

# COLORADO TENNIS

Year 32, Issue 4

The Official Publication Of Tennis Lovers

Est. 1976

FALL 2008

## FREEDOM FOUND

WHEN FACED WITH  
INTIMIDATING PHYSICAL,  
MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL  
CHALLENGES, THESE FIVE  
YOUNGSTERS DIDN'T RETREAT  
INTO A SHELL AND  
WITHDRAW FROM LIFE.

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BREAK FREE FROM THE ADVERSITY  
AND DISABILITIES THAT BOUND THEM.

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## 6 COVER STORY: FREEDOM FOUND

When you have faced intimidating physical, mental and emotional challenges, the simple act of stepping on a tennis court can be liberating, the beginning of a journey that is far more important than its conclusion. These five young players have learned that, despite being surround by tall fences, a tennis court is a place of unlimited freedom and expression.

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Wonder what all the fuss is about with the latest generation of new tennis balls? Here's a couple you may have seen, and one we bet you haven't!

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

*I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Nick, Julian, Michael, David and Julia for allowing us to tell their amazing stories. You are among the greatest champions I have ever known. Thanks to the Eckerlings, Gills, Halls, and Jensens, as well as to Paula Wolff of Net Results, and Phil Betancourt and Kerrie Burress of Tennis Mania. Finally, I would also like to say a huge thank you to Vicky Matarazzo, for her incredible efforts to improve kids' lives through tennis. She is an inspiration to me and the hundreds of kids she's reached at Special Olympics. – KD*

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### About COLORADO TENNIS

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# FREEDOM FOUND

When most of us step on the tennis court,  
we see competition, camaraderie and friendship.

We see a good sweat,  
aerobic exercise,  
or an excuse to eat that extra cookie.

From Young & Rubicam/Decathlon

But how many of us step on a tennis court and  
realize that we are at the beginning of a journey  
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Despite being surrounded by tall fences,  
a tennis court is unlimited freedom.

Freedom from adversity.

Freedom to explore.

Freedom to find yourself.

# nick ECKERLING

## OVERCOMING THE LIMITATIONS OF AUTISM

NICK ECKERLING HAS AUTISM. BUT THANKS TO A DEVOTED TENNIS COACH AND TWO GUTSY PARENTS, HE HAS FOUND A SPORT THAT NOT ONLY CAPTIVATES HIM, BUT HAS GIVEN HIM A SOCIAL OUTLET THAT HE HAS NOT FOUND IN OTHER SPORTS.

BY KATIE NEWELL

**J**ust like many of the fierce Olympic competitors in Beijing this summer, Nick Eckerling can boast of a gold medal in his possession, but he doesn't. An 18 year-old at South High School in Denver, Nick has spent a decade on the tennis courts and earned a gold medal for tennis skills as a participant in the Denver Parks and Recreation Special Olympics tennis program, one of 26 programs available for people with special needs.

Diagnosed with autism as a toddler, sports have always been the best way for Nick to interact with others, according to his father, Wayne, who was a strong tennis player growing up in Chicago. Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others, according to the Autism Society of America. One out of 94 boys is diagnosed with autism, which affects individuals differently. Nick has deficits in language, cognitive ability and social and emotional deficits. Nick can be a challenge as he has many of the stereotypical repetitive behaviors that characterize autism, and also has difficulty focusing combined with hyperactivity. Nick can get very frustrated, which means it's been a trial and error process to try various sports, including tennis.

Luckily, trying tennis has given Nick the opportunity to work with a very dedicated Special Olympics Coach, Vicky Matarazzo, who has coached him since the age of 8. Vicky answered an advertisement seeking coaches for adaptive programs and has gone on to make a dramatic difference in the lives of many families. Vicky had coached at Mullen for 15 years and understood the type of commitment it would take to be involved in these special programs.

Nick sums up his feelings about Coach Vicky with an enthusiastic, "She's nice!" Nick is also excited about his senior year and talks about the friends in his life, some of whom he has met on the tennis court. When asked if he likes tennis, Nick didn't waiver, answering with a convincing "Yep!"

Parents Wayne and Marilyn, who also have a 20 year-old daughter named Samantha, deeply appreciate the years Vicky has spent with Nick and the progress he has made. "Vicky has a way about her, always giving kids more chances," Wayne said, adding that "she's very structured and sets limits," which is crucial to working within the boundaries of Nick's autism. "Vicky is really very special. She's a lot of the reason that it has worked," Wayne acknowledges, also giving credit to the many volunteers dedicated to the Special Olympics programs and the dedication of the Denver Parks and Recreation staff and programs. "We had to take him out of team sports, and tennis gives Nick the social side of a team sport that is important." He also said that it forces Nick to stand in lines, and modulate himself.

Marilyn agrees with the progress Nick has made on the court. "When we first started the Parks and Rec program, Nick was not very social. He had no urge to be social and didn't want to play." But she said that slowly with time, Nick was developing skills. "Vicky didn't ignore him," giving her

hope of finding a leisure time activity that Nick would enjoy. "Nick always wants to go to tennis."

Describing Nick as "the cutest kid" when he started the program, Vicky warmly describes her long time student as "outgoing and happy. He just loves to be there with everyone." Vicky knew early on that it was going to take a unique approach to engage Nick. "You have to make sure that children like Nick are in Adaptive Tennis programs, because a traditional professional approach would not be successful."

She also credits Wayne and Marilyn for their extreme dedication to their son. "They never miss a practice and the consistency and commitment from the parents is so vital." She also uses rubber T-balls which have helped him contact the ball.

It's been a challenging but rewarding road for all of them since Nick touched his first racquet, but everyone agrees that he is a very strong hitter and his ground strokes are the best part of his tennis game. "Sometimes you have to be careful because Nick can hit the ball so hard!" Vicky jokes.

Nick has found many activities in addition to tennis that are an important part of his life. "I ski, bowl, swim, play tennis, and bike," said Nick. He also recently began track and field and hopes to join his high school track team this spring. Nick also participates in martial arts. Since starting biking, Nick learned to ride 6-10 miles on his bike. He and his family enjoy trips down the Platte River Trail. Nick says that of all the sports, his favorite one is skiing, which Wayne credits to the freedom Nick feels on the mountain.

"Nick takes a slope straight down," Wayne said, also crediting the Eldora Mountain Special Recreation Program. Nick is a strong skier, and can negotiate the hardest runs on the mountain.

Marilyn would love to see Nick progress to the point of being able to play games someday, "even if it's only for fifteen minutes at a time." She wants other parents of autistic children to learn from their experience with Nick and possibly give tennis a try in an adaptive sports program. "Parents need to have the guts to try everything, but to have the right expectations," she said.

"The joy is in seeing Nick learn new things, and he really likes being there," Wayne said. He said Vicky is a natural for working with Nick, a rare combination of ability and temperament. "I still can't believe someone like Vicky is willing to spend so much time volunteering. She's just a very special person." 🙏



Photo courtesy of the Eckerling Family

# julian HALL

## IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING

JULIAN HALL WASN'T SUPPOSED TO PLAY TENNIS. HE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO WALK AND TALK. IN FACT, DOCTORS DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO LIVE. FOR SOMEONE WHO WAS GIVEN NO HOPE FOR A FUTURE, JULIAN HAS PROVEN THAT THE IMPOSSIBLE IS ALWAYS IN REACH.

BY TOM FASANO

**C**harlotte Hall looks at her son, Julian, on the tennis court and can't help but be filled with pride and joy.

"To be able to see him out there playing when as an infant he wasn't even supposed to live ... now here he is playing tennis on the high school team, said Charlotte. "His spirit, in general, really made a difference."

Julian started playing tennis in 2003. The first year he played tennis at East High School in Denver, he won the award for most improved player in front of his cheering teammates at the year-end tennis banquet.

"It just looked interesting to me," said Julian, 19, who also plays basketball.

Julian said he's getting better at hitting the ball and learning new tennis skills. Not hitting the ball so hard is what Julian is trying to control.

"When I hit the ball so hard, it goes out," Julian said.

Julian said he plays tennis at City Park on Tuesdays in the summer.

"I'm going to be playing it for a long time," Julian said. "Tennis is fun for me now."

Julian had a stroke when he was 9 months old, and he's partially paralyzed on his right side. He had viral encephalitis following the stroke and was in a coma for a little while.

"First they said he wasn't going to live, and then they said he was just going to be a vegetable," Charlotte said. "He came out of that, and then they said he would never be able to walk or eat and he was able to overcome that as well."

Julian can't use his right hand at all, and has limited movement of his right leg. He was also diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma in March 2007, but he never gave up on tennis.

A silver medal winner at the Special Olympics National Games in Iowa last year, Julian also made an impact as a tennis player at East High School his junior and senior years. So much of a difference that Julian received the 2008 Outstanding Senior Award at East, and was one of only 34 seniors out of more than 400 students to receive the award.

"He played on the JV team and won one match," Charlotte said. "He held his own pretty well. He was just a natural at it. They kept him involved in all the matches. They didn't limit how many matches he played. Tennis really helped him feel more of a part of what was going on at school."

Vicky Matarazzo, the volunteer tennis director for Special Olympics Colorado, said tennis is so much more than a game for Julian and others in her program.

"The reason I ever started coaching Special Olympics tennis is that I thought I could use something that I was knowledgeable about and I could make a difference," said Matarazzo, a Special Olympics Colorado tennis coach for 15 years. "Somebody might say, 'Oh, it's just a game. It's just a little ball. It doesn't matter, but when you see the difference it makes in these people's lives, you can see that's it's not just a game for them. It's so much more. I can't even express it in words."

Julian is a lefthander who holds the ball and racquet in the same hand.

"I'm just quick with my left hand," Julian said.

Matarazzo said she is amazed at how he serves.

"I get angry serving sometimes and I have two hands, but he does it and he does it well," Matarazzo said. "He won a silver medal at the National Games in Iowa last year, and it wasn't easy for him. When the other players realized he can't run so much, guess what they make him do? Even the therapist said, 'Well, there isn't really much more we can do.' But, between tennis and basketball, Julian is doing fabulous. He moves better than he ever did before in his life."

Matarazzo said tennis is a life-altering sport for Julian.

"He played on the East High School team. I went to a couple of matches, and I think he taught that tennis team more than they learned in all four years of high school in my opinion," Matarazzo said. "Julian is determined, and always has a smile on his face. He doesn't get angry. He's just so happy to be there doing something he knows he can do."

Charlotte said tennis has filled her son with confidence.

"I think it gave him just a lot more confidence in believing in what he could do," Charlotte said. "To not having limitations, I think it really helped him in school as there were other classes that he took in school that I think he normally would not have taken, He took a regular gym class. He took ROTC and marched in a parade."

When Julian's on the tennis court, his body movements are taken to another level.

"Usually, he's not real steady on his feet, but the way he can move around that court really amazes us more than anything else," Charlotte said. ♻️



Photo courtesy of the Hall Family



# michael GILL

**D**esperate to feel like part of a team, 15 year-old Michael Gill has tried his hand at numerous sports. Despite Michael's enthusiasm for participating and his parents' efforts to get him on a team, the opportunity for an open door into an inclusive sports environment just never presented itself.

Born with a cleft-lip and cleft-palate, Michael has been through a lot of adversity. Unwelcome in other sports he has tried, Michael has had to keep trying to find ways to fit in.

But when his mom, Cathy, had a chance meeting with Pueblo tennis pro Phil Betancourt this past January, tennis suddenly found the Gills.

"Phil was welcoming and willing to put in the time with Michael even though I had explained to him that Michael had never played tennis before," said Cathy.

Betancourt is the Director of Tennis Mania, a non-profit organization founded 18 years ago that introduces tennis to kids in the Pueblo area. Nearly 200 kids went through the Tennis Mania program this summer. And Michael was one of them.

