



Irvington Club News



September 2020



Notes From the General Manager

Dear Irvington Club Members,

As we continue our navigation during this pandemic, I think about what lessons are learned and where it will take us. It leaves me with a lot of uncertainty, but at the same time, a lot of hope and encouragement; hope that people of color will finally experience equality in all of the many shapes and forms that it brings. I continue to read and learn and know that I have, and will, continue to gain a great deal of knowledge and understanding about our history. I grew up in a small town called St. Albans, which was about 20 miles south of Charleston, WV. I lived on B street and A street was predominantly black. These were kids I played with, shot hoops with (the basketball hoop was on their street), fought with, and whom I considered to be my friends. Yet, I never went into their homes and they never came into mine. Now I wonder why. I do not recall my Mom saying we could not visit each other's homes, but I am pretty sure it would not have been okay. I was raised by my Mom and had 2 brothers and a sister. My sister and I kind of ran the house as my Mom worked shift work so we were on our own. My only regret is that I didn't question, ask, or even wonder.

My late husband's best friend is black and his wife is white. They became my best friends and though they never shared their hardships of an interracial marriage, I know they existed from both black and white people. They are my daughter's godparents and I will never forget my daughter at the age of 3 seeing a black person on the TV and started yelling Mom, T is on TV. ("T" was what we called him). So, yes, she saw color, but only saw the difference in color of skin, not in being different in other ways. I am so blessed for having the opportunity to know and love someone of color and learning some of the difficulties surrounded by that.

I made my last plea to the county and state officials to open our pool and I did receive a response that said they are taking my input into consideration and are in the process of updating their sports guidance. I thanked them for their response and asked when we could expect an update, as our season is quickly coming to an end. I have alerted our Swim Members that there would be no pool this summer and all will be invited back next summer.

In closing, I will say that with the support of my family, friends, and our Irvington Team, along with all of you, there is no way we cannot make it through this. Take a few moments to find the good in something difficult and be grateful for what you have discovered and most important, share it with others.

Best,

Barbara

Calendar of Events

September

7th ~ Labor Day

22nd ~ Autumn Begins

October

4th – 17th ~ Carolyn Lumber Championships

31st ~ Halloween

President's Message

It is really starting to feel like Fall is approaching with the cool mornings and evenings and warm days. Kids will be returning to virtual school once again with parents and teachers doing their best to continue their kids' education. We have a lot of current and past teachers and administrators who are members and they deserve our support and gratitude. We also have some members who are spending their time to help the Irvington Club to be a more diverse Club and we should applaud their efforts as well. I really appreciate the BLM messages on Fridays. The Club is now a member of the American Tennis Association which is the largest African American tennis association in the US. Many thanks to Chris Valverde for sharing his knowledge about the ATA and encouraging us to join. We hope to collaborate with the local chapter to provide some tennis opportunities in the future. The Pros are doing an outstanding job of providing camps and lessons and doing so in very safe and creative ways. This has provided a welcome opportunity for many kids and their parents. I would be remiss if I did not give Barb Farmer some kudos for her efforts to convince state and local authorities to allow doubles inside without masks and to allow the pool to open. She wrote letters, made calls, attended Zoom meetings, and twisted every arm she could find. She is still working on the mask requirement. I also want to thank the Board of Trustees. They have stepped up and meet frequently during this pandemic to do all that we can to support our employees and the Pros. Let's hope that all of us will continue to stay safe and healthy!

- Cathy Zarosinski

Kids 'N Tennis

Don Johnson along with Andre St. James founded Kids N Tennis in 1987 not a stone's throw from our club at Irving Park on Northeast 7th Ave. Don wanted to provide instruction and access to underserved youth because he had a passion for the game, a huge heart, and a dogged determination to make it all happen. Since those early days, Kids N Tennis has grown from summer days on Irving's outdoor courts to other locations like PTC and St John's Racquet Club among others. Support from PP&R, USTA, PT&E, and other businesses have helped it evolve into a multicultural, ethnically diverse tennis program with graduates who are local Portland teaching professionals and numerous college graduates.

A few members of the Community Involvement Committee and the Social Justice Committee recently sat down with one of the coaches who has worked with the program for the past 10 years, Michael Navarro. "The program has rallied tennis enthusiasts of all ages to assist in promoting tennis, in helping mentor kids to improve their educational endeavors, to provide first-class community service, to encourage health and fitness while providing a safe and positive environment for kids to build confidence and self-esteem."

Cris Valverde worked in the program before coming to The Irvington Club and describes Don Johnson as a truly remarkable man "who was beyond generous with his time and resources." He would often pay for equipment, shoes, travel (including airline tickets), and waived fees if player's families couldn't afford it. Every summer they would host weeklong camps at Irving Park for the area kids. They would also run a tournament in honor of Juneteenth, which would act as a fundraiser for the summer program. Don and Andre also took a group of those kids to the AAU Junior Olympics (between 1996-99) where they medaled. They also provided tennis programming for area schools' PE programs. Don and Andre left a huge impression on their pupils. Chris describes the 3 most important life lessons shared with the kids and staff:

Have a goal/dream. Without a goal or a dream, you will wander aimlessly through life like a ship without a captain in the vast ocean.

