



Orindawoods Tennis News

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Orindawoods Tennis Club: 925-254-1065; www.orindawoodstennis.com

"I like this place, and willingly could waste my time in it" – Celia, As You Like It, Act II, Scene IV

2019 Season

MTT Final Results: One Game

Monday Team Tennis 2019 came down to one game, probably one shot, one error, one winner. A double fault? Somewhere in the 15-week season, a shot was missed, and the title was won or lost. Out of 1120 games played, the final standings showed M'Liss and Marilyn's team with a record of 637 wins, and 563 losses. A winning percentage of .531. John and Becky's team finished with 636-564, .530. One single game back, out of all that tennis played.

The final night started with M'Liss' team ahead by 17 games, but as play went on, hors 'd overs were eaten, drinks sipped (some gulped to calm the nerves), and matches played, the lead shrank down, little by little through the three rounds. With one round to go, the title seemed safe, barely, but in the last round, the lead all but slipped away. Except for that one, single, solitary game. That one off-the-frame blooper that floated up in the air like a dead duck, hit the net tape, balanced on top of the net a painfully long moment, and dribbled over on a 3-3 no-add point and fell in, then died for a "clean" winner" way back in week 5, making the match score 1-7 instead of 0-8. That one "insignificant game... And it won it all... The stories they will tell... The stuff of legends.

So, we have a champion, in our closest race ever, and a gallant, and determined runner up. Not only was the top two close, but the distance between first and fourth was the smallest margin in MTT history. A close, tight, competitive league this year. As always, everyone gets a prize, and the last place team has the fabled clinic with Keith, the "Loser's Clinic".

| Team | Wins | Loses | PCT | Games Back |
|------------------|------|-------|------|------------|
| M'Liss / Marilyn | 637 | 563 | .531 | 0 |
| John / Becky | 636 | 564 | .530 | 1 |
| Chris / Rich | 571 | 629 | .476 | 66 |
| Cindy / Denis | 556 | 644 | .463 | 81 |

Monday Team Tennis will return in early May, 2020. Until then: **Monday Night Tennis**, our off-season social lead by the amazing Denis Weil will continue throughout the winter (contact Denis or Keith to get on the weekly e-mail invitation to play). Numbers of players is of course limited by the number of courts available.

Summer / Fall Schedule

Twilight Tennis BBQs

Our first four Twilights have been great fun, and we are looking forward to one more this [Indian] summer. Join us for some fun mix and match tennis, a great dinner, and some excellent company. The cost is only \$20 / person. Let us know if you are playing tennis (non-players are welcomed), and if you want steak or chicken. Bring your own beverage, and we'll take care of the rest! The date for the remaining tennis social is:

October 13th Sunday Tennis 4-6pm Dinner 6:15pm

Pool Scene

The Orindawoods Tennis Club pool will be closing in late October. Look for the exact date on signs at the Club. Our rules:

Pool Rules

- Hours: dawn to dusk, spa until 9 pm.
- Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult
- No Lifeguard (best to have a swim buddy and not swim alone)
- No running
- No diving
- No glass in the pool area
- No pets in the pool area (sorry Rover)
- The gas BBQ is for Club Events only, but there is a charcoal BBQ for your use. Bring your own charcoal.
- Guest kids are \$1, adults \$5
- In order to preserve staff sanity, the game of Marco Polo is forbidden. ☺

Weekly Lessons

Hit and Fit:

TRX workout (strength and stretching) & tennis drills using the Playmate ball machine.

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Friday 10:30-12 noon | \$20 |
| Saturday 7:30-9 a.m. | \$20 |

Tuesday Ladies' Clinic:

Tuesdays at 9:30 \$5

Thursday Men's Clinic:

Thursdays at 9:30 \$5

The men's and women's clinics are drop-in. **Register** for Hit and Fit by e-mailing Keith you are attending.

OW Jr. Championships

October 10/19-10/21. All Courts. Check with Keith or Patric for details!

Court Washing

First and fourth Fridays of the month. 12-3 p.m. Check the court scheduler for which courts are available for play.

