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**Dan James from USTA pays visit to GR for a weekend of teaching and an instructional clinic on May 5-7!**

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On May 5-7, Dan James from USTA presented a weekend of teaching, learning and coaching tips for everyone involved in the game of wheelchair tennis. Friday's Session I was a 2 hour instructional clinic for Tennis Pros all over the state of Michigan to learn how to teach a wheelchair tennis player if he or she came into their club and wanted lessons and how to integrate them into able bodied drills. We were delighted to have 15 Pro's that attended this session who actually all got into tennis chairs to try it out and work on mobility and stroke production.



Saturday's Session II was for anybody in the entire state that is involved in wheelchair tennis, wanting to start a program, coaches, volunteers, students and other pros. This session was attended by almost 20 individuals for 3 hours and went over teaching, how to begin a program, examples of drills, different types of disabilities, the mechanics and getting everyone into chairs to try it out. In the afternoon, for 2 hours everyone had the opportunity to apply what they learned and practice feeding balls and running drills to the Grand Rapids tennis team. The team had 12 players out from beginners to advanced players so the able bodied individuals had the opportunity to experience all levels of play and practice hands on teaching.



We also held a one up/one down tennis mixer on Friday evening for 3 hours with food, fun and tennis with 12 wheelchair athletes and 12 club players from Orchard Hills Athletic Club. This event was determined to be a huge success by the number that attended and also the individual feedback of everyone who stated they got more out of it than they ever expected and were thankful for the instruction and teaching in order to break down the barriers of wheelchair tennis, noting that

tennis is tennis no matter if you are in a wheelchair or not. It's simply learning the techniques in order to teach an individual how to be more successful at a sport they love.

Thanks on behalf of USTA who provided us with this grant to be able to organize this hugely successful event and by allowing us to bring in Dan James for the weekend.

For more information on wheelchair tennis in the state of Michigan, please call or email Lynn Bender with the Grand Rapids Wheelchair Sports Association at (616) 748-0468 or email [lynncurt10s@yahoo.com](mailto:lynncurt10s@yahoo.com)



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