



BASELINE BANTER

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Men turn in strong league play

Kranz's 4.0 team heading to districts

CVTA men's teams were strong in spring league play, with 4.0 Captain Christopher Kranz now set to take his 8-1 team to districts.

Players on the team include Kranz, and David E. Zile, Eric Ruthrauff, John Penczek, John Buri, Kevin Durling Keaton Howe, Steve Filmer, Tony Ryan Mark J. Ackermann Paul B. Shaw. Going undefeated in the league season were Zile, Ryan, Ackerman and Shaw.

"We only lost the one match because of people on vacation," said team member

Kevin (don't call me darling) Durling. "We won both the singles matches in that one, too."

In the first season for 3.5 Trio Men's League, which is played before the Spring season, Captain Ian Kogan's team went undefeated, posting a 6-0 mark. Players included Kogan, Dan Johnson (undefeated), John Kennedy Gabe Spradlin, (undefeated) and Doug Turley.

Eric Witte's 3.5 Men's Team came within a tiebreak of going to districts, ending in second in their division with a record of 7-1. The team won

more individual matches than the No. 1 team, Broomfield Swim and Tennis Red, but lost the head-to-head match 3-2, with the final match on the courts at No. 3 doubles going to a third set tiebreak.

Players on the team included, Witte, John R. Shaw (undefeated), Jeffrey Donald Thomas, Dave Hwang, Dan Johnson (undefeated), John Kennedy (undefeated), Ian Kogan, Harold H. To, Gabe Spradlin, Chris Haines (undefeated), Michael W. McCormick and Peter R. Wallace.

"We only lost the one match because of people on vacation."

— Kevin Durling, member of Christopher Kranz's Men's 4.0 team.

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CVTA Members hit the summer in high form

Left, CVTA board members John Kennedy and Kim Christopherson hit at Centennial Courts for the annual social July 3. See results on page 4.

Photo, Steve Caulk

Tennis Tip:

A tip from World Cup soccer; employ set pieces to out-position, perplex opponents

By Jim Pagano

This quarter's article is about set plays in doubles. While watching the soccer World Cup, I realized the strategic similarities shared by soccer and tennis, particularly doubles strategy. While both sports involve free-form dynamic play, the best and most successful teams employ set pieces. If you want to reach the next level of doubles, you should find opportunities to employ choreographed shot patterns that put your team in the best position to win the point.

This set-piece mentality is most evident when the serving team's net player signals a cross prior to the delivery of the serve. Essentially, the net player issues a hand-signal that tells the server that once the serve is delivered, the net player will cross into the serving player's half of the court and vice-versa. This set piece is best employed when the returner is successfully playing the return cross-court and at the feet of the incoming server. The net player is in a better position to handle this first volley as the net player is already past the difficult "no-man's land" transition part of the court.

When the return is weaker and floats to the middle, there is really no need to signal the cross as the net player should automatically cross on such a return. If the server is con-

stantly being forced to execute low volleys in the mid-court, he or she can blame their net partner. Next time you play doubles, try to commit to crossing at least once every three points in the deuce court.

Once the point starts, it becomes more difficult to execute set pieces due to the dynamic nature of tennis points. But, even mid-point, set pieces can be successful.

The most effective set piece in doubles is an inside-outside pattern of shot selection when both of your opponents are at the net. For this set piece, the initiating player hits a strong low ball through the middle of the court (while either approaching the net or while already in a volleying position).

The intent is to draw both players into the middle of the court. If the first shot is hit with command, it should elicit a reaction volley. In that situation, most players will simply block the volley back to where it came from. As the initiating player, after the first shot to the middle is struck, you should close into the net and anticipate this blocked response. The harder you hit the initiating shot, the more likely it will return directly to you. Knowing this, the initiating player should be ready for the blocked volley and direct it to the outside of the court. By employing this strategy, you maintain command and initiative of

the point and should win the majority of volley exchanges. A little practice will make the inside-outside pattern intuitive and automatic.

When employed successfully, set pieces build confidence and disrupt your opponents' rhythm. Next time you are on the doubles court, try to employ these strategies as often as you can. You will see more wins and will feel more in control of play. If that doesn't work, ask your teammates to blow a vuluzela every time your opponent serves.

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We've never heard him blow a vuluzela at any of our matches, but the stadium horns are available for \$7.99 at Soccer.com .

"When employed successfully, set pieces build confidence and disrupt your opponents' rhythm."

Keep us in touch with your news

Don't forget this newsletter is a vehicle for members to get to know each other and share the news they think is important.

So if you've won a tournament, or watched your buddy win one, please give us a relatively high-resolution picture (not taken by a phone camera) and a few words, and I'll do my best to get it into the newsletter.

Pictures in good taste are most welcome, You can email me this information at newsletter@cvtatennis.org.