Quote of the Month:

"Analytics: the art and science of being less wrong." – Seith Parknow



Orindawoods Tennis Club

650 Orindawoods Dr.
Orinda, CA 94563

Phone:
925-254-1065

Fax:
925-254-1380

Website:
orindawoodstennis.com

Smart Phone Reservation App:
PlayTennisConnect

Twitter:
@orindawoodstc

Facebook:
Orindawoods Tennis Club

Executive Tennis Director:
Keith Wheeler
keith@orindawoodstennis.com

Head Pro:
Patric Hermanson
patric@orindawoodstennis.com

Tennis Staff:
Leo Cardozo
Ethan Arroyo

Weekend Staff:
Peter Reaves

Newsletter Editor:
Keith Wheeler

To register, contact Keith (keith@orindawoodstennis.com) or John Bockman.

It's been a great summer of tennis fun! Join us one more time!

League Match Schedule

There are a fair number of league matches this fall on Mondays and Friday mornings at the Club. League matches use courts 4-6 (the drop-in courts, plus Court 6), so check the court scheduler before planning to drop in and play at that time. Leagues are an important part of many of our members' Orindawoods tennis experience, but they do take courts, so we all need to plan ahead. Thanks!

Orindawoods Junior Championships

A Weekend for The Juniors

Our annual entry-level junior tournament take place on October 19-21. There will be matches on Friday afternoon (if necessary) and all day Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to into the evening hours. **No member play this weekend.** Sometimes there are courts for member play on Sunday afternoon. Check with Keith or Patric to find out if we are done with the tournament.

To register your junior for the tournament, go to topdogtennis.com. Follow the links to USPTA Circuit. Registration closes on Sunday, October 14.

A lot of our very best juniors that went on to play high school and even college tennis started out with these USPTA tournaments.

Tricky Topics:

On Members and Guests

Orindawoods is a great club, with fantastic members. We allow guests, because, regretfully, not everyone we love to play with can be a member.

Guests are for the members. We allow guests because our members like to play with their friends. Guests are friends. Guests fill out foursomes, events, teams, make the member experience better. Often without a guest, a member would not get to play. Three members, no fourth, no game. That would be sad, and not in the long-term best interests of Orindawoods.

Should members have priority? Of course. But what exactly does priority mean?

Once a friend has been invited to play, to help us make a game better for members, it would be rude to suddenly bump them if a member came along last minute and wanted to play.

Can you imagine playing with a guest in a foursome and a member walked on to the court and said, "I want to play, guest get lost." Of course, that is ludicrous example, but same applies to events and teams.

We do our best to fill events with members, but we would rather have members play because there are some guest rounding out the numbers we need for a team, than to not have members play at all.

Our league teams are members only, until we don't have enough eligible members to field a team, then we look for non-members. Many of our favorite parties, programs, events and teams would not be possible without guests. The litmus test is always, is that guest helping the members, helping Orindawoods?

Monday Team Tennis, the Junior Program, many of our league teams, Twilights, events, need some guests to make a lot of members have a great time!

Guest Fees / Rules: Of course, guests need to be well-behaved. They need to pay their \$10 guest fee. It is the member's responsibility to make sure that their guest pays the fee. Guests can play once a week. There are always exceptions due to circumstances, but these are the rules. Check with Keith or Patric.

Rules are not our masters, but our guides to having Orindawoods be the best that it can be. Most people know what is right, and what is wrong. "Let your conscience be your guide." -- Pinocchio

For example, as the manager of the Club, would I rather have a guest play a second time in the week than three members not get to play? Of course. Would I rather those three members pick the guest because they would rather play with that person than another member friend who could play but is not as "good," friendly", "desirable". Not so much.

But even that is complicated, for if you want to have a 4.0 game, because playing at your level is more fun for a lot of people, and three members are 4.0s, and the only members available are 3.5s, is a guest 4.0 OK to keep our 4.0 members enjoying their tennis?

Finally, why don't the guests join? It is not only the obvious, but an important question. Most guests that play at Orindawoods belong to other clubs. Or live too far away or can only play infrequently. There are reasons. Most are good.

