

# COLORADO TENNIS

Year 35, Issue 4

The Official Publication Of Tennis Lovers

Est. 1976

FALL 2010

LOVE FOR ALL

2010

DIVERSITY TENNISFEST

SERIES

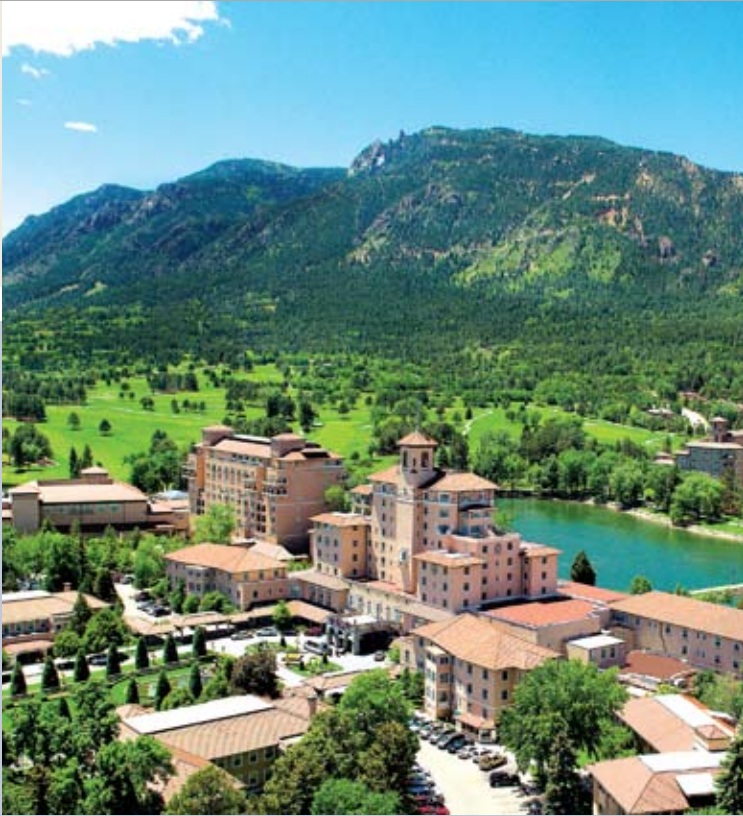


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# COLORADO TENNIS

Year 35, Issue 4

The Official Publication Of Tennis Lovers

Est. 1976

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## COVER STORY

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### TAKING TENNIS TO THE PEOPLE

Denver's three major cultural festivals – Cinco de Mayo, Colorado Black Arts Festival, Colorado Dragon Boat Festival – draw upwards of a half-million visitors annually.

The vast majority of the attendees have never experienced tennis at any level. USTA Colorado wants to change that.

By exposing entirely new communities to the sport of tennis, we feel that we are helping to safeguard the future of the game.

Now in its third year, the Diversity TennisFest Series has become a staple at these festivals, and USTA Colorado is working harder than ever to help tennis reach the mainstream among previously under-served cultural groups.

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### THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

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TENNIS Magazine  
USTA & SMASH Magazine

#### TOURNAMENT TENNIS

Sanctioned tournament play is wrongly thought to be for "serious competitors only." But in Colorado, there is a tournament for every level player, novice to expert. And with more than 160 events featuring divisions for kids under 10 to seniors 90 and up, there's no age limit for having fun.

#### FIND OUT MORE

Visit [USTA.com/membership](http://USTA.com/membership) for more information, to become a USTA member, or to change your address.  
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photo by Kurt Desautels

#### About COLORADO TENNIS

COLORADO TENNIS (USPS #013-371) is the official publication of USTA Colorado, a District of the United States Tennis Association. It is published quarterly (March, June, September & December), plus a special keeper issue in February – THE BIG BOOK OF COLORADO TENNIS.

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# THECOVERSTORY

THE DIVERSITY TENNISFEST SERIES

USTA COLORADO TAKES TENNIS TO THE PEOPLE

Story by  
**ANGELLE C FOUTHER**



**S**ummer, 2010. The images will forever be etched in the minds of tennis fans worldwide of phenom Rafael Nadal laying splayed across the clay courts of the Roland Garros after his fifth win at the French Open; of Nadal, along with Serena Williams, being crowned singles champions at Wimbledon after a surprise visit from the Queen Mother, her first since 1977; and of John Isner and Nicolas Mahut taking three days to complete their first-round match and a staggering 11 hours and five minutes on Court 18.

Equally as enthralling as the passion of the players were the multiple images of their family members. sitting on the edges of their seats along with the rest of the world, many of whom would witness for the first time, via live streaming 3D technology, the players who would reign supreme at Arthur Ashe Stadium at the Billie Jean National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows.

There's no denying it – this is a very exciting time in the history of the game of tennis.

But the excitement and fervor which occurred right here in the city of Denver this past summer could arguably rival those universally witnessed moments, as hundreds of youth and their families were exposed to the game of tennis through the USTA Colorado's Diversity TennisFest Series.

The Diversity TennisFest, now in its third year, is a series of outreach events that take place at three of Denver's major cultural celebrations – Cinco de Mayo, the Colorado Black Arts, and the Colorado Dragon Boat Festivals. Over 500,000 festival participants gained exposure to the USTA's efforts, hundreds of individuals signed up to learn more about free and low-cost programs throughout the Metro area, more than 300 youth participated in on-court practice with volunteer teaching pros, and 80 new racquets were distributed at each event – a total of 240 (made possible with the support of Qwest Pioneers, the world's largest employee volunteer group).



**Taking Tennis to the People**

Fritz Garger, the Executive Director of USTA Colorado says that the Diversity TennisFest is part of an overall inclusiveness initiative at USTA. "We could have held all kinds of events at tennis facilities and invited folks to come to us. But we recognized that if they were not already interested in tennis, they wouldn't come," Fritz states. This was the inception point for becoming a part of the festivals – taking tennis to the people."

Fritz adds that while it looks like the focus may only be on diverse populations, USTA's goal is to bring everyone together around the common interest of tennis. "These festivals bring out everyone – all ages, abilities and ethnic groups – we are reaching out to everyone regardless of background," he says.

While USTA Colorado has held clinics at various cultural festivals over the years, Fritz credits Paula McClain, Director of Marketing and Diversity since 2008, with transforming the outreach events into a series.

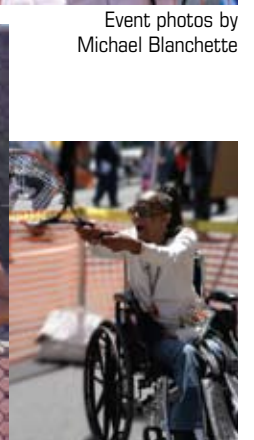
"We have developed great partnerships with the organizers of each event as well as a large following at these festivals," Paula states. "We have a database of past participants and many families make the TennisFest Series a part of their spring and summer activities. We see many families at all three of the festivals, which is great because it lends to further diversity at each event."

The TennisFest Series offers an exciting entrée to the game. Many festival-goers come over to the booth or the court out of curiosity and wind up literally having a ball, some swinging a racquet while still wearing festival gear or costumes. But, the goal is to take that initial spark and channel it by providing information that will allow youth and their families to follow up on opportunities based on their level of current ability.



**Reyes Family wins Family Tennis Raffle**

The Reyes Family of Denver was the winner of the USTA Colorado & Babolat Family Tennis Raffle, consisting of tennis racquets and balls for the whole family. Pictured (from back left) are: Fritz Garger (USTA Colorado), Claire Polzkill (KMGH-TV/Azteca America Colorado), Megan Unger Reyes, Benjamin Reyes, Paula McClain USTA Colorado), Shyahna Reyes and Jaden Reyes.



Event photos by Michael Blanchette



USTA Colorado Diversity Liaison Nora Harrison and Community Development Director Kristy Harris get ready for Prize Patrol.

**Volunteer-driven**

Paula and Fritz both say that it's the passion and commitment of the volunteers that drive the success of this endeavor.

Nora Harrison is the 2010 Diversity Liaison on the Board of Directors, in addition volunteered on the TennisFest Series planning committee. A teaching pro at The Ranch Country Club, Nora spent a great deal of time this past year looking for volunteers to do on-court training.

"There was high energy and tons of on-court activities at the festivals. We were thankful for so many more teaching pros this year because the instruction was high-quality. That allowed the kids to really get a feel for the game and allowed us to gauge the best placement for them," Nora says. "A lot of kids didn't think they'd have fun, but they did. They, along with their parents discovered that tennis was a possibility for them."

Michael Blanchette refers to himself as a "longtime tennis enthusiast" with an affiliation to USTA Colorado that spans over 20 years. He has been involved with Diversity TennisFest Series since its inception.

"The best thing for me is seeing the reaction on the kids' faces. Playing tennis is not something they get to do on a regular basis. Some have had exposure at other places – maybe in gym class at school – but most have never held their own racquet. We love being able to give kids their own racquet and try to give one to each of the kids that shows an interest in continuing to play. We also make sure they know about all of the different programs they can be involved with and the fact that there are scholarships. The USTA will do whatever it can to find a way for a kid who is interested so that money does not become an obstacle to the game."

Whether kids walk away with a racquet, or just a tennis trinket, Michael says, they remember the experience. "We make it pretty easy to get a prize – there was one little girl who received one and ran off the court yelling: 'this is the best day of my life.'"

Another planning committee volunteer and on the Diversity Oversight Committee, Tobias Ortegon, Denver Parks and Recreation Tennis Coordinator and professional coach, has also been involved with the USTA for years, and the Diversity TennisFest since its inception.

"I learned [tennis] late, at age 14," says Tobias, former coach to Kent High School tennis star James Martinez, whose grandfather, the legendary Kelly Lovato, was Tobias' own coach. "But I played at North High School and played number one, and then number one at Metro State! The game has opened up so many doors for me. It has truly been a blessing."

*Colorado*



*Dragon Boat Festival*

Tobias has indeed been a blessing in return. Having coached hundreds of youth throughout Colorado, he is always excited to see the raw potential of youth at the festivals and to help challenge the talented and motivated players in moving to the next stages. He says that several programs exist to that end. **QuickStart Tennis**, for youth 10 and under, allows kids to develop skills using smaller courts, smaller racquets, and slower balls. **Star Search** is a training ground for 7-12 years olds from culturally diverse communities throughout Colorado. Players are required to have mastered the basics and demonstrate of love of playing. The **Denver Urban Youth Tennis Academy** offers high performance coaching and training for a select group of competitive players who aspire to become sectionally and nationally ranked and possess a potential to play collegiate tennis.

**Making the connection**

The first step, though, is introducing these kids to tennis. Michael recalls a time when he and Taryn Archer, a USTA Colorado board member and the volunteer coordinator for the TennisFest, were playing tennis at Crown Park in Montbello.

"Taryn walked up and introduced herself to two families with kids who had come over to the court, and she invited them all to the TennisFest. Both families showed up – one stayed the entire day."

Two young brothers, Samson and Savion Johnson, picked up racquets and tried



Star Search coach Frank Adams is passionate about sharing his love of tennis with kids.



Tobias Ortegon, Tennis Coordinator for Denver Parks & Recreation, has volunteered for every Diversity TennisFest event.



Tennis pro George Tavarez hands out racquets at the Colorado Black Arts Festival



Devin O'Connor and Brittany Warly feed balls during the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival.





out for Star Search last summer as a result of the Diversity TennisFest. This summer both received scholarships to participate in the Nike Tennis Camp.

Another up-and-comer, Jadin Curry (pictured far right/bottom), participated in Denver Parks and Recreation Citywide Summer Tennis Program last summer. He and his father, Brian, followed the Diversity TennisFest Series from the Black Arts Festival to the Dragon Boat Festival and from there got involved in Star Search. Brian says he appreciates the fact that his son, a third-grader at Southmoor Elementary School who is bi-racial, has been able to participate with other minority youth of all ages and levels of expertise in these free programs.

"I like the tiered-level of the programs and the fact that



the kids can get experience at every level," says Brian. "My main hope is that Jadin continues to enjoy it and that he will learn to deal with whatever pressure there is through competition. Some of these kids are quite a bit older than him and he gets a kick out of getting respect from them. They treat him like one of them."

There are so many talented kids on the ladder – Jadin Curry, Denise Ford, Samson and Savion Johnson, among others. Tobias says pay attention to the names – he expects them all to do great things.

