

THE

# CURT REPORTER

2017 SUMMER EDITION



UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION  
SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN DISTRICT

## The Future of Tennis



### IN THIS ISSUE

SEMTA Jr. Qualifier Results .....	Page 2
Midwest Closed Results. ....	Page 3
Cup Team Results .....	Page 4
2016 Scholarship & Award Recipients .....	Page 6

*"To introduce, promote & develop the game of tennis within Southeastern Michigan"*

# Southeast Michigan Junior Players Endorsed into the 2017 Midwest Outdoor Closed Championships

Boys 18s

Champion - Jack Winkler  
Finalist - Steven Forman  
3rd Place - Josh Mukherjee  
4th Place - Davis Wong

Kweisi Kenyatte  
Andrew Zhang  
Kobie Mueller  
Santhosh Narayanan  
Brian Carpenter  
Christopher Adams  
Benji Jacobson  
Ian Yi

Boys 16s

Champion - Gabriel Liss  
Finalist - Brennan Cimpeanu  
3rd Place - Luke Baylis  
4th Place - Owen Kelley

Sidharth Amarnath  
Andrei Paduraru  
Thomas Herb  
Julian Hyman  
Nicholas Klak  
Jarreau Campbell  
Lucas Bosch  
Jacob Bickersteth

Boys 14s

Champion - William Cooksey  
Finalist - Gabe Brown  
3rd Place - Jeffrey Etterbeek  
4th Place - Nicholas Herdoiza

Mert Oral  
Stanley Rhodes  
Jagan Nallani  
Daniel Stojanov  
Noah Roslin  
Christian Grozev  
Jonah Liss  
Aidan Kim

Boys 12s

Champion - Michael Mascarin  
Finalist - Owen DeMuth  
3rd Place - Rishi Verma  
4th Place - Clayton Anderson

Corwin Kim  
Andrew Andea  
Chakor Sankaran Rajendra  
Ishwa Williams  
Andrew Vincler  
Alex Buzdugan  
Takuya King  
Aaron Demeritt

Girls 18s

Champion - Karina Miller  
Finalist - Maja Pietrowicz  
3rd Place - Tia Mukherjee  
4th Place - Kaitlyn Rogosch

Maya Solomon  
Caroline Norton  
Shanoli Kumar  
Madison Fozo  
Katie Sesi  
Ava Thielman  
Olivia Chang  
Monique Karoub

Girls 16s

Champion - Jessica Braun  
Finalist - Whitney King  
3rd Place - Taylor Barrett  
4th Place - Lauren Opalewski

Victoria Mady  
Geraldine Bonnell  
Mollie Judge  
Maddy Zampardo  
Miriam Gandham  
Sukhmani Mandair  
Allison McConnell  
Laurel Sullivan

Girls 14s

Champion - Julia Fliegner  
Finalist - Angie Zhou  
3rd Place - Elisabeth Jones  
4th Place - Olivia Weiss

Nina Khaghany  
Sophia Gryzenia  
Gaby Gryzenia  
Anna Bickersteth  
Hailey Demeritt  
Nina Govila  
Sullivan Patel  
Andrea Teofilovic

Girls 12s

Champion - Emma Roeck  
Finalist - Maya Joint  
3rd Place - Reese Miller  
4th Place - Alicen Liu

Gabriella Sadowski  
Cleo Wang  
Mara Jaku  
Hadley Krygier  
Nicole Luna  
Jenna Redmile  
Sari Woo  
Kavitha Gowda

2017 Futures

Boys 10s

Champion - Andrew Vincler  
Finalist - Pierce Shaya  
Consolation Winner  
- Fabian Hernandez Gerulewicz

Girls 10s

Champion - Gabriella Sadowski  
Finalist - Thara Gowda  
Consolation Winner  
- Kennedy Drenser-Hagmann