Are there "bad" people who take advantage of our generosity? Sure, but not as many as you might think. And it would not be in the best interests of Orindawoods to punish everyone for the transgressions of a few. One of the things people love so much about the club is how welcoming, fun and friendly the members and staff are. To change the atmosphere, the mood of the Club, to catch a few "crooks" would be about the biggest mistake we could make.

Humans, tennis players, members, friends, are social beings. When a group of people behave properly, everyone else tries to fit in, and a community is born. A community is what we have at Orindawoods. People want to be part of such a fun place. Sorry Disneyland, but this is our happiest place on earth.

Tennis Tip:

The Gambler

"You never count your money, when you're sitting at the table; they'll be time enough for counting when the dealing is done." – Kenny Rogers

There is a great temptation in competition to mistakenly believe that you are playing your opponents. Even the vocabulary is set up that way. But you are playing the ball, and the goal is to make the shot. Making the shot can involve making it potentially more difficult for your opponent (using the 4 weapons: time, placement, spin and deception), but the primary task is to make the shot, hit the court.

Often in a fast exchange, we default to beating the opponent, getting the ball by them, but I can hit the ball by someone, and still hit it out (and I have way too many times).

I play best when I just focus on hitting my targets, often surprised at the outcome, which of course no one knows.

How many times have you hit a great shot, and ended up losing the point? It happens a couple of times a match to me. But if I hit a lot of great shots, I tend to do well. But there are no guarantees.

All this is to say, keep the score after point, and certainly not before you hit. In other words, don't go to hit a shot thinking "this will be a winner" or "put the ball away." Rather, pick a target, focus on the ball (the real enemy), and make the shot.

Earlier this week I was playing and I made a volley that I would have missed most of my life. I just focused on making the shot, and playing to the middle, between my two opponents, rather than ad pace and try to get it between them. It was a low volley, and I underspun it, it lifted up slowing over the net, and seemingly floated between my opponents and then sat down nicely in the back part of the court, several feet in, for a winner.

Every gambler knows, you want to keep your head, play the percentages and don't go full tilt (get emotional). Everyone knows that; it's surprising, or maybe not, how few can. I'm sure we'll all overplay shots in the future, but it is nice to reflect those times when we just made the shot and let everything else take care of itself.

Tennis Tip:

Analytics

I read an interesting article this morning on The Athletic website by Seth Partnow about analytics, and predicting performance in sports. It's the newest thing in professional sports, from baseball, to basketball, football, soccer, etc... They are computer models that attempt to predict performance, and help coaches make decisions. What's the best play in this situation? What's the best shot? Who should take it? Which player helps you win? Who makes shots in the clutch? Who makes your team stronger, etc... In tennis, it's do you win points more often at the net, or from the baseline, playing defense or offense, should you serve and volley?

This has really been the point of strategy, and coaching strategy, for years. What gives you the best chance to succeed? Cross court, down the line, play their backhand, lob into the sun, serve the middle, it's all there. We have all been chasing this kind of thinking in some fashion. The work of Craig O'Shannessy stands out in tennis.

Strategy could be very simple, like, "I got them down the alley at 30-40 last time, I think I'll try it again." Or, "They may be looking for that shot, I'll hit the middle instead." "What about a lob to really throw them off."

We want to know what gives us the edge. What strategy, what tactic, what shot, will lead to success, or perhaps just reduce our anxiety? Sometimes just knowing what to do helps. Even if we can't do it. When both opponents are at the net, do I win more points lobbing, hitting down the alley or down the middle?

The problem with all attempts to predict the future, they are often incorrect. We are humans, we make errors, even on shots that we should make. In the recent US Open, Nadal made 46 unforced errors in the final. He won 177 of 341 points, meaning he lost 164. He won 51% of the points, lost 49% and picked up "one out of one" first place trophies. With two slam wins this year, you have to say he is very successful in a year that started out looking like Djokovic would win everything.

When I coach strategy, someone will often respond and say something like, "Yeah, cover the middle, I get that, but what if it goes down the line?"

