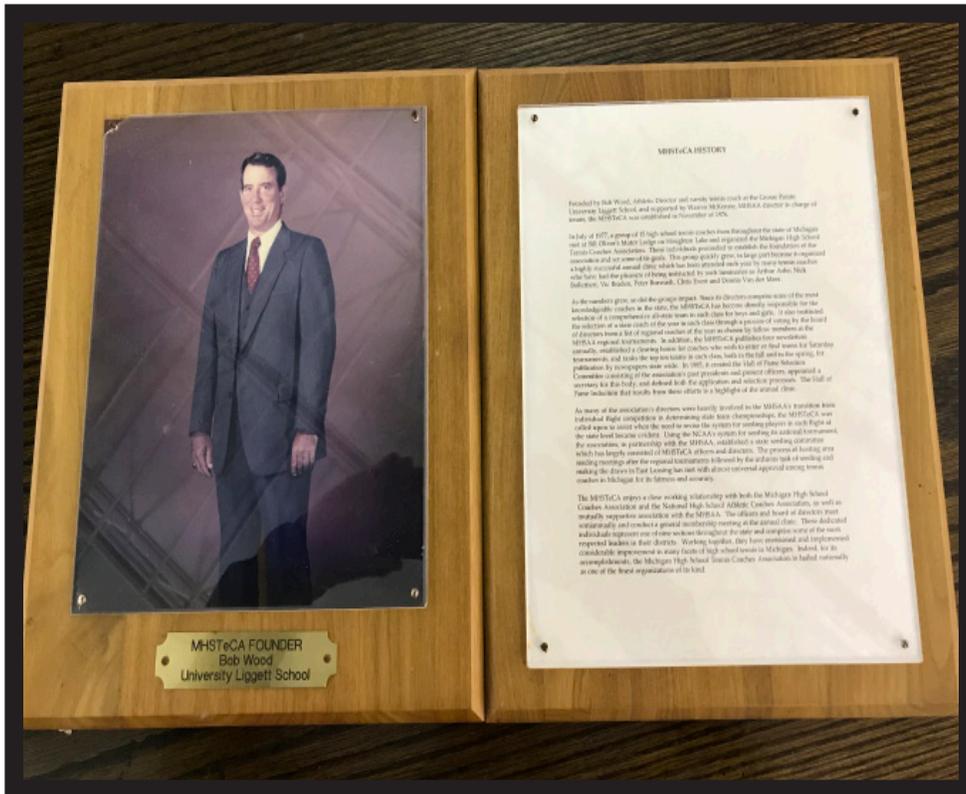


# Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association



# MHSTeCA Memories

Photo by Don Leavy

March 1, 2022

To those who access this document:

At the D4 Final Tournament held in Holland in the fall of 2019, I had a long talk with Gary Ellis. We agreed that a history of the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association should be compiled **while certain people are still around**. Sadly, some aren't -- not only Bob Wood but also Warren McKenzie, Charlie Partin, Harley Pierce and Tiger Teusink. Tiger had noted that of the first Hall of Fame Class of 1986, he was the only one out of 10 who was "still around." Sadly, that changed in Sept. 2021

I was the logical one to do this in that I "have the goods." In my computer are considerable archives, lots of articles that I have written over the years about Hall of Famers, Coaches of the Year, Assistant Coaches, and Distinguished Service Award winners. Since I began doing this stuff in 1986, the total has reached 486. Although I have been through multiple computers in those 34 years (including a switch from Apple to Windows), I still have many of them. What I have failed to retain, Bruce and Gary have, thank goodness. What they don't have, Historian Bill Riggs hopefully might be able to find in his filing cabinet archives.

I had thought about embarking on this task several years ago but hesitated. I came late to the party. Although I attended all of the early workshops, I didn't join the board until 1981, five years after the initial meeting. I had very little knowledge of how this effort got started, who was involved, and what it took to get it going. Mostly, I didn't know who the principals were.

But an article about Chuck Reed, 2019 Hall of Fame inductee and Founding Father who was at that first board meeting in July 1977, forced me to ask questions. I was lucky to get very valuable information from Ken Gutow and Bob Quinn but to be sure, Bob, Warren, Charlie, and Harley could have filled in some gaps.

I am aware that there is a line between Michigan high school tennis history and the history of our association. I have occasionally elected to cross that line. A classic example is the effort to change the state tournament format from individual to flights, even though the association *as a formal body* had nothing to do with it. But several of our Founding Fathers had *lots* to do with it.

In addition, there is a discussion of the change in state seed procedure after the state tournament format was altered. Although the MHSTeCA was not *formally* involved, Bob Wood and Warren McKenzie worked it out using the NCAA tournament as a pattern. Other Monumental Changes since our inception are covered.

To be sure, this is an ongoing effort. If you are accessing this document, maybe you have something to offer. After all, you might just have a little spare time. It is by no means completed and won't be for some time.

You definitely shouldn't feel the need to read it all. This is not a request for proofreading although I would appreciate knowing if you "catch" something.

Because this is a pdf, you are able to enlarge and occasionally rotate.

Ed

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# MHSTeCA



# In the Beginning



# Why not tennis?

Prior to the effort to form a tennis coaches association, the perennial issues amidst our colleagues were stacking and the fairness of regional assignments. If you had a complaint, you either went to your athletic director or contacted Warren McKenzie, MHSAA assistant director who was in charge of tennis. The bottom line: you were pretty much by yourself.

- These organizations had all state teams. We didn't.
- They had Coaches of the Year. We didn't.
- They had Halls of Fame. We didn't.
- They had representatives throughout the state, divided into regions or districts. We didn't.
- They held workshops and banquets. We didn't.

That is one of several reasons why Bob Wood started pushing for the establishment of our organization. As an athletic director, he had only to look around at the football and basketball organizations -- groups that could go to Lansing with a unified voice -- to ask "Why not tennis?"

In the early 1970s, Bob of Grosse Pte. University Liggett and Ken Gutow of Grosse Pte. North made regular trips to Lansing to meet with Warren seeking permission to form the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association. The process, as it turns out, was agonizingly slow, according to Ken. "Warren was totally on our side and for some unknown reason or reasons, he ran into a lot of road blocks. He was always very optimistic and patient (maybe too much so).

"So Bob and I drove up a lot on Warren's invitation," continues Ken. "At every meeting he explained where we stood and what still had to be done. He never really explained the reason or reasons for the holdup. All he ever said was 'Stay positive. This is going to take some time.' He just decided that he was going to take on the job and wasn't going to give in until he was successful."

"Bob and I had a lot of respect for Warren. We knew that if

anybody could pull this off -- that the only one who could -- it would be Warren. For some reason he kept most of the negotiations private."



"But what Bob and I would always come back with was 'Why not tennis?' That was the only issue: 'Why not tennis? To try and help Warren, we brought comments from as many coaches as we could with the same remark -- 'Why not tennis?'"

In that both Bob and Warren are no longer with us, it begs the question: Why did Warren take up our cause so persistently? One might conclude that it was both the merit of our cause and the force of Bob's personality. Regardless, those meetings had to foreshadow the close working relationship between

the MHSAA and the fledgling MHSTeCA as we moved forward.

**"But what Bob and I would always come back with was 'Why not tennis?' That was the only issue: 'Why not tennis? To try and help Warren, we brought comments from as many coaches as we could with the same remark -- 'Why not tennis?'"**

--- Ken Gutow

# Two Big Announcements

In June of 1976, George Acker introduced Warren McKenzie at what is presumed to be the annual MHSAA Tennis Committee meeting. There is considerable guesswork involved in this gathering:

What did George Acker have to do with it? Presumably, it was because George, Kalamazoo College, and Stowe Stadium hosted all of the state tournament classes under the old format.

Who was on the committee? The Minutes don't say.

Where was it held? For recent years, it has been held at the MHSAA offices in January. Also, why June?

But these are picky details. What matters is that Warren made two blockbuster announcements:

First, the state tournament format, starting with the girls in 1976, would involve all flights, not just the winner and runner-up in each of only two regional draws. In the past, "team" tennis championships were won with one singles player and one doubles team who advanced far into the draw, usually with at least one winning it all. Team depth had nothing to do with this actual "individual" championship.

For example, in 1971 four "teams" -- East Grand Rapids, Holland, Kalamazoo Central, and Lapeer -- won the state championship. In 1972, East Grand Rapids and Holland shared the title but only Vic Amaya of Holland earned points for his "team." To be sure, there were many other examples. See "Good Stories" for one involving Southfield High School and Southfield-Lathrup.

Tennis coaches should feel no need for details to be set out on this page. You have only to look at the scan of these Minutes. However, it is interesting to note that the state team tournament represented a compromise. The winner and runner-up at 1S could also advance. This enabled the final tournament to be an event wherein both the best team and the best individual could be crowned state champion.

To be sure, this was controversial. There would be times when a gifted individual whose team did not qualify could/would affect the team championship by, say, defeating the 1S of a team con-

tender of "running the table" to the final match and eliminating several others in the process. This was a Win-Win or Lose-Lose situation depending on how you wanted to look at it but was generally accepted because another tournament for only individuals --- as some proposed -- was simply unworkable given the time constraints at the end of an already busy school year.

In later years, there was a push to have the No. 1 doubles winners and runners-up from each regional also be eligible to compete in the state tournament. This was even advanced by a state senator who appeared at the seeding meeting on the second day when draws were being made to ask that we change the rules. It seems that his son and son's doubles partner were very good players but the rest of the team, although very strong, came failed to qualify by one point. "Sir, we couldn't do this even if we wanted to," responded Bob Wood.

To be sure, we didn't want to anyway. Having a few "individual" doubles teams compete at a full flight team championship would further skew the outcome of the full squad result. Moreover, having 1D teams able to qualify would encourage more teams to put their 2S and 3S players into the 1D position, impacting dual meets throughout the season.

A second item of interest is that a method would be worked out if two or more teams would be tied for regional honors. This is a bit obscure in that presumably if there were regional co-champions, both would go. However, if there were two regional team runners-up, something would have to be worked out according to this document. (See next page),

Two decades later, this problem would be addressed with the adoption of what is now known as "The Murphy Rule."

The second big announcement came in two parts:

1. A tennis association was being formed
2. A tennis workshop would be held on Feb. 25, 1977.

As it turns out, the date of the workshop was a bit off but the initial workshop, held at Eastpointe Racket Club, was a resounding success and would get our fledgling organization off to a fast start.

**For example, in 1971 four "teams" -- East Grand Rapids, Holland, Kalamazoo Central, and Lapeer -- won the state championship. In 1972, East Grand Rapids and Holland shared the title but only Vic Amaya of Holland earned points for his "team." To be sure, there were many other examples. See "Good Stories" for one involving Southfield High School and Southfield-Lathrup.**

MINUTES OF TENNIS COACHES MEETING  
HELD AT STOWE STADIUM, KALAMAZOO COLLEGE, JUNE 4, 1976

George Acker opened the meeting and introduced Warren MacKenzie, of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

Mr. MacKenzie outlined the format to be used starting with the 1976-77 school year for the Regionals and State Finals. Each school may have four singles players and three doubles teams. The tournaments will consist of seven flights. An individual champion will be determined in each flight. Team titles will be decided by the sum total of points accumulated by the players from each team. A player must play at the position in which he has played the most matches during the regular season. In case of substitution because of illness or injury, the substitute will play in the vacated position only.

The winning and runner-up team in each regional tournament will qualify for the State Finals, as well as the winning #1 singles player and #1 doubles team. A tie break procedure will be worked out for cases where two or more teams tie for Regional honors.

The meeting was opened up for discussion and a number of subjects were discussed:

- 1) Permitting coaching at changeovers. Most coaches favored this with safeguards against violation of the one minute rule at changeovers.
- 2) No-add scoring. Almost no support for this suggestion.
- 3) Increasing number of tennis days and/or matches allowed. Most coaches favored an increase with varying opinions as to the number of days to be allowed.

Answering a question as to whether the State Finals might be split up with the different classes being held at different sites, Mr. MacKenzie stated that the Michigan High School Athletic Association would make the decision if any change were to be made.

Mr. MacKenzie asked that any suggestions regarding high school tennis be sent to him at the Michigan High School Athletic Association offices. He stated that every letter received is brought to the attention of the Tennis

Announcement was made of a Tennis Coaches Clinic to be held on February 25-26, 1977, at Eastpointe Racquet Club, 19001 Nine Mile Road, East Detroit, Michigan 48021.

Also announced was formation of a High School Tennis Coaches Association.

Information on either of the above may be obtained from Bob Wood, University Liggett School, 1045 Cook Road, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan 48236.

Wes Richards,  
Detroit Country Day School  
Temporary Secretary

# The Formation of our Association

## The To-Do List and The First Workshop

**At the aforementioned meeting, Warren McKenzie made a second blockbuster announcement --in two parts. This can be seen at the bottom of the Minutes (preceding page)**

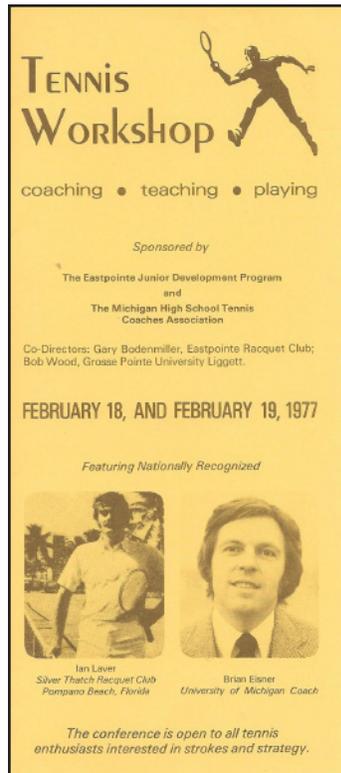
1. A tennis coaches association was being formed.
2. A tennis coaches workshop would be held on Feb. 25, 1977.

In early 1976, Bob sent a letter to every school which sponsored tennis, over 400 at the time. He asked: "Would you be interested in joining a Michigan High School Tennis Association?" Seventy-five percent said Yes.

In Nov. 1976, Bob met with Warren. Together, they plotted all high schools that sponsored tennis teams by class. Then they divided the state into six districts (later expanded to nine including the U.P.). Bob then sent letters to various tennis coaches asking if they would be willing to represent these districts. Why he chose these particular individuals, with a few exceptions, is not clear. However, he was specific. He wrote to Tiger Teusink asking if he would be a Regional Director. He must have done the same with others, a sort of volunteer-appointment process.

By the time of the first meeting of the MHSTeCA, held early on the Saturday morning of the first workshop, had received a commitment from 30 coaches who were willing to aid with the start of the organization. This would be more in the form of "Yes, I will do it" rather than an appointment. It was surely not an election. That would come later.

What jump-started the entire effort was a very successful first workshop held at the East Pointe Racket Club that February. It was not on the date that Warren announced but it



quickly became the cornerstone of the building that would be our organization. Why? The headliner was Brian Eisner, U of M's tennis coach who at the time had captured seven Big Ten Championships since he took over from Bill Murphy in 1969. He was both engaging and informative. So was Ian Laver, Rod's cousin, who came from Fullerton CA to deliver typically Australian humor amidst his presentations.

Michigan high school tennis coaches Charlie Partin, Herm Kiewiet, and Don Brown led sessions. Each would go on to win state team championships. Bob White, Wayne State athletic trainer was so impressive that he was invited back to the next year's workshop.

This was indeed a season of changes. The very first regional and state tournaments had been held for the girls the previous fall under the new team-all flights format. The first for the boys would be that spring.

Bob and Gary held the initial workshop before there was a board meeting. These volunteers, 16 of whom would attend the first convocation in July, had to be enthused over the prospects. At long last, there would be coaches of the year, all state teams, top ten rankings, and a newsletter.

Shortly after, Bob and Gary took their show on the road, hosting a similar gathering in Chicago. Afterward, Joan Ramey asked if she could speak at the following year's event. "We must be doing something right," concluded Bob in a letter to board members in March, 1977.

**Indeed, it was such a good start that it became evident to a select group of leaders that this was a viable organization that was headed toward good work. There had been lots of talk during the previous two decades but Bob and Gary's venture -- undoubtedly risky as all such first-time chances are -- breathed big-time oxygen into this quest.**

# The Founding Fathers

As of Feb. 19, 1977, the first Officers and Regional Directors (Later renamed District Directors to avoid confusion with the MHSAA Regional Tournament organization ) convened at the first General Membership Meeting early on that Saturday morning. They could be considered our Founding Fathers. However, some had more staying power than others.

**President:** Charlie Partin, East Grand Rapids

**1st Vice President:** Bob Quinn, Saginaw Douglas MacArthur

**2nd Vice President:** Sandy Peterson, Portage Northern

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Bob Wood, University Liggett School

## Regional Directors:

1. Ralph Cornell, Dearborn Edsel Ford
2. Tiger Teusink, Holland
3. Joe Haskins, Midland
4. Jay Soderberg, Gaylord
5. Don Elliot, West Iron County

## Rules Committee Representatives:

Stephanie Prychitko, Grosse Pte. South  
Jim Cummins, Battle Creek Springfield  
Harold Holcomb, Essexville Garber  
Ralph LeBlanc, Newaygo  
John Meyer, Kingsford

## Clinic Committee Representatives:

Ian Frost, Warren Mott  
Kay Salo, Allegan  
Donn Gates, Ithaca  
Chuck Reed, Whittemore-Prescott  
John Meyer, Kingsford

## Ratings Representatives

### Region

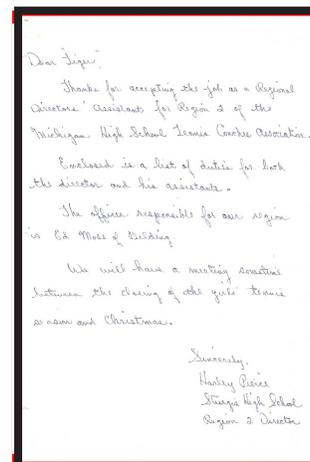
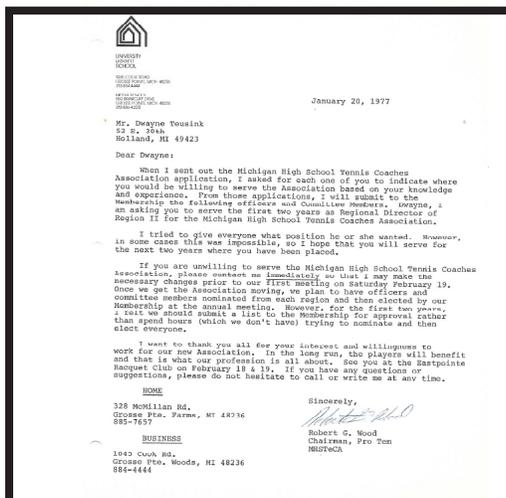
1. John Burke, St. Clair Shores South Lake
2. Ed Moss, Belding
3. Lynn Freiheit, Grand Blanc
4. Chuck Wright, Charlevoix
5. Mickey Johnson, Marquette

## Coach of the Year Representatives

Dale Greiner, Ann Arbor Pioneer  
Harley Pierce, Sturgis  
Ken Black, Hamady  
Dan Green, Manistee  
Mickey Johnson, Marquette

**Newsletter:** Ken Gutow, Grosse Pte. North

Why these people? Undoubtedly there was plenty of shop talk among the principals offering suggestions. There were letters sent to certain coaches asking if they would be willing to serve. Above is the result. Below is a letter from Bob to Tiger asking him to serve and a hand-written letter (What a concept!) from Harley Pierce thanking him for accepting.



# The First Board of Directors

These individuals agreed to serve as Officers and District Representatives on the MHSTeCA's first Board of Directors. Some would stay for the long haul; others would disappear shortly afterward.

## Officers



**Charlie Partin**  
President  
East Grand Rapids



**Bob Quinn**  
1st Vice President  
Saginaw Douglas MacArthur



**Sandy Peterson**  
2nd Vice President  
Portage Northern



**Bob Wood**  
Secretary - Treasurer  
University Liggett

## Regional Directors



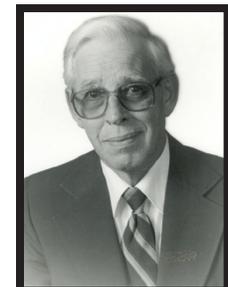
**Ralph Cornell**  
Region 1  
Dearborn Edsel Ford



**Tiger Teusink**  
Region 2  
Holland



**Joe Haskins**  
Region 3  
Midland



**Don Elliot**  
Region 5  
West Iron County

## Rules Committee



**Stephanie Prychitko**  
Grosse Pte. South



**Jim Cummins**  
Battle Creek Springfield



**Harold Holcomb**  
Essexville Garber

## Clinic Committee



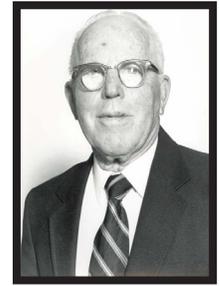
**Ian Frost**  
Warren Mott



**Chuck Reed**  
Whittemore-Prescott



**Harley Pierce**  
Sturgis



**Mickey Johnson**  
Marquette

## Ratings Committee



**John Burke**  
St. Clair Shores South Lake



**Ed Moss**  
Belding



**Chuck Wright**  
Charlevoix



**Mickey Johnson**  
Marquette

**Newsletter** ---- Ken Gutow, Grosse Pte. North



### Missing Photos

Jay Soderberg, Gaylord -- Region 4 Director  
John Meyer, Kingsford -- Rules and Clinic Committees  
Donn Gates, Ithaca -- Clinic Committee  
Ralph LeBlanc, Newaygo -- Rules Committee  
Lynn Freheit, Grand Blanc -- Ratings Committee  
Dale Greiner, Ann Arbor Pioneer -- Coach of the Year Committee  
Ken Black, Hamady -- Coach of the Year Committee

# Who are/were these people?

## **Charlie Partin, East Grand Rapids**

Bob probably met him at the state tournament in Stowe Stadium in that all classes played their final tournaments in one location under the old system. Charlie was prominent in that he won Class B so often. In that officers were appointed, not elected, it seemed a given that he would be our first president. After his term he served as Historian.

## **Bob Quinn, Saginaw Douglas MacArthur, later Saginaw Heritage**

He was appointed 2nd Vice President which would in two years make him the second president. He started coaching at MacArthur until two schools merged into Heritage. To say that he stuck around is an understatement. He received a Coach of the Year award in 1980, another in 1985, was inducted in 1992, and received another COY in 2007. In 1984, he reworked the Coach of the Year award procedure which is still largely used today. He has run too many regionals to count.

## **Sandy Peterson, Portage Northern**

Her speeches before dual meets were models of good will and indicative of the spirit of fair play. She was highly regarded for her cool head, calm demeanor, and impeccable integrity, ingredients fundamental for someone who served on the state seeding committee in its early years. She was also on the MHSAA's Tennis Rules Committee. Her very strong teams were a reflection of her competitive but fair nature. This reputation had to be what encouraged the group to appoint her as 2nd Vice President but she did not go on to take the top job. She was our first Girls Class A Coach of the Year.

## **Ralph Cornell, Dearborn Edsel Ford**

He had much in common with rural areas in which tennis was not a tradition, albeit his experiences were in a then-blue collar area of Detroit. He used the Hoxie Method, recruiting the best athletes in the school and then teaching them how to hit a tennis ball. A player once said to him while watching a varsity baseball game: "Coach, if it hadn't been for you, five of us would be out there on that field." His summer travel squads undoubtedly brought him into contact with Bob Wood.

## **Tiger Teusink, Holland**

Even though he didn't attend his first Prudenville board meeting until 1980, he was deeply involved in the improvement of high school tennis even before the initial organization of the MHTeCA. In 1976, he served on the MHSAA Tennis Committee and on their Special Tennis Committee, the one tasked with changing the state tournament format. Once he arrived at the meetings, his dynamic (Bob Quinn's word) presence was instantly apparent -- to the extent that he became our fourth president and for two decades our secretary-treasurer.

## **Joe Haskins, Midland**

His Midland teams established tennis supremacy from 1969 - 1979 which had to have put him in Bob Wood's radar. They were dominant before there was a Midland Community Tennis Center. When his brother Jack, himself an outstanding player at both Midland High School and Central Michigan, left the coaching position at Dow, Joe moed over and continued the school's dominance. His influence must have been a reason why the Class A state tournament under the flight system was held at the MCTC in the early days ... and still is.

## **Don Elliot, West Iron County**

He and Kingsford's John Meyer provided important Upper Peninsula representation. As a result of their input, the association included U.P. players on all state teams and coaches in the Hall of Fame. They were succeeded by Jack Tripp, Bruce Farrell, and Rich Trombly, all of whom made long trips to the board meetings. As Bob used to say to the rest of the group, "By the time you pull into your driveway, they won't be halfway home."

### **Stephanie Prychitko, Grosse Pte. South**

In the 1970s and early 80s, her teams had a virtual lock on state team championships -- 11 consecutive of them. She lent even more prestige to our organization by being named the National Athletic Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 1984. To have three tennis coaches who had won this national honor -- Bob Wood and Harley Pierce being the others, -- was established both a bragging right and a solid foundation of credibility.

### **Jim Cummins, Battle Creek Springfield**

He, too, served on the early MHSAA Committee meetings that were trying to reorganize the state tournament. Then he went on to manage so many of them -- both at the regional and state level -- that he was given the Distinguished Service Award in 2014. A former president, he still arranges for the Hall of Fame and Coach of the Year plaques.

### **Harold Holcomb, Essexville Garber**

He was Bob Quinn's college roommate whose Garber teams would play against MacArthur. The two came together to the first board meeting. They must have impressed the others: Quinn became the second president; Hoke, the third. He initiated our first foray into establishing a website and served on the state seeding committee when it first met. The Garber district named their high school tennis courts after him.

### **Ian Frost, Warren Mott**

He was a highly regarded coach in an area that had few natural advantages in terms of training high school tennis players. Nevertheless, his teams dominated what was then known as the Warren Conference. This laid the foundation for Mark Sobieralski and Larry Harte to continue Warren-winning traditions. His work was so respected that he was asked to help with the organization of the trail-breaking move to reorganize the state tournament.

### **Chuck Reed, Whittemore Prescott**

Bob met him as a player from East Jordan who competed at Stowe Stadium in Class C-D but later as a coach who brought a gifted singles player to the event in the early '70s under the old format. Chuck was a successful varsity player at CMU whose addition would cover a section of the state, in this case the Flint area.

### **Harley Pierce, Sturgis**

His teams had won multiple state championships prior to this meeting. A gentle giant, he was also the school's highly successful football coach. He was the National High School Athletic Coaches Association's Coach of the Year in 1979.

### **John Burke, St. Clair Shores South Lake and Detroit Austin**

He eventually took over the South Lake job from Gary Bodenmiller which made him a known quantity in the Down River area which included contact with Bob. He helped in various capacities such as setting up when the workshops were held in the area and providing transportation to and from the airport for speakers.

### **Ed Moss, Belding**

He was so well-regarded that the MHSAA made him President-Elect in 1978 but it was at a time when the State of Michigan's retirement program beckoned, enabling him to pursue tennis teaching full time.

### **Chuck Wright, Charlevoix**

He played on Bob Wood's first state championship team and after college, went on to direct tennis activities in the Petoskey-Charlevoix area. This early-on relationship with his former coach would have made him a natural choice to join this group in order to represent a sparsely populated section in terms of high school tennis. In 1983, he returned to his alma mater to work with his former coach. Lots of state championships followed. So did his induction into the Hall of Fame.

### **Mickey Johnson, Marquette**

He held the record for the greatest number of dual meet victories -- 788 -- in Michigan High School history until Grosse Ile's John Shade broke it with 790 in 2019. He had a virtual lock on state titles in the U.P. and was undoubtedly the Mr Tennis of that region. He was inducted into the initial class of our Hall of Fame.

# Preparations for the first board meeting

In late March, Bob sent a letter to each of the officers and representatives. It began with "Now that I have completely recovered from our first workshop....." It went on to outline his preparations for a gathering of the Officers and Committee Members for a weekend that summer. He had made arrangements to reserve rooms at Bill Oliver's Lodge on Houghton Lake for July 8 - 10. "If I can get 20 of the 29 Directors to come on this weekend, I will confirm it," he wrote.

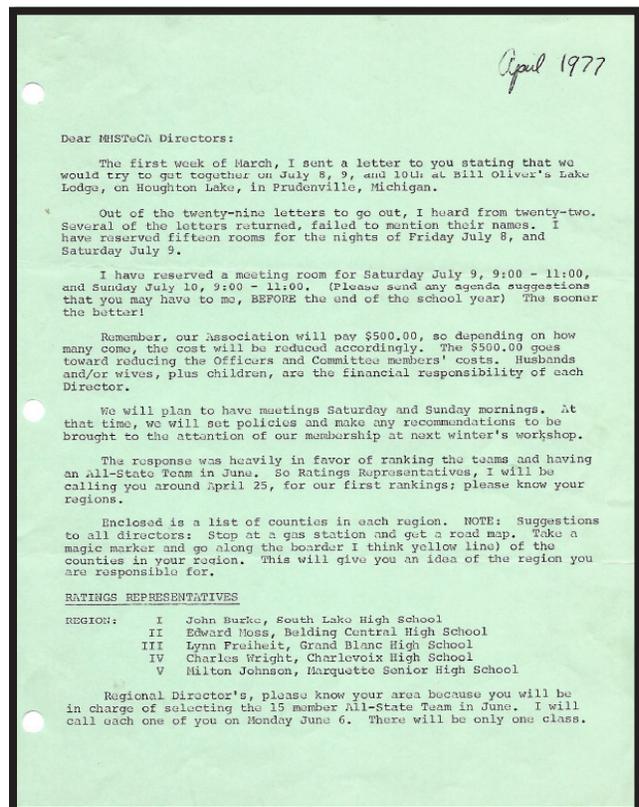
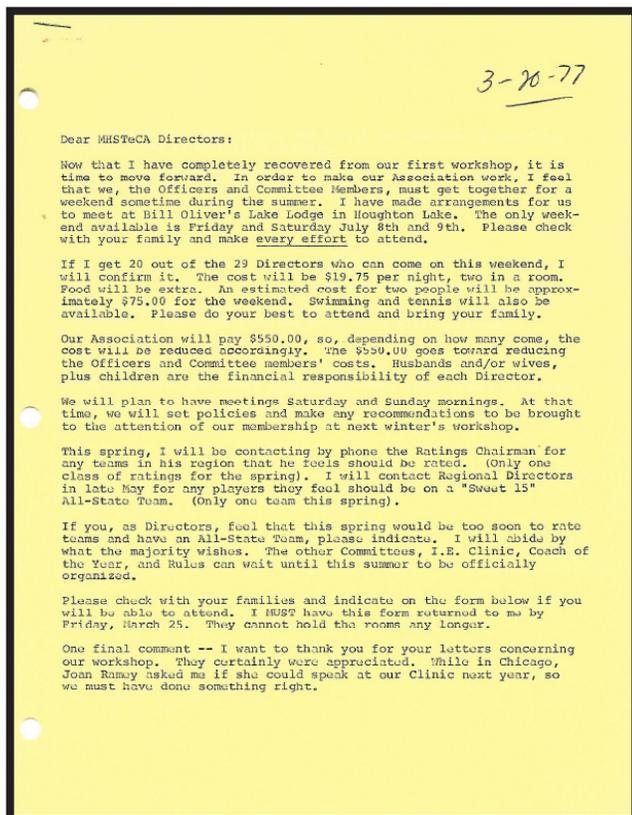
Out of workshop funds, the association would pay \$550 to defray costs for those attending. Given that the cost of a room per night was now (gasp!) \$20 -- two to a room -- Bob estimated that the cost of the weekend would be approximately \$75 per family.

There would be meetings on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 1:00. The rest would be play time. Coaches could play tennis or golf -- or in the case of Chuck Reed's boat -- waterski. Coaches were encouraged to bring families.

In April, he sent out another letter declaring that out of the 29 that he had sent the previous month, he had heard from 22 and that he was reserving 15 rooms and a meeting room. "At that time, we will set policies and make recommendations to be brought to the attention of the memberships at next winter's workshop," he wrote.

He went on to assert that the current membership was strongly in support of both ranking teams during the season and choosing all-state teams at the end. Members of the Rankings Committee were divided into counties to cover. However, it was each Regional Representative's task to help choose a 15-person all state team by that June. There was no waiting until a board meeting in July.

As it turns out, only 16 individuals attended that first meeting in Prudenville but what happened there laid a framework which encouraged others to come the following year. The word would go: there was a new organization that was getting things done. Even if coaches statewide didn't know about this meeting, they couldn't help but notice that there were rankings and all-state selections.



# The First Board Meeting

On May 31, 1977, Bob sent a letter to each of the 16 coaches who had committed to attend the first meeting of what was to become the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association. He listed room arrangements and explained that there would be meetings from 9:00 to 1:00 on Saturday and Sunday with the rest of these days reserved for play time. He hosted a Saturday evening gathering of families for pizza and shop talk, something that became a tradition.

All 16 promise-keepers kept them.

**The date should have been July 7th -- 7-7-77.** According to Kathy Wood, Bob was obsessed with the numbers 7 and 11. "Bob always planned things so that the digits would add up to 7 or 11...set alarm clocks, get out of bed, start meetings, etc.," she says. "For example, he wanted the coaches' meetings to start at 7:31 a.m. We had to get married at 4:30 p.m. He even went so far to want to buy a house only if the the address digits added up to 7 or 11. (He was not happy with our current address!) We always laughed that we could never sleep past 9 a.m. because we couldn't get up unless it was 9:02 or 9:11 or 9:20 ...until 10:06!

"That was my husband's weird habit. That's why Kim (Bob's daughter at the memorial service) said that he was obviously dying on February 15th but held on until the 16th...1+6=7.

As it turns out, the initial meeting was held on July 8-10. However, Bob, as secretary-treasurer at the time, wrote the Minutes of the meeting on 7-11-77 which he deemed "a lucky day."

Ken Gutow and Bob chose Bill Oliver's Lodge in Prudenville because it was somewhat centrally located and conducive to family activities during off-meeting hours.

The following attended that first board meeting, in essence, our constitutional convention:

John Burke, St. Clair Shores South Lake  
Don Elliott, West Iron County  
Lynn Freiheit, Grand Blanc  
Ian Frost, Warren Mott  
Donn Gates, Ithaca  
Ken Gutow, Grosse Pte. North  
Joe Haskins, Midland  
Harold Holcomb, Essexville Garber

John Meyer, Kingsford  
Charlie Partin, East Grand Rapids  
Harley Pierce, Sturgis  
Bob Quinn, Douglas MacArthur  
Chuck Reed, Whittemore-Prescott  
Jay Soderberg, Gaylord  
Chuck Wright, Charlevoix  
Bob Wood, University Liggett

**Secretary Treasurer Bob Wood produced Minutes of this meeting on the Monday following that historic weekend -- dated 7-11-77 (a lucky day). "The meetings and social outings accomplished more than I ever dreamed," he wrote. "There is no doubt that high school tennis in Michigan will benefit because of the dedication of all of you who participated this past weekend."**

# Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association

## Attendance at the First Board Meeting

These individuals accepted Bob Wood's invitation to attend the first of many gatherings, this one held in July 1977 at Bill Oliver's Lodge located on the shoreline of Houghton Lake in Prudenville MI.



**Bob Wood**  
University Liggett



**Ken Gutow**  
Grosse Pointe North



**Bob Quinn**  
Saginaw Douglas MacArthur



**Joe Haskins**  
Midland



**Harley Pierce**  
Sturgis



**Charlie Partin**  
East Grand Rapids



**Harold Holcomb**  
Essexville Garber



**Don Elliot**  
West Iron County



**Chuck Wright**  
Charlevoix



**John Burke**  
St. Clair Shores South Lake



**Chuck Reed**  
Whittemore Prescott



**Ian Frost**  
Warren Mott

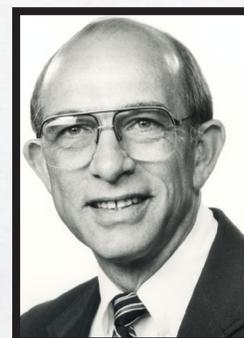
Not Pictured: Jay Soderbert, Gaylord; John Meyer, Kingsford; Donn Gates, Ithaca; Lynn Freiheit, Grand Blanc



# MHSTeCA



# The Founder and the Foundation



# Bob Wood: A Tribute

1941 - 2019

**You meet only a few people in your ever-so-brief time on earth who are larger than life; the kind of person who commands a room, the guy who simply takes charge. This is the person who sees a need and fills it. He doesn't just talk; he does. These people are starters. Inertia is not part of their personalities. They don't just complain that "Somebody should do something about this." They are, in a word, Leaders.**

Back in the day, some of the other high school sports had the advantage of having formed coaches' associations. Some of these coaches' groups held workshops. Some had Halls of Fame. Others chose all state teams and coaches of the year. These organizations were able to speak with a unified voice to the Michigan High School Athletic Association officials in Lansing. Before Bob Wood, if we had a gripe, we were on our own in terms of voicing it. But not after 1977.

In July of that summer (to be precise, 7-7-77), Bob convened a group of invited tennis coaches at Bill Oliver's Lodge next to Houghton Lake. They included Saginaw Heritage's Bob Quinn, East Grand Rapids' Charlie Partin, Whittemore Prescott's Chuck Reed (He got Bob's daughter up on skis for the first time), Harold Holcomb of Essexville Garber, Chuck Wright of University Liggett, and Tiger Teusink of Holland. There were, of course, others, some very prominent coaches. Most of them can be found on our Coach of the Year lists and in our Hall of Fame.

Make no mistake, Bob was the moving force and the commanding voice. When E.F. Hutton (a.k.a Bob Wood) spoke, everybody stopped everything to listen. He had an outsized John Wayne-esque personality and the achievements to back it up. Although Charlie Partin was the first president followed by Bob Quinn, there was little doubt as to who ran the show.

Bob's first achievement on behalf of all of us was the hosting -- with Gary Bodenmiller -- of an enormously successful workshop in Feb. 1977. His keynote speaker was U of M's Brian Eisner, whose teams had, up to that point, won seven Big Ten championships (He would win 18 in 30 years). Brian, the coach of Vic Amaya (He would go 5 sets with Bjorn Borg on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Malivai Washington (Wimbledon finalist) and Mike Leach (NCAA singles champion), was terrific in terms of

both presentation and content. He brought enormous credibility to the workshop and by extension, to our fledgling association.

Need more credibility? Coaching at his high school alma mater --- as a player he won the state championship --- Bob's teams captured 39 state titles. Not content with simply winning in his division, he regularly scheduled against the best squads in the state regardless of class. Although University Liggett was small, his kids competed on an even or superior basis with the best. More to the point, he was not much concerned about records; he simply wanted his boys and girls to gain the best competitive experience.

He certainly got it. Who would not want to come to Bob Wood's tournament? Who would not hope that he would accept an invitation to theirs? He was one of the first to take his teams all over the state. Just as valuable, he taught by example that it didn't matter what your record was when going to the state seed meeting. His team actually sometimes finished a campaign with a losing dual meet record. As a result, he would encounter coaches at the state seed meeting with unblemished records who simply couldn't understand why their kids should be seeded below his. They learned, often the hard way, that what matters is level of competition.

To be sure, he stepped on a few toes along the way. Bob was not afraid to confront and his leadership ensured that our association would stand strong in terms of what matters. Before the advent of our Claims Committee, coaches had a tendency to tread lightly with regard, say, to suspicions of stacking. Not Bob. "I had to deal with a notorious year-after-year stacker in my regional," says Ed Waits. "I was told throughout one season that their No. 1 singles player was actually a 3D player. When Bob got 'wind' of this, he called their A.D. and blasted away ("You have a tennis coach who cheats!"). He had a commanding presence



even on the phone and spoke from a position of authority. After all, he was on the Board of Director for the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and in 1978 he was a speaker at the National Athletic Directors Conference. The lineup quickly changed.”

“Bob (and Tiger Teusink, who over the years has been regarded as the foundation of the MHSTeCA) were also not afraid to leave a player off the all-state team because of bad behavior,” continues Ed. “Woe betide the parent or coach who called to protest the exclusion. They were talking to an individual who, through his achievements, had an excess of *gravitas*.

“He didn’t care about circumstances or background. After all, he was the athletic director of an exclusive private school that educated privileged kids. The parents of his tennis players were, to understate, high profile. Parents and coaches statewide who held their players’ self-esteem and hurt feelings above ethics and sportsmanship didn’t stand a chance against Bob. He held the high moral ground with authority. He once berated USTA officials at the U.S. Open for permitting such lousy behavior from John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors. ‘Here we are trying to educate the youth of America,’ he protested.....”

One key component of the rapidly-gained influence of the MHSTeCA was that Bob developed an unusually cooperative relationship with MHSAA Assistant Director Warren McKenzie, an invaluable asset in terms of tennis coaching improvement. The two of them – along with Tiger and Gordon Boettcher -- worked together to abolish an antiquated system for determining a state team championship, a system that was universally acknowledged to be a sham. Warren was the positive influence that green-lighted the effort, Bob was the promoter (and did some compromising), and Tiger did much of the initial set-up work. The result was the institution of an entire team flight format at the final tournament. The fact that the change came from Bob and Tiger did much to gain acceptance from coaches throughout the state of such a radical overhaul.

The two of them also worked out a better system of seeding for the state tournaments. In addition to instituting area seeding meetings the day after the regional tournaments, Bob and Warren-appointed coaches – ---MHSTeCA members in that our board consisted of the most successful and influential tennis leaders in the state -- would gather at the MHSAA offices in Lansing to seed and make the draws. This was brand new, the result being that there was so much more input from the rank and file with regard to the set-up of the state championships. Over the years, the accuracy of the seed results at the final tournaments speaks for the effectiveness of this system. Before one of the workshops, Bob organized a successful effort to send Warren and

his wife on a cruise upon McKenzie’s retirement.

The man had connections. After visiting the National Tennis Teachers Conference in New York City with Gary Bodenmiller, the two embarked on a remarkable 40-year mission of hosting enormously successful workshops. They featured some of the best clinicians (Vic Braden, Dennis VanderMeer, Peter Burwash, Kirk Anderson, Gundars Tilmanis, Wayne Bryan, and Jorge Capestany), players (Chris Evert, Arthur Ashe, Tim Gullikson, Pam Shriver, and Jack Kramer), and college coaches (Eisner, University of Wisconsin’s John Powless, and Gene Orlando along with the MSU varsity team). The effort not only afforded invaluable teaching techniques to tennis coaches (often the best came from relatively unknown speakers) but gave us an opportunity to gather with colleagues in one venue for fellowship and feedback just prior to the spring season. What better place to hold a General Membership Meeting or fulfill your Rules Meeting obligation with Warren McKenzie, Gina Mazzolini, and Dan Hutcheson? What better timing for the opportunity to gather around a banquet table to honor Hall of Fame inductees and Coaches of the Year?

Those of us who helped out at the clinics knew how exacting Bob could be. “He demanded excellence in everything he pursued,” says Tiger. “His workshops reflected that.” As evidence, he would use much of his workshop microphone time pleading for evaluations and then spend each Saturday afternoon after the event going over them with Gary.

As an athletic director who traveled the nation under a variety of auspices, Bob often declared to anyone who would listen that no state had a more effective tennis coaches association than ours. Given his wide-ranging experience, he knew this firsthand, especially after he left Michigan and briefly coached in two other states. “When we attended national conventions, coaches from around the nation were all over us, wanting to know how we got organized and how we operate,” says Tiger who was Bob’s frequent travel companion and golf partner. “They would ask how we organized the workshop, the final tournaments, the dual meets, and the efforts to change rules. We were celebrities.”

Not surprisingly, he had an impact nationally. He was Tennis Chair of the National High School Athletic Coaches Association (1979-1982) and its President (1986-1987). He is not only in the first class of our Hall of Fame (1986) and in the MHSCA Hall of Fame (1990) but is an inductee into two *national* organizations: The aforementioned NHSACA (1997) and the National Federation of Athletic Associations Hall of Fame (2003). He was a four-time speaker at the National Tennis Teachers Conference in New York (1979, ‘81, ‘84 and ‘86). In 1980, he served on the

**To be associated with Bob Wood was to bask in reflected glory. This was *our* leader.**

President's Council on Physical Fitness. To be associated with Bob Wood was to bask in reflected glory This was *our* leader.

Thus, It was almost a given that Bob's connections to national tennis would extend to his service at the USTA Boys 16s and 18s, held each early August at Stowe Stadium in Kalamazoo. Although many of our finest high school tennis coaches who lived and worked in the region--- Jim Cummins, Al Pollard, Gary Ellis, Don Hudson, and Peter Militzer --- have volunteered their time at the event, Bob journeyed across the state to spend a week at the tournament serving in various capacities for 38 years. "He 'held court' in the top of the tower where he was a huge asset to all the media, answering phones, retrieving players for interviews, and doing odd jobs," says *Kalamazoo Gazette's* Pam Shebest. "He was always the first one in the tower, arriving at 7 a.m. and not leaving until 4 or 5 p.m. every day. A steady

stream of current and former high school and college coaches would make their way to the tower every year to reminisce and talk tennis."

"When the local cable channel began televising the finals, Bob was perched on the catbird seat as one of the play-by-play guys, adding tidbits about players during the matches," continues Pam. As it turns out, that "local cable guy" was Hap Haasch, an assistant tennis coach at Gull Lake and Executive Director of Public Media Network in Kalamazoo. As producer of extensive tournament coverage over the years, he worked closely with Bob. "We were simply in awe of him," he says.

For his service, Bob was awarded a Green Jacket, the tournament's highest honor for a volunteer. In 2017, his last year at the USTA tournament, he received a Hitchcock chair, engraved with the Kalamazoo College symbol, for his 38 years of service.



\*\*\*\*\*

To gain perspective, we should recognize that Bob didn't accomplish all of this by himself. There were so many who helped establish and maintain an association that in the future, coaches might be in danger of taking for granted. Some of the Founding Fathers are gone, but what all of them left was a substantial legacy.

Yes, it is a fallacy to assert that if it were not for Bob Wood, we would not have all state teams, coaches of the year, a Hall of Fame, semiannual board meetings, workshops, effective and improved rules changes, a strong voice in Lansing, etc. But the bottom line is that it was Bob who stepped forward and started it. Back in the 1960s and early 1970s, he saw something and then did more than just say something.

John McEnroe used to repeatedly declare that if a female professional tennis player picked up a substantial paycheck, she should give some of the money to Billie Jean King whose force of personality pioneered such opportunities for those fortunate competitors who came after.

In like manner, if you have had some of your kids on the all state team or if you have been named Regional or State Coach of the Year; if your 3rd doubles team got to play in the final tournament or if you have been honored with a national award (You have to be nominated by your state organization); if you have been inducted into the MHSTeCA Hall of Fame or have been honored for another reason at the banquet --- you owe Bob Wood some of your glory.

As with Billie Jean, he passed it on.

# Tiger Teusink

By Ed Waits

## “I first met Tiger Teusink in the summer of 1963.”

Over the years, I have made that statement many times in the presence of tennis coaches when the subject of Tiger came up. It was a bragging right, a way of saying that Tiger and I go way back (which we do). Also, it was and is an implicit ploy to gain some credibility by metaphorically getting next to The Man. When someone approaches a gathering in which you are included in a group talking with the most important person in the room, you gain a certain *gravitas* by association. The inference is that if Tiger and I go way back, maybe I have a modicum of importance too, simply by association. Over the years, I have milked it.

He was a tenacious athlete (hence, the nickname dubbed long before Woods) at Holland High School. He played basketball and tennis (2D), competing on a team under Hall of Famer Joe Moran that never lost a dual match in his three years there. He went on to Hope College, again playing basketball and tennis (2S, 1D). Not surprising, he was captain of both squads, the basketball contingent winning the MIAA title in 1957 and again in 1958. In other words, he knew how to compete.

That would take him to Wyoming Lee where he was an assistant in football, basketball, and baseball: no tennis at the school. He became the head basketball and eventually baseball coach when his best friend and mentor, Bob Wright – who held those positions – left for my hometown of Jackson. (Author’s note: Coach Wright was my JV basketball coach at Jackson High in the early 1960s).

Tiger followed Wright to my hometown high school that year – 1963--to teach history and coach basketball and tennis. Having just graduated from JHS, I didn’t get to play for him but followed his summer exploits at local tournaments via the newspaper. At the time, I was too busy working summer jobs in factories to play much tennis. Nevertheless, I reunited with him for a time when I student taught at my alma mater and briefly worked as his assistant, believe it or not, during the one year that I taught English there. Circumstances made me quit and return to the Detroit area. In turn, opportunity prompted him to also quit and return to his hometown in 1971.

This “weren’t no small potatoes.” Holland was and still is a bastion of very good tennis. It boasts state champions

Vic Amaya (didn’t play for Tiger) and Scott Appledorn (did). The court facilities were so expansive that you could play the first round of a 16-team regional all at once: no waiting for your match to be called. The community was ideal for hosting Saturday tournaments: 20 courts on two sites. Our Hall of Fame display includes Joe Moran in the first class, Karen Page in the Class of 1996, and Tom Buursma in the Class of 1997.

Tiger fielded very good teams – 2nd in girls tennis in 1976 and 4th in boys; 1980. Given the plethora of courts, he hosted numerous Saturday tournaments in those early years, a precursor to regional and state tournament managements. My team was invited to only one of his Saturday affairs but that’s another story to be found in the Good Stories section of this document.

Upon arriving back in Holland, Tiger was hired as the varsity basketball coach but resumed tennis coaching with the girls in 1972, the beginning of girls team tennis. From then on, what a career he had. All total, he amassed 52 years of coaching, 47 of them leading tennis teams. He coached at Jackson for nine years, and 27 at his high school alma mater. He added 11 more helping Karen Page with the Hope women’s team.

Clearly, he was good at it. Tiger was not only recognized as our Coach of the Year (Girls, 1984 and Boys, 1992) but was also inducted into the first class of our Hall of Fame (1986). He was inducted into the MHSCA Hall of Fame in 1990 and the National Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2003. He was named USTA National Coach of the Year in 2005, an honor that included a three trip to New York during the U.S.

Open where he sat with then-Mayor David Dinkins. And finally, he will be inducted into the newly formed Western Michigan Tennis Association Hall of Fame. That’s four Halls of Fame.

Perhaps most significantly, in 2016 the Holland Public Schools renamed the high school tennis facility The Tiger Teusink Tennis Courts. To repeat, in a storied tennis town such as Holland where they now have outstanding facilities in a multitude of venues, this is a big deal. Today Holland High School has 12 courts; Hope College, 12; Holland Christian, 12; West Ottawa, 16; and six-court indoor facility at Hope College. To have tennis courts named after you in such a community is a really really big deal.



**From then on, what a career he had. All total, he amassed 52 years of coaching, 47 of them leading tennis teams. He coached at Jackson for nine years, and 27 at his high school alma mater. He added 11 more helping Karen Page with the Hope College women’s team.**

## **“Bob Wood was the Founder of our association. Tiger Teusink was the foundation.”**

I have repeated this in speeches multiple times over the years. He was involved virtually from the beginning. He was our fourth president, serving from 193-85, then extended a year when Kingwood’s Nancy Ryan, the next in line, suddenly moved to Minnesota. Then he took over the secretary-treasurer’s duties and became a fixture at that position. As school employees know, two individuals are essential to operating an organization: the secretary and the janitor. Tiger served in this vital capacity 25 years, a quarter century.

As a classic Type A, Tiger kept things organized superbly. It wasn’t just the writing of the Minutes and paying the bills. Tiger as always at the workshops helping with the registration and assorted other tasks that came up during the two-day event. He represented our as-

sociation on a routine basis at MHSAA Tennis Committee meetings hosted by Warren McKenzie and later, Gina Mazzolini. He knew the rules which means that he so very clearly saw the need for some of them to be changed --- and some of them not. He was on the all-important state seed committee for far too many seasons to count. The same thing can be said in terms of the number of regionals (63) and even state tournaments (17) (see above in terms of facilities)

that he managed. His pride at the accuracy of the seed committee’s decisions was justified. He still journeys to Lansing to help with the draw of the Division that will compete in Kalamazoo.

Tiger was an integral part of the establishment of what the MHSTeCA does on a semi-annual basis. He helped organize the selection of the all state teams and coaches of the year procedures and played an important part in the choices (When E.F. Hutton -- ‘er, Tiger Teusink -- spoke, people got quiet and listened). If you have ever had an all state player on your team, have ever been named coach of the year, or in the Hall of

Fame, Tiger Teusink had a lot to do with it. In addition, he was instrumental in helping to establish the new area seed meeting procedures which proceeded the gathering in Lansing to seed state-wide and make the draws. This was not only a highly responsible task to undertake for the members of the committee but also exhausting if you were also a teacher and a coach. Our Miss Tennis award is now The Tiger Teusink Miss Tennis Award.

Tiger and I both received our association’s Distinguished Service Award at the 1998 Hall of Fame banquet. It was engineered by then-President Karen Page as a secret (a ploy that I myself have twice successfully pulled off since then). To receive an award with Tiger is to be “walking in tall cotton.” I repeat: When you walk into a room where Tiger is engaged in conversa-

tion, you go over and stand next to him. It is called “basking in reflected glory.”

Tiger introduced me when I was inducted into our Hall of Fame in 2007. I asked for and still have his notes. In return, I was honored to represent the MHSTeCA at the dedication of the Tiger Teusink Tennis Courts at HHS. I finished my presentation with the following:

“Generally speaking, people wait too long to honor someone worthy. Too often, it is at the funeral home or at the memorial service when folks gather to

talk about what a good guy he was and to tell stories about his achievements and impact. And the symbol of his immortality is a tombstone, a piece of granite which will exist for presumably all eternity. Well, this (and I pointed to the Tiger Teusink Tennis Courts banner) is way better than a tombstone.”

Indeed, generations of Holland tennis players will be reminded of the greatness of this man every time they walk onto these courts. Now *that’s* immortality.



**As a basketball guard at Hope, Tiger brought the ball up the court and then passed it off to teammates so that they could score. In English literature -- and his service to the MHSTeCA for so many years -- this is called foreshadowing.**

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**And finally, he will be inducted into the newly formed Western Michigan Tennis Association Hall of Fame. That’s *four* Halls of Fame.**

# MHSTeCA Past Presidents



**Charlie Partin**  
1977-1979



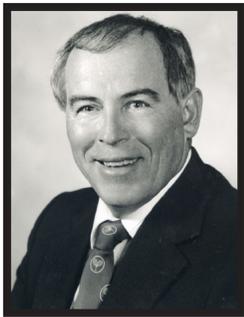
**Bob Quinn**  
1979-1981



**Harold Holcomb**  
1981-1983



**Tiger Teusink**  
1983-1985



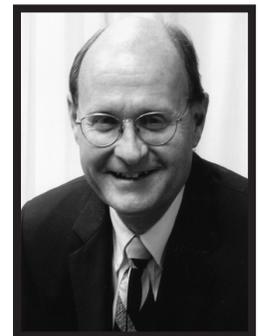
**Charlie Bassett**  
1985-1987



**Stan Noland**  
1987-1989



**Jim Cummins**  
1989 - 1991



**Ed Waits**  
1991 - 1993



**Elliott Pearce**  
1993 - 1995



**Gary Ellis**  
1995 - 1997



**Karen Page**  
1997 -1999



**Tim Coleman**  
1999 - 2001

# MHSTeCA Past Presidents



**John Shade**  
2001 - 2003



**Jerry Murphy**  
2003 - 2005



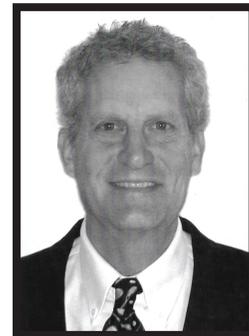
**Tom Leyrer**  
2005 - 2007



**Nancy Brissette**  
2007 - 2009



**Peter Militzer**  
2009 - 2011



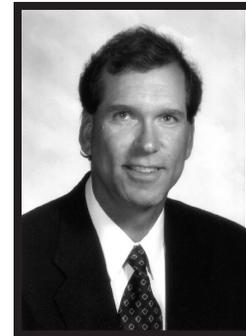
**Joe Gentle**  
2011 - 2013



**Mike McGinnis**  
2013 - 2015



**Ron Landfair**  
2015 - 2017



**Mark Sobieralski**  
2017 - 2019

# MHSTeCA Presidents



**Eric Gajar**  
2019 - 2021



**Jen Aldrich**  
2021 - 2023

# The Communicators

Before the advent of the MHSTeCA, there was no state-wide vehicle for disseminating information about our sport. There was no newsletter dedicated specifically to our doings and concerns and there certainly was no e-mail or Internet. The only things available were coach-to-coach shop talk and phone calls or letters to people such as MHSAA's Warren McKenzie. It would sometimes take half the season to learn who was in your regional.

That changed with the 1977 board meeting. **Ken Gutow** wrote the first two newsletters starting in 1978. **Gordy Boettcher** followed until 1985, then **Ed Waits**. **Rich Trombly** took over in 1988 and called it *The Court Monitor*. It reverted back to Ken and Ed, then to **Elaina Morey**, then back to Rich, then to **Tom Leyrer** (actually to wife Sharon) from 1998-2005, then back again to Rich for one year. Finally, it was eliminated in favor of the Internet.

Compared to today's products, it wasn't pretty, at least not at first. Newsletters were tapped out on a stencil; run off on a "ditto" machine; collated, folded and stapled; and finally addressed, stamped, and mailed. This was done twice a year. As opposed to today's point and click ease, it was a horribly arduous task. Although it may have been exciting to produce at the beginning, the task would grow old quickly.

The first ones were printed on 8.5 X 11 paper, front and back, stapled, and then mailed. Editors had to worry about making sure there was an address half page. In the Ed Waits era, he typed it out on an Apple iie (If you know what that was, it is an indication of your age) and then sent it to Dave Fredette to print and mail. It wasn't fun but we were doing the best that we could with the resources at hand.

Eventually Rich Trombly took over and produced a professional-looking document called the *Court Monitor*. In other words, there was gradual improvement.

In 1996, **Harold Holcomb** made the first foray into trying to establish a website. It was primitive but it was a start.

After all, Website creation was in its infancy. Moreover a major problem existed on the receiving end. High school tennis coaches were equally ignorant as to how even to log on. It was sadly laughable when Hoke tried to get board members to jot down the address of the new venture. They had no idea what to write. www may have been ok but backward slashes? .com? .net? The address was <http://www.cris.com/~hoke/index.shtml>

The newsletter effort continued to improve with each new editor and innovation until use of the Internet finally took hold. When Hoke suffered a stroke, **Bruce Grotenhuis** offered his services. His school district had trained one person from each school in web design about once per month and he had spent some time helping others. He ended up doing the Howell High School website.

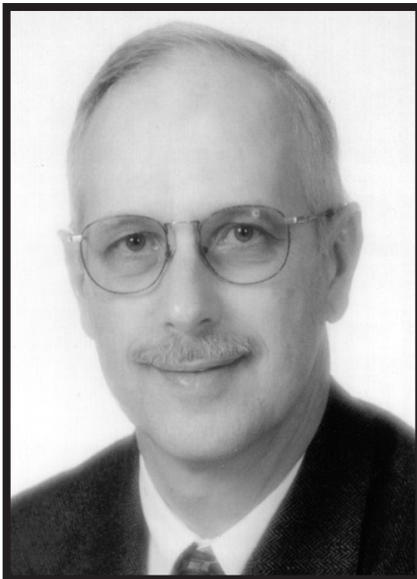
His gradual and consistent additions made [www.mhsteca.org](http://www.mhsteca.org) arguably the most valuable resource we have. This is an especially true statement for those coaches who endured the early years when we had to ask and search and beg for information. Now it is on our clicker-tips.

Our website not only offers the latest information and announcements but also a history. Articles about Hall of Famers and current Coaches of the Year are a click or two away. You can get the results of the state tournament or link to the MHSAA

website to find out who is in your regional. With a password which comes with your membership, you can access the latest directory. And much much more.

Bruce has been doing this *for 20 years*. His continuous attendance at the board meetings means that he leaves with the information needed to post All-State lists, Regional Coach of the Year lists, and State Coach of the Year winners and prepares press releases to be sent out statewide.

All of this progress didn't just appear magically. It was an evolution which mirrors human history: a slow process over the first years that gradually increased in speed until electronic media changed things rapidly. That's where Bruce came in. Our website is a bragging right, a vehicle to be both extraordinarily



**Bruce Grotenhuis**



**Ken Gutow**



**Gordon Boettcher**



**Ed Waits**



**Rich Trombly**



**Elaina Morey**



**Tom Leyrer**



**Harold Holcomb**

# The Guardians

Anybody who starts working in a high school quickly realizes that the two most important people in the building are the secretary and the custodian. They are far more than letter typers and classroom cleaners. They know where things are. They have knowledge of a multitude of areas to which they are not necessarily responsible. They know where to get things solved. They have a deeper connection to the boss than the classroom teacher and probably more influence. They have been around for awhile and know things. They are Type A personalities who get things done.

Bob Wood started the association by appointing himself secretary-treasurer. It made sense in that he collected the proceeds from the workshops and used it for such activities as the summer board meetings. It also made sense in that he had the services of his secretary, Reba Torongo (Distinguished Service Award in 1986), who could keep track of memberships and send out newsletters. There is little doubt that he did his share of writing and Reba did her share of typing and mailing.

But after serving an extra year as president (he volunteered after Kingswood's Nancy Ryan who was next in line moved to Minnesota), Tiger Teusink took over the Secretary-Treasurer post and for the next two decades served admirably. In so many ways, he became the foundation of the MHSTeCA.

A certain high school Latin teacher has said that she only teaches 10 percent of what she knows about her subject but the remaining 90 percent dictates the excellence of the 10 percent that she does.

Tiger didn't just collect money and write checks. He didn't just take notes and write minutes. As arguably the second in command, he was involved in virtually all aspects of what we do. Every year, he would work at the registration of the workshop, in part because he was so meticulous but mostly because it enabled him to get to know a large majority of the membership and they, in turn, him. He served on too many state seed committees to count, an influential position which enabled him to be very involved in issues and procedures at the regional and state tournament level. He served on the MHSAA Tennis Committee many times. He got to know the important people. They could say the same about him. In other words, he brought to any secretary or treasurer task an enormous amount of credibility. Some of the 90 percent.

**A certain high school Latin teacher has said that she only teaches 10 percent of what she knows about her subject but the remaining 90 percent determines the excellence of the 10 percent.**

You can check off almost all of these boxes (especially in terms of the state seed committee) when it comes to Gary. As in the case with Tiger who served for three years as Holland High School's A.D., Gary was an athletic director with not only an inordinate interest in his school's tennis program (as opposed to many high school A.D.s) but with the experience necessary to see a bigger picture. When he took over the job from Tiger in 2007, Ed Waits -- who had agreed to be membership chair because it gave him a chance to work with Tiger -- decided to continue to serve in that post "so that I could work with Gary. He has the same attention to detail" says Ed. "He knows so much more than just the mechanics. He has connections with athletic directors and coaches throughout the state and not just in tennis. This is the 90 percent which makes what he does in terms of mechanics so much more effective."



Both Tiger as a state tournament director (among many other things) and Gary as an athletic director not only knew/know the rules but also the procedures for changing them. Because of the scope of their experience, they had/have an excellent feel for what is possible in terms of getting movements through the MHSAA Tennis Committee and ultimately the Representative Council. Moreover they established excellent relationships with Warren McKenzie, Gina Mazzolini, and Dan Hutcheson, something that can't be underestimated.

Gary is so well-regarded that he received the Charles Forsythe Award from the MHSAA in 2018. Anybody who knows anything about athletic administration in the state of Michigan knows that this was a really really big deal. Tiger, for his part, was a past president of the MHSCA, our umbrella association. A portion of the 90 percent.

In the early days, Tiger was primarily a basketball coach. In turn, Gary has spent 30+ years deeply involved in high school volleyball. This is a one more part of the 90 percent but it all adds up when you are the secretary who oversees so much more than merely writing the letters, recording minutes, collecting money, and paying bills.

The Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association has been blessed.