# Southeast Michigan Players Capture Midwest Outdoor Closed Championship Titles!

**Boys 18 Singles**

Steven Forman – 3rd Place  
Davis Wong – Quarter-finalist

**Boys 16 Singles**

Jarreau Campbell – Quarter-finalist

**Boys 14 Singles**

William Cooksey – 3rd Place

**Boys 12 Singles**

Owen DeMuth – Quarter-finalist

**Girls 18 Singles**

Karina Miller – Finalist

**Girls 16 Singles**

Whitney King – 3rd Place

**Girls 12 Singles**

Emma Roeck – 4th Place  
Maya Joint – Quarter-finalist



**Boys 18 Doubles**

Kweisi Kenyatte/Jack Winkler – Champions  
Benji Jacobson/Davis Wong – Quarter-finalist

**Boys 16 Doubles**

Luke Baylis/Lucas Guy (WMI) – Quarter-finalist

**Boys 14 Doubles**

William Cooksey/Tyler Bowers (MSI) Semi-Finalist  
Gabe Brown/Joshua Portnoy (WMI) – Quarter-finalist

**Girls 16 Doubles**

Whitney King/Madeleine Lynch (NEO) – Semi-finalist

**Girls 14 Doubles**

Elisabeth Jones/Kathryn Treiber (CHI) – Champion  
Olivia Weiss/Zoe Angell (NEM) – Quarter-finalist

**Girls 12 Doubles**

Emma Roeck/Arianya Annapantla (OV) – Finalist  
Reese Miller/Lilly Black (NOW) – Semi-finalist



## Congratulations to Our Cup Teams

### Marian Wood Baird Cup Team

Karina Miller  
Ivona Gorgioski  
Madison Fozo  
Joanne Gao  
Madeleine Paolucci  
Monique Karoub  
Allison McConnell  
Samantha Weber  
Lauren Opalewski  
*Coaches:*  
*Katarina Lingl*  
*Tammy Wang*



### 2017 USTA/Midwest Section Boys 18 District Team - CHAMPIONS



BACK-2-BACK CHAMPIONS

Steven Forman  
Kweisi Kenyatte  
Jack Winkler  
Benji Jacobson  
Ian Yi  
Alex Matisse  
Andrew Zhang  
Kobie Mueller  
Luke Baylis  
*Coaches:*  
*Paco Trinidad*  
*Chris Shaya*

## You Represent Us Well!

### 2017 USTA/Midwest Section 14 District Cup Team - CHAMPIONS



Olivia Weiss  
Julia Fliegner  
Angie Zhou  
Moorea McNalley  
Gabe Brown  
William Cooksey  
Jeffrey Etterbeek  
Kaan Oral  
*Coach:*  
*Dave Brown*

### 2017 USTA/Midwest Section 12 District Cup Team



Maya Joint  
Hadley Krygier  
Reese Miller  
Alicen Liu  
Michael Mascarin  
Daniel Stojanov  
Rishi Verma  
Owen DeMuth  
MacKinley McNalley  
*Coach:*  
*Nick Petrick*



## The Kaspers' Scholarship

Bert Kaspers impacted many young lives in junior tennis. He taught his own children and other tennis competitors the importance of discipline on the court as well as the importance of striving to obtain a quality education. In 1989, Bert and his wife, June, created a fund through the Metro Detroit Tennis Patrons (the philanthropic arm of our District) to provide up to \$10,000 of financial assistance to graduating high school seniors for their college tuition and expenses.

*The Kaspers' legacy lives through the past, present and future accomplishments of the winners of this scholarship.*

### 2016 Kaspers' Scholarship Recipient Franklin Brozovich

Franklin, our 2015 Hoxie winner, started playing tennis at the age of six. During the following years, he participated in both our Jr. Team Tennis program and many USTA Junior Tournaments. At Port Huron Northern, Franklin started at #1 singles and was captain of the team all four years, helping his team win Regionals each year. In his senior year, he was voted MVP of the team. Franklin became a four-star recruit on Tennis Recruiting Network by his junior year (an accomplishment for which he is still very proud).

Throughout high school, Franklin maintained a 4.0 cumulative GPA and became class valedictorian. His rigorous Advance Placement (AP) college level classes and test results earned him the distinction of AP Scholar. Franklin was a member of the high school Student Council all four years, a member of the National Honor Society and a past Junior Statesman of America member.

