

COLORADO TENNIS

Year 36, Issue 3

The Official Publication Of Tennis Lovers

Est. 1976

FALL 2011

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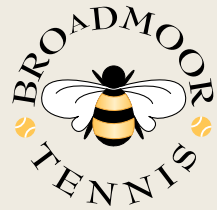
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COLORADO TENNIS

FALL 2011

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About USTA Colorado and contact information

About COLORADO TENNIS

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THECOVERSTORY



Imagine...

...if instead of only promoting and developing the growth of tennis, we also devoted ourselves to promoting and developing the growth of people through tennis.

... if we created pathways for youngsters from diverse backgrounds to easily pursue our sport in their communities, at their levels, on an affordable basis that would not require them to sacrifice educationally but would strengthen and amplify their personal growth.

... if we put in place a player development system that aims to create the conditions for developing not only champions on the court, but also champions in life.

jon vegosen, usta president

THE CYTF AT FIFTY:

For a half century, the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation has been helping kids from all walks of life play tennis. But it's not just about tennis. It's about helping kids discover their potential, as players and as people.

story by TOM FASANO

Stephanie Hagan understands the importance of teaching tennis to any child with an interest in holding a racquet.

Hagan traveled the world reaching a No. 5 ranking for American women in 1968, No. 22 in the world and made the round of 16 at Wimbledon in 1969 as well as playing in the French Open and US Open. A member of the tennis halls of fame in Colorado and Florida, the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation that started in Colorado in 1961 when she was a top-ranked junior player in Florida is still near and dear to her heart.

Hagan heavily promoted the CYTF when she moved to Colorado and brought to Denver such heavy hitters as Billie Jean King, a former opponent, to help raise money.

"We put a lot of children through that program. We just were trying to get tennis to the youth of Colorado," said Hagan, who played at Wimbledon from 1964-71. "The programs were very inexpensive and even some of them were scholarshipped in. We provided racquets and gave tennis instruction. It was a great chance for me to be able to give back to all that I got out of tennis. I got to travel the world and made some money out of it, and I just wanted to try and get as many as we could to be able to learn to play tennis."

The CYTF is one of those feel-good stories that should be screamed from the summit of Pikes Peak all the way throughout Colorado. The CYTF began as the Youth Tennis Foundation in 1961 and is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

A nonprofit fundraising arm of USTA Colorado, the CYTF's mission statement is simple: "Through the lifetime sport of tennis the CYTF promotes the physical, emotional and social development of ALL youth to aspire to become active, productive and responsible citizens."

For the past half century, the CYTF has lived by the code that it's not all about the sport of tennis, but the sport is a vehicle to positively impact kids and teach them skills that they can carry off the court and into life.

Over the past decade alone, the CYTF has given out several hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships and grants to programs and players in Colorado.

Over the years, tennis legends King, Arthur Ashe and Jack Kramer helped raise money for the CYTF. The Virginia Slims tournament at South High School, a fundraising match between Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova at McNichols Sports Arena in Denver and a tennis exhibition featuring comedian Bill Cosby were all engineered by the CYTF to raise money for its cause.

"Bringing in the Virginia Slims Tennis Tournament was huge. That was like a dream come true to have all the top players. It was an event on the tour circuit, and it came right there to South High School. South had six really beautiful courts," said Hagan, who currently teaches tennis at the Colorado Athletic Club-Monaco.

The CYTF built the courts at South High School for programming in 1970. "We were lucky enough to be able to use those courts. We just brought tennis to the youth of Colorado."

Stephanie's husband, John Hagan, and her brother-in-law, Art Hagan, were owners of Hagan Sports and ran Aspen Leaf and supported the CYTF through fundraisers and sponsored events to raise money for the foundation.

"I grew up at City Park and I think we started a lot of kids playing tennis because of the tennis foundation, without a doubt," said Art Hagan, a Colorado Tennis Hall of Famer. "We sponsored a lot of tournaments in town. We used to print the program. Anytime we could help the Youth Tennis Foundation, my brother and I, absolutely did it."

continued on next page

Through the lifetime sport of tennis the CYTF promotes the physical, emotional and social development



of all youth to aspire to become active, productive and responsible citizens."

Colorado **50** YEARS 1961 • 2011
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Punk Relic Tournament

▶ continued from previous page

He said helping kids back then with the CYTF and now with other causes is so special. "Every time when you see a kid's face light up when you give them a racquet or a bicycle or you see a kid that has a handicap out there skiing, it really touches your heart. It's the most wonderful thing you can probably do in life is to help someone else out."

Allen Kiel, of Centennial, a Colorado Tennis Hall of Famer and past president of the CYTF in the mid-1980s, said it was always fun working with the kids and getting the donations so they could get kids out on the court.

"Some of the unusual things we did when I was president were we got a sponsor for the Pepsi Denver City Open and we put it on cable television because cable was just starting in Denver," Kiel said. "They gave us free programming. It was the semis and finals on cable television. We had two commentators sit on top of the clubhouse over at the Denver Tennis Club. The two people were (former CBS news anchor) Harry Smith and Joe Zesbaugh, who was involved in public broadcasting and whose daughter is (KOA's) April Zesbaugh. Those were two important guys. This is before Harry hit the big time in New York, and these guys volunteered their time to do it. They did interviews with players, and they did the commentary. It was great."

Kiel said the other memorable things as president was when King came to Denver for a breakfast and lunch benefit.

"She raised around \$20,000 for us in the mid-1980s. I just saw her the other night at the U.S. Open and thanked her again for that," Kiel said. "Then a couple of years later we had Arthur Ashe come in for lunch, and that raised nearly \$20,000. I remember the lunch was at Cherry Hills Country Club and it was sponsored by Coors. They packed the house. Why it was so significant to have Arthur at Cherry Hills Country Club was because Arthur played his first Davis Cup match at Cherry Hills Country Club in 1962."

Kiel said the third person that came in who was unforgettable was the legendary Jack Kramer.

"Jack did two hours of radio with Peter Boyles, and Peter knew nothing about tennis," Kiel recalled. "It was supposed to be an hour interview. He was on KOA at the time in the morning. He and Jack had so much fun he kept him on for the second hour. He told a lot of wonderful stories about tennis, and Boyles was in tears the whole time. And then Jack went over and hosted a cocktail part for us and raised a bunch of money. He was sponsored by Wilson Sporting Goods to come in for that."

Kiel said those three events were a lot of fun.

"We raised a lot of money for youth tennis and got a lot of PR for tennis," Kiel said. "It was a group effort. Most of the people that run the programs run them for either free or at a deep discount. The money that Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation raises is usually leveraged by other people, and they're the ones doing the tough work. I always felt raising money was the easier work. It's the people that go on the court and organize it who really do the hard work on these things."

Kiel said it's the programs that make the kids succeed.

"You can teach them how to play, but if you don't have programs to put them into to play, then it's not going to continue on," Kiel said. "They've been doing this for 50 years now, and I'm sure they've affected thousands of lives through those years and it's a good feeling to have been a small part of it."

CYTF made an impact on Kiel.

"It impacts me heavily. I've been involved on national committees," said Kiel, a former teaching pro who played tennis at DePaul and at the University of Northern Colorado. "I was president of National Junior Tennis League, and past chairman of Davis Cup for the U.S. I took up tennis in high school and a local pro gave me lessons for free, otherwise I couldn't have played. He gave me a job at his club. I was one of those kids that a Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation-type of program helped. I always have felt that I needed to give back, and I always felt that I got more out of giving back. You get to meet a lot of great people. You

50 YEARS: the CYTF since 1961



1963

Citing the need for additional courts to serve Denver's fast-growing population, the YTF enters discussions with the City of Denver to develop the Denver Tennis Center (brochure at left), an 11-court public facility, in 1963. The agreement falls through, and a decade later, Gates Tennis Center is built on the same parcel of land. Undeterred, the YTF moves forward and reaches an agreement with Denver Public Schools to build the All-School Tennis Center at South High School (right), which opens in 1970.



1970

mer programming offered by the YTF, which benefits from big name instructors like Billie Jean King and Stephanie Johnson (Hagan).

The YTF capitalizes on the tennis boom, coordinating numerous clinics and exhibitions for kids and parents alike. Numerous organizations utilize the new All-School Tennis Center, making it the hub of public tennis in south Denver. Hundreds of kids take part each year in summer

The newly-monikered Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation embarks on a series of fundraising events, including an epic battle between tennis' grande dames, Martina v. Chris, in the Challenge of Champions, a benefit for the CYTF at a nearly sold-out McNichols Arena in 1989.

1989

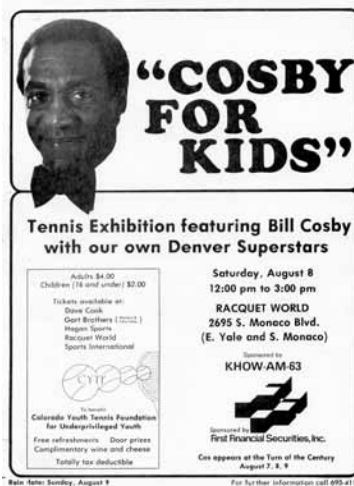


1961 Incorporated by Jack Phelps, Jim Shannon and Gene Reidy, the Colorado Tennis Association Youth Foundation changes its name to the Youth Tennis Foundation of Colorado one year later.



1983

President Trudy Fowler spurred new changes to the Foundation, including a name change to the now-familiar CYTF and an emphasis on fundraising events — like the exhibition that brought comedy legend Bill Cosby to town for an afternoon of tennis and fun.



1990-1998

After numerous meetings between the CTA and the CYTF regarding the future relationship of the two organizations, the CYTF board resigned and all operations and responsibilities were assumed by the CTA's Executive Committee.

The CYTF remained relatively dormant for most of the decade, raising and distributing limited monies at the discretion of the CTA Executive Committee.

Recognizing the potential benefits of a youth-specific foundation, the CTA board revives the CYTF, hiring a development director in 1997. The next year, a new CYTF Board of Trustees was elected, an organizational structure was created and a fundraising plan was developed.

get to affect lives."