# The Contributor

Me

My first experience at an MHSTeCA board meeting was, to say the least, *not* auspicious. Although I joined the association in 1977 and attended all of the first 25 or so workshops, I steered clear of being a director. I cynically regarded this group as a glorified National Honor Society, a group whose specific purpose is to honor its members. I wanted no part of this.

I don't know what prompted me to attend my first meeting in 1980 at Bill Oliver's in Prudenville. It may have been at the urging of Tiger Teusink with whom I had a long relationship. It also may have been at the request of Troy Athens' Warren Block, a conference colleague and a good friend (both our daughters were in the same YMCA Indian Princesses tribe). Also, the fact that it was a family affair, a chance to spend a weekend Up North doing good work while still having the opportunity to play was an incentive.

But for me, things didn't start well. At some point in my very first meeting on that Saturday morning, I commented that a number of tennis coaches throughout the state regarded this organization as nothing more than a vehicle to glorify themselves with Coach of the Year honors and All State designations for their kids. After all, the coaches in the room were among the most successful in our sport.

Charlie Partin of East Grand Rapids, the first president but now out of office, went ballistic. He went on and on about how this was such a misconception. He talked about how much work people in the room were doing to benefit everyone, not just the winners. He wouldn't stop talking. Tiger finally intervened on my behalf by saying: "I don't think that was what Ed meant, Charlie." So much for making a good first impression.

But I hung in there for good reason. I was rubbing shoulders with the current giants, not only coaches of successful teams but people with lots of experience and knowledge regarding not only leadership of tennis teams but the ins and outs of the politics and issues. It was exciting to simply look around and listen, especially in the informal sessions when we shop-talked. Between the workshops and these board meetings, I was learning a lot. Given the atmosphere, it was hard *not* to volunteer. After all, we were pioneers doing work that hadn't been done before.

**I regard service to the association as analogous to service in a church. Most people attend, sit in the pews, listen to the sermon and the music, put money in the collection plate, and leave. But a few stick around in the belief that you pay the money and then you go to work. it can be immensely rewarding, like singing in the choir.**

## Compiling the weekly Top Ten Rankings

This was the first task that I volunteered for. I did this for several years in the mid-'80s, primarily because I got to work with Tiger. I would take phone calls on Sunday nights from 6:00 to 9:00, then Tiger and I (mostly Tiger) would decide on the rankings. It wasn't a good situation; the phone rang off the proverbial hook and lots of coaches couldn't get through. If the rankings are only as good as the information provided, I didn't do particularly well but as with the beginnings of all quests, it was a start and better than nothing. It got coaches around the state aware that there was a tennis association trying to accomplish something on a weekly basis. It sparked interest. I don't know who took the list and sent it to newspapers state-wide but it certainly got us both publicity and notoriety.

## Newsletters

I wrote them from 1985 to 1988 and then resumed for a couple of years in the 1990s. They were pretty cookie-cutter: I followed the patterns of my two predecessors, Ken Gutow and Gordy Boettcher. This was a valuable communication resource for member coaches but it took a lot of time to produce. I was saved from some of the drudgery by Dave Fredette who would take my copy, print it, and mail it. That's a lot of work. However, I had the advantage of a computer, and Apple iie, something I think neither Kenn nor Gordy had because it wasn't available at the time.

## Being President

I served from 1991 to 1993 and not particularly with distinction. That's because for the first three decades, anything of substance was handled by Bob and Tiger. I called myself a Caretaker President. It was only after Bob retired and moved, and Tiger gave up the Secretary-Treasurer's position, that the subsequent presidents had to solve some problems on their own. Fortunately, they had/have Gary Ellis. The only thing of consequence that I did in my term was to write the History of the association for the Hall of Fame display (picture on the cover of this document) and then deliver a sort of Dedication Speech to the board which held its meeting on that occasion at the Midland Community Tennis Center. However, let the record show that I did *all* the Coach of the Year presentations at the banquet.

## Membership

When I retired from teaching in 1998, I volunteered to take over the membership duties because (1) the situation was in utter disarray, (2) I knew enough about establishing a database to feel confident that I could learn the rest, and (3) I would get to work with Tiger (a reason unto itself).

During that entire first summer, the two of us started from scratch and built a new database. Virtually every day, Tiger would e-mail me information that I would type into the new document. By the October board meeting, the result wasn't very complete but we had made a start. Same with the directory that I manufactured for the upcoming workshop. The 1999 version, my first, is displayed further into this history. You will see that it isn't very good.

Still, as in all things with this group, the directory got better as the years passed. More to the point, it enabled me to stay involved in the MHSTeCA and attend the board meetings as an officer. I also presided over the Membership Table at the workshops to hand out memberships and take in renewals, etc. --- that is, until my wife put her foot down with regard to returning from Florida at the end of January to be at the clinic. At that point, Bruce Grotenhuis, as he often has done over the years, saved me. Otherwise, I would have had to make a values decision: service to the association or my marriage. Well, duh.

I did the membership job for 20 years, a good round number. After awhile, processing renewals, mailing out membership cards and directories, and sending money to Gary became drudgery. Moreover, I found myself increasingly making mistakes. But the entire experience was gratifying in that I was contributing, even in my old age. Moreover, I had an enjoyable time working with some pretty extraordinary individuals who themselves are contributors: Tiger, Gary, Bruce and Peter Militzer when he became workshop director. I also enjoyed banter with Nancy Brissette with whom I would communicate daily twice per year with regard to which coaches who had applied for all academic status had actually renewed their memberships.

Also, it was a chance to work with all those coaches who volunteered to conduct Regional Coach of the Year balloting. Sending out materials was part of my job; the easy part. Begging people to conduct the voting was the hard part, one that demanded a lot of organization on my part but very few turned me down. I got to know a lot of people who contributed in their own way including new members of the board.

## Writing

I have two degrees from U of M in English Language and Literature. I taught high school English for 30 years. It was only natural to contribute in this way.

I started with the newsletter and, besides the all state lists, etc., added a bit of original stuff in it. With the help of Gordy Boettcher's superb writing, I then authored brief pieces with regard to all 10 inductees of the first Hall of Fame Class - 1986. Gary Ellis says that it became the program from which Bob Wood read when he introduced each one at the first banquet held in Kalamazoo. I also wrote the second program (my high school coach was an inductee), dropped the project for a year, and then wrote the program articles for all the rest. That's 34 years.

What improved the most during the first decade or so was the presentation and printing but eventually I found my stride when I took over the pagination (making things look pretty on the page) as well as the content. The program has turned into a bragging right, in part because The Tennis Company's David Schwartz funded an upgrade in printer paper and in part because Bill Riggs' printer did a much better job than the ones that Tiger and I secured. Finally, I became even more satisfied with the end product after two ace-proofreaders, Gary Ellis and Peter Militzer, took it apart and found my errors.

When the MHSAA approved mandatory rules meetings for tennis coaches with the stipulation that an individual missed one, he/she would have to take a pass a rules test, I took it upon myself to write the test. I didn't want some arrogant jerk missing the meeting and then thumbing his nose at an too-easy test. I wanted to *tennis* person to write the questions. I wrote several versions. As it turns out, Jerry Murphy, the District Director *in charge of rules* failed the test. To his credit, he told me that the questions were fair.

A recent venture was for me to establish an Excel spreadsheet and count the number of articles that I have written on behalf of the MHSTeCA. That's because over the years, production requirements expanded to include writing about Coaches of the Year, Assistant Coaches, and Distinguished Service Award winners. It took awhile because so much of what I had done was on Apple computers. When I went to Windows, I threw away old writing seeing no reason to save the stuff. But the hard stuff that I had saved plus Gary Ellis' archives produced a number: 481 pieces of writing. That includes the Invocation at the beginning of each banquet.

**Yes, I got to sing in the choir. On many occasions, I was part of some pretty amazing ensembles as well. There have been a few trios and duets. I even got to sing some solos.**

**But the primary reason why I stuck around so long after retirement was *not* to serve the association or help out high school tennis in some way. It was to work with exceptional people within a good cause. I got that in spades.**

# The man behind the scenes

**T**here are actors and there are producers. There are stars and then there are those who prefer to work off-stage. There are those who get the applause and those whose contributions make the applause possible.

Certainly we who have attended MHSTeCA clinics for the first forty years have known (or at least suspected) that the force behind Bob Wood's microphone -- the guy who got the details done -- was the one who took his place in a back room come clinic time with no desire to appear on stage, even to briefly take a bow for what he did. As Bob said: "I get most of the credit because I make most of the announcements and I'm very visible. However, if the truth be known, Gary does ninety percent of the work before the workshops begin. The workshops would not take place if it were not for Gary Bodenmiller."

Gary was the guy who got the speakers. He was the one who assigned the topics, did the scheduling, rounded up the vendors, wrote the brochure, and produced the clinic workbook. He and his wife Janet (along with Kathy Wood, Tiger Teusink, Karen Page, and others) were there to handle the rush of registration. Then he made himself available to solve problems and put out fires. He did it for forty years.

In the meantime, Bob dealt with the hotel in terms of accommodations and the banquet, and was the contact person at the MHSTeCA with regard to its role in the clinic. And, of course, he introduced the speakers.

He would have preferred to spend some air time talking about Gary, but Gary would have none of it. "He was the

opposite of a big shot," says Chuck Wright, Hall of Fame coach from Grosse Pointe University Liggett. "He shunned the spotlight and deflected praise to others."

As a coach, Gary left a solid St. Clair Shores South Lake tennis program (which he established: 1967 record was 0-10; 1968 was 20-2) to go into the tennis house business. As owner of the Eastpointe Racket Club, he provided the venue for the first six workshops.

Gary and Bob started running the Detroit Tennis Workshop in 1977 and added the Chicago workshop in the early '80s. These became universally acclaimed gatherings that hosted some of the best clinicians in the world for four decades,



annually drawing 300 high school tennis coaches. Every fourth year, the clinic also hosted the USPTA pros who rotate between Detroit, Chicago, Indianapolis, and Columbus. "I have always related to the high school coach as opposed to the teaching professionals even though I spent five years coaching high school tennis and 34 years as a teaching profes-

sional," said Gary.

When Bob and Gary decided to hang it up after 40 years, MHSTeCA tennis coaches took up a collection and presented each with a check for a thousand dollars. Pictured here.

**"I have always related to the high school coach as opposed to the teaching professionals even though I spent five years coaching high school tennis and 34 years as a teaching professional"** --- Gary Bodenmiller

# The Old Guard

Individuals assembled below attended Bob Wood's Memorial Service on May 19, 2019. Many of them were instrumental in the establishment and development of the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association.



**Front Row, Left to Right: Jim Teal, Harold Holcomb, Tiger Teusink, Ed Waits, Bob Quinn, Chuck Wright, Ken Gutow**

**Back Row: Left to Right: Gordon Boettcher, Gary Bodenmiller, Charlie Bassett, Gary Ellis, Dave Fredette, Clarence Wynn, Larry Harte, Jerry Murphy, Mark Sobieralski**



# MHSTeCA



**TENNIS Workshop**

coaching • teaching • playing

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The Eastpointe Junior Development Program  
and  
The Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association

Co-Directors: Gary Bodenmiller, Eastpointe Racquet Club; Bob Wood, Grosse Pointe University Liggett

**FEBRUARY 18, AND FEBRUARY 19, 1977**

Featuring Nationally Recognized




Stan Lane  
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Brian Einar  
University of Michigan Coach

The conference is open to all tennis enthusiasts interested in strokes and strategy.

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In Cooperation with:  
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GARY BODENMILLER'S JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
Present

**THE SEVENTH ANNUAL TENNIS WORKSHOP**

February 11 & 12, 1983

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**CHRIS EVERT LLOYD JACK KRAMER**

Along with Internationally Recognized Speakers

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Co-Directors:  
Bob Wood  
1981 National Tennis Coach of the Year  
Grosse Pointe University Liggett

Gary Bodenmiller  
Grosse Pointe Indoor Tennis Club  
This conference, held at the Eastpointe Racquet Club, East Detroit, MI, is open to all enthusiasts interested in strokes and strategy

THE GROSSE POINTE INDOOR TENNIS CLUB JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
and  
THE MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS COACHES ASSOCIATION

PRESENT

**THE FIFTH ANNUAL TENNIS WORKSHOP**

February 5, 6 & 7, 1981

Featuring




**PETER BURWASH ARTHUR ASHE**

Along with Nationally Recognized Speakers  
George Ackler and Bob White

Co-Directors:  
Bob Wood  
1981 National Tennis Coach of the Year  
Grosse Pointe University Liggett

Gary Bodenmiller  
Grosse Pointe Indoor Tennis Club

The conference is open to all tennis enthusiasts interested in strokes and strategy.

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IN COOPERATION WITH:  
THE MHSTeCA, THE USA  
and  
GARY BODENMILLER'S JR. DEV. PROGRAMS  
PRESENT

**The Sixth Annual TENNIS WORKSHOP**

February 26 & 27, 1982

Featuring



**Vic Braden**

Along with Nationally Recognized Speakers  
Steve Costandi Margold Edwards  
Ed McQuellan

Co-Directors:  
Bob Wood  
1981 U.S. Tennis Coach of the Year  
Grosse Pointe University Liggett

Gary Bodenmiller  
Director of Tennis  
Grosse Pointe Indoor Tennis Club

The conference is open to all tennis enthusiasts interested in strokes and strategy.

**SECOND ANNUAL TENNIS WORKSHOP**

Coaching • Teaching • Playing

Sponsored by  
The Eastpointe Junior Development Program  
and  
The Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association

Co-Directors  
Gary Bodenmiller  
Eastpointe Racquet Club  
Bob Wood  
Grosse Pointe University Liggett

**FEBRUARY 17 and FEBRUARY 18, 1978**

Featuring  
Nationally Recognized Speakers

Clarence Mabry John Powless  
George Acker Joan Ramey Bob White

The conference is open to all tennis enthusiasts interested in strokes and strategy.

# The Establishment of the Workshop

**G**ary Bodenmiller met Bob Wood when he was a second-year high school tennis coach at St. Clair Shores South Lake High School. The two became neighbors a few years later. “I wanted to upgrade my schedule with better teams and Bob agreed to play us,” he says. “We won,” he adds.

“But as a new coach, I needed help,” he continues, “so I attended a workshop in Chicago and another in Grand Rapids. A bit later, the Woods and Bodenmillers went to the National Tennis Teachers Conference, held at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City. We thought: ‘We can do better than this.’ We didn’t go to pre-plan or scout.”

At least not the first time. Although the two would go back to that national event to recruit, they used their own resources to organize the first one in February 1977. “Bob knew Brian Eisner from working the National Boys Tournament and Ian Laver from the Silver Thatch in Pompano where he took his team for spring break,” says Gary. They added Bob White, the Wayne State athletic trainer.

In addition, some of the most successful high school tennis coaches up to that point hosted sessions: Charlie Partin of East Grand Rapids, Don Brown of Cranbrook, and Herm Kiewiet of Kalamazoo Loy Norrix. All were winners of state championships and all are now in the MHSTeCA Hall of Fame. Given that Gary was the head pro and general manager of Eastpointe Racket Club, it became the site of that first all-important event – and the next five.

The workshop was a hit, the first of many. The word spread, and not just in terms of eager Michigan high school tennis coaches. “Clarence Mabry was the Director of the National Tennis Teacher’s Conference,” says Gary. “When he agreed to come to Detroit it gave us credibility with the other Big Names.”

From Day One, Wilson was the No. 1 sponsor of the speakers. Bob being Bob, he hit it off so well with their Head Honcho that he always dealt with them. In return, Gary worked with the USTA, Prince, Head, Penn, etc. Moreover, they made sure that the speakers were treated royally and appreciation amply expressed. In turn, the word spread even more and more on all fronts.

The Big Names? What high school coach could resist coming to see and hear Chris Evert? How about Arthur Ashe? Also, not so-familiar names such as Peter Burwash and Jack Groppel who were so appreciated that they were invited back several times. Same with master teaching professional Jorge Capestany of Hope College. Occasionally, high school players were invited to watch demonstrations on the second day.

And then there was Vic Braden. A Michigan tennis product, he grew up in Monroe and won three state singles championships under the coaching of Hall of Famer Tim Tambling. At the time of the first workshops, he was a household name in terms of tennis teaching, having authored several books and produced several films that served to dispel some established myths. He was the featured speaker at the sixth workshop and then afterward, many more.

Coaches also got to engage with vendors to look at the latest equipment. They supplied items for the Friday afternoon raffle. So did local tennis businesses such as Ben Tasich’s Rackets Unlimited and later David Schwartz’ Tennis Company. Proceeds went to our Hall of Fame.

Proceeds from the early workshop went to fund certain aspects of the summer meetings such as the pizza on Saturday nights. Also, postage for the four-per-year newsletter.

Gary also notes that there was a speaker cost. Bob and Gary would put them up at the Parkhurst Hotel where Clarence Mabry and John Powless promoted “Drinks on Bob and Gary” nights. Yes. they paid the hefty bill.

It was undoubtedly worth it. We tennis coaches were (and are) blessed to receive instruction in coaching from some of the best clinicians in the world. Following are some highlights.

# Thanks for the memories



**F**ew coaches who were in attendance at the first Tennis Workshop back in 1977 were thinking about a 40-year venture, one that would span two generations. Indeed, some of the coaches who were at last year's event weren't even born in 1977. All we knew at the time was that we were impressed. Some of us were experienced coaches and accomplished players, yet we left with an abundance of information and, more to the point, excitement at the prospect of using what we had learned.

It didn't hurt that the first speaker was U of M's Brian Eisner, who, up to that point, had won seven Big Ten championships (He would win 18 in 30 years). Brian, coach of Vic Amaya (He would go 5 sets with Bjorn Borg at Forest Hills), Malivai Washington (Wimbledon finalist) and Mike Leach (NCAA singles champion), was terrific in terms of both presentation and content. He also brought enormous credibility to the workshop.

"Bob and I were neighbors but we also coached against each other -- he at University Liggett, me at South Lake in St. Clair Shores," says Gary. "We had attended the National Tennis Teachers Conference in New York City with our wives. Brian Eisner, Ian Laver (Rod's cousin and teaching pro in Florida) and Bob White (trainer Wayne State) were our featured speakers at our first workshop (White was so well-received for his talk on tennis injuries that he was invited back the next year.) Other coaches on the program were Charles Partin from East Grand Rapids, Don Brown from Cranbrook and Herm Kieweit from Kalamazoo Loy Norrix." Note:

All three are in the MHSTeCA Hall of Fame.

As they say in church, it's one thing for people to attend the first time; it's a brand new ball game when they come back. Surely we did because Bob and Gary kept bringing in top clinicians. A major reason is that Bob had the good fortune to talk Clarence Mabry, the director of the aforementioned National Tennis Teachers Conference, into coming to Detroit. "He set us on fire," Bob says. "When I would call prospective presenters throughout the nation, all I had to say was that Clarence had come to our workshop. He was that well-known and respected."

Who can forget when Chris Evert went through a workout (we watched up close) and then answered questions, or when Arthur Ashe arrived, even though he confessed at the time that getting through the snow and cold in Detroit on a Friday night in February was not his first choice. Vic Braden, whose books during the tennis surge of the '70s made him a recognizable name among non-tennis people, brought his analytic approach to the workshop. Later on, it was Pam Schriver, Wimbledon doubles champion with Martina Navratilova. There was Jimmy Arias at Battle Creek and Tim Gullikson in Troy. We heard from Dennis VanderMeer and Nick Bollittieri.

Over these two days, high school coaches became even more enthusiastic about the upcoming tennis season. We left the event having learned a multitude of teaching techniques, drills, and verbal expressions that we were eager to impart in the coming months. After all, spring, with its promise on several levels, was coming soon.

"I was often reminded of things I already knew but had forgotten, and techniques that I had set aside which I shouldn't have," says Ed Waits. "But there was always something new and exciting. We witnessed great tennis teachers. Some of the best were the unknown names, people I had never heard of. Some were our colleagues."

To be sure, there were plenty of celebrities that drew us in. Given the connections that Bob Wood forged nationally – and the reputation that the affair built over the years – big names came first to the east side of Detroit, twice to Battle Creek, and then to Troy. They brought excellence and left memories.

--- Greg Patton getting off the plane and heading straight to the workshop without any sleep for over 24 hours. He was still dynamic.

--- Peter Burwash pitching the vegetarian lifestyle and describing the process for killing chickens and processing them for consumption right before we headed out to lunch. There were a lot of salads eaten that day.

--- Vic Braden and the threat on his life. "I don't think I've ever seen Bob more on edge than that day," says Gary Ellis.

--- Chrissie Evert and Jack Kramer appearing together for a presentation. Many of us grew up in the '50s playing with the Kramer Autograph racket.

- Wayne Bryan - AWESOME every time he was here.

- The Houston Rockets staying at the Troy Marriott at the same time we were there. We all looked up to them, especially in the elevator where we prayed that Chuck Reed's (Whittemore Prescott) wife would not ask: "How is the air up there?"

-- The first few workshops were non-stop sessions. If you went to lunch you had to miss a session.

--- Gundars Tilmanis, who with a weirdly strung racket, mishit a ball and sent it up into the ballroom chandelier. Many of us were on our hands and knees scooping up shards of glass before the session resumed.

---- There were often outstanding sessions run simultaneously. You had to make a hard decision, then compare notes.

----"Joe Dinoffer offered simple, almost common sense advice. And he always had a few statistics to back up what he said. I still remember hearing that '44% of points are ended within the first two shots of the point.' In the season following that session, I think our team practiced serves and returns until someone's arm almost fell off."-- Peter Militzer

----Jorge Capestany always had a drill (or six) that you

could take back and use right away. His drills were generally easy to follow and institute when you returned home.

--- "I feel I learned the most from what I would call 'second-tier' speakers. They may not have been national names but they often had built a very successful program, whether it was with a team or at a club, by sticking to a few solid principles. I've also learned a great deal from the sessions held by the high school coaches in our state." -- Peter Militzer

The impact of this annual event also extended to our organization. It enabled 200+ high school tennis coaches to renew their memberships and perhaps have their schools pay. It allowed us to distribute annual directories without incurring mailing costs. It made it easier to attend an annual General Membership Meeting; after all, we were already there in one place. It also enabled Warren Mackenzie and later, Gina Mazzolini, to make MHSAA rules meetings attendance easier.

In addition, it provided a venue for the Hall of Fame banquet, a chance to honor in first class fashion not only inductees but coaches of the year, assistant coaches, distinguished service individuals, and Mr. and Miss Tennis. After getting a shaky start in Kalamazoo, the event was switched to the Friday night of the workshop, a superb decision. Although scheduled in conjunction with the National Junior and Boys tournament, the Kalamazoo affair was lightly attended. Not so in Troy where the banquet was often full to overflowing. The crowd would leave the affair with an afterglow of good feeling, having experienced a night of inspiring success stories and expressions of gratitude. Doubtless, many who were there and are now reading this are singing/humming a version of Thanks for the Memories.

All of the above is the result of the vision, strong will, and organizational skills of Bob and Gary. After all, any association is almost required to have an annual convention. Although the two certainly had help, they were the driving force behind so many events. Bob was nationally known. Gary provided the detail work. Together they started something that would span more years and include more coaches than they could ever have imagined on that Friday evening in 1977.

As tennis coaches surely know, there is a window, however short, when one can look back with satisfaction at a triumph that just transpired. The shortness of the window has to do with what challenge lies too soon ahead. We are incessant worriers. Something might be gaining on us.

But at the end of this era, that sense of satisfaction for Bob and Gary spans four decades of good stories and fond memories. They have a lot to look back on. Thanks to them, so do we.

# Notable Workshop Speakers

Acker	George	1978, 1981, 1993
Anderson	Kirk	1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 2006, 2011, 2014, 2016
Ashe	Arthur	1981
Bollettieri	Nick	1984, 2002
Braden	Vic	1982, 1986, 1991, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004
Burwash	Peter	1979, 1980, 1981, 1985, 1988, 1992, 2001, 2005
Capestany	Jorge	1995, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016
Contardi	Steve	1979, 1980, 1982, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2001
Eisner	Brian	1977, 2000
Evert	Chris	1983
Fischer	Jon	1983, 1985, 1988, 1995, 2000, 2003, 2012
Groppel	Jack	1983, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1994, 1996, 2001
Gullikson	Tom	1988
Gullikson	Tim	1989, 1994
Jensen	Murphy	2010
Jensen	Luke	2012, 2016
Laver	Ian	1977, 1979
Mabry	Clarence	1978, 1984
Martin	Todd	2009
McKinley	Chuck	1984
Patton	Greg	1987, 1992, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2006, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2016
Powless	John	1978, 1979, 1980, 1993, 2002, 2006
Ralston	Dennis	1988, 2014
Riessen	Marty	1989
Smith	Stan	2003
Stockton	Dick	1994
Teusink	Tiger	1984, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1997, 2000, 2002
Van der Meer	Dennis	1984, 1987, 1993
Tilmanis	Gundars	1984, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1997, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016

**A complete list of workshop speakers can be found in the Appendix.**

# The First Workshop

As with all such first ventures, it was risky. What if nobody came? Bob, an inveterate perfectionist and worrier, had to be nervous. But as it turns out, he needn't have: 131 coaches showed up.

The very first speaker, U of M's Brian Eisner was simply outstanding. He was dynamic and informative. He provided tip after useful tip about how to conduct practices and prepare teams. Undoubtedly part of his success was that so many of us had never been exposed to this kind of expertise in a field where we were nothing more than sincere amateurs. Instead, Brian, was a consummate pro with not only vast coaching and teaching experience but a resume of championships (He would go on to win 18 Big Ten titles in 30 years at Michigan) which gave him enormous credibility. In return, it gave the first workshop the same.

How about Ian Laver? The last name, to be sure, was a draw. So was his engaging personality and resume. He had an Australian free-for-all demeanor and teaching pro positions in prominent locations. Prior to this event, many high school tennis coaches were never in a position to listen to this kind of advice. Moreover, he reminded some very good players who eventually became coaches of drills and concepts that they had forgotten.

Bob White, the Wayne State athletic trainer, was equally outstanding, so much so that he was invited back for the second year. A good reason why he was so popular was that many tennis coaches who were not versed in the treatment of sprained ankles and blisters and taping --- in other words, they were not football or basketball coaches -- found him to be exceptionally useful in an area they knew little about. There was a sense of relief on the part of some that at last they knew now what to do if a kid sprained an ankle.

The first workshop took place before there was ever a *board* meeting. The MHSTeCA may have been established but there were no organization to speak of: just outstanding initial leadership and a terrific public relations start. There was no doubt that the word would spread in the coming months.

Yes, at this workshop, the first *General Membership Meeting* was held early on that Saturday morning (as it is today). That first gathering of members approved the Officers and Representatives that would meet in the summer. They also discussed a limit on the number of dual meets (18) and a limit on the number of players (3) that a coach could work with in the off season.

**TENNIS Workshop**  
coaching • teaching • playing

Sponsored by  
The Eastpointe Junior Development Program  
and  
The Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association

Co-Directors: Gary Bodenmiller, Eastpointe Racquet Club;  
Bob Wood, Grosse Pointe University Liggett.

**FEBRUARY 18, AND FEBRUARY 19, 1977**

Featuring Nationally Recognized

**Ian Laver**  
Silver Thatch Racquet Club  
Pompano Beach, Florida

**Brian Eisner**  
University of Michigan Coach

The conference is open to all tennis enthusiasts interested in strokes and strategy.

**Schedule of Activities**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Registration Desk Opens.  
3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Open tennis mixer. Free -- all levels of players welcome.  
3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Continuous showing of tennis films.  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Successful Team Coaching at the High School and College Levels. -- Brian Eisner  
8:15 - 9:45 p.m. Tennis the Australian Way. The Serve/Return of Serve/Volley. Ian Laver  
10:00 p.m. Complimentary Social Hour and Open Tennis Mixer.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Complimentary Continental Breakfast.  
7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Meeting of MHSTeCA.  
8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Conditioning of Tennis Players and Injuries relating to tennis -- Bob White  
10:15 - 11:45 a.m. The Australian Way -- Forehand/Backhand -- Ian Laver  
11:45 - 12:15 p.m. The New Tennis Format -- Warren McKenzie, Assistant Director MHSAA.  
12:15 - 1:15 p.m. Lunch Break  
12:15 - 1:15 p.m. Continuous showing of tennis films.  
1:15 - 2:15 p.m. Varying Coaching Philosophies -- Panel of High School Coaches

**Bob Wood, Grosse Pointe University Liggett.** **Don Brown, Cranbrook**  
**Charles Fortin, East Grand Rapids** **Marn Kliewelt, Kalamazoo**  
**Lay Novik**

2:15 - 3:45 p.m. Strategy and Drills Singles and Doubles -- Brian Eisner

Get to know both the staff and the other conferees.



# Chris Evert and Jack Kramer

Feb. 11-12, 1983

## Chris

According to Gary, over 600 people attended that Friday night session. She was in the midst of a divorce with Andy Lloyd at the time that she appeared. She did a workout with Eastpointe teaching pro Dale Steiss before answering questions. The hitting session was narrated by Jack Groppe, a personal friend of Chris who discussed what she was doing right in terms of positioning and execution. He unnecessarily urged spectators to watch her, not the ball. People were enthralled. It was a bragging right to be up so close.

Chris also used the workshop to announce that she would be competing in the upcoming Virginia Slims tournament to be held in Detroit. Gary says that this was a really big deal. Local television and newspaper reporters were there.

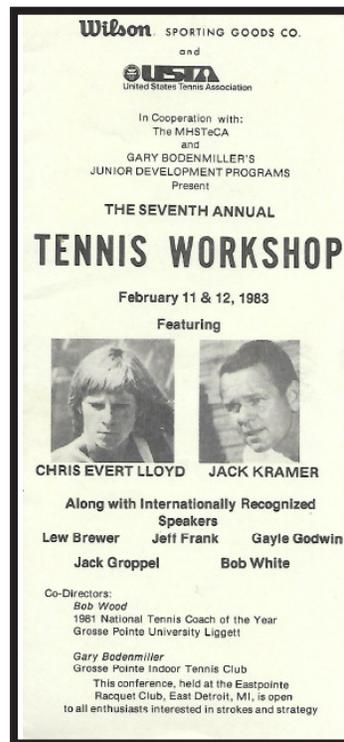
It had to be a monumental moment in Chissy's life when Wilson brought out a Chris Evert Autograph racket

## Jack

Wilson brought the two in. Jack was not a particularly good speaker but Gary says that he was very friendly. Years before, he had attended an 850 gathering in honor of Jean Hoxie shortly before she died.

Anyone who played serious tennis in the 1950s undoubtedly used a Wilson Jack Kramer Autograph, the standard for competitive excellence back then. It cost approximately \$25 back in the day. Jack told Gary that Wilson paid him \$1 for each racket sold. That had to be a substantial amount of money for the times. It was, of course, made of laminated wood.

Jack, who was Wimbledon champion in 1947, was the best amateur player in the world for several years. He anchored winning Davis Cup teams before he turned pro and initiated the first barnstorming tour. He won most of his matches against a young Pancho Gonzales before retiring.



These were marquee names. Early on, the fact that luminaries such as Arthur Ashe, Chris Evert, and Jack Kramer would appear at our workshop was a clear announcement that the MHSTeCA tennis workshop was the real deal. Although coaches would find out soon enough that the lesser light clinicians provided the most useful information, the Featured Speakers brought them in.

# Vic Braden

1982, 1986, 1991, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004

He once opened a session by saying “If you think something good, say it.” Our turn.

This was a guy who once said: “I was the coach who watched outside the fence with nothing touching the ground. I was so involved in the outcome that both hands were up high and both feet notched in the fence.”

He was a three-time state champion for Monroe High School from 1945-1947. His high school coach was Tim Tambling, Hall of Fame Class of 1986. His junior high mentor was Larry Alto, Hall of Fame Class of 1988.

He authored several ground breaking books using high speed photography to dispute some tennis teaching myths. He was also a tennis television commentator.

In 1986, Jack Kramer said, “One Vic Braden is worth a lot of Champions in helping promote the sport. The McEnroes, Borgs, Connors: they’ve been great. But I don’t think any one of them has created the interest in the sport that Vic has.”

He played for Kalamazoo College where he was the league singles champion. He turned pro immediately after graduation and joined the then-professional traveling tour that included Pancho Gonzales, Jack Kramer, Tony Trabert, and Pancho Segura. “There were 12 in the tour,” he said. “Six pros and six donkeys. I was a donkey.” Eventually he became tournament director of that tour.

Legend has it that while at Kalamazoo College, he once slept in the tower at Stowe Stadium. Details not known.



He presented a Friday night session one year despite learning earlier in the day that his good friend, Olympic volleyball player Flo Hyman, had died of a heart attack.

He was at one of our workshops despite receiving a recent death threat. Bob Wood did a lot of pacing that weekend.

Before moving to California, he briefly taught at the Toledo Racket Club and was Toledo University’s tennis coach.

Brian Eisner was also Toledo’s tennis coach before moving to U of M in 1969.

At the Feb. 1982 workshop, 431 people came to watch his presentation. This included 40 out-of-state people who came from as far as Buffalo NY and DeKalb IL. He was sponsored by Wilson Sporting Goods. He shared sports research while generating a ton of laughter.

He was an instruction editor of *Tennis Magazine*. He was also a television commentator.

He was a licensed psychologist who brought a sophisticated knowledge of basketball, golf, and volleyball to his tennis talks.

There were Vic Braden Tennis Colleges in California, West Germany, Japan, and Switzerland.

He received an award from the USPTA for “Contributing the most to tennis growth in the United States.”



# Arthur Ashe

Feb. 1981

He arrived late for the Friday night session, either because of a delayed flight, bad traffic, or lousy weather -- or maybe all three. He kiddingly said during his remarks that spending a Friday night in cold and snowy Michigan would not have been his first choice. Gary said that Wilson Sporting Goods was responsible for his appearance.

What none of us knew at the time of his presentation was that Arthur had just learned that he had AIDS, which came from a blood transfusion. But he proceeded with the same soft-spoken grace that characterized everything that he said and did. The man standing before us was not only a Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion but ranked No. 1 in the world at one time. He epitomized everything you would want in a human being, not just in a tennis player who exuded so much more class than some of his contemporaries. In a act of hero-worship, I badgered David Schwartz to find the tennis warm-up that Arthur wore that night so that I could buy it.

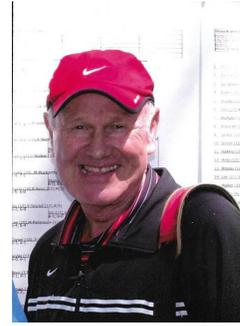
Arthur spoke several times at the Gary-Bob clinics in Chicago,. In addition, Gary held multiple USTA clinics for inner city youth in Detroit. Arthur attended many of them. "The fact that these people, and scores of others, took time out of their private lives, to come to Detroit in the middle of winter, to speak to high school tennis coaches made them all special," says Gary. In the case of Arthur, he did so in the midst of receiving some terrible news.

The fact that Ashe spoke at our workshop became a bragging right, one that we used liberally on our membership applications. Our speakers were not only experts in their field but also first class citizens who exuded good will. That's what made Arthur's death in 1993 of AIDs related pneumonia so selfishly sad. Some of us could fondly remember his appearance. Others could only regret that they weren't there and wouldn't get another chance.

<p>THE GROSSE POINTE INDOOR TENNIS CLUB JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM and THE MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS COACHES ASSOCIATION</p> <p><b>PRESENT</b></p> <p><b>THE FIFTH ANNUAL TENNIS WORKSHOP</b></p> <p>February 5, 6 &amp; 7, 1981</p> <p><i>Featuring</i></p>   <p>PETER BURWASH      ARTHUR ASHE</p> <p>Along with Nationally Recognized Speakers George Acker and Bob White</p> <p>Co-Directors: Bob Wood Grosse Pointe University Liggett Gary Bodenmiller Grosse Pointe Indoor Tennis Club</p> <p>The conference is open to all tennis enthusiasts interested in strokes and strategy.</p>	<p><i>prince</i> Manufacturing Inc.</p> <p>In cooperation with: The Illinois High School Tennis Coaches Association and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association and <b>USTA</b> The United States Tennis Association</p> <p><b>Present</b></p> <p><b>THE CHICAGO TENNIS WORKSHOP</b></p> <p>March 2 &amp; 3, 1984</p> <p><b>FEATURING</b></p>   <p>Peter Burwash      Arthur Ashe</p> <p>Along with Nationally Recognized Speakers Jack Groppe! Mike DePalmer Mark Newberry Jay Kramer</p> <p>Co-Directors: Gary Bodenmiller &amp; Bob Wood</p> <p>This conference, held at the Chicago Marriott O'Hare, is open to all tennis enthusiasts interested in strokes and strategy.</p>
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# Gundars Tilmanis

1984, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1997, 2001, 2003, 2004,  
2005, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017



**G**undars Tilmanis first spoke at the Tennis Workshop in 1984, the eighth clinic hosted by the MHSTeCA at the Eastpointe Racquet Club. At the time, he was – to employ a Southern expression – “walking in tall cotton,” his fellow clinicians being Nick Bollettieri, Dennis Van der Meer, Clarence Mabry, Chuck McKinley, and Jeff Frank. It was this kind of stellar line-up which made the early years of the workshop so respected.

Since then, Til has appeared in 15 of the 40 annual conferences and for good reason. The surveys that Bob Wood and Gary Bodenmiller so assiduously used to read each Saturday afternoon after the workshop had a common theme: Bring him back.

“He was the only speaker who brought Gary and Bob a little gift from Oregon,” says Kathy Wood. “It might be a wooden duck or a cutting board or salad tongs made of Oregon myrtlewood, a rare and beautiful wood.”

For his part, Bob praises “his enthusiasm, his knowledge of the sport, and his willingness to be available and interact with the conferees. Gundars always seemed happy and friendly.... and he loved his Oregon Ducks.”

Gundars is a USPTA Elite professional who is a clinician for both the USTA and the International Tennis Federation (ITF). Bob and Gary first met him at the National Tennis Teachers Conference in New York City in September of 1983. Internationally recognized, he possesses an extensive teaching background and a quick wit.

And sure enough, on one memorable Friday morning, he accidentally sent a ball up into the ballroom chandelier at the Troy Marriott. Many of us were there and on our hands and knees picking up shards while Bob worried the rest of the day about the possible replacement cost (there was none).

“Bob has raved about Gundars for years,” says Workshop Director Peter Militzer. “With Bob, Kathy and Gary not doing the workshop, Amanda and I stated that we wanted to keep things as close to “normal” as possible. So we obviously wanted to invite Gundars back again. Gundars replied immediately and he was the consummate pro in doing so - supplying all the information even before we requested it (bio, photo, topic and outline). He even offered to do one session on court and another off court.”

“Gundars always delivers a positive message and coaches learn something each time they attend his talks,” continues Peter. “We are so fortunate that he was able to come back this year, as it wouldn’t seem like a workshop if he weren’t here with his classic ‘Presidential serves.’”

“I can’t think of another non-local pro who has been here more often.” In other words, he has played an integral part in the annual workshop being a success.

Clearly, Gundars is not hurting professionally. Indeed, he is an exceedingly busy man. He has delivered a broad range of tennis related lectures to audiences throughout the world. During the past seven years, he has lectured in the United States, Japan, Guatemala, Spain, Paraguay, Argentina, Canada and Australia. His innovative, energetic style of coaching has drawn praise throughout the tennis world.

He has had fresh, new topics that have been beneficial,” says Allegan’s Gary Ellis. “I think what he offers is often more directly applicable to most of the coaches in the room than some other presenters. He also makes his books available at a reasonable cost to coaches.”

Born in Riga, Latvia and raised in Melbourne, Australia, Til currently resides in Portland, Oregon, teaches at the Sherwood Tennis Complex, and runs tennis workshops throughout the world. We are fortunate that this includes Detroit.

**“Bob has raved about Gundars for years. With Bob, Kathy and Gary not doing the workshop, Amanda and I stated that we wanted to keep things as close to ‘normal’ as possible. So we obviously wanted to invite Gundars back again. Gundars replied immediately and he was the consummate pro in doing so - supplying all the information even before we requested it.”** -- Peter Militzer, Workshop Director

# Peter Burwash

1979, 1980, 1981, 1985, 1988, 1992, 2001, 2005

He was the featured speaker at the National Tennis Teachers Conference in New York in 1974 and 1975 which is probably the reason Bob and Gary pursued him. At the time, he directed the world's largest largest staff of professional tennis instructors. He was world ranked and a two-time Canadian Davis Cupper.

He produced The Peter Burwash International Tennis Show that took a light-hearted look at the most frequent tennis errors and how to correct them. The show appeared at the U.S. Open.



Author of *The Vegetarian Primer*, many coaches ordered salads that noon after his morning talk about how meat is processed.

He warned Bob and Gary that he would be talking about eating healthy. They didn't realize that much of his presentation was an attack on eating meat. As it turns out, Bob and Gary served coney dogs at that evening's mixture.

Up to 1988, he had conducted over 2000 tennis clinics on five continents. He was a headliner a number of times at the USTA's National Tennis Teacher's Conference in New York.



# Jack Groppel

1983, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1994, 1996, 2001

He was a specialist in the practical application of biomechanical research for the sport of tennis which means that he was another Vic Braden. He was a faculty member at the University of Illinois with a P.h D. who used high speed cinematography to evaluate the efficiency of technique. He was also the varsity coach there.

He worked with not only John McEnroe and Stan Smith and the Guliksons, and also with Grosse Pointe's Susie Mascarin.

He was a technical editor to World Tennis magazine and had a monthly column in the USPTA's *News Journal* and *Advantage* magazines. His appearance at the 1988 workshop was made possible by Fox Tennis and FTM Sports.

He was named USPTA Professional of the Year in 1987 and was a USTA Sports Science advisor. He was brought to the 1991 workshop by Penn.

He served as a research associate to the U.S. Olympic Training Center and presented the keynote address at the 1984 Olympic Scientific Congress.

He received the 1993 International Tennis Hall of Fame Educational Merit Award. He was touted by *Scholastic Coach* as "Biomechanist Extraordinaire and by *Tennis Week* as "one of the country's most renowned figures in sports medicine."

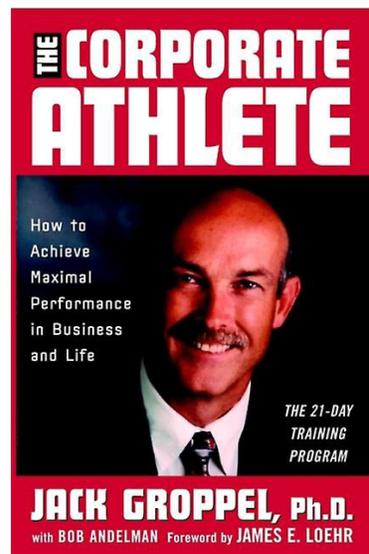
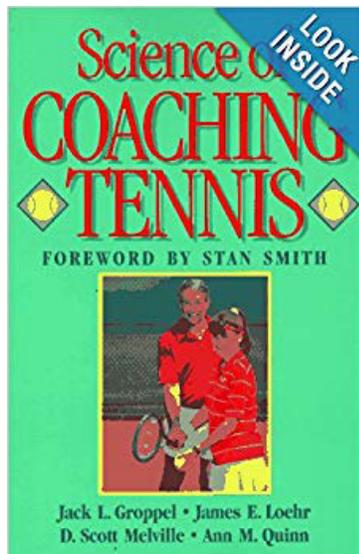
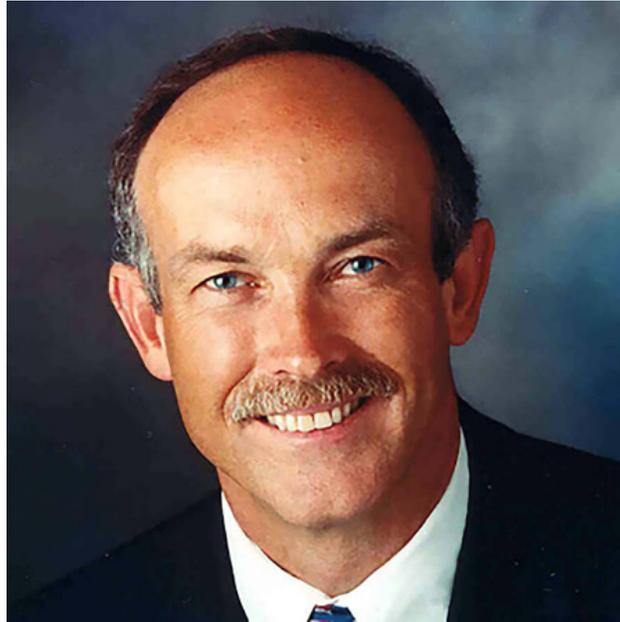
He was an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Exercise and Sports Science at the University of Florida.

By 1996, he had spoken at over 900 functions on six continents. He had done research analysis of over 12 sports and worked with the Chicago White Sox and gymnast Wendy Bruce.

"He 'cut his teeth' at our workshops," says Gary Bodenmiller. "He was a professor at the University of Illinois who was a little dry. He really worked hard at getting better and always asked for honest evaluations."

"When the tennis tour came to the Palace one year," continues Gary, "he broke a luncheon date with Janet and me because Mohammed Ali asked to have lunch with him."

"I could never understand his choice," quips Gary.



# Greg Patton

**1987, 1992, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2006, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2016**

He was the University of California at Irvine coach who enjoyed great success there. His team was almost always ranked in the Top 25. He went on to coach at Boise State where the men's team won two conference championships, something they had not accomplished in the previous 20 years. He was named National Coach of the Year in by the Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association in 1987.

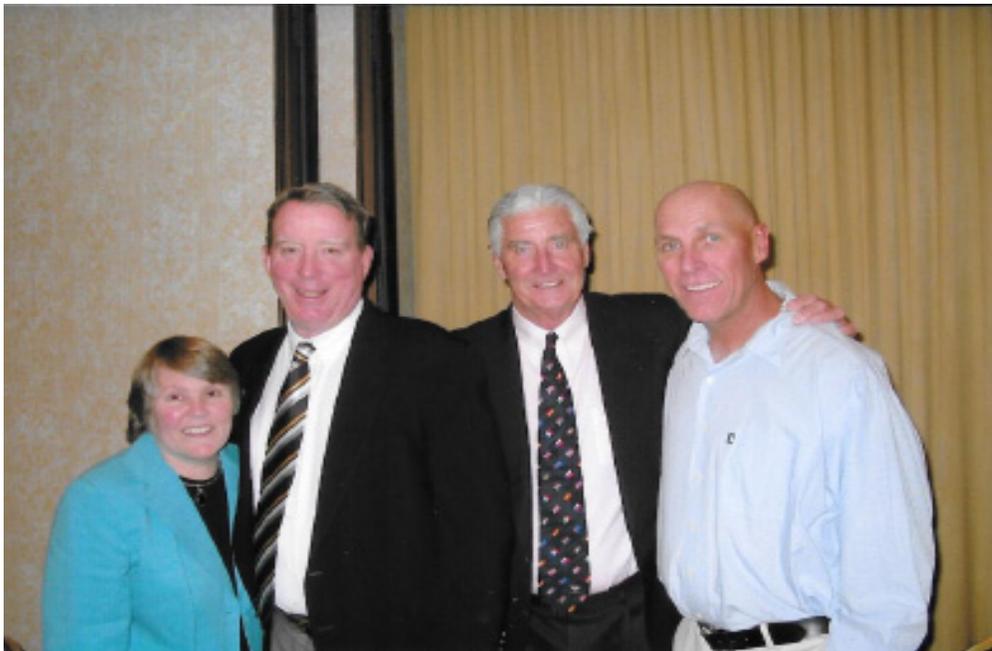
"He was one of our all-time favorites," says Gary. "He was always ready to come to either Detroit or Chicago as a clinician. He was not only one of the top college coaches in the nation but coached several of the USTA national teams."

He as the head of the U.S. Junior Davis Cup team for three years. That means he coached Pete Sampras, Michael Chang, Jim Courier, David Wheaton, and Malavai Washington (former U of M player).

He was the coach of U.S. Pan American team, winning three gold medals. Members of the team included Pam Schriver and Donna Faber.

In the 1990s, hse was the coach of the Idaho Sneakers, a World Team Tennis squad. Previously, he had coached the Newport Beach Dukes.

As with John Powless, his appearances from early to late in the history of the workshop were impressive. He was sponsored by Prince.



**Kathy Wood, Bob, John Powless and Greg Patton in later years.**

# John Powless

**1978, 1979, 1980, 1993, 2002, 2006**

Winner of 600 titles, John was the varsity men's coach at Florida State, the University of Cincinnati, and the University of Wisconsin. At Wisconsin, he was also the men's varsity basketball coach for a time. He conducted national and international clinics for Wilson Sporting Goods and appeared on NBC's Today Show.

He received a basketball scholarship to the University of Michigan where he was also able to play tennis. However, he transferred to Murray State where he never lost a match in three years of varsity competition. He was the Ohio Valley Conference singles champion all three years. He returned to Michigan to earn a Master's Degree. He beat Michigan's Barry MacKay in an Atlantic Championships match in 1960 (after college).

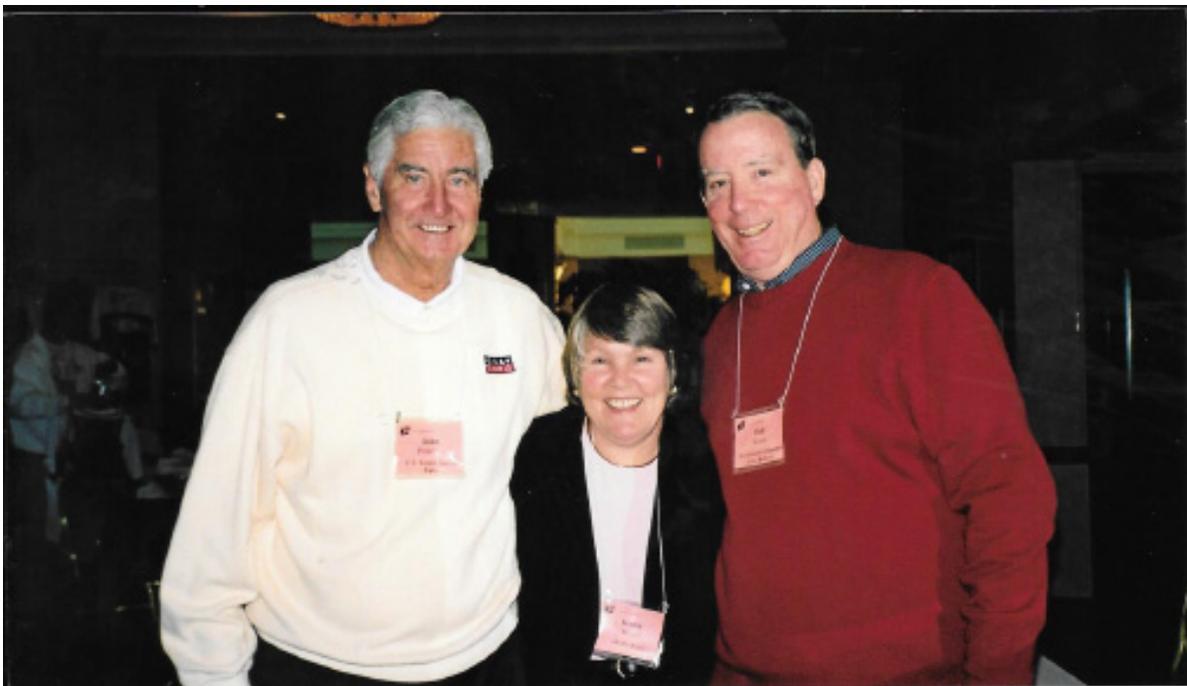
He was an assistant basketball coach at the University of Cincinnati during the time the Bearcats won two consecutive NCAA titles. Twice, they defeated Ohio State in the final game. At that time, OSU's team consisted of Jerry Lucas, John Havelicek, and Mel Nowell.

He spent six years as captain and coach of the United States Jr. Davis Cup team.

For years, he played on the international tennis senior circuit, winning numerous national and international events. In 1999, he was U.S. Singles Open champion. He was the No. 1 ranked person in singles and doubles, men's 55 and over. Several times in his career, he held the No. 1 ranking in two age divisions at the same time.

He won the National Father and Son championship five times. He was the son. It was in the 1950s

In terms of our workshop, his presence ran the gamut, starting at one of our very first events, 1978, and finishing in 2006.



# Famous tennis players who spoke at our workshop

Although not necessarily the best clinicians



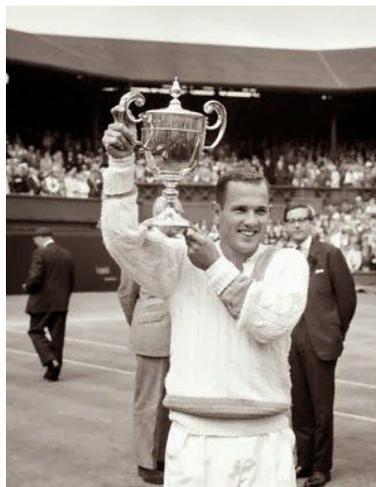
Tom and Tim Gullikson  
Tom in 1988, Tim in 1989 and 1994



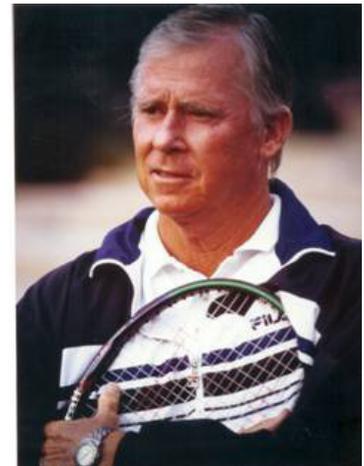
Murphy and Luke Jensen  
Murphy in 2010, Luke in 2012 and 2016



Top Left, Stan Smith,  
2003



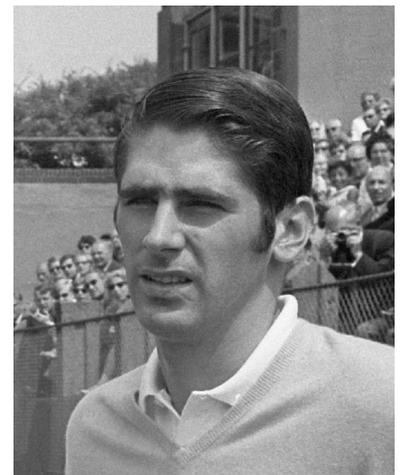
Top Center, Chuck McKinley  
1984



Top Right, Dennis Ralston  
1988, 2014



Bottom Left, Todd Martin  
2009



Bottom Right, Marty Riessen  
1989

# What's My Line?

In a version of the 1950's guessing game show "What's My Line?" women in Janet Bodenmiller's 2020 Florida luncheon group were asked to provide three statements about themselves: two true and one false.

One of the true statements that Janet submitted was: "I knew Arthur Ashe, Billie Jean King, Chris Evert, and Stan Smith."

It was so far out, says Gary, that the group quickly determined that it was true.



Left to Right: Janet and Gary, Vic Braden, Greg Patton and Gundars Tilmanis

Vic Braden appeared 7 times at our workshop.

Greg Patton: 10

Gundars Tilmanis: 15



# The Troy Marriott Ballroom Tennis Court



It was, to understate, unique, the chief limiting factor being the ceiling which precluded lobs. Portions of a chandelier came down one Friday morning when Gundars Tilmanis mishit a ball using a weirdly strung racket. Nevertheless, it was a more intimate setting than a traditional court in terms of sound. Workshop sessions were held there from 1991 to 2016.

# Thanks for 40 Years



# After Bob and Gary Amanda and Peter

After Bob and Gary celebrated the workshop's 25th anniversary in 2001, a more than a few of us starting to think about what would occur when they decided to hang it up. We were so spoiled by the excellence of the organization and presentations. Moreover, it was an important gathering, both for coaches who would go out to lunch together and for those who attended the Hall of Fame banquet. Also, there was the annual General Membership Meeting to be held early on the Saturday morning of that weekend.

As the events took place during the early 2000s, preparations started to take place behind the scenes. Word got out that Peter and Amanda Miltzer had decided to take over and were undergoing a sort of informal internship. Why did these two decide to tackle such a monumental undertaking? "I thought it was it was because Amanda had filled in for Kathy Wood at the registration desk during the few clinics when Kathy couldn't be there," says Ed Waits. After all, there were some weather delays and when Amanda was asked to pitch in, she learned some of the ropes. She learned about the recording keeping, the filing, and the some of the infrastructure.

Actually, It was when Bob and Gary made it be known that they were going to be retiring that things got serious. There were discussions that involved Gary Ellis and Tiger Teusink but Amanda and Peter were also in the room. Other MHSTeCA officers discussed options as well. One choice was the Miltzers.

"With Amanda's experience and my contacts in the tennis industry, it was decided that we were the most viable

option," says Peter "So Amanda and I approached Bob, Kathy and Gary Bodenmiller. Bob and Kathy were confident that we could continue their tradition. The five of us met and we thought it went well."

Year by year, the Miltzers put together a timeline of what Bob and Kathy did each month. The last two years,

they shadowed them at the workshops. "We would arrive a couple days early, went to the same meetings with Troy personnel, and learned the ropes," says Peter. "Bob and Kathy were full of information and glad to share, so we took copious notes."

The two would also meet with Bob in the summer when he was volunteering at the USTA Nationals at Stowe Stadium. "Mostly those meetings were to go over Bob's plans for the next couple months, as Bob typically began his prep for the workshop during or right after the US Open," says Peter.

The next few years were a sort of informal internship. "I am a process person," says Peter so I/we kept asking Bob for the process. It took a few years before we finally got the big picture. There were lots of emails and phone calls all during the year. We would often email or call him and just ask what he and Kathy had done for the workshop in the last week, or the last month, or whatever length of time."

How did it go the first year? "The first year on our own was interesting," Peter says. "We had made a list (love the process) of things that needed to be accomplished now that we were 'on our own.' One of the biggies was the introductions and between-sessions banter. Bob loved that stuff. We had already been working with the administrators at FSU to have their PTM students do the speaker introductions, but there was still the other aspect – telling people



about lunch, to buy raffle tickets, etc. I wasn't all that interested in being the MC, but Amanda was happy to do it."

However, old Troy Marriott management, used to doing things a certain way in terms of prices and arrangements, may have decided to take advantage of the new MHSTeCA management. Peter thinks that the corporate folks were making changes throughout the organization with regard to outside groups. Prices didn't inch up; they went sky high. The Troy folks even wanted to charge for setting up the tennis court.

In constant consultation with MHSTeCA officers, Peter and Amanda looked all over Detroit but the story was the same. The price of rooms was considerably more than the previous year and everybody was concerned about setting up a court.

"All along, I figured that Jorge Capestany would jump at the chance of hosting this event," says Peter. "I finally sent him a long, long email with all the information. I asked him to think about it for a week before responding."

"He called me as soon as he opened the email. Turns out he had been working on bringing the PTM program to Hope, and this would be a great event to host. Besides, he already had been inviting speakers to Hope to see his program and take advantage of his video capabilities, and now he could offer this as well."

A match (pun intended) made in heaven. Moreover, it was a fresh start rather than variations on same old, same old. Presentations on Friday could be made on an actual tennis court with a built-in sound system. Given Jorge's contacts internationally wherein he would give tennis presentations all over the world and thus meet with fellow teaching pros --plus his experience with making hundreds of tennis drill videos -- meant that the event gained even more credibility.

It's a lot of work. On Thursday night, huge tarps have to be put in place and bleachers have to be rolled in. Tables and chairs have to be set up for a lunch on the court while Dan Hutcheson conducts an MHSAA Rules Meeting. Then everything has to be undone Friday night so that Jorge can hold classes Saturday morning.

The upshot of all this is that for the past four years, Amanda and Peter have pulled it off. This article doesn't even begin to chronicle the amount of time and effort that they have put in, especially in terms of trying to find a new venue in the Detroit area before turning west. Feeding conference attendees at lunch on Friday had its share of ups and downs (again, pun intended) until the Militzers solved the glitches.

What would have happened had Peter and Amanda not stepped up? Fortunately, thanks to these two, we don't have to contemplate that.



# Speakers at the Michigan Tennis Workshops 2017 - 2020

Ameel	Derek	USPTA Elite Professional	2017, 2018
Anderson	Kirk	USTA	2017
Anderson	Erik	USPTA, Director of Tennis, Kalamazoo YMCA	2019
Ashby	Meika	USPTA, Director of Jr. Tennis Development, The Oaks (Boca Raton)	2019
Bay	Mark	USPTA Elite Professional	2018, 2020
Bender	Steve	Coach, South Bend St. Joseph High School, Indiana	2020
Benzel	David	Growing Champions for Life	2017, 2020
Brown	Dave	Head/Penn	2017
Capestany	Jorge	USPTA Master Professional	2017, 2018 2019, 2020
Capestany	Marti	USPTA Elite Professional	2020
Darling	Terry	Spring Arbor University	2018
DeHart	Ken	Wilson	2017
DeHart	Ken	USPTA Master Professional, USPTR, San Jose CA	2020
Doyle	Emma	USPTA Elite Professional, Melbourne Australia	2019
Fairchilds	Mark	USPTA Elite Professional, Elk Grove CA	2019
Ficks	Mark	USPTA Elite Professional, St. Joseph MI	2019
Fink-Craig	Zack	USPTA Elite Professional	2018
Ford	Adam	USPTA Elite Professional	2018, 2019
Giampaolo	Frank	USPTA, USPTR, Coach, Author, Speaker	2019
Hutcheson	Dan	MHSAA Rules Meeting	2018, 2019, 2020
Jensen	Luke	ESPN	2017
Lyne	Lianne	LP Coaching	2017
Matuszewski	Steve	Tennisreporting.com	2018
Mazzolini	Gina	MHSAA Rules Meeting	2017
Michalowski	Chris	USPTA, USTA National Campus, Lake Winona FL	2020
Moore	Dr. Whitney	Wayne State University	2020
Nalepa	Jenny	MSU	2018
Patton	Greg	Boise State University	2017, 2018
Pietrangelo	David	Lifetime Fitness	2018
Riley	Mark	Kalamazoo College	2017
Ross	John	USPTA Elite Professional, Calvin College	2018, 2020
Szczygiel	Lauren	MSU	2018
Szymanski	Frank	Judge	2018
Tilmanis	Gundars	International Tennis Clinician	2017
Wagner	Chris	Bay Fitness and Tennis, Harbor Springs MI	2020
Warner	Kyle	USPTA Elite Professional	2018
Wu	Franklin	USPTA Elite Professional	2018

## And now a word from our sponsor

A popular feature of each workshop was the display of tennis wares outside of the ballroom and lecture halls provided by the various vendors. The most prominent was that from David Schwartz's The Tennis Company -- later The Tennis and Golf Company. His store, located at the corner of 13 Mile Rd. and Southfield Rd, was so stunning that coaches on the west side of the state was make vertible pilgrimages to it when they had the chance.

Moreover, David provided plenty of swag towards our end of Friday raffle. The proceeds went to the association. Also, in the early 2000s, David approached us about upgrading the printing of our Hall of Fame banquet program and provided \$200 per year toward that effort. In return, the back cover of the program became an annual thank you.

**Congratulations to  
MHSTeCA  
Hall of Fame Inductees  
and  
Coaches of the Year**



**30211 Woodward Ave.  
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073  
248 435-6800**



# MHSTeCA



# Hall of Fame



# The Display

For years, it was a standing joke at board meetings that if you wanted to see Hall of Fame plaques, Bob Wood would open his basement in Grosse Pte. on Sunday afternoons between 2:00 and 5:00. In the meantime, various sites at Kalamazoo College were considered but abandoned in that indoor court areas were conducive to high traffic viewing. People don't come to K College to watch indoor tennis

But eventually the Midland Community Tennis Center agreed to host a display. Our association was excited about it because the site was the scene of so many great tennis events, especially the Class A state finals even though a downside was limited attendance by tennis teams and coaches from other classes.

The original display was very impressive, tall and very visible as you walked into the building from the outside courts. The board was happy that the plaques had, at long last, found a home. The fall meeting was held at the building and President Ed Waits gave a dedication speech in the midst of the discussions.

However, MCTC members wanted that area for their own programs. Therefore it was move to a space quite a distance from the entrance to the building, in essence a dark back room, not inaccessible but not much better than that. It certainly wasn't conducive to viewing on a walk-in basis.



