

TPA Monthly Member Newsletter

May 5, 2024



See the TPA website at tallahasseepickleball.com

TPA Member Spotlight: Kathryn Dawn Conopio-Mapp

In this issue, the Tallahassee Pickleball Association (TPA) initiates a new Member Spotlight section that will appear monthly in the newsletter and our Facebook Group. We will select a different TPA member each month to be interviewed for this feature. For participating in the interview, the member will receive a free TPA hat or visor. Our first featured TPA member is Kathryn Mapp who goes by the nickname Kian.

Kian works as an Academic Program Specialist in the Center for Exploratory Students at FSU. Her key responsibility is to help students identify, discover, and connect their interests, values, and skill set to a major. She enjoys helping students find a pathway for their professional careers. She also has interested many of the students in playing pickleball. (Now we know why Tom Brown is always so crowded!!)

Kian officially began playing pickleball last January. She and her husband, Kenny (also in photo below), agreed on taking up pickleball to hold each other accountable for staying active and to boost their overall health. They committed to play once a week, but that didn't last long. Now they play 3 or 4 times a week, typically at Four Oaks, Tom Brown, or Jack McLean. One of Kian's goals is to beat her husband in a singles' match, but that hasn't happened - at least not yet!

What attracts Kian the most to the sport is the pickleball community. She likes being active with groups of people of all ages and genders who have the same love for pickleball. During open play she's out there for fun, but when playing for tournaments --- "it is win time". And that she does! In the photo below, she and her husband placed first in the October 2023 Fall Brawl hosted by the City of Tallahassee.



One of the most memorable moments on the court was when she was successful in pulling off an Erne shot in a tournament to help her win. An Erne is an advanced shot on the pickleball court and is named after Erne Perry, who elevated the shot and first brought the shot into mainstream competitive play. The Erne is a shot where you hit the pickleball either (1) in the air as you are jumping around the Non-Volley Zone (also known as the Kitchen); or (2) after you run around or through the Kitchen and re-establish your feet out of bounds, just to the side of the Kitchen.

When not playing pickleball, Kian enjoys Kawaii Journaling. It is a Japanese inspired way to capture one's thoughts, combined with art and drawings. She said it "is a way to revisit my personal journey and growth in a visually appealing form."



Kian's advice to someone just getting started in pickleball is to have fun and if you want to improve, focus on improving one aspect of your game at a time. Let it be at your own pace.

Kian wishes to thank TPA for the drinking fountain at Tom Brown and said she would consider running for the TPA Board in the future and welcomes any volunteer opportunities.

DUPR Ratings

TPA has initiated a DUPR club for members to track their pickleball progress via the DUPR rating system. DUPR stands for **Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating**. DUPR has been adopted by the major tournament operators, Professional Pickleball Association, and most of the pickleball club franchises. Unlike other rating systems that have only been used for sanctioned tournament play, DUPR is available for recreational players, local tournaments, and informal events such as ladders and round robins. Two TPA women's groups have already begun using the system as test cases. Individuals can also submit scores from their friendly matches.

Using DUPR is strictly voluntary, and there are no fees. If you are not interested, simply ignore emails that you may see on the topic. On the other hand, please support your fellow players who may need to include

your scores to add their games to the system. You may receive emails asking you to validate a score, which you can do with the simple click of a button in the email message.

DUPR accounts are available now for all current and former TPA members. You have received an email message inviting you to accept the account that has been created for you. If you missed the email, you can go to www.dupr.com to get the account.

More to follow on this topic. It will take time to get the DUPR system fully functioning, but it holds the promise of helping improve the level of pickleball play in the Tallahassee area.

More Pickleball Courts Coming!

- Market District Park - 4 courts near Premier Health Club and Sage Restaurant. Originally planned for late 2024 completion, the current schedule calls for Spring 2025.
 - Northeast Park - 4 courts, planned for completion during 2025
 - 2nd Senior Center - Groundbreaking was this week for the new facility in the Canopy Neighborhood on Welaunee Boulevard. Six indoor, multi-use courts are in the design.
 - Northside Community Center - This private facility has begun construction on its long term plan to add 10 outdoor courts (several of them covered). Opening day is projected for late Summer 2024.
 - The PicklePad - Next door to Planet Fitness on North Monroe, this private facility will have 6 indoor courts with outdoor surfaces, a restaurant, and numerous other entertainment amenities such as bag toss, Foosball, and a fun video simulator for pickleball.
 - Chaires Park - Leon County Parks and Recreation plans to convert another tennis court to dual use tennis/pickleball, increasing the number of pickleball courts from 4 to 6.
 - TPA continues to work with Tallahassee Parks and Recreation to expand the number of courts at several city venues, and we are beginning to see some progress. More to follow.
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Drilling Groups

One of the best ways to improve your pickleball level of play (and therefore your fun) is to have regular practice/drilling sessions with a group. Instead of just calling out "0-0-2" and serving the ball every time you go out, you can use drills to learn and develop new skills and tactics. Mixing in some drilling with your play on a regular basis is a proven way to increase your pickleball enjoyment. (NOTE: There's no coach with a whistle demanding laps or pushups!) There are many types of practice games that incorporate the competitive fun of a game while improving your skills, and these are available for all levels of play, from beginner to pro.

TPA has set up a link to help members find others who are interested in drilling. You can connect with people suited to your level of play and schedule availability. There is also a guide to drills that will help get you started. [Go to this link on our TPA website to learn more.](#) Once you find your group, post something on our Tallahassee Pickleball Association Facebook Group or Instagram page to let us all know how it's going!

Membership Status

TPA began accepting members in August of 2021, and now has **321 active members**. Based on demographic data maintained by the City of Tallahassee, there are approximately 2200 pickleball players in the Tallahassee/Big Bend Area.

501(c)(3) Status

TPA is a Florida tax exempt, nonprofit corporation. We also have IRS 501(c)(3) status.

TPA Facebook Group

Our Facebook group is [Tallahassee Pickleball Association](#), a public group that now has **2000 members**. Take a look, join the group, and add your Pickleball related posts and comments. (No marketing or soliciting, please.)

TPA Instagram

TPA is [tallahasseepickleball](#) on Instagram. We now have **157 followers**.

This message was sent to you by [Tallahassee Pickleball Association, Inc.](#)

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