

Wheelcats 360°

National Wheelcats News From Every Direction

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- 2017
 - Music
 - City
 - Classic
 - Recap
 - NWC
 - Athlete
 - Michelle
 - Wilson
 - Quick
 - Hits
 - Upcoming
 - Events
-

2017 Music City Classic Tennis Tournament Recap

by Mary C. Green

On Thursday, June 22, over 40 wheelchair tennis players enthusiastically arrived in Nashville for the annual Music City Classic. The tournament was held June 23-25, 2017 at the Centennial Sportsplex.



Registration along with the traditional casual reception was held at the Hampton Inn, the host hotel, from 5-8 p.m. on Thursday evening. Players along with their family members, coaches and traveling companions enjoyed socializing as they geared up for the tournament. Food and light refreshments were served thanks to faithful volunteers and organized once again by Courtney Cawthon and Joy Goin.

Prior to arrival, Tournament Director Kelly Skelton-Weise had already communicated with participants informing them of the weather forecast for the weekend. On Friday there was a 100 percent chance of rain due to a tropical storm coming from the coast. Since most players had travelled in the rain, everyone was prepared for a wet weekend.

Thanks to having four indoor courts and the cooperation of the Sportsplex staff, matches went on as scheduled Friday morning. Competition continued as rain and storms arrived and continued off and on all through the day and evening on Friday. The last match was finally concluded around midnight!



Thankfully, the weather pattern unexpectedly turned for the better. That made it possible for matches on Saturday and Sunday to be played in unseasonably cooler, dry conditions. Athletes and others who were in attendance were thrilled and surprised how the weather was so pleasant and not terribly hot as it has been in the past.



Since matches were played almost perfectly according to schedule on Saturday, they concluded by 5 p.m. That made it possible for everyone, including those running the tournament desk and Kevin Riser the event referee, to attend the banquet.

The annual Saturday banquet was quite the enjoyable get-together. Weather was extremely comfortable as everyone enjoyed a delicious Italian dinner under the tent outside of the tennis facility. James Harrison, nephew of wheelchair player David Harrison, once again performed music at the banquet along with a fellow musician. His talent and their enjoyable music were appreciated by the entire crowd. A raffle was held and several players won attendance prizes made up of wheelchair products as well as some gift cards for various vendors.



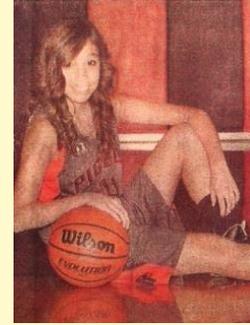
On Sunday the final matches were played, once again in beautiful weather. Players and attendees all said goodbye looking forward to next year's tournament. Kelly confirmed next year's event will be held on June 22-24, 2018 once again at the Sportsplex.

Many thanks are extended to the players who attended the Music City Classic as well as the sponsors. Also the volunteers who made this year's tournament such a success deserve much credit and gratitude. Special thanks to Danny Fik of Per4max and Russell Rodriguez of Max Mobility for donating to our raffle. Without all of their hard work and the contributions of the major sponsor, the National Wheelcats, there couldn't be a Music City Classic Wheelchair Tennis Tournament!



NWC Athlete Michelle Wilson

Michelle Wilson is the daughter of Robert and Yolanda Wilson of Sevierville, Tennessee. Michelle is an athletic wonder with skills in basketball, karate, softball, track, and tennis. Let's say Michelle has done a lot in her short 17 years but she has endured so much more.



In December of 2014, Wilson, then just 14 years old, was given the diagnosis that would change her life. She had osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer most prevalent in children and young adults. The diagnosis of the tumor located in Michelle's hip area, came after months of treatment following a knee injury. After chemotherapy, it was decided that getting rid of Michelle's cancer would take an aggressive move; amputation of her right leg.



Two years after cancer took her right leg, Michelle Wilson returned to her happy place: the tennis courts.

Fast forward to 2017, Robert and Yolanda with daughter Michelle meet current National Wheelcat athlete, Amy Burnett at a tennis tournament in Georgia. This meeting would introduce Michelle and the Wilsons to a whole slew of wheelchair and adaptive sports offered by the National Wheelcats.

In June, Michelle competed in the Music City Classic in Nashville and this visit allowed Michelle and her family to get a real look into the NWC organization. The Wilson family meet many previous and current NWC athletes from several different sport groups and enjoyed the competition of the tournament.

Michelle aspires to attend the University of Alabama and play wheelchair tennis. She is a natural competitor and has a good support system at home with family and friends and now with the National Wheelcats.

Welcome, Michelle to our 60 year old organization and we wish you luck in achieving your goals.

Quick Hits

■ National

Wheelcats
Softball
2017
Southeastern
Slugfest
Champions

■ Walton
Foundation
Tennis
Tournament
in
Augusta,
GA:
Amy
Burnett/Michelle
Wilson
Women's
A
Doubles
Champions

■ Walton
Foundation
Tennis
Tournament
in
Augusta,
GA:
Michelle
Wilson
Women's
A
Singles
Finalist

■ Jana
Hunsacker
Tennis
Tournament,
NY
:
Troy
Weise
C
Division
Singles
Finalist
and
Doubles
Champion

■ Sled
Preds
Coach

Keith
Grooms
opens
Break
Away
Hockey
and
Fitness
an
all
accessible
gym
and
off
ice
facility

- 49
players
participate
in
the
2017
Music
City
Classic
Tennis
Tournament
at
Centennial
Tennis
Center

Upcoming Events

Softball

July 8-9 National Wheelcat Softball Classic, Nashville , TN

July 15-16 Columbus Reds Softball Tournament, Columbus, Ohio

July 29-30 LWSRA Wheelchair Softball Tournament, Chicago, Illinois

August 5-6 Shepherd Slugfest, Atlanta, Georgia

August 23-25 Softball World Series, Arlington, Texas

Adaptive Water Ski

July 22 9am-4pm Percy Priest Lake
August 12 9am-4pm Center Hill Lake
contact Mike Sells 615-831-3190 to register for the clinics

Tennis

Beginners & Kids Clinic

Tuesdays 7 - 9 PM (Beginning May 2)
Centennial Sportsplex, Nashville, TN

Advanced Tennis Clinic

Mondays, 6:30 - 9:30 PM (Beginning May 1)
Old Fort Park, Murfreesboro, TN

contact David Jordan for more information 931-637-1429

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Visit us on the Web at www.nationalwheelcats.org

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