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Play it close to the nest?

Options for new courts considered

By Jeff Thomas

Taking a downright mathematical approach to determining how and where to expand league play, the CVTA Board of Directors has discovered the statistical center, or mean, of the homes of its membership are pretty darn close to downtown Louisville.

And while that might not sound like earth-shattering news, it is an important step in determining what courts will be most accessible to the

existing membership and what courts may actually serve to enhance membership, according to League Coordinator Paige Hayes.

"The purpose of this study is to assist in guiding the decision of where to contract for additional court time if needed for future league play," reported Hayes, who recently completed a brief statistical analysis of the home addresses of CVTA members.

"We want to better understand where our members live, so that we can best serve them when contracting with additional courts for league play rotation.

CVTA league play only occasionally overflows the current home courts at Centennial Park, Pirates Park, and Monarch High School, which are clearly the closest available courts to most of the membership, according to the study. But aside from geo-

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"The CVTA and league participation has grown, particularly over the last few years. Specifically, Adult League participation on a given league-play evening has exceeded court capacity available by the CVTA's traditional courts. If this trend continues, either the CVTA needs to have additional courts ready for league use, or teams will have to be turned away." — League Coordinator Paige Hayes.

Looking for a few (very) good men

Recently bumped players hope to form a CVTA 4.5 team

By Jeff Thomas

Six years ago, Mark Ackermann didn't know that competitive amateur tennis had ratings. Today, he's pretty much worked his way to the top of the heap.

Still, success often does not come without its own difficulties, as Ackermann has found this year while attempting to put together the CVTA's first men's 4.5 team.

"I've got a bunch of 'maybes,'" said Ackerman, who is one of about five CVTA members who were moved up in rating last year or already searching to form a 4.5 team. "But there's a few of us who are really committed to having a CVTA 4.5 team."

While there is a 5.0 rating in USTA amateur tennis, there are few leagues and tourna-



Ackermann

ments that host play at that level and many teaching pros actually play at the 4.5 level. In fact filling teams at the 4.5 level is difficult for many leagues, which is the primary reason that the CVTA has not had a 4.5 in the past.

"It is exciting to see the CVTA grow in all ways, and the establishment of a men's 4.5 team would be further indication of our organization's diversity," said CVTA President Steve Caulk. "I wish them luck."

Ackermann was one of four men elevated from a 4.0 team captained last year by Christopher Kranz, together with Paul Shaw, Keaton Howe and Tony Ryan. While the total number of players bumped this year does not quite appear to be as many as last year, it does appear that the USTA ratings are being

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CVTA looks at logical growth

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graphical concerns there are many other factors to be considered, including cost, the number of courts available, amenities and other policies – up to and including whether or not an after-match beer is allowed.

