with less facilities. It would lower the standard of college tennis and lower the number of schools that would be competitive. We should be after the best student-athletes possible like every universtiy area (match, engineering etc). Any restriction would just help the current elite programs
- My institution only allocates 3 - this would limit me to 1.5 foreign players
- It allows us to compete at a national level
- I could write a dozen pages. It would have a NEGATIVE impact on college tennis
- Some universities are not able to draw top American players. In order to be competitive, foreign players are necessary
- Can't get American players to play here for what little money we have to offer. The Americans aren't as good students and student-athletes
- Let's allocate for the entire student-body too! Foreign to me is simply outside state boundaries
- Let's allocate for the entire student-body too! Foreign to me is simply outside state boundaries
- Our program should be able to award scholarships to whomever - US or foreign - and not have our hands "1/2" tied
- These players add to your programs! Foreign players are our best student-athletes. Think globally, act locally. Also, I don't like the tone of this ballot! Culturally, we're close to Canada than Texas!
- Will explain in letter
- Letter to follow
- It is easy for the already established programs to recruit American and foreigners, but younger programs often have to get foreigners to be competitive
- I don't feel that it is proper to establish quotas on this basis. I would prefer bona fide students with 550+ TOEFL
- I believe that this is completely discriminatory & potentially illegal
- I believe this policy is discriminatory and illegal. This is an NCAA matter, not an ITA. Normal NCAA procedures should be followed
- It sounds a lot like discrimination. It also protects the bigger universities by allowing them to bring the better American players
- I strong support 50% limit. I strongly oppose 25% limit.
- I heard this argument in the 60's when blacks integratd basketball, my objection is illegal to foreign players
- USTA is not at all helpful in identifying American prospects. Foreign players add cultural diversity
- I welcome any great player regardless of national origin
- I feel tennis is a international sport, not just US. Also, players tend to have high goals from foreign countries
- Because it is very hard to get high ranked juniors to come to Utah
- See enclosed
- Too many unanswered questions. I'm not opposed to concept just not sure that proposal is fully thought through
- I think it is up to the institution awarding the scholarships to decide how the scholarships should be distributed
- Recruiting competition for US athletes is tough enough. They all want to go to the big schools and have a condescending attitude toward the smaller programs. Foreign students are more receptive
- A limit will impede a program that is attempting to develp & outside of ITA jurisdiction
- This policy is discriminatory. Also it is more restrictive than NCAA regulations - this makes no sense to me
- It discriminate against foreign players. Sunbelt (South & Pacific Coasts schools would have an advantage)

ITA REFERENDUM, COMMENTS BY DIVISION

DIV

WHY

I

I am against such a protectionist policy. Instead let's do a better job of making our young players better! Institutional aid, whether it be tennis, engineering, hockey, whatever, should be up to each school to determine who gets awards

We need foreign players to play in the top 3 positions to be competitive in Division I

I believe it is discrimination against foreigners who want to come to US to get an education. Scholarships should be given to the best players possible regardless of nationality

I feel if this is contested in court,  
we will lose with discrimination

Smaller Division I schools can't attract the top US players. To compete, we must recruit foreign players

In general, I agree with the limitation idea. I do not believe in a team of all foreigners. However, in a given year, I would not want flexibility taken away from me. It is conceivable I would slightly exceed the 50%

Very simple, I want to compete with the best. Can't do that with the American players I can get

Not enough quality American players to go around to all Division I, II, III, NAIA. It will hurt small schools to remain competitive with major institutions and to at least get on a schedule

Recruiting US players is more expensive. NOT fair to programs with less than the maximum number of scholarships

Schools with 8 scholarships could have 4 foreign players whereas schools with only 6 scholarships like us could only have 3 foreign players!!!

Oral Roberts U has students from over 40 countries. Your letter was not objective on the subject! If this rule passes, the large schools will become more dominant and the backwater sites will dwindle

We do not offer scholarships at Ivy League schools. However, we have 2 out of 18 players as foreigners. One is on complete financial aid & the other no aid

First choice is to recruit American student-athletes, but want choice to recruit foreign athlete as well. "The Mix" is also a great learning tool for our team

This vote should be done by division and gender

I am against any restrictions

Everyone should be limited to 2.25 scholarships for foreigners not 50% of budgeted scholarships

Reasons forthcoming

This proposal is discriminatory against foreign student-athletes. If this is adopted, I am confident it will not hold up in court

Foreign players add depth to college tennis and their participation enlightens American players knowledge of other cultures

It is difficult to recruit against the top USA schools without using foreign players

Adds to standard. Plenty of scholarships through Division II & III schools. Our school enjoys broad student base. Colleges strongly oppose this proposed policy

I think the proposal needs further study - possibly send a questionnaire survey to all coaches

Colorado State does not feel it should evaluate foreign players any differently for eligibility for scholarships. Feel that foreign competition raises level of play. We will be fully funded to 8 in women in three years

I believe the fundamental issue is of professionalism, not nationality. Everyone besides the college tennis world seems to know it's a global economy!

It is unAmerican to limit. I recruit players not countries

University recruits international students

SMSU cannot attract the better American tennis players, so in order to have a competitive Div. I team, I must use foreign tennis players

I am extremely opposed to giving significant \$ to foreign players

Fund raise for 1 partial each year

Smaller schools need foreign players to be competitive against large or SEC schools. Equal opportunity. Keep college tennis strong

By limiting the foreign scholarships you protect the powerhouses. YOU take away an avenue for the weaker teams to get better and compete with the top teams. By limiting foreign aid the rich will get richer!

The decision on who to recruit and offer scholarships to should remain with the coaches and not be mandated by the ITA 10% of student body is foreign; 2 foreign athletes were valedictorians in the past 4 years; cultural growth

Foreign players help raise the standard of tennis competition

In order to compete at a high level, sometimes I must have a foreign #1 because high quality American kids like Florida & California

Illegal to discriminate even nation origin - we must not close out foreign player, but bring up our USA standards

I believe it is the school's decision who they award the scholarships to for a year. In 19 years of coaching, I have had 7 foreign athletes. It is something I don't want to do constantly, but it should be my decision

DIV

WHY

I

Level of play would drop & hurt top American players. Also would reduce parity  
 This rule will benefit the schools who are consistently strong and hurt smaller schools  
 Maybe only allowing 3 foreign players aid would be okay, otherwise too restrictive. Have always tried for US kids first  
 We need to work on the waiver policy

II

We provide great financial need; work study etc...  
 Northwood U is a private institution and reserves its rights to allocate scholarship money to any student athlete that meets NCAA eligibility requirements  
 Everyone is equal in my mind  
 In the long run it hurts tennis on the college level  
 Discrimination: how can you (ITA or NCAA) decide whom to give the money. How about the NCAA tells basketball coaches how many white or black players can get scholarship  
 This is not a totalitarian country. This is a free society. We are not xenophobic.  
 Improves the level of collegiate tennis & foreign students are better students  
 We only give parts of scholarships  
 Improves the level of collegiate tennis. Foreign students are better students  
 We are educators. Students are students, players are players - ours come to graduate  
 It boosts US tennis & put money & resources into America & its people  
 We should not be larger than NCAA rulings. Equal opportunity for all student-athletes wishing to get an education  
 The Pace AD questions whether this is enforceable in that an institution is being told who can attend that institution  
 There are already enough limiting rules - we don't need any more  
 I don't think a coach, a program or a school should be told (limited) who they can and cannot recruit

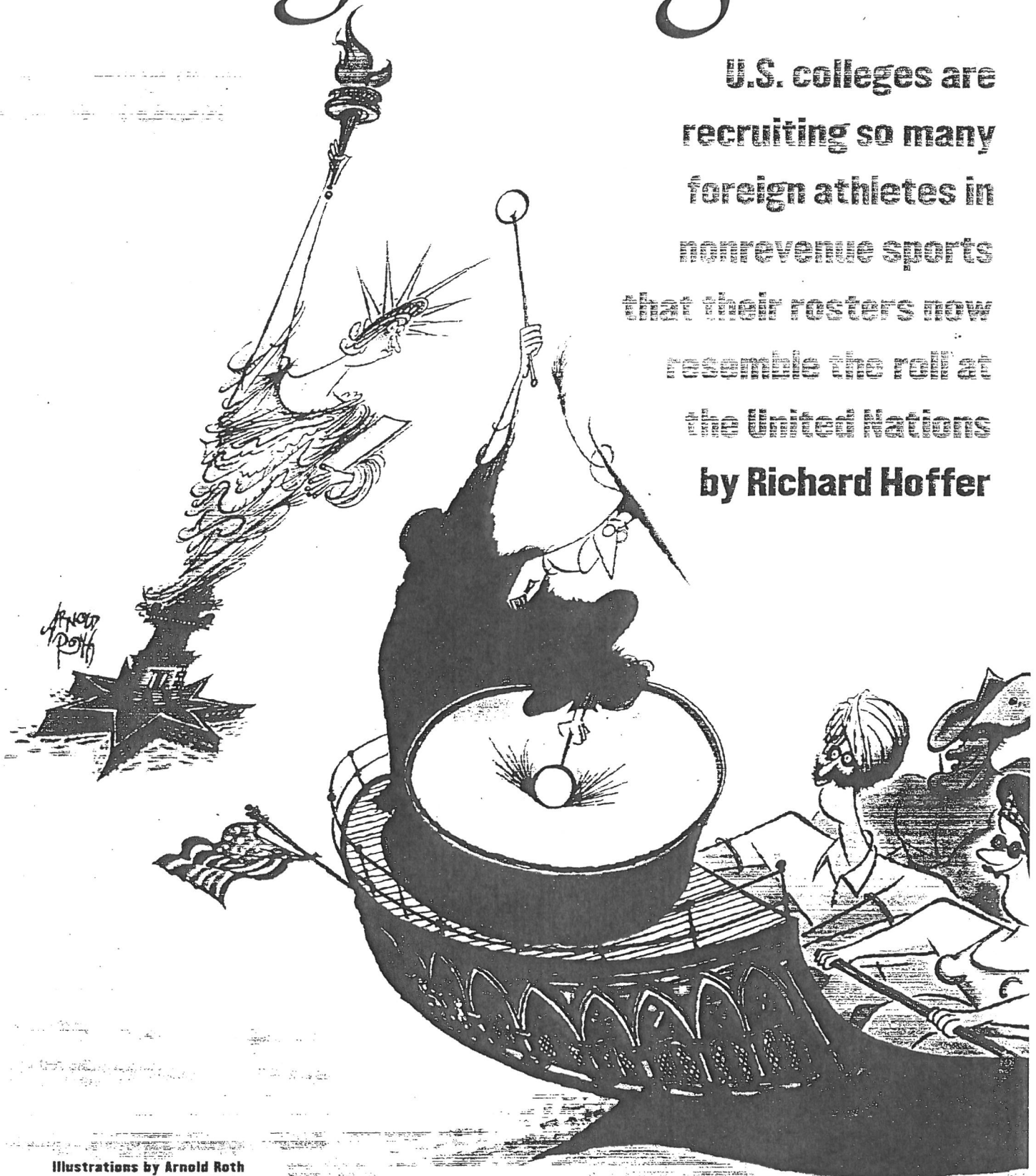
III

NAIA

It is an international sport I am opposed to limitations  
 Scholarships should be open to anyone. Proposal will only weaken the already high standards  
 I believe the quality of play will drop. Our university enjoys foreign students on campus  
 For many American player, if they can't play Div I tennis, they aren't interested in small college tennis. International student-athletes are  
 Not enough talent from American sources to compete at our current level  
 At a small school with limited scholarships, the foreign players are more willing to pay to come to US  
 The target areas of our university are: use quotas for admissions. 43% of student body if foreign  
 Discrimination policy; will affect quality on play for all participants  
 Because you will lose NAIA schools out of the ITA membership  
 Small school (425) in a very rural area. Very difficult to attract good US players here  
 As a highly restricted university, we get students only to enter aviation/aerospace education unlike liberal arts with all types of programs  
 Because you will lose NAIA schools out of the ITA membership  
 There aren't enough good American players for NAIA schools. Only the very good and very bad schools want this  
 Before recruiting foreign players I tried to recruit Americans but had no luck. The foreign players that we have had here have been the greatest in all aspects  
 I would prefer Divisional play in NAIA, with no limitations on Division I

# Foreign Legions

U.S. colleges are  
recruiting so many  
foreign athletes in  
non-revenue sports  
that their rosters now  
include the men at  
the United Nations  
by Richard Hoffer



Illustrations by Arnold Roth

YOU KNOW what we say in America. Give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. Also, your sprinters and triple jumpers, midfielders and goalies, swimmers and divers, and just about any kid with a back-hand good enough to rank him or her among the top 500, worldwide. We'll take 'em all. We'll take them because we are a good and generous nation, and we believe in the universality of man and the benefits of cultural integration. We believe, too, in the importance of—and this is just an example—the SEC track and field championships. We believe very much in that.

In case you haven't noticed, we have taken enough huddled masses that college sports have become a melting pot, each school's admissions office an Ellis Island unto itself. You might not notice it in the so-called revenue sports, football and basketball, which are the games that U.S. athletes are most keenly interested in (although 35 foreign basketball players dotted the rosters of teams in the men's NCAA tournament this year), but in sports like golf, soccer, swimming, tennis and track and field, the college scene is decidedly international. For instance:

- In last week's NCAA tennis champion-

ships 33 of the 64 players in the men's singles draw were foreign. An American, Mark Merklein from the University of Florida, was the winner, but the other three semifinalists all came from overseas.

- The winning team at last week's NCAA women's golf tournament, Arizona State, included on its roster the top junior players from France, Mexico and Sweden.

- Sixteen of the 31 swimmers on this year's Arizona State men's team were foreign, as were 12 of the 25 male swimmers at Nebraska.

