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# Orindawoods Tennis News

Orindawoods Tennis Club: 925-254-1065; Office Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat./Sun.: 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., [www.orindawoodstennis.com](http://www.orindawoodstennis.com)  
"I like this place, and willingly could waste my time in it – Celia, *As You Like It*, Act II, Scene IV

## League Action and Court Usage

It has been a great year for league tennis here at Orindawoods, and this Fall is no exception with several teams in action. All the home league matches are listed on the Club's calendar on the website, as well as on the daily court schedule. Below is a list of home matches for October. League matches use three courts (4, 5 & 6), so remember that there are no "drop-in" courts available during league play. Most matches are scheduled so they don't fall into prime time. If you still want to play (there are always 3, if not 4, courts left for open play), please make a reservation. It just takes a little planning ahead. The Schedule:

9/22	Fri	BALL A3	9:15 a.m.
9/23	Sat	Combo 7.5	11 a.m.
9/23	Sat	Jr. Tourney	2:30 p.m.
9/30	Sat	Mixed 6.0	11 a.m.
9/30	Sat	Senior 3.5	2 p.m.
10/1	Sun	Senior 4.0	2 p.m.
10/8	Sun	Senior 3.5	11 a.m.
10/11	Wed	Fall A2	9:15 a.m.
10/14	Sat	Senior 3.0	11 a.m.
10/14	Sat	Jr. Tourney	2:30 p.m.
10/15	Sun	Senior 3.5	11 a.m.
10/15	Sun	Twilight 10s	3 p.m.
10/21	Sat	Senior 3.0	11 a.m.
10/21	Sat	Senior 4.0	2 p.m.
10/22	Sun	Mixed 6.0	11 a.m.
10/22	Sun	Senior 3.0	2 p.m.
10/23	Mon	Fall A2	9:15 a.m.
10/28	Sat	Senior 3.5	11 a.m.
10/30	Mon	Fall A2	9:15 a.m.
11/3	Fri	BALL A3	9:15 a.m.
11/4	Sat	Senior 3.5	11 a.m.

There may be other matches due to rain make-ups. Check the Club Calendar on the website for the latest schedule, it is always up to date.

## Junior Tennis at the Club

Head Pro Patric Hermanson and Associate Pro Philip Laubscher have their wonderful Fall Junior Program in full swing. We have over 18 kids in our Thursday Tennis Development Group, plus many more kids in Tuesday's Future Stars and Friday's Tournament Training group. (con't on p. 2)

## Summer Twilights

It has been a great summer of Twilight Tennis here at the Club. As always, the BBQs featuring Kinder's Meats and Keith's fancy flipin' have been wonderful, but we have also had a much better turnout for tennis this summer. Every Twilight has used six or seven courts (24-28 players), and the tennis has been both fun, well-matched, and challenging.

With the increased interest in Twilight Tennis, and tennis in general here at Orindawoods, we are going to have our first ever October Tennis Twilight (see below).

### Sunday, Oct. 15th

#### **October Twilight**

Yes, the "road goes on forever and the party never ends". We have had so much fun with twilights this summer that we are going to try a Twilight in October. As the Beach Boys once said, it's an "Endless Summer." Truthfully, the weather is usually fantastic in October, with our famous Indian Summer. The reason we have never had a Twilight in October is because it gets too dark on Friday evenings to play starting at 5p.m. With that in mind, we will be trying an event on Sunday, 10/15 starting at 3 p.m.. Tennis will be played from 3-5 p.m., with the BBQ to follow at 5:15 p.m.. The cost will be the same, as always: \$15 for dinner, \$17 if you are also playing tennis. The best way to register is to go to the website ([www.orindawoodstennis.com](http://www.orindawoodstennis.com)) and click on the event in the Club calendar. You can also sign up by calling the Pro Shop or e-mailing Keith. Please let me know if you want steak or chicken, and if you are playing tennis.

#### **Holiday Party**

The Orindawoods Holiday Party will be on Friday, December 8 from 6-8 p.m.. Join us for a fun evening of friends, family and neighbors at Woodhall. Mark your calendars now for this end of the year event. The cost is \$20.

#### **Pool Closing**

While we don't have an official end date for the pool season, traditionally we close near the end of October. When the nighttime temperatures start to drop, and the cost of heating the pool each morning becomes too great, then we shut things down.

Several of our juniors from the Tournament Training Group have been growing up (how did this happen?), and are starting to play High School Tennis. Sarah Smith, Ann Barber & Emily Jorgens all made Miramonte's varsity team, with Anna Larsen and Tyler Townsend making the JV team. Congratulations girls! Some of our boys have been playing on the boys team in the spring including our tennis staff members Wing Fai Doud and Chris Michaels. The success of the program shows in the results of our kids.

### ***Junior Events This Fall***

We have a couple of fun Junior events this fall, with our Super Saturday for our intermediate players on Saturday, September 23, and our Points of the Compass on October 14. Both events will be from 2:30 – 4:30 in the afternoon, and use four to seven courts, depending on the size of the enrollment.

