

COLORADO TENNIS

Year 34, Issue 4

The Official Publication Of Tennis Lovers

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FALL 2009



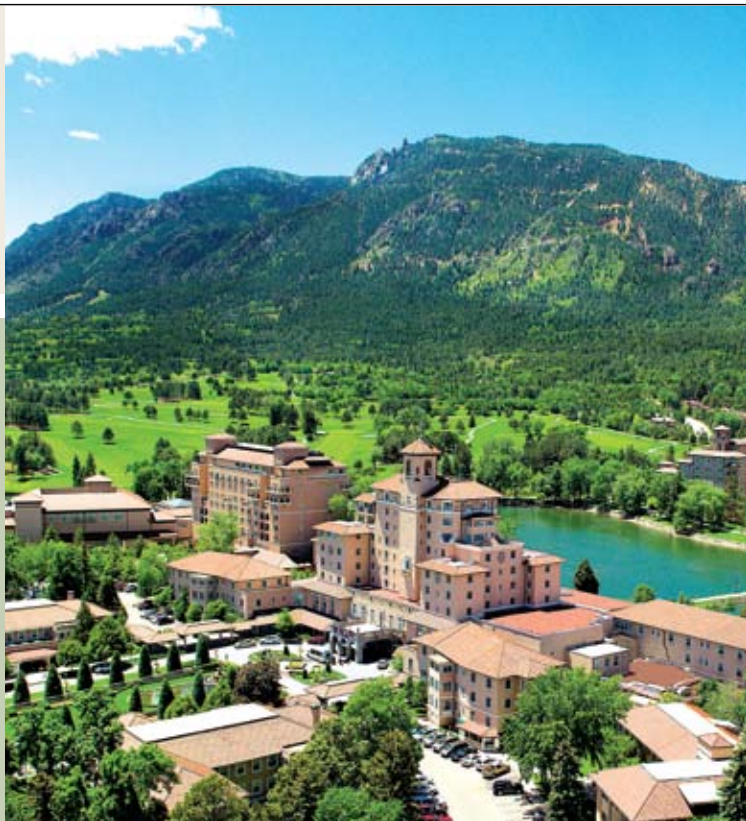
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About COLORADO TENNIS

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coverstory



HIGH FIVE

Since 1955, the Colorado Tennis Association/USTA Colorado has been more than just the governing body of tennis in our state.

Sure, we run your tennis leagues and answer your NTRP questions. We sanction tournaments and introduce tennis to kids. We help facilities across Colorado resurface their courts and we provide resources to programs who need financial help.

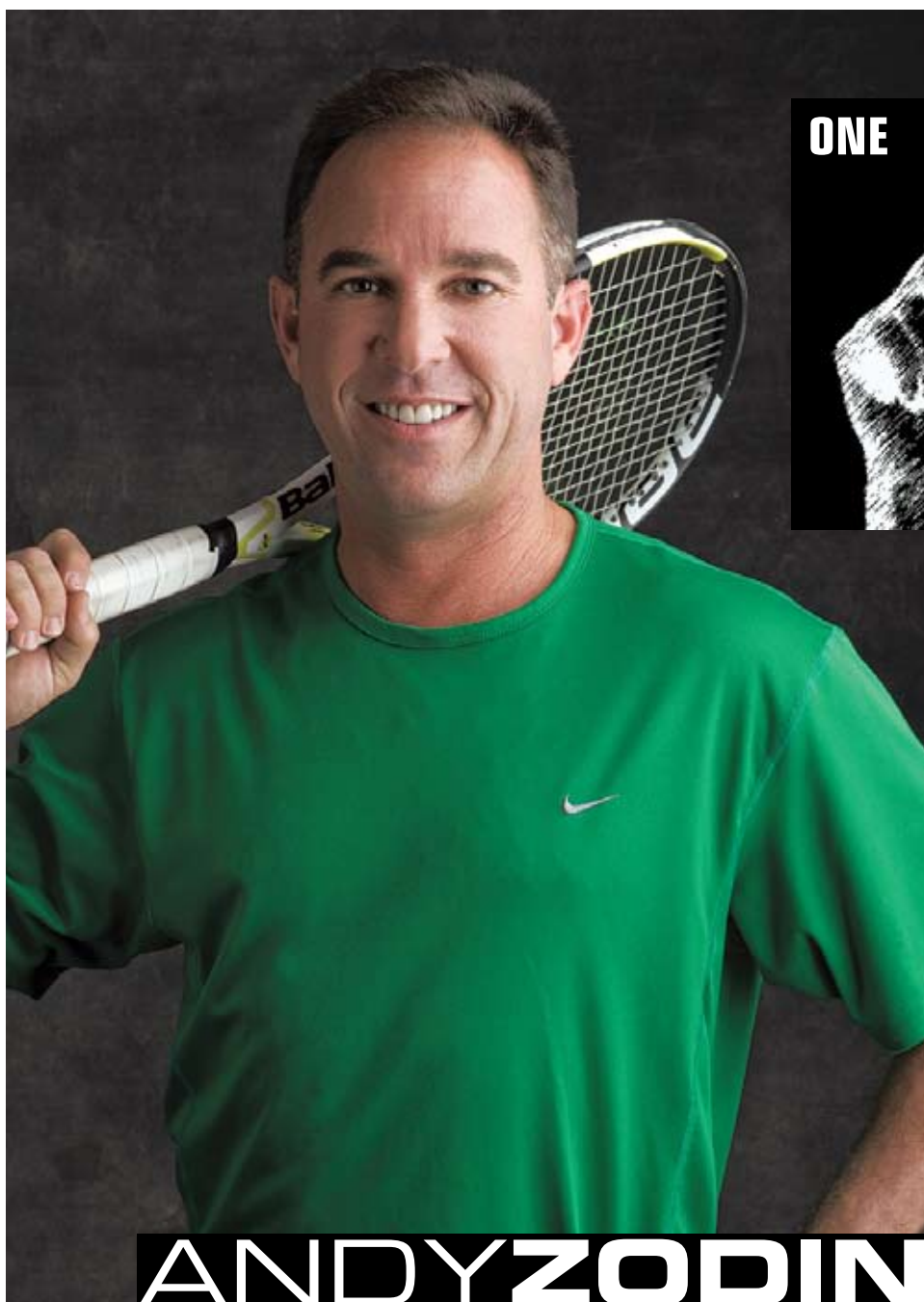
But we are also a group of passionate advocates who believe in the power of tennis to improve health, create opportunity, impart valuable life lessons and transform lives.

We are committed to growing the game across the state, but in order to fulfill our mission and truly make a long-term difference in the communities we serve, we need help.

To succeed, we need the help of other enthusiastic people in the tennis community who believe in the transformative influence of the sport. We need their zeal and their patience, their time and their energy.

Beginning in this issue, we're profiling people in the Colorado tennis community who do more than just play tennis. They are sharing their passion for the sport with others, helping to grow the tennis community. Some you will know, others will be fresh names and faces. But they all deserve a big **HIGHFIVE** for their efforts.

We encourage you to help us recognize others who you think they deserve special recognition. Email Kurt Desautels, COLORADO TENNIS Editor, at EDITOR@COLORADOTENNIS.com with your suggestions.



STORY BY TOM FASANO

Photo courtesy of Andy Zodin

ONE



For the good of tennis in this country, every state needs an Andy Zodin. It doesn't matter if Zodin is talking to a 10-year-old junior player or the legendary Martina Navratilova, he treats them as if they'd just won Wimbledon.

That's the beauty of having a man such as Zodin as a major mouthpiece for the sport of tennis in Colorado. Just call him Colorado's Voice of Tennis.

Zodin, 48, has only been a resident of Colorado for the past eight years after moving here from Houston, but he's already created a buzz from tennis fans throughout the state with his weekly radio show "In The Tennis Zone" every Sunday from 6-8 p.m. starting in mid-February through late September on Mile High Sports Radio, AM 1510 in Denver.

"We have Federer and we have Nadal and that's all good," Zodin said. "But tennis has to have guys and women who get in the trenches and create excitement where there wouldn't otherwise be excitement and make people feel important and make people feel recognized whether it's a kid going off to play Division I college tennis or a kid trying to win a tournament in the Special Olympics."

It's all about attracting a following, and Zodin certainly has done that.

"I want to make sure the guys that run the City Open and run the State Open come on the radio and talk to me about those endeavors, talk about the players who are coming out and help get sponsors for their events," Zodin said.

Zodin, a former walk-on tennis player for the University of Texas who lives in Lakewood, will be starting his third year of "In The Tennis Zone," in February.

The man loves to talk anything tennis. He's not the in-your-face sports talk radio host who seems to be the norm these days.

No, Zodin's smooth delivery and gracious approach on the air makes listeners want to come back for more tennis talk that hits on Colorado tennis all the way up to the professional ranks.

"It's pro tennis. It's college tennis. It's high school," Zodin said. "It's USTA Adult League tennis. It's everything in between. I try not to leave anything out. I just try and make sure the programming is entertaining, that it's relevant and recent and not too stale."

Zodin, who also does a football talk show on AM 1510 during the football season from 10 a.m.-noon Saturdays called, "In The Red Zone," with former Colorado Buffs and Denver Broncos linebacker Jashon Sykes, loves what he does and it shows.

When Zodin's not talking on the radio, he's the director of tennis at Green Gables Country Club in Lakewood and Lakeshore Athletic Club in Broomfield. He's been playing the sport most of his life, and can still serve more than 100 mph. Zodin, who is ranked in the top five in the 45s division in the state and plays in a 5.0 league, started taking tennis lessons in Dallas when he was 11. He has also been the assistant boys tennis coach at Mullen High School in Denver for the past four years.

How Zodin got his start on Denver radio is quite interesting.

"I was actually doing a little indoor teaching over at The Point Athletic Club, and I noticed that they had just gotten a bundle of Mile High Sports magazines delivered," Zodin said. "I was always considered in Houston to be what they kind of ended up referring to as the treadmill magazine writer like the ones that you pick up on your way going to a treadmill in a gym. I think it was Houston Health and Fitness, and I wrote tennis for them."

Zodin wanted to do the same thing for Mile High Sports magazine, and when he met with them it was shifted into a possible radio gig.

"I always watch (ESPN's) Mike and Mike in the Morning, and I always kind of thought it would be fun to do that," Zodin said. "I had other people say, 'You should have been a sportscaster.' I've always been wanting to kind of make some sort of a difference with respect to the tennis community wherever I was living, and I thought this was an opportunity to give people a lot of recognition that they don't normally get. I had a feeling that this would be pretty different and pretty well received, so I gave it a whirl and started to go on air."

The only radio background Zodin had was when he was occasionally asked to be a guest on a radio talk show to talk a little tennis, or driving in the car and being a regular caller on certain topics.

"As far as any kind of professional training or anything like that, this was going to be a from the hip can you do it kind of thing," Zodin said.

Zodin's wife, Sarah Zodin, a 4.5-rated player who also guests about once a month on the show and goes by the name of NTRP Queen, was a little leery about her new husband getting into the radio business simply because he had to find his own sponsors in order to put on the show.

"I was on the hook for a certain amount of money every week, but then I got all the advertising revenue," he said. "That evolved into more of a revenue share where I wasn't on the hook for any money anymore, and we would do a 50 percent split. I do have to make sure that there is an advertising base there to pay for that time. Pretty soon it became pretty clear that having the only tennis talk radio show was beneficial to the station and I like doing it. My wife is involved as well, so it's good for the two of us to be able to kind of do something together."





Photo courtesy of Middle Park Golf Team

KATE WALKER

STORY BY KATIE NEWELL

As is often true in life, true friends sometimes know us better than we know ourselves. So goes the story of tennis enthusiast Kate Walker, a Connecticut native who purchased a condo in Fraser strictly for an investment in the early 90s.

"I was just going to have some fun for the summer, but my co-workers were already saying their goodbyes," recalls Kate.

