

TO: YEAR 2003 INCOMING 9TH GRADERS & CURRENT TAYLOR 9TH, 10TH, 11TH, GRADERS & PARENTS

FROM: JIM MAVITY, TENNIS COACH, HOME PHONE--281-579-7643
OFFICE-- PHONE & FAX 281-647-3190
GREG EUBANK, TENNIS COACH—HOME PHONE—281 -239-0301

RE: TENNIS PARTICIPATION

7TH PERIOD (VARSITY LEVEL) AND AFTER SCHOOL TENNIS IS LIMITED TO THE TOP 10-12 BOYS AND THE TOP 10-12 GIRLS, REGARDLESS OF GRADE IN SCHOOL.

WE WILL HAVE TWO SUB-VARSITY CLASSES FOR 9TH, 10TH, & 11TH GRADERS. SCHEDULING CONFLICTS MAY DETERMINE IN WHICH SUB-VARSITY CLASS A PLAYER WILL BE PLACED. 1ST PERIOD WILL BE MOSTLY 9TH GRADE SUB-VARSITY PLAYERS: 6TH PERIOD WILL BE MOSTLY 10TH & 11TH GRADE SEVARSITY PLAYERS.

THOSE CURRENT MEMBERS OF EITHER TENNIS CLASS AT TAYLOR WILL CONTINUE PLAYING CHALLENGE MATCHES UNTIL SCHOOL IS OVER. AT THE END OF SCHOOL, I WILL HAVE THIS LADDER TO USE WHEN WE BEGIN CHALLENGE MATCHES. WE HAVE TENTATIVELY SET TRYOUTS FOR JULY 28, THROUGH AUGUST 1ST **I WILL WRITE YOU A LETTER DURING THE SUMMER TO GIVE YOU FURTHER INFORMATION.** IF YOU HAVE VACATION PLANS THAT CONFLICT WITH THESE TRYOUTS, PLEASE NOTIFY ME, BUT DO NOT CHANGE YOUR VACATION PLANS. CALL ME WHEN YOU RETURN. YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT **THESE ARE NOT P.E. CLASSES.** THEY ARE FOR ADVANCED TENNIS PLAYERS. IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO WORK ON YOUR TENNIS GAME DURING THE SUMMER AND ON YOUR OWN DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR, YOU WILL PROBABLY NOT BE SUCCESSFUL, AND WOULD BE WISE TO PUT YOUR EFFORTS IN ANOTHER DIRECTION.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ARE ON THE CHALLENGE LADDER PRIOR TO TRYOUTS IN JULY, AND ARE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRYOUTS. YOU WILL BE PERMITTED TO CHALLENGE THE PERSON WHO IS IN YOUR SLOT WHEN YOU RETURN. **YOU WILL NOT RETAIN YOUR SPOT WITHOUT A CHALLENGE.**

WE WILL HAVE AN UNUSUAL SITUATION IN TRYOUTS. WE DO NOT LOSE MANY SENIORS FROM OUR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM. THERE WILL BE INCOMING UNDERCLASSMEN WHO MIGHT TAKE THE PLACE OF A CURRENT VARSITY PLAYER. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT A CURRENT VARSITY PLAYER WILL BE RETAINED ON THE VARSITY. THAT SPOT MIGHT BE GAINED BY AN INCOMING UNDERCLASSMAN, OR EVEN A TRANSFER STUDENT.

DURING BOTH TENNIS SEASONS, FALLTEAM AND SPRING INDIVIDUAL, PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING EXPECTATIONS FOR THOSE IN **7TH PERIOD TENNIS:**

WE WILL SCHEDULE VARSITY PRACTICE ON TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY, SINCE MOST CLUB DRILLS FOR HIGHER LEVEL PLAYERS ARE ON MONDAY & WEDNESDAY. THERE ARE NO EXCUSES FOR MISSING PRACTICE EXCEPT FOR ACADEMIC REASONS WHICH MUST BE DISCUSSED WITH ME. TUESDAY & THURSDAY PRACTICE WILL BE FROM 2:00-3:30, AND FRIDAY PRACTICE WILL BE UNTIL 4:00 P.M.