And maybe in the not too distant future, the parents of these youth, along with fans everywhere, will shout with excitement as the new and exciting players enthrall the world on professional championship courts. Meanwhile, in the distant parks of Denver, similar screams will fill the air – those of wide-eyed youth who are picking up racquets for the first time at a cultural festival and learning to hit a ball. 🎾



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# THEBUZZ

## NOUNS IN THE NEWS

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

### CYTF, Racquets For All join Facebook nation

If you ever wished you could have access to the latest news and information from the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation or Racquets For All program, your wish has been granted. After a successful trial period with Racquets For All, the CYTF's equipment donation program, the CYTF will launch its Facebook page in September. You don't need to be a Facebook member to catch up on the action, however. Just follow the links from [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com) or find us on Facebook.

### All State High School Tennis Team meets at Gates Tennis Center



Twenty of the states top high school netters met at Gates Tennis Center in mid-June in what organizers hope is the first of many such meetings among those who earned All State Tennis honors.

Boys and girls from

around the state, including Greeley and Steamboat Springs, and representing both 4A and 5A attended the inaugural event.

"The games were not meant to be competitive, but rather for fun and a celebration of earning the All State title", says Diane Wolverton, president of Colorado HS Tennis Coaches Association and head tennis coach for Northglenn High School.

Eligible players were seniors nominated by their high school coach who have played in the state tournament once during their high school tennis careers. Along with tennis credits, the nomination forms include the student's GPA, extracurricular events both in and out of school, and a letter from the coach explaining why they believe their athlete to be deserving of All State recognition. This is the sixth year All State tennis honors have been given to athletes.

Wolverton says, "It's always exciting to receive the nomination letters from the coaches for their kids. The tennis committee then reads through them and selects the top 11 boys and girls from 5A, and the top 11 boys and girls from 4A. We hope this event goes on forever."

### 24 Hours to Give Where You Live

Increase the value of your donation when you support the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation on Colorado Gives Day, December 8, 2010! On this special day, Colorado is coming together to raise one million dollars in one day for nonprofits including the CYTF. What's more, when you donate online on December 8, the value of your donation will be increased by the Colorado Gives Day Incentive Fund – created by FirstBank and supplemented by local organizations. To learn more about Colorado Gives Day, visit the [CYTF at COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com) or find us on Facebook, and remember us on December 8!

### Maccabi Games showcases Jewish athletic competition

Gates Tennis Center recently played host to the 2010 Denver JCC Maccabi Games. The event brought more than 1,500 Jewish teens (115 tennis players) from across the US and around the world to Denver to compete in a variety of sporting endeavors.

Now in its 29th year, the JCC Maccabi Games promotes good sportsmanship, respect, health and fitness. According to the JCC Maccabi website, "By using sports as the vehicle, the ultimate mission of the games is to cultivate a deeper understanding and appreciation of Jewish values within Jewish teens by enriching their Jewish identity in an informal setting and encouraging their identification with Israel at the same time."

Paul Gillis, a JCC board member, said the event was an absolute success. "The work to pull it off was tremendous in scope, but well worth the effort. People connected with one another in our community and many organizations rallied together in a cooperative manner that was without precedent."

The best part of the games, said Gillis, was that the athletes made an indelible mark on the Colorado community through their display of good sportsmanship and compassion for opponents." Beyond the Games themselves, the athletes spend a half-day in the host community to do a social justice project during a Day of Caring and Sharing. "Everyone had a good time," said Gillis. "The competition was fierce, but camaraderie won the day."



photos courtesy of the Oakes Family

### In Memoriam: Tennis icon Bill Oakes

Bill Oakes, a long-time fixture in the Colorado tennis community, passed away in August. A teaching professional at various clubs throughout the Denver metro area, Bill developed a passion for tennis as a young boy while watching his older brothers play matches.

He played on the varsity tennis team at East High School, earning a tennis scholarship at the University of Denver. After serving his country in the Marines, Bill joined forces with his long-time friend, Bill Wright. The two of them competed on the National Clay Court Circuit, and captured the Intermountain Doubles Championships in 1960. They would later go on to earn a top-3 doubles ranking (35 Doubles).

After leaving his teaching career in the Denver Public Schools, Bill became a tennis pro at Heather Ridge Country Club in 1970. He became the first head tennis professional at Gates Tennis Center when the facility opened in 1975, and later took on a similar position at The Pinery and the Eastmoor Swim & Tennis Club. In 1991 Bill took over the maintenance and groundskeeping at his beloved Denver Tennis Club. He spent 20 years caring for the beautiful flowers there, even watering them just days before his death.

Bill loved children, especially seeing them succeed at the game of tennis. He not only taught them the fundamentals of the game, he ingrained in them the importance of personal integrity on and off the court. Friends will remember Bill for the beauty he created in the flower beds and grounds at the DTC, but the Colorado tennis community will remember him for the lives he touched through tennis.



photo courtesy of Conor Coleman

### Colorado athletes net hardware at Special Olympics

Team Colorado accumulated 78 medals at the 2010 USA National Games July 18-23 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Comprised of just 27 athletes, Team Colorado nabbed 32 gold, 30 silver and 16 bronze medals competing in the sports of aquatics (swimming), athletics (track and field), bocce, bowling, gymnastics (rhythmic), powerlifting and tennis.

Colorado tennis coach Vicky Matarazzo (pictured second from right) celebrates with double medalists Nathan Knepper (singles gold, doubles silver) and Conor Coleman (singles bronze, doubles silver) and Abigail Imes (far right), who won a bronze medal in the individual skills competition.

continued





photo courtesy of Sonya Jaquez Lewis

### Lewis nets silver in first trip to International Gay Games

Meet Sonya Jaquez Lewis, a lifetime USTA member and the only Colorado tennis player to win a medal at the International Gay Games. Sonya earned her silver medal in the 3.5 mixed doubles division with partner David Joly of Belgium, at Gay Games VIII. The event took place in Cologne, Germany in early August. Sonya was also entered in the ladies doubles competition with her partner, Allison Lotspeich, and was one of only two American women doubles teams in the whole International tournament.

"The hardest challenge was the Red Clay", said Sonya. "In Colorado, we just don't get a chance to try out that surface very much and that is a definite advantage for the Europeans. I was very lucky to be paired with David who has been playing on red clay since he was a kid."

A member of Denver Area Tennis Enthusiasts (DATE), a Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transgender tennis association in Colorado, Sonya spends a lot of time traveling to compete in tennis tournaments around the world.

"Allison and I have been together as a couple for six years and playing tennis together for four years and all of our vacations involve tennis," she said. "We have played tennis all over the world, from Thailand to Greece, but one of my favorite places to play is Durango in the summer. The mountain landscape is the perfect background on the tennis court."

For Sonya, competing in the Gay Games is somewhat of a lifetime dream. "I participated in the Gay Games in 1994 in New York City as an Opening Ceremony's Band percussionist and always hoped I could compete and win a Gay Games medal."

And wouldn't you know it, she won a silver medal on her first try.

"I know some athletes who have been to four competitions – that's 16 years – and never won, so I feel thrilled and honored to have medaled in my first Gay Games competition.

Sonya and Allison are also part of a team of folks working on a bid for Denver to host the 2015 North America OutGames. Of course, tennis will be one of the 20 sports competitions offered.

"But it is all about doing the best we can, said Sonya. I believe that GLBT athletic competition encourages individuals to achieve their greatest personal goals. The greater our goals, the greater our society."

### Sibling Damicos earn top-100 pre-season rankings

Growing up in Parker, CO, siblings Krista and Kellen Damico were two of the top-recruited players in the nation. They left Colorado to train in Austin, TX with John Roddick (Andy's brother), and decided to stay in Austin to matriculate at the University of Texas. Kellen begins his senior year with a preseason ranking of 77 in singles, 58 in doubles, while Krista starts her junior year as the 44th ranked player in the country.

Also earning a preseason ranking is sophomore Enej Bonin from the University of Denver, who sits at 121 in singles.

### PPCTA searching for Executive Director

Pikes Peak Community Tennis Association is looking for a part-time Executive Director. Following are some of the duties required of the position:

1. Developing and promoting PPCTA memberships;
2. Writing grants, and grant accountability reports;
3. Working with staff, volunteers, media, agencies, schools, parks, and recreation, local organizations, and the private and corporate community to promote PPCTA and its programs;
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5. Planning and coordinating programs and fundraising efforts;
6. Maintenance of the PPCTA website.

Salary is negotiable based on applicant's skills and experience. To apply, email Erol Agnos <mailto:erollinda@comcast.net>, PPCTA President.

### Town of Superior seeking Tennis Pro

The Town of Superior is soliciting proposals from qualified contractors to serve as the Tennis Professional for the Town's outdoor tennis program. This is an excellent opportunity to help develop a quality program that meets the growing demand for tennis in the Superior/Boulder area. Qualified candidates must be USPTA certified and have a successful track record of program development and implementation. For additional information regarding this position as well as more information about the Town of Superior please visit [TownofSuperior.org](http://TownofSuperior.org) or call 303/554-9005.

### New Evergreen Tennis owners looking to expand

Evergreen Sports Center owners Jim & Jill Lawrence have been busy since purchasing the club last year. They recently hired former WTA tour player and coach Sarah Stone as Tennis Director, and have expanded offerings and programs for adults and juniors. But the pair aren't done yet. Future plans for the club include a new state-of-the-art facility as well as expanding the junior program into a high performance touring academy. Find out more about the club at [EVERGREENSPORTSCENTER.net](http://EVERGREENSPORTSCENTER.net).

### CYTF seeking auction items

The Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation is collecting items and certificate donations (\$50 minimum value) for its annual online auction. Items valued at \$1,500 or more are also being solicited for inclusion in the live auction that will be conducted at the 2011 Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala. Contact [Lisa Schaefer](mailto:lisa@coloradotennis.com), <mailto:lisa@coloradotennis.com> at 303/695-4116 x201 by October 31.

continued



## Meanwhile, back at The Ranch...



Director of Tennis: Miikka Keronen  
Junior Coordinator: Aki Iino  
Adult Coordinator: Nora Harrison

Thanks to all the players who participated in the 2010 Ranch Country Club Shootout and Roundup, and the ITA Memorial Day Circuit.

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*The Ranch*

11887 Tejon Street, Westminster



**Free Tennis For Kids Day at Gates Tennis Center a "hit"**

The second annual Tennis For Kids Day was a real hit for the hundreds of kids and their parents who came out to experience tennis, many for the first time. The atmosphere was like a "tennis carnival," with courts adorned with colorful props, prizes, miniature nets, obstacle courses, and more. The free event has become an annual feature of the Colorado State Open, held each year at Gates Tennis Center in Cherry Creek. Off-court there was music, facepainting, a raffle to win prizes, and more.

"We all share the common goal of introducing the game of tennis to kids by providing this fun free day and free tickets for the kids to return and enjoy the great live tennis," says Gates Tennis Center's Eric Rose.



photos by Kristy Harris

**USTA Colorado debuts its new portable, modular court:** USTA Colorado has a new toy to play with. It comes in the shape of a tennis court, but slots in at a trimmer 18'x36', precisely the dimensions of a standard QuickStart Tennis court. The portable court will be a feature at future festivals and demonstrations, thanks to Sport Court.

# GREENWOOD ATHLETIC AND TENNIS CLUB wants to thank the sponsors for making our 3rd annual Member/Guest tournament a huge success.



We had nearly \$20,000 worth of contributions to be split among our finalists of each division and the tournament grew this year to over 140 participants. The player party hosted by HW HOME and all the support we got for our live auction helped us raise over \$7,000 for the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation. This was over double the amount we raised last year for the CYTF, which will have a huge impact on the way they can influence the lives of young tennis players.

Again, thank you to the sponsors and to everyone who put in all their hard work to help continue the success of this fantastic tennis event. Next years event is July 11-16, 2011.



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**USTA Intermountain Multicultural Participation, Adopt-a-Court Grants**

The USTA/Intermountain Section has two grant opportunities approaching with September 24 deadlines. Multicultural youth and programs with a multicultural focus may be eligible for financial support through the ITA MP Grant. Funding for resurfacing or restoration of public tennis courts is also available through the ITA Adopt-a-Court grant. Contact Keith Bell <mailto:kbell@ita.usta.com> at 303/695-4117 for more information.