In November, 2007, Midland pro Mike Woody informed Historian Doug Adams that they had boxed up the plaques. The owners wanted to use the space to promote their own programs. Once again, the plaques found a home in someone's basement, this time for two years.

The search was on again while the plaques took residence with Historian Bills Riggs. Once again, Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 5:00 for the next two years.

Doug Adams, who lives in the Grand Blanc area, worked with Kyle Cannada to have the display housed in the Genesys Athletic Club. They determined the placement to be the tall wall as you entered the tennis/running area. However, several years later, then new management (there's an echo in here) decided to use that area for a small store. They boxed up the plaques and stored them for a few years until a new display was relocated to the low wall around the exterior of the running track -- behind the new store and tennis offices. Doug announced via e-mail in Oct. 2009 that once again we had a viewable display, one with which to be proud.

History repeating itself, the board planned to hold a board meeting at that site on June 19, 2010 but the Flint area lost power due to an overnight storm. Doug hastily arranged a meeting room in another building and Tiger gave a dedication speech, pretending to point at the plaques as he talked. Those who brought cameras found them useless in that the scale of the display rendered flash photography hopeless. Nevertheless, both the structure and the placement were considerable improvements.



# Hall of Fame display finds new home; is rededicated

“Michigan High School Tennis is family, and now our family has a home in which we can take great pride,” said Tiger Teusink.

He was speaking at the dedication -- actually a re-dedication -- of the MHSTeCA Hall of Fame display. Originally housed at the Midland Community Tennis Center and dedicated in 1991, it was moved last year to the Genesys Athletic Club in Grand Blanc. Once the display was finished last fall, past inductees -- those still living -- were notified.

At the November 2009 meeting, it was decided that the next gathering of the board on June 19<sup>th</sup> should take place at the new site so that officers and directors could see the display. But alas, “The best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley” (Scottish poet Robert Burns). A severe storm that crossed the Flint area the night before left the Genesys club without electricity. Those who journeyed to Grand Blanc had to see the impressive display by flashlight.

Hastily arranged by Doug Adams, the meeting was transferred across the parking lot to a conference room on the third floor of the Genesys Medical Center where Tiger gave his dedication speech as he gestured to the pretend display behind him. “Our Hall of Fame has traveled a lot,” he said. “Several basements and the Midland Community Tennis Center. We presently have 107 members -- 107 ambassadors of our great life-time sport.”

Prior to Tiger’s talk, Doug read a statement from Genesys Director of Tennis Kyle Canada who could not be

present. “We here at Genesys are honored to have such a great exhibit to show tennis enthusiasts what great coaches we have had in the state of Michigan,” Kyle wrote.

Kyle pointed out his own association with some of the



inductees. “I personally can state how deserving some of these coaches are in being honored in such a select group. Growing up in the Flint area, I witnessed coaches like Art Vince, Bill McDaniel, Doug Adams, and especially Jim Fowler make huge impressions on so many young people. These coaches gave themselves to others, not only on the tennis court but off the court as well.”

Tiger concluded by praising the efforts of Doug Adams in making the display a reality at Genesys. “This display is soooo first class, soooo professional, soooo dynamic,” he said. “This home here in the Genesys Athletic Club is **awesome.**”

**“We presently have 107 members -- 107 ambassadors of our great lifetime sport.”** --Tiger Teusink

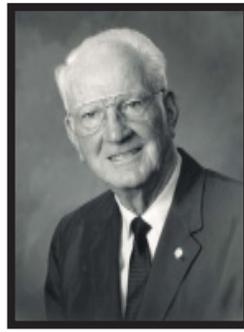
# Class of 1986



**Jean and Jerry Hoxie**  
Hamtramck



**Mickey Johnson**  
Marquette



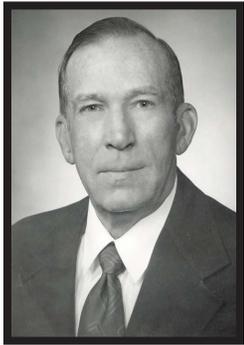
**Joseph Moran**  
Holland



**Charles Partin**  
East Grand Rapids



**Harley Pierce**  
Sturgis



**George Purdy**  
Saginaw Arthur Hill



**Nancy Ryan**  
Bloomfield Hills Kingswood



**Tim Tambling**  
Monroe



**Tiger Teusink**  
Holland



**Bob Wood**  
Grosse Pte. University Liggett

# Class of 1987



**Don Brown**  
Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook



**Dennis Kiley**  
Jackson



**Earl Kimber**  
Grosse Pte. University Liggett



**Sandra Peterson**  
Portage Northern



**Stephanie Prychitko**  
Grosse Pte. South

# Class of 1988



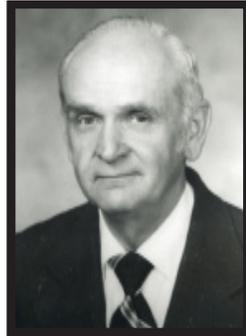
**Lawrence Alto**  
Monroe



**Al Bushman**  
Midland



**Dave Fredette**  
Armada



**Eugene Maki**  
Wakefield



**Kryn Rynbrand**  
Kalamazoo

# Class of 1989



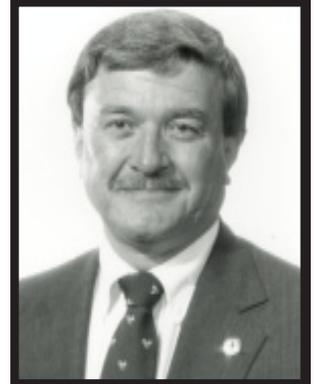
**John Caldwell**  
Galesburg Augusta



**Gary Harden**  
Muskegon Mona Shores



**Joe Haskins**  
Midland Dow

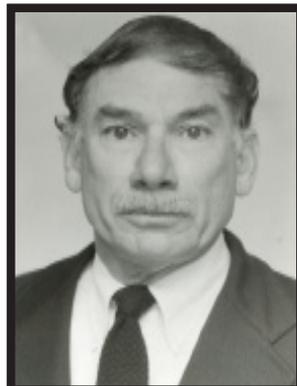


**Jim Van Zandt**  
Galesburg Augusta

# Class of 1990



**Jim Cummins**  
Battle Creek Springfield



**Herm Kiewiet**  
Kalamazoo Loy Norrix

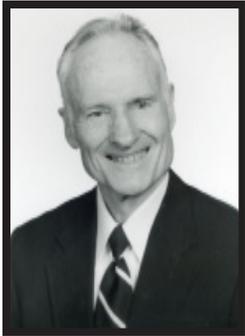


**Elliott Pearce**  
Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central

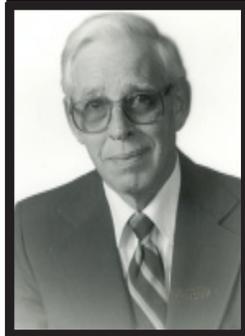


**Jim Teal**  
Saginaw Arthur Hill

# Class of 1991



**Ralph Cornell**  
Dearborn Edsel Ford



**Don Elliot**  
West Iron County



**Rod McEachern**  
Lapeer

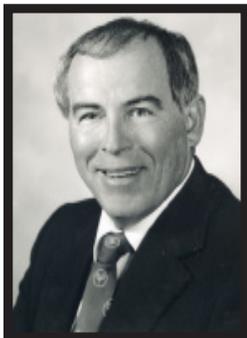


**Ed Moss**  
Belding

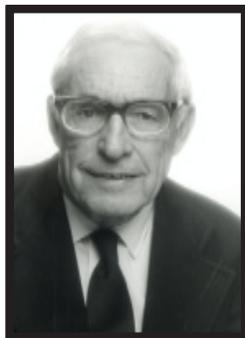


**Wayne Tanis**  
Hamilton

# Class of 1992



**Charles Bassett**  
Spring Lake



**Carl Engels**  
Kalamazoo University H.S.



**Harold Holcomb**  
Essexville Garber



**Clare Pott**  
Holland Christian



**Bob Quinn**  
Saginaw Heritage

# Class of 1993



**John Burke**  
St. Clair Shores South Lake



**Budd Munson**  
Sturgis



**John Shade**  
Grosse Ile



**Ron Stablein**  
St. Clair



**Ken Zandee**  
Grand Rapids Christian

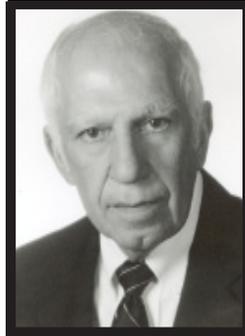
# Class of 1994



**Dave Berles**  
East Kentwood



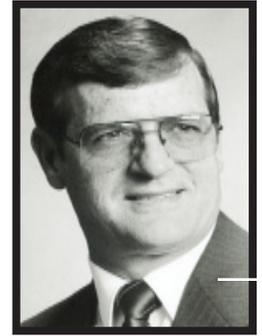
**John Ghindia**  
Ecorse



**Mike Hairabedian**  
Inkster Cherry Hill  
Wayne Memorial



**Ward Olson**  
Monroe



**Larry Seger**  
Middleville

# Class of 1995



**Ed Burrows**  
East Jordan



**Helen Ferle**  
Mason



**Lee O'Bryan**  
Fraser



**Gus Theodore**  
Imlay City



**Art Vince**  
Flushing

# Class of 1996



**Gordon Boettcher**  
Ann Arbor Huron



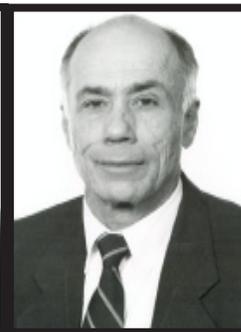
**Carl Burgess**  
Kalamazoo Christian



**Tom Leyrer**  
Jenison



**Karen Page**  
West Ottawa



**Dean Sousanis**  
Almont



**Hal Stofer**  
Three Rivers

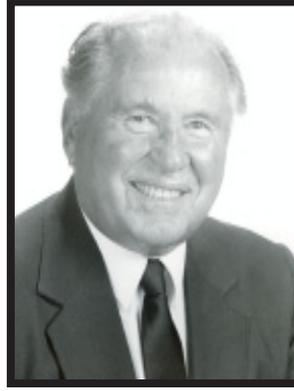
# Class of 1997



**Tom Buursma**  
Holland Christian



**Ian Frost**  
Warren Mott



**Ed Krupa**  
Flint Northern



**Don Wiswell**  
Mt. Clemens

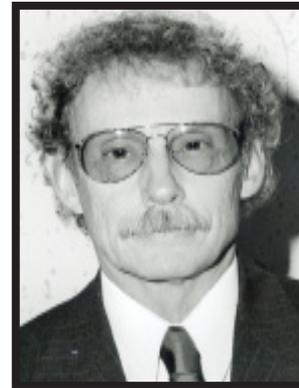
# Class of 1998



**Jim Fowler**  
Flint



**Stan Noland**  
Monroe/Monroe Catholic Central



**Dick Rossio**  
Portage Northern

# Class of 1999



**Rahn Bentley**  
Hudsonville



**Tony Malinowski**  
Trenton



**Julie McKnight**  
Bloomfield Hills Marian

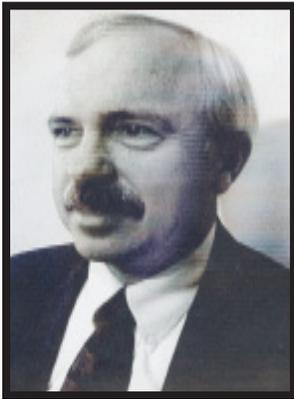


**Larry Nykerk**  
Traverse City Central



**Al Wright**  
Port Huron Northern

# Class of 2000



**Doug Adams**  
Clio/Flint Powers



**Jerry Bentley**  
Grand Rapids Creston



**Dick Morley**  
Whitehall



**Patricia Williams**  
Grand Rapids Catholic Central

# Class of 2001



**Glen Corey**  
Troy High School



**Bob Darbee**  
Bay City Handy, John Glenn, Western



**Ron Kunold**  
Hemlock

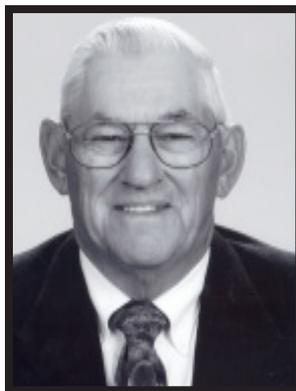
# Class of 2002



**Tim Coleman**  
Woodhaven



**Mark Madden**  
Burton Atherton



**Dick Norton**  
Northville



**Chuck Wright**  
Grosse Pte. University Liggett

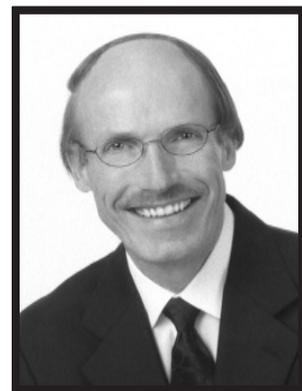
# Class of 2003



**Bruce Grotenhuis**  
Howell



**Karen Langs**  
Petoskey



**Bill McDaniel**  
Holly

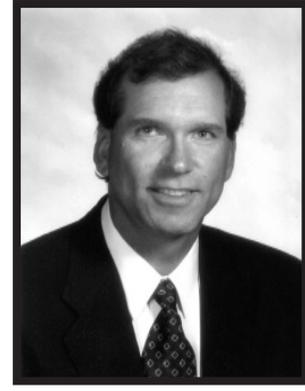
# Class of 2004



**Jan Esper**  
Bloomfield Lahser



**Bob Murray**  
Warren Woods Tower



**Mark Sobieralski**  
Warren Mott/Grosse Pte. South

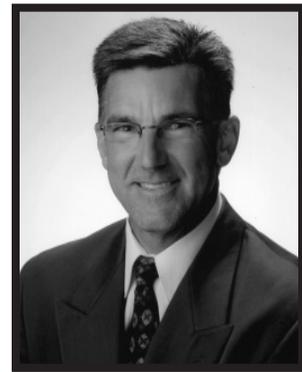
# Class of 2005



**Warren Block**  
Troy Athens



**Tim Elenbaas**  
Cadillac

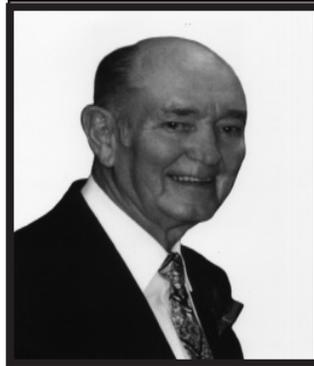


**Tom Kudwa**  
Ludington

# Class of 2006



**Gary Bodenmiller**  
St. Clair



**Jack Davis**  
Ovid-Elsie/St. Johns



**Marty Snoop**  
Lake Odessa Lakewood

# Class of 2007



**Gary Ellis**  
Allegan



**Ed Waits**  
Southfield-Lathrup

# Class of 2008



**Nancy Butson**  
Utica Eisenhower



**Ken Gutow**  
Grosse Pointe North



**Barb Myler**  
Royal Oak Shrine



**Larry Walters**  
Grand Haven

# Class of 2009



**Tom Berschback**  
Grosse Pointe South



**Jan Gottlin**  
Riverview



**Ken Hofmeyer**  
Comstock Park

# Class of 2010



**Jerry Murphy**  
Rochester



**Al Must**  
Rochester Adams



**Al Pollard**  
Kalamazoo Loy Norrix



**Bonnie Wall**  
Forest Hills Central  
Forest Hills Northern  
Lowell

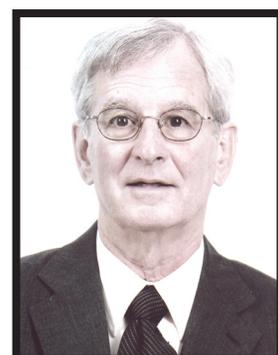
# Class of 2011



**Mike Barnes**  
Sterling Hgts. Stevenson

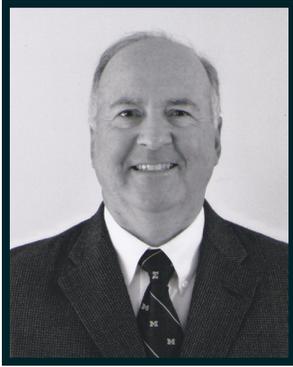


**Steve Bender**  
Buchanan



**Al Kaye**  
Allen Park Cabrini

# Class of 2012



**Bill Baum**  
Midland



**Keith Bernacki**  
Birmingham Seaholm

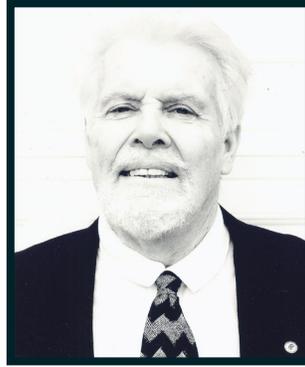


**Jim Niebling**  
Portland

# Class of 2013



**Mary Kay Baribeau**  
Port Huron Northern



**Jim Hadley**  
Dearborn Hgts. Robichaud



**Margaret Ruemenapp**  
Harbor Springs, Petoskey

# Class of 2014



**Jim Powers**  
Okemos



**Tom Pullen**  
Ann Arbor Pioneer



**Dave Sukup**  
Forest Hills Northern

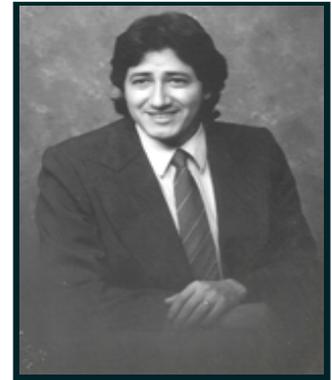
# Class of 2015



**Judy Hehs**  
Sacred Heart Academy



**Don Hudson**  
Battle Creek Springfield  
Battle Creek Central



**J.R. Muniz**  
Riverview Gabriel Richard

# Class of 2016



**Al Inkala**  
Okemos



**Peter Militzer**  
Portage Central



**Bill Riggs**  
Allen Park



**Brook Smith**  
West Iron County

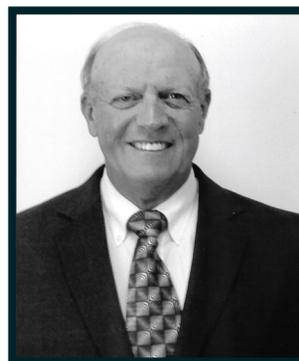
# Class of 2017



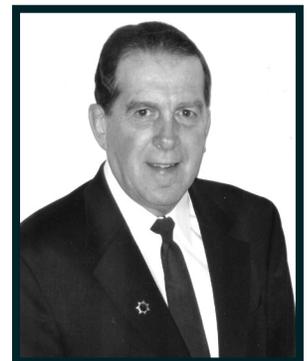
**Rick Fedoruk**  
Berrien Springs



**Dave Gasper**  
Chesaning

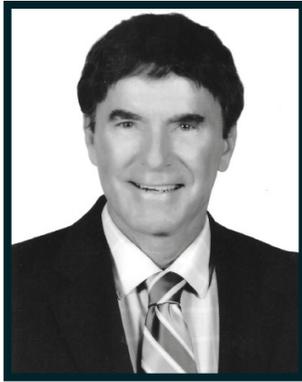


**Jim Hanson**  
Novi



**Joe Marazita**  
Niles Brandywine

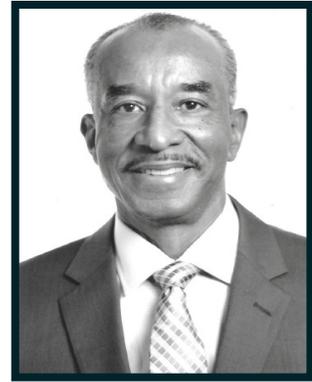
# Class of 2018



**Roger Cornelius**  
Gull Lake



**Jim Slaughter**  
U of D Jesuit  
Sacred Heart Academy

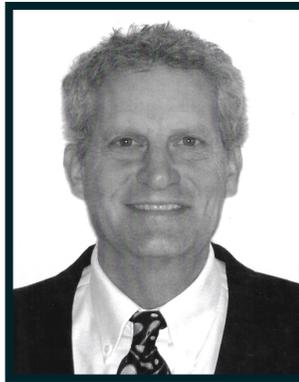


**Clarence Wynn**  
Detroit Cass Tech

# Class of 2019



**Nancy Brissette**  
Essexville Garber



**Joe Gentle**  
North Muskegon



**Scott Zerlaut**  
Grant

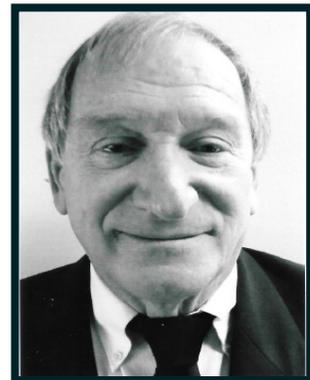
# Class of 2020



**Tim Buck**  
Grandville



**Cliff Perez**  
Ludington



**Chuck Reed**  
Whittemore - Prescott

# Class of 2022



**Kevin Friesen**  
Royal Oak



**John Knoester**  
Holland Christian



# Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association



## Hall of Fame Selection Committee

Jennifer Aldrich, Allegan

Charles Bassett, Spring Lake

Nancy Brissette, Essexville Garber

Tim Coleman, Woodhaven

Jim Cummins, Battle Creek

Gary Ellis, Allegan

Eric Gajar, Ann Arbor Greenhills

Joe Gentle, North Muskegon

Bruce Grotenhuis, Howell

Harold Holcomb, Essexville Garber

Ron Landfair, Lansing Catholic

Tom Leyrer, Jenison

Mike McGinnis, Battle Creek Lakeview

Peter Militzer, Portage Central

Jerry Murphy, Rochester

Stan Noland, Monroe

Elliott Pearce, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central

Bob Quinn, Saginaw Heritage

Bill Riggs, Allen Park

John Shade, Grosse Ile

Mark Sobieralski, Grosse Pointe South, University Liggett

Will Sophiea, Holly

Tiger Teusink, Holland

Ed Waits, Newaygo

Bob Wood, Grosse Pointe University Liggett

Scott Zerlaut, Grant

The committee meets in Lansing once a year in June to consider applications and to select the upcoming class. With a few exceptions, each application, regardless of how long it has been on file, is considered.

Applications are available online at the association's Web site --- [www.mhsteca.org](http://www.mhsteca.org) -- or by contacting Ed Waits.

### Banquet Arrangements

Jim Cummins, Plaques

Gary Ellis, Banquet Tickets and Rings

Ed Waits, Induction Program

Gary Ellis, Program Printing

Peter Militzer, Registration

# Tennis Coaches who are in the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame

1968	Tony Malinowski, Trenton	2003	Allan Nelson, Flushing
1983	Harley Pierce, Sturgis	2004	Bob Quinn, Saginaw Heritage
1986	Mickey Johnson, Marquette	2005	Harold Holcomb, Essexville Garber
1986	Dennis Kiley, Jackson	2007	Don Wisswell, Mt Clemens
1986	Stephanie Prychitko, Grosse Pte. South	2009	Glenn Corey, Troy, Dakota
1989	John Ghindia, Ecorse	2010	Tom Leyrer, Jenison
1990	Bob Wood, Grosse Pte. University Liggett	2011	Steve Bender, Buchanan
1990	Tiger Teusink, Holland	2012	Patricia Williams, G.R. Catholic Central
1991	Budd Munson, Sturgis	2014	Charlie Bassett, Spring Lake
1992	Nancy Ryan, Cranbrook Kingswood	2014	Tom Pullen, Ann Arbor Pioneer
1997	Ward Olson, Monroe	2015	Jim Niebling, Portland
1998	Dave Fredette, Armada	2016	Tom Kudwa, Ludington
	Bob Darbee, Bay City John Glenn	2017	Mark Sobieralski, Grosse Pte. South, University Liggett
2001	John Shade, Grosse Ile	2018	Larry Nykerk, Traverse City Central
2002	Don Brown, Cranbrook Kingswood	2019	Dan Stolz, Okemos
2003	Jim Teal, Saginaw Heritage	2020	AnnMarie Michol, Utica

## National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame

1997	Bob Wood	Grosse Pointe University Liggett School
2003	Tiger Teusink	Holland High School
2012	John Shade	Grosse Ile
2018	Tom Pullen	Ann Arbor Pioneer

**MHSTeCA**

# The Banquet And Inductions



# The Banquet

It was trial and error.. The thinking in 1986 was that it could be held in Kalazmazoo in conjunction with the USTA National 16 and 18 tournament. People would enjoy the matches at Stowe Stadoum during the day and then retire to dinner and presentations in the evening. For the first two years, it was held at Pine West Restaurant.

The first one was quite a success, primarily because the room was filled with the families and friends of 10 legendary tennis coaches who, up to this point, had not received such an august honor because there was no tennis association to bestow it. This very mpressive group included:

Tiger Teusink who rode to this event with his coach, Joe Moran. Both player and coach would be inducted. Both player and coach would have Holland tennis courts named after them.

Tim Tambling , who was the coach of Vic Braden.

Harley Pierce, who had received Coach of the Year honors from the National Association of High School Coaches Association in 1969

Kingswood's Nancy Ryan and East Grand Rapids' Charlie Partin who were owners of mutliple state championships.

Jean and Jerry Hoxie, whose Hamtramck teams won 13 consecutive state titles in the 1950s and '60s under the old format. They won a few more later in the 1960s and early 70s.

Mickey Johnson, whose Marquette teams won over 400 dual meets in a career that spanned four decades. He regaled the group with good stories.

The written program was minimal. In making the presentations, Bob read from the snippets provided by Ed Waits. Each coach received a plaque identical to the one that would hand in our display whenever and wherever Nevertheless, Gary Ellis, who was present for the occasion, was very impressed with this assembly.

Sadly but not surprisingly, out of this Group of 10, nobody remains.

## Where the banquets were held

1986 - 1987	Pine West Restaurant, Kalamazoo
1988	Novi Hilton, Novi
1989 - 1990	Stouffer's Hotel, Battle Creek
1991 - 2018	Troy Marriott, Troy
2019 - 2022	Haworth Convention Center, Holland (No banquet in 2021)

# About Marty and Me

*Editor's Note: Below is a message that I sent to Karrie Carter, daughter of longtime coach Mary Snoap of Lake Odessa Lakewood. It had to do with Marty's application to the Hall of Fame and its aftermath. Hopefully, this is self-explanatory.*



Karrie: You probably remember that the three of you: your mother (Bev?), your brother (Chris?), and you put together a Hall of Fame application without Marty's knowledge. However, the application contained a wrong deadline date that subsequently had been changed by our committee. Coaches on the Hall of Fame committee were pleading that we should meet shortly after Labor Day rather than the end of September when they were immersed in league tournaments and regionals. Their marriages simply couldn't stand the stress of being away not only six days a week but also on that dignated Sunday. But I hadn't changed the date on the application.

Therefore, "your" application arrived at my home (I was and still am the secretary) a short while after we had selected the Class of 2005. Your mother, of course, was very gracious about the screw-up which was, in truth, my oversight. Given my deep sense of guilt (I grew up Baptist but I am now Presbyterian, a member of Westminster in G.R. located not far from your St. Mark's), I was mortified. But sure enough, Marty was inducted the following year.

The year after that – 2007 – Gary Ellis and I were ourselves inducted. I prepared a speech which I committed to memory and wrote to Marty that he was in it. Indeed, he was in the audience when I said the following:

"There is a sign above the doorway leading to Centre Court at Wimbledon. It contains a quote from the English poet, Rudyard Kipling. It states "If you can meet triumph and disaster/And treat those two imposters just the same .....You are a man, my son. "Translation: If you can meet winning and losing, and treat those two as imposters just the same..... Imposter meaning It is not what it seems to be.

"I was blown away by the application of Marty Snoap who was inducted into our Hall of Fame last year. It was prepared by his wife, son and daughter *without his knowledge*.

Marty did his share of winning as a tennis coach at Lakewood but he also did his share of losing. His daughter Karrie wrote in the application that on 'tennis nights,' she would be in bed by the time her dad got home but apparently her bedroom was close enough to the kitchen table that she could overhear his account of today's match.

"Marty, ever positive and optimistic, would say such things as 'Well, she lost but she didn't double fault nearly as much as the time before,' or 'He was the victim of gamesmanship, even bullying, but he handled it really well.'"

"It occurred to me: This is not about winning and losing. This is about sharing." There was a murmur in the room at that point.

"I have no illusions about how many people are going to make a pilgrimage to Midland to see my plaque on a wall but I know that around a kitchen table in Newaygo, or on the deck overlooking the lake, or on the boat, Nancy and I will share these moments.

"And that, to employ the cliché of the day, is priceless.

My actual words. Marty was there and we spoke briefly afterward. I remember him most as the first guy to jump up and enthusiastically volunteer when a workshop clinician asked for a demonstrator.

# 'Anybody got a camera?'

In the warm, fuzzy atmosphere that annually permeates the MHSTeCA Hall of Fame banquets, two of the most memorable moments were provided by one man: Jim Van Zandt of Galesburg Augusta. The first occurred at the end of his own induction speech, an unusual event because the Class of 1989 included not one but two coaches from Galesburg Augusta High School: Van Zandt and John Caldwell.

Although high schooler Van Zandt played for rival Plainwell, he remembers Caldwell as a very successful coach (state Class C-D champion in 1951 and a four-way tie for the title in 1954) who gave the impressionable young man plenty of encouragement, even though Van Zandt didn't play for the Rams. For instance, when Jim won an important semifinal match on the way to his second regional singles title, Caldwell came over to congratulate him. Fortunately a camera was available to take what turned out to be a memorable picture of the player and the coach. The date was May 19, 1956.

As it turns out, Van Zandt went on to play for George Acker at Kalamazoo College and then embarked on a remarkable 30-year coaching career at Caldwell's school. Jim's Galesburg Augusta teams won state Class C-D championships in 1962, '63, '65, '69, '70, and '71 and were state runners-up four times. Amazingly, John Caldwell was Van Zandt's junior high tennis coach for the first seven of those years.

Thus, at the conclusion of his speech in which he accepted a replica of the Hall of Fame plaque which appears at the display in Midland, Van Zandt pulled out a plaque of his own. On it was that very same 1956 picture. Underneath the picture were the words: "Who would have ever thought ....?"

But Van Zandt had also provided a blank space on the plaque for another picture. He called his coach forward to present the plaque as a gift, posed side by side with him, and asked: "Anybody got a camera?" Several rushed forward to take advantage of a unique photo opportunity but one person said later that she had a hard time focusing because the tears kept getting in the way.

Twelve years later (2001), Van Zandt was back, this time to attend the Hall of Fame induction of Bob Darbee, the highly-respected coach from Bay City. Again, he waited until the end of the ceremony, then advanced to the microphone – having previously secured permission – and addressed the crowd.

"I've only met Bob Darbee three times in my life," said Van Zandt. "The first was when we played each other for the state championship back in 1955. The second was when he attended my induction into this Hall of Fame in 1989. The third is tonight."

Van Zandt recalls that Darbee was present for the 1989 occasion because he was a good friend of Joe Haskins of Midland Dow, another inductee in Van Zandt's and Caldwell's class. In the meanderings around the convention site on that Friday, the two accidentally reunited. It was the first time Van Zandt had seen Darbee since that match 34 years ago. The experience evoked a jolt of memories.

Van Zandt remembered that Bob's mother had taken a picture of the two players shaking hands across the net after the two had played for the state Class C-D championship at Stowe Stadium in Kalamazoo in June, 1955 and had later sent a copy of the photo to him. After his induction in February 1989, Jim returned home and found the picture.

Thus, at the end of his speech, Van Zandt called Darbee to the microphone and took out another plaque. On it was inscribed: "Journey: Two

great days for Bob. Champion in 1955. Inductee into the Hall of Fame in 2001. Congratulations! Jim Van Zandt."

On the plaque, there were areas for two pictures above the inscription. One contained that 1955 photo of the two as high school players after their state championship match. The other was blank.

Van Zandt then drew Darbee closer in a handshake pose and asked of the crowd: "Anybody got a camera?"



**"I've only met Bob Darbee three times in my life. The first was when we played each other for the state championship back in 1955. The second was when he attended my induction into this Hall of Fame in 1989. The third is tonight." --- Jim Van Zandt**

# Banquet Speeches.....at length

**A Hall of Fame induction is a chance for a tennis coach to shine. It is a culmination of at least 20 years of good work on behalf of a team and a school. Moreover, it becomes a small slice of immortality, a lot better than a tombstone. The recipient is alive and basking in glory. He/She also basks in reflected glory as an image is placed beside those luminaries who have been honored years before. It is where that person belongs.**

In itself, the Hall of Fame banquet is an opportunity to be praised in front of family and friends. It is a feel-good occasion in which the honoree can recall glorious moments and thank those who made it all possible.

Unfortunately, a few take the opportunity to extremes. Back in the day, the affair started at 6:00 or 6:30 with a deadline of 7:30. That's because in those early years, Bob Wood would schedule a final workshop session with a Headliner: Arthur Ashe, Chris Evert, Vic Braden..... He wanted those in the dining room back into the tennis court room. He wanted a full house on that Friday night.

"The issue was also overtime pay," says Gary Ellis. "We had the room reserved for a certain time. After that, there were extra charges. Bob didn't want to pay any more, but it wasn't nearly as urgent as the problem with the later instructional session."

If you attended Bob's Memorial Service, you know that being on time was a huge priority. If his own kids were not in the car at the specified time on weekday mornings, he left for school without them.

But over the years there were a few inductees who (shall we say charitably) got "carried away." They would ramble on and on. In the meantime, those of us at the front of the room would see Bob pacing back and front and occasionally giving the cut sign.

Bob was an inveterate worrier. He was also a perfectionist. The two traits often conflict. Maybe his cut sign across his throat was a secret wish to slit his.

A classic was \_\_\_\_\_ from the Class of \_\_\_\_\_. "I was president with his speech," says Gary. "I thought Bob was going to explode. He pulled me aside into the hallway and told me to get that guy off the stage. However, I just wasn't sure how to pull it off gracefully so I didn't."

The situation got so frustrating that at some point Bob simply threw up his hands in disgust and scheduled no more Friday night sessions. "They can talk until midnight," he declared.

**"The issue was also overtime pay,. We had the room reserved for a certain time. After that, there were extra charges. Bob didn't want to pay any more, but it wasn't nearly as urgent as the problem with the later instructional session."**

*Gary Ellis, secretary-treasurer*

Unfortunately, some tried.

Probably the longest was \_\_\_\_\_ from the Class of \_\_\_\_\_. This guy was not one of the Founders of the MHSTeCA but was around coaching superb teams in the early years of our association. Years before, he had introduced his own high school coach who was inducted. It was many years after he retired that he applied for the honor. Those of us on the committee at the time referred to him as a shoe-in.

But all those years must have released some pent-up memories. His speech went on and on. "I was moving around to a place where I thought he would be able to see me and was going to try to get his attention so he would cut himself off," says Gary. "Before I did, his wife stood up and said "That's enough. He wrapped it up within 5 minutes."

But the worst induction speech in terms of wandering content that I personally witnessed was given by \_\_\_\_\_ from the Class of \_\_\_\_\_. This was ironic in that Bob was the one who pushed this guy to be in the Hall of Fame at the previous year's selection committee meeting. Many of us objected and put it off because we knew what Bob didn't. The man's early contributions to the association were negated on so many fronts. I say this from personal experience. But we relented the following year.

At the banquet, Bob and Tiger sat together while this guy went on and on and Bob started to seethe. Tiger turned to Bob and said: "Remember, this is the guy *you* wanted." I know this because I sat at that same table.

I was so disgusted that I left the banquet room to make a phone call only to return to find him continuing to expound. At one point he interrupted his speech to ask me a clarifying question and I was so mad that I answered, "I haven't a clue." Finally, one of his family members gave him some sort of cut sign. He finished but not after revealing how many pages of notes he had left. I mentally groaned.

Time is always an issue at these affairs. These days, presentations are made not only on behalf of inductees but also Coaches of the Year, Assistant Coaches, and Distinguished Service designees. It can be a long night.

Fortunately, many of those who are suffering get comfort as they repair (good word choice) to a watering hole. It used to be held in the suite of rooms that Bob and Tiger had reserved atop the Troy Marriott. Lots of post mortems ensued, evaluations of speeches. Cans of water combined with hops and barley were provided. Tiger, who would routinely time the speeches, would then announce the results.

Nowadays, the preferred place is the New Holland Brewing Company. This past year, I was jealous.

**Fortunately, many of those who are suffering get comfort as they repair (good word choice) to a watering hole afterward. It used to be held in the suite of rooms that Bob and Tiger had reserved atop the Troy Marriott. Lots of post mortems ensued, evaluations of speeches. Cans of water combined with hops and barley were provided. Tiger, who would routinely time the speeches, would then announce the results.**



# MHSTeCA



# The Banquet Program



# The First Banquet Program - 1986

You have to start somewhere and in comparison to future Hall of Fame banquet programs, the first one was -- to be charitable -- a valiant effort.

First of all, there were 10 inductees, a stellar group of veritable legends. Each had a long history of accomplishment and intriguing stories to tell. But the organizers had never put together a program, nor did they have computer programs such as PageMaker or Quark or Indesign to aid them. Also, many of us had day jobs and summer jobs.

But ten articles, such as they are, were produced. Most came from the lengthy and splendid writing of Gordon Boettcher is previously published newsletters. Highlights were lifted, excerpts were taken, and moments of triumph were captured in one-page articles . Bob Wood made the presentations using the program as his prompter.

Moreover, it was a decent turnout for the times because the 10 brought family and friends. It had to be quite a gathering because it contained the best from way back. For instance, Tiger Teusink was inducted in the same class as his high school coach, Joe Moran.

But to be sure, the presentation of the program was pretty primitive. It didn't get any better the second year. Furthermore, with only five inductees in 1987, attendance was embarrassing.

## MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS COACHES ASSOCIATION

First Annual Hall of Fame

Installation of Inductees

Dinner Banquet

### Presentation of Awards

Tiger Teusink - Secretary-Treasurer

Robert Wood - Founder

Charles Bassett - President

Pine West Restaurant  
Kalamazoo, Michigan  
August 6, 1986

-15-

### Acknowledgements to Hall of Fame Committee

We extend a special thanks to the Hall of Fame Committee, which has arranged tonight's inaugural event for the Class of 1986. Their many hours of creative and diligent work are greatly appreciated and have made this evening the great success that it has been. The committee includes:

Gordon Boettcher - Ann Arbor Huron  
Jim Cummins - Battle Creek Springfield  
Elliott Pearce - G.R. Forest Hills Central  
Harley Pierce - Sturgis  
Sandy Peterson - Portage Northern  
Tiger Teusink - Holland  
Bob Wood - G.P. University Liggett

We also express our appreciation to Stan Noland of Monroe Catholic Central, Bill Petrick of Hazel Park High and Ed Waits of Southfield Lathrup for their invaluable assistance to the committee.

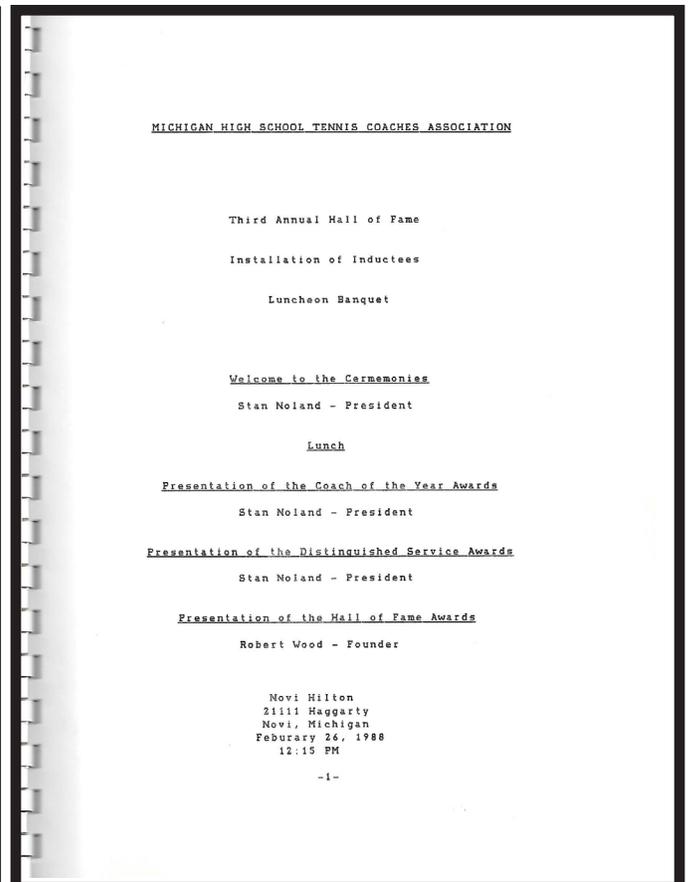
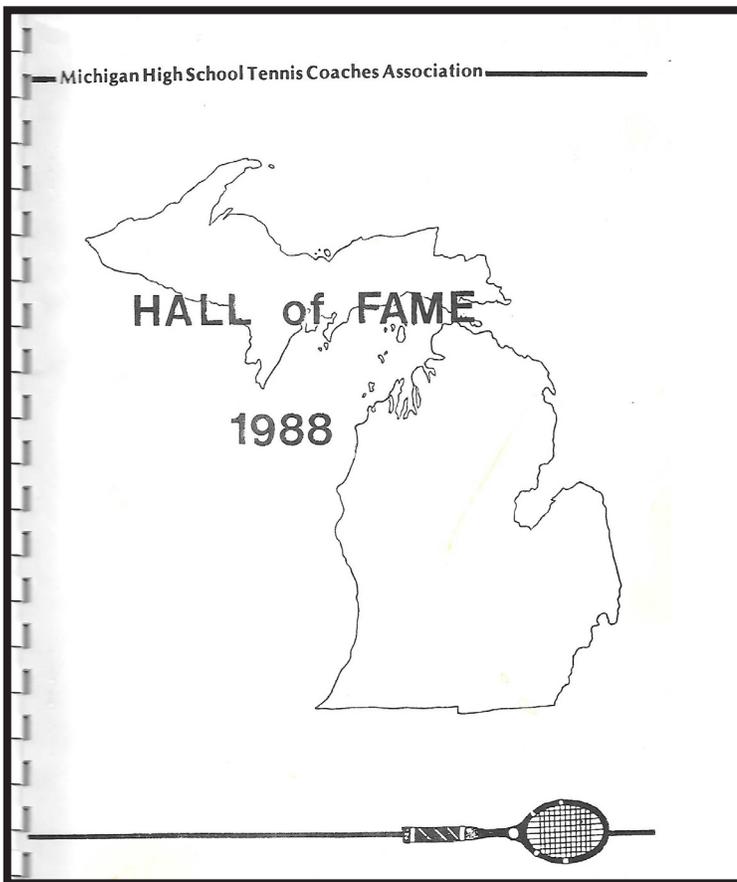
# The 1988 Banquet Program

Bob and Tiger realized that not only did the venue for Hall of Fame inductions need to be changed but also the timing. After the lightly attended 1987 event, they made the very wise decision to hold it in conjunction with the annual workshop. They scheduled it for noon of that Friday. Lunch plus presentations.

Thanks to the silver pen of Gordon Boettcher, the program was significantly improved as well. The photo of each inductee was placed on a single page and the next page was filled with his/her biography. Gordy did his usual wonderful job of "telling the story." After all, he had been doing it for five years when he was newsletter editor.

In addition, Gordy included articles about Coaches of the Year and Distinguished Service Award winners. In 1988, that was an addition of 10 pieces of writing.

To be sure, the photos were blurry and the print was substandard in contrast to what we enjoy today but this program was a significant improvement. Moreover, it established very important precedents in terms of what future programs would be expected to include.

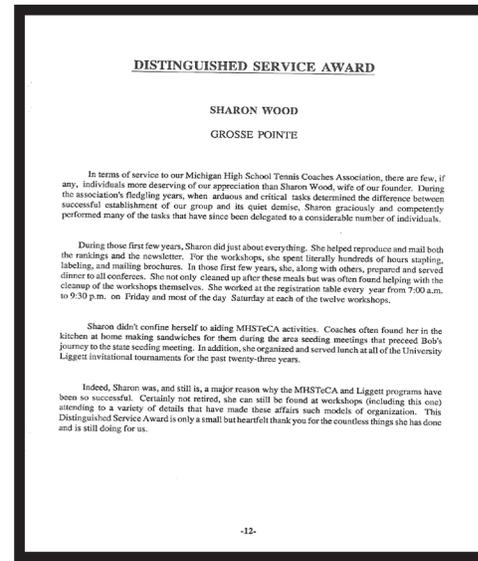
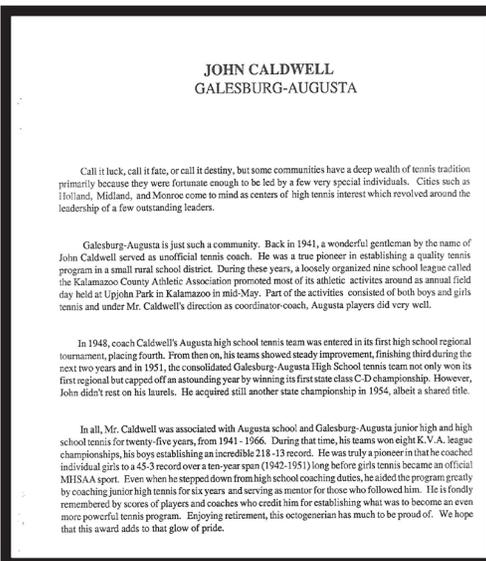
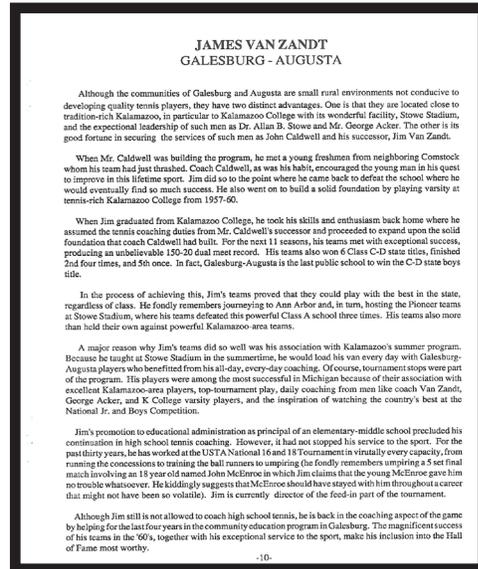
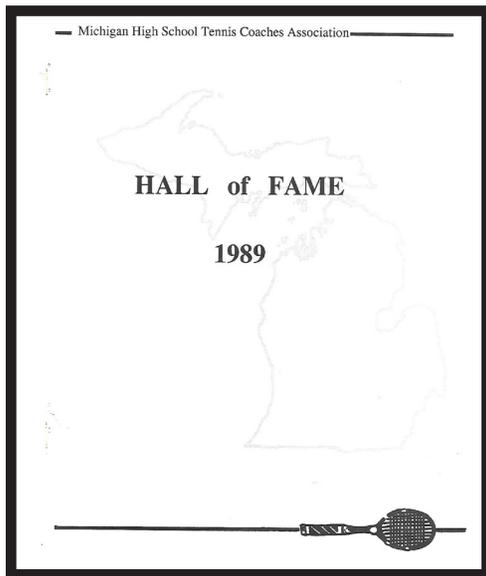


# The 1989 Banquet Program

We were still struggling in those early days, in part because I took over the writing of all of the ideas and continued for the next three decades plus. Meeting the standards of Gordon Boettcher's prose that first year was simply too much to expect. His high bar included writing articles about Coaches of the Year and Distinguished Award recipients.

The pagination and printing were left to others who were as non-professional as I was. It would take awhile to get it right.

The actual banquet presentations were another matter. This one consisted of one of the two best moments I experienced in my long history of witnessing these affairs. It involved John Caldwell and Jim Van Zandt and is recalled a few pages earlier in this document.



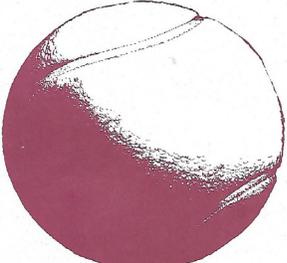
Digital copies of any banquet program are available upon request to  
edwaits@charter.net  
Payment to be rendered in red liquid currency.

# The 1995 Banquet Program

In that year, the printing of the program went into the capable hands of Lee O'Bryan of Fraser. He was a pleasure to work with but his knowledge of printing terminology left me baffled. I simply turned over raw copies of the text and he did the rest. However, I rarely gave him enough words to fill up a single page for a single coach article. Therefore, he had to manipulate: three coaches on two pages. Not a good thing but not his fault. Lee, a superb coach, put together this program for seven years. He received a well-deserved DSA in 2003

Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association

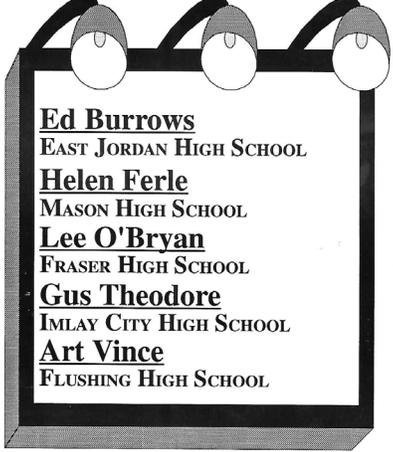
## HALL OF FAME



### Induction Ceremony

Troy Marriott  
February 24, 1995  
5 - 7 p.m.

### Hall Of Fame Inductees - Class of 1995



**Ed Burrows**  
EAST JORDAN HIGH SCHOOL

**Helen Ferle**  
MASON HIGH SCHOOL

**Lee O'Bryan**  
FRASER HIGH SCHOOL

**Gus Theodore**  
IMLAY CITY HIGH SCHOOL

**Art Vince**  
FLUSHING HIGH SCHOOL

**Selection Requirements**

1. Must have coached high school tennis in the state of Michigan for 20 years or more as a head coach and/or as an assistant.
2. Must be a coach who has worked cooperatively with fellow coaches for the advancement of the game of tennis and the coaching profession.
3. Must receive 3/4 majority of the selection committee who are in attendance for the vote. The selection committee is made up of the past presidents and current officers of the MHSTeCA.
4. May be considered even if he/she has not met the established criteria. The selection committee may consider coaches with an outstanding record of achievement even if it does not strictly adhere to the above provisions for induction.
5. May nominate himself/herself after he/she has coached 20 years. In addition, a coach is eligible for nomination if the number of years he/she has served, added to the number of years he/she has retired, equal 20 or more.

It has been said that "You can't go home again." It also has been said that "A man is without honor in his own country." However, Lee O'Bryan is an exception to these maxims. When he first began his distinguished career as a talented and successful high school tennis player at Fraser High School, he envisioned the prospect of returning to his alma mater as a coach. However, he could not have foreseen the possibility that his career as a coach at his home school would earn him a berth to the hall of fame. Indeed, in the most positive sense, he embodies the wisdom of the proverb, "What goes around, comes around."

Lee grew up on the neighborhood courts in Fraser where he took up the game in 6th grade. By the time he reached high school, he was an accomplished player on a strong team, playing 35 as a 9th grader, 25 in his sophomore and junior years, and the top spot as a senior. He qualified for state competition in his senior year and incidentally played against Grosse Ile Hall of Famer John Shade's high school team (the two never met head to head) and with him and Class C-D Coach of the Year Chuck Reed on Central Michigan's varsity tennis team. Lee played 15 on CMU's freshman team and 55 and 65 on its varsity, all in the late 60's. By the time he returned to his alma mater in 1970, he had amassed a wealth of training, knowledge, and experience.

### Lee O'Bryan, FRASER HIGH SCHOOL

Taking over the girls program in 1974, Lee put together a career of formidable accomplishments. Over 20 years, his teams won 76% of their matches (200-64), and 8 league titles, captured 2 regional trophies, finished 2nd in the regional 3 times, and guided two singles qualifiers and two all-state players. His teams were named Macomb County Team of the Year in 1990 and 1994, the same years he was declared Macomb County Coach of the Year.

A major reason for Lee's success is a very impressive summer program that he started 11 years ago for players in Macomb County. As athletic director, Rick Repicky, puts it, "Fraser features no youth tennis program outside of the one Lee O'Bryan directs." In other words, Lee doesn't inherit talented kids; he coaches kids that he himself has trained. Five days a week in the summers, he is on the courts from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; then he hosts a county-wide tournament during the sixth week. Over 90% of his players come out of this summer program. His average varsity camp has 60 players and, amazingly, they show up at the crack of dawn. This is a testament to the very healthy respect and love that these kids have for their coach.

In addition, Lee serves on the MHSTeCA Board of Directors, has been on the MHSAA Tennis Rules Committee, has managed five regional tournaments, and even directed an additional one in 1993 when called upon to help out on an emergency basis. He is, in the words of one rival coach, "one tremendous human being." Quiet and unpretentious, he is a throwback to an era when image wasn't everything. His teams are models of sportsmanship, good etiquette, and discipline, qualities which are accurate reflections of their coach.

Lee reminds us of our better side while staying true to his. We honor him as much for his example as we do for his accomplishments or those of his teams. It is not only a "down to earth," positive role model for his kids and fellow coaches but a genuinely good person who is loath to "blow his own horn." At present, he doesn't need to because it is time that we in the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association sounded the trumpet for a much-deserved call to the Hall of Fame.

### Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association Girls Coaches of the Year - 1994

### Larry Harte - Warren Mott Class A

If there is a special tennis event at the Auburn Hills Palace (Chris Evert vs. Martina Navratilova, for instance), chances are good that Larry Harte is there with his players. If there is a summer tournament in the Detroit Area, chances are good that Larry has arranged to enter his kids and is there cheering them on. If there is a Saturday tournament being played in the Warren area, chances are good Larry is in charge. This engaging, cheerful gentleman with the perpetual smile is an engineer at night and a tennis coach in the afternoons. His dedication, upbeat personality, hard work, and positive attitude have impressed many.

Larry has been known to have hosted as many as four tournament events in a single season, usually two quadrangulars and two Saturday tournaments (Mark Sobieralski, formerly of Warren Mott, did more than his share, too). In fact, between Larry and Mark, the Warren area has hosted as many as four Saturday tournaments in a single season. One of Larry's tournaments is named after his own high school coach at Warren St. Anne's, James Bowden, who often returns to help him run the event and present the awards.

Larry got hooked on tennis while watching Bjorn Borg on television, started hanging around the high school courts (he was the perpetual "Wanna hit some" guy), and worked his way onto the high school team where he played with the untutored enthusiasm. He returned to the high school after college to coach ("I wanted to give something back") and when the school closed, he took the vacant Warren High School job. A two-year stint at nearby Harper Woods Regina where he coached all-star Alexandra Loew was his only hiatus away from the Warren area. When Warren High School closed, Larry characteristically volunteered to be Mott's assistant coach until Mark Sobieralski moved to Grosse Pointe South two years ago. Then Larry assumed the post of head coach.

Under his direction, the Marauders have prospered. This year's squad captured the MAC White Conference Championship and was named Macomb County team of the year in that it was undefeated in that area. In accomplishing this, Larry has displayed the touches that make him an excellent coach. He not only gets his kids to win, but does the things that garner parent support, something often missing in many high school programs. He hosts a parent's day in which moms and dads are invited to attend a designated match and he also sponsors an "Introduction to the Coaches" match, an event in which the parents are invited into the cafeteria after the match for dinner and a talk about philosophy, schedule, expectations, etc. The parents cannot help but be impressed too. The school not only has some fine facilities but offers the opposition notices that, in addition to facing some fine tennis, the Mott team is being supported by several former players who follow the team's performance throughout the season. These graduates are not former star players but instead individuals who found their identities and self-esteem as Mott tennis players. They credit their coach, mentor, and friend, Larry Harte, for giving them a purpose, a sense of achievement, a feeling of team unity, and a companionship with a positive adult influence that reflects a higher purpose to the vocation of coaching. Such a man deserves to be coach of the year.

### Gary Ellis - Allegan Class B

Although Gary Ellis lost five of his top six players (including last year's state 15 champion) from last year's highly successful squad, this year's group provided immense satisfaction for this veteran coach by finishing in third place with 18 points behind Holland Christian (sixth place in the state tournament) and St. Joseph (fourth place in the state tournament). In other words, the competition was anything but shabby. Certainly, neither was his team. Gary, who has been coaching Allegan's boys for 21 years, has been on the courts in the fall for nine, a time span in

# The 2003 Banquet Program

This was my first foray into taking charge of the entire operation, not only writing the articles but making them look good on a page. Part of the reason why I took a retirement job working for a local newspaper was to learn pagination. I bought PageMaker, an expensive computer program, and learned it piece by painful piece with the help of Krista VanWyke, managing editor. I also took all the hard copy photos of previous inductees and scanned them. However, I still wasn't writing articles long enough to fill up a page. Furthermore, I hadn't latched onto the idea that I could include photos of Coaches of the Year. The result was presentable and probably better than most coaches' associations honor programs but certainly not my best effort.

Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association



## Hall of Fame

## Induction

# 2003

Troy Marriott  
Troy, Michigan

February 7, 2003



## Class of 2003

**Bruce Grotenhuis, Howell**  
**Karen Langs, Petoskey**  
**Bill McDaniel, Holly**

### Coaches of the Year -- 2002

**Boys**  
Jim Hanson, Novi  
Jan Esper, Bloomfield Hills Lahser  
Ralph Tramontini, Petoskey  
Steve Bender, Buchanan

**Girls**  
Karen Page, Holland West Ottawa  
Dick Balding, Marquette  
Scott Wills, Vicksburg  
Marty Snoop, Lakewood  
Judy Hehs, Bloomfield Hills Sacred Heart Academy  
J.R. Muniz, Riverview Gabriel Richard

### Assistant Coaches of the Year

Linda Smith, Port Huron Northern  
Dennis Lueneburg, Escanaba

### Distinguished Service Award

Sharon Leyrer, Jenison  
Jim Fowler, Flint

## Bruce Grotenhuis

### Howell

If a fundamental of successful real estate is location, location, location, the foundation of coaches associations such as the MHS/TeCA is communicate, communicate, communicate. In the fledgling days of 1977, that meant producing a newsletter typed on stenicals and reproduced on a ditto machine. But the Information Age, spurred on by satellites and computers, increased the effectiveness of our vehicles of communication. At the time, many of us were keel kicking and screaming into the world of the Internet by Hall of Famer Harold Holcomb of Essexville Garber.

But when Hoke became ill in the early '90s, Bruce Grotenhuis, who had learned this stuff from scratch in the process of teaching a class in computer fundamentals, took over. The result has been a website that is nothing short of a bragging right, one which offers an enormous assortment of information. From pictures of the all-state players to pictures of those who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame, from information about who is in your regional (the most often-asked question, some say) to information about who won coach of the year honors, answers are only a click away, thanks to the hours of work that Bruce has contributed. Given the excellence of his work, it is not surprising that he is the webmaster for five organizations.

Bruce's efforts in this area are merely indicative of the way he has contributed to our organization for the past two decades. At about the same time he assumed Hoke's website duties, he took over the Tournament Clearinghouse from Tim Coleman. This is a database through which coaches can search for opportunities to participate in the all-important Saturday tournaments (and, of course, it can be found on the website). In 1999, he also assumed duties in public relations, a natural transition in that he was already publishing information regarding Hall of Fame inductees, all state players, and coaches of the year anyway. He served on the association's board as assistant director for District 2 from 1983-1999. He still occupies a position on the board as an officer.

All of this was done in classic quiet fashion. You might not

have known that Bruce was in the room but you know he had been there because the job had been done, and done well.

This applies to his coaching duties, too. For over 15 years, Bruce has directed the Kensington Valley Conference Tennis Meet, even though his teams have only won the title twice. Six times over the past four years, he has volunteered to help as assistant director for one of the state tennis final tournaments. He annually hosts the Howell Memorial Tournament and a JV Tournament, and has managed two girls regional events.

Even though he is quiet and self-effacing, Bruce's efforts have not gone unnoticed. He has been the MHS/TeCA's Regional Coach of the Year three times and won state honors as 2002 Boys Coach of the Year. He was inducted into the Howell High School Hall of Fame in 2002.

In other words, Bruce has been recognized for spending lots of effective time on the courts of Howell High School, not just in front of a computer screen. Over 27 years at the helm of Howell, his kids have won close to 250 dual meets. Although there are no regional titles or state tournament appearances on his resume, there is little doubt that his service in a decidedly rural -- now becoming urban -- area has stabilized and promoted tennis there for almost three decades. He labors in a tradition of grass roots coaches who maintain a high level of interest in a sport which probably would not exist in that community without his contributions.

A high school doubles player from Hamilton High School, Bruce learned the game from Wayne Tantis, himself an MHS/TeCA Hall of Famer. He is one more example of a player who received excellent coaching and then passed it on. But his talents went beyond what could be done on the court. Bruce's efforts have touched the lives of virtually any tennis coach who owns a computer. His contributions have been both pioneering and extraordinary. Such individuals belong in the Hall of Fame.

Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association  
Girls Coaches of the Year -- Fall, 2002

**Karen Page**  
West Ottawa  
Division 1

**Dick Balding**  
Marquette  
Division 2

In and of itself, it is remarkable that the high school girls tennis coach at Holland West Ottawa is so qualified that she is also the women's varsity tennis coach at Hope College, also in the Tulip City. Even more extraordinary, Karen Page has been the only coach the high school team has ever had, her tenure reaching back 23 years. During this time span, her kids have won over 200 dual meet victories, and in the five years she has been at the helm at Hope, her players have captured three MIAA championships. In the words of Tiger Tennis, who was competing against her when she was at Holland High School and who now works as her assistant at Hope College, "She can flat-out coach."

Karen is a fixture in Holland's tennis-rich community, one that has seen no fewer than four of its coaches (herself included) inducted into the MHS/TeCA Hall of Fame. This former president of the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association was also inducted into the West Ottawa Hall of Fame last September.

In addition to her duties as varsity women's coach at Hope, Karen is Director of Tennis at the college's DeWitt Tennis Club. Her responsibilities include not only giving lessons but also organizing programs and tournaments. Both her administrative position and her effortless enthusiasm touch the lives of players from all of Holland area schools, not just West Ottawa.

A USPTR professional who played for Iowa State University, Karen brings more than sheer dedication to the job. Coaching in the tough OK Red Conference, where no fewer than five league schools were represented at the state tournament, her kids still managed, with untested new players, to capture third place. It was a season of trials: 3<sup>rd</sup> in conference duals, 3<sup>rd</sup> at the conference tournament, and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the regionals, all behind Jenison and Holland.

By itself, Karen's record of service to the Holland community is impressive enough, but Karen adds commitment to the MHS/TeCA, the MSHA, and WCHA as well. Although a past president, she still remains on the MHS/TeCA Board of Directors. She can be seen -- with WCHA assistant coach Donna McConnell -- throughout the day at the annual clinic selling raffle tickets as a fund raiser for the Holland Tennis Center. Over the years, she has managed conference tournaments, been site director at those state tournaments, which were held in Holland, and directed the work of the MHS/TeCA all-state committee. She has done everything from letting all-state certificates to all-academic awards. In addition, she has been actively involved in the activities of the Western Michigan Tennis Association.

Karen has the entire package: demonstration of commitment over an extended period of time, success in the W-L columns, and service to the organizations which promote this lifetime sport. She is a most worthy coach of the year.

Five of those championships were under the direction of Dick Balding who took over the job in 1981. A native of the UP, he was born in Escanaba, grew up in the neighboring town of Gladstone, went to college at Northern Michigan University in Marquette and never left town. He taught math and chemistry at Marquette High School from 1969 to 2002, and in those early years did a lot of volunteering for Johnson. As boys coach Dick's record when he retired from boys coaching in 1998 with a record of 68-10. He was named UP All Coach of the Year three times.