SUB-VARSITY PLAYERS WILL PRACTICE ON MONDAY (GIRLS)& WEDNESDAY (BOYS) AFTER SCHOOL. FROM 3:00-4:30.

I WILL CHECK WITH YOUR TEACHING PROFESSIONALS TO INSURE THAT YOU ARE ATTENDING AND PUTTING FORTH THE EXPECTED EFFORT. I DO ENCOURAGE THESE DRILLS AND LESSONS TO BRING YOUR GAME TO A HIGHER LEVEL.

PARENTS: PLEASE SCHEDULE DR., DENTAL, ETC. APPOINTMENTS WHEN POSSIBLE NOT TO CONFLICT WITH PRACTICE.

PLAYERS: TENNIS IS AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY IN WHICH YOU **CHOOSE** TO PARTICIPATE. THIS PROGRAM IS ENTITLED TO THE SAME RESPECT AND DEDICATION AS A VARSITY FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, ETC. SPORT. IF YOU CANNOT GIVE THIS PROGRAM THAT TYPE OF COMMITMENT, PLEASE DO NOT PARTICIPATE.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW AND RETURN TO ME IMMEDIATELY. **JR. HIGH PLAYERS TURN IN AT YOUR SCHOOL ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN AT SCHOOL.**

KEEP THE LETTER FOR YOUR REFERENCE, AND TURN IN ONLY THE LAST PAGE OF INFORMATION.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY ZIP _____

PHONE # _____

GRADE NEXT YEAR _____

JR. HIGH ATTENDED IF 9TH GRADE _____

IF YOU PLAYED JR. HIGH TENNIS, DESCRIBE YOUR POSITON ON THE TEAM.
IE. #1 SINGLES, #2 DOUBLES, ETC.

CURRENT TAYLOR PLAYERS PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
NOT **NECESSARY FOR CURRENT 8TH GRADERS**)

_____ I DO NOT PLAN TO PLAY TENNIS NEXT YEAR

_____ I DO PLAN TO TRY OUT FOT NEXT YEAR'S TENNIS TEAM.

PARENTS: PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN TO ME

TO: YEAR 2003 TAYLOR TENNIS TRYOUTS

FROM: JIM MAVITY, TAYLOR TENNIS COACH
GREG EUBANK, TAYLOR TENNIS COACH

IT IS RARE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A PART OF A TEAM THAT HAS WON THREE STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS, AND HAS MADE EIGHT STRAIGHT TRIPS TO THE STATE FINAL FOUR. THIS IS A STATE RECORD FOR 5A TEAM TENNIS. YOU HAVE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A PART OF THAT PROGRAM.

TAYLOR TENNIS HAS A STRONG TRADITION. IN THE FALL OF 1995, WE BECAME THE FIRST 5A TEAM IN THE HISTORY OF KISD TO ADVANCE TO THE STATE PLAYOFFS IN TEAM TENNIS. IN 1996, WE REACHED THE FINALS IN TEAM TENNIS. HOPEFULLY YOU ARE AWARE THAT WE ARE THE STATE CHAMPIONS OF 5A TEAM TENNIS IN TEXAS FOR 1997. 1998 AND 2002. WE HAVE ADVANCED TO THE REGIONAL PLAYOFFS IN TEAM TENNIS FOR THE LAST SIXTEEN CONSECUTIVE YEARS. IN EACH OF THOSE PLAYOFFS WE HAVE AT LEAST ADVANCED PAST THE 1ST ROUND, WITH TEN TRIPS TO THE STATE FINAL FOUR, INCLUDING EIGHT IN A ROW. WITH A STRONG NUCLEUS RETURNING FROM THE 2002 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM, WE NOW HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SET A NEW STATE 5A RECORD FOR TEAM TENNIS—FOUR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS!!!!

