

colorado

Year 37, Issue 4

The Official Magazine of Tennis Lovers

fall 12 tennis

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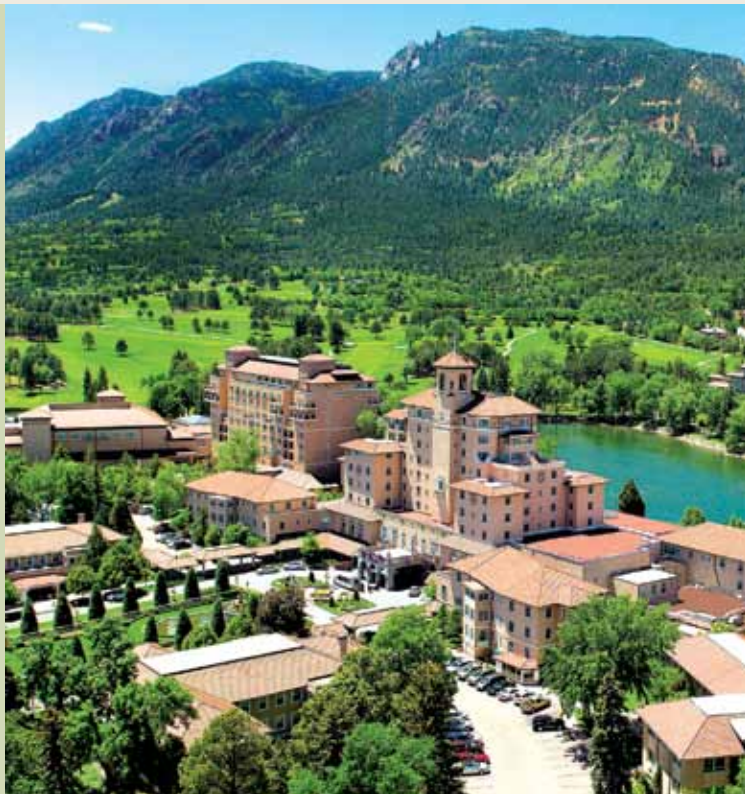
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In the days before the Open Era, players who turned pro played on a "tour" that featured a group of players in different cities every night almost as if they were a traveling rock band. Jack Kramer's pro tour was one of these barnstorming tennis tours. Today the seniors of men's tennis, those 30 and over, are planning to hit the road again in a modern version of barnstorming this fall.

On November 29, Denver welcomes the Battle of the Champions PowerShares Series event, featuring Andre Agassi, Michael Chang, Jim Courier and John McEnroe.



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About COLORADO TENNIS

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THECOVERSTORY

PRO TENNIS RETURNS TO COLORADO

POWERSHARES SERIES TOUR TO FEATURE MCENROE, AGASSI, COURIER, CHANG

In the days before the Open Era, players who turned pro played on a "tour" that featured a group of players in different cities every night almost as if they were a traveling rock band. Jack Kramer's pro tour was one of these barnstorming tennis tours. Today the seniors of men's tennis, those 30 and over, are planning to hit the road again in a modern version of barnstorming this fall.

The re-branded Champions Tour, now called the PowerShares Series tour, comes to the Mile High City this November as four of America's greatest tennis legends, International Tennis Hall of Famers John McEnroe, Andre Agassi, Jim Courier and Michael Chang come to Denver for The Battle of the Champions at The Pepsi Center, Thursday, November 29.

To be eligible for the tour a player must either have been ranked No. 1 in the world or played in a Grand Slam final and be at least 30 years old. The 10 players to be involved in this year's circuit include Agassi, Courier, McEnroe, Chang, Pete Sampras, Jimmy Connors, Ivan Lendl, Patrick Rafter, Mats Wilander and Todd Martin.

The 12-city tour of one-night tournaments is played in major US arenas from October 13-November 30. Each tournament features four Champions paired off in one-set semi-finals and culminates with the winners meeting in an eight-game pro-set championship match. The four Denver players won a combined 20 major titles and nearly 3,000 professional matches during their careers, which marked the glory days of American dominance on the pro tour.

The Champions compete in pursuit of the #1 ranking on the PowerShares Series with \$1 million dollars of bonus pool money on the line for the top three finishers on the circuit at the end of the season. No. 1 gets \$500,000, second place \$350,000 and third place \$150,000. Last year Sampras, Courier and Agassi took the top spots.

In each city, the tennis legends will share their on-court expertise in exclusive tennis clinics for sponsors and mingle with VIP guests at receptions prior to each event. On the PowerShares Series, sponsors and fans will enjoy unique access and entertainment from some of the world's greatest tennis stars of our time.

Back in July, McEnroe, Agassi, Courier and concert and event promoter and producer Larry Magid helped formally announced the 2012 PowerShares Series, formerly known as the Champions Series.

Magid said he was more accustomed working with rock 'n' roll artists than tennis players. "I've toured people all across the world from Richard Pryor to Bette Midler to Stevie Wonder," Magid said. "This is a rock show to me. It just felt like that." How does dealing with rock musicians compare to dealing with tennis players? "I find them every bit as compelling," he said.

The rankings, the bragging rights and the potential income are just part of the reason that the PowerShares Series is attractive for some of the best players ever in the game. For McEnroe, part of the lure is getting to step on the same court with the likes of Sampras, Agassi and Courier. And while no one expects him to beat the younger guys, the format gives him some hope.

"Playing these guys is a pretty tall order and I guess the good news for me is that it's just one set," McEnroe said. "It at least gives me a chance. ... I'd rather play the best guys and see what I have left."

Preparing to take the court with some of the all-time best players is a significant source of motivation. But so is the ability of this tour to bring tennis to cities in which people usually don't see elite level tournaments. It's one of the approaches to help inject excitement, and hopefully cultivate talent, in American tennis.

"We have to go out and try to make more people aware of how great this game is," McEnroe said. "The best way to do that is to see it up close and see some of the players of the past that had really great results. We try to start from there. This is just a slice, a piece of the puzzle, to get the buzz back for tennis. There are a lot of different ways to do it."

There's a level of appreciation McEnroe has for the game of tennis that he lacked during the height of his professional success. The 53 year-old on the Champions circuit is in a different place than the 22 year-old who earned the No. 1 ranking in the world in 1981. It's not just that he's older and wiser and more judicious about taking care of his body. It's that he's able to step back and enjoy not just the game but the process of preparing and training.

"I'm much more appreciative. I've been able to get some perspective and it's a lot better than when I was in the midst of trying to be the best player in the world. I feel like I'm in a pretty good place now," said the 7-time major champion.

"Ironically, I find myself enjoying the working-out part more than I ever did. I feel like I benefit mentally, not just physically," McEnroe said. "I go to the gym three days a week and play three days a week. I'm lucky in that I don't have a job [he's a network television commentator] where I have to work 10 hours a day ... but part of my job is to keep myself in condition and close to the game so I can interpret what I'm watching when I'm commentating."



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**4:00PM VIP SPONSOR CLINIC #2
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(VIP UPGRADE REQUIRED)**

**6:00PM VIP COCKTAIL PARTY
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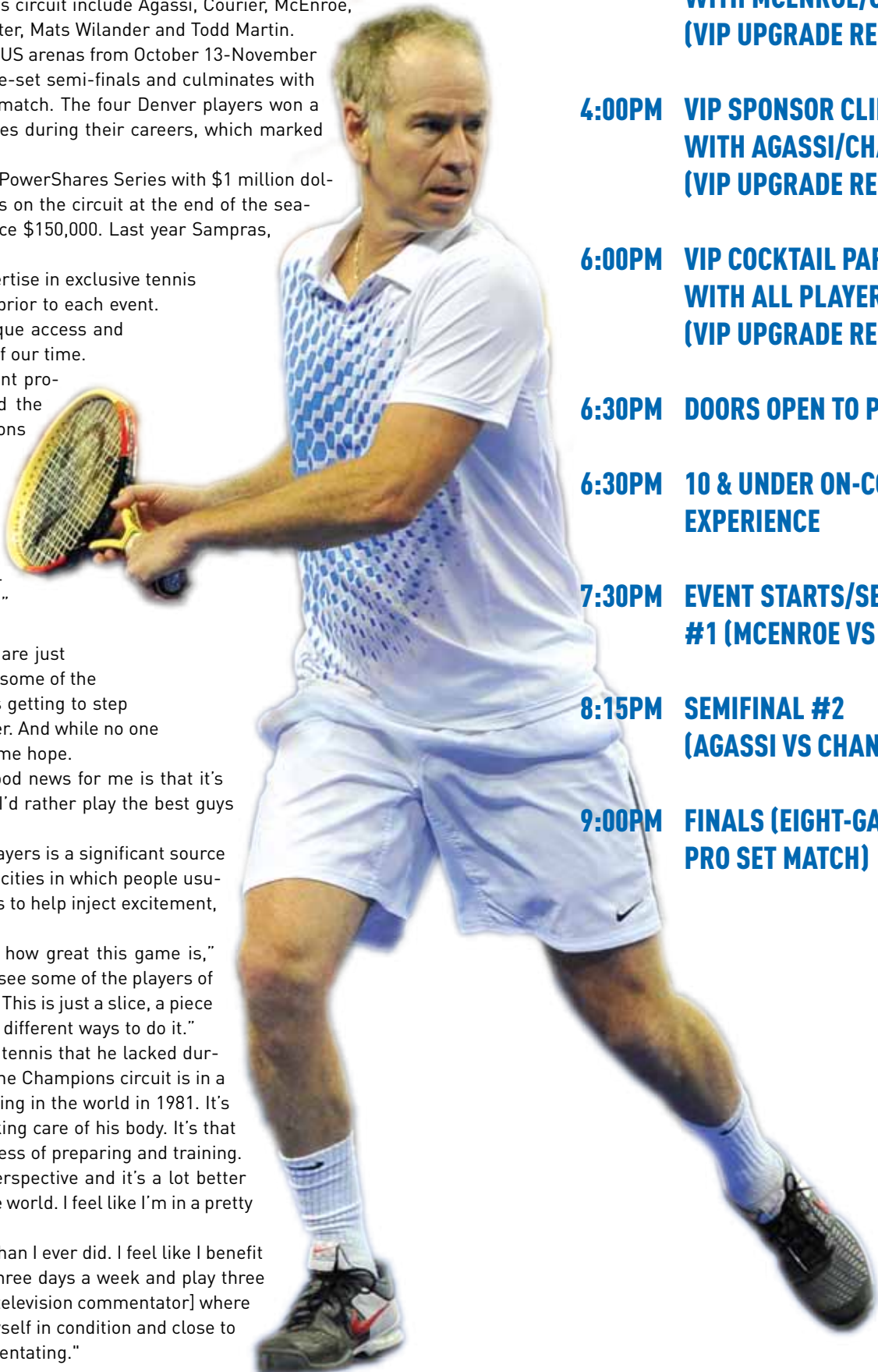
6:30PM DOORS OPEN TO PUBLIC

**6:30PM 10 & UNDER ON-COURT
EXPERIENCE**

**7:30PM EVENT STARTS/SEMIFINAL
#1 (MCENROE VS COURIER)**

**8:15PM SEMIFINAL #2
(AGASSI VS CHANG)**

**9:00PM FINALS (EIGHT-GAME
PRO SET MATCH)**



Group Ticket Information

Group tickets are available for the 2012 Battle of the Champions at Pepsi Center. Tickets normally priced at \$45, \$85 and \$125 (plus a facility fee of \$4 each) are discounted 10%:

Group tickets prices are \$40.50, \$76.50 and \$112.50 (plus the \$4 facility fee)

FOR 12 OR MORE PEOPLE, contact TicketWorks at 303/670-3696 or email discounts@denverticket-works.com. The charges will be the price of the ticket times the number of people, plus a one time \$5 fee to mail. For this option, TicketWorks can reserve a block of seats for a limited time, while payments are secured from others. Call for more details.

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On November 29, 20 lucky kids (ages 10 and under) will participate in a once-in-a-lifetime tennis event prior to the PowerShares Battle of the Champions, featuring tennis legends Andre Agassi, Michael Chang, Jim Courier and John McEnroe at the Pepsi Center.

For 45 minutes, they'll be center stage, under the lights at The Pepsi Center, on the same court the legends will use later that night.

After their 10 and Under Tennis Experience on the big stage, each participant and a guest will head to their seats to watch four of the greatest American champions battle it out in a winner-take-all, three-match event.

This unique opportunity will be offered as part of an online auction, which will run October 23-November 15.

In addition, pairs of tickets and other event opportunities will be auctioned off, benefiting the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation.

Visit COLORADOTENNIS.com to participate.



Don't have a kid but want to provide an opportunity for one less fortunate?

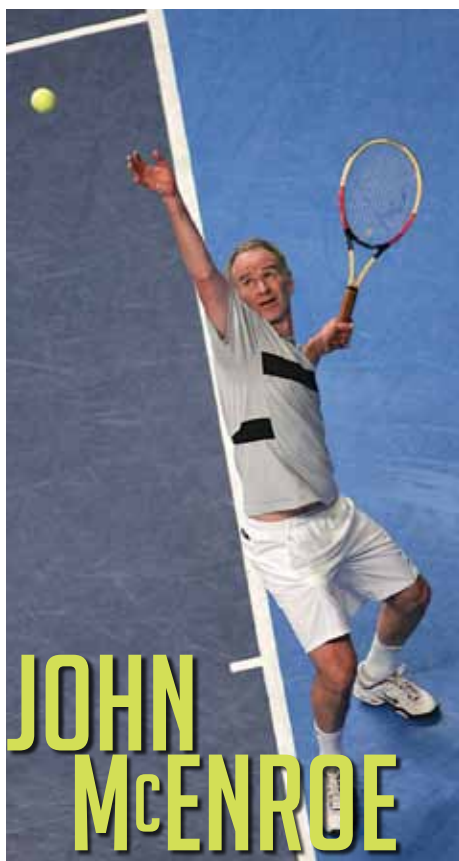
"Sponsor a kid" spots are also available for auction.