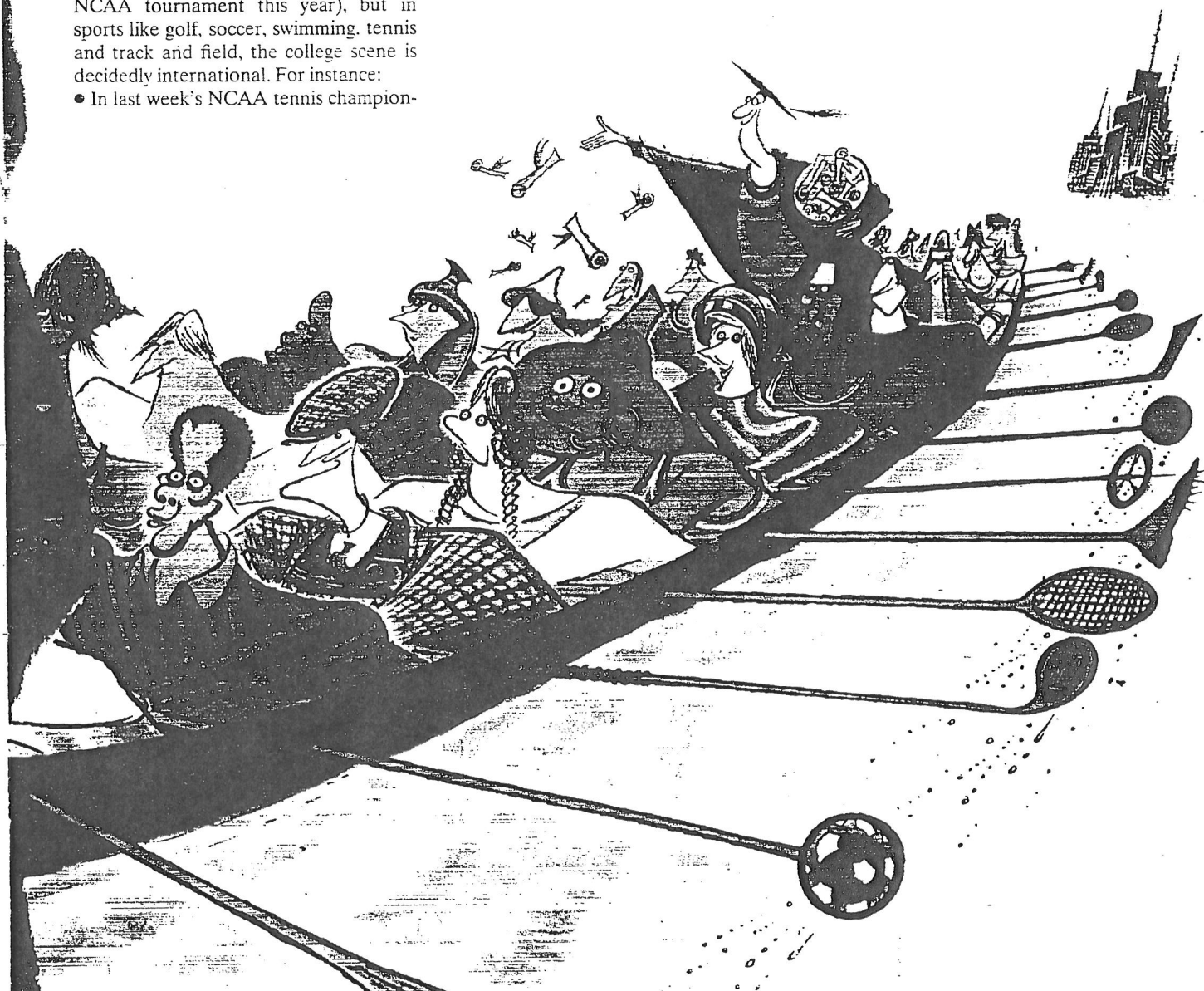
- The University of New Mexico's men's and women's ski teams, which together had 22 members, were dominated by 19 athletes from other countries.

- When *Track & Field News* previewed the NCAA track championships, which begin this week in Boise, Idaho, of the 168 men it predicted would score points, 54 were foreign-born, as were 43 of the 152 women.

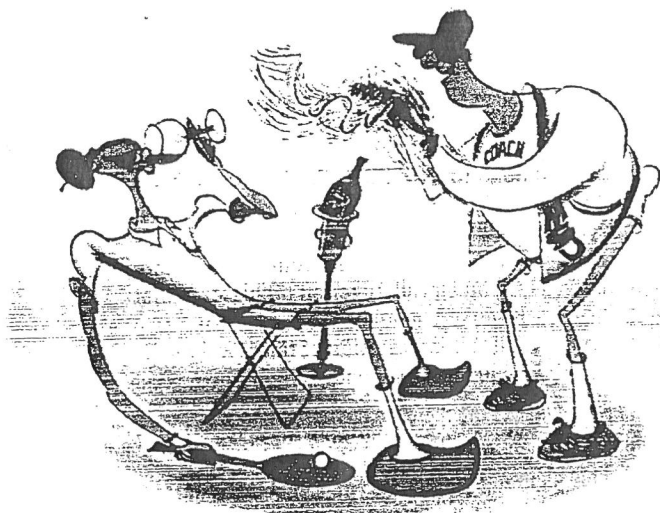
- It's not just the big schools that are searching for talent abroad. For one example, of the 17 tennis players on the men's and women's rosters at Northeastern Louisiana this season, only two listed a hometown in the U.S. (They were Nhut and Anh Diep, of Houston.) Likewise, Barber-Scotia College, a historically black school of 400 students in Concord, N.C., had an all-Nigerian tennis team that was ranked nationally in the NAIA.

All this importation of talent is done by certain schools to stay competitive. Ask why NCAA track and field qualifying standards are nearly as high as those of the Olympics, and Alabama track coach Doug Williamson will tell you, "It's these young people [read: foreigners] who have elevated the level of competition."

But while foreigners have elevated the







level of competition in college sports, their importation has become so pervasive and purposeful that the phenomenon has gone beyond being interesting to being controversial. Some Americans are tolerant of their international brethren only as long as the neighbor boy, who has gone to all those tennis camps, for god's sake, doesn't get cut out of a scholarship at, say, Mississippi State, which this year reached the national semifinals thanks largely to four players from France. That's when Americans start to worry: Why do so many schools feel they need to be powerhouses in a nonrevenue sport like tennis? And did U.S. women fight so hard for Title IX just to give all that opportunity to foreigners? And how many competent U.S. athletes are relegated to intramural teams because their athletic departments are hellbent to win titles?

Perennial Olympian Carl Lewis thinks U.S. universities ought to buy American almost exclusively. "We're putting tax money into people who then beat us [in international competitions]," he says. "By recruiting foreigners, we are taking away scholarships from American high school kids. We are excluding no telling how many of our own athletes, and they have nowhere else to go."

But college coaches say, Get real. Many of them, especially at smaller schools, insist that they cannot draw top U.S. talent to their programs but that they are nevertheless driven by the same competitive pressures that are applied at big schools. Barber-Scotia's tennis coach, William Madre, says that his team, which was discontinued after this season, was all Nigerian because he had nowhere else to recruit: "You have to understand that the [American] black tennis player won't come to Barber-Scotia. We don't have the

## French connections improved Mississippi State's net results.

exposure or facilities for them. The best will go to the big white schools, just like basketball and football players."

Predictably, proposals to cap scholarships for foreign-born athletes have started to crop up. The Intercollegiate Tennis Association recently voted in favor of a proposal that would require schools to give 50% of their scholarships to Americans. (The ITA has hired lawyers to find out if the rule will hold

up legally; if it does, the ITA will try to get the NCAA to adopt the proposal as legislation.) The National Junior College Athletic Association has gone further: In 1992 it passed a rule that allows schools to give only 25% of their yearly scholarships in all sports to foreigners.

The practice of recruiting top foreign players by phone may be widespread now, but smart coaches were doing this years ago. Back in 1971 Washington State track coach John Chaplin dialed up a tavern in a small town in County Kerry, Ireland, where distance runner Daniel Murphy lived. The lady at the pub asked Chaplin to hold while she biked over to fetch Murphy, who had no phone. Chaplin, who ran up a \$147.50 tab on that call, says the athletic department raised hell about the charge, but then, Murphy did become a three-time All-America for the Cougars.

Another track coach undaunted by overseas phone rates was Ted Banks, perhaps the pioneer in international recruiting, at UTEP. He lured all manner of distance runners from Africa and won a slew of NCAA titles in the 1970s. Annoyed rivals couldn't argue with his success so they nagged him about the ages of his runners, some of whom were in their 30's. The NCAA finally passed a rule in 1980 that set some age limits. It took away a year of eligibility for every year of organized competition the athlete had participated in after the age of 20.

Nowadays recruiting overseas is easier than it used to be. In those sports in which many of the biggest stars are not Americans—golf, skiing, soccer, tennis and track—colleges can easily establish pipe-

lines to even the most remote outposts. No sooner will a school attract an ath-

lete from a foreign country than word of mouth will prompt legions of the athlete's countrymen to begin badgering the importing coach for scholarships.

There's no better place to see how all this works than the state of Alabama, which to judge from its athlete population is more international than a house of pancakes. Visits to several schools there, big and small, showed that it's just about impossible to wander about the athletic facilities without hearing a Jamaican lilt or the clipped British accent of Africans along with the traditional Southern drawl. There are Germans, Swedes, Spaniards and Egyptians at Alabama colleges. There are Turks, Poles and French. There are Australians and Mexicans and Brazilians and Israelis. Name a country. Sri Lanka? Well, there's Aasiri Iddamaligoda, who plays tennis for Division II Jacksonville State.

The track team at the University of Alabama has more than its share of these exotics. Williamson, who admits he was a flag-waving chest thumper when he was a high school coach, saw the light after he got to the college level and realized what it took to compete. It took foreigners. "I'd love to recruit just in Tuscaloosa," he says, "but if I have to go to Birmingham because there's a better athlete, I will."

He must mean Birmingham, England. In building a track power, Williamson has gone even farther than that. Like to Ghana. He was invited there in 1989 to stage a clinic, and he made enough friends to establish a recruiting network. There has been no looking back (or going back, for that matter; another trip to Africa isn't in the budget). The imports work hard, study hard and seem to appreciate everything that's given them—they're coaches'



## Relay teams pass the baton over international borders.

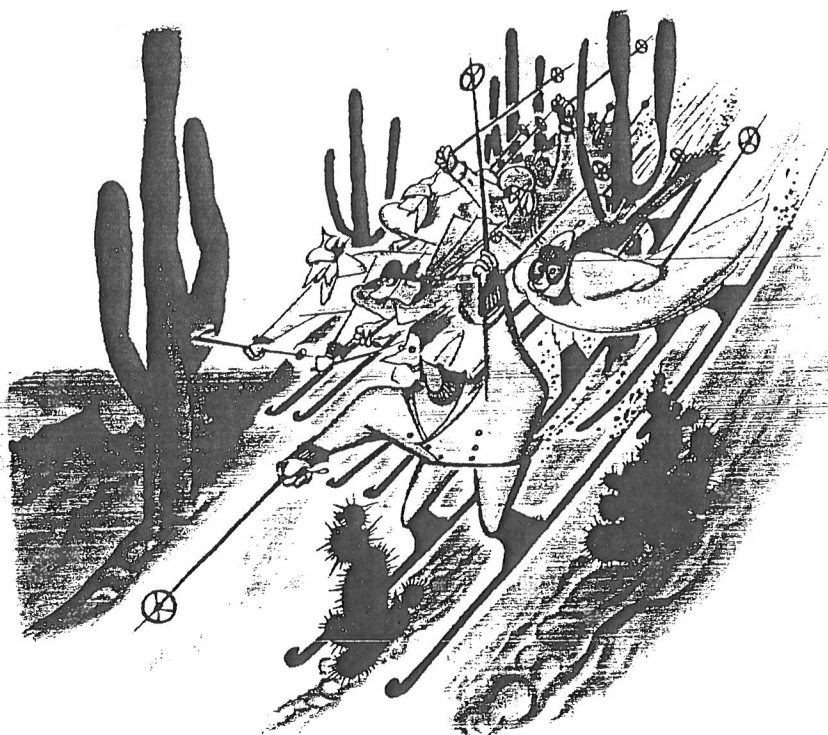
dreams, in other words. "You have to understand that this is the opportunity of a lifetime for them," says Williamson. "They're not about to misuse it."

The chance to play sports and thereby get an education is a powerful attraction to any student from a developing nation. Even so, it takes an adventuresome youngster to leave his or her family and travel across oceans to a new land. There are so many things to get used to in this strange American life. "Like pizza," says Alabama's Andrew Owusu, a long jumper from Ghana. "My second week, they took me out for pizza. But I tried to put the wide end into my mouth, not the pointy part. They laughed at me for weeks."

While only 13 of the 52 athletes on Alabama's men's and women's track teams are from countries outside North America, 11 of those 13 have been All-Americans. This is how the level of competition gets ratcheted up. "We could have only Americans," says Williamson, who is disturbed by the antiforeign sentiment among fellow coaches, "but we'd be back to breeding mediocrity. I guess *that's* the American way."

At Jacksonville State (enrollment 8,200) the top spots on the men's and women's tennis teams this year belonged to foreigners. But this is how it is in almost all of collegiate tennis. Because there is virtually no college tennis in any other part of the world, any junior not quite good enough for the pro tour—ranked lower than 300 among the world's players, say—is available to an American university. That's quite a pool of talent.

The coaches say they need these foreigners to fill out their teams. "We almost have more scholarships [than top-quality American players to fill them]," says Scott Novak, the tennis coach at South Alabama, where the men's and women's teams are dominated by South Africans.



## Schussing Scandinavians have lent spine to New Mexico skiing.

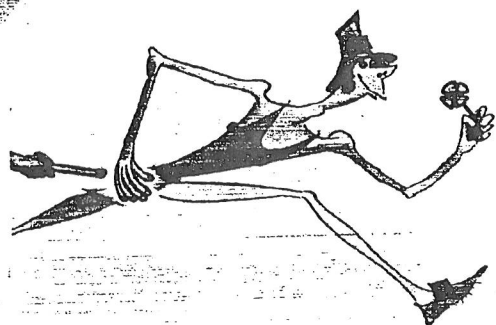
As for the foreign athletes, most do not look at the college system as an extended tennis clinic—take the classes and run, once that serve is perfected. Iddamalgoda, like many in the international set, has no illusions that he'll have a pro career, no matter how well he does at Jacksonville State. He plays tennis in exchange for an education. "In my country, there are not so many universities," he says. "Not everybody can go, like here. There is a good chance I would not have qualified." And he willingly makes sacrifices, beyond attending tennis practice, to get that education. Like many men tennis players at all colleges, he has only a partial scholarship. His family must send him money to keep him in school.

At Alabama A&M (enrollment 5,500), in Huntsville, the soccer team is about half African. Always has been, probably always will be. Soccer development in the U.S. will never match that of countries in which soccer is the national sport. Salah Yousif, a native of Ethiopia who came to Alabama A&M as an economics professor in 1976, noticed a surprising number of foreigners on campus and persuaded the school to allow him to begin a soccer program for them. The track coach gave him \$25, which he used to buy mesh jerseys for the players; that was the soccer team's entire athletic budget that season. The next year the Bulldogs won the Division II championship. They kept wearing those jerseys for two more seasons. "Listen, my friend," Yousif says, "we didn't have a soccer field, didn't have goal posts, except for two trash cans. The players didn't see goal posts until we played a game."

