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Make No Bones About It . . . METROsquash is on the Map

Now in its third season, METROsquash has achieved groundbreaking results and become a leading after-school program in service to Chicago Public School students.

METROsquash has quadrupled its program size from 10 students in 2005 to the current cohort of 40 students in grades five through seven. What a thrill it is to see students improving their grades – by 90% as a team; becoming competitive squash players – winning national titles; and most importantly, becoming confident and capable young men and women.

The support from individuals, foundations and corporations has been tremendous. Through events like METROsquash with Sue and the 2007 METROsquash Pro-Am Doubles event, we've been able to showcase the spectacular game of squash and what a powerful vehicle it is to achieving academic, athletic and personal success.

And, this is just the beginning! Our goals in the coming 3 years are even more ambitious as we look to build a permanent home for our program that can serve over 200 students and their families each year.

Thank you for your continued interest, your support, and for the opportunity to serve the great city of Chicago!



Students Briahna Whitmore & DJ Jackson with David Kay
Photo ©2007 Debra Tessier

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METROsquash Board of Directors
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METROsquash & Onwentsia juniors get their first taste of professional doubles

The 2007 METROsquash Pro-Am — Doubles or Nothing!

The world's top ranked doubles stars arrived in Chicago to compete for the first METROsquash Pro-Am Doubles championships. Held at the Onwentsia Club in Lake Forest and the Racquet Club of Chicago, the professional draw offered spectators the opportunity to see this fast paced and dynamic game up close, while the pro-am draw allowed a number of brave amateur players to hammer it out shot for shot with the pros!

World #1 ranking Australian team of Paul Price and Ben Gould reversed an early season curse against Englishmen, Chris Walker and Clive Leach to decisively win the first METROsquash Doubles Cup, 3-0.

In the Pro-Am final, 'Pro' Damien Mudge and 'Am' Ross Jannotta also scored a one-sided victory, defeating Chris Walker and Andy McAfee 3-0. On their way to the finals, Mudge/Jannotta defeated Ayman Karim and Jay Trees, while Walker/McAfee defeated Matt Jensen and Peter Dunne.

While both finals were decisive, the clearest winner was METROsquash. At the trophy presentation, champion Paul Price spoke eloquently to the packed house about the rise of urban squash around the country and thanked the Racquet and Onwentsia clubs for taking a leadership role in helping METROsquash flourish in Chicago.

"Fans, amateurs and players all had a fantastic time. We've built a great foundation to hold this event for years to come," said Tournament Chairman, Peter Dunne.

Corporate sponsors who made the event possible included Joint Juice Fitness, Northlake Options, Baytree National Bank, Swift Print Communications and Ancora Associates.

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The 2007 Urban Team Champs with their trophies



Students at the SquashBusters center in Boston



Jordan Collins and Christian Williams with Tournament Chairman Chris Smith

METROsquash Comes Out to Play Crushes CitySquash and East Coast "Competition"

2007 Urban Team Championships

It was a cold dreary day in Chicago on April 1, 2007, but luckily for 5 METROsquash students, who were in Boston at their first Urban Team Nationals, there was nothing but sunshine, smiles...and trophies! METROsquash won its first Urban Team title in the Under 13 division. This year's Team Nationals included the host, Boston's SquashBusters, New York's CitySquash and StreetSquash, Philadelphia's SquashSmarts and of course Chicago's own, METROsquash. The team was comprised of Jordan Collins, Christian Williams, Darryl Jackson, Don Hall, and Girls Under 13 Illinois State Champ Valencia Scaife. METROsquash steamrolled through the draw until the finals, where we edged out CitySquash in a high quality 3-2 match. METROsquash versus CitySquash has become quite a rivalry and the team looks forward to the 2008 Urban Team Nationals. With the rise of urban programs in New Haven, San Diego and Washington DC, METROsquash will seek to defend its U13 title, and take home the U15 title in 2008.

2007 Urban Individual Championships

Winner	Jordan Collins
Runner-up	Christian Williams
Fourth place	Jawan Shelton
Sixth place	Keshawn Idris

On June 15-17 eleven METROsquash members headed to the Groton School in Groton, MA to participate in the 2007 Urban Individual Tournament. With so many students participating hopes were high but no one expected the Boys Under 13 division to turn into a METROsquash party. In a draw of over 40 competitors, 3 METROsquash members steamrolled into the semi finals and Jordan Collins took home the title, beating METROsquasher Christian Williams in a 5 game final! Students had the added benefit of staying in the Groton School dorms and taking a tour of the magnificent campus, where we hope a few METROsquash students will be attending in a couple of years!

Max Laverty Joins METROsquash as Squash Director

Max has joined METROsquash to lead students on the squash court and in pursuit of fitness and a healthy lifestyle. He says: "I love teaching the METROsquash kids the fundamentals of the game - they're seeing their hard work pay off not just in competition - but in feeling confident about tackling the challenges they face day to day."

An accomplished player and coach, Max captained the Denison squash team for an unprecedented three years. He was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, where he learned to play squash at the Heights Casino.