Nancy Hopper, of Denver, the former executive director for CYTF, said it was one of the best jobs she ever had.

"The people were great. The kids were great," she said. "We won a national award one of the years I was running the junior programs. We had Arthur Ashe come out and he helped us raise a lot of money. Everybody worked really well together. It was all benefiting kids and tennis, which is the perfect sport at any age."

Hopper said the CYTF impacted her in such a way that she made friends for life through the foundation.

"I still keep up with people who work for the USTA. It was just a great experience for me," Hopper said.

Hopper has a special story regarding how she got started with the CYTF.

"There used to be a fundraiser that they had called the United Bank Tennis Classic, and that was for all the professional men back in the day of Jimmy Connors, Ilie Nastase and Bjorn Borg," Hopper said. "I went to pick up tickets at the office which was the USTA in Cherry Creek. I said, 'Wow, you look really busy. It looks like you can use some help.' The gal then said, 'Yeah, do you have a car? Could you run to the airport and pick up Ilie Nastase?' That's how I got started doing it. As I'm driving him to his hotel, he said, 'Hey, do you have a backgammon board because I like to play?' So we stopped at my house and I picked up a backgammon board so he could play. That was just fun."

After being Nastase's personal chauffeur, Hopper began running a program and eventually took on all the fundraising and programming for CYTF.

"One of the best moments I had was when one of the kids we were working with from a lower income neighborhood said, 'I never had any thoughts of doing anything past high school. I'm going to apply for college, and I'm hoping that I can get a tennis scholarship.' It's not the cure for cancer, but it's pretty darn good when you can see you're changing kids'

lives," Hopper said. "At the time you had to be 8 to be in the program and we had 6 year olds who told me they had a fake ID and I darn well better let them in. I was getting little racquet ball racquets so they could play because they couldn't hold the big racquets."

Hopper said the CYTF made a huge impact on kids.

"There were so many great programs. It's because of the people and the dedication of all the volunteers. I'm sure that's true now as much as it was then," Hopper said. "The other thing that I thought was really great is that it brought kids from different kinds of neighborhoods together. We'd have kids from one program playing with kids at Rolling Hills, Denver Country Club. The kids got to see a different culture without going too far from home."

The CYTF was relatively inactive for a good part of the 1990s. The Foundation continued to financially help kids and programs, but did not focus on actively raising dollars during that period. In 1999, the CYTF was revitalized and Mindy Miller was elected president. She and the new board of trustees worked to rebuild the CYTF and put a new emphasis on fundraising. The strategy included a mix of two special events – the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala and Punk Relic Charity Doubles Tournaments – and general solicitations for donations. The events have established themselves in the community and are well attended annually.

Mindy Miller felt that it was important to have something for kids.

"It was really important to help be able to raise funds for the opportunity for kids at all levels," Miller said. "I got involved to have something for kids who had never played tennis, and to help kids who were very involved in tennis. It was difficult and expensive for some of these families to afford travel for their kids, and there were talented players. I felt like it was important to give them the opportunity to be able to compete within the Intermountain section and on the national circuit because we're isolated in Colorado."

Miller said one of her most memorable moments was when the CYTF honored John Benson.

"It was the first fundraising dinner we had and we honored John Benson, who was such a contributor to Colorado tennis," Miller said. "It was a success. Over 200 people attended."

continued on next page



The first major fundraising event for the rejuvenated CYTF is held. The Honor Dinner (recognizing John Benson in 1999, and Stephanie Hagan and Irwin Hoffman in 2000) helps raise awareness of the Foundation's mission, and also brings in needed dollars to help fund grants and scholarships to programs and players across the state.



The Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame names its first induction class, and the annual Gala becomes the primary fundraising event for the CYTF. Nearly \$250,000 has been raised for the CYTF through the Hall of Fame Gala.

1999

2001

2000

The CYTF hosts its first charity doubles tournament for its Memorial Funds. Dubbed the Punk Relic, the event pairs a junior (the "punk") and an adult (the "relic") in a non-competitive format. The event has raised more



than \$100,000 for the Memorial Funds during its 12-year existence.

2011

Now in its 50th year, the CYTF has reaffirmed its commitment to helping kids play tennis with a new mission statement: "Through the lifetime sport of tennis the CYTF promotes the physical, emotional and social development of ALL youth to aspire to become active, productive and responsible citizens."



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The dinners were very successful each year."

Today, the CYTF organizes the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala, which has raised in excess of a quarter million dollars for the Foundation.

Miller feels like the CYTF reached out and impacted kids when she was president.

"Statewide and not just in Denver, and that was very important to us," Miller said. "We reached out into the outer areas and outer community. The contributors came from not just the Denver-metro area. They came from all over the state."

Eileen Pero of Denver has been the CYTF president for six years and was 8 when she learned how to play tennis.

"It does so much for your self esteem and your confidence and it's good sportsmanship training," Pero said. "It's just a way to give back. I think there are so many kids out there who have the potential but don't have the means. It's just like a great avenue to bring the two of them together."


Pero said serving in the CYTF makes her aware of how lucky she is of the things she has.

"Some people have \$20,000 and they've got five kids. They just want to give their son or daughter an opportunity to play tennis, and it's just heart-rending," Pero said. "I just want to right a check every single time I go to a disbursement meeting."

Pero said the CYTF always try to disburse as much as it can.

"We try to disburse to as many people as we can and sometimes we just don't have the means," Pero said. "That's why we're constantly trying to bring in more money and have different ideas of how to bring in more money because it seems like there are more and more people who are applying the more they hear about us. For a while, people didn't know who the CYTF was. Now they know we disburse money and we're getting a lot more applications and we have to get a lot more money."

As the CYTF begins another half century of changing lives, it will face these types of financial challenges. If you're interested in helping make tennis dreams come true, please contact the CYTF office at 303.695.4116. ☺



AT A GLANCE: CYTF

HISTORY: Born in 1961, the CYTF is celebrating 50 years of making dreams come true for kids in 2011

MISSION: Through the lifetime sport of tennis, the CYTF promotes the physical, emotional and social development of all youth to aspire to become active, productive and responsible citizens.

WHY TENNIS: Tennis is a lifetime sport that teaches important skills that kids can take off the court and transfer into their lives. On the tennis court, kids learn self-confidence, responsibility, respect of self and others, how to be fair, strategy, how to handle adversity, teamwork and sportsmanship, just to name a few.

WHAT THE CYTF DOES: It's simple. The CYTF raises dollars through donations and special events and then disburses those dollars to kids in need through its scholarship and grants program.

HOW TO HELP:

- Make a donation (see Colorado Gives Day story on page 12)
- Attend or sponsor a CYTF event
- Host an affiliate event to raise dollars for the CYTF
- Volunteer for a CYTF committee to help raise dollars



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**THE WOMEN'S
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INFOCUS

RAISING MONEY FOR KIDS: Colorado Gives Day, Punk Relic and Tennis With the Stars

Colorado Gives Day, an initiative created last year by Community First Foundation to increase philanthropy in the state through online giving, is back, and nonprofits across the state are rejoicing.

The inaugural event took place on December 8, 2010, and was a huge success. The 2011 edition of the event is expected to be even more special for the hundreds of organizations that depend on assistance from the public.

Colorado Gives Day 2011 will take place during a 24-hour period on Tuesday, December 6, 2011. Online donations from individuals will be accepted starting at midnight on December 6. Community First Foundation and FirstBank partnered last year on the inaugural Colorado Gives Day, which distributed \$8.7 million to Colorado nonprofits.

"We are excited to officially announce Colorado Gives Day 2011. Last year, Colorado Gives Day exceeded everyone's expectations by distributing \$8.7 million to 529 Colorado nonprofits," said Marla Williams, President and CEO of Community First Foundation. "Given the generosity of the community and the feedback we received from nonprofit partners and donors, we believe Colorado Gives Day 2011 will be as successful, if not more so, than last year."

The Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation was one of those 529 charities and received over \$15,000 in donations and incentive funds. "In addition to the FirstBank incentive funds, we also secured a CYTF matching donor who matched dollar for dollar the first \$3,500 in donations to the CYTF on Colorado Gives Day. We believe that this really helped encourage folks to donate," said Lisa Schaefer, CYTF Associate Executive Director. "We are working hard to secure more matching donors for 2011 with a goal of a 60% increase in overall donations over last year," she said.

Community First Foundation is a Colorado-based foundation dedicated to increasing community generosity and involvement.

FirstBank, Colorado's largest locally owned bank, has renewed its role as corporate partner of Colorado Gives Day, committing \$500,000 to kick off the 2011 campaign including \$300,000 for the FirstBank Incentive Fund. The FirstBank Incentive Fund will be proportionally allocated across all donations received, increasing the value of each donation. FirstBank is also sponsoring other incentives for foundations.

Similar to last year, credit card and processing fees will be covered by Community First Foundation and sponsors so that 100 percent of Colorado Gives Day donations go

directly to nonprofit organizations. New this year are Bonus Bucks, cash prizes donated by local businesses that are showing their support for the community.

Bonus Bucks are prizes in the amount of \$1,000 each. At the end of each hour on Colorado Gives Day, a donor will be randomly chosen and the nonprofit associated with his or her donation will receive the cash prize.

There are so many winners on Colorado Gives Day. Foundations get a boost in dollars to help with programming and services and donors get the benefit of knowing that they are making a real impact in the Colorado community. "Colorado Gives Day is enormously important to the CYTF," said Schaefer. "In addition to making a personal gift, CYTF supporters can also help by encouraging others to donate via social media, word of mouth, you name it. People can even make their donations now and schedule them to be charged on December 6 and can also set up their own CYTF fundraising page on our page on the Colorado Gives Day website. There are many ways to help and every single dollar matters to the kids that we serve."

For more information, visit COLORADOTENNIS.com or email lisa@coloradotennis.com.