Those who had met her in Fraser before her move there knew it, too. She just belonged in the small Colorado town – a place where skiing, hiking and soaking in the beauty of the mountains were second nature to her.

Also second nature to Kate is tennis, who began playing tennis at the age of six with her parents in her hometown of New Canaan. Playing in the shadows of the young tennis elite and surrounded by nationally-ranked juniors, Kate became a great player, but unlike many of her teammates, she never burned out. After playing in high school, and then at Colby College in Maine, Kate's love of the sport only seemed to grow from all the competition. Perhaps more importantly, she always appreciated it for what it was – a sport that people of all ages could enjoy for life. She also discovered that it was a way for her to personally reach out and connect with others – especially teenagers.

Working with young people – both on and off the courts – has become Kate's passion. A school counselor by trade, Kate appreciates both the opportunities and difficulties faced by those growing up in small, tourist towns like Fraser.

"Many of the families run restaurants and ski shops and work in the evenings, so it is a challenge to get them to sports," she said.

While she also admits that having just two outdoor courts makes running programs difficult, she focuses on the opportunities, not the limitations. Fraser, population 927, offers an NJTL (see related story, page 15) program, occasional tournaments, and lessons for all ages, although she says her 5-8 year-olds find themselves on the courts the most often, using the QuickStart Tennis format. For the teens, most of the competition is limited to playing one another, but in a way she feels that's the beauty of it all. She's growing the sport of tennis in Fraser and hoping that grant money will eventually help her community build more courts, but for now she's treating tennis like a hobby. And there's true beauty in that.

"The kids root for one another, and share in each other's successes. It's playing the sport – just for fun!"

Besides being the high school counselor, Kate coaches the Middle Park High School Golf Team, which often consists of past tennis students.

"I'll tell them to chip the ball like they approached their drop shot," she jokes.

Because the high school has a total student body of 420, there are not enough kids to form a tennis team. Most of the kids get pulled to the sports like football and baseball eventually. But Kate knows that tennis has its place in the wonderful town of Fraser and she's glad to be able to give the residents the skills to enjoy the sport she's loved as long as she can remember.

"In a way, it's perfect," she admits, knowing the other extreme she witnessed with the competitive juniors in her childhood. "Tennis here is just for fun. It's a lifelong sport and I can encourage and connect with people through it." 🎾

ZODIN, CONTINUED

Sarah said Andy had to convince her that the show would work in the beginning.

"I think he had to fight me a little bit to keep it going at first. It was something where he was paying for air time at first, and I wasn't really excited about that," she said. "But to see what he's done with it. I've been playing some adult league tennis, and I'll have my opponents say, 'Oh my gosh, your husband does so much for the sport.' Did I think it would take off to the extent that it has?"

Sarah didn't think so because she said she tends to be a pessimist where her husband is the optimist.

"It's been real fun just to have him include me as part of his ride," Sarah said.

Zodin said there's definitely been a learning curve involved when it comes to the radio business.

"But I think from the feedback that I'm getting I'm pretty well received, and I've had tremendous support from USTA Colorado," he said. "The guests that I've been able to get have also added a lot toward the credibility for sure."

Zodin's biggest get was all-time great "Rocket" Rod Laver in the last show of the second season on Sept. 20. He's also interviewed superstars such as the aforementioned Navratilova, Billie Jean King, Rocket Rod Laver, Jim Courier, Brad Gilbert and Tony Trabert.

When Zodin was a teenager in Dallas, he was a ball boy during a Rod Laver match.

"Back when they had the WCT Finals in Dallas, I was a 13- or 14-year-old kid. I was a pretty good little junior player running around Dallas," Zodin recalled. "I was little and I was quick. I was ball-boy material, man. I was a ball boy for Laver versus Borg. I was ball boy for Ashe."

Zodin, who made a lot of contacts and knows a lot of people in the upper circles of tennis from his days in Dallas, Houston and Austin, strives to make the show the best he can and to be as diverse as he can in his tennis coverage.

"The goals are to be something that the tennis community is very proud of and has a very consistent following, and to promote and give recognition to people in the sport that don't





Photo courtesy of the Venner family

RAVEN CHAVEZ-MALTBY

STORY BY KURT DESAUTELS

STARS junior coach Raven Chavez-Maltby (far right) and lead coach Emily Venner stand across the net from their students during a workout this summer.

ZODIN, CONTINUED

necessarily get it as much as they should and to sort of blend coverage," said Zodin, who started with a one-hour show which has been increased to two hours. "I like the fact that in one segment I may be talking about Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, and in the next segment I'm talking about two 10-and-under girls that live in Denver. People get a chance to feel like they're sort of thrown in the mix with the best players of the sport in one program."

Zodin's achievement that he said he's most proud of in 2009 was running the Tennis with the Stars event on Aug. 29 at Gates Tennis Center to benefit the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation.

"We went from 28 players in 2008 to 85 players in 2009 and raised a significant amount of money for Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation," Zodin said. "Our headliners were Owen Davidson, Jeff Salzenstein, Scott Humphries and Cory Ross were the ones that played the professional exhibition at Gates that night. We had Mayor (John) Hickenlooper playing, the district attorney Mitch Morrissey, we had Jake Schroeder, the lead singer from Opie Gone Bad, Jim Benemann from Channel 4 News and Christine Chang from Channel 7 News all as the celebrities participating, as well as a real good cross section of good adult and junior players and pros from around town."

Respect is a word that belongs in the same sentence with Zodin, whether it's respecting the sport of tennis or the guests he has on his radio show.

"He has a very charming personality period. He has tremendous amount of respect for people," Sarah Zodin said. "He knows his guests. You can sit and have a conversation with him, and he'll tell you about a match in 2003 that he watched at the U.S. Open between Rafael Nadal and somebody when Rafael Nadal was not a big name. He has a memory that is just phenomenal, and he's very gracious and he's very respectful. You can tell his respect for the game, and the accomplishments of the people in the game. It's all about that one word, and that is respect."

Colorado's Voice of Tennis certainly has earned it. 🙌

Raven Chavez-Maltby wasn't born with a racquet in his hand, but it might be hard to convince you otherwise. The 12-year-old 7th grader at Holmes Middle School in Colorado Springs has spent the last four summers attending the STARS summer camp at Memorial Park Tennis Center, and this year he was given the chance to become a Junior Coach – an opportunity to allow him to mentor and teach the younger kids who are new to the program.

"It's really awesome," says Raven, whose enthusiasm seems to spill out of him in buckets. "So far, I'm just teaching forehands and backhands and how to hold the racquet, but it makes me feel really good to be able to teach the littler kids how to play tennis."

Raven's father, Jeffrey Maltby, has seen a tremendous difference in his son's confidence and determination. "Raven gets better every year," Jeffrey says. "But now that he has the chance to help the little ones learn tennis, I can really see how much he's maturing. He's very determined, and I'm very grateful and appreciative of what the program has given him."

All this might not have been possible, were it not for Penny Young, who conducted a tennis demonstration at Raven's school, Helen Hunt Elementary, nearly four years ago. Ever since, he's been hooked. "It's an awesome sport!" he says.

STARS Tennis teaches low-income youth basic tennis skills in a fun atmosphere, using drills to teach sportsmanship, mutual respect, and how to work hard and have fun. The players have a blast, become empowered with a lifelong skill, and have a racquet and fun memories to keep.

It was Penny's son, Matt, who started the program 14 years ago, when he himself was just a 14-year-old freshman at Cheyenne Mountain High School. He wanted to do something to share his love of the sport, so he took it upon himself to mentor as many kids as he could find who were interested in playing tennis. That first year, Matt had one student. Soon the word spread, and more kids from the surrounding neighborhoods wanted to play. The next summer, there were so many kids, Matt recruited his brother Brad, and fellow Cheyenne Mountain teammates to help him coach. Today, the program incorporates 50 players, and nearly 30 coaches (boys and girls) from Cheyenne Mountain, Air Academy, Palmer, Colorado Springs School, Lewis Palmer, Doherty and Pine Creek schools.

"The coaches – all students themselves – make all the decisions: they write grant applications and thank-you notes, organize the schedule and instruction, make all the arrangements (for court time, racquets, balls, etc.) and bring refreshments," says Brad. "Matt started this tradition, it's a culture of students being in charge."

This is the first year that STARS has offered a Junior Coach program, whereby former and current students of the program get the opportunity to help mentor and coach the incoming groups.

Most of the kids who attend the Sunday program, which runs May through August, live near the park. According to Jeffrey Maltby, it's an area that sees a lot of single-parent households. "Most of these kids have just their mom, or their dad, at home. I bet 60-70% of these kids wouldn't be involved in tennis at all if it weren't for STARS."

The coaches volunteer to participate in STARS because they all love tennis and have fun sharing their sport. "It's great community service and a way to give back to the community," says Brad. "The real reward, though, has been seeing the joy, pride and absolute fun the kids experience. Our biggest reward can't be measured."

The coaches become mentors and role models for their players, gain important insight into a different world, and have fun, meaningful memories to keep.

Raven has every intention of returning next summer, improving his game and taking a more active role in STARS. In a few years, he plans to become a lead coach.

"I think it's great. It'll be really fun." 🙌



Eric Larson, Physical Education Coordinator for Denver Public Schools, watches Swansea Elementary students participating in a recent physical education class.

ERIC LARSON

STORY AND PHOTO BY DENNIS HUSPENI

For Eric Larson, a summer activity as a child blossomed into a lifelong love of tennis. Now the children of the Denver Public Schools are reaping the benefits of Larson's passion for the game. Larson, physical education coordinator for the district, has worked hard in his seven years in that position to put a racquet in as many elementary and middle school students' hands as possible.

"Most schools have no access to tennis courts," Larson said. "That, coupled with the cost, can discourage some from teaching it."

So Larson tapped into the resources offered by USTA Colorado. He got PE teachers into free workshops on how to teach tennis. He started building a cache of USTA-donated racquets, portable nets and balls for teachers to check out for tennis units.

"Tennis fits into our fitness standards. It also fits into our skills standards," he said. "It can become a lifetime sport and lifetime activity – all of which fit into our physical education standards."

Larson started playing at 8-years-old when his parents signed him up for a parks and recreation program at Berkeley Park in northwest Denver.

"My parents introduced me to tennis and it just grew into a lifelong love," he said.

All three of Larson's children played tennis for Wheat Ridge High school – his son is still a student there. And to this day, Larson and his three children – his daughters are now 27 and 20 – still play doubles matches together.

Before becoming the district coordinator, he was the PE teacher for 17 years at Montclair Elementary.

"As a teacher, I always included tennis as one of the units I taught," Larson said. "I made sure each kid had a racquet and a ball."

Though the tennis courts were across the street from the school, Larson would teach the students "mini games" on the blacktop. The school's Parent Teacher Association bought the racquets, used by children as young as kindergarten and first grade.

"The kids loved it. They all were busy because they each had a racquet," he said.

With the USTA's help, Larson is trying to spread that love of the game to as many of the districts' 75,269 students as possible. Though the program started small, he estimates almost half of the districts' 102 elementary and middle schools now offer tennis.

Robin Nehls, the PE teacher for Swansea Elementary, said she took the workshop a couple of years ago and has used the districts' equipment for a summer recreation program. She hopes to introduce a tennis unit soon.

"There was one boy from the program I saw recently, who is now in middle school," Nehls said. "He is still really excited about tennis."

Introducing tennis to young children helps break down the inaccurate stereotype that the sport is only for the wealthy, says Larson.

"We have a pretty diverse population and not a lot of kids get a chance to experience tennis," Larson said. "Some kids, if they didn't play with a racquet in physical education, might never to get a chance to experience it." 🏸

A fixture in the Boulder tennis community for more than a decade, Sue Burke possesses an infectious laugh and an unrivaled passion for tennis that just can't be contained.