**You can help train and prepare a future champion.
Please contact Max via max@metrosquash.org.**



Max goes on the attack against Peter Nicol
Photo 2007 Debra Tessier

**Priority One:
Academic Achievement**

*Christine Chitnis
Academic Director*

Some people might see METROsquash as primarily an athletic program. But come to a weekday practice, a weekend community service project, or join our kids on a high school visit, and you'll find a much different story:

- Students spend 50% of their METROsquash time in the classroom.
- We have a 2:1 student-to-tutor ratio.
- Weekly homework logs and teacher/parent meetings extend our impact well beyond students' eight hours/week with the program.
- A rigorous and effective academic curriculum featuring individualized learning plans.

Our success in the classroom is only as good as our students' success at home and in their communities. As you'll see from our parents' perspectives, METROsquash isn't something to turn off at 5:30pm, it's a program for life.

In this environment we've seen:

- Ninety percent of students improve their grade point averages in core subjects.
- One student gain admission to Kenwood 7th & 8th grade Academic Center.
- A major shift in students' attitudes towards education and their personal potential.

Please join us as we continue the daily work in the classroom. Volunteer to tutor via christine@metrosquash.org.



Christine expects the best from METROsquash students, and they deliver

Parents Stand Behind Their Children



Cynthia Brown with Shatonya, DeShon & Valencia
Photo ©2007 Erika Dufour

I have two grandchildren and a daughter entered in the METROsquash program. I have watched these children grow and learn to become part of a team: solving problems without fighting; working hard on the court and in the classroom. I have watched all of my children grow in respect for themselves and others, leading to self confidence and lasting friendships.

Cynthia Brown
*Grandmother of Shatonya & DeShon
Mother of Valencia*



Christian Williams with his mom, Greta
Photo ©2007 by Erika Dufour

Since Christian's been in METROsquash, he has been more driven to succeed in life, and really wants to be #1 on the team! He is open to all possibilities now and has gained an increasingly positive attitude.

Greta Steadman
Mother of Christian



Juwan Fletcher receives his METROsquash graduation certificate from Jackie Moss

Photo ©2007 by Erika Dufour

METROsquash has given Juwan the support and the structure that he needs to get his homework done on time every day. The program also provides him with a sense of stability, knowing that a caring staff and a group of friends await him after school.

Gene Fletcher
Father of Juwan



Kareemah Bates with her mom, Crystal

Photo ©2007 by Erika Dufour

Kareemah had the amazing opportunity to go to Princeton University Squash Camp this summer. METROsquash has helped her overcome her shyness and to share her opinions and feelings. It's been amazing to see her grow into a confident young lady ready to embrace life's experiences.

Crystal Bates
Mother of Kareemah



Khadijah Muhammed

Photo ©2007 by Erika Dufour

The Power of Squash

by Khadijah Muhammed

The power of squash is healthy and fun
It has made me feel better to run
Even though we have to face hardship
We never let our attitude slip.

But the most important thing is
That the power of squash tells us the truth
The truth that we need and want to hear
The kind of truth that tells us our strength is near

The power of squash is that it helps us understand
that the strength to succeed is in all of us.

The METROsquash program is every concerned parent's dream. It enables our youth to excel academically, promotes healthy eating and fitness, and teaches a good fitness program that consists of proper warm-ups, stretching and running. The program is huge fun for our students – they have traveled by plane to Boston for tournaments for free, they have slept over at The Field Museum and traveled out of town to beautiful beach houses and met wonderful people that made them feel important and special – like they matter. METROsquash is a splendid, well-hidden secret; every school should have a carbon copy of this program. We, the parents of these youth, are without a doubt very fortunate to have our children in the good care of the staff and volunteers at METROsquash!

Judith Muhammed
Mother of Khadijah

METROsquash with Sue Presented by Comcast, October 11 – 12, 2007

METROsquash with Sue brought Chicago's civic, corporate, foundation and squash communities together in this magical, iconic setting to benefit our program and public education. It was great for the game of squash in general and METROsquash in particular to have air time on Comcast, YouTube, network and community television, and to be covered in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Squash Magazine*, and on squash websites around the world.

The exhilarating two-day event was witnessed by over 1,000 Chicago Public School students and 7,500 museum visitors. We are particularly grateful to the 850+ enthusiastic benefactors who came for the 2 evenings of world class squash competition, fun and fanfare in Stanley Field Hall before Sue, the Fighting African Elephants and the Northwest Coast Totem Poles.

Our deepest gratitude goes to the Honorary Chairs, John McCarter of The Field Museum & Arne Duncan of Chicago Public Schools; Event Chair, Clare Muñana; Host Committee Chair, Jackie Moss and Vice-Chair, Bill Sullivan; Dinner Chair, Elisabeth Meeker; Hosts, Antonio Mora & Lester Munson; Event Director, John Nimick; our Public Relations Firm, Res Publica Group; and caterers Food for Thought. A special thanks goes to squash professionals, Natalie Grainger, Peter Nicol, Jonathon Power, Amr Shabana and John White who donated \$10,000 of their playing fees back to the METROsquash program.