COLORADO GIVES DAY 2010 AT A GLANCE

Total number of dollars raised—
\$8.4 million

Total dollars distributed to Colorado nonprofits—\$8.7 million

Total number of nonprofits participating—539

Percent of nonprofits that acquired new donors—83%

Total number of donors—12,540

Total number of donations—20,119

Average donation size—\$419

Median donation size—\$50

Most common donation size—\$100

Number of website visits to GivingFirst.org on Colorado Gives Day—23,829

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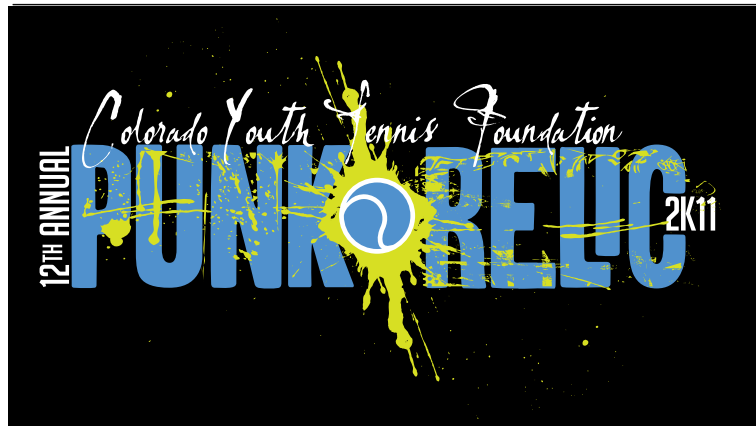
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Donations made on December 6 will automatically increase through incentive funds.

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Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation



The 12th edition of the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation Punk Relic Charity Doubles Tournament was held at Gates Tennis Center on Sunday August 22. Forty-eight teams participated, raising more than \$10,000 for the CYTF. Congratulations to tournament champions/runners-up:

Man/Boy Doubles Intermediate:

Andy Zodin/Burl Shepherd
Andy Zirkelbach/Alec Zirkelbach

Woman/Girl Doubles Advanced:

Michelle Minatta/Alissa Minatta
Robin Guin/Alice Guin

Man/Boy Doubles Advanced:

Randy Ross/Casey Ross
Doug McPherson/Connor McPherson

Mixed Doubles Intermediate:

David Ray/Junai Testa
Michelle Miller/Michael Crum

Woman/Girl Doubles Intermediate:

Leanne Palmisano/Maire McHugh
Leslie Mease /Savannah Mease

Mixed Doubles Advanced:

Ryan Segelke/Anshika Singh
Khoa Vu/Amber Shen



Photos by Stacy McHugh



PUNKS & RELICS:

Counter-clockwise from top: Charlie Franks shares some sunlight with DU tennis coach Willie Dann; Leanne Palmisano (at left) and Maire McHugh took top honors in Woman/Girl Intermediate Doubles, Leslie and Savannah Mease finished 2nd; Tanisha Goshan and Anita Cooper take a breather after an Intermediate Doubles match; Team Colorado coach Randy Ross has some tips for his son, Casey, during the Man/Boy Adv. Doubles championship mtach.



Tennis With The Stars raises money for YESS Institute, CYTF

The Summer Social Calendar is traditionally dominated by hundreds of golf tournaments, but three years ago, Loan Vo, Josh Hanfling and Kenton Kuhn got together and thought a social tennis tournament would be a lot of fun and help raise money for local nonprofits, and with that, Tennis With The Stars was born. The event, which benefited the YESS Institute and the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation this year, has grown with each successive edition.

Event director Andy Zodin coordinated another stellar event, which included a Pro-Am and exhibition match featuring French Open Mixed Doubles Champion Eliot Teltscher and former French Open and Wimbledon Doubles Champion Jonathan Stark. For a photo/video recap of the event, please visit BLACKTIECOLORADO.com.

Meanwhile, back at The Ranch...

Miikka



Ryan



Nora



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Bob



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THEBUZZ

NOUNS IN THE NEWS

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

Tennis legend Martina Navratilova to deliver keynote address at Women's Foundation luncheon

The Women's Foundation of Colorado has announced that tennis legend, Martina Navratilova will deliver the keynote address on November 3rd, at its annual luncheon. A champion on and off the court, Martina is not only a tennis legend, but an inspirational leader who demonstrates tenacity, candor and motivation. Arguably the best tennis player ever to step on the court, Martina amassed an unmatched number of professional records over the course of a career that spanned an amazing four decades. She has won 59 Grand Slam crowns, and a record 9 Wimbledon singles championships.



Off the court, Martina has lived an equally bold and successful life. As one of the first openly gay sports figures, she has spent much of her career overcoming prejudices and stereotypes, giving up millions of dollars in endorsements and sponsorships as a result of her insistence on living a life of integrity and honesty. Since coming out in 1981, she has been an inspiring and vocal advocate for equal rights and a strong supporter of many charities benefitting the LGBT community.

Knowing first-hand what it takes to overcome adversity and find success, Martina is a compelling advocate for active living and aggressive goal-setting.

Martina's book, "Shape Your Self," is a guide to personal fitness and healthy living. She has motivated thousands to live healthier lifestyles by taking simple steps to a better life.

Tickets can be purchased at WFCO.org. Tables and additional sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Pam Montgomery <pamm@wfc.org> at 303.285.2968 for more information.

In Memoriam

Longtime USTA Colorado board member and supporter Linda Anderson passed away in early August.



An avid tennis player and fan her entire life, Linda was active on the USTA Colorado board of directors and various committees throughout the 1990s and early 2000s. USTA Colorado extends its

sincere condolences to Linda's family and friends. She will be deeply missed by those whose lives she touched.

Team Colorado set to begin 24th season, viewing day set

Team Colorado will begin its 24th season of bringing together the state's best young tennis talent with a viewing day on Sunday, October 9 from 11am-2pm at the Colorado Athletic Club Inverness. Boys will take the courts from 11am-12:30pm, girls will follow from 12:30-2pm.



Team Colorado is USTA Colorado's elite tennis program, designed for players under 12. Interested players must download an application from COLORADOTENNIS.com, or contact USTA

Colorado Player Development Director Jason Colter at jason@coloradotennis.com.

USTA Colorado will again field three squads this year — a 12s team, a developmental squad and for the second year a 10 & Under team — with the possibility of adding a fourth team, the Select Team, an invitation-only squad, for the state's top junior players.

Agassi highlights Aurora Economic Development Council's A-List 2011

The Aurora Economic Development Council announced that its signature event, A-List 2011, to be held October 13 from 6-9pm at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center, will feature Andre Agassi as the keynote speaker. A-List is one of the most anticipated events in the state, bringing together more than 2,000 business and political leaders to celebrate the economic success of Colorado.

Agassi's retirement ended a 21-year career that included 60 career singles titles, eight of which were Grand Slam titles. He is one of just seven men to own a career Grand Slam, and the first man in history also to have won an Olympic gold medal (1996).

Known for his impressive career, Agassi has used his fame for good. In 1994, Agassi founded the Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation which has raised over \$60 million for at-risk children in Southern Nevada. In 2001, the foundation opened the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy in Las Vegas — a tuition-free K-12 public charter school for at-risk kids. Agassi was honored for his charitable deed with the ATP Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award in 1995.

The prestigious A-List Award is presented at the event every year to a person or company whose leadership best enhances the regional economy, demonstrates exemplary standards of ethics and embraces business and government collaboration. Past A-List Award recipients include: Former President William Clinton, the Colorado Congressional Delegation, Former Colorado Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton and Tom Clark, Executive Vice President of the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation.

A limited number of sponsorships and tables are available. Please call the Aurora Economic Development Council at 303.755.2223 or REGONLINE.com/A-List2011 for more information.



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Tennis makes a splash at Anunciation Grade School

Students at Anunciation Grade School, a K-8 catholic school located in the Cole-Whittier neighborhood in east Denver, received 30 new youth racquets to launch their 2011-12 school tennis program. Steve Strecker, marketing manager at Babalot in Boulder graciously donated the string, and avid league tennis players Rick Lannon (who has played in virtually every league he is eligible to play in) and Steven Linenberger (who has worked in the pro shop at Colorado Athletic Club at Monaco) volunteered their time to string the racquets.

Anunciation will offer 10 and Under Tennis using the QuickStart Tennis play format to its students in second grade, along with an Enrichment elective for middle school students. This past spring, the Anunciation tennis team competed in the six-school Schools of the Urban Neighborhoods (SUN) tennis league, coordinated by Dan Lewis, USTA Colorado Junior Leagues Director. The SUN schools united together to ensure students receive a quality education in the inner city of Denver. These schools serve predominately single-parent households, and more than 90% of the students are minorities. At Anunciation, the student ethnic profile is 80% Latino and 15% African American and African descent, and 5% Anglo.



2011 Diversity TennisFest On-Court Volunteers

(Left to right) **George Tavarez**, of Coatings, Inc., **Nora Harrison** from The Ranch Country Club, and **Tobias Ortegon** with Denver Parks and Recreation, have lead the on-court tennis activities at the annual Diversity TennisFest for the past five years. They continue to

demonstrate their commitment and passion by providing real-time tennis experience with "learn and play" activities for all ages and abilities, including 10 and Under Tennis. This summer was a record attendance of more than 100 young people.

Additional recognition also goes to the other on-court volunteers who tirelessly gave their time to inspire a whole new generation of players include: Alden Bock, Voradel Carey, Ron Casados, husband and wife Bill and Loretta Conway, Jeff Fenix, Maddie Gallegos, Syncere Grant, Michael Kelly, Melvin McCurley, sisters Nicole and Catherine Nemechek, Ann Slocomb, Chere Smith, Carolyn Peters, Michele Reggans, Steve Tolliver, Khoa Vu and Yasmine Yacubu.

Through their efforts, along with the many TennisFest volunteers over the years, seeds have been planted for possible future champions, not only in tennis, but in life. This is the heart of what makes this sport so great!



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HIGH FIVE

profiles by
KATIENEWELL

For the past 35 years, *Colorado Tennis* (née *High Bounce* in 1976) 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.

We encourage readers to help us recognize others who they think deserve special recognition.

Email Kurt Desautels <kurt@coloradotennis.com> with your comments or suggestions.

