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(July 17, 2009)  
Rosemount, MN

## **12-Year-Old to Play Tennis in Colorado**

Sam Selvig is going to Colorado to play tennis. How many other 12-year-old boys get to say that? Selvig, a student in the District 196 tennis program, will represent USTA (United States Tennis Association) Northern at the National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) Leadership Camp July 21-27, in Denver, CO. He also is involved in an after-school tennis program and will play USTA Jr. Team Tennis this summer through District 196 Community Education. Selvig was one of the 40 kids selected out of thousands of applications to participate at the camp being held at the University of Denver.

The NJTL camp focuses on the life lessons of Arthur Ashe, emphasizing the social and academic development of its participants. The Tennis Leadership Camp was developed in 1984, providing an educational and motivational tennis experience for NJTL participants who could not otherwise afford such an opportunity. The weeklong session emphasizes character and leadership development, good sportsmanship, physical fitness, proper nutrition and other healthy attitudes.

His coach, Patty Mraz, says, "Sam is enthusiastic, coachable, friendly and brings that to the court every day," Mraz says. "He is willing and eager to learn and enjoys playing with others of all ages and ability levels. He is a good role model to younger kids and extremely respectful."

When Selvig goes to camp, he hopes to work on his second serve to get more curve. He says that his first serve is fine, but feels the need to make his second serve as devastating as possible to catch his opponents' off-balance.

Selvig has been playing tennis since third grade. He sometimes plays with his mother and father, but considers it to be "just a fun outing." His future plans? Being a professional tennis player, of course, but if that does not work out, he would love to play pitcher or leftfield for the Minnesota Twins or New York Yankees. If his professional career doesn't pan out, Sam would enjoy owning a store that is sports-related. The kid has sports running through his veins.

District 196 Community Education congratulates go out to Sam and we wish him luck at NJTL camp. For more information about tennis programs visit [www.district196.org/ce](http://www.district196.org/ce) or call 651-423-7920.

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District 196 Community Education provides quality lifelong learning opportunities for more than 60,000 participants of all ages. District 196 serves more than 28,000 students in grades K-12 and includes all or part of Rosemount, Apple Valley, Eagan, Burnsville, Coates, Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville and Empire and Vermillion townships. For more information, visit [www.district196.org/ce](http://www.district196.org/ce).