### ***Congratulations***

Finally, Anya Kaiser has had a very good year playing the Girls 12 in NorCal, complying a 16-9 record and a #17 ranking (through August). Anya is now moving on to the exciting challenges of Girls 14 tennis. While junior rankings are important, of primary concern is Anya's tennis ranking in the Kaiser family. Mom and Dad are fighting hard to stay in the game (Do I hear Anya humming a few bars of the Stones' "Time Is On My Side"?). Anya has a beautiful game, and is developing into a wonderful player. Good luck and keep smiling!

### ***USPTA Convention***

Executive Tennis Director Keith Wheeler attended the United States Professional Tennis Association World Conference in Las Vegas, September 20-23. With many of the great leaders of the tennis industry scheduled to be speaking, it was an informative three days for Keith and he looks forward to sharing new ideas with the Club. Look for the latest from some of the greatest minds in tennis in upcoming newsletters and lessons.

As a wise person once said, "You're either getting better or your are getting worse. There is no staying the same." That is why our staff is always striving to learn the latest, and best techniques for teaching the game of tennis, and running the best facility possible. Just listening on the US Open broadcasts to how ignorant the stars of the past (McEnroe, Austen) are about modern tennis techniques (they could no more hit or teach a Federer forehand than they could walk on water) shows us the need to keep growing and learning. Tennis, as well as life, is always changing and evolving, and at Orindawoods we are committed to growing and learning with it.

### ***AED Installation***

The Club has purchased a defibrillator, and we will be installing it at the end of September, or early October. The staff is currently scheduling training (what he heck, we might as well know how to use it, right?), and once the training is complete, it will be up and running.

Thank you all again for your support in making this purchase possible. We raised over \$3,100 during our AED fundraiser in July, and while we hope that we will never have to use our new AED, if it saves just one person, it will have been way more than worth it. Bless you all.

### ***Monday Team Tennis***

It was a great year for Monday Team Tennis with over 60 participants. Each team played 864 games in the ten-week season. Just like last year, the championship race was very close and decided on the final evening. Here are the season-ending standings:

<b>Team</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>PAC</b>	<b>GB</b>
Cab Franc	454-410	.525	--
Pinot G.	438-426	.507	16
The Chardonnay	427-437	.494	27
The Shiraz	404-460	.468	50
The Sangovese	357-507	.413	97

Monday Team Tennis will be back next June for another great season! Registration will be in May 07.

### ***Quote of the Month***

"Doubts are more cruel than the worst of the truth." – Molere

### ***Playing The House***

I have been joking a lot recently that if I wasn't in the tennis business, I would run a casino. It is not that I like to gamble. In fact, I don't gamble, but then running a casino isn't gambling, the house always wins. Always.

That is not to say that the house never loses a hand. In fact, they lose many hands. How to lose, and how often to lose, is the art of running a casino. The trick is to keep the customer (from now on referred to as "the sucker", or "the gambler") playing so that the casino will win the largest amount of money possible.

Look at it this way. If the house wins 4 of every 5 hands, most gamblers will get discouraged and quit. So if the house has won 4 hands, the gambler 1 hand, that is +3 for the house, right? What if you let the gambler win a lot of the time, but less than half, say 45% of the time. They would keep playing longer, always hoping for that "lucky streak". So 100 hands are played, the sucker win 45, the house wins 55, or  $55-45=10$ , a ten hand advantage to the house. The house has actually won more hands by winning much less often (55% vs. 80%, 10 hands vs. 3 hands), but getting the sucker to play longer.

The trick is to let the sucker think they actually have a chance to win, or come out ahead. And of course the gambling industry takes this even farther. There are days, perhaps many days, when the gambler does come out ahead. This is a very good thing for the casino, b/c the sucker keeps coming back, and the casino knows there will be more days when the house wins, than when the gambler wins.

So how does this apply to tennis? Think of it this way, you want your opponent (from now on also referred to as "the sucker" or "the gambler", hmmm... what a coincidence) playing a failed strategy. Over the course of a long match, the better strategy will prevail if both parties play about the same level.

You ask, why not just crush them, winning 4 out of every 5 points by just hammering them with big serves, huge forehands and blistering backhands. There is no reason to sucker them into playing again or longer, this is the championship today, right now. The trophy is on the line, this is the match I want to win.

It is a good question, and a good point. If you can just crush your opponent, I say, go for it. But the truth is, we seldom play this kind of match, or opponent. USTA has set up the leagues so that everyone, at least in theory, is equal. All the people in your 3.5 league are 3.5 or lower. If you play one of the lower ones, you might be able to crush them. If you play someone with the same rating, you are probably fairly equal, too equal to go for the crush. You are going to have to be smarter, or hotter. A hot streak involves some fate or luck. You can be smart all the time.