**USTA CO & CYTF Early Program Grant Consideration for 2011**

Organizations offering tennis programs that have a clear need for funding prior to the standard April 1 annual program grant deadline have the option to submit an early grant application for 2011 program funding consideration. Explicit reasons for early funding must specifically be outlined and included in the grant application. Grant deadline is October 1. Substantial expansion of program scope, outreach to new populations or extensive early promotional/marketing efforts to create significant increase in current program participation are a few reasons an organization may decide to utilize the early grant application process. If you have questions, contact Lisa Schaefer (CYTF) <mailto:lisa@coloradotennis.com> or Kristy Harris (USTA CO) <mailto:krist@coloradotennis.com>.

**Regional Community Tennis Development Workshop scheduled**

USTA Intermountain is hosting a **Regional Community Tennis Development Workshop** on November 6-7 at the Doubletree Hotel Denver Tech Center. The workshop is co-sponsored by the USPTA Intermountain Division, and will feature presentations on Board development and leadership training, community advocacy, USTA tennis court facility funding and QuickStart Tennis. Featuring nationally recognized speaker Bob Harris, CAE and founder of the Nonprofit Center, who will provide valuable nonprofit management training. Bob will speak on Board roles and responsibilities, ten things you should know about association management, strategic planning and association board policies and procedures. Strengthen your association by strengthening your volunteer leadership. Learn the ins and outs of association management, strategic planning and non-profit board roles and responsibilities.

There will also be a session on community advocacy for your public facility and the USTA tennis court facility funding initiative. On Sunday morning, a QuickStart Tennis training will be



INTERMOUNTAIN



**SBL crowns champs of summer session**

USTA Colorado's Senior Breakfast League wrapped up the summer season, crowning the 3.0/3.5 champions. Retiring SBL Coordinator Brad Brehmer (third from left) poses with the champs: Holly McDonnell, Bob Preston, LaNelle Haxton, Lowell Haxton, Judy Lord, Lorrie Guttman, Donlie Smith (Joan Markey, not pictured).

held at Greenwood Athletic and Tennis Club. For more information, visit [INTERMOUNTAIN. USTA.com](http://INTERMOUNTAIN.USTA.com) or call 303/695-4117 x222.

**COLORADO TENNIS returns in December**

Got a story or a photo to share with the Colorado tennis community? Submit your ideas for the fall issue of COLORADO TENNIS, which will arrive at your doorstep in December. The deadline to get your story/photo submitted is November 10. Send it to Kurt Desautels <kurt@coloradotennis.com>, COLORADO TENNIS editor.

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# SPOTLIGHT: RACQUETS FOR ALL



Dear Racquets For All-

Thank you for your generous donation of used tennis racquets from your Racquets for All program. This is the second time our students at Wheat Ridge Middle School have benefited from your program. Our program here is still quite new since this is only the second year we are offering it to students as an after school extracurricular activity. We started tennis last fall as a lesson program and had 7 students. By springtime, our kids were excited to compete so we offered the USTA Colorado Denver middle school league and we had 10 students register. Due to the excitement the program generated we have started our tennis earlier this year and our lesson program has grown to 23 students! As you can tell by the picture, our courts are not in the best condition so having kids still want to be involved is awesome!

Our school is over 90% poverty level student body. Without CYTF's involvement we would not be able to put a racquet in each of our kids' hands. We appreciate you and your program for sharing and caring.

Sincerely,  
Sonia Schwartz, tennis coach

## RFA HIGH SCHOOL CHALLENGE

The Racquets for All High School Challenge is an exciting opportunity for any Colorado high school boys' tennis team to become involved with the Racquets for All program. High school teams throughout Colorado are asked to participate by collecting new and gently used tennis racquets throughout their regular season. Teams are encouraged to come up with creative ways to gather donations and ultimately try to collect the most racquets of any high school in the state. Consider personal requests, racquet drives at the school, solicitation from local clubs and any other way you want.

This is a great way for high school tennis players in Colorado to give back to the tennis community, participate in a fun "green" project and also meet any community service requirements that their school might have.

Each team interested in participating just needs to bring their collected racquets to their regional tournament. The boys' team collecting the most racquets will be awarded \$200 at a presentation during the State Championships in October 2010. This year's RFA High School Challenge (Girls) was won by Ralston Valley.

Follow us on Facebook or contact <a href="mailto:RFA@coloradotennis.com">RFA@coloradotennis.com</a> for more information.

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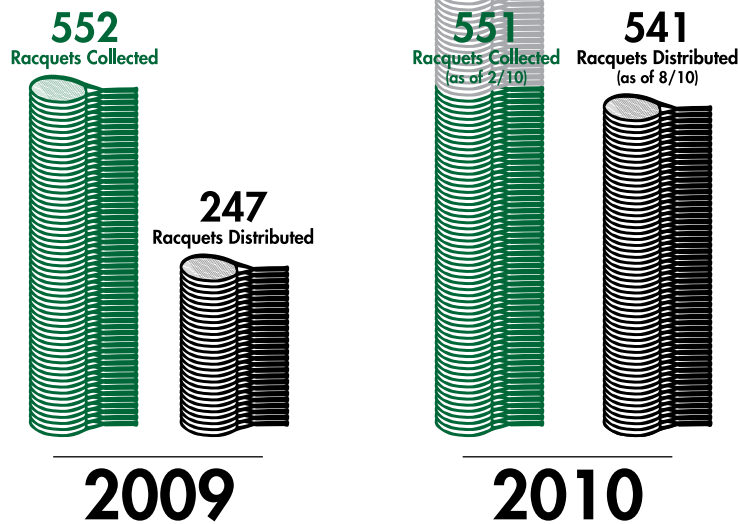
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GOAL: 1,200  
Racquets Collected

### EQUIPMENT COLLECTION/DONATION UPDATE

Through August 31, 2010 RFA has collected 551 tennis racquets, 331 dozen tennis balls and 305 racquet covers and bags. RFA has distributed 541 racquets, 355 dozen balls, 152 racquet/10 head covers, 11 bags and 16 miscellaneous items to 32 schools and recreation districts throughout Colorado.



# RACQUETS FOR ALL



Equipment Recycling Program of the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation



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HAVE AN OLD RACQUET GATHERING DUST?  
DONATE IT TO RACQUETS FOR ALL.  
FIND A COLLECTION SPOT AT [COLORADOTENNIS.COM](http://COLORADOTENNIS.COM)

# SPOTLIGHT: COLORADO YOUTH TENNIS FOUNDATION



CONNECTING WITH  
THE CYTF IS EASIER  
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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](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com).



### A DAY OF PUNKS, RELICS AND FUN

Held on August 22 at Gates Tennis Center, the 11th Annual Punk Relic Tournament welcomed 40 adult/junior combined teams in the fun one-day event that raised dollars for the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation general and memorial funds.

This year's event champions/finalists are:

- Man/Boy Doubles Int: ANDY ZODIN & ARIK STEINBERG/GARY & JACK ROHR
- Man/Boy Doubles Adv: CHRIS CROXTON & JESSE RUDER-HOOK/CORY & CASEY ROSS
- Woman/Girl Doubles Adv: TIFFANY CLIFFORD & SAMANTHA MARTINELLI/EILEEN PERO & CAROLINE SCHNELL
- Mixed Doubles Int: ANN SLOCOMB & CASE ANDERSON/ TONY & STEPHANIE GRAZIANO
- Mixed Doubles Adv: ERIC RIVERA & KIRA WOODS/KENT GUERIN & MIRA RUDER-HOOK



### YOUTH WHO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS ARE:

- 57% **LESS** likely to drop out of school;
- 49% **LESS** likely to use drugs;
- 37% **LESS** likely to be teen parents;
- 35% **LESS** likely to smoke cigarettes;
- 27% **LESS** likely to be arrested.

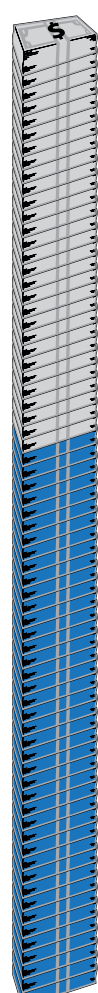
### Scholarship, Grant Applications

The CYTF is accepting special need scholarship applications from juniors who need assistance in order to pursue tennis. Early program grants applications for organizations running programs for kids in need are also being accepted. The application deadline is October 1. For more information and an application visit [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com) and click on the CYTF logo.

## GIFTS TO THE CYTF

The Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation raises money through our two primary 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. Supporters host affiliated events (such as tennis socials, house parties, cocktail receptions, etc.) and donate proceeds to the CYTF. In 2010, the CYTF's goal is to raise \$34,000 in individual, corporate, foundation and "affiliated event" dollars.

To make a gift – big or small – visit our website at [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com) and click on the **CYTF logo**. Your gift will be acknowledged in the next issue of *Colorado Tennis* newspaper. If you'd like to host an event to benefit the CYTF contact the CYTF office <[lisa@coloradotennis.com](mailto:lisa@coloradotennis.com)>, 303/695-4116 ext. 201.



**\$34,000**  
2010 FUNDRAISING  
GOAL FROM  
INDIVIDUAL,  
CORPORATE,  
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"AFFILIATED EVENTS"

**\$18,383**  
FALL 2010  
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### The CYTF would like to thank the following business and individuals for helping make tennis dreams come true:

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#### GENERAL GIFTS

- Martha Bartz & Harold Fong
- Bardsley Foundation
- Elizabeth Towner

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# PROFILE

## A NORTHERN COLORADO TENNIS BOOM?

DESPITE A SLUGGISH ECONOMY, NORTHERN COLORADO SCHOOLS ARE FINDING WAYS TO BUILD NEW COURTS AND ADD FUEL TO THE TENNIS BOOM.

Story by  
**TOM FASANO**

**P**atience paid off for two northern Colorado high schools and a large university when it came to building new tennis courts, and those people directly affected by them are saying the wait was worth it.

Colorado State University, Windsor and Berthoud high schools have new tennis courts after years of players and coaches showing patience and traveling elsewhere to practice and play matches.

A 12-court, \$2 million tennis complex less than a mile south of the center of campus is a sparkling addition to CSU.

Windsor High School and the town of Windsor joined forces in building six new courts at the high school that totaled \$580,000, just east of the town's recreation center.

Berthoud High School is also the site of six new courts with a price tag of \$300,000, doubling the total number of courts tennis players previously had access to.

In an economy when money is tight and projects such as tennis courts aren't a priority, it says something for the interest in tennis in northern Colorado that new courts are being built.

"The numbers as far as league players, tournament players, frequent players in northern Colorado and in the state of Colorado are just going through the roof," said Jon Messick, the head coach of the CSU women's tennis team. "The demand for tennis courts is exceeding the supply right now, and the sport is just really booming right now. With the 12 courts that we've built, it's going to help a lot."

Messick said more courts are going to have to be built in the future to satisfy the demand.

"I think the time is coming that we just need to advocate for more courts across the board because there's just a ton of players coming out of the woodwork these days," Messick said. "It's a good problem to have with a sport that you're running out of places to play because it means you're doing a good job of promoting the game and the sport for players. I'd rather have it that way than just having nobody wanting to play."



photo courtesy of Windsor High School

### WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL

The six new tennis courts are a reason for Windsor High School athletic director Mark Kanagy to smile, as well as lot of USTA adults league players and high school players. The \$580,000 project, which includes a 125-space parking lot and a contribution of \$150,000 from the town of Windsor, makes up for the years of resurfacing the five old courts.

The old courts, were basically a concrete slab with a rubber mat on top of it, had to be resurfaced twice because of the poor surface that was put down and the weather caused the courts to crack and buckle in spots. The high school teams had to drive to Eaton for practices and matches, and USTA adult leagues had to go elsewhere to play when the courts weren't playable. The only solution on the courts was to start from scratch.

"I really felt for our tennis players since I've been there for the last three years," Kanagy said. "By no fault of the district but by nature and everything else, the tennis courts that used to be there were just virtually unplayable at times. For them to be able to have state-of-the-art courts like that is just fantastic."

The new courts were part of the Windsor-Severance Re-4 School District's summer projects utilizing the remaining funds from the \$41.5 million bond voters approved in 2007 to build the middle school and elementary schools in Severance, as well as for other projects.

"It's vital because there wasn't access to good courts unless you travel up to Fort Collins or into Greeley. It is a joint-use facility and it's getting good use," Kanagy said. "These courts are state of the art with the post-tension concrete. The fact now that we have six courts instead of five is really going to help us especially in the girls season when we have a full varsity and junior varsity. It will really help us get through matches. I also think it's great for the community. Every time I've been out there, since they've opened up there's always someone out playing on them which is fantastic."