The program, such as it was, would never have attracted any decent U.S. players. "Believe me, my friend," Yousif says, "I can't show them any carpeted locker room." So he recruits from his home continent. Word of mouth is enough to keep him fully supplied with Ethiopians and Ugandans. And 90% of them have graduated, most of them with degrees in engineering and computer science. Most then return home.

For years it was popular to complain about programs like Yousif's. Joe Morrone, who built a powerhouse soccer program at the University of Connecticut with U.S. players, admits to having looked askance at Alabama A&M, which nearly beat his Huskies for the national championship in 1981. Morrone felt it was unfair to use imports, players so advanced in soccer and so driven to excel that their U.S. counterparts from the more comfortable suburbs could never match up with them.

But lately Morrone has noticed that athletic directors are starting to pay attention to the nonrevenue sports, too. "There's more pressure to win," he says. "I'm starting to feel it now. Coaches are being encouraged to leave. It's all different. For me, well, during the 1980s we'd been in the tournament nine of 10 years and in three Final Fours, and we won one national championship, staying with the American player. Last four years, we haven't been in a tournament. I'll be frank with you. Next year we just may have a player from abroad."





"I sold my car on the first day I advertised"

-DeVon Franklin  
Kettering, OH

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May 14, 2001

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### SPECIAL REPORTS

#### THE FOREIGN GAME

Are foreign athletes abusing

[From the Dayton Daily News: 03.11.2001]

## Breaking the rules

*Players come to America secretly signed to agents*

By [Russell Carollo](#) and [Christine Vásconez](#)  
©2001, Dayton Daily News

**TALLINN, Estonia** | From this remote ancient port along the Gulf of Finland, sports agent Maarten van Gent helps decide the outcome of high school basketball games in American towns such as Wellston, Ohio, and Logan, W.V.

He does it by violating regulations that protect amateur athletics in the United States, regulations rarely enforced and frequently ignored.



MAARTEN VAN GENT

"Very interested in having your athletes come to the United States," reads one e-mail from a Philadelphia high school athletic director to van Gent's office, on one of two floors he bought atop a high-rise overlooking the Tallinn skyline.

"We really like kids who have alot of size," reads an e-mail from a high school coach in Oklahoma City.

From Estonia, Spain, Italy, The Netherlands, Africa, Bosnia and Yugoslavia, a

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amateur sports in American schools?

## **DAYTON'S CODEBREAKERS**

How NCR engineers helped unlock the Nazi codes

sophisticated and often secret network of sports agents and middlemen are flooding American high schools and colleges with foreign athletes, most of them basketball players. Thousands of athletes have come to American schools just in the past few years.

This network, frequently using deception to conceal violations of high school and college athletic regulations, is driven by schools hungry for championships, by foreign athletes desperate to live in America, by agents and middlemen poised to make millions should a single grateful player become a star.

This network has flourished as the number of basketball players increase every year — doubling at Division I schools since 1995.

A yearlong *Dayton Daily News* examination, which included more than 450 interviews in 10 foreign countries and 13 states and U.S. territories, found that American schools have been used as little more than training grounds for foreign athletes and their agents. Some athletes return to professional teams in Europe, where they are represented by the same agents who brought them to American schools.

The examination found:

- Foreign sports agents, identifying themselves as coaches or shielded from athletic officials through middlemen, are secretly placing athletes in American high schools and colleges. The *Dayton Daily News* linked 40 such school placements directly to sports agents.
- Five players currently on college teams, including two at National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I schools, played professionally overseas before coming to the United States. Generally, former professional players are not eligible to play in high school or college.
- As many as seven players signed contracts with van Gent in Estonia before completing

high school in the United States, and copies of two contracts show van Gent was guaranteed 10 percent of any income for five years. Though college athletic rules prohibit agent contracts, three players went on to teams at colleges in Ohio, Illinois and West Virginia.

- Three European players acknowledged graduating from high school in their native countries before playing high school basketball in the United States, a violation of athletic association rules in every state. One provided his diploma.

- At least 15 Bosnians playing high school basketball in Illinois signed releases for a book and movie project with an Atlanta company that also paid for them to spend two weeks in Georgia. Though such promotional agreements generally violate college guidelines, most of the players went to college teams.

- An administrator at Dayton Christian High School acknowledged putting false information on visa application forms to convince U.S. embassy officials that host parents had been arranged for the students.

- A top college and NBA prospect from Mali went to a small Alabama High School after its coach contacted an international scouting service in Europe. An NFL agent who was also an attorney for the high school basketball coach then adopted the 6-foot-8-inch player.

- The system policing amateur athletes in the United States, created decades ago, was never designed to deal with the current flood of foreign athletes into American high schools and colleges. Schools still are trusted to police themselves, even though most have no means and frequently little incentive to check the backgrounds of talented foreign athletes.

"I would say that there's a very, very serious concern that needs to be addressed, and it

needs to be addressed now," said Bob Kanaby, executive director of the federation representing high school athletic associations in all 50 states.

"Every time a youngster who is 6-foot-8 or 6-foot-5 who is a high-powered elite foreign athlete comes here for the experience of high school sports in America . . . then two (American) youngsters who perhaps have been in that program for three years and are looking forward to their senior season of participating may go to the bench or they may go off the team.

"And that displacement is wrong."

### **AGENT CONTRACT VIOLATES RULES**

A photograph of Randar Luts and his Ohio college team still hangs on his bedroom wall in the family's apartment, located a few miles from the multicolored rooftops, foot bridges and perfectly preserved 18th century buildings in downtown Tartu, Estonia.

In the same bedroom, in a less conspicuous place, Luts keeps another record of his basketball career: the contract he signed with van Gent on Jan. 22, 1998.

Signed months before he went to high school in Wellston, Ohio, the contract should have made Luts ineligible to play college basketball at the University of Rio Grande in Ohio or just about anywhere else in the United States.

Wellston coach Jim Derrow said that Luts had mentioned van Gent, but the school wasn't aware he was an agent.

At least six other players linked to van Gent had similar contracts, according to records and to van Gent. At least two of those remain enrolled in American universities.

American athletic rules are held in the same esteem as criminal laws by many foreign athletes, because they risk losing scholarships

often worth well over \$100,000 — more than many Africans and Eastern Europeans dream of earning in a lifetime.

Both the NCAA and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, which together regulate about 1,300 colleges and universities, prohibit players from having contracts with sports agents.

The NAIA, which oversees the University of Rio Grande, prohibits: "entering into an agreement of any kind . . . with any individual or group of individuals authorized to represent the athlete with a professional sports organization."

The NCAA, which has a similar prohibition, oversees Western Illinois University, where Kristjan Makke attends. He signed a similar contract with van Gent.

Both players have been benched pending inquiries initiated following phone calls from the *Dayton Daily News*.

The five-year contracts, written in Estonian, appoint van Gent as the "sole manager and representative" and grant him 10 percent of any income the players may get for playing professional basketball.

A couple of days after providing the contract to the *Dayton Daily News*, Luts, visiting his parents in Estonia at the time, called the reporter's hotel room in Tallinn. He said he had spoken to van Gent and realized that news of the contract could cause both he and van Gent problems.

"NCAA rules don't allow us to have agents," Luts said. "We didn't know the rules before we did it."

During an interview this summer at his home in Toila, a village two hours from Tallinn on the Gulf of Finland, Makke reached into a cabinet in his living room and pulled out his contract, dated March 24, 1999.

At the time, Makke was enrolled at Quincy High School in Illinois, where he played basketball.

"It (the contract) says if I'm going to play someday in Europe, he (van Gent) is going to be my agent," Makke said.

Makke averaged 3.4 points a game as a sophomore at Western Illinois University before he was benched.

"Every (European) player has an agent. I'd say about 90 percent," basketball scout Chris Koch said during the junior boys championship in Zadar, Croatia, last summer. "Agents over here will bend the rules and sign players so they can secure them later on."

A third player who came from Estonia, Georgy Osadchiy, wrote to van Gent on Oct. 27, 1998: "We still have our contract in effect, and you are still my agent," according to documents provided by van Gent. Osadchiy played at Longwood High School on Long Island, N.Y., during the 1999-2000 season.

Ardo Armpalu, who played with Luts at Wellston High School, said he saw the contracts but insisted he didn't sign. Asked if van Gent paid for his trip to the United States, he said: "I don't know exactly what he did. Maybe he paid for me. I'm not sure."

According to page 77 of the NCAA manual, players are prohibited from accepting "transportation or other benefits from any person who represents any individual in the marketing of his or her athletic ability."

The 6-foot-10-inch Armpalu, who was recruited by Ohio State, Xavier and the University of Dayton, plays at Marshall University in Huntington, W.V.

Jesper Parve, who attended Logan (W.V.) High School after leaving Estonia, denied

knowing anything about a contract with van Gent. But when shown a copy of a contract his teammate signed, he said: "That kind of contract. Yes, I seen one."

Asked who paid for his plane ticket to the United States, he said, "What did Ardo say?"

Van Gent acknowledged having contracts with all the players he sent to the United States, including the two who denied signing, but he claimed the contracts were not valid because the company they signed with was no longer in business. NCAA rules, however, say "regardless of its legal enforceability" a contract is a contract.

During an interview in his home last summer, Priit Silland of Tallinn said he signed a contract with van Gent in June of last year. Silland said he planned to attend high school in the United States.

"This is Maarten. He is my agent," he said.

#### **ALREADY GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL**

The contract Luts kept in his bedroom wasn't the only problem he had with American athletic rules.

When Luts entered Wellston High School in the fall of 1998, he already was a high school graduate. A diploma from the Estonian Sport Gymnasium, signed by the headmaster and staff members, shows that he graduated from high school on June 5, 1998.

That was several weeks before he started attending classes and playing basketball at a high school in the United States.

"We told them (Wellston school officials) I already graduated," Luts said. "I guess they didn't want to know. They wanted to keep us, I guess."

Wellston's coach Derrow said he wasn't aware Luts had graduated.



Parve, who played at Logan High School, also acknowledged graduating from high school in Estonia before coming to the United States.

Asked why he kept going to high school in Logan after completing school in Estonia, he said, "I think in the states you have 13 years of school. . . . That's what they (Logan school officials) told me."

Pressed about the issue, he changed his story.

"They (school officials) told me there is some kind of problem with that. They told me if somebody ask, there was 13 years of schools."

Former Logan coach Tim Murphy, now an assistant coach at Fairmont State College, W.V., said the school was unaware Parve had graduated from high school but acknowledged, "It's a pretty loosey-goosey situation over there with their school system."

Other players from Africa and Spain acknowledged having graduated or repeating entire grades once arriving in the United States.

#### **SCHOOLS DEAL WITH AGENTS**

Van Gent stepped off his 17th-floor private patio overlooking the Tallinn skyline, passing the private gym, the tanning booth and gambling machines before descending the spiral staircase leading to rooms with windows shipped special from Belgium and wall-sized original oil paintings.

"I have players who make a million dollars a season," van Gent said, finally reaching his 16th-floor office.

American high school coaches never visit this office, but their faxes and e-mails arrive regularly.

In an Aug. 14, 1999 e-mail, Coach Donny

Tuley of Capitol High School in Oklahoma City, Okla., wrote: "We're looking for high school age players between 16-19 years of age. . . . We really like kids who have alot of size or kids with college potential."

The following year, Tuley wrote again, thanking van Gent for sending information on players and said he was interested in a 6-foot-9-inch player named Martin Viiask. He also wrote: "I also coach at a junior college but the head coach would like to look at tapes before he is interested in getting players."

Asked about the e-mails, Tuley, the 1987 Oklahoma City Coach of the Year, said, "You have me in a bind. Basically what you're trying to do is get me fired . . . I can't be truthful with you because you're writing everything down."

On May 24, 1999, Logan High School coach Murphy wrote to van Gent to let him know that several colleges were interested in Rait Keerles, the player van Gent sent to the West Virginia school.

In the fax, which used Logan High School letterhead, Murphy and another coach acknowledged receiving van Gent's fax concerning "other Estonian players" and added: "Please keep us informed."

Asked if he ever wrote to van Gent, Murphy at first said, "No."

Told the *Dayton Daily News* had a copy of the fax, Murphy said, "I may have. I don't remember doing it, but I'm not saying I didn't."

Murphy said he spoke to van Gent on the telephone, but he thought he was a coach, not a sports agent.

Asked if a high school coach should be dealing with van Gent for players, Murphy said: "Probably if he wrote me that letter or

faxed me some stuff, probably I shouldn't have (written him back)."

On May 29, 1998, Quincy coach Loren Wallace wrote to van Gent concerning Makke.

Asked if he knew van Gent, Wallace said: "Say that again . . . Maarten van Gent?"

Told the reporter was looking at a fax he sent to van Gent, Wallace replied: "Well that was after Kristjan (Makke) was here."

The fax was dated three months before the school year began.

Wallace denied knowing about the contract or that van Gent was an agent. He ended the interview, saying he had an appointment.

On June 10, 1998, Kevin Wall of Roy Miller High School in Corpus Christi, Texas, wrote to "Whom it may concern," saying: "We are excited about the possibility of Ardo Armpalu entering our school. . . . I have enclosed some other information about the school and its basketball program."

Wall, now coaching a professional team in England, acknowledged writing to van Gent and agreeing to arrange for Armpalu to live with the father of one of his former players. But, Wall said, he was unable to get around a Texas rule requiring foreign students to come through an official exchange program.

"We couldn't pull it off," Wall said.

Other sports agents, too, are well-known to high school coaches.

The head coach at O'Hara High School in Pennsylvania, Bud Gardler, had the telephone number for Miguel Paniagua, one of Spain's best known sports agents, at his fingertips. Paniagua helped send Javier Crespo, who later attended Bowling Green University in Ohio, to O'Hara.

"I can give you Miguel Paniagua's telephone number," Gardler said. "He was the guy that was Javier's contact over there. (Paniagua is) not an agent, but close to an agent."

Both Crespo and his father, during separate interviews in Spain, acknowledged that before Crespo entered O'Hara High School, he and Paniagua agreed that the agent would represent the 6'8" player when he returned to Spain. Crespo now plays professional basketball on the Spanish island of Mallorca, and he is currently represented by a sports agency listing Paniagua on its board of managers.

"There's all kinds of illegal recruiting going on, and when these foreign kids started coming to O'Hara, I got tossed in the whole mix that I was recruiting foreign kids," Gardler said. "Since Javier, I turned down everyone, which is probably not fair. But I just don't want to put up with the nonsense."

#### **AGENTS CAMOUFLAGED BY MIDDLEMEN**

Links between coaches and foreign players often are shielded from the public and from regulators by others: middlemen or go-betweens, people dealing directly with the players. Because these people are not officially considered agents, their proximity to high school and college players does not immediately trigger suspicion.

Dozens of middlemen bring players to high schools across the United States. The *Dayton Daily News* examination linked four middlemen to sports agents in the United States and overseas. The examination also found two with arrest records, two others who have had actions against their law licenses for misusing client funds and several with records of serious financial problems.