There's some serious smiling going on at the **Ricardo Flores Magón Academy** (RFMA) these days, just check out the beaming faces of tough netters Leonardo Carrillo, Kenneth Velez, and Jose Rodriguez who just captured the USTA Colorado Boys 10IB Colorado State Junior Tennis Championship.

But the success of this school isn't limited to what's happened on the tennis courts. Founded seven years ago by USTA Colorado committee member Marcos Martinez, now Head of School, the existence of the academy was fueled by his belief that our community needed to provide a better educational opportunity for its residents. More than 90% of the students at the academy receive free/reduced lunch, 80% are English language learners, and 95% are students of color. More often than not, when they enter the Academy, they are 1-3 grade levels below where they should be, says Martinez.



Photo courtesy of Ricardo Flores Magon Academy

R.F.MAGONACADEMY

including over the fall, winter and summer breaks. It's the hard work by everyone that is making such a difference at the school.

Carrillo, Velez, and Rodriguez were honored with a special assembly in honor of their tennis accomplishments. What's even more amazing about these boys winning is they currently don't even have real tennis courts and play on concrete slabs. When asked what qualities these boys had that helped them to the top Martinez explains, "We found that if a kid wants it bad enough, it doesn't matter if they have the background or not. These kids love tennis. They live it, breathe it. It's just part of their lives."

Martinez is grateful for the support the academy has received but says there is still a huge need for additional equipment with the ultimate prize being tennis courts for the school. With teachers and administration devoting so much time to the success of the academy, there just isn't much time to fundraise. If anyone is interested in donating to the school in the hopes of having tennis courts in the future, please contact Martinez directly at marcos@magonacademy.com.

There are some little netters at the Eastside Tennis Association who are getting some time with someone pretty special. **Cenea Kemp** is bringing her tennis talent, her time, and her passion for helping others in the community, specifically the 5 and under crowd. A past recipient of the USTA Colorado Parks & Recreation Junior Player of the Year (2004), Cenea is paying it forward by helping out the kids in the public park system the way she was helped out as a youngster.

Cenea just graduated from CSU (magna cum laude), and is currently applying to medical schools and studying for her MCATs. She attributes her success in college in part to tennis. "It means a lot to me. It gave me something good to do with my time, and it gave me focus." She said she originally went in hating science, but wanting to be a veterinarian. Now loving science, she plans to be either a pediatrician, or an OB-GYN.

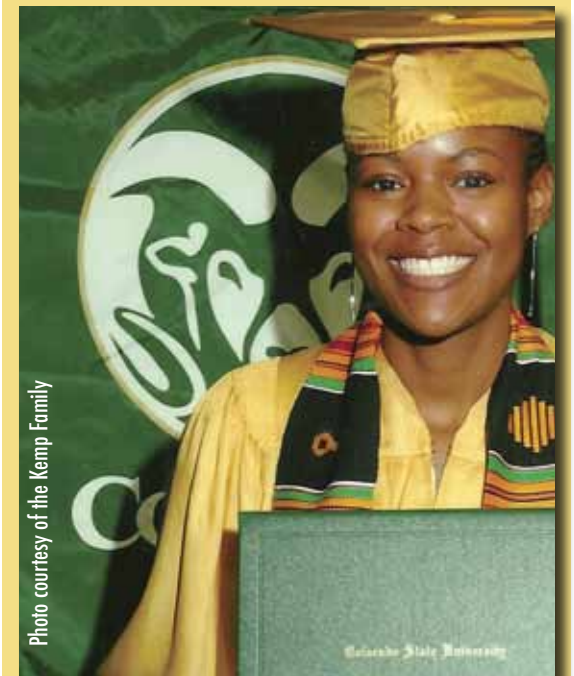


Photo courtesy of the Kemp Family

CENEAKEMP

A strong family support system behind her, it was actually her aunt, Jessie Walker-Smith that gave her the tennis instruction to become a good tennis player (she played #3 doubles at George Washington High School her freshman and sophomore year, and then #3 singles her junior and senior year.) Cenea also is truly grateful for the commitment her mother, Helen Kemp, made to get to her practices and games; taking time off work to make sure Cenea had the best opportunity. Her brother, Dexter, and her other aunt, Ella Hart, have also been behind her.

Cenea said that she didn't do as well in high school academically as she would have liked to, but jokes that "my last tennis match was the best match of my life!" She said that she set the goal for herself as soon as she got to college to be magna cum laude, and kept that big goal in front of her all the time, even when she didn't feel like studying. "I knew I had to reach my goal," she explained.

As far as tennis in the future? Cenea is interested in potentially playing in a league, but for now it's helping "anyone and everyone," who can benefit from her time and passion.

Thirteen year-old **Kalyssa Hall** isn't just really a nice tennis player, she's a really nice young lady who's racking up the tennis accomplishments right and left. She is currently ranked No. 1 in Colorado, No. 3 in the Intermountain Section and No. 121 in the nation, all in the Girls' 14s division.

Kalyssa's hard work is paying off with some great results, as well. After reaching the G14 singles finals of the ITA Easter Circuit, she won the G14 singles titles at the Memorial Day Circuit and the Junior Summer Sectional. She capped an impressive summer with the title at the Mountain Ocean Junior Open—in the G16s division! She's spent a good chunk of the summer traveling to various national and regional events, testing out her game against the top players in the country.

Currently a student at Cheyenne Mountain Junior High, she caught the tennis bug as a 5-year-old at her country club watching the courts from the pool. She picked tennis up quickly and has the right combination of physical and mental strength to be successful. Born into a ski family, Kalyssa's physical talent is complimented by a great attitude and mental strength.



Photo by Blue Fox Photography

KALYSSAHALL

Her mother, Teri, says, "Kalyssa has always had such a great work ethic, and has always been very coachable." Those qualities should definitely help this young athlete achieve her very reachable dream of a Division 1 college scholarship one day, although academics have always remained the main focus in the Hall household.

Coached by Scott Leifer, Mark Bishop and Vasilisa Bardina, Kalyssa adds some weights and running to her training regimen and agrees that being mentally strong is a big benefit. She admires the game of Maria Sharapova and her great attitude. "I pump myself up really well... sometimes too well!" she jokes, adding that "if I start getting tight in a match, pumping myself up can usually get me through it." She also said that her parents, Teri and Stuart, raised her to have good sportsmanship on the court.

"My parents have been a huge support to me," Kalyssa says. "They take me to all my tournaments and they work with me on the court, too." She's also excited that her younger sister Morgan is getting competitive now, too.

They say the third time's a charm and that's exactly what the USAFE (United States Air Forces in Europe) Tennis Team will be hoping for when it heads off to London in 2012 to defend their back-to-back Headquarters Allied Air Command Tennis Championships. Winning the inaugural event in 2008 and defending last year in the Netherlands, Captain **Joseph Reveteriano**, 50th Operations Support Squadron, Schriever Air Force Base (Colorado Springs), knows the six players who make up the American team have their work cut out for them. Held every even year, the USAFE tennis squad competes against teams from Belgium, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands and the Royal Air Force in a Davis Cup format—2 singles and one doubles. They won both the men's and women's divisions.

Impressive, but not unexpected when your team includes Reveteriano, or "Rev" as those who know him refer to the man who was named Schriever Athlete of the Year in 2010. Rev has been playing tennis for 20 years. First exposed to the sport by his father, Senior Master Sgt. (ret.) Kenneth Reveteriano, Sr. when he was just 8, Rev started becoming serious about it and by 15 was playing competitive tennis.

JOSEPHREVERTERIANO



Photos courtesy of Schriever Sentinel

Driven for challenges and new experiences, Rev found himself at Anderson University in South Carolina, playing with teammates from all over the world. "Tennis has given me the opportunity to become friends with people from all over the world, from different backgrounds and cultures," he explains. First with his college team, and now with this amazing opportunity to compete against other air force bases from all over the world, he is truly grateful for the amazing experiences he's had and the amazing people he's been able to meet.

That gratitude has led Rev to give back to tennis. He volunteers for the USTA in the intermountain section, where he was named the chair for the collegiate committee that focuses on college athletes that want to play competitively but aren't on a college team (www.tennisoncampus.com) and he volunteers for the US Academy Summer Sports Camps, in addition to other volunteer opportunities. "Tennis gives athletes a chance to be involved, to be part of their school or community in a meaningful way," Rev says of his passion to helping others, "and for me it's opened the doors to meeting the most amazing people who come from all over the world."

David Thomson loves tennis. Just ask his self-described "tennis widow wife," Sheila, who knows that on any given day her husband will be doing something tennis related, whether it's playing, stringing or collecting racquets. An avid player himself, David is a two-time champion on the Men's 3.5 singles circuit this year, but you realize talking to him that it's not really about him playing the sport he loves so much. It's about making sure tennis and all the benefits it brings is available to others.



Photo courtesy of David Thomson

DAVIDTHOMPSON

"I grew up in the era of Jimmy Connors and Chris Evert," Thompson explains, "and loved it from the beginning." Even so, Thompson took a hiatus like so many people do and started a family. The courts would call him back, however, and after running into Kristy Harris from USTA Colorado, Thompson knew he was going back in for good and this time he would use his passion to help others.

Now the Racquets for All North Denver-Metro/Boulder regional coordinator, he's been extremely successful in collecting racquets and stringing as many as he can (172 re-strings since January). One reason he's been so successful is he's been able to connect racquet drives with individual tournaments that he's participating in. That allows him the opportunity to work with players and tournament committee members circulating at the tournament to maximize the number of racquets he can get his hands on. What motivates him? "I believe in the mission of the RFA program," he explains.

David's children, Matthew (a junior) and Emily (a sophomore) play for Pomona High School and have also learned to string racquets to help out, which means that David can continue to focus on his family while making a difference in the Colorado tennis community.