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**JOHN
McENROE**

CAREER STATS

Career High Rank: 1 (03.03.80)
 Career Singles Record: 875-198
 Career Singles Titles: 77 (+31 Finals)
 Career Doubles Titles: 71 (+22 Finals)
 Career Prize Money: \$12,552,132
 Career Major Singles Titles: 7 (4 finals)
 (Wimbledon-3 US Open-4)
 Career Major Doubles Titles: 9
 (Wimbledon-5 US Open-4)
 Career Major Mixed Titles: 1
 (French)

ITF HALL OF FAME BIO:

As ferocious a competitor as tennis has ever produced, steely in his resolve, unwavering in his convictions, John McEnroe was a left-hander who played with singular verve and sparkle. A New Yorker with rare talent, his imagination knew no boundaries. McEnroe's touch on the volley was golden, and his match playing instincts were remarkably sound. He claimed the US Open crown four times and was victorious at Wimbledon three times. He was an American Davis Cup stalwart, and many believe he may be the greatest doubles player of all time. He continues to be heavily involved in tennis, both as a frequent competitor, television commentator and director of a tennis academy in his native New York City.



**ANDRE
AGASSI**

CAREER STATS

Career High Rank: 1 (10.04.95)
 Career Singles Record: 870-274
 Career Singles Titles: 60 (+30 Finals)
 Career Doubles Titles: 1 (+3 Finals)
 Career Prize Money: \$31,152,975
 Career Major Singles Titles: 8 (7 finals)
 (Australia-4, French-1
 Wimbledon-1 US Open-2)

ITF HALL OF FAME BIO:

Perhaps the most transcendent athlete yet to reside among the elite competitors in tennis, ever evolving, refusing to rest on his laurels, Andre Agassi was an individual in the strictest sense of the word. He turned sports fans into tennis followers and captured the imaginations of those who had previously paid little attention to tennis. Holding the world No. 1 ranking for 101 weeks, capturing eight Grand Slam titles and an Olympic Gold Medal, Agassi is undoubtedly one of the greatest athletes of the sport—a true tennis legend. Arguably his greatest legacy is a result of work off the court. In 2001, he opened the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy, a tuition-free public charter school for kindergarten through Grade 12 in Las Vegas' most at-risk neighborhood. His Foundation has raised \$150 million to benefit children and education.



**MICHAEL
CHANG**

CAREER STATS

Career High Rank: 2 (09.09.96)
 Career Singles Record: 662-312
 Career Singles Titles: 34 (+24 Finals)
 Career Doubles Titles: 0 (+0 Finals)
 Career Prize Money: \$19,145,632
 Career Major Singles Titles: 1 (3 finals)
 (French)

ITF HALL OF FAME BIO:

As a member of the "Greatest Generation" of American players that included Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Jim Courier, Michael Chang was the first of that illustrious group to record a victory at a Grand Slam event. At 17 in 1989, he became the youngest men's victor at a major by claiming the French Open title. Industrious, ambitious, unwavering and purposeful, Chang went on to reach the finals of the Australian Open and U.S. Open, as well as reaching the title round once more at Roland Garros. No one in his era had a larger heart. Since his retirement, Chang has continued to focus on his faith and his heritage, starting the Michael Chang Tennis Classic and Christian Sports League, designed to bring people together for friendship, competition and fun.



**JIM
COURIER**

CAREER STATS

Career High Rank: 1 (10.02.92)
 Career Singles Record: 506-237
 Career Singles Titles: 23 (+13 Finals)
 Career Doubles Titles: 6 (+5 Finals)
 Career Prize Money: \$14,034,132
 Career Major Singles Titles: 4 (3 finals)
 (Australia-2, French-2)

ITF HALL OF FAME BIO:

Jim Courier's grit and single-mindedness were the twin motors of an immensely successful career. The industrious American was an unflagging competitor who garnered four Grand Slam singles championships during a brilliant career. The big hitting baseliner with the crackling, inside-out forehand and baseball-like two-handed backhand finished 1992 as the No. 1 ranked player in the world. In 1992 and 1995 he played for the championship American Davis Cup teams. The ultimate professional, he knew what he wanted and how to go about accomplishing it. Courier continues his passionate pursuit of excellence, leading the US Davis Cup team and participating in numerous exhibitions to benefit charities across the country.



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THEBUZZ

NOUNS IN THE NEWS

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

Boulder students named Arthur Ashe contest winners

Angel Ruiz (Boulder, CO) and **Blanca Zavala** (Boulder, CO) were recently selected by a panel of judges from ITA's Diversity & Inclusion Committee as the Section winners of the 14th Annual Arthur Ashe Essay & Art Contest in the 10 and Under age category. NJTL participants were asked to write or draw their answers to the question: "If Arthur Ashe were alive today, what do you think would give him hope?" Angel's and Blanca's essays emphasized the energy and dedication they both have to tennis, even at such a young age. To read both of the essays, visit INTERMOUNTAIN.USTA.com.

USTA providing grants to help Colorado kids

USTA Serves announced that it has awarded more than \$400,000 in grants to 44 community tennis and education organizations during its 2012 spring funding cycle. The **Educational Foundation for School District 50** in Westminster, CO, was one of the 44 grant recipients.

USTA-National has selected **The Park People**, owners of the **Gates Tennis Center** in Denver, to receive a \$20,000 USTA Facility Grant to construct four 36-foot courts at the facility in Pulaski Park. The essence of this initiative is to assist communities, leveraging their tennis facilities to promote lifelong healthy activity, and to improve their programming by advancing the latest tennis innovations for all program types. The courts were completed in July.

CU names new coach

University of Colorado women's tennis head coach Nicole Kenneally announced Monday that **Roberto Aspillaga** will be joining the coaching staff as the Associate Head Coach of the tennis program. Aspillaga (pronounced ahs-P-a-ga) comes to Boulder after serving the last two years as an assistant coach (2010-2012) at Purdue University.

"I am really excited to work with Coach Kenneally and to be part of Colorado Athletics," Aspillaga said. "I believe Boulder is one of the premier locations in collegiate sports and there is no doubt we will take the program to new heights. I'm also very impressed on how supportive and involved the community is, and I can't wait to get started."

"Roberto is definitely one of the best young college coaches in the country right now and I believe he will bring a lot to the program," Kenneally said. "The Purdue program has had a lot of success over the last two years which Roberto was an integral part and that experience will benefit our program. I am looking forward to working together as we get ready for a strong 2012-13 campaign."

Last fall, Aspillaga also helped Purdue bring in its highest nationally ranked recruiting class (No. 8) in history. For his efforts, Aspillaga was named 2012 Wilson/ITA Assistant Coach of the Year this past spring. Ironically, Purdue head coach Laura Glitz and Lynda Xepoleas were named Wilson/ITA Coach of the Year and Rookie of the Year, respectively.

A native of Santiago, Chile, Aspillaga graduated from Georgetown College (KY) in 2009 with a bachelor of science degree in sports administration. At Georgetown, he climbed as high as 33rd in the NAIA singles rankings and was an All-Mid South player in 2008. He also played soccer for the Tigers during his time on campus.

Racquets for All High School Challenge

High school boys' tennis teams can make a difference and make tennis available to those who want to play tennis but need a racquet. Support Racquets for All by gathering donations of new and used tennis racquets and ultimately try to collect the most racquets of any high school in the state. Your team could be awarded up to a \$200 cash prize at the end of the season! Teams needing used balls and racquets are invited to submit an equipment request for consideration. For more information about participating in the Collection Challenge or on receiving equipment, visit COLORADOTENNIS.com and click on the Racquets For All logo.



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Equipment Recycling Program of the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation



Oh Yeah Gang hosts tennis clinic to benefit breast cancer patient

Friends of **Bonnie Suter** gathered at the Lone Tree Tennis Center on Friday, August 24 for the Think Pink Tennis Courage Clinic, an event created by **The Oh Yeah Gang** which raised over \$4,500 to help with Bonnie's expenses. All six courts were filled by the 48 players who came together to show their support to Bonnie, who is beating breast cancer.

Thanks to Holly and Sheldon Eike of Select Interiors, the law firm of Steese, Evans, and Frankel, P.C., and Game-Set-Match, Inc. for supporting the clinic, and to USPTA coaches Mike Hall, Doug Schoelzel, Cary Hodges, Dave Romberg and pros Dan Lewis and Kevin Nydam for donating their time and talents. Pictured from left to right: Kathy Willette, Nikki Hola, Eileen McCoy, Mike Hall, Bonnie Suter, Holly Eike, Jamie Steese and Lisa Pavlakis. Players interested in learning more about Oh Yeah tennis fundraisers can email Jamie Steese <jsteese@ds-elaw.com>.

USTA Colorado establishes new committees and is accepting applications for members

USTA Colorado has established two new standing committees—the Communications Committee and the Sponsorship Committee. USTA Colorado has not established new committees for quite some time and the additions reflect the organization's commitment to growth. The Communications Committee was formed to address and direct how USTA Colorado communicates with its membership and the entire Colorado community. The way in which organizations communicate has changed rapidly over the past several years and this newly established committee will work to keep USTA Colorado ahead of the curve as it relates to these efforts. Currently, existing communications pieces are being reviewed and recommendation for any changes and enhancements to existing efforts will be made to the board of directors for consideration. The Sponsorship Committee is tasked to develop strategies for securing new sponsors for the organization. Tennis continues to grow in Colorado and there are a number of sponsor opportunities available within most areas of operation including adult and junior leagues, player development, school tennis, diversity and community development, just to name a few. Through partnerships, sponsors gain valuable access to the tennis community, and sponsor dollars help to enhance existing programming and allow USTA Colorado to grow in areas like community development, diversity and school tennis. To learn more, contact Lisa Schaefer <lisa@coloradotennis.com>.

The Tennis Channel-Comcast battle rages on

Now about a decade in the making, the long battle between Tennis Channel and cable giant Comcast rages on, despite a flurry of rulings in the past few months. A federal court has sided with Comcast, blocking a decision by the Federal Communications Commission that would have forced Comcast to put the Tennis Channel in the same tier as its own sports programming. The FCC ruled last month that Comcast, which owns NBC, improperly discriminated against the Tennis Channel by relegating it to a lower tier of programming. Comcast had included the Tennis Channel as part of a specialty sports package, but the FCC ordered the company to offer the channel in the same tier as its own similar channels, including the Golf Channel and NBC Sports Network. Comcast sued to overturn the ruling, arguing that the decision was "arbitrary and capricious" as well as a violation of its First Amendment right to free speech. The company also filed an emergency motion asking the court to delay the implementation of the FCC's order pending the outcome of the case. The US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit granted Comcast's motion for a stay on Friday. The FCC has vowed to continue the fight in court.



Photo courtesy of Pikes Peak Tennis Association

Tennis featured at Olympics Celebration Party in Colorado Springs

USTA Colorado joined in the celebration of the opening of the 2012 Olympic Games with a big bash in downtown Colorado Springs on Friday, July 27. More than 15,000 festival goers walked passed the USTA Colorado 10 and Under Tennis Sport Court, with a good many helping to shag flying balls as they sailed into the crowd. Hundreds of kids stopped by to take a swing on the court. Even Ronald McDonald joined in the fun (with Pikes Peak Community Tennis Association board member Cyd Cohn). USTA Colorado and PPCTA also handed out some cool tennis prizes as well, including free lessons and a 10 and Under Tennis beginner's tennis kit.

New partnerships designed to decrease landfill waste

USTA Colorado and the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation have established long-term partnerships with two Colorado companies — **BolderPath** and **Shifting Gears Pet Products**. While perhaps not the likeliest of partners, the opportunity is there for these organizations to join efforts to promote better use of tennis waste products (i.e. backdrops, banners, used tennis balls) in a way that benefits everyone as well as our environment.

Robert Bogatin, the owner and visionary of BolderPath has developed comprehensive systems and an operation that is state-of-the-art in the area of sustainability — reuse and repurposing. BolderPath is the only corporate and event promotional goods supplier with 90%+ reclaimed/recycled content and 100% footprint transparency. The partnership goal with USTA Colorado and the CYTF is to have an impact on our industry and the lifecycle of products that are "standard" at tennis facilities. BolderPath currently takes used windscreens and banners and other materials and repurposes them into any number of consumer and promotional products. A few facilities, including Greenwood Athletic & Tennis Club, have already partnered with BolderPath and the goal is to have every facility recognize the need and have the desire to be a part of the really big picture. To learn more about BolderPath visit their website at BolderPath.com.



Shifting Gears Pet Products utilizes used tennis balls and repurposed climbing rope and inner tubes to create extremely durable and (from a pet's perspective) enjoyable pet toys and products. As with BolderPath, Shifting Gears is a Colorado company and their products



are made right here in Colorado. USTA Colorado and the CYTF not only benefit from the sales of these products but also from the exposure of tennis to those who purchase the products. Check out and order their products online at ShiftingGearsPet.com (see ad, page 27). The shared concern of all those involved is to support and promote sustainability so our carbon footprint (or pawprint) is reduced.

Our organizations are concerned and interested in doing something constructive for our environment. This is a unique opportunity and one that both USTA Colorado and the CYTF find extremely valuable. Look for more on the impact of the partnerships in upcoming issues of Colorado Tennis newspaper.

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PHOTOGALLERY

A LOOK BACK AT THE 2012 NATIONAL PUBLIC PARKS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

ALL PHOTOS BY
BILL FREUD

Before the worn-off tennis ball fuzz had even settled on the courts, tournament organizers and players were declaring the success of the 86th Annual National Public Parks Tennis Championship (NPPTC), held July 21-29 at Denver's City Park and Gates Tennis Center.



This year's tournament was the second largest NPPTC event of all-time, nearly equaling the 2006 tournament which was held at the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing, NY. The 2012 numbers included 751 adults, 160 juniors, 71 adaptive and 64 wheelchair entrants from 21 states and 3 countries. In all, 1,046 entrants competed in 87 divisions ranging from 10 and under to 80 and over.

