Working with Physical Education Teachers

Recently pickleball was part of the Michigan Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (MAHPERD) conference in Grand Rapids.

Ambassador Dick Draigh joined me and Nancy Thoenes, Physical Education teacher and USAPA member, as we presented to and played Pickleball with over 110 promoters of health and fitness in Michigan.

What an inspiring opportunity to meet healthy active people who are promoting lifetime sports to our youth.

The action items for these attendees included

- Considering Pickleball as another one of their own lifetime sports
- Rejuvenating their teaching of Pickleball in school
- Connecting their students to the Community Centers and other Place to Play that offer Pickleball for younger players
- Telling their students that we will be hold the Michigan State Pickleball Games at venues across the state to include 14 & Under and 18 & Under age groups

Below is the Outline of what we presented to give you additional background.

Each attendee got a handout that included your contact info as Local Ambassadors who could help them create the Pickleball world for them and their students in your area. We asked them to contact you to

- Visit their PE classes to demo or play and communicate information about the game in Michigan
- Get the latest info on where younger players could play in your area
- Provide you with input that you could use to persuade community centers to start or expand their Pickleball coverage to include younger players who want to keep playing after the exposure they get in school
As you know we are still working on the details for the 2009 Michigan State Pickleball Games. Nancy and I will be sending out an email survey to 50 MAHPERD attendees to get their advice on the best way to establish the games so that we can attract the younger players in these age groups:

- 35+
- 18+
- 18 & Under
- 14 & Under

We have asked if we can do another Pickleball presentation at next year's MAHPERD conference and we will invite Ambassadors in other states in the Region to see if they can become part of the AHPERD conferences in their states.
This game with the funny name can be contagious and can easily extend beyond the first exposure in our school programs. Learn how to connect your students with community programs for ongoing play with family and friends. Statewide age group and mixed generation tournaments are on the horizon for 2009. Come and play during this hands-on session that will update you on the growing enthusiasm for this addictive game all across Michigan and beyond.

MAHPERD  
Friday November 7 2009  
8:30 –9:45am and 1:00 – 2:15pm  1 Hour

Setup:  
Clear chairs at the front so that a court can be set up with the net perpendicular to the audience. Chair can wrap around 3 sides of the court.

Have Portable net up with lines on commercial carpet using masking tape.

Eight paddles and balls available for attendee play.

Ask for two microphones so that Nancy and Dick interact.

Let’s emphasize getting these active attendees up to play and weave our presentation around their play. Nancy can ask for volunteers to demonstrate how she organizes her initial lesson plan.
Outline

5 minutes
Introduction - while hitting the ball over the net
- Dick – USAPA Great Lakes Regional Ambassador, Pickleball Player
- Nancy – Chair of Physical Education Department Fraser High School
  - Softball, badminton player now Pickleball Player
  - Recreation and Tournament Play

5 minutes - Dick lead
Pickleball Review via DVD – refer to Handout – What is Pickleball? And refer to the resources at www.usapa.org

5 minutes – Nancy Lead
Pink Ladies - refer to Handout pictures, mention Michigan website
- 50+ Softball Team produces 8–10 Pickleball players
- Season over – continue the fitness and camaraderie
- Pat Sullivan teaching softball players - health/fitness professionals
- Double partners for fun and tournament awards
- Now Pink Ladies are assisting in the growth of Pickleball programs in SE Michigan

10 minutes
Fraser Experience – Nancy Lead – Get volunteers up play volley/dink/ground/serve
- Renewed energy as a player leading the Department
- Pickleball unit expanded in time and scope
- Keeping 200+ player interested and active
- Student reactions
- Tournament impact
- Connection to the Community Rec programs
  - Evening Drop-in Program
  - Mixed Generation Festival
  - Competition opportunities for younger players emerging in Michigan

10 minutes – Dick Lead - with Ambassador Dick Draigh
What’s New about Michigan Pickleball?
- Mecca for Great Lakes Pickleball
- TV Coverage in Detroit and on Good Morning America
- Places to Play in Michigan – Handout
- Community Centers welcoming younger players and families
- Local Ambassadors ready to connect school programs with community recreation programs – Handout & Introduce Dick Draigh LA for Grand Rapids
- 2009 Michigan Pickleball State Games
- USAPA Regional Championship Tournament for all Ages
10 minutes
Lifetime Sports – Nancy lead - What are the qualifications for a lifetime sports?
- Fun, Fitness, Social Recreation, Competitive
- All ages and skill levels
- Places to Play
- Cost
- Governing body?

Could Pickleball be a candidate for you? For your students
- Next step – contact your Local Ambassador and collaborate to connect your school program with a nearby community program!
- Check out resources on
  - www.usapa.org
  - http://mipickleball.usapa.org/

15 Minutes
Let’s Play – Pick 4 player teams and rotate them in to rally for 5 minutes each

Time Remaining
Q&A

Thank you to
- Pickle-ball Inc who provided the equipment
- Toledo Physical Education Supply where we purchased the MAXI Net portable system
Survey of MAHPERD Attendees

Pickleball – New Lifetime Sport

The MAHPERD Conference was an inspiring opportunity to meet each of you; it was great to meet so many healthy active professionals who are busy everyday promoting lifetime sports like Pickleball.

We are finalizing the plans for the 2009 Michigan State Pickleball Games; your responses to the 5 simple questions below would help us immensely.

Please REPLY to this email and place your answers next to the questions below:

1. My Michigan location is ________________________________ and I teach/work at the following level:
   a. Elementary _______
   b. Middle School _______
   c. High School _______
   d. College _______
   e. Recreation Ctr _______

2. I would be interested in playing in a nearby tournament as part of the 2009 Michigan State Pickleball Games – Place an X on the lines below to indicate your interests:
   a. Doubles _______
   b. Singles _______
   c. Mixed _______
   d. 18+ _______
   e. 35+ _______
   f. 50+ _______

3. I have students who would be interested in playing in a nearby tournament as part of the 2009 Michigan State Pickleball Games – Place an X on the lines below to indicate your response
   a. Doubles _______
   b. Singles _______
   c. Mixed _______
   d. 14 & Under _______
   e. 18 & Under _______
4. Would you like to schedule a Pickleball visit/demo/clinic for your school with a USAPA volunteer?
   __________________________________________________________

5. Any other comments
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

Thank you for your valuable input.

Check out the Training Room at the USA Pickleball Association website http://training.usapa.org

and what’s new at the Michigan Pickleball website http://mipickleball.usapa.org/

Dick Manasseri
USAPA Great Lakes Ambassador

Nancy Thoenes
Fraser High School