If anyone has a racquet they would like to donate, David encourages them to contact RFA@coloradotennis.com.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

10 AND UNDER TENNIS: Programs announce, "QuickStart Tennis Spoken Here"

10U/QUICKSTART TENNIS FORMAT GAINING TRACTION

Barely a year after the big rule change announcement from the USTA that it will mandate the QuickStart Tennis Format for all 10 and Under programs beginning in 2012, facilities and programs across Colorado are responding. Nearly 100 have registered online with the USTA at 10ANDUNDERTENNIS.com, and more are surely preparing to do so as the USTA continues to offer incentives to help facilities integrate the core components prior to 2012, when all 10 and Under leagues and tournaments will mandate the use of 60-foot courts and the low-compression orange ball. The list of facilities and programs (at right) currently offering the QuickStart Tennis format is provided by the USTA, and will be continually updated online at 10ANDUNDERTENNIS.com. Any programs that would like to be included in this list must register with the USTA. Parents wanting information about 10 and Under Tennis are highly encouraged to go to the site.

CAC INVERNESS ADDS QUICKSTART TOURNAMENTS

Colorado Athletic Club Inverness recently announced the addition of three one-day QuickStart Tennis format events for players 12 and under. All three tournaments will utilize age-specific court size, scoring and the appropriate ball.

The first event, the QuickStart Fall Challenger (TennisLink # 250003211), takes place Saturday, October 8. The second tournament is the QuickStart Thanksgiving Open (TennisLink # 250003311), on Friday, November 25. The series will culminate with the QuickStart Holiday Open (TennisLink # 250003411) on December 18.

USTA Quickstart format will be used for all matches. For a detailed description of the scoring rules for each division, please visit Tennislink and use the provided tournament identification numbers listed above.

Official 10 and Under Tennis Facilities

In order for a tennis program to become an "official" USTA Colorado 10 and Under Tennis/QuickStart facility, they must incorporate all six components of the QuickStart play format—age, scoring, balls, racquets, court and net height. The following Colorado facilities and organizations have registered at <10andundertennis.com>.

Aquatic Center Tennis Courts	Foxridge Swim & Racquet Club	PEP Club Sports
Arapahoe Tennis Club	Genesee Tennis	Pikes Peak Community Tennis Assn
Arvada Tennis Center	Grand Junction Parks & Recreation	Piney Country Club
Bison Park Tennis Center	Greenwood Athletic & Tennis Club	Piney Creek Clubhouse
Boulder Country Club	Highlands Meadows Tennis Club	Pueblo Central Tennis Courts
Bow Mar Tennis Club	Hiwan Golf Club	Pueblo West High School
Boys & Girls Club of Fort Collins	Holly Park Tennis Courts	Railbender Park Tennis Center
Brighton High School	Holly Tennis Center	Ricardo Flores Magón Academy
Champion Family Tennis	Ken Caryl Ranch Metro District	Rolland Moore Racquet Complex
City & County of Broomfield	Lakeshore Athletic Club	Tennis For Everyone
City of Edgewater	Lakewood Park	Tennis Mania, Inc.
City of Loveland	Lebsack Tennis Center at Redstone Park	Tennis To Tots
City of Woodland Park	Legend High School	The Broadmoor Tennis Club
Colorado Academy	Life Time Fitness	The Club at Flying Horse
Colorado Athletic Club Inverness	Littleton Golf & Tennis	The Country Club of Colorado
Colorado Athletic Club Monaco	Lone Tree Tennis Club	The Ranch Country Club
Columbine Knolls	McKee Park	The Tennis Center at Steamboat Springs
Crestmoor Community Associations	Meadow Creek Tennis & Fitness	The Tennis Project, LLC.
Eagle-Vail Tennis Center	Memorial Park Tennis Center	Town of Crested Butte
Eastmoor Swim & Tennis Club	Mesa County Tennis	University Tennis Complex
Edmondson Park	Millennium Harvest House	Western Eagle County
Eisenhower Elementary	Miramont Lifestyle Fitness	Recreation District
Eldorado K-8 School	Montrose Tennis Association	Woodmen Valley Park
First Serve Fort Collins	Mount Vernon Country Club	Woodmoor Pines Golf & Country Club
Foothills Swim & Racquet Club	Net Results Junior Tennis, Inc.	Work Out West Tennis Center
Ford Park Tennis Center	Normandy Estates Pool & Tennis	Wulf Recreation Center
	North Lake Park Tennis Courts	



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SPOTLIGHT

CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH



The First Lady takes Let's Move! to the US Open

First Lady Michelle Obama joined in the fun at her first US Open, bringing her Let's Move message to an excited group of local kids. September is National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, and the USTA is joining forces with the White House to help raise awareness and to get the word out about how tennis can be a fun way to get kids moving.

More than 23 million children and teenagers in the US are obese or overweight, a statistic that health and medical experts consider an epidemic. Childhood obesity puts nearly one third of America's children at early risk for Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and even stroke – conditions usually associated with adulthood.

The first-ever National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month in September 2010 drew important public attention to the issues surrounding childhood obesity and made an impact in reducing the prevalence of the epidemic. Earlier this year, First Lady Michelle Obama took her **Let's Move!** message to the tennis courts, and just recently attended her first US Open, where she participated in a junior clinic sponsored by the USTA. Joined by a big group of excited local kids clad in Let's Move! t-shirts, Mrs. Obama volleyed with tennis legend John McEnroe in the SmashZone at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Queens. She played doubles with a junior partner against Serena Williams, who arrived at the clinic after having just advanced to the Open semifinals.

"I am so incredibly fired up to finally be at my first US Open," Mrs. Obama said as she thanked the USTA for supporting her childhood obesity campaign with a series of programs across the nation. "I am excited to see so many pumped-up little tennis players right here," she said. Tennis legend Billie Jean King joined current and former players, James Blake, Katrina Adams and MaliVai Washington at the clinic.

To support Let's Move, USTA has built or refurbished almost 2,000 kid-sized tennis courts throughout the country over the past year, and introduced 10 and Under Tennis to 26 cities. The newly built and renovated courts will be in places where local officials, public parks and schools commit to building tennis into their core programming for kids.

In addition, the USTA will use its resources and programs, including its National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) network, to encourage 200,000 kids to take the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA) that challenges them to be active 60 minutes a day and five days a week for six weeks throughout an eight-week period. The PALA has a goal of encouraging 1,000,000 children to take on the challenge.

Tennis, Mrs. Obama said, "is great for kids," and that's why she's introduced it to her daughters at a young age. "It gets you moving. It keeps you focused. You've got to move your muscles," Mrs. Obama said. "You've got to be quick. You've got to be strong."

"I know people in their 90s that are still playing tennis, and I want to be one of those people," Mrs. Obama said. "I want my daughters to be some of those people. And I want all kids around the country to have access to opportunities and to get some exposure to sports like tennis so that you guys figure out what your loves are."



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JUNIORREC

JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS WRAP-UP

USTA Colorado crowns JTT State Champions

Nearly 1,000 junior players from around the state competed in the 2011 USTA Colorado Junior Team Tennis State Championships, held August 5-7 at facilities across the Denver metro area.

Congratulations to the following champions and finalists:

BOYS:

- 18 ADV Champions – Flying Horse CC
- 18 ADV Finalists – CAC Monaco
- 18 IA Champions – Genessee
- 18 IA Finalists – Meadow Creek
- 18 IB Champions – Mount Vernon CC
- 18 IB Finalists – Eastside

- 12 Novice Champions – Mount Vernon CC
- 12 Novice Finalists – Work Out West

- 10 IA Champions – Columbine Country Club
- 10 IA Finalists – Greenwood Athletic Club

- 10 IB Champions – Magon Academy
- 10 IB Finalists – Broomfield Swim & Tennis

- 14 ADV Champions – Ken Caryl
- 14 ADV Finalists – CAC Inverness

GIRLS:

- 18 ADV Champions – CAC Monaco
- 18 ADV Finalists – Meadow Creek

- 14 IA Champions – CAC Monaco
- 14 IA Finalists – Country Club of Colorado

- 18 IA Champions – Tennis Kids
- 18 IA Finalists – Meadow Creek

- 14 IB Champions – Applewood Athletic Club
- 14 IB Finalists – Tennis Kids

- 18 IB Champions – Mount Vernon CC
- 18 IB Finalists – Homestead Farm II

- 12 IA Champions – Crestmoor
- 12 IA Finalists – Denver CC

- 14 IA Champions – Pinery CC
- 14 IA Finalists – CAC Inverness

- 12 IB Champions – Bow Mar
- 12 IB Finalists – Crestmoor

- 14 IB Champions – Boulder CC



- 14 IB Finalists – Genessee

- 14 Novice Champions – South Suburban LGT
- 14 Novice Finalists – Work Out West

- G 12 IA Champions – Colorado Springs CC
- G 12 IA Finalists – Ken Caryl

- G 12 IB Champions – Meadows Club
- G 12 IB Finalists – Tennis Kids

- G 10 INT Champions – Lebsack Tennis Center
- G 10 INT Finalists – CAC Inverness

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Colorado teams earn Sectional titles, vie for National Championship

Sixteen teams registered for the USTA Junior Team Tennis Intermountain Sectional Qualifier, held in mid-July at Ken Caryl Ranch House. The three-day event featured co-ed play in three divisions: 14 & Under Intermediate, 18 & Under Intermediate and 18 & Under Advanced.

14 Intermediate:

Champions – Northern Colorado
Finalists – Mount Vernon Country Club

18 Intermediate:

Champions – Northern Colorado
Finalists – Ken Caryl

18 Advanced:

Champions – Ken Caryl
Finalists – Colorado Athletic Club Monaco

All six teams advanced to the the Intermountain Sectional Championships (Ken Caryl 18 Intermediate withdrew due to insufficient number of players), held August 5-7 at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. On the line — a trip to Surprise, Arizona for the 2011 USTA Jr. Team Tennis National Championships. When the dust settled, two Colorado teams emerged victorious, and will represent the Intermountain Section:

**Northern Colorado (14 Intermediate)
Ken Caryl (18 Advanced)**

The 2011 USTA Jr. Team Tennis National Championships will be held October 20-23 (14 and under division) and October 27-30 (18 and under division) at The Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex. Follow the action at FACEBOOK.com/USTAJTT.



Photo courtesy of Greenwood Athletic and Tennis Club

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PROFILE

CELEBRATING 500K: Thirty years in the making, USTA Colorado welcomes its 500,000th league player

Two million handshakes, three million friendships, one billion calories burned. Those are just some of the milestones of the last 30 years of USTA Adult League tennis in Colorado. And 2011 saw perhaps the biggest milestone to date — the 500,000 player in USTA Colorado Adult League tennis history — **Kristen Rubis**.

