

## Cool and Classic 17 MTEF Kids Enjoy a Special Field Trip to College Tourney

Seventeen grade school participants from MTEF's TEAM program were treated to a special day at the 36th Annual Milwaukee Tennis Classic Sept. 17.

Decked out in official MTC T-shirts, the youngsters, along with chaperones Diana Miramontes and Sara Kemp, arrived at the Town Club in Fox Point in mid-morning.

After scampering off the bus that brought them from MTEF headquarters at Sherman Park, the youngsters gathered on the deck of the club's Paddle House for a briefing on the day's schedule with event co-chairs – MTEF board members Angela Colbert and Joanne Williams – and a welcome from Jonathan Schwerin, a member of the men's tennis team at host school Marquette University. Before heading out



Mary Fran Cahill

The Paddle House at the Town Club served as "headquarters" for the 17 TEAM participants and their chaperones who attended the 36th Annual Milwaukee Tennis Classic on Sept. 17.

Then it was back to the Paddle House for a lunch, generously donated by Cousin's Subs. As the kids munched on their sandwiches, chips and cookies, three Marquette University High School players – Damon Niquet, Connor Muth and Chas Muth – spoke to them about high school tennis, stressing the importance of balancing athletics and academics. Eager to know more, the youngsters had multiple questions for the trio.

After lunch, four members of the MU men's team – Dan Mamalat, Logon Collins, Thibault Troude and Otavio Perim – met with the group, signing the backs of their T-shirts and offering insights and words of encouragement. Mamalat, especially, could identify with the MTEF contingent telling them how he was a product of a similar program at the Arthur Ashe Tennis Center in Philadelphia, PA.

Then it was back to see more tennis – this time between Ball State and Northwestern on the men's side and Marquette and Kansas State on the women's.

Perhaps the most thrilling moments of the day occurred shortly before the group's return to Sherman Park when each of the 17 youngsters participated in a one-on-one interview with Ken Thomas that was broadcast worldwide as part of RadioTennis.com's coverage of the MTC.

After the TEAM kids departed, MTC President Chas Mulcahy observed that this

field trip should be made an annual event. He noted the positive attitude of the kids and their high school and college mentors and the general feeling that in addition to an opportunity to view tennis being played at a high level, the visit had academic and character dimension – not to mention that it was a lot of fun for all involved.

In addition, Mulcahy noted that an increasing number of teenage TEAM participants now are trying out for and playing on their high school teams and it was likely some of these youngsters would follow their example.

Mulcahy also thanked Colbert and Williams for their willingness to take on the responsibilities of the first TEAM visit to the Milwaukee Tennis Classic.



Angela Colbert

A highlight of the field trip was the on-air interviews Ken Thomas of RadioTennis.com conducted with each of the children.

to the courts to watch the tournament action, the children also were given a short lesson on tennis etiquette.

The lesson was not wasted as the youngsters quickly became engrossed in watching matches between competitors from several of the seven universities involved in the tournament. Northwestern and Wisconsin were featured on the men's side; Marquette and South Carolina on the women's.

Moving in groups from court to court, the kids took it all in – some, perhaps, dreaming of a day when they would switch roles and compete in the tournament as collegiate players.



Mary Fran Cahill

Lunches donated by Cousin's Subs were a big hit with the young visitors to the Milwaukee Tennis Classic. Seen here is Billy Her.