The town of Windsor pursued a grant from the USTA for lighting the two southwest courts, but didn't receive the grant.

"One reason is that by the time we asked, the courts were pretty much done," said Melissa Chew, the director of parks and recreation for the town of Windsor. "We estimate that purchasing the poles and lights, running the wiring, and getting electrical to the site might be up to \$50,000. We do not have a firm quote from Xcel, so that number might not be accurate. The bases and conduit were installed as part of the original court install."

Chew said the town still plans on lighting the two courts.

**Windsor's (Tennis) Castle:** Windsor High School boys tennis coach Scott Talbot works on some practice drills during a recent practice on one of the six new tennis courts that the school district and high school got together to build.

"The Town of Windsor is moving forward with hopes to have them installed by the end of the year, depending on cost and budget," Chew said.

Scott Talbot, the coordinator of the Windsor Tennis Association and the head coach of the Windsor High School boys and girls teams, said everyone is responding positively to the new courts.

"It's definitely a huge improvement over what we had before," Talbot said. "Everybody who comes out to play comments on how nice the courts are. There's absolutely no complaints about the courts. These courts are getting much more use than the courts did previously."

"They are really nice. I like them so much better than the old ones," Windsor High School tennis player Kelsey Carpenter said. "It makes you proud to show off these courts. It's going to be nice to host matches."

Windsor resident Mike Emerson is a USTA 3.5 player who plays in the super seniors, seniors and mixed leagues and played on the old courts since 1996. He said it's nice to see the new courts in Windsor.

"Hopefully, the people in town will use them and take care of them," Emerson said. "To tell you the truth, nobody from other towns liked to come here. We used to hear complaints because the balls wouldn't bounce. Our competition will enjoy coming here, too. It's nice that our community, which is a growing community, participated in obtaining nice tennis courts."

### COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

The 12 new courts at the University Tennis Complex, 2400 Research Boulevard, look great and play even better with the blue US Open-type courts, lighting on eight of the courts and the CSU Rams logos on the back of each court.

Judy Muenchow, the executive director of campus recreation at CSU, said the complex cost is being funded by student activities fees.

"It's part of the (30-year) bond for the student recreation center, and the tennis courts were put together," Muenchow said. "The total bond was \$32 million, \$2 million of which was earmarked for the tennis courts construction and \$30 million for the student rec center, renovation and expansion. I think it's a wonderful site. I think the construction was top notch. I think the students got more bang for their buck out there, and I think the varsity tennis team is going to be able to call a really nice facility home, and I have no doubt we're going to be able to work with the city of Fort Collins and allow to have community access to those courts."

Messick said the team's been without courts for about three years and has been playing at different sites in Fort Collins, adding, "I've got a senior on the team right now that has not played on home courts."

Messick, who has coached at CSU for 25 years, said the courts came out the way he wanted them to.

"We got post-tension concrete, the spacing, the dimensions as far as the distances between the baselines and the fence and the sidelines and the fence were what we wanted," Messick said. "The viewing is amazing," he added. "You don't have to look over no more than one court to watch a match. Eight of the 12 courts you can be right next to the court, and the other four you just look over one court. They're all individually enclosed. It's almost like every court is kind of separate which has a nice feel to it."

Muenchow said the complex is being scheduled and maintained by





photo courtesy of Colorado State University

**CSU courts go green (and blue):** This fall, CSU will debut its new state-of-the-art tennis complex, a \$2 million, 12-court facility that the university hopes will become a tennis hub for the city of Fort Collins.

CSU Facilities Management. She said there are plans to light all 12 courts as money becomes available, but that's down the road. There is also a pavilion that houses a men's and women's restroom, a storage room and a locker room for the CSU women's tennis team.

"It's less than a mile from center of campus so a student can ride a bike, drive a car and walk over there easily," Muenchow said. "Now we can host conference tournaments. We can partner with the city of Fort Collins to hold special events or bring tennis into the Fort Collins community. It will bring a much better situation for our varsity tennis team. It's a great situation for our students in terms of tennis and how many courts are available once the finalization of the drop-in hours."

Messick said everybody loves the new courts.

"Everybody that shows up for the first time they just say, 'Wow.' Everybody just loves playing on them," he said. "The surface is beautiful. I think it's going to be one of the places in town that people are going to want to play."

Fort Collins resident Cody Schopfer, a USTA 4.5 player who has played in the Fort Collins Tennis Association for the last eight years, got the chance to play on the new courts at the University Tennis Complex and liked what he saw.

"They're awesome," Schopfer said. "You walk on and it feels like there's far more courts than 12 to me. I enjoy the fact that they've got the divider gates in between the courts to keep neighboring balls from drifting into your court. They definitely have all the bells and whistles with the blue courts and green outside like a US Open type of situation."

Schopfer said the scenery with the mountains to the west make for an enjoyable playing experience. "The sun was setting over the mountains and it was pretty epic," Schopfer said. "It's gorgeous."

**BERTHOUD HIGH SCHOOL**

Dave Mathiesen, the head girls coach at Berthoud High School, said the six post-tension concrete courts are just what the community and school needed after having just three courts to play on in the past at the high school.

"They've run these girls on three courts here and it's killed the program. It's killed the coaches. It's killed the parents," Mathiesen said. "Most high schools will have six and they'll take you to a park with four so you're playing on 10 courts, but here we had the three. You can't make the opposing coaches happy. You can't get the kids to play. They tried to play nine-game pro sets instead of two out of three to get everybody on."

The three old courts didn't get torn down, so Berthoud now has nine courts. Mathiesen said the \$300,000 courts project was tied into an irrigation system project in the school district.

"We'll go from three courts to nine. We're going from being the worst school in the state of Colorado to one of the best schools," Mathiesen said.

Berthoud doesn't have its own tennis association, but Mathiesen said he expects a lot of residents to use the courts.

"Our little Berthoud town we have no big facilities in the rec department, so in order to get our rec department going we had to do something with the courts," Mathiesen said. "They were using the three high school courts, so we're just trying to help the little rec department."

Mathiesen said one of the school district's administrators recognized the need for new courts and more of them.

"The money came from here and there from a couple of different directions," Mathiesen said. "It's not supposed to happen. There's no money. I stuck my neck out a little ways and it didn't get chopped off."

Mathiesen said the community wanted new courts.

"They started working on these courts last October," he said. "The community is just biting at the bit to go out there. This community is more than ready." 🙌



photo courtesy of Dave Mathiesen

**Berthoud's new six-pack:** The addition of six new courts at the high school tripled the town of Berthoud's tennis capacity. The facility will be open to the public.



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# HIGH FIVE

**F**or the past three decades, *COLORADO TENNIS* (née *High Bounce* in 1977) has been bringing you profiles of local players, coaches, administrators and anyone else in the Colorado tennis community who shares their passion for the sport with others.

In each issue, we are profiling five individuals who deserve recognition for their efforts and accomplishments. As always, some you will know, while others will be fresh names and faces.

As always, we encourage readers to help us recognize others who they think deserve special recognition. Email Kurt Desautels <[kurt@coloradotennis.com](mailto:kurt@coloradotennis.com)> with your comments or suggestions.

**M**ost tennis players have heard the phrase “Tennis – The Sport for a Lifetime”, but it takes a person like Brad Brehmer to make that phrase a reality.

For the past 12 years, Brad has been one of the key figures in keeping Colorado seniors involved with tennis in his role as the USTA Colorado Senior Breakfast League Coordinator. A tennis player himself, Brad not only coordinated the league, but also played in it. He and a handful of other players were part of a group that started playing in the league in 1989. Since then, the league has grown substantially, with 361 players participating in 2010.



photo by Kurt Desautels

**BRAD BREHMER**

Story by **RACHEL MORLEY**

To keep the league’s turnover ratio low, new players were constantly recruited through brochures placed at tennis facilities, announcements in *COLORADO TENNIS* newspaper and letters sent to prior participants and those who expressed interest in the league. Juggling the constant recruitment, registration and scheduling – the league consists of (3) 16-week sessions each year, and hosted by Arvada Tennis Center, Gates Tennis Center, Meadow Creek and The Ranch Country Club – required a lot of attention to detail and keen planning on Brad’s part.

“Brad is as organized as they come and has ensured that those involved with the Senior Breakfast League have been part of a smooth program from start to finish,” said Fritz Garger, Executive Director of USTA Colorado.

The key to the league’s success has been the emphasis that Brad placed on the social aspect.

“Brad genuinely cares for the players and ensures that everyone has a pleasant and enjoyable experience,” said Garger.

After each match, players take part in a social time which strengthens the relationship and camaraderie among the players. Brad says “The emphasis is on fun and I believe that appeals to many seniors who may be beyond the super-competitive level of tennis.”

Unfortunately, Brad had to limit his tennis playing a few years ago and had to leave the sport as a player this year. And, like his tennis, Brad is leaving his position as the Senior Breakfast League Coordinator. While Brad’s commitment to the league and it’s players will be missed, he knows that it’s not the end of his connection with the league.

“The greatest reward from this was in establishing long term close relationships with some of the participants,” Brad said. “My wife and I cherish those friends we have discovered through tennis.”

While Brad is leaving the tennis courts behind, he will be spending more time at the bridge table. Chances are, some of those friendships formed through tennis will continue there. Further proof that tennis truly is the sport for a lifetime.

## COLORADO'S BEST-KEPT TENNIS SECRET



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If you grow up in the Ross household, you play tennis like you breathe air. You don't know any other way of life. You talk tennis and live tennis. A multitude of trophies surround you and you are on the courts about the same time you learn to walk, with a cut-off squash racquet in your tiny hand swinging at balloons.

So began the life of Casey Ross, the youngest member of the 1999 CTA Tennis Family of the year. At only 4 days old, he was brought to the Jon Cox Tournament where his big brother

Cory was playing. Big Sister, Becky, was also a big influence to her little brother. From his family, Casey not only developed a love for tennis, but a strong respect for the game that means so much to everyone around him. At twelve, you'll find kids like Casey turning in strong tournament results, but you won't find many kids his age universally recognized as one of the great sportsman around.

Coached by his father, Randy Ross, who is the Director of Tennis at Inverness and coach of the boy's team at Kent Denver, Casey's humble attitude is matched only by his deep respect for his opponents.

"Casey is one of those kids that doesn't have to make a lot of noise to get attention," Randy explains of Casey's reputation, and his recent awards including the Boys 12s Memorial Circuit Sportsmanship Award, the ITA Summer Sectional Sportsmanship Award, the Zonal and the Boys 12s National Sportsmanship Award at the Little Rock, AR tournament. "He's always been aware of what the expectations were for getting to participate in tennis and he loves it."

When asked about his strong sportsmanship Casey humbly gives credit to his older brother who is also known for his positive court demeanor. "He's my favorite player," Casey explains. "I saw what he did on the courts and how he was to other players."

It's a remarkable feat, having two brothers recognized for their sportsmanship. Cory received the National 16s award (back in 1999), while Casey received the National 12s award this year in Little Rock (see photo with Tournament Director Jeff Brack).

Nancy Ross, Casey's mom, says both boys always approached tennis as something fun, not a duty filled with pressure and expectations. "When you are around tennis as much as we are, you know that there are going to be a lot of matches. You look at the big picture, that they can become a great competitor. You can't forget...it's their sport!"

An outstanding young man off the courts as well, sixth-grader Casey maintains excellent grades at Jeffco Montessori Peaks Academy, where he helps mentor the younger students in his mixed-aged class. He's a well rounded young man who balances tennis, guitar lessons and school with strong self-planning skills and a sense of personal responsibility.

Part of Casey's pre-match routine is to "say positive things to myself" during the warm up, which will serve him well in his quest to "win Wimbledon someday".

For a youngster who is known for being the player who always stays around and cheers on everyone else – "I just feel that it's the right thing to do" – his humility and respect for his peers may just be the thing that sets him apart from the thousands of other players pursuing that same dream. 🌱



Story by **KATIE NEWELL**

As Kent Waryan was moving onward and upward in his 35-year career in education as a biology teacher, tennis coach, school counselor, administrator, and eventually Jefferson County School District's Athletic Director, he became more and more aware that each position pulled him farther away from the interaction with kids than he was comfortable with – interaction for which he has a deep appreciation.

As the Jeffco AD, he oversaw 22 high school activities, but even that responsibility didn't come close to satisfying Kent's respective approach to kids.