Kristen truly is the face of USTA Colorado league tennis. She moved from New Zealand to Vail in 1991 and started playing leagues that year for Homestead Court Club and has competed every year since. In addition to playing on women's 4.0 teams in the summer and fall, Kristen gets court time in through cardio tennis, team practice, friendly matches and tournaments.

Tennis really is the sport of a lifetime for Kristen, having played since she was about 10 years old and playing competitively throughout middle and high school in New Zealand. Besides the physical benefits, the sport has allowed her to meet new people and form lasting friendships and travel throughout Colorado. "I don't know what I would do without tennis," said Kristen. "I love that tennis allows me to catch up with all the amazing women I have gotten to know over the last 20 years."

While 500,000 is an impressive number, it should come as no surprise that Colorado has reached this milestone to those familiar with the success of USTA Colorado Adult League tennis. The program started nationally in 1980, when just under 1,000 players in Colorado participated. In 2010, Colorado saw more than 30,000 players compete in adult leagues. That's



Photo by Kurt Desautels, USTA Colorado

30 years 500,000 players

Kristen Rubis (center) celebrates the announcement that she became the 500,000th league player in Colorado history when she registered for the USTA Adult League in early April. The captain of the Homestead Court Club Women's 4.0 team, Kristen led her team to an undefeated season and a spot at the Colorado Adult League District Championships.

a 3000% increase over the past 30 years!

These impressive numbers puts Colorado near the top of league tennis participation nationwide in a number of categories. Metro Denver ranks second only to Atlanta as the largest "area" in terms of player numbers. The USTA Colorado Adult Division District Championships are the seventh largest in the nation. At the 2010 District Championships, close to 1,200 matches were played over three days.

And not only are our participation numbers impressive, but Colorado teams have won five national championships — Denver Tennis Club claimed the inaugural 5.5 men's championship in 1980 as well as the 4.5 men's championship in 1998; Lynmar Racquet Club brought home the men's 4.0 championship in 1993; and Lakewood Tennis Association won the USTA Senior championship in 1992 and again in 1994, just barely missing the three-peat by finishing second in 1993. Many of the players from each of these championship teams are still active in league play.

Kristen was named the USTA Colorado Adult League 500,000 player in August when her team was competing at the Adult League District Championships. Kristen said "I feel honored and excited to spread the word about how amazing and fun USTA league tennis is." Being named the 500,000 player was a shock to Kristen who said "I never win anything" which is a bit of an understatement if you look at her tennis record over the past 20 years! For the honor of becoming the half-millionth player in Colorado league history, Kristen will receive a complimentary 5-year USTA membership, a free team entry into the 2012 USTA Adult league and a get-away vacation at The Broadmoor, consistently ranked among the nation's best tennis resorts.

And while Kristen has the honor of being named the 500,000 league player, the 499,999 that registered before her should also be recognized and commended for their dedication to and involvement with leagues. It is each and every player that makes league tennis such a success in Colorado. And with the variety of league offerings throughout the state and the number of committed players in Colorado, league tennis is sure to continue its popularity. Keep on playing and you may just be the 1,000,000 player! 🎾

A SHORT HISTORY OF USTA LEAGUE TENNIS

Since 1980, nearly 9 million players have competed in USTA League Tennis nationwide. In its first year, 13,000 players competed from 13 sections. Last year alone, more than 750,000 players competed in USTA League tennis programs across the country, an annual growth rate of more than 6%.

It is projected that when Colorado reaches the 1 million player mark sometime around 2025, more than 25 million participants will have competed in USTA League Tennis nationwide.

PROGRAM RACQUETS FOR ALL



HIGH SCHOOL CHALLENGE

It seems like school has just started, but the 2011 boys' high school tennis season is well underway! And while everyone will watch to see which teams will win the state titles, all 5A and 4A teams also have the chance to be named the winner of the 2nd Annual Racquets for All High School Challenge. The Challenge is simple – be the 5A or 4A boys' team that collects and donates the most racquets to Racquets for All and your team wins \$200!

The winner of the 2010 Boys' Challenge was the Fossil Ridge High School team, which collected 14 racquets. During the 2011 Girls' Challenge, more than 150 racquets were collected – so we know the boys can beat their 2010 collection efforts!

If you are on a Colorado high school team, or know someone who is, make sure your team gets involved with the Challenge.

- See if a team parent is willing to help your team coordinate collection efforts.
- Have a racquet drive at your school.
- Ask friends and family members if they have old racquets to donate.
- Check with clubs you play at and see if they have any racquets.
- Be creative!

And, if you are not on a team and don't know anyone that is, but you have old racquets to donate, contact your local high school tennis coach and see if your contributions can help their team win the Challenge!

Once a team has collected racquets, they simply need to bring them to the regional tournament, clearly documenting their high school name and number of racquets collected. The winning team will be recognized at the State Championships.

Our goal is to double the number of schools who participated in last year's Challenge. Please help us meet our goal and consider taking part in this fun event – it's a great opportunity to give back to your community and to the sport of tennis.

EQUIPMENT COLLECTION/DONATION UPDATE

Through August 31, 2011 RFA has collected 646 tennis racquets and 424 dozen tennis balls from the Colorado tennis community.

So far this year, RFA has distributed 491 racquets and more than 6,000 balls to 43 organizations throughout Colorado. RFA has also collected and provided racquet covers, bags, apparel and shoes, tennis nets, ball hoppers and carts.

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RACQUETS FOR ALL IS EXPANDING

Keep an eye out for more Racquets for All collection barrels around the state as we have been expanding our efforts, particularly in the Colorado Springs and Boulder areas. We have added more committee members and volunteers in these areas which has resulted in collection barrel placement in more facilities as well as collection efforts at tournaments in these communities.

For the latest list of collection facilities, visit COLORADOTENNIS.com and click on the Racquets For All logo in the right frame. If you are a facility that would like to get involved with Racquets for All, please email rfa@coloradotennis.com.

RACQUETS FOR ALL BUZZ

It's been a busy year for Racquets for All with distributing racquets. In 2011, Racquets for All has distributed racquets to numerous organizations throughout Colorado. Here is what a few of them have had to say.

"We would also like to recognize the Racquets for All program for providing equipment to Western Tennis Academy. We are truly grateful for the assistance we received in launching the academy's first summer program. It is our goal to continue to grow and pursue more opportunities for our participants to play and train throughout the year." — Kerry Nash, Western Tennis Academy

"Thank you for the racquets and balls given to me for use at the Federal Correctional Facility in Englewood. We have been doing group lessons and many of the inmates have said they very much appreciate the donation for their behalf. So again, they are going to good use. Thank you again for your goodness and kind deeds." — Rod McDonald, Federal Correctional Institute Englewood

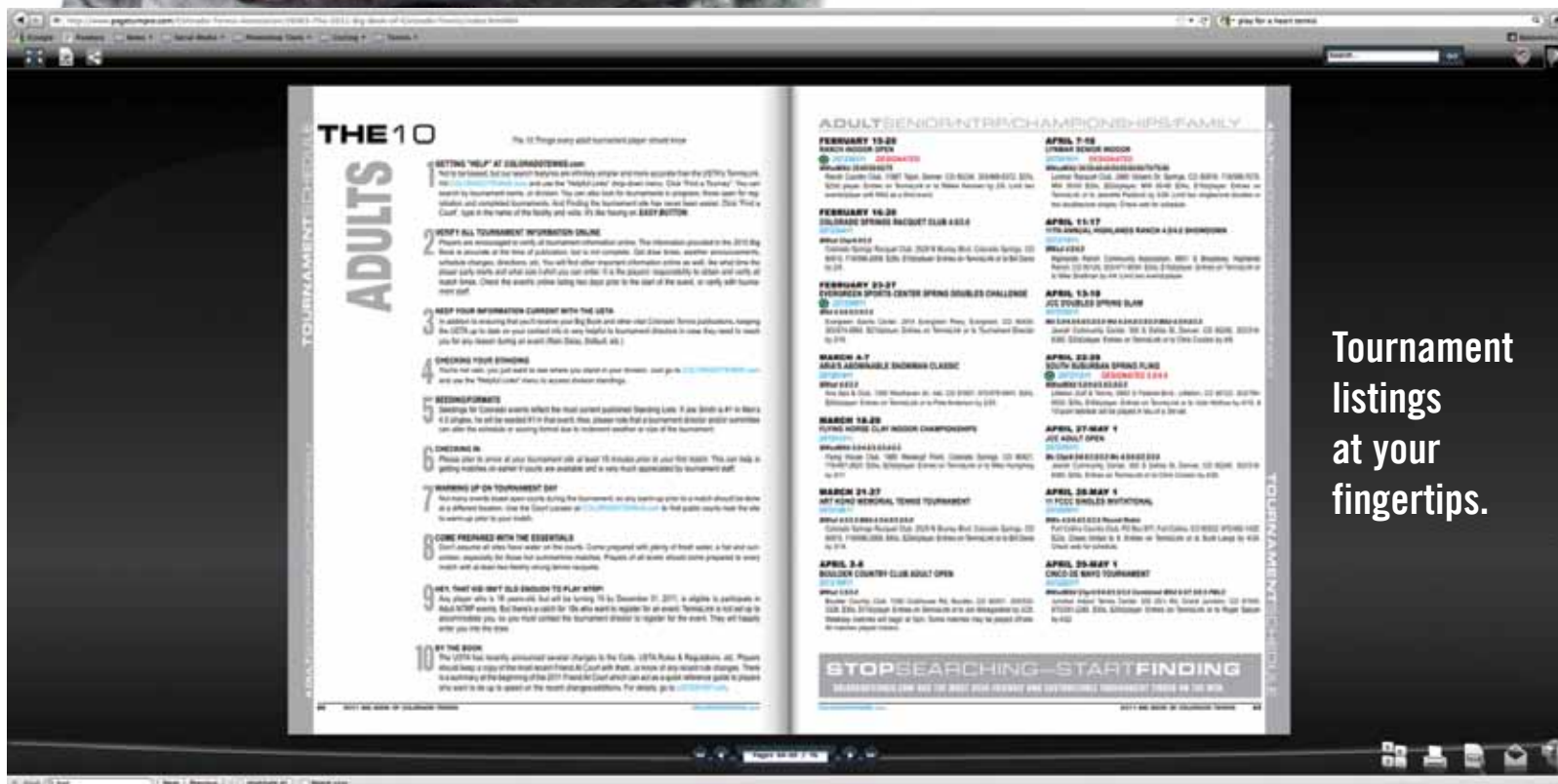
"The Racquets for All program has really done wonders for our tennis program and in particular those students who wish to compete outside of school hours. Just the fact that our students now have racquets to hit with on the weekends does so much for them. They can now go to a local park and hit away. In the past they couldn't do that. Thank you so much Racquets for All!" — Marcos Martinez, Ricardo Flores Magon Academy

