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Wheelchair player Curt Bender plays for the Men's 3.0 USTA League travel team from Holland, Michigan

For Curt Bender, in order to play competitive wheelchair tennis against another wheelchair player, he needs to travel outside of the state of Michigan, typically to places that require additional expenses for travel and hotel. This can be costly and take extra time away from his family and work. Playing on a USTA men's 3.0 travel team allows him to play locally and not have to spend the time and money like he would if he were playing wheelchair tennis tournaments.

Another key element in playing USTA travel team tennis is that just like anyone else, Curt states, "I am able to create friendships with other able bodied people that have the same common interest of playing tennis. Since tennis is a big part of my life, I enjoy meeting people from the Western Michigan area and socializing as well."

Curt notes, "The main reason why I play wheelchair tennis is that it is the only sport that I can play with against able-bodied people. The Western Michigan area and all the local clubs have welcomed me as a wheelchair player as well as a tennis player, which is what I am most interested in being; simply a tennis player." Several of his friends, who have never played organized tennis or who have never been USTA members, joined the new MVP Mens 3.0 Travel Team this year. He is excited to see his friends gain experience and grow the game of tennis, right along side each other.



Curt Bender relaxing at the net

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Bender battles his way through USTA League opponents

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