"I enjoy working with kids daily and watching them develop," he says. "They are mistake-making beings but you want them to have passions. I want to be there for them – accept them when they do well and when they don't."

To balance out a career that was pulling him away from kids, Kent found an opportunity to engage with kids and more fully participate in tennis, a game he loves but didn't even begin playing until his college years. For 20 years, Kent ran the tennis program at Lakewood Country Club. He was also the Tournament Director for the 5A State Boys and Girls Tennis Tournaments for five years, recently retiring his post.

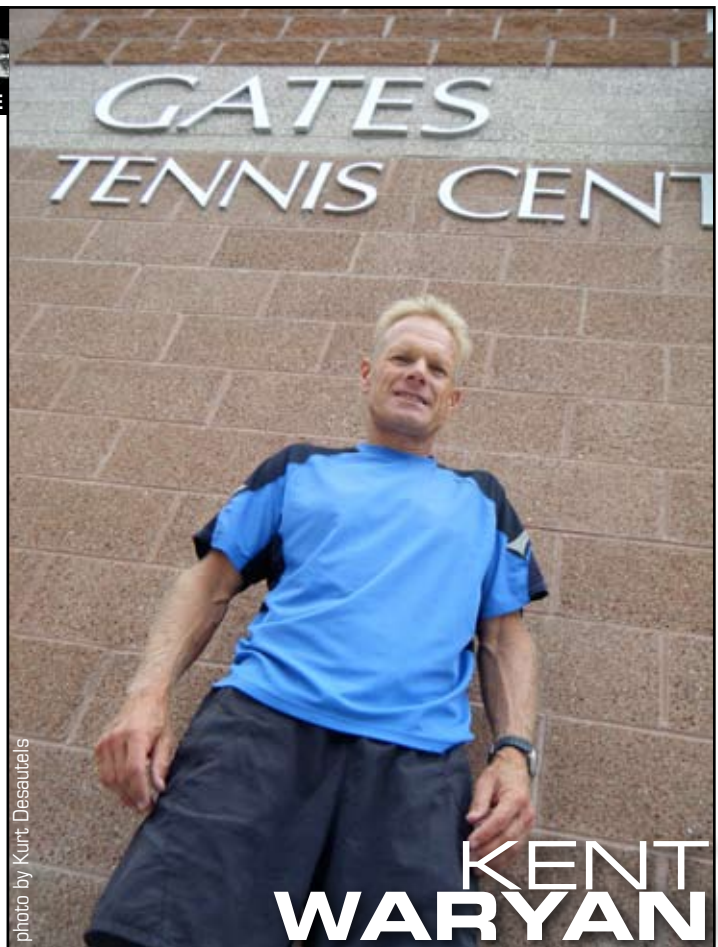
"Seeing the kids year to year was what I enjoyed the most," he said about his stint running the desk at the Colorado High School Athletics Association State Championships. "I was impressed with how they handled themselves, how they dealt with the pressure."

Further supporting his tennis habit, Kent has served as Chairman of the Tennis Committee for CHSAA and this past spring, he began teaching tennis at Gates Tennis Center. He is excited to be back and have the challenge of something new and different.

"I love playing tennis," says Kent. "This gives me occasion to play tennis and encourage kids to be active and do something positive."

His daughter even taught with him at Gates this summer and is a sophomore at University of Colorado. His son is a junior at Kansas University.

Kent is a unique man whose involvement in tennis has elevated the tennis experience for many people – kids and adults. He continues to give back to the tennis community and genuinely influences those with whom he comes in contact. 🌱



Story by  
**LINDA SARGENT WEGNER**



# HIGH FIVE

continued from P19

**P**otential and children.... Children and tennis...Tennis and Miikka Keronen. Combine 'potential, children, tennis, and Miikka Keronen' and you get a tennis professional and coach who can influence a child's life. "I enjoy people, but I like all the potential that children have. Potential in whatever they choose to do," says Miikka, "On the court, I try to help them see their potential if they have skill there."

Miikka considers competing as a good tool for measuring success. "If a kid has a desire to play and a love of the game of tennis, they should start playing in tournaments to help feed that potential."

Growing up in Finland, Miikka's life involved an all-tennis focus. He didn't get to participate in many activities outside of tennis. He sees, now, kids have so many opportunities to find something they love. "I do believe that kids should find a balance with the three E's: Education, Entertainment and Exercise. That is my general philosophy."

In 1985, Miikka came over to the United States as an exchange student for a year. He returned to play college tennis at Azusa Pacific University where he met his wife. They have a 7-year-old son and 5-year-old daughter. From 1996-2007, he was a tennis pro at Boulder Country Club. Now at the Ranch Country Club as the Director of Tennis, he continues to have opportunity to give back to the sport which shaped him.

He is a Team Colorado coach and describes his experience with the program as 'it was awesome'. Joining all aspects of the game that he relishes – tennis, competing, kids and the realizing of their potential.

As the boys' and girls' tennis coach at Niwot High School for the past three years, he appreciates seeing the players find their level of commitment for tennis and how the players, who have all come from individual tennis experiences, seek to see the importance of each other as team members.

Miikka, himself, is an Open level tennis player, playing in many of the local major tournaments and enjoying the level of competition and commitment that tennis can still require from him. 🎾

Story by

**LINDA SARGENT WEGNER**

photo courtesy of The Ranch Country Club

**MIIKKA KERONEN**

FOUR

**I**f you like to meet people who love the sport of tennis, you will want to get to know Christine Casey. Once a collegiate player at Cal Poly, Christine picked up tennis as a young child and "absolutely loves the sport."

Now, a chemist for the FDA, and mother to teens Arianna and Austin, Christine is driven to give something back to the tennis.

Christine's passion for the sport inspired her to establish a QuickStart Tennis Program with the Duncan YMCA in Northwest Metro Denver. QuickStart Tennis is geared towards youth (10 and under and 8 and under) and is a fast and fun way to learn tennis- with specialized equipment, shorter court dimensions and modified scoring.

"I wanted to find a way to get the kids involved, help them succeed," Christine explains, about her desire to get the program going.

Starting with just a black top and spray painted lines – courtesy of her tennis-playing son, Austin – they hoped that

just a few kids would be attracted to the QuickStart format. But so many kids showed up, they had to split it into two teams.

Kristy Harris, Community Development Director at USTA Colorado credits Christine's analytical side for the success of the program. "Christine took the task of getting this started very seriously," she explains. "She took the classes, making sure she learned the QuickStart technique correctly. She came to us...she saw the need and filled it."

Brandon Dyatt, Sports Coordinator for Duncan YMCA, says that he is also deeply grateful for Christine's efforts. She's "wonderful, a real jokester, always laughing, messing around and having fun," he says.

That unique combination of serious and fun – plus her time and dedication – earned her the YMCA 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award (Sports Branch). It's an award she's proud of – "I actually keep it at work!" she explains.

What's next for Christine? "I just want to keep it going, get it out there!"

She's hoping to take her tennis show on the road, and would love to work with others interested in getting the program started. She says that it's possible for students to obtain community services hours for helping. 🎾

photo courtesy of Christine Casey

**CHRISTINE CASEY**

Story by

**KATIE NEWELL**

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# SPOTLIGHT

## RING THE BELL, SCHOOL'S IN SESSION

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF COLORADO KIDS HAVE DISCOVERED TENNIS THROUGH THEIR SCHOOLS' PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS. HERE'S THE GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACHING THE TEACHERS.

### STAFF REPORT



**Ambassadors of the Sport:** Colorado's USTA School Tennis Clinicians are instrumental in introducing local PE teachers to age-appropriate tennis curricula in schools. Pictured are: (back row) Kristy Harris, Linda Schley, Billy Downs; (middle row) Mandy Scott, Hugo Jimenez, Kristy Jenkins, Vicky Matarazzo; (front row) Janna Albers, Julie Ciarvella.

## USTA SCHOOL TENNIS

USTA School Tennis is a national program that enriches the lives of elementary, middle and high school youngsters through tennis. By giving students an opportunity to learn the basic skills of tennis in their physical education classes and then developing extra-curricular tennis playing programs, students are becoming more fit and having fun doing it. The program includes a free in-service training workshop for physical education teachers which gives them the skills and materials necessary to teach tennis. Teachers gain access to a comprehensive step by step curriculum, discounted equipment and free student assemblies.

USTA School Tennis has already brought the joy of tennis to students around Colorado and the country since 1985. It's a great way to bring exciting, healthy recreation and fun to schools and students! This past year an estimated 139,000 Colorado youngsters were exposed to the lifetime sport of tennis through their physical education classes as part of USTA School Tennis. Annually, over 22,000 schools across the country participate in the USTA School Tennis program.

**U**STA School Tennis has been supporting schools, PE teachers and students throughout the state with training, technical expertise, curriculum and other resources and introducing thousands of youngsters to a lifelong, healthy, fun activity since 1985. Providing a pathway of tennis opportunities from elementary through high school as well as in-school, after school and no-cut teams, USTA School Tennis is available to public and private schools and school districts. A cornerstone component of the USTA Colorado community development efforts, the effective implementation of this comprehensive program would not be possible without the strong support of the USTA Colorado leadership and a stellar group of individual clinicians who make up the USTA School Tennis team.

As the USTA School Tennis Coordinator for Colorado from 2001-2003 and again from 2007 to the present, Kristy Jenkins combines her 13 years as a classroom teacher and reading specialist with her recreational tennis teaching and playing background and a strong commitment and work ethic to effectively lead the USTA School Tennis team.

Clinicians allow us to provide a personal touch by visiting schools and conducting assemblies or class visits. Additionally, they can be found assisting at 9Health Fairs, school field days, tennis carnivals, Girl Scout events and QuickStart Tennis demos. They reach out to teachers in districts across the state to answer questions and facilitate getting the resources that teachers need in the field. These individuals can all be found teaching tennis to youngsters in their own communities as well, either through city or neighborhood programs, Lunch Time Tennis in local schools, Special Olympics or middle school tennis leagues.

We want to applaud our incredibly dedicated and enthusiastic group of clinicians who implement this program school-by-school. They are in the field assisting teachers, after school program providers and volunteers with implementing tennis opportunities in the schools and connecting them to places to play. They are community tennis ambassadors for the sport they love and are passionate about.

Kristy Jenkins (Coordinator), Janna Albers (Denver-metro), Jackie Bingham-Levine (Mountains/Western Slope), Lisa Bodey (Mountain/SW Colorado), Dave Boon (Northern Colorado), Julie Ciarvella (Denver-Metro), Billy Downs (Boulder/Northern Colorado), Hugo Jimenez (Denver-Metro), Vicky Matarazzo (Denver-Metro), Linda Schley (Denver-Metro), Dale Schwicker (SW Colorado), Mandy Scott (North Denver-Metro/Boulder)

If you are a parent, teacher or community tennis advocate who would like to see these kinds of tennis activities in your local school or school district, visit [COLORADOTENNIS.com/schools](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com/schools) or contact us at <mailto:schools@coloradotennis.com> to find out how you can get more involved! 🎾

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# JUNIOR TENNIS



18 Advanced Champions: Lynmar Racquet Club

## Colorado squads capture USTA JTT Sectionals, qualify for Nationals

Two Colorado teams earned spots at the 2010 USTA Jr Team Tennis National Championships in Surprise, AZ by capturing the Intermountain Sectional Championships. The Sectional event was held August 13-15 at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

In the 18s Advanced division, Lynmar Racquet Club (Colorado Springs) held off a determined squad from the Ranch Country Club (Westminster) to claim the title and earn a spot at the October 28-31 National Championship.

In the 18s Intermediate division, it came down to just a few key matches as Tennis For Everyone (Superior) edged out The Legit (Boise, ID) to take first place.

Both teams will now head to Arizona in search of Colorado's first national championship in USTA JTT.



18 Advanced Finalists: Ranch Country Club



18 Intermediate Champions: Tennis For Everyone



## COLORADO JTT WRAPS UP SEASON 23 STATE CHAMPIONS CROWNED

Nearly 900 players representing more than 200 teams from around the state competed in the 2010 Colorado Junior Team Tennis State Championships in mid-August, an all-time record for the program. The event was held at seven sites across the Denver metro region.