"I want to express my appreciation for the racquets and the balls and for you bringing them to the house. I appreciate your time and concern. Both the racquets and balls have made a major difference in the quality of time that we spend on the court. The racquets have surely helped the boys' ball contact and control, even for my older sons. The balls have helped us get in more swing time and that is particularly good for ALL of us! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU." — Deidre Milton, parent

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YOURGAME

BRAIN FOOD: 3 Ways Exercise Feeds Your Brain

Beth Shepard, M.S., ACE-CPT, ACSM-RCEP, Wellcoaches Certified Wellness Coach

Ever feel like you could use a few more brain cells — or wish you could do something to enrich and protect the ones you've got? You can — whether you're 9 years old or 90 — by making exercise a part of your everyday life.

An increasing number of studies point to the importance of regular exercise for boosting brain function and protecting against cognitive impairment at any age.

Prevents Shrinkage

A study conducted on dementia-free older adults found those who walked 72 blocks (or 6-9 miles) a week had more gray matter than people who walked less. Better yet, the increased brain volume was linked with a two-fold decrease in risk for cognitive decline.

Exercise needs to be aerobic to promote positive brain effects, according to Dr. John Medina, a developmental molecular biologist and author of *Brain Rules: 12 Principles for Surviving and Thriving at Work, Home, and School* (Pear Press 2008). Strength training alone doesn't have the same positive brain effects as combining cardiovascular and strength training.

People who exercise regularly have about half the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease and dementia than their sedentary counterparts. What could be more important than protecting yourself from these devastating conditions?

Enhances Plasticity

Plasticity is the brain's ability to rewire its circuits based on everyday encounters — with people, problems, and informa-

tion. It's vital for acquiring and using knowledge and skills, and adapting to changing environments and circumstances.

Exercise has a positive effect on brain plasticity, as revealed in a study of older adults in a walking program. Remarkable improvements in cognitive function and brain plasticity were seen in subjects who walked at a moderate pace for 40 minutes, three days a week for a full year.

Promotes Learning

In *Spark – The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain* (Little, Brown, and Company 2008), Dr. John J. Ratey explains that exercise floods the brain with a substance called brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), which helps new brain cells sprout, grow, and thrive. A major outcome of this brain cell cultivation is an enhanced ability to learn — and learn at a faster rate.

It's not surprising that a number of studies have linked physical activity levels with school success in children. A study of 3rd and 5th-graders found that aerobic fitness was positively associated with overall academic achievement, reading achievement, and math achievement, even accounting for other influences such as socioeconomic status.

BDNF alone doesn't boost learning — there has to be a stimulus for baby brain cells to chew on. And how you structure your workouts can make a big difference. Combining aerobic exercise with more complex activities, such as a treadmill run followed by practicing conversational French, creates optimal conditions for brain growth. Vigorous activities that involve complex motor skills — figure skating, tennis, or rock climbing for example — also fit the bill. Changing up

your workout routine with new activities, routes, and formats will help keep your body fit and your brain challenged.

If possible, time your cardio sweat session to happen just before you need your sharpest critical thinking skills. Exercise before work to drive your morning productivity, or squeeze in a lunch workout to shine at your afternoon meeting.

Get Moving to Save Your Brain

A sedentary lifestyle does more than contribute to weight gain, diabetes, and heart disease. It's, quite literally, a brain-snatcher. It robs you of the neurologic health you need to be your best now and maintain your quality of life as you get older — and can even shorten your lifespan. Give yourself, and the people you love, a priceless gift: exercise regularly to keep your brain in good working order.

7 BRAIN-BUILDING EXERCISES

1. Walk or ride your bicycle to work or your match.
2. Try a new sport or fitness activity.
3. Change your exercise with new activities, routes, and formats (Cardio Tennis is a great change of pace).
4. Try new mentally-challenging activities like dancing.
5. Follow your cardio workout with balance exercises.
6. Play tennis or soccer with your kids.
7. Walk, run, or climb stairs on your lunch break.



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PROFILE

LIFE TIME FITNESS

Three years ago, a letter went out to tennis members at the Lynmar Racquet Club in Colorado Springs, indicating that the new owner, Life Time Fitness, planned on relocating all operations to a new location.

On May 6, 2011, the new Life Time Fitness — located just 30 minutes south of Castle Rock — opened its doors. Life Time Fitness operates 92 clubs across the country, four in the Denver/Colorado Springs market. The new 200,000+ square foot facility located in the north end of Colorado Springs includes 80,000 square feet of tennis, and boasts 40-foot ceilings, an advanced tiered direct lighting system, and a humidity & climate controlled environment. Even with the record-setting heat this past summer, Tennis Department Head, Michael Olds and his staff were cool and comfortable inside, where it's always 74 degrees on court.

The state of the art facility offers eight indoor Rebound Ace Synpave hard courts, full service pro shop, the LTF Video-Analysis Lab, USTA and CTA league teams, tournaments, special events and tennis programming for all ages and abilities.

"As a Healthy Way of Life Company, our goal at Life Time Fitness is to provide the community and our members the best places, the best people and the best programs," says Olds. "In the tennis department we want to be able to offer a great place for people to learn and play tennis as well as achieve all of their health and fitness goals."

Life Time Fitness averaged over 225 kids each month in their summer program, thanks to the USTA 10 & Under Initiative, and the fact that they pounced on the initiative early, lining all eight courts with 60' lines.

Olds and his staff of seven certified pros are passionate about growing the game of tennis, not only in the Colorado Springs market, but also making an impact throughout the state of Colorado.



Life Time Fitness opens Colorado Springs facility

Life Time Fitness opened the doors to their Colorado Springs club in early May. With eight indoor courts, all striped with 60' lines to accommodate junior players, it is among the largest year-round tennis facilities in the state.

"At Life Time Fitness, we are fortunate not only to have the best tennis facility around, but also the resources that the rest of the club provides are invaluable in allowing us to create new and exciting programming and special events for our members."

Those additional resources include a full service fitness floor, personal trainers, dieticians, 125+ fitness classes/week, three swimming pools, café, spa, salon & medspa and a child center to only name a few.

Players wanting to experience the new facility in person should consider registering for the Colorado Springs Adult Open, the first NTRP tournament at Life Time, on October 6-9, 2011.

Visit LIFETIMEFITNESS.com/TENNIS for more information about the club.

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SNOWMASS CLUB is seeking a year-round **Teaching Professional**. Located in Snowmass Village, Colorado, the Club has 11 outdoor courts (two of which are Har-Tru clay) and 2 indoor Har-Tru clay courts. Salaried position comes with a free ski pass and assisted health insurance. The Club will assist in locating housing. The position will report to our Director of Tennis, Gayle Godwin. Applications should have 4+ years of coaching experience and be comfortable organizing programs for a variety of levels, including QuickStart, junior programs, private lessons and socials. The Club caters predominantly to social players, although it also participates in USTA leagues. Busiest times are summer and winter seasons, slower in the shoulder seasons. If you're a team player who will be happy to help in other departments when needed, please apply online at ASPENSNOWMASS.com/jobs or contact Jeff Hembry <jhembry@snowmassclub.com> at 970.923.0920.

The Club is also looking for a year-round **Assistant Professional**. This hourly position comes with a free ski pass and assisted health insurance, subject to hours worked. The bulk of the hours will come during the summer season and this would be an ideal position for a tennis pro that wants to teach skiing/snowboarding in the winter. Junior experience is an advantage. Please apply online at ASPENSNOWMASS.com/jobs.

APPLEWOOD ATHLETIC CLUB is seeking two coaches — one head coach, one assistant — for the 2012 summer tennis season, June 1-early August. The coaches will be teaching tennis lessons, directing the junior team tennis squads, and be responsible for various tennis programs at the Club. For more information, please contact Teresa Varone <salonapparenza@comcast.net> at 720.635.6920.

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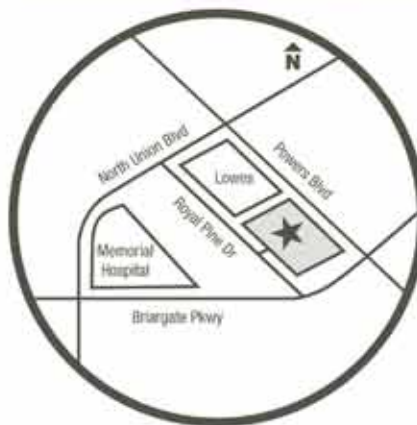
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PROFILE

COLORADO TENNIS HALL OF FAME UPDATE



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.
7. Considerations of sportsmanship and character will be factors.

At right is a complete listing of the nominees under consideration for the Class of 2011. 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 12th class of inductees will be announced in the Winter 2011 issue of *Colorado Tennis* newspaper, and the tennis community will have the chance to formally recognize the 2011 class at the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala and Annual Awards Celebration slated for January 27, 2012. 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.

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 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.

AT-LARGE AND SELECTION COMMITTEE NOMINATED CANDIDATES (new nominations in **BOLD**):

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

Public comment is welcome and must be received by October 3. Email the Selection Committee, hof@coloradotennis.com or write to Selection Committee, USTA Colorado, 3300 E Bayaud Ave, Suite 201, Denver, CO 80209.



