

**GREAT PLAINS  
AMBUCS  
NEWSLETTER**

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**AMBUNK**

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AMBUNK is a publication of  
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### THIS WEEK

The March 15, 2021 club meeting was called to order by Kent Jester. Phil Kennedy led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

### GUEST SPEAKER

John Cobble, Tennis Coach for Cameron University, visited this week. Josh grew up in Duncan and played for Cameron's tennis team for 2 seasons. He coached the Duncan High School boys team to a state title. For 7 years he was the head coach for Cowley College's tennis teams. Josh took the coaching job at Cameron four years ago. In just one year he turned around the program and led the team to a Lone Star Conference title.

The new season is underway. It is different due to the pandemic. The women's team is 7-3. The men's team is 6-5, but have won 3 of their last 4. They play a wider variety of schools, sometimes D1 colleges.

Josh told us about a few of his players. He said Bruno Vietri is the top player on the men's team & has a great work ethic. Bruno is from Argentina. He spent last summer here due to the lock down and improvised his training to stay in shape. Joao Duleba is another stand-out. He had a hard time traveling from Brazil to Lawton. Joao spent 2



weeks in Nicaragua to get an embassy appointment then stayed with an uncle in Florida 2-3 weeks before being able to reach Lawton.

Melany Opolz is one of the best players on the women's team. She is from Argentina and studies chemistry. Julianne Garcia is another top player. She is a physical therapy major and is from Australia.

Josh says the tennis roster has 14 nations represented. About 55% of D2 tennis players are from outside the US. Cameron has to such players to be competitive. Globally tennis is the 2nd most popular sport after soccer in terms of participation. A great deal of the top talent is outside the US. America's best high school tennis players get picked by D1 colleges. With sports like football or basketball the colleges recruit mostly American players. Tennis is different.

D2 college tennis matches are different from a pro-level tennis match on TV. There are no line judges. Players make their own line calls & keep score, which is not so easy while playing. As many as 8 matches can be in progress at the same time. The environment can be noisy but also entertaining.

Josh has a lot of tools to use for recruiting. Many prospects have videos on YouTube. Apps like Zoom, Whatsapp

and Facebook Messenger are important. International students come to the US eager for the opportunity and exchange culture with their American classmates.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Century Club is back. Club members donate \$100 per year or \$25 per quarter in addition to their normal club dues. The money will go toward our giving to 3 causes: AmTrykes, Scholarships for Therapists and Cornerstone, which helps the growth and development of the AMBUCS organization. Our dues have \$40 per dedicated to reach 100% giving for one of those funds, typically Scholarships for Therapists, previously known as the Living Endowment fund. It takes a good bit of extra fund-raising for our club to reach 100% for all three causes. Achieving 100% Program Giving makes a big impact on the 4th quarter scorecard and will put a chapter closer to reaching Superior Chapter status. If you want to join the Century Club please contact Jenny Clement-Shaw.

The nominating committee met recently. Phil Kennedy says they will have a prospective slate of officers for the 2021-22 club year to announce at the March 22 meeting. On April 5 the club will elect the slate of officers.

### NEXT MEETING

Russell Anderson from Lawton Animal Welfare will be our guest speaker. He'll us about the upcoming Adopt-A-Thon and other news about his department.

### 50/50

We didn't have a new deck, so there was no drawing this week.

### NEWSLETTER

Jenny Clement-Shaw had the winning ticket and her copy of AMBUNK.

**GUESTS**  
Josh Cobble  
Guest Speaker