Even when you just play "for fun" with your friends in your weekly foursome, you probably look for games with people that are of fairly close ability to your own. Losing all the time, even for "fun," sucks, and winning all the time is actually boring. As much as we love winning, we don't really want to take candy from a baby. The most meaningful wins are upsets, or against a tough opponent where we were able to prevail.

So if most people we end up playing are roughly equal, and we love to win, the trick is to turn our worthy opponent into "the sucker," or "the gambler." In other words, if we can become "the house," and get the opponent to play a failed (yet highly appealing and sexy) strategy, while we chose a better one, we will win (as long as both players are playing relatively the same). Of course the sucker may have a hot day, and beat you, but that is OK, because you need people to play. And if it is an important match, one that you desperately want to win, but you find yourself matched against and equal, or perhaps even slightly better opponent, you want to play a strategy that gives you the best odds, the best chance of winning.

So how does this practically apply to tennis? The easiest example is probably "covering the alley" in doubles. If you stand so close to the alley that your opponent can only win one out of every 5 shots they hit there, even the most determined alley hitter will look for points elsewhere. Since you are shifted over so

far to cover the alley and are out of position for covering the rest of the court, your opponent probably will find lots of points elsewhere, and you will lose (even though you stopped their "world famous" best shot).

If, on the other hand, you stand out farther into the middle of the court,

The goal is not to stop your opponent's best shot, the goal is to win the match



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just far enough that the sucker can hit and win some points in that same alley, but not win more than half of the total points played with this strategy (the sucker may win more than half the alley shots, but if you are still winning more than half the total number of points), then you have convinced them to play a losing strategy, and even if they are perhaps the "better player", you will win, because they are the bigger sucker.

This of course, is too simplistic an example, but you get the idea. If you can get your opponent to hit more difficult shots than you are, and you are hitting easier shots than them, on average, over the course of three sets, the chances are much greater that you will win than lose. They will have to play very well to beat you. This is why, if you look at most matches, the player with the most winners is very often the one who loses (the sucker), because they are making more errors in pursuit of those winners. They are hitting what I call, "beauty contest" shots (trying to look pretty), rather than playing like the house (smart, with the odds always in mind). The house loves a sucker in a beauty contest. The house loves it when long shots come through, they even celebrate their opponent's long shots, because it just means more winnings for the house in the long run. And remember, in tennis, unlike in a casino, the long shots don't pay more. In tennis, there are points that seem more important, and while it is painful if the sucker comes through with a long-shot on one of those "big" points, it is rare that sucker can even get to the big points most of the time because they would have to repeatedly beat the odds, which just doesn't happen often.

All the strategy that I teach players is how to hit the easier shots more of the time, and convince your opponents to become suckers, and hit the harder shots. The last couple issues of the newsletter have articles on where these easier shots are on the court (you can always download past newsletters by going on the newsletter page on the Club website: [www.orindawoodstennis.com](http://www.orindawoodstennis.com)).

### ***The Most Dangerous Opponent***

And if they don't agree to become suckers? Then smile, keep your head, play those percentages, hit as well as you can, respect your worthy opponent, and dig in for a tough and memorable match. There may be no suckers in the house today, and that is something you can't control. But you can control not becoming a gambler yourself. Play smart.

And remember, often someone who is playing oh so smart in the first set, will crack and throw caution to the wind under pressure in the third. Many times I have seen a player "lose it" right when they were on the verge of victory. Remember Jankovic vs. Henin at the Open. Be the house, and good luck out there! (of course, the outcome won't be based much on luck, but good luck anyway).

### ***Fall Junior Program***

The 2006 Fall Junior Clinics begin the week of August 28<sup>th</sup>. For more information, check out the Junior Page on the Club's website or call Patric at the Club (254-1065).

Class	Time	One Day/ week	Two Day
Lil' Ones (ages 4-6)	Tu/Th 3:15-4pm	\$147/\$162 (mem/non)	\$224/\$240
Future Stars (ages 7-10)	Tues. 4-5:30pm	\$295/\$320 (mem/non)	n/a
10s Development Group (ages 7-13)	Thurs. 4-5:30pm	\$295/\$320 (mem/non)	n/a
Tournament Training (invitation only)	Friday 4:30-6pm	\$275/\$300 (mem/non)	n/a

### ***Weekly Club Drop-in Events***

*Cardio Tennis, Mondays 9-10 a.m w/ Keith, Cost: \$10*

*Ladies' Clinic, every Tuesday morning 9:30-10:30 a.m. w/ Patric. Cost: \$5*

*Ladies' Playday, every Tuesday morning 10:30- 12 noon, Courts 1 and 3*

*Men's Clinic, every Thursday morning 9:30-10:30 a.m. w/ Patric. Cost \$5*

*Men's Day, every Thursday morning 10-12 noon, Courts 4-7, and Saturdays, 8-10:30 a.m. Courts. 4-5*