"I was actually surprised when my mom came to me with the idea to start playing tennis. She had met Phil, and thought I should play. I am glad she did," says Michael.

Cathy was equally surprised by Michael's enthusiasm, which was to jump at the opportunity.

Michael's first experience with tennis was a positive one. Betancourt saw something special in Michael and quickly profiled him as a kid who would respond to the one-on-one coaching that tennis allows. He also noticed right away that Michael enjoyed the autonomy of tennis and controlling his own improvements and outcomes.

"He loved tennis from the first time we had him out on the court. You could tell that he understood what he needed to work on and was committed to doing that. He liked that it was up to him," Betancourt observed.

Kerrie Burress, an Assistant Coach with Tennis Mania, adds "Tennis teaches you how to be a better person and deal with life. Michael got that right away. He has come out of his shell with the individual attention of the coaching. He appreciates the repetition of the drills for each stroke. From the start, Michael could maintain the necessary focus during the drills better than most kids and never complained."

Tennis provides ample opportunity for Michael to rely on himself for enjoyment and to achieve his goals while participating with others.

Betancourt also encouraged his mom and step-father, Loren, to play tennis with Michael outside of lesson time.

"Good family support is a key factor in making this sport work for Michael. He needed to have time on the court between lessons in order to make this a successful opportunity for him. His parents have devoted many hours on the court hitting with him as well," says Betancourt.

Of course, the extra time on the court has helped Loren really step up his game, too.

"My step-dad has gotten good at tennis too," says Michael. "He didn't play much before I started playing. Now he watches me at my lessons and when we hit together he knows what



Photos courtesy of the Gill Family and Tennis Mania

## A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

THE TENNIS COURT IS PROVING TO BE THE PERFECT ARENA FOR MICHAEL GILL, WHO HAS STRUGGLED TO FIND A PLACE TO FIT IN.

BY LINDA SARGENT WEGNER



Tennis is becoming a family affair for the Gills, now that Michael's step-father, Loren, is spending more time on the court.

to do."

Cathy has seen tremendous improvement in how Michael views himself as well.

"He is so happy on the court. He has found something that he loves to do and can push himself to improve at his own pace. Socially he has found people he feels comfortable with. Tennis is great for Michael."

According to Burress, "Michael seems much more at ease socially now and jokes around with us on the court. Maybe that is due to just having the time and opportunity during the lessons to get to know him, or maybe because he's finding he's got some talent for tennis over other sports and his confidence is boosted."

Burress adds that tennis provides a comfortable environment for Michael.

"The court is a safe place to show emotion, whether it's frustration when a ball doesn't go where you want it to go or sheer joy when a serve goes in just right. Each phase of Michael's improvement has led to what I can only describe as a prideful glow he exudes."

On top of his other interests – guitar, drama and video games – Michael will continue to play tennis at least once a week during the fall and as school allows. Michael will turn 16 in February and is at the perfect age and stage in his game to move forward with the next step in his tennis development, says Betancourt.

Soon, he will begin working with other kids on the court.

"Michael's outgoing nature will be a wonderful fit in working with the kids in the Tennis Mania program and share his excitement for a game he truly loves," says Betancourt, who has seen Michael's confidence grow and his personality come alive this year through tennis. 🎾

# david JENSEN

## A WHOLE NEW WORLD

FOR A VISUALLY CHALLENGED PLAYER, DAVID JENSEN'S VISION IS PERFECT WHEN IT COMES TO TENNIS.

BY TOM FASANO

**D**avid Jensen can't see out of his right eye, but his vision is perfect when it comes to the sport of tennis.

"I just step out on the court and the whole world changes," David said.

David, 18, of Denver can't imagine a day without tennis, whether he's playing, reading about the sport or watching it on television.

"It means staying in shape, staying healthy and it means that I'm free," David said.

David was born with epilepsy and developmental disabilities.

Tennis was the sport David played when he first started participating in Special Olympics after he had brain surgery in 2001 to help with his seizures, said David's mother, Mary.

"He had a bleed instead and so he came out of the surgery without vision in his right eye, and just partial vision in his left," Mary said. "He had to learn how to walk again, and how to sit up and how to do everything. We found out about Special Olympics and put him in tennis for the summer."

David said tennis means so much to him.

"First, I played basketball and that meant a lot to me, but then when I played tennis it just meant so much to me," David said. "It really helped me stretch and tone my muscles."

Mary said after the surgery she wasn't sure David would be able to track a tennis ball or hold a racquet. Vicky Matarazzo, the volunteer tennis director for Special Olympics Colorado, kept working with him.

"Being with his peers and being with people who didn't judge him made such a huge difference," Mary said. "He went from really having a lot of problems to being very self-confident. He plays tennis all the time. It's increased his physical skills. When he came out of surgery he couldn't balance. He couldn't do anything. Doing the tennis really helped him. Socially, physically, coordination-wise, it's just been an amazing journey."

Last summer, David went to the Nike Tennis Camp in Greeley, which was the first non-disabled camp he ever attended.

"He was just so determined to do that because he loved tennis so much that he just really made it happen," Mary said. "He also went to a Special Olympics tournament in Hilton Head (South Carolina)."

David said he learned much about the game at the Nike Tennis Camp.

"After that, I fell so in love with the sport, more than I ever did before. I learned more techniques to my overheads and my forehands," said David, whose favorite player is Rafael Nadal.

By his junior year in high school, David decided he wanted to try out for the tennis team at South High School in Denver.

At first, the coach was extremely skeptical about having David on the team. Mary pressed the issue, and David

went to practice every day. He wound up practicing with another special needs player, but wasn't encouraged to do drills or compete. Mary said her son just hung in there. In his senior year, Mary asked David if he wanted to go out for tennis again.

"He said, 'Mom, I love tennis. It doesn't matter what other people are doing on that court. I just want to play.' So, he went out for tennis again," Mary said. "By his senior year, he went to the coach and said, 'You know, you need to include me, and he became a part of the drills.'"

Mary said tennis is so important to David and has given him the self-confidence to overcome adults who were not supportive of him.

"Here's this kid with low vision and seizures and developmental disabilities, and he just goes out on the court and just loves it," Mary said. "He just plays the sport as the sport should be played. David has joined USTA because he wanted the magazine. The other day he figured out how to walk to the book store because he wanted to get tennis books."

Tennis has helped David in more ways than one.

"He doesn't really like to read, but he'll read tennis books and he'll read his tennis magazines," Mary said. "It's just an amazing thing to see, and he's just this great kid. If somebody is struggling on the court, he helps them. Now he's talking about getting into a tennis league in the fall because he says, 'I want to do this forever, mom.'"

Mary said her son keeps improving on the tennis court.

"You figure he's completely blind in his right eye, and he has an 80 percent visual deficit in his left," Mary said. "He just adapts. Can he see high lobs? No, but he sort of adjusts to how people are hitting them to try and figure out where they might end up even if he can't see them."

David, who is also a photographer, was a 2008 finalist for the John Lynch Superstar award, and he's won several gold medals in Special Olympics.

Matarazzo said David would play tennis 24/7 if he could.

"He started with me when he was about 8 years old," said Matarazzo, who has been working for Special Olympics Colorado for 15 years. "David is the most motivated young man. I coached high school for 13 years, and I've never seen the kind of motivation I see in this young man. Tennis has just made him believe in himself."

Matarazzo, who coaches her Special Olympics program on the courts at Mullen High School, said David's disabilities have never bothered him on the court.

"He never thinks of himself as having any disability. He just goes out and does anything he wants," Matarazzo said. "He just works at it. He does it all with the best attitude, always a smile on his face and never gets mad whether he wins or loses. He just wants to go out and play all the time, all the time, all the time. It's given him that extra confidence to know he could do something like this." 🙌



*David refuses to allow his visual deficits to hamper his on- and off-court activities. In 2008, David was a finalist for the John Lynch Superstar award, recognizing student-athletes in Colorado.*

# Julia KIRKLEN

## STARING DOWN TRAGEDY

TRAGEDY FOUND JULIA KIRKLEN AT A VERY YOUNG AGE, BUT RATHER THAN LETTING CIRCUMSTANCES DEFINE HER, SHE'S DETERMINED TO LIVE LIFE ON HER OWN TERMS.

BY KURT DESAUTELS

**S**pending an afternoon with 17-year-old Julia Kirklen is an invigorating experience.

She changes topics faster than Roger Federer changes angles in a stream-of-consciousness exhibition that can make your head spin. Topics range from boys to tennis to origami to school, frequently in the same sentence.

Quick to smile, Julia speaks fondly about her love of Japanese culture, especially for animé, a Japanese style of motion picture animation.

Her face lights up as she describes her involvement with the East High School drama club.

Her biggest smile, though, is reserved for Raimundo Astorga, a fellow player from Net Results Junior Tennis. "I think he's so cute," Julia gushes. "And he's a really good player."

That Julia comes across like a typical teenager is a testament to her resilience and tenacity. She was seven when her mom died of a drug overdose on Thanksgiving Day. With no father in the picture, she and her sister Juanita went to live with their grandmother.

"It was a bad neighborhood," recalls Julia. "There were lots of drugs and gang-bangers. We'd hear gunshots a lot, and we lived near this intersection that had car crashes almost every day. We'd hear the screech and wait for the crash, and think, 'uh, maybe we should call 911.'"

But Julia never fell into any of those traps, thanks to her grandmother.

"Nobody messed with me because they didn't want to mess with my grandma. They knew she was packin'."

Another positive influence – one that has taught discipline and focus – has been tennis.

While in 4th grade at Philips Elementary School, Julia was introduced to Net Results Junior Tennis, a non-profit after-school tennis and tutoring program and intensive summer camp that seeks to increase the life and academic skills of children through the sport of tennis. The interaction with so many new kids from different schools helped Julia find and make new friends. In addition to taking away some of the peer pressure and stress, Julia says that she started to learn things about herself.

"You really feel like you belong," she says smiling, adding that at first, she really wasn't fond of tennis. "I hated it," said Julia, but that was when I was really young. Now I love it."

The smile disappears as she describes the day her life was turned upside down again as a freshman at East High School.

"I had this weird dream about my grandma, and when I woke up, I knew something was wrong."

Julie walked across the hall to her grandmother's room, and opened the door.

"It was just so cold in there, I knew she was dead."

Her grandmother's death and a terrifying argument between Juanita and her boyfriend forced Julia to leave the house to stay with her closest friends, twins Annika and Rashida Jones. The arrangement became permanent when their dad, Donald – whom she calls "my Daddy" – became Julia's guardian during her sophomore year.

Julia, Annika and Rashida have been friends since their elementary school days. And although the twins now attend Denver School of Science and Technology, they all participate in Net Results programming. Along with another friend, Sheniqua Hammonds, the foursome spends a lot of time together on and

off the tennis court.

Whenever Julia finds the pressures of life mounting, she knows she can call on her friends to go play tennis and release some of that negative energy.

"Tennis is my outlet. It gives you something to do, especially when you find out that you're good at it."

But when things don't necessarily go her way, Julia confesses that she can get a bit angry on the court.

"What can I say, I'm very competitive and I like to win." She thinks for a second, then adds, "You can't win every match, though."

That inner fire is on display when she plays, says Paula Wolff, Executive Director for Net Results.

"Julia is one of the most tenacious players in our program, but once the point is over, they're gone."

Julia parlayed that competitive drive all the way to the USTA Junior Team Tennis State Championships this year, where her team nearly made the finals.

Wolff sees a parallel in the growth in Julia's tennis game and the changes to her personality through tennis. "Tennis has given Julia the support and encouragement she needs to become a smart, responsible and resilient young woman," says Wolff. "She is a tremendous competitor and works hard to improve her game. I think it also gives her a safe environment and a place where she can express herself and just be a teenager."

Harold Williams, a Physical Education teacher at Philips Elementary and a cornerstone of the Net Results program in the Park Hill neighborhood agrees.