Sue grew up in the township of Cherry Hill in southern New Jersey, not far from the Philadelphia border. She learned to play tennis by hitting countless balls against the walls of her school with a racquet she bought from the local department store. But her tennis career might have never gotten off the ground if the custodians at Cherry Hill East High School had discovered her secret. When winter came, Sue would surreptitiously unlock one of the school's windows, only to return later that night, open the window, and crawl inside. The heated spaces inside the school – and more importantly the vast expanse of wall space – would become her training ground during the long cold winters.

"I grew up with relatively little money," Sue recalls. "We didn't have enough to hire a coach, or to afford lessons at an indoor club, so I just made the best of it."

Sue parlayed those self-directed training sessions to a spot on the Rutgers tennis team, and later to the women's pro tour, both as a player and a coach. But her lengthy tennis career only tells part of Sue's remarkable story.

Six years ago, Sue was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS), a debilitating neurological disease that affects the central nervous system.

"My first thought," recall Sue, "was, oh my God, what if I can never hit a volley again?"

She says she "ran away" from the disease, competing in marathons and pushing her body as far as she could, just to prove that it was still working and to raise money for college scholarships for youth affected by MS. It's been six years since she was diagnosed, but Sue continues to defy the effects of the disease. While MS has presented some physical challenges, it has done nothing to dampen her determination to help introduce others to tennis.

"Billie Jean is an inspiration to me. She challenged me by asking, 'What legacy will you leave?' I try to live up to that challenge every day, by sharing my passion for tennis, especially with kids."

Growing up without a lot of resources or support, Sue faced self-esteem issues at tournaments – she had to play one high school state tournament match with broken strings – feeling as though she didn't belong in the sport. "It's hard to feel good about yourself when you come with the wrong equipment and clothing, and your opponent shows up with six racquets and fancy outfits."

A few years back, Sue met with Reebok, who had been a personal sponsor of hers for many years. Her goal was to encourage the company to launch the Denver Reebok Urban Youth Tennis Academy, which provides disadvantaged children (7-18) from Denver's inner city with the opportunity to receive high performance training for competitive tennis. Up to 56 players are selected for the program annually in mid-September through tryouts at Denver's City Park. In addition to training, players receive clothing, equipment support, and supplemental entry fees. Players are encouraged to play in local tournaments, high school and USTA sanctioned events with the hope that some players will have the opportunity to obtain collegiate tennis scholarships.

Sue recognizes that she still has the physical capabilities to raise money through various athletic endeavors, as well as continue to be a role model to the many kids she works with.

"Tennis maintains those neurological pathways that allow me to continue to move around and be athletic," Sue says. "I think I can still be a role model through my work ethic and my determination, so that's what I'll continue to do."

Sue's efforts to help open doors for kids in underserved communities earned her a USPTA Industry Excellence Award in 2007. In addition to helping raise funds and introduce tennis to hundreds of disadvantaged kids through the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver, I Have A Dream Foundation of Boulder and the Open Door Youth Gang Alternative program, she helped to create the tennis curriculum for the 9Health Fair in the Classroom, which reach dozens of local communities and schools across the state.

Today, Sue spends her time running her company, Fitness Innovation and Tennis (F.I.T.), which takes a whole body approach to the athlete. She's also on the Colorado Governor's Council for Physical Fitness, helping to promote the many health benefits of tennis.

She's also been instrumental in helping to raise the necessary funds to build Colorado's first permanent QuickStart facility at El Dorado K-8 School in Superior. Sue and Lisa Christie, her partner in F.I.T., have been working to reconfigure the two dilapidated courts at the school to include four 18x36-foot QuickStart courts, as well as one full-size court painted with 60-foot lines (for the older kids). Construction will begin in the next few weeks, and will likely be finished before the winter.

Sue and Lisa's idea was to start a comprehensive tennis program for the Boulder Valley School District and the surrounding area.

"Kids are specialized so early," Sue says, "tennis doesn't get all the natural athletes."

Lots of times, she explains, athletically gifted kids gravitate toward team sports so that they can be with their friends.

"We need a collaborative effort to introduce kids to tennis by growing the base and increasing the talent pool," explains Sue. "Talent deserves opportunity, and this project will hopefully help us develop players' competitive skills, the on-court instincts and game sense."

Beyond physical talent, Sue doesn't want to see tennis lose out on some of these athletes because of demographics.

"Tennis shouldn't be a game limited by affordability or accessibility," she says. "It creates friendships and offers benefits and opportunities that last you a lifetime." 🌀



SUE BURKE

STORY AND PHOTO BY KURT DESAUTELS

You typically need high-speed film to capture Sue Burke, who never seems to slow down despite being diagnosed with MS six years ago. Whether she's coaching, running her business or raising money for grassroots tennis programs, Sue exhibits a passion for growing the game that few others can match.

buzzbuzz

NOUNS IN THE NEWS

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

Wheelchair tennis icon Lillian Brawer passes away

Lillian Ruth Brawer of Grand Junction died Thursday, July 16, 2009 at St. Mary's Hospital after a long illness. She was 82 years of age. Born November 23, 1926 in Northampton, MA, she attended Indiana University and Mary Mount College in New York City. Lillian moved to Grand Junction in 1993. Lillian was the head of the Doris Denker Wheelchair Tennis Sports Foundation and organized tennis summer clinics for handicapped, wheelchair and Special Olympics athletes.

Her life-long guiding principal was "Abilities, not Disabilities". She provided scholarships to physically challenged people at Mesa State College and also to wheelchair tennis players to enable them to participate in tournaments in various parts of the country.

She and her husband Jerry were honored by USTA Colorado with the 1998 Arthur Ashe Award for their outstanding contributions to the wheelchair tennis community. In 2000, USTA Colorado named its annual award given to the state's outstanding wheelchair tennis player the Jerry and Lillian Brawer Award.

Boys' State Championships slated for October

Don't miss out on one of the best opportunities to catch the state's blossoming tennis talent in action at the 2009 Colorado High School Boys' 4A and 5A State Tennis Championships, scheduled for October 15-17 at Pueblo City Park (4A) and Gates Tennis Center (5A). Regional competition will be completed the previous weekend at sites around the state.

Local players shine at college level

Kelsey Barlow Smith, a three-time Colorado High School State Tennis champion at Kent Denver (twice at No. 1 doubles and once at No. 4 doubles) received the Senior Woman Student Athlete Award for 2009 from Colorado College. Smith and her doubles partner, Deanna Thirkell of Monument, received Honorable Mention for the All-Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference in 2009.

On the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Mountain Region Summer Circuit, Colorado players fared quite well, as Chris Coopridger, Doug Mayeda, Abbie Probert, Madie Kern, Erin Sanders, Stephen Jacobs, Melisa Esposito, Alex Clinkenbeard, Eric Honert, Harry Jewett, Aaron Wicker and Andrew Landwerlan all captured titles.

Safeway Open final a real battle

The finals at the 2nd Annual Men's Safeway Open at Colorado Athletic Club Inverness proved to be a real barn-burner, as former NCAA doubles champ No. 4 Brian Wilson took the first set 6-3, but couldn't quite close the deal on Russian-born Roman Borvanov, who took the final two sets in tiebreak fashion to win the \$8,000 prize money.

No. 3 Borvanov took out surprise semifinalist Clancy Shields (Grand Junction) after Shields upset second-seeded Artem Sitak. Wilson upended top-seed Nathan Thompson, last year's runner-up, 6-2, 6-3, to set up the final.

Shields would pick up some measure of redemption, as he and his brother Luke upset the No. 4 seeds in the quarterfinals, toppled the top-seeds Borvanov and Sitak in the semis, then downed No. 2 Wilson and Marcus Sarstrand 6-3, 7-6 for the doubles championship and the \$4,000 prize money.

Adult First Fest Doubles Tournament a benefit for Pueblo Central HS

Join the fun at the Adult First Fest Doubles Tournament, October 6-11. The event raises money to help upgrade the Central High School tennis facilities in Pueblo. Men's, women's and mixed doubles (3.5, 4.0, 4.5) are being offered, and players may compete in two (2) events. The entry fee is \$26/team, and consolation draws are available in each bracket. Contact tournament directors Steve Henson 719/544-3520 x414 or Phil Betancourt 719/251-9406 with questions. Entries are due by 5pm, Wednesday, September 30. Mail entries to Kathy Martinez, Central High School, 216 E Orman, Pueblo, CO 81004.

USTA Colorado, Azteca America and Babolat celebrate National Tennis Month with racquet giveaway

As a part of National Tennis Month in May, USTA Colorado partnered with Azteca America-Colorado, the Spanish-language affiliated of KMGH-TV, to reach out to Denver-area Latinos. The campaign included the Celebrating Diversity TennisFest Series in conjunction with Cinco de Mayo, a series of commercial-themed TV spots, Vive tu Juego – It's Your Game, which reached more than 43,000 viewers across the state. The spots promoted health and fitness for the family through tennis. Viewers were able to participate in a drawing for a Family Tennis Starter Package from Babolat, which included tennis racquets and balls for the whole family.



Congratulations to Patricia Salas from Aurora, who won the Babolat package. Patricia said that she and her family were very excited to have won the racquets. Tennis became a part of their family routine this summer, as they would play every Sunday at a local park. They even recruited other family members to join them for their weekly outings. Patricia confessed that they haven't been playing much lately, as she recently found out she's pregnant and due in March. "We'll get back out there when I'm feeling better," she says. "My kids really love it, and it's so much fun to do it together as a family."

Pictured: (back row) Abel Corral (Azteca America), Paula McClain (USTA Colorado), Patricia Salas, Antonio Lopez, Steve Strecker (Babolot); (front row) Antonio Jr. (age 10), Tandy (age 7), and Armando (age 8).

Montana District names new Executive Director

The Montana Tennis Association (MTA) has tapped Sarrah Carlson to replace M.C. Beeby as its new Executive Director. Carlson brings a wealth of tennis experience to the position. A collegiate player, she has worked for a dozen years as a teaching pro, and served on staff at the USTA Pacific Northwest Section Office in Beaverton, OR. She also runs the Carlson Academy, teaching group and individual lessons. Carlson has been in the Missoula area for four years and serves on the Garden City Tennis Association Board.

Outgoing Director, M.C. Beeby, stated, "When I first met Sarrah more than a year ago, I actually told her 'you could do my job'. I believe the next step in growing tennis in Montana will be working more closely with the local Park and Recreation Departments. When we put the local community tennis associations together with the Park and Recreation Departments, we will really see more participation in Jr. Team Tennis, local tennis for adults and QuickStart Leagues for juniors, and maybe even adults. Sarrah has an intimate knowledge of how Park and Recreation Departments work. Coupled with her USTA background at the Section level she will be able to step into this position and begin moving forward."

The MTA is one of the six Districts of the Intermountain Section, and lists over 2,000 individual members. The MTA Office will be moving to Missoula with the new Executive Director who will work from a home office. Contact info: Sarrah Carlson, Executive Director, Montana Tennis Association, 2503 55th St #B, Missoula, MT 59803, 406/529-5889. Email: carlson.sarrah@gmail.com.



SERVING UP TENNIS FOR BREAKFAST

Congratulations to the winners of the Senior Breakfast League 3.0/3.5 Division at Gates Tennis Center for the Summer 2009 session. The winning squad consisted of Donlie Smith, Judy Lord, Bob Preston (captain), Carol Walton, Jane Hastings, Ray Mendoza, and Marshall Turner. The USTA Colorado Senior Breakfast League is open to all USTA members ages 55 and up. Throughout the year, various divisions play at several tennis facilities around the metro area. The league emphasizes the fun and social aspects of the sport. New 16-week sessions run every few months: January-April, May-August, September-December. Registration begins 60 days and closes 30 days prior to the beginning of each session. For details call the USTA Colorado office at 303.695.4116.

more BUZZBUZZ

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 36 of the 2009 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).

Never miss another deadline

USTA Colorado wants to make sure you never miss another league or tournament registration deadline. Visit COLORADOTENNIS.com and click on the **MASTER CALENDAR** graphic where you can customize the program information you need. Stop navigating the sea of adult and junior league dates without a compass. Let us customize your season and take the stress out of managing your tennis calendar.