You lose. Or perhaps you have to scramble to get the ball. Either way, you feel "wrong." Yet are you actually wrong? In the big picture.

What Partnow said in his article, is that we need to get rid of perfection, of feeling the need to be right all the time, of always winning. The key to analytics and strategy for that matter, "is to be less wrong." I love this line, "Analytics: the art and science of being less wrong."

Mistakes happen. "To error is human; to forgive, divine," as Alexander Pope said. Some errors will happen, points will be lost. What our job is to make this happen less often, and not unnecessarily.

And then, maybe take a crack at the divine, and forgiving ourselves. In other words, how do we work to our best advantage, with the errors we inevitably make?

Of course, we want to win all the time, and we strive to do so. To say that my goal is to error less often, can seem like we are not trying hard enough, we are not trying to win every point. And that is not the case, it is accepting that points will be lost. It is brave to do what is necessary to win the most points possible, by letting go of some points that are not winnable, if we want to do our very best.

One of my favorite lines comes from Dan Millman's Twelve Rules for Being Human, "There are no mistakes, only lesson." Followed by, "Lessons are repeated until learned. Then you receive a new lesson." And the only real mistake is not to learn the lesson.

The trick is, what is the lesson? When you get passed down the alley by a brilliant shot in doubles, is the lesson to "cover the alley," to cry about losing the point, or to recognize getting passed down the alley, even brilliantly, is the price of covering the middle, and you will win more points in the middle?

And of course, it gets far more complicated than that. For there are certain situations to cover the line, and certain situations to cover the middle. Circumstances do matter. "Hitting the middle," while overall the best strategy in doubles, is not always the best shot. And you'll get all that mixed up and wrong too. And just because you lose the point, doesn't mean you didn't choose the right strategy, tactics and shot selection.

It's easy to say you picked the right shot when you made it, especially if it is a winner. But can you recognize the right shot even when you lose? That is the real skill, the real mental toughness, because if you played that shot every time, you would win more points than any of your other choices, even though you happened to lose this one.

What strategy (and the science of analytics aids us with this), helps us with our experience of playing the game. It constructively channels our memory, and improves our wisdom about our positioning, and our shot selection. And shot selection and court positioning is the biggest difference between elite players, and club players, 5.0s and 3.5s. Good luck out there!

Fall Junior Program 2019

The 2019 Fall Junior Clinics began the week of **August 26th**, and will continue thru the week of **December 9th**. There will be no classes the week of **November 25-29**. There will be **no Tuesday classes on October 22nd**. The 15-week program will be led by **Head Pro Patric Hermanson**. The Level 1 and II classes will be taught using aspects of the USTA 10 and under Development Program.

| <u>Level</u> | <u>Class</u> | <u>Time(s)</u> | <u>One day/week</u> | <u>Two Days</u> |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| I | <u>Lil' Ones</u> | Tues/Thurs 3:15-4pm | \$175* | \$275* |
| | <i>The Lil' Ones class is for the always adorable 4-6 year olds. We will be developing the coordination and balance of these young players as well as giving them an introduction to tennis using age appropriate balls and court size.</i> | | | |
| II | <u>Future Stars Group</u> | Tuesdays 4-5:30pm | \$320* | N/A |
| | <i>The Future Stars Group is for our 7 to 10 year old players. The players will be working with 10 and under balls on 36', 60' and full courts. Stroke instruction, tennis games, and match play are all part of the curriculum as we work our way up to green dot balls and full court.</i> | | | |
| III | <u>Tennis Development Group</u> | Thursdays 4-5:30pm | \$345* | N/A |
| | <i>In the Tennis Development Group we will work on refining technique, improving footwork and developing strategic awareness for successful match play. This class is for beginning through intermediate players ages 11 thru 14.</i> | | | |
| IV | <u>Tournament Training Group</u> | Wednesdays 4:30-6:30pm | \$435* | N/A |
| | <i>The Tournament Training Group is an <u>invitation only</u> class. Contact Patric about setting up a try-out.</i> | | | |
| | Non-members: add \$25 (\$15 for Lil' Ones). | | | |