"Tennis has taught Julia to be a fighter. She's had to deal with a lot in her life and tennis has shown her if you stick with something and fight it out, whether it be on the court or in life, you can be successful."

In addition to fueling that competitive drive, Julia likes to recruit new tennis players. She has introduced the game to her ex-boyfriend and has helped grow East's tennis team, which has a no-cut policy. This past summer, Julia worked as an assistant coach at the Net Results summer camp.

"It's fun to work with the little kids," Julia says, adding that she shows them "the light" by explaining how tennis and school are all about discipline. "Math is like my forehand. I have to work at it in order to make it work." ☺

*Thanks to the social and educational opportunities provided by Net Results, Julia has learned that, "Circumstances don't define a person, it's how you handle it."*



Photo by Kurt Desautels

Net Results Junior Tennis ([www.NETRESULTSONLINE.org](http://www.NETRESULTSONLINE.org)) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit serving low-income youth in Denver through an after-school tennis and tutoring program and intensive summer camp. Its goal is to increase the life and academic skills of children through tennis by forming lasting, positive and effective relationships with students who may not otherwise have access to tennis.

In addition to learning the skills needed to play tennis, students are taught important life skills such as discipline, good sportsmanship and respect on the courts while diverse topics such as literacy, responsibility, accountability, goal setting, listening skills, self-esteem activities and homework help are taught in the tutoring sessions. Net Results provides students with safe out-of-school experiences and positive adult role models as well as a consistent message that they can achieve success, set higher goals for themselves, make it through high school and continue on to higher education. This has always been the principal purpose of Net Results—to help students succeed in life by investing in their lives.

# buzzbuzz

## NOUNS IN THE NEWS

PEOPLE, PLACES & THINGS DOING THIS, THAT AND THE OTHER.

### Denver's Voelker a finalist at ITA National Summer Championships

William & Mary junior Ragini Acharya beat Denver's Mallory Voelker 6-4, 6-2 in the women's final of this year's Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) National Summer Championships presented by the USTA at Indiana University. In doing so, Acharya became the second woman to repeat as singles champion at this event since its inception in 1994.

The ITA National Summer Championships presented by the USTA are the pinnacle of the ITA Collegiate Summer Circuit, which was played at 26 regional sites throughout the country in July. More than 25,000 men and women have competed in circuit events since it began in 1993. This past summer, the University of Denver and the Air Force Academy hosted the first-ever summer circuit events in Colorado.

### Colorado players earn top-100 pre-season rankings

Several players with Colorado ties have made the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's Division I pre-season rankings. University of Texas sophomore Kellen Damico (Parker) slots in at No. 27 singles, while Boise State senior Clancy Shields comes into the fall season at No. 34. Mallory Voelker from Denver parlayed a strong summer circuit season (see above) into a No. 64 pre-season ranking. In doubles, Damico and partner Ed Corrie enter the fall season in the top-3, while Voelker and partner Julia Bauregger make an appearance at No. 27.

### Fort Collins' Romero earns trip to Washington DC

Fourteen year-old Gabe Romero was selected as one of the 40 boys and girls nationally to attend the week-long United States Tennis Association/National Junior Tennis League Tennis Leadership Camp in Washington D.C. He was one of two kids selected from the six-state Intermountain section. Those selected were chosen through an application process that took into consideration their tennis talent, sportsmanship, leadership skills and financial need.

"He's a good kid and certainly deserving of this award," said Dave Boon, director of First Serve Fort Collins.

Romero, who was born in Pueblo but has lived in Fort Collins most of his life, was among a number of kids who joined First Serve Fort Collins when Boon began the program in summer 2005.

"I just started hitting (in 2005), and it was fun," Romero said. "So I stuck with the program."

The goal of First Serve, though, isn't to turn out highly skilled tennis players. It's a program designed to teach young people life skills and healthy habits through tennis. First Serve and the National Junior Tennis League have helped Romero better himself as a person first and athlete second.

"Gabe has been a real pleasure to have in the First Serve program," Boon said. "He's

very respectful, helps out other kids, tries real hard. He's very coachable, has an amiable personality and is a very nice kid."

Boon said it hasn't always been easy. He said Romero let his grades slip some time ago, and they had a meeting to discuss the issue.

"He's working very hard on his grades now," Boon said. "He's a real scholar-athlete. He's working on being a good student first, a good football player second and a good tennis player third."

Said Romero: "I maintain a 3.8 (grade-point average) at Lincoln Junior High while doing all four sports. It keeps me pretty busy and keeps me out of trouble."

This will be Romero's second cross-country tennis trip; he went to the 2006 US Open in New York as part of a First Serve contingent. Romero also has attended a Rotary Club International youth leadership conference, serves as a United Way youth volunteer and has received several awards from the Larimer County Boys & Girls Club.

"Gabe's grown into a real leader," Boon said.

Romero said he was looking forward to the Washington trip. He'll play tennis 2-3 hours a day, but there's also time for such things as visits to the Capitol, International Spy Museum and Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and a nightly tour of the Lincoln, Jefferson, Vietnam, Korean and Iwo Jima monuments.

"I think it should be all-around fun," Romero said.

### Former University of Colorado Coach heads up India's Olympic bid

Former University of Colorado men's tennis coach and part-time Colorado resident, Scott Davidoff, was tapped as coach of the India Olympic tennis team for the Beijing Olympics.

Davidoff was a CU student-athlete from 1991-94 and head coach of the Buffaloes from 1997-2002. As a head coach, Davidoff was named Region V Coach of the Year by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) in 2002 and ranks fifth all-time in victories (57).

Davidoff had three players on his squad, former number one players and number one doubles team in the world Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes (losers in the quarterfinals to the eventual gold medalists, Roger Federer and Stanislas Wawrinka from Switzerland), as well as India's top female player and current top-100 player Sania Mirza.

Davidoff is currently full-time coach of Bhupathi and his doubles partner, former No. 1 player, Mark Knowles from the Bahamas.

### USTA names two Coloradans to World Team Championships squad

The nation's top tennis players in age groups from 35-80 will compete against 375 teams from 38 countries around the globe at the ITF World Team Championships, October 12-18 in Antalya, Turkey. Among the players selected are two Coloradans, Willie Dann of Denver and Susan Wright of Grand Junction.

The United States will be defending championships in six of the 19 divisions at the Men's and Women's Senior & Super-Senior Championships. The American teams finished 1st or 2nd in 12 of the 19 divisions last year.

Having played on six consecutive national Cup teams, Wright and her teammates will be striving to defend the championship they won in 2007, also played on the red clay courts in Antalya. In fact, the US has brought home the Bueno Cup four out of the past five years.

*Continued on page 14*



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**Crestmoor's Palmisano earns Hall of Honor distinction at UNM**

The University of New Mexico Alumni Lettermen's Association has inducted Crestmoor Community Association Director of Tennis Leanne Palmisano into the UNM Athletic Hall of Honor.

Palmisano has served as Director of Tennis at Crestmoor Community Association since 1989, where she develops and oversees all aspects of the tennis programming for a 350 family member club. For many years, she represented Colorado and the six-state Intermountain Section as a sectional travel coach for the region's top ranked juniors at USTA national tournaments. As site director and coach for Team Colorado, USTA Colorado's premier junior excellence program, Palmisano trained and coached the state's top-ranked junior players, helping them improve their national rankings.

Prior to taking on the position of Director of Tennis at Crestmoor, she served as head men's and women's tennis coach at the University of Denver, where she was named conference coach of the year three times, and advanced players to the NCAA Division II National Tennis Championships three years in a row.

As a collegiate player for the University of New Mexico (1982-85), Palmisano was ranked among the top 100 players in the nation in singles and doubles, and became the first female tennis player to advance to the NCAA Division I Tennis Championships. She competed on the professional women's tennis tour after college before moving from her native New Mexico to Denver.



**A Bart Scott sighting**

USTA Colorado Associate Executive Director Lisa Schaefer (left) and recent University of New Mexico Hall of Honor inductee Leanne Palmisano (right) flank former Colorado prep star Bart Scott. A UNM standout in the early 00s, Scott recently returned to Albuquerque to take a coaching job with the Lobos. For the last two seasons, Scott has been an assistant coach with the University of Oregon.

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## From BUZZ on page 12

Upon graduating from high school, Wright spent several years playing tennis on the pro tour. Since returning to competition in 2003 at the senior level, Susan has won eight national singles titles, 15 national doubles titles, and two Super Senior Father/Daughter national titles. Other accomplishments include: ITF Senior World Doubles Champion, 2005; Outstanding Female Player of the Year in Colorado, 2005; Sportswoman of Colorado Tennis, 2004. Wright is currently ranked No. 1 in the USTA national singles rankings and number two in the ITF world rankings for her age group.

Willie Dann is also a veteran of the World Team Championships, having played for the American Italia Cup squad (Men's 35) last year. Dann was the top-ranked doubles player in Colorado (2007), and a finalist at last year's USTA Grass Court Championships (M35). Earlier this summer, Dann captured the singles and doubles title at the USTA National Men's 35 Indoor Championships.

## Superior searching for Tennis Professional

The Town of Superior, Colorado is soliciting proposals from qualified contractors to serve as the tennis professional for the Town's highly successful outdoor year-round tennis program. The services specified within this Request For Proposals (RFP) are for a contractor to provide a full service program that will include: competent tennis instruction for all groups and levels of play, organization and promotion of United States Tennis Association (USTA) Leagues, Colorado Association of Recreational Athletics (CARA) Youth Leagues, tennis camps, youth and adult lessons, fitness tennis classes, private and semi-private lessons, tennis clinics, tournaments, etc. The Town will enter into an agreement with the successful candidate for a period of one (1) year with an option of renewing the agreement for up to four (4) years. Please go to the Town's website [www.TOWNOFSUPERIOR.com](http://www.TOWNOFSUPERIOR.com) and go to the link Bids, RFPs, RFQs for the proposal. For more information please contact Juanita Dominguez, Director of Parks, Recreation & Open Space at 303.554.9005. The proposal deadline date is October 22, 2008 at 3pm.

## Boys' State Championships slated for mid-October

Don't miss out on one of the best opportunities to catch the state's blossoming tennis talent in action at the 2008 Colorado High School Boys' 4A and 5A State Tennis Championships, scheduled for October 16-18 at Pueblo City Park (4A) and Gates Tennis Center (5A). Regional competition will be completed the previous weekend at sites around the state.

## Tournament players encouraged to review results online

USTA Colorado Player Development/Competitive Tennis Director Jason Colter reminds tournament players that it is important to review player records in order to make sure that the current standings are accurate prior to the end of the calendar year. Review points carefully and make sure that you are receiving the correct amount of points for each round played. Refer to page 38 of the 2008 BIG BOOK OF COLORADO TENNIS for a point breakdown. Also a reminder of the following:

### *NTRP Singles/Doubles*

Players accumulating a minimum of 150 points during the calendar year will earn a numerical ranking. Only a player's three best results at Colorado Sanctioned events will count towards a year-end ranking.

### *Seniors/Championship/Family Doubles*

Players accumulating a minimum of 100 points during the calendar year will earn a numerical ranking (two best results will apply to ranking).


### *Junior Satellite*

Players accumulating a minimum of 150 points during the calendar year will earn a numerical ranking (three best results will apply to ranking).

### *Junior Championship*

Players accumulating a minimum of 200 points during the calendar year will earn a numerical ranking (five best results will apply to ranking).

## Denver awarded National Parks and Rec Championship in 2012

Some of the best amateur tennis players from across the country will descend on the Mile High City for the 86th National Public Parks Tennis Championships (NPPTC) in July 2012. The annual event draws hundreds of players ranging in age from 10 year-olds to individuals in their 90s. With more than 70 percent of tennis being played on public courts, Denver Parks and Recreation and USTA Colorado realize the necessity of supporting and raising the awareness of public parks tennis. Gates Tennis Center, the largest public tennis facility in Denver, will host the event, with matches also slated to take place at City Park, Washington Park and Congress Park. Founded in 1923 by Dwight Davis, the namesake for the Davis Cup, the NPPTC gave individuals in the host cities, and others from throughout the US, the opportunity to compete for a national championship. Up until 1968, the winner of the Open division even gained entry to the US National Championships (now the US Open). 