COLORADO TENNIS returns in December

Got a story or a photo to share with the Colorado tennis community? Submit your ideas for the winter issue of COLORADO TENNIS, which will arrive at your doorstep in early December. The deadline to get your story/photo submitted is November 13. Send it to EDITOR@COLORADOTENNIS.com. ☺



Photo courtesy of the Lahey family

LITTLE MO/SMRIKVA BOWL AN EXPERIENCE FOR BOULDER'S LAHEY

Being selected to compete for your country is one of the greatest experiences in many athlete's careers, and at the tender age of 9, Boulder's **Ashley Lahey** (pictured in a black visor right behind the ball) can cross that milestone off her list. Ashley was selected to represent the U.S. at the "Little Mo"/Smrikva Bowl, the only international team competition which features the top boys and girls from the United States and the rest of the world who are 10 & under. The event, in its eighth year, was held at the Tennis Club Smrikve in Pula, Croatia this June.

The trip was a real eye-opener for Ashley, who found several of the European tennis customs to be peculiar – from the rowdy partisan crowds to the midnight hitting sessions, all the way to the slippery red clay that turns your clothes red and gets into everything.

Ashley has made some new friends from the experience, including a few on the other side of the Atlantic. "Even though we could not speak English to each other it was still fun playing football and hanging out while waiting for our matches and practice."



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GREENWOOD INSTALLS TWO PROBOUNCE TENNIS COURTS

Greenwood Athletic and Tennis Club recently completed the installation of two new ProBounce outdoor tennis courts, the newest innovation in cushioned tennis surfacing.

Located in the heart of the Denver Tech Center, Greenwood is one of the premier health and tennis clubs in Colorado. The two new ProBounce courts are the latest addition to Greenwood's already impressive offerings, which include three other traditional hard courts and seven indoor clay courts. Two of the remaining hard courts will be converted to ProBounce by next summer.

According to Ron Steege, Director of Tennis, "We have many members with joint problems who would love to get outside and play on a hard court again. ProBounce will provide these players with a cushioned, comfortable playing surface with all the characteristics of a hard court but with the softer benefits of a clay court."

ProBounce courts provide excellent ball response, consistent traction, reduced impact stress injuries, and decreased player fatigue, says Steege. "The multisurface offerings renew Greenwood's commitment to providing our members and athletes with a choice in how they train without sacrificing their health."

For more information call 303.770.2582 or visit www.GREENWOODATC.com/tennis.



MAGON ACADEMY ADDS COVERED QUICKSTART COURTS

The Ricardo Flores Magón Academy (RFMA), Colorado's only public tennis academy, has added two new QuickStart Tennis courts equipped with vaulted roofs to make them playable year-round.

"Our students routinely play in any type of weather, no matter how hot or cold, and thanks to a USTA Adopt-A-Court grant, we were able to create our two QuickStart courts that gives our kids the chance to play even if it's raining or snowing," said Marcos Martínez, Head of School of the Ricardo Flores Magón Academy. RFMA will keep the courts open to the general public, and has plans to conduct QuickStart Tennis tournaments next spring.

The Ricardo Flores Magón Academy is a K-8 College-Prep Public Charter School that includes tennis and chess as part of its core subjects of study, helping teach skills that can be carried throughout their students' lives. The mission of the school is to get students prepared for college through rigorous academic classes and through strong tennis and chess programs. For more information about the Ricardo Flores Magón Academy, please visit the website at www.MAGONACADEMY.com.



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NJTL CAMP IS NOT JUST TENNIS LESSONS

FIVE COLORADO STUDENTS EARN THE OPPORTUNITY TO STAND ALONGSIDE KIDS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY AT THE 25TH ANNUAL NJTL TENNIS LEADERSHIP CAMP IN DENVER

Five student athletes from Colorado were selected to attend the 25th annual USTA/NJTL Tennis Leadership Camp in Denver that was held from July 21-27. The camp, celebrating its 25th anniversary, was exclusively for youth ages 12-14 who participate in National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) programs nationwide. The Camp stressed Arthur Ashe's ideals of leadership and sportsmanship.

Only 20 boys and 20 girls nationwide are selected to participate in the annual NJTL Leadership Camp. Congratulations to Judith Astorga (Aurora, Net Results Junior Tennis), Morgan Compton (Fort Collins, First Serve), Nathanael Cruz (Denver, Net Results), Isaiah Moreno (Arvada, Ricardo Flores Magon Academy) and Anthony Sandoval (Denver, Net Results), who were joined by two other students from the Intermountain Section.



NATHANAEL CRUZ



JUDITH ASTORGA



ISAIAH MORENO



MORGAN COMPTON



ANTHONY SANDOVAL

The all-expense paid week-long camp provided the attendees with valuable tennis instruction plus a rewarding educational and motivational experience. In addition to 2-3 hours of daily tennis training with experienced tennis teachers, participants volunteered to sort and pack donated products such as clothing, school and medical supplies for shipment to World Vision programs, which reach more than 100 million people in nearly 100 countries.

Additionally, campers heard from a number of speakers, including USTA Director of Coaching Jose Higuera, a former top-10 player who has coached tennis' biggest names including Roger Federer and Pete Sampras; Dan Gonzalez, a tennis pro and the son of former tennis great Pancho Gonzalez; Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey, Frank Adams, USTA Intermountain Section President, and special guest, former all-pro receiver from the Denver Broncos, Rod Smith. The young students also visited popular Denver destinations including the Red Rock Amphitheater, the US Air Force Academy and Invesco Field at Mile High.

"For the past 25 years of our Tennis Leadership Camp, the NJTL national staff has created once-in-a-lifetime experiences for a deserving group of underserved youth," said Barry Ford, Director, Outreach & Advocacy, USTA. "These students, some of whom are getting on an airplane for the very first time, are being afforded the opportunity to see a part of the country that they might otherwise never get to see, and to gain memories and forge relationships with their fellow campers that could last a lifetime. Using tennis as the conduit, we hope this camp will continue to have a profound impact on the growth and development of these and many more students for years to come."

"This community-driven program intends to fulfill Arthur Ashe's dream of instilling the values of humanitarianism, leadership and academic excellence in America's youth through the sport of tennis," said Kurt Kamperman, Chief Executive, Community Tennis, USTA. "The camp's emphasis on individual physical and mental development, good nutrition and sportsmanship will help ensure that today's kids will become tomorrow's leaders and, perhaps even tomorrow's champions as well." 🏆

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DIVERSITY TENNISFEST HIGHLIGHTS ART, CULTURE AND TENNIS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY TENNISFEST SERIES A REAL SMASH

The Celebrating Diversity TennisFest Series in conjunction with Cinco de Mayo, the Denver Black Arts Festival and the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival was a smashing hit! At the Black Arts and Dragon Boat Festivals, more than 100 youth participated in QuickStart Tennis clinics at Denver's City Park and Sloan's Lake tennis courts, respectively. By participating at these cultural festivals, USTA Colorado was able to reach several ethnic audiences and introduce tennis to diverse and underserved communities and hopefully inspire a whole new generation of players.

The youth received free lessons and drills from volunteer teaching pros providing a hands-on experience for the participants. Qwest Pioneers, the largest industry employee volunteer organization in the world, signed on as a supporter to donate racquets, which were given away to all of the youth participants who completed the tennis clinics.

Cinco de Mayo

"As a volunteer network, our community outreach priorities are education, youth and diversity communities. This is a natural collaboration. I can personally attest to how tennis made an impact on my life as a teen to my adulthood," said Sylvia Johansen, Qwest Pioneers Auraria Council President.

In addition to Qwest Pioneers, there were a host of key partners that contributed to make the TennisFest Series a huge success, including: AsiaXpress, Azteca America, Babolat, Coatings Inc., Colorado Asian Tennis Association, Denver Parks and Recreation, Denver City Park Racquet Club, Washington Park Tennis Club, FUZE, Mile High Sports AM1510 and USTA Intermountain.

Many thanks go to our partners, and a special thanks to the more than 50 volunteers for giving their time to share with others and touching the lives of young people advocating the benefits of tennis. We are looking forward to 2010 for another sensational season for the Celebrating Diversity TennisFest Series. 🎾

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DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IS ESSENTIAL TO THE TENNIS COMMUNITY

In June 2004, USTA Colorado developed and adopted the Colorado District Diversity Plan, with a clear focus on reaching out to multicultural communities. With the emerging multicultural market, we recognize diversity as essential to achieving our mission to promote and develop the growth of tennis.

For USTA Colorado, diversity is a key business priority. We are committed to achieving greater diversity throughout the sport and fostering a tennis environment that is more inclusive at all levels including: players, teaching pros, instructors, volunteers, committees, board of directors and staff.

Tennis is a welcoming arena for **EVERYONE**: regardless of color, status, abilities or disabilities. On the court, it's about the passion for the game and the spirit of competition.

At this year's 2009 US Open, there was representation from the top tennis players from all over the world. Tennis is a global game, attracting players of every nationality, ethnicity and socio-economic background. It translates into any language, and brings together people from all walks of life.

We all are different, and it is our unique talents that make the sport fun and exciting. On the tennis court, we can celebrate our mutual love of tennis and demonstrate respect, sportsmanship and integrity, the principals that are the foundation of this sport. We can all agree tennis teaches life skills in a fun and healthy way, providing the opportunity to make new friends and develop a camaraderie that can be enjoyed both socially and professionally.

At USTA Colorado, we embrace diversity to gain different perspectives that can increase the flow of ideas, expand community outreach and advance business opportunities, all contributing to the promotion and growth of tennis. Diversity is an evolving discipline, which is the fabric of our organization and we are committed for the long-term to lead the path to reflect and serve the communities we live in, making them healthier and better places for all.

spotlight

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE COLORADO YOUTH TENNIS FOUNDATION

The Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation raises money through our two premier events – the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala and the ever-popular Punk Relic Charity Tournament, as well as through donations from foundations, corporations and individuals.

In 2009, the CYTF's goal is to raise \$15,000 in individual gifts to help us provide tennis opportunities to kids in need across Colorado. Please help us reach our goal by making a tax

deductible gift today. Your dollars will go a long way in making sure that all kids who have an interest have a chance to play tennis.

To make a gift – big or small, visit our website at COLORADOTENNIS.com and click on the CYTF logo. Your gift will be acknowledged in the next issue of Colorado Tennis newspaper.

If you are aware of corporations who might be interested in sponsoring one of our events please contact us at 303/695-4116 x 201.

HELP US CHANGE THE WORLD

Thank you to the following CYTF donors:

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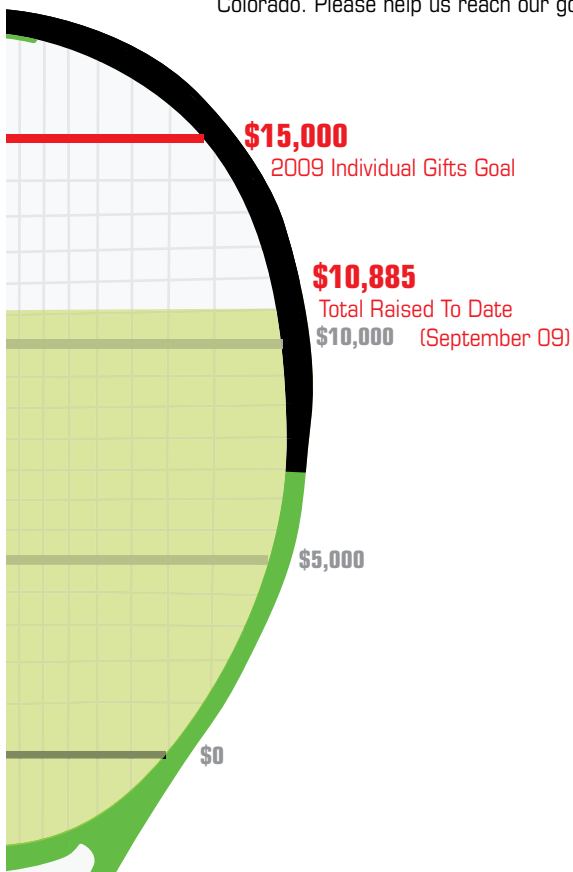
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WE'RE CHANGING THE WORLD.