Your 2010 Colorado Junior Team Tennis State Champions are:

### Boys 10 IA Girls 10 IA

Champ – Bow Mar  
Finalist – Columbine CC

Champ – Colorado Springs CC  
Finalist – Work Out West

### Boys 10 IB Girls 10 IB

Champ – Devils Thumb  
Finalist – Pinehurst CC

Champ – Pinehurst CC  
Finalist – Bow Mar

### Boys 12 Novice Girls 12 Novice

Champ – Genesse  
Finalist – Boulder CC

Champ – Tennis Kids  
Finalist – Crestmoor

### Boys 12 IB Girls 12 IB

Champ – Broomfield Swim and Tennis  
Finalist – Lebsack Tennis Center

Champ – Pinery CC  
Finalist – Boulder CC

### Boys 12 IA Girls 12 IA

Champ – Tennis For Everyone  
Finalist – Lynmar Racquet Club Blue

Champ – Poudre High School  
Finalist – Crestmoor

### Boys 14 IB Girls 14 Novice

Champ – Highlands Ranch  
Finalist – Tennis For Everyone

Champ – Miramont Lifestyle and Fitness  
Finalist – Devils Thumb

### Boys 14 IA Girls 14 IB

Champ – Flying Horse CC  
Finalist – Devils Thumb

Champ – Greenwood Athletic Club Purple  
Finalist – Miramont Lifestyle and Fitness

### Boys 14 ADV Girls 14 IA

Champ – Colorado Springs CC  
Finalist – Work Out West

Champ – South Suburban Littleton G&T  
Finalist – Pinehurst CC

### Boys 18 IB Girls 18 Novice

Champ – Homestead in the Willows  
Finalist – Lebsack Tennis Center Yellow

Champ – Tennis Kids (Cherry Creek HS)  
Finalist – Greenwood Athletic Club Peach

### Boys 18 IA Girls 18 IB

Champ – Tennis For Everyone Yellow  
Finalist – Greenwood Athletic Club Silver

Champ – Work Out West  
Finalist – Tennis Kids

### Boys 18 ADV Girls 18 IA

Champ – Ranch CC  
Finalist – Flying Horse

Champ – Meadow Creek Purple  
Finalist – HRCA Orange

### Girls 18 ADV

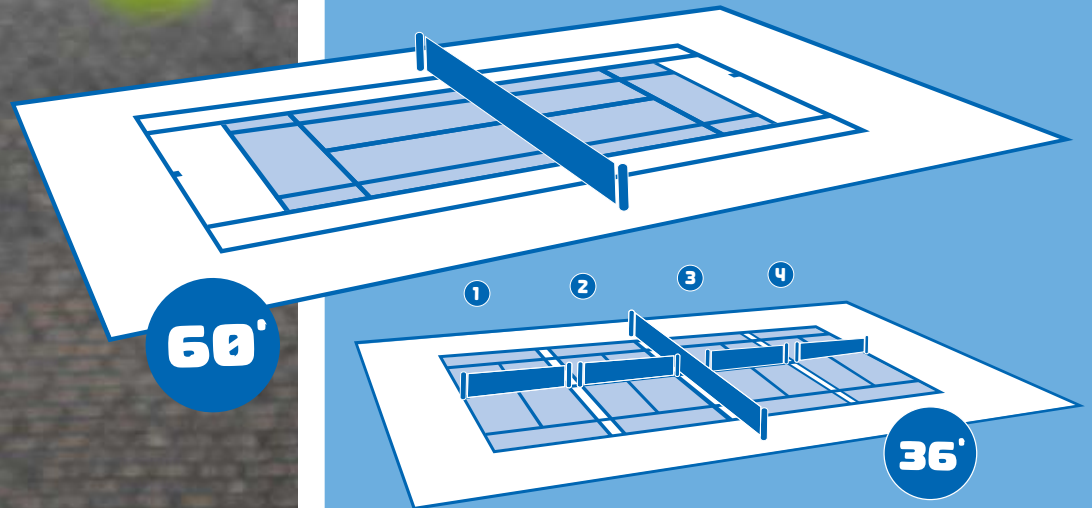
Champ – Colorado Athletic Club Monaco  
Finalist – Ken Caryl

# INFOCUS

## USTA ANNOUNCES MAJOR RULE CHANGE FOR 10 & UNDER TENNIS

IT'S A WHOLE NEW GAME FOR THE JUNIOR RANKS AS THE USTA ANNOUNCES MAJOR CHANGES TO TENNIS FOR PLAYERS UNDER 10.

STAFF REPORT



## USTA PASSES NEW RULES FOR 10 & UNDER TENNIS

The USTA has passed new rules governing competition for 10-and-under tennis tournaments. The new rules require that 10-and-under tournaments be played using slower-moving and lower-bouncing balls, on smaller courts and utilizing shorter, lighter racquets. The rule change follows the International Tennis Federation's recent rule change and will take effect on January 1, 2012. It will apply to all USTA-sanctioned events for children 10-and-under.

"We're very excited about what this change means to the future of tennis in the United States," said Lucy Garvin, Chairman of the Board and President, USTA, and Chairman of the US Open. "Competition is an important element of learning and growing the game, and now all children 10 and under will have the proper platform with which to compete."

The rule change signifies the emergence of the QuickStart play format as an integral part of the development of young players. The scaled-down equipment and smaller playing court will allow kids to rally and play the game early on, increasing the likelihood that kids will return to the court and continue to improve.

"Scaling tennis down to the size of children will promote greater participation and ensure that young kids will be able to play tennis much more quickly," said Kurt Kamperman, Chief Executive, Community Tennis, USTA. "This rule change to the competition format for kids 10 and under is critical to the long-term growth of our sport, and ultimately will help us develop new generations of talented players."

The specifications for the revised rule hold that all tournaments for those aged 9-10 be played on 60-foot courts using orange low-compression tennis balls and regulation nets (3 feet at the center) or, for those more experienced and more skilled players, on 78-foot courts with green lower-compression balls. Tournaments for those 8 and under are to be played on 36-foot courts using red foam balls and nets at a height of 2 feet, 9 inches.

The change in tournament format by both the USTA and the ITF was reached after weighing the benefits for beginners as well as recurring and high-performing youth players. Studies have found that competition, when conducted in a welcoming environment that allows for multiple play opportunities, enhances kids' enjoyment of the game. And for aspiring collegiate and professional players, the QuickStart Tennis play format fosters proper technique and enhances strategy, key components to success in competitive play.

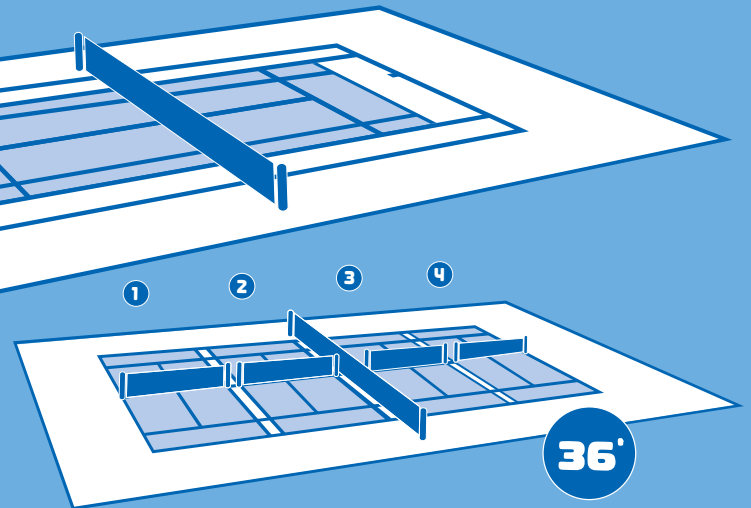
In addition to the USTA, the change has been endorsed by USTA Player Development and supported by the Tennis Industry Association and teaching pros throughout the country. Moreover, in May the Intercollegiate Tennis Association approved a measure to allow NCAA competition to take place on courts with blended lines (i.e., courts lined to accommodate both 10-and-Under Tennis and 78-foot tennis).

"Competition is at the very heart of our sport," said Patrick McEnroe, General Manager, USTA Player Development. "And learning how to play tennis the right way, with the right strokes and the proper technique, is beneficial for kids both now and into the future, whether they pursue the game recreationally or at the very highest levels."

For more information on the rule change, please visit [USTA.com/rulechange](http://USTA.com/rulechange).

# quickstart tennis

the new way to play tennis  
for kids 10 and under



## Facilities can get half-off new QuickStart lines

The United States Tennis Association is offering funding assistance to tennis facilities and organizations looking to paint permanent lines for 36- and 60-foot QuickStart Tennis courts, designed for children 10 and under. The funding assistance – 50% of the cost of the lines – is offered through the USTA's Facility Assistance Services.

The QuickStart Tennis format gets kids into the game by using shorter courts, shorter racquets, lower pressure balls and modified scoring, ensuring children have fun while learning tennis. A standard 78-foot court can accommodate four 36-foot QST courts, or one 60-foot court.

Many tennis facilities have painted permanent QuickStart Tennis lines onto regular-size courts, which aids in setting up for children's tennis programs. The QST lines are usually in a color shade related to the surface of the court, so that they are unobtrusive when the standard 78-foot court is used (see photos).

The Rules of Tennis do allow USTA National/Sectional/District events or tournaments to be played on courts with additional lines, such as those used for the QST format, and recently the Intercollegiate Tennis Association and the International Tennis Federation approved rule changes to allow for permanent QST tennis lines.

While the national USTA office provides 50% funding assistance, some USTA sections also offer additional funding for painting permanent lines. To apply for national USTA funding, complete the application at <http://CT.USTA.COM/PFA/> prior to the start of the project.



# COLLEGEBOUND

## COLLEGE-BOUND, PART THREE

### MATCHING UP WITH THE RIGHT COLLEGE COACH

USTA COLORADO'S GUIDE TO PLAYING COLLEGE TENNIS.

Story by  
**DENNIS HUSPENI**

Do you know what it takes to get the attention of a college tennis coach? Four current coaches share their perspectives about what they look for in a recruit.



**SOLVING THE COLLEGE TENNIS PUZZLE:**

Finding the right fit is important for both the recruit and the coach:  
Players are looking for opportunity.  
Coaches are looking for compatibility.

**M**ost high school-age tennis players, parents and junior coaches know the primary key for a junior player to land a spot on a college team is to constantly improve their skills.

But perhaps just as important as gaining power in that serve, fore-hand and backhand is gaining the power of knowledge. Understanding what college coaches expect of junior tennis players will go long way in helping those players better market themselves and earn a coveted roster spot.

To that end, four college coaches shared those expectations: from the very first contact with a junior player right up through the signing of a letter of intent.

"You want great people to make a great team," said Greg Patton, who has coached the Boise State University men's team for 18 years. "I'm not talking about a great player. I'm talking about a great person. ... I've passed on great players who are selfish and self-absorbed."

Patton echoed a common theme among the coaches interviewed: the perfect junior tennis player is going to have a strong set of tennis skills combined with academic prowess and the character to be both a leader and a team player.

### BUILDING SKILLS

"It's a pretty easy sport to judge talent because we have results," said Azusa Pacific University's Mark Bohren, who coaches both men and women's teams. "Some sports, it could come down to the difference between a batting average of .250 to .260 and the coach has a lot of leeway when choosing players. In tennis, it's so clear cut it takes that out of the equation. Every program will develop players. It helps when a (junior) player comes into a program with success already."

That's why the almost-universal starting point for coaches is the rankings of junior players, not only from the United States Tennis Association but also from [TENNISRECRUITING.net](http://TENNISRECRUITING.net).

"I want someone who's going to take me from zero to hero right now," said Syracuse University women's coach

Luke Jensen.

Jensen brings the perspective of a Division I coach, where the competition for the few scholarships and team spots is intense.

"Many juniors might think a Division I coach will show up at their high school or club to discover the next Venus Williams," he said. "To be perfectly honest, it doesn't happen that way. Our budgets are so small, we're not scouring the land looking for the diamond in the rough. We're looking for players that will win now."





Jensen worries that American junior players are being "out-hustled" by international players. "Seventy-five percent or more of the scholarships are going to foreign students. Look at the rosters," Jensen said.

The bevy of experience those players are getting from the international junior circuit, as well as their willingness to be flexible, is making it "easier to recruit international players," Jensen said.

That means American junior tennis players should get as much experience as possible, as early as possible.

Without exception, every coach said the recruiting process needs to start in the second year of high school. Those waiting until they're seniors will not only be behind the curve, but not able to enjoy their senior year as much if the uncertainty of where to attend college looms.

"A kid playing in high school who has not played many USTA tournaments I don't think will be ready or capable of playing the schedule we play," Patton said.