However, Dick remained to coach the girls, who, although they had finished second four times since 1985, hadn't won a state championship. Therefore he took a picture of the 1985 championship banner, put it on key rings, and gave one to each of his players. According to Dick, it was part of a three-year plan which, as it turns out, was accomplished a year early with only two seasons, at 25 and half of 30. Marquette also tied for first in their conference and finished with a dual meet record of 11-1, losing only to Karen Langs' Petoskey squad in a match which featured five three-setters.

Karen describes Dick as "a totally pleasant person, a very gentle and quiet man with a wonderful sense of humor and a very easy going nature whose girls respect him." Dick, in turn, passes much of the credit off to assistant coach Faith Nascarcow who has helped him from day one.

A math teacher who taught Honors Precalculus and AP Calculus when he retired this past year, Dick is still an adjunct professor of math at Northern Michigan University where he is teaching two classes a semester this year. He usually runs two week long camps in Marquette for girls in the summer and then sets up times when he can come to the courts and be assured that there will be someone there to hit with other girls or their coach. His efforts can be seen in the numbers: Dick's girls record is 88-50 but over the past five years, it is 41 and 14.

Success is not an easy task given the hardships that UP life impose in terms of weather and travel distance. Dick joins the good company of Mickey Johnson, Jack Tripp of Negaunee, Brook Smith of West Iron County, and Rich Trombly of Gladstone as a deserving MHS/TeCA Girls Coach of the Year.

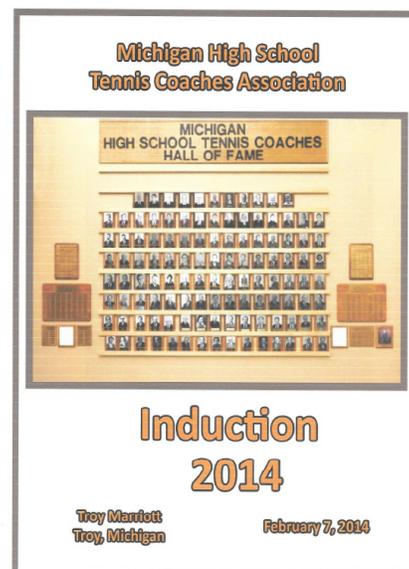
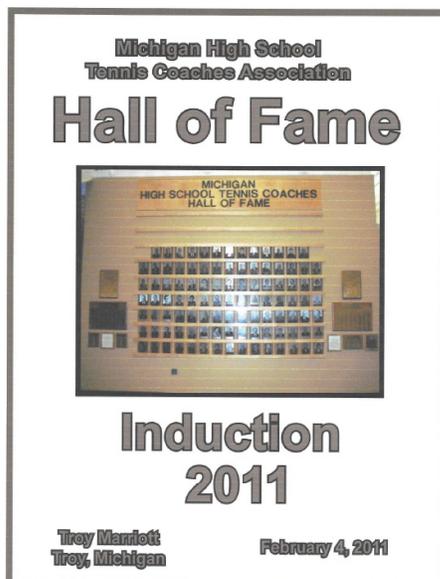
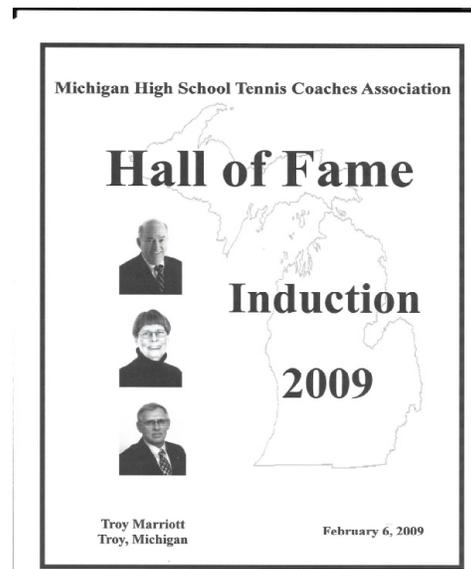
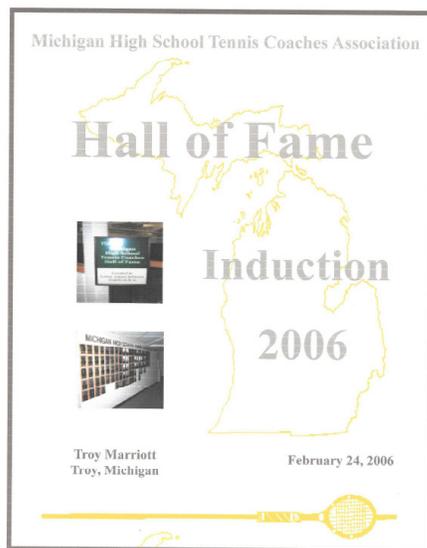
# The 2006- 2020 Banquet Programs

## Cookie Cutter except for the Cover

It took me a few years to settle into a routine. Induction sections consisted of a full page photo on the left and a one page article on the right. I worked at getting enough information to fashion a one-page article for each of the Coaches of the Year, Assistant Coaches, and Distinguished Service Award recipients. I also secured photos of these people. Of course, every program featured a section consisting of photos of previous Hall of Fame inductees.

The rest of it consisted of “fill pages,” lists of Board Members, Mr. and Miss Tennis winners, MHSCA Hall of Famers, etc. The back page always had an acknowledgement of David Schwartz’s Tennis Company contributions toward the success of the workshop and the Hall of Fame banquet program effort.

One significant change was the cover presentation. I inserted photos rather than the bouncing tennis ball. The following pages feature those differences.,



**Michigan High School  
Tennis Coaches Association**



**Induction  
2016**

Troy Marriott  
Troy, Michigan  
February 5, 2016



**Michigan High School  
Tennis Coaches Association**



**Induction 2018**

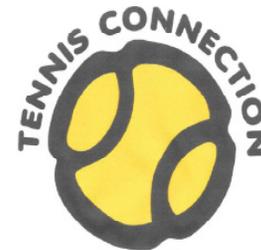
Troy Marriott  
Troy, Michigan  
February 2, 2018

**Congratulations to  
MHSTeCA  
Hall of Fame Inductees  
and  
Coaches of the Year**



**30211 Woodward Ave.  
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073  
248 435-6800**

**Congratulations to  
MHSTeCA  
Hall of Fame Inductees  
and  
Coaches of the Year**



**The Tennis Connection  
2700 Breton Rd. S.E.  
Grand Rapids MI 49546  
616 245-8775  
tennisconn1@aol.com**

# The 2020 Coach of the Year Booklet

Due to Covid 19, there was no workshop and no subsequent banquet in 2021 to honor coaches from the previous year. Moreover, there was only one season of competition, that of boys in the fall which remarkably completed the four state championships. On that basis, Regional Coach of the Year balloting was conducted and four Coaches of the Year were selected at a Zoom board meeting.

Therefore, President Eric Gajar and Public Relations Director Bruce Grotenhuis decided to do a virtual-type presentation of the four. Two other coaches were honored with Assistant Coach Awards. A book reduced booklet was put together. By that time, there were many materials available in terms of lists of former photos and lists of former winners in various categories that it was relatively easy to produce. Furthermore, the printing of these programs was markedly improved, mostly due to Gary Ellis's contacts (a former player did the work).

**Michigan High School  
Tennis Coaches Association**

**2020  
Boys  
Coach of the Year  
Awards**



**February, 2021**

**Division 1  
Chris Silker  
Okemos**

You've got to hand it to Chris Silker; he knows when to quit while he is ahead. Indeed, to say that he was ahead after the 2020 boys season is a severe understatement. Under his leadership, the Chiefs were perfect in terms of wins. They finished undefeated in duals, were victors in every Saturday tournament they entered, and completed an unblemished season by capturing the Division 1 state championship.

It is not unusual for Okemos to field exceptional tennis teams. As with schools such as Detroit Country Day, his squads are a veritable United Nations. "We have an incredibly diverse team, and always have," he says. "We have players that represent ethnicities from all over the world. I believe the majority have heritage in India, Korea, and China."



Moreover, this particular group came to play. "It was the deepest and most gifted class of tennis players I have ever worked with," he says.

"We have an incredibly diverse team, and always have. We have players that represent ethnicities from all over the world. I believe the majority have heritage in India, Korea, and China."

"Fight of the top ten and two more beyond the 12 were great leaders. They made it clear at the end of 2019 that their goal was to go undefeated and win a state championship in 2020."

However, with all the uncertainty as to whether the season could be completed with a state tournament, the kids simply wanted to have fun and enjoy their time together, according to Chris. That changed after Executive Order 161 when it looked like these players would be given the chance to compete in a final event.

Indeed, the focus changed dramatically as illustrated in an upcoming match against an always strong Brother Rice team. When you play Rice, you are in for some shouting shenanigans, wherein the contest is reduced to far too many loud "pump me up": "Not so this time. About 30-40 minutes into that match I stopped pacing around

**Division 2  
Kevin Friesen  
Royal Oak**



However, from 2012 through 2020, he certainly didn't short-shrift the boys at Royal Oak High School. His extraordinary efforts to make Royal Oak respectable place him among the best in the state in terms of building a non-tennis community, city and school.

In the spring of each year, the Royal Oak Middle School has a Sign-Up-for-Sports day in which students mark the sport in which they are interested. Kevin will take those forms and make copies of those who chose tennis (a fall sport), baseball (a spring sport) and anyone else who did not pick a fall sport. Then he calls, texts, or e-mails these kids or their parents to encourage them to give tennis a try.

The result is an offer of free practice for an hour in the summer before the returning JV and varsity players arrive. That's one hour for the newbies and 1.5 hours for the returning players. "Throughout the summer, I will have 8-10 of these sessions," says Kevin.

"This is a brilliant strategy," says Ed Waits who knows that the vast majority of high school players are made in the summer with its unending and inexpensive hours in the sunshine, not during the rest of the year. "Many of these younger kids will remain after those sessions and watch the older kids. Some will either conclude that they 'want to be like them' and others will decide that if they work hard, they can be even better."

"This is a brilliant strategy," says Ed Waits who knows that the vast majority of high school players are made in the summer with its unending and inexpensive hours in the sunshine. "Many of these younger kids will remain after those sessions and watch the older kids. Some will either conclude that they 'want to be like them' and others will decide that if they work hard, they can be even better."

"As an elementary PE teacher, I was lucky enough to watch our two girls grow up," he says. "My time spent with them was getting involved in coaching them in soccer, basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, softball, ..... and finally tennis. My 13-year lucky at that time was coaching my daughters."

**Assistant Coach Award  
Jesse DeBoer  
Allegan**



The MHSCTCA board established the Assistant Coach Award in 1982 to honor individuals who love the game so much — and often enough had such good experiences in their respective high school programs — that they felt a need to give back regardless of lack of pay or recognition. Moreover, they knew they would have fun amidst the satisfaction of helping out a most worthwhile endeavor from which they benefitted.

Many past recipients of our Assistant Coach Award have returned to their respective alma maters to contribute. Ron F Landfair played for Lansing Catholic in 2004 – 2007 and then stayed to help out his namesake father. The same with Audrey Shade who worked with her Hall of Fame father John at Grosse Ile. Scotter DeMore also played for John and then assisted. Kim Ng at Riverview worked side-by-side with her Hall of Fame mother Jan Gottlin. Eric Kahn played for Holly and then came back to aid Will Sophiea. Kelli Steinbarger was a state champion at 35 in 1976 for Holland High School before returning to assist the legendary Tiger Tennis. All of the above have Assistor Coach Award plaques in their trophy cases.

Rut, it seems, no school can match the Allegan program for athletes who first played for Tiger glory and then returned to help others do the same. Alva Morgan won the Assistant Coach Award in 1997. Jennifer Conrad did the same in 2011. In the middle of those two date-wise was Jen Aldrich who went from Allegan to stardom at Western Michigan and then returned to assist Hall of Famer Gary Ellis. Fewer exceptional service, she received an Assistor Coach Award in 2003.

But, it seems, no school can match the Allegan program for athletes who first played for Tiger glory and then returned to help others do the same.

Ms Aldrich then went on to much success at the varsity level when Gary stepped down. She earned a Girls Coach of the Year Award in 2012.

In that same year, the tennis gods rewarded Jen with the services of Jesse DeBoer who (surprise, surprise) once played for the Tigers. Jesse was an instructor in Allegan's summer program before departing for Spring Arbor University where he worked his way up to the 15 and 12 positions by his senior year. "This means that he returned to

Allegan with even more knowledge of the game. That was eight years ago. "He brings calm, humor, and dedication to the teams he coaches," says Jen. "If a player asks to stay after practice or to hit extra, it doesn't matter what day or time it is, he will. If you drive by the Allegan tennis courts, you will more than likely find him there hitting with a player. It may even be late at night with the lights on. If a player asks for additional time, he always finds the time and a way."

With Jesse's help, Allegan has maintained the success that they have grown used to during Gary's era. Conference and regional titles, and trips to the state finals abound. "He has been a huge part of our success," says Jen. "He has advised, inspired, motivated, and comforted countless players for years. Jesse has had to lead practices or run scrimmages and matches when I have been absent due to illness, seed meetings, or parent demands."

As is the case with many assistants, Jesse receives no compensation from the district. Regardless, "He has been a huge part of our success," says Jen. "Jesse's loyalty led him to return to the program where he began many years ago. He is now inspiring the next generation of youth in our community."

"If a player asks to stay after practice or to hit extra, it doesn't matter what day or time it is, he will. If you drive by the Allegan tennis courts, you will more than likely find him there hitting with a player. It may even be late at night with the lights on. If a player asks for additional time, he always finds the time and a way."

—Jen Aldrich, varsity coach



# MHSTeCA



# Distinguished Service Award





# Karen Page Distinguished Service Award



1983	Gary Harden	Muskegon Mona Shores	1994	Wilfred D. "Bill" Cameron News Herald Papers	Livonia Southgate
1984	George Acker Gary Bodenmiller	Kalamazoo College Grosse Pointe Indoor Tennis Club	1997	Tiger Teusink Ed Waits	Holland Southfield-Lathrup
1985	Warren McKenzie Bob Wood	MHSAA University Liggett School	1998	Cliff Girard	Traverse City
1986	Gretchen Highlander Reba Torongo Art Vince Bob Wagner	Kalamazoo University Liggett School Flushing Kalamazoo Gazette	1999	Jim Krimbill Greg Tunnicliff	Midland Community Tennis Center Flint Journal
1987	Tom Essenburg  Lou Gardella Dale Greiner Jack Johnson	Grand Rapids East Hills Racquet Club Mt. Clemens High School Ann Arbor Public Schools Dearborn High School	2001	Kathy Wood	University Liggett School
1988	Gordon Boettcher Mike Rublein	Ann Arbor Huron Marquette High School	2002	Sharon Leyrer Jim Fowler	Jenison Flint
1989	Sharon Wood Dr. William Jeannette	University Liggett School Grosse Ile	2003	Donney Murawski Lee O'Bryan	Grosse Pte. South Fraser
1990	Josephine Boichot-Dervin	Lansing	2005	Jim and Jeanette Jesse	Buchanan
1991	Gertrude Bartholomew Jim Kerwin David and Del Rubley	Detroit Eastern H.S. Farmington Hills Mercy Coldwater	2006	Bruce Grotenhuis	Howell
1992	Rahn Bentley Bill Novak	Hudsonville Traverse City	2008	David Schwartz	The Tennis and Golf Company
1993	Don Brown	Cranbrook Kingswood	2010	Gina Mazzolini	MHSAA
			2014	Jim Cummins	Battle Creek
			2015	Jorge Capestany	DeWitt Tennis Center, Hope College
			2016	Gundars Tilmanis	Portland, Oregon
			2018	Gary Ellis	Allegan
			2021	Sue Beute	Lowell

## Karen Page Distinguished Service Award

# Jorge Capestany

## DeWitt Tennis Center, Hope College



In the 39 years that Bob Wood, Gary Bodenmiller, and the MHSTeCA have hosted the Annual Tennis Workshop, Jorge Capestany has been a speaker at least 20 times. That's because the reviews have always been so positive. "He is a superb teacher," says Bob. "The feedback is always tremendous. He is very good at what he does. We are always fortunate when he agrees to come back."

Jorge's sessions usually involve drills, but they have also ranged from strategy to footwork to mental toughness. "He makes presentations to coaches at all levels throughout the world but still has time for Michigan coaches," says Allegan's Gary Ellis.

But many high school tennis coaches probably recognize Jorge's name simply because of the drills that he makes available on the Internet. "I started speaking all over the country and saw how desperate coaches and teaching pros were for new drills," he says. "I had just sold a tennis T-shirt company (Havana Bob's) that I had started with a friend from my church so I had the money to give the website business a try. It has now become the largest source of tennis drills in the world and has subscribers in more than 65 countries. People from all over the world recognize my name from the website and this is how I get to speak in many other countries."

If you are a MHSTeCA member who has been paying attention, you know that Jorge has offered free access to this subscription-based website for a limited time each preseason. It contains hundreds of drills and instructional videos on both technique and the mental aspects of the game. "There aren't too many people who have more passion about not just promoting the sport but also sharing so much great information and insights to so many so that they can pass it on to their students and teams," says Gary.

To be sure, the man can teach. "This fall, Jorge did a serving clinic for my team," says Gary. "Our serving was killing us. I was so impressed with the way he worked with the group and with individuals. We came away a better serving team."

Jorge's presence and impact have not been limited to

the teaching sessions. At the annual Hall of Fame banquet, he introduced his deceased high school coach, Rahn Bentley of Hudsonville, when Rahn was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1999. He returned the next year for yet another induction, this time giving a presentation for his childhood friend, Jerry Bentley of Grand Rapids Creston.

A fixture in the Grand Rapids tennis community, Jorge was a well-known teaching pro, first at Ramblewood for ten years and then at East Hills, Orchard Hills, and the MAC in G.R. for the next ten. And then, "Hope College approached me to be a consultant to help them find someone to replace the retiring Holland tennis legend, Tiger Teusink. The more I spoke with them, the more interested I thought the job would be for me. That is how the process started. I felt like I had accomplished all I could at the GR clubs and wanted a new challenge. I was beginning to get many cool opportunities to speak all over the world and I knew that the job at Hope would allow me to do more of that than the job I had at the time."

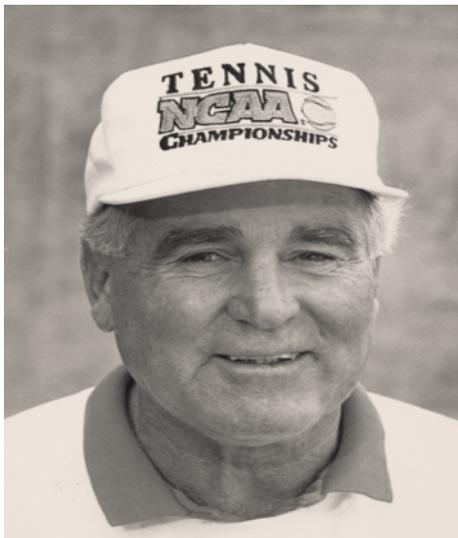
In the eleven years Jorge has been at Hope, lots of kids and teams have benefited. Jorge is the founder and director of the Hope College Summer Tennis Academy which has grown to be one of the largest in the Midwest. He is the manager of the DeWitt Tennis Center but still teaches on court.

He also has made the new outdoor tennis facility -- a 2.1 million dollar complex of 12 courts amidst stadium-style seating for all of them -- available for state high school tournaments. "We are now on the permanent rotation and host divisions 2-3-4," says Jorge. "It rotates around each year. Our outdoor tennis stadium at Hope College is incredible and a great venue to host such a great tournament."

If you associate with Jorge regarding anything tennis, you are basking in reflected glory. He is that big and that good. He counts former touring pros Luke Jensen and Todd Martin as friends and yet he works effectively with everyone: elite players, beginners, and everyone in between. "He continues offering advice and tips to high school players during their seasons even though they may not be currently in his program," says Gary.

**If you associate with Jorge regarding anything tennis, you are basking in reflected glory.**

# A tribute to George Acker



Aug. 2, 2014 provided a beautiful summer evening wherein spectators gathered at Stowe Stadium, in part to honor George Acker, the former Kalamazoo College men's tennis coach who died in 2011. George, who won seven NCAA Division III national titles between 1959 and 1993, was NCAA Division III Coach of the Year in 1982 and 1991. Hundreds of former players, colleagues, friends, and alumni were present for the unveiling of the lettering behind each baseline.

"I was there when they dedicated the court to George," says Battle Creek Lakeview's Mike McGinnis. "I didn't know him personally but if you knew tennis in the area, you knew he was an icon. He was a rock at the boys nationals. It was always special to see him walking the tournament grounds."

That's because in a very real sense, the tournament grounds were synonymous with George's presence. There are plenty of high school tennis coaches who can echo Mike's words.

One is Ed Waits from Jackson, who as a ninth grader first met George in the summer of 1960 at Stowe Stadium. "He made an incredible impression," says Ed. "Here I am surrounded by an amazing tennis facility amidst a beautiful campus at a very well-regarded educational institution. George was friendly, engaging, and likeable. He was so positive about everything.

"I was a good student and becoming a good tennis player. I qualified for the nationals that same summer and thus spent several nights at a dorm on the campus. I was transfixed. Between the school, the stadium, and George, I wanted very much to go to K College. Sadly, I couldn't afford to go there (At the time, it cost – gasp! --\$2,500 a year!). I still tell anyone who will listen that in terms of tennis and academics, I ended up settling for 2nd best."

Gary Ellis of Allegan recalls the days before the flight championships when the state tournament was held exclusively at Stowe Stadium and George presided over the seeding. "After one of those late night seed meetings that used to be the norm, he invited me and the others who were still around way

after midnight to 'dinner.' There he talked casually about tennis, coaching, and a variety of things. Being wide-eyed and wet behind the ears, I took it all in. To me, it was a clinic."

"I, too, was present during those George Acker late meetings just prior to the state final tournament," confirms Tiger Teusink. "He was a take-charge person who knew the players and wanted fairness in the seedings. He was always positive and he demonstrated leadership all the time. The man was amazing."

"Whenever I would see him – during the state tournament or nationals or at any other event – he greeted me like a friend," adds Gary. "Many times, he would gently work in suggestions and ideas for coaching and was always willing to answer questions and be of help any way he could. In his quiet way, he was mentoring me, as I'm sure he did other coaches around the state."

"It was an honor to have known him," says Sacred Heart's Judy Hehs, who played all four years at K College. "He was a kind and generous man, even helping to recreate my rather sketchy backhand during my sophomore year. His legacy lives on in the way the men's program is supported by the alums and in the tradition of winning and excellence that he cultivated."

Hap Haasch, varsity assistant at Richland Gull Lake, is Executive Director of Public Media Network in Kalamazoo, an outfit that among other projects broadcasts hundreds of hours of play at the USTA Nationals each August. Of course, George Acker was always there. "I met him several times," he says. "I was basically awestruck."

As it turns out, George worked with Bob Wood on several television broadcasts for cable access in the '80s providing commentary for the singles and doubles finals at the nationals. "I first met him in the '60s when our team would come to the state tournament," says Bob. "He could relate to people. He had time for everyone. He treated the court sweeper (some will remember that at one time, they were red clay) the same as the CEO. He was a credit to his family, his school, and to tennis. He was a legend."

**Karen Page**  
**Distinguished Service Award**  
**David Schwartz**  
**The Tennis and Golf Company**

The name of his store is on the back cover of this program. And to be sure, he was the one who approached Hall of Fame organizers about it. But insiders know that David Schwartz's involvement in the brochure was not merely a matter of self-promotion. Indeed, he looked at the 1995 version and concluded: "We can do better" (note the pronoun). The result was steady improvement in the publication, most notably in recent years in terms of the quality of the paper. In return, the name of his company appears in a prominent place.

There are plenty of tennis coaches, both in the Detroit Metropolitan area and in recent years outstate, who will testify that he didn't (and doesn't) need the publicity. The Tennis Company, established in 1977 in the midst of a booming interest in tennis in a small house on 10 Mile Rd. between Southfield and Evergreen Roads, has ever since become a fixture in the northwestern suburban tennis community and beyond. The business became a classic entrepreneurial success. Local coaches, from not only the immediate area but from the East Side and such disparate places as Armada, followed David three times over the years as he moved each time to a larger space.

That's because he provided expert and timely service. David brought customers into the first store by offering tennis balls — the staple of play — at or below cost. But what they found when they were lured into the shop was a knowledgeable player who worked exceedingly hard to satisfy. For instance, Ed Waits, whose high school was located within three miles of each of David's first three locations, once recalled watching one of his players break a string at the beginning of practice the day before an important match. Ed gave this player permission to drive 11/2 miles to David's store. When the player returned to the store after that same practice, the racquet was restrung and ready.

This is but one of many such stories. David offered quality equipment and a variety of choices. He even constructed an area where players could actually try out racquets in the store. As his selection increased, so did his staff. At one point, he employed three full-time stringers who were kept busy.

The word spread. When coaches from other parts of the state would come to the MHSTeCA clinic, many would make pilgrimages to The Tennis Company. Some from the Holland area

would come to Troy a day early so that they would have more time to shop. "Coaches from outstate were jealous of me," says Ed, "because I both lived and worked one and a half miles from David's store."

Given an excellent relationship with local coaches, it was only a matter of time before David became involved in the clinic. Characteristically, David didn't hold back. Not only did he spend a day and a half each year educating coaches and clinicians as to the latest in equipment but he made the Friday afternoon raffle more than worthwhile by offering considerable variety and quantity of prizes. "The raffle has averaged \$1,102 during the last five years," says Tiger Teusink. "These funds are used for our Hall of Fame expenses, particularly the banquet. David is so full of energy and enthusiasm that he makes the work of conducting the raffle so much fun."

"The expression on David's face as he gives away free equipment at the workshop raffle is the same look the winners display when they receive the prize, especially when it's a coveted racquet," adds President Nancy Brissette.

It would be easy to conclude that once David made it big, only then did he decide to share with those who got him there. But the truth is that he shared from the beginning. This is a businessman who has, over the years, donated more than simply a substantial amount money. He has offered good will and for a significant number of coaches, enduring friendship. "For the past 13 years, David has played a major role in the overall success of the Detroit Tennis Workshops," says co-director Bob Wood. "His enthusiasm and generosity have added a great deal of energy to the program."

"We all owe David a huge thank you for all that he has

**Some coaches from the Holland area would come to Troy a day early so that they would have more time to shop. They were jealous of me because I both lived and worked one and a half miles from David's store. My location became a bragging right."**

Ed Waits, Hall of Fame Secretary



# Karen Page

## Distinguished Service Award

# Bruce Grotenhuis

## Howell



The man should be fishing. Or playing golf. Or tracking his investments. Instead, he volunteers, often for the dirty work.

After all, Bruce Grotenhuis was entitled to retire in relative ease and bask in the glories of his accomplishment back in 2003 when he was inducted in the Hall of Fame. He had coached Howell tennis teams through thick and thin for all three decades. During most of that time period, he served (and still does) on the board of directors.

But he is primarily known for taking over the reins of the association's Web site from Harold Holcomb years ago and refining it into a true bragging right. Veteran coaches who have labored through the years under what now seems to be antiquated circumstances with regard to communications are amazed at what is available now in comparison to the old days.

Thanks to the efforts of Bruce, a coach can get and print a list of teams which will be in his/her regional. An up-to-date copy of the directory can be obtained for the price of a password. So can current and back issues of the newsletter. Lists of all-state teams and regional coaches of the year are readily available.

On the Web site, you can read articles about past Hall of Famers and present coaches of the year. You can obtain documents needed to apply for membership of our association or, for that matter, for the Hall of Fame. You can get a copy of the MHSAA Coaches Manual or the brief that was filed on our behalf with regard to the Gender Equity Lawsuit. The list goes on.

But it could be easily concluded that administering the Web site is for Bruce nothing more than a retirement diversion, a way to while away the time while turning into a puttering mouse potato. After all, it can be fun to simply manipulate the presentation of communications that are handed to you, especially after you have mastered the fundamentals of Web site design. However, those who have done this job know that it isn't all that simple. You have to go through a considerable learning curve trial-and-error initiation. Then there is the constant year-after-year additions and updates. The addition of the directory and newsletters to the site is but one example. As it turns out, our [www.mhsteca.org](http://www.mhsteca.org) is one of five that Bruce manages.

More to the point, Bruce has done far more for the MHSTeCA than pound on a keyboard. For instance, in the place

of the delinquent membership chairperson, he spent clinics behind the membership table. All day long, he passed out membership cards and directories. He took membership money from those who attend the clinic but didn't prepay for the two days. He compiled lists and refunds money to those who have inadvertently paid twice. He tallied totals and compared them with Kathy Wood so that everyone received the right amount of money.

As it turns out, all of this was preparation for when the delinquent membership chairperson quit the job after 20 years. "The transition was virtually flawless," says Ed Waits. "I had to do almost nothing except present him with an up-to-date database." The results have been an improvement, especially in terms of the presentation of the 2020 directory, his first.

Then there are the state tournaments. Those coaches – and there are many – who host Saturday tournaments understand how difficult managing a final MHSAA competition can be. You are subjected to hyper coaches and pushy parents, all eager to get their way in their single-minded quest to win a state championship. In the face of considerable pressure – some

of it irrational – managers need all the help they can get.

Enter Bruce Grotenhuis who, against all conventional wisdom, actually volunteers to help. He can be found managing a site or the scorer's table. Or he can be seen line judging. Whatever it takes. Whatever he can do to help. And he does all of this with the same even-tempered, quiet, competent manner – qualities needed in managing a state tournament – that he brings to all of his tasks.

"When he speaks up [at MHSTeCA board meetings], you listen," says secretary-treasurer Tiger Teusink. That's because Bruce prefers to do most of his talking behind the scenes. He is the guy in charge of the sound and lighting in numerous Howell community theatre productions where things have to be right. He does the same for the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association. Although we hope we have never taken his contributions for granted, it is time to recognize them in tangible and public form: with a Distinguished Service Award.



**Karen Page**  
**Distinguished Service Award**

**Gina Mazzolini**  
**Michigan High School**  
**Athletic Association**



**For a time, there was an arms-length relationship between tennis coaches in our state and the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The former was regarded by some coaches as the folks in the East Lansing ivory tower who made and enforced rules without knowing much about how the sport is coached and played. More importantly, the assistant director in charge of tennis was seen as the person who, by means of regional assignments, determined whether your team would qualify for state competition. This was especially prevalent in an era when regionals were comprised of 16 teams and you could qualify with as few as two or three good players. More than one coach blamed his failure to compete at the state tournament in Kalamazoo to questionable geography with regard to his regional assignment.**

That changed markedly in the early '70s, due in large part to pioneers such as Bob Wood, Tiger Teusink, and Bob Quinn who established a good working relationship with then-director Warren McKenzie. When the flight system for determining the state team champion was instituted – and the need for an effective seeding system quickly became evident – the relationship between the two organizations became even closer. The two organizations worked together to establish NCAA-type area seeding meetings to be held by representatives (i.e. MHSTeCA members) immediately after the regional and then the seeding and draws were (and are) conducted by those representatives and their final meet managers in East Lansing. Our association also pressed hard for rules meetings and when they were instituted, Warren became an even more prevalent presence, not only throughout the state but also at our clinics. For his efforts, he was given our Distinguished

Service Award in 1985 and sent off on a cruise upon his retirement, the trip funded by voluntary contributions from tennis coaches.

If there was any anxiety over how this collegial atmosphere might change when Gina Mazzolini took over Warren's job in 1993, it was quickly dispelled. Although not a tennis player (neither was Warren), she instantly impressed coaches at her first round of rules meetings with her enthusiasm and eagerness to work together.

This first impression wasn't a false one. Over the years, coaches have been pleased with her accessibility and her clarity in articulating problems and issues. Information has become readily available on our (and their) Web site, something that was bothersome in previous years when "Who is in my regional?" became the most asked question during a season. As with Warren, she is a fixture at our clinic where coaches can not only

get to the crux of an issue but discuss it face to face. Open lines of communication have resulted in such improvements as expanding state competition to four divisions.

This positive relationship was especially solid with regard to the decade-long Gender Equity Lawsuit when the MHSTeCA and MHSAA fought together to keep the boys and girls seasons the same. She also helped with improvements in final tournament seeding and management.

"Michigan Tennis Coaches are envied by our neighboring states coaches due to our format and the outstanding working relationship between our coaches and the MHSAA," says Tiger Teusink, a long-time member of the state seeding committee and frequent final tournament host.

Make no mistake about it, the job isn't easy. **MHSTeCA Founder Bob Wood has often said over the years, "I would hate to have Warren/Gina's job. Think of it. You answer the phone all day. And all day long, all you hear is complaints."**

But Gina handles it with an admirable equanimity. "Sometimes we forget that she is responsible for more sports than just tennis," says Gary Ellis, Allegan's tennis coach and athletic director who has served extensively on the state seeding committee and tennis rules committee. "She makes sure that when a tennis issue comes up, she works to address it, within the rules and scope of the MHSAA. She does her homework, getting information and input from a variety of sources with a wide range of perspectives."

"Gina has listened to our coaches association and coaches from around the state when we have had ideas for change in our sport," continues Gary. "If you look back at how far tennis in Michigan has progressed during her tenure, it is impressive."

A standout in basketball and volleyball at both St. Johns High School and Central Michigan University, Gina received the 2009-10 Women in Sports Leadership award last Feb. 9. A year later, with great appreciation for all she has done to make high school tennis in Michigan what it is today, we are pleased to add to her collection.

Michigan High School  
Tennis Coaches Association

## Karen Page Distinguished Service Award

# Jim Cummins Battle Creek



**O**ver the years, the successful high school tennis coach puts together a great won-loss record, captures lots of regional championships, does well at the state tournament, and then retires to expressions of appreciation, including an induction into the Hall of Fame. He is then free to contemplate work well done, reflect on what was accomplished, and enjoy the occasional reunion and contact with a former player. In other words, he puts his feet up and relaxes as he basks in fond memories.

This is *not* Jim Cummins, at least not the relaxing part. To be sure, in his 18 seasons of coaching boys and 6 seasons of coaching girls at Battle Creek Springfield, his teams won over 250 matches. His boys qualified for state competition 13 out of 18 years, and finished third or fourth in the state eight consecutive years (behind University Liggett and Detroit Country Day). His girls went to the state tournament twice in six years.

In the midst of this career, he ran two tournaments – a four team and an eight team – every year. In 1972, he started the Battle Creek City Tournament and ran it virtually every time, only missing a couple of years. From 1974 on, he managed the regional almost every season, only missing two years when his sons were playing in it (Instead he went to Haslett where his kids won the championship). Shortly after the girls program was inaugurated, he hosted their tournament as well. He ran the KVA conference tournament and then the SM ITL. He has managed the SMAC since its beginning, an affair which includes 15 schools.

But in 1996 when he should have been putting his feet up and relaxing, Jim didn't stop. He cannot say how many state tournaments that he has managed since then: only that they have taken place at Lakeview High School, Harper Creek High School, Kellogg Community College, Michigan State University,

Jenison High School, and Holland High School. He guesses the total is between 20-25. He is a fixture as a regional manager. He still runs a Battle Creek Public Schools junior high tournament, an event he has managed for the past 17 years.

Running a state tournament isn't easy. Outsiders marvel at what the manager has to put up with. It isn't just a matter of dealing with high octane coaches and parents but, of course, the recalcitrant weather. "The first three or four tournaments I ran in Battle Creek, it rained or snowed," he says. "In fact, one year we had four inches of snow and we played in BC until 5:00, and then I finished the tournament at East Hills at 1:00 in the morning."

Jim's influence reaches far and wide. A permanent member of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee, he has been dubbed "the Conscience of the Committee" when situations call for a more ethical focus and the group's direction had strayed a bit. The same applies to serving on the state seed committee, a task he undertook at the group's inception in the early 1980s. The job calls for someone who is so fair that peers have no fear of decisions based on self-interest. He gave it up to Gary Ellis in the spring of the same year that he was in Kansas City watching his son play in the Collegiate Nationals. He still helps out at the National Junior and Boys Championships at Stowe Stadium each August.

If your kids have an all-state certificate, the chances are high that Jim did the printing. If you possess a state Coach of the Year plaque, Jim made the arrangements. If you were inducted into the Hall of Fame, Jim placed the order for plaques and picked them up.

And he doesn't plan on stopping. "If my health holds and Gina and others think I'm worthy," he says. That's called a rhetorical question, one in which the answer is self-evident. More to the point, it is appropriate that we express our appreciation for what he does before he quits, not after.

**If your kids have an all-state certificate, the chances are high that Jim did the printing. If you possess a state Coach of the Year plaque, Jim made the arrangements. If you were inducted into the Hall of Fame, Jim placed the order for plaques and picked them up.**



# Karen Page Distinguished Service Award



## Gary Ellis Allegan

**W**hen Bruce Grotenhuis was given a Distinguished Service Award in 2007, it wasn't just because he established and manages a very valuable website, our resource for a wide range of information. When he should have been fishing or playing golf, he actually volunteered (still does) to help run state tournaments, a task that too often involves hyper-pushy parents and coaches. He also manages the MHSTeCA table at our workshops in place of the delinquent membership officer. In other words, he does so much more.

Yes, Gary Ellis is our secretary-treasurer. He takes the minutes of our meetings and transcribes them into something readable. He is our official communicator, often with the MHSAA's Dan Hutcheson regarding issues and controversies. He takes in the money, pays the bills, and accounts for the expenditures.

But he does so much more. As a former athletic director (a valuable resource in itself: just ask Bob Wood), he knows the rules and can quietly and competently explain them. "I have watched in amazement as he addresses an issue before an angry high-profile coach and calms him down with reasoned discourse," says Ed Waits.

Perhaps his most important asset to our association is his knowledge of how to get a rule enacted or changed. That's because as an athletic director, he knows both the process and the people. It's certainly not just a matter of voting for something at an MHSTeCA board meeting. The MHSAA Tennis Committee, of which Gary has often been a member, is very much involved. The Representative Council which meets in May is the final decision maker. Gary knows how to approach both. He has the contacts and the insights and the experience.

As it turns out, Gary's impact reaches far beyond our sport. This past winter, he received the Charles Forsythe

Award from the MHSAA, a really really big deal. A partial list: He has hosted various MHSAA events besides tennis at the district, regional, and quarterfinal levels. He has served on baseball/softball site selection and Scholar Athlete Committees. As an administrator, he was named his region's Athletic Director of the

Year in 2011 by the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAAA). He was also named Community Person of the Year in education by the Allegan Area Chamber of Commerce and received the Allegan County Outstanding People for Education Award. He has served as an MHSAA registered official for 39 years in volleyball through the 2011 season and basketball for 26 years through the 1998-99 boys season.

"In 1998, I was honored to received a Distinguished Service Award from President Karen Page alongside Tiger Teusink," says Ed. "I may be slow, but I ain't stupid. When you get an award with Tiger, you go over and stand next to him. It's called 'Basking in reflected glory.'"

"The same applied in 2007 when I was inducted into our Hall of Fame with Gary," continues Ed. "This man is the real deal. I am a Type A and so is he but he is genial about it. He has accomplished so much and additionally, he is so well-liked and respected. I know this from experience because I worked with him when he was our president and again as the membership guy who communicates with him on an almost weekly basis. Again, this honor was an occasion for me to stand close by a star in our midst and bask."

Alas, we have come late to the party. Gary gets the Charles Forsythe Award but not our Distinguished Service Award? Part of the reason for this is the fundamental principle on the part of a certain (ahem!) officer that a current coach should not be given a DSA. Service should be simply part of being an officer or on the board of directors. But Gary is an exception in that he is and has been so exceptional.



**As a former athletic director (a valuable resource in itself: just ask Bob Wood), he knows the rules and can quietly and competently explain them. "I have watched in amazement as he addresses an issue before an angry, high-octane, high-profile coach and calms him down with reasoned and informed discourse," says Ed Waits.**



# MHSTeCA



# Coaches of the Year



# Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association

## Coaches of the Year



### Class A - Division 1\*

#### Boys

1978	Gordon Boettcher	Ann Arbor Huron	2000*	Warren Block	Troy Athens
1979	Herm Kietwiet	Kalamazoo Loy Norrix	2001*	Bruce Grotenhuis	Howell
	Lynn Frieheit	Grand Blanc	2002*	Jim Hanson	Novi
1980	Dave Berles	East Kentwood	2003*	Kevin Ortwine	Clarkston
1981	Tiger Teusink	Holland		Bob Barker	Grand Ledge
1982	Gordon Boettcher	Ann Arbor Huron	2004*	Brian Martin	Brighton
1983	Ed Waits	Southfield-Lathrup	2005*	Greg Kopec	West Bloomfield
1984	Joe Haskins	Midland Dow	2006*	Tom Pullen	Ann Arbor Pioneer
	Larry Nykerk	Traverse City	2007S*	Jason Go	Port Huron Northern
1985	Keith Johnson	Bloomfield Hills Andover	2007F	Bob Quinn	Saginaw Heritage
1986	Tim Coleman	Woodhaven	2008*	Stefan Welch	Ann Arbor Huron
1987	Mike Hairabedian	Wayne Memorial	2009*	Bill Baum	Midland
1988	Don Zysk	Grosse Pte. South	2010*	Mark Dubiel	Romeo
1989	Mickey Johnson	Marquette	2011*	Andrew Shipp	Troy
1990	Gene Snell	Dearborn	2012*	Jim Hanson	Novi
1991	Gerry Gerow	Lansing Waverly	2013*	Tim Buck	Grandville
1992	Tiger Teusink	Holland	2014*	Rick Farr	Utica
1993	Jerry Murphy	Rochester	2015*	Greg Burks	Bloomfield Hills
1994	Earl Rutz	East Lansing	2016*	Chas Claus	Clarkston
1995	Tom Berschback	Grosse Pte. South	2017*	Annie Michol	Utica High School
1996	Tim Coleman	Woodhaven	2018*	Barb Lehmann	Plymouth Canton
1997	Karen Page	West Ottawa	2019*	Jerry Murphy	Rochester
1998*	Al Wright	Port Huron Northern	2020*	Chris Silker	Okimos
1999*	Tom Pullen	Ann Arbor Pioneer	2021*	<b>Brian Miska</b>	<b>Troy</b>

# Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association

## Coaches of the Year

### Class A - Division 1\*

#### Girls



1977	Sandy Peterson	Portage Northern	1999*	Tom Leyrer	Jenison
1978	Dale Greiner	Ann Arbor Pioneer	2000*	Mark Sobieralski	Grosse Pte. South
1979	Stephanie Prychitko	Grosse Pte. South	*	Mary Kay Baribeau	Port Huron Northern
1980	Julie McKnight	Bloomfield Hills Marian	2001*	Pat Somers	Holt
1981	Larry Flowers	Brighton	2002*	Karen Page	Weest Ottawa
1982	Sandy Peterson	Portage Northern	2003*	Tom Pullen	Ann Arbor Pioneer
	Stephanie Prychitko	Grosse Pte. South	2004*	Clarence Wynn	Detroit Cass Tech
	Theo Shepard	Ann Arbor Pioneer	2005*	Jim Hansosn	Novi
1983	Don Wisswell	Mt. Clemens	2006*	Jeff Miner	Brighton
1984	Tiger Teusink	Holland	2007*	No Season	
1985	Mickey Johnson	Marquette	2008*	Bonnie Koch	West Bloomfield
1986	Warren Block	Troy Athens	2009*	Garrett Turner	Midland Dow
1987	Jim Kerwin	Farmington Hills Mercy	2010*	Chris Layson	Utica Eisenhower
1988	Doug Adams	Flint Powers	2011*	Paul Bentley	Hudsonville
1989	Carol Michaels	Plymouth Canton	2012*	Andy BeDell	Saline
1990	Al Wright	Port Huron Northern	2013*	Clarence Wynn	Detroit Cass Tech
1991	Al Pollard	Kalamazoo Loy Norrix	2014*	Mark Sobieralski	Grosse Pte. South
1992	Elaina Morey	Greenville	2015*	Brian Miska	Troy
1993	Dan Stolz	Okemos	2016*	Mike Barnes	Sterling Hgts. Stevenson
1994	Larry Harte	Warren	2017	Mike Pearson	Utica Eisenhower
1995	Stan Noland	Monroe	2018*	Larry Harte	Warren Mott
1996	Julie McKnight	Bloomfield Hills Marian	2019*	Linda Jones	Northville
1997*	Larry Nykerk	Traverse City Central	2020*	No Season	
1998*	Glenn Corey	Troy	2021*	<b>Eric Bracciano</b>	<b>Lake Orion</b>

# Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association

## Coaches of the Year

### Class B - Division 2\*



### Boys

1978	Harley Pierce	Sturgis	2000*	Peter Militzer	Portage Central
1979	Charles Partin	East Grand Rapids	2001*	Judy Jagdfeld	Hartland
1980	Bob Quinn	Saginaw MacArthur	2002*	Jan Esper	Bloomfield Hills Lahser
1981	Hal Stofer	Three Rivers	2003*	AnnMarie Michol Mike Major	Warren DeLaSalle Midland Dow
1982	Don Brown	Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook	2005*	Mark Shenton	North Farmington
1983	Harold Holcomb	Essexville Garber	2006*	Tom Leyrer	Jenison
1984	Gary Ellis	Allegan	2007S*	Al Must	Rochester Adams
1985	Elliott Pearce	Forest Hills Central	2007F*	Larry Nykerk	Traverse City
1986	Jim Powers	Okemos	2008*	Keith Bernacki	Birmingham Seaholm
1987	Ken Zandee	Grand Rapids Christian	2009*	Patrick Haley	Wyandotte Roosevelt
1988	Charles Bassett	Spring Lake	2010*	Allan Nelson	Flushing
1989	John Shade	Grosse Ile	2011*	Whitney Wasielewski	North Farmington
1990	Ron Pothoven	Holland Christian	2012*	Lenny Waldman	Berkley
1991	Bill Dickey	Sturgis	2013*	Jim Slaughter	U of D Jesuit
1992	Dave Fredette	Armada	2014*	Ben Tasich	Pinckney
1993	Don DiPaolo	Saline	2015*	Will Sophiea	Holly
1994	Dee McCaffrey	Mason	2016*	Rocco Giorgi	Gibraltar Carlson
1995	Jay Stickle Bob Murray	Comstock Warren Wood Tower	2017*	Terry Schwartzkopf	Midland Dow
1996	Roger Cornelius	Richland Gull Lake	2018*	Nancy Martin	Portage Central
1997	Don Wisswell	Mt Clemens	2019*	Dan Bolhouse	Forest Hills Central
1998*	Larry Harte	Warren Mott	2020*	Kevin Friesen	Royal Oak
1999*	Richard Norton	Northville	2021*	<b>Shane Dilloway</b>	<b>Traverse City Central</b>

# Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association

## Coaches of the Year

### Class B - Division 2\*



## Girls

1977	Ed Moss	Belding	1999*	Bill McDaniel	Holly
1978	Nancy Ryan	Bloomfield Hills Kingswood	2000*	Jan Esper	Bloomfield Hills Lahser
1979	Charles Partin	East Grand Rapids	2001*	Keith Cullen	Cranbrook Kingswood
1980	Budd Munson Charles Bassett	Sturgis Spring Lake	*	Bill McDaniel	Holly
1981	Stan Noland	Monroe St. Mary's	2002*	Dick Balding	Marquette
1982	Nancy Ryan	Bloomfield Hills Kingswood	2003*	Tim Elenbaas	Cadillac
1983	Tom Buursma	Holland Christian	2004*	Peter Militzer	Portage Central
1984	John Burke	St. Clair Shores South Lake	2005*	Bill Riggs'	Allen Park
1985	Karen Langs Bob Quinn	Petoskey Saginaw Douglas MacArthur	2006*	Dave Sukup	Forest Hills Northern
1986	John Shade	Grosse Ile	2007*	No Season	
1987	Harold Holcomb	Essexville Garber	2008*	George Cutshaw	Warren Woods Tower
1988	Ron Stablein	St. Clair	2009*	Karie DeBerry	Sterling Hgts.
1989	Rich Trombly	Hillsdale	2010*	Dan Bittner	Bloomfield Hills Marian
1990	Helen Prussian	Saline	2011*	Matt Boven	Mattawan
1991	Mark Sobieralski	Warren Mott	2012*	Mike McGinnis	Battle Creek Lakeview
1992	Art Schultz	St. Joseph	2013*	Roger Cornelius	Richland Gull Lake
1993	Jan Gottlin	Riverview Community	2014*	Whitney Wasielewski	North Farmington
1994	Gary Ellis Jack Davis	Allegan Ovid-Elsie	2015*	Lincoln Wirgau	Bloomfield Hills Marian
1995	Tom Kudwa	Ludington	2016*	Jim D'Angelo	Mason
1996	Doug Adams	Flint Powers	2017*	Dree Lo Will Sophiae	Petoskey Holly
1997*	Elliott Pearce	Forest Hills Central	2018*	Jared Crandell	Byron Center
1998*	Mark Dubiel	Romeo	2019*	John Van Alst	Grosse Pte. North
*	Bonnie Wall	Forest Hills Northern	2020*	No Season	
			<b>2021</b>	<b>Cosette Buckberry</b>	<b>East Lansing</b>



Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association  
**Coaches of the Year**



## Class C-D

### Boys

1978	Dean Sousanis	Almont
1979	Jim Cummins	Battle Creek Springfield
1980	Chuck Reed	Whittemore-Prescott
1981	Merrett Blakeslee	Detroit Country Day
1982	Dave Fredette	Armada
1983	Mark Servis	Dewitt
1984	Donn Gates	Ithaca
1985	Don Zielinski	Dearborn Hts. Riverview
1986	John Ghindia	Ecorse
1987	Phyllis Laurila	Iron Mountain
1988	Brad Gilman	Detroit Country Day
	Bruce Farrell	Negaunee
1989	Gene Maki	Wakefield
1990	Dick Pauly	Elkton-Pigeion-Bayport
1991	Ron Kunold	Hemlock
1992	Al Kaye	Allen Park Cabrini
1993	Carl Burgess	Kalamazoo Christian
1994	Chuck Reed	Whittemore Prescott
1995	Joe Gentle	North Muskegon
	Steve Bender	Buchanan
1996	None	
1997	Dean Sousanis	Almont

### Girls

1979	George Andrews	G.P. University Liggett
1980	Carl Burgess	Kalamazoo Christian
1981	Jim Hesse	Williamston
1982	Jim Cummins	Battle Creek Springfield
1983	George Andrews	G.P. University Liggett
1984	Tom Smith	Galesburg-Augusta
1985	Brad Gilman	Detroit Country Day
1986	Larry Seger	Middleville
1987	Jack Tripp	Negaunee
1988	Dean Sousanis	Almont
1989	Rhonda Smith	Galesburg Augusta
1990	Wayne Tanis	Hamilton
1991	Margaret Ruemenapp	Harbor Springs
1992	Brook Smith	West Iron County
1993	Dick Morley	Whitehall
1994	Sally Eichorn	Ithaca
1995	Ken Hofmeyer	Comstock Park
1996	Brad Coon	North Muskegon

# Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association

## Coaches of the Year



### Division 3

#### Boys

1998	John Knoester	Holland Christian	2009	Dave Clutts	St. Clair High School
1999	Mike McGinnis	Battle Creek Lakeview		Pat Hoffmann	St. Joseph
2000	Marty Snoap	Lake Odessa Lakewood	2010	Kevin Gilligan	Ionia
2001	Jan Gottlin	Riverview	2011	Richard Menzel	Trenton
2002	Ralph Tramontini	Petoskey	2012	Charlie Bassett	Spring Lake
2003	Pat Hoffmann	St. Joseph	2013	Jim Jonas	Fowlerville
2004	Rahn Rosentreter	Chelsea	2014	Henry Bruunschweiler	Haslett
2005	Gary Ellis	Allegan	2015	Jerry Escheck	Carleton Airport
2006	Charlie Bassett	Spring Lake	2016	Dale Cramer	Coopersville
2007S	Tom Ellis	Detroit Country Day	2017	Jed Mulder	Zeeland East
2007F	Larry Brown	Parma Western	2018	Steve Herdoiza	Cranbrook Kingswood
	Matt Brown	Cadillac	2019	Eric Gajar	Ann Arbor Greenhills
2008	Steve Lubbers	Hamilton	2020	Rahn Rosentreter	Chelsea
	Mark Shank	Kingsford	<b>2021</b>	<b>George Earl</b>	<b>Sturgis</b>

#### Girls

1997	Pat Hoffmann	St. Joseph	2009	Charlie Bassett	Spring Lake
1998	Bob Harrison	Alma	2010	Matt Brown	Cadillac
1999	John Grossa	Fruitport	2011	Margaret Ruemenapp	Petoskey
2000	Pam Porter	Stevensville Lakeshore	2012	Jen Aldrich	Allegan
2001	John Knoester	Holland Christian	2013	Rob Girvin	Armada
2002	Scott Wills	Vicksburg	2014	Peter Riley	Pontiac Notre Dame Prep
	Marty Snoap	Lake Odessa Lakewood	2015	Andrew Schrand	Yale
2003	Tom Kudwa	Ludington	2016	Tom Kudwa	Ludington
2004	Patricia Williams	G. R. Catholic Central	2017	Dave Clutts	St. Clair
2005	Jan Gottlin	Riverview Community	2018	Kim Bartz	Edwardsburg
2006	Jen Aldrich	Allegan	2019	Matt Pedlow	Chelsea
2007	No Season		2020	No Season	
2008	Dave Wollerman	East Grand Rapids	<b>2021</b>	<b>Greg McManus</b>	<b>Whitehall</b>
				<b>Tom Osbeck</b>	<b>Chelsea</b>



# Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association Coaches of the Year Division 4



## Boys

1998	Dave Fredette	Armada	2008	Ron Landfair	Lansing Catholic Central
	Harold Holcomb	Essexville Garber	2009	Denny Green	Harbor Springs
1999	Jim Hadley	Dearborn Hgts. Robichaud	2010	Jim Niebling	Portland
2000	Peter Charron	Muskegon Catholic Central	2011	Nathan Immekus	Almont
	Phyllis Laurila	Iron Mountain	2012	Cliff Perez	Ludington
2001	Larry Klein	Grandville Calvin Christian	2013	Chuck Pothoven	Grand Rapids South Christian
2002	Steve Bender	Buchanan	2014	Chuck Parker	Otsego
2003	Jim Niebling	Portland	2015	Eric Gajar	Ann Arbor Greenhills
	Ken Hofmeyer	Comstock Park	2016	Mark Sobieralski	University Liggett School
2004	Kirk Boettcher	Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard	2017	Matt Baleja	Paw Paw
	Joe Gentle	North Muskegon	2018	Dave Fredette	Armada
2005	Eric Gajar	Ann Arbor Greenhills		Greg McManus	Whitehall
2006	Nancy Brissette	Essexville Garber	2019	Aaron Conroy	Hackett Catholic Prep.
2007S	Erin Fouty	G.R. Northpointe Christian	2020	Cody Liverance	North Muskegon
2007F	Rick Fedoruk	Berrien Springs	<b>2021</b>	<b>Scott Symons</b>	<b>Nouvel Catholic Central</b>

## Girls

1997	Rich Easterling	Jackson Lumen Christi	2008	Scott Zerlaut	Grant
1998	Chuck Wright	G.P. University Liggett	2009	Mark Randolph	Ann Arbor Greenhills
1999	Bonnie Wood	Ovid Elsie	2010	Steve Stanley	Williamston
2000	Nancy Brissette	Essexville Garber	2011	Erin Fouty	G. R. NorthPointe Christian
2001	Rich Trombly	Gladstone	2012	Randy Bye	Frankenmuth
2002	Judy Hehs	Sacred Heart Academy	2013	Jim Niebling	Portland
	J.R. Muniz	Riverview Gabriel Richard	2014	Scott Zerlaut	Grant
2003	Phyllis Lightvoet	Kalamazoo Christian	2015	Judy Hehs	Sacred Heart Academy
2004	Mike Finton	Almont	2016	Tom Kudwa	Ludington
	Greg Pfent	Kelloggsville	2017	Nicole Carpenter	Durand
2005	Joe Marazita	Niles Brandywine	2018	Wayne Asher	Monroe St. Mary's C.C.
	Ellette Nyman	Kingsford	2019	Laura Hackman	Harbor Springs
2006	Joe Gentle	North Muskegon	2020	No Season	
2007	No Season		<b>2021</b>	<b>Crystal Lowe</b>	<b>Portland</b>



# Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association



## Assistant Coach Award

<b>2021</b>	<b>Mark Brock</b> <b>Kurt Kobiljak</b>	<b>Grant</b> <b>Grosse Ile</b>	2007	Frank "Scooter" DeMare Harvey Payne	Grosse Ile Riverview
2020	Jesse DeBoer Juan Guerra	Allegan H.H. Dow	2006	Marguerite (Peggy) Jones Chuck Parker	L'Anse Creuse North Portage Central
2019	Leigh Ann Grubbs Pete Sexton Alexandra Stamm	Pontiac Notre Dame Prep Rochester Adams Portland	2005	Randy Michaelis	Chesaning
2018	Erik Kahn Lee Keating Tom Osbeck	Holly Clarkston Chelsea	2003	Jennifer Aldrich George Rouman	Allegan Sterling Hgts. Stevenson
2017	Dan Slider	Williamston	2002	Dennis Lueneberg Linda Smith	Escanaba Port Huron Northern
2016	Andy LaVigne	Holly	2001	Phil Yaccick	Grosse Ile
2015	Crystal Lowe Todd Moore	Portland Hudsonville	2000	George Cutshaw Wayne Gilbert Donna McConnell	Warren Woods Tower Clarkston West Ottawa
2014	Hap Haasch Jane Jordan Kevin McGuffie	Richland Gull Lake G.R. Catholic Central Fraser	1997	Alva Morgan Bill Schaefer	Allegan Comstock Park
2013	Dr. Wayne Brenneman Paul DeWitt Audrey Shade	North Muskegon Paw Paw Grosse Ile	1996	Jim Stewart	Grosse Ile
2012	Ron Landfair	Lansing Catholic	1995	Mitch Gathercole Jeff Newingham Kelli Shinabarger	Forest Hills Central Essexville Garber Holland
2011	Jennifer Conrad Nick Martin	Allegan Portland	1994	Jim Pyle	Monroe
2010	Mike Annelin Tony Fales Steve Rodia	Traverse City Central Allegan Portage Central	1993	Mary Kay Baribeau	Port Huron Northern
2009	Tony Fuller Michael Holets Kimberly Edwards	Lansing Catholic Berrien Springs Riverview	1992	Mary Dresser Jack Davis	Sturgis St. Johns
2008	Ned Gardner Peter Luczyk Jane Robinson Paul Young	Buchanan Comstock Park Spring Lake Birmingham Seaholm	1991	Kathy Nederveld	Grand Haven
			1990	Walt Kaechele	Allegan
			1983	Mark Servis	DeWitt
			1982	Dave Fredette	Armada



# MHSTeCA



# Good Stories





# Good Stories



*Editor's note: At one of the board meetings while he was president, Ron Landfair suggested that someone compile a group of good stories, memorable episodes over the years regarding high school tennis. I was so fired up about the idea that while other coaches were gathered to select all state players, I took my chair over to Bob Wood and together with Bruce Grotenhuis, Dave Fredette and maybe Hal Stofer, we started telling stories. There were lots of good ones. Then I went home and promptly forgot about it.*

MHSTeCA Memories is the perfect vehicle for resurrecting this stuff. Although this quest may fall flat, I am starting with some of my own. This will, I hope, give you an idea of what I am after. Maybe you will have some to contribute. Either way, enjoy.

## Why Jim Krimbill got a Distinguished Service Award

To say that Joe Dudnik (not his name) the 2S for Detroit Catholic Central, was a bad actor is a gross understatement. His misbehavior throughout the spring season was spread far and wide. Moreover, Frank Garlicky, his coach was affable but not particularly interested in muzzling him. Frank, by the way, was infamous in his penchant for attending summer tournaments to blatantly recruit good players for his private school team.

But as I used to tell my players, "Wait until you get to the state tournament. The rules are *really* enforced there."

Dudnik was seeded No 1 at his flight but was having a difficult first match. Having received a first round bye, he was a bit rusty and his opponent was benefitting from the confidence of having a match under his belt. Most importantly, it was a windy day. Frustrated, Phil received a warning from tournament manager Jim Krimbill who was watching the contest closely.

The first set was see-saw until at set point against Dudnik, he missed a high forehand volley at the net. Joe turned around and fired his racket all the way to the back fence.

"Match over! declared Krimbill.

What happened to Point and Game?" demanded Dudnik.

"Son," replied Krimbill. "When your racket passed the service line, it was a point. When it passed the base line, it was a game. When it hit the fence, the match was over."

We gave Jim Krimbill a Distinguished Service Award in 1999.

----- Ed Waits

If you have a good story, please send to

[edwaits@charter.net](mailto:edwaits@charter.net)

# Earl Rutz

He was the girls varsity coach at MSU who also coached the boys team at East Lansing High School. Earl was on the board one summer when we met in Cadillac. Although some played golf on that Saturday afternoon after the initial four-hour meeting, a few of us played tennis on their high school courts.

Most played doubles, but Earl and I decided to play a set of singles. He played for the University of Arizona and I played for U of M. We were both in pretty decent shape so it was high level tennis. But at 5-5, we wisely decided to retire to the bar. That's where things go interesting.

I asked Earl a typical tennis bar-talk question: "Who is the best player you ever played?"

My answer was Frank Tutvin, a University of Miami 1S who appeared in an insurance commercial with Jimmy Connors where Connors would hit ball-machine tennis balls back until more started coming at him. Tutvin would step in to help Jimmy hit some of them. When more balls kept coming at them, more pros stepped in. It was an obvious marketing analogy.

I had played in national tournaments with the likes of Arthur Ashe, Dennis Ralston, Clark Graebner, and Stan Smith but never got past the second round. No such bragging rights for me.

But thank goodness I didn't have to give my answer. Earl's was immediate: "Roy Emerson when he was No. 1 in the world."

It seems that Earl had qualified for a big-time tournament in California. Qualifiers usually get stuck with high seeds in the first round. "There was nothing I could do to hurt him," concluded Earl.

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Earl grew up in the 1950s in Los Angeles, not far from the L.A. Racket Club. As a kid, he used to go down to peer through the fence while Pancho Gonzales practiced. You can imagine this eager youngster gawking at the guy who was widely regarded as the best in the world.

At the end of one work-out, Gonzales turned to the boy behind the fence and said: "Hey, kid. Wanna hit some?"

They did.

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At the end of one of those years when Earl's East Lansing team qualified for the state tournament, his 4S behaved so badly that Earl threw him off the team. That meant that the kid couldn't compete at the final tournament. His father appealed to the school authorities and they reinstated the kid. As a result, Earl quit, then and there.

Many of us wrote letters of protest to the East Lansing athletic director. Mine ended with the words: "Whenever one of my kids misbehaves on the tennis court, I will now yell, 'Who do you think you're playing for? East Lansing!'"

I was so incensed that I wrote a rules question as a result of this episode, slightly altering the situation

A player is defaulted from the MHSAA regional tournament for misconduct but yet his team still qualifies for state competition. What happens?

- His coach is permitted to substitute for him at the final tournament.
- He received a one-match suspension which means that he may still play in the state tournament as long as his team competes in a contractual match between the regional and state tournaments.
- He may neither play in nor be substituted for at the state tournament.
- He may still participate in the state tournament if he plays for East Lansing

Answer: The player was defaulted by the regional manager, not removed by the coach. Since the regional and state tournaments are considered to be one tournament, the answer is (c).

# Stacking

It has been the bane of the existence of ethical high school tennis coaches since the beginning of our organized sport. But just imagine, what if it were legal for you to play your 1S anywhere in the line-up, depending on the strength of your opponent? What if it were legal to manipulate all of them?

Believe it or not, when I started coaching in the Detroit area, it was common knowledge that three coaches who didn't get along -- one from Birmingham Seaholm, one from Berkley High School, and one from Royal Oak Kimball --- got so sick of arguing with other over the legitimacy of their line-ups when they played each other that they actually *agreed* to allow stacking. There was so little trust --and a whole lot of animosity -- that they simply gave in.

Consider the following: You are playing a worthy opponent. You know his kids and their strengths. You know the same about your own team. You spend the night before trying to outguess the opposing coach. Where will he put his 1S? Where will you put yours? You go up and down the positions. You go crazy.