As a part of the festivities, players were treated to an Olympic-themed adult player party sponsored by Abrusci's Italian Eater and Gigi's Cupcakes with on-court tennis activities conducted by Babolat, Head/Penn and Prince. A free Play Day at Gates Tennis Center kept the kids busy as 120 youngsters from around the community joined in the activities, hitting for prizes and enjoying free pizza.

And while the 2012 NPPTC crowned more than 7 dozen champions by week's end, maybe the real winners are the thousands of tennis players who take to the courts in City Park every year. More than \$75,000 in improvements were made to and around the tennis courts in preparation for the national tournament, including new nets, windscreens, bleachers, benches, trash receptacles and improved bathrooms.

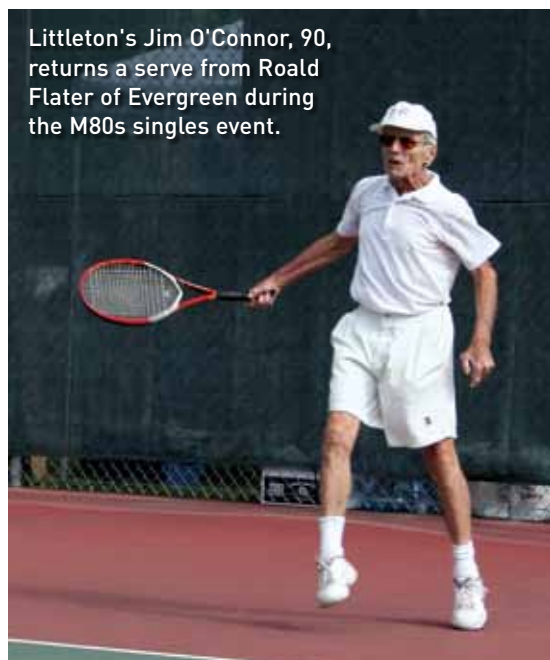
It was the second time the event had come to Colorado, having visited Vail in 1984, and just the fourth time the NPPTC had been played in the Intermountain Section (Salt Lake City played host in 1954 and again in 1957). According to tournament officials, Denver has already been tapped as a possible host of the Championships again in 2015.



More than 120 kids took part in the free Tennis for Kids Play Day at Gates Tennis Center.



A grant from Daniels Fund enabled Denver Parks & Recreation to scholarship over 30 inner city youth into the tournament.



Littleton's Jim O'Connor, 90, returns a serve from Roald Flater of Evergreen during the M80s singles event.

2012 NPPTA Awards

The following awards were bestowed on behalf of the National Public Parks Tennis Association and the family of Paul Mershon at the player party:

Gene L. Scott Renaissance Award
Martina Navratilova (Randy Crawford, Director of Tennis Maroon Creek Club, former coach of Martina Navratilova accepted on her behalf)

Gerald Perry Junior Sportsmanship Award
Evan Nuss (CO) & Stephanie Didier (CO)

Male/Female Adaptive Sportsmanship Award in memory of Paul Mershon
David Jensen (CO)/Erin Bailey (DE)



Thanks to the new rules governing 10 and Under play, the City of Denver painted blended 60-foot lines on six courts at City Park to accommodate tournament-level play.



Thirty-one players from across the country competed in the wheelchair divisions of the NPPTC, which replaced the CWTF Rocky Mountain Wheelchair Open for 2012. Pictured: Dean Oba (UT)



The Adaptive divisions had some international flair thanks to a tremendous turnout with more than two dozen adaptive athletes from around the country and Europe. Pictured: Randy Brame (referee), Leita Keller, Phil Saxon, Erin Bailey, Glenn Jones, John Nelson (umpire), Phil Shapiro (volunteer)



More than two dozen athletes competed in the adaptive divisions, including unified doubles, where a player with an intellectual disability is paired with a player without one. Pictured: Tina Newlin, Cheonaa Becker, Alex Noguiera and Kathy Strang.

More than 1,000 entrants competed for hardware at the 2012 National Public Parks Tennis Championships.

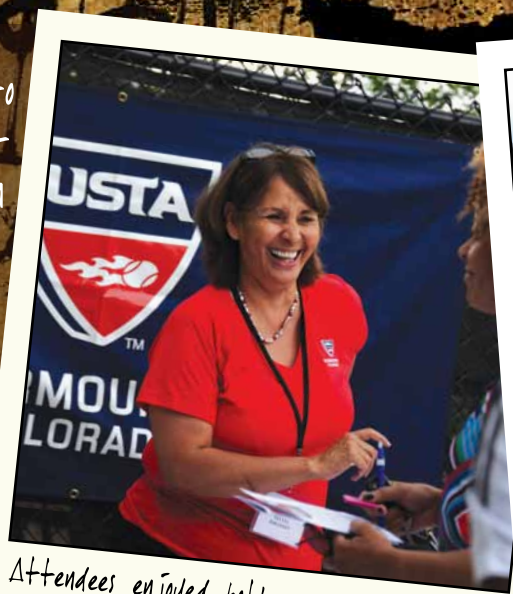
PHOTOGALLERY

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH TENNIS



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It was a beautiful evening to connect, mingle and swing at the 6th Annual Diversity in Tennis Chamber Reception. More than 250 attended the annual event, which brings together members of the business and tennis community to help build and strengthen the ties between the two.



Attendees enjoyed both on- and off-court activities.



Members from the business and tennis communities had the chance to reconnect or make new connections.



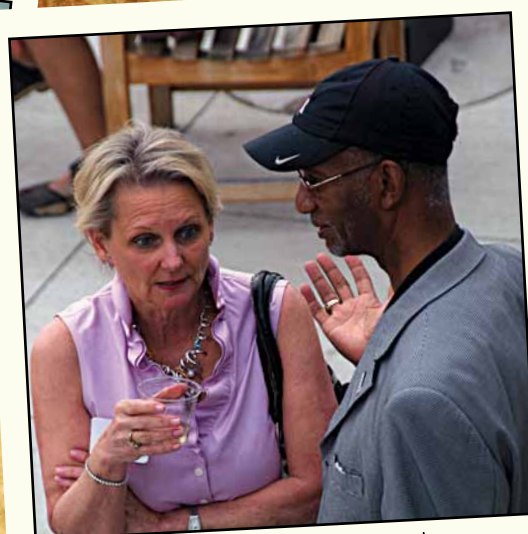
It's not a party until a flash mob breaks out...



Tennis is the sport for any age...



... and any ability!



The tennis court is where deals get done in the Denver business community!



2012 DIVERSITY TENNISFEST



Photo by Bill Freud



Photo by Rosalyn Reese



Photo by Bill Freud



Photo by Bill Freud

A record crowd joined USA Tennis Colorado and Denver Parks & Rec for the 2012 Diversity TennisFest at Denver City Park. Nearly 250 participants, including more than 140 kids joined in the fun. The event welcomed players from the Special Olympics and wheelchair tennis communities as well.



Photo by Bill Freud

Racquets For All donated 15 racquets to aspiring middle and high school students.



Photo by Rosalyn Reese

76 junior tennis racquets were given away during the festivities to encourage kids to stay active and keep playing.



Photo by Rosalyn Reese

Thanks to our volunteers and sponsors for making a great community event better than ever.

HIGHFIVE

PROFILES BY
KATIENEWELL

For the past 36 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.



It takes a person with a life-long passion for their community, a clear vision for the bright future of the youth, and a strong understanding of the challenges faced by those he serves to take on a role of such impact. But luckily for Colorado, John Martinez takes his role as the Director of City Wide Sports for the City and County of Denver seriously.

Overseeing 700 youth in addition to hundreds of adults and seniors, John is an all-around athlete himself, having grown up playing baseball, football and wrestling. Raised in the Denver metro area, John knew early on that he wanted a career as a public servant — he is driven to give back to the community which means so much to him. Having more recently picked up tennis and golf himself, he sees the unique opportunity tennis offers to teach responsibility to the youth in the community, many of whom are at-risk.

“Tennis comes out of the idea of responsibility,” he says of the self-officiating sport where the main thinking process has to be, “what you’re going to do before you actually do it.” He feels tennis teaches the athlete to respect one’s opponent, improve their own game, and learn sportsmanship. He knows the kids are learning they have to be on time to matches, honest on the court, and organized with their equipment and time management.

Appreciative of the strong support he has from the USTA (National and District office) and hard work from his dedicated professional staff such as Tobias Ortegon, John has 110 tennis courts to oversee and utilize and he is committed to bring a variety of programming aimed at growing tennis in the community. In addition, the city of Denver was able to run the National Public Parks Tennis Championships (see PHOTOGALLERY, page 12) under John’s direction. This large-scale event relied on his organization and passion to be successful.

There are challenges that John faces head-on when working with so many kids and a limited amount of resources. “The fees associated with the programs can be a challenge,” he explains. “But there are many scholarships available and the ability to subsidize is there to help these kids succeed,” he said. Another issue they face is transportation and if he can get that one solved, he would love to see recreational tennis competitions between the various sites he oversees.

“I have a great support system,” John explains of the resources he has. Lucky for the City of Denver, his mission is to keep reaching out, improving the programs, and bringing options to the community he serves. 🙌



JOHN MARTINEZ



KAREN COLLIER

When Karen Collier steps on the tennis court, her goal isn’t just to teach kids to drive a tennis ball from one side of the court to the other. Her mission is to drive home a lesson on personal responsibility, instilling in early and preadolescents the knowledge they need to make positive life decisions.

Working with Tobias Ortegon at Denver Parks and Recreation, Karen teaches both lessons and helps with drills in the competitive camps that are offered for youth up to age 18. “Tennis is a sport that models life,” she explains of the connection between tennis and her passion to educate her students. “On the court, you learn responsibility and to respect yourself and others.” Those same characteristics can be modeled off the court. She also said that she feels exposing them to tennis gives them access to a diverse group of people.

A three-generation Colorado native who enjoyed basketball and volleyball as a young athlete, Karen picked up her first racquet around the age of 20 taking lessons from Chester Harris. So began the love of a sport that gives her the ability to reach out to the youth in her community and to hone communication skills necessary to get the message out about important issues such as HIV and STD’s and accepting personal responsibility for one’s actions. She offers an 8-week prevention curriculum called “Making Proud Choices,” to schools as part of their enrichment programs. Karen co-founded a non-profit organization called Out4Life Colorado, which provided HIV/STD prevention and testing in the African-American communities from 1997 through 2002.

Making connections and working with youth is a passion of Karen’s. “Sports programming, such as tennis, provides a physical pathway to education and self-awareness, which is also vital to healthy development.”

One of the few African-American female coaches in Colorado, Karen is taking retirement from a court reporting career as an opportunity to better the world around her. She volunteers regularly for USTA Colorado events. She has been a ski instructor with the National Sports Center for the Disabled at Winter Park and Granby Ranch as well as an Alpine ski instructor with able-bodied skiers. Karen was also honored to be part of the Breaking the Barriers project as a tour guide, which in part helped to shine a light on many African-Americans who have been major contributors to the growth of tennis, as well. She volunteered with the 86th Annual National Public Parks 2012 Championships as a ball person for the disabled tennis player division and had a blast. “It was a truly amazing experience,” she said of working with those athletes. 🙌

Samantha (Samy) Martinelli was only 2 when she picked up her first tennis racquet and smacked a ball against a backboard. Now, at 13, she's Colorado's highest-ranked junior player (TennisRecruiting.net currently has her as No. 6 in the country for her graduating class.) She finished 2011 with a ranking of 35 in the nation. With a maturity far beyond her years, Samy is poised to do great things and is considered one of the best players ever to come out of the state in quite some time.

Recently finishing 4th at the Intermountain Sectional (18s), beating US Open Junior qualifier Kim Yee from Las Vegas,



Photo by Doug Wrege/TennisRecruiting.net

Samy said about her young achievements, "I don't think I always knew I was good, but I realized early on that I really liked tennis." That type of humble attitude combined with a genuine enthusiasm for the sport makes her someone you can't help but admire.

Modeling her game after Serena Williams because she admires, "her aggressive and consistent play," Samy is eyeing a future at a Division I program such as Stanford and not looking too far beyond that currently. Getting her education online allows her the ability to keep up the intense travel schedule she maintains, sometimes being away from home several weeks at a time.

Traveling around the country alone takes not only a maturity, but a strong sense of self. Her mom, Danielle, explains, "Samy is incredibly hard-working. She's focused and keeps a realistic expectation level." Acknowledging that she misses her daughter when she's gone, she supports her daughter's dreams and makes sure she has the coaching and support she needs to reach the next level.

Working currently with Calix Van Lier from The Ranch, and Dave Licker out of Dallas, Samy's getting the technical expertise needed to keep growing in the sport. In terms of attitude, Samy describes herself as focused, but relaxed, two traits that allow her to grow within her sport. "It's not good when you become crazy about it — winning and losing," she explains.

With the support of her mom, dad, Angelo, and sister, Alex, (who plays No. 1 at Bear Creek High School) Samy knows what it's going to take to keep competing at this high level. "I do have a fitness routine

SAMANTHA MARTINELLI

that includes weights and running," but she adds jokingly, "I really do not eat very well! I could definitely eat better!" 🍷

If you hear cheering from up north, it's probably the success of the Colorado State University Women's Tennis program. Not only are the Ram netters enjoying great play on their new University Tennis Complex courts, but they are bringing it full force to the classroom, earning national honors. Not to be outdone, their fan base is stepping up, as well, ranking 10th in the nation in average attendance.

The Colorado state tennis program is one of 82 programs recognized nationally for carrying a team GPA above a 3.2 on a 4.0 scale. This team actually exceeds that mark at a combined GPA of around 3.5. They join three other Mountain West teams,



Photo courtesy of Colorado State University

including Boise State, New Mexico, and UNLV for this impressive feat. Recognized by both the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) and TennisRecruiting.net for academic and recruiting excellence and fan support, the CSU women's team is poised for great things for years to come.

Earning individual honors as ITA Scholar Athletes (2 semesters lettering while maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher) are seniors Tori Ameson and Lauren Mulhem, sophomore Lauren Pick and freshman Natalie Heffron.