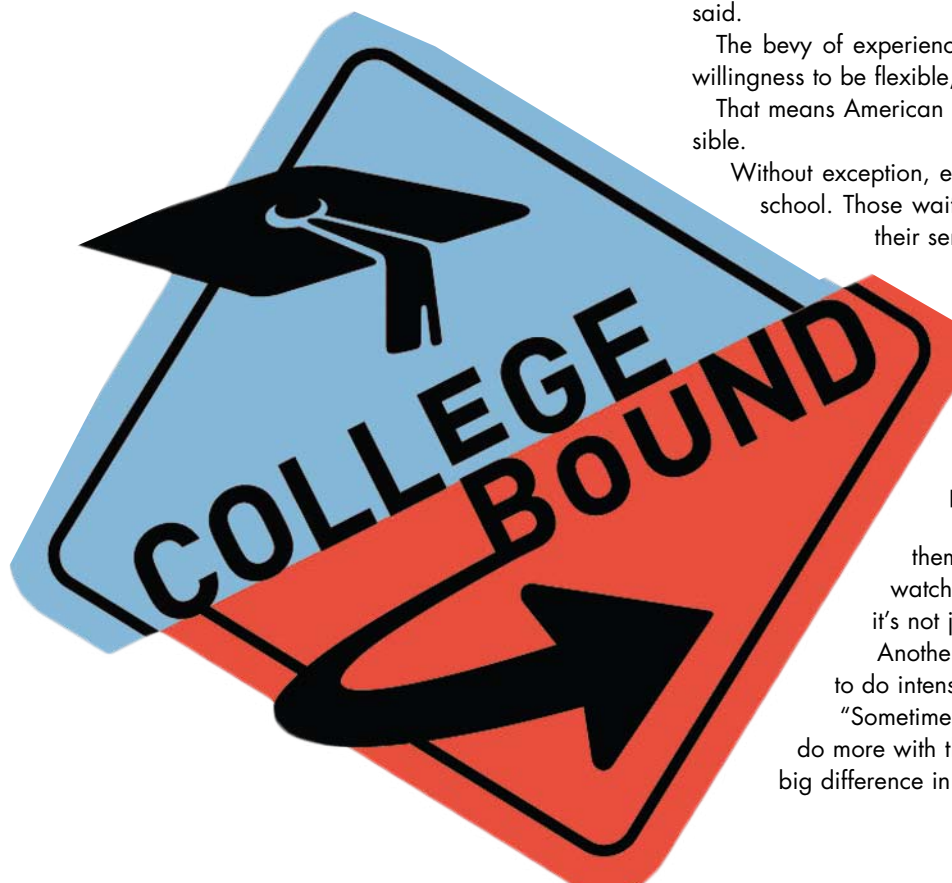
For Colorado players who can't afford to travel the country, there is plenty of experience for the grabbing in Intercollegiate Tennis Association's (ITA) summer circuit and even area college camps.

Jensen said college coaches are fully aware that "points-per-round" rankings have allowed "people with means and money to travel and gobble up all the points."

"Ranking is still just a starting point," he said. "In my case, ranking and results gets them in the door. But I want to watch them compete. I want to watch them practice. I'll watch them interact with coaches and parents. My investigation is so thorough because it's not just a scholarship. I'm investing my life in this kid."

Another way to build skills is to hit the weight room. While many used to wait until college to do intensive strength training, coaches said high school is now the time for that.

"Sometimes it makes a difference," Bohren said. "If they are bigger and stronger, they can do more with that physical condition. While some hit a lot of balls, getting stronger can make a big difference in your game."



continued on next page

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## COLLEGEBOUND continued from page 25

### GETTING ON THE COACH'S RADAR

The coaches contacted for this story love to be contacted via email.

But not just any email. They universally hate the bulk email approach.

"Some players send out massive emails to a lot of coaches," Bohren said. "I usually don't take too much interest. I much prefer a personal email, sent to me, with some background on the school and some expression in the letter as to why APU would be a good match."

"The personal touch is huge," Jensen said. "I want to know they've done their research. ... I'm not taking an interest in anyone who has not invested their time to investigate my program."

Don't worry about aiming too high – most coaches will be brutally honest about whether they think you can make it in their program. If that happens, just pick a program that better matches your skill level.

"I have yet to see a player playing (at position) 7, 8 or 9 who is happy. They're miserable," Jensen said, warning student athletes not to settle for a program where they won't play. "They have to run the same miles. Lift the same weights, but they're not playing. I don't make the lineup. The best players play."

### ACT LIKE A PROFESSIONAL

After getting on the short list of junior players the coach is interested in, securing some face time is an absolute must for junior players. Even if an official visit is not offered – and there are so few of those to go around because of budget restraints – unofficial visits are a good way to meet the coach, other players on the team and get a feel for campus life.

"A position on the team will be based on their attitude, grades, work ethic and the values they carry with them," Patton said. "I want someone on the team who I truly like. ... Don't bring baggage and don't bring drama. I want to see a great sense of wanting to belong and being affiliated with this team. This is a four-or-five year relationship that can go on the rest



of their lives."

University of Colorado women's coach Nicole Kenneally said junior players are truly under the microscope when they are on campus – considering an official visit is like the final interview for a job.

"Be yourself and be humble," said Kenneally, who has coached at CU for 12 years. "Be who your parents taught you to be."

She's seen juniors texting during official visits, which is an obvious no-no. Kenneally reminds players that an official visit is in no way a guarantee that a player has a spot on the team.

"You have to keep in mind that more players take official visits than we have room for," Kenneally said.

Jensen has a horror story about having to retrieve a junior visitor from the campus police after the recruit was caught drinking underage – but that's the extreme. Far more often he's seen players just not think about the message they're sending with their actions – like ordering pizza, doughnuts or sodas for lunch.

"My favorite recruits bring their notebooks and take notes – almost like they're an investigative reporter," Jensen said. "I mean this is their future – not their mom or dad's, not the coach's. ... Showing a coach you eat right, you're going to come in physically fit and that you've got a work ethic is what's going to get you over the top. Those intangibles are huge when it's between you and another kid going for the last scholarship available." 🙏

## CONGRATULATIONS TO TEAM COLORADO MEMBERS

# BRETT, WILLIE, KALYSSA, CASEY & LUKE

## MEDALISTS AT THE 2010 SUMMER SECTIONAL



brettFINAN



willieGOLD



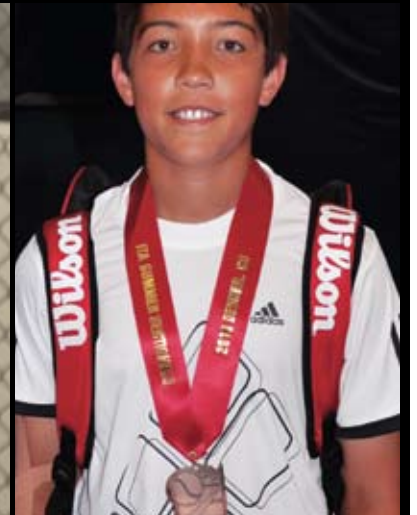
kalyssaHALL



caseyROSS



lukeLORENZ



Photos by Valerie Lewis <photos.picsinthepark.com>

## TAKE YOUR GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

Players 12 and under who wish to be considered for the 2010-11 TEAM COLORADO program are reminded that the viewing day is slated for 11am-2pm on Sunday, October 17 at the Ken Caryl Ranch House.

All interested applicants can download an application at [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com) and return it to USTA Colorado Player Development Director Jason Colter <mailto:jason@coloradotennis.com> at USTA Colorado by Monday, October 11. Please contact Jason with any questions, 303/695-4116 x205.

# COLORADO TENNIS HALL OF FAME



## PRESERVING COLORADO'S RICH TENNIS HERITAGE

### 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 2010. 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 11th class of inductees will be announced in the Winter 2010 issue of *Colorado Tennis* newspaper, and the tennis community will have the chance to formally recognize the 2010 class at the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala and Annual Awards Celebration slated for January 28, 2011. The Gala is the premier celebration of tennis in Colorado. In addition to showcasing the inductees, USTA Colorado 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!

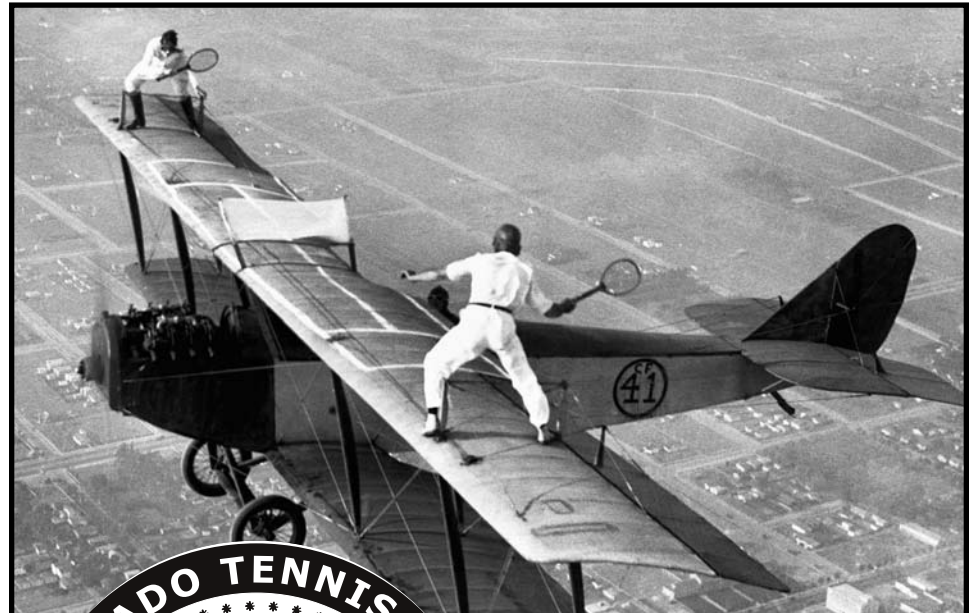
### Seeking Public Comment

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](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com) or by calling the USTA Colorado office at 303/695-4116. You can also visit the USTA Colorado website to view the biographies of Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame members and past Annual Award recipients.

Public comment is welcome and must be received by October 4. Email the Selection Committee, [hof@coloradotennis.com](mailto:hof@coloradotennis.com) or write to Selection Committee, USTA Colorado, 3300 E Bayaud Ave, Suite 201, Denver, CO 80209.

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

Bob Acsell	Bruce Foltz	Larry Loeb	Gil Roberts
Sara Annundsen	Art S. Hagan	Kelly Lovato	Cory Ross
Frank Adams	Nicholas John Hagan	Mary Jane Metcalf	Alicia Salas
Clayton Benham	Chad Harris	Frank Moore	Diane Selke
David Benson	Victoria "Palmer" Heinecke	Barbara Mueller	Mike Sprengelmeyer
Rich Berman	Charles Henry	Gardnar Mulloy	Ted Swenson
C.D. Bodam	Steve Henson	Bill Oakes	Art Thomson
Charlie Brown	Scott Humphries	Charlie Oliver	Thomas van Fleet
Ira Brown	Warrick Jones	Jack Ormsbee	Mark Vines
Cliff Buchholz	Lee Kaley	Barb Eaton Pederson	Brenda Vlasak
Dorothy "DoDo" Bundy	Art Knott	Jack Phelps	John Whistler
Jeff Cathrell	Susan Knott	Jack Ponis	Don Willsie
Maricaye Christensen	Virginia Dunn Smith Kraut	Andy Potter	Dennis Winders
Kathleen Cummings	Laura Koury	Dennis Ralston	Kent Woodard
Bobby Curtis	Nicole Leimbach	David Ray	Susan Wright
Clarence P. Dodge	Dale Lewis	Homer Reed	Andy Zurcher



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 28, 2011, and help us welcome the newest class of Hall of Fame inductees and congratulate the 2010 Annual Award winners. Proceeds benefit the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation.

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



INTERMOUNTAIN  
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Foundation

# THE **BIG** BOOK OF COLORADO **TENNIS** 2011

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FEBRUARY 2011**

THE 2011 COLORADO TENNIS  
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AVAILABLE ON OCTOBER 1.