Not everyone helping talented players is motivated by money, but there are financial incentives for middlemen, referred to by some

as "runners" or even "street agents."

Luciano Capicchioni, co-president of Interperformances, one of the world's largest sports agencies, said runners who deliver a player by arranging an interview with his agency get a percent of the agency's commission for the life of the contract.

For school officials and others dealing with the Estonian players, it was not van Gent who helped the players come to the United States, it was Patric Boggs. At least four of the Estonians and other foreign players lived at Boggs' Virginia home, and high school coaches said it was Boggs who helped arrange placing the players at their schools.

Boggs has been arrested at least twice on felony charges and convicted once. In addition, he also has been a defendant in several civil cases.

In 1987, a Fayette County, Ga., grand jury indicted Boggs on four criminal counts of violation of the Georgia Securities Act and four counts of theft involving a "scheme" to sell partnerships in oil wells. Boggs was accused of lying to one prospective buyer by telling him that five oil wells had struck oil and were producing 25 to 60 barrels a day.

He was eventually convicted on one felony charge of violation of the Georgia Securities Act, fined \$2,500, ordered to make \$35,000 in restitution and sentenced to five years of probation.

In 1989, he was arrested by Boca Raton, Fla., police in connection with the theft of files from his former employer there, but records indicate the case was not prosecuted.

And in 1993, he was jailed in Virginia on a charge of being a fugitive from justice after he was accused of failing to make court-ordered payments in the Georgia case.

"I don't think that has anything to do with

*Patric Boggs*

caller as a friend from New York.

"I asked on more than one occasion what he (Sammy) did," Payne recalled. "They just said 'importer-exporter.' I have no idea what he does for a living."

Garden City coach Jerome Cox confirmed that Pajovic placed both players at the school.

Pajovic did not respond to several telephone calls and a certified letter requesting an interview. A visit to his two-story house, located in an upscale neighborhood on Long Island, was followed by a telephone call to the reporter from Marc Cornstein, a registered NBA agent.

"We're friends," said Cornstein, a New York State athletic commissioner and director of marketing for the New York City Sports Commission. "He (Pajovic) certainly knows a tremendous amount of basketball players. He's helped me in certain cases."

Asked if Pajovic worked for him, Cornstein said: "It's not that clear-cut."

Asked if he was paying Pajovic, Cornstein said: "No. I mean if we traveled . . . I might have paid for a plane ticket."

Asked what Pajovic does for a living, Cornstein said: "I assume he's in the restaurant industry. . . . I know he was (a waiter) at Fino."

Several employees at Fino Ristorante in Manhattan confirmed that Pajovic once was a waiter there but left years ago.

"He doesn't work at restaurants at all. He doesn't need to," said a man identifying himself as the owner of the restaurant. "He works for a sports company."

#### **DUELING SYSTEM**

Relationships with sports agents and middlemen aren't the only potential athletic

violations many foreign players have reason to hide. A number of them have violated college rules by having played on professional teams overseas.

High school and college basketball virtually does not exist outside the United States. Instead, foreigners in their teens start their careers on club teams, many of them considered professional teams under American amateur rules.

"I was 17 when I signed a contract," Club Bosna Coach Asim Bradic said during an interview in his office in Sarajevo. "If the 17-year-old is better than the 20-year-old, I will give him the contract. A job is a job. We're paying cash, of course."

College athletic rules say that players who compete on professional teams, regardless of whether they were paid, are ineligible to play at American schools.

But the American system of blending sports with education offers an irresistible attraction to foreigners, and the risks are low that colleges will ever learn about professional experience thousands of miles away.

American athletic officials learned that 7-foot-3-inch Aleksandar Radojevic played professionally in the Yugoslavian Republic of Montenegro when the team complained to the NCAA that it had a contract with Radojevic and wanted him back. The NCAA eventually declared him ineligible to attend Ohio State, and he now plays for the NBA's Denver Nuggets.

"It seems unfair to punish Mr. Radojevic . . . when hundreds of international basketball players who have signed contracts with and accepted compensation from international club teams have played and are now playing intercollegiate basketball," Ohio State wrote in its appeal to the NCAA.

Radojevic was brought to the United States



by Pajovic, the Bosnian man in New York called "uncle" by many players, and until recently was represented by Cornstein.

Ohio State's Boban Savovic, like other players, initially claimed Pajovic was his uncle, but later admitted they weren't related.

The *Daily News* examination found five other foreign players at American colleges, including two at NCAA Division I schools, who played on professional teams in Europe. Three of the five also are linked to Pajovic.

One is Predrag Savovic, brother of the player with the same last name at Ohio State. Before becoming the University of Hawaii's leading scorer with more than 17 points a game, Predrag Savovic played for a Yugoslavian team called Zorka Pharma that competed for the 1997 Korac Cup, open only to professional teams.

Savovic, now 25, played in nine games and averaged 7.9 points per game during the competition. Though he acknowledged playing for the team, Savovic claimed he wasn't even given expense money.

A second player on the same Yugoslavian professional team, Zelimir Stevanovic, now plays at the University of Pittsburgh. According to records from the International Basketball Association based in Munich, Germany, Stevanovic played in three games in the same Korac Cup tournament, averaging 3.3 points per game.

Stevanovic could not be reached for comment.

University of Pittsburgh spokesman Ken Service said the school "had assurances from several sources that there was nothing in (Stevanovic's) previous experience that would have precluded his playing" in college. Stevanovic was an occasional starter at Pittsburgh, averaging 5 points a game this year.

A third player linked to Pajovic, Danijel Milic, now at Gulf Coast Community College in Florida, played for a professional team in Slovenia, and in 1999, he competed for the Saporta Cup, open only to professional teams.

The year before, he was listed on the roster for BC Red Star, another Yugoslavian professional team, which placed second for the 1998 Korac Cup.

But Milic insisted he was not a professional and was never paid by either team. He said he's only listed on the two teams' rosters as a junior backup.

"If they think you can play for them, they'll list you on the team, but you don't actually play," he said. "You're just there for support if somebody gets injured and they need a backup."

Gulf Coast coach Joe Pons said he got a letter from the Yugoslavian Basketball Federation assuring that Milic was "not a professional player." Pons promised to report to the junior college association if the school finds Milic played professionally.

During an interview in his Sarajevo apartment, sports agent Samir Avdic said rules are often ignored when the chance of going to college in America is at stake.

"This is a big competition, and sometimes in the competition, there are no rules," said Avdic, a former basketball star in Spain, Turkey and Bosnia. "All Bosnian guys know the NCAA rules. They are not stupid."

Avdic recalled that when he was 18 years old he got a call from a man in the United States inviting him to play basketball at Kansas State University. At the time, he said, he already was under contract with the professional team in Sarajevo, which made him ineligible to play at Kansas State, and the director of

the Bosnian club team bought him the plane ticket to Kansas, another violation of NCAA rules.

"You know that's a moral dilemma," said Rasim Secerovic, the Bosnian coach who helped place more than two dozen players from the former Yugoslavia at American high schools. "From my side, we didn't violate rules. We had opportunity."

► **Staff writers** [Doug Harris](#) and [Jim DeBrosse](#) contributed to this report.

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May 4, 2001

Letters to the Editor  
The Chronicle of Higher Education  
P. O. Box 1955  
Marion, OH 43305

Dear Sir:

I read with interest the article "All-Americans Aren't Always American" by Welch Suggs and published in the April 16, 2001 Chronicle of Higher Education. My concern is the statistics chosen don't sufficiently reflect the true picture in some collegiate sports.

The Big South Conference is a Division I (NCAA) conference, with members in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. Our men's tennis conference tournament was completed April 21, 2001. There were:

1. Twenty players nominated for the All-Conference team. All twenty were international.
2. Tennis teams start six singles players. Of the eight conference teams, six of the schools fielded all six positions with internationals.
3. In the final match, no American player participated.
4. Scholarships were awarded to most of the internationals. My guess, based on a conversation with league officials, is that Americans received less than 5% of the total tennis scholarships awarded. There was no income from the tournament. There were expenses for balls, officials, trophies, a banquet, etc.

My wish is the people with the inside information, and it is available, would take these four criteria and apply them to conferences nationwide. Having twenty-five years coaching experience in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and ten years in NCAA Division II, I know those organizations' percentages are very similar.

If the NCAA, the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA), and the NAIA compiled the data on:

1. All-Conference nominees or selections;
2. Percentage of starters per team;

3. Percentage of starters in the final conference and national championship matches; and
4. Percentage of institutionally controlled scholarship monies awarded to internationals compared to Americans and found the Big South as the norm, then your numbers are not telling the whole story.

In conclusion, the women's tournament was not quite as pronounced, but similar. Other sports are moving rapidly in this direction. All this is done in the name of education – or diversity. I can tell you that in the Big South Tennis Conference, an American tennis player would represent diversity.

Sincerely,

Tom Parham  
Associate Professor  
Director of Tennis  
Elon College

ETP:lh

# "Star Wars"

## Internationals: The Rising Force

by Beth German

**So why are coaches so unwilling to develop their teams with Americans? Why do they recruit foreign players for the "quick fix"?**

**A**merican coaches are sucking up internationals to fill a vacuum left behind by voracious elite college programs. And it seems a risk worth taking when 60 percent of the top 100 male student athletes and 50 percent of the best 100 women are foreign. Billy Chadwick, University of Mississippi men's coach, commented: "At the top division level, there are 20 overseas blue-chippers coming through. Now the breakdown around the world is, five blue-chippers from Sweden coming in, five from South Africa, five from Australia, and five from the rest of the world."

Competition is so tough that PAC-10 schools feel they must search outside of the country to compete within their own conference. Peter Wright, University of California at Berkeley men's coach, has a simple formula: "I look at the top 30 nationally ranked guys and then look at the ranked Californians. If I can't get a player out of that group then absolutely I will look worldwide." Peter Smith of Pepperdine manages a so-called "mixed" team. "I give scholarships to foreign players if I'm positive they will play in the top three. They must be impact players. I look at American players if they are seeded at Kalamazoo [National Junior Boys' Championship]."

Though Texas A&M's Tim Cass supports and draws Americans to his program, he recognizes the predicament of many coaches. "If [I were] recruiting foreigners I'd be advising them in my letters: 'If you want to be a pro, come play college tennis.' Where 15 years ago that wasn't happening, now it is. So coaches really garnered ammunition for college tennis to be a springboard for the pros."

### Raising the American Flag

But why is this happening? Is the U.S. talent pool too shallow? Most coaches admit the best teams are composed of top American players. Matt Knoll, Baylor University men's coach, states: "The teams that seem to win the NCAA's have the best Americans. It's part of the culture, growing up and watching the NCAA's in other sports and knowing that it's an important goal." This year's NCAA men's singles semifinal proved U.S. ability; it was the first all-American semi since '89.

If Americans are winning, why look abroad? Why not con-

vert raw American ability to a more finished product? How do coaches justify recruiting internationals? Pepperdine's Peter Smith comments: "One generalization about American kids, they're looking more for the bright lights. Sometimes they prefer the schools they watched on television while growing up whereas foreign kids don't grow up exposed to big time college athletics. They don't have that bias."

American colleges are the only place in the world where foreign players can get an education and develop their games. Coaches are using this windfall to their advantage. Tracy Lane, Mississippi State women's coach, agrees. "The American kid is looking for a program where they can join a top 20 team...the international kid is just looking for the opportunity to play." Foreigners' attitudes are attractive to coaches building championship teams. Furthermore, their detachment makes them easier to seduce.

Timing is everything. Conveniently, if a coach doesn't get Americans to sign in November, they can fall back on internationals at the Orange Bowl world junior championships in December. Arizona State women's coach Sheila McInerney had to do just that. "I went through early signing in November and had five or six Americans whom I was really recruiting. I only got one of them. Most of the good Americans had already signed. All of a sudden I had one scholarship left and I had to go to the Orange Bowl." Even when coaches make a concerted effort to win over Americans, they are forced to dip into the foreign pool.

A sometimes stated worthy goal of the presence of foreign players is that they contribute culturally to the college campus. Jan Brogan, University of California at Berkeley women's coach, says: "It's an international game. U.S. kids get to see that it's not just an American world. In terms of world peace, it's a great thing."

Ken Alrutz's tennis program is a melting pot. "On my [Miami of Ohio men's] team, I have six countries represented, five different racial groups and four different religions. Such a mix benefits people in a classroom. And on a team."

Pepperdine's Peter Smith recognizes the determination of international recruits. "I go to these international tournaments and see a look in the eyes of the Eastern Europeans that tennis is their ticket out. They're playing every match like it's their last. It's hard to put that hunger into American kids."

The new NCAA format gives 64 programs the opportunity to compete for the title. A "shot" for glory puts pressure on the teams to be as competitive as possible. Berkeley's Jan Brogan states: "The expectation at my program, being a priority sport, is that we excel. It is not acceptable for us not to be in the top 10. It's just like a competitive business. You go where the talent is."

### Program Makers or Breakers?

On paper some of the international kids may look like program makers but there are setbacks. Without knowledge of life at an American university and drawn by goldmine pro prospects, they could be easily swayed to transfer if given the promise of opportunities to further their professional tennis "career." University of Georgia's Manuel Diaz feels strongly that his players stay through graduation. "Yes, that's where we make it clear to international players. We really don't want our program to be



vices. "We do not want our games or players used as gambling bait...As the Internet reaches more and more schoolchildren, Internet gambling is certain to promote even more gambling among young people."

The government outlaws traditional advertising of Internet gambling services in the United States. The Justice Department will not publicly address specifics about Intertops.com and the ATP Tour, but these laws may have been broken if Intertops.com was a

that Antigua is currently under a U.S. Treasury warning, issued this year, that questions "all financial transactions routed in or out of Antigua."

The federal government, which once deferred gambling matters to the states, shifted that stance in the early 1950s with reports of organized crime's rising influence among gamblers. The feds flexed their gambling muscle with the creation of an FBI unit designated the Special Rackets Squad. That name is now being raised

## **The ATP Tour's behavior toward gambling opens the sport to a serious integrity problem and puts it on track toward a 'racketeering' reputation**

visible sponsor on the Monte Carlo tournament telecasts in the U.S. or if it appeared in tournament promotional materials in U.S. publications. Advertising was one of the reasons the first federal charges against sports betting over the Internet were filed this year in Manhattan. The six accused sportsbooks each operated outside the U.S., including Antigua's World Sports Exchange, with the counts including "advertising in magazines published and distributed in the United States." Each of the 14 individual defendants face a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, with the first scheduled sentencing set for this summer.

