



Tennis students stand and wait for instruction from Brian Stamme. After the first few minutes of class, the students separate into two groups based on skill level, with the more advanced players moving to a separate court.



Justin Peterson assists instructor Brian Stamme during an example of serving techniques at the start of class.

Tennis courts dilapidated, in need of repair

By Emily Rask
Associate Sports Editor

In a sport where love means nothing, you can earn those pesky HPE credits. Students who haven't completed their HPE credits can register soon for tennis class.

Although tennis is only a class at Clackamas Community College, it is a great activity that many students are getting into as spring turns into summer. The course is taught by Brian Stamme, who is in his first year of teaching at CCC, but taught three years at Lane Community College and two years at the University of Oregon.

"I've always enjoyed [tennis]," said Stamme. "I kind of just gave lessons and stuff and taught a bunch [of] my friends to play in high school and college. I played varsity all four years of high school and then during college took classes and played tournaments and things, but wasn't on the team or anything."

Tennis isn't the only sport Stamme coaches, he is also an assistant coach for the men's basketball team and he said that he's kept a passion for tennis and continues to teach it on the side. He also mentioned how rewarding it was to see the students 'get it' and to see them figure out different grips and techniques, even though some may look difficult at first.

Even at a quick glance, it's easy to see that the tennis courts at CCC are not as durable and well-kept as they used to be. Many of the students agree but even with the bad conditions, Clackamas' courts are better than others.

"At Lane we had courts that were built over for a new health building [and] they never replaced them," said Stamme. "I had to work on off-campus courts that were much more torn up than these are."

The cracks spider web across the courts and are a danger for anyone who wants to play on them and even though the main courts are in better shape, it is still a hazard.

"I announced that to everyone on day one, be careful of the cracks," said Stamme. "Someone's probably going to get hurt but it will probably be me."

There were many students in the tennis class, but one that seemed to be progressing very well was Ben Neuberger. He takes the tennis class because he played in high school and wants to improve his skill. Neuberger enjoys the tennis class and said, "There's people to hit with that are my skill level and stuff."

Neuberger also agreed that the tennis courts at CCC aren't the best, and said that they were worse than at his high school. However, when asked, Neuberger said he would join a CCC tennis team in

a heartbeat if they had one. John Dunbar takes the tennis class because he likes tennis and thinks it's fun. He also enjoys that he can help people out and play tennis outdoors.

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Brian Stamme
CCC Tennis Instructor

"I've played a lot of tennis. I only played one year in high school, but I played about six years before that," said Dunbar, who also mentioned that the courts are not very well kept.

"They're trashed," said Dunbar. "They need to be pressure washed and resurfaced and the nets are trashed." Tennis is a popular sport all around the world, and even in our small community at CCC we still offer a solid tennis course. The courts may not be what they used to be, but as long as the students, players and staff watch out for the cracks, no ankles will be broken.



A tennis student walks across one of the many cracks in the aging courts. Cracks run not only across the courts themselves, but between each court, posing a danger to anyone who wishes to use them.

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