

Chancellor Issues Statement on Tennis Center

On April 30, 2010, IUPUI Chancellor Bantz issued the following statement about the Indianapolis Tennis Center.

"As anyone who has recently been to campus knows, the face of our campus is changing rapidly and parts of it have become more like an obstacle course. The exciting part about this is that some of the vision created by the campus Master Plan released last year is coming to fruition with the construction of Wishard Hospital, the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Eye Institute, and the new garage on the east end of campus.

Another area of campus that has begun to see construction is on the south side where we border White River State Park. The NCAA Headquarters has started the initial stages of construction for their expansion, which will include a main entrance on the north side of the building. Also in that area, a garage has been approved to be built just south of the current Sports Complex garage. Construction on this project is expected to begin in November of this year. Other projects in this area include the Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Eugene and Marilyn Glick, which will run along Blackford Street and is expected to be completed by the end of 2011. In addition, the city of Indianapolis is assessing the traffic flows in the area, which may result in changes to the streets.

Regretfully, this growth and development will result in the loss of the Indianapolis Tennis Center (ITC) after this summer. The Indianapolis Tennis Center has a long history of hosting great tennis tournaments and providing lessons to amateurs and pros alike. Many in this community, including myself, will be sorry to see it go. Opened in 1979 as home to the national clay court championships, the courts were later resurfaced and the facility became a premier warm-up stop for the U.S. Open. Many of the best tennis players in the world have competed on these courts. Unfortunately, last year it was announced that the ITC would not be a stop on the Association of Tennis Professional's tour in 2010. Funds raised during this event are used for much-needed maintenance on the tennis stadium at ITC.

The ITC will operate its programs as normal through August 5, 2010. Removal of the tennis stadium will likely begin this summer. The indoor tennis facility and the remaining courts will be removed after this summer. We are interested in pursuing opportunities to relocate the ITC and will explore all opportunities available to us. We will keep you informed should any prospects develop along these lines.

I want to thank the staff at the ITC, particularly their long-time director Kathy Risacher, for their commitment to providing quality events, classes, and camps over the years. The Indianapolis Tennis Center has been a great partner for more than 30 years."

Charles R. Bantz

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