"We have to keep sports clean in order to keep people believing them," says Senator John Kyl (R-Arizona), the sponsor of the Internet gambling bill. "We can't let Internet gambling intrude." Kyl also notes that odds in Internet sports wagering "can be easily manipulated and there is no guarantee that winners will receive their payout."

The Wire Communications Act already makes it illegal for U.S. citizens to place bets on "sporting events or contests" via telephone and other communications. "We absolutely interpret that to include the Internet," says Justice Department public affairs officer, John Russell. The Kyl bill, labeled the Internet Gambling Prohibition Act, was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee in June and Kyl expects it to easily pass the Senate. Among the bill's endorsers are the NCAA, NBA, NFL, NHL, Major League Baseball and Major League Soccer. "It appears the ATP is heading in the other direction," says Kyl media aide Vincent Solitto.

On June 18th, a federal commission on gambling presented its two-year \$5 million National Gambling Impact Study to Congress and reported: "Sports wagering threatens the integrity of sports...We are also seeing an increase in the involvement of organized crime on sports wagering." A nationwide Gallup poll released in conjunction with the study reports the majority of Americans oppose professional sports betting, in general and via the Internet.

By outlawing tennis wagering while featuring tournament gambling sponsors that take ATP Tour match bets, the Tour is performing a dangerous high-wire act. It's akin to the Tour accepting Kool-Aid as a sponsor, then fining players who drink the beverage. But all evidence shows that the Tour is letting its players down the Kool-Aid. The Tour's current rulebook still incorporates this longstanding rule: "No player shall wager anything of value in connection with any Tour and Challenger Series Tournament. Violation of this Section shall subject the player to a fine up to \$20,000 and/or to suspension from play in Tour and Challenger Series Tournaments for a period up to three (3) years." The Tour's Code for Officials outlaws "wagers on any tennis event." According to the Tour's Scott, these rules have never been activated.

Did the ATP Tour or any of its tournaments express concern to Intertops.com about linking tennis and gambling? "It wasn't an issue," said Mitch Garber, an attorney who represents Intertops.com at Montreal's Lazarus & Charbonneau. "The truth is, on the grand scale, no one bets tennis. It's an issue with the NFL and the NBA, but I don't see it being an issue with tennis."

Although Garber notes that Intertops.com pays an annual fee to be licensed in Antigua, the U.S. State Department counters

with some irony around Washington, as at least three U.S. branches—Justice, State and Treasury Departments—are expressing concern over the ATP Tour's gambling links. One senior IRS official even asserted that gaming-friendly behavior can place the ATP's tax-exempt IRS status in jeopardy.

**A**s a not-for-profit organization headquartered and doing business in the United States, the ATP Tour has always received 501(c)6 tax-exempt status, with the ATP Tour's contention that the men's circuit is a non-profit organization falling under the IRS tax code category of "business leagues" that support a "common business interest" and are "devoted to the improvement of business conditions". The category is dominated by trade associations, such as the American-Turkish Council and the Foundation for Habitat Conservation. The IRS officer in Washington questions how integrity-compromising gambling ties at the non-profit ATP Tour improve tennis' business conditions.

Although the ATP is not alone among professional sports fixtures that continue to file under 501(c) status—indeed, the NFL and PGA Tour are prime examples—the U.S. government is now on alert and pays particular attention to a sports entity which takes a perceived, if not real, Faustian step with its business practices. In the wake of the on-going scandal over the International Olympic Committee's dealing with potential host cities, presidential candidate Senator John McCain (R-Arizona) has proposed a 501(c) amendment that would erase the IOC's tax-exempt status and the deductions U.S. companies can take for their IOC sponsorships. The IOC's host-city fiasco is also the subject of a Justice Department probe. In this light, the gaming ties of the Tour and Mercedes Super 9 tournaments have raised eyebrows at the Justice Department.

At the Treasury Department, the IRS notes that if the ATP Tour loses its tax exempt status, the impact would be greatly felt by any U.S. company that gives sponsorship dollars directly to the ATP Tour. The corporate partners would no longer qualify for deductions, greatly devaluing their sponsorships. The IRS official adds that any government forms or published comments from the Tour that reference gambling will be under direct IRS scrutiny.

Like the ATP Tour, the Internet gambling industry is tax-sheltered. Jonathan Winer, the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, is concerned about the ATP Tour's association with Internet betting because off-shore gambling accounts are an easy way to conceal criminal profits, even when there is no evidence whatsoever that tennis matches are rigged.

"Off-shore betting, by its nature, facilitates crime and money laundering," says Winer. "Say you've got two tennis players—Agassi and Sampras—playing one another. If you bet on both players twice [for each player to win and lose] you have the ability to create profits that are off-shore and invisible and to create losses that can be declared. It's a serious problem. Dirty money appears clean. It used to be that you had to be a sophisticated commodities broker to do mirror-image trading—creating your win in one country and your loss in another. With Internet gambling, anyone's teenage kid can engage in money laundering, tax avoidance and fraud simply by bet-

*continued on page 61*



## Part II

a 'revolving door.'" Notre Dame's Bobby Bayliss agrees that international players not rooted in the system will be more likely to shop around. "This isn't the NBA. We're developing a system of free agency. Particularly some of the international players who really don't know much about the system here and what they're getting into, will come over and take any offer at any school." These statements are telling; at this year's NCAA team final, four out of the 12 starters were transfers.

So though it might be easier to sign foreigners, it may be harder to keep them. As several coaches have indicated, the bond may be weaker. Building a relationship with a player's family and understanding his background equates to a keeper. Some foreign players don't go on recruiting trips. International players can feel isolated: "I don't have any close American friends," states Pepperdine freshman, Alastair Garland of Belgium. "My closer friends tend to be foreign students. That's off the court. On the court we all play more or less the same level." Disenchantment and apathy factor into the end result on court as well.

### American Arsenal

Coaches need to have more faith in U.S. players. Isn't it better in the long run, when taking an exam, to study and learn material rather than use a cheat sheet? Isn't American loyalty the sturdiest foundation for building a lasting program? Notre Dame's Bobby Bayliss is pro-American. "My personal philosophy has been to commit myself to American players. It's our game in the college system and if we don't treat it that way, we're going to lose grassroots support." Texas A&M's Tim Cass focus is U.S. player development: "We're American universities and the absolute right thing to do is to recruit Americans."

University of Illinois' Craig Tiley has proved developing U.S. players works. "I believe if we're able to do it [with Americans] everyone else should too. The American players we've recruited haven't necessarily been on the National Team; in fact the highest ranked player we've ever had has been 35 in the juniors, and so we've really worked hard to develop each player's game. Since I've been here we've never had a player leave or transfer, and every player's made some significant improvements. We've been nationally competitive and had a top five program for a couple of years."

Interestingly enough, Tiley is captain of the South African Davis Cup team. "We really take the bigger picture approach. And I'm a big believer in first developing and working with the talent we have on our own shores. People think I've been a little crazy because I'm originally from South Africa. I do have good recruiting contacts overseas, but I'd like to do it this way first." As chair of the ITA Promotions Committee, Tiley has the ability to implement changes: "I think the USTA needs to develop a system that encourages pro development specifically rewarding American players." But coaches like Tiley can't do it alone. A consensus must be reached because the current system isn't working.

Strict rules need to be drafted because American players' fighting spirit has been weakened by an ailing structure. Many coaches argue the USTA must change its attitude about college tennis. Its trickle-down theory providing training, coaching and

financial assistance to a select few, has created a domestic drought. There would be a larger selection of U.S. recruits to choose from if there was a more effective focus on junior development.

The NCAA is also to be blamed for not keeping tennis-specific numbers. It is impossible to find out how many international players take roster spots, scholarships or graduate from college. Checkpoints should monitor how many internationals are being traded and which coaches are guilty of tampering. Programs are like secret societies. Only people who are intimately involved know

what's going on. The USTA needs to grab hold of the leash and bring to heel this runaway-dog-in-the-manger.

Discrimination against American juniors should be stopped. A surefire way to end the injustice would be to reward teams that develop U.S. players. And why not create an

incentive for programs which support Americans? Extra scholarships could be offered to teams of more than 60 percent U.S. players. Only role model programs deserve to be selected as hosts for regional NCAA championships. If all else fails, Texas A&M's Tim Cass has an idea: "One of the quickest solutions is eliminate scholarships. Everybody pays for college. Then you won't see foreigners." Or transferring.

If players had to pay their own way they might think twice about leaving a program. A mandatory one year sit-out would also do the trick. It works in football and basketball. Dick Gould, men's coach at Stanford, remarked: "There is no transfer rule. It's fiction. The way some players are jumping ship is criminal. Students should have to sit a year."

Then force internationals to graduate with their original high school class and set age limits for college athletes. Gould believes that rule should be amended. "When your normal class graduates, you should only have one year more." Otherwise internationals will take advantage of the American college system. Many play on the pro tour for several years and then take their high school finishing exams creating the illusion that they graduate that year. Not only is this practice unfair but it allows foreigners to start at an advantage to Americans. When they arrive at U.S. colleges they are older and have professional playing experience.

A contract of commitment to the program should also be required. The agreement would stipulate that players participate in all team events for all four years. Such an agreement would prevent players from drifting off towards pro prospects. Obviously to be enforceable, the rule would have to have the blessing (and sanction) from the ATP and WTA Tours.

American college players are the future of our game who will someday be Davis Cup captains and team members, pros, coaches and leaders in the industry. Hall of Famer Gardnar Mulloy believes much has already been lost. "In my Davis Cup playing days, every tennis player would gladly give his life if necessary to have the honor of representing his country. Sadly, it is not so in the U.S. anymore." The lack of patriotism is seeping into college tennis. Current recruiting practices value winning at any cost rather than the spirit and integrity of playing for a college team. Have we given up on developing our young players and allowed the dream of tennis for Americans to fade quicker than a transfer's transcript?

TW

*Beth German, recent graduate and tennis player at Princeton, is an associate editor for Tennis Week.*

# Teams recruit from afar

## Foreign-born players face new world of challenges on, off court

By Valerie Lister  
USA TODAY

Alexander Koul has traveled throughout Europe playing basketball with the Belarus national team.

Now the sophomore at George Washington University is conquering a whole different world — American college basketball.

"When I came here last year, I didn't have any idea about NCAA tournament," says Koul (pronounced KOOL), 20. "It took for me two months of explanation what the difference is between preseason, then season, then this team pool."

Koul, a 7-1 center, is among the increasing number of international athletes being recruited by Division I basketball. The NCAA says 213 foreign athletes play on Division I men's teams, up from 178 last season. The Atlantic 10 and Big East each have 19.

The same information isn't kept for women's basketball, but 166 are listed on this season's rosters, with the Pacific 10 Conference home to 18.

Like Koul, the majority of these players play inside at center or power forward. And with the NCAA tournament little more than a month away, several could have an impact on their team's drive for a national championship.

Hakeem Olajuwon, a student from Nigeria, brought attention to foreign-born athletes in basketball as a leader in Houston's Final Four appearances in 1982, 1983 and 1984.

"Foreign-born athletes are excellent players," says Dale Brown, Louisiana State's men's basketball coach. "Almost always they are better students than Americans."

But Billy Packer, CBS Sports' college basketball analyst, questions the use of international athletes, especially in revenue producers such as basketball.

"There could come a point in time where it becomes a get-rich-quick recruiting scheme for someone to bring over four or five kids, win a national championship and then send them home," Packer says.

He says foreign players tend to have more experience than Americans coming out of high school and recommends the NCAA treat them like transfer stu-



Inside threat: George Washington center Alexander Koul, who played for Belarus, is among increasing numbers of foreign-born athletes on U.S. college teams.

dents, requiring that they sit out the first year enrolled in a U.S. college.

Packer also advocates they not be eligible to compete for an NCAA championship: "Americans can't go over and get involved in the national championship in Russia. So why in the world would we have people eligible to come over here and be involved in our national championships? The bottom line is for every foreign athlete who takes a scholarship, that takes away an opportunity for an American kid. It doesn't make any sense."

LSU's Brown disagrees. "If they are qualified and they make it, why not?" asks Brown, who has had 14 international athletes in his program. "American kids have the most opportu-

nities in the world, and they are shirking it. There's the low graduation rates, the illegitimate births."

Packer says that in an effort to get international athletes, coaches spend a disproportionate amount of their recruiting budgets overseas. He says others have connections through Olympic committees, and that starts the pipeline.

Mike Jarvis, Koul's coach at GW, has had international exposure and coached the U.S. men's under-22 team to a gold medal in the 1993 world championships in Spain. He has had nine foreign-born players on his GW squads, including six this season. Most notable: Yinka Dare of Nigeria, who played for the Colonials two seasons before entering the 1994 NBA draft, where he was

selected by the New Jersey Nets.

Jarvis says he has been criticized for having foreign-born players, but that doesn't surprise him. "The advantage you have of being black, a black American, is that you've heard it all," Jarvis says. "At one time, they didn't want to give scholarships to blacks, either."

Jarvis says "many of the youngsters who come to the states come for an education. But they also come to try to get good enough to maybe have a chance to play professionally in the greatest league of them all, which is the NBA."

Adds Brown, "They adapt to our game."

And they must adapt to the lifestyle of a U.S. student-athlete. For some, life away from the court is more difficult than on it.

"The only big adjustment I've had to make was the weather," says Osiata Nwachukwu, a senior from Nigeria on the Wisconsin men's team. "I haven't been in a situation before where it's minus-15 degrees, minus-30 degrees. It was pretty hard for me to go around campus. I've adjusted now, or at least I think so."

Clarisse Machanguana of Mozambique and Ticha Penicheiro of Portugal are teammates on the No. 10-ranked Old Dominion women's team and have helped each other deal with homesickness and being students.

"It's hard to study here, in another language," says Penicheiro, the 1994-95 Colonial Athletic Association Rookie of the Year. "There's a lot of stuff that we have to use the dictionary for because we don't understand some words."

For Canadian Steve Nash, a senior guard and NBA prospect at Santa Clara, there were no language or cultural adjustments. But there was a difference.

"The only thing Canadians have to overcome is the level of competition," says Nash, a Wooden Award candidate. "There are probably a lot of kids in Canada who can play in the States, but they just don't get the opportunity because there's not the exposure."

Koul says he has made the adjustment, and while classes are still hard, he still has time to live "just the usual life. Nothing extraordinary."

"It almost feels like I am a normal student."

## Lamar recruit contends she was deceived

The Lamar women's basketball team has seven international athletes on its 10-player roster. If coach David McKey had his way, there would be more imports. But the Beaumont, Texas, school declined to admit four players from Africa, including 6-7 and 6-5 centers, for this season.

McKey decided to go the foreign route because "I'm trying to find an avenue that's quicker for me to win. I don't think where I'm at we have the budget or notoriety to go against the big-time schools."

