



Pickleball CANADA



VIRTUAL—BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE!

By **Linda Jefferies**

C OVID-19 has created an anomaly for many Canadians who aspire to play the game of pickleball year-round both indoors and outdoors. Borders have closed and travel has been greatly restricted for snowbirds who fly south regularly in the winter months.

We are thankful for the Association of Pickleball Professionals (APP) for providing livestreaming of its USA Pickleball-sanctioned tour, enabling fans to watch the best-of-the-best from virtual courtside seats. Not just a dynamic game to play—pickleball is equally fun to watch and serves as a teaching tool as well. Bravo and thank you to APP!

Livestreaming of key tournaments has allowed Canadians the opportunity to follow Canada's top players, none other than Steve Deakin and Catherine

Parenteau. World-ranked, Steve and Catherine have become the talk on the courts amidst the pickleball communities as we follow their rising careers. We are proud of not just their excellent playing abilities and standings, but the fact that they are so approachable and true ambassadors for the sport.

Steve Deakin, 46, from Pitt Meadows, British Columbia, spent his junior years playing tennis, winning 11 national titles. He went on to travel worldwide with the Young Senior Canadian Team, playing in the World Championships in Croatia. While rehabbing a shoulder injury, Steve's dad suggested he try pickleball at a local rec center. He was immediately hooked. In his words, "Smaller court, faster pace, serious point constructing... lo and behold—underhand serves: perfect!"



Steve Deakin

Steve is sponsored by Head and is now ranked as one of the top 5 men's doubles players in the world. He medaled in all three of the "majors" of pickleball in the pro division in 2019, and is having an exceptional year in 2020, bringing home two gold, three silver and five bronze medals to date. Well done, Steve!

Catherine Parenteau, 26, started playing tennis when she was 4 years old in Montreal, Quebec. At 15, she was ranked among the top 5 tennis players in Canada and was recruited by the University of Arkansas. Catherine later transferred to Michigan State University where

she completed her studies. Her coach, one of pickleball's most decorated elite players—Simone Jardim—introduced her to the sport of pickleball. Her love of the game quickly grew and she is currently ranked among the top 5 in the world in women's pickleball.

Catherine is sponsored by Paddletek and is ranked as one of the top women's doubles players in the world. A highlight of 2019 was winning gold in the Chicago Open with Andrea Koop, and currently in 2020 she has brought home one gold, five silver, and three bronze medals. Bien joué, Catherine! •



Catherine Parenteau

PHOTO BY MICHAEL GAUTHIER

PLACES TO PLAY

www.pickleballcanada.org/places_to_play.php

MEMBERSHIP

https://pickleballcanada.org/membership_faq.php

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://pickleballcanada.org>

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