Coach Jon Messick is focused on helping his team both on and off the court. He feels their success has been helped by a dedicated effort to put the girls in a situation where they are supported.

"We keep very close tabs on the athletes' academic performance," he said and the access to an academic coordinator keeps him in the loop of where all his players stand weekly. "I make sure even on road trips we have the time and place to get out the books and study." Not wanting their whole lives to revolve around just athletics and

COLORADO STATE

academics, he also wants them to have social balance and enjoy these wonderful years.

That balance seems to be working when it comes to recruiting new players to the school. TennisRecruiting.net ranks the 2012 class as one of the top recruiting classes in the nation. Newcomers Abby Stevens (Wichita, KS), Kendall Heitzner (Potomac, MD), Mollie Cooper (Prairie Village, KS) and 2011 Colorado High School 5A Singles Champion Jennifer Weissmann (Loveland, CO) received votes in the Top 25 ranking of all NCAA Division 1 recruiting classes.

Messick is proud of his team, the community support and his beautiful new state-of-the-art facility. He said another factor making the experience so much fun is the dynamics of the players on this particular team. "These girls are truly friends off the court and that makes everything more enjoyable!"

With the success of the current team and the talent coming in, everyone is excited for this next season. Receiving national recognition for such outstanding accomplishments does bring with it pressure to keep performing, but Messick feels these girls and the community are up for the challenge. 🍷

When you've been a coach for 29 years, you've had a chance to influence hundreds, if not thousands, of young athletes, see the game change a bit, and make friendships for life. Such has been the journey for Ed Anderson, one of Colorado's most respected coaches.

Having been a football player himself under the guidance of his dad, who was also a coach, Ed got the bug young for the coach/player relationship. Learning tennis himself from Ken Bartz, who he describes as a mentor who really cared about his development, Ed set out in a career that would take him both to high school level coach opportunities, and college-level. He coached at UNC for four years and has also been very involved in running team tennis in the summer. He was also honored to be part of the 2012 National Public Park Tennis Championships, where he served as Tournament Director.

Coaching over three decades, he's definitely seen some things change. "These kids have greater pressure now," he explains, "but also greater opportunity. There is greater competition for a spot, but more programs to play within."



Photo courtesy of Ed Anderson

ED ANDERSON

He acknowledges that early on there was a much greater opportunity to play two or three sports at a school and now there is a demand to specialize early on. There's also the training outside of the sport that helps athletes now — weight training and sport psychology.

"But what hasn't changed," Ed explains, "is that through the sport of tennis, these kids are going to be good individuals, acquiring life skills that help them in all aspects of their lives."

Known as a coach that works hard to produce teams with strong sportsmanship skills, he says, "I really have a no tolerance policy for cheating on my team. I've pulled more than one kid aside and explained that there is no room for any of it."

When asked what his favorite part of the last three decades of coaching as been, Ed didn't have to think very hard.

"It's absolutely about the relationships I've made along the way, the lifelong friendships. I was just stopped by a player I had 20 years ago and it truly is an honor to know I've made an impact." 🍷

PROFILE

COLORADO PREP STANDOUT EARNS SPOT AT US OPEN

SOLDIER RECOVERS FROM AMPUTATION OF LEG TO BECOME BALLPERSON

STORY BY
NICHOLASWALZ/USTA.COM

It may not be the most glamorous gig you can find in New York City — you spend your days having sweaty towels and water bottles tossed your way by people who probably don't have the time to bother to learn your name. If someone needs a bottle of water, you fetch it. If someone needs a bit of shade, you stand over them with an umbrella. And while your employer provides you a uniform and free meals, you earn a meager \$7.75 an hour — just a couple quarters more than minimum wage — in one of the most expensive cities on the planet. But for Rifle, CO native **Ryan McIntosh**, the job is a chance to demonstrate that he still has the quickness and agility that made him a key player on Rifle High School's football and track teams. In fact, he is probably best known for kicking the Bears' winning field goal in a key game against Glenwood Springs during his senior year.

Following high school, Ryan attended Mesa State College in Grand Junction, and then enlisted in the Army in January 2010.

"I was convinced to go on to school and I liked it for the most part, but I was sick of it," Ryan said. "My older brother is a Marine and I've always looked up to him. I figured if he could serve in Iraq, I could go to Afghanistan. I wasn't afraid to go, I was excited."

He started basic training in April at Fort Carson and graduated on July 23. The day before, he married his college sweetheart, Hannah Breidel from Highlands Ranch.

Today, Ryan is a ballperson patrolling the courts at the 2012 US Open — starting, stopping, and throwing. His job is to maintain near invisibility in his work, but it's hard not to look at Ryan and be reminded of his previous job: US Army veteran. At 23, Ryan remains as mission-focused now as he did on December 8, 2010, the day his life shifted while he was halfway around the world.

While serving in the Arghandab River Valley of Kandahar, located in southwest Afghanistan, Ryan slipped on a pressure-plate landmine, with the blast claiming his lower right leg below the knee. His regular walking prosthesis is fashioned with a white Ralph Lauren tennis shoe, but when its time to start his day, he snaps on the secret weapon he had been carrying around in his knapsack: A bladed carbon fiber prosthetic with a thick rubber sole, seen commonly now at amputee track meets, designed to maximize speed and balance.

"I'm excited just to be a part of this," said Ryan. "It's a chance for me to spread my word for fellow soldiers and Wounded Warriors alike."

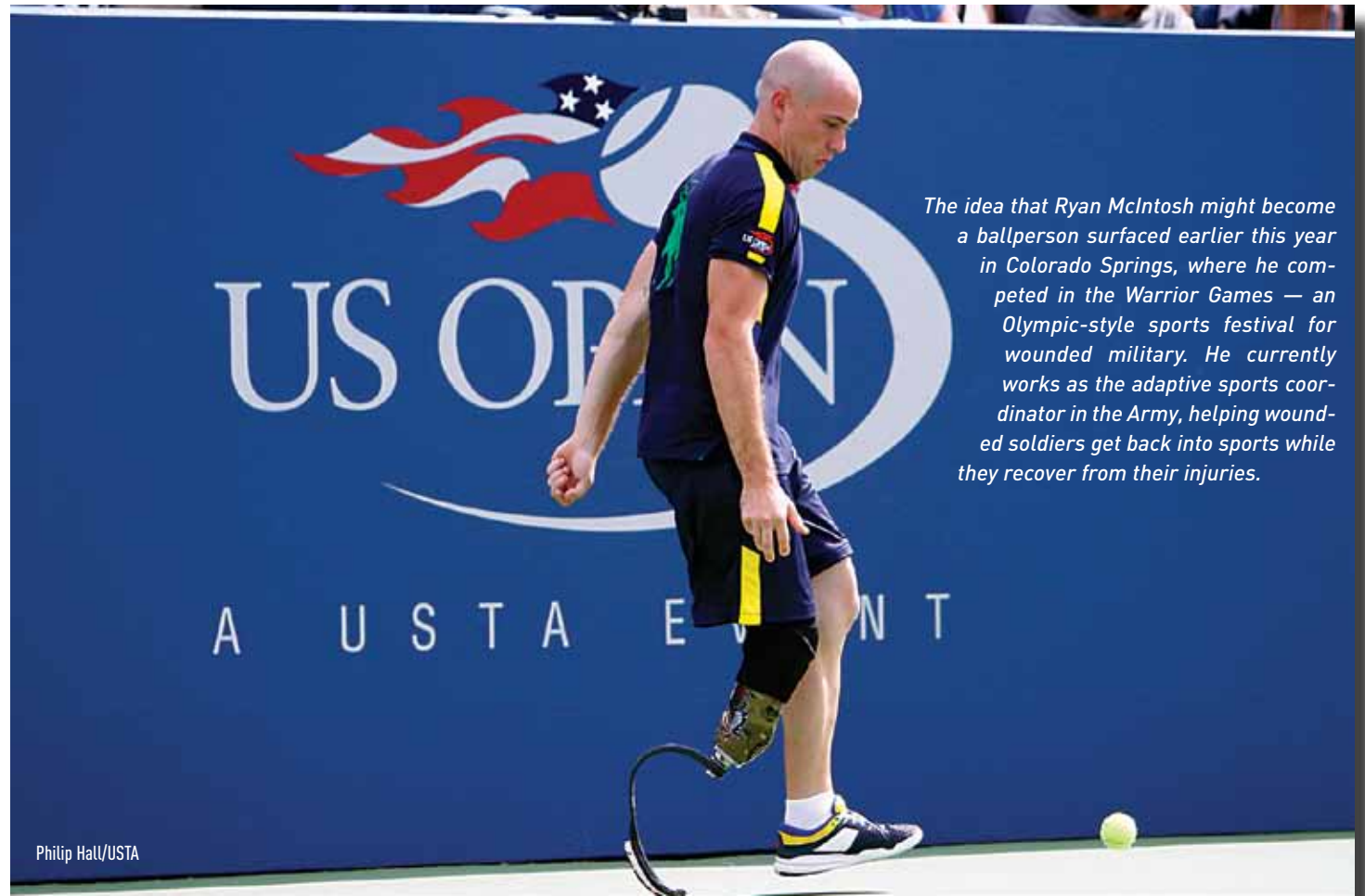
"I was in the Army for all of seven months when I got hit," said Ryan, who was stationed in Fort Carson, before deployment to the Middle East. He is growing to enjoy the game. "Sports have been part of my life for as long as I can remember and I still play all the sports I can, but tennis is something I've had experience with once in a blue moon" He also feels a duty towards all veterans as a representative of the USTA Military Outreach movement on Monday, designated as US Open Military Appreciation Day.

In just his first year on ballperson patrol, Ryan has made it all the way to Arthur Ashe Stadium. While nine of his fellow Wounded Warriors were being honored on the JumboTron, they pointed down towards their compatriot working behind the baseline during the Serena Williams/Andrea Hlavackova match. CBS television, broadcasting in the United States, put cameras upon him in action as part of their match coverage.

Media requests to speak about his Open experience have been steady. Ryan is not vain, but knows that there's a purpose to his promotion through the ranks.

"I want [veterans] to realize that they can do anything that they want to do."

Ryan had a successful on-court audition at the 2012 US Open Ballperson Tryouts in June at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, making the cut past 600 fellow applicants then and another 150 at his callback in July. Ryan learned about the opportunity



The idea that Ryan McIntosh might become a ballperson surfaced earlier this year in Colorado Springs, where he competed in the Warrior Games — an Olympic-style sports festival for wounded military. He currently works as the adaptive sports coordinator in the Army, helping wounded soldiers get back into sports while they recover from their injuries.

**"They asked me,
'Can you throw a tennis ball?'**

**I said,
'I've thrown grenades, so I think I can handle a tennis ball.'"**

to become a US Open ballperson while taking part in the 2012 Warrior Games, an annual Olympic-style competition for United States Armed Forces veterans with disabilities, in Colorado Springs.

"The idea was introduced to me, and I was told that [Ballperson Tryouts] was a program that was open for a couple of years and that they thought I'd be a perfect candidate," said Ryan. "They asked me, 'Can you throw a tennis ball?' I said, 'I've thrown grenades, so I think I can handle a tennis ball.'"

Ryan ended up working all of the qualifying tournament, and then had the opportunity to work on Louis Armstrong Stadium during James Blake's first-round 7-5, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 win over Lukas Lacko.

"It was kind of nerve-wracking at the same time considering the true training started the Sunday before quallies."

Standing on his running prosthesis is a challenge for Ryan, as it is a different height compared to his walking leg and is not comfortable. During changeovers, he takes the leg off as bystanders watch with curiosity.

"I want to adjust it, make sure its fitting right and in the right position," said Ryan. He'll have to make it through another week of action, but isn't deterred by the prospect — in fact, he'd like to come back and take part once more in 2013.

"Its been pretty fun — a very good family down there in the ballperson lounge," said Ryan. "We're very close. You have to work as a team when you're out there on the court, similar to my military upbringing." 🌀

SPOTLIGHT

SPRINGS COMMUNITY RALLIES TO SUPPORT WILDFIRE VICTIMS

OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT BROUGHT RELIEF, COMFORT TO PLAYERS DURING WALDO CANYON FIRE.

STORY BY
WENDY NIELSEN/USTA INTERMOUNTAIN

Colorado Springs resident Hal Woods was in Denver the morning of Friday, June 22, to begin play in the USTA Colorado Mixed Doubles League District Championships when he got a call from his daughter, Kira, who was hiking near Pikes Peak.

"Dad, do you need me to go home and check on the dogs?" she asked. "I can see a big fire from here and it looks awfully close to our house."

Woods' "PPTA Kiser" 9.0 teammate, Monique Balboa, also returned home from Districts that weekend to find one of her good friends at her house, packing up her belongings.

"My husband and I were driving home from Denver and we saw all the smoke and thought we had better turn on the radio," Balboa said. "Fires were burning in the hills behind our home, but we didn't really think we were in danger. In order for it to get to our development, the fires would have to jump a big ridge. No one was predicting that would happen."

On Tuesday, June 26, an unexpected shift in the weather pattern would change all of that for Balboa and Woods, and their teammates Kim Davis and Emily Lewis.

In a "Perfect Storm" of events, the Waldo Canyon Fire would change directions and race toward the homes of the western Colorado Springs community in record time, ultimately becoming one of the most destructive and expensive fires in the history of the state. Over the course of several days, the Waldo Canyon Fire killed two Mountain Shadows residents, completely destroyed 346 homes, and burned over 18,000 acres of parched earth.

"From the time we got the call to evacuate on Tuesday afternoon to the time we had to leave, it was ten minutes," Woods said. "I was on a conference call for work and my wife came into my home office and said 'I think you need to end that call now!' I looked out my window and saw my neighbors literally throwing stuff in their cars. It was all very surreal."