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THEBIGCHAIR

STATE OF THE DISTRICT: news from USTA Colorado headquarters

FRITZGARGER Executive Director/USTA Colorado

Our Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year and our USTA Colorado league program is celebrating its 500,000th league player — both major milestones that show the longevity and success of our Foundation and our USTA programs (in this case our leagues). Both organizations (USTA CO and the CYTF) provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get involved in a sport that offers so much. The CYTF recently (2010) modified its mission statement to emphasize that the ultimate goal of our work is to promote the physical, emotional and social development of all youth to aspire to become active, productive and responsible citizens. Coincidentally, the new USTA President, Jon Vegosen, has focused the USTA mission to promote the sport in a way that focuses more on the intended outcome — which is to promote the growth of 'people' through our sport. He has coined this phrase at the USTA — Tennis the Sport of Opportunity.

Whether it be direct or indirect, our organizations are all about opportunity and the development of active, productive and responsible citizens. The 50 years of the CYTF has impacted thousands of junior players in enumerable ways. We have a long and storied history and our goal today is to carry that torch for many more years to come. It's impossible to know what direction some of these kids would have taken in life without the influence of tennis — but we have received countless testimonials from kids and parents alike espousing the virtues of the game and how the sport impacted their decision-making process in a most positive way. I want to take a moment to thank all those who have devoted their time and energy over the past 50 years of the CYTF.

And whether it's the CYTF or USTA Colorado, I think the thoughts and words of Jon Vegosen are true and most appropriate — tennis is the sport of opportunity. Our mission to promote the sport without question involves getting more people on the court. The people who get involved not only get more exercise, but will derive so many additional benefits that our sport has to offer. The milestone of 500,000 league players is impressive. We have an amazing league program and have for decades. And while leagues continue to be a primary cornerstone — our efforts with tournaments, schools programs (during, before and after), general community development, diversity and inclusion are expanding each year in an attempt to reach out to more people and communities statewide. And in reaching out to more people, tennis is one

(important) component in the development of active, productive and responsible citizens.

Two icons of tennis are making their way to Colorado as keynote speakers at major Metro-Denver events this fall. On October 13, Andre Agassi will address a packed house at the Aurora Economic Development Council's A-List 2011 (see BUZZ, page 14). And Martina Navratilova will be on center-stage for the Women's Foundation of Colorado Denver Luncheon on November 3 (see ad on page 11). These are just two examples of how tennis and the message of its ambassadors have a significant role beyond the confines of a tennis court and impact the community at large. The AEDC and the Women's Foundation have a very strong following and these are their marquee events — both chose tennis champions to be their keynote speakers. It 'speaks' volumes for our sport. Both events are open to the public and we encourage our tennis community to support and be a part of these events. We are grateful to the organizers of both that partnerships have developed between our organizations (USTA CO and the CYTF) and theirs.

In addition to these upcoming events this fall, be sure to take advantage of the season and pick up your racquet and get out on the court. Our staff and volunteers are in the midst of the planning phase for 2012. From previous publications you'll know that we are gearing up for what we anticipate will be another exciting year. Several significant changes and additions are in store — from the addition of the new time slot for USTA Adult and Twilight leagues (4pm and 6pm) in the metro-Denver area, to the implementation of the new rules for 10 and Under competition (leagues and tournaments) with the appropriate equipment — racquets, balls and the 60' court. If you have not seen courts with the blended lines or if you have not played with 10 and Under kids on the 60' court — you should do so. With the addition of that change and the expansion in use of the 8 and under 36' courts (using a lower net, smaller racquets and the red ball), the potential for tennis to increase participation exponentially is enormous.

We are proud of our past and our past accomplishments; and we are extremely excited about the future and what's in store — starting with 2012!

Best wishes.



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THE LAST WORD

CONTRADICTING MYSELF: Sometimes, you just need to be your own devil's advocate

KURT DESAUTELS Editor, COLORADOTENNIS

As we head into the "off season", tennis is on everyone's mind these days. I was Facebooking with a friend of mine and who asked, "What's wrong with American tennis? How come we don't produce the best players anymore?"

USA Today had a full page article on the global nature of tennis in their August 29th issue (*The Most Global of Games Stretches to Every Corner*). While the article succeeds in its look at the globalization of tennis — how the top tennis academies in Florida and California aren't the only places for players to hone their advanced skills — it fails to address my question.

Americans remember the heyday of American tennis. From Connors, McEnroe and Evert to Sampras, Agassi, Courier and Davenport, Americans ruled the tennis roost for decades. Toss in the Williams sisters and you had a period of American dominance that existed for the better part of 100 years.

Today, the top players on the men's and women's tours are decidedly un-American. Only one American sits in the top 10 on the men's side (Mardy Fish). On the women's tour, America's top ranked player is Serena Williams (up to No. 14 after her US Open finals appearance), who while still a threat to win any tournament she enters, she's an aging champion who has sat out most of the last year with injuries.

While I certainly have an opinion on why American tennis isn't producing the world's best champions right now, there are many in the sporting world who have a far better understanding of the situation than I. Besides, I prefer to ask a different question.

"Why does it matter that Americans aren't the best tennis players anymore?"

Could we really produce a set of champions any better than the current crop on the men's side? Raphael Nadal is as exciting to watch as any player I've ever seen, and Roger Federer's game can only be described as sublime. Yet here comes this court jester, Novak Djokovic, who competes with such panache and emotion, and who has willed his game to yet another level. If Roger Federer is indeed the greatest player of all time, aren't we privileged to be witness to the likes of Rafa and Nole, who have not only reached Roger's brilliance but have overshadowed him for the last couple years. Personally, I share John McEnroe's assessment of Djokovic's year, that we are seeing perhaps the greatest season in history.

I had a conversation with a friend over coffee. She couldn't stop talking about the Rafa-Nole US Open final. She explained in great detail her thoughts as to why Rafa couldn't produce the victory — from a tight analysis of winners vs errors, first serve percentages and break opportunities — and how she thought Djokovic had really gotten into Nadal's head as of late. I remarked that I didn't realize she was such a huge tennis fan.

"I'm not," she said. "I just like Rafa and Nole."

Tennis may have once held a distinctly American flavor, but ignoring the sport because we have no Americans left to cheer for is crazy. On the men's side, we are likely in the midst of the greatest era in the history of the sport, at a confluence of three great champions who have dominated the sport like few others. That they have a slight accent to their gracious acceptance speeches does not diminish the flavor of their game, which for my money, is absolutely perfect.

Invasion of the ATPers

The Colorado State Open is at the halfway point as I sit at my desk and survey the four courts to the west. Despite the fact that I've sat and gazed out my window for more hours than I care to count since we moved our offices here in 2008, the scene today is strangely unfamiliar.

Center court west features former World No. 14 (and current coach of WTA up-and-comer Coco Vandeweghe) Jan-Michael Gambill. His opponent today is Colorado Tennis Hall of Famer Jeff Loehr, a four-time State Open champion.

On court 9, Colorado's Lew Miller, the top Men's 35s doubles player in the nation, is taking on former World No. 21 Taylor Dent. Dent, who had to retire from the pro tour after repeated injuries and surgeries, is still the holder of the fastest serve ever recorded at Wimbledon (148mph).

Another former ATP player, Paul Goldstein, plays on court 8.

Where did all these guys come from?

While I'm certainly excited to see them here at the state's biggest event, their presence feels strangely out of place, almost artificial. Not that I'm complaining about such great talent coming to Colorado, it's just strange.

Since I first started covering the Colorado tennis scene back in 2000, there have been only a handful of non-Coloradans who have captured titles at any of the top tournaments.

That trend is starting to change in the last couple years at the State Open. Texas' Nick Monroe, currently seeded 4th, was the Open champ in 2009, and University of Portland's Roman Borvanov was last year's champion. Californian Oren Motevassel — the 2002 champion currently seeded No. 7 — is the only other State Open champion in the last 40 years without a direct connection to Colorado.

The State Open does have a very rich history of showcasing some of the greatest talent to ever play the game. Prior to the Open Era players like Don Budge, Gene Mako, Jack Tidball, Bobby Riggs, Jack Kramer, Tony Trabert, Barry MacKay and Raphael Osuna all came to Colorado to compete against our state's best. But that all changed in 1969 when pros and amateurs combined. Since then, the world's best players have avoided the State Open, which has returned to its grassroots.

Ever since Colorado Tennis Management took over the State Open, there's been a push to make it bigger and better. More sponsors, more prize money, more fan-interaction. More. More.

And it's working. From a purely tennis perspective, the net result has been a boon for the fans, who come in droves to see incredible action at an incredible level. And it's always a thrill for the average tournament player who gets a court assignment next to Taylor Dent when he's blasting his signature serve at 5,280 feet high.

And while I certainly hope to see more top players come to Denver to compete every September in the State Open, I hope events like the Denver City Open (the "Player's Tournament") and the Boulder Open continue to thrive. After the demise of the long-running Elam Classic in Grand Junction, we need organic opportunities to see our state's best compete against each other, if only to remind us that Colorado is still capable of producing some pretty high-level talent of its own.

Colorado Tennis Online

If you haven't already checked out the online version of *Colorado Tennis* newspaper, please visit COLORADOTENNIS.com and click on NEWS>Downloads. In addition to interactivity with advertisers and stories, you won't get any newsprint on your fingers, so you can keep up with all the news and events going on around the state in your new white shirt. *Colorado Tennis* returns in late November, see you then!

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photo by Kurt Desautels



USTA COLORADO

BACK ROW: Dan Lewis, Fritz Garger, Paula McClain, Kurt Desautels, Jason Colter.
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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 30,000 players across the state, and offer programs for junior players of all ages and abilities. Our sanctioned tournament schedule offers more than 170 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 more than 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.

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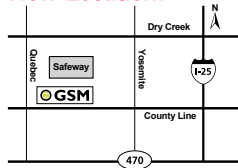
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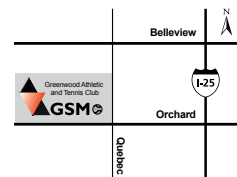
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