**Senior Breakfast League Champions**

More than 200 seniors 55 and older took part in the USTA Colorado Senior Breakfast League summer session at Gates Tennis Center.

The 3.0/3.5 division champions included Brad Ridenour, Marian Sheldrake, Captain Bob Preston, June Twinam, and John Reiter (Carolyn Borus no pictured).

Throughout the year various divisions play at several tennis centers throughout the area. All USTA members age 55 and up are eligible to play in this fun league which emphasizes the fun and social aspect over the serious tennis game. New 16-week sessions run every four months, January-April, May-August, September-December. Registrations begin 60 days and close 30 days prior to the beginning of each session. For details call the USTA Colorado office at 303.695.4116.

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## Inaugural Celebrating Diversity Tennisfest a huge hit

The tennis courts at City Park in Denver were full of activity July 12-13 as kids and families joined USTA Colorado at the inaugural Celebrating Diversity Tennisfest in conjunction with the Denver Black Arts Festival.

Close to 150 people had fun receiving professional instruction and drilling on the free Arthur Ashe Games & Instruction Courts, with everybody walking away with goodie bags and prizes. Over 50 junior racquets were given away to budding young players to give immediate access to the sport to those who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to experience and pursue tennis. A tennis social for more experienced players raised money to support USTA Colorado's efforts to increase tennis programming and outreach in minority communities. Beyond the tennis courts, the message of tennis and health was clear to those attending the long-standing Denver Black Arts Festival as volunteers held up a tennis ball sign pointing families to the tennis courts. USTA Colorado is proud to be in the community partnering with such organizations as the Denver Black Arts Festival, promoting the message of inclusiveness and engaging more individuals in a fun and healthy lifetime activity.

Forty-one individuals volunteered their time and talents to make the first-year event a great success. It could not have been done without their involvement! Thanks also to our sponsors USTA Intermountain, Denver Parks & Recreation, and Coatings Inc. along with generous donations from Positive Strokes for Women, Little Caesar's Pizza, Qwest, Einstein Bagels, Prince, Babolat, Alpine Dental, Dr. Pam McClain, Starbucks, Tattered Cover Bookstore, Joe Turcotte and Continental Collections.

If you are interested in getting more involved with community outreach and events like this, we'd love to hear from you. Contact USTA Colorado at 303.695.4116.



Clockwise from top: Kim Farmer jumps into the drill line; Jon-Vic Yoder celebrates a winner; While fun was mandatory, tennis shoes were optional; (l-r) USTA Colorado Community Development Director Kristy Harris and volunteers Robin Nehls (Swansea Elementary), Angel Spivak and her daughter Valerie staff the tennis information booth.







Clockwise from top left:

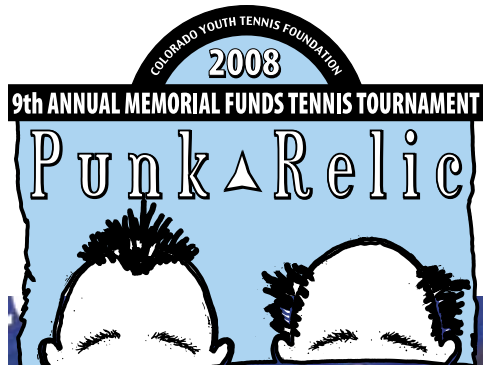
Instructors Terrell Rodriguez and James Martinez from Denver Parks and Rec provide some direction to participants; Thomas Reed puts a little extra tongue into his serve; Michael Blanchett is surrounded by boys from the Denver Hooperz, a local organization dedicated to helping inner-city youth achieve balance between their academic and athletic pursuits; Crowds line up to get information; Volunteers Tobias Ortegon (far left), Sonia Schwartz (center) and George Tavarez (back right) organize the troops.



# yourgame

## Annual Punk Relic raises funds for CYTF Memorial Funds

Another year, another full house for the Punk Relic, the annual doubles tournament benefiting the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation's Memorial Funds. The event pairs juniors (punks) and adults (relics) in a fun-filled day of tennis competition against teams of similar ability levels. This year's event was held at Gates Tennis Center on August 24, and raised much-needed dollars to help kids from under-served communities discover tennis.



Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation

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Ted & Tucker Baer

#### Woman/Girl Doubles Intermediate

Katherine Hatch & Kelsi Fichtner  
Mary Harter & Kelsi Clemmer

#### Woman/Girl Doubles Advanced

Heidi Trichler & Jessica Ingram  
Yerica Pessoa & Mira Ruder Hook

#### Mixed Doubles Intermediate

Jennifer & Daniel Wiener (pictured right)  
Joe Gallegos & Madison Griffin

#### Mixed Doubles Advanced

David & Katie Kuosman  
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## Candidate list grows for Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame

Each year, the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Selection Committee convenes to review the list of names of nominated candidates for selection into the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame. The group will be charged with selecting inductees from a slate of nominations based on judgment gained from general public perception of the candidate. Candidates are reviewed based on:

1. Outstanding contributions to the sport of tennis in Colorado;
2. Tennis playing achievements within Colorado or by a Coloradan outside the state;
3. Achievements in tennis coaching (high schools, college, etc.), or professional instruction of tennis at private or public facilities, within Colorado or by a Coloradan outside the state;
4. Achievements in tennis administration, the umpiring and refereeing of tennis, the reporting and publicizing of tennis, the directing of tennis tournaments or inventive and technological advancements in tennis either within Colorado or by a Coloradan outside the state;
5. Contributions of service to organized tennis including, but not limited to, philanthropic and volunteer activities within Colorado or by a Coloradan outside the state;
6. Considerations of tenure, maturity and residence will be factors.



Below is a complete listing of the nominees under consideration for the Class of 2008. The maximum number of candidates selected is five per year. Only a unanimous vote of the seven-member committee can induct additional members beyond the five.

The ninth class of inductees will be announced in the Winter 2008 issue of *Colorado Tennis* newspaper, and the tennis community will have the chance to formally recognize the 2008 class at the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala and Annual Awards Celebration slated for January 30, 2009.

The Gala is the premier celebration of tennis in Colorado. In addition to showcasing the inductees, USTA Colorado (Colorado Tennis Association) also presents its annual awards to people and organizations for their achievements and service. The event also serves as a fundraiser for the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation, a fundraising arm of the CTA that raises money in order to provide tennis opportunities to kids in need across Colorado. Mark your calendars for a wonderful and memorable event!

Although this year's Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame and CTA Annual Award nomination deadlines have passed, USTA Colorado encourages nominations annually. Selection criteria and nomination forms are available at [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com) or by calling the USTA Colorado office at 303/695-4116. You can also visit the USTA Colorado website to view the biographies of Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame members and past CTA Annual Award recipients.

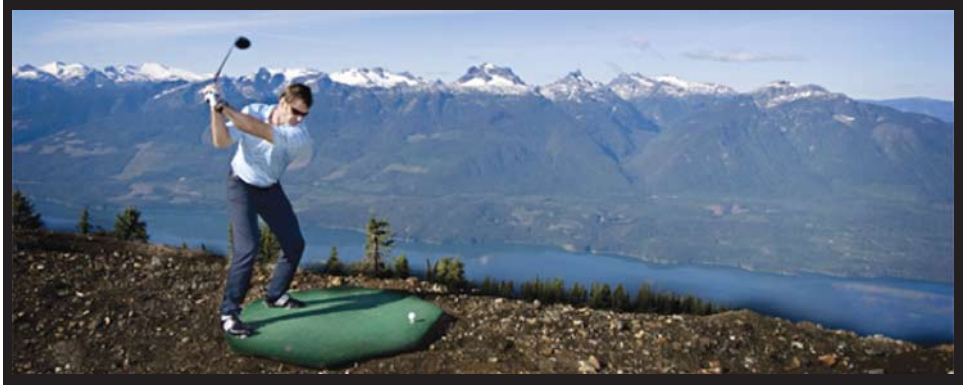
Public comment is welcome and must be received by October 6. Email the Selection Committee, [hof@coloradotennis.com](mailto:hof@coloradotennis.com) or write to Selection Committee, USTA Colorado, 3300 E Bayaud Ave, Suite 201, Denver, CO 80209.

### At-Large and Selection Committee Nominated Candidates:

Sara Anundsen	Scott Humphreys	Barb Eaton Pederson
Frank Adams	Vernon John	Jack Phelps
Clayton Benham	Rhona Kaczmarczyk	Jack Ponis
David Benson	Allen Kiel	Andy Potter
Rich Berman	Art Knott	David Ray
C.C. Bodam	Susan Knott	Alicia Salas
Charlie Brown	Katie Koontz	Diane Selke
Ira Brown	Laura Koury	Ted Swenson
Cliff Buchholz	Virginia Dunn Smith Kraut	Jack Terborg
Dorothy Bundy	Nicole Leimbach	Art Thomson
Maricaye Christensen	Larry Loeb	Thomas van Fleet
Paula Coulter	Jeff Loehr	Becky Varnum
Bobby Curtis	Mary Jane Metcalf	Brenda Vlasak
Clarence Dodge	Barbara Mueller	John Whistler
Charles Gates	Gardnar Mulloy	Dennis Winders
Steve Henson	Bill Oakes	Kent Woodard

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# thegame

**P**rofessional-level tennis returned to the Mile High City this July, as a handful of tennis hopefuls battled the heat and the high altitude to earn a share of the state's largest purse, \$25,000, at the Safeway Men's Open. Directed by local tennis pro and top-ranked player Cory Ross, the field of 32 was highlighted by top seed Michael Russell, who reached the round of 16 at Roland Garros back in 2001 and ranked as high as No. 60 in 2007. The main draw also featured several Colorado players, including last year's "Colorado Slam" champion Ross, former University of Denver coach Jeremy Wurtzman, University of Texas sophomore Kellen Damico, Inverness pro Peter Richman and former Pepperdine standout Richard Johnson from Fruita.

Wurtzman, Damico and Ross all made impressive runs, but fell to higher seeds in the quarterfinal round. The draw held to form until the semifinals, where former Clemson University doubles All-American Nathan Thompson (Maryland) upset Russell, 7-6, 6-1. Raven Klaasen, a product of South Africa, burned through his side of the draw without losing a set, then claimed the championship and the \$8,000 prize money when Thompson retired in the final. Klaasen continued his nice run the following weekend by winning the Decatur, IL Futures (F20) event.

In the doubles draw, Willie Dann and Lewis Miller showed why they are the top team in the state. Coming into the event, the pair was unseeded, but after upsetting the No. 4 seeds in lopsided fashion, Dann and Miller defeated the top-seeded pair of Klaasen and Thompson in the semifinals, then upended Sarstrand and Wurtzman, the two-seeds, in the final, earning \$4,000 for their effort.



