

April 22, 2016

Dear Tennis Player,

I become nostalgic this time of year working on the THJTA brochure and mailings. I cannot help thinking back on my playing days in the THJTA. My favorite part was always what I learned and then could use to help me win. I remember tips from Coach Hopkins, Cook, and Kelsey that I carry with me still and use on unsuspecting opponents every chance I get. I also loved playing against different people and learning how to handle the tennis problems each one of them gave me. How do you beat a push? How do you return that big serve? What is the best pattern for me at the baseline to get the type of point I want? The thinking and learning would be interesting to me all by itself. Add in you get to run around chasing a tennis ball and occasionally jump up and smash a good one, and it is no wonder I wanted to play every day all summer with the THJTA!

We have a great tennis camp planned for you this summer! We will be offering free morning tennis camps for younger, beginning players at Honey Creek Middle School and Terre Haute North from 9 am to 11 am, and we have moved our afternoon program for more advanced players ready to play matches to Terre Haute North High School. Terre Haute North is a great tennis facility with 10 courts, a large shaded shelter to take a quick breather from the sun, and the spirit of many great high school teams and matches to inspire us to do our best.

We have decided to expand our afternoon program to one three-hour session for all players. This format gives us the time we need to do progressive drills and match play every camp day all summer. This is the best format for players to improve, and we look forward to having everyone working together. Back for this summer will also be Wednesday Grudge Match team tennis, Summer Slam travel team tennis, video stroke analysis and four USTA sanctioned tennis tournaments. We will have new information on our June 6th registration day for players interested in our tournament package. Tournament play is the best preparation for junior high and high school challenge matches and regular season matches against other teams. Our THJTA tournament package is a great way to save while you play.

I would like to close by thanking our tournament sponsors Old National Bank, the Henry Stadler Family, Toyota of Terre Haute, and Edward Jones, Financial Advisor Mark Metheny, CFP®. Because of their generous donations, we have been able to continue offering 4 local tournaments for our tennis players to compete in at the lowest prices possible. Our thanks also go to Union Health and the Union Hospital Foundation for sponsoring our free morning tennis programs at Honey Creek and Terre Haute North. The morning tennis program is the heart the soul of the THJTA. It is a great introduction for children to a lifetime sport that is fun and healthy to play. We are also very grateful for the support of Kris Bilyeu and Tabco. Kris is a great advocate for tennis and the Tabco art department does an excellent job on our printing needs. Lastly, we would like to give special thanks to Mike and Kim Hambrock for more than 20 years of sponsorship and support. Logan and Lauren Hambrock are two of the finest young adults I know, and it was a blessing for the THJTA to have the Hambrock's support and participation for so many years.

The THJTA staff is looking forward to another summer on the courts! It is always fun for us to see everyone improve and have fun with their tennis. We hope to see you on June 6th, our program's sign-up day. Also, if you would like to pre-register, we have included a pre-registration card and return envelope with \$50 in savings for full-camp afternoon players who pre-register by May 20th. For any questions, please contact me at 812-240-8596 or Dallas Kelsey at 812-249-9538.

Sincerely,

Wesley Kirk, President

Terre Haute Junior Tennis Association