ONE PLAYER AT A TIME.

We live in a time when the issues facing the health and focus of youngsters are pressing and significant. Childhood obesity is prevalent in communities throughout our state, and our kids are tested daily with decisions surrounding drugs, gangs and other potentially life changing choices that may have a profound effect on their future.

Tennis is much more than just a healthy activity that promotes physical fitness. It fosters decision-making skills and instills self-confidence, sportsmanship and teamwork. It extends beyond the boundaries of age, color and economic background.

Tennis provides a place for youngsters to make new acquaintances and strengthen existing relationships with family and friends. It teaches the importance of physical, emotional and mental fitness; of making good choices; and developing good character.

We envision communities where all kids are introduced to tennis in their schools, where they are given the opportunity to then get involved in after-school programs in elementary, middle school and high school.

We believe tennis gives kids the tools to learn, compete and win in life – through proper practice, dedication, knowledge and respect.

We need to focus on the future and make sound investments in the lives of our youth. Through tennis scholarships and grants, the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation is reaching out to kids of all ages and backgrounds in the hope that kids receive the many benefits of the sport.

To learn more about the CYTF Scholarships and Grants program, or to help us change the world, one player at a time, please visit COLORADOTENNIS.com.



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Jim Vogel (left), VP of Sales-Mass Markets takes on Chuck Ward, Qwest State President of Public Policy at the inaugural Qwest Pioneers Wii Tennis Event, which raised money to help provide tennis opportunities to kids from underserved communities.

Qwest Pioneers joins USTA Colorado to promote tennis to diverse populations

Qwest Pioneers, the volunteer network of Qwest Communications, recently converted a few conference rooms into tennis courts at the Qwest Communications downtown offices, and hosted a Wii Tennis Event to recruit new volunteer members and to raise money supporting USTA Colorado's efforts to grow the game.

Qwest Pioneers will donate the dollars needed to purchase equipment and train instructors for after-school tennis programming at two Denver schools with highly diverse populations, where 80% of the student body is on free or reduced cost lunch programs. Qwest Pioneers volunteers will also donate their time to these two schools.

"Qwest Pioneers are committed to the diversity and personal growth of our members; the success of our projects; and to improving the quality of life in our communities, including health and education. From personal experience I know tennis can make a positive impact that lasts a lifetime. It really is the sport for a lifetime" said Sylvia Johansen, president of Qwest Pioneers Auraria Council.



HW Home owners Ron Werner (left) & Jim Hering welcome Tracy Austin to Denver.

Tracy Austin helps raise money, awareness for CYTF

On hand for the 2nd Annual Greenwood Athletic and Tennis Club Member/Guest Doubles Tournament Player Party and Reception at HW Home at The Landmark was none other than two-time US Open Women's Champion, and former world No. 1, Tracy Austin. More than 200 people joined Tracy to support the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation, which received nearly \$3,000 in donations and auction proceeds.



Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper (left) finds a shady spot during the Tennis with the Stars event (below), which raised thousands of dollars in support of the CYTF.



Tennis With The Stars photos by Bernard Grant

Tennis with the Stars

Nearly 100 players, including local celebrities Mayor John Hickenlooper, (pictured above) Christine Chang of KMGH 7, CBS4's Jim Benemann, Troy Lowrie and Jake Schroeder, just to name a few, were on hand for the 2nd Annual Tennis with the Stars at Gates Tennis Center on August 29. Event proceeds benefited the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation. After a full afternoon of fun play, participants were treated to an exhibition match featuring Scott Humphries, Cory Ross, Jeff Salzenstein and 12-time Grand Slam titleholder, Owen Davidson.



If you give kids a chance, dreams can come true.



A DAY OF PUNKS, RELICS AND FUN

Clockwise from top left:

Fueling their inner fires, players and spectators take a lunch break;

Mixed doubles intermediate winners Xin Lin & Katie Li with finalists Brett & Angela Finan

The Woman/Girl final was a family affair, as twin sisters Sonia Schwartz and Sylvia Johansen swapped kids for the day. Sonia and her niece Christina Johansen edged out Sylvia and her niece Stephanie Schwartz.

THE PUNK RELIC CHARITY DOUBLES TOURNAMENT
 celebrated 10 years of on-court festivities
 on August 23 at Gates Tennis Center.

Fifty-two adult/junior combined teams
 participated in the full day event
 which raises money for the
COLORADO YOUTH TENNIS FOUNDATION
 memorial and general funds.

2009 Punk Relic Champions:

Man/Boy Intermediate Doubles
 Don & Hans Bergal

Woman/Girl Intermediate Doubles
 Janice Simpson & Judith Astorga

Mixed Doubles Intermediate
 Xinlin & Katie Li

Man/Boy Advanced Doubles
 Cory & Casey Ross

Woman/Girl Advanced Doubles
 Sonia Schwartz & Christina Johansen

Mixed Doubles Advanced
 Garry & Sheridan Seymour



If you give kids a chance,
 dreams can come true.



profiles

CELEBRATING LIVES WELL LIVED



THERE ARE MORE THAN A DOZEN MEMORIAL EVENTS IN THE COLORADO SANCTIONED TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE. WE WANTED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A FEW OF THE PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES ARE COMMEMORATED BY THESE ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS. PART 3 OF A SERIES.

Each year, the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation hosts the annual Punk Relic Doubles Tournament to raise money for the CYTF Memorial Funds, which benefit Colorado youth by providing tennis opportunities to youth.

The Punk Relic celebrated its 10th Anniversary this year, a testament to both the dedication of the numerous volunteers and supporters of the CYTF, and to the memories of each of the individuals who are commemorated by the event.

The 11 Memorial Funds remember and recognize individuals whose lives were shaped in large part by this sport. A brief description of each of these individuals follows.



		
ANDERSON	ELTON	NGO
		
BOOSE	HARBERTS	RYAN
		
COX	HERZOG	SHAFFER
		
DRUMMOND	KNUDSEN	VAN FLEET

Roger B. Elton, Jr. lived in Colorado since he was seven years-old. He began playing tennis at the age of ten, and was the first student to graduate from Overland who lettered in tennis all four years. Roger attended the University of Colorado after graduating from high school.

Roger was an avid fan and participant of many sports, but tennis was his passion.

Jon Cox: Please see COLORADO TENNIS (SPRING 2009) for a in-depth look at Jon Cox.

Andy Anderson was a devoted husband for more than 50 years. He worked for the Gates Rubber Company for 31 years, including 12 years as manager of the Gates Factory Store. Andy was a regular player and a longtime member at the Denver Tennis Club. He is best remembered for his devotion to the courts and his beloved gardens there, which he created and nurtured for many years.

Joe Ryan was passionate about tennis. His parents would drop him off at Denver City Park courts where he would stay for the entire day playing one pick-up game after another. He attended Southwest Baptist University in Missouri on a tennis scholarship. Joe shared his love for the game by teaching summer tennis camps around Colorado and Missouri and as a tennis professional at Meadow Creek. He coached the SBU women's tennis team and also taught tennis as part of the physical education curriculum.

Tennis played a major role in **Devin Shaffer's** life. A Denver native, he captained his high school and college tennis teams, served as head Men's and Women's coach at DU, taught tennis at Meadow Creek, Green Gables and the Arthur Ashe National Tennis Center in Washington, D.C., and played a summer on the U.S. and European professional tour circuits.

Joel Herzog was a 1972 graduate of Pueblo South High School, and a 1976 graduate and top tennis player from the University of Northern Colorado. He owned a popular store in Colorado Springs, Total Tennis. Joel and his wife Nancy Saltzman had two children, **Adam** and **Seth**. Both children were excellent tennis players and fine ice-hockey players as well.

Maude Miller Knudsen was a University of Northern Iowa college doubles champion in the 1930s. She spent 10 years as a physical education teacher in Spencer, Iowa, where she was a junior tennis instructor with the parks & recreation department. **John Knudsen** was introduced to the sport by his mother, Maude, and was an avid player all of his life. John was a board member of the CYTF for several years and also served as the chairperson of the Disbursement Committee, which distributes scholarships and grants that gave juniors in need

the opportunity to play tennis. His wife, **Jody Riser Knudsen**, is an avid league and tournament player from Estes Park, and has been a ranked Colorado player in women's doubles and in mixed doubles. She has served on the USTA Colorado Board of Directors, and was the USTA Colorado Volunteer of the Year in 1988 and again in 1989.

Tom van Fleet truly loved the sport of tennis – not only as a competitive outlet, but mostly for the sheer joy of playing the game. He first picked up a racquet as a young boy, and tennis became a life-long passion. Tom was instrumental in establishing the Grand Junction Tennis Club, and later became involved in the tennis program in Boulder and in his neighborhood of Devil's Thumb.

Debbie Boose lived her life with commitment and passion. A resident of Loveland, Debbie was an avid tennis player, playing on the same USTA league team with friends for 20 years. She served on the Board of Trustees for the CYTF where she was instrumental in the reformation of the organization. She was also an active volunteer for other causes she believed in, like her church and Hospice of Larimer County. As a paralegal, Debbie's pro bono work helped women in abusive marriages obtain divorces and helped low-income senior citizens gain access to their legal rights.

Born in Scotland, **Harry Drummond** was an extraordinary athlete. He grew up playing soccer, and learned to play tennis as a teenager. Harry was a top-ranked doubles player in Colorado, earning the No. 1 ranking with Jeff Sheets in 1983. After moving to Dallas, Harry played professional soccer for two seasons.

Floyd Harberts loved people and loved the game of tennis. Organized tennis always gave him the opportunity to meet people: old friends (of which he had many) and new acquaintances alike. For decades, he played tournament tennis and benefits, but also enjoyed the casual "hit and giggle" game, bringing a competitive spirit and good humor to the courts. **Dong Ngo** fled his native Vietnam in 1975. He spent nearly 25 years as a bicycle builder and salesperson at the Denver Spoke, where he developed a devoted clientele ranging from Olympic medalists, professional athletes and recreational riders. A competitive tennis player for many years, Dong was eager to share his lefty brand of shot making. At Washington Park, where he was known by nicknames "Slam" and "Dongman", he was always ready for a match of singles, doubles or just a lively hitting session.

juniorrec

After a week that saw the adults take to the courts for the USTA League Tennis District Championships, it was time for the juniors to strut their collective stuff. Nearly 200 teams from across the state converged on the Denver metro area August 7-9 for the 2009 Colorado Junior Team Tennis State Championships. Congratulations to all the players, captains, coordinators and parents on an exceptional JTT season.



Photo courtesy of Angela Finan

BOYS:

- 10IA: 1st Gates Tennis Center
2nd Foothills Swim & Racket Club
- 10IB: 1st Superior Rock Creek
2nd Lebsack Tennis Center
- 12IA: 1st Superior Rock Creek
2nd Work Out West
- 12IB: 1st Denver Country Club
2nd Highlands Ranch
- 12N: 1st Columbine CC Blue
2nd Columbine CC White
- 14ADV: 1st CAC Inverness
2nd Ken Caryl
- 14IA: 1st Lebsack Tennis Center
2nd Superior Rock Creek
- 14IB: 1st Homestead in the Willows
2nd Superior Rock Creek

- 14N: 1st Columbine Country Club
2nd Crestmoor
- 18ADV: 1st Ranch Country Club
2nd Broomfield Swim & Tennis
- 18IA: 1st Superior Rock Creek
2nd APEX Parks & Rec
- 18IB: 1st Homestead in the Willows
2nd Superior Rock Creek

GIRLS:

- 10IA: 1st Country Club of Colorado
2nd Colorado Springs CC
- 10IB: 1st Superior Rock Creek
2nd Glenmoor Country Club
- 12IA: 1st Work Out West Eaton HS
2nd South Suburban LGT
- 12IB: 1st Pinehurst Country Club
2nd Highlands Ranch
- 12N: 1st Lewis Tennis School
2nd Crestmoor
- 14IA: 1st Broadmoor
2nd Country Club of Colorado

- 14IB: 1st Wheat Ridge
2nd Work Out West
- 14N: 1st Castle Pines Village
2nd Superior Rock Creek
- 18ADV: 1st CAC Monaco
2nd Memorial Park
- 18IA: 1st Work Out West Greeley Central
2nd Lebsack Tennis Center
- 18IB: 1st Mount Vernon CC/Golden HS
2nd Work Out West Eaton HS



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juniorcomp



2009 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, George Tavarez, Sue Burke and Ann Slocumb.