Involved in the St. Mary Youth Church Group and recipient of the Timothy Award for representing their Youth Council, Franklin has also volunteered at numerous civic activities, including cleaning the cemetery, walk for the poor, and donating time to the food depot. Franklin is also a great ambassador for the game and enjoyed mentoring young players at the Port Huron Tennis House and throughout the community.

Franklin is attending Valparaiso University in Indiana where he will play on the varsity team while he pursues a degree in Statistics.



## Jason Kerst

Living in a great tennis community such as Ann Arbor, Jason started playing tennis at the early age of 4. By 8, he had won his first tournament. By 11, he was competing in his first national event. "Tennis taught me to be creative, innovative and focused. The benefits I have reaped from tennis academically, mentally and socially are immeasurable, and I owe my character, charisma and wonderful college opportunities to this game." Through his tournament experience, Jason received many USTA sportsmanship awards in divisions from 10U to 18U events.

After his father received an unexpected career change, Jason had to make difficult choices in how he would continue to participate in his rigorous tournament schedule. Working with his parents to determine a new, less expensive schedule of events, Jason decided to help out financially by giving tennis lessons to local children in the Ann Arbor area 3-5 days per week after school. Coming home after dark, he would then begin multiple hours of AP homework. While it was difficult to manage, he would tell you it was an easy price in exchange for the chance to continue his dream of tournament play.

Jason's academic achievements at Skyline High School hardly suffered, as he held a 3.9 GPA and received top scores on his ACT, while offering his writing skills to the school newspaper. During his senior year, he was selected as head of underclassmen recruitment for the business, marketing and information technology magnet program, graduated with honors and accepted the invitation to join the University of Iowa Honors College where he will play varsity tennis while he pursues a degree in Business Management.

## Marc Sable

Marc was a multi-sport player until his freshman year of high school, when he decided to quit soccer and swimming to focus on tennis. Tennis became second only to academics. As a freshman, he was ranked outside the top 1,000 nationally and his competitive tournament experience was mostly in the local Southeast Michigan area. Understanding his skills needed work if he was to reach his goals in tennis, he committed the next three years to the sport. His dedication and efforts paid off, and as a senior he was ranked 130 Nationally and offered a roster spot at Boston University. His tennis accomplishments were achieved while maintaining a high "A" average in a challenging curriculum of honors and AP courses at Cranbrook-Kingswood HS.

Marc played #1 singles on Cranbrook's varsity team for four years, leading the team to a State Championship during his senior year. He served as co-captain as both a junior and senior, received the Coach's Award in 2012 and MVP Award in both 2014 and 2015. He has also been the recipient of many sportsmanship awards at every level of participation.



Academically, Marc made the Dean's List each semester of his four years of high school, carrying a 3.91 GPA. He was selected as President of the Gold Key-Student Ambassador Club, volunteered in the Clark Park Tennis program in Southwest Detroit and organized a tennis tournament to benefit the Red Cross. Marc is in his freshman year at Boston

University pursuing a degree in Business.

## Hoxie Memorial Award

The late Jean and Jerry Hoxie, through their belief in children and a love for the game of tennis, made Hamtramck and Southeast Michigan one of the tennis capitals of the country from the 1940s to the 1960s. Their demand for excellence was coupled with their desire to teach good sportsmanship. Together, they developed more national champions than any other tennis instructors in the history of tennis in the United States.

The Jean and Jerry Hoxie Memorial Award is given to a junior male and female player in Southeast Michigan, who have made a great contribution to the game of tennis through their good sportsmanship and their achievements both on and off the tennis court.

## Ava Thielman 2016 Female Hoxie Award Recipient

Ava started playing tennis at the age of 4 with tennis professional Dale Cronin in Clinton Township. After a number of years on the court in lessons and then tournaments, Ava began to get frustrated with her tournament results. In 2012, at the age of 13 and with a ranking of 99 in Southeast Michigan, Ava made the commitment to improve her tennis skills and enlisted the help of her current private coach, Chris Shaya. Together, they discussed concepts for improving her tennis skills, with the understanding of the hard work and dedication it would require to succeed. By the end of the year, she was ranked #7. Her successful conversion to a top player landed her the Southeastern Michigan Muthig Jr. Qualifier Championship in 2013, Midwest Outdoor Closed finalist in 2015 and Consolation Finalist in 2016.