Woods and his family headed to his sister-in-law's house where they would stay for three days. Meanwhile, the Balboas headed to Monique's friend's house, grateful she'd proactively helped them move three truckloads of their belongings when they returned home from Districts. Driving from the Balboa home to the highway (a routine trip which normally took eight minutes) took the family four hours that afternoon because of the mandatory evacuation.

"There was only one way out of the area. Only one way to go east. We would drive the length of a car. Stop. Turn off our engine and sit and wait. It was definitely an interesting experience."

"All of our friends and our tennis community were so amazing and concerned about us," said Woods. "The outpouring of support was phenomenal. One of the women on our team, Ai Sexton, is a flight attendant for United who mostly works between San Francisco and Narita, Japan. Many of my team members contacted me (mostly via Facebook) offering a place to stay or any other assistance, but Ai, in spite of being somewhere in the 'friendly skies' was the first to reach out."

Woods' mixed doubles partner, Kim Davis, is also the Director of Tennis for the Foothills Swim and Racquet Club in Colorado Springs. She and Kira Woods, Hal's daughter and college tennis player at Pomona-Pitzer, were unable to work for well over a week because of the fire risk and the poor air quality.

Davis and Kira Woods were teaching at the public tennis courts in the Peregrine neighborhood above Woodmen Valley about 1:30 p.m. the afternoon of Tuesday, June 26.

"It started raining ashes during our last session and I thought 'This isn't good,'" Davis said during a phone interview from her home on Tuesday, July 24, where restoration teams were just starting the clean-up process. "My husband was out of town so when I got home, I told my daughters we would have lunch and then we needed to start moving things into



AP Photo

our garage. Soon people outside were screaming and taking pictures. That's when we knew we probably wouldn't be putting stuff in the garage anymore."

Kira Woods was supposed to give a private lesson on the Thursday when the fire was still going strong, according to Hal Woods. "One of the parents called to confirm the lesson and Kira told her they'd better reschedule 'because the park with the courts appears to be on fire at the moment!'"

Davis explained how tennis gave her comfort and strength to get through the rocky days ahead while she and her family stayed with a friend for five nights and six days.

"There was such an overwhelming outreach from my tennis community. Even though my mom had called and reminded me to take my racquets when we evacuated, I forgot them," she said. "I called a place called Lifetime Tennis and another friend and said 'I NEED to play tennis. Can you hit with me?' They loaned me a racquet. Out on the court, I felt some semblance of comfort and normalcy. It felt like home in all of the chaos of the evacuation. It kept me grounded and sane."

One of Kira's mixed doubles partners during her juniors play lost his family home in the ravaging fires. He thought to take his racquets with him when they evacuated, but not his shoes. Balboa said many members of the community rallied to donate food, clothes, gift cards and money to help those who had lost everything.

Emily Lewis, another member of the PPTA Kiser team, was playing in a USTA 4.5 Women's match in Castle Rock when she and another woman got the evacuation notice. "Despite the tragic results, it did provide a sense of 'coming together' for our teammates," she said.

Although some of the PPTA Kiser 9.0 team members hadn't played tennis since the Colorado District event, six of them made it to the USTA Mixed Doubles Intermountain Section Championships in Boulder, July 13-15. Their dedication and hard work was rewarded when they finished the weekend with an undefeated 5-0 victory and the bid to represent the Intermountain Section at the National Championships in Tucson, Arizona, in November.

"I remember growing up, being a teenager, when my dog died and I was devastated," Davis said. "My dad took me out to the courts and said 'C'mon, you need to play tennis.' I remember playing through the tears. It has always been something that comforts me during hard times."

"I'm lucky. My house is still here," she added. "So many people were not as lucky." 🙏

SPOTLIGHT

A COACH'S PERSPECTIVE

HOW A PRO COACH APPROACHES THE CHALLENGE OF WORKING WITH THE WORLD'S BEST PLAYERS

STORY BY
TOM FASANO

Success in tennis requires much more than an awesome backhand or forehand, strategy and technique. Just ask **Philip Farmer**, who coached the famed Bryan brothers — Bob and Mike — to the first of their record 12 major men's doubles titles in the 2003 French Open. Farmer, currently the director of tennis and athletics at the Stonebridge Ranch Country Club in McKinney, Texas, north of Dallas, said focusing on the mental side of the game is extremely important.

"My niche ... I'm real big on kind of the mental side of things, getting the player to understand what style they are and what their strengths are and how to play to their strengths more, how to play under pressure and kind of be confident," said Farmer, 38, who was in Colorado on for the 5th Annual Tennis with the Stars, September 7-9 at Columbine Country Club. "That's a big thing with these players is they can practice great, their technique is great, but can they get better at performing on the big points under pressure? I try to really focus on getting them to relax and be more confident playing their style and their strength under pressure."

Coaching the Best

Farmer has coached three top-50 singles players in the world — Sam Querrey, Tara Snyder and Corina Morariu — over the course of the last 10 years, and three No. 1 doubles players in the world (Morariu and the Bryans).

"I really love the strategy of the game, singles or doubles, the Xs and Os, finding opponents' weaknesses," said Farmer, in a telephone interview from Texas. "For example for Sam, just playing bigger tennis. He's 6-foot-6 and he had a tendency to sometimes loop the ball too much and play farther behind the baseline. I tried to get him to hit more forehands and be more aggressive with his positioning in the court and play a bigger brand of tennis. With Bob and Mike, my goal was to try to get them to No. 1 and to win their first major, which they did that year in 2003."

Farmer said he always loved the dynamic of working with the Bryan twins — one lefty (Bob) and one righty (Mike) — who have been ranked No. 1 in men's double seven of the last nine years.

"Even though they're twins, they have different styles and different trains of thought," Farmer said. "It goes back to me loving that mental side of tennis and learning how to help them work together and continue to improve. They've accomplished, basically, everything they can almost,

and they work on improving their strength, improving their mental game and improving their doubles strategy."

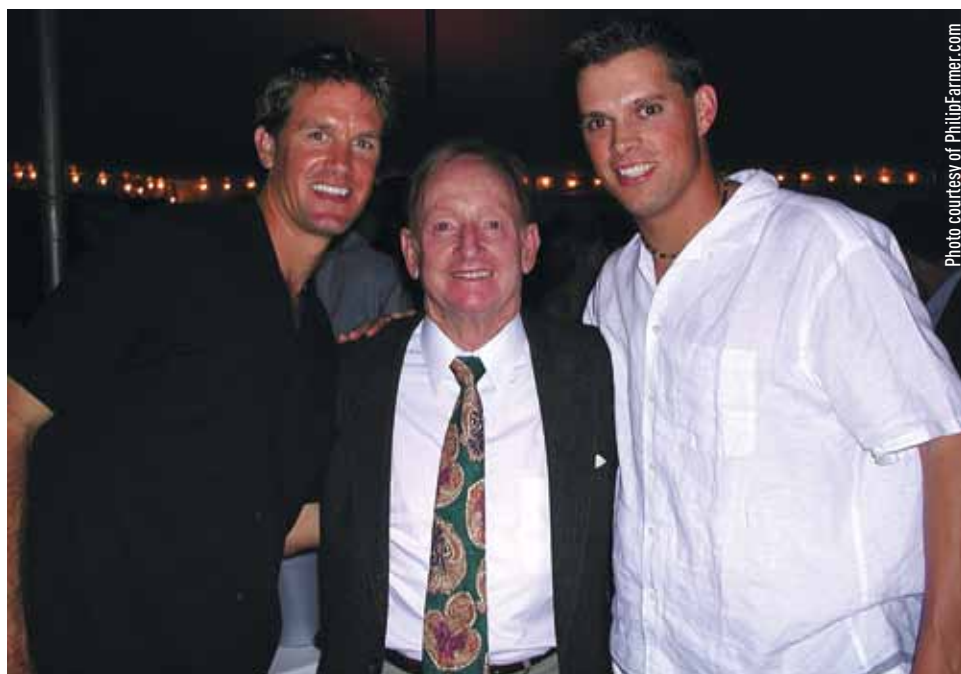
Getting into the Bryan Brothers' Heads

Farmer tells an interesting story on how he got into the heads of the Bryan brothers, who also won the men's doubles gold medal in the 2012 London Olympics, without either one of them knowing it.

"Bob's a power player and has the best serve on the doubles tour, and he's a lefty," Farmer said. "Mike is the best returner in doubles and right-handed, and he's more of a finesse player. The two biggest things I did to help them in their career was, first, getting them to be more offensive, more aggressive playing. The second thing, which is a cool story, is as we were getting ready for the French Open in 2003 those first few weeks, I was getting to understand their dynamic and felt like they could work together better on the court and be more encouraging with one another. It's kind of easy to vent and to take things out on your brother or your sister because it's family, and sometimes you don't have that filter."

That's where Farmer got into the heads of the Bryan brothers, but in a good way.

"I would go up to Bob alone and I'd say, 'Hey Bob, you know you have the best serve on the doubles tour, but that's one of Mike's weaknesses right now so when he does something good on his serve why don't you let him know and reinforce it and encourage because that will go such a long way because he knows you have the best serve on the Tour.' He started doing that leading up to the French and during the French. When Mike would hit a good serve and Bob would say, 'Great serve,' it would really make him more confident," Farmer said. "And then I pulled Mike aside and



Farmer helps Bryan Brothers to their first Major title

Philip Farmer (left) and Bob Bryan (right) flank Aussie great Rod Laver. Farmer worked closely with the Bryans in 2003 to help get them ready for the French Open, which they won. Today, Farmer works with other top pros, including rising American star Sam Querrey and former American standouts Tara Snyder and Corina Morariu.

I'd say, 'Hey Mike, you know you have the best returns in the world, but that's Bob's weakness right now. So when he hits a good return, make sure you reinforce and encourage that so it builds his confidence.' So, he started doing that without them even knowing they were doing it, and it really started making them grow together, making them more confident individually and grow together as a team."

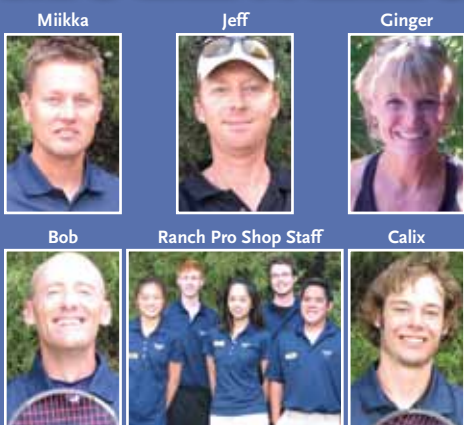
The Bryan brothers did not lose a set in the 2003 French Open.

Learning the Game

Born in Dallas and raised in Plano, Texas, Farmer was a standout tennis player at the University of Oklahoma from 1992-96.

Starting at the age of 12, Farmer said he learned the game of tennis from Colorado radio personality and Columbine Country Club tennis director Andy Zodin ("In the Tennis Zone" radio show who moved from Houston to Colorado

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about a decade ago) and Keith Christman.

"They were my two mentors and coaches from the time I was 12 years old until today. Those guys kind of helped mold me and shape me," Farmer said. "They talked a lot about the inner game of tennis, which is how to think on the court and analyze my opponent. They're big supporters of mine and have been real supportive of my career both at the club level and the coaching on the Tour level."

Farmer said he still does some training weeks with the Bryan brothers, and he does clinics around the country for different country clubs with the twins.

"Bob, Mike and I will travel around the country and we'll do a handful of charity events where we basically do clinics and exhibitions and try to give back to the game," Farmer said. "It was such a blessing to coach those guys not only for what they do on the court, but they're two of my best friends off the court. I was able to help coach them this year. Their coach wasn't able to make one of the tournaments before the French. It was in Nice, France, and I helped them that week and they won the tournament. It's always great to connect with them. They're still incredibly hard workers and very professional."

Started in 2003

Farmer hooked up with the Bryan brothers when he was coaching a top-30 doubles player, Graydon Oliver, and Oliver would practice quite a bit with the Bryans, who at that time in 2003 were also playing some singles.

"I was helping Graydon at a challenger in Joplin, MO, and Bob happened to be there just for singles," Farmer said. "He asked me to help him in singles and he actually won the singles challenger that week, and we kind of hit it off. A month later I'm flying to Rome, Italy, to start coaching them."

Farmer just completed a three-month coaching stint with Querrey. He said most of the professionals are set in their ways and their technique is sound and he can tweak things here and there, but a lot of what he does is strategy, mental and conditioning.

"(Querrey) was (ranked) 105 when we started in February. He was out with a couple of different injuries, and he was top 20 in the world before he got injured. I was able to take a



Future champion?

Farmer's day job at Stonebridge Ranch Country Club in McKinney, TX gives him the chance to work with the next generation of American champions.

leave of absence from the club and help him," Farmer said. "When we stopped for the French Open, he was (ranked) about 66. My goal was to try to help get him as quickly and efficiently back to the top 20, and we were on our way."

Coaching Doubles More Challenging

Farmer said coaching doubles is probably more challenging than coaching a singles player because you're dealing with two people.

"Bob and Mike were No. 3 in the world when I started, and they had never won a Slam and they never finished No. 1," Farmer said. "You're trying to make two people better. You're

trying to make them individually better, but also better as a team. Singles is maybe a little bit tougher sport physically. Doubles is more challenging tactically with angles and strategy."

Farmer thinks it's harder to coach players once they reached the No. 1 ranking, versus coaching them as they're climbing the rankings.

"Once you're at the top, now you have the bulk of the pressure to stay there and everybody feels less pressure playing you because they feel like, 'They're supposed to win. The Bryans are supposed to win.' And then you're going for records and you're trying to maintain the No. 1, how many weeks and how many years can you do it in a row. Your expectations grow and that adds pressure. I think it's harder at the top because everybody's gunning for you. It's a good thing because you're at the top, but it's definitely, in my opinion, harder and more pressure to maintain."

Difficult to Make the Doubles Tour

Farmer said it's more difficult in today's tennis to make it on the doubles tour if you're not a top-100 player.