WE ALSO NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACCOMPLISH ANOTHER TRULYGREATACHIEVEMENT---AN UNBELIEVABLE NINE STRAIGHT TRIPS TO THE FINAL FOUR IN TEAM TENNIS. CAN WE DO IT???
IT IS IN YOUR HANDS!!!!

THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE THE RESULT OF MANY HOURS OF HARD WORK AND THE INDIVIDUAL WILL TO PLAY WITH THE “HEART OF A CHAMPION”.

YOU ARE NOT PUTTING IN THE NECESSARY HOURS ON THE TENNIS COURTS NOW, YOU WILL NOT BE AS SUCCESSFUL AS YOU POSSIBLY COULD BE. THEREFORE, THE TEAM WILL NOT ACHIEVE THE SUCCESS THAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING.

MOST OF YOU DID NOT HAVE YOUR PHYSICALS COMPLETED IN THE SPRING, AND THAT MUST BE DONE BEFORE YOU CAN TRYOUT. CALL ME OR COACH EUBANK IF YOU NEED A PHYSICAL FORM. I HAVE THEM AT HOME.

IF YOU KNOW OF PLAYERS WHO MIGHT NOT HAVE FILLED OUT A FORM IN THE SPRING SHOWING THEIR INTENTION TO TRYOUT, PLEASE HAVE THEM CALL ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WE WILL HAVE TRYOUTS AND CHALLENGE MATCHES AS FOLLOWS:
JULY28 THROUGH AUGUST 1ST

INCOMING FRESHMEN GIRLS WILL REPORT TO MCMEANS JR. HIGH AT 9:00 A.M. ON JULY 28TH ALL OTHER GIRLS WILL REPORT TO WILLOW FORK TENNIS COURTS AT 11:00 A.M. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED OF TIMES FOR NEXT ROUND MATCHES AFTER THE FIRST ROUND.

BOYS WILL REPORT TO TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM. FOR THEIR FIRST ROUND MATCHES. YOU WILL BE GIVEN NEXT ROUND TIMES AFTER THE FIRST ROUND IS COMPLETED.

WE MIGHT CHANGE THE PLAYING SITES. THIS WILL BE DETERMINED AT THE FIRST MEETING, OR WE WILL NOTIFY YOU BY PHONE.

WE WILL PLAY A SERIES OF ROUND ROBIN MATCHES BASED ON LADDER POSITION AT THE END OF SCHOOL IN MAY. PLAYERS WILL BE PLACED IN GROUPS OF 3, 4, OR 5, DEPENDING ON THE COACHES DECISION. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MOVE ANY PLAYER WHO IS NEW TO THE PROGRAM, BUT WHO MAY HAVE STRONG CREDENTIALS AS A PLAYER. **YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE UP AS FAR AS YOUR ABILITY WILL PERMIT YOU TO MOVE.**

DO NOT CHANGE FAMILY VACATION PLANS, TOURNAMENTS, ETC. FOR CHALLENGE MATCHES.

HOWEVER, YOU MUST CALL ME OR COACH EUBANK TO LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL NOT BE REPORTING ON JULY 28TH. IF YOU HAVE VERBALLY TOLD US ALREADY, THAT IS NOT SUFFICIENT. CALL AGAIN.

IT WILL BE NECESSARY THAT YOU CHECK WITH US **AS SOON** AS YOU RETURN. YOU WILL NOT LOSE A SPOT THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY EARNED IF YOU MISS THE CHALLENGE MATCHES. HOWEVER, YOU MAY MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE UP THE LADDER, AND YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO DEFEND THAT SPOT AS SOON AS YOU RETURN. **YOU ARE NOT GUARANTEED A SPOT BASED ON PAST PERFORMANCE.** THESE POLICIES ARE APPLICABLE ONLY FOR THE TRYOUTS, AND NOT FOR REGULAR CHALLENGE LADDER DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

PLEASE NOTE; IT IS OUR INTENTION TO HAVE VARSITY CLASS COMPOSED

OF 10-12 BOYS AND 10-12 GIRLS, WITH THE SAME NUMBERS FOR THE SUB-VARSITY CLASSES. SENORS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IN THE SUB-VARSITY CLASSES.

THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES THAT RETURNING VARSITY PLAYERS WILL RETAIN A SPOT ON THE VARSITY!!!!

REGULAR VARSITY WORKOUTS WILL BE ON TUESDAY, THURSDAY, & FRIDAY. TUESDAY-THURSDAY WORKOUTS WILL NORMALLY BE FROM 2:00-3:30 P.M. FRIDAY WORKOUTS WILL NORMALLY LAST UNTIL 4:00 P.M.

SUB-VARSITY PLAYERS--IF YOU WILL BE TAKING DRILLS &/OR LESSONS, PLEASE BE AWARE OF OUR WEEKLY WORKOUT SCHEDULE FOR SUB-VARSITY PLAYERS.

ALL SUB-VARSITY GIRLS WILL PRACTICE AFTER SCHOOL ON MONDAYS, FROM 3:00-4:30 P.M.

ALL SUB-VARSITY BOYS WILL PRACTICE AFTER SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAYS, FROM 3:00-4:30 P.M.

PLEASE GET THIS INFORMATION TO YOUR CLUB INSTRUCTORS TO SEE IF THEY CAN ACCOMMODATE YOUR SESSIONS WITH THEM.

THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM MEANS THAT IT IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT TO QUALIFY AND BECOME A MEMBER OF THIS TEAM.

IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT INDIVIDUAL SCHEDULING CONFLICTS WILL DICTATE WHETHER A PLAYER IS PLACED IN A 1ST OR 6TH PERIOD SUB-VARSITY CLASS. GENERALLY, WE WILL TRY TO PLACE SUB-VARSITY 9TH GRADERS IN 1ST PERIOD AND SUB-VARSITY 10TH & 11TH GRADERS IN 6TH PERIOD. SCHEDULING CONFLICTS WILL PREVAIL BASED ON INPUT FROM THE COUNSELORS. HOWEVER, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL A SUB-VARSITY PLAYER BE PLACED IN 7TH PERIOD.

FEEL FREE TO CALL ME OR COACH EUBANK AT ANY TIME WITH ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE.

(281-579-7643) COACH MAVITY

(281-239-0301) COACH ELBANK

TAYLOR TENNIS--2003-2004

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR ALL LEVELS OF THE PROGRAM

LOCKER ROOM

Every player is issued a locker with a lock. It is the players responsibility to keep the locker locked at all times. We can assume no responsibility for lost or stolen articles. You are strongly encouraged to keep back up tennis clothing, rackets, etc. in your locker. Nothing should be left on the floor or bench.

FAILURE TO BE PROPERLY SUITED UP WILL RESULT IN A LOSS OF FIVE (5) POINTS PER DAY ON YOUR GRADE. EVERY PLAYER BEGINS EACH GRADING PERIOD WITH A GRADE OF 100.

Travel Policy

We will travel by bus to all matches and tournaments away from our campus. The only exception will be a local tournament.

Building camaraderie is an important part of this program. Therefore, all players will travel to and from matches with the team. If there is an emergency that requires a player to leave **with a parent**, that must be arranged with the coach at least one day ahead of time. **Convenience** to ride home with a parent is never a reason not to travel with the team.

Home matches

If we have a home match when the next day is a school day, players will be permitted to leave when they are finished with all their matches if the player feels he needs to go home to study. Players should always stay at matches to give support to your teammates. How do you feel when no teammates are watching and encouraging **you?**

At home matches that are not followed by a school day, every player is expected to remain until we are finished. Any exception must be cleared with the coach.

Meals on road trips

On team matches in the Fall, we will usually be able to take the entire team to eat together.

In the Spring, tournaments are usually held at multi-sites. Therefore, it is not practical that we can take all the team for meals together. You must be prepared to bring your meal with you in the Spring.

All meals are at your expense, except for post district playoff matches involving varsity.