Lamar recruits the globe via phone and letter, utilizing the contacts of assistant Madhavan Pillai, a native of India. The Cardinals (8-11) had two star Australian freshmen from last season, All-Sun Belt picks Emma Clements and Lisa McMahon, leave the team.

Clements said she was conned through correspondence. She said she received pictures that weren't of the campus and was led to believe a car and house would be provided, unaware such arrangements violate NCAA rules.

"You're telling me stuff I don't know about," McKey said. "I asked Madhavan about that, and he denied it to me."

Clements is now at Central Florida Community College and being recruited by several schools, including Georgetown, Penn State and Colorado.

"It's sad you can get tricked by people like that," she said. "Now I'm being recruited by schools I didn't even know about. Things are going to be better."



Swede move: Tanja Kostic of Sweden has led the Oregon State women to a No. 15 ranking.

## Danish star paved way for top female athletes

By Dick Patrick  
USA TODAY

When Inge Nissen left her home in Denmark and basketball leagues in France for Old Dominion University in 1976, she wasn't familiar with U.S. hoop customs.

Her Hall of Fame teammate, Nancy Lieberman-Cline, remembers the 6-5 Nissen putting on a cigarette and sipping coffee at halftime of one of her first games. "We were trying to see (coach) Pam Parsons through the smoke," Lieberman-Cline recalls. "She says, 'Inge, would you please put the cigarette out.' It was hysterical."

Nissen had a more important and lasting legacy than locker-room nicotine and caffeine. She was the first prominent international player in the college ranks, helping the Monarchs to national titles in 1979 and '80.

"She opened the doors for their side," says Lieberman-Cline, a women's basketball commentator. "They saw they could come over here, get a quality education and play whatever sport they like."

Twenty years after Nissen's arrival, there are 166 international women's players in Division I, exercising considerable influence:

► Old Dominion has a Portuguese influence and a No. 10 ranking with three international starters.

► Oregon State has parlayed four foreign starters, including Player of the Year candidate Tanja Kostic of Sweden, into a No. 15 ranking.

► Nissen is an assistant at Florida International, which has seven overseas players and a 14-1 record.

The international influence is so great that Lieberman-Cline thinks there should be a quota of two a team, much like European pro leagues limiting the numbers of U.S. players on rosters.

"You get four or five of these international players, and they're so good you can build yourself a contender overnight," she says. "I don't want this to sound wrong, because I'm appreciative of how good they are and that they deserve opportunity."

Though junior colleges have placed a limit of three a team, there doesn't seem to be support for a similar Division I measure.

Says Leon Barmore, coach of No. 2 Louisiana Tech: "I'm not opposed to having young people come here and play from other countries. I just wouldn't build my whole team around it. But I'll leave (quotas) to other people."

If anything, the foreign influence could be growing. Ask Oregon State's Kostic, Pac-10 Player of the Year last season as a junior, why she came, and she says education and competition.

"I think more and more players will be coming," says Kostic, a member of the Swedish national team along with OSU teammate Anette Mollerstrom. "Back home, younger players see me and Anette have been pretty successful and want to do the same thing."

I am writing this letter with concern for American Junior Tennis. The term "American Junior Tennis" means (particularly) the junior players and their families of the nation. It also includes friends of tennis, organizations and community programs, and fans.

America's college coaches, men and women, make a statement by where they elect to recruit and provide scholarships for their teams. When a coach, or an athletic director, or a university sanctions an all-international team, as is now often the case, it seems to me they have little concern for American Junior Tennis.

Playing professionally (a rare career) or receiving scholarships, are the only two ways (financially) that families can recoup their tennis investments. American families should know this situation exists. Information on historically "all-international" or "highly international" programs should be available.

The United States Tennis Association should be on top of this information and dispense it aggressively to our youth. Coaches, through their personnel, either

- (1) Care about American Junior Tennis or don't care.
- (2) Prefer internationals.
- (3) Feel they must recruit internationals to win above recruiting Americans to teach.
- (4) Prefer maximum job security to nurturing Americans (at professional risk).

Coaches will tell you they have to recruit internationals to survive. There does seem to be a "great win syndrome" wagging us. Still, shouldn't higher education come clean with America's young athletes? Shouldn't our juniors and their families and friends be aware that their investment (time, effort, money, etc.) is not very highly regarded by higher education?

Tennis has housed this problem for a long time. It's getting worse. It has also grown rapidly in other college sports, both men and women. Are we not to the point where parties should be identified for how they behave regarding this issue? It is important to "American Junior Tennis."

March 9, 1998

Mr. Rudy Washington, Editor-in-Chief  
The BCA Journal  
P. O. Box 4040  
Culver City, CA 90231-4040

Dear Mr. Washington:

I've coached college tennis for 30-plus years and I have been dismayed by the preponderance of international players who have usurped many tennis scholarships from American youngsters.

There seems to be a trend toward this in basketball. Has the BCA addressed the danger to American student athletes this poses, in particularly college basketball. Should there be a limit to this?

If your Journal has addressed this issue, please let me know. It seems basketball is a game that this should concern.

Sincerely,

Tom Parham  
Men's Tennis Coach

ETP:lh

## Big South Tennis Scoring System: The "National Bonus" Possibility

Having observed college tennis for forty years (coaching thirty-five) and recently the Big South Conference men's tennis, I have a suggestion. My guess is this spring ('99) there are only five or six Americans who start (top six singles, top three doubles) on all eight teams combined. That's approximately 90% internationals. While this trend is endemic to all of collegiate men's tennis, it is certainly a disproportionate number that continues to increase. My team is less, but no real exception.

Is this really in the school's best interest? Does it make money? Are these kids paying their way (foreign trade) or are they scholarshiped in any way (foreign aid)? I propose study of the following system:

- A. For every American a school starts, the school gets  $\frac{1}{2}$  point. If he plays an international and wins, he gets a total point. If he beats an American, he gets a total point. Loss to an international –  $\frac{1}{2}$  point.
- B. This applies to doubles, too; however, both players must be American, no hybrids. Traditional scoring for NCAA I men applies otherwise.

Some interesting possibilities:

- 1. Should an all-international team play an all-American team and win every match, it is a tie. Tie! Ties are OK in this situation. Maybe the tiebreaker is  $\frac{1}{2}$  point for an American coach. Next, athletic director, next – chancellor or president!
- 2. In the same scenario, should one American entry win, the American team wins. Would that encourage Americans?

There are fascinating mathematical possibilities. Think about it (but don't "stack" your Americans!).

I also think the matches are too long. Ron Woods, USTA, is right on target in Tennis Week (March 4, 1999). College teams should play tiebreakers only in split set singles matches. Those who howl the loudest are the same ones who wonder why no spectators come to matches. People aren't going to watch a bunch of foreigners for five hours. Hello!

My tenure is about over. But, young coaches—these problems aren't going away.

Tom Parham  
Elon College



**Tom Parham**

**From:** Russell Rawlings [RRawlings@NCBAR.ORG]  
**To:** Tom Parham  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:**  
**Attachments:**

Sent: Fri 5/16/2003 10:53 AM

NCAA tennis: Too many foreigners or not?

By Ray Glier, Special for USA TODAY

The Illinois men's tennis team had just lost a 1998 NCAA tournament round-of-16 match to Auburn in Athens, Ga., when the barbs started to circulate through the stands. Undefeated in the Big Ten and ranked No. 8 in the nation, Illinois had just been eliminated by the fifth-best team in the Southeastern Conference.

The Illini had primarily American players, and some in the crowd mocked them for not having enough of a foreign flavor on their roster. Auburn's team had eight foreign-born players on its 10-man roster, and the outcome was typical of the direction top-level NCAA tennis had taken.

"I was told many times you can't do it only with U.S. players," said Illinois coach Craig Tiley, a South African who coached that nation's Davis Cup team in 1999-2001. "I had a huge amount of contacts through the Davis Cup. I could have brought in any number of (foreign) prospects. But I told my athletic director when I was hired, there is going to be no quick fix. We're going to approach this as development, and we're going to provide opportunities for kids from the United States."

Illinois returns to Athens this weekend ranked No. 1 in the nation, undefeated in 28 matches this season and favored to win the national championship. Tiley (pronounced Tie-lee) never wavered from his stance, and now he is the only foreign influence on the squad.

Many people won't be bashful cheering for the Illini in the four-day tournament. There has been controversy over the last 10 years about the number of foreign-born players in NCAA tennis.

Indeed, 63 of the top 100 men's singles players in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) national rankings have hometowns outside the USA. For the women, 47 of the top 100 are foreign nationals.

In this year's 64-team men's NCAA tournament field, all but Miami (Fla.), Wake Forest, Illinois and Stanford used at least one foreign player.

Casey Angle, the media coordinator for the ITA, which administers college tennis with the NCAA, said while the sport is "top heavy" with foreign players, 30% of all Division I men's tennis players and 29% of Division I women's players are foreigners. The NCAA said this week that even with the 2003 championships approaching conclusion, it is investigating the relationships among some players and professional and club leagues in other nations. Tiley and other coaches have prodded the NCAA to investigate schools using players who had accepted money or other benefits. Bill Saum, NCAA director of agent, gambling and amateurism activities, said players still could be forced to sit out.

The investigation won't touch Tiley, who went 423 as interim coach in 1993 but steadily was attracting tall serve-and-volley specialists across the USA who could dominate at the net.

"At first, we were getting the third-tier high school player, then the second tier, and now the first tier," Tiley said. "It took some time."

It also took some coaching from Tiley, whose efforts have become a selling point for prospective recruits.

"The biggest reason I went there is he was recruiting guys ranked No. 50 or 60 in juniors and developing them and turning them into All-Americans," said Brian Wilson, a junior from San Marcos, Calif. "Some schools recruit good players, but they don't get any better."

Accent on upgrading rosters

If Tiley had gone with foreign expansion, he might have had a powerhouse in the mid-'90s. Baylor is cited as the prime example of a program that changed almost overnight with a tennis foreign legion.

Baylor went 7-14 overall (0-7 in the Big 12) in 1996, the year before Matt Knoll (Ka-noll) became coach. He recruited foreign players, and by '99, the Bears entered the NCAA tournament ranked 10th in the nation and reached the quarterfinals.

"Each institution has its own message to spread, and our message is going to be different than a large, state university like Illinois," Knoll said. "We're a private school with a Christian mission. We want to spread the values of what Baylor stands for on an international level. So anybody who is knocking foreign players is not looking at the whole picture."

The University of California, which also has reached this year's NCAA tournament round of 16, has foreignborn players in four of its six singles spots. Golden Bears coach Peter Wright says he has to recruit foreign players to compete in the Pacific-10 with Stanford, which has won 17 NCAA men's team championships. The Cardinal, and now Illinois, get most of the best American high school players.

"There are not enough good American players to go around at the level college tennis is being played, and right now that level is pretty high," he said. "It's at the low professional level already. That has contributed to foreign players on rosters."

Wright understands some of the criticism of the foreign approach, but he said building a team around foreign stars isn't against the rules and helps college tennis.

"It is seen as a quick fix to add a foreign player or two," Wright said, "but I think it's helped ... programs that might be in an isolated area. You put two foreign players on scholarship and you are in the top 20."

"Someone can object to it on moral grounds, that's one thing, but the rules allow for 22-year-old freshmen. So if it's within the

rules, it's in play."

Tiley, among others, says he has no objection to foreign players who enroll in a U.S. college immediately after finishing high school. What he doesn't like are 20- and 21-year old foreign freshmen who played on the professional or club circuits in Germany and then accepted a scholarship from an American college.

"The coaching fraternity has to take a hard look and see what they're trying to create for the future of college tennis" in the USA, Tiley said. "We're in the process of killing college tennis. Their argument is, 'We can't recruit the top players,' and my argument is, 'Have you tried?' It took four years, but we got it done."

Serving notice to schools

The ITA has proposed a rule change that would require prospective players to enroll in an NCAA, NAIA or NJCAA institution as full-time students within one year of finishing high school and before turning 20. Angle said a survey of NCAA Division I coaches found 82% in favor of the change, which the NCAA would have to approve.

"I don't have a problem with the 18-year-old foreign kids coming over here and beating my 18-year-old freshmen," said Vanderbilt coach Ken Flach, who has won a Wimbledon doubles championship and was ranked No. 1 in the world with Robert Seguso. "I have a problem with the 21-year-old freshmen, who get to be 24-year-old juniors and play my 17- and 18-year-old freshmen. That's not fair."

Stan Smith, the former world No. 1 player who helps run the Smith-Stearns Tennis Academy in Sea Pines Resort, S.C., said taxpayers and junior tennis programs in the USA would benefit if the NCAA would limit the number of foreign players.

"There should be a minimum number of Americans or perhaps a maximum number of foreign players, especially at the state schools," said Smith, whose sons played at Princeton and Duke, respectively. "Everybody should be in the same boat with the same number."

"I also wonder about the taxes paid to keep some of these teams afloat. They use our facilities, we train them, and some go back to their country to play against us in international competition."



The motion passed unanimously. The 1983 Tournament Committee will include: Bob Blume, Chair; Ross Cutter, Whitworth College, WA; Sheldon Bassett, Le Tourneau College TX; Murray Murdoch, Cedarville College OH; Si Dunklee, New England College NH - Alternate.

- XIII. Tom Parham, Atlantic Christian College NC, moved that we abandon the stand-by system of selecting extra teams to play in the NAIA National Tournament.

Si Dunklee, New England College NH, seconded the motion.

After some discussion the motion failed by a large majority vote.

Joe Cabri, Lander College SC, moved that a stand-by team not receive protection (relative to the draw) from the other team in its district at the National Tournament.

Mike Benson, Pacific Lutheran College CA, seconded the motion.

The Motion passed unanimously.

- XIV. Tom Parham, Atlantic Christian NC, moved that beginning in 1986 we restrict teams to one foreign player per team at the NAIA National Tournament.

Si Dunklee, New England College NH, seconded the motion.

Steve Wilkinson, Gustavus Adolphus MN, stated that we could pass the motion, but that it would not stand up in court.

The motion failed with two assenting votes.

- XV. Charley Morris distributed the 1981-82 ITCA Guidebook to all coaches present.

- XVI. Bob Blume distributed the results of the first day's play and announced the doubles and singles schedules for the second day of play.

- XVII. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

## BRAVING THE COLD CAN LUKE JENSEN SAVE U.S. TENNIS... IN SYRACUSE, N.Y.?

It was the 2005 U.S. Open and Daryl Gross was still new to his role as athletic director at Syracuse University. The school's women's tennis program had been stagnating, so Gross decided to ask an old buddy for advice. When Gross worked for the University of Southern California in the mid-'80s, Luke Jensen was the star of the tennis team. Jensen was never stingy with his opinions. Two decades later nothing had changed.

