

Junior Davis Cup Preparatory Squads may be organized on the courts of clubs, schools, colleges or parks, provided authorization is first received from the U.S.L.T.A. Application to form such a squad should be made to the chairman of the Junior Tennis Development Committee, U.S.L.T.A., Mr. Wm. Matson Tobin, 332 So. Michigan Ave., Chicago, who thus describes the program of the typical Preparatory Squad:

Organization. This particular branch of our Junior Development Program should, as far as possible, be confined to boys of the ages of twelve to eighteen years. In choosing players for the squad, not only playing ability, but willingness to practice and to conform to the training rules should be considered. It is generally conceded that boys of good scholastic standing more readily assimilate facts and apply themselves to the game just as they have to their scholastic work.

Before the squad has been formed, definite plans for instruction, practice and competition should be mapped out to cover the entire season. There should be at least one period of instruction and one period of practice each week. Wherever it is possible to see good tennis play, arrangements should be made with the tournament committee to permit the squad to attend as guests or at reduced admission fees. An older person who has leisure time and who is interested in the development of junior tennis makes an excellent captain. At the end of the season the U.S.L.T.A. awards a small pin to the outstanding member of each Preparatory Squad upon the recommendation of the captain.

Instruction. It is often possible to secure the services of a good professional at a reasonable rate to conduct classes on a certain day each week. Each instruction session should be devoted to a particular stroke or shot. Normally it takes about eight class sessions to cover the fundamentals. Suggestions as to the proper amount of rest and food should be given along with the sportsmanship of the game, both on and off the court. Too much stress cannot be laid on court demeanor during the playing of a match.

Practice. Wherever possible practice sessions should be arranged with older and more experienced players. By practice we don't mean simply hitting the ball back and forth. The ball should be put into play by a serve and the older person's shots so played that the youngster can work on one particular shot at a time until he has the shot under control. In these practice sessions the opponent should play to the younger player's weakness. It is not advisable to keep score as there is a tendency to play the shot as he formerly played it in order to win the point, and not try to use the proper stroke. Squad members should practice a couple of times a week with different players. In this way, they will come up against the various styles of play which they meet in later years.

Inter-Squad Matches should be arranged between squads within the district or section, and matches should be played with teams from other clubs. The whole purpose of instruction and practice is to develop play, and matches of this kind materially help in holding interest and keeping the junior program from becoming tedious. Shortly after a match has been played, the squad should have a real "skull practice" session. By this we mean that each boy should be asked to tell why he either won or lost. This tends to make the player a little introspective and he will learn to analyze his own play and that of his opponent.

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JUNIOR WIGHTMAN CUP PREPARATORY SQUADS

J. W. C. Preparatory Squads for girls may be organized in the smaller cities along similar lines to the boys' squads, if authorized by U.S.L.T.A. Application to form J. W. C. Preparatory Squads should be made to Mr. Wm. Matson Tobin, Chairman Junior Tennis Development Committee, U.S.L.T.A., 332 So. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

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The series of articles on Strokes and Tactics for the Schoolboy and his Tennis Coach will be continued in next year's Service Bulletins.