



# Around the WaterCooler



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## *The Lonestar Blast Event*

Northside Tennis Center

San Antonio, TX

July 28-30, 2017

- Join us for a weekend of tennis, open to any Blast team in the **STATE** that wants to play
- Teams must be at least 8 players, with boys and girls from your school attendance zone
- Open to Varsity and JV teams (middle school players may join teams)
- **Deadline to signup is May 15, so reserve your spot now**
- Entry fee per team is \$80 (ie. \$10 per player)
- Play will be Friday beginning at noon, Saturday, and Sunday morning

**For more information visit-  
[www.theblasttexas.com](http://www.theblasttexas.com)**

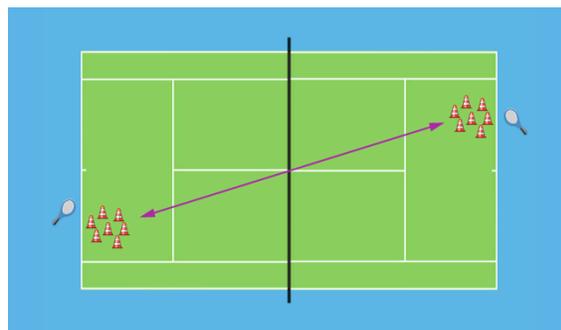
**Want to get involved with the TTCA?**

Contact any of the officers on the left and we will find a way to get you involved.

## Knock Over My Castle

This is both a drill and a game that is played by two players (or a coach and a player). It is a rally cross-court where a number of cones are set up in the optimum landing zone on either side. Players should rally a point out with the aim to knock over all the other cones on the opposite side.

This can be changed so that only 10 rallies are played out and the player who hits over the most cones wins, or you can go until all the cones are knocked over and therefore unlimited rallies could occur.



## Poaching

Many players don't like to poach because they believe they don't have good volleys or enough range to make it from one side of the court to the other. But successful net play is more about when you poach, than how you poach.

If your players are not active at the net during their doubles matches, they are missing a great opportunity to win more games and more matches.

### **The Value of Poaching**

In addition to using poaching to win points outright, poaching throughout a match will cause opponent's to make more unforced errors and hit weaker shots. For example, let's say a net player poaches only six times during a set. The player may put two poaches back in play which are not winners. The player may miss a poach completely and lose the point. The player may hit two clean winners. And finally, the player may hit a poach back in play, which the opponents hit back for a winner. This player has poached six times and won only two points off the poach. The player has outright lost two points on poaches, and two more poaches had no effect on the outcome of the point. Should the player continue to poach? Absolutely! By poaching six times during the set, this player has caused his opponents to think about him every time they return. This will produce forced and unforced errors, as well as weak returns which the server can attack, as well as weak returns to the net player as receivers try to be too fine and begin hitting the ball late. As long as the poacher is not losing point after point, he should continue poaching to keep returners on their heels.