"They changed the rules the last few years to make it a little bit tougher for a strictly doubles-only player to make it because each tournament allocates so many spots for singles players to play doubles and use their singles ranking to get in for doubles," Farmer said. "So, that's taking away spots from a pure doubles player that's not maybe in the top-60 or 70 to get in, and if you're not getting in you're having to play challengers. It's tougher for a college player to break through in doubles. There are not as many spots available. The tournament's reasoning is, 'Hey, the singles players are on TV more. If (Rafael) Nadal plays doubles, that helps our tournament.' It makes sense. It's definitely helped the doubles in one aspect."

The Bryan brothers won \$420,000 for winning this year's U.S. Open.

"The prize money has gotten better, so more singles players are wanting to play doubles even though it's more taxing on their bodies," Farmer said. "They use it to prepare for singles as well." 🎾



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OUTREACH

COLORADO YOUTH TENNIS FOUNDATION

AFFILIATED EVENTS

PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR THE CYTF

Affiliated events are a new area of focus for the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation. They allow individuals and organizations who have the passion for changing lives through tennis to make a huge difference by running fun events in their own communities. Proceeds from the events are then donated to the CYTF. An affiliated event can be anything from a tennis mixer, a restaurant or retailer donating a percentage of sales to the CYTF on any given day, a ping pong tournament among friends in your basement. The options are endless! For more information on how you can host one, please contact the CYTF at lisa@coloradotennis.com.

Meadow Creek hosts affiliated golf tournament

A special thank you to **Meadow Creek Tennis and Fitness Club** for donating dollars raised at their fall golf tournament to the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation. The event was held at Hiwan Golf Club in Evergreen. The CYTF benefited from funds raised at the Hole in One hole, sponsored by Prestige Imports. Dollars were also raised on the Birdie Hole. No word on who came in with the lowest score at the event, but one thing is for sure...the kids who depend on the CYTF were the big winners!

CAC Monaco ProAm to benefit CYTF

Local players are invited to team up with some of the best area tennis pros at the inaugural **Colorado Athletic Club Monaco ProAm** to benefit the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation. The event, which will be held Saturday, November 3, from 6-10pm, will give players the opportunity to win fantastic prizes, including tickets to the upcoming Battle of the Champions, November 29, at the Pepsi Center featuring Andre Agassi, John McEnroe, Michael Chang and Jim Courier.

Participants can bid on local pros to compete with in the ProAm by visiting BiddingFor-Good.com and searching Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation auctions beginning October 17.



Columbine hosts Tennis With the Stars

More than 80 participants took part in the 5th Annual Tennis With the Stars event, held September 8 at **Columbine Country Club**. The annual event helps raise funds for the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation and the YESS Institute. This year's edition also benefited Jeremy Bloom's Wish of a Lifetime Foundation, which helps make wishes come true for senior citizens.

More than a dozen local pros helped make the event a tremendous success. In addition to a great tennis clinic, former Wimbledon junior doubles champions Kellen Damico (from Parker) and Nate Schnugg took on 2011 Colorado State Open champion Brian Battistone and former coach of the Bryan Brothers Philip Farmer in a world-class doubles match.

Andy Zodin, who coordinated the event, said it was a fantastic day. "Jeremy brought the house down, awarding plenty of Gold and Silver medals to the event's participants, and we had a touching presentation of the inaugural Sascha Franzel/Star of Stars Award to Breezy Coyne, from David and Sonia Franzel." Sascha Franzel was a 19-year-old CSU student who passed away a year ago from an asthma attack.

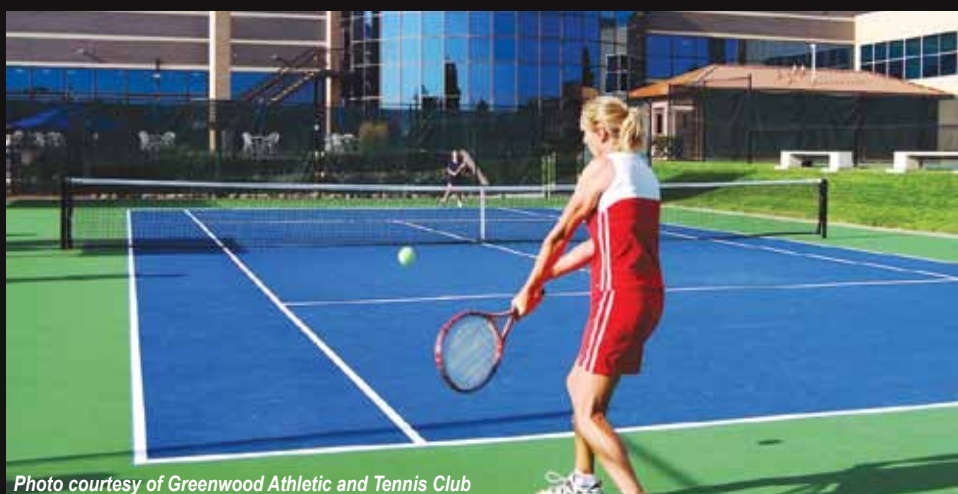


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Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation

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The 2012 Punk Relic Charity Doubles Tournament was held on August 19 at Gates Tennis Center. It was a picturesque day and fun was had by all. A total of 38 adult/junior combined teams competed and raised money for the CYTF. To view more photos, please visit the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation on Facebook.



Woman/Girl Doubles Intermediate

Winners: Anita Cooper & Tanisha Goshan
Finalists: Ashleigh Willette & Nikki Hola



Mixed Doubles Intermediate

Winners: Shannnon Jiang & George Tavarez
Finalists: Kara & Pat Lee



Man/Boy Doubles Intermediate

Winners: Brian & Dante Dino
Finalists: Jackson & Chris Johnstone



Woman/Girl Doubles Advanced

Winners: Margaret & Caroline Berzins
Finalists: Caroline Skibness & Valeria Gavidia



Man/Boy Doubles Advanced

Finalists: Austin Coleman & Chris Croxton
Winners: Richard Beard & Luke Lorenz



Mixed Doubles Advanced

Finalists: Ron Steege & Madison Porter
Winners: Kira & Hal Woods

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JUNIOR NEWS

COLORADO JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WRAP-UP



USTA Colorado crowns JTT State Champions

Players from around the state gathered for the 2012 USTA Colorado Junior Team Tennis State Championships, held August 10-12 at the following metro area facilities: Colorado Athletic Clubs Inverness and Monaco, Ken Caryl Community Center and Ranch House, Pinehurst Country Club and South Suburban Holly and Lone Tree.

BOYS 10 IA

Champion: Denver Tennis Club
Finalist: Ken Caryl

BOYS 10 IB

Champion: Denver Country Club
Finalist: Tennis Kids

BOYS 12 IA

Champion: Denver Parks and Rec
Finalist: Boulder Country Club

BOYS 12 IB

Champion: Bow Mar
Finalist: Denver Country Club

BOYS 12 NOVICE

Champion: Miramont Lifestyle and Fitness
Finalist: Crestmoor

BOYS 14 ADVANCED

Champion: Meadow Creek
Finalist: Miramont Lifestyle and Fitness

BOYS 14 IA

Champion: Denver Country Club
Finalist: Tennis Kids

BOYS 14 IB

Champion: Evergreen Sports Center
Finalist: Genesee

BOYS 18 ADVANCED

Champion: Flying Horse
Finalist: Niwot High School

BOYS 18 IA

Champion: Colorado Athletic Club Inverness
Finalist: Ken Caryl

BOYS 18 IB

Champion: Colorado Athletic Club Inverness
Finalist: Ken Caryl

GIRLS 10 INT

Champion: Meadows Club
Finalist: Crestmoor

GIRLS 12 IA

Champion: Lebsack Tennis Center
Finalist: Highlands Ranch Community Assoc

GIRLS 12 IB

Champion: Ranch Country Club
Finalist: Meadow Creek

GIRLS 12 NOVICE

Champion: Lifetime Fitness (CO Springs)
Finalist: Governors Ranch

GIRLS 14 IA

Champion: Colorado Springs Country Club
Finalist: Colorado Springs Racquet Club

GIRLS 14 IB

Champion: Bear Creek Swim and Tennis
Finalist: Valley Country Club

GIRLS 14 NOVICE

Champion: Thunder Ridge High School
Finalist: Ken Caryl

GIRLS 18 ADVANCED

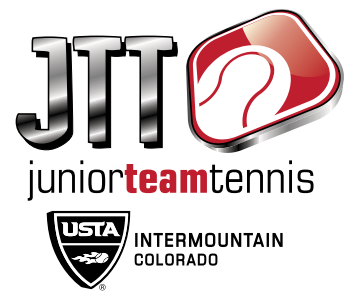
Champion: Meadow Creek
Finalist: Bow Mar

GIRLS 18 IA

Champion: Poudre High School
Finalist: Meadow Creek

GIRLS 18 IB

Champion: Crestmoor
Finalist: Boulder Country Club



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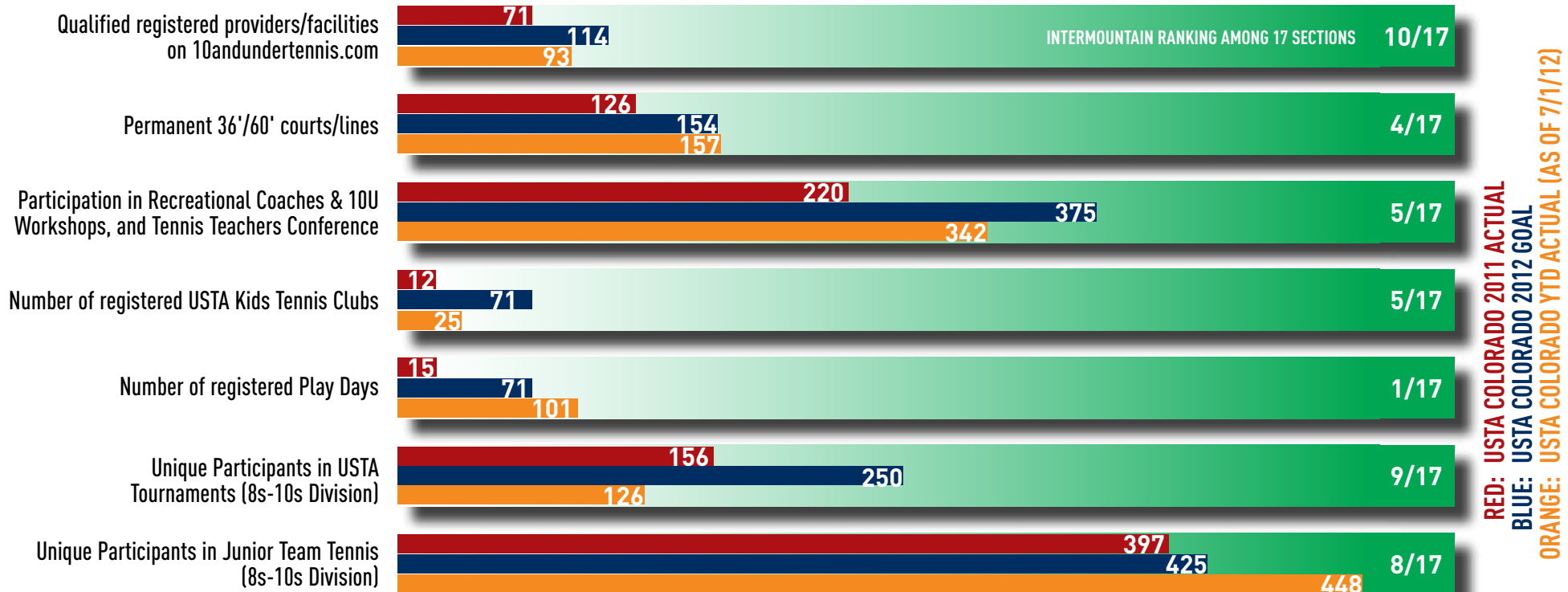
10 AND UNDER TENNIS™

IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME

Plotting the Future

Traditional sports like baseball, soccer, football and basketball enjoy a comparative advantage over tennis, drawing thousands more kids in younger age groups to participate in organized programming. But as kids reach their teenage years, participation drops precipitously for traditional sports, while tennis participation continues to rise into young adulthood and beyond. The 10 and Under Tennis initiative is organized around the simple goal of trying

to encourage more organized play among the younger age groups, which would be a boon not just for the USTA, but for tennis organizations and facilities who are looking to sow the seeds of grassroots participation. In the Spring 2012 issue of **Colorado Tennis**, we showed you the 2012 goals for both National and Colorado. Now that we've reached the halfway point, we thought you should see how USTA Colorado is doing in reaching its lofty goals.