Daily practice

Do not try to be a weather man. Expect to practice every day, even if it is pouring rain in the morning. Failure to be prepared will result in penalty to your grade. Call the tennis office phone if you will not be at school--281647-3190. There is an answer machine to take your message. That # is also a fax #.

PARENTS--Please do not schedule Dr. & Dentist appointments on days when your

player will be practicing. You will always know when practice is--schedule those appts. at 4:30 P.M. or on a non practice day!!

Practice time is not designated as a proper time to play challenge matches. Exceptions must be cleared through the coach.

Maturity

It is very important that, as a young man or young lady, that you begin to think and act for yourself. If there is something you do not understand about the program, ask the coach. Don't expect mom or dad to find out for you. They will be more than happy for you to begin to do things for yourself.

If there is a serious concern, then by all means get your parents involved and let's discuss the problem. It is absolutely poison for a perceived problem not to be addressed. When it is addressed, there is usually an answer acceptable to all concerned.

Academics

Academics is first, extracurricular activities come next in importance.

Communicate with your teachers in advance when you will miss class for a match or tournament. You may be permitted to do missed work during your practice time if necessary.

However, your tennis class IS NOT a study hall to be used at your discretion to make up work at any time. Many of you have abused this privilege in the past. Teachers will be informed that you cannot miss tennis unless you have missed class work because of tennis.

Proper Dress for Match Play

Players at all levels are issued some uniforms. All players will have the proper t-shirt.

This is the only T-shirt that can be worn to play in for matches. If you wish to be issued more than one t-shirt, you may request additional shirts. If you are issued shorts or skirts, you must play in those. If you are not issued shorts or skirts, you must purchase those in royal blue to play in.

Failure to wear the proper uniform will result in your not being able to play. School issued equipment is to be worn ONLY during matches—not in practice.

ASD

After School Detention is not a place where we expect to see our tennis team.

Unfortunately, it does happen. Probably the most common cause is excessive tardies. There is really no excuse for this.

If a player does get ASD, we expect it to be served on Wednesday Morning. This is offered in lieu of After School Detention to accommodate students such as athletes.

TENNIS PLAYERS CODE OF RESPONSIBILITY

1) **BE PREPARED**--it is your responsibility to have spare practice clothes & racket in your locker. I am tired of hearing “my Mother forgot to bring me clothes”, or “my clothes are locked up in johnny’s car”.

Grow up--be responsible for your own actions--come prepared for all occasions

2) **DON’T BE A WEATHER MAN**--There is nothing more unpredictable than Texas weather--pouring in the morning & sun shining in the p.m. Don’t say -- “it was raining so hard this morning, I didn’t think we would practice.

3) **I HAVE A DR. APPOINTMENT AT 3:00**--no thank you--let mom know from the first day to schedule your appts. at 4:30 or on Saturday.

4) **KEEP LOCKER ROOM ORDERLY**--We have great facilities--be proud of them--don’t leave your clothes on the floor, or leave your locker unlocked. Clothes on the floor will be picked up and discarded.

5) **PICK UP BALLS AFTER PRACTICE**--Some of you act like prima donnas—you are “above” picking up balls—let someone else do it.

6) **THE ‘ONE BULLET’ STORY**--You would not go to battle with one bullet--don’t come to practice with one racket and break a string.

7) **FOR MATCHES**--Have your own water jug filled with ice & water--take snacks & meals if appropriate--you do not know if we will be able to take you to lunch-- have plenty of clean, dry t-shirts--we will give you all you need--**ALWAYS BE IN TOTAL TAYLOR UNIFORM**--you will not play out of uniform.

8) **DON’T BE LATE**--When we leave at 6:30 am., that is when we leave--”mother didn’t get me up in time--**NOT ACCEPTABLE**--set your own alarm. Why not be 10 minutes early!!!