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*Clockwise from top: South Africa's Raven Klaasen unloads on a backhand; Kellen Damico reacts to a missed return while sister, Krista, looks on; Nathan Thompson serves and volleys his way to the finals; Michael Russell lunges to retrieve a drop volley; Cory Ross tees off on a forehand; Peter Richman reaches for a return.*

Photos by Kurt Desautels/USTA Colorado

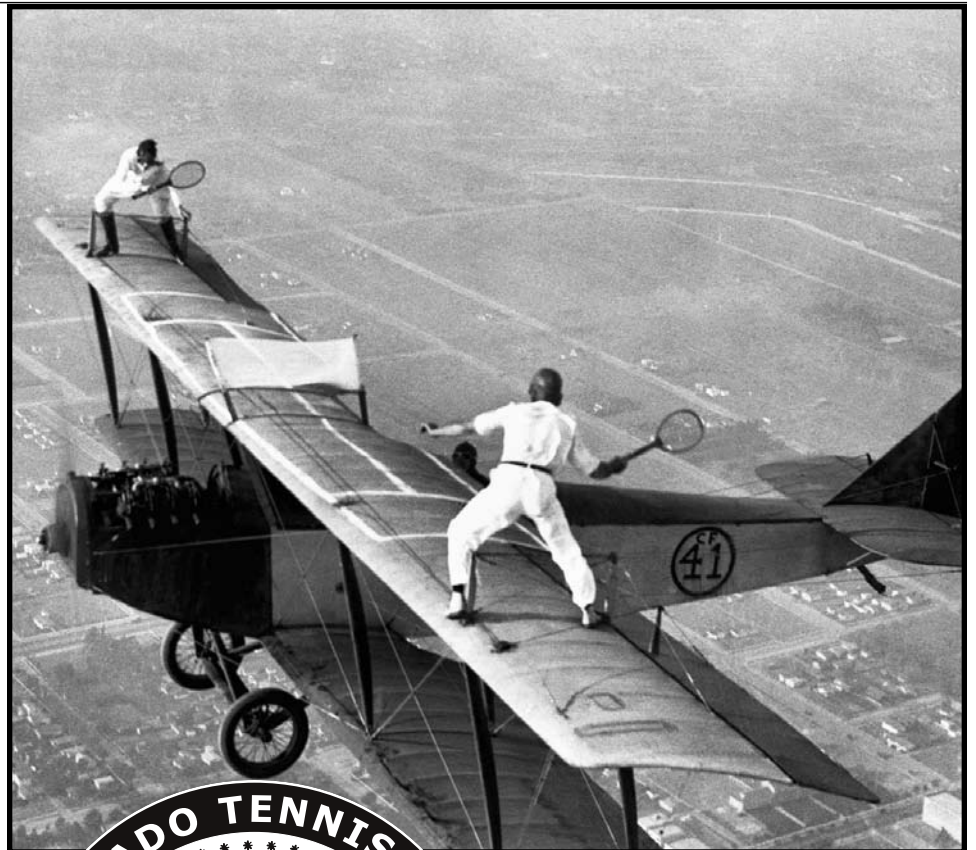
**Inverness welcomes inaugural Men's Safeway Open**

Colorado Athletic Club Inverness played host to the inaugural Men's Safeway Open in August. With a \$25,000 purse, the event welcomed an international field of players despite not being on the USTA calendar. The organizers of the event hope to change that in 2009, as plans are already underway for the second iteration of the event.

"Safeway was very pleased with the way the event went this year," said Randy Ross, Tournament Manager for the event. So much so, in fact, that Safeway has committed financially to the event for 2009, with the hope that the USTA will add it on the US Pro Series Challenger schedule.

"Safeway is very excited to help professional tennis return to Colorado," says Ross. "We're hoping that we can get a date on the USTA calendar so that this can become a mainstay on the Challenger circuit."

Amateur players competed in both the Men's 3.5 tournament, as well as in the Pro-Am Event leading up to the main draw.



Each year, USTA Colorado celebrates the tremendous efforts of players, benefactors, volunteers and organizations who have distinguished themselves through their dedication and commitment to the sport of tennis.

We invite you to join us at the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala on January 30, 2009, and help us welcome the newest class of Hall of Fame inductees and congratulate the 2008 Annual Award winners. Proceeds benefit the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation.

Ticket information will be available at [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com) and in the winter issue of Colorado Tennis newspaper.



# league tennis

## LEAGUE TENNIS RESULTS

Players, coaches, parents and relatives can find full adult and junior league tennis results and photos online at [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com). Click on the NEWS link and choose between the Adult and Junior photo gallery from the links at left.

### JUNIOR LEAGUES

#### 2008 JR TEAM TENNIS (REC TRACK)

G10 IB: Columbine Country Club  
 G12 Novice: Pinehurst Country Club  
 G12 IA: Highlands Ranch Community Assn.  
 G12 IB: Eaton High School  
 G14 Novice: Tennis Kids  
 G14 IA: Gates Tennis Center  
 G14 IB: Ranch Country Club  
 G18 IA: Windsor High School  
 G18 IB: Devils Thumb  
 G18 Advanced: Country Club of Colorado  
 B 10 IA: Colorado Springs Country Club  
 B 10 IB: Colorado Athletic Club Inverness  
 B12 IA: Club at Flying Horse  
 B12 IB: Superior Rock Creek  
 B12 Novice: Crestmoor Community Association  
 B14 Advanced: Ken Caryl  
 B14 IA: Country Club of Colorado  
 B14 IB: Boulder Park and Recreation  
 B18IA: Gates Tennis Center  
 B18 IB: Homestead in the Willow  
 B18 Advanced: Meadow Creek Tennis & Fitness

#### 2008 JR TEAM TENNIS (CHP TRACK)

18 Advanced: **Gates Tennis Center**  
 18 Intermediate: Mount Vernon Country Club

### ADULT LEAGUES

#### 2008 USTA MIXED

MXD 6.0: **Washington Park**  
 MXD 7.0: **North Jeffco**  
 MXD 8.0: **Longmont Tennis Association**  
 MXD 9.0: **Gates Tennis Center**  
**SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD WINNERS:**  
 Columbine Knolls (6.0)  
 Aurora Parks & Recreation (7.0)  
 River Valley Ranch (8.0)  
 Miramont Lifestyle Fitness (9.0)

#### 2008 USTA ADULT

W2.5: Pinery Country Club  
 W3.0: **Denver Country Club**  
 W3.5: Colorado Athletic Club Monaco  
 W4.0: **Grand Junction Indoor Tennis Center**  
 W4.5: **Broadmoor Tennis Club**  
 W5.0: Jewish Community Center  
*(Earned National Bid)*  
 W OPEN: Pinery Creek *(Earned National Bid)*  
 M2.5: **Miramont Lifestyle Fitness**  
 M3.0: **Woodmoor Pines Country Club**  
 M3.5: Thornton Tennis Association  
 M4.0: Gates Tennis Center  
 M4.5: Gates Tennis Center  
 M5.0: Meadow Creek *(District Champions)*  
 M5.0: **Arapahoe Tennis Club**  
**Sportsmanship Award Winners:**  
 Colorado Athletic Club Monaco (W4.5)  
 Miramont Lifestyle Fitness (M2.5)

**DENOTES SECTIONAL FINALIST**

**DENOTES SECTIONAL CHAMPION**

\*The USTA Senior League Sectional Championships take place September 19-21, 2008.

\*\*The USTA Super Senior Sectional Championship will take place in March 2009.

#### 2008 CTA WOMEN'S DAYTIME DOUBLES

W2.5: Highlands Ranch Community Association  
 W3.0: Broomfield Swim & Tennis  
 W3.5: North Jeffco  
 W4.0: Stonegate Village  
 W4.5: Greenwood Athletic Club  
**Sportsmanship Award Winners:**  
 Miramont Lifestyle Fitness (3.0)

#### 2008 USTA SENIOR\*

W3.0: Homestead Farm II  
 W3.5: Piney Creek  
 W4.0: Willow Creek  
 M3.0: South Suburban Holly  
 M3.5: Longmont Tennis Association  
 M4.0: Pikes Peak Community Tennis Association  
 M4.5: Gates Tennis Center  
**Sportsmanship Award Winners:**  
 Columbine Knolls (W4.0)  
 Grand Junction Tennis Club (M3.5)

#### 2008 USTA SUPER SENIOR\*\*

W6.0: North Jeffco  
 W7.0: Gates Tennis Center  
 W8.0: Vail  
 M6.0: Miramont Lifestyle Fitness  
 M7.0: Lewis Tennis  
 M8.0: Colorado Tennis Center  
**Sportsmanship Award Winners:**  
 Thornton Tennis Association (M6.0)  
 Gates Tennis Center (W8.0)

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It goes without saying - but we'll say it anyway - USTA Colorado is very fortunate to have as its hosts for the Colorado League Championships these exceptionally fine facilities:

**Arapahoe Tennis Club**  
**Clement Park**  
**Colorado Athletic Club Inverness**  
**Colorado Athletic Club Monaco**  
**Gates Tennis Center**  
**Holly Tennis Center**  
**Ken-Caryl Ranch House**  
**Pinehurst Country Club**  
**Redstone Park Tennis Center**

USTA Colorado also thanks the many volunteers, team captains, facility coordinators and team parents who work so hard to make the league seasons a success. Your continued involvement and dedication to the players make the adult and junior series one of the premier recreational tennis leagues in the nation.

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#### Features:

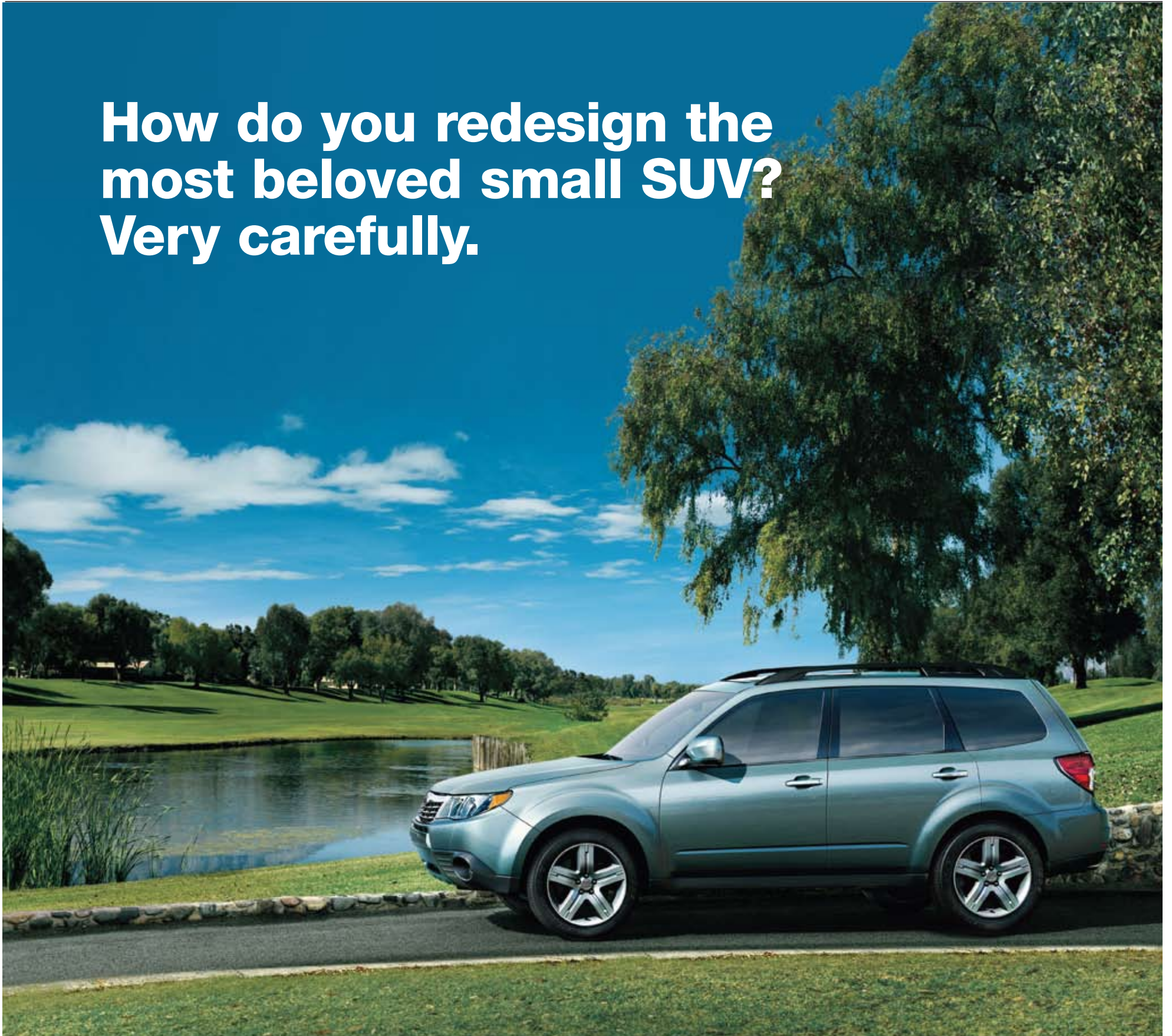
- Stylishly designed durable nylon case with custom embroidered cover and Velcro closure and hanging hook.
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# juniorcomp

## Team Colorado Viewing Day Set

The Team Colorado 12s Squad and Developmental Squad viewing day will take place on Sunday, October 5 from 11am-2pm at the Ken Caryl Ranch House. Girls will be on court from 11am-12:30pm and the boys from 12:30-2pm. Players are encouraged to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to their scheduled viewing time. Team Colorado coaches and administrators will be on-site to watch the kids play and answer any questions that you may have. Please contact Jason Colter, USTA Colorado Player Development Director, at [jason@coloradotennis.com](mailto:jason@coloradotennis.com).



