

NOTE: This email is being sent to our known program family or potential families which include but is not limited to our current attendance at our Ponderosa Pre Season Tennis and Fitness Camp.

We are on day 3 of our Pre Season Camp and with 14 active and engaged Student Athletes signed up and we are off to a great start.

Word of the Week - Coachability: I am always trying new ways to breathe into our culture and many of you see that through these emails and our interactions but this week with our camp starting I took the opportunity to talk about COACHABILITY and what it means to me as the coach and us as a program. It goes without saying that this is "common sense" but we need to discuss it as a family, especially with our boys. We need this to be something that is accepted by all of us in theory and practiced regularly. We talked a little bit about what it means to be Coachable and the importance of trying to have a growth mindset (for all you Carol Dweck fans out there!). While the context is on the tennis courts this is a valuable life lesson as well. We get to choose if we are open, willing and ready to accept coaching, help and/or direction from those around us and that part is a choice just as it is a choice for employers to hire people. This word is one of those powerful words that are Core Value-worthy and we want a program of people and families that buy into this foundational concept and again I think this is a no-brainer. In the coming weeks I hope to discuss other Core Value and Culture Words that I see as important to our program, our success and our ability to make the impact we are trying to make along the way.

Camp Update So Far... This week we started with our Pinery Country Club drills on the indoor courts with Garry and Manuela leading the drills. Yesterday, Coach Frank led our Pondo Court Player Development Program starting with a conversation about what practice is and isn't and our need for intentionality in the things we do. He then went into a deep dive into the serve fundamentals which many of us desperately need and he followed it up with sending some pictures of what we were doing (well done Coach Frank!) In the afternoon our boys were working up a sweat under the Pinery Country Club Fitness Director, Heather Sanchez and I was sweating just watching all the stations and basically non stop cardio and fitness. Today we were outdoors with Peter Friesen who returned as well as Manuela leading the charge. Tomorrow we are back at Pondo with Frank and then on Saturday we have a morning slot for doubles and maybe singles depending on availability. I have asked Brady to help in my absence setting up that Saturday.

Dang We are Succeeding! As you know a big mission was to get our boys to play tennis and specifically play tournaments. This year I wanted to get all of our camp participants to play in a local high school tournament sponsored by a person I consider my friend, Ben Wolfe at Castleview High School. This date has been on my calendar for a while and today I threw it out there to our boys and guess what...Many cannot because they are already playing tournaments. What a fantastic and beautiful change of events from years past! I have not been this excitedly disappointed in a long time. Well done tennis players and families already playing but for those who are not how about the following...

Castle View Tournament Sign Up by Friday, 7/15/22 - Now for those who are not playing tennis would you please talk it over and consider signing up by this Friday for next weekend. The cost is a voluntary contribution of \$25 and actually they donate some of that back to our program so that is nice too. Just so you know this tournament is not affiliated with USTA or UTR so any wins or losses will not count and I just wanted to disclose that. It is a casual tournament and if given the opportunity to play both singles and doubles play both. If you have any questions please let me know. A note from Coach Ben follows with a link which should take you to registration. Let me know if you register...

Hey Marc, I'm sorry for this delay...[here's the form for the tournament](#). Entries are due by this Saturday, July 16th. We are hoping for a large turnout...

Cheers, Ben

Tournament 10: We are in the home stretch if you can believe it towards our goal of hitting 10 tournaments before tryouts. I am so pleased that we had 6 players playing in 3 different tournaments and events last week and this weekend there are some as well. A week doesn't go by where our boys are not on the court locally or even out of state for those adventurous families. If you have any questions please call me or email me.

USTA Tournament Link - 13 options

[https://playtennis.usta.com/tournaments?level-category=junior&location=80134.%20CO&date-range\[\]=2022-07-21T00:00:00.000Z&date-range\[\]=2022-08-20T00:00:00.000Z&distance=200&event-division-gender\[\]=boys&event-division-age-category\[\]=16U.18U&event-division-event-type\[\]=singles](https://playtennis.usta.com/tournaments?level-category=junior&location=80134.%20CO&date-range[]=2022-07-21T00:00:00.000Z&date-range[]=2022-08-20T00:00:00.000Z&distance=200&event-division-gender[]=boys&event-division-age-category[]=16U.18U&event-division-event-type[]=singles)

Schedules: We continue to try to lock down our JV and Varsity schedule and for the Varsity program there are several overnight events and I am pleased that with the help of Kerry Knackstedt we have already secured hotel rooms! This is crazy good news as our effort in trying to plan as best we can is being put into action. More information will be shared at the appropriate time but a day doesn't go by where emails and conversations are being had about schedules in some capacity for our program.

Communication: As of now I have created a group text for our Pre Season Campers where I try to send some updates from time to time while always wondering if anyone gets them and reads them (ha!). I will continue to interact with them in this way prior to our season and then when teams are selected we will break into teams.

Closing Word on Words: For now these emails are just to parents of possible Ponderosa Tennis Families at both JV or Varsity Levels. I appreciate your support with sharing and supporting our goals, objectives, missions and why we do what we do with not only your family and possible players but other possible tennis families. We will never get it all right and unfortunately I will at some point or another let you down or you will be upset with something that I have done but I see my role as trying to communicate as much as possible hoping and believing that those families in our sphere of influence will read and come along for the ride.

And on that ride we can continue to try to create something special, TOGETHER for our boys and our families. Thank you for playing your part!

Thank you for your support and as always if you have any questions or want to talk let me know. Please forward and share the excitement around our program.