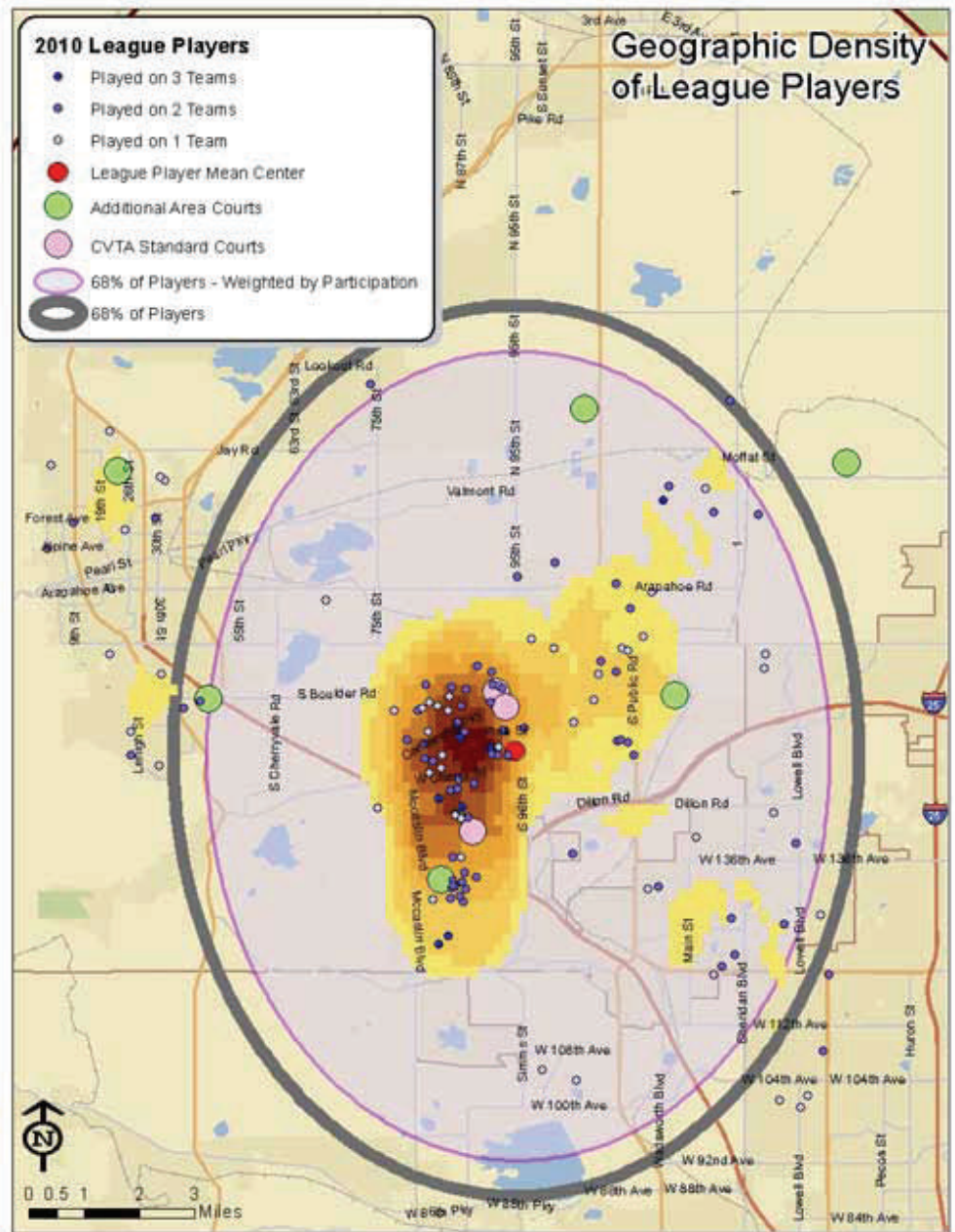
“If the CVTA wants to serve the area most densely represented by its league players, the best options are Centaurus High School, and Alexander Dawson Tennis Sports,” said Hayes in the report.

“If the Association wants to spread out more - potentially appeal to a larger geographic draw - then University of Colorado South Courts, Erie High School, and Centennial Middle School become more viable options.”

At the very least the report gives the board a place to begin studying where it may consider placing more league matches.

Last year, the overflow of league play, occurring mostly on Wednesday nights, went to Centaurus, but at \$15 an hour for court time that is one of the most expensive options, especially for a non-lighted facility with restrictive policies.

At its December meeting, the board took no formal action on determining where to move overflow league play but appears to be taking a serious look at what makes the most long-term sense.



The data for map above is weighted for players who play in more than one league. The darker reds and brown indicate the most dense areas of players' homes.

While the growth in teams served by the CVTA was stagnant last year, that hasn't been the recent trend, Hayes said.

“The CVTA and league participation has grown, particularly over the last few years. Specifically, Adult League participation on a given league-play evening has exceeded court capacity available by the CVTA's traditional courts. If this trend continues, either the CVTA

needs to have additional courts ready for league use, or teams will have to be turned away.”

Jeff is the editor for *Baseline Banter*. Have an opinion on this issue? E-mail responses to newsletter@cvtatennis.org.



Steve
Caulk, presi-
dent CVTA
Board of Di-
rectors

Growing, and growing old with, tennis

Jan. 1, 2011

I played basketball when I was young, promising myself I would play until I was 79 years old. I quit a few years ago, at age 53, when I took a charge and ended up with a broken rib. I was definitely past my prime, and you don't see many 79-year-old basketball players.

While I played basketball, my father kept extolling the benefits of tennis, hoping I might prepare myself for a sport that could help usher in my golden years. I'm glad I listened. You do, in fact, see a lot of 79-year-old tennis players (count my father among 'em, and on a good day he can still beat me).

In fact, what other sport gives us this ideal combination of exercise, sociability and competitive enjoyment at such a reasonable price (\$50 racket and \$3 can of balls) and at such a range of ages? I contend there isn't one. Jogging? Not as social, and really not as easy on the body. Soccer? How

many age-60 soccer leagues do you see? Golf? Softball? I hope I never have to rely upon either one to help keep my weight down.