So how would Jensen upgrade the program? He took a deep breath. "If you're going to spend a dime, you might as well aspire to win the national title. You should only recruit players who come with the goal of winning Grand Slams as pros. The best facilities will attract the best players. Don't let the bad Syracuse weather be an excuse for mediocrity. Don't apologize for indoor courts: On the days it rains, you're practicing and the guys in Florida or California aren't." When Jensen finally wrapped up his monologue, Gross smiled.

"You're hired."

"Hired for what?"

"To coach the Syracuse women's tennis team."

"I didn't know I was applying."

"When can you start?"

Jensen laughed. Some athletes struggle with life once their careers end, but Jensen isn't one of them. He has fared better in retirement than he did on the ATP tour. His upbeat, outgoing, troublemaking personality translated perfectly to the exhibition circuit and the ESPN booth.

"Basically," he says, "My job was to be Luke Jensen."

With appearances, clinics and media gigs, he was earning more money than ever. "I'm rich and famous and living on the river in Atlanta. And I'm going to give that up to be a college coach in upstate New York? Riiiiight."

But the more Jensen thought about it, the less ridiculous it seemed. As he traveled the country, he heard the same question: What's wrong with American tennis? "Everyone had a theory, but not many people were doing anything to stop the decline," he says. "I want to help bring it back."

Jensen had no interest in coaching juniors, because he knew the parents ultimately control the purse strings and make the decisions. He had no interest

in coaching pros because the dynamic is skewed. ("The coach is the employee," he says. "Can you tell your boss to run five miles?") But as a college coach there were no parents and no corrupting money. He figured he could have a real influence.

"I'm coming to Syracuse," he told Gross.

Fans who recall Jensen as a chest-bumping, ponytailed doubles specialist—he and his brother, Murphy, won the French Open in 1993—would scarcely recognize him today, and not just because his head is shaved. Jensen, 43, wakes up at 5:30 A.M. most days and is hitting balls with his players by 6:30. His practices are exacting and businesslike, a medley of sprints, drills and instruction. "This is your internship," he tells his players. "Your payment is a \$200,000 college scholarship. All those ovas are grinding 50 hours a week in Russia. How hard are you willing to work?"

That's another thing: At a time when roughly a third of Division I tennis players are foreign-born, Jensen unapologetically limits his roster to Americans. He won't condemn the recruiting practices of

specific colleagues, but he reasonably wonders how juniors can thrive in the U.S. when so many players are deprived a chance of competing in college. "Let's be honest," he says. "College tennis is failing American tennis."

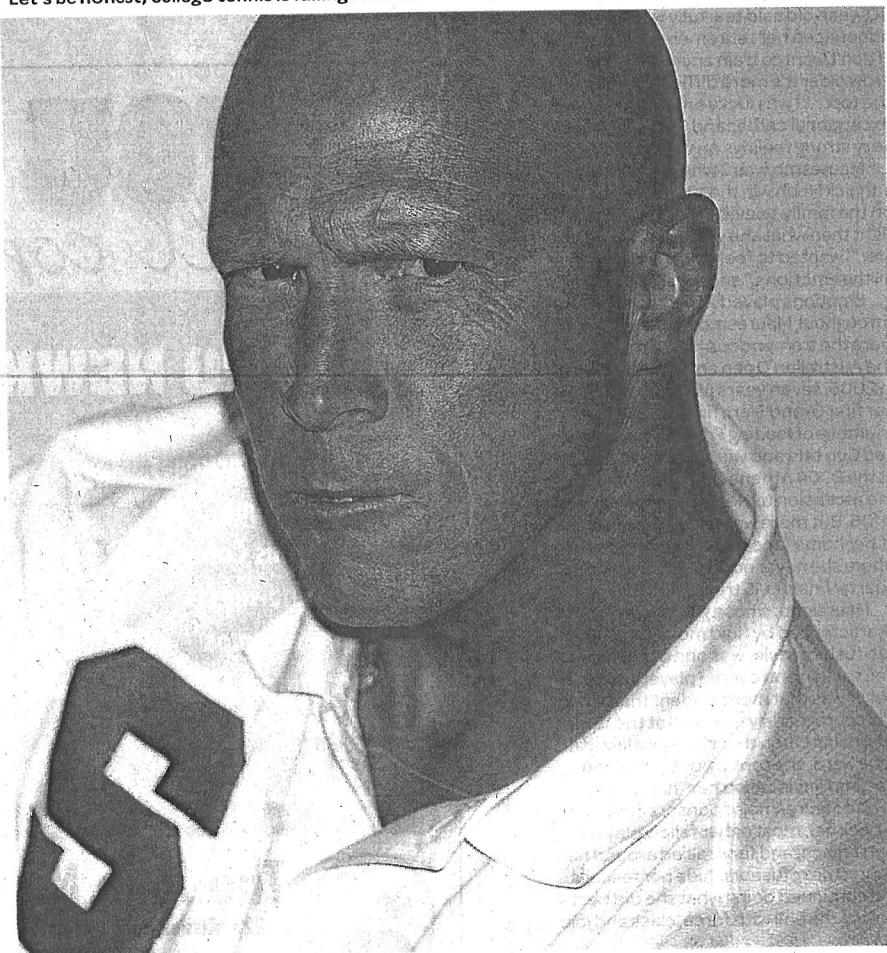
On the other hand, Jensen sees Melanie Oudin as a potentially transforming figure, but not because she's necessarily going to become No. 1. On the contrary, four Syracuse players compete on the WTA tour. They're the same age or just a little older than Oudin. They serve harder. "Why is she a Top 50 player?" Jensen asks, his voice filling up like a sail. "Because she believes. She even writes it on her shoe."

In late fall, Jensen received a call from a top junior in Northern California, committing to play for Syracuse. "You sure you want to come here," Jensen joked. "It's really cold and it snows a lot." She responded that she didn't care about the weather. "She said, 'I want a Grand Slam, not a sun tan.'"

"Now that's my kind of player." ♦

**L. Jon Wertheim** is a senior writer at Sports Illustrated.

"Let's be honest, college tennis is failing American tennis," Jensen says.





OFFICE OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

May 20, 2003

Sports Editor  
USA Today  
7950 Jones Branch Drive  
McLean, VA 22108

Dear Sir:

I read with interest Ray Glier's article on the international tennis player issue. One quote by Coach Matt Knoll was somewhat disturbing: "We're a private school with a Christian mission. We want to spread the values of what Baylor stands for on an international level. So anybody who is knocking foreign players is not looking at the whole picture."

My personal opinion is that a coach who is trying to protect American junior tennis is more aware of the whole picture than one who would contend his international recruitment philosophy is religiously motivated.

Sincerely,

Tom Parham  
Director of Tennis



# Break Point in College Tennis

by SELENA ROBERTS

**I**n the folksy reaches of Terre Haute—where Larry Bird became a star and the Coca-Cola bottle was designed—understanding the native tongues of Indiana State's top tennis players this year all but required those clunky headphones mothballed in a United Nations closet.

A Swede, a Serb and a South African wore the Sycamores' royal blue, a reflection of the global reach of collegiate tennis. Of the top 25 men's and 25 women's players in Division I, as ranked by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA), more than half were born outside the U.S. That's led to more than a few jingoistic remarks from the moms and dads of American tennis hopefuls who have watched precious scholarships go to foreigners, many of whom enter college in their 20s. "If parents invest \$50,000 a year into their child's tennis career, some feel they're owed," says David Benjamin, executive director of the ITA. "But it's not in the Constitution that if you spend a certain amount, you'll get a scholarship to the school of your choice. Intellectually, a family understands this, but emotionally it's difficult to accept. That's where you get the anger."

It's the land of opportunity—why wouldn't there be an open casting call?

Chris Finney, for one, didn't have to go all Patriot Act. Rather than feel squeezed out, Finney, a freshman from Scranton, Pa., nudged his way into the Benetton ad, determined to play among the best in the world. The top player at Wallenpaupack Area High and a district doubles champion, he walked on to an Indiana State team that improved as the season progressed. College is where the Bryan brothers got on the fast track to doubles fame. Where James Blake developed a swashbuckling forehand straight out of a Johnny Depp scene. Where the landscape is more competitive than ever, but increasingly threatened too.

Around 7 p.m. on May 14, Finney, having just finished his semester, was dining out with his family when he picked up a call from his coach, Malik Tabet. The signal was clear; the words were a jolt: The men's and women's tennis programs had been the first casualties of budget cuts in what athletic director Ron Prettyman called a "difficult" but "necessary" decision. "Everyone was left high and dry," says Finney. "What am I going to do now? That's the question we have. I don't know if I want to go back to Indiana State. I don't know what I'd do without tennis. It's been my life."

Tennis career crises are an NCAA epidemic. The international



**With its global reach, the sport is more competitive than ever but increasingly threatened too. Four Division I programs have been cut since April.**

stars are handy when schools need to fill the trophy cases, but they make teams vulnerable when money gets tight; boosters aren't likely to phone in protests from Barcelona. Since April, the men's programs have been slashed at Southeastern Louisiana (nine of 10 players were foreign-born), Tennessee-Martin (four of seven) and Southern (five of five) on top of a half-dozen Division I programs cut in 2008. "What is happening now," says Benjamin, "is like going from a normal flu season to a pandemic."

AD's don't merely shutter tennis programs because of Title IX (the old excuse) or foreign players (the new excuse). They do it to preach the gospel of revenue-producing sports without disclosing the secret—that few of them turn a profit—to football-obsessed boosters. "We've got kids who are completely disgusted," says Tabet, who was born in France and played at NAIA Mobile (Ala.). He was the Missouri Valley Conference coach of the year in 2008 after the Indiana State women's team, composed entirely of foreign players, went undefeated in conference and won the title. This year he coached the men, too. While they struggled to rebuild, they have been dominant in the past, winning 60 straight conference matches from 1999 through 2004 with largely international talent.

"We were getting closer as the year went on," Finney says of his teammates. "I'd made plans to share an apartment with [Serbian] Milos Pavlovic next year." Isn't this what the modern college experience is all about? Networking in a global marketplace?

There is a paradox to the purging: Tennis is in a recession-era revival. In March *The Wall Street Journal* ran a story—IS TENNIS HIP AGAIN?—that was almost as stunning as the numbers to back it up. The Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association rated tennis as the fastest-growing sport in the country, with participation jumping 9.6% in 2008 while golf, baseball and football lost bodies. The sport is cathartic to play ("People in these hard times have found hitting a ball therapeutic," says Benjamin) and cheap to start (Wilson's Roger Federer signature beginner's racket retails for \$19.99 at Target).

Even on the college level tennis is a bargain. Average operational cost (equipment, travel, insurance, etc.) of a men's or women's team: \$15,000 a year. Cost of competing in a football arms race (air travel, spa tubs, flat screens, etc.): endless.

These days in Terre Haute, there is talk of upgrading the locker room for the Sycamores' football team, which has gone 1–44 since 2005.

So here's a question, in plain English: Which sport was ripe for the ax? □

## Talk Back

If you want to comment on Point After or suggest a topic, send an e-mail to [PointAfter@si.timeinc.com](mailto:PointAfter@si.timeinc.com)

JULY 11, 2013MAY 4, 2014 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

## Why Teach and Coach? (64)

- [EXCERPT](#)
- [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)
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When I became Director of Athletics the first thing I did was book an hour with five different athletic directors I admired.

Dylan said you had to get up close to the teacher if you want to learn anything.

You never know who you're influencing when you coach. The same was true for teaching in college. Formal classroom or just talking to kids.

A basketball player named Damian Carter appeared in my doorway one day at Elon. He said he rode up and down I-85 often and had planned to stop by many times.

He was in his forties, had been a pretty solid player at Atlantic Christian, having transferred from UNC-Wilmington. At Wilmington he hadn't played as much as he wanted. The same was true at ACC later on, and he found his chances of pro ball weren't going to materialize. He was about to quit college though his grades were good.

I don't remember the specific conversation with Damien, but it was one of fifty I'd had with basketball players.

It went like this:

1. Are you the first from your family to go to college? Often the answer was yes.
2. You're not going to make \$100,000 playing pro ball, you understand?
3. You can get your degree and get a very good job. People are looking for athletic people with degrees.
4. Your job is to elevate your family and its expectations one generation. Put your money in compound interest, and expect your children to go to college.

I agreed with Damian that was the gist of what I advised the "first kids." Damian smiled and added, "Coach, my two daughters have college degrees, and I've got a million bucks in the bank!" Compound interest.

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## More On NCAA Requirements

I have followed John Acree's series on Proposition 48 by the NCAA I Division (or the 700 SAT rule for college athletics in 1986) with interest. The fact that this issue is a headline series in Wilson's sports section is not unusual, as it has graced sports pages, editorial sections of newspapers, as well as network television.

Athletics often is the battleground for social issues. This is particularly true in this case. The true issue is not simply who gets to play ball, but much deeper and fundamental social and economic decisions. Economics are involved, as are education at all levels, physical health, healthy occupation, family involvement, future job possibilities, "bragging rights," etc.

The issue of academic standards affects us in the world market, which is quite unconcerned with our social problems. Everyone must realize our need to be competitive and this demands intelligent performances by our young, particularly if the arenas of science, math, and high technology are our routes to defeating the oil crisis. This can't be done with socially promoted scientists.

James Michener, in "Sports in America," has noted that America is the only country in the world that charges higher education with entertaining the public through athletics. This has produced many good things, but in many ways become an "opiate of the masses" with far too much television, dollar and "win" control. Conversely, the private local business sector and the community in general, have

often withdrawn support (i.e. funding for facilities, personnel, equipment and the like) at the time we most need to aid the egalitarian movements. This has occurred due to the erosion of standards (as well to the general economy itself).

I have written the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and encouraged them to make a similar move to the NCAA I. I hope eventually the same direction takes hold in the NCAA II and III, and the junior colleges. But more importantly is support from the local levels for public schools, in there inevitable posturing on this issue.

Eventually athletics can profoundly upgrade goals for all people. I have somewhat jokingly surmised that some eastern North Carolina basketball player will eventually fly from one end of the gym to the other in hummingbird fashion and slam dunk the far goal off. He may fly because he wants to play that badly. If he wants to play that badly he will study to qualify to play. In contrast to the unfair accusation of "Paterno's Paternalism," the Penn State coach has proven Michener again correct as he speculated in 1974 that Coach Paterno would become the "...philosopher of college athletics."

I can guarantee right now people are studying harder than ever before because they have been informed that this is the standard to play.

Tom Parham  
Associate Professor  
Men's Tennis Coach  
AC College

# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

MARCH 11, 2012 JULY 16, 2013 *by* PASTURESPPOINT

### Coach of the Year (24)

▢ [BOOK EXCERPT](#)

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▢

When they presented me with the 1990 National “Coach of the Year” for NAIA Tennis, I tried to give it to Coach Fred Kniffen of the University of Texas at Tyler.