Team Colorado is an elite junior training program designed to enhance the performance of the state's top players at Sectional and National tournaments. As a supplemental program, Team Colorado provides training opportunities above and beyond those received in a player's existing personal program. While each player's primary development takes place with his/her respective personal coach, the training regimen put together by Team Colorado is designed to supplement one's individual workout program.

Bringing Colorado's most talented 12 and under players together to practice and train with one another under the guidance of the state's top coaches and professionals will significantly benefit our players as they push each other to new heights. The stronger the practicing partners and coaching staff, the better our players will become. This translates into better results at sectional and national tournaments for our team.

## STAR SEARCH



INTERMOUNTAIN  
COLORADO

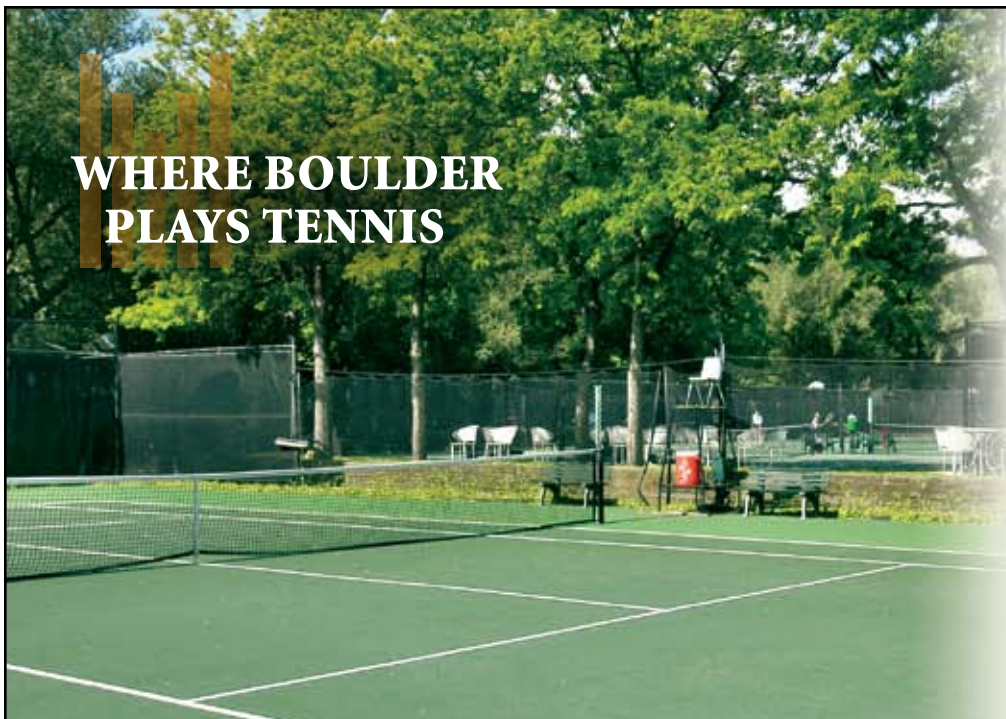
### 2008 Star Search Summer Program Roster

Congratulations to the following players for being selected to the Star Search Summer Program. Also, a special thank you to our outstanding and dedicated coaching staff: Frank Adams, Wayne Emerick, Tobias Ortegon and George Tavarez.

Ashia Shakira Ajani	Della Phan
Angel Avila	Maia Roberts
Ilijah Bailey	Colter Robinette
Quenten Balzer	Emily Robinette
Kelsi Fichtner	Haley Rogers
Madison Gallegos	Jordan Rogers
TaNisha Gosha	Anthony Sandoval
Carter Harrington	Vamsi Sentivhil
Asia Jones	Vignesh Sentivhil
Feruth Kidane	Adrianna Strode
Mikahl Kidane	Salina Trahan
David Kijak	Kacey Walisundara
Carter Logan	Samantha Walisundara
Marina Luna	Devin Ward
Roger Nakagawa	T'ngela Wilhite ★
Thomas Neto	Miles Yamasaki
Daniel Phan	Quentin Yamasaki



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\* Subject to availability. 2-night minimum and 10-day advance booking required.



# spotlight

## A REAL CHARACTER

BLESSED WITH TALENT AND CHARACTER, JESSIKA MOZIA LOOKS TO BE A FIXTURE IN A LOT OF TOURNAMENT FINALS IN THE FUTURE.

BY LINDA SARGENT WEGNER

**A**rising star with a light that truly shines from within, Jessika Mozia, is a delight to talk with. The 14-year-old from Littleton is in her freshman year at Colorado Academy and has a bright high school tennis career ahead of her. A driven competitor on the court and goal oriented young woman in every aspect of her life, she serves up tennis talent and personality in remarkable fashion.

Born into a tennis family (the Mozias were named Colorado Tennis Association Family of the Year in 2006) Jessika became fascinated by watching professional tennis on television at age 2. Soon she began accompanying her father, Pius, to the court to watch him play. At 6, Pius put a racquet in her hand, and she would then try to hit the ball. She remembers that she found it "interesting" to actually hit the ball and enjoyed it more and more. By 7, she started taking lessons and played a lot with her dad and brother, Matthew.

The first memory Jessika has of playing a formal match was during her first tournament at Greenwood Athletic Club. She was 8.

"I played in the 10s division and lost 6-0, 6-0 to another girl named Jessica. I was nervous, but I had fun," remembers Jessika with a smile.

She's come a long way since that first tournament experience. After reaching the doubles final at the Girls 14 National Open in Park City this past May, Jessika had a season she won't soon forget. She reached the consolation finals (G16) at the ITA Memorial Day Circuit (a Level 5 USTA National tournament), then won the Jon Cox Memorial (G16) the following weekend. At the Mountain Ocean Junior Open in Boulder, another Level 5 USTA National tournament. She entered both the 16s (garnering the No. 1 seed) and the 18s (unseeded). Jessika had a career highlight, capturing both titles without losing a single set, an incredible accomplishment and one for which she has worked hard and with a directed plan of attack.

According to Frank Adams, of Highlands Ranch Community Association and Jessika's coach, "We don't let her play up until she has achieved certain goals within her current age division. When a player does well at their own age level, they learn lessons. Jessika is eager to play up but is very goal oriented and understands that she has to learn certain things first."

It is a strategy that has worked well for Jessika.

"With her natural ability and innate grasp of tennis, she just knows how to open up the court," says Adams.

To compliment her natural abilities, a workout regimen



was introduced, designed and now managed by Adams, but is ultimately up to Jessika on the frequency and intensity. It includes a high performance workout on her core strength, speed and agility, then a cardio workout, followed by practices on the court.

"Jessika always decides what she wants to do to get to the next level of her game. She is driven and understands what she needs to do. It is up to her how much she wants to put into this sport. Not surprising, she gives this new workout regimen much of her time."

"I have seen a big difference in my game since starting these high performance workouts," states Jessika.

When asked what keeps her playing tennis, Jessika responds, "Accomplishing new things and having something to work on. I recently changed my grip, so now I am working on that."

Off the court she is striving to be less shy and to meet more people. At the National Level 2 Zonals tournament in Florida this summer, she made friends with many of the girls over the five-day event.

"It was a fun experience. We formed a real bond," Jessika said. "I would like to have more of that."

Jessika is at her best when she doesn't try to take on too much at one time. By her own admission, she operates better when she takes hold of a task, practices until she masters it, and then moves onto the next task. This approach is not limited to tennis. It encompasses her school work, the violin,

volleyball, and any other project she takes on.

Jessika's on-court success isn't limited to wins and losses, she has demonstrated remarkable integrity as well. This past summer at Zonals, Jessika was one point away from winning a match. Her opponent hit a ball that clipped Jessika – although no one could tell that it had hit her – and then sailed out. Everyone, including her opponent, thought Jessika had won the match. She explained the situation and correctly awarded her opponent the point. She wound up winning the match, as well as the admiration of many other players and coaches who voted to honor her with the tournament's Sportsmanship Award.

And if all the training and practice and playing didn't keep Jessika busy enough, she recently took coach Adams up on his offer to get involved with Wheelchair Tennis and the Special Olympics.


"When I asked Jessika if she'd like to participate in these organizations, she was willing and jumped right in," recalls Adams. "It only took her an hour to get the hang of how to play tennis in a wheelchair. She was then able to get on the court with wheelchair players and help me get them enjoying tennis."

Adams can't hide his joy at the opportunity to develop

this remarkable young lady as a player.

"Looking at a player, people can get caught up in the pure talent they exhibit," says Adams. "Jessika really exemplifies how important it is to have character. Talent without character doesn't really have a chance. Having both you can compete in tennis and in life. Jessika has both. The reward in working with Jessika is working with a real person. I am proud of what she has accomplished as a tennis player but even more so as a person."

Jessika's tournament season came to an unexpected early conclusion during the National Clay Court Championships in Florida. While hitting an overhead, she dislocated her kneecap and is currently rehabilitating the injury prior to volleyball season.

With aspirations to become a professional tennis player and a veterinarian, Jessika knows there's a lot of hard work ahead of her, both in sports and in school. Her advice for other kids: "Work for your goals. Strive for them. Keep pushing for them. All of your hard work will pay off. You will get your opportunities." 



# techtalk

## HAVING A BALL

WONDER WHAT ALL THE FUSS IS ABOUT WITH THE LATEST GENERATION OF NEW TENNIS BALLS? HERE'S A COUPLE YOU MAY HAVE SEEN, AND ONE WE BET YOU HAVEN'T!