USTA Colorado wishes to thank

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PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

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CLASS	RANK	PLAYER	HOMETOWN	CLASS	RANK	PLAYER	HOMETOWN	CLASS	RANK	PLAYER	HOMETOWN	CLASS	RANK	PLAYER	HOMETOWN
GIRLS															
2012	59	Erin Gebes	Littleton (MARQUETTE)	2016	11	Rebecca Weissmann	Loveland	2013	679	Joseph Diaz	Loveland	2015	1637	Jadon Tanguma	Arvada
2012	140	Jessika Mozia	Littleton (MINNESOTA)	2016	102	Katysa Hall	Colorado Springs	2013	684	Hunter Lacouture	Franktown	2015	1670	Joseph Bove	Castle Rock
2012	327	Monica Li	Boulder (CAL TECH)	2016	200	Tate Schroeder	Highlands Ranch	2013	744	William Fielding	Crested Butte	2015	1672	Jackson Martin	Boulder
2012	393	Lindsey Pond	Denver	2016	356	Gloria Son	Aurora	2013	747	Tanner Trace	Fort Collins	2015	1682	Dylan Griffin	Longmont
2012	395	Caroline Hobbs	Boulder (SKIDMORE)	2016	377	Caroline Kawula	Cherry Hills Village	2013	790	Brandon Nachbar	Colorado Springs	2015	1742	Satvik Saini	Longmont
2012	403	Cara Cromwell	Fort Collins	2016	492	Daniela Adamczyk	Colorado Springs	2013	811	William Son	Aurora				
2012	500	Jennifer Weissmann	Loveland (CSU)	2016	524	Jessica Metz	Colorado Springs	2013	924	Jack Shanahan	Superior	2016	117	William Gold	Denver
2012	521	Christi Valicenti	Shoat Spgs (LAKE FOREST)	2016	539	Kristen Kirby	Thornton	2013	1050	Samuel Buffington	Fort Collins	2016	192	Casey Ross	Littleton
2012	623	Paris Hogan	Boulder	2016	600	Natalie Munson	Longmont	2013	1059	Taylor Landstrom	Fort Collins	2016	341	Alec Leddon	Boulder
2012	651	Michelle Phillips	Westminster (CO MESA)	2016	658	Shwetha Prabakar	Colorado Springs	2013	1073	Howie Hill	Colorado Springs	2016	343	Allen Fu	Longmont
2012	708	Alyssa Xedus	Highlands Ranch	2016	852	Tara Edwards	Littleton	2013	1093	Andrew Venner	Colorado Springs	2016	386	Jackson Hawk	Boulder
2012	714	Toni Alvarez	Pueblo	2016	906	Allison Smith	Parker	2013	1116	Adam Berry	Fort Collins	2016	473	Chanon Penvari	Aurora
2012	721	Stephanie Gittner	Broomfield	2016	995	Erin O'Shaughnessy	Denver	2013	1147	Kellen Iverson	Littleton	2016	504	Kevin Adams	Englewood
2012	722	Andrea Brush	Loveland (ALLEGHENY)	2016	1148	Madeline Bove	Castle Rock	2013	1242	Matthew Golub	Evergreen	2016	538	Max Petrak	Golden
2012	726	Hannah Gregory	Loveland					2013	1270	Kevin Chen	Denver	2016	665	Alec Zirkelbach	Boulder
2012	775	Mayanka Kumar	Centennial (WELLESLEY)	2017	8	Samantha Martinelli	Denver	2013	1278	Ashton Blair	Denver	2016	726	Colton Hill	Colorado Springs
2012	779	Shannon Galligan	Loveland	2017	34	Ashley Lahey	Boulder	2013	1281	Connor Petrou	Centennial	2016	757	Erin Norwood	Denver
2012	794	Brooke Williams	Lone Tree	2017	100	Madison Gallegos	Aurora	2013	1328	Noah Grolnick	Longmont	2016	786	Cutter Esson	Boulder
				2017	253	Jessica Aragon	Fort Collins	2013	1374	Colin Green	Edwards	2016	817	John Simpson	Littleton
2013	189	Meagan Monaghan	Denver	2017	336	Alex Pessoa	Denver	2013	1419	Mac Howell	Denver	2016	848	Vamsi Senthilvel	Highlands Ranch
2013	302	Kelli Woodman	Denver	2017	361	Casey Zhong	Highlands Ranch	2013	1453	Owen Davis	Colorado Springs	2016	872	Ben Blea	Littleton
2013	326	Jordan Appel	Cherry Hills Village	2017	437	Grace Koza	Littleton	2013	1457	Kody Cassidy	Hot Sulphur Springs	2016	953	Blake Parsons	Denver
2013	339	Kathleen Kuosman	Superior	2017	460	Sadie Moseley	Denver	2013	1463	Danny Kaprielian	Englewood	2016	959	Jake Becker	Centennial
2013	481	Elizabeth Fryberger	Littleton	2017	466	Shawnea Pagat	Fort Collins	2013	1491	Daniel Wright	Superior	2016	988	Jacob Maxwell	Parker
2013	504	Shelby Cerkovnik	Highlands Ranch	2017	558	Stephanie Broussard	Colorado Springs	2013	1642	Mac Howell	Pueblo	2016	1028	Ram Vuppala	Denver
2013	505	Callie Morlock	Golden	2017	572	Sara Schoenbeck	Pueblo West	2013	1658	Thomas Van De Pas	Highlands Ranch	2016	1062	Kamran Shahbaz	Boulder
2013	546	Jessee Clauson	Boulder	2017	651	Maeve Kearney	Englewood	2013	1668	Gifford Mellick	Centennial	2016	1087	Spencer Clauson	Boulder
2013	576	Lauran Renjard	Colorado Springs	2017	826	Natalie Hagan	Lone Tree	2013	1784	Alexander Pedraza	Longmont	2016	1138	Jackson Johar	Fort Collins
2013	627	Morgan Blanco	Denver	2017	887	Claire Cox	Parker	2013	1786	Lucas Barnhill	Louisville	2016	1166	Nathan Lazarus	Boulder
2013	630	Morgan Cohen	Centennial	2017	916	Madison Wolfe	Monument	2013	1793	Will McShane	Westminster	2016	1188	Drew Parsons	Denver
2013	737	Aimee Basinski	Grand Jct	2017	1002	Natalie Bronsdon	Highlands Ranch	2013	1799	Cecil MacGregor	Longmont	2016	1391	Andrew Gillette	Arvada
2013	755	Rachel Grubbs	Steamboat Springs	2017	1043	Maleeha Chowdhury	Highlands Ranch					2016	1427	Davis Meyer	Castle Rock
2013	817	Julie Berlinger	Englewood	2018	99	Amber Shen	Broomfield	2014	246	Zachary Fryer	Highlands Ranch	2016	1493	Zhan Su	Louisville
2013	892	Sarah French	Fort Collins	2018	203	Anshika Singh	Greenwood Village	2014	325	Jesse Ruder-Hook	Denver	2016	1560	Kevin Ball	Boulder
2013	932	Madison Porter	Parker	2018	310	Julia Berggren	Evergreen	2014	333	Luke Lorenz	Colorado Springs	2016	1616	Simon Lupo	Westminster
2013	1038	Alexandra Purfield	Arvada	2018	324	Emily Dush	Fort Collins	2014	350	Connor McPherson	Centennial				
2013	1064	Reagan Simons	Colorado Springs	2018	341	Heather Volls	Colorado Springs	2014	467	Vignesh Senthilvel	Highlands Ranch	2017	75	Ethan Hillis	Centennial
2013	1124	Shanti vanVuuren	Boulder	2018	359	Tamara Katthain	Steamboat Springs	2014	809	Garin Arney	Boulder	2017	243	Draden Hoover	Aurora
2013	1145	Julia Beckley	Fort Collins	2018	371	Seraphin Castelino	Superior	2014	842	Heitor Adegas	Fort Collins	2017	350	Ben Antonsen	Highlands Ranch
2013	1170	Erica Dodson	Castle Rock	2018	376	Micha Handler	Englewood	2014	907	Brock DeHaven	Boulder	2017	377	Kai Smith	Denver
2013	1175	Angelika Buczynski	Highlands Ranch	2018	392	Tatum Burger	Steamboat Springs	2014	908	Drrek Lakowske	Boulder	2017	488	Stefan Orton-Urbina	Colorado Springs
				2018	401	Emily Strande	Centennial	2014	949	Steven Alcala	Pueblo	2017	490	Frederick Edwards	Bayfield
2014	68	Mira Ruder-Hook	Denver	2018	423	Mariela Hollines	Englewood	2014	980	Eric Kwiatkowski	Parker	2017	753	Erich Nuss	Castle Pines
2014	214	Alexa Brandt	Broomfield	2018	455	Ky Ecton	Fort Collins	2014	1011	David Rosencrans	Aurora	2017	776	Dillon Leasure	Carbondale
2014	279	Alex Middleton	Columbine Valley	2018	463	Allison Murphy	Centennial	2014	1051	Matthew Jacobberger	Colorado Springs	2017	789	Stefan Hein	Littleton
2014	290	Eva-Lou Edwards	Bayfield					2014	1086	Adam Rivera	Littleton	2017	823	Aaron Weil	Highlands Ranch
2014	357	Kathryn Hall	Greenwood Village	BOYS				2014	1122	Benjamin Schlichting	Denver	2017	843	Matthew Chavez	Mead
2014	431	Bria Smith	Denver	2012	262	James Swiggart	Sboat Springs (IDAHO ST)	2014	1158	Michael Rosencrans	Aurora	2017	847	Tom Hudson	Golden
2014	625	Rachael Scheper	Greenwood Village	2012	339	Bryan Mehall	Snowmass (CMSCRIPPS)	2014	1230	Canyon Hill	Colorado Springs	2017	916	Niko Hereford	Denver
2014	638	Katie Li	Louisville	2012	376	Max Roder	Steamboat Springs	2014	1252	Randall Ball	Boulder	2017	976	Dylan Zumar	Aurora
2014	758	Katharine Kirby	Thornton	2012	393	Jake Sheldon	Parker (NORTHERN CO)	2014	1297	Jason Ferry	Lafayette	2017	1049	Coutten Davis	Colorado Springs
2014	769	Erin Mulshine	Longmont	2012	419	Taylor Macres	Westminster	2014	1308	Dakota Burns	Pueblo	2017	1148	Ryan James	Denver
2014	861	Natalia Dellavalle	Denver	2012	442	Eliot Guin	Denver	2014	1328	Matthew Matsuyama	Castle Rock	2017	1191	Patrick Ross	Littleton
2014	917	Kayl Ecton	Fort Collins	2012	485	Kyle Schuster	Denver	2014	1338	Drake Giese	De Beque	2017	1232	Jack Ferry	Lafayette
2014	920	Gienna Gee-Taylor	Louisville	2012	502	Jaron Belcher	Boulder	2014	1425	Chad Curd	Centennial	2017	1259	Joshua Fields	Franktown
2014	1083	Abby Johnson	Highlands Ranch	2012	502	Jaron Belcher	Boulder	2014	1445	Hunter Sullivan	Fort Collins	2017	1334	Cameron McGregor	Littleton
2014	1119	Kristen Jensen	Colorado Springs	2012	611	Kaleb Harmon	Loveland	2014	1485	Zachary Inman	Colorado Springs	2017	1350	Nicolas Savignano	Centennial
2014	1147	Laura Burdick	Highlands Ranch	2012	704	Luke Ledebur	Grand Junction	2014	1525	Joshua Eafanti	Westminster				
				2012	796	Zach Kusick	Westminster (SIMPSON)	2014	1615	Taylor Ball	Colorado Springs	2018	126	Brett Finan	Broomfield
2015	113	Nicole Kalthorn	Colorado Springs	2012	821	Mark Gueswell	Windsor	2014	1654	Jason Krbec	Fort Collins	2018	180	Joshua King	Englewood
2015	140	Gabrielle Schuck	Colorado Springs	2012	917	Boulton Brynteson	Greeley (WHITTIER)	2014	1669	Griffin Kosonocky	Fort Collins	2018	211	Tom Melville	Boulder
2015	371	Alexandra Weil	Highlands Ranch	2012	1001	Jeffrey Millman	Colorado Springs	2014	1722	Naish Gaubatz	Colorado Springs	2018	238	Kasper Smith	Boulder
2015	405	Caroline Kelly	Highlands Ranch	2012	1028	Ryan Howarth	Boulder	2014	1759	Ethan Anderson	Boulder	2018	311	Mitchell Johnson	Cherry Hills Village
2015	467	Payton Fielding	Crested Butte	2013	146	Harrison Lang	Longmont	2014	1766	Cody Carlton	Castle Rock	2018	337	Jack Moldenhauer	Denver
2015	812	Andrea Motley	Fort Collins	2013	148	Hayden Sabatka	Lone Tree	2014	1788	Jackson Feld	Boulder	2018	338	Charlie Franks	Denver
2015	849	Carla Dallmann	Avon	2013	381	Matt Sayre	Denver					2018	537	Parker Seby	Denver
2015	874	Julia Mannino	Greenwood Village	2013	419	Stephen Moore	Colorado Springs	2018	615	Carter Harrington	Castle Rock	2018	615	Carter Harrington	Aurora
2015	1072	Kaitlyn Motley	Fort Collins	2013	532	Hayden Cramer	Colorado Springs	2018	617	Benjamin Murray	Longmont	2018	617	Benjamin Murray	Englewood
2015	1126	Madeline Whitmore	Highlands Ranch	2013	547	Daniel Steinhauser	Greenwood Village	2018	656	James Hunsinger	Superior	2018	656	James Hunsinger	Fort Collins
2015	1270	Lyndsey Stewart	Longmont	2013	548	Jonathan Kaufman	Centennial	2018	681	Iljiah Bailey	Denver	2018	681	Iljiah Bailey	Centennial
				2013	587	Justin Nguyen	Superior	2018	708	Jack Alexander	Boulder	2018	708	Jack Alexander	Littleton
				2013	669	Eli Winegardner	Lafayette	2018	715	Laird Stewart	Greenwood Village	2018	715	Laird Stewart	Englewood
								2018	809	Teller Hoskins	Centennial	2018	735	Brooks Savage	Boulder
								2018	843	Joseph Adducci	Colorado Springs	2018	754	Skyler Gates	Littleton
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YOURGAME

CHALK TALK (INTRODUCING YOUR CHILD TO TENNIS)

We asked our Team Colorado coaches to draw up a short game plan that will help players of all ages and abilities make the most of their next match. This is the third article in the Team Colorado Chalk Talk series.

So you have a young child that you want that to introduce to tennis. How should you go about it? Private lessons? Group lessons? Tournaments? League team? If you just go play with your child should you use regular yellow balls, foam balls, red, orange, or green dot balls? Should you play on a full court or one of the smaller courts? What size racquet should your child use?

Wow. With all these questions, tennis seems like a tough sport to start! Luckily, all of the above will work out fine as you introduce your child to tennis. Sure, lower bouncing, slower balls will make tennis a bit easier at the beginning. Smaller racquets and smaller courts help, too. But you can introduce your child to tennis with old-fashioned equipment standing near to each other, either on opposite sides of a net or the same side, maybe rallying over a crack in your driveway.