Ava has enjoyed USTA tournament play and the friendships she's made throughout the years. One of her favorite tennis memories was from the San Diego hard courts. While suffering from tendinitis in her wrist for which she was receiving physical therapy prior to traveling to the tournament, she did not feel confident about her chances. After losing her first match, she came back to win five straight in the consolation!

At #1 singles, Ava has helped lead the Eisenhower High School girls team to the State finals for the last three



years and has been a member of two straight regional title teams (2015 and 2016)—the first at Eisenhower since 2004. Named Macomb County Athletic Conference league MVP in 2015-16, MAC RED MVP in 2015, and All-State Division 1 Honors from 2014-16, Ava has become one of the top players in Macomb County. Unable to get much from team practices because of her high level of play, Ava always supports her teammates by staying at team matches long after she is done playing and constantly asks her coach about how things are going at practice. Her commitment to the team and her passion about playing tennis and improving her skills is unsurpassed.

As a hard working student-athlete, education is also a top priority for Ava. She attends Utica Community Schools Academy for International Studies—Ranked #1 on the Washington Post's 2013 List of America's Most Challenging High Schools, where she maintains a 4.1 GPA with a very rigorous course schedule. She maintains high scores through her amazing organizational skills and commitment to high achievement. Ava has a big heart, is very social and gets along well with others. This makes her a natural leader.

Ava's volunteer work includes spending time at senior living facilities, interacting with the residents. She also did a CAS project for the UAIS Academy last year, where she donated used tennis balls to rehab facilities and the Humane Society.

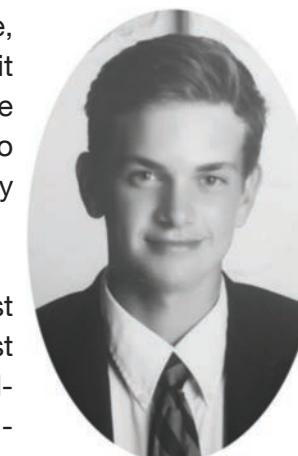
In Ava's free time she likes to read, hang out with friends and family, play with animals and watch movies. She also enjoys traveling and has enjoyed visiting different parts of Europe and Mexico.

Ava has signed with Michigan State to play varsity tennis this fall, where she will be pursuing a degree in Pre-Med.

## Jackson (Jack) Winkler 2016 Male Hoxie Award Recipient

Jack started playing tennis as soon as he could hold a racquet. From an early age, he and his mom (an avid tennis player herself) would hit a balloon, trying to keep it up in the air. He took his first "real" tennis lesson when he was three years old at the local rec center. Relocating to Southeast Michigan six years ago from the Chicago area, Jack suffered the loss his father before entering high school. Despite this family tragedy, Jack found a way to excel in tennis, education and life.

A four-star recruit on Tennis Recruiting Network, Jack is ranked #20 in the Midwest and #540 Nationally. He has won many sportsmanship awards at the local, Midwest and National levels, including 2014 & 2016 Southeastern Michigan Muthig Jr. Qualifier, 2012 Designated and 2016 Midwest Level 1. Jack's most noteworthy accomplishment in USTA tennis was winning the Midwest Open in doubles in 2013; while his favorite memory was being part of our 2016 Boys 18s Team Cup Championship Team,





where he enjoyed the spirit and camaraderie of his fellow teammates. A fierce competitor on the court, Jack has nothing but respect for his opponents, understanding the work and sacrifice each one of them has put into tennis and appreciating that they are fighting for every point, just as he is.

At Brother Rice High School, Jack was captain of the varsity team in his junior and senior year (an honor not usually bestowed to juniors). He was a State finalist his freshman and sophomore years at #2 singles; and a quarter-finalist his junior and senior year at #1 singles. Jack was Regional Champ, Catholic League Champ and All Catholic Player all four years and First Team Player for two. While he always wanted to win, Jack measured his high school tennis success on team wins, more than individual ones.

Jack is a dedicated student who maintains his position on Brother Rice High School's honor roll each marking period, carrying a cumulative GPA of 3.76. His current GPA is near 4.0. Jack exhibits positive academic and behavioral traits: on task, self-starter, cooperative, respectful of students and teachers alike and, in turn, is respected by his classmates and teachers. Starting high school as a quiet and introspective student, Jack grew into a confident and self-assertive young man who is easily approachable and leads by example.