DOWNLOAD IT AT  
[COLORADOTENNIS.COM](http://COLORADOTENNIS.COM)



INTERMOUNTAIN  
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# THEBIGCHAIR

NEWS FROM USTA COLORADO HEADQUARTERS  
STATE OF THE DISTRICT

BY FRITZ GARGER, USTA COLORADO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**T**here are several more tournaments and leagues remaining – including playoffs – to close out the 2010 tennis calendar, but the bulk of USTA sanctioned play has wrapped up. Participation across the tennis spectrum continued to be strong, with many of our offerings experiencing huge increases. The US Open provided memorable highlights once again. The USTA Semi-Annual meeting held in conjunction with the Open set the stage for a new approach for kids 10 & under with a rule change that follows that of the International Tennis Federation. And here at home, the life of a most revered friend of tennis – Bill Oakes – came to a close with his passing on August 29. May his memory be eternal.

## Growing pains hit leagues hard

Over the past year, USTA Colorado has signaled the warning signs regarding the failure of the state's tennis infrastructure to keep up with the growth we've been experiencing for more than a decade. Not every offering and not every region is at capacity, but the USTA Adult League and the Denver-metro area schedules are bursting with a staggering percentage of facilities already operating at – or in many cases above – capacity. The Adult Programs Committee and the Board will be reviewing our options this fall to address this issue for 2011 and beyond. Another piece affected by this growth is the USTA Adult League Playoff itself. That event has grown to the point that serious consideration will be paid to possible format options (even as early as 2011) to make the event more manageable. Our goal will be to continue to provide the best in programming, while addressing the capacity of the facilities that host the leagues and playoffs.

## Tennis embraces "Little League" competitive format

USTA Colorado has been touting the virtues of the QuickStart Tennis format for 10 & under kids for some time now. There is a lot that needs to be done in the actual implementation of this concept at private clubs, parks & recreation facilities and other venues that provide programming for youngsters under 10. The numbers nationwide and here in Colorado are telling. Relative to any other youth sport, the participation of kids 10 & under in any competitive play format for tennis is miniscule. The significance of the new rule change (approved by

the USTA for 2012) is that we will now combine the practice elements of QuickStart with the competitive aspect of tournaments and leagues. Tennis will no longer have kids practicing with appropriate equipment only to be forced to compete in sanctioned events on a 78' court with traditional balls that typically bounce several feet above their optimum strike zone.

Thus, their practices – promoting appropriate methods for player development – will be consistent with the format used in sanctioned play. Tennis will join little league baseball, youth basketball, youth soccer, youth football, et al, in having consistency in practice and competition. It will take a coordinated effort of all involved in our sport, but we know how weak our numbers are for 10 & under competitive play, we know the scaled down equipment (balls & racquets) and court are the answer. Simplifying the scoring format also addresses key elements to make competitive 10 & under tennis more attractive and player development appropriate. It's a matter of making it happen as we move forward.

## Bill Oakes and the CYTF

With the passing of Bill Oakes we are reminded of how fortunate we are to have people of his character and integrity involved so deeply in our sport (see page 10). The Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation is proud to have been selected by Wendy Oakes and her family as the recipient of donations in Bill's memory. The Oakes family has expressed how much Bill loved the game and how important it was to him to have youngsters get involved with the sport.

The CYTF is currently coordinating efforts for a year-end fundraising campaign for Colorado non-profits. "Colorado Gives Day" is slated for December 8 and all online donations made to the CYTF on that day will be "incentivised", bringing a boost to each gift made. Email [lisa@coloradotennis.com](mailto:lisa@coloradotennis.com) to receive a reminder about Colorado Gives Day closer to December 8. We appreciate your support – and the youth of Colorado are also appreciative as it is through your donations that tennis is made more accessible to them.

Thanks to everyone involved in the promotion and development of tennis here in Colorado. Great strides are being made and we're all well aware that it takes a combined effort to make it all happen. 🙏

GIVE  
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LIVE

Make your gift go farther.

Donations made to the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation on December 8 will automatically increase through incentive funds.

COLORADO  
GIVESDAY  
12.08.10

FIND OUT MORE AT [COLORADOTENNIS.COM](http://COLORADOTENNIS.COM)

Colorado  
Youth Tennis  
Foundation

# THE LAST WORD

## AND NOW, A WORD FROM THE HOUSEKEEPER

I'VE GOT A LOT ON MY DESK, SO LET'S JUST THROW IT ALL OUT THERE AND SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT.

BY KURT DESAUTELS, COLORADO TENNIS EDITOR

**P**op quiz, put your books under your desk and get out your No. 2 pencils... If you give aluminum on a 10th, silver on a 25th, gold for 50 and diamonds for 75, what do you give for 500,000?

Next year, USTA Colorado will welcome its 500,000th player in Colorado league tennis history. This year, we eclipsed the 475,000 mark, and to celebrate the half-million milestone, we'll be giving away some big-time prizes.

Starting in the Winter issue of *Colorado Tennis* newspaper, we'll begin the countdown to 500,000. We'll keep the countdown going at [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com), and in the Spring 2011 issue. You'll want to be on your toes, because if you're the 500,000 person to register for an adult league, you're going to win some serious swag!

We're not going to spoil the surprise, but let's just say that after 30 years in the making, No. 500,000 is going to be really, really happy!

### Big Book back in February

After the 2010 Big Book of Colorado Tennis came out to rave reviews last February, people were stopping me on the streets, cornering me in alleys, and calling my house at odd hours of the night, asking, "Just how will you ever top this?"

Well, fear not. For the past seven months, we've been secretly plotting an all-new Big Book, complete with more, more and more! Lately, we've spent every waking hour in our secret Big Book Laboratory concocting special features for your consumption, and the finished product will be in your mailbox in just a few months.

For those interested in advertising, the 2011 Big Book media kit will be available to download at [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com) on October 1. The deadline to advertise in next year's Big Book will be January 7. Don't miss out on what is sure to be the most complete and informative tennis publication of all time!


### COLORADOTENNIS 2.0

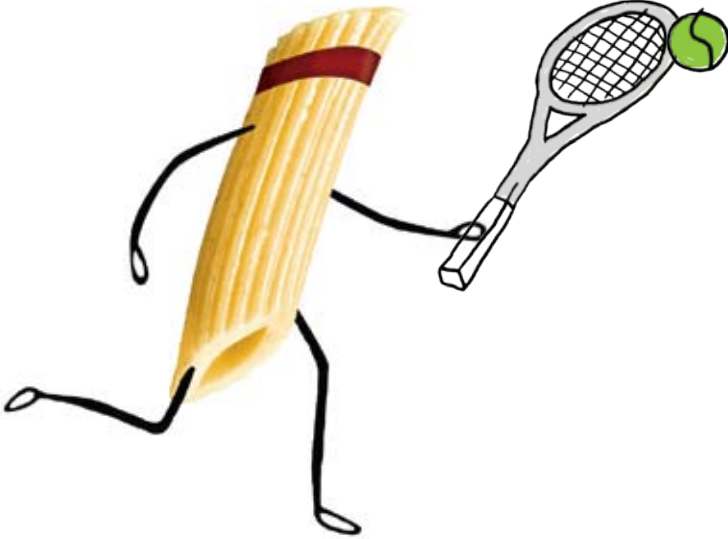
For almost a year now, I've been telling you about a major re-design of [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com). The good news is that the re-design is coming along and we're very proud of the way the new site looks, how it navigates and how easy it is to find the information you need. The bad news is, we've been so busy working to make sure all our leagues, tournaments, events and development projects are operating at the highest level possible, we've not been able to finish the project on time. So where are we now? We're putting our new site's unveiling on hold until we have a bit more time to make it perfect. We hope it will be available in time for league registration next year, but the site is far more complicated (to construct, not to use) than the current iteration, so please be patient. We promise you'll like the finished product.

### The BIG Rule Change


Okay, I've got to get something off my chest. Nearly a year ago, USTA Colorado was in the middle of developing a major ad campaign to highlight the features of QuickStart Tennis, the new play format for kids 10 & under.

Our theme was that other sports didn't make kids play grown-up versions of those sports. Little kids play Little League Baseball, shoot hoops on 8-foot rims (not 10), and dribble size 3 soccer balls on shortened fields, shooting at realistic size goals. Not only did we have a great concept, but the project was moving forward and it showed a lot of promise.

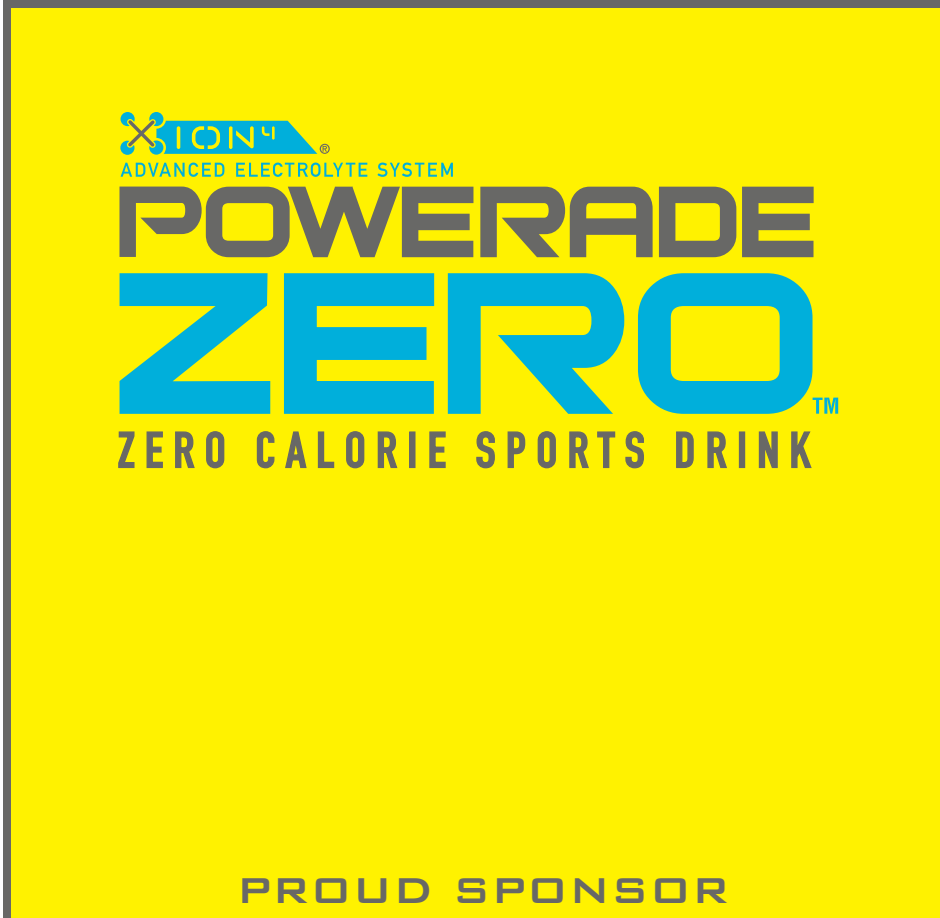
Well, one thing led to another and we didn't get the project done. Ironically, the USTA was working along parallel lines, and recently produced this video: [USTA.com/rulechange](http://USTA.com/rulechange). If you haven't seen it, please take a minute to view it. Not only is it an excellent example of how "great minds think alike," it's a fantastic short. As much as I wish it was USTA Colorado that gave it life, I'm awfully glad that the USTA did it right. Check it out, and share it with all your friends on Facebook. 





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**3300 E Bayaud Ave** fax: **303.695.7631**  
**Suite 201** league fax: **303.695.6302**  
**Denver, CO 80209** web: **COLORADOTENNIS.com**



### USTA COLORADO

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

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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. USTA Colorado's mission is to promote and develop the growth of tennis in Colorado. We do this in a number of ways.

We provide grants to organizations that want to introduce tennis to their communities and we offer scholarships to junior players who seek to take their game to the next level. We coordinate adult league play for more than 28,000 players across the state, and offer programs for junior players of all ages and abilities. Our sanctioned tournament schedule offers more than 160 events this year, including several 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 believe that fundamental tennis principles like sportsmanship, hard work and personal responsibility translate into every area of life. Through tennis we are helping people realize their potential both on and off the court.

We are nearly 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. We reach out to all players, including those of diverse cultural backgrounds, mentally and physically challenged athletes, and under-served communities. Diversity and Inclusion is a strategic priority for USTA Colorado and one of our core values. Diversity allows us to touch *all of Colorado* and Inclusion allows *all of Colorado* to touch us.

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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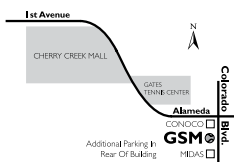
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