Once your child can tap the ball somewhat reliably, or even before that, it's time to let them play the game, either with you or with friends. If your child enjoys playing the game, then leagues and tournaments with the 10 and Under format are wonderful introductions to competition. Your child will learn to score (sort of), serve (poorly), and play games. Your child's relative lack of skill at this stage is perfectly natural and shouldn't be an impediment to getting out and playing and enjoying tennis. We all stink at things when we start. Some of us stink for a lot longer! But the games are still fun and rewarding.

When it comes time to introduce stroke development, lessons can be helpful. Some people believe lessons should precede play, but I think you're better off getting your child hooked on tennis before you begin the sometimes tedious stroke development. A great modern tool for helping kids develop better technique is video feedback. Most kids (most animals) learn by imitation. Allow your child to see tennis played well. If you don't play well yourself, let your child watch great tennis players either in person or through video. Let your child see what high quality tennis looks like and let them try it. If you own an iPad or iPhone, you can even let your child see what he/she looks like, at regular speed or frame-by-frame, with a cool, free application by Coach My Video (iTunes app store). Just use your iPad/iPhone to film your child hitting some shots or playing some points. Then have the child look at the video in the mobile coaching app and let the child compare what he/she sees with what he/she feels. You can even set up a professional model for side-by-side viewing. This is a great way to help kids learn better technique.

Don't let all the daunting questions slow you down. Introduce your child to the great game of tennis. If your child enjoys the experience, they'll play the game more and more and they will definitely get better over time. 🎾



MIKKAKERONEN
TEAM COLORADO SITE DIRECTOR/10 & UNDER

*Miikka is the Director of Tennis at
The Ranch Country Club*



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Team Colorado Viewing Day Set

Team Colorado will celebrate its 25th season of bringing the state's best young talent together by hosting its annual viewing day, scheduled for Sunday, October 7 from 10am-2pm at the Ken Caryl Ranch House.

The **10 and under** viewing for both boys and girls will be held from 10am-11am. Please note that these tryouts will be held on 60 ft. courts with the orange ball.

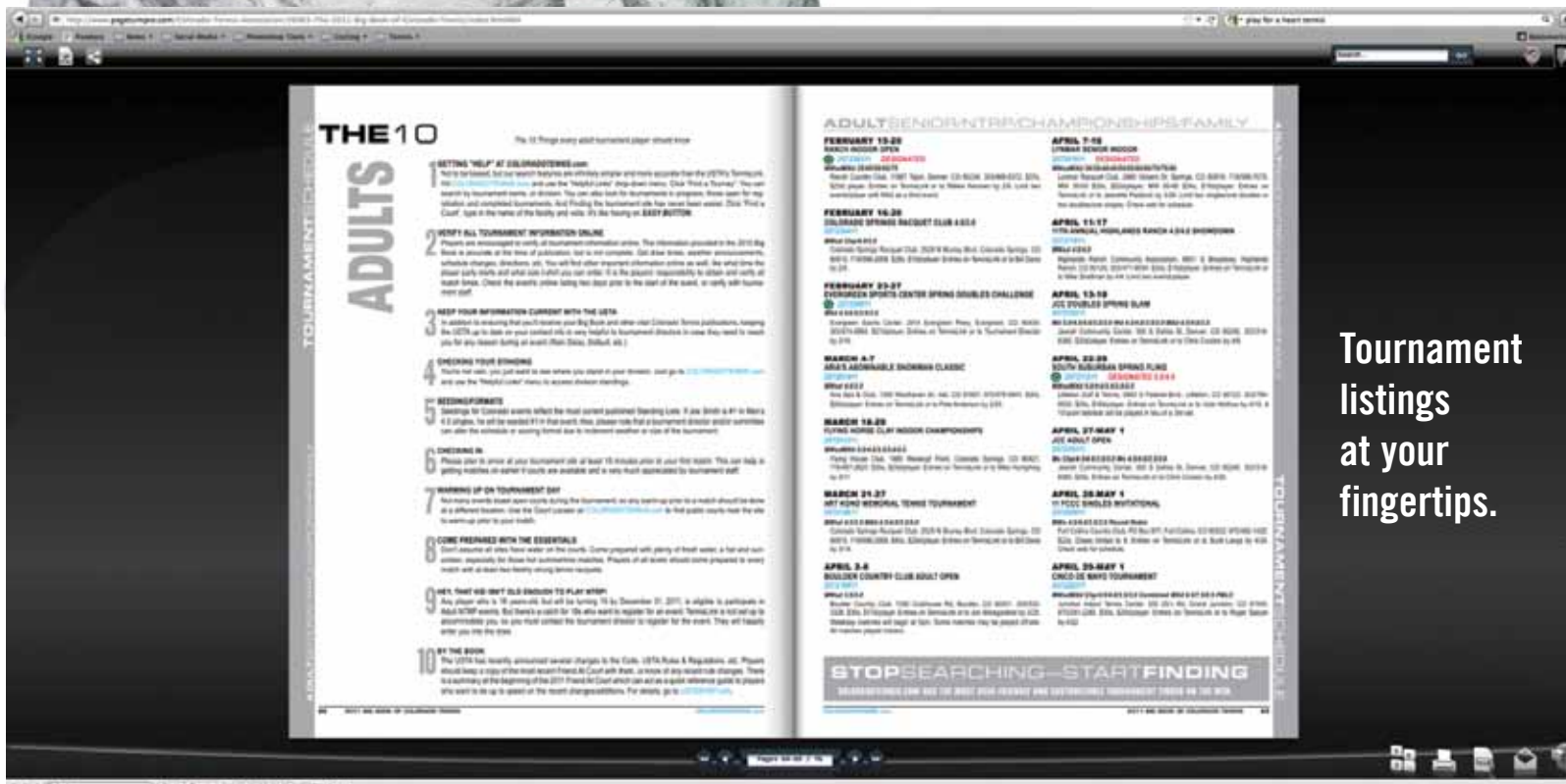
The **12 and under boys** will be viewed from 11am-12:30pm and the **12 and under girls** from 12:30-2pm.

Team Colorado is USTA Colorado's elite junior tennis program designed for players 12 and under. Interested players can download an application from coloradotennis.com or contact USTA Colorado Player Development Director, Jason Colter at jason@coloradotennis.com.

Team Colorado will field at least three squads this year — a 12 and under team, a developmental team and at least one or more 10 and Under teams.



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NEWS FROM USTA COLORADO HEADQUARTERS

FRITZ GARGER
USTA COLORADO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I'll take the opportunity and quote one of my favorite musicians/songwriters as it's quite apropos — "the times they are a changin'" (Bob Dylan).

We face change daily and while there are plenty of constants, change is inevitable. Our organizations and specifically several of our prominent programs and structures are on the cusp of significant changes. In fact, this concept is so apparent that the primary focus of the recent USTA Semi-Annual Meeting was CHANGE and how our organizations (National, Section, District and local tennis associations) address this phenomena.

Here in Colorado, we face two significant changes coming our way in the next two years. Beginning in 2013, the USTA League will employ revamped age breakdowns, and in 2014 the USTA will roll out a significantly re-tooled National Junior Tournament structure. In both cases, these decisions are national in scope and directly impact our offerings and structure here in our state.

Obviously, these changes affect our players (and in junior tennis, families in general) in different ways. Some will welcome the changes, some will be indifferent, and some will view them with distain and wish the old (now current) system were still in place. But as the USTA National leaders stated emphatically at the Semi-Annual Meeting, these changes have been adopted and will be implemented. Our role, therefore, is to assess our options and establish a system that affords the best opportunities for the players involved.

USTA Colorado approaches these changes with the fol-

lowing objectives: 1) to look at how we structure our offerings in the most effective way to comply with the national changes and address the needs of our players and system; and 2) to inform and educate all those involved so our players (parents, coaches, captains, coordinators, etc.) are able to navigate these changes in a way that best suits their needs.

One could spend time and energy debating these changes, but our organization is looking to move forward and will always endeavor to maximize the play opportunities for our players, whether they are 6 year-olds or 75 year-olds (or older!).

Please take the time to read our articles and promotional pieces so you can become well-versed in how the changes affect your world of tennis. We will be providing information in all these areas in the coming months to assist everyone as league players plan for 2013 (see also the Spring 2012 issue of Colorado Tennis) and our junior players (and parents) plan for junior competitive tennis in 2014.

An update regarding another major change in Colorado tennis:

We are in year one of one of the most significant changes to our sport (perhaps in our lifetime) with the advent of the 10 and Under Tennis Initiative. Here in Colorado, all sanctioned 10U match play (leagues and tournaments) are now played on the 60' court with the orange ball. We are among the nation's leaders in the adoption of this requirement, joining prominent Sections as Florida, and the largest of all, the nine-state Southern section, which have both incorpo-

rated the same structure in their 10U sanctioned play.

What we have instituted is without question the essential marriage of utilizing smaller courts, shorter racquets and appropriate balls with competitive play. For years players may have practiced on short courts with shorter racquets or practiced with low compression balls — but then we forced them to compete using traditional equipment on a 78' court that most 10 year-olds can't dream of covering effectively. Those days are over. We want to thank all those who have embraced and promoted this new initiative. We are quick to recognize that those right on the cusp (current 9 and 10 year-olds) are caught in an awkward position. But over time, each of the transitions will become much more seamless (5-8s into 10s; and 9-10s into 12s) and the depth of competitive play will make each division stronger and more beneficial for all involved.

A goal of the Intermountain Section was to be in the top 5 (of the 17) in each of the 10 and Under Initiative categories being tracked by the USTA National office. Thanks to Colorado's aggressive implementation, Intermountain is well on its way (see 10 AND UNDER, page 25). As this is a new initiative, we will continue look for everyone's support to increase the opportunities and the number of quality programs (including leagues and tournaments) that incorporate the 10U and 8U formats. Our overall goal is to increase exponentially the number of kids ages 5-10 who play our sport, so that in a couple of years we have hundreds of thousands of youngsters (nationwide) experiencing and benefiting from the lifetime sport of tennis. ♾

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THE LAST WORD

A TRANSFORMATIVE MOVEMENT

USTA SEEKS TO PUT AMERICAN TENNIS ON SOLID FOOTING FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

KURT DESATUELS
EDITOR, COLORADO TENNIS

In the midst of a caffeine-induced panic attack, fueled by doughnuts and pad thai, a thought scampered across my twittering brain.... THERE'S A LOT GOING ON IN TENNIS RIGHT NOW.

We've only just begun the most fundamental change to the sport in decades, having rolled out the 10 and Under Tennis initiative just a few short months ago, and according to the buzz at the USTA Semi-Annual Meeting in NYC, another major change is in the works for our young players who compete at high-level regional and national tournaments.

The adults don't get left out of this wave of change, either. We've recently added and tweaked some of our Adult league offerings, and beginning in March, Colorado's 30,000+ league players will be staring at a new structure that juggles some divisions by lowering the minimum age for two of the leagues — Senior and Super Senior. In addition to the new age formats, the names of the leagues will change and Senior (to become "40+") will also get a new Championship format, from 3 doubles to 1 singles/2 doubles in the regular season to 2 singles/3 doubles at Districts and beyond.

That so many changes seem to be colliding at once may seem unnecessary, it reflects the very nature of our sport at a time in which we are standing on the precipice of a huge transformation.

Tennis has been growing fairly consistently for more than a decade. One of the few sports (and the only traditional sport) to have experienced such consistent growth, tennis is beginning to capitalize on its recent momentum. By having

the courage to embark on such profound changes to well-established products, the USTA is embracing change as a part of its culture. It took some bold, confident steps back in the early 2000s to help bring the sport back to life, and one gets the feeling that that same spirit continues among today's USTA leadership.

Looking ahead to future issues of **Colorado Tennis**, you'll soon get a more detailed glimpse of how the 2014 Junior Tournament structure will work, as well as continued updates to the 10 and Under Tennis initiative. As you can see from the graph on page 24, Colorado has so far been fairly successful in promoting the QuickStart Tennis format as the way to play for kids 10 and under. We've had a tremendous response from our providers, many of whom are reaping the benefits of bringing tennis down to the level for kids 10 and under and even 8 and under. As the numbers continue to gain a critical mass, where parents can be assured of finding age-appropriate tennis opportunities for their children regardless of where they bring them, we expect the sport to reach new levels of popularity and inclusion. The incredible interest in tennis by folks in our diverse communities speaks to the universal appeal that our sport enjoys.

And of course, as our league numbers continue to reach new levels and push the bounds of what our facilities can offer, it is encouraging to see so many communities around the state begin to lobby and advocate for tennis to be included in their master plans. And as more and more rural towns and cities begin to embrace tennis, we hope that the sport

opens even more doors to players of all ages in those communities, allowing them to develop new friendships on the court that keep going when they are off it.

Coming soon to COLORADOTENNIS.com

It's been a work in progress for a number of years, but each day we are getting closer to adding new features to **COLORADOTENNIS.com**. In addition to creating a special **HighFIVE** section, where readers can catch up on all of our player/coach/administrator spotlights (see page 16 for the current profiles), we are also in the midst of a major archival project which will bring all 38 years of *High Bounce/Colorado Tennis* newspapers to the web.

Other soon-to-be-launched features include:

- Historical Colorado championship-level tournament results (for the Denver City Open, Colorado State Open and Intermountain Sectional Championships);
- Complete historical record of all Colorado High School Tennis results.

You are officially invited to the conversation, like us or follow us on Facebook and Twitter. We'll be back just after Thanksgiving with our Winter issue.



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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

Founded in 1955, USTA Colorado is a district affiliate of the United States Tennis Association, and the governing body of tennis in Colorado. Its mission is to promote and develop the growth of tennis in Colorado, coordinating recreational and competitive tennis opportunities for players of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. A not-for-profit organization, USTA Colorado invests 100% of its resources into growing the game.

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 31,000 players across the state, and offer programs for junior players of all ages and abilities. Our sanctioned tournament schedule offers more than 10 events this year, including opportunities for wheelchair athletes.

We are in the parks. We are in recreation centers and in private clubs. We are in schools helping physical education teachers introduce our kids to a game that they can play for a lifetime, keeping them fit and healthy. We 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 & Inclusion is a strategic priority for USTA Colorado and one of our core values.

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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