Jack is a person who is always willing to help anyone, anytime. He has volunteered in organizations that focus on children and the needy, working with Christ Child of Detroit, "Kids Against Hunger" and Gleaners. In addition, Jack has also volunteered to help at school projects and at tennis camps, teaching younger children the sport that he enjoys so much.

In his spare time, Jack likes to play pickup basketball, football, hockey and golf. He has committed to Michigan State University, where he will play varsity tennis and plans to major in Supply Chain Management.

## William F. Beyer Award

The late William F. Beyer was one of the first presidents of the Southeastern Michigan District (then known as SEMTA). He was instrumental in setting the foundation of the district. His contributions as a volunteer were unsurpassed. Mr. Beyer was elected President in November of 1946 and served for two years. He also served on numerous committees including the Junior Development Committee (Chairman), Junior Ranking Committee, Junior Davis Cup Committee, Public Parks Committee (Chairman), and Nominating Committee to name a few.

The William F. Beyer Memorial Award is given to an individual who is felt to have contributed immeasurably and unselfishly to the game of tennis.



## Ben Tasich 2016 Beyer Award Recipient

Ben joined the SEMTA District Board as a Delegate in 2005. Since that time, Ben has been an advocate of tennis in a variety of ways. We refer to Ben as the "Pied Piper" of tennis. Ben is so full of ideas and energy that we can't keep up with him!



When Ben was Assistant Principal in South Lyon, he started a middle school after-school program which ran from 2003 for another five years. Ben was single-handedly responsible for the formation of JV teams in South Lyon. After retiring from his role as Assistant Principal, he learned that Pinckney was looking for someone to rebuild their tennis program, so he took on the task of coaching the varsity team. Ben's passion for tennis became infectious and he was soon forging on to form the Pinckney Area Community Tennis Association. Working closely with Pinckney Community Education and with the help of our lending library of racquets, balls, hoppers, etc., a comprehensive tennis program for K-12 was born.

Ben didn't stop there. He wanted his kids to have the ability to play tennis year-round, so he got his players to participate in our Jr. Team Tennis program. This was not an easy feat as Pinckney is about an hour's drive to their "adopted home facility".

In 2014, Ben was recognized by the USTA as one of 14 coaches of the "2014 No-Cut Coach All Star Team" which applauds the efforts of the coaches encouraging players of all levels and allowing them to share in a rewarding team experience at their school.

Also in 2014, the Pinckney Area CTA ran its first USTA sanctioned tournament (an Entry Level/Novice event) with 30 entrants. In 2016, the event boasted a total of 70 players! Each year, Ben vows to make the tournament bigger and better than the previous - delivering flyers to promote the tournament to high school coaches and clubs around Southeast Michigan.

Furthermore, Ben, at age 76, has been a dedicated USTA League competitor for approximately the past 15 years and has also represented SEMTA at the Midwest Senior Team Championships in Lansing. Ben is relentless in his pursuit of promoting the benefits of tennis and is always looking for ways to bring more people (youth and adult) into the game he's so dearly loved since age 8.

Ben's family has been his greatest ally, allowing him to pursue his passion of tennis – Patty, his wife, and daughters Libby and Rebecca. Thanks to his efforts, tennis is thriving in his community!

# NEW DEADLINE FOR CLASS OF 2018

## February 15, 2018

**Looking for College Financial Assistance? Apply for the  
KASPERS' SCHOLARSHIP**

**Up to \$10,000 in Assistance!**

**Kaspers' Scholarship Applications are NOW OPEN on our website:  
[www.semich.usta.com](http://www.semich.usta.com) under, "scholarships/awards"**



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### OFFICERS

Craig Capelli - President  
Tom Gray - Vice President  
Mark Miller - Treasurer  
Char Sweeney - Secretary  
Mel Kropko - Past President

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Candace Butler  
Mike Graff  
Maxine Kennebrew  
Marissa Pollick  
Vanda Shadigian  
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*ARE  
YOU  
IN?*