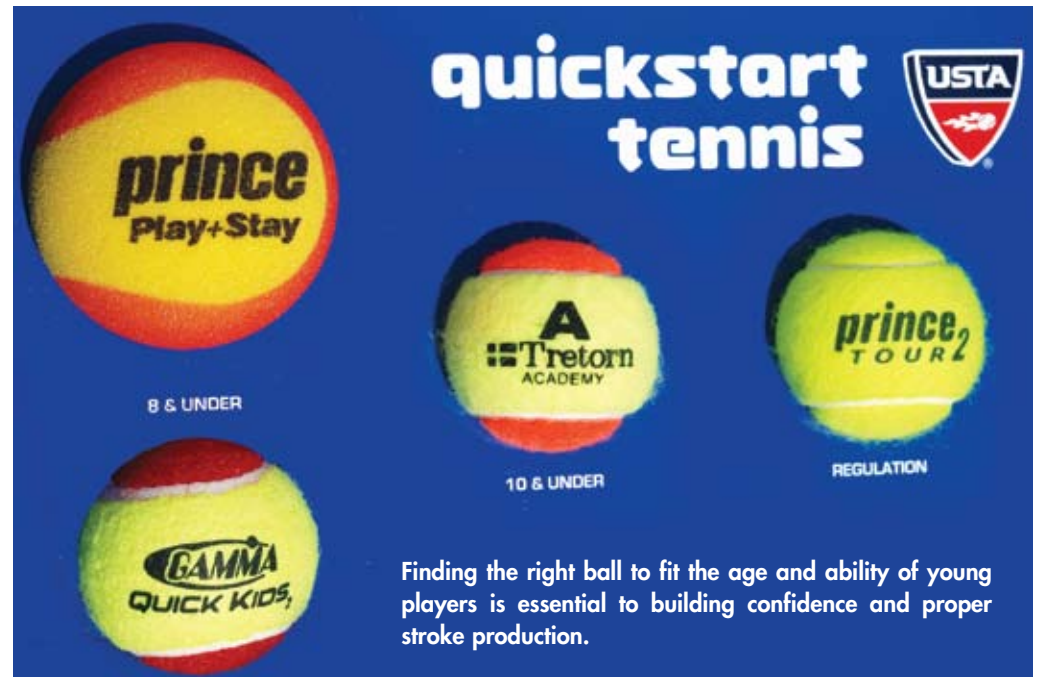
### SLOWING THE GAME DOWN

By now you've likely heard about QuickStart Tennis, the latest junior development initiative from the USTA and Tennis Industry Association. Launched in March 2008, QuickStart utilizes smaller courts and age- and size-appropriate equipment. Here's a quick look at the balls kids will use when playing the QuickStart format (there are several manufacturers making similar balls, check your local pro shop for the ones they carry).

For the youngest group (8 & Under), larger, softer balls help slow the game down and keep the rallies going. For beginners, the Prince Play+Stay foam ball offers exceptional visibility and super-slow play, helping the kids develop proper technique right from the start. Another good choice for younger kids is the Gamma QuickKids pressureless ball. Slightly larger than a traditional ball, and a bit faster than the foam ones, this ball helps kids make the transition to a faster game while building confidence with every shot.

Tretorn has a long and distinguished history in tennis, and the new training balls for 10 & Unders fit perfectly in the lineup of transition balls for QuickStart. This Tretorn is similar in size to a standard tennis ball, but doesn't have the same pop off the racquet, thereby allowing players to work on their strokes without sending the ball out of play with every swing. The game is slower, thereby allowing players to generate more spin and learn to build an all-court style requiring strategy and precision.

To find out more about QuickStart Tennis and the right equipment for your future Grand Slamers, go to [CONSUMERS.QUICKSTART.com](http://CONSUMERS.QUICKSTART.com). 🎾



### ARE YOU READY FOR SOFT TENNIS?

Soft Tennis is a strange animal. Sort of a cross between tennis and badminton, the game originated in Asia in the 1870s, played in a school setting as part of a physical education curriculum. Soft Tennis gained popularity and spread to a more mainstream audience, and has become the choice version of tennis for about 40% of players in Japan. A slower, more strategic version of the game, Soft Tennis emphasizes longer rallies and a focus on cardiovascular fitness, hand-eye coordination, ball placement and footwork.

The "soft" in Soft Tennis is the inflatable rubber ball. Unlike a standard felt-covered version, the pressure can be adjusted to accommodate faster speeds and greater spin, allowing players to tailor the game to suit their ability and training objectives. Its composition also makes it more difficult to generate as much force when hitting the ball, keeping the ball on the court.

The current popularity and growth of Soft Tennis is reflected in the creation of the International

Soft Tennis Federation and the World Soft Tennis Championships, which began in 1975 and have been held every four years since. The International Soft Tennis Federation has more than forty-five actively participating member countries/regions. In 1990, Soft Tennis became an official exhibition game at the OCA's Asian Game of Sports, and an official event, in 1994, at the Hiroshima Games. More importantly, there are a number of well-promoted and proactive campaigns to get Soft Tennis recognized by the International Olympic Committee as an official Olympic event.

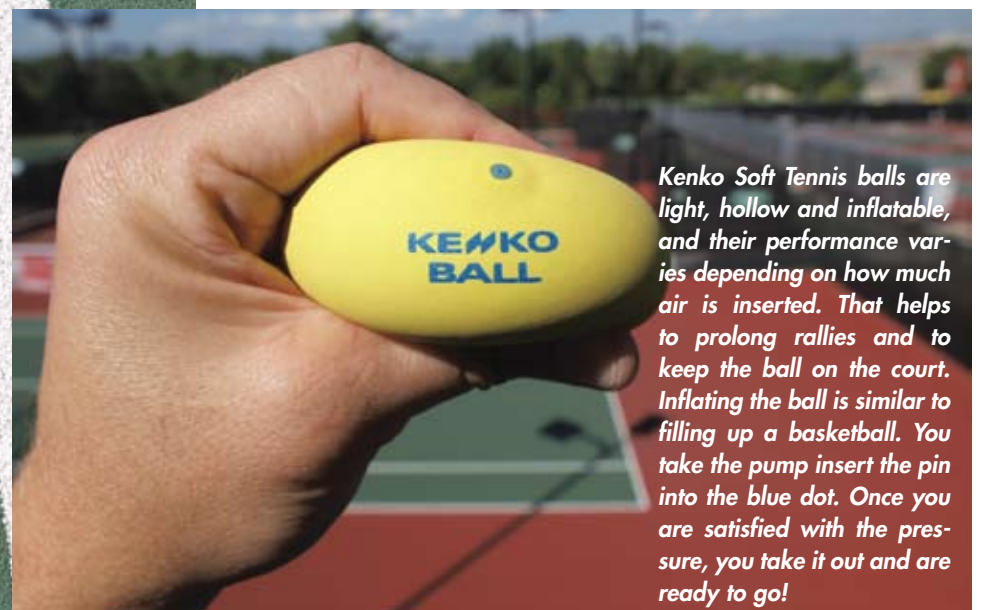
As a result of this increased recognition and interest in the game, Nagase Kenko Corporation, one of Japan's leading Soft Tennis product and sporting goods manufacturers, is now moving to launch Soft Tennis across the US and within other markets around the world.

*Continued on next page ►*



### ◀A closer look at the equipment

Soft Tennis racquets are very similar to those used for regular tennis because they have the same shape, length and material. However, there are several differences beginning with their lighter weight. While the strings of the racquet are made out of the same material, they're more flexible and have lower compression to meet the softer ball. The funny-looking pink thing is the ball pump.



*Kenko Soft Tennis balls are light, hollow and inflatable, and their performance varies depending on how much air is inserted. That helps to prolong rallies and to keep the ball on the court. Inflating the ball is similar to filling up a basketball. You take the pump insert the pin into the blue dot. Once you are satisfied with the pressure, you take it out and are ready to go!*

**Putting Soft Tennis through its paces**

After rigorous testing, and more than a thousand laughs, testers all had a positive reaction to the ball. Spin shots and extreme angles were marvels to behold (the ball "eggs" up when you hit with heavy spin, and guessing where and how far the ball would bounce became part of the challenge). The Soft Tennis ball doesn't fly nearly as far as a standard tennis ball, which enables players to really swing out on their groundstrokes. By controlling the amount of air in the ball, you can completely change how you need to play the game. Pump the ball way up, and you get a ball that plays closer to a standard ball. Deflate it a bit and watch how the game changes. Spin, angles and quick feet become essential as you'll find the entire court coming into play.

While few of the testers thought it translated well to traditional tennis, one tester who has undergone several shoulder surgeries thought the system would be great for rehabbing when you're not allowed to hit a standard tennis ball. All remarked at how confident you feel when you hit out on the ball, although the transition back to normal balls was a bit challenging for the first few minutes.

Although Kenko manufactures specific racquets for Soft Tennis, everyone who played with the ball felt more enthusiastic when playing with their own sticks. The extreme lightweight feel of the Soft Tennis racquets didn't win over many advanced testers, although some said they didn't mind the feel.

For kids, the Kenko ball acts quite differently than the balls introduced as a part of the QuickStart format. On the plus side, the Kenko ball has a slightly lower bounce (when properly inflated), resulting in more swings in the contact zone. On the negative side, rallying proved more of a challenge as off-center hits produced that tricky spin and ended the rally.

Whether you are looking to add something really unique to your training sessions, rehab a shoulder injury or just want to laugh out loud and have a great time, check out Soft Tennis. Find out more at [KENKOSOFTTENNIS.com](http://KENKOSOFTTENNIS.com).



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**New  
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**K3 GOES MILE HIGH**

Last summer, we told you about a new ball company that's making waves in Sections around the USTA, K3 Tennis. The founder and president, a former teaching professional and father of three tennis players, designed K3 tennis balls to answer the search for an affordable ball that was long lasting and precise-pressurized for match play. According to the company's website, K3 balls meet USTA and ITF standards for all levels (professional, adult, league, junior, etc.) of tournament play, are approved for USTA and ITF sanctioned tournaments. And according to reports, the balls will last 20-30% longer in a hopper versus other brands.

In our review, we informed players that K3 balls were not certified for league play due to regulations stipulating the mandatory use of a high altitude ball. With the introduction of the new high altitude ball, K3 is now approved for all levels of play in Colorado.

Our earlier review also indicated that K3 balls are hard to find. While not as widely circulated as the various lines of Prince and Wilson balls, K3 are starting to take up space on shelves, thanks large part due to their durability.

After hitting with the same can of K3 balls for more than a week, the ball is indeed very durable. While the ball has stiff initial feel, it's something you get used to fairly quickly, especially the very addicting "THWOCK" when you hit them cleanly.

One curiosity – K3 balls are slightly larger than Penn or Wilson balls. You'll notice the difference when you go to dump the balls out the can and they get stuck. Perhaps it is due to the thickness of the proprietary felt, or perhaps it is the size of the core.

If you're looking for a great playing ball that will still show some life after a three-setter, check out the new K3 High Altitude balls.



Find out more at [K3TENNIS.com](http://K3TENNIS.com)