Never listen to the naysayers. So many people in life will say it's impossible, it can't be done, it's never been done before, or you don't belong. Don and Andre instilled a confidence and determination inside you that made you feel you feel like you could be the first one to prove the naysayers wrong.

Work hard. Don and Andre always led by example. Those guys had a work ethic that made you want to give that little bit extra, no matter how fatigued you were feeling.

Look out in the future for The Irvington Club's partnership with events that support Kids N Tennis.

Happy Trails to Tracy Bardell and Rianne Belser



Club Members Tracy Bardell and Rianne Belser will be moving to Taos, New Mexico. They have owned a house there for a while and decided now would be a good time to “test the waters” to see where they want to live. Rianne was my tennis partner for many years and I have so many great memories of our time spent together. Tracy has played on many Irvington teams and all would agree is a fierce competitor. They have been very active in the Club for over 14 years. They are keeping their house in Portland so my hope is they will travel back and forth. They will be missed and are the perfect example of the Club’s Mission Statement: To share among our members a love of tennis that is distinguished by friendliness, inclusiveness, and tradition. I will not say Goodbye, but Happy Trails to you until we meet again!

Barbara

Carolyn Lumber Tennis Championships 2020

If Galen Rupp can win the 10,000-meter final at the USA track and field championships with a time of 28min 38.17 seconds in Eugene, Oregon back in 2011 while wearing a face mask then you can play in the Carolyn Lumber Tennis Championships scheduled for October 4th-17th. Here at the Irvington Club we are adjusting to the pandemic, making sure we follow CDC rules and mandates put in place by Governor Kate Brown. We are hopeful we can move into phase two, but will most likely still need to wear face masks while playing on our indoor courts for the near future.

With the US Open scheduled for the end of the month, increasingly top players have decided to not play in the tournament because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The list continues to grow, but most notably both the US Open defending champions Rafael Nadal and Bianca Andreescu are not playing. There will be no fans and everything will be super controlled and managed so that players are as safe as possible while playing in the event.

The bottom line is that the tournament will continue to be hosted and players will still play because it's a grand slam tournament. The biggest and most prestigious on US soil. The club has decided to host this year's Carolyn Lumber Tennis Championships because, like the US Open, it's our biggest tournament at the Irvington Club. The Pros have made some adjustments so that players are safe while playing and that members who want competitive tennis at a time when there is no City League or USTA league matches can get their tennis fix. This will be an unusual year without fans, daily meals, raffle nights, theme nights, and of course beer and wine on tap. It will be pure tennis. As pure as tennis can get. No social and tennis like we know our tournament to be. We are going back to basics so we can have our event in a time that most other clubs might just forget it. Our matches will be scheduled at 5pm and 7:30pm and spaced out on the weekends. Players will need to wear face masks if we are still mandated to. Maybe this year will be your year to get on the glorious plaque when many of you decide not to play. We will have prizes for the Champions, Finalists and Consolation Champions like we have always done. We will publish the schedules and results daily and emails will be sent out to the membership.

We totally understand if you decide not to play this year and this might be the smallest tournament we have ever run, but it's still something and we think that those that participate will appreciate the opportunity to get on our courts and compete. To get to our tournament homepage with more details and to register visit:

<https://tennislink.usta.com/Tournaments/TournamentHome/Tournament.aspx?T=247876>

Walter's Wisdom

Tennis Ladders by Walter Seidel

Growing up we had a tennis ladder at our club and every junior and adult strived to get to the top of their respective ladders. Ladders are a great way to get competitive match play throughout the year. It incentivizes juniors to contact each other and compete so that they are getting more match play. To be match tough is only achieved by actually playing matches. Ladders can help captains of USTA and City League teams determine better lineups. But more importantly ladders can bring members together playing tennis on our courts this fall. In a time of uncertainty, we need tennis to escape even if it's for only one court time per week. We need to hit that tennis ball! I call it tennis therapy. So, with the Club Championships coming soon why not join a tennis ladder and start playing those matches so you can be ready when our tournament arrives. For quick access to our Carolyn Lumber Tennis Championships visit the tournament homepage here:

<https://tennislink.usta.com/Tournaments/TournamentHome/Tournament.aspx?T=247876>

Tournament ID #: 600023720

To register for our Tennis Ladders go to: <https://app.tennisrungs.com/Public/Register/91538447>

Members need to create their own username and password.

Miss Hits



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I have made a big change!



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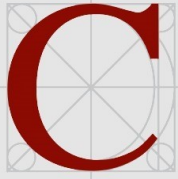
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