9) **TRAVEL WITH THE TEAM**--Sorry parents, but your player cannot ride back with you just because it is convenient--let them be a “team” member from the time we leave school until we return after the match. Exceptions can be made if necessary

10) **START PRACTICE ON TIME**--I expect all players in place in the bleachers at 2:00 p.m. for any instruction that may be given.

11) **COMMUNICATE**--All of you have the phone # of the coaches office--281 -647-3190—I expect you to call if you are going to miss practice for any reason--it bugs me to have a planned practice, and have a no-show to practice--be accountable!!!

TAYLOR MUSTANG TENNIS CHALLENGE LADDER INFORMATION
2 003-2004

IT IS THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE CURRENT TENNIS COACHES THAT ALL POSITIONS ON THE SINGLES LADDER WILL BE DETERMINED BY CHALLENGE MATCHES.

ROUND ROBIN AND OTHER CHALLENGE MATCHES PRIOR TO AND AT THE BEGINNING OF SCHOOL WILL DETERMINE THE POSITION OF EACH INDIVIDUAL ON THE CHALLENGE LADDER. AFTER THIS LADDER HAS BEEN DETERMINED, EACH INDIVIDUAL WILL BE REQUIRED TO PLAY CHALLENGE MATCHES. THESE MATCHES ARE PRE-DETERMINED ACCORDING TO THE SET-UP OF THE CHALLENGE LADDER.

VARSIITY: VARSITY PLAYERS WILL PLAY AT LEAST ONE CHALLENGE MATCH EVERY TWO WEEKS. IF A TOP SIX PLAYER LOSES A CHALLENGE MATCH, HE HAS THE RIGHT TO AN IMMEDIATE RE-MATCH. IF YOU ARE BEATEN DECISIVELY, I RECOMMEND THAT YOU ACCEPT THE DEFEAT UNTIL YOU SINCERELY SEE YOU CAN RECLAIM THE HIGHER POSITION.

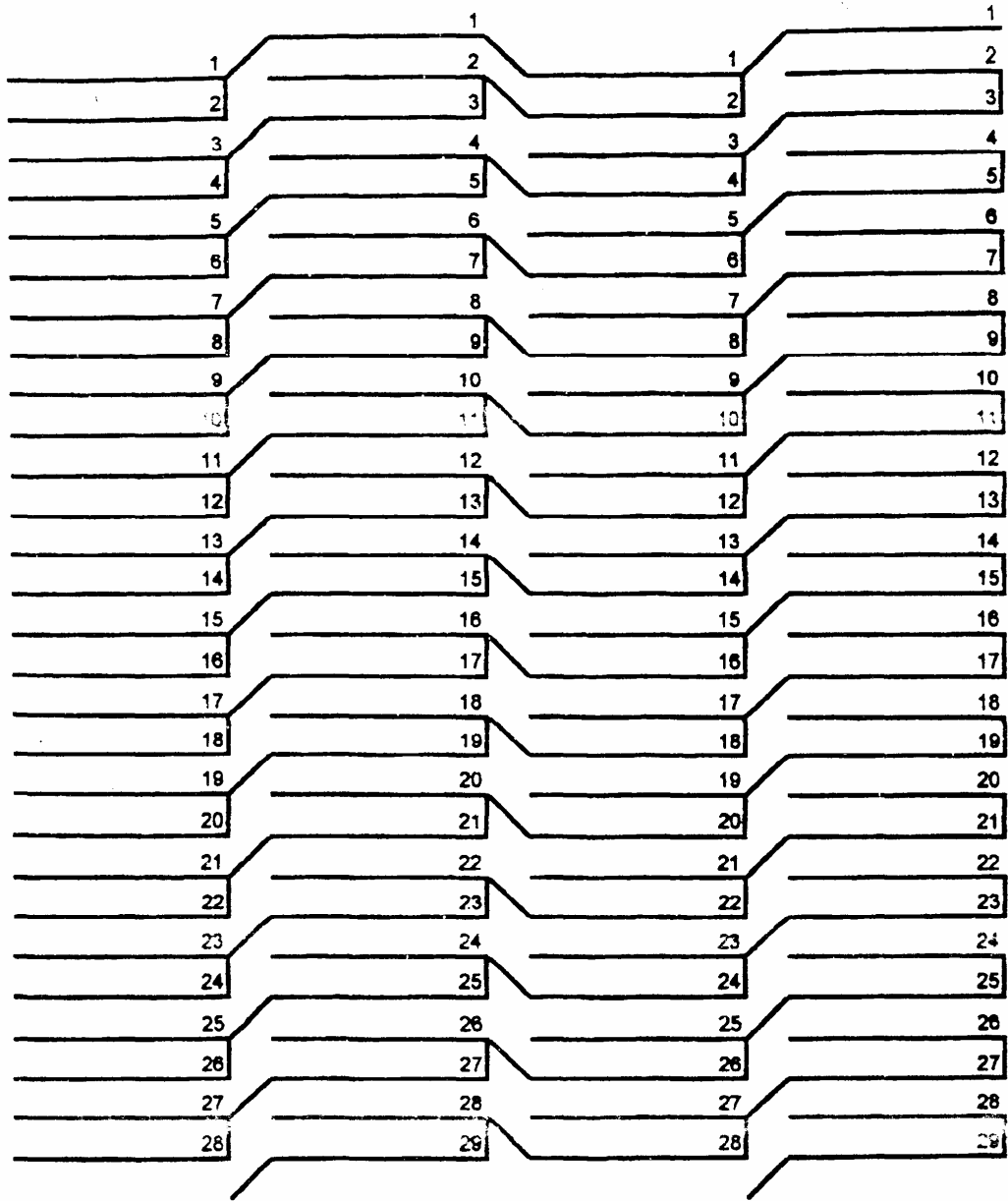
IT IS PERFECTLY PROPER TO ASK A BETTER PLAYER TO PLAY YOU A SET JUST FOR THE EXPERIENCE. TEAMMATES SHOULD BE WILLING AND EAGER TO PLAY AGAINST LOWER RANKED PLAYERS.

