



## USTAs officially under way

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**pshebest@kalamazoogazette.com 388-2730**

The tournament got under way today, but two teens from Portage have to wait a bit longer to take the courts in the USTA Boys' 18-16 National Championships.

The boys' 18s singles were played this morning and the doubles this afternoon at both Kalamazoo College's Stowe Stadium and Western Michigan University's Sorensen Complex.

Portage Central junior Isaac Stein begins play in boys' 16s at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at Stowe. Classmate Matt Johnson drew a first-round bye and plays his first match on Sunday.

All the seeded players also have first-round byes in both divisions.

Tonight's opening ceremonies includes the National City/RX Optical exhibition featuring tennis pros Taylor Dent and Mark Philippoussis. Part of the competition has each pro teaming with either Curt Bender or Dan Bolhouse, teammates in the Grand Rapids Wheelchair Sport Association.

Bender is ranked among the top 20 wheelchair tennis players in the United States and Bolhouse won three USTA-sanctioned tourneys last year.

The main difference with wheelchair tennis is that the player is allowed two bounces of the ball.

Following the wheelchair match, Dent and Philippoussis will face off against each other in a pro-set singles match, then team up to play the No. 1 doubles seeds, Jesse Levine, of Boca Raton, Fla., and Michael Shabaz, of Vienna, Va.

Levine and Shabaz won the junior Wimbledon doubles championship last month. Levine is the fifth seed in singles while Shabaz is seeded 11th.

The 10-day tournament ends Aug. 14 with the singles championships in both divisions.

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