And then you come to the moment of truth. You present your line-up; he presents his.

Think about it.

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The most infamous stacker in the Detroit area in the 1970s was Trenton's Tony Malinowski. He was a renowned swim coach who entered the MHSCA Hall of Fame for that sport in 1968, not for tennis. He also established what is most likely the oldest Saturday tournament in Michigan high school tennis history: the Honor and Glory event held on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. However, some of us learned the hard way that Tony would routinely show up to welcome everybody on Saturday morning, make some announcements, and then leave. We never saw him again the rest of the day. We were left to run the tournament on our own.

Tony was infamous for stacking. He did it so much that it was almost a routine. Don DiPaolo, the very successful and highly regarded tennis coach at Saline for so many years --- and who played for Tony -- once said that it was only after he left high school that he learned that stacking was illegal.

Bob Wood endured just one episode of Tony's shenanigans and hereby declared that he would never go back. It took him years to relent and vote for Tony's admission to our Hall of Fame.

At long last, Tony retired from tennis coaching after 39 years in the sport. I was the newsletter writer at the time and the president was Stan Noland of Monroe. Stan suggested that I write an article about Tony entitled:

King Stack folds cards.

# Tiger Time and Bob Wood Time

When Tiger Teusink scheduled meetings as secretary-treasurer, he always listed the starting time for 8:59 or 9:01 or some variation thereof. Lots of some of the best coaches in the state took note of this. After all, he did this job for 20 years and in essence, assembled some of the most influential individuals in our sport. But why the weird times?

According to Gary Ellis, "He did it with his team because they paid better attention to the time when it was an odd number. I remember him talking about it at one of his workshop presentations. I thought it made sense and started doing that and it did make a difference. I referred to it as Tiger Time (in deference to Coach Teusink), but the kids and parents thought it referred to Allegan Tigers. I tried to give them the background when I could, but eventually just let them think it was (Allegan) Tiger Time.

I attended the dedication of the Holland High School courts which were renamed. Former play after former player would fondly recall Tiger requirements. Once was that on gusty days, the players were encouraged to shout: "I LOVE to play in the wind." Another was: "On time is five minutes early."

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What about Bob Wood's peculiarity in terms of scheduling times? I asked Kathy about it in terms of the date of the first board meeting in Prudenville. It was on July 7, 1977. In numbers, 7-7-77. His obsessive penchant for the numbers 7 and 11 was highlighted in the eulogy that daughter Kim delivered at his memorial service.

Indeed the date might not have been coincidental. "Bob always planned things so that the digits would add up to 7 or 11... set alarm clocks, get out of bed, start meetings, etc.," Kathy says. "For example, he wanted the coaches' meetings to start at 7:31 a.m. We had to get married at 4:30 p.m. He even went so far as to want to buy a house only if the the address digits added up to 7 or 11. (He was not happy with our current address!) We always laughed that we could never sleep past 9 a.m. because we couldn't get up unless it was 9:02 or 9:11 or 9:20 ...until 10:06!

"That was my husband's weird habit. That's why Kim said (Bob's daughter at the memorial service) that he was obviously dying on February 15th but held on until the 16th...1+6=7. Not sure if 'his habit' had something to do with the date you suggested. Knowing my Bob, my guess is that the 7-7 was distinctly chosen for good luck."

Actually, the date of the first board meeting was 7-8-77.

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## A bit more about Bob

**You had better be on time.** If you were one of his children, you had better be in his car at the appointed time if you wanted a ride to school. One of his kids said at Bob's Memorial Service that he was late to the car one morning. It was gone. During the day, Bob simply approached him and asked: "How did you get to school?" No lectures. Just a head nod and then he walked away. Lesson assuredly learned.

**At the beginning of each season, the players would have to line up in single file and shake hands with him.** Anyone not doing it properly was sent back to the end of the line.

Properly? You had to have a firm handshake and you had to look him straight in the eye.

**He created an alibi sheet with 50 excuses as to why you lost today's match.** For instance:

No. 3. Too much homework last night.

No. 5. Girlfriend not friendly enough last night.

No. 6. Girlfriend too friendly last night.

He would tell his players: "Don't waste my time with excuses. Just say, 'No. 12, Coach.'"

# A Wonderful Act of Sportsmanship

One of the most impressive acts of sportsmanship that I ever witnessed was at the state tournament when Ann Arbor Pioneer's Jonathan Morris, their 2S, finished his state championship match against a worthy opponent who battled hard and well. Being played at the Midland Community Tennis on a first court next to the steps where kids and adults could watch close-up, Jonathan's teammates were in a position to cheer him on, loudly but not obnoxiously.

When Jonathan won match point, they cheered and rushed the court, but Jonathan quickly put his hands out with fingers pointed to the sky in the classic "Stop" signal. The rush came to a quick halt and all of these kids became instantly quiet.

Then Jonathan quietly walked to the net and shook hands with his opponent waiting there. Only then did the celebration resume.

There were head-nods of approval from the adults on the scene. *I only wish that every high school tennis player in the state had been there.*

## Water, water, everywhere .....

In the fall of 1986, the state of Michigan experienced record-breaking rain, dubbed "a hundred year flood." Dams throughout certain areas were either in danger of cresting or collapsing.

Bob Quinn of Saginaw Heritage blamed his girls poor showing at a Saturday tournament that season on the effects of the rain. Many of his girls left home that morning wondering whether they would have a home to return to. Water reached the top of the basement steps in multiple houses.

He reported that one of his players had to pull into the driveway where the garage was separate from the house. She would then have to row a boat across the front yard to reach the porch. If the boat wasn't at the driveway, she would have to honk the horn to get a "ride by ferry."

## A Memorable Send-off

This should gladden the hearts of tennis coaches everywhere who feel that, in comparison with football and basketball, they get no respect even after their teams have achieved something special.

Although Ovid-Elsie can boast a Hall of Fame tennis coach in Jack Davis, the tennis team is not a bastion of perennial tennis power. That's why it was an especially auspicious occasion when their girls team qualified for the state tournament one year.

How did the school honor them? Prior to leaving for the final competition, they held a pep rally for those girls. Then the band and the other kids formed a tunnel from the gym to the awaiting bus.

A memorable send-off.

# The Senator and the Seed Committee

The Michigan high school tennis world might be divided into two classes: those who think that if the 1S on a team goes to the finals of his regional but his team is not first or second or even third under the Murphy Rule, he should stay home. After all, his presence at the final tournament might affect the eventual true team champion. He might eliminate a 1S on a team that might have won it all had he not been there to spoil the outcome.

But there are those who are happy with our present compromise. They argue that the present system gives us the best of both worlds. We get a team champion comprised of 8 flights and still are able to crown the best individual in the state. Yes, that individual might skew the team outcome but that's a risk that everyone seems to accept. A separate tournament, say, the following weekend just for individuals is simply unrealistic given the time taken away from school responsibilities and end-of year activities. The same applies in the fall: too much time away from school.

But there may be a third group who wants the 1D team who reaches the finals of the regional to also qualify. After all, some coaches put their second and third best players at first doubles. Why not find out who not only the best singles player in the state is but also the best doubles team?

That was the contention of Senator Joe Conroy. His son and the son's doubles partner may have been undefeated for one or two years, according to Doug Adams. Moreover, that Flint Carman Ainsworth squad had six of the best players in the area but the team fell short of qualifying by one point at the regional.

The state seeding committee has an arduous task. They teach all day, then drive to Lansing after school. They meet at 5:00, break for dinner, and then return to continue to seed eight flight in four divisions well into the night. The next morning, they finish the seeding and make the draws.

Making the draws is not easy. There are a whole host of restrictions. For instance, the winner and runner-up from the same regional can't be in the same half (It gets more complicated if an additional team qualifies under the Murphy Rule). Also, a winner of a regional can't play the winner of another regional in the first round.

In the midst of this pretty exhausting task came Senator Conroy. He asked that the seed committee change the rules to allow the first doubles winners; i.e. his son, to compete at the state tournament. He wanted us to add a draw of all the regional doubles winners and runners-up so that the best doubles team in the state could also be crowned.

Surely, the reader can envision the impossibility of this even if we thought it was a good idea.

Instead, Bob Wood simply said: "Sir, we couldn't do this even if we wanted to."

## A Groaner

At the summer meeting in 1994, the board briefly took up the issue of Upper Peninsula tennis. For so many years, the two largest high school in that section of the state dominated their state championship events. The complaint of the other U.P coaches was that since their schools were so large, they had a much bigger talent pool from which to draw and thus enjoyed a decided advantage. It was suggested that these schools schedule stronger competition from some of the squads in the northern portion of the Lower Peninsula and perhaps even be required to participate in the L.P.state championship where they "could pick on schools their own size." This would also satisfy the doubters who too often wondered why U.P players were on our all state teams without any means of comparison.

This proposal, of course, went nowhere. It was a matter of miles, especially when school was in session. It was tabled when one board member concluded that "We'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

# Before there were cell phones

## True Story No. 1

It's after school. You gather your kids together for an away match. You go through whatever pre-match pep talk or ritual that the kids are accustomed to. Then you all get on the bus and travel to the opposing school. But when you arrive at their site, the courts are empty. You are puzzled until you think to look at your schedule. Your heart sinks.

And to be sure, the opposing coach is doing the same at your place -- without the heart problem. But maybe with a blood pressure problem.

## True Story No. 2

You gather after school to prepare to travel to Midland for the state finals. You want to get there as early as possible in order to seize an opportunity to get some last-minute practice in before tomorrow's big event. You leave in four cars (your first mistake).

When you get to Midland, you feel that something is amiss. It doesn't take you long to realize that you only have nine players there. You left a 1D at home.

A car is quickly dispatched to fetch him. And predictably, he loses in the first round the next day.

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**Stan Noland**, a Hall of Famer and former president, was an innovator. He hosted many Saturday tournaments long before they became a staple of today's schedules. Being in Monroe, he often enough invited tennis teams from Ohio. After all, the border is close by.

Every year, Stan hosted an all-nighter at the Monroe YMCA in early March. Tennis teams could come in with their sleeping bags and scrimmage the entire night. This was before there were imposed limits.

Stan, of course, used multiple sites to run his Saturday tournaments, He would issue Radio Shack walkie-talkies to his site directors. This was a long time before cell phones. It was a marvel that we could know how things were going everywhere "in real time."

Indeed Stan, who served on the State Seed Committee for many years, was "before his time."

# When to call a let

Calling a let can be dicey, especially if you call it while your opponent is lining up to crush an easy put-away. It can definitely have an effect on the psychology of a match. But in the following two cases, it was entirely justifiable. What makes these stories unique is that it was done *by a coach*.

He is Rob Olsen, the highly respected coach at Mason High School who was on the MHSTeCA board in the very early days: late 1970s and early 1980s. In the midst of a 1975 hard-fought contest against Grand Ledge with a conference title on the line, both teams were eager to have the other for lunch.

Six hotly contested matches were in play on the Mason courts located two miles from the local airport. Rob looked up to see seven first-time parachutists from a local club who were obviously off course and descending on the court and the area nearby. They yelled to the players to clear the courts. Rob called a let to be applied to every match regardless of where these kids were in their respective points. Actually, some of the boys called their own lets.

Later in the season during a Saturday afternoon practice, Rob, now constantly scanning the sky, both saw and heard a chugging private airplane struggling to stay in flight. The aircraft was about a mile away and headed for Court 4. Disregarding any tough and close points in progress, Rob once again cleared the courts.

The plane cleared the two back fences but flipped over the third fence with a loud crash. The pilot, climbing out of the aircraft and seemingly unscathed, shouted a few expletives and kicked the plane twice in disgust. He abruptly apologized to the players and then stalked off to the nearest telephone.

Rob then lectured his players on the importance of calling a let.

As a former writer of the MHSAA Tennis Rules Test, I have fashioned a question.

When should a let be called?

- a. In the midst of a point, your shoelace comes untied.
- b. When you hit a serve that lands in but you lose your grip on your racket and it ends up near the net.
- c. When a bird flies overhead just as you look up to hit an overhead.
- d. In the midst of a point, you go into a sneezing fit.
- e. When you hit an out first serve, your opponent hits it into the net, it rolls back into the service box. and your second serve hits that first ball.
- f. When a parachutist is about to land on your court.

# Back and Forth

No, this is not about a long tennis rally, nor is it a comment about the heads that turn back and forth as spectators watch a tennis point. Instead, it is about Don Zielinski. In addition to tennis, he coached JV basketball at nearby (to the workshop) Dearborn Heights Riverside.

Don, our Class C-D Coach of the Year in 1985, arrived at the prescribed 6:00 to accept his award even though his team was in the midst of a game. When he learned that the schedule had been changed due to Pam Shriver's altered plane schedule, he rushed back to coach his team to a 53-43 victory. Then he returned to claim his award. A good night.

But the back and forth was also applied to another venue. Don had the distinction of coaching in three different classes within a 15 month period. Yes, he was the previous spring's Coach of the Year at Riverside but when Dearborn Hgts. Crestwood annexed Riverside, the school became Class B. However, the population actually changed their designation to Class A but it didn't take effect until the following January. This meant that Don would lead a Class B team in the fall and a Class A team in the spring.

## Why I let it go

When girls teams were first formed, they didn't always consist of experienced players. They were the nicest kids imaginable but they didn't have a whole lot of competitive experience. Moreover, they didn't always know the rules, but they were SO good-hearted.

At 5-5 in the third set of a very close doubles match, my player hit an out serve that was returned into the net but rolled back into the service box. Sure enough, the second serve landed on that first ball scattering them.

"Oh, that's so unfair," exclaimed my player. "Let me play that one over."

The match to that point had already been filled with good will and great sportsmanship. My player, not only a sweetheart, was so genuinely insistent that I simply walked away smiling. But after the match, we had a talk.

I don't remember who won. I'm not sure that 35 years later, it matters.

There are those who will disagree.

## When to call a let, part 2

In terms of good will and sportsmanship, this story is just the reverse of the above.

Player B went for a put-away just as a ball rolled onto her court. She missed it.

Player A graciously said: "You know, you could have called a let because of the ball. Do you want to play it over?"

Player B: "Don't *you* tell *me* when I can call a let!"

The coach of Player B waited until after the match to discuss the situation.

# Don't judge this book by her cover

**Editor's Note:** This story was told to me by Elliott Pearce, the Hall of Fame coach from Forest Hills Central who also served as our president from 1993 to 1995. I included it in a column that I wrote for Newaygo County TODAY, a fledgling newspaper where I worked for four years. It appeared on Dec. 5, 2001. To be sure, it is a Good Story.

Shortly after September 11, I found myself traveling with colleagues to Lansing. All of us, former officers in the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association, were carpooling in order to attend a Hall of Fame Selection Committee meeting. We talked about the impact of the terrorist attack on various tennis teams. Elliott Pearce of Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central had a particularly memorable story to tell.

That's because Elliott's No. 1 singles player last fall is Muslim. A Pakistani, Noorain Khan wears that traditional Muslim garb that covers her arms and legs, as well as the black scarf called a hijab. That is, unless she is playing tennis. Then she discards all coverings except the scarf. According to Terri Finch Hamilton of the *Grand Rapids Press*, the way she dresses is part of who she is. She's happy to explain it to anyone.

But shortly after September 11, Elliott feared that some Americans would not be willing to listen. In fact, Noorain was fueling her car after school at a gas station when a woman looked at her attire and said, "Go home."

Therefore, Elliott had his athletic director call Zeeland High School, where his team was scheduled to play. The message was clear: a Muslim was going to compete against your school. We at Forest Hills Central expect that there will be no problems. In other words, see to it.

According to Elliott, when the team arrived at Zeeland High School, they proceeded normally: they warmed up and then formed a circle to do stretching exercises. The stretching sequence is very useful in that not only do the kids do what is necessary to prevent injury but it enables the coach to talk to his kids while they are quietly doing something useful.

But as Elliott was in the midst of his prematch talk, a police car came roaring up the driveway toward the tennis courts. There was no siren but the overhead flashing beams were on. Two police officers stepped out. Noorain looked at her coach and quietly asked: "Is that for me?" Elliott shrugged it off, but he knew better.

This was confirmed when out of the school walked a Zeeland High School assistant principal and two security personnel. Elliott reports that the five of them watched every point of Noorain's match (which she won, by the way).

They needn't have.....supervised the match, that is. Nobody was there to watch, much less disrupt it with ethnic slurs. Newaygo County tennis coaches will confirm that very people spectators attend high school dual meets. However, five adults from education and law enforcement were there to make sure.

In other words, two days after the worst tragedy on American soil in our history, authorities in our area were bending over backward to protect one of its citizens, even though she wore the garb of what is perceived by many as the enemy.

Painting with a broad brush is very tempting, especially after witnessing the horror of September 11 and determining who was responsible. However, most don't yield to the temptation. Only a few want to gather them together, put them on a boat, and ship them back to the Middle East. A few also want to open a hole in the bottom of the boat halfway there.

But to do so would be our loss, not gain. Consider Noorain, who by every account, is an exceptional young lady who contributes to the goodness of life in America. This 17-year-old participates in the school's Model United Nations. As

co-chair of Young Women for Change, she helps distribute \$30,000 in grants through the Michigan Women's Foundation to help women and girls. She's founder and president of the Islamic Youth Group of Grand Rapids, a 35-member group of teens from throughout West Michigan. She organizes a weeklong camp for Muslim youth. She is a leader in the local Girls Scouts of Michigan Trails Council, having earned several scouting honors including the prestigious Gold Award.

Once a week, she visits girls at area schools as part of Face It, a Girl Scout program that teaches girls things they need to know with topics from eating disorders to discrimination to teen pregnancy. "When I talk to these girls, I see their eyes light up. I can tell they really look up to me. When I leave, they hug me."

She doesn't sound like the enemy to me, even if she is fiercely proud of her faith, as exhibited by her donning of the traditional Muslim attire when she is off the tennis court. It's part of who she is. She seizes every moment to educate people about the true peaceful nature of Islam. She routinely speaks to her school's world studies classes to correct popular misconceptions that Islam is a fanatical faith which condones terrorism. "I know I want to help people grow and be more open-minded," she says.

In essence, she embodies the most fundamental of American principles, a pluralistic society that finds a way to live side by side with those who seem to be different. But until you get to know Noorain, prejudging her by what she chooses to cover herself with is a huge mistake.

# How many rackets do you need?

This story doesn't involve a high school tennis match but is worth telling anyway.

It seems that at a recent qualifier match in the 18s in Southeastern Michigan, a quirk of fate proved to an enabling factor for an underdog player. Also, a person's generosity can be a blessing in disguise.....maybe.

The favorite player broke a string in warm-up and had to use his only other racket for the match. But he then broke a string in his second racket after losing the first set. He asked his underdog opponent to loan him *his* second racket.

After some hesitation, the underdog consented, gave the racket to his opponent, and then promptly lost the second set to the benefactor of his gift.

Early in the third set, our underdog broke *his* strings and immediately demanded his second racket back. He went on to win the match as the grumbling favorite had to resort to his broken racket.

"Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after a few sets."

----- Gordon Boettcher

## The phone-it-in coach

There was a time when the tennis job was simply an opportunity for the football coach or the athletic director to make some easy money. Very much like being a high school golf coach wherein you sent the kids out to play, the job was seen as simply tossing out the balls and watching the kids play. Indeed, before the adults were allowed to coach their kids on the change overs, some were reputed to start dual matches by exchanging line-ups, issuing the balls, and then retiring to the bar to await the outcome.

Such was the case (not the bar part) with Fred Goldberg, the athletic director at Southfield High School who took his school's tennis coaching job one spring. It didn't take very long for me to learn that he didn't get out of his car during cold March practices. He was quote in the Southfield Eccentric as saying that he would only take him five minutes of observation to determine if a kid was any good. That was news to me. Some of the ugliest players in terms of strokes that I have ever coached turned out to be some of the greatest winners. They simply refused to lose.

Our crosstown rivalry match (not much of a rivalry) took place that spring at the Southfield-Lathup courts. My kids knew the drill. Shortly after school let out at 2:10, the senior leadership would get the balls from the shed and be warming the team up by the time I arrived. Then we would stretch, I would make announcements, and talk about today's match.

But by the time I got out there, the match had started. Fred and his team had arrived (a short trip), he had announced his line-up (mine was always posted on my classroom door during the day), and tossed out the balls. He clearly wanted to get it over with.

Seven matches on six courts. We were done at 4:00.

---- Ed Waits

# When you need a sense of humor

This comes from the June 1988 newsletter. It has been so long ago that I can't verify its truth, nor identify the coach and the player who were "anonymous" in the article. Both must have had quite a sense of humor and not been too immersed in winning.

The player, after being beaten 6-0 in the first set (apparently he had grown used to such treatment), went to his racket bag, pulled out a funeral flag, and planted it on the net post. Then he proceeded to play the second set where things didn't get any better.

That's because when he completely missed an overhead, he declared to his opponent that since it was a hot day, he thought some breeze would be appreciated.

It got worse. He shanked a ball so badly that it sailed over the fence and hit a passing police car. The officer apparently was having a bad day and stopped. The player's coach tried to intercede but the officer -- who apparently knew something about tennis -- was having none of it, angrily pointing out that tennis courts ran north and south, not east and west.

## Playing high school doubles with your twin brother

Pete Luczyk of Comstock Park tells about twins brothers who played doubles together on his team. They communicated very well, something akin to the Bryans. However, during one point, they both called "yours" for a ball that ultimately floated between them. They looked at the ball as it bounced "in" and then looked at each other.

Never again did they use the term "yours." They both lunged after any ball that was not clearly his partner's.

# Fun Facts gleaned from these pages

**Harley Pierce** of Sturgis was an extraordinary coach but it wasn't limited to the sport of tennis. He was the school's head football coach as well. In the school year 1969-1970, he achieved an amazing feat. **At the end of the fall season, his football team was ranked No. 1, the mythical state championship in an era when there was no playoff. In the spring, his tennis team won the Class B state title. Two state championships in one year.** At the end of that decade, he was named Coach of the Year by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.

**Bob Wood** could have cared less about the number of dual meet wins his team achieved in a single season. He certainly didn't spend sleepless nights worrying about where he was on our Century Club list. All he wanted for his kids was to give them a chance to play the best competition in the state, regardless of class. He went out of his way to seek entrance into the strongest Saturday tournaments (who would turn him down?) and invite the best to Liggett. Bringing Todd Martin to Grosse Pte. was but one example. **In fact, his schedule was so strong that in one campaign, he entered the regional and state tournament winless. Not one victory. But they won the state championship easily anyway.**

**Same-type story:** At the Spring Lake Class B Girls Regional in the fall of 1990, **Zeeland qualified for the state tournament by finishing in a tie for second. What makes this unusual is that the squad did not receive a seed in any flight.** Ron Plasman's team did the job when they stepped on the court. That's because their dual meet schedule included East Grand Rapids, Forest Hills Central, and Grand Rapids Northview. See above.

**John Powless**, the superb senior tennis player who coached varsity tennis at colleges such as the University of Cincinnati and the University of Wisconsin was also a basketball coach. **He was so accomplished that he was the head coach at Wisconsin for several seasons.** Why?

Many of us followed the incredible Ohio State basketball teams of the early 1960s featuring future NBA stars as Jerry Lucas, John Havlicek, and Mel Knowell. They were virtually unbeatable, at least when Lucas and Havlicek were sophomores: they won the NCAA championship that year.

They were just as strong the next two years, that is until they played the final game both seasons against the Cincinnati Bearcats. In two consecutive monumental upsets, **Cincinnati won the national championship. Both years, John Powless, the tennis pro (he was a clinician at our workshop six times), was an assistant coach for the Bearcats.**

**Tom Leyrer** started his tennis coaching career by starting a junior high school team at Chatterton Junior High school in Warren. **One of his kids was Mark Sobieralski** who go on win multiple state championships as the girls coach at Grosse Pte. South and the boys coach at University Liggett. Both have been MHSTeCA presidents and both are in our Hall of Fame.

**Steve Contardi**, who spoke at our workshop seven times from 1979 to 2001, grew up in the Upper Peninsula and played tennis for Northern Michigan University. **His doubles partner there was Brook Smith**, coach at West Iron County. Brook was inducted into our Hall of Fame in 2016.

In an era which regionals routinely consisted of 16 teams, **Tiger Teusink once ran a tournament that contained 21 squads.** Although, he had access to plenty of courts, the tournament still finished the following Monday. Weather was a factor.

**Gene Maki, the Hall of Fame coach from the U.P.'s Wakefield**, played as many matches against Wisconsin school's on the peninsula's western edge. **This co-ed boarding school had an enrollment of but 80 students but fielded fourteen varsity sports. It was probably the smallest school in the state to offer tennis.**

**The 1989 match between Dearborn High School and Woodhaven was played on May 3rd, the birthdays of both Dearborn's coach, Gene Snell, and his 1S, son Dustin.** Dearborn edged Woodhaven 4-3. Yes, Dustin won his match, contributing to the victory.

At the workshop in 1991. Victoria Healy of Forest Hills Northern was kind enough to help Gundars Tilmanis with his presentaion of drills. The first shot she hit stuck in a crack in the wall. Her second shot landed back in the ball hopper. Elliott (aka, the landscaper) Pearce from Forest Hills Central was able to rip off a branch of one the plants the Marriott people were foolish enough to leave out.

At that same workshop, Gundars, when giving his presidential service routine, created rain by taking down part of the ballroom chandelier with his Jimmy Carter All Frame Racket. Many of us were quickly on the carpet carefully picking up shards.

At the recommendation of Jerry Murphy, the board voted to raise the MHSTeCA dues to ..... \$20. This was in 1991.

Three tennis coaches have been president of the Michigan High School Coaches Associaton. Tiger Teusink, Mike McGinnis, and Nancy Brissette.

Membership total  
1990 -- 328



# MHSTeCA



# Board Meetings



# **Fundamentals of a MHSTeCA Board Meeting**

## **The Agenda**

**What goes around, comes around**

A discussion of “what’s old is new again.”

# Play time

What differs from this meeting and those that followed -- as opposed to those gatherings at present -- was that it was a family-affair weekend. Coaches were encouraged to bring their spouses and kids. Friday nights were "getting to know you" nights with the usual banter since most, both parents and children, were young. It was a "looking-forward-to-it" time filled with anticipation and energy since it involved meeting new people who had lots in common. In the ensuing years, it would become a business-type reunion where coaches once again met colleagues who would become friends.

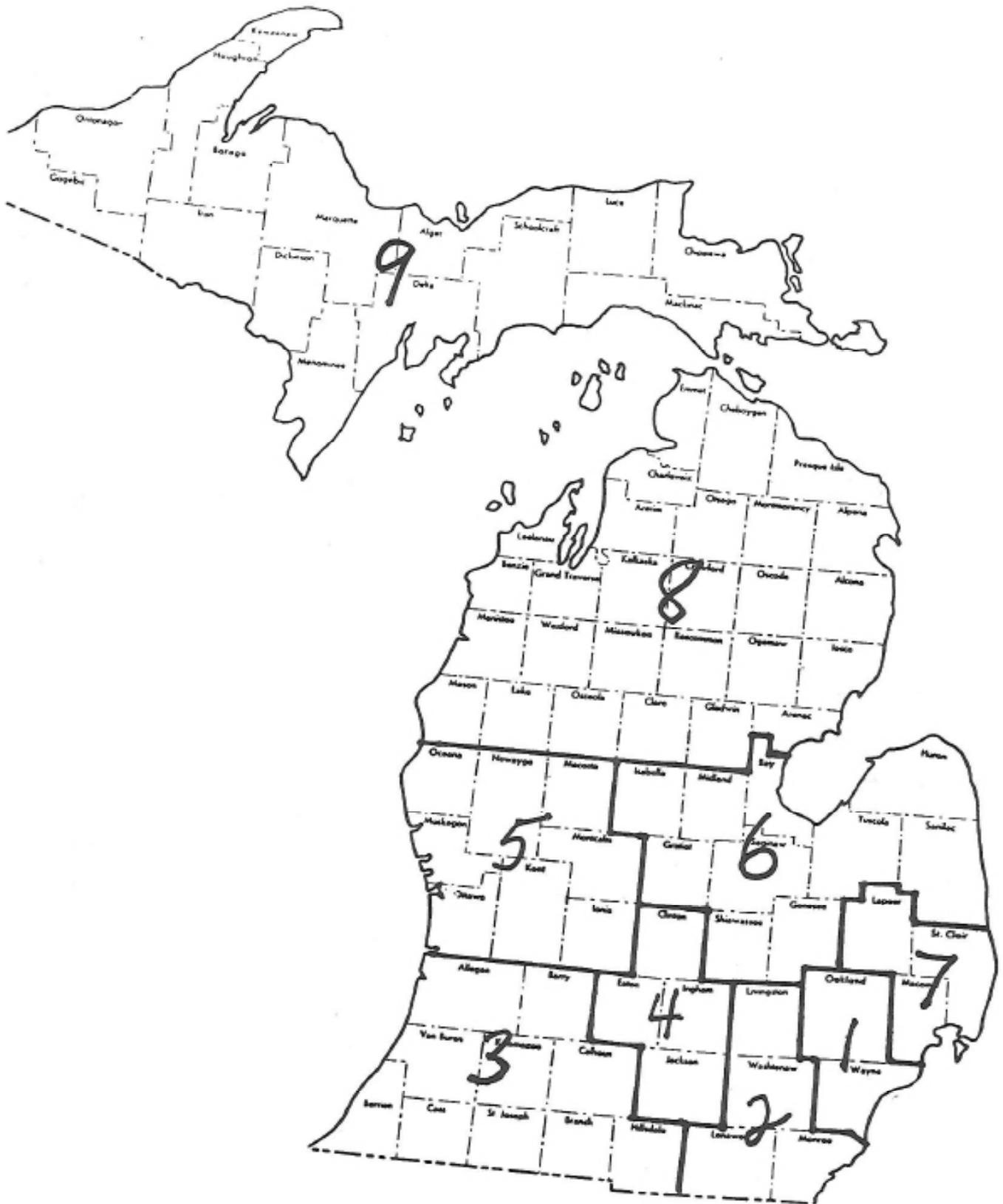
Meetings would take place on Saturday and Sunday mornings, each from 9:00 to 1:00. The rest of the day was filled with outdoor activity. Chuck Reed would bring his boat for water skiing because Bill Oliver's was located on the shores of Houghton Lake. Some would go off to the nearby courts to play. Others would play golf. There was the usual summertime shopping in the stores of downtown Prudenville.

Then in the evening, all would gather in one lodge for pizza -- paid for by proceeds from the workshop --and shop talk, where stories would be told and issues discussed. This may have been the most valuable time of all in that some of the most prominent coaches in the state would share stories and concerns. They would not only emerge from the weekend as state-wide influencers but also as ambassadors. It wasn't long before the ranks filled with district assistant directors.

At this meeting, president, 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, and secretary-treasurer were appointed. So were regional directors (later changed to district, for obvious reasons). The ranks of district directors were thin but word quickly passed, More would arrive the following year when positions were elected, not appointed.

What were the issues? To be sure, stacking with the accompanying horror stories. Also, regional assignments with the recurring laments over which team would have qualified "had not Warren McKenzie sent my team to the wrong regional. One wonders, after four decades, if anything has changed.





# About Standing Up

*Editor's Note: The following is essentially an OpEd. However, it is offered using examples from the past that make it also a recollection of Michigan high school tennis history that involves Bob Wood, Jim Krimball, and Earl Rutz. They took a stance on behalf of good sportsmanship. It meanders away from the subject at times but I consider this a part of historical interest.*

"It can be a lonely feeling when you are standing up while everyone else is sitting down."

I can't remember who said this. It could have been Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* or Henry Drummond from *Inherit the Wind*. I think the latter

The quote definitely applies to John F. Kennedy's *Profiles in Courage*, a book of chapters, each one telling the story of an individual who took a stand against the prevailing political tide. Over time, each episode reveals that the hero was right. He/She stood up for core values and integrity, not political expediency.

Such heroes are in short supply these days. I have it on good personal albeit second-hand authority that the members of the Senate knew darn well that Donald Trump applied pressure (withholding military aid) on the Ukraine president to find dirt on Joe Biden. But they acquitted the president anyway.

Why am I so sure? I spent five formative years with Dan Coats (among other things, we played on the same high school tennis team), the former Senator from Indiana and Donald Trump's erstwhile Director of National Intelligence. He was and still is an evangelical Christian whose wife is the granddaughter of two ministers. He was a Good Christian in high school in the best sense of the phrase (Yes, there is definitely a self-righteous and insufferable bad sense). He spent 12 years in the Senate and dealt with Trump in the Oval Office on a weekly basis. There is no doubt in my mind that this man was telling the truth to Bob Woodward after he was fired (A story unto itself).

Dan knows these Senate guys personally. He said that Republican Senators absolutely knew that Trump was guilty. They were just trying to save their political skins. Standing up to the bully meant losing their jobs. Losing their jobs was more important to them than standing up for what was true.

Furthermore, you only have to listen to Trump pleading to the Georgia election officials for 11,000 more votes to draw the same conclusion. Exact quote of his voice on the phone: "Fellas, I need 11,000 votes. Give me a break."

Only one Republican stood up: Mitt Romney. For that he was vilified. He would have fit neatly into JFK's book. Same story, different context.

**But this isn't about presidential politics. This is about tennis coaches who historically stood up to player misbehavior or parental pressure.**

I am not sure if this is prevalent at all skill levels but the stories that come out of high profile programs seem to be increasingly horrifying. One only has to listen to Mark Sobieralski talk about a 1D player from Detroit Catholic Central's repeated misbehavior or the situation at the Division 4 State Tournament in Ann Arbor in the fall of 2021 to wonder if anyone is going to stand up these days.

**Most assuredly, Bob Wood would have.** I was in the board room multiple times when justice was meted out in the form of removal of a kid from the all state team for bad behavior. It didn't take long. He, of course, had the support of Tiger Teusink, another stalwart. These two were strong voices with the *gravitas* to confront angry parents and shame them. Historically, the two are in eight Halls of Fame.

None of us on the board at the time would have dared to defy Bob and Tiger on this issue even if we had wanted to. Of course, we knew they were right. Most board members teach more than how to hit a tennis ball. Most tennis coaches demand good sportsmanship out of their kids.

However, those who insisted that Jan. 6th was about patriotism, not criminality, may also say that Bob and Tiger were bullies. Indeed, we live in a world that says "You don't see what you see." What is so seemingly transparent always has another interpretation these days. A player who screams and shakes a fist after winning a point is simply "getting himself pumped up."

Horse Pukey.

**Consider Dan Hutcheson** who will confront at a basketball game when a loud obnoxious parent voices his displeasure at a referee. The fact that Dan is a MHSAA official adds gravitas. So is the fact that he is a pretty impressive athletic specimen (He was one match from qualifying for the Olympics in wrestling). When he approaches the adult jerk, other parents are both relieved and grateful, albeit silently.

Bob Wood once recalled his participation in a meeting with USTA officials in New York at the U.S. Open in September one year. He went on and on, essentially berating these high-ranking individuals about how they could tolerate the horrendous behavior of John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors. "Here we are trying to educate the youth of America," he declared, "and you allow this to go on?" Of course, nothing happened but there was undoubtedly some silent recognition that he was right.

**Example, but not about tennis:** Bob always maintained that the worst high school sport by far to oversee was hockey. Many of his stories involved the behavior of parents at the games. These were presidents and CEOs who, not at work, would shout the most vile words at the referees.

So Bob got together with the Headmaster. They divided the six worst malefactors into groups of three each. The Headmaster called three of them; Bob called the other three. Their message: You simply cannot behave this way at our games.

Bob and the Headmaster sat together at the next game. Sure enough, one of these parents couldn't contain himself. He left his seat, went down to the rink and pounded on the glass all the while shouting obscenities.

Bob and the Headmaster looked at each. Which one is going to confront the guy? "He was my phone call," said Bob. He got up and walked down just as the man turned around. One look and he held up his hands in a "I give up" gesture.

**That was a true story. Here's another one but this time about high school tennis.**

East Lansing under boys tennis coach Earl Rutz who was also the MSU Girls Varsity Coach. A varsity player at the University of Arizona, he had hung around the Los Angeles Racquet Club as a kid. He was the youngster looking through the fence. As a kid, he once got to hit some balls with Pancho Gonzales, commonly regarded as the best player in the world at the time.

This means that Earl was *not* a no-nothing faculty member recruited in desperation from the halls of the school by an athletic director. And, of course, the team was strong enough to make annual visits to the final tournament. But at the regional, the squad's 4S behaved so badly that Earl threw him off the team. That meant that this kid couldn't participate in the state championship. Enter the kid's parents who went to the school board. The school board backed the parents and reinstated the kid.

Earl immediately quit in protest. He stood up. We should have given him a DSA for that alone.

We incensed MHSTeCA board members embarked on a phone and letter writing campaign which, of course, changed nothing. **But it did let the folks in East Lansing know that an official body comprised of many prominent tennis coaches were aware of what happened and were deeply critical of their priorities.**

In my own letter to the athletic director, I finished with the following: "From here on, when I see one of my players misbehaving on the tennis courts, I will holler loudly: 'Who do you think you are playing for: East Lansing?'"

**Another tennis story:** However late the association was in delivering DSAs to those who stood up, we actually did it with Jim Krimball of the Midland Community Tennis Center. Along with the legendary Dennis Margoni (another person who should have received the award), he helped run the Class A state tournament for years. More to the point, Dennis and Jim got the first few flight state championship tournaments off the ground, no small task.

What happened: To say that Joe Dudnik (not his real name), the 2S for Detroit Catholic Central, was a bad actor is a gross understatement. His misbehavior throughout the spring season was spread far and wide. Moreover, Frank Garlicky, his coach, was affable but not particularly interested in muzzling him. Frank, by the way, was infamous in his penchant for attending summer tournaments to blatantly and transparently recruit good players for his private school team.

But as I used to tell my players, "Wait until you get to the state tournament. The rules are really enforced there."

Dudnik was seeded No 1 at his 2S flight but was having a difficult first match. Having received a first round bye, he was a bit rusty and his opponent was benefitting from the confidence of having a match under his belt. Most importantly, it was a windy day. Frustrated at not playing well, Joe received a warning from tournament manager Jim Krimbill who was watching the contest closely.

The first set was see-saw until at set point against Dudnik, he missed a high forehand volley at the net. Joe turned around and fired his racket all the way into the back fence.

“Match over! declared Krimbill.

What happened to Point and Game?” demanded Dudnik.

“Son,” replied Krimbill. “When your racket passed the service line, it was a point. When it passed the base line, it was a game. When it hit the fence, the match was over.”

We gave Jim Krimbill a Distinguished Service Award in 1999. He stood up.

### **About stacking**

For far too long, we have listened to stacking stories and shrugged our shoulders at what was going on but did nothing except perhaps shun these jerks from gatherings. We didn’t want to confront. We didn’t want to stand up. We didn’t want to get in shouting matches that would not solve anything or change behavior.

But I clearly remember Bob Wood going to Tony Malinowski’s Honor and Glory Memorial Day Saturday Tournament (which I am quite sure is the oldest Saturday tennis tournament in Michigan high school tennis history). Tony was infamous for stacking. It was routine for him to the point where the much-respected and very-ethical Don DiPaolo, who played for Tony, didn’t even know stacking was illegal until he became Saline High School’s coach.

Bob’s team competed there just once and he vowed because of the blatant stacking that he would never return. For years, he was adamantly opposed to including Tony in our Hall of Fame. (In a side note, when Tony retired after 40 years of tennis coaching, then-President Stan Noland of Monroe suggested that I write an article entitled: “King Stack folds cards.”) Yes, Bob relented in terms of Tony’s inclusion into our Hall of Fame but it took years for him to come around to what was essentially an act of forgiveness.

**Another stacking story:** The coach at Berkley High School, not a good citizen by any stretch (He would call Hazel Park Hazel-tucky), was infamous for stacking. He did it routinely every year. There were lots of complaints but no action. In the year his team was in my regional, his 3D player was playing 1S. I was the regional manager who happened to mention this to Bob.

Bob, as an athletic director, took matters into his own hands. He called Berkley’s athletic director demanding an explanation. He must have made quite an impact (Bob almost always did).

I know about this personally because I was called out of class to take a phone call. The athletic director would ask me a question, I would answer, and the athletic would turn to yell at the Berkley coach. This was repeated several times.

At the regional, the Berkley coach handed me his revised lineup with the words: “You’ll be hearing from my lawyer.” I never did.

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None of this is to suggest that Jen Aldrich confront the athletic directors or tennis coaches of the offending schools. Jen ain’t Bob Wood. She isn’t 6’4” with a deep voice. She isn’t president of the National Athletic Directors Association. She isn’t an annual state champion coach. Bob had *standing* in another sense of the word. He had the capability to stand while others were sitting down. More to the point, his leadership encouraged others to stand with him proudly.

The MHSTeCA now has established a Claims Committee, at long last an effort to do more than just complain.. I am not involved; therefore there are no stories here. But it certainly is a means to do something besides moan, one coach to another. Moreover, it points to a solution to these problems.

That solution is confrontation by more than one person: a committee or a group. “It can be lonely when you are the only person standing up while everyone else is sitting down.”

Lots of people should have made it clear to the folks at TC St. Francis that their behavior at the D4 was unacceptable. An emphasis should have been stressed regarding how badly that episode reflected on the school. Maybe there should be a protest even to the point of refusing to play them next year.

This is what Bob Wood would have done. He was an exception but then he went out of his way to schedule the finest competition throughout the state. If he wanted to play your team, it was an honor.

One year, he went into the final tournament having lost every dual meet but still won the state championship. To be sure, in his journeys around the state, he would have broadcast far and wide why he was eschewing a coach who stacked. In reality, if he had played St. Francis this year, they would have behaved, knowing the public relations consequences. He would not only have confronted their coach and athletic director but broadcast the scene to anyone who would listen including the folks in Lansing. And St. Francis would surely have known it.

Refusal to play them next year would maybe forfeit the chance to determine who should be seeded at the regional or final tournaments during the season but consider. What is more important: proper seed placement or adherence to a standard of sportsmanship? It comes down to a question of core values.

Some form of censure from the MHSTeCA board? A vote of disapproval? As opposed to national politics wherein terrible behavior has the approval of a significant base, it is hard to believe that tennis coaches throughout the state would side with St. Francis's right to be rowdy. Of course, there are outliers: others who traditionally act the same way. Sadly, too many of them represent private schools.

Tom Pullen says that he announces before matches that "the following misbehavior will not be tolerated and subject to Point Penalty." Then he gets specific. This is a slippery slope but "you know it when you see it."

**The answer seems to be a strong-willed individual – or better yet, a strong-willed group – who will stand up to demand behavior that honors the contest, the opponent, the school, and the game itself. That group should be the Michigan High School Tennis Association board. It is comprised of both the most successful and most influential coaches in the state.**



# MHSTeCA



# Outstanding Coaches



# A Word of Explanation

Beginning with his first MHSTeCA newsletter in 1980, Gordon Boettcher inserted “Outstanding Coach” pieces into the publication. They were lengthy, informative, and entertaining. More to the point, they became the forerunner of Coach of the Year articles that eventually became part of each Hall of Fame banquet program.

What follows is a selection. Some of them are scans from early publications which means that they may be difficult to read given the quality of the paper and the ensuing deterioration. However, since this is a pdf document, I trust that you will be able to enlarge sufficiently.

Be aware that some of these articles were authored early in some tennis coaching careers. Had they been written later on, there would have been much more to say. That is why I have sometimes offered my comments at the beginnings.-

Others are taken from later writing, primarily brought forth from- Hall of Fame programs. Some are Hall of Fame articles; others are Coach of the Year pieces. They spotlight individuals who have served (pun intended) high school tennis and the MHSTeCA well.

These choices were made by me, the Editor. If you have an opinion about an inclusion, let me know.

# A Swell Fellow

## Gordon Boettcher Ann Arbor Huron

**Nobody who was there will ever forget; it is the stuff of which legends are made. At a very tense MHSAA boys seeding meeting in 1978, one which included any coach who wished to attend and thus was rife with irritable bickering and abounding in both literal and figurative headaches, Gordon Boettcher, in promoting one of his players for a seed, declared, after a pause, “and he’s a swell fellow!” His remark totally broke up the room in laughter.**

In a workshop presentation entitled: “How to run a tip-top tournament,” Gordy told so many good stories and jokes that coaches were wiping tears from the eyes. He was a man who could simply take over a room and “hold court.” He was warm, gracious and genuinely funny.

And he certainly knew what he was talking about. After all, Gordon had been hosting tournaments for a good long time. He started running his own Ann Arbor Invitational for the boys in 1980 amidst the prompting of Dale Greiner, then-coach at Pioneer. They used 24 courts and after Dale stepped down, Gord assumed responsibility for all the details.

He was the sole director of that tournament for 41 years. He always invited teams about five months before the season and was careful about whom he selected. “I found out that I did not want certain teams,” he says. “Bad behavior and poor coaching habits were not tolerated by me.”

Indeed, it soon became a privilege to be invited to his tournament if for no other reason than to hear his opening speech. Coaches were eager to listen to his opening remarks (you need to pause to think about the statement) regarding procedures and rules. They were astonishingly hilarious but amidst much laughter, it was clear later on that he was strict about enforcing good behavior. He was a wonderful blend of good will and no-nonsense. Players looked forward to returning the next year just to hear him talk. One of them is on Youtube.

He took over the girls tournament in 1984 and completed the 36th Annual Girls Invitational in the spring of 2019.

He says that it is amazing that there were only six rainouts (three for the boys and three for the girls) in all those years. The most frustrating part was getting certain schools to pay their entry fees.



Class A state team tournaments run by the folks in Midland under Dennis Margoni, Glenn William, Dennis Royal, and Jim Krimball were models of efficient organization and rules enforcement but Gordon matched them. He can’t remember when he started hosting final tournaments but knows that the first one was at Pioneer and Saline high schools. He got help from Saline’s Don DiPaolo who was the one who cajoled him into taking on this arduous task. Later Gina Massolini asked him to start doing the tournament at MSU using its 20 courts and Okemos’ 12. For the last two years, he administered the tournament on the 24 courts at Novi – 12 at the high school and 12 at the middle school.

He also wrote exceedingly well. Once Gordy took the reins of the newsletter in Sept. 1980, he expanded it with a variety of features. He initiated an Outstanding Coach segment in which he would highlight the feats of distinguished coaches in that era. They were in-depth essays that sometimes stretched beyond a single page. In doing so, he established a formidable benchmark for those of us who wrote Coach of the Year articles in the future. He also put into his newsletter a lot of additional information: lists of state champions from 1971 to the present, lists of state championship teams over the years, etc. He called himself “your little editor,” an ironic appellation given his physical stature.

This was in the not-so-good ol' days in terms of pagination, printing and mailing. Gordon actually typed the newsletter on a stencil and then reproduced it on at his wife Sandy's Cleary College machine using his own paper. He did the mailing by himself. That involved four editions per year: one preseason in the fall, one post fall season, one in February after the workshop, and the last one in June or July. Any of us who do similar work but with only a button push or two have to be aghast at the amount of time and effort. He had to affix mail labels and stamps for hundreds of documents, and then make a trip to the post office to do a mass snail-mailing. It might have been fun the first time but many of us know how wearisome this procedure would get over time.

When Gordon wrote the third Hall of Fame banquet program in 1988, he authored the same in-depth work with regard to the inductees and then added Coach of the Year and Distinguished Service Award articles. He received a DSA for his work up to that point. "He set the standard for future writing," said Ed Waits who ought to know. "His newsletters were models of fluent, engaging, informative, and absorbing journalism."

"You could also set your calendar by when he mailed his membership renewal," continues Ed Waits who as Membership Chairperson received those envelopes for 20 years. "He was as exact as Bob Wood, and that's quite a compliment."

Gordon was one of the first members of our board. You can only imagine a weekend of sidesplitting laughter when

he arrived at Houghton Lake to entertain us for an entire weekend, again "holding court." The same applied to his appearances at our workshop. Where he sat down, we gathered.

If you took a phone call from him, you needed to make sure you allocated an hour. Many coaches will testify that conversations with him were lengthy and wide-ranging. He asked a lot of questions and he told a lot of stories. You didn't want to hang up. It was a good thing that we are no longer charged for long-distance minutes.



**Gordon, giving one of his famous pre-tournament speeches at Salem High School in 2008. Note the reaction.**

Gordon was our first Class A Coach of the Year and then repeated the honor four years later. After all, he had five state championships to his credit, one under the individual format and four team titles. He traded state titles with Herm Kiewiet's Loy Norrix squads throughout the late 70s and early 80s. He put together some of the best ten-man squads in history up to that point.

One of Gordon's fondest memories of MHSTeCA's first president Charlie Partin was at a Saturday tournament when in the midst of a heated battle between the state's two state championships teams that year, Charlie turned to his colleague and said: "You know, what we need here is a little more fellowship."

Well, Charlie, over these many years, we got plenty of that --- and much more -- from Coach Boettcher.

**Gordon was one of the first members of our board. You can only imagine a weekend of sidesplitting laughter when he arrived at Houghton Lake to entertain us for an entire weekend, again "holding court." The same applied to his appearances at our workshop. Where he sat down, we gathered.**

Michigan High School  
Tennis Coaches Association  
Co-Coach of the Year  
Boys, Fall 2018

# Dave Fredette

Armada

Division 4



**D**ave Fredette has been coaching tennis in Armada for over a half century. This is not a misprint. Although he is not the only one (See Marty Snoop, John Shade, Larry Nykerk, and Larry Seger), it is an exceptional achievement, but not just in terms of longevity. After all, Armada is not located in what you might call a hotbed of tennis. Indeed, Dave has hung on for so long because without his leadership and influence, there would be no tennis in the community. In terms of his efforts, the results were far above what a caretaker coach would produce.

Dave started Armada's tennis program in 1966, established and ran a summer program from 1966 – 2003 (and then helped as a part-time instructor), and founded and sanctioned the Independent Tennis League that ran from 1988 through 2001. He also coached basketball (26 years) and football (10 years) for the school and was the stadium's football announcer from 1965 through 2004

Just before Dave entered high school, his family moved to a small farm community near Cassopolis and Dave went to Dowagiac High School. He played 3D and 2d and liked the game enough to play for Benton Harbor Community College. Back in those days, there were more jobs than teachers; Dave opted for the small village of Armada – the kind of community he was looking for – and the school wanted to start a tennis club. "I said yes but only if it was offered as a varsity sport," he says. "We had two cement courts that I was told were built with FDR Public Works money." That was in 1966.

In that his coaches in high school and college were more supervisors than tennis instructors, Dave went to work. He

took kids to see pros such as Rod Laver play in Detroit. He read books. He started a small summer program in Armada that grew. He took kids to summer tournaments in nearby Port Huron. He talked with anyone who knew something about tennis coaching for ideas. He started his own summer tournament. In that Almont's Dean Sousanis was also starting a summer program, the kids from both communities played each other. Yes, back then tennis players were developed in the summer. Later, he attended our association's workshops.

Indeed, his teams experienced success in spite of having to take two weeks off because of Armada's annual senior trip in the spring. A week was always taken to visit Gettysburg, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, New York City, and Niagara Falls. "With the senior trip being back to back with the Easter break, it took two weeks out of our tennis season and we just started getting back into tennis form when the regional was played," he says. In today's hyper-competitive tennis world, this value system might seem quaint but these trips provided life-time memories for the kids. Dave went on 27 of these adventures, acting as class advisor, chaperone, and bus driver.

He also took his tennis teams to Florida from 1988 through 2001. "My teams traveled a lot and played many of the top teams in the state," he adds. "We usually got our butts kicked but we learned over the years how to compete."

Again, this was a different era. For instance, Dave taught typing when the kids learned on a manual typewriter. A few years later, Ed Waits was composing the association newsletter on an Apple IIe (it would be interesting to see how many present-day coaches remember

that early-age computer). In the fledgling days of the 1980s, when the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association was still getting itself off the ground, Dave took on the arduous task of printing and snail-mailing a hard copy of our group's newsletter. After Ed wrote it, Dave printed, collated, stuffed, stamped, and mailed over 300 copies twice per year. In an age when all Will Sophiea has to do is click, this was a remarkable amount of work.

Dave began serving on the board in 1982 as one of our earliest members when the group used to gather in the summers at Houghton Lake for a weekend of meetings, tennis, golf, water skiing, and pizza. These affairs combined official business with plenty of social time as whole families spent the weekend together in a lodge setting. That year, Dave won the Class C-D Coach of the Year Award – the first of three. Once again, it would be interesting to determine how many present-day board members were even born at that time. Same with his induction into our Hall of Fame, 1988, and the ensuing Coaches of the Year Awards.

Awards and commendations back then ... and still receiving them now. In 2015 the Armada Area Schools presented him with a 50-year plaque for coaching tennis and the next year he received a 50+ years tennis trophy from the Michigan High School Coaches Association. In 2018, Armada's board of education named the eight new tennis courts the Dave Fredette Tennis Courts

Given this immense body of work and an extraordinary story (ground-breaking and grass roots), perhaps we should have awarded Dave the MHSTeCA Coach of the Year Emeritus Award (which doesn't exist). If nothing else, we recognize an exceptional life of service.

# Bob Quinn

## Saginaw Heritage

### Division 1

**When Bob Quinn was growing up in Montague, he didn't play much tennis because the school didn't have a team. "I played football, basketball, and track. A teacher at school got my brother and me started in tennis because he wanted someone to play with. My brother and I would walk to Whitehall (about two miles) to play tennis. My father got the school to give us enough land to build two courts. We had to clear pine trees from the area to build them. Most of the work and supplies were donated. After they were completed Mr. Griffin (the teacher), my brother, and I were the only ones to use them until we got other kids playing."**

Fast forward through college to a teaching and coaching career in Saginaw. "The first season was at MacArthur in 1972," says Bob Quinn. "You talk about a 'grass roots team'? I was a 'grass roots' coach. I was a football and track coach at Buena Vista High School when I was asked to come to MacArthur in 1971 to coach football and tennis. I really did not want to coach tennis but they said I had to. I did not know much about tennis other than what I learned in phys. ed class at CMU but I read everything I could, talked to other coaches – especially Jim Teal (Hall of Fame Class of 1990) – and went to clinics to learn the game.

"To show you how much I knew, a kid came off the court and said: 'He won 2 and 2.' I said to him: 'You have to win 6 something, 6 something.' He said that he did, 6-2, 6-2. [Nevertheless] we won our league that year."

Fast forward again through 284 dual meet victories, 14 White Pine Conference Championships, nine Class B Regional Championships (all at MacArthur), 22 invitational championships (at both MacArthur and Heritage), 18 trips to the state tournament, and nine Top Ten finishes. Then proceed to spring 2008 when Bob will coach his last campaign. To say that he has come a long way in over three decades is a monumental understatement, but, in fact, about the only things Bob had to acquire when he started his first season were the fundamentals of tennis and involvement with his colleagues. After all, the fundamentals of coaching youngsters and the qualities of leadership and character were always there.

With regard to collegial activity, "I do not know how Bob Wood got my name," he says of the early years when the MHSTeCA was being formed. "He called me and wanted to know if I wanted to get involved in the association." I said yes and the next thing I knew I was the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President behind Charlie Partin (East Grand Rapids and in first Hall of Fame Class) and

became the second president. It was one of the best decisions that I have ever made."

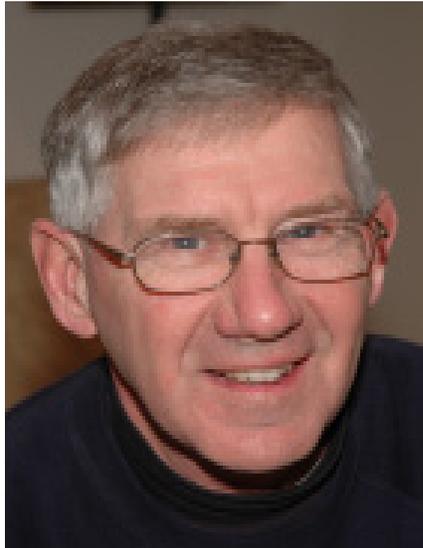
Bob was at the first board of directors meeting held at Bill Oliver's Lodge in Prudenville back in the summer of 1977 when he was tapped to be our association's second president.

Throughout 32 years, he has continued to serve the board, has managed Saturday tournaments, and has run too many regionals to count. He was named state coach of the year for boys in 1980 and for girls in 1985. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1992.

"Big time integrity" is the phrase that Tiger Teusink used to describe Bob at the November Board of Directors meeting. This quality manifested itself in his refusal to allow a talented player to participate because that player didn't want to have to come to practices. "He would have made a big difference in our team, moving everyone down and improving the doubles," says Bob. "I told him it was important for the team that he be at all of our practices. He chose not to play high school tennis."

Nevertheless, Bob's team acquitted themselves well. They won a quad with Flushing, Hemlock, and Alma; tied with Midland in a dual after getting "killed" by them in a tournament; and finished third in their league behind Midland and Dow. In the midst of all this, Bob saw 4S, 3D, and 4D players avenge earlier season losses.

This is not surprising. Bob's kids were blessed to have a coach who has learned the game, understands the concept of team within what is essentially an individual sport, and has exemplary ethical standards, what some describe as *gravitas*. He stands up when lots of folks feel more comfortable staying seated. It is more than appropriate that he stand up once more to receive his third coach of the year award.



**"Big time integrity" is the phrase that Tiger Teusink used to describe Bob at the November Board of Directors meeting.**

Michigan High School  
Tennis Coaches Association

Coach of the Year  
Boys, Fall 2012

**Charlie Bassett**  
Spring Lake  
Division 3



In the late 1970s, the first president of our association, Charlie Partin of East Grand Rapids, invited Charlie Bassett to the second meeting of the board of directors, at that time held in the summer at Bill Oliver's Lodge in Prudenville. A former doubles player at Hastings High School who was also a state champion wrestler, Coach Bassett had learned much of what he knew about tennis from a PE class at WMU taught by then-varsity coach Hap Sorensen. But at the summer meetings, he absorbed even more by sitting by the lake and listening to Partin, Bob Wood, and Tiger Teusink talk tennis.

It didn't hurt that Mr. Bassett had fielded such a strong girls team (conference champs, second in the regional, 4th in the state) that he was selected as Girls Coach of the Year in 1980. It also didn't hurt that his boys teams in 1983-86 – anchored by outstanding players Craig Wildey and Jeff VanDenberg – were traveling throughout the state to play the best. At the Saginaw tournament, Charlie would stay at Bob Quinn's house with Wood and Partin. Even still, "At the beginning, I just listened," he says.

And made connections. Partin nominated Bassett for 2nd Vice President in the early '80s. Hence, Charlie was president of the MHSTeCA for the first Hall of Fame induction in 1986 and developed the format for the board meetings. He was named Coach of the Year, this time for boys, in 1988. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1992.

That was 20 years ago, a time when most folks would rest on their laurels, hang it up, and contemplate work well done. But Charlie stayed with it. This past fall, he completed his 42nd year with the boys (43 seasons, thanks to 2007 -- He quit coaching girls in 2009 after 35 years). And on the way, he collected three more state coach of the year awards, this one being his fifth, a record.

Justifiably so. As a boys coach, Charlie's teams have put together 23 conference championships, captured 15 regional titles and qualified for state competition 32 times. His girls: 23 conference titles, 8 regional championships and 27 trips to the final tournament. His kids have placed as high as third in the state.

And he served, both on the MHSTeCA board and at regional time where he managed more of the events than he can count (50-60). "When I started doing regionals, I sent a form (players' records) to Warren McKenzie at the MHSAA and we started using it for the regionals. I felt we needed to have a complete record of all the matches which the players played" (Efforts are still ongoing to put match results online). He also served on the state seeding committee from 1998 to 2001.

But ironically, perhaps the most distinguishing characteristic of Charlie's coaching was the lack of emphasis on wins. "The important thing is to play the best that you can every time and

the winning will take care of itself," he once said. He summarized his 2006 boys season – one of spectacular success until a disappointing state tournament – by saying: "They played well. If they play well and they come up short, that's all I can ask."

Indeed, when players, coaches, and parents consider Charlie, they don't spend much time on his win-loss achievements. Instead, they talk about his positive attitude toward competition and his emphasis on proper behavior. Parents and players alike laud his emphasis on sportsmanship. One of his players wrote: "I never threw my racket; I never swore on the court; I never yelled at my opponent, simply because he taught me that was wrong."

At the spring 2009 tennis banquet, Suzi Olds, who had played for Charlie three decades prior, was asked to speak to the youngsters. "Even though it has been 30 years since he was my coach," she said, "the lessons he taught me are with me always. And girls, I can assure you that your time with Charlie will always be with you, too."

Undoubtedly, Suzi spoke for two generations of Spring Lake tennis players -- both boys and girls --when she concluded: "I believe that the greatest compliment you can ever receive is to be told that you've made a difference in someone's life. Well, Charlie, I speak not only for myself but for hundreds of young women when I say my life is different because you were my coach, my mentor, and my friend."

**That was 20 years ago, a time when most folks would rest on their laurels, hang it up, and contemplate work well done. But Charlie stayed with it..... And on the way, he collected three more state coach of the year awards, this one being his fifth, a record.**

# Tom Pullen

## Ann Arbor Pioneer

**W**ith regard to Tom Pullen's record at Ann Arbor Pioneer, the words *amazing*, *exceptional*, or *astonishing* seem inadequate. Hall of Famer Mark Sobieralski of Grosse Pte. South has described it as *insane*.

Indeed, when Selection Committee secretary Ed Waits received Tom's application in the summer of 2013, he played a game with summertime guests. He would hand the application to them with a tongue-in-cheek request: "I don't know what to do about this," he would say. "If you were on the committee, how would you vote?" The responses were virtually all the same: "He's making this stuff up, isn't he?"

For the past two decades, high school tennis coaches, regardless of Division, know the answer. If you are an Ann Arbor tennis player who wishes to play varsity for Pioneer, your biggest challenge may be making the team, not winning the state title. For instance, during an 8-season run from 2001-2007, Tom's boys won 145 consecutive contests. This record is comprised of 77 duals, 68 tournaments, 8 regionals, and 8 state titles. From 2001-2007, they won 83 dual matches in a row. They faced 590 teams without a loss. Their only "blemishes" during that period were a tie for the state championship in 2001 and a tie at the league tournament in 2007.

Not to be outdone, Tom's girls competed in 117 dual meets without a loss during a 12½ year run from 9/21/99 to 5/7/13. Those victories included wins over 2004 and 2006 state championship teams from Ann Arbor Huron. In 22 seasons, the Pioneer girls have been first or second in the state 16 times. In 43 seasons, the Pioneer girls and boys have been first or second in the state 29 times.

Team depth is an accomplishment for any coach but Pioneer has set new records. In doubles, Tom's boys won 15 out of 16 state flight championships with one 2<sup>nd</sup> place from 2002 to 2005. These doubles teams won 533 individual matches against seven losses. The 2005 flights went 136 wins against zero losses. In the past six years, the girls' doubles teams have captured 12 state championship flights; the others were in 3 final matches, and in 8 semifinals before losing. Overall, his kids have won 100 flight state championships (44 girls, 56 boys). He has coached an additional 60 flight finalists, representing a lot of hardware. Over these years, 158 individuals from Pioneer have won state championships. 98 were state runners-up.

Totals: 15 state championships (5 girls, 10 boys) and 14 state runners-up (3 boys, 11 girls). Also, 33 regional titles (18 girls, 15 boys). Given that Pioneer wins so much in so many sports, the school trophy case can accommodate only the 15 state championship trophies in tennis. Tom stores state runners-up and regional

trophies on shelves in his basement. He has recycled some of the 194 invitational trophies that Pioneer has won over the years. Some go under his ping pong table.

"A position on the team in either singles or doubles should be obtained on merit alone," Tom declares in writing. Indeed, Tom has been a vocal opponent of those few coaches who have stacked their lineups. In addition, his position regarding playing USTA during the high school season is: *Don't*. "It sends the wrong message to the team," he says. "During the season, you are supposed to be a team player, not an individual looking out for himself. There have only been four exceptions during my 45 seasons. Only once did a young man miss a team contest. He didn't ask again."