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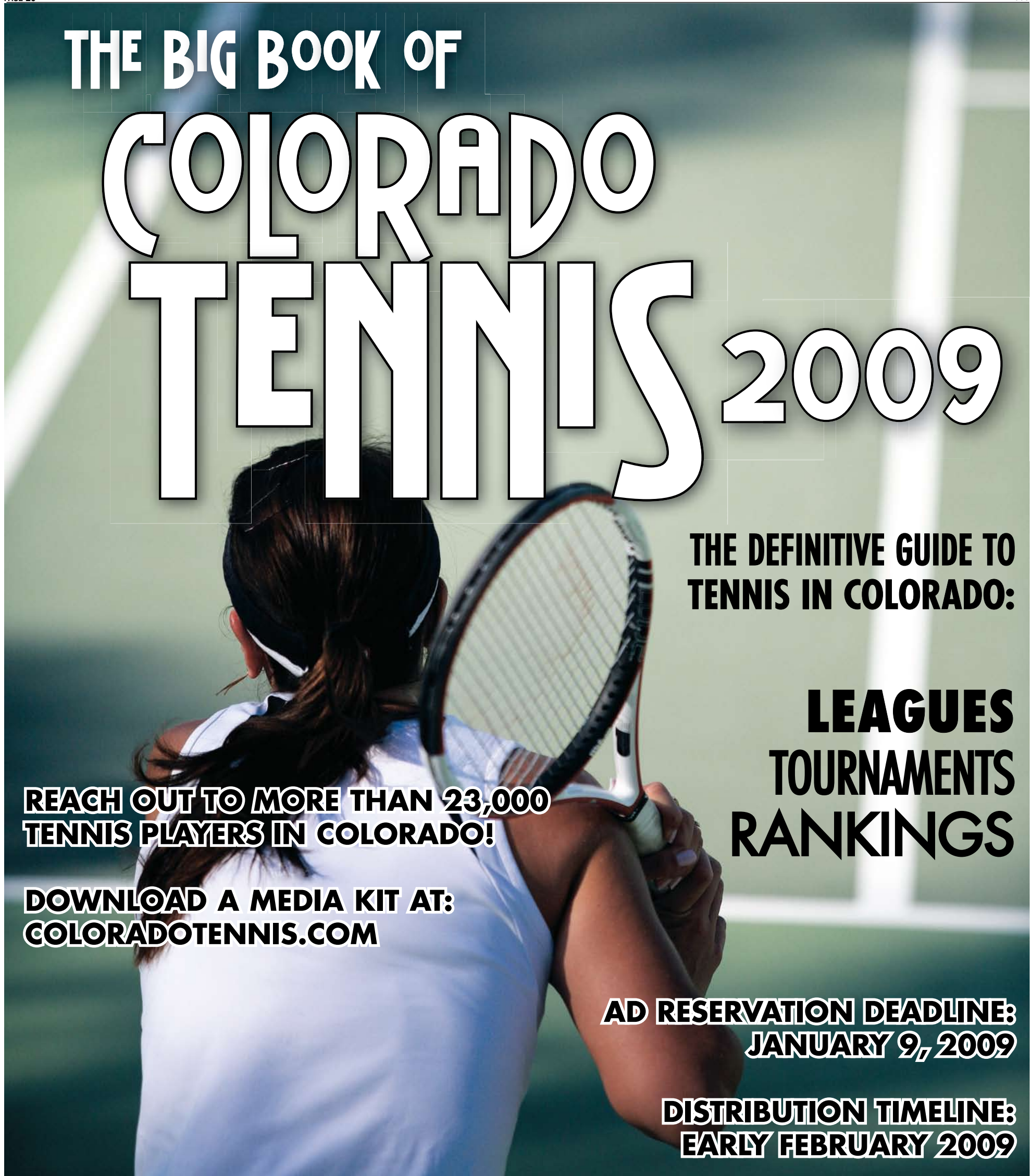
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# thebigchair

## NEWS FROM USTA COLORADO HEADQUARTERS

STATE OF THE DISTRICT

BY FRITZ GARGER, USTA COLORADO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Hall of Fame and CTA Annual Awards

While the Hall of Fame and Colorado Tennis Annual Awards Gala is months away (save the date on your calendar – January 30, 2009), our committees will begin their work reviewing the nominations for our Hall of Fame and Annual Awards. The deadline has passed for submitting names for the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame and '08 Annual Awards – inductees and winners will soon be posted on [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com). For the Hall of Fame, those who have been nominated in the past and not selected (see current list on page 25) will automatically be included in the review by the committee (nominations roll over each year). Another phase of the process we implemented several years ago is the solicitation of community input on the nominees (HOF and Awards). Our committees do their best to be as thorough as possible as they review the respective candidates, however, the input from the broader base of tennis players and administrators statewide is greatly appreciated. The Committees will not be meeting until the second or third week of October, so there is plenty of time for comment and input. Our goal is to have the highest level of integrity and character represented in our selections – your assistance in this is much appreciated. You can provide your input in whatever form is preferable for you and all comment and input will be treated with strict confidentiality.

The Gala as noted above is on January 30 at the Park Meadows Marriott – the home of last year's event. This is a big night for Colorado tennis and the evenings proceeds benefit the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation (CYTF). On that note, I would like to extend thanks to those who have conducted events on behalf of the CYTF and those who have participated in events that have benefited the Foundation this year. We are trying to provide more exposure for the Foundation as well as increase the amount of funding we receive each year. Youth sports (especially tennis) are important for the health and fitness of youngsters statewide.

### The QuickStart Format: essential for kids, great for older ages, too

At this year's USTA semi-annual meeting in New York, much of the discussion was centered on the relatively new QuickStart Tennis format. While the primary focus of this format is on youth, the concept can be applied for adults as well. On the youth side, USTA Colorado is interested in providing assistance to any facility interested in incorporating the innovative format for their junior programs. The format provides a win-win for everyone – literally. Facilities can accommodate more players on less space, the format enables players to pick up the sport much faster and with much greater success, and it benefits the entry level player as well as the more elite player (ages 5-10). QuickStart utilizes appropriate sized racquets, specific types of tennis balls to ensure an optimal contact zone, and smaller courts that make it easier for players to cover more ground during play. The effect of these equipment and court changes is to enable players to develop strategies and tactics that are either more challenging or not possible within a traditional tennis framework.

Building our Base – Statistics show that tennis retains junior players better than other leading youth sports (i.e. soccer, baseball) as they progress from the 5-7 year old divisions up through 16-18 year old categories. Tennis actually sees a continual upward trend in retention. However the number of participants in the early age divisions in the other sports (i.e. soccer and baseball) has a staggering lead over the number of youngsters who pick up tennis at those ages. Thus, the challenge for tennis is to attract and encourage more juniors to the sport and QuickStart is truly an amazing format to do just that. Players will have more fun, be more successful, play the game in a way that is far more representative of the game played by WTA and ATP pros – and given our current retention numbers – they will stay in the sport for years and years to come.

We can impact the health and fitness of not only our youth, but also adults and seniors. QuickStart is an easy fit for any entry-level player as well as those who are less mobile or who face challenges playing on a full-size tennis court and with traditional tennis equipment. It's not just a great way to learn the game, it's a great way to reintroduce the sport to players of all ages.

Contact our office for more information about QuickStart Tennis. Our hope and goal is to get more and more facilities (public and private) involved in offering this new format. ☺

## THE OFFICIAL KEYS OF MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE



Make a child's dream come true and get \$75 in free gas.

**2008 marks Subaru's fourth year as official vehicle of USTA Colorado. Over the years, the automaker's support has played a big part in our efforts to promote and grow tennis throughout the state.**

**This year Subaru will also donate \$200 to the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation for each car purchased by a USTA Colorado member. The CYTF is a fundraising arm of USTA Colorado that provides tennis opportunities to kids in need across Colorado.**

**"Subaru's support has meant so much to our association over the years, and their added dollars donated to the CYTF will go a long way in helping kids in need," said Fritz Garger, USTA Colorado and CYTF Executive Director. "This is an amazing opportunity for us. The Foundation receives so many requests from youngsters who need our help, and each Subaru donation will have a direct impact on these kids."**

**The first 20 car buyers will also receive a \$75 gas card as a token of appreciation which should help with a few trips to the pump.**

**To participate, buyers should contact Lisa at 303.695.4116 x201 or email [lisa@coloradotennis.com](mailto:lisa@coloradotennis.com) to receive a redemption form.**

**Purchases made through the first quarter 2008 VIP Offer do not qualify for the gas card, however \$200 will be donated to the CYTF by Subaru in the purchaser's honor.**



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ANSWERING THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF THE AGES  
WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO INTRODUCE YOUR CHILD TO TENNIS?

BY KURT DESAUTELS, COLORADO TENNIS EDITOR

**A**s the Director of Publications and Communications for USTA Colorado, I am frequently sought to offer sage advice on any number of tennis topics and non-related issues: identifying the state's top players, locating a good tennis pro, molecular physics and gun control.

But perhaps the greatest number of questions I field come from parents who are looking to start their child in tennis programming. Responding as a USTA lackey, I could list statistics about the growing obesity rate and a plethora of data demonstrating the importance of athletics to a developing young player's mind and body. A few chosen words about "self-awareness" and "integrity" and like Jerry Maguire in the living room, I could bring home the sales pitch.

But many parents have a hard time translating all this to their children, who would likely prefer to watch *SpongeBob SquarePants* or play a video game than go to a tennis lesson. I can unequivocally say that none of that statistical stuff matters to a kid. In fact, try sitting your child down to detail a physical education plan to help combat obesity and obesity-related illnesses and you'll quickly

discover how little their day care has taught them about the looming national health epidemic. Discuss with them the evidence, both scientific and anecdotal, about how sports can provide an opportunity for personal and spiritual growth and a lifetime of fitness and you'll likely begin questioning their inability to think in the abstract, causing you to ponder the true value of education these days.

So instead of encouraging you to memorize the stock Tennis Industry Association answer, I can share with you how I got my 4 year-old son excited about tennis.

One of the really exciting aspects of many youth sports is getting the uniform. Luke has played both t-ball and soccer, and at the first practice of each he got a team uniform. So to make tennis special, I went to the Outlet Mall and bought him a "tennis uniform" – consisting of a pair of tennis shoes and shorts. Total cost \$28. I bought him his own tennis balls, kid-sized and USTA approved. Total cost \$3.99 + tax. You can pick up a junior racquet at your local pro shop for less than \$30. Luke's weapon of choice for the first lesson was a Prince, although I suspect he's not too brand loyal at this stage.

After picking up the essential gear, I told him we were going to the backyard to swing our racquets. He sensed the legitimacy of the effort when he watched me put on my own "tennis uniform". We didn't hit any balls that day, but it gave him the sense that tennis was something special that we could do together.

It didn't take long before he couldn't wait to put his shoes on again and go swing racquets with dad in the backyard. When we showed up at Gates for his first lesson, he was so excited we could barely keep him from sprinting across the parking lot. He sat with rapt attention as Coach Kyle put the class through its initial paces, but faded a bit as 3-year-olds do. By the end of the lesson, Luke had learned a backhand stroke, had hit a few balls and picked a half dozen imaginary daisies from the adjacent court. And he was hooked.

So when parents ask me when is the right age to begin their child in tennis lessons, or how I convinced my kid to take lessons, I try not to delve too deeply into marketing-speak. Instead, I just give them my parental response: You're never too young to start



having fun on a tennis court, and be a fan of the game. If your child sees how much enthusiasm you have for the sport, and how much fun you have when you do tennis things together, then they will surely share your passion and interest. ☺

## Meanwhile, back at The Ranch...



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IT'S YOUR GAME™

### ABOUT USTA COLORADO

A District of the United States Tennis Association, USTA Colorado is the governing body of tennis in our state. We are one of six districts in the Intermountain Section, which includes Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming and Nevada.

Founded in 1955, USTA Colorado's mission is to grow tennis in our state. We do this in a number of ways. We provide grants to public and private groups who want to introduce tennis to their communities. We offer scholarships to players who seek to take their game to the next level. We coordinate adult league play for 25,000 participants across Colorado, and offer many recreational programs for junior players of all ages and abilities. We reach out to players of diverse cultural backgrounds, to mentally and physically challenged athletes, and to under-privileged communities across the state. Our sanctioned tournament schedule offers more than 130 events in 2008 for players of all ages and abilities, including opportunities for wheelchair athletes.

We are in the parks. We are in recreation centers and in private clubs. We are in schools helping physical education teachers introduce our kids to a game that they can play for a lifetime, keeping them fit and healthy.

We are 22,000 members strong, but our scope is not confined to those players alone. We represent the nearly 500,000 tennis players in our state, providing information and opportunities to play for each and every one of them. Our publications reach out to players around Colorado and in neighboring states. We strive to make tennis available to anyone who is interested in our sport – all ages, all abilities, all backgrounds.

We invite you to find out more about the lifetime sport of tennis. We will help you find a court, find a program, find a league or find a team. We will help you put the FUN back in FITNESS. So whether you want to learn to play tennis, get back into the sport, or just find more opportunities to play the game, we're here to help.

**GRASSROOTS TENNIS IS OUR GAME.  
 WE PLANT IT, GROW IT, AND NURTURE IT.  
 WE'RE USTA COLORADO.  
 IT'S TIME TO PLAY.**

# END OF SUMMER BLOW-OUT

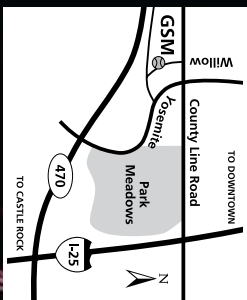
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