GIRLS

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Ashia Shakira Ajani | Kendyll Ryan |
| Celeste Blair | Monica Salazar |
| Simone Blair | Anshika Singh |
| Abigail Coleman | Monee Southail |
| Maleeha Chowdhury | Emily Strande |
| Sarah Dinegar | Adriana Strode |
| Mya Green | Kay Thresher |
| Alexandra Henderson | Kacey Walisundara |
| Lily Kaneko | Samanta Walisundara |
| Zoe Leroux | Sashini Walisundara |
| Erin Norwood | Dahlia Williams |
| Jennifer Phan | |

BOYS

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Jon Abrahamson | Alex Mitchell |
| Lukas Bachmann | Roger Nakagawa |
| Desmond Bailey | Chanon Penvari |
| Illijah Bailey | Jake Quan |
| Bazil Cunningham | Ira Rasberry |
| Jadin Curry | Imaan Rasberry |
| Ryan Davis | Colter Robinette |
| Charles Dinegar | Conor Smith |
| Zack Fox | Ram Vuppala |
| Carter Harrington | Miles Yamasaki |
| Savion Johnson | Quentin Yamasaki |
| Samson Johnson | Geoffrey Yang |
| Connor Jones | Thomas Williams |
| David Kijak | Eric Witter |
| Sam Koopmeiners | Raul Wyatt |
| Diego Mejia | |

Team Colorado viewing day set for October 18

Twelve-and-under players seeking to join the 2009-2010 Team Colorado squad take note: the 12-and-under viewing day has been set for Sunday, October 18, 11am-2pm, at the Ken Caryl Ranch House in Littleton. Boys viewing will take place from 11am-12:30pm, the girls get to show off their stuff from 12:30-2pm.

Even if you have been a Team Colorado member in the past, you must still attend the viewing day. This is a great opportunity for the coaches to get to know all of the players and for the kids to meet some new players as well.

Please contact Jason Colter, USTA Colorado Player Development Director, at jason@coloradotennis.com for an application, or download one from the USTA Colorado website: [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://coloradotennis.com) (click the JUNIOR tab and locate the TEAM COLORADO link on the left). All applications are due by October 1.

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.

41 JUNIOR TENNIS PARTICIPATION

Participation numbers continue to climb at all levels of junior play.

USTA Colorado reports that Junior Team Tennis participation is up almost 200 players, nearly 5.5% over last year.

Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) reports a bump of nearly 500 more high school players, a jump of nearly 6.5% over last year.



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college scene

DIVISION NONE: HOW TENNIS IS BECOMING ONE OF THE HOTTEST ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS.

STORY BY LINDA SARGENT WEGNER

There is nothing quite like the collegiate sport experience. Whether you are playing one or watching one, the thrill of sports at a college level is invigorating and engaging. At over 500 college campuses across the country, Tennis on Campus is a USTA program that has brought that feeling to over 30,000 tennis players who come from high school tennis programs and want to continue playing competitive tennis but don't want to play college varsity tennis.

Tennis on Campus can best be described as an opportunity for tennis players to form coed teams which represent their universities by participating in match play in various forms including regional and national tournaments. At each campus the make up of these teams and assistance provided to the teams varies. The teams which are in Colorado are overseen by the Intermountain Tennis Association sectional office by Patricia Chien, ITA Recreational Tennis Coordinator. Patricia is responsible for providing information and guidance to the existing teams and players interested in forming new teams in the six-state section.

In Colorado, four colleges feature Tennis on Campus programs - the University of Colorado, University of Denver, Colorado School of Mines, and Colorado State University. Chien describes Tennis on Campus as, "a fun and social activity for tennis players and offers a forum for them to meet new people while playing a sport they love. It's easy to start a team. You only need two men and two women. The maintenance rules which exist are in place to provide continuity from year to year. One of those rules is that each team must have a "Club Advisor", a staff member on campus who acts as a liaison between the team and the school."

Support provided by the colleges is worked out between the interested players and the Club Advisor. Financial assistance, uniforms, and court time may be part of the package for some teams while other teams pursue fund raising avenues and arrange court time with local clubs or parks. The ITA offers grants for new clubs to help them get started. In the end, the goal of each team is to represent their school by playing club level tennis and enjoying the interaction and competition on the court.

While many of these club teams will coordinate intercollegiate matches throughout the school year, they are also able to participate in Series events at other colleges. The Series events are tournaments hosted by colleges around the country. Tennis on Campus teams travel to them and play multiple matches during a weekend. Each sectional office, in Colorado's case the Intermountain Tennis Association, hosts a USTA Campus Championship Sectional Event for their region. Teams participating in their sectional event receive automatic bids to play in the USTA National Campus Championship held in the spring. That was true for 41 out of 64 teams at the 2009 championships. In 2010, the national event will be in Surprise, Arizona.

The captain of the CU team, Heather Sabatka, has been a Tennis on Campus participant since her freshman year. She is a senior this year and is now President of the CU team. "The best part of this program has been the relationships you form. They make the campus feel smaller and the relationships become long-term because we share our interest in tennis," Heather states. CU's Tennis on Campus team has about 30 people on it. Generally the players on CU's team have all played tennis most of their lives and played high school tennis with some success. The CU team placed 21st at the 2009 USTA National Campus Championship last spring. In 2007, Heather's freshman year, the CU team placed fifth.

For more information on how to get Tennis on Campus started at your school, visit www.TENNISONCAMPUS.com, it's a great resource. You can also contact Patricia Chien at the Intermountain Section office, 303/695-4117, ext 223. ☺



CU's Tennis On Campus program taps into the tennis spirit on the Boulder campus by bringing players together and helping to form long-lasting friendships.

TENNIS ON CAMPUS




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league tennis

ADULT LEAGUE TENNIS RESULTS

Players, coaches, parents and relatives can find full adult league tennis results online at COLORADOTENNIS.com.

2009 USTA MIXED

MXD 6.0: Broomfield Swim & Tennis Club

MXD 7.0: North Jeffco

MXD 8.0: [Niwof Tennis Association](#)

MXD 9.0: Gates Tennis Center

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD WINNERS:

Breckenridge (MXD 8.0)

2009 USTA ADULT

W2.5: Pinehurst Country Club

W3.0: [Ken-Caryl Ranch Metro District](#)

W3.5: Colorado Athletic Club Inverness

W4.0: [Ken-Caryl Ranch Metro District](#)

W4.5: Bear Valley Park

W5.0: [Greenwood Athletic Club](#)

M3.0: Ken-Caryl Ranch Metro District

M3.5: North Jeffco

M4.0: Gates Tennis Center

M4.5: [Gates Tennis Center](#)

M5.0: [Colorado Athletic Club Inverness](#)

Sportsmanship Award Winners:

Pinehurst Country Club (W2.5)

City Park Racquet Club (M3.5)

2009 USTA SENIOR*

W3.0: Ken-Caryl Ranch Metro District

W3.5: Colorado Athletic Club Monaco

W4.0: Willow Creek

W4.5: Heritage Greens

M3.0: Windsor Tennis Association

M3.5: Millennium Harvest House Tennis

M4.0: Fort Collins Tennis Association

M4.5: Gates Tennis Center

Sportsmanship Award Winners:

Piney Creek (W4.0)

Grand Junction Tennis Club (M3.5)

2009 USTA SUPER SENIOR**

W6.0: Highlands Ranch Community Association

W7.0: Gates Tennis Center

W8.0: Gates Tennis Center

M6.0: Thornton Tennis Association

M7.0: Colorado Tennis Center

M8.0: Lakewood Tennis Association

Sportsmanship Award Winners:

Longmont Tennis Association (W6.0)

Pikes Peak Tennis Association (M8.0)

SECTIONAL FINALISTS

*The USTA Senior League Sectional Championships take place September 25-27, 2009.

**The USTA Super Senior Sectional Championship will take place in March 18-21, 2010.



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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
Colorado Athletic Club Inverness
Colorado Athletic Club Monaco
Gates Tennis Center
Holly Tennis Center
Ken-Caryl
Lebsack Tennis Center
Pinehurst Country Club

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.

Meanwhile, back at The Ranch...



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Miikka Keronen

Staff Professional
Aki Iino

Adult Coordinator
Nora Harrison

Junior Coordinator
Ryan Walker

and our certified USPTA Pro staff.

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for details.

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Miikka Keronen, Director of Tennis, at 303/469-5372, or email miikkak@theranchcc.com.



The Ranch

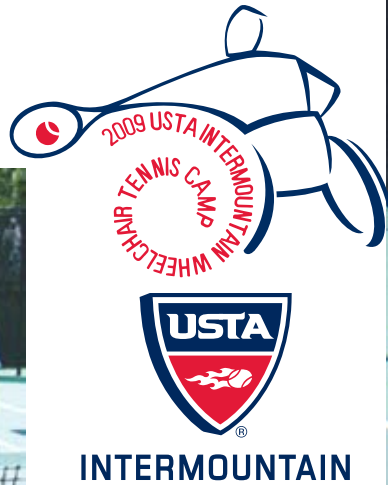
11887 Tejon Street, Westminster

Tournament season doesn't have to end when the snow flies.

• Northern Extreme, BGsd 18/16, January 1-5, 2010 – TL#257230010

• Ranch Indoor Open, MWsdMXd 35-75, February 16-21, 2010 – TL#257230310

spotlight



One-Up One-Down Tournament

Congratulations to the USTA Intermountain's One-Up One-Down Wheelchair Tournament Champions and Finalists. Pictured (left to right) are Champions Chris Perez (Denver) & John Vcelka (Highlands Ranch), Finalists Rick Ruscio (Pine), and Richard Schlueter (Monument).

One-Up One-Down tennis pairs a wheelchair player with an able-bodied player competing against a team also comprised of a wheelchair player and an able-bodied player. The wheelchair player is allowed two bounces (if he/she needs it) while the able-bodied player must stick to the one-bounce rule.



Sectional Wheelchair Events wrap up

The USTA Intermountain Section – in conjunction with USTAColorado and the Colorado Wheelchair Tennis Foundation – hosted a Wheelchair Tennis Instructor's Clinic, a Wheelchair Tennis Camp, and a One-Up One-Down Tournament with Frank Adams, Rich Berman & Dan James at the Ken-Caryl Ranch House in Littleton in August. Fourteen Instructors and 15 campers braved the record breaking heat to learn the latest wheelchair teaching and playing strategies and techniques.