SUB-VARSITY: CHALLENGE MATCHES AT THIS LEVEL WILL BE PLAYED ONCE EACH WEEK. THE CHALLENGE LADDER WILL BE POSTED ON MONDAY. MATCHES **MUSTBE** COMPLETED BY SUNDAY NIGHT. YOU SHOULD SET UP A TIME FOR YOUR CHALLENGE MATCH ON MONDAY (LADDER MATCHES WILL NOT BE PLAYED DURING PRACTICE WITHOUT SPECIAL PERMISSION FROM YOUR COACH). IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM COMING UP WITH A MUTUAL TIME TO PLAY, YOU MUST CONTACT A COACH ON THE MONDAY WHEN YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO SCHEDULE YOUR MATCH. ANY MATCH NOT PLAYED BY SUNDAY NIGHT, AND A COACH HAS NOT BEEN PRESENTED WITH PROBLEM SITUATIONS, BOTH PLAYERS ARE CONSIDERED AT FAULT. CONSEQUENCES WILL BE THAT BOTH PLAYERS WILL MOVED DOWN TWO PLACES ON THE LADDER, AND WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINE. THE WINNING PLAYER WILL RECORD THE RESULTS. **INCLUDNG TE SCORE.** POLICIES ARE ENFORCED FROM THE BEGINNING UNTIL THE END OF SCHOOL.

ALL CHALLENGE MATCHES WILL BE FULL 2 OF 3 SETS--NOT A PRO SET.

IMPROVEMENT COMES FROM INSTRUCTION, REPETITION, AND COMPETITION!!!

THS "Mustang" Challenge Ladder



TO: TAYLOR TENNIS PLAYERS & PARENTS

FROM: JIM MAVITY & GREG EUBANK, TAYLOR TENNIS COACHES

RE: UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE RULES REGARDING
ATHLETICS

IT IS NOW, AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN, OUR INTENTION TO ENFORCE ALL U.I.L. RULES THAT AFFECT OUR TENNIS PROGRAM. WE HAVE, HOPEFULLY, INFORMED ALL OF YOU OF THESE RULES. PERMIT ME TO REINFORCE THESE TO YOU NOW.

