



# THAT

PICKLEBALL MEMBER PROFILE

Number 17

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## The Vet with a Paddle: Janine Siebert's Pickleball Story



Janine with Jaume Martinez-Vich, sponsored by Six Zero of which she has been an Ambassador for 2 years. Here after signing paddles at PPA in Kansas City.

Janine Siebert's first introduction to pickleball was both humbling and unforgettable.

"I remember that first game so vividly," she recalls with a laugh. "The ball came over the net, I went to hit it and completely whiffed it! I thought it would bounce like a racquetball. I felt so silly. But then, I told myself, 'I can do better,' and just kept playing. It became game after game. I call that a pickleball addiction."

Long before she picked up a pickleball paddle, Janine, who is 72 and lives in Lafayette, Indiana, was a softball player. "My family was huge into girls' softball. My parents ran the

local league for 20 years. I played fast-pitch softball from age nine until I was 22. My mom even played semi-pro in Chicago! But back in those days, girls' sports faced a stigma. There might have been basketball, track, and field, but no softball in high school. We did have a Girls Athletic Association (GAA), which was a high school program, but it wasn't well regarded."

Now, pickleball fills that competitive gap that Janine has always cherished in sports. She has been playing since 2015, a fact she finds hard to believe.

“I wish Drew Brees had put his pickleball franchise, The Picklr, here in Lafayette”

“At Lafayette McCaw Park, which is city-owned, we started with three tennis courts and a basketball court. We marked temporary lines on the tennis courts and brought nets to play

pickleball,” she recalls. “As interest grew, the players petitioned the park board for a dedicated pickleball space. The city listened, resulting in the construction of twelve permanent pickleball courts that replaced the old tennis and basketball areas. Demand has continued to grow, and the park is undergoing yet another expansion. Soon, it will have 26 courts with fencing and updated surfaces.”

The winter months present a challenge in the Indiana city, as it lacks a dedicated indoor facility. “I wish Drew Brees had put his pickleball franchise, The Picklr, here, but he invested in Noblesville, Indiana instead,” she muses. While some players scatter to churches or gyms, Janine often heads to Purdue University’s indoor courts during the cold months.



US Open Pickleball Winners! Congrats!

A veterinarian by training, Janine spent much of her career working at Purdue's veterinary school and later owned a cat-only clinic. Recently, she found a new calling, working part-time in telemedicine for pets. "It's such a neat niche. I help treat chronic conditions, behavior problems, and even give emergency advice."

But pickleball remains her passion. Janine's tournament record is impressive, boasting 28 medals, including gold, silver, and bronze, from competitions across the country. "I travel with my paddle and shoes everywhere," she chuckled. "I've been all over, from Kansas City to Texas, Florida to Myrtle Beach, and made lifelong friends on the courts."



Look at all these medals!!! Amazing! Congrats!

Janine admits she's an avid student of the game and figures she's worked with twenty pros and attended numerous camps. "I've worked with Tyson McGuffin, Simone Jardim, and many others. All were awesome!"

She further credits her growth to instructional videos from Kyle Koszuta (That Pickleball Guy), whose engaging personality and clear presentation drew her into That Pickleball School (TPS).

"The graphics are so good, and Kyle knows how to explain things clearly. Zach, Tyler, and the whole TPS team create a supportive atmosphere, particularly when a member is feeling down, is unsure of something, or has a question."

As for her goals? Janine aims to sharpen her footwork and adopt a more strategic, patient approach on the court. "I'm working on keeping my grip loose and playing the thinking game," she says. "That isn't always easy, but I am dedicated to this sport. It is such a passion and so fun."