It helps to live and work in the Ann Arbor area but Tom doesn't sit back and inherit players. For years, he has given free lessons year round. He works with between forty and fifty kids per day, Monday through Friday. In the winter, he helps kids after 8:30 p.m. Recently, he and his son bought an old beat-up warehouse, half of which was converted into two tennis courts. "It ain't pretty, but it works," he says.

"Brick" (a nickname dubbed by his 5<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team in 1981 when he woefully demonstrated the proper layup form) wrestled at 138 pounds when a student at Pioneer. "At Michigan, I only wrestled my freshman year, which had to be exhibition since freshmen couldn't start," he says. "I had a good chance of starting as a sophomore at 150 pounds. But with the prospect of two-a-day practices, a part time job and a pre-med curriculum, I knew it would be too much. So I gave up wrestling for the team." Instead, Tom went on to get three degrees from U of M: BA, DDS, and MS in Dentistry. He practiced dentistry for 34 years and

was an Assistant Professor at the U of M Dental School where he lectured and taught clinical dentistry for 11 years.

In the midst of this, he took up tennis at the age of 35. "The tremendous effort, discipline, and stress which is a part of wrestling certainly helped mold my character and made me a tougher competitor in life," he says. Tom's athleticism and competitiveness resulted in 10 city doubles championships, no small feat in the Ann Arbor community.

Not surprisingly, coaching honors abound: Tom has been our organization's Regional Coach of the Year 25 times and State Coach of the Year three times (Boys: 1999 and 2006, Girls: 2003). In 2007, he was named National High School Athletic Coaches Association Coach of the Year. In 2000, he was National Federation of High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year for girls.

Tom is arguably the most successful high school tennis coach in history, given that his achievements took place in the flight era and at the Class A/Division 1 level. His records are indeed *exceptional*, *astonishing*, *amazing*, even *insane*. Our Hall of Fame would be woefully incomplete without him.



**He is arguably the most successful tennis coach in Michigan high school history**

# Jean Hoxie Hamtramck

The tenure of Jean Hoxie as the head mentor and motivating force of the Hamtramck High School tennis team encompassed a 36-year period, producing one of the most illustrious coaches to come out of our state, possibly out of the nation. A true legend in her own time, she lives on in the hearts and minds of thousand of junior high and high school tennis enthusiasts in the ranks of Michigan. Her coached extended from 1934 to 1970. In 1972, her untimely death marked the end to one of the most remarkable ladies in our country.

She came to the industrial town of Hamtramck in 1921. It was the center of an enclave of Poles, Russians, Ukrainians, and Blacks, many of whom worked at the nearby Dodge Main Plant. Jean taught at Pulaski Elementary School as a physical education instructor for a salary of \$2,200 per year. Jerry Hoxie, a local chemist arrived on the scene in 1926, swept her off her feet, and married the darling from Gladwin.

In 1934, she was asked to take charge of the high school boys tennis team which competed against Detroit city schools in the then-Metropolitan League. Although her teams always did well, they were not allowed to compete in the MHSAA state tournaments until 1946.

By this time, she had groomed one of the finest players in the state in Ted Kovaleski who went on to play at William and Mary and with Tut Bartzen, won the NCAA doubles championship in 1948. William and Mary also won the NCAA team title that year and later, Kovaleski won the National Public Parks single championship. Although Ted was reputed to be the best player to ever come out of Hamtramck, that is highly debatable.

That's because over the next two decades, Jean brought Gerry Dubie, Ray Senkowski, Chuck Brainard, Pancho Castillio, Dick Potter, to not only Kalamazoo state championships but also to national prominence. Both Brainard and Senkowski were national champions who played 1S for MSU and U of M, respectively. Dick Potter paired with Barry McKay to win the NCAA team and doubles championship for Michigan in 1957. Add Virginia Slims player Peaches Barkowicz who competed with Billie Jean King in the early days of women's pro tennis. She also produced Stephanie Prychitko who in 1947 was ranked 7th in the nation in the Girls 18s. Stephanie would go on to establish her own Hall of Fame career at Grosse Pte South, winning the state Class A championship for first five years when the team format was instituted.

But what about Stephanie's coach? For 21 years --- 1949 to 1969 – Hoxie teams garnered 18 Class A state championships under the old format. She guided individuals to 16 singles and 13 doubles championships. Her 11 consecutive state titles was a national record until University Liggett's Bob Wood broke it.

This was the result of old-fashioned hard work and stern discipline. As an elementary principal, Jean identified kids with prominent athletic co-ordination and promptly put a racket in their hand. Her wall requirements at Veterans Memorial Park were the stuff of legends: each kid had to hit a certain consecutive number of balls above a three-foot painted line, one bounce allowed. If he/she missed on number 24, start over. 25 forehands, one bounce over the line; then 25 backhands, one bounce over the line. Every day. Only then could they be permitted to go onto the tennis court.

The summer goal, of course, was to be permitted to travel to tournaments. Jean used her influence with the Ford Motor Company, local businesses, city government, and individuals to fund these trips. She had an indomitable spirit and forceful persuasion. They went to, of course, Kalamazoo but also to New York, Chicago, and Miami.

A non-nonsense disciplinarian, this tough gruff lady took kids off the street and made them outstanding tennis players. In contrast, he sensitive, likable husband was truly the rudder of the ship. He encourage the feeling of a Hamtramck family, one in which older stars would return to help the younger ones.

Jean was so famous that she was invited to the White House to teach Jackie Kennedy how to play tennis. Her advice: "Keep your hair out of your eyes and your eyes on the ball"

Jean was inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame on May 19, 1965. This spurred some of her players to later hold a 45th anniversary gala. What was supposed to be an intimate gathering mushroomed into an attendance of 850. Luminaries included Governor Romney, Mayor Cavanaugh, and Jack Kramer. Lots of former players, of course, were there to honor her.

Within 13 months, Jerry died of a stroke and a few years later, Jean succumbed as the result of a freak car accident. Alas, without her Hamtramck is no longer the tennis power that it once was but Jean left an amazing legacy.

As the saying goes: "Nobody ever died who had a family." Jean left a very large and accomplished family who most certainly wouldn't be what they are without her influence.



# Stephanie Prychitko

## Grosse Pte. South

Stephanie Prychitko, an early protégé of Hamtramck's Jean Hoxie, was the seventh best player in the nation in the Girls 18s. But since this was in 1947, nothing is known about what she achieved at Western Michigan University in the ensuing years. Maybe nothing, in that there may have been zero opportunities to play and certainly not on men's teams.

But she certainly made the most of her training and achievement once she graduated. Stephanie worked with the boys team at then-Kalamazoo State High School, later renamed University High School. In a burst of irony, it was that school -- thanks to the play of Dick Colby, Brad Hodge-man, and Mike Gill and under the coaching of Hall of Famer Carl Engles --- that ended Hamtramck's streak of 13 consecutive state championships under the old system.

She returned to the Detroit area in the early 70s and amassed an astonishing record at Grosse Pte. South. Her teams won 11 consecutive Class A state championship. They won the last seven titles under the then-new team format. In all, there were 16 regional titles, 15 regional championships, and a 273-28 won-loss record.

**Her teams won 11 consecutive Class A state championship. They won the last seven titles under the then-new team format. In all, there were 16 regional titles, 15 regional championships, and a 273-28 won-loss record.**

**Undoubtedly, the pendant shown in the photo above represents still another Hall of Fame award.**

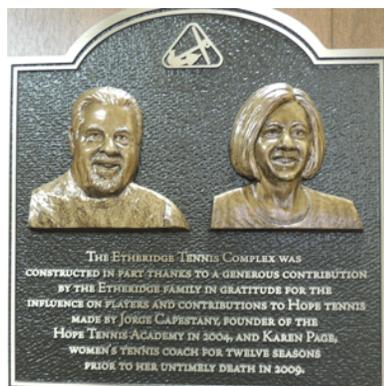
Stephanie coached girls teams long before the advent of Title IX. South competed against University Liggett, Kingswood, and other Detroit area squads. They were so strong that one player, a 1S as a freshman who lost the state championship match that year in three sets, played 4S as a senior. "She never complained about seeds or lack thereof," says Ed Waits who was in charge of that area. "She simply said: 'Well, the girls know what they have to do.'"

And they certainly did. Stephanie's achievements made her our Coach of the Year in 1979 and again in 1982. She was National Athletic Coaches Association's Coach of the Year in 1984. WMU inducted her into its Hall of Fame -- the first woman to achieve that honor -- also in 1984. The Michigan High School Coaches Association added a similar honor in 1986. The MHSTeCA was late to the party -- She was inducted into our second class in 1987.

Stephanie coached high school tennis for 39 years. Several of her players went on to successful careers at U of M and MSU, something she was not able to do. Her mentor, Jean Hoxie, would have been so proud, had she lived to see her former student reach the same level of achievement.



# Karen Page honored at Hope College tennis complex dedication



**“Perky” is the adjective that Jorge Capestany, manager of the DeWitt Tennis Center, used to describe Karen Page. Contributor Ted Etheridge used the words “upbeat” and “encouraging.” For those who knew and worked with her – both at the ceremony and in the present reading of these words – there were/are head nods of recognition and appreciation.**

The occasion was Hope College’s dedication of their new Etheridge Tennis Complex, a stunning arrangement of 12 courts amidst stadium-style seating for all of them. Folks gathered at the tennis center on Saturday, September 22nd to thank contributors and praise the efforts of those who made the Vande Poel – Herring courts possible. Also in attendance to play an exhibition was former East Lansing High School singles player Todd Martin, who went on to reach a No. 4 world ranking.

A portion of the focus was on Karen, who coached the women’s team at Hope from 1998 to 2009. Karen also

coached the West Ottawa boys team. She was our association’s president from 1997 to 1998. She was inducted into our Hall of Fame in 1996. She succumbed to cancer in 2009.

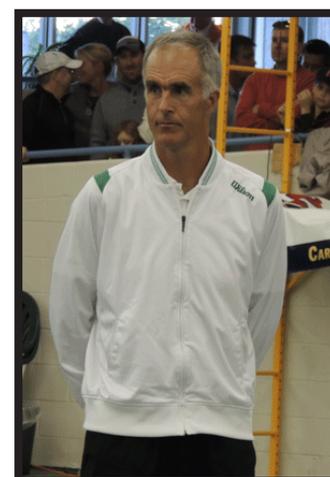
As part of the dedication, a plaque was unveiled in honor of both Jorge and Karen. Jorge has several times been a speaker at our annual clinic and twice an introducer at our Hall of Fame banquet.

In her remarks, Co-Athletic Director Eva Dean Folkert pointed out that a seating area at the courts has been dedicated to the lady who “created a legacy of enthusiasm that promoted excellence,

loyalty, respect, service, integrity, and dignity.”

Ted, whose daughter played for Karen, noted that in her first year on the team, Karen’s squad won every flight in both singles and doubles. But more to the point, he said, “I was proud of the way they called the lines.”

Eva summarized by saying, “Concrete courts and brick and mortar are not the foundation of what is here today. Instead it is dedicated and enthusiastic coaching. [For instance] If we had experienced terrible weather this afternoon, our dear late friend would have driven away the rain with her radiant cheer.”



# Don Brown

## Cranbrook

adapted from a MHSTeCA newsletter article by Gordon Boettcher, Nov. 1982

“By the time you got off the bus, you knew you were pretty much beaten,” said Southfield-Lathrup’s Ed Waits. He was talking about arriving at Cranbrook Academy for a scrimmage or the one time in 1969 when his then-Class B team was assigned to Cranbrook’s regional. “You saw the round bowl-type football stadium where the Detroit Lions used to hold their summer camp. You looked at the campus atmosphere of the buildings which were as impressive as any college campus. When you went to the 12 courts, they didn’t have wind screens. Surrounding the outside of the courts was a layer of arbor vitae as high as the fence tops.”

To be sure, it was the home of some very privileged kids who had the benefit of much serious training before they got to high school and thus could play tennis really really well. Their record showed it. In terms of levels of the game, they were as superior – if not more so -- as nearby Detroit Country Day, Brother Rice, or crosstown archrival Grosse Pte. University Liggett.

But getting stomped by Cranbrook was mitigated by their dapper, suave, sophisticated, and genuinely genial coach, Don Brown. A superb athlete at Detroit Denby, he was an all-city tennis player, track athlete and football player. As an outstanding squash player, he was a member of the USLTA Midwest Team in 1962 and 1963. A graduate of Wayne State, he became a full time tennis professional and physical education instructor at Brookside Elementary, a feeder school to Cranbrook.

As of the writing of Gordon Boettcher’s article found in the MHSTeCA’s Nov. 1982 newsletter, Don’s kids had captured five Class B state championships. Moreover, if he didn’t win it all, he would come close: four runners-up trophies, all to arch rival East Grand Rapids under Charlie Partin.

Believe it or not, the year prior to Don taking over the

team, it had completed a 4-11 season. But after 10 years under his leadership, it was 144-14. To be sure, there had to be some titanic struggles against Bob Wood’s University Liggett contingent. These were two coaches who had already received multitudes of honors in recognition of their teams’ achievements. They were both state champions, albeit in different classes.



Don did his share of developing his talent. Because he taught at the elementary school in the Cranbrook-Kingswood system, he developed an after school “Tennis and Fitness Class.” This increased interest in the community just as the sport was booming. Children in the first grade were taught the basics; those who wished to continue paid a fee. There is little doubt that the goal for many of them was to play on the very successful high school teams and for the coach who got them started.

Indeed, Cranbrook had one of the best teams in the state, year in and year out regardless of class. Some of Don’s kids went to play for Michigan, Northwestern, Iowa, Michigan State, and Arizona State. Their coach made sure that these gifted players spent plenty of time in practice with the doubles kids.

It was a given that Don would be inducted into our Hall of Fame, in his case 1987, the second year. He was one of four distinguished high school coaches to make a presentation at our very first workshop in 1977. Moreover, he was honored by being named Tennis Professional of the Year in Michigan. He received his plaque at the USPTA convention in Chicago.

He continued to give back in the form of holding summer novice tournaments to raise money for our Hall of Fame efforts. He received our Distinguished Service Award in 1993 and was National Athletic Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 1996.

In every aspect, Don was noted for his sincerity, warmth, and refinement. On top of being a terrific coach, he was a gentleman.

# Harold Holcomb

## Essexville Garber

Growing up in Fremont, Harold Holcomb played football, basketball, and pole vaulted on the track team before going on to Central Michigan University. His roommate turned out to be Bob Quinn who would become a life-long friend.

They also journeyed together to Prudenville in July 1977 to attend our association's first board meeting. Bob would become our second president; Hoke the third. Quite a duo. Quite an impact.

The two were high school football players who were supposed to compete against each other but Hoke was sick that night. Both eventually became football coaches. In Harold's case, it involved a move from hometown Fremont to Essexville-Hampton, a small semi-rural school district with a student count then of approximately 7700 kids, 550 of whom would attend the high school.

But why would a football coach turn to tennis? "Neither one of us had played tennis on a team," says Bob. "Just recreational. Both of our districts simply said, 'You have to take it.'"

For his part, Hoke became a textbook case of what a difference a single dedicated coach can make. At the time, football was the school's most popular sport with basketball, track, and baseball being the strong second choices of its male student. The high school had four tennis courts and not organized program other than the varsity squad. The Dukes had never won a regional championship nor qualified for state competition.

Over the next two decades,

- Hoke lobbied the community, the administration, and the school board to increase the number of tennis courts. Four additional courts were established and all eight have been maintained in excellent playing condition.
- He got more boys to go out for tennis than any other sport other than football. Full varsity and junior varsity schedules were established and there was great competition for spots on the teams. Assistant coaches had to be hired and despite eight courts, split practice schedules had to be organized to accommodate so many participants. A major addition for both Garber and the MHSTeCA was Jeff Newingham who has been a long-standing and helpful board member.
- His boys teams qualified for the state finals 17 out of the last 18 years before he was inducted into the Hall of Fame

Class of 1992. The boys won four regional championships and finished in the top ten of the state 9 times, the highest being fourth in 1980 during that time period

- More girls participated in varsity and junior varsity tennis than in any other sport offered to female students at Garber High School and their success was as prolific as that of the boys. Garber girls team qualified for state competition 6 out of those previous 7 years, compiled a 101-45 record, captured three regional championships, and finished in the top ten of the state three times with seventh being its highest finish in 1987.



- He initiated a tennis clinic which held classes for students five days a week, four hours a day all summer. It involved over 100 kids and employed a number of student assistants in a program that became the most successful ever offered through the district's Community Schools Program.

- He ran two Saturday invitational tournaments during both the boys and girls seasons and hosted a Class B Regional Tournament in the both the boys and girls seasons for four years. Coaches participating in regional tournaments against Garber elected him MHSTeA Coach of the Year four times in the spring and three times at the end of the girls season. He was chosen Boys Coach of the Year in 1983 and Girls Coach of the Year in 1987.

- Hoke served on the MHSAA's State Seeding committee from the very beginning. He taught middle school for many years and then taught computers to elementary school teachers. His expertise enabled him to establish our very first website in the mid 90s.

In 1992, sixty of his former players from all over the country attended a reunion in his honor. Years later, the community bestowed the ultimate honor: they named the high school courts after him.

Hoke stepped down after suffering a stroke but he left a strong program in the capable hands of Nancy Brissette and Jeff. Despite his malady, he would occasionally attend a Hall of Fame Selection Committee meeting and attended Bob Wood's memorial service in May 2019.

A caring, compassionate, sensitive man, Hoke was universally liked by his colleagues. Moreover, he and Bob served as not only pioneers but ambassadors with the regard to the establishment of the MHSTeCA. Thanks to them, our leadership got off to a very good beginning.

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**He was one of the Founding Fathers, having attended the first board meeting in July 1977**

**He was our third president.**

**He served on the first State Seeding Committee**

**The community named the high school tennis courts after him.**

Michigan High School  
Tennis Coaches Association

Coach of the Year  
Boys, Fall 2019

# Jerry Murphy

Rochester

Division 1



Last fall, **Dave Fredette** announced his retirement after 50 years of coaching at Armada. He was one of the early pioneers in the our association who received a Boys Coach of the Year in 1982 (not a misprint) and was inducted into our Hall of Fame in 1988. They named the Armada tennis courts after him.

In 1998, **Tiger Teusink** retired from coaching tennis at Holland High School. He spent 27 years leading the Dutch teams and nine in Jackson. He also helped Karen Page with the Hope College women's team. Total: 47 years coaching tennis. They named the Holland High School tennis courts after him..

Last spring, **John Shade** retired from tennis coaching at Grosse Ile after a half century. Leading highly successful teams for such a long time, he broke Mickey Johnson of Marquette's dual meet record. No, they didn't name the high school courts after him but he owns the Grosse Ile Tennis Club. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1993

**Marty Snoop**, Hall of Fame Class of 2006, coached for 42 years before suffering a serious stroke last summer. He was Girls Coach of the Year in 2000 and Boys Coach of the Year in 2002.

**Larry Nykerk** hung up the shoes and racket this past year after serving the Traverse City Central program for 50 years. His sayonara was being inducted into the MHSCA Hall of Fame this past year, adding to his induction into ours in 1999.

But there are those who are hanging in there. **Larry Seger**, Hall of Fame Class of 1994, just completed his

51st year at Thornapple Kellogg and has no plans to quit. Same with Rochester Adams' **Al Must**: 32 years. Both are still coaching even though they were inducted long ago.

And then there is **Jerry Murphy**, another paragon of MHSTeCA longevity. He is one more example of a tennis coach who has received our association's highest honors (Boys Coach of the Year in 1993 and Hall of Fame induction in 2010) and then just keeps on going. He is a stalwart at board meetings and Hall of Fame Selection Committee meetings. He has been doing this for 48 years.

Although Jerry retired from teaching at Rochester High School in 2010, he must still enjoy coaching both the boys and girls in that he certainly isn't it for the wins. After all his record over almost a half century is 286-249-25. Although he has accumulated lots of wins there have been lots of losses.

Why? One has only to look at his league competition. For instance, although his squad won two tournaments this past fall, they placed *last* in the conference behind Bloomfield, Troy, Groves, Seaholm. Strong schools such as Rochester, Troy Athens and Clarkston tied for 5th place. Every school that Rochester lost to – *all 7* – placed in the Top Ten of their respective divisions.

This was the genesis of what has become known as the **Murphy Rule**, a proposal to allow strong third place regional finishers a chance to compete at the state level. For so many years, Jerry's very strong squads stayed home because the competition was so strong. Back then, he called it "positive dissatisfaction" and

did something about it. His research and presentation in terms of how third place teams would impact the state tournament results resulted in passage of the change. Teams in certain regionals where two perennial powerhouses resided now have a better chance. It seems only appropriate that he would benefit from *his* rule.

Case in point: This past fall, Jerry's team ended in third place with 12 points – two above the required 10 in an 8-team regional -- behind Bloomfield Hills (state finish: 7th) and Clarkston (state finish: 5th). Jerry's group finished in a tie for 14th at the final tournament.

Jerry rarely if ever misses a Hall of Fame Selection Committee meeting (He is a former president – 2003 – 2005) or board meetings even though he might be excused given his longevity. Over the years, he has managed "too many regionals to count." He is almost always at the workshops although in retirement, he and Carol have tried to travel more.

This January, they plan to attend the Australian Open. That means that Jerry will miss his banquet presentation. However, he has been there and done that, both as a recipient and as a presenter.

"I value the friendship and discussions of which I had through the years with Jerry. He is one of the fond memories I have of our times in Cadillac and Big Rapids," says Jim Cummins, who himself has been around as long as Jerry.

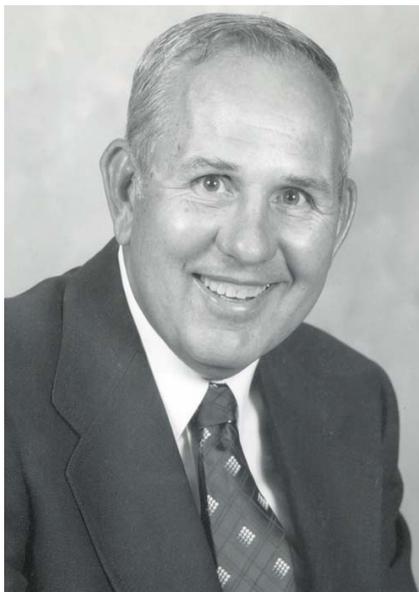
"What can you say about the guy? "He is legendary. Or is it legend-Jerry?" concludes Portage Central's Peter Militzer.

# The Sturgis Duo

## Harley Pierce Boys

Harley Pierce starred in a variety of sports at Kalamazoo College before embarking on a legendary coaching career. At Sturgis, he accomplished a rare (maybe unprecedented) feat. As head coach, he led his football team to the state championship in the fall of 1969. The following spring, his boys captured the State Class B tennis championship.

This was a gentle genial man who spent so much time – especially in the summers – training his athletes. He ran the community’s recreation program for 30 years, developing players who would capture 386 dual meet wins as against 69 losses. They won 23 regional titles and seven state championships. They dominated the Twin Valley Athletic Association, copping 22 conference crowns.



He was our association’s first Class B Coach of the Year. The following year, 1979, he was named the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Coach of the Year. He added still another such honor in 1983 when he was inducted into the Michigan High School Hall of Fame. It was only natural and appropriate that he joined nine other luminaries in our first class, this in 1986.

Harley was one of the MHSTeCA’s Founding Fathers, agreeing to serve on the Coach of the Year Committee that very first year and attending the first board meeting in Prudenville in July 1977. His presence certainly added not only lustre but credibility to our fledgling organization.

## Budd Munson Girls

When Budd Munson took the position as girls tennis coach at Sturgis, it was with the understanding that it would be only until someone could be found who could coach the team on permanent basis. However, after his players went 11-0 that year, his administration understandably asked him to continue. 20 years later, he is was inducted into the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Hall of Fame.



To be sure, the community was used to success on the tennis court. For so many of the preceding years, the program was guided by boys coach Harley Pierce who preceded Budd into the Hall of Fame by seven years. Under Harley, the program had become a power, but Budd didn’t disappoint.

Over twenty years, Budd’s teams compiled an awesome 229-15 dual meet record which translates into an astounding 94% winning record. His teams captured 17 out of 19 Twin Valley Conference Championships. They won 10 regional championships and placed 2nd 6 times. This means that his teams have taken 16 trips to the state tournament where they have finished 2nd in the state 3 times, 3rd in the state 3 times, and 4th in the state twice. At one point, Budd’s teams won 57 dual meets in a row (1976-1981). In fact, Budd’s kids had no fewer than 9 undefeated seasons.

It should come as no surprise that Budd was chosen Class B Coach of the Year as early as 1980. He served on the State Seeding Committee for a number of years representing an area of the state that his girls simply dominated. In 1992, he was inducted into the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. The following year, he joined Harley by entering ours.

# Ken Gutow

## Grosse Pointe North

When the MHSTeCA Board of Directors met for the first time in the summer of 1977 at Bill Oliver's Lodge in Prudenville, Ken Gutow was there. He became the first editor of the newsletter in the days of stencils and dittoes, and did the rankings. He also helped Bob Wood with the early clinics by, among other things, driving speakers to and from the airport — and for years he carried membership card No. 1.

He was almost the first coach of Grosse Pointe North as well. In 1971 (the school opened in 1968), the athletic director at the time was Ed Wernet who had been Gutow's football coach when Ken played for then-Grosse Pointe High School (he was all state honorable mention). Ken, a math and computer teacher in the district since 1963, had transferred to the new school from Parcels Junior High where "I coached everything."

In fact Ken was such a good athlete in his student days that he set the Grosse Pointe junior high pole vault record of 9'3". That is until as a track coach at Parcels Junior High he taught Jim Sheldon — who knew nothing about the mechanics of the event — how to do it. Jim caught on fast. When he was in ninth grade at a triangular meet, he missed 8' twice, then brought Ken over to help him with his last jump. He made it and continued on to break Ken's record with a vault of 9'6". Sheldon went on to become state champion in his senior year of high school. In other words, Ken knew how to coach.

However, in spite of what you might preconceive about the facilities of a wealthy district, the first North courts were "glorified parking lot;" i.e. the surface inside the fences was the same as the outside. "The lines weren't straight and the nets weren't the correct height," Ken says. "As a matter of fact, there were two sets of lines and we had to remind our opponents which lines to call. We made stakes (singles sticks) for the nets and lobbied hard and long for the courts to be repaved."

Those first teams had no JV program. Ken ran the program with as many as 40-50 kids by establishing three teams (Varsity, B, and C). Nobody got cut and all kids got a chance to play in meets, primarily because Ken scheduled schools (John Shade at Grosse Ile and Fred Karr at Ann Arbor Pioneer, for instance) with similar programs.

But make no mistake about it, the best ones could play. Although it took

several years to catch up with the established South, Ken's teams won the Bi-County Championship seven out of nine years and captured the Mac Red title four out of seven years. From 1971 to 1979 and again from 1988 to 1994, his kids won 167 dual meets as against only 44 losses. The Norsemen captured three regional titles and finished second 12 times. They qualified for state



competition every year but one and 5 times they finished 14<sup>th</sup> place or higher. His best team, a 1977 contingent, was undefeated in dual meet play and ended up 6<sup>th</sup> in the state.

But Ken might be better known for the time he was the center of a controversy that placed him in Judge Damon Keith's court. In the early '70s when girls tennis was just getting established, North's student population contained two girls — Debbie and Cathy Mascarin — who were better than most of the boys. During a year when a millage had failed and Ken was coaching the team on an intramural basis, his contest against University Liggett made the Detroit newspapers because Cathy posted North's lone victory against the perennial state Class C-D state champions. This one match — plus a girl who was running on the boys track team at Ypsilanti High School — prompted a class action suit about girls being able to participate on boys teams if their schools didn't have an equal-opportunity female program. "That day went well for all girls in Michigan because Judge Keith said the girls would be allowed to compete," said Ken. "I

thought his reasoning was great. He said he had four daughters of his own in high school."

As it turns out, most schools established girls varsity teams because they didn't want the boys and girls competing together. Eventually Title IX came along and ordered schools to have programs comparable to the one offered to the boys. "Whenever I watch our girls at North play soccer, softball, or basketball, I have a little smile on my face about the history of their programs and that Debbie and Kathy played a part in it," says Ken.

Ken's hardheadedness manifested itself a decade later when he quit coaching tennis in part to protest the board of education's refusal to provide transportation for tennis players to away meets. "The kids were supposed to drive themselves or have me use my own car with just my own personal liability insurance. I couldn't afford that and I didn't want kids riding with other kids that were driving. So I said no. Eventually the transportation issue changed and I came back in 1988."

Between the Title IX issue and the transportation conflict, Ken was probably not the favorite coach of the Grosse Pointe Board of Education. But his first year back, his Norsemen beat Grosse Pointe South and won their first MAC Red Division Championship. Ken retired from teaching in 1993 but came back and coached his second best team in 1994 when they beat South three times by identical scores of 6-1. Two singles players and one doubles team made all state. He also ran the North Invitational.

Ken has much going for him: roots in the establishment of our organization and coach of many successful teams. "When I founded the MHSTeCA in 1977, Ken played a major role in getting us started," says Bob Wood. "He helped me in all areas. I do not think we would have made it without his help during our early years."

But Ken is also known as a fighter, one who stood up when others stayed seated. It is time for him to stand up again, this time to receive his Hall of Fame plaque.

# Tom Leyrer Jenison



Tom Leyrer's competitive tennis career began when he played No.1 singles on his junior high school tennis team. He went on to play doubles and singles for Dearborn High School from 1964-1966, finishing with a 15-1 record at 2S his senior year. He was good enough to make the team at Western Michigan University.

Tom's coaching career began when he started a tennis program at Chatterton Junior High School in Warren Fitzgerald School District. "It was a brand new school with 4 tennis courts" he says. "I started up a team that first spring, created a scheduling including Cranbrook, and coached all 4 years. I received \$50 and 4 cans of new balls per season.

"Mark Soberalski was one of my players," he continues. "I kept contact with Mark while coaching at Jenison. During his high school years, Jenison and Warren Fitzgerald high schools hosted tournaments each year. One year we would travel to Warren where their parents would house our team and they would host a tournament. The next year, Fitzgerald would travel to Jenison and we would act as hosts. I was great friends with their coach and the players became good friends."

Indeed, tennis coaching is about connections and relationships. It should be noted that both Tom, the junior high school coach, and Mark, the junior high school player, would become presidents of the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association.

Tom played high school tennis under the much loved Tom Muldowney. He recounts one of the thrills of his life when he took his Jenison team to the state tournament only to surprisingly reunite with his high school coach whose team had also qualified. Tom used the opportunity to express his appreciation for all he had done. As Vic Braden used to say, "If you are thinking something good, say it." Muldowney died the following year.

When Tom was playing for Dearborn High School at the state tournament, Charlie Partin's powerhouse East Grand Rapids team was also there. Years later, during that same season that Coach Leyrer reunited with Coach Muldowney, he also engaged with Mr. Partin, this time as coach to coach. "Besides being able to meet with my high school coach, I also found myself sitting next to and talking with, Charlie Partin at EGR during our OK-Red Conference dual meet," he says. Charlie would become our first president. Tom, our 15th.

All of this was fodder for what would become a splendid tennis coaching career, one that would span 42 years. "I have the best job in town," he once said about his time in

Jenison. He must have been sincere. He coached the boys for 40 seasons and the girls for 42. That's 82 campaigns. Although he was too often ensconced in the East Grand Rapids-Forest Hills Central regional to qualify for state competition every year, he produced very good teams.

But the incredibly good relationships that he had with the coaches in the (mostly) OK Red Conference might be the most important to him.. He would take rivals Tiger Teusink, Karen Page, and Larry Walters out on his sailboat before the season. After an intense conference seed meeting, the group would go out for pizza. This, indeed, was quite a group. Tiger, Karen, and Tom would be MHSTeCA presidents. All are in the Hall of Fame.

Tom had the misfortune to be president at the beginning of the Gender Equity Lawsuit, an agony that would last far longer than his two year term. He was in constant contact with U of M law professor Richard Friedman who had agreed to represent high school tennis (See article in the Monumental Changes chapter). He wrote a letter to all coaches urging them to help fund Prof. Friedman's efforts (mostly copy and mailing charges). He would kid his successor, Nancy Brissette, that although he was at the forefront of the effort, she as president at its conclusion "was the one who lost it".

For eight years, Tom was the official editor of our association's newsletter. In truth, wife Sharon did the work and Tom got the credit. In 1998, she volunteered to do the newsletter, having had experience being the editor of a furniture company's quarterly newsletter when she worked in Ohio. Tom gathered the information and stamped the envelopes. Sharon did the pagination of twenty two publications. For this, the association gave Sharon, not Tom, a Distinguished Service Award in 2002.

To be fair, Tom has served the association well beyond being president during a difficult time. He hosted seven regionals (three for the boys and four for the girls at Jenison. In addition, he made the Jenison courts available for 10 state final events and helped Jim Cummins run them by hosting a site. He also helped Tiger Teusink with state tournaments when they were held in Holland.

From junior high coach to the presidency to the Hall of Fame, Tom has enjoyed quite a journey. But more to the point, he offered what Charlie Partin would have called superb fellowship. He was both a pleasure to work with and play against.

**He would take rivals Tiger Teusink, Karen Page, and Larry Walters out on his sailboat before the season. After an intense conference seed meeting, the group would go out for pizza. This, indeed, was quite a group. Tiger, Karen, and Tom would become MHSTeCA presidents. All are in the Hall of Fame.**

# Mickey Johnson

## Marquette

**“When you say *Yah* to Upper Peninsula tennis, the first person you think of is Mickey Johnson,” wrote Rich Trombly in Sept 1988. As editor of our newsletter at that time, he knew what he was talking about having grown up in Gwinn and competed against the venerable gentleman from Marquette.**

After all, once the MHSTeCA established a Century Club in Sept. 1986, Mickey was immediately at the very top of the list. He was positioned by himself in the 500+ category and it must have been in the high 500s because in June 1988 -- at age 84 and in his 49th year of high school tennis coaching -- he reached the 600 mark. By the time he retired the next year --1989 -- he had notched 628 wins. That's a lot of notches. It wasn't until 30 years later that John Shade of Grosse Ile eclipsed that record.

Why 500+ victories in the first Century Club list? Although Mickey played baseball and hockey as a youth, he took up tennis in 1939 (not a typo). His instruction about the game came from books. Then came a summer program and the start of a Redman dynasty that went on for the next half century. By the time he retired after a half century of leadership, his boys had captured 34 U.P. titles and his Redettes six.

Moreover, his presence at the beginning of our association's formation gave us a much-appreciated contact with Upper Peninsula tennis. He was as large in his area as Charlie Partin was in West Michigan. As with Charlie, he was one of the first board of directors -- in essence a Founding Father -- which met in Prudenville in July 1977. He was part of the inaugural four-person Ratings Committee.

Mickey not only carried the word of our activities back to the U.P. but because of him, the road ran two ways. The fact that he was so influential from the very beginning meant that we paid attention to Yooper tennis. Our newsletters carried articles and scores regarding their state championships. We put U.P. tennis players on our all-state teams. Some of their leaders received Coach of

the Year honors. A few have been inducted into our Hall of Fame. A list of those honorees appears on the Upper Peninsula page of this document. At the top, again of course, is Mickey who was inducted into the very first class of our Hall of Fame in 1986. At the banquet held in Kalamazoo, he regaled those who attended with good stories. He was talking to some of the foremost coaches in Michigan high school tennis history as a peer.

This was his fourth Hall of Fame. Mickey was inducted into the Upper Peninsula Sports Hall of Fame in 1974, the Northern Michigan University Sports Hall of Fame in 1985, and the Michigan High Schools Coaches Hall of Fame in the same year as ours: two in one year.

He ran summer programs at Northern Michigan University and received the NMU Distinguished Alumni Award in 1974. The Bosworth Community Service Award came in 1979 and the Upper Peninsula Sportswriters and Sportscaster Association honored him with the James E. Tretheway Award in 1983.

The folks in Marquette showed their appreciation by raising money to send Mickey and his wife to both the U.S. Open and the Wimbledon championship in 1990. June 4, 1990 was declared Mickey Johnson Day.



Yes, Mickey was a pioneer on two fronts: starting and maintaining a thriving tennis community in the Upper Peninsula and serving as a Founding Father -- and all-important U.P. connection -- when our association was being established. The fact that our leadership in the beginning consisted of the best of the best gave us a jump start in terms of credibility.

**Once the MHSTeCA established a Century Club in Sept. 1986, Mickey was immediately at the very top of the list. He was positioned by himself in the 500+ category and it must have been in the high 500s because in June 1988 -- at age 84 and in his 49th year of high school tennis coaching -- he reached the 600 mark. By the time he retired the next year --1989 -- he had notched 628 wins.**

# Charlie Partin

## East Grand Rapids

Long before the establishment of the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association, Charlie Partin was a venerable presence. His record at East Grand Rapids had put him in the same company with the likes of Jean and Jerry Hoxie, Stephanie Prychitko, and Bob Wood. One had a sense of being in the presence of royalty when talking with this genial, affable man who modestly once said to Jim Cummins that “-my job is to get the kids to the matches on time and take good pictures. I leave the coaching to the pros.”

But it was no accident that Bob Wood “appointed” him to be the first president of the MHSTeCA at that first board meeting in Prudenville. His position gave our organization instant credibility. Indeed the best coaches in the state were amidst our leadership and he was at the top on his side of the state.

Charlie spent four years as East’s assistant coach before taking over the varsity position in 1965. From that beginning of that era, his Pioneers were always at the final tournament and his one, two, or three man squads would bring home the hardware more often than not. The outcome didn’t change much when the regionals and state tournaments moved to the team format. It seemed that in the 1980s, he was in a constant tussle with Don Brown’s Cranbrook squad for the top spot. He garnered his share.

In all, Charlie’s boys teams won eight state titles: four in

Class A and four in Class B. In his 27 years at the helm, they captured 26 consecutive regional and conference championships. At the end of fall seasons, his girls had captured five state championships by the time he retired. In 1979, he was named Coach of the Year in both the boys and girls seasons.



There was undoubtedly a connection between Bob and Charlie long before that first board meeting in 1977 since they both appeared every year at the state tournament, albeit in different classes. They must have had some serious discussions about the need for a tennis coaches association. Although Bob was clearly the take-charge guy, Charlie’s prominence was a clear indication that West Michigan, not just the Detroit area, was firmly on board.

After stepping down as president, Charlie assumed the position of Historian. He and Harley Pierce worked to secure a place at Kalamazoo College to display our Hall of Fame although this effort did not succeed. Newsletter editor Gordon Boettcher

described his presence as *gracing* workshops and board meetings. Even in hotly competitive contests, he was a proponent of Good Christian Fellowship.

Not surprisingly, Charlie was inducted in 1986 into the first class of our Hall of Fame. Five years later he was named Coach of the Year by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association. A year later, he retired after 32 years of remarkable success.

**He was a Pioneer in more ways than one.**

# Hal Stofer

## Three Rivers

Although the tiny community of Three Rivers, located southeast of Kalamazoo, is not instantly associated with Michigan high school tennis powerhouses, historians will remember a time when the Kiewiet brothers, (sons of Hall of Famer Herm Kiewiet), Dick Verhuel, Ted Tucker, and others were a dominant force in Class B tennis. From 1979 to 1981, the Wildcats put together an awesome 48 match win streak. During this heady era, they finished 6th at the state tournament in 1979, 3rd in 1980, 2nd in 1981, and 4th in 1982. Three Rivers' Mike Kiewiet was a three-time state champion and lost at the finals in the fourth year to Luke Jensen. He went on to be named to the Prince National High School All American team.

Directing these wonderful accomplishments throughout this – and future – eras was Hal Stofer who was named State Coach of the Year in 1984. Hal was not only the gentleman who shepherded Three Rivers through these best years and in essence put Three River on the high school tennis map but helped pioneer the establishment of the MHSTeCA movement.

Hal was one of our first directors. He attended many of the first summer board meetings when they were held at Houghton Lake. Together with Budd Munson of Sturgis, he wrote the first MHSeCA Tennis Coaches Manual which was aimed at first year coaches. He served as our representative to the MHSAA Rules Committee several times. He was the tennis chairperson of the Wolverine Conference (in other words, the liaison to the conference's Board of Governors) for twenty two years. He

ran the conference tournament multiple times and was often a regional site director. Occasionally, he managed the entire event. At tournaments, he was always the first to volunteer to aid with transportation, to serve as line judge, or to perform any other task that could help an event go smoother.

Under Hal's guidance, Three Rivers High School consistently fielded competitive teams that exhibited both sound

fundamentals and appropriate sportsmanship. His squads would find themselves annually among the top of the conference. They captured nine championships and won 230 matches against 77 defeats. They brought home seven regional trophies, qualified for state competition an additional six times, and received two state tournament trophies.

Hal's hallmark was an unselfish "How can I help" attitude even after tennis coaching retirement. He could be found assisting at the workshop membership table years after. Although he was a Life Member, he contributed the portion of the workshop fee that should have been refunded to him to the Hall of Fame instead. He served, often with Bruce Grotenhuis as a site manager at many of the state tourna-

ments. Decades after leaving tennis coaching, he would still appear at our board meetings where he organized the Assistant Coach Award balloting. "I just wanted to stay involved," he explains.

That's a lot of involvement. After 35 years of coaching at Three Rivers, Hal retired. That was in 2006. This article was written in 2020. Do the math.



**"I just want to stay involved," Hal says. After 35 years of coaching at Three Rivers, he retired. That was in 2006. This article was written in 2020. Do the math.**

# John Shade

## Grosse Ile

Hall of Fame Class of 1993  
President, 2001 - 2003

Induction into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame, 2012  
Holds the record for the most dual meet wins: 630 over 50 years.

The above list of achievements is *insane*, an out-of-this-world adjective that describes something that just isn't normal. Very few coaches in Michigan high school tennis history have achieved John Shade's record in terms of longevity and NO coach in Michigan high school tennis history has put together as many dual meet victories. When Mickey Johnson of Marquette retired having notched 628 dual meet victories, most of us agreed that his number would never be eclipsed. We now say the same about Coach Shade but with the confidence that given the prevalence of Saturday tournaments on most schedules, his record will stand.

Compiled in 1977, our first directory had John Shade coaching the Grosse Ile tennis team for six years. 10 years later, he received his first Coach of the Year award, this one for girls. At that time, he was the director of tennis in several of the Downriver Area clubs and was recognized by all of the fine players in the region, not just his own. "He is known as a laid-back, easy-going person who doesn't push his kids too hard but gets them so involved in the sport that they inevitably push themselves," wrote the MHSTe-CA newsletter editor at the time. In that year, 1986, his girls record was 95-45 with three regional championships and one conference title. There would be many more to follow.

By the time he received his Boys Coach of the Year award three years later, John's boys team had accumulated 281 victories. His Red Devils reached the final tournament 13 times, finishing in 5th place that year. With a Master's Degree in health, physical education, and CPR, he was working at Grosse Ile High School and his teams were being coached by a USPTA pro.

In the 1993, John was inducted into the Hall of Fame. He was recognized not just for the success of his teams but how he and they got there. He had organized travel teams between area clubs (he was director of tennis at three of them) and developed junior leagues prior to the USTA Dominos squads. By that time his school squads had amassed over 300 wins, 14 Huron League Championships, and seven regional titles. Why? He was so deeply involved. He was Head Professional at the Grosse Ile Golf and Tennis Club, Director of Tennis at the Grosse Ile Rec-

reation Department, and Assistant Pro at the Downriver Racket Club. In other words, he was Mr. Tennis in Grosse Ile. You would think that a coach with all of this accomplishment would consider it time to rest on one's laurels, contemplate triumphs, and eventually walk into the sunset. Yes, that happened but not until almost 25 years later.

In between 1993 and 2019, John supplemented his considerable resume by serving as our association's president from 2001 to 20013. The first year of this term was also the year he was inducted into his second Hall of Fame, that of the Michigan High School Coaches Association.



He also continued to extend his winning record. By the time, he hung up the coaching togs, John had surpassed Mickey Johnson's seemingly unreachable dual meet record by totaling 630 victories.

All of this occurred on home turf. John grew up in nearby East Detroit and played for a team that was so strong that it defeated Grosse Pte. High School back in the day. He went on to compete for Central Michigan University along with future Hall of Famers Lee O'Bryan and Chuck Reed.

After college, the tennis bug was so big that John decided to make it a career. The timing was right, the "tennis boom" of the 1970s. He taught tennis at the Downriver Racquet Club for 9 years, the Park Colony Club in Allen Park for the 5 years, and finally took over the Grosse Ile Tennis Club program. As a result, he came in contact with virtually every junior coming out of the Downriver Detroit area. The Grosse Ile coaching position was a natural.

Obviously, it was a good fit. It didn't hurt that he is the owner of the Grosse Ile Tennis Club, nor that he has had the help of some talented assistants: daughter Audrey and Scooter DeMare. Together, they achieved a massive output of regional and conference championships.

Add one more laurel. In 2012, he was inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame, seven years before reaching his final *unreachable* milestone.

# Mark Sobieralski

## Warren Mott Grosse Pte. South University Liggett School



Mark Sobieralski's lifelong love of tennis got its start in typical boyhood fashion. The community had built four courts at his neighborhood park in Warren and as an athletic eighth grader, he and his friends scrounged up some old wooden tennis racquets and gave the game a try. As it turns out, his junior high school sponsored a club team at the time and fortuitously, the director at the time was future Hall of Famer Tom Leyrer who became the Jenison varsity coach and MHSTeCA president. Tom helped Mark with the basics, fostered his love for the game, and sent him on to a very successful high school career at Warren Fitzgerald under veteran coach John Tatsak.

"He was like having another father," said Mark of Tatsak. "He taught us mental toughness and great sportsmanship." In turn, Tatsak says: "During the four years on the high school team, I recognized that Mark possessed several characteristics that helped him to be successful as a tennis player and student in high school, college and in his adult career as a coach and professional tennis instructor."

Tatsak's observation foreshadows a career that put Mark into the Hall of Fame. But as a very skilled basketball player (the high school teams Sobieralski played on were ranked in the Class A top ten), this talented athlete received more college scholarship attention for what he could do with the large orange ball than with the small yellow one. Because he wanted to play both sports in college, he opted to attend Aquinas College in Grand Rapids where his tennis game, under the tutelage of coach Joe Hesse III, took off. A change of grips and the addition of an American twist serve elevated his game several levels.

In addition, Hesse helped get Mark a job at the Grand Rapids Racquet Club where he learned even more from former UofM varsity star Brian Marcus and from work with players such as Luke and Murphy Jensen. By the end of his sophomore year (1980), Mark had won the N.A.I.A District 23 singles championship and had qualified for the nationals in Kansas City where he reached the fourth round. He ended his college career at Aquinas by setting the record for most career victories.

**The totals are astonishing. Mark started his journey by coaching for one year at Wyoming Lee where his record was 4-11. Since then the boys at two other schools have garnered 203 wins. Add 378 for the girls and we have a coach who is approaching the 600 victory milestone.**

Thus Mark brought considerable talent and skill home with him when he returned to Warren to coach both boys and girls at Mott High School. At Mott, his teams captured II conference championships (six in boys and five in girls), and Mark guided Dave Gennero to the state No. 1 singles championship in 1992. It is safe to say that Gennero had someone worthy to work out with. After all, as a teaching pro at local racket clubs, his coach had spent time practicing with Aaron Krickstein.

Given that Mark had chosen tennis as a vocation and was working at the Wimbledon Racquet Club where he is a USPTA Certified ProTennis and Fitness Club and additionally that he worked during the summers as head professional at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, it was natural that his impact on high school tennis would gravitate to the Grosse Pointe area. In 1993, Mark took over the girls varsity job at Grosse Pointe South, scene of so many state championships under the legendary Hall of Famer Stephanie Prychitko.

"Adding to his output" is an understatement. From 1993 to 2020, his girls have won 270 dual meets, four state championships, and three second place finishes.

But can he coach boys as well? In the seven years he has been at the helm of University Liggett, his teams have won two state championships and brought home two runners-up trophies.

The totals are astonishing. Mark started his journey by coaching for one year at Wyoming Lee where his record was 4-11. Since then the boys have garnered 203 wins. Add 378 for the girls and we have a coach who is approaching the 600 victory milestone.

Given his connections with summer tennis and his position as a tennis pro, Mark has been immensely helpful over the years when it comes to choosing all state teams. He also served as our president from 2017-2019 and has been a at our workshops.

Maybe most important of all, he -- as with Bob Wood -- has attained the *gravitas* to keep privileged kids and their parents in line. After all, these kids are coached by a Hall of Famer (Class of 2004).



# Rich Trombly

## Hillsdale Gladstone

Rich Trombly grew up in the Upper Peninsula town of Gwinn where he took up tennis because it looked like the high school players on the team were having fun. He ended up playing for the Modeltowners and had such a good experience that during his college years at Northern Michigan University, he would go back to help out with the squad.

But his first employment took him a long way from the U.P. Hillsdale High School is located near the southern border of Michigan where in 1979 Rich got the tennis job. He led strong teams during the early years of our association's development but far too often they stayed home at state tournament time thanks to the likes of Battle Creek Springfield, Sturgis, and St. Joe

Nevertheless, given his roots, Rich would provide his teams with the memorable experience of traveling to his Upper Peninsula homeland, a highlight of each season. It was always quite a tour. For ten years, his girls competed annually against U.P. squads and then extended the trip by coming back through Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana. They would stop in Waukegon and of course spend some time at the malls. They sometimes stopped in Petoskey to practice at Boyne Mountain. "They may not mention the matches they played," he concluded, "but they remembered the trip."

A board member in the 1980s, Rich assumed the position of newsletter editor. Under him, it became *The Court Monitor*, an appellation that would remain from 1988 when he took over the task through the 1990s and into

the 2000s under Sharon Leyrer. Thanks to him, the document achieved a more professional look and he added some much-needed originality.

For the next four years, Rich continued the superb job of covering not only the Lower Peninsula final tournaments but also that of the U.P. His writing reflected a close knowledge of the area's tennis history. He did an engaging job of coming up with clever titles, especially in terms of state tournament summaries. He would end each edition of his newsletter with Notes. Some were the usual reminders regarding the Workshop or Rules Meetings or Board Meetings but he also included some great short stories, some of which can be found in the Fun Facts page of this document. He was also thrust into the embarrassing job of writing his own Coach of the Year article for the quarterly, an honor he received in 1989.

But 13 years into his tenure at Hillsdale, Rich returned to the Upper Peninsula, this time residing in Gladstone. He brought considerable tennis coaching experience with him but also important statewide contacts. In terms of U.P. recognition, it is imperative that the Region 9 has representation. Rich knew U.P. tennis and the Lower Peninsula board of directors knew him. This was/is invaluable.

However, although Rich was more than ready for Gladstone tennis, Gladstone tennis was not ready for him. "There were no courts in town when I came," he recalls. He had to take his kids to nearby Escanaba to practice while he spearheaded a drive to build five courts.

Using various community efforts, he helped raise \$20,000 while the school board added \$75,000. All the while, he pieced together a solid program, helped out with summer lessons, and converted

an exhibition building into a place where kids could play indoors. He would also take his kids to a team building experience at Boyne Mountain before each season and sometimes traveled all the way to Cincinnati so that his players could watch the ATP event.

On top of all this, he enjoyed the satisfaction of coaching his daughter Gina who was All-Upper Peninsula in each of her four years at Gladstone /and MHSTCA All State for two. He picked up another well-deserved Coach of the Year Award in 2001.

Although Rich stepped down as newsletter editor in 1992, he would get back in the saddle again twice, once in 1996 and again as late as 2006 but this time from afar. He didn't hesitate to poke fun at his origins, sometimes lapsing into Yooper: "Well dare all youse guys down der," he would write asking for items to include in the next edition. "If ya have sum info for me to put inta da newsletter, jus send er up nort."

Rich coached high school tennis in Michigan for \_\_\_\_ years, the first 13 in Hillsdale and the next \_\_\_\_ in Gladstone. For him, "it has been little about individual success or team success but all about developing personal relationships and presenting a positive growth experience for the players. While we were at it, we also developed some tennis skills and an enjoyment of the game."

Tiger Teusink describes Rich as "someone who got his hands dirty. He was grass roots." Indeed he served not only his kids well but also our association in its formative years, then returned to help us out not once but *twice*. He was a credit not only to his schools but also to Upper Peninsula tennis coaching, something that most of us know very little about.

**Tiger Teusink describes Rich as "someone who got his hands dirty. He was grass roots." Indeed he served not only his kids well but also our association in its formative years, then returned to help us out not once but *twice*.**

# Doug Adams

## Clio

### Flint Powers Catholic

Doug Adams didn't start playing tennis until he took an introductory class at Eastern Michigan University in the late 70s as part of a physical education requirement. "I was terrible, finishing at the bottom of a round robin tournament held the first week," he says. "Among other issues, I could not put a serve in play."

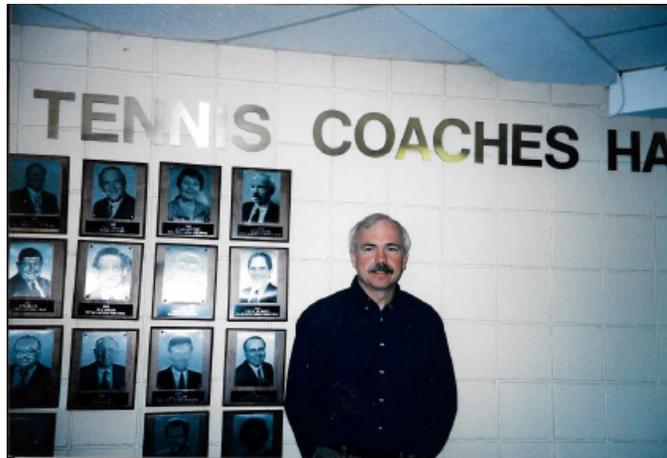
His coaching started in the fall of 1980 when the girls' coach left Clio at the start of the season. "I said no the first several times I was asked by students, tennis players, the departing coach, and the building administrators," he says. "I took the job when I was told that it was me or the end of the program because no one else would do it. After hitting with me, the departing coach advised me not to hit with the players but instead to have a player demonstrate in practices."

But Doug persisted with uncommon zeal. He read everything he could get his hands on regarding how to play and coach. He took lessons and spent hours practicing. He joined the USTA and the MHSTeCA. He attended our workshops and sought help from opposing coaches.

As he improved, so did his teams. For instance, when Doug took over that Clio girls program that was in danger of extinction, that squad had recorded one win prior to 1980. Under his leadership, the program's first winning seasons were in 1982 and 1983. The team had added a JV squad in 1984.

His Clio boys squads – once again having recorded only one win prior to 1981 – eventually won 12 invitational tournaments, qualified for state competition twice, and were regional champions in 1991. Again, he grew the program by adding a JV squad.

Here we go again. In 1986,



Doug took over a Flint Powers Catholic girls team that had never won a regional or league title. From 1986 to 1999, they won 13 consecutive regional championships (a record), six Big 9 titles, and 13 invitational championships under his leadership. His overall record was 128-17.

In terms of inductive reasoning, there is an obvious conclusion.

Moreover, all of this did not go unrecognized. Doug was chosen Girls State Coach of the Year twice, once in 1988 and another in 1996. In 2000, he was inducted into Flint Powers' Hall of Honor. That same year, he was inducted into our Hall of Fame. At our banquet

over the years, he has introduced no fewer than six inductees.

Speaking of which, when our Hall of Fame display was unceremoniously taken down from the Midland Community Tennis Center, Doug led a successful effort to restore it at the Genesys Racket Club in Grand Blanc.

This involved lots of persuasion in terms of letter writing and committee meetings, concluding with still another dedication (our third one in three venues) on June 9, 2010.

He also did more of the same in terms of aggressively promoting our association's quest to change the state tournament format from three classes to four divisions. He was at the forefront of this eight-year effort.

Finally, Doug took on the task of MHSTeCA Historian in 1994 and reorganized a mountain of workshop brochures, newsletters, meeting minutes, banquet programs, and various communications into a file system that made access much more efficient. This had to take a considerable amount of time. He gave the job to Bill Riggs 14 years later.

It has been quite a career. Doug served on the MHSTeCA board for 30 years and the MHSAA Tennis Committee for four. Throughout his successful coaching career, he worked diligently with both organizations for almost four decades to improve the sport and has much to show for it.

This is called a legacy.

**In terms of inductive reasoning, there is an obvious conclusion.**



# Larry Nykerk

## Traverse City Central

that became an invaluable feeder system for the area high schools. For years, he ran three Jr. USTA tournaments: the Governor's Cup, the Cherry Festival Open, and the Northern Mich. Jr. Open. Events such as these were sure to open players' eyes as to the prospect of tennis at another level. He also created Mentor Night wherein adult players were organized to drill, play, and work with kids on their way to playing for Larry's very successful high school teams.

How successful? Larry's boys and girls amassed 677 dual meet wins, 373 tournament victories, 40 regional trophies, 51 seasons of finishing in the Top Ten of the state, 19 Top Five finishes, and 39 conference championships. Larry was our State Coach of the Year three times (1984, 1997, 2007), entered the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1999 and the Traverse City Central Hall of Fame in 2007. He was a National Coach of the Year finalist in 2011,

This was an enormous amount of effort and creativity that bore fruit (an apt metaphor given the area's famous reputation for cherries and wine) for five decades. Larry coached the girls from 1982–2017 and boys in two stints: 1969-199 and 2007-2014. There are a precious few who have coached high school tennis as long (Dave Fredette, Armada; John Shade, Grosse Ile; Larry Seger, Middleville; Jerry Murphy, Rochester).

There are even fewer, if any, Michigan high school tennis coach centenarians who can match his teams' record of victories.

Larry Nykerk grew up in the Richland Gull Lake School District, close enough to Kalamazoo to take lessons from the legendary George Acker at Stowe Stadium. However, his dad, a school superintendent, took a position in Jenison; thus Larry spent his high school years at nearby Grandville where he earned three varsity letters for basketball and three more for cross country. He played 1D for the Bulldogs tennis team, capturing a regional championship at that position. But he mostly played 2S and was a state semifinalist when the tournament was held at K College. He was also the school's student council president.

Larry matriculated to Taylor University during the first two years, again playing 1D and 2S on their team before transferring to Western Michigan. He played both basketball and tennis there but not at the varsity level. After graduating in 1967, he was hired by the Traverse City Public Schools to teach Language Arts/Humanities and coach basketball. But tennis was not far behind. Larry started the first middle school program in 1968 and took over the varsity job the next year. That was 50 years ago.

That half century found tons of tennis changes in Traverse City at the hands of this Hall of Famer (Class of 1999). For instance, in 1981 he led an effort to raise money to establish four new courts at TCC and resurface the other four. He raised some more money to have all eight of these courts resurfaced eleven years later. In 2001, he established Friends of TC Tennis, wrote grants, and led efforts to secure more money through annual "Fun Raiser" tournaments. From 2002-2018, these efforts brought in \$500,000.

By then, Larry was Mr. Tennis in the community. He founded the Grand Traverse Tennis Camp and has directed it each summer for the past 46 years. He and his cohort instructed 400+ students, among other things a program

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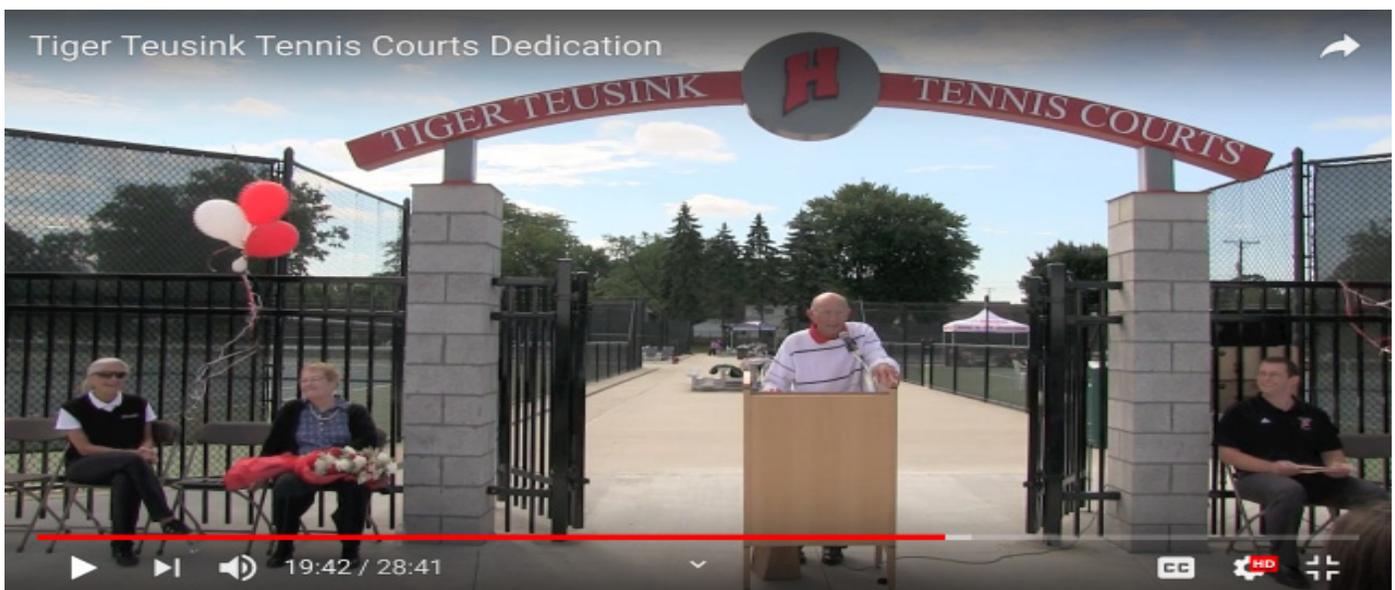
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# Coaches who were so revered that tennis facilities were renamed in their honor

## Dennis Kiley, Jackson High School



## Tiger Teusink, Holland High School



## George Acker, Kalamazoo College



## Bob Wood, University Liggett School



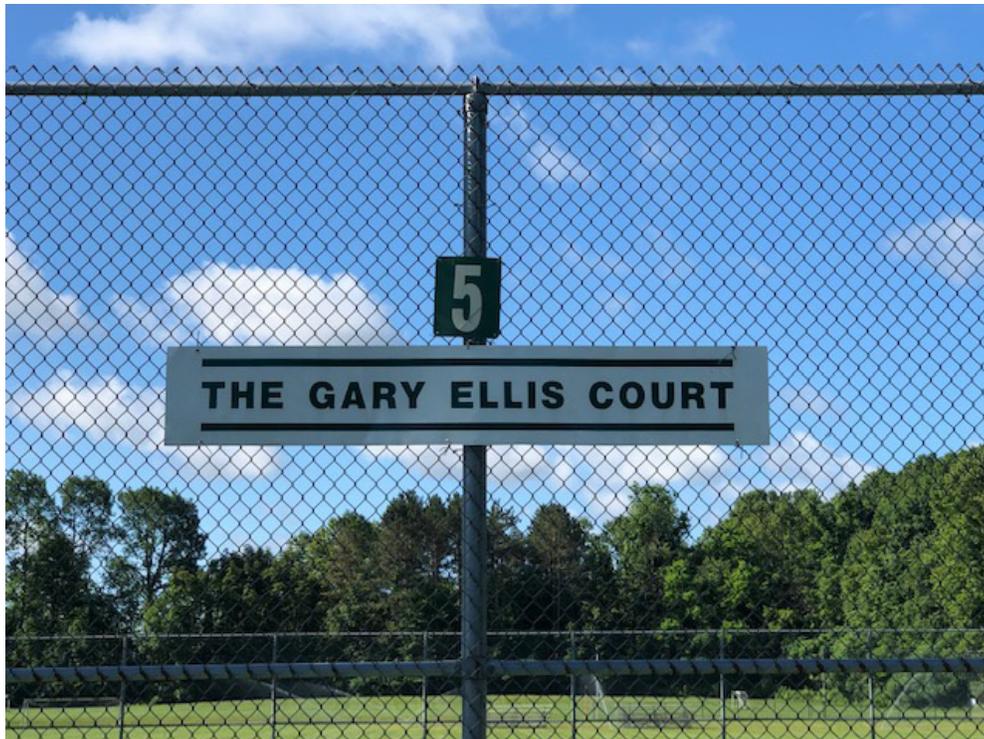
# Harold Holcomb, Essexville Garber



# Dave Fredette, Armada



# Gary Ellis, Allegan



# John Knoester, Holland Christian





# MHSTeCA



# Monumental Changes



# The Advent of Girls Tennis

Hamtramck's Stephanie Prychitko was the nation's 7th best player in Girls 18s in 1947. Jane "Peaches" Barkowicz was so good that she played in the first Virginia Slims tour started by Billie Jean King. In terms of being permitted to play high school tennis, these two most certainly grew up in the wrong era, especially since the squad they would have played for was Jean Hoxie's vaunted Hamtramck High School contingent. Only boys were allowed, but girls were becoming aloud.

