

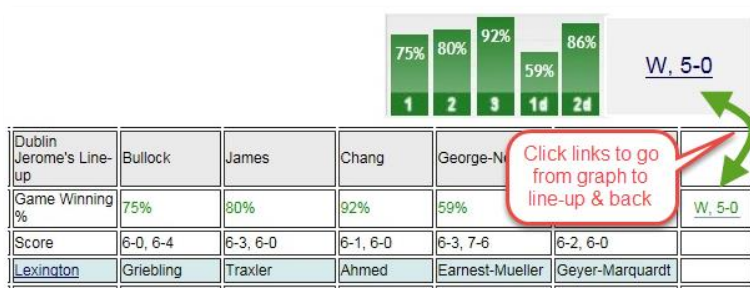
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By Scott Gerber

The “% Games Won By Court” graphs are a major tennis analysis tool offered by OhioTennisZone.com. Coaches and fans can use these graphs to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of opponents. Coaches may also use the graphs to help their own players understand which courts are best suited for them and the team. The graphs below are of actual matches, but the groupings of charts may not all be from the same team.

First, here is a quick explanation of a graph. Each bar on the graph to the right reflects the percentage of games won by that court. For example, the player on Court #1 won 6-0, 6-4, or 75% of the games.

The math is 12 games won divided by 16 (6+6+4) games played. OTZ members may quickly jump from the graph to the line-up by using the hyper-links to further analyze teams and line-ups.



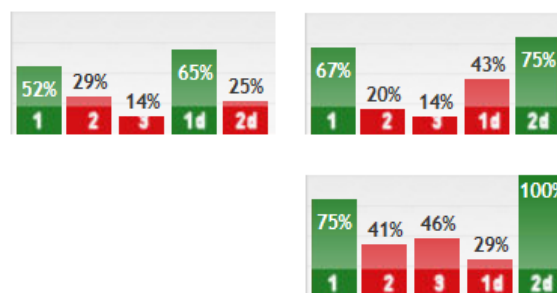
The above graph is of Dublin Jerome’s 2014 OTCA Tournament championship team, and it is a typical graph for a strong, team with great depth.

Optimal Line-ups

The role of a good coach is to win team matches. If the team consistently wins decisively (i.e. 80% of the games) on one of the doubles courts but loses the other doubles court, then the team may not have the optimal line-up in place. The first graph to the right is an example of a great team win while the second graph is a “good” loss. Moving players to different courts would have unlikely changed the match outcomes.



The next three matches introduce some uncertainty. Could the line-ups have been changed to turn any of these losses into wins? It is not about second-guessing the coach, but looking for charts that consistently show imbalances.



Strong Court 1 Player

These graphs show a team with a Court #1 Singles player who is significantly stronger than the rest of the team. If this is a stronger team which is playing against quality opponents, then this player would likely be on the OTZ Top Player / Watch List.

This is commonly the way in which OTZ initially identifies players for these lists.



Strong Court 2 Player

In this series of graphs, the Court #2 player is clearly the best player relative to her/his position. While the Court #1 player does compete against the opponents' best player, it may still be worthwhile to have a challenge match between Courts #1 and #2 to determine if Court #1 is a better player.

If the Court #1 player is also a strong player, this Court #2 player is probably also a candidate for the OTZ Top Player / Watch List.



Questionable Line-ups

Occasionally, coaches get too aggressive in finding ways to win a team match. Per the rules, the Court #1 player must be better than Court #2 who must be better than Court #3. The same rule applies for Court #1 Doubles and Court #2 Doubles. The graphs to the right show line-ups where the Court #3 player on



the winning team may be stronger than the Court #2 player. If this pattern is persistent, that could be an issue.

The next chart is a loss by a team that used a potentially questionable line-up. The good news is that this team did not win.



One situation that commonly raises questions is when the best player on the team is moved to Court #1 Doubles. That is always completely legitimate. If a Court #1 player has been out of the line-up due to injury, many coaches will first place the player on Court #1 Doubles to slowly get him/her back into the line-up.

Coaches are great about self-policing, and to make it easier for them, OhioTennisZone.com makes all of the graphs available for analysis. To view them, click on Previous Day Match Results from the main navigation bar. Again though, please sign-in first to view the line-ups for each team.



It is also worthwhile to point out that OTZ has sent out inquisitive emails from time-to-time when match line-ups look especially “creative”. These emails typically start out with “Before I include this match in the database, I just wanted to confirm that you had Smith (the better player) on court 3 and Jones on court 2”.

These graphs are an OhioTennisZone exclusive offering and they are just another way in which OTZ is supporting the sport of Ohio high school tennis.