Fred had a firm rule in 1990 that no one rode in the van without their seat belts on. No exceptions.

En route from Tyler to Kansas City, one of the two team vans ran off a 35-foot embankment.

All belted, there was one minor injury.

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)



## Taken for a (Full) Ride

It's time to rein in the globalization of American college tennis.

BY L. JON WERTHEIM

Greenwood, S.C., is generally not considered an international destination. But you'd never guess it if you were to take a peek at the Lander University men's tennis team. The 12 members of the Division II Bearcats hail from nations such as India, France, Sweden, Australia, England, Germany, and Norway. Strikingly, one prominent tennis nation is not represented on the roster: the United States.

Lander isn't an aberration. At the NCAA Division I tennis championships this May, the field will resemble a miniature United Nations. College tennis, you see, engages in a sort of reverse outsourcing. Coaches scour the world for the finest tennis talent to bring into the U.S.

While this trend has been a terrific boon to international players, it has hurt American tennis. "I love college tennis, but this totally disillusioned me," says Craig Tiley, who coached the University of Illinois to the 2003 men's NCAA championship but left last year to head up player development for Tennis Australia. "If you want one or two foreigners on your team, OK. But it's gotten way out of control."

How out of control? Last year, 30 of the Top 50 D-I men in the season-ending rankings came from outside the United States. In the men's 2005 team final that pitted Baylor against UCLA, 10 of the 12 singles players on the courts were non-American, and for the fifth straight year the singles title was won by a foreign-born player (the 2005 champion was Benedikt Dorsch of Germany). The same holds in the women's game. The 2005 women's champion was Zuzana Zemenova of Baylor-via-Slovakia, not to be confused with the 1999 winner, Zuzana Lesenarova.

The defense of this trend goes like this: In today's global environment, the recruiting territory is limitless. If corporations and symphony orchestras troll the world to cull the best and brightest, why shouldn't college tennis programs? "I'm not against recruiting locally," says Lander's coach Brett Simpson, an Australian who played for the team in the '90s. "But if I can't get the best locally, I look elsewhere."

It's not quite that simple. For one, the ethics are shaky.

American universities, subsidized by American taxpayers, ought to award the majority of their athletic scholarships and playing opportunities to American athletes. Beyond that, overseas recruits often are ringers—former pros who have no business playing college sports.

Dorsch, for instance, turned 24 his senior year, which not only qualifies him for *Old School* jokes, but makes him older than Roger Federer, Lleyton Hewitt, and Andy Roddick. In 1999, when some of his college opponents were competing in boys' 12s events, Dorsch was playing pro tournaments in Europe, earning both prize money and ATP points. "It's boys against men," says Tim Cass, the Texas A&M men's coach.

The Princeton program recently landed a 23-year-old recruit, Peter Capkovic of Slovakia, who had played dozens of European pro events earlier in the decade and even scored a win over Vladimir Voltchkov, a former Wimbledon semifinalist. "A guy gets his butt kicked on the pro tour for a few years and says, 'Forget this, I'm going to college,'" says Yale coach Alex Dorato. "It's a great deal for him. But my question is, how can that guy be eligible?"

It's a good question. But the NCAA rules are filled with loopholes. For instance, if a player can prove that his expenses exceeded his prize money, he might still be deemed an amateur. Throw in a fear of lawsuits and it's easy to see why so many athletic departments and compliance offices turn a blind eye. To its credit, the NCAA is toughening up its standards, mandating, for instance, that athletes who start college after their 20th birthday must first sit out a year.

Still, where's the outrage? Where's the push to limit schools to two foreign players, the way European basketball leagues have done with non-Europeans? Around the same time foreigners started winning the trophies, the USTA quietly stopped awarding U.S. Open wild cards to NCAA singles champs. But otherwise the organization has been silent—never mind that the dwindling of tennis-scholarship opportunities gives American kids an awfully compelling reason not to take the sport up. The Intercollegiate Tennis Association has been strangely mum, too. "We recognize it's a controversial issue," says Dave Benjamin, the group's executive director. "We don't want a civil war that will splinter our membership."

I'll say what so many are afraid to. The explosion of overseas recruitment in college tennis? *Es riecht. Eso apesta.* Or as the rare American player might say: It stinks. ♦

L. Jon Wertheim is a senior writer at *Sports Illustrated*. He also writes the Tennis Mailbag column at *SI.com*.



# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

DECEMBER 2, 2013 MARCH 1, 2014 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

### “The Sport Gene” by David Epstein (81)

 [NEWS](#)

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Just read and now recommend this remarkable book. David has done his homework and some fascinating data is included for sports professional and fans in general.

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## WORTH REPEATING? (139)

- [UNCATEGORIZED](#)
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Sports can break your heart and/or your neck. About the time schools consolidated, a football tackling technique called "spearing" became popular. And it was lethal. During this "evolving" time several kids were killed or paralyzed. Spearing was often the villain. Any young football coach should read O. Charles Olsen's small book called "The Prevention of Football Injuries." Olsen's theory is centered on  $E = 1/2 mv^2$  or Energy = one half mass times velocity squared. Or, the players are faster, stronger, and the hitting is harder.

When schools integrated the smaller kids were eliminated from football. Bigger kids, many African American, weight training programs, and steroids in some instances, produced some dangerous hits. Much has been written about the "Black athlete." There is no question in my mind about the talent level of these athletes.

Coming from the South and being a minister's son there was little question, early on about God. Certainly, in my mind, he was male, white, and looked a whole lot like Santa Claus. Surely too, he was lovable, kind, and simply good "supreme being."

After watching sports in America the last forty years my guess about God's nature is more Machiavellian. After watching America make a religion out of sports, while at the same time mistreating the black population so badly, I picture God's role differently. My guess we've put so much emphasis on sport he's peeved. Think not? Watch where parents are at 11:00 am on Sunday's if their child is in a soccer match. Hmm? Did God say "I'll give these fanatics a dilemma!" He then put this glorious athletic talent in many of the Black population, and now he's "up there" giggling at what America is doing with sports.

Please don't get me wrong. The Black athletes have paid their dues in practice, injury, and sweat just like anyone. Probably more so.

Integration caused a lot of headaches in the alignment of conferences, etc. Who plays and who you play, is important, and alignment turned things upside down.

I do believe Proposition 48 (the academic guidelines for collegiate eligibility) yielded a lot of good. I wonder about the S.A.T. and fairness, but it is a "hard" number.

My guess is the best barometer for academic success is the athletes' class rank. With exceptions, most of those who could achieve class rank had enough ability to succeed.

Some can't spell S.A.T. Some people are aberrant bastards who have no business in higher education. It always irked me to know that the beauty, education, and joy of collegiate sports was often wasted on an "athlete" who had no intention of benefiting from the true value of Sports in Education.

\*\*\*I wrote the above in 2007 ("Play is where Life is").

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July 11, 2013 by [ethomasparham](#)

# Tennis Camps (60)

- [excerpt](#)
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Overnight tennis camps were quite an experience. There are tons of them and they vary in quality greatly. I did this for over thirty years and survived financially because of “summer money.” I also survived the camps thanks to “Camp Mom Margaret” and a great staff. Resident camps are the way to make money (the parents wanted to get rid of ‘em) but there is a lot of tension. There’s no telling what 10-11-12 year olds will do the first time away from home.

Camp week begins with real concerns. Kids feel it too. One “first morning” in the cafeteria line I asked a disheveled 10 year old his name? “Huh?” “What’s your name? Again. “Huh?” I finally said, “...tell me your name son.” The reply (slight speech impediment, plus 6:30am) “my name is Hunt. How many times to I have to tell you?”

Toughest kid at our camp? No question, Jessica Covington, 9 years old, from Rockingham, NC. Though cut off age was ten, Jessica had an older sister coming and her mom was confident Jessica would be okay. Okay? In one hour everyone in the camp was afraid of Jessica. Me included.

A young girl, faculty child, named Lucy, approached me in the Pavilion tower. It was hot, the Pavilion was cooler, and in all honestly I was “hiding” up there.

Lucy figured this out at age 10, “what are you doing up there?” Her tiny head poking from the stairwell. “Well Lucy, I’m preparing our next session’s lesson.” (I’m 60 years old at the time) Lucy: “Haven’t you been doing this long enough not to have to write it down?”

Stunned at her perception, I felt my shorts had dropped. I couldn’t rebuke her. As she turned in disgust she finalized, “... we need some help down here.”

We had to can one camp tee shirt. Our shirt featured a blazing racket with a ball on mid-strings. “Keep it in the hit-spot” came out “keep it in the hot-spot” Back to the screen printers!

One of Jessica’s cousins, Marty Covington, aged 11, gunned down a Canadian goose, roof shingle to neck. That was my only visit from the S. P. C. A.

We had a sign up sheet for a night tournament. As I read out starting matches, only as it came out audibly did I get the joke: “ Court #3, Bobby Johnson vs. Hugh Jass”

Lee Gilarmis, he of Dick’s Hot Dog Stand in Wilson, sent Grandson Nicklas to camp at age 11. Nicklas’ first ever match was the last one on the courts, 9:00pm, after a full, full day. And then the proverbial last match tiebreaker. Nick called for help. I figured the tiebreaker had stumped them, and I hurried to help my friend’s grandson.

“Yes Nick, can I help you guys?” “Will that arcade still be open when we finish this stuff”, was his concern.

# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

FEBRUARY 1, 2013 MARCH 18, 2014 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

### Doping (47)

 [NEWS](#)

 [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



With the publicity about Lance Armstrong and the denial of Hall of Fame membership to Sosa, Bonds and McGuire, perhaps it is time to dig in on the substance issue...1. Armstrong stated he would not have been selected if he refused to dope. One potential pro baseball player told me the reason he was not moved up (management told him) was because he refused the "pack", or steroid enhancement. If this is the only way to advance then advancing may not be worth it. It is certainly dangerous, and taking unfair advantage. "Cheaters never win" a passe axiom? 2 . In the "power sports" isn't there an added danger in giving some parties strength, size, speed, injury recovery, frenzied mentality advantages etc?  $E = 1/2 m \times v^2$ . Or "energy equals one half mass times velocity squared" as proposed by O. Charles Olsen in "The Prevention of Football Injuries" in the 1970' One football coach said the mothers were leading the charge against their kids playing some sports now. If these sports are worthwhile, and I believe strongly they are, shouldn't they be played on "a level (drug free) field"? 3. Who protects the 14year old (about age some are making the steroid decision) when parents either aren't there, are ignorant of the issues, or sadly complicit in encouraging usage? Is the "paste out of the tube". Or is this a watershed moment requiring the parties that are in control to "step up", to use a sports cliché?

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# The Little Green Book of Tennis

## Thoughts on Tennis, Sports, and Life by Tom Parham

JULY 11, 2013MAY 4, 2014 *by* ETHOMASPARHAM

### Modern vs. Classic Teachers (63)

☐ [EXCERPT](#)

☐ [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

☐

Changing to a proper service grip is an example of where this technique may be used; or playing with a continental grip for all volleys; or moving the ball toss to the right move for the service; or any number of other changes that are sound and needed. If this all sounds like it is moving toward the Classic vs. Modern coaching argument, it is. And no tennis debate is more heated than debate over the current widespread use of Western forehand and two-handed backhands. Coach Leighton invited me for breakfast with Chet Murphy at a USTA Teachers Conference. After listening to these two great teachers, I was particularly struck with one statement: Mr. Leighton asked Mr. Murphy what his assessment of the classic method of tennis instruction that their careers had sanctioned. Mr. Murphy pondered, then responded, "I think we did a good job, though we probably should have been more tolerant of Western forehands."

It is tough to be a "purist" today. There are so many varied and successful styles. I don't think there's a stroke Greg Holmes (1983 NCAA Singles champ) didn't use. Borg, Evert, Connors, etc. all use some shots that vary from the classic or Ken Rosewall style of play that so many used as "copy" for years. Many of the variations offer improvement, and certainly there is a "classic" way to hit any shot, new or old. One problem some teachers have is that many played before these new "inventions" and we have to "retool" our knowledge. Coaches to follow will have the same task.

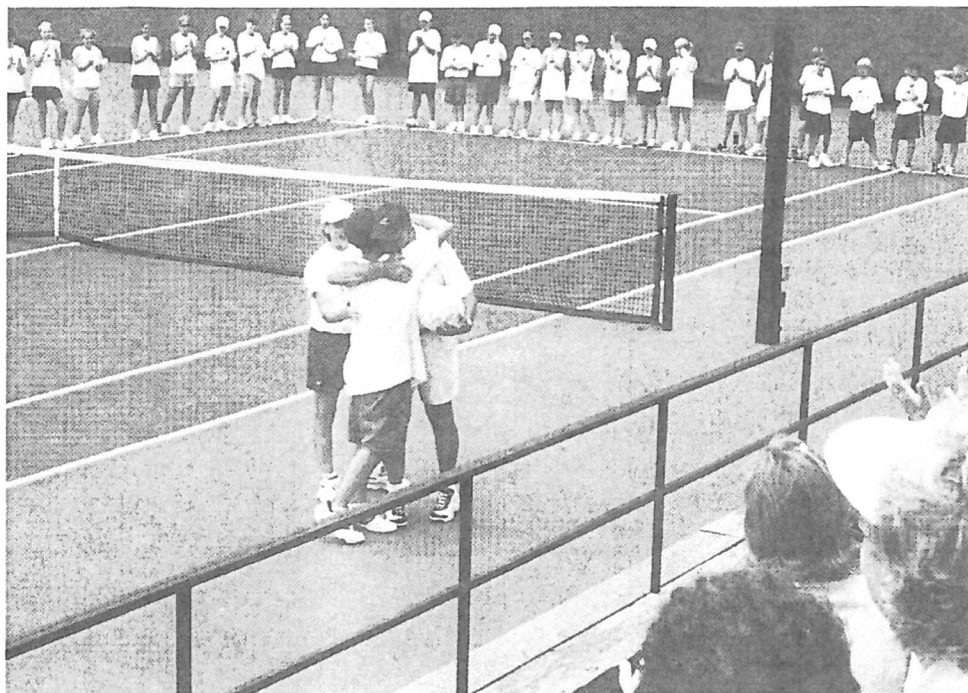
Welby Van Horn took time to talk tennis with me at the summer resort in Pinehurst (North Carolina). One of his concerns is the lack of proper "copy" for young players. Who to imitate becomes a modern problem that perhaps players from an earlier era did not have. There has always been copying or imagery, but never has there been such a wide panorama to choose from.

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*Elon University Tennis Camps  
1986-Present*



*North Carolina's First Tennis Camp  
Atlantic Christian College (1961)  
Founder: Coach Ed Cloyd*