In the late 1960s, the times they were a changin'. Women were demanding equal rights and feminism was the rage, both literally and figuratively. It was only a matter of time before young female tennis players would look at their male counterparts who had the privilege, pleasure, and prestige of representing their school and ask: Why not us?

"The opening setting was in a meeting of the Ann Arbor Board of Education in February 1972 where two concerned parents with their attorney, Lawrence Sperling, appealed to the board to allow their two girls, Emily Barrett and Cindy Morris, to compete on the boys team for Huron High School that spring," writes Gordon Boettcher in the Sept. 1993 issue of our newsletter. "Once granted the right to play, they were aware that they would be in opposition of the state ruling that 'girls are not to engage in interscholastic contests when a part of all of the membership of one or both of the competing teams is comprising of boys'."

"On April 10th, the South Central Conference to which Huron belonged, passed its confirmation of that MHSAA ruling that 'any team which enters a participant in violation of an MHSAA rule will forfeit the contest in which the player was entered,'" continues Gordy. Sure enough, when Coach Jerry Shull took his co-ed team for its first match against Lansing Harry Hill High School and submitted his line-up, Harry Hill received a forfeit without a ball being served.

Huron defeated Adrian a few days later with an all boys line-up but the die had been cast. Sperling and the Ann Arbor board's attorney obtained a temporary court restraining order from the bench of Judge Damon Keith of the U.S. District Court in Detroit on April 18th. He cited the MHSAA rule as "contrary to the equal protection clause of the United States Constitution to discriminate against people on the basis of sex" as was being done here. That temporary restraining order was secured on the very same day that Lansing Everett was to play Huron but since there was no physical paper on the premises, Everett's coach returned his team to Lansing under the direction of his superiors without playing.

The following day, Huron traveled to Trenton where Coach Tony Malinowski (Hall of Fame Class of 1999) openly received his opponents with Emily and Cindy participating at 2D in that first historic match. The nervous girls lost 6-2, 7-5 and the team lost 5-2 but the precedent had been set. The following week the official hearing and injunction transpired in Judge Keith's court and girls were given official permission to appear in line-ups. Yes, this judge ruled in favor of the girls, saying among other things that he had four girls of his own in high school.

Thus, the floodgates opened to a group of very talented girls, every bit as skilled as their male counterparts. These were the gifted kids who were good enough to play on boys teams and what's more, convinced coaches to let them participate. One was Southfield High School's Jody Ross who played 1S on an otherwise very poor boys team. She held her own at that position her sophomore year before playing for the newly formed girls team the next two seasons and winning two consecutive state titles. Judy Acker, George's daughter, defeated future Hall of Fame coach Steve Bender of Buchanan in the first round of the boys state tournament one year. The Kalamazoo television cameras were there to record the event. Denis Thal of Berkley defeated Ed Waits's 4S, a good player, in a dual meet.

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Perhaps even more notably, two gate crashers came from Ken Gutow's Grosse Pte. North High School. Debbie and Cathy Mascarin were better than most of the boys on his team. When North played perennial Class C-D state champion University Liggett in a scrimmage, Cathy posted the only win for her squad. That got the attention of the Detroit newspapers. Moreover, in addition to the Ann Arbor players, those two were joined by a girl from Ypsilanti who ran on the boys track team in that same class action law suit regarding girls being able to play on boys teams if their schools didn't offer an equal opportunity female program.

At the same time, Title IX strengthened the requirement of schools to offer girls programs comparable to what had been offered to the boys. But rather than having boys and girls competing on the same teams, high schools -- having seen clear handwriting on the proverbial wall -- had already begun establishing programs for girls. Girls tennis teams started competing against each other in the fall of 1972. At that time, the MHSAA established a single state tournament to be held at Kalamazoo that October called an "Open Class."

In 1972, only 40 girls teams competed at those regional tournaments for the right to compete in that first girls state tournament. Six different regionals were held that season and 19 "teams" competed for that championship under the old format. No surprise, the MHSAA had to do some scrambling to accommodate a newly established regional and final tournament schedule. George Acker once again stepped in to host the final event at Stowe. The girls who qualified must have been thrilled to play for a state title in the Kalamazoo College stadium. But still, "teams" consisted of one, two, three, or at the very most, six players.

To be sure, one "Open Class" was not a good situation. Jim Cummins remembers taking his Class C-D squad to Jackson where his very good 1S lost in the semifinal to the Class A Ann Arbor Huron girl who then went on to win the state championship. So much for a trip to Midland for the Battle Creek kid. However, it was a start toward improvement. That's because the following year, there was an expansion of ten regionals with 23 "teams" being represented at Stowe Stadium.

In those early days, regionals were huge. In that second year - 1973 - when the state tournament expanded to two classes -- Class A and Class B-C-D -- Tiger Teusink ran a regional involving 21 teams. It had to be finished on Monday, a third day. The results from those regionals meant that 26 "teams" competed for the Class A title and 23 in the other.

Then four years later came another monumental change: *Every* player would be able to compete at the final tournament if her team qualified. The first girls state tournament under the new *actual* team format occurred in the fall of 1976. Things improved even more as the state championships expanded to three classes in 1979. At this point, of course, more than one venue was required. Midland became the perennial site for Class A site where 10 players, and later 12, would compete for the state title. Kalamazoo, Holland and sometimes Grand Rapids were the others. Later, MSU, Novi, and Jenison.

Yes, we have come a long way since 1972 when only forty teams competed for a chance to compete for a state title. In 2019, that total was [\(anybody have a list of regional assignments? How teams participated?\)](#)

It has been said that today's female professional players owe much to Billie Jean King who blazed the trail that enable them to earn so much money these days. The same can be said for today's beneficiaries, high school kids who can compete for their honor and glory of their institution while enjoying the fellowship of same-sex teammates. Yes, the movement was probably inevitable but below were the trailblazers.

Although these pioneers may still not appreciate what they did, names such as Judy Acker, Jody Ross, Denise Thal, Penny Milliken of Traverse City, and Debbie and Kathy Mascarin should be regarded as significant contributors of a movement that so many girls enjoy today. So are coaches Shull, Gutow, Malinowski, Ryan, Peterson, Prychitko, Teusink, and Wood. And not to forget attorney Sperling and Judge Keith who showed great foresight to pushed forward to what we have now.

It has become a rich tradition that, looking back, we should appreciate.

Please note: The vast majority of the information from this article came from a superb piece authored by Gordon Boettcher for the Sept. 1993 issue of the *Court Monitor*, our newsletter.

# The State Tournament Team Format

Back in the day, “everybody knew” (generally speaking, those words lead to a fallacy but in this case, it is totally true) that the state tournament format to determine a “team” champion was a travesty. “Teams” of one or three (often a singles player and a doubles team) would take home the trophy. A school didn’t have to field 10 or 12 good players, just a precious few of the top ones.

Cases in point: In 1971, four “teams” – East Grand Rapids, Holland, Lapeer, and Kalamazoo Central -- won the state championship. The following year, Holland High School captured the state title (actually a co-championship) *with one player*, Vic Amaya. Amaya, by the way, went on to play 1S for U of M where he captured the NCAA singles title, then played professionally. At Wimbledon, he lost in five sets to Bjorn Borg.

Jim Cummins recalls that in one of his regionals at the time, Kalamazoo Christian came in 13th out of 17 schools under the old format, yet the school won the state Class C-D championship that year because their 1S went all the way.

*If you were a coach back in the day – 1950s to early 1970s – you undoubtedly have your own story of how bizarre this situation was. Here’s mine.*

In the early ‘70s, crosstown rival Southfield High School had Jody Ross, an outstanding player. She was so good that she played on the boys team her sophomore year and at 1S, beat my 2S, a very good player himself (my 1S wasn’t there that day). But the next year, she played on SHS’s girls team.

That season, we played our rivals in home and home matches.. We won each contest 6-1. That same season, I qualified a doubles team under the old format while Jody went to the state tournament by herself. Her “team” was state runner-up. They/She finished far ahead of mine. She probably got five points while my school earned maybe one.

Sometime in the mid-70s, Bob Wood --- a doer rather than merely a complainer --led the effort to change the format. In a letter to the MHSAA, he used Jody as one example saying that although she was the state champion and Southfield High School was the state team runner-up, they didn’t win a single dual meet that year. I can’t substantiate that but I certainly know who won our head-to-head 10-girl contests.

Bob’s letter was certainly not the first complaint that the MHSAA fielded. It was the annual subject of Tennis Committee meetings for many years. But the disparity between the best 10-person teams in the state and the ones that were declared champions by the state at the end of each final tournament couldn’t be ignored any longer. There was little doubt that Bob and Tiger Teusink’s relationship with Warren McKenzie had something to do with it. Tiger said that Warren “went out on a limb” on our behalf. What we were asking for was a radical change.

It should be emphasized that this took place *before* the establishment of our tennis coaches association. However, the principals in the effort to make this monumental change were also the ones who would be the movers and shakers of the fledgling MHSTeCA.

In May 1975, the Representative Council approved the move to explore the change in format. Later that fall, certain coaches were invited to attend a Special Tennis Committee meeting to thoroughly discuss the details involved in hold-

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ing essentially 7 mini-tournaments at the regionals and then at the final tournaments. That committee met in Lansing on January 13, 1976. It included Bob and Tiger.

At that meeting, Bob presented a proposal that became largely how we operate the state tournament today, plus or minus a few tweaks. See scan on page ??

These details were then presented to the regular Tennis Committee which met on Feb. 10, 1976. That committee included Tiger, Jim Cummins, Nancy Ryan, and George Acker. Again, these people were not representing our association which didn't exist until a short time later but given their status, they would be instrumental in making this grand experiment work.

On Feb. 25th of that year, Tiger wrote to Warren offering Holland's "super" facilities for hosting both the new regional format and also the ensuing state tournament in Class A. George Acker was certainly on board given his extensive experience. Very shortly afterward, the Midland Community Tennis Center, with its 16 outdoor and 16 indoor courts, would become such an attractive venue as to host the Class A tournament indefinitely.

In June, 1976, Warren announced the change in format. See pages 6-7 of this document. It was monumental to be sure. Although details would have to be worked out and fundamentals regarding who might qualify for state competition would have to be tweaked (which 1S players, how about the 1D champion, what about team total ties, etc.) nobody complained about the essential concept. The final tournament would be much more of a team championship even if it wasn't perfect. After all, the extreme idea of 10-person squads competing against 10-person squads in a multi-team tournament was unworkable, especially at the end of a school year.

But just imagine that you are an experienced regional manager who is used to running a tournament with only *two* draws in which all the coaches had to sandwich three of their players in the singles event and three of their doubles teams in the other. In the early 70s, I ran an entire regional at Oakland University using only their eight courts.

Under the new system -- wherein there were *seven* separate mini-tournament draws -- I used 26 courts in the Southfield area. To be sure, I had lots of help managing sites before flights were able to move back to the Southfield Civic Center where the tournament could be finished on its nine courts under my supervision. And one more thing: my regionals always consisted of 16 teams. Do the math.

Same at the state tournament. It could no longer be held at one venue. Instead, Class A was assigned to the superb facilities at the Midland Community Tennis Center. Stowe Stadium was still a mecca but no longer the only game in town. Holland became a staple because it had Tiger to manage it and because of their many courts. All three were tennis towns with plenty of experienced help living there. If dual meets were slipshod in terms of rules enforcement, the state tournaments were another matter.

**Over the past 40+ years, it has worked out quite well. Entire teams get the state championship-gathering experience even if they are knocked out early. Ten players --- now 12 -- get to contribute to their teams's outcome, whether it be top flight honors or a place on the top ten team list.**

**State tournaments have turned into festivals where not only do players congregate but kids can watch some of the best tennis in the state. Those who are not seniors leave the event-hungry to come back next year for more. Those who are seniors would certainly recall how they did in their final chance to play tennis for their high school.**

For the most part, Bob Wood's proposal, which was delivered at the MHSAA's Special Tennis Committee meeting on Jan. 13, 1976, is how we operate the state championships today.

January 13, 1976

Proposed Change In High School  
State Tennis Tournament

The way the state tournament is run now makes it an individual championship rather than a school or team championship, as it should be. A perfect example was the year Victor Amaya won the class A singles and Holland tied for the "State Championship" and the only points they received were from Victor. Or how about the 1974 girls state tournament. Judi Ross won the singles championship and Southfield high was runner-up in class A. However their girls tennis team failed to win a single dual match that fall. This has happened in all classes.

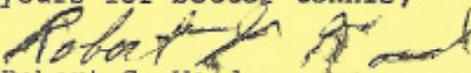
I would like to propose a system that would require only ONE more weekend to come up with a true State Championship team.

We would keep the same format we have now. We would have a regional weekend followed by the team State Championship weekend, and then that would be followed by the individual State Championship weekend. By taking the top two teams (total points) in each region and having a blind draw (class A 16 regions, 32 teams) they could play each other, four singles and three doubles on the second weekend and a true State Championship team would emerge. In case of a tie between second place and third place a playoff would take place the following Monday (flip a coin to determine site). We could also devise a system like the basketball tournament and this would eliminate the big demand for court on the State Championship weekend.

The major problem as I see it would be what to do with the dishonest coach. We would have to set up some system (if a boy plays over 60% of his regular season matches in a certain spot he must play there in the state tournament) to protect against such a person.

I have talked to at least two dozen tennis coaches and they are all in favor of this proposal. The sooner we act the better off Michigan High School Tennis will be.

Respectfully submitted  
yours for better tennis,

  
Robert G. Wood  
Athletic Director  
Varsity Tennis Coach

# The State Tournament Seeding Procedure

In the early days -- the 1960s and early 70s when George Acker ran the final tournament at Stowe Stadium -- seeding for the event was relatively easy. After all, there were only two draws per class. Often a "team" consisted of one player and at the most, three -- one singles player and one doubles team. It was a rare event when six players from one team-- two singles and two doubles -- would qualify out of one regional although occasionally it happened.

According to Jim Cummins, coaches of these players -- maybe five or six -- would meet with George in a small room with a view of a tennis court from George's office at Kalamazoo College on the Monday after the regionals to work out the seeding and make the draw. Tiger Tuesink has said that sometimes they would gather again on the Thursday night prior to the tournament to finalize things. These were draws of 32. Afterward, George would take those who remained to an establishment for a light snack.

Because of the limited entry, the entire tournament -- all classes, singles and doubles -- was played on the red clay courts of Stowe. Although these kids had played their entire season on hard courts, the state championships were determined on a slow surface. Coaches may have privately groused about this but the chance to play in that hallowed venue overshadowed everything. After all, the National 16s and 18s were held there each August. This is where Rod Laver, Chuck McKinly, Dennis Ralston, and Arthur Ashe competed.

But things radically altered when the format changed in fall 1976 . Now there were *seven* draws in each class. This eventually necessitated three separate venues, each with access to lots of courts. The sites turned out to be Class A at the Midland Community Tennis Center and the other two classes in Holland or Kalamazoo. It also meant three separate seed meetings that certainly did *not* involve only five or six coaches. Each flight was a draw of 16 except for 1S which often had to expand to 32, its own problem in terms of rat-tails and byes. Seeding had to be accomplished for seven mini-tournaments.

The situation was fraught with bad possibilities. A room could be filled with high-octane coaches who were eager to get their kids seeded. They were not merely dealing with a top singles player or a top doubles team but potentially with all of the flights. Some of them may not yet have understood that strength of schedule matters more than an unblemished record. Some may have considered it their coaching duty to advocate for their kids even if they know deep that they are wrong. Because they didn't necessarily know each other, there may have been a level of distrust.

According to Tiger Teusink, that was not the case in the first couple of years. Perhaps it was because Class B and Class C-D events primarily consisted of West Michigan squads where coaches knew each other well. "The placement of players easily fell into place," he says. "We played each other so much. Westside people knew their place and pecking order."

But Jim Cummins remembers that it took a lot of time. "I went to Holland for the seed meeting for states," he recalls. "I got there at two in the afternoon and left at midnight. All classes were there." Even if there was agreement most of the time, seeding 21 draws in a day wasn't easy.

Besides, easily establishing a pecking order wasn't always the case throughout the state or even sometimes on the west side where Kalamazoo and Portage coaches sometimes had their own ideas. The same especially applied to Southeast Michigan where there were so many more tennis teams and where the concept of Saturday tournaments had not taken hold. Basis for comparisons (head-to-head or even indirects) didn't exist as much as they do at present. Neither did digital communication devices. Coaches didn't know what the kid from another team had done in terms of both wins and losses. This left eager, aggressive, ambitious coaches to "fight for their kids."

And they certainly did. One can only imagine the chaos. Scores of intense coaches descending on a room in Lansing to argue for their players This wasn't just limited to 1S. As a coach, if you had an undefeated 3D, you were there. It was a nightmare as coaches would pass around sheets of statistics in a persuasive quest to get their kids seeded. There was endless arguing, especially in light of the fact that some coaches *still* couldn't understand why strength of competition trumped an undefeated record. (Fun Fact: Bob Wood entered the Class C-D state tournament one year *without winning a single dual meet* but came away with the title). Bob Quinn reports that coaches would yell at each other across the room. Ed Waits wandered the room asking for aspirin.

Things came to a head in 1980 when the Class A seeding started at 1:00 p.m. on a Monday and didn't finish until 10:00 that night. The seeding for only one flight --1S -- concluded at 4:00 that afternoon. Three hours for one flight. Afterward, Bob Wood and Warren McKenzie got together, each having heard the horror stories and knowing that something had to be done.

Their solution modeled the way the NCAA determines the seeds of its championship. The state was divided into regions and a coach was assigned to host a district-type seed meeting the day after the regional wherein that particular group of qualifiers would compile a list of potentials. That area representative would then attend the state meeting with his/her counterparts from around the state to finalize seeds and make the draws.

It was/is, to understate, an arduous task. Seed committee members would have to host these meetings on the Sunday after the Saturday regional, compile the results, and transmit them to the other seed committee members around the state so that everyone would have an identical list upon arrival in Lansing. On Monday (or maybe that Wednesday), they would have to teach classes all day, leave lessons plans for the next day, travel to Lansing after school, and start seeding at 5:00. They would break for dinner at 7:00 and then go back to work until they were simply too tired to proceed. The next morning, they would have breakfast together and then finish the seeding.

But it certainly wasn't over after the seeds were established. Making the draws for the Michigan high school state final tournaments isn't easy. Once the seeds are placed, there are some important rules/restrictions to be observed. The regional winner at a flight has to be in the opposite half of the runner-up from that same regional. If there are three 1S qualifiers (occasionally four, believe it or not), they have to be in opposite quarters. Regional winners cannot play regional winners in the first round. However, the entire process was aided by the various tournament managers who arrived on that second day to help with the draw.

Ed Waits has said facetiously that anyone who has served on the state seed committee deserves the association's Distinguished Service Award. After all, once you returned home with the results, you faced an onslaught of phone calls wondering "why my kid didn't get a better seed." Then you went back to school the next day to teach and most probably to hold a practice if your team had qualified.

The first State Seeding Committee was established in the fall of 1980, directly after that horrendous seed meeting in Lansing in that spring. It consisted of Charlie Partin, East Grand Rapids; Tiger Teusink, Holland; Bob Quinn, Saginaw MacArthur; Dick Rossio, Portage Northern; Gordon Boettcher, Ann Arbor Huron; and Bob Wood, University Liggett. Each met with coaches of regional winners and runners-up at their homes on Sunday, Oct. 19th (the day after the regional) to determine seeding possibilities for their players. *Note: Oct. 19th seems late but that's what the Nov. 1980 newsletter says. I am guessing it was the Sunday prior).*

One important facet was that these coaches at these Sunday seed meetings for the most part *knew each other* unlike the larger gatherings in Lansing. Another was that the group was relatively small; therefore opinions could be more easily expressed. Also, there was a clearer understanding of the pecking order in that there were more direct and indirect comparisons. But the bottom line was the respect and trust that each seed committee member commanded given his reputation.

For instance, Ed Waits had coached in the Detroit suburban area for 15 years before being appointed to the committee. Moreover, he had managed numerous regionals in which many of these coaches had qualified for state competition. Finally, his team rarely qualified for state competition; therefore, he wasn't suspected of bias.

These people would then take their lists to Lansing, finalize the seeding and make the draws. The accuracy of their work in that first effort, fall 1980 was impressive. 70 out of the 84 held their seeds. 83%.

It would get better as coaches got used to the new procedure and more importantly, as information became more available. Generally, over 90% of the seeds hold year in and year out. Moreover, as Class A tournament manager Dennis Margoni once said, "A tournament isn't a tournament without upsets."

After all, if all seeds held, why play the tournament?

# Stowe Stadium

So many tennis coaches have fond memories of bringing their players to this “Wimbledon of junior tennis” (Arthur Ashes’s words) to compete for Michigan’s highest prize, both individual and team. It is the longest running venue of any sport in terms of hosting state championships. Many coaches remember the red clay courts that are pictured below. It is worth rotating your screen to view a scene from the 1950s.

## TENNIS HISTORY

### HOLDING COURT

Stowe Stadium at Kalamazoo College has hosted MHSAA Tennis Events for more than **70 years**.

The current all-weather surface above is markedly different from the clay courts pictured during the 1950s at right, but this spring the tradition continues with the MHSAA Division 2 LP Finals.



**The facility is the longest-running home for an MHSAA Finals event.**

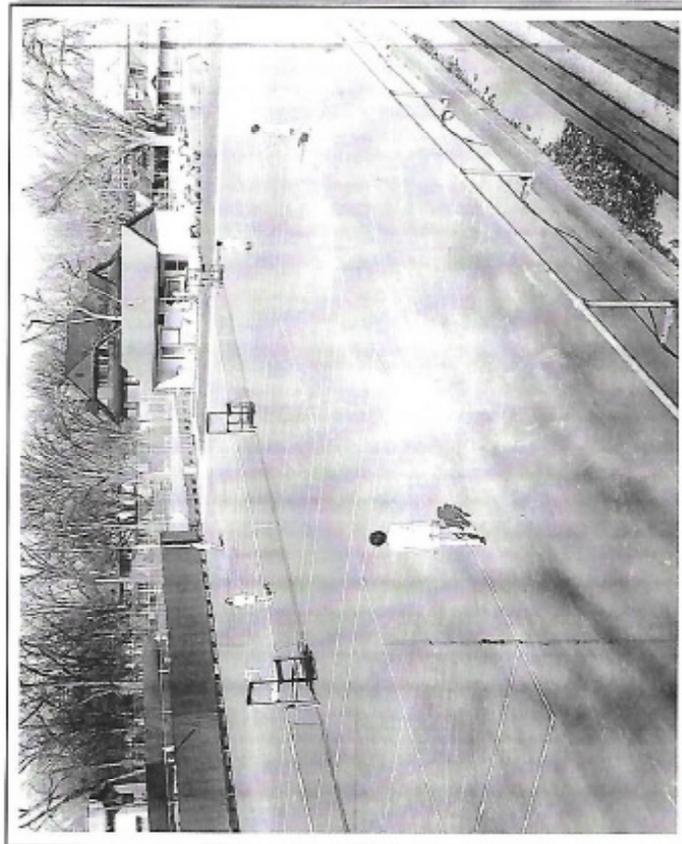


Photo courtesy of the Kalamazoo College Archives

# The Gender Equity Lawsuit

Ah, yes, the end of summer and start of school was always an exciting time for female high school tennis players. They had the previous months to improve their games and keep in shape. They would meet their past and present teammates in mid-August in anticipation of an exciting start to the school year and the prospect of success on the court. And they could enjoy all of this amidst splendid weather.

This scenario occurred from 1972 until 2008 when events in the form of a lawsuit would radically alter the above.

In ???, the parents of two volleyball players from East Kentwood High School filed a lawsuit in the court of Judge Richard Enslin alleging that the MHSAA schedule of having their sport compete in the fall was discriminatory. They claimed that among other things, games played in autumn made it more difficult for volleyball players to obtain college scholarships. Moreover, the suit maintained that volleyball is a winter sport, not a fall sport. A violation of Title IX was also cited. These parents went further to claim that *six of the 12 sports offered to girls took place in the wrong seasons*. This, of course, included girls tennis. To be sure, this got LOTS of media attention.

In turn, the MHSAA maintained that it schedules at the pleasure of the schools. Survey after survey revealed that officials at these institutions were satisfied with the status quo. Facility availability was certainly at the heart of the scheduling. How does an athletic director sandwich practices of multiple basketball teams with the possibility of having to accommodate volleyball squads. Additionally, there would be the problem of obtaining officials, there being only so many to go around.

The situation outraged coaches of virtually every sport. For our part, the MHSTeCA jumped in with an *amicus* brief prepared by Nancy Brissette's husband who is an attorney. Our umbrella organization, the Michigan High School Coaches Association, contributed \$18,000 toward the effort to have this defeated. Jack Roberts, the MHSAA Executive Director, addressed the issue several times at our workshop. He said at one point that his organization was uniquely positioned financially to fight this, having not one but two insurance policies in place.

Despite all this, Judge Enslin eventually (it took years) ruled that the MHSAA had discriminated against girls in allocating sports seasons, not just volleyball. Part of his remedy would be to switch boys and girls tennis seasons. Anybody who has ever coached tennis in Michigan knows that this change *disadvantages* girls on several fronts.

Enter Richard Friedman, a law school professor at U of M. He had a vested interest in this issue in that his freshman daughter played tennis for Ann Arbor Huron. He recognized that boys and girls tennis were merely pawns in a power struggle between volleyball and basketball.

Prof. Friedman offered to represent us for free in terms of a rehearing. He would enter a Friend of the Court brief and the MHSTeCA would only pay his travel and copy expenses. The board unanimously agreed, President Tom Leyer wrote a letter to all tennis coaches asking for donations, and Tiger Teusink, the treasurer, set up a separate account to receive and disperse the money. Given the ramifications of a bad outcome, there was plenty of it.

**Enter Richard Friedman, a law school professor at U of M. He had a vested interest in this issue in that his freshman daughter played tennis for Ann Arbor Huron. He recognized that boys and girls tennis were merely pawns in a power struggle between volleyball and basketball.**

Friedman's brief was nothing less than brilliant. It beautifully laid out the multiple reasons why having girls tennis switched to the spring would be very detrimental to that sex.

**FOR THE LARGE MAJORITY OF GIRLS, HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS THROUGHOUT THE NATION IS PLAYED IN THE FALL SEASON, AND PARTICIPATION RATES ARE HIGHER WHERE TENNIS IS PLAYED IN THE FALL THAN WHERE IT IS PLAYED IN THE SPRING.**

Tons of detail were included to support this.

**THE WEATHER FOR PLAYING TENNIS IN MICHIGAN IS FAR BETTER IN THE FALL SEASON THAN IN THE SPRING SEASON.**

We know this via experience but Prof. Friedman proved it statistically. Lots of it.

**THE FALL SEASON IS FAR BETTER PLACED THAN THE SPRING SEASON IN RELATION TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR.**

Again, explanations in terms of final exams, advanced placement tests, graduation activities, etc.

At one point, Prof Friedman called the change of seasons for high school tennis *idiosyncratic* in comparison to the volleyball-basketball issue. Girls tennis players would suffer. So would boys tennis for that matter in that if there were a change, some very good athletes would have to decide between tennis and football (As it turns out, this would be true, especially for Division 4 programs).

The fact that the plaintiffs expanded the case beyond volleyball and basketball schedules produced massive media attention which got even more parents up in arms. The ultimate result was, in the words of Dan Hutcheson, the present MHSAA assistant director in charge of tennis, to make all sports "equally unequal." That is, with the exception of volleyball which improved its situation at the expense of tennis, among others.

Prof. Friedman's arguments were rejected because they only dealt with tennis. Indeed, tennis players were pawns in a game in which they definitely were not bishops or rooks or queens or kings.

The result: In year 2007, there were two boys seasons, one in the spring and another in the fall. The boys were undoubtedly cheering the change. In year 2007, girls did not play high school tennis. At the time, Tom Leyrer kidded his successor, Nancy Brissette saying that although he had fought the good fight from the beginning she was the one who lost it.

The first girls spring season was in 2008. Ann Arbor Pioneer's Tom Pullen testified that there was unending moaning on the part of his kids that March. It was almost always weather related. These woes would expand to cancellations and rescheduling due to rain and snow. There was even more pressure to secure indoor courts.

This was a multi-year drawn-out ordeal, one that saw continual reverses and subsequent rehearings. It wasn't just expensive in terms of the adjustments that so many coaches and athletes had to make. In spite of insurance policies, the MHSAA actually filed for bankruptcy as a precaution after the dust settled.

But it settled indeed and as in the case of so many of these kinds of things, people would forget about the good 'ol days when girls played tennis in the fall. This especially applied in the midst of horrendous weather when a coach who was directing a team prior to 2008 would remember when.....

**The ultimate result was, in the words of Dan Hutcheson, the present MHSAA assistant director in charge of tennis, to make all sports "equally unequal."**

# The Murphy Rule

From the very beginnings of state competition, it was almost axiomatic that tennis coaches would complain about where the MHSAA's Assistant Director in charge of tennis would assign their teams in terms of regionals. For many in rough tough neighborhoods -- i.e. areas where strong squads were situated close together -- Warren McKenzie's decisions might determine if you would qualify for state competition.

This had an impact for a few players back in the days when individuals could qualify. If your regional contained some very strong kids, a couple of them might not "make it to states." Indeed regional semifinal matches were sometimes very important, the winner going on to Kalamazoo while the loser -- a player superior to qualifiers from weaker regionals-- would have to stay home.

But this situation achieved added significance when the regional and state format went from individual to team. Now, entire 10-person (later, 12) squads might have to stay home if assigned to strong regionals. Under the initial rules, only the top two teams in terms of accumulated points could go on. If there was a tie for first place in a regional, both went and the second place team stayed home. Only if there was a tie for second place would three teams from the regional would go on to the final tournament.

Perennial situations were in abundance. Woe betide your team if it was assigned to the Ann Arbor regional where Pioneer and Huron ruled. The same applied if you were stuck year after year near Detroit Country Day or Cranbrook, Detroit Catholic Central or Brother Rice. East Grand Rapids or Forest Hills Central. Some very good squads which could compete favorably at the state level had to stay home. They could only watch as teams from weaker regionals -- some of whom they had handily beaten during the season -- got to vie for state honors because of geography.

One was Jerry Murphy of Rochester who campaign after campaign fielded very strong teams which stayed home. As a member of the MHSTeCA board, he listened to stories twice a year which were similar to his own situation. "Everybody knew" that certain regionals contained third place teams who would outperform qualifiers from weak regionals. His situation involved the two Bloomfield Hills schools: Andover and Lahser, and the two Birmingham schools, Seaholm and Groves. There were season in which all four of these teams were assigned to the same regional that included both Adams and Rochester.

"This was the situation that motivated me to investigate whether a different method of qualifying for the State Finals would be possible," he says. "I noticed that in other sports, there were various ways to qualify to the state finals. In track and swimming for instance, regional finishes, times, distances, etc. were taken into account. In tennis, I believed that the best approach would be to allow an additional team/s to qualify out of a strong regional.

"To qualify, my thought was to come up with a number that a team would have to accumulate at a regional in order to qualify. This led me to contact Warren Makenzie at the MHSAA. I asked him to give me results of all regionals for a five year period. I analyzed these results and determined that 16 points seemed to be right number in a regional where 9 or more teams were participating. I believe that 8 points became the number for a regional with 8 or fewer teams competing. I brought my information to our MHSTeCA board of directors meetings where the pros and cons were debated."

It wasn't immediately embraced. The impact on the state tournament schedules, especially in view of how the state managers would consider the impact was discussed at length. It took a number of years to get the concept passed by both the MHSAA Tennis Committe and the Representative Council.\*

however, it did take a few years before this was approved by the Representative Council of the MHSAA. As I recall it was approved by one vote. I still get phone calls and emails from coaches whose teams qualify because of the rule, thanking me for allowing their team to go to the State Finals.

# From Three to Four

## Changing the state tournament format from three classes to four divisions

From time immemorial (or so it seems), coaches have groused about their inability to qualify for the final tournament, not because of the quality of their teams but because of circumstances beyond their control. The most common complaint had to do with the regional to which they were assigned. If you were a Class A school living near, say, Ann Arbor, you were pretty much doomed.

Aside from imploring Warren Mackenzie or Gina Mazzolini for a reassignment, some coaches opted for volunteering to manage a regional in the hope that it would shake up the geography. Such was the case of Ed Waits who found himself in the clutches of Brother Rice. But once he started managing regionals (18 of them), his team finished behind Detroit Catholic Central five times. However, at least his kids got to go to Midland.

However, the inequity went further than that. Class A teams were routinely assigned to 16-team regionals, only two of which could qualify. Not so in Class C-D where two teams qualified from regionals where they competed against just six to eight squads.

The operative words used in this situation were *grossly unfair*. As an example, in one year 167 teams competed for the Class A state championship while only 32 teams competed for the Class C-D title. In the girls season of 1992, 308 teams competed in three uneven classes: 168 in Class A, 108 in Class B, and 33 in Class C-D. Regional sizes

ranged from 15 to 5. The issue was brought up repeatedly at MHSTeCA board meetings in the 1980s. If 308 schools were divided into four equal groups, there would be 77 in each division. This would mean 11 regionals per division with six to eight teams per regional. Although there would be 15 more regionals to host, the smaller size would mean being able to hold an event in one day. Perhaps more coaches, with something to gain, would step up as managers.

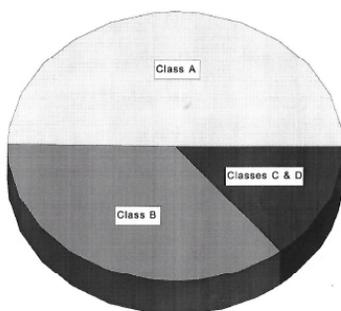
More to the point, more deserving teams would be able to compete for a coveted state title. Fewer players would be staying home while counterparts in more favorable (read: weaker) geographical areas and classes -- who were less deserving in terms of skills-- got to go to "states."

To be sure, it was a long haul from 1989 to 1997 when the state tournament format was at long last changed. Objections during that time ranged from the difficulty of finding a fourth venue to host a state

championship to the same in terms of hosting regionals, even though in terms of holding such a "different" regional tournament, managing an eight team event was to be vastly easier than doing so had been with 15 or 16 squads. Perhaps the MHSAA feared that it could not find 15 more people to "step up" and manage a tournament.

In 1989, this proposal was referred by our body to the MHSAA Tennis Committee which then sent it on to the

1996 MHSAA Tennis Tournament



**As an example, in one year 167 teams competed for the Class A state championship while only 32 teams competed for the Class C-D title. In the girls season of 1992, 308 teams competed in three uneven classes: 168 in Class A, 108 in Class B, and 33 in Class C-D. Regional sizes ranged from 15 to 5.**

Representative Council but it turned out to be a hard sell. For years, Doug Adams prepared flyers and graphs (see above) to be sent to area coaches and athletic directors and even the Tennis Committee and Representative Council but there was the requisite foot dragging and resistance to change.

The MHSTeCA was tenacious enough to repeatedly submit the proposal and by the end, according to Doug Adams, the MHSAA worked hand in hand with us. "They even sent Nate Hampton to our Board of Directors meeting," he says. "I remember how excited I, and the coaches surrounding me, were when Nate laid that laminated map in front of me and explained how to start from each corner as we developed the new format."

At long last, in July 1997 Gina Mazzolini announced the Representative Council's approval of the proposal to reclassify Lower Peninsula Boys and Girls Tennis Tournaments by placing schools into four nearly equal divisions. Two teams would qualify from each regional and the Murphy Rule – an additional qualifier with 16 points – would still be in effect.

The new equitable divisions were instituted for the 1997-98 tennis seasons but not to universal acclaim. Most of the complaints had to do with –once again – the placing of schools but this time into another division's regional where there might be substantially more competition. For instance, Bloomfield Lahser, a previous Class A school, found itself that first year in a Division II regional with top ranked teams from Marian and Seaholm. Because of the eight

team format, there were only two seeds per draw which made for some crucial early round matches which might determine who would go on to the final tournament. Once again, very strong teams might have to stay home. "It's not a true state tournament if the top teams don't get to the state tournament," said Ann Arbor Pioneer's Tom Pullen at the time. The MHSAA's Jack Roberts responded that the state tournament was not intended to be totally rigged.

The same applied to other divisions where too many talented teams were packed into a single regional but with only two seeds per flight. That year, No. 2 St. Joseph and No. 8 Gull Lake were in Division 3, in the same regional as host No. 6 Allegan.

This is an age-old concern that goes way back before the change to divisions. Bob Wood used to repeatedly tell the story about how the Class C-D state basketball championship was decided at the first round of the division tournament because the two best Detroit teams –also best in the state -- were in it every year.

What goes around comes around. See first paragraphs of this essay.

But the result was an increase of 10 teams overall qualifying as opposed to the previous year's three-class system. The former three-class inequity had been rectified even if the on-going "I've been assigned to the wrong regional" situation is still ... on-going. And one more state champion would be crowned.

**Murphy Rule is now 12 points?**

**How has the four division state championships worked out over the years. People are OK with it? People are used to it? Still complaining?**

**It took from 1989 to 1997 for this to be adopted. Why? What were the arguments against adoption of the proposal?**



# MHSTeCA



# Newsletters

First newsletter was written September 1978 by Ken Gutow

Gordon Boettcher took over September 1980

Ed Waits took over September 1985

Rich Trombly- Hillsdale took over 1988. Was called 'Court Monitor'

Gordon Boettcher- Ed Waits took over for 1 year in 1992

Ken Gutow & Ed Waits took over in 1993

Elaina Morey- 1994-1997

Tom Leyrer- 1998-2005 -- Actually, Sharon Leyrer

Rich Trombly took over again 2006-07 (Newsletter will be emailed)

2007 Decided to suspend publication. Information will be on website



# Ken Gutow, Editor

## 1979-1980

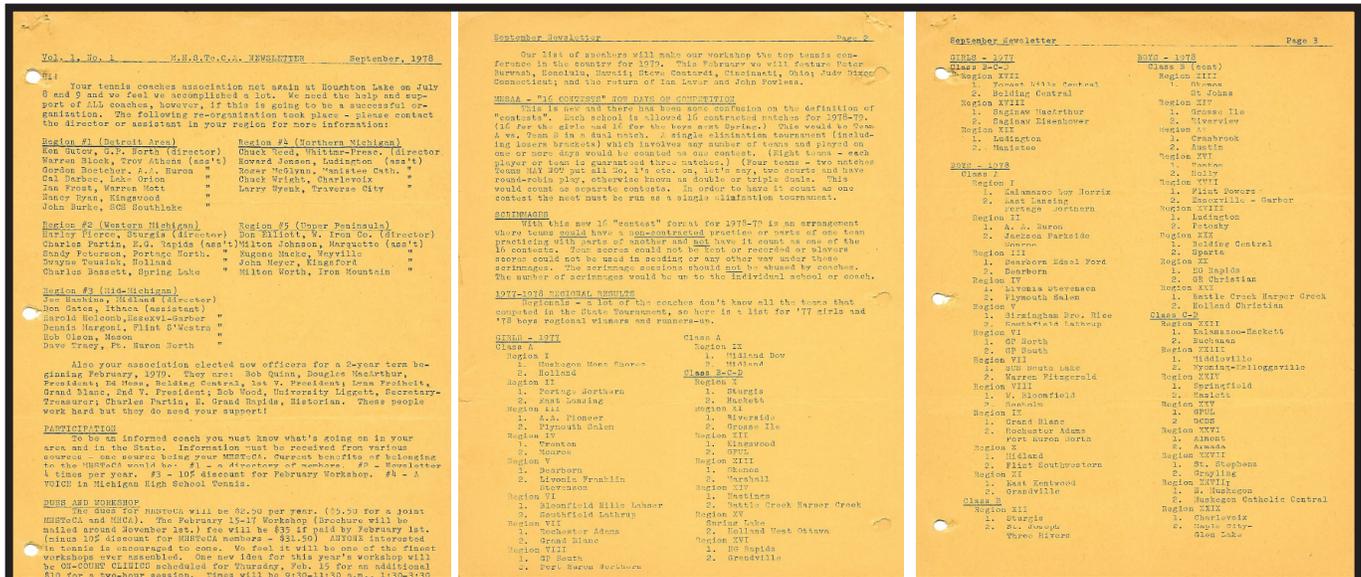
Younger members of our organization must understand that in 1978, there was no Internet. Individuals could not get information aimed solely at high school tennis coaches by simply pressing a few buttons. And although it takes Bruce Grotenhuis a bit of time and effort to post stuff, it pales in comparison to what Ken Gutow had to do four times a year for two years.

Ken placed information about our doings on physical paper using a new-fangled device called a computer albeit a very early version. After all, he was the computer science instructor at Grosse Pointe North. He produced it eight times over two years. Often enough, an issued would reach six pages. After authoring the words, he had to run off each page -- front and back -- hundreds of times. The document was then collated, stapled, mail labeled, and stamped, again hundreds of times before being delivered to the post office. It may have been fun and exciting at the beginning but some of us can assure the reader that it wears off fast, especially if you are a teacher and a coach.

But what a concept: a document devoted to informing high school tennis coaches without having to rely on local newspaper coverage (spotty at best in most communities) or shop talk among colleagues. From this newsletter, we learned:

- The results of the summer board meeting in terms of new officers, district directors, and assistant directors.
- Information about annual dues (gasp! \$2.50) and announcement of the upcoming workshop dates and speakers.
- Explanation of what a new rule that limits the number of dates of competition to 16. Also, how this limitation affected scrimmages.
- Team results of the previous year's regional tournaments for both boys and girls. Also the result of the state tournaments listed by Classes included the Upper Peninsula.
- Discussion of a new rankings procedure and a list of contact people.
- Discussion of how many outside tournaments a player can participate in during the season.
- A recommendation for regional runners-up to receive medals.
- A discussion involving limiting the state tournament to a teams-only format. A gifted No. 1 player on a weak team would not be able to participate in that his/her presence might alter the result. As it turned out, coaches were virtually unanimous (96%) in keeping it the same.

Subsequent newsletters would highlight workshops, discuss MHSTeCA recommendations to the MHSAA Tennis Committee and later the results of that meeting, announcement of state tournament sites, an explanation as to the criteria for seeding (strength of competition over padded numbers, indirect data, etc.)



# Gordon Boettcher, Editor

## 1980-1985

In terms of production, things weren't any better for Ann Arbor Huron's Gordon Boettcher when he took charge of the newsletter. He typed it *on a stencil* and ran off copies on his wife's Cleary College printer. Then he went through the same tiresome process of collating, mail labeling, stamping, and posting (that is, driving to the physical post office, not clicking a mouse) the hundreds of documents. It was routine and kinda fun back then; not so much after awhile.

But Gordy did much to improve the quality of the newsletter. A superb writer, he offered page long essays on "Outstanding Coaches." He profiled the luminaries of his day: Stephanie Prychitko, Harold Holcomb, Bob Quinn, Don Brown, Tiger Teusink, Jean Hoxie, Mickey Johnson, and Gene Maki. He got Herm Kiewiet to write a lengthy piece on "Characteristics of a good coach." He added funny pieces such as the time when Rob Olsen of Mason stopped a match because off-flight parachutists from a nearby airport were about to land on the courts (See Good Stories). He had Dennis Margoni write a page-long essay about rules changes.

He also compiled a list of state champions from the past, both boys and girls. He did the same with state championship teams. He wrote an essay regarding the circumstances surrounding the quest to establish girls tennis as a team sport, lawsuits and all. In addition to recording individual winners and scores of state championship results, he included short pieces praising the winners and explaining reasons for success. Found in these pages were lists of all state players. He wrote articles about Distinguished Service Award winners, an honor that was first established in 1980.

Gordy also included pieces about current Coaches of the Year. There was the usual information about rankings and announcements about upcoming workshops. It now cost \$9.00 to join both the MHSTeCA and the MHSCA.

More to the point, Gordy became an ambassador for the MHSTeCA. His gregarious and loquacious personality forged relationships on behalf of what we were doing. He referred to himself as "your little editor," a curious appellation given his stature. He added so much more by reaching out. He made it quite a challenge for his successor: me.



# Rich Trombly, Editor

## 1988 - 1992

Under Rich, who was the Hillsdale High School coach at the time, the newsletter became *The Court Monitor*, an appellation that would stick from 1988 when he took over the task through the 1990s and into the 2000s under Sharon Leyrer. The document took on a more professional look and he added some much-needed originality.

Rich continued the superb job of covering not only the Lower Peninsula final tournaments but also that of the U.P. His writing reflected a close knowledge of the area in that he was born and raised in Gldstone. He did an engaging job of coming up with clever titles, especially in terms of state tournament summaries.

Unfortunately, he ended up having to write his own Class B Coach of the Year article, an honor he received in 1989. It was a gracious essay about "What I do at Hillsdale that made such an honor possible." His team did not always appear at the state tournament (blame is extended to Battle Creek Springfield, Sturgis, and St. Joe) but a journey to his Upper Peninsula homeland was a highlight of each season. It was quite a tour. For ten years, his girls competed annually against U.P. squads and then extended the trip by coming back through Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana. They would stop in Milwaukee for a trip to the zoo, go to the Great Amusement Park in Waukegon, and of course spend some time at the malls. They sometimes stopped in Petoskey to practice at Boyne Mountain. "They may not mention the matches they played," he concluded, "but they remembered the trip."

Rich ended each edition of his newsletters with Notes. Some were the usual reminders regarding the Workshop or Rules Meetings or Board Meetings but he also included some great short stories, some of which can be found in the Fun Facts page of this document.

He inserted the mandated long lists of Regional Coaches of the Year and All State selections from each season. There were capsule summaries of the state tournament results which would read the same as the previous year's: University Liggett would win again ("Different Class, Same Result"), so would Cranbrook or Okemos, etc. Winners and scores of final tournament matches were included.

But there were also smatterings of biographies concerning the most recent Hall of Fame inductees, and praises for those selected as Coaches of the Year. Assistant Coaches, and Distinguished Service Awards winners. Expanded versions of the above would be found in the Hall of Fame banquet program.

Rich included "A Word from the President," Monroe's Stan Noland, Battle Creek' Springfield's Jim Cummins, and Southfield-Lathrup's Ed Waits. He sometimes added short pieces about tennis rules. His newsletter not only promoted the upcoming workshop but offered a summary of its triumphs in the next edition. He worked at making coaches aware of the tennis rankings, sometimes adding the list at the start of a season to promote interest and encourage information on the weekends. Since Saturday tournaments were starting to be an integral part of a team's schedule, he provided a list of possibilities and contacts. And, of course, it encouraged membership renewals.

Although Rich initially stepped down in 1992, he would reemerge as the editor twice, once in \_\_\_\_ and another in as late as \_\_\_\_ when he started writing in Yooper.

His service was distinguished but we failed to bestow him a Distinguished Service Award. In a lame imitation, maybe this page makes up for it a little bit.

# Sharon Leyrer, Editor

For eight years, Tom was the official editor of our association's newsletter. In truth, wife Sharon did the work and Tom got the credit. In 1998, she volunteered to do the newsletter, having had experience being the editor of a furniture company's quarterly newsletter when she worked in Ohio. Tom gathered the information and stamped the envelopes. Sharon did the pagination of twenty two publications. For this, the association gave Sharon, not Tom, a Distinguished Service Award.

Also, in 1998,, the directory recored only 30 e-mail addresses.

# Fun Facts gleaned from the writing

**Harley Pierce of Sturgis** was an extraordinary coach but it wasn't limited to the sport of tennis. He was the school's head football coach as well. In the school year 1969-1970, he achieved an amazing feat. **At the end of the fall season, his football team was ranked No. 1, the mythical state championship in an era when there was no playoff. In the spring, his tennis team won the Class B state title. Two state championships in one year.** At the end of that decade, he was named Coach of the Year by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.

**Bob Wood** could have cared less about the number of dual meet wins his team achieved in a single season. He certainly didn't spend sleepless nights worrying about where he was on our Century Club list. All he wanted for his kids was to give them a chance to play the best competition in the state, regardless of class. He went out of his way to seek entrance into the strongest Saturday tournaments (who would turn him down?) and invite the best to Liggett. Bringing Todd Martin to Grosse Pte. was but one example. **In fact, his schedule was so strong that in one campaign, he entered the regional and state tournament winless. Not one victory. But they won the state championship easily anyway.**

**John Powless**, the superb senior tennis player who coached varsity tennis at colleges such as the University of Cincinnati and the University of Wisconsin was also a basketball coach. He was so accomplished that he was the head coach at Wisconsin for several seasons. Why?

Many of us followed the incredible Ohio State basketball teams of the early 1960s featuring future NBA stars as Jerry Lucas, John Havlicek, and Mel Knowell. They were virtually unbeatable, at least when Lucas and Havlicek were sophomores: they won the NCAA championship that year.

They were just as strong the next two years, that is until they played the final game both seasons against the Cincinnati Bearcats. In two consecutive monumental upsets, **Cincinnati won the national championship. Both years, John Powless, the tennis pro (he was a clinician at our workshop six times), was an assistant coach for the Bearcats.**

**Tom Leyrer** started his tennis coaching career by starting a junior high school team at Chatterton Junior High school in Warren. **One of his kids was Mark Sobieralski** who would go on to coach multiple state championship teams as the girls coach at Grosse Pte. South and the boys coach at University Liggett. **Both have been MHSTeCA presidents and both are in our Hall of Fame.**

**Steve Contardi**, who spoke at our workshop seven times from 1979 to 2001, grew up in the Upper Peninsula and played tennis for Northern Michigan University. **His doubles partner there was Brook Smith**, coach at West Iron County. Brook was inducted into our Hall of Fame in 2016.

**Twice a coach and a person who played for him have received Hall of Fame honors at the same ceremony.** At the very first induction in 1986, Joe Moran, the coach, and Tiger Teusink, the player,, were honored. In 1989, John Caldwell, the coach, and Jim Van Zandt, the player, received Hall of Fame plaques. The latter is chronicled in the article entitled "Anybody got a camera?" to be found in the Hall of Fame banquet chapter.

# Upper Peninsula Tennis

From the beginning of our association's formation, Upper Peninsula tennis coaches were very involved. The legendary **Mickey Johnson** of Marquette (he would end his career with over 600 wins) and **Don Elliot** of West Iron County were on the first Board of Directors and attended the first meeting in Prudenville in July 1977. **Gene Maki** of Wakefield would arrive shortly after, especially noteworthy in that his community was located on the western end of the U.P.

Their presence was very important. After all, the U.P. might easily be considered a different state in terms of high school tennis. Because of the distance, teams rarely ventured forth in either direction. The rare exceptions were promoted by Karen Langs of Petoskey.

Therefore, U.P. tennis teams only played each other and in the case of Wakefield, played as many Wisconsin teams as Michigan squads. They held their own final tournaments, the winners of which were crowned state champions.

More to the point, MHSTeCA newsletter editors devoted just as much coverage of their final events as those in the Lower Peninsula. Praise to the winners and summaries of the state tournament can be found in the 1980s editions. Scores of final matches were recorded. Some of their kids were included on our all state teams although the lack of any type of comparison with downstate players was a source of unending debate.

The reason for this was the connection between these U.P. coaches and our board. They provided the material. Later, **Jack Tripp and Bruce Farrell**, the co-coaches from Negaunee, would provide the same service. Moreover, these people would make the long journey to Prudenville to attend our summer meetings. As Bob Wood would say to the rest of us on more than one occasion, "By the time you pull into your driveway, these guys won't be halfway home."

Hillsdale's **Rich Trombly**, a former newsletter editor and Coach of the Year, took up the cause when he returned home to Gladstone to teach and coach. But after he retired to the good life in Arizona, the all important connection ended.

But not before Upper Peninsula coaches received their share of honors.

Mickey Johnson, Marquette	Hall of Fame Class of 1986 Boys Class A Coach of the Year, 1989
Gene Maki, Wakefield	Hall of Fame Class of 1988 Boys Coach of the Year, 1989
Brook Smith, West Iron County	Hall of Fame Class of 2016 Girls Coach of the Year, 1992
Don Elliot, West Iron County	Hall of Fame Class of 1991
Phyllis Laurila, Iron Mountain	Boys Coach of the Year, 1987
Bruce Farrell, Negaunee	Boys Coach of the Year, 1988
Jack Tripp, Negaunee	Girls Coach of the Year, 1987
Dennis Lueneberg, Escanaba	Assistant Coach Award, 2002
Dick Balding, Marquette	Girls Coach of the Year, 2002
Ellette Nyman, Kingsford	Girls Coach of the Year 2005

**At the end of board meetings, Bob Wood would say to the rest of us on more than one occasion, "By the time you pull into your driveway, these guys won't be halfway home."**



# MHSTeCA



# The MHSTeCA Directory



# The Directory -- Back Then

## Charter Members of the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association

1977 MEMBERSHIP

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL

TENNIS

COACHES ASSOCIATION

**The 147 coaches listed in this three page document  
were the first to join the MHSTeCA**

A copy can be obtained by contacting  
[edwaits@charter.net](mailto:edwaits@charter.net)

# The Directory --- Now



## Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association



**President:** Eric Gajar, Ann Arbor Greenhills  
**Secretary-Treasurer:** Gary Ellis, Allegan  
**Founder:** Bob Wood

# Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association

## Charter Members 1977 Directory

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEARS COACHING</u>
George Andrews	University Liggett	1
Patricia Baron	Fordson High School	2
Charles Bassett	Spring Lake High	7
Barbara Bockeman	Whitehall High School	1
Molly Bergman	Mons. Hackett	4
Kenneth Black	Hamady High School	8
David Berles	East Kentwood High	6
E. Gordon Boettcher	Ann Arbor Huron	4
Muriel Brock	University Liggett	20
Margo Brogan	Otsego High School	8
Lori Bronson	Mariam High School	4
Donald Brown	Cranbrook High School	17
Vincent Brumfiel	Greenhills High School	3
John T. Burke	South Lake High School	5
Richard Burke	Kearsley High School	0
Peggy Cavin	Creston High School	3
Thomas Cherry	Harper Woods	1
Ralph Cornell	Edsel Ford High School	20
Jim Cummins	Springfield High School	8
Larry Curtis	Forest Hills Northern	5
Calvin Darbee	Lake Orion High School	5
William Dean	Madison High School	3
Robert Donelson	Waterford High School	6
Mary Dykema	Hamilton High School	4
Ann Edwards	Milford High School	2
Tony Elliot		
Don Elliott	West Iron High School	20
Gary Ellis	Allegan High School	4
Phyllis Ellsworth	Trenton High School	2
Richard Fielder	Oak Park High School	10
William Fournier	L'Anse Creuse High School	2
Dave Fredette	Armada High School	11
Lynn Freiheit	Grand Blanc High School	6
Edwin Frosheiser	Allen Park High School	3
Ian Frost	Warren Mott High School	20
Jack Frucci	Southgate High School	13
Harold Garcia-Shelton	East Lansing High School	1
Francis Garlicki	Catholic Central	7
Donn Gates	Ithaca High School	5
John Ghindia	Ecorse High School	10
Bernard Goldstein	Harrison High School	3
Sally Goodrich	Jackson High School	3
Gary Gorman	Riverview High School	1
Don Green	Manistee High School	7
Noah Gregory	Walled Lake western	8
Dale Greiner	Ann Arbor Pioneer	7
Bruce Grotenhuis	Howell High School	4
Kenneth Gutow	Grosse Pointe North High	6
George Hanosh	Garden City West High	14
Gary Harden	Mona Shores High School	15
Joe Haskins	Midland High School	17
Patricia Hatch	Alpena High School	2
Hal Heaberlin	Battle Creek Central	8
John Hesterberg	Sandusky High School	2
Timothy Hillen	J.F. Kennedy High School	2
Harold Holcomb	Essexville Garber	5

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEARS COACHING</u>
John Jayson	Churchill High School	4
Kathy Jenson	Forest Hills Northern	4
Nancy Jewett	Redford High School	15
Elizabeth Johnson	Brighton High School	4
Milton Johnson	Marquette Senior High	36
Ron Jones	Traverse City Francis	0
Hern Kiewiet	Loy Morrix	8
Dennis Kiley	Parkside High School	27
Marie Knapp	Delton-Kellogg High School	3
James Kopas	Lakeview High School	6
Greg Kopic	West Bloomfield	5
Scott Kraai	Greenville Senior High	5
Kathleen Kramer	St. Andrew High School	1
Jon Kreider	Okemos High School	3
Edward Krupa	Northern Flint	17
Ralph LeBlanc	Newaygo High School	6
Robert Lewis	Lakeshore High School	3
John Lindell	Mt. Morris Consolidated	1
Kirk Louis	Fenton High School	9
Richard Lucas	Cadillac High School	3
Dennis Margoni	Flint Southwestern	6
Barbara Mauller	Livonia Stevenson	6
Bud McCalla	Milford High School	12
Mary McKimmy	Adrian Senior High	4
Sally McMichael	Denby High School	0
John McQuestion	Chippewa Valley High	7
Robert Michael	Waterford Township High	3
John Meyer	Kingsford High School	8
Carolyn Moore	Reeths-Puffer High School	3
Ron Morris	Lansing Sexton High School	5
Edward Moss	Belding Central	14
Carol Murphy	Rochester High School	2
Jerry Murphy	Rochester High School	3
Myrna Myers	Three Rivers High School	7
Sharon Nelson	Wayland High School	4
Jacqueth Nortom	John Glenn High School	8
Anne Nozewski	Lakeland High School	3
Lee Daniel O'Bryan	Fraser High School	3
Ward Olson	Monroe High School	20
Gordon Parrington	Cherry Hill High School	1
Charles Partin	E. Grand Rapids	18
Gary Payne	Olivet High School	16
Carol Pepera	Ludington Senior High	2
Sandy Peterson	Portage Northern	11
Carl Phillips	Richmond High School	13
Harley Pierce	Sturgis High School	25
Harley Pierce, Jr.	Paw Paw High School	0
Francis Poledink	Bishop Borgess High School	2
Eugenia Poore	Flushing High School	4
Stephanie Prychitko	Grosse Pointe South High	8
Bob Quinn	Douglas MacArthur High	6
Charles Reed	Whittemore-Prescott High	8
John Reynolds	Powers Catholic High School	12
Alfred Richardson	Kalamazoo Central High School	1
Fred Roberts	East Detroit High School	9
John Rosenberg	Rochester Adams	4

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEARS COACHING</u>
Dick Rossio	Portage Northern High	8
Nancy Ryan	Cranbrook High School	11
Kay Salo	Allegan High School	14
Edward Sampson	Maple Valley High School	8
John Shade	Grosse Ile High School	6
Gary Siomers	Schafer High School	3
Doug Simmons	Grandville Public School	9
Robert Simpson	Northville High School	7
Jack Skillman	Woodhaven High School	0
Cheryl Slowiczek	Chippewa Valley High School	2
Donald Smith	Truman High School	4
Dorothea Smith	Lake Michigan Catholic High	3
Steven Smith	Livonia Stevenson High	9
Marty Snoop	Lakewood Public School	4
Jay Soderberg	Gaylord High School	15
Judith Soper	Northview High School	2
Dean Sousanis	Almont High School	6
Norman Staniszewski	North Farmington High	7
James Stevens	Plymouth Salem High	23
William Stiles	Birmingham Seaholm High	8
Wayne Tanis	Hamilton High School	14
Dwayne Teusink	Holland High School	14
Jim Thompson	Lincoln Park High School	7
Gail Timm	Detroit Northwestern	2
Thomas Todd	Hartland High School	5
Janet Towers	Pontiac Catholic High	1
Jack Tucker	Otsego High School	8
Ed Waits	Southfield Lathrup High	8
A. Bruce Watson	Dowagiac High School	0
William Weber	Thurston High School	0
Harris Webster	Everett High School	0
C. Timothy Weier	Reese High School	2
Robert G. Wood	University Liggett High	15
Al Wright	Yale High School	4
Charles Wright	Charlevoix High School	3







# MHSTeCA



Diversity  
with regard to  
our  
association



# **Diversity in Michigan High School Tennis Coaching as revealed through MHSTeCA records**

Below is a summary regarding those who have received MHSTeCA Coach of the Year Awards, inductions into the Hall of Fame, attendance at board meetings over the years, and the make-up of board members since the beginning. This statistically reveals what we already know: that the vast majority of high school tennis coaches who have been honored by our association or were in positions of political importance were/are white males.

## **Attendance at Board Meetings.**

I have been able to get information from Minutes for every meeting except those in 1999. With regard to coaches who actually showed up to board meetings from 1977 – 2020:

88% were white males. 12% were females. Black and Hispanic: Ron Landfair and J.R. Muniz attended board meetings a total of 42 times.

## **Induction into our Hall of Fame**

Since 1986, 140 individuals have been inducted into our Hall of Fame (I counted Jerry Hoxie in addition to his wife). 120 -- 86% --of them were white males, 18 -- 13% -- were female and two were Black/Hispanic.

## **Boys Coach of the Year**

92% (155) were white makes, 8% (13) were female. Ron Landfair was COY in 2008.

## **Girls Coach of the Year**

74% (120) were white males, 26% (43) were female. J.R. Muniz was Girls COY once and Clarence Wynn received the honor twice.

## **Membership on the board through the years, regardless of whether they attended the meetings.**

I have had a very difficult time obtaining board lists for a number of years, primarily in the 1980s. They don't appear in the Minutes nor in banquet programs. I am working on this as a matter of history and have elected not to include statistics at this time. Although the spreadsheet is included, you will note that the information as to which women and Hispanics and blacks is very too lengthy to get onto one landscaped page. I will work to fix this.

## **Actual MHSTeCA Membership**

Eventually, I am going to do a random sampling of directories in terms of men, women and minorities who joined the association in a given year. The problem with this is that I will not always be able to tell whether, say, "Chris" is male or female.