CBS TV Anchor Antonio Mora entertains CPS students
Photo ©2007 Debra Tessier



6th grader Teron McGee defends the T against Peter Nicol
Photo ©2007 Debra Tessier



Natalie Grainger on the move against Nick Sisodia
Photo ©2007 David Barry



Speechless in Chicago! Jonathon Power has no response to a cut-up from Jessica Howard
Photo ©2007 Debra Tessier



Photo ©2007 David Barry

The Best in *The Field*



Jordan Collins clearly not intimidated by John White
Photo ©2007 Debra Tessier



Organic Chef Greg Christian shows kids the benefits of healthy eating
Photo ©2007 Marian Krauss



The Totem Poles say "No Let"
Photo ©2007 David Barry



A trophy from the ages - John White takes the Big Bone
Photo ©2007 Debra Tessier



Going green at Garfield Park Conservatory



Serving breakfast & playing bingo with seniors

METROsquash on the Weekends

Exploring Chicago & Giving Back to Our Community

METROsquash is an after-school program, but just take a look at our jam-packed weekend schedule filled with cultural trips around Chicago, community service projects and travel to squash tournaments. We even have a month-long summer camp! Ask METROsquash students what's the best part of being on the team, and they'll tell you: *"The weekends are where it's at!"*

Educational

- Garfield Park Conservatory
- Children's Film Festival at the Dusable Museum
- Lincoln Park Zoo
- Dozin' with the Dinos Overnight Program at the Field Museum
- Black Creativity Exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry
- The Art Institute of Chicago
- 'How to use a library' scavenger hunt, Blackstone library
- Shedd Aquarium

School Tours

- Whitney Young Tour
- Jones College Prep Tour
- Northeastern University Tour, Boston, MA
- Groton School, Groton, MA
- Visit from Hotchkiss Admissions Director
- Visit from Groton Admissions Director
- Ten Schools Admission Organization Boarding School Fair
- Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund High School Fair
- Two scholarship-winning students attend Princeton Squash Summer Camp

Community Service

- Dan Ryan Woods Cleanup
- Breakfast and Bingo at the Hattie Callner Senior Center
- Ogden Park Playground "Earth Day" Cleanup
- South Side Lakeshore Cleanup
- Cooking Breakfast at Edwin C. Berry Manor Senior Center
- Holiday Party at 69th & South Chicago Senior Apartments
- Martin Luther King "Day of Service"



Looking to the future:
A visit to Top-ranked Jones College Prep



Taking it easy after cultural immersion
at the Art Institute

Squash Related

- Eleven Saturday Squash Practices
- 'Bring a Friend' Squash Practice
- Cage Match
- Windy City Open
- Union League Club Squash Practice and Art Tour
- Derooy Junior Invitational Squash Tournament at Birmingham Athletic Club
- Illinois Junior State Championships at Lake Forest Rec Center
- East Bank Club: Nutrition, Hip Hop Aerobics and Squash
- Lakeshore Club: Squash, Swimming and Rockclimbing
- Family/Friends Health, Fitness and Squash Day
- Urban Team Championships in Boston, Massachusetts
- Urban Individual Championships at Groton School, Groton, MA
- Michigan Squash Summer Camp
- METROsquash with Sue Event
- Great Lakes Open Invitational, University Club
- Denison vs. Navy vs. Northwestern College Match
- Ohio State Invitational, Cincinnati, OH



Founder Conor O'Malley raises money for METROsquash while losing his hair

Just for Fun

- CircEsteem Circus Performance
- Ice Skating in Millennium Park
- Bike Ride around Navy Pier
- Swimming at North Avenue & 57th Street Beaches
- Field day at the park
- Concert and BBQ on Paul Cussen's boat
- Michigan Summer Camp at the Polskys / Boukamps (awarded to top two squash players, top two GPAs, top two most improved GPAs)
- METROsquash Halloween Party
- METROsquash Families and Volunteer Holiday Party



Campers cooling off from month-long METROsquash summer program in Hyde Park



CircEsteem dazzles



METROsquash kids travel to watch Navy vs. Northwestern vs. Denison squash matches with Navy Lt. Crawford

To spend a Saturday having fun with our students, please contact david@metrosquash.org.



Jordan Collins 'earthing' on Earth Day





Brianna Whitmore with her mentor, Jackie Moss

Photo ©2007 Erika Dufour



MENTOR for METROSquash

METROSquash is proud to announce the launch of The Mentor Program that will team up current seventh grade students with Chicago professionals.

The seventh grade is a crucial year for our students, as good grades and attendance have a big impact on their high school options. The Mentor Program will be an added resource for our students as they tackle the increased challenges and pressures of seventh grade and beyond.

METROSquash is looking for mentors who are positive role models and can commit to meeting with students at least one time per month. Mentor activities can include: taking a student to play squash, spending a day at the office, talking on the phone, even coming to a METROSquash practice or participating in a weekend field trip.

The Mentor Program will start in seventh grade and be resource for students through middle school and high school.

METROSquash thanks the many generous donors who support our program.

(If you donated, and your name is not listed, please accept our apologies and contact david@metrosquash.org.)

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METROsquash thanks all the volunteers who make our daily practices and weekend activities such a meaningful experience for our students.



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Come join us! Find out how at metrosquash.org



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