Tennis is in a class by itself, and probably one of the reasons it ranks as the fastest growing participation sport in the U.S. since 2000. Frankly, I'm surprised the huge list of the sport's attractive features hasn't caused a boom that makes it entirely unmanageable, with a long line of people waiting at every tennis court all hours of every day.

Until the uninitiated masses wake up to the benefits of tennis, it is the paradoxical responsibility of the CVTA board of directors (and, by extension, the entire association and all its members) to promote the sport to the point that we really do end up with people waiting for courts, even though we all enjoy open facilities for our own convenience.

Our younger members might not remember the late 60s and early 70s when the game exploded to the point we really did have long lines at every court. Yes, it can happen. Of course, if we ever get to

that point, it will then be the CVTA's responsibility to lobby for new, additional facilities and help find ways to pay for them. Our work will never be done.

I mention all this because I recently attended a USTA workshop in which we heard about the USTA's efforts to make tennis more appealing to children through a program called QuickStart. They offer smaller courts with lower nets, lighter balls, and of course the smaller rackets that have been available for years. In its 15 years, the CVTA has focused on adult competition, supporting leagues and social activities for adults (including seniors). But this is your CVTA, and if you decide we need to emphasize growth via the nurturing of our kids, you can make it happen. A lot of kids will thank you 79 years from now.

If anyone is interested in obtaining more details about this laudable program, go to www.10andundertennis.com.

“Our younger members might not remember the late 60s and early 70s when the game exploded to the point we really did have long lines at every court.”

Tennis shorts

Sign up now for Jan. 15 social

The Centennial Valley Tennis Association is pleased to announce that it will hold its annual January indoor tennis social at the Ranch Country Club Jan. 15, 7-9 p.m. Make your reservations before Jan. 11.

All CVTA members at all ability levels are eligible to participate, and the fee is \$12. Participation is limited to the first 22 players who submit their payment to the CVTA in care of John Kennedy, 928 St. Andrews Lane, Louisville, CO 80027. For information, please call him at 303-819-8403.

The format of the event will be

“social tournament doubles,” with everyone getting the chance to play at least three, 30-minute matches. The CVTA will assign doubles partners if participants do not make specific partner requests. We will also attempt to match players according to level to make the tennis as competitive as possible.

BTA captures BCC

The Boulder Tennis Association won the 2010 Boulder County Cup on Aug. 21 at the CU South Courts, capturing 123 points to outpost CVTA, 116, and the Longmont Tennis Association, 94.

Casino Night held Feb. 26

Casino Night, which also doubles as the CTA's annual members meeting will be held on the evening of Feb. 26 at Arapahoe Ridge Clubhouse, 1750 Powell St., Erie.

The event will feature free appetizers and beverages provided by the CVTA, along with gaming chips for blackjack and Texas hold 'em poker that can lead to winning valuable prizes. There will also be a board update a yearly review.

RSVP to Steve Caulk at srcaulk@proconnectpr.com or 303-410-4971.

Men hope to form the first CVTA 4.5 team this year

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adjusted to move more players out of the lower ratings, which traditionally have been heavier in players, up into the higher ratings. (Of course, it should be recognized that attempting to discern the logic of the USTA computerized rating system is far beyond the capability of most mere mortals.)

Ackermann said he was surprised at being moved up, though he had made the finals of two doubles tournaments. Now 57, he's played six years of USTA league tennis, four at the 3.5 level and the last two at 4.0.

“When I started I was just looking to play and Mark Webster recruited me to play for his 3.5 team,” Ackermann said. “I didn't even know they had ratings.”

While Ackermann said there may be seven or eight people he is already talking to about the team, there certainly is room for at least several more players on the team.

Men interested in playing on the 4.5 team should contact Mark Ackermann at 303-666-4384.



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Membership Classifieds – Members can run an ad free of charge in the newsletter. All ads will run for one issue unless noted otherwise.

Business Classifieds – If your business would like to advertise in the “Baseline Banter”, business card ad space can be purchased for \$24/year.

Comments, announcements, information, advertisements, and articles can be sent to: CVTA – Baseline Banter, P.O. Box 574, Louisville Colo. 80027

Or emailed to: NEWSLETTER@cvtatennis.org

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