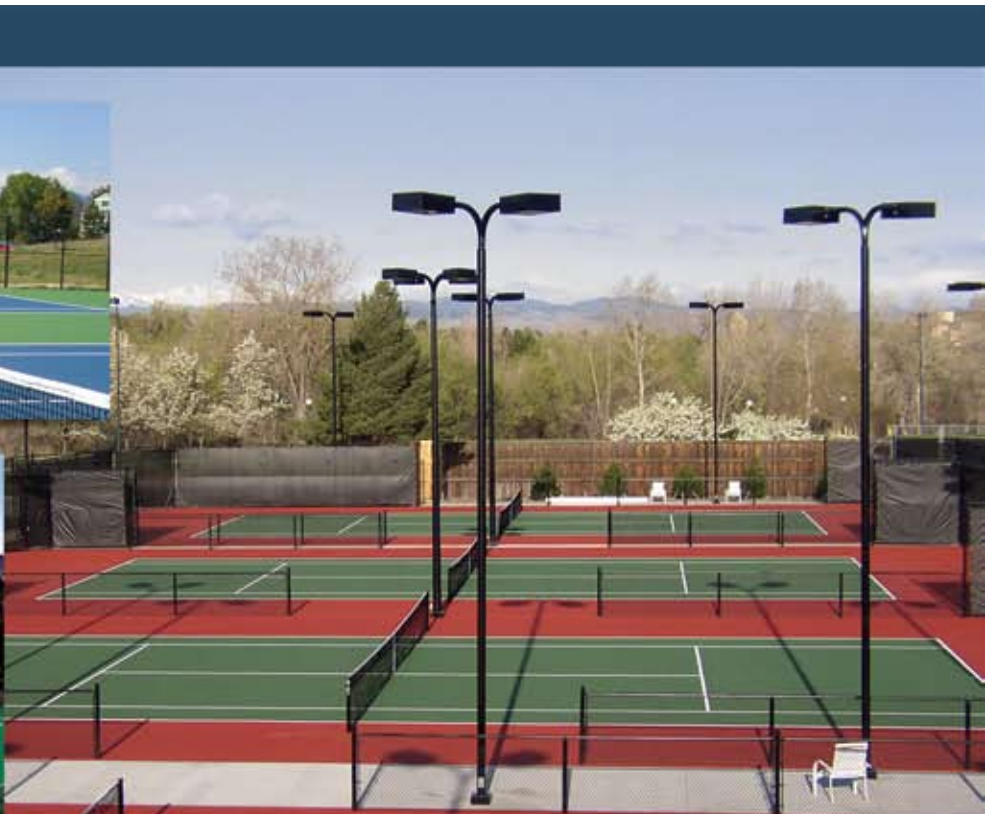
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Candidate list grows for Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame

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 2009. The maximum number of candidates selected is five per year. Only a unanimous vote of the Hall of Fame committee can induct additional members beyond the five.

The tenth class of inductees will be announced in the Winter 2009 issue of *Colorado Tennis* newspaper, and the tennis community will have the chance to formally recognize the 2009 class at the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala and Annual Awards Celebration slated for January 29, 2010.

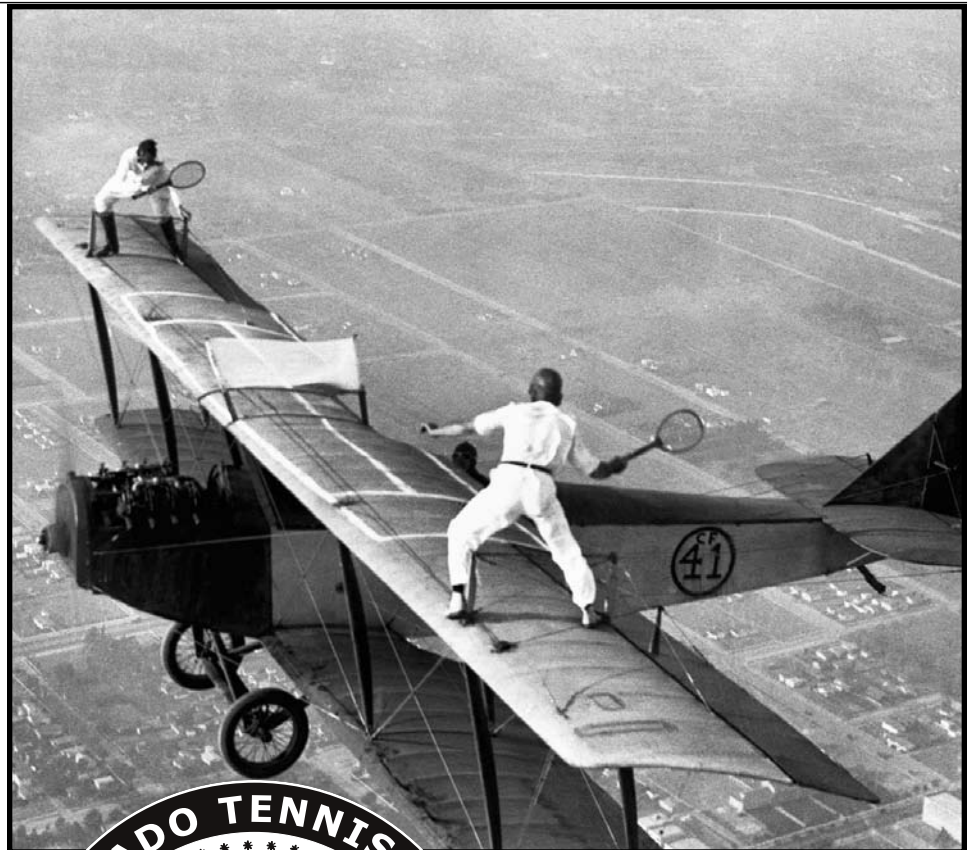
The Gala is the premier celebration of tennis in Colorado. In addition to showcasing the inductees, USTA Colorado (Colorado Tennis Association) also presents its annual awards to people and organizations for their achievements and service. The event also serves as a fundraiser for the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation, a fundraising arm of USTA Colorado 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 USTA Colorado Annual Award nomination deadlines have passed, we encourage nominations annually. Selection criteria and nomination forms are available at 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 Annual Award recipients.

Public comment is welcome and must be received by October 5. Email the Selection Committee, 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:

Bob Acsell	Bruce Foltz	Dale Lewis	Cory Ross
Sara Anundsen	Art S. Hagan	Larry Loeb	Alicia Salas
Frank Adams	Nicholas John Hagan	Kelly Lovato	Diane Selke
Clayton Benham	Chad Harris	Mary Jane Metcalf	Mike Springlemeier
David Benson	Chester Harris	Barbara Mueller	Ted Swenson
Rich Berman	Charles Henry	Gardnar Mulloy	Jack Terborg
C.D. Bodam	Steve Henson	Bill Oakes	Art Thomson
Charlie Brown	Scott Humphries	Jack Ormsbee	Thomas van Fleet
Ira Brown	Vernon John	Barb Eaton Pederson	Becky Varnum
Cliff Buchholz	Warrick Jones	Jack Phelps	Brenda Vlasak
Dorothy Bundy	Rhona Howett Kaczmarczyk	Jack Ponis	John Whistler
Maricaye Christensen	Art Knott	Andy Potter	Don Willsie
Kathleen Cummings	Susan Knott	Dennis Ralston	Dennis Winders
Bobby Curtis	Virginia Dunn Smith Kraut	David Ray	Kent Woodard
Kellen Damico	Laura Koury	Homer Reed	Susan Wright
Clarence Dodge	Nicole Leimbach	Gil Roberts	



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 Friday, January 29, 2010, and help us welcome the newest class of Hall of Fame inductees and congratulate the 2009 Annual Award winners. Proceeds benefit the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation.

Ticket information will be available at COLORADOTENNIS.com and in the winter issue of Colorado Tennis newspaper.



techtalk

CHARTING A COURSE FOR SUCCESS

It used to be that charting a tennis match – the systematic recording of every statistic in a match: volleys, forehand winners and double faults to name just a few – was a tedious and challenging endeavor requiring lots of pre-match planning and a pencil with a really good eraser.

Professional tennis players and their coaches can easily tap into a bevy of match statistics that can help them target specific parts of their game on which they need to improve: first-serve percentages, unforced errors, net points won, etc. But for the rising junior or recreational player, the only way to access that type of quantitative information is to have a friend, coach or parent chart their match.

Thanks to Eric Deines and Chip Hudson, childhood friends who met at Kohl Elementary School in Broomfield, pro-level statistics are now available to players at any level, right on their iPhone. A devoted league player, Hudson's day job is as a software engineer for Northrup Grumman. You can typically find him on the court after work, but lately he's been parlaying his two talents into his newest passion, "My Tennis Stats", an iPhone (and iPod Touch) app that enables coaches, parents, media-types and casual fans to create a statistical snapshot of a match, complete with serving percentages, unforced errors and break-point opportunities.

The easy-to-use interface allows a parent, coach, friend or teammate to keep track of the match from the sidelines, storing vital data that will help assist players identify strong suits and weak points in their games. Once the information has been entered, it can be saved for later reference.

Deines and Hudson continue to work on updates, fixing minor bugs and adding enhancements routinely. "Our number one priority is customer service," says Hudson. "We work closely with anyone who reports any issues or has any suggestions for us," he says, noting that My Tennis Stats is set to release its sixth and latest update just days from now.

How it works

For those unfamiliar with how the Apple App Store works, iPhone and iPod Touch users can simply download applications through iTunes. While many apps are free, some are offered at a minimal cost. My Tennis Stats can be downloaded for \$9.99. If an update is released, it's free to anyone who owns that app.

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The test

The actual interface is simple, and easy to navigate. Virtually everyone in our office who sat down with My Tennis Stats to chart US Open matches noted the easy learning curve and eye-pleasing graphics.

Belying its simplicity, My Tennis Stats is one powerful app. Match statistics are plentiful, detailed and well-organized. Whether you want to break it down by match, set or game, the information is right at your fingertips. Hudson notes that unlike other similar match charting software, theirs offers the flexibility to chart virtually any kind of match (from 8-game pro-sets with no-ad scoring to a 10-point tiebreak in lieu of the third set), as well as being able to chart doubles matches – keeping detailed statistical information on all four players.

Conclusion

Whether you're an aspiring junior, a formidable 5.0 or a seasoned coach, this app provides pro-level feedback on a budget. Given the popularity of the iPhone/iPod, you'll likely be seeing a whole lot of match charting at your next tournament or league match. Get more information at www.MYTENNISSTATS.SPORTS.OFFICELIVE.com.



Photo courtesy of the Broomfield Enterprise

Take a lesson from the pros, know your stats

Eric Deines (left) and Chip Hudson show off their iPhone application for charting tennis matches. My Tennis Stats is the duo's first-ever collaboration and is becoming the go-to app for match charters.

GAME-IMPROVEMENT SHOELACES?

As tennis players, we're all familiar with equipment that is marketed to us as "game improvement" essentials. Bigger sweet spots and softer-flexing frames, vibration dampening string and ball-enhancing sunglasses. There's a lot of stuff out



\$9 to Nirvana

One of the least expensive and best "game-improvement" accessories out there: the Xtenex lace.

plastic thing that keeps the whole tip from unraveling), and aren't they all basically the same?

Thank to Xtenex (derived from *IndeXed-TENsioning-nEXus*), a Denver-based company that has developed the world's most technologically advanced lacing system, the shoelace is now an integral part of the game.

there that claims to help turn us posers into pros, and depending on which direction we go, a little thing can make a big difference.

So what about something as overlooked and seemingly insignificant as a shoelace? Aren't they just varying lengths of nylon or cotton and an aglet (the proper name for the little

The knotty problem

Tennis players rely on comfortable and supportive footwear. There's nothing worse than tired, achy feet or painful blisters when you're trying to hold serve during a tense match.

On-court foot issues are frequently related to "lace migration", a gradual movement of the shoelace toward the forward bend of a shoe. Lace migration is a common occurrence with traditional shoe laces, and worsens with each and every step. First, it causes your shoes to bind and tighten at the top of the shoe, leading to foot fatigue, pain, numbness, and restriction of natural foot swelling. Second, as the laces migrate down, the shoe loosens around the metatarsal area, which causes increased slipping and reduction of forward foot stabilization. The end result is that you get increased friction and painful blisters. Ouch!

How they work

The Xtenex lace employs regularly spaced knots in the elastic which creates indexed fitting at each eyelet – the more knots between eyelets lessens tension, fewer knots between eyelets increases tension. No matter how much you flex the shoe, the laces stay put, guaranteeing a perfect fit every time you pull the shoe on. What's more, your favorite tennis shoes become a slip-on, you'll never have to tie them again!