The spreadsheets from which these results derive are to be found in ensuing pages.,

## Coaches who actually attended board meetings

Month & Year	M	W	B-H	Women	Black-Hispanic	Location
7/8/1977	16	0	0	None		Houghton Lake
7/8/1978	14	1	0	Sandy Peterson		Houghton Lake
7/7/1979	14	2	0	Nancy Ryan and Sandy Peterson		Houghton Lake
7/12/1980	15	1	0	Nancy Ryan		Houghton Lake
7/11/1981	14	2	0	Nancy Ryan and Sandy Peterson		Houghton Lake
7/10/1982	19	2	0	Nancy Ryan and Sandy Peterson		Houghton Lake
7/9/1983	21	2	0	Nancy Ryan and Sandy Peterson		Houghton Lake
7/14/1984			0	No List		
11/3/1984			0	No List		
7/13/1985	28	2	0	Helen Prussian and Jan Esper		Houghton Lake
11/16/1985	28	4	0	Bonnie Whitman, Karen Page, Sandy Peterson, Karen Langs		Midland Holiday Inn
7/12/1986	30	4	0	Helen Prussian, Jan Esper, Karen Page, Karen Langs		Cadillac
7/11/1987	31	1	0	Karen Langs		Cadillac
11/7/1987	30	3	0	Helen Prussian, Karen Page, Karen Langs		Okemos
7/9/1988	30	2	0	Karen Langs, Karen Page		Caberfae, Cadillac
10/29/1988	30	6	0	Judy Braun, Victoria Healy, Elaine Morey, Karen Page, Karen Langs, Ellen Cook		Okemos High Schoc
7/15/1989	33	5	0	Judy Braun, Karen Page, Victoria Healy, Elaine Morey, Ellen Cook		Cadillac
11/11/1989	32	5	0	Judy Braun, Helen Prussian, Elaine Morey, Karen Langs, Ellen Cook		Okemos High Schoc
7/14/1990	26	4	0	Karen Page, Elaine Morey, Judy Braun, Karen Langs		Cadillac Caberfae
11/10/1990	27	7	0	Karen Cooksey, Helen Prussian, Karen Page, Victoria Healy, Elaine Morey, Karen Langs		Okemos High Schoc
7/13/1991	25	5	0	Karen Cooksey, Judy Braun, Karen Page, Elaine Morey, Karen Langs		Cadillac Caberfae
11/2/1991	24	5	0	Barb Myler, Judy Braun, Karen Page, Elaine Morey, Tracy Gasleberry		Okemos High Schoc
7/11/1992	25	4	0	Karen Cooksey, Karen Page, Elaine Morey, Judy Braun		Cadillac Caberfae
11/14/1992	31	3	0	Karen Cooksey, Elaine Morey, Karen Langs, Semayn		Midland Holiday Inn
7/10/1993	32	4	0	Karen Langs, Karen Cooksey, Judy Braun, Elaine Morey		Cadillac Caberfae
11/6/1993	23	3	0	Karen Page, Karen Cooksey, Karen Langs		Okemos High Schoc
7/9/1994	32	5	0	Karen Page, Karen Cooksey, Elaine Morey, Judy Braun, Karen Langs		Cadillac Caberfae
11/5/1994	28	4	0	Karen Page, Judy Braun, Jan Gottlin, Elaine Morey		Okemos High Schoc
7/7/1995	27	2	0	Kim Lewis, Elaine Morey		Big Rapids Holiday I
11/11/1995	22	3	0	Karen Page, Jan Gottlin, Karen Langs		Okemos High Schoc
7/20/1996	26	3	0	Karen Page, Elaine Morey, Kim Lewis		Big Rapids Holiday I
11/2/1996	28	5	0	Karen Page, Kim Lewis, Jan Gottlin, Pat Solem, Karen Langs		Okemos High Schoc
6/21/1997	22	1	0	Karen Page		Big Rapids Holiday I
11/8/1997	25	3	0	Karen Page, Nancy Bissette, Karen Langs		Okemos High Schoc
6/27/1998	25	3	0	Karen Page, Jan Gottlin, Karen Langs		Big Rapids Holiday I
11/7/1998	25	2	0	Karen Page, Karen Langs		Okemos High Schoc

## Coaches who actually attended board meetings

Fall 99		30	7	0			
6/17/2000	26	2	0	Karen Page, Julie McKnight, Barb Hamosh, Jan Gottlin, Alex Wiesner, Pat Solem, Karen Langs			Okeemos High Scho
11/4/2000	31	5	0	Julie McKnight, Jan Gottlin, Pat Solem, Nancy Brissette, Karen Langs			Okeemos High Scho
6/6/2001	34	6	0	Jan Esper, Pam Porter, Karen Page, Nancy Brissette, Pat Solem, Karen Langs			
11/3/2001	29	6	0	Jane Esper, Beth Manojlovich, Jan Gottlin, Karen Page, Pat Solem, Karen Langs			Okeemos High Scho
6/15/2002	32	6	1	Jane Esper, Beth Manojlovich, Jan Gottlin, Pam Porter, Nancy Martin, Karen Langs	J.R. Munitz		Okeemos High Scho
11/9/2002	30	8	1	Jan Esper, Beth Manojlovich, Jan Gottlin, Pam Porter, Karen Page, Nancy Brissette, Pat Solem, Karen Langs	J.R. Munitz		
6/14/2003	32	5	1	Nancy Brissette, Jan Esper, Jan Gottlin, Karen Page, Karen Langs	J.R. Munitz		Okeemos High Scho
11/8/2003	37	5	1	Nancy Brissette, Jan Esper, Jan Gottlin, Nancy Martin, Karen Langs	J.R. Munitz		Okeemos High Scho
6/19/2004	32	5	0	Nancy Brissette, Jan Esper, Jan Gottlin, Nancy Martin, Karen Langs			Okeemos High Scho
11/13/2004	32	3	0	Jan Esper, Pam Porter, Karen Page			Okeemos High Scho
6/18/2005	32	5	0	Nancy Brissette, Jan Esper, Jan Gottlin, Karen Page, Karen Langs			Okeemos High Scho
11/12/2005	33	6	1	Nancy Brissette, Jan Esper, Jan Gottlin, Karen Page, Karen Langs, Cathy Layson	J.R. Munitz		Okeemos High Scho
6/17/2006	30	4	0	Nancy Brissette, Jan Gottlin, Karen Langs, Cathy Layson			Okeemos High Scho
11/11/2006	29	5	2	Nancy Brissette, Jan Gottlin, Pam Porter, Cathy Layson, Karen Langs	Ron Landfair, J.R. Munitz		
6/16/2007	31	2	2	Nancy Brissette, Jan Gottlin	Ron Landfair, J.R. Munitz		Okeemos High Scho
11/10/2007	29	2	1	Nancy Brissette, Karen Langs	J.R. Munitz		Okeemos High Scho
6/14/2008	26	5	2	Nancy Brissette, Bonnie Koch, Jan Esper, Jan Gottlin, Cathy Layson	Ron Landfair, J.R. Munitz		Okeemos High Scho
11/8/2008	30	4	2	Nancy Brissette, Jan Gottlin, Barb Lehmann, Erin Fouy	Ron Landfair, J.R. Munitz		Okeemos High Scho
6/13/2009	33	4	2	Nancy Brissette, Bonnie Koch, Jan Esper, Jan Gottlin,	Ron Landfair, J.R. Munitz		Okeemos High Scho
10/31/2009	39	6	1	Nancy Brissette, Jan Gottlin, Barb Lehmann, Jennifer Hendricks, Erin Fouy, Cathy Layson	Ron Landfair		Okeemos High Scho
6/19/2010	33	6	2	Jan Esper, Bonnie Koch, Jan Aldrich, Jennifer Hendricks, Erin Fouy, Cathy Layson	Ron Landfair, J.R. Munitz		Genevys Athletic C
10/30/2010	32	4	2	Nancy Brissette, Jan Esper, Bonnie Koch, Jan Gottlin	Ron Landfair, J.R. Munitz		Lansing Catholic
6/11/2011	32	3	2	Jan Aldrich, Erin Fouy, Chris Layson	Ron Landfair, J.R. Munitz		Lansing Catholic
10/22/2011	38	3	1	Jan Gottlin, Jan Aldrich, Erin Fouy	Ron Landfair		Lansing Catholic
6/16/2012	33	4	1	Jan Gottlin, Jan Aldrich, Nancy Brissette, Barb Lehmann	Ron Landfair		Lansing Catholic
10/27/2012	28	0	1	None	Ron Landfair		Lansing Catholic
6/15/2013	29	1	2	Jan Aldrich	Ron Landfair, J.R. Munitz		Lansing Catholic
10/26/2013	31	2	1	Whitney Wasielewski, Cathy Layson	Ron Landfair		Lansing Catholic
6/14/2014	31	3	1	Whitney Wasielewski, Cathy Layson, Jan Aldrich	Ron Landfair		Lansing Catholic
10/25/2014	21	1	1	Judy Heits	Ron Landfair		Lansing Catholic
6/19/2015	31	2	1	Whitney Wasielewski, Judy Heits	Ron Landfair		Hastlett High Scho
10/24/2015	24	2	1	Jan Aldrich, Cathy Layson	Ron Landfair		Hastlett High Scho
6/18/2016	27	2	1	Judy Heits, Cathy Layson	Ron Landfair		Hastlett High Scho
10/22/2016	26	2	1	Judy Heits, Jan Aldrich	Ron Landfair		Hastlett High Scho
6/17/2017	23	1	0	Judy Heits	I double checked		Hastlett High Scho
10/28/2017	23	2	1	Judy Heits, Jan Aldrich	Ron Landfair		Hastlett High Scho
6/16/2018	26	1	1	Judy Heits	Ron Landfair		Hastlett High Scho

## Coaches who actually attended board meetings

6/15/2019	23	1	1	Judy Hehs	Ron Landfair	Haslett High School
10/26/2019	23	3	1	Jen Aldrich, Judy Hehs, Kim Bartz	Ron Landfair	Haslett High School
8/1/2020	24	2	1	Jen Aldrich, Judy Hehs	Ron Landfair	Zoom
10/31/2020	26	3	1	Jen Aldrich, Judy Hehs, Kim Bartz	Ron Landfair	Zoom
	2125	259	42			
	88%	12%	0.01%			

# Hall of Fame Inductees

Year	M	W		B-H	Where
1986	9	2	1986 Includes Jerry Hoxie Jean Hoxie, Nancy Ryan		Kalamazoo Pine West
1987	3	2	Sandy Peterson, Stephanie Pychitko		Kalamazoo Pine West
1988	5	0			Novi Hilton
1989	4	0			Stouffer's Hotel, Battle Creek
1990	4	0			Stouffer's Hotel, Battle Creek
1991	5	0			Troy Marriott
1992	5	0			Troy Marriott
1993	5	0			Troy Marriott
1994	5	0			Troy Marriott
1995	4	1	Helen Ferle		Troy Marriott
1996	5	1	Karen Page		Troy Marriott
1997	4	0			Troy Marriott
1998	3	0			Troy Marriott
1999	4	1	Julie McKnight		Troy Marriott
2000	3	1	Patricia Williams		Troy Marriott
2001	3	0			Troy Marriott
2002	4	0			Troy Marriott
2003	2	1	Karen Langs		Troy Marriott
2004	2	1	Jan Esper		Troy Marriott
2005	3	0			Troy Marriott
2006	3	0			Troy Marriott
2007	2	0			Troy Marriott
2008	2	2	Nancy Butson, Barb Myler		Troy Marriott
2009	2	1	Jan Gottlin		Troy Marriott
2010	3	1	Bonnie Wall		Troy Marriott
2011	3	0			Troy Marriott
2012	3	0			Troy Marriott
2013	0	2	Mary Kay Baribeau, Margaret Ruemenapp	1	Troy Marriott
2014	3	0			Troy Marriott
2015	2	1	Judy Hehs		Troy Marriott
2016	4	0			Troy Marriott
2017	4	0			Troy Marriott
2018	2	0		1	Troy Marriott
2019	2	1			Haworth Convention Center, Holland
2020	3	0			Maas Convention Center, Holland
	120	18		2	

## Boys Coaches of the Year

COYs					
Year	Boys-Men	Boys- Women		Boys, B-H	Name
1977	0	0			
1978	3	0			
1979	4	0			
1980	3	0			
1981	3	0			
1982	3	0			
1983	3	0			
1984	4	0			
1985	3	0			
1986	3	0			
1987	2	1	Phyllis Laurila		
1988	4	0			
1989	3	0			
1990	3	0			
1991	3	0			
1992	3	0			
1993	3	0			
1994	3	0			
1995	5	0			
1996	2	0			
1997	2	1	Karen Page		
1998	5	0			
1999	4	0			
2000	4	1	Phyllis Laurila		
2001	2	2	Jan Gottlin, Judy Jagdfeld		
2002	3	1	Jan Esper		
2003	6	1	AnnMarie Michol		
2004	4	0			
2005	4	0			
2006	3	1	Nancy Brissette		
2007S	3	1	Erin Fouty		
2007F	5	0			
2008	4	0		1	Ron Landfair
2009	5	0			
2010	4	0			
2011	3	1	Whitney Wasielewski		
2012	4	0			
2013	4	0			
2014	4	0			
2015	4	0			
2016	4	0			
2017	3	1	AnnMarie Michol		
2018	3	2	Nancy Martin, Barb Lehmann		
2019	4	0			
2020	4	0			
	<b>155</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>1</b>	
	92%	8%			

# Girls Coaches of the Year

1978	1	1	Nancy Ryan		
1979	2	1	Stephanie Pzychtko		
1980	3	1	Julie McKnight		
1981	3	0			
1982	4	4	Sandy Peterson, Stephanie Pzychtko, Theo Shepard, Nancy Ryan		
1983	3	0			
1984	3	0			
1985	3	1	Karen Langs		
1986	3	0			
1987	3	0			
1988	4	0			
1989	1	2	Rhonda Smith, Carol Michals		
1990	2	1	Heleen Prustan		
1991	2	1	Margaret Ruemenapp		
1992	2	1	Elaina Morey		
1993	2	1	Jan Gottlin		
1994	3	1	Sally Eichorn		
1995	3	0			
1996	2	1	Julie McKnight		
1997	4	0			
1998	4	1	Bonnie Wall		
1999	3	1	Bonnie Wood		
2000	1	4	Jan Esper, Nancy Brissette, Pam Porter, Mary Kay Baribeau		
2001	4	1	Pat Somers		
2002	4	2	Karen Page, Judy Hehs	1	J.R. Munk
2003	3	1	Phyllis Lightvoet		
2004	4	1	Patricia Williams	1	Clarence Wynn
2005	3	2	Whitney Wasielewski, Jan Gottlin		
2006	3	1	Jen Aldrich		
2007S	NS	NS			
2007F	NS	NS			
2008	3	1	Bonnie Koch		
2009	3	1	Karlie DeBarry		
2010	4	0			
2011	2	2	Erin Fourty, Margaret Ruemenapp		
2012	3	1	Jen Aldrich		
2013	4	0			
2014	3	1	Whitney Wasielewski	1	Clarence Wynn
2015	3	1	Judy Hehs		
2016	3	1	Cathy Hassett		
2017	4	1	Nicole Carpenter		
2018	3	1	Kim Bartz		
2019	2	2	Linda Jones, Laura Hackman		
2020	NS	NS			
	120	43		3	
	74%	26%		0.02%	

# MHSTeCA Board Members

Board Members			
Year	M	W	B-H
1977-1978	24	1	
1978-1979	30	2	
1979-1980	--	--	
1980-1981	31	6	
1981-1982			
1982-1983			
1983-1984			
1984-1985			
1985-1986			
1986-1987			
1987-1988			
1988-1989	49	9	
1989-1990	42	7	
1990-1991			
1991-1992			
1992-1993	44	9	
1993-1994	48	8	
1994-1995	48	7	
1995-1996	43	7	
1996-1997	49	7	
1997-1998	48	7	
1998-1999	50	6	
1999-2000			
2000-2001	49	8	0
2001-2002	44	10	0
2002-2003	50	10	1
2003-2004	48	9	1
2004-2005	48	7	1
2005-2006	50	8	
2006-2007			
2007-2008	50	6	2
2008-2009	43	5	2
2009-2010	47	6	2
2010-2011	52	8	2
2012	58	5	2
2013	48	5	2
2014	57	6	2
2015	55	7	1
2016	50	6	1
2017	52	5	1
2018	50	3	1
2019	45	2	1
2020	48	3	1
2021			

# MHSTeCA Female Board Members

1977-1978	Stephanie Prychtko
1978-1979	Sandy Peterson, Nancy Ryan
1979-1980	Nancy Ryan, Sandy Peterson
1980-1981	Nancy Ryan, Julie McKnight, Carol Balgenorth, Mary McKinney, Judy Braun, Sandy Peterson
1981-1982	
1982-1983	
1983-1984	Carol Balgenorth, Judy Braun, Carol Peters, Sandy Peterson, Karen Langs, Nancy Ryan
1984-1985	Carol Peters, Sandy Peterson, Karen Page, Karen Flynn
1985-1986	
1986-1987	
1987-1988	
1988-1989	Judy Braun, Helen Prusslan, Myra Shoemaker, Cheryl Cosgrove, Victoria Healy, Elaine Morey, Karen Page, Madge Helinz, Ellen Cook
1989-1990	Helen Prusslan, Judy Braun, Karen Page, Victoria Healey, Elaine Morey, Karen Langs, Ellen Cook
1990-1991	
1991-1992	
1992-1993	Karen Cooksey, Barb Myler, Judy Braun, Helen Prusslan, Karen Page, Elaine Morey, Karen Langs, Margaret Ruemenapp, Phyllis Laurila
1993-1994	Karen Page, Karen Cooksey, Judy Braun, Helen Prusslan, Elaine Morey, Ann Marie Sobleraski, Margaret Ruemenapp, Karen Langs
1994-1995	Karen Page, Karen Cooksey, Judy Braun, Jan Gottlin, Elaine Morey, Karen Langs, Margaret Ruemenapp
1995-1996	Karen Page, Kim Lewis, Judy Braun, Jan Gottlin, Elaine Morey, Karen Langs, Margaret Ruemenapp
1996-1997	Kim Lewis, Judy Braun, Jan Gottlin, Pat Solem, Karen Langs, Margaret Ruemenapp
1997-1998	Karen Page, Kim Lewis, Jan Gottlin, Elaine Morey, Pat Solem, Nancy Brissette, Karen Langs
1998-1999	Kim Lewis, Karen Page, Jan Gottlin, Nancy Brissette, Pat Solem, Karen Langs
1999-2000	
2000-2001	Karen Page, Julie McKnight, Barb Hanosh, Jan Gottlin, Pat Solem, Nancy Brissette Karen Langs, Alex Wiesner
2001-2002	Jan Esper, Julie McKnight, Barb Hanosh, Jan Gottlin, Pam Porter, Alex Wiesner, Karen Page, Pat Solem, Nancy Brissette, Karen Langs
2002-2003	Jane Esper, Beth Marsojovich, Jan Gottlin, Pam Porter, Nancy Martin, Alex Wiesner, Karen Page, Pat Solem, Nancy Brissette, Karen Langs
2003-2004	Nancy Brissette, Jan Esper, Jan Gottlin, Barb Lehmann, Nancy Martin, Pam Porter, Alex Wiesner, Karen Page, Karen Langs
2004-2005	Nancy Brissette, Jan Esper, Jan Gottlin, Nancy Martin, Pam Porter, Karen Page, Karen Langs
2005-2006	Nancy Brissette, Jan Esper, Jan Gottlin, Nancy Martin, Pam Porter, Karen Page, Mary Bolke, Karen Langs
2006-2007	
2007-2008	Nancy Brissette, Jan Esper, Karen Page, Jan Gottlin, Pam Porter, Karen Langs
2008-2009	Nancy Brissette, Jan Esper, Jan Gottlin, Pam Porter, Karen Langs
2009-2010	Nancy Brissette, Jan Esper, Bonnie Koch Erin Fouty, Jan Gottlin, Barb Lehmann
2010-2011	Nancy Brissette, Jan Esper, Bonnie Koch, Jennifer Hendricks, Erin Fouty, Jan Gottlin, Barb Lehmann, Jen Aldrich

# MHSTeCA Female Board Members

2012	Erin Fouty, Jan Gottlin, Barb Lehmann, Nancy Brissette, Jen Aldrich
2013	Erin Fouty, Jan Gottlin, Barb Lehmann, Nancy Brissette, Jen Aldrich
2014	Whitney Wasilewski, Cathy Layson, Jan Gottlin, Nancy Brissette, Jen Aldrich, Barb Lehmann
2015	Judy Hehs, Whitney Wasilewski, Cathy Layson, Barb Lehmann, Jan Gottlin, Nancy Brissette, Jen Aldrich
2016	Whitney Wasilewski, Judy Hehs, Cathy Layson, Jan Gottlin, Nancy Brissette, Jen Aldrich
2017	Judy Hehs, Cathy Layson, Jan Gottlin, Jen Aldrich, Nancy Brissette
2018	Judy Hehs, Cathy Layson, Jan Gottlin
2019	Jen Aldrich, Judy Hehs,
2020	Jen Aldrich, Judy Hehs, Kim Bartz
2021	

Names of Black or Hispanic Coaches on next page.

## MHSTeCA Board Members - Black or Hispanic

2001-2002	J.R. Muniz
2002-2003	J.R. Muniz
2003-2004	J.R. Muniz
2004-2005	J.R. Muniz
2005-2006	
2006-2007	
2007-2008	Ron Landfair, J.R. Muniz
2008-2009	Ron Landfair, J.R. Muniz
2009-2010	Ron Landfair, J.R. Muniz
2010-2011	Ron Landfair, J.R. Muniz
2012	Ron Landfair, J.R. Muniz
2013	Ron Landfair, J.R. Muniz
2014	Ron Landfair, J.R. Muniz
2015	Ron Landfair
2016	Ron Landfair
2017	Ron Landfair
2018	Ron Landfair
2019	Ron Landfair
2020	Ron Landfair
2021	



# MHSTeCA



# Obituaries



# Tiger Teusink

1936 -2021



**Tiger's Memorial Service was held at Pillar Church in Holland on what would have been his 85th birthday. In attendance were Gary Ellis (who gave a reading), Gina Mazzolini, Tom Leyrer, Marv Ellis, Peter Militzer, Gordy Boettcher, Jorge Capestany, Dan Hutcheson, and Ed Waits.**

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It would be a safe bet that the vast majority of people who have lived in the generation of the man being eulogized here are familiar with the hymn "The Old Rugged Cross." It was written by a Michigander in 1913. More to the point, it contains the line: "Till my trophies at last I lay down."

For tennis players and coaches, that line resonates. We all remember hovering around the table at the beginning of a tournament where the awards were displayed. Everyone had a fantasy about taking one home. Only a couple of players actually got to put one on their respective mantles.

It is no secret that Tiger Teusink collected a multitude of trophies, both literal and figurative. His achievements have been chronicled at length on the sports pages of the Holland Sentinel and in MHSTeCA Memories, the ongoing history of the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association. The man was a giant in our organization, a president for three years and the secretary-treasurer for the next 20. If Bob Wood was the founder and face, Tiger was the foundation. He was to be found in the midst of everything that was truly important with regard to high school tennis.

- He served on the MHSTeCA Board of Directors starting in 1981 until almost the present. Although he didn't attend the early board meetings, he was deeply involved in the association's development when it was established in 1976.
- He was often appointed to the MHSAA Tennis Committee, an extremely important position if an innovation was to be advanced to the Representative Council.
- He served on the first state seeding committee in the fall of 1980 and then virtually every year afterward. He took great pride in the accuracy of the predictions and provided statistics to prove it.
- He was instrumental in establishing the MHSTeCA Hall of Fame and for many years organized ticket arrangements for the banquets and awards for the inductees.
- He was an annual fixture at the MHSTeCA Workshop where he helped with registration and occasionally gave presentations.
- He managed not only innumerable Saturday tournaments and MHSAA regional tournaments but also multiple state tournaments, a formidable task given pressure from high-octane coaches.
- If you were ever a coach of the year or if one or more of your players was declared all state status, Tiger Teusink had a lot to do with it because he helped found an association with the credibility to award these honors.
- He was inducted into the very first class of the MHSTeCA in 1986 at the same time that his own coach, Joe Moran, was also inducted. Coach and former player -- who would become a great coach in his own right -- traveled to that ceremony together. What may be even more impressive is that Tiger is one of only three tennis coaches in the high school history of our sport to be inducted into *four* Halls of Fame.

What may be even more significant is that his reaction to many of these accolades was simply: "I am humbled by this honor."

An axiom of all humanity is that none of us will get out of here alive. Another is that you can't take it with you. On Monday, Sept. 6th, Tiger lay down a large collection of trophies. But for those of us who worked with him, competed against him, shared stories with him, played golf with him, played in tournaments administered by him, and served on committees with him, he has provided cherished memories that have more than a tinge of historical significance. He leaves behind an astonishing and long-lasting legacy. A classic example is that the high school tennis courts where he did so much good work were named after him in Sept. 2016 and he was alive to see it.

Tiger was the wave that lifted all of our boats and made what we did that much better. It is a bragging right to be able to say that you knew him. It was an honor to have served beside him. He makes letting go a two-edged sword: a deep sorrow that we can't savor so much of this history anymore with him but a profound gratitude for what together we had shared for so long.

*Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

Amen

# Larry Harte

1955 - 2021



Larry Harte was a man of extensive good will with an ever-present smile on his face. He was exceptionally generous as well. In the 1980s, he hosted Saturday tournaments in which his team had no chance of winning. “When my team swept every flight at one of his events, he handed me the trophy and then brought out a broom and began to work in a facetious summary,” says Ed Waits. “He was all about giving, not winning.”

Larry coached for 40 years, first at Warren High School and then at Warren Mott, replacing Mark Sobieralski. He received our association’s Coach of the Year award twice, first in 1994 and again in 2018. This time span speaks to his dedication but also hints at his reluctance to be recognized. “He was by far the most difficult coach I have ever encountered in terms of prying information out of him for an article praising him,” says Ed who has been writing this stuff since 1988. “When he was chosen State Coach of the Year several years ago, he protested the board’s choice declaring the injustice of the choosing him over the current Novi coach whose team had that year captured the Division 1 state championship (Vince Preuthun of Trenton good naturedly told him to shut up).”

Larry had been a board member from District 7 of the MHSTeCA since 1996 and had missed our meetings only once. He rarely spoke at gatherings but when he did, it was usually with a smile on his face while he said something positive. He implored members to financially help out Romeo’s Mark Dubiel when Dubiel suffered a debilitating stroke. He conducted Regional Coach of the Year balloting and when Ed mistakenly sent balloting materials to the wrong person, they were turned over to Larry because “he does such a good job.” He performed his tasks with quiet, genial, self-effacing humor.

Larry attended our clinics starting in 1987, “trying to update my knowledge.” He once took his players to U of M and was able to ask questions of NCAA champion Brienne Moore “for a memorable learning experience.” And memorable were the home dual meets where there was an opponent’s hospitality table. After the outcome of the flights, each player got to serve two balls at a Little Caesar’s target. The prize was a gift certificate for a freebie.

For 24 years, he ran the Sterling Heights. Parks and Recreation summer tennis lessons program along with monitoring the end-of-season city tournament. He was a member of the Macomb County Tennis Coaches Association since its inception in 1988. He became the historian of the Macomb County Coaches Association “because I am a dinosaur” and attended every post season meeting.

This tennis association annually hands out awards for coach of the year, team of the year, MVP of the county, and all county distinction in every flight. They also sometimes choose a coach for induction into the Macomb County Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Larry always helped write the program booklet and made presentations with his ever-present smile.

Several years ago, this two-time MHSTeCA Coach of the Year took his talents to Warren DeLaSalle where he helped out then-coach Jake Jones as their program’s assistant coach. “I worked with Larry for just a few years but he has been an icon in Macomb County tennis for decades,” says Jake. “He was incredibly knowledgeable about the game and absolutely loved tennis. He did things on the court that people half his age would never dream of. He was always willing to stay after practice – or create a new practice – for any player. He demonstrated a proclivity to watch and support our players in their various other extracurricular activities and was a regular at the school’s various honors banquets and graduations.”

Unfortunately, Larry’s funeral service in Center Line came on the same day as that of Tiger Teusink, almost two hundred miles away. This forced former MHSTeCA president and current Grosse Pointe coach Mark Sobieralski to make an agonizing choice. He “stayed home” to honor Larry whom he had known and worked with since the 1980s.

Mark spoke at the service and then stood aside as parents and players – some tearfully – testified as to how generous Larry was with his time and talent and how much he meant to so many people for over four decades. One former player journeyed all the way from Delaware to talk about how much Coach Harte impacted his life. “He made kids feel important and gave them self esteem,” says Mark. “He changed kids’ lives.”

That same kid from Delaware, a self-described lost soul when he first entered Warren Mott, played on Larry’s team for two years before his family moved to the Ortonville Brandon district, yet Larry traveled to that school to see the kid play a varsity basketball game. This young man felt awkward and out of place as a freshman at Mott but Larry took him under his wing. At the service, this man expressed life-long gratitude.

Mark, a superb player and current teaching pro in the Grosse Pointe area, fondly remembers winning the Romeo Open Doubles Tournament with Larry who possessed a cannonball serve. He had played for Warren High School in the early 1970s while Mark competed at nearby Warren Fitzgerald. Years later, the two would strive to “spread the wealth” around in terms of Regional Coach of the Year selections. As one can imagine, Larry -- often enough deserving -- would decline the honor.

“He was the epitome of what it means to be a great coach,” says Jake.



# MHSTeCA



# Appendix



# Speakers at the Workshops

- 1977 Brian Eisner, Ian Laver, Bob White,  
Charlie Partin, Herm Kiewiet, Don Brown, Bob Wood.
- 1978 Clarence Maybry, John Powless, George Acker, Joan Ramey, Bob White
- 1979 Peter Burwash, Ian Laver, Judy Dixon, John Powless, Steve Contardi
- 1980 Peter Burwash, Chet Murphy, Laurel Holgerson, Steve Contardi, John Powless
- 1981 Arthur Ashe, Peter Burwash, George Acker, Bob White
- 1982 Vic Braden, Steve Contardi, Marigold Edwards, Ed McQuillan, Glenn William, Dennis Margoni  
Marty Devlin, Wally Craig, Warren McKenzie, Gary Bodenmiller
- 1983 Chris Evert, Jack Kramer, Lew Brewer, Jeff Frank, Gayle Godwin, Jack Groppe, Bob White  
Wally Craig, Bill Struck, John Trump, Dan Ryan, Jon Fischer, Mike Ware, Ken Corba
- 1984 Nick Bollettieri, Dennis Van der Meer, Clarence Mabry, Chuck McKinley, Jeff Frank, Gundars Tilmanis  
Dan Ryan, Bob Love, Dale Steiss, Roger Thurman, John Weil, Dave Power, Warren McKenzie, Ross Snyder, Tiger Teusink
- 1985 Peter Burwash, Jack Groppe, Lew Brewer, Tori Baxter, Marty Devlin  
Tom Gray, Kirk Anderson, John Burke, John Bassett, Keith Cullen, Jon Fischer, Jeff Rothstein, Warren McKenzie,  
Stan Noland, John Trump, Mike Zinn
- 1986 Vic Braden, Pam Shriver, Jim Loehr  
Mike Zinn, Bob Love, Lew Brewer. Dave Power, Rob Dulaney, Dennis Margoni, Rick Vetter, Mike Hurley, Bob Kust, Jim Davis, Mike Flynn,  
Mark Gelina, Steve Horn, John Trump, Jay Hardman, Warren McKenzie, Tom Martin, Rick Workman
- 1987 Dennis Van Der Meer, Jack Groppe, Gundars Tilmanis, Robert Weinberg, Carlos Goffi, Greg Patton  
Ben An, Kirk Anderson, Don Brown, Dr. Robert Burkes, Chuck Enge, Tom Martin, Mike McConville, Warren McKenzie, Gardener Perry,  
Harley Pierce, Dan Ryan, Brad Wilson
- 1988 Peter Burwash, Jack Groppe, Tom Gullikson, Dennis Ralston,  
Greg Alexander, Kirk Anderson, M.J. Chisholm, Gordon Collins, Jim Davis, Jon Fisher, Jay Hardman, David Kamisar, Greg Lemley, Gene  
Johnson, Tom Martin, Jay Massert, Paul McDonald, Gardiner Perry, Kevin Smith, Dean Snyder, Adam Van Wye, Rick Vetter, John Weil,  
Owen Williams, Jim Wolavka, Rod Workman, Ken Walts,
- 1989 Jim Brown, Mike DePalmer, Carlos Goffi, Jack Groppe, Tim Gullikson, Marty Riessen, Gundars Tilmanis  
Kirk Anderson, John Bassett, Don Dickinson, Jay Hardman, Bob Hartwick, Bill Jacobson, Warren McKenzie, Paul Roetart
- 1990 Charlie Bassett, Jim Brown, Jim Davis, Don DiPaolo, Gary Ellis, Jim Frederick, Gene Johnston, Warren  
McKenzie, Kim Nagle, Dr. Conrad Nagle, Nancy Skinner, Barbara Skurdall, Bill Struck, Bill Tym, Tiger Teusink, Kathy Woods, Ron Woods
- 1991 Vic Braden, Jack Groppe. Dick Leach, Gundars Tilmanis  
Don DiPaolo, Jim Frederick, Jack Kaspars, Warren McKenzie, Vince Preuth un, John Raker, Jeff Rothstein, Dean Sousanis, Tiger Teusink
- 1992 Peter Burwash, Greg Patton, Tom Tutko  
Bob Hoppenstedt, Mike Kiewiet, Jim Krimball, Elaina Morey, Karen Page, Bitsy Ritt, Dennis Royal, Earl Rutz, Scott Schultz, Dale Steiss,  
Steve Storey, Warren McKenzie
- 1993 Dennis Van der Meer, JoAnne Russell, Bryce Young,  
George Acker, Gordon Boettcher, Jim Carr, Dave Fredette, Joe Fackel, Jay Hardman, Michelle Hicks, Al Kaye, Mike McConville, Warren  
McKenzie, Elaina Morey, Gene Orlando, John Powless, Mary Beth Ruth, Art Schultz, Brook Smith, Tiger Teusink, Randy Vaughn
- 1994 Jack Groppe, Tim Gullikson, Dr. Gary Sailes, Dick Stockton  
Joe Fackel, David Julian, Gina Mazzolini, Vince Preuthun, Al Wermer
- 1995 Vic Braden, Mark McMahon, Greg Patton, Nick Saviano, Dr. Thomas Tutko  
Diane Ansay, Jorge Capestany, Jim Carr, Jim Davis, Joe Dinoffer, Rick Ferman, Jon Fischer, Jim Krimball, Chuck Kuhle,  
Gina Mazzolini, Tom Martin, Paul MacDonald, Armand Molino, Carl Porter, Lee Ann Reed, Dany Saar, Dr. Gary Sailes,  
Mark Saunders, Bill Struck, Jim Wolavka, Rod Workman.

- 1996 Steve Contardi, Jack Groppe, Dr. Jim Loehr, JoAnne Russell, Dr. Gary Sailes  
John Bassett, Peg Hanna, Harold Holcomb, Jim Krimbill, Gene Orlando, Vince Preuthun, Earl Rutz
- 1997 Joe Dinoffer, Pat Etcheberry, Mark McMahon, Gundars Tilmanis, Bill Tym  
Don Brown, Peg Hanna, Bob Hoppenstedt, Michelle Hicks, Gene Snell, Tiger Teusink, Ken Welch
- 1998 Vijay Amritraj, Vic Braden, Steve Contardi, Greg Patton  
Jim Cummins, Chad Docktor, Gina Mazzolini, Vince Preuthun
- 1999 Wayne Bryan, Steve Contardi, Jeff Frank, Dennis Margoni  
Jorge Capestany, Tim Coleman, Scott Enge, Bruce Grotenhuis, Peg Hanna, Mark Sobieralski
- 2000 Brian Eisner, Ken Dehart  
Fuzz Corey, Joe Dinoffer, Jon Fischer, Gina Mazzolini, Dan Moster, Larry Nykerk, Vince Preuthun, Tiger Teusink
- 2001 Vic Braden, Peter Burwash, Steve Contardi, Jeff Frank, Jack Groppe, Greg Patton, Gundars Tilmanis, Dr. Bryce Young  
Greg Aten, David Bone, Andrea Calvert, Jorge Capestany, Will Cleveland, Joe Dinoffer, Bill Feucht, Tim Heckler, Mary  
Herrick, Fred Jungers, Mike Lange, Linda LeClaire, Paul MacDonald, Gina Mazzolini, Dan Moster, Ajay Pant, Bill Riddle, Scott  
Schultz, Dean Snyder.
- 2002 Nick Bollettieri, Sadie Bolos, Joe Dinoffer, John Lloyd, John Powless  
Bridgett Bommarito, Gina Mazzolini, Ellie Morse, Tiger Teusink, John Weiss, Chuck Wright
- 2003 Rose Bonomo, Wayne Bryan, Joe Dinoffer, Bob Green Nick Saviano, Stan Smith, Gundars Tilmanis  
David Breslow, Jorge Capestany, Jon Fischer.
- 2004 Vic Braden, David Breslow Mike Goldammer, Gene Orlando, Katie Schluker, Gundars Tilmanis, Glenn Williams
- 2005 Peter Burwash, Ken DeHart, Jill Fonte, Daniel Gould, Gene Mayer, Dave Porter, Eliot Teltscher, Gundars Tilmanis  
Rob Black, David Brouwer, Jim Burda, Andrea Calvert, Mark Campanile, Lindsey Cheri, Bill Mountford, Kevin Polston, Denny  
Schackter, Sue Selke, Dean Snyder
- 2006 Lorenzo Beltrame, Rodney Harmon, John Kriek, Greg Patton, John Powless, Kirk Anderson, Brit Coleman, Fuzz Corey, Scott  
Enge, John Ross
- 2007 Dede Allen, Brit Coleman, Bob Greene, Anni Miller, Nate Simmons, Dr. Jim Taylor, Gundars Tilmanis, Tom Walker,  
Gina Mazzolini
- 2008 Jorge Capestany, Ken DeHart, Rodney Harman, Harry Gilbert, Mark Riley,  
Grant Asher, Britt Coleman, Fuzz Corey, Scott Enge, Steve Herdoiza, Franklin Wu
- 2009 Wayne Bryan, Jorge Capestany, Timon Corwin, Feisal Hassan, Todd Martin  
Shawn Barone, Matt Dektas, Chuck (Scott?) Enge, Mark Fairchild, Jim Fleming, Jerry Hendricks, Ron Landfair, Mike Major,  
Gina Mazzolini, Charles Phelps, John Ross, Denny Schackter, Ed Tseng
- 2010 David Brouwer, Murphy Jensen, Bob Love, Greg Patton, Gundars Tilmanis  
Derek Ameel, Steve Keller, Dr. Edmund O'Connor, Charles Phelps, John Ross.
- 2011 Derek Ameel, Kirk Anderson, David Brouwer, Jorge Capestany, Ken DeHart, Peter Riley, Mark Riley, Sue Selke, Katie Sime,  
Chris Wilton
- 2012 David Brouwer, Wayne Bryan, Jon Fischer, Geoff Gluck, Luke Jensen, Michelle Krause, Gene Orlando, Butch Staples, Gundars  
Tilmanis
- 2013 David Benzel, Mark Bey, Dr. Jody Brylinsky, Jorge Capestany, Matt Grayson, Greg Patton, Mike Tully, Jim Reffkin
- 2014 Derek Ameel, Kirk Anderson, Sadie Bolos, Timon Corwin, John Embree, Tommy Gray, Kymm Hadlock, Dennis Ralston, Steve Stanley, Dan  
Slider, Gundars Tilmanis, Franklin Wu
- 2015 Jorge Capestany, Tom Gray, Brenda Schultz McCarthy, Greg Patton, Butch Staples, Gundars Tilmanis, Mike Woody, David  
Pietrangelo, Gina Mazzolini
- 2016 Derek Ameel, Kirk Anderson, David Benzel, Dave Brown, Jorge Capestany, Ken DeHart, Luke Jensen, Lianne Lyne, Gina Maz  
zolini, Mark Riley, Greg Patton, Gundars Tilmanis

# Alphabetical- Speakers at the Workshops

Acker	George	1978, 1981, 1993
Alexander	Greg	1988
Allen	Dede	2007
Ameel	Derek	2010, 2011, 2014, 2016
Amritraj	Vijay	1998
An	Ben	1987
Anderson	Kirk	1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 2006, 2011, 2014, 2016
Ansay	Diane	1995
Ashe	Arthur	1981
Asher	Grant	2008
Aten	Greg	2001
Barone	Shawn	2009
Bassett	John	1985, 1989, 1996
Bassett	Charlie	1990
Baxter	Tori	1985
Beltrame	Lorenzo	2006
Benzel	David	2013, 2016
Bey	Mark	2013
Black	Rob	2005
Bodenmiller	Gary	1982
Boettcher	Gordon	1993
Bollettieri	Nick	1984, 2002
Bolos	Sadie	2002, 2014
Bommarito	Bridgett	2002
Bone	David	2001
Bonomo	Rose	2003
Braden	Vic	1982, 1986, 1991, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004
Breslow	David	2003, 2004
Brewer	Lew	1983, 1985, 1986
Brouwer	David	2005, 2010, 2011, 2012
Brown	Don	1977, 1987, 1997
Brown	Jim	1989, 1990
Brown	Dave	2016
Bryan	Wayne	1999, 2003, 2009, 2012
Brylinsky	Dr. Jody	2013

Burda	Jim	2005
Burke	John	1985
Burkes	Dr. Robert	1987
Burwash	Peter	1979, 1980, 1981, 1985, 1988, 1992, 2001, 2005
Calvert	Andrea	2001
Campanile	Mark	2005
Capestany	Jorge	1995, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016
Carr	Jim	1993, 1995
Cheris	Lindsey	2005
Chisholm	M.J.	1988
Cleveland	Will	2001
Coleman	Tim	1999
Coleman	Brit	2006, 2007, 2008
Collins	Gordon	1988
Contardi	Steve	1979, 1980, 1982, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2001
Corba	Ken	1983
Corey	Fuzz	2000, 2006, 2008
Corwin	Timon	2009, 2014
Craig	Wally	1982, 1983
Cullen	Keith	1985
Cummins	Jim	1998
Davis	Jim	1986, 1988, 1990, 1995
DeHart	Ken	2000, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2016
Dektas	Matt	2009
DePalmer	Mike	1989
Devlin	Marty	1982, 1985
Dickinson	Don	1989
Dinoffer	Joe	1995, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003
DiPaolo	Don	1990, 1991
Dixon	Judy	1979
Docktor	Chad	1998
Dulaney	Rob	1986
Edwards	Marigold	1982
Eisner	Brian	1977, 2000
Ellis	Gary	1990
Embree	John	2014
Enge	Chuck	1987
Enge	Scott	1999, 2006, 2008, 2009
Etcheberry	Pat	1997

Evert	Chris	1983
Fackel	Joe	1993, 1994
Fairchilds	Mark	2009
Ferman	Rick	1995
Feucht	Bill	2001
Fischer	Jon	1983, 1985, 1988, 1995 2000, 2003, 2012
Fleming	Jim	2009
Flynn	Mike	1986
Fonte	Jill	2005
Frank	Jeff	1983, 1984, 1999, 2001
Frederick	Jim	1990, 1991
Fredette	Dave	1993
Gelina	Mark	1986
Gilbert	Harry	2008
Gluck	Geoff	2012
Godwin	Gayle	1983
Goffi	Carlos	1987, 1989
Goldammer	Mike	2004
Gould	Daniel	2005
Gray	Tom	1985
Gray	Tommy	2014, 2015
Grayson	Matt	2013
Green	Bob	2003, 2007
Groppel	Jack	1983. 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1994, 1996, 2001
Grotenhuis	Bruce	1999
Gullikson	Tom	1988
Gullikson	Tim	1989, 1994
Hadlock	Kymm	2014
Hanna	Peg	1996, 1997, 1999
Hardman	Jay	1986, 1988, 1989, 1993
Harmon	Rodney	2006, 2008
Hartwick	Bob	1989
Hassan	Feisal	2009
Heckler	Tim	2001
Hendricks	Jerry	2009
Herdoiza	Steve	2008
Herrick	Mary	2001
Hicks	Michelle	1993, 1997
Holcomb	Harold	1996
Holgerson	Laurel	1980
Hoppenstedt	Bob	1992, 1997
Horn	Steve	1986
Hurley	Mike	1986

Jacobson	Bill	1989
Jensen	Murphy	2010
Jensen	Luke	2012, 2016
Johnson	Gene	1988
Johnston	Gene	1990
Julian	David	1994
Jungers	Fred	2001
Kamisar	David	1988
Kaspars	Jack	1991
Kaye	Al	1993
Keller	Steve	2010
Kiewiet	Herm	1977
Kiewiet	Mike	1992
Kramer	Jack	1983
Krause	Michelle	2012
Kriek	John	2006
Krimbill	Jim	1992, 1995, 1996
Kuhle	Chuck	1995
Kust	Bob	1986
Landfair	Ron	2009
Lange	Mike	2001
Laver	Ian	1977, 1979
Leach	Dick	1991
LeClaire	Linda	2001
Lemley	Greg	1988
Lloyd	John	2002
Loehr	Jim	1986, 1996
Love	Bob	1984, 1986, 2010
Lyne	Lianne	2016
Mabry	Clarence	1978, 1984
MacDonald	Paul	2001
Major	Mike	2009
Margoni	Dennis	1982, 1986, 1999
Martin	Tom	1986, 1987, 1988, 1995
Martin	Todd	2009
Massert	Jay	1988
Mayer	Gene	2005
Mazzolini	Gina	1994, 1995, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2007, 2009, 2015, 2016
McConville	Mike	1987, 1993
McDonald	Paul	1988, 1995
McKenzie	Warren	1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993
McKinley	Chuck	1984
McMahon	Mark	1995, 1997

McQuillan	Ed	1982
Miller	Anni	2007
Molino	Armand	1995
Morey	Elaina	1992, 1993
Morse	Ellie	2002
Moster	Dan	2000, 2001
Mountford	Bill	2005
Murphy	Chet	1980
Nagle	Kim	1990
Nagle	Dr. Conrad	1990
Noland	Stan	1985
Nykerk	Larry	2000
O'Conner	Dr. Edmund	2010
Orlando	Gene	1993, 1996, 2004, 2012
Page	Karen	1992
Pant	Ajay	2001
Partin	Charlie	1977
Patton	Greg	1987, 1992, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2006, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2016
Perry	Gardner	1987, 1988
Phelps	Charles	2009, 2010
Pierce	Harley	1987
Pietrangelo	David	2015
Polston	Kevin	2005
Porter	Carl	1995
Porter	David	2005
Power	Dave	1984, 1986
Powless	John	1978, 1979, 1980, 1993, 2002, 2006
Preuthun	Vince	1991, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000
Ralston	Dennis	1988, 2014
Ramey	Joan	1978
Reed	Lee Ann	1995
Reffkin	Jim	2013
Riddle	Bill	2001
Riessen	Marty	1989
Riley	Mark	2008, 2016
Riley	Peter	2011
Riley	Mark	2011
Ritt	Bitsy	1992
Roetart	Paul	1989
Ross	John	2006, 2009, 2010
Rothstein	Jeff	1985, 1991
Royal	Dennis	1992
Russell	JoAnne	1993, 1996

Ruth	Mary Beth	1993
Rutz	Earl	1992, 1996
Ryan	Dan	1983, 1984, 1987
Saar	Dany	1995
Sailes	Dr. Gary	1994, 1995, 1996
Saunders	Mark	1995
Saviano	Nick	1995, 2003
Schackter	Denny	2005, 2009
Schlukibir	Katie	2004
Schriver	Pam	1986
Schultz	Scott	1992, 2001
Schultz	Art	1993
Schultz	Scott	2001
Schultz McCarthy	Brenda	2015
Selke	Sue	2005, 2011
Sime	Katie	2011
Simmons	Nate	2007
Skinner	Nancy	1990
Skurdall	Barbara	1990
Slider	Dan	2014
Smith	Kevin	1988
Smith	Brook	1993
Smith	Stan	2003
Snell	Gene	1997
Snyder	Ross	1984
Snyder	Dean	1988, 2001, 2005
Sobieralski	Mark	1999
Sousanis	Dean	1991
Stanley	Steve	2014
Staples	Butch	2012, 2015
Steiss	Dale	1984, 1992
Stockton	Dick	1994
Storey	Steve	1992
Struck	Bill	1983, 1990, 1995
Taylor	Dr. Jim	2007
Teltscher	Eliot	2005
Teusink	Tiger	1984, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1997, 2000, 2002
Thurman	Roger	1984
Tilmanis	Gundars	1984, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1997, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016
Trump	John	1983, 1985, 1986
Tseng	Ed	2009
Tully	Mike	2013
Tutko	Tom	1992, 1995

Tym	Bill	1990, 1997
Van der Meer	Dennis	1984, 1987, 1993
Van Wye	Adam	1988
Vaughn	Randy	1993
Vetter	Rick	1986, 1988
Walker	Tom	2007
Walts	Ken	1988
Ware	Mike	1983
Weil	John	1984, 1988
Weinberg	Robert	1987
Weiss	John	2002
Welch	Ken	1997
Wermer	Al	1994
White	Bob	1977, 1978, 1981, 1983
William	Glenn	1982
Williams	Owen	1988
Williams	Glenn	2004
Wilson	Brad	1987
Wilton	Chris	2011
Wolavka	Jim	1988
Wolavka	Jim	1995
Wood	Bob	1977
Wood	Mike	2015
Woods	Kathy	1990
Woods	Ron	1990
Workman	Rick	1986
Workman	Rod	1988, 1995
Wright	Chuck	2002
Wu	Franklin	2008, 2014
Young	Bryce	1993, 2001
Zinn	Mike	1985, 1986

# Hall of Fame and Coaches of the Year

Last Name	First Name	School	G COY	B COY	H of F
Adams	Doug	Flint Powers	1988, 1996		2000
Aldrich	Jen	Allegan	2006, 2012		
Alto	Larry	Monroe			1988
Andrews	George	University Liggett	1979, 1983		
Asher	Wayne	Monroe St. Mary's	2018		
Balding	Dick	Marquette	2002		
Baleja	Matt	Paw Paw		2017	
Baribeau	Mary Kay	Port Huron Northern	2000		2013
Barker	Bob	Grand Ledge		2003	
Barnes	Mike	Sterling Hgts. Stevenson	2016		2011
Bartz	Kim	Edwardsburg	2018		
Bassett	Charlie	Spring Lake	1980, 2006, 2009	1988, 2012	1992
Baum	Bill	Midland		2009	2012
BeDell	Andy	Saline	2012		
Bender	Steve	Buchananjnh/I		1995, 2002	2011
Bentley	Jerry	Grand Rapids Creston			2000
Bentley	Paul	Hudsonville	2011		
Bentley	Rahn	Hudsonville			1999
Berles	Dave	East Kentwood		1980	1994
Bernacki	Keith	Birmingham Seaholm		2008	2012
Berschback	Tom	Grosse Pte. South		1995	2009
Bittner	Dan	Marian	2010		
Blakeslee	Merrett	Detroit Country Day		1981	
Block	Warren	Troy Athens	1986	2000	2005
Bodenmiller	Gary	St. Clair			2006
Boettcher	Gordon	Ann Arbor Huron		1982, 1978	1996
Boettcher	Kirk	Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard		2004	
Bolhouse	Dan	Forest Hills Central		2019	
Boven	Matt	Mattawan	2011		
Brissette	Nancy	Essexville Garber	2000	2006	2019
Brown	Don	Cranbrook		1982	1987
Brown	Larry	Parma Western		2007F	
Brown	Matt	Cadillac	2010	2007F	
Brunnschweiler	Henry	Haslett		2014	
Buck	Tim	Grandville		2013	2020
Burgess	Carl	Kalamazoo Christian	1980	1993	1996
Burke	John	St. Clair Shores South Lake	1984		1993
Burks	Greg	Bloomfield Hills		2015	
Burrows	Ed	East Jordan			1995
Last Name	First Name	School	G COY	B COY	H of F

Bushman	Al	Midland			1988
Butson	Nancy	Utica Eisenhower			2008
Buursma	Tom	Holland Christian	1983		1997
Bye	Randy	Frankenmuth	2012		
Caldwell	John	Galesburg Augusta			1989
Chandler	Nicole	Durand	2017		
Charron	Peter	Muskegon Catholic Central		2000	
Claus	Chas	Clarkston		2016	
Clutts	Dave	St. Clair	2017	2009	
Coleman	Tim	Woodhaven		1996, 1986	2002
Conroy	Aaron	Kalamazoo Hackett		2019	
Coon	Brad	North Muskegon	1996		
Corey	Glenn	Troy	1998		2001
Cornelius	Roger	Richland Gull Lake	2013	1996	2018
Cornell	Ralph	Dearborn Edsel Ford			1991
Cramer	Dale	Coopersville		2016	
Crandell	Jared	Byron Center	2018		
Cullen	Keith	Birmingham Seaholm	2001		
Cummins	Jim	Battle Creek Springfield	1982	1979	1990
Cutshaw	George	Warren Woods Tower	2008		
D'Angelo	Jim	Mason	2016		
Darbee	Bob	Bay City Handy, John Glenn, Western			2001
Davis	Jack	Ovid-Elsie	1994		2006
DeBerry	Karie	Sterling Heights	2009		
Dickey	Bill	Sturgis		1991	
DiPaolo	Don	Saline		1993	
Dubiel	Mark	Romeo	1998	2010	
Easterling	Rich	Jackson Lumen Christi	1997		
Eichorn	Sally	Ithaca	1994		
Elenbaas	Tim	Cadillac	2003		2005
Elliot	Don	West Iron County			1991
Ellis	Gary	Allegan	1994, 2005	1984	2007
Ellis	Tom	Detroit Country Day		2007S	
Engles	Carl	Kalamazoo University H.S.			1992
Escheck	Jerry	Carleton Airport		2015	
Esper	Jan	Bloomfield Hills Lahser	2000	2002	2004
Farr	Rick	Utica		2014	
Farrell	Bruce	Negaunee		1988	
Fedoruk	Rick	Berrien Springs		2007 Fall	2017
Ferle	Helen	Mason			1995
Finton	Mike	Almont	2004		
Flowers	Larry	Brighton	1981		
Fouty	Erin	NorthPointe Christian	2011	2007 Spring	
<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>G COY</b>	<b>B COY</b>	<b>H of F</b>

Fowler	Jim	Flint			1998
Fredette	Dave	Armada		1992, 1982, 1998, 2018	1988
Frieheit	Lynn	Grand Blanc		1979	
Frost	Ian	Warren Mott			1997
Gajar	Eric	Ann Arbor Greenhills		2005, 2015, 2019	
Gasper	Dave	Chesaning			2017
Gates	Donn	Ithaca		1984	
Gentle	Joe	North Muskegon	2006	1995, 2004	2019
Gerow	Gerry	Lansing Waverly		1991	
Ghindia	John	Ecorse		1986	1994
Gilligan	Kevin	Ionia		2010	
Gilman	Brad	Detroit Country Day	1985	1988	
Giorgi	Rocco	Gibraltar Carlson		2016	
Girvin	Rob	Armada	2013		
Go	Jason	Port Huron Northern		2007S	
Gottlin	Jan	Riverview	1993, 2005	2001	2009
Green	Denny	Harbor Springs		2009	
Greiner	Dale	Ann Arbor Pioneer	1978		
Grossa	John	Fruitport	1999		
Grotenhuis	Bruce	Howell		2001	2003
Gutow	Ken	Grosse Pte. North			2008
Hackman	Linda	Harbor Springs	2019		
Hadley	Jim	Dearborn Hgts. Robichaud		1999	2013
Hairabedian	Mike	Inkster Cherry Hill, Wayne Memorial		1987	1994
Haley	Pat	Wyandotte Roosevelt		2009	
Hanson	Jim	Novi	2005	2012, 2002	2017
Harden	Gary	Muskegon Mona Shores			1989
Harrison	Bob	Alma	1998		
Harte	Larry	Warren	1994, 2018		
Haskins	Joe	Midland Dow		1984	1989
Hassett	Cathy	Royal Oak Shrine	2016		
Hehs	Judy	Sacred Heart	2002, 2015		2015
Herdoiza	Steve	Cranbrook-Kingswood		2018	
Hesse	Jim	Williamston	1981		
Hoffmann	Pat	St. Joseph	1997	2003, 2009	
Hofmeyer	Ken	Comstock Park	1995	2003	2009
Holcomb	Harold	Essexville Garber	1987	1983, 1998	1992
Hoxie	Jean and Jerry	Hamtramck			1986
Hudson	Don	Battle Creek Central, Springfield			2015
Immekus	Nathan	Almont		2011	
Inkala	Al	Okemos			2016
<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>G COY</b>	<b>B COY</b>	<b>H of F</b>

Jagdfeld	Judy	Hartland		2001	
Johnson	Keith	Bloomfield Hills Andover		1985	
Johnson	Mickey	Marquette	1985	1989	1986
Jonas	Jim	Fowlerville		2013	
Jones	Linda	Northville	2019		
Kaye	Al	Allen Park Cabrini		1992	2011
Kerwin	Jim	Farmington Hills Mercy	1987		
Kiewiet	Herm	Kalamazoo Loy Norrix		1979	1990
Kiley	Dennis	Jackson			1987
Kimber	Earl	University Liggett			1987
Klein	Larry	Grandville Calvin Christian		2001	
Knoester	John	Holland Christian	2001	1998	
Koch	Bonnie	West Bloomfield	2008		
Kopec	Greg	West Bloomfield		2005	
Krupa	Ed	Flint Northern			1997
Kudwa	Tom	Ludington	1995, 2003, 2016		2005
Kunold	Ron	Hemlock		1991	2001
Landfair	Ron	Lansing Catholic		2008	
Langs	Karen	Petoskey	1985		2003
Laurila	Phyllis	Iron Mountain		1987, 2000	
Layson	Chris	Utica Eisenhower	2010		
Lehmann	Barb	Canton High School		2018	
Leyrer	Tom	Jenison	1999	2006	1996
Lightvoet	Phyllis	Kalamazoo Christian	2003		
Lo	Dree	Petoskey	2017		
Lubbers	Steve	Hamilton		2008	
Madden	Mark	Burton Atherton			2002
Major	Mike	Midland Dow		2003	
Maki	Gene	Wakefield		1989	1988
Malinowski	Tony	Trenton			1999
Marazita	Joe	Niles Brandywine	2005		2017
Martin	Brian	Brighton		2004	
Martin	Nancy	Portage Central		2018	
McCaffrey	Dee	Mason		1994	
McDaniel	Bill	Holly	1999, 2001		2003
McEachern	Rod	Lapeer			1991
McGinnis	Mike	Battle Creek Lakeview	2012	1999	
McKnight	Julie	Marian	1996, 1980		1999
McManus	Greg	Whitehall		2018	
Menzel	Rich	Trenton		2011	
Michaels	Carol	Plymouth Canton	1989		
Michol	AnnMarie	Warren DeLaSalle, Utica		2003, 2017	
Militzer	Peter	Portage Central	2004	2000	2016
Miner	Jeff	Brighton	2006		
Miska	Brian	Troy	2015		
<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>G COY</b>	<b>B COY</b>	<b>H of F</b>

Moran	Joe	Holland			1986
Morey	Elaina	Greenville	1992		
Morley	Dick	Whitehall	1993		2000
Moss	Ed	Belding			1991
Moss	Ed	Belding	1977		
Mulder	Jed	Zeeland East		2017	
Muniz	J.R.	Riverview Gabriel Richard	2002		2015
Munson	Budd	Sturgis	1980		1993
Murphy	Jerry	Rochester		1993, 2019	2010
Murray	Bob	Warren Woods Tower		1995	2004
Must	Al	Rochester Adams		2007S	2010
Myler	Barb	Royal Oak Shrine			2008
Nelson	Al	Flushing		2010	
Niebling	Jim	Portland	2013	2003, 2010	2012
Noland	Stan	Monroe	1995, 1981		1998
Norton	Richard	Northville		1999	2002
Nykerk	Larry	Traverse City	1997	1984. 2007 Fall	1999
Nyman	Ellette	Kingsford	2005		
O'Bryan	Lee	Fraser			1995
Olson	Ward	Monroe			1994
Ortwine	Kevin	Clarkston		2003	
Page	Karen	West Ottawa	2002	1997	1996
Parker	Chuck	Otsego		2014	
Partin	Charles	East Grand Rapids	1979	1979	1986
Pauly	Dick	Elkton-Pigeon-Bayport		1990	
Pearce	Elliott	Forest Hills Central	1997	1985	1990
Pearson	Mike	Utica Eisenhower	2017		
Pedlow	Matt	Chelsea	2019		
Perez	Cliff	Ludington		2012	2020
Peterson	Sandy	Portage Northern	1977		
Peterson	Sandy	Portage Northern	1982		1987
Pfent	Greg	Kelloggsville	2004		
Pierce	Harley	Sturgis		1978	1986
Pollard	Al	Kalamazoo Loy Norrix	1991		2010
Porter	Pam	Stevensville Lakeshore	2000		
Pothoven	Chuck	Grand Rapids South Christian		2013	
Pothoven	Ron	Holland Christian		1990	
Pott	Clare	Holland Christian			1992
Powers	Jim	Okemos		1986	
Powers	Jim	Okemos			2014
Prussian	Helen	Saline	1990		
Prychitko	Stephanie	Grosse Pte. South	1982		1987
Prychitko	Stephanie	Grosse Pte. South	1979		
Pullen	Tom	Ann Arbor Pioneer	2003	2006, 1999	2014
<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>G COY</b>	<b>B COY</b>	<b>H of F</b>

Purdy	George	Saginaw Arthur Hill			1986
Quinn	Bob	Saginaw Heritage	1985	2007 Fall, 1980	1992
Randolph	Mark	Ann Arbor Greenhills	2009		
Reed	Chuck	Whittemore-Prescott		1980, 1994	2020
Riggs	Bill	Allen Park	2005		2016
Riley	Peter	Pontiac Notre Dame Prep	2014		
Rosentreter	Rahn	Chelsea		2004	
Rossio	Dick	Portage Northern			1998
Ruemenapp	Margaret	Harbor Springs	1991, 2011		2013
Rutz	Earl	East Lansing		1994	
Ryan	Nancy	Kingswood	1978, 1982		1986
Rynbrand	Kryn	Kalamazoo			1988
Schrand	Andrew	Yale	2015		
Schultz	Art	St. Joseph	1992		
Schwartzkopf	Terry	Midland Dow		2017	
Seger	Larry	Middleville	1986		1994
Servis	Mark	DeWitt		1983	
Shade	John	Grosse Ile	1986	1989	1993
Shank	Mark	Kingsford		2008	
Shenton	Mark	North Farmington		2005	
Shepard	Theo	Ann Arbor Pioneer	1982		
Shipp	Andrew	Troy Athens		2011	
Slaughter	Jim	U of D Jesuit		2013	2018
Smith	Brook	West Iron County	1992		2016
Smith	Rhonda	Galesburg-Augusta	1989		
Smith	Tom	Galesburg-Augusta	1984		
Snell	Gene	Dearborn		1990	
Snoop	Marty	Lake Odessa Lakewood	2002	2000	2006
Sobieralski	Mark	Grosse Pte. South	2000, 2014	2016	2004
Sobieralski	Mark	Warren Mott	1991		2004
Somers	Pat	Holt	2001		
Sophiea	Will	Holly	2017	2015	
Sousanis	Dean	Almont	1988	1978, 1997	1996
Stablein	Ron	St. Clair	1988		1993
Stanley	Steve	Williamston	2010		
Stickle	Jay	Comstock		1995	
Stofer	Hal	Three Rivers		1981	1996
Stolz	Dan	Okemos	1993		
Sukup	Dave	Forest Hills Northern	2006		2014
Tambling	Tim	Monroe			1986
Tanis	Wayne	Hamilton	1990		1991
Tasich	Ben	Pinckney		2014	
Teal	Jim	Saginaw Arthur Hill			1990
Teusink	Tiger	Holland	1984	1992, 1981	1986
<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>G COY</b>	<b>B COY</b>	<b>H of F</b>

Theodore	Gus	Imlay City			1995
Tramontini	Ralph	Petoskey		2002	
Tripp	Jack	Negaunee	1987		
Trombly	Rich	Hillsdale	1989		
Trombly	Rich	Gladstone	2001		
Turner	Garrett	Midland Dow	2009		
Van Alst	Jim	Grosse Pte. North	2019		
Van Zandt	Jim	Galesburg Augusta			1989
Vince	Art	Flushing			1995
Waits	Ed	Southfield-Lathrup		1983	2007
Waldman	Lenny	Berkley		2012	
Wall	Bonnie	Forest Hills Northern	1999		2010
Walters	Larry	Grand Haven			2008
Wasielowski	Whitney	North Farmington	2014	2011	
Welch	Stefan	Ann Arbor Huron		2008	
Williams	Patricia	Grand Rapids Catholic Central	2004		2000
Wills	Scott	Vicksburg	2002		
Wirgau	Lincoln	Marian	2015		
Wisswell	Don	Mt. Clemens	1983		1997
Wisswell	Don	Mt. Clemens		1997	
Wollerman	Dave	East Grand Rapids	2008		
Wood	Bob	University Liggett			1986
Wood	Bonnie	Ovid-Elsie	1999		
Wright	Al	Port Huron Northern	1990	1998	1999
Wright	Chuck	University Liggett	1998		2002
Wynn	Clarence	Detroit Cass Tech	2013, 2004		2018
Zandee	Ken	Grand Rapids Christian		1987	1993
Zerlaut	Scott	Grant	2008, 2014		2019
Zielinski	Don	Dearborn Hgts. Riverview		1985	
Zysk	Don	Grosse Pte. South		1988	