RULES AND LAWS ARE A NATURAL PART OF OUR SOCIETY. NONE OF US AGREES WITH ALL LAWS AND RULES THAT AFFECT US. THAT DOES NOT GIVE US THE RIGHT TO IGNORE OR DISOBEY RULES. OUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO TRY TO CHANGE THESE RULES THROUGH PROPER CHANNELS. BUT WE MUST STILL ABIDE BY LAWS AND RULES.

ONE OF THOSE RULES THAT SEEMS A BIT "NIT PICKY", BUT NEVERTHELESS MUST BE ENFORCED SAYS THAT ATHLETES CANNOT BE GIVEN FOOD & SNACKS FREE. THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH EXPLAINS OUR POSITION IN ADDRESSING THAT UIL RULE:

TRADITIONALLY, THE PARENTS OF OUR CAPTAINS HAVE ASSUMED THE TASK OF COLLECTING MONEY FROM PARENTS TO PROVIDE FRUIT, SNACKS, ETC. FOR TENNIS MATCHES. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EACH PLAYER WHO PARTAKES OF THESE SNACKS CONTRIBUTE THEIR FAIR SHARE. IT IS NOT MANDATORY THAT ALL PLAYERS PARTICIPATE. IT IS PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE FOR ANY PLAYER TO SAY "I DO NOT PLAN TO EAT THE SNACKS". EACH PARENT HAS, AND WILL, RECEIVE A LETTER NOTIFYING THEM OF THE CONTRIBUTION. YOU WILL BE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE OR TO NOTE THAT YOUR PLAYER WILL NOT PARTICIPATE.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Teaching and learning occur at all times and every place.

The same teaching that occurs in the classroom occurs in coaching situations on the court, on the field, etc.

One fact does not change: effective teaching does not occur unless there is learning. You're wondering where this is going.

Fact: you hear the same instructions from me many times. If you are practicing what you have heard, teaching and learning have occurred.

Unfortunately, all do not learn at the same pace. Therefore, reteaching must occur.

I wish to reteach you many skills and strategies that you have heard many times. This time I choose to put them in writing. You see, there are audible learners and there are visual learners.

DOUBLES SKILLS AND STRATEGIES

THE SERVE

The 1st serve in doubles should normally be only about 3/4 speed of your singles serve. Your objective is to get the 1st serve in play 65-75% of the time. You must focus on placement.

The 2nd serve should have enough spin to get depth and control. A spin that sits up to your opponents strength will result in the loss of the point 55-65% of the time.

Since placement is critical it may be necessary to adjust your position on the baseline when you serve. There is no rule that says you have to stand out wide to serve in doubles. Stand in the middle of the court if you need to.

SERVICE RETURN

Variety of placement is a vital key. A crosscourt return everytime will not beat a good team. You must learn to lob. This is a fantastic weapon, especially in girls doubles. It can be very effective to lob the 2nd serve—this is usually easy to handle, and you can usually get a great result. Even during a rally, if the lob hits in the backcourt, you will win 65-75% of those points.

You must have a plan on every serve you receive. Study your opponents-know their strength and weakness.

THE POACH

You must poach if you expect to win at a high level.

Plan it--do it

Net play is not at the service line. You must play at least halfway between the service line and the net.

One up-one back

This formation is not likely to win in boys doubles. But it can win in girls doubles under the following conditions:

- if the back person can hit low and controlled ground strokes.
- if the back person can lob effectively.
- If the up person will play close to the net and effectively poach.
- If you do not do these things, you will not beat players your equal.

Overheads

- Must be hit by turning sideways to the net
- Do not overhit
- Always run around a high lob to the backhand and hit a forehand overhead.

Doubles is a thinking game where lesser singles players can beat better singles players.

Know what your opponents are doing to hurt you. What can we do to adjust?

Communicate with you partner frequently.