And because the Xtenex lace pulls the foot more securely into the footbed (or the orthotic if you use them), it increases the lateral stability of the shoe and helps to minimize hot spots and blisters.

The test

For the past several months, we've been putting the Xtenex elastic laces through their paces both on and off the court. Dialing in the fit took several sessions, but once you get the proper adjustment, the fit is perfect.

But does it work as advertised? You bet! Blisters became a thing of the past, regardless of how high the temperature got. What's more, you never have to worry about the shoes loosening up or tripping on a dangling lace. The shoes felt comfortable, never binding, and allowed the foot to flex and move the way it would if we were playing barefoot.

We were so impressed that we got more of the laces to put into our running shoes, our golf shoes and our everyday-hang-out-in-Cherry-Creek-North-shoes.

Oh, and one more thing. Xtenex laces last for years. They are easily transferable once you wear out your tennis shoes (provided you don't cut off the aglet) and will easily last you five seasons or more. The hardest part is finding the right color to match your mood.

Conclusion

Cheap, durable and easy to implement into your game, this is one accessory that's a no-brainer. But don't just get a pair for your tennis shoes, these laces are perfect for golfers, runners, kids, and anyone who struggles finding the right tension from a traditional lace.

The Xtenex lace may not fall into a traditional "game-improvement" category, but given the added comfort and stability, it should be on every tennis player's list this holiday season. Find a dealer at www.XTENEX.com. ☺

thebigchair

NEWS FROM USTA COLORADO HEADQUARTERS STATE OF THE DISTRICT

BY FRITZ GARGER, USTA COLORADO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings, I hope you have had a wonderful summer, and are enjoying what many consider to be some of the best tennis weather of the year. There are several topics I am very anxious to share with you, so without further ado, I'll jump right in.

Growth of Tennis in Colorado

We are coming off a summer season that has been extremely busy in all facets of our operation. We were not sure what the affects the down economy would have on participation in our sanctioned events or the outreach programs in various communities. In almost every activity or program, the participation numbers were greater than in years past, and in some instances the gains were incredibly large and significant.

As of this publication, the overall numbers for leagues and tournaments are up and that includes junior and adult/senior leagues; as well as adult/senior and junior tournament participation. The sport and our sanctioned activities (leagues and tournaments) continue to play an important role in the lives of active people even when the economic times are trying and difficult. Tennis remains a relatively inexpensive option and is growing in economic good times and bad. The benefits of this game – physical exercise, mental and emotional release, and the social aspects – are meaningful regardless of our situation.

Diversity TennisFest Series

Another area of growth and expansion that was really exciting this year involved our efforts to promote the sport via the Diversity TennisFest Series. We expanded our outreach efforts in 2009 to include three major festivals in the metro-Denver area: Cinco de Mayo, Denver Black Arts Festival, and the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival. Many thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who supported our efforts, including the folks at Qwest Pioneers and all those who took the time out of their lives to assist us at these events. It takes a lot of support to make those events happen. With this Series, we were able to tap into very large existing events in an effort to expose more people to the sport and our organization. And consistent with our message, we were able to reach out to young and old alike – all of whom have the opportunity to get involved and benefit from the sport of tennis.

USTA Colorado Staff Honored

Paula McClain, our Director of Marketing and Diversity who was brought on board less than a year ago, was the lead staff person with the TennisFest Series. While we already know how fortunate we are to have her on our staff, we were reminded of how talented she is as Paula was honored this summer by the Colorado Association of Black Journalists. She was a finalist in the Public Relations Professional of the Year category which is quite an accomplishment. We have so many talented people here in our office and Paula is certainly a wonderful addition to our staff.

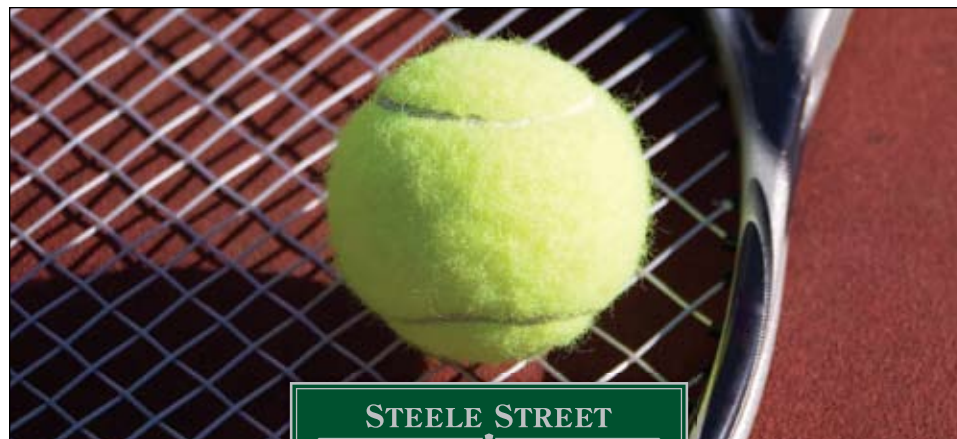
Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation (CYTF) News

Shifting gears, I want to extend thanks to those individuals, company and organization representatives who have assisted the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation with fund-raising this year. A number of events have been held with the CYTF as the charity of choice to support. To highlight a couple of the new events this year – the Greenwood Athletic and Tennis Club member/guest event with HW Home; and the Tennis with the Stars event led by Morgan Stanley Smith Barney and Mile High Sports Radio AM1510. These kinds of partnerships expand in a very significant way the exposure of our Foundation. Thousands of avid tennis players are not aware of the CYTF and its work; not to mention the thousands upon

thousands of non-tennis players who don't know about the Foundation. These events and many others are helping us with both these goals – to raise funds for our scholarships and grants as well as to provide exposure for the CYTF in general. So, a big thank you is in order to all those who organized events with the Foundation as a beneficiary (see page 19). And to those involved with an existing event or interested in putting a new one together – large or small, keep the CYTF in mind as your foundation of choice. The CYTF is a 501(c)3 and we're involved with junior programs and scholarships that impact the youngsters just getting into the game for the first time as well as the accomplished player who is refining his or her skills for state, regional or national competition.

The two major CYTF events that are organized directly from our office are the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame and Annual Awards Gala and the Punk Relic Memorial Funds Charity Tournament. The latter event just concluded and was another big success (see page 20). A special thanks to long standing sponsor Senn Visciano, P.C. and first-time major sponsor Property Management Advisors for their support. We are already gearing up for these major events in 2010.

There are a whole host of things going on this fall with tennis. It's a great time to be playing – so enjoy! Best wishes. 🎾



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the lastword

It's been almost 10 years since I first assumed the helm of COLORADO TENNIS newspaper, and there's a few things I've learned in the production of the first 58 issues I've published.

Now I've shared some fairly inane stuff with you over the years – as much as I've tried to forget, there are those of you who continually remind of the time I tried to build a grass court in my back yard, surprisingly to no avail.

But as I sit down and desperately try to fill the remaining white space of this publication with whatever coherent thoughts are left bouncing around in my shell-shocked brain, I fear that, for the 58th time in a row, I'm going to fall short.

Now I know how Andy Roddick feels whenever he plays Roger Federer.

This is a lot of pressure.

"Pressure is a privilege" says Billie Jean King, who won a mere 39 Grand Slam singles and doubles titles, but probably never had to sweat out the editing of the final few pages of a regional tennis publication.

Thanks, BJK, call me when you're two hours past deadline, and you're waiting for confirmation on which of the 57 photos you should use to highlight the *Tennis With The Stars* event (page 19). Then we'll talk.

Random advice of the day

Never give up coffee to help you sleep better. You'll keep waking yourself up every time your head hits the desk.

Pardon our dust

All this year, we've been handing out surveys at various adult and senior league championships asking for players' opinions on COLORADO TENNIS newspaper.

Here's why.

Next year, as CT enters its 35th year of publication, we're exploring various ways in which our newspaper can improve, and continue to meet and exceed our members' expectations.

As a part of our review, we'll be exploring digital versions, various print sizes and a host of other options as we look to evaluate where we are, and where we want to go.

Let's be honest, the current newspaper model isn't fairing so well these days, and while our hyper-local focus on grassroots tennis is fundamentally different in scope than so many publications that have failed in the last few years, it's important to remain flexible and adapt to the latest technologies that so many readers expect in today's world.

We're also very mindful that there is an entire generation of players – myself included – who crave the tactile sensation of picking up and reading a hard-copy newspaper or magazine. We fully expect to continue to offer COLORADO TENNIS in print, and these surveys will help us determine just the right formula to make it available in whatever formats readers demand.

So stay tuned, you'll find out more about the process in the winter issue, coming your way in early December.

WHO EDITS THE EDITOR WHEN HE'S ON DEADLINE?

THE GENTLE RUSHING SOUND OF A DEADLINE AS IT RUSHES BY SOUNDS JUST LIKE A 100MPH ACE, ONLY WITH MORE PROFANITY.

BY KURT DESAUTELS, COLORADO TENNIS EDITOR

Colorado Tennis Dot Com Two Point Oh

One of the bigger projects coming your way sometime in 2010 will be a re-designed, re-tooled, re-formulated and re-engineered COLORADOTENNIS.com. For the last several months, we've been soliciting input from our staff as to some of the needed features to include in the new release of our site.

We'll be retaining the key elements that our current players need – especially interactive features like the Court Finder, Master Calendar and numerous Adult League applications – while offering enhancements and special tools for new players, administrators, coaches and parents.

In addition, we'll be exploring ways to better cover local tennis news and events as well as maintaining a complete archive of news stories and features from COLORADO TENNIS newspaper and the annual BIG BOOK OF COLORADO TENNIS.

It's a long and arduous process, but we are confident that the results will be impressive. I'll keep you informed of our progress in an upcoming issue.

Please share

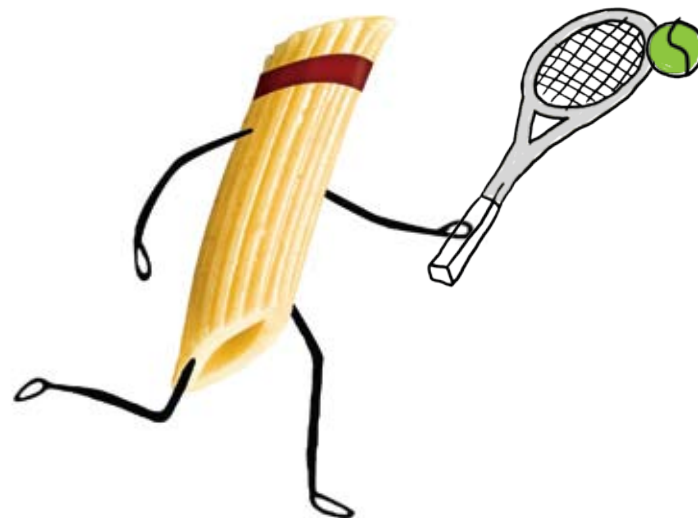
This issue marks the first of what we are expecting will be a long series of profiles on people who are doing great things in our local tennis community (page 6). If you know someone whose story should be told, please email me at EDITOR@COLORADOTENNIS.com. ☺

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USTA COLORADO

BACK ROW: Dan Lewis, Lisa Schaefer, Kristy Harris, Anita Cooper, Taylor McKinley, Jason Rogers.
FRONT ROW: Kurt Desautels, Kailey Jonas, Fritz Garger, Paula McClain, Jason Colter.

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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 also 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 lists more than 150 events in 2009 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.**

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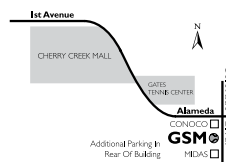
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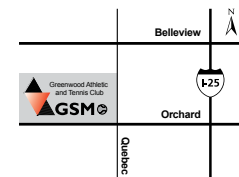
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