Jeff Thomas



Message from the president

The people who really keep us playing

One of the unsung volunteers of the Centennial Valley Tennis Association is the person in charge of making sure we have a place to play tennis. Pretty fundamental, right?

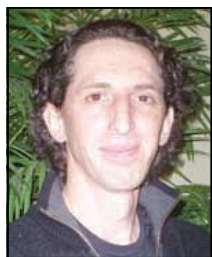
Sometimes we take it for granted. We show up for a match, there is a net across the court, there are straight lines for me to ignore when I make my line-calls, and sometimes we even have windscreens that restrict the wind rather than indicating exactly how strong it is.

Maybe you think these are public tennis courts, so the city must be taking care of everything. Well, you would be right – to a point. The City of Louisville does indeed provide the physical labor required to string a new net, batten down a new windscreen and resurface a weathered court. Yep, the City even replaces the awning at the Centennial Park courts every time a bored teenager with a knife decides to carve a smiley face.

But these City services are largely reactive, not proactive; and if City officials have nobody prodding them into all this main-

tenance and repair, it's a good bet those tattered nets would hang there almost indefinitely. So that's where the CVTA's coordinator of facilities comes in.

This year, the person doing such a fine job in that role is Ian Kogan. Before him, it was Tony



Ian Kogan

Ryan, and before him, Rob Scott. When Rob resigned from the position, I thought, "Uh-oh, we're in trouble, because we're not going to find anybody like Rob who can foster the necessary relationships with the City." Tony stepped up, and the CVTA (and the entire Louisville tennis community) was saved. I thought nobody could match the diligence with which Tony approached the job as facilities coordinator.

Personal distractions forced Tony to resign this year (evidence indicates he must have decided to spend about three hours a day improving his serve), and again I felt a huge amount of foreboding. Within

days, Ian stepped up, and only days after that, he proved that he is a worthy successor to this string of amazing facility coordinators. We immediately threw Ian into the deep end, asking him to get involved in some of the most complicated facilities issues we have faced in a long time. We had to figure out what to do about the City's decision to eliminate all its Porta-Potties, and we had to open new lines of communication with a new entity – the Boulder Valley School District – when we opted to expand into the Centaurus High School courts for league play. Ian also has to stay in touch with the folks at Monarch High School to make sure we have adequate "spill-over" facilities there.

The next time you see Ian, give him a big thank you for his willingness to monitor all those facilities and keep them in working order. And while you're at it, don't hesitate to thank Tony and Rob for their past efforts. The fact is, league participation drives the CVTA, and these guys are a big reason the league program has been so successful.

— **Steve Caulk, president
CVTA Board of Directors**

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Boulder County Cup set for play at CU south tennis courts Aug. 21

The Boulder County Cup is set to be held Aug. 21, 2010, at the University of Colorado South tennis courts. The Centennial Valley Tennis Association is currently working with the Boulder Tennis Association and Longmont Tennis Association to confirm details regarding who will play at what times and under what rules. The Boulder County Cup, going into its seventh year,

features competition between the three local tennis associations, and all CVTA members are eligible to sign up.

Last year, the tournament featured 50 players at all levels of play, and they competed under World Team Tennis rules, which allowed unlimited substitution. The rules and structure of the BCC have varied from year to year, depending partly upon the preferences of the host group. This year, the CVTA will organize and host the event. For information, contact Susan Olenwine at solenwine@yahoo.com.

Tennis shorts

CVTA Board releases its End-of-Year Report

The CVTA's board of directors has released its annual end-of-year report. The report is available online at www.cvtatennis.org, and includes a summary of 2009 activity and a list of organizational goals for 2010.

Just a few days left for these fall league signups

The deadline for forming these teams is July 16.

* The ITA Fall Mixed Doubles at 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, and 9.5 NTRP levels. Three mixed doubles matches for each competition, with play on Sunday afternoons beginning Aug. 8.

* The CTA Women's Summer Daytime leagues have a deadline of 16 July. All levels play week-day evenings. 2 singles and 1 doubles courts for each competition. Play begins Aug. 9.

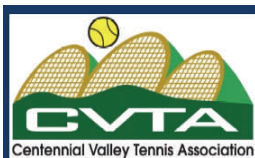
— Paige Hayes



Photos by Steve Caulk.

Rami Boneh and Diane Engel score well at social

Above left, Katherine Caulk hits from the baseline during the July 3 CVTA annual summer social event at Centennial Park in Louisville. Above right, Paulette Witte waits patiently for someone to hit her a ball, as she played with her husband, Eric. With 24 members participating, Rami Boneh and Diane Engel had accumulated the highest number of games won by the end of the morning's event. Finishing in second place were the husband-wife team of Chris and Andrea Robbins. After the structured competition, participants enjoyed sandwiches and refreshments; and many of the players returned to the court for some "pick-up" tennis. The event was organized by CVTA board members Katy Howe and John Kennedy.



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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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