

*"The depressing thing about tennis is that no matter how good I get, I'll never be as good as a wall."*

—comedian Mitch Hedberg

**Champions Club**



# Hey, Let's Play!

Where did winter go?

Very little snow, several days of bone-chilling temperatures and a few days of quite-gusty winds. That was Chattanooga's winter.

So we can't look back and complain, even though our days are now filled with pleasant temperatures, sunny days and the rekindling of outdoor tennis.

As a matter of fact, the chilly and windy conditions never stopped one group of Champions Club faithfuls from its weekly evening on the courts.

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"I enjoy tennis as my form of exercise and didn't want to stop playing during the winter months," explains Gary Yerbey, "so I asked around to see if others wanted to do the same — and they did."

Yerbey's group played every Tuesday evening that it didn't rain, drawing as many as nine players and as few as four. And on one par-



**NEED A MATCH?** The weather's getting nice and 5-year-old Olivia Torbett (left) and 3-year-old Matthew Patrick anxiously await their next challenge. Any takers?

ticular night, the temperature dipped into the mid-20s with the wind-chill factor decidedly colder.

The Yerbey Gang chose tennis over cold.

But winter's behind us and everyone has returned to the courts. It's about time!

"You don't think people would go on about my looks if I was No. 500 in the world instead of No. 12, do you?"

— Anna Kournikova, pro tennis player and model



## Do You Know? ... Gary Yerbey

**I**t was something like six years ago when Gary Yerbey found himself getting back into tennis following a layoff of more than 20 years.

He did it for Logan, his only son. Logan, age eight at the time, was just getting interested in the game and needed someone to practice with.

Yes, dad was the logical choice. Then things changed.

"I started playing tennis when I was in my mid-20s, but gave it up to play more golf," says Gary. "About six years ago when Logan started playing tennis, I got back into it and played with him. Now he can beat me and won't play with me any longer, so I've had to find other people to play with."

Gary turned to leagues at the Champions Club and participates regularly in the 3.0 singles and 6.0-6.5 combo doubles.

Yerbey, now 53, is president with Yerbey Concrete Construction, Inc., and he and wife Darlene (married 28 years) have three children — Lindsey, Lacey and Logan.

Besides tennis, Gary enjoys golf "when I have time to play," as well as fishing and traveling the countryside. And recently he's

also become interested in boating.

Something that few people know about him, Gary claims, is that "I went down to the Atlanta Braves Dream Camp a couple of times and hit against (former major leaguers) Gene Garber and Rick Camp. I have also fished in the Arctic Circle."

At least Gary did earn tennis bragging rights over Logan about a year ago.



Gary Yerbey

"He was wanting to play one Sunday afternoon, so I agreed to go and everything I hit was in just the right place," Gary states. "When he's winning we play the best two-of-three sets, but when I win, it's one set. We only played one set that afternoon, because I could do no wrong. It straightened him right up"

## Do You Know? ... Marylou Wadley

**A**lthough 64-year-old Marylou Wadley did get a very late start in tennis, she's certainly making up for lost time.

"I began playing tennis at the ripe old age of 58," Marylou says. "I wish I had started at an earlier age when reflexes and coordination were at their peaks."

But Marylou wins her share of Champions Club league trophies for 3.0 singles, 6.0-6.5 women's doubles with Ginger Oxenhandler and 6.0-6.5 mixed doubles with Larry, her husband.

"I have a wonderful husband that also is my doubles partner, and Ginger is a patient person, especially to start her doubles career with an older person who had her right arm in a sling (after breaking her wrist)," adds Marylou.

"Ginger is a great player who has definitely surpassed me, but we have a great time together and that is what tennis is about."



Marylou Wadley

Marylou claims she's been blessed with two children, Scott and Ericka, as well as three "fantastic" grandchildren: Nate, Brad and Adriana. And then there's Beauregard, the Wadley's yorkie "guard-dog" and two ragdoll cats, George and Annie.

Marylou, now retired from a variety of occupations, points out her interests outside of tennis include weight-training, Bible study, attending grandchildren's sporting activities and the piano.

Something that not too many people know about Marylou is that she had surgery to repair a right shoulder rotator cuff and remove metal plates from her right ankle in 2006.

"Prior to surgery the doctors assured me that I would again be able to play tennis in several months. NOT! I was back hobbling on the courts and playing left-handed within several weeks," she says. "I love tennis and the thought of sitting on the sidelines was not an option. I have six trophies and want to add to my collection before I get too old — ha-ha!"



"It's one-on-one out there, man. There ain't no hiding. I can't pass the ball."

— Pete Sampras, former No. 1 tennis player in the world

## CARDEN, TAYLOR JUNIOR PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

### Payne Carden

**Age/Birthday/Zodiac Sign:** 18/  
February 1/Aquarius

**School/Grade:** Notre Dame High  
School/Senior

**Favorite Subject:** Dance

**Favorite Restaurant/Food:** Car-  
rabba's/Pasta Heaven

**Favorite Movie:** Wedding Crashers

**Favorite Type of Music/Favorite Mu-  
sic Artist:** Anything/County music's  
Garth Brooks

**Hobbies Outside Of Tennis:** Football

**Who Introduced You To Tennis?** My mom (Karen)

**Began Playing Tennis:** At age 9

**Favorite Shot:** Forehand

**Favorite Pro Players:** Andy Roddick (male), Maria Sharapova  
(female)

**Tennis Racquet You Use:** Prince More Response

**Best Tennis Memory/Highlight:** "It was playing with my brother,  
Rob, and the times playing with Matt Cambron when he slides  
under the net."

