



SquashScholars News Letter

Volume 1, Number 5

April 16, 2008

First Annual Midwest Urban Squash Challenge

On Saturday, May 17, 2008, the METROsquash team from Chicago, Illinois is coming to Minneapolis to compete with our SquashScholars team in the first annual Midwest Urban Squash Challenge. Twelve first-year players will travel with Coach Max Laverty and Executive Director David Kay to play at the University of Minnesota Recreation Center. This event is part of the U of M Spring Classic Squash Tournament running from May 15 – 17.



The METROsquash program is in its third year of operation. Founder Conor O'Malley led the developing organization until hiring David Kay from New York as Executive Director in the summer of 2005. Operations began in January, 2006 with 11 students from one middle school. The next year METRO added a second school and increased their number of students to 20. This year, 2007-2008, they made a bold jump to now serve 40 students from three schools. All of the METROsquash schools are located on the South side of Chicago not too far from the University of Chicago where practices are held at the Henry Crown Field House.

The students of METROsquash have found success in both the classroom and on the squash court. Academically, 90% of the students have improved their grade point averages in core subjects. In addition, the staff and parents have observed a major shift in students' attitudes towards their education and their personal potential. On the squash court, METROsquash won the team title for Under 13 (U13) age category at the Urban Squash National Team tournament in April, 2007. Then in June, 2007, at the Urban Squash National Individual tournament, Jordan Collins won first place in the U13 category, beating his METRO teammate Christian Williams in the final.



SquashScholars supporters, you are invited to come Saturday, May 17th to watch some exciting junior squash and then join the teams, staff, and volunteers for a post tournament gathering at the MCAE courtyard on campus. The traveling team trophy and individual medals will be presented at that time. (MCAE is located at 320 – 16th Ave. S.E., three blocks from the Rec Center at 1900 University Ave. S.E. There is no admission fee to either event.)

Spring Cleanup/Fixup at Genesis II for Families

Genesis II for Families is a comprehensive social service agency, providing a range of non-residential services for women and their children residing primarily in the Twin Cities Metro area. Their facility, located in Minneapolis on University Avenue near the border with St. Paul, includes an outdoor playground and meeting area. SquashScholars students, staff and volunteers will be working with Genesis II and other volunteers on Saturday, May 3 to clean up and fix up the outdoor area in preparation for spring and summer activities.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Driving on Saturday afternoons remains an option. We have some regular drivers now, but additional support in this area would be helpful. Details are in the prior Newsletter (#4).
- Joining the community service project at Genesis II on May 3, 9:00 – 2:00.
- Accounting help for managing the finances of the organization.
- Organize a cultural outing for the students.
- Look ahead to our once-a-week summer squash afternoons in June/July for on-court and off-court help.

Please contact John Stever at 612-242-3224 to volunteer. Thank you!

Courts as Classroom



Occasionally, we get bumped from our classroom by other activities at the Rec Center such as a swimming meet. Our courts then become a temporary study space, with plenty of light!



Courts as Courts



Some recent action shots, including the running of our standard court relays for warm up.



Spring Cleaning with a Twist

Starting a new tradition in your family's philanthropy does need to wait until Christmas. Like food shelves, organizations like ours need restocking throughout the calendar year. Perhaps that old bank account has a few dust bunnies needing to be swept up and put to better use. SquashScholars has been extremely careful with the financial gifts received this fiscal year, but still remains several thousand dollars short of meeting known commitments for 2007/2008. We do and will always rely on the generosity of individual donors. You can help by printing this page, completing the information below, and returning it with your contribution to:

SquashScholars
111 Marquette Ave. Suite 1407
Minneapolis, MN 55401-2030

I would like to help SquashScholars students reach their potential with my gift of:

___ \$1000 ___ \$500 ___ \$250 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 Other \$ _____

Your name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone (h/w/c) _____

Please consider applying for a matching grant through your employer.

SquashScholars is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your gift is fully deductible.

Thank you for your generosity!