**Anne Ricksecker (Notre Dame head tennis coach) on Payne:** "As  
a four-year veteran of Fighting Irish tennis, Payne has improved  
tremendously. He's a leader to his teammates and I can always  
count on him to put forth his best effort. He is the last of the  
Carden brothers to play for the Fighting Irish on the courts and  
it has been an honor for me to be his coach."



Payne Carden

### Jennifer Taylor

**Age/Birthday/Zodiac Sign:** 15/  
August 21/Leo

**School/Grade:** Notre Dame High  
School/Sophomore

**Favorite Subject:** History

**Favorite Restaurant/Food:**  
Amerigo's/Chicken

**Favorite Movie:** Scary Movie 3

**Favorite Type of Music/Favorite  
Musical Artist:** Anything but classi-  
cal



Jennifer Taylor

**Hobbies Outside Of Tennis:** Basketball

**Who Introduced You To Tennis?** My brother (Will)

**Began Playing Tennis:** At age 10

**Favorite Shot:** All of them!

**Favorite Pro Players:** Rafael Nadal (male), Maria Sharapova  
(female)

**Tennis Racquet You Use:** Prince 03 Tour

**Best Tennis Memory/Highlight:** "It was playing in my first Na-  
tional Open in February '07 (16s in Ridgeland, Miss.)."

**Anne Ricksecker (Notre Dame head tennis coach) on Jenni-  
fer:** "Holding the No. 1 spot for the second year on the Lady  
Irish tennis team, Jennifer has definitely met some rather  
tough opponents. She is very talented, and driven to play her  
best tennis always. Although only a sophomore, she has been  
an example to her teammates of how hard work and practice  
can result in becoming a top player."

## CCS Teams Out To Defend Champions Club 'A' Crowns

The Chattanooga Christian tennis teams, coached by Sue Webb, are hoping to defend their "A" Division titles when the 7th Annual Champions Club High School Tennis Tournament begins its court battles on April 20-21 at Champions.

In their inaugural seasons to play in the event, the Chargers and Lady Chargers claimed the crowns, the boys accumulating 63 points to runner-up Walker Valley's 49. The Lady Chargers just edged out Walker Valley, 59-58, but Walker Valley's prom prevents the Charleston, Tenn., school from returning this sea-

son.

The competition will again be strong, also featuring boys and girls squads from Rhea County, Soddy-Daisy, Chattanooga School for the Arts & Sciences, McMinn County, Notre Dame, Red Bank, Ooltewah and Cleveland. Also in the boys' field are Lookout Valley, University School of Nashville and Grace Academy, while girls' teams are Bradley Central and Murfreesboro schools Blackman and Siegel.

The divisions are divided into eight teams (A) and four (B).

## Champions Club

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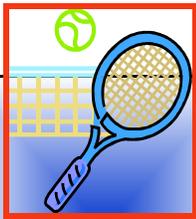
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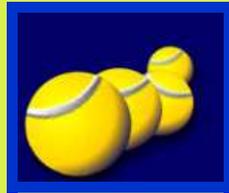
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## A Champions Tip ...

**From Don Russell**

Teaching Pro, Manker Patten Tennis Club



### Serving Notice: Toss Is Important



The most important part of your serve is the ball toss. Don't underrate this fact! It's not always easy to toss the ball in the correct position. Where should the toss be?

- For your first serve, the toss should be in front slightly and to the left.
- For your second serve, the toss should be behind your head, directly over the top, so that you can impart spin on the ball.

The motion itself should be smooth — like a throwing action — making sure at the end that your elbow is up and your racquet goes back. Then, when you're ready to strike, your wrist should snap and your follow-through goes down and across.

Remember that everyone's motion is a little different. Just get the basics right: correct toss, elbow up and good snap. For an advanced serve you eventually want to work towards a continental grip. That way your serve can be more versatile.

Practice, practice, practice!!!

## **UTC Runner-Up In Southern Campus**

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga turned into a greedy host in late March at the Champions Club, winning its first five team matches before falling to Georgia Tech, 24-17, in the Gold Division's title showdown of the 21-school Southern Campus Championships.

Georgia Tech — featuring former McCallie School tennis standout Marc Pare — and the host Mocs received bids to the 64-team National Campus Championships in late April in Cary, N.C., an event for collegiate intramural squads.

UTC, managed by Brad Bolton, placed 14th out of 19 teams in last year's inaugural tournament at Champions, but bounced back in 2007 with a strong showing behind Bolton, Jonathan Brame, Dustin Bates, Jon Brown, Brett Bolton, Tracy Hodges, Saskia Van Velze and Lan Le.

"This year was a great improvement from last year," explains Brad, "and the entire tournament was a great success for the weekend."

The Mocs won the "F" group by besting Life University, 30-9, Elon by 25-15 and the College of Charleston, 24-13. All six group champions advanced to the Gold Bracket and sixth-seeded UTC opened with a come-from-behind 22-21 escape of North Carolina State in the quarterfinals before ousting three-time defending champion Georgia, 20-19, in the semis.

UTC clinched the dead-even match with Georgia by pulling out the mixed doubles clash in a tie-break.

In each team match, the play consists of one men's singles, men's doubles, women's singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles with scores accumulated by games won.