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Year 38, Issue 4

The Official Publication of Tennis Lovers

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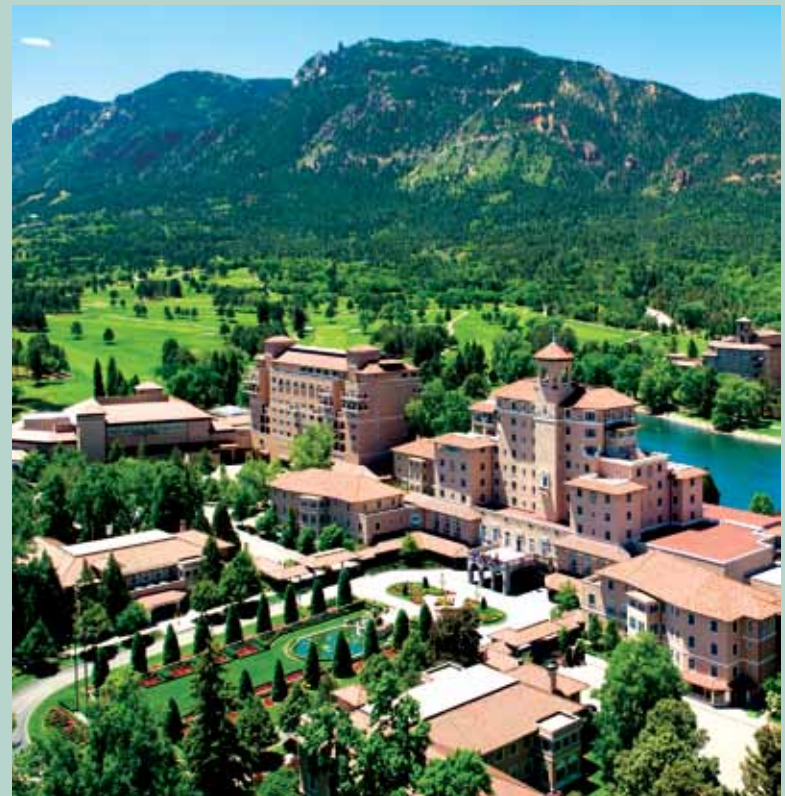


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You know ROG. ROG is the good-times guy. He's your tennis buddy. He's the one that convinces you that someday, you can make it to Wimbledon. He's always ready for a hit—the garage door, the wall at the elementary school down the street, the neighbor's fence—he's not picky.

But ROG's favorite partner is your child. Why? Because nothing puts a smile on a kid's face faster than having fun while building confidence and improving skills. Well, maybe, an Xbox, but ROG doesn't care about hand-held devices. He likes to move!



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

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THECOVERSTORY

ROG BALL: AN UNDERDOG STORY

IN JUST ITS SECOND YEAR, ROG IS BRINGING THE SPORT OF TENNIS FROM THE SHADOWS INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

You know ROG. ROG is the good-times guy. He's your tennis buddy. He's the one that convinces you that someday, you can make it to Wimbledon. He's always ready for a hit—the garage door, the wall at the elementary school down the street, the neighbor's fence—he's not picky.

But ROG's favorite partner is your child. Why? Because nothing puts a smile on a kid's face faster than having fun while building confidence and improving skills. Well, maybe, an Xbox, but ROG doesn't care about hand-held devices. He likes to move!

ROG has had a busy couple years. He spent most of 2010-11 getting ready for his big debut last year. There were some that didn't think he was going to make a dent in getting kids to play tennis, but oh were they wrong. Don't underestimate ROG.

After a year of adjusting to the new rules for 10 and Under divisions mandating the use of ROG and shorter, narrower courts, participation in our youngest age divisions has virtually exploded this year. And as kids become accustomed to practicing and competing with the same ball on the same court, the participation numbers look strong for the future of the 12s divisions as well. This makes ROG happy.

So from everyone at USTA Colorado, we want to congratulate ROG on a hugely successful beginning on what we all expect will be a fantastic relationship.

Now go take ROG for a hit with your kids. He misses them.



Who is ROG?

ROG is an acronym for the low-compression balls used by players ages 12 and under. The national mandated use of **RED** and **ORANGE** balls for all sanctioned 8s and 10s events began in 2012, and Colorado mandated **GREEN** ball use in 2013 for novice and intermediate levels of sanctioned 12 and under play.

But **WHO** ROG is may not be as important as **WHY** ROG is. ROG has been with the tennis industry for a long time, but his use in competition only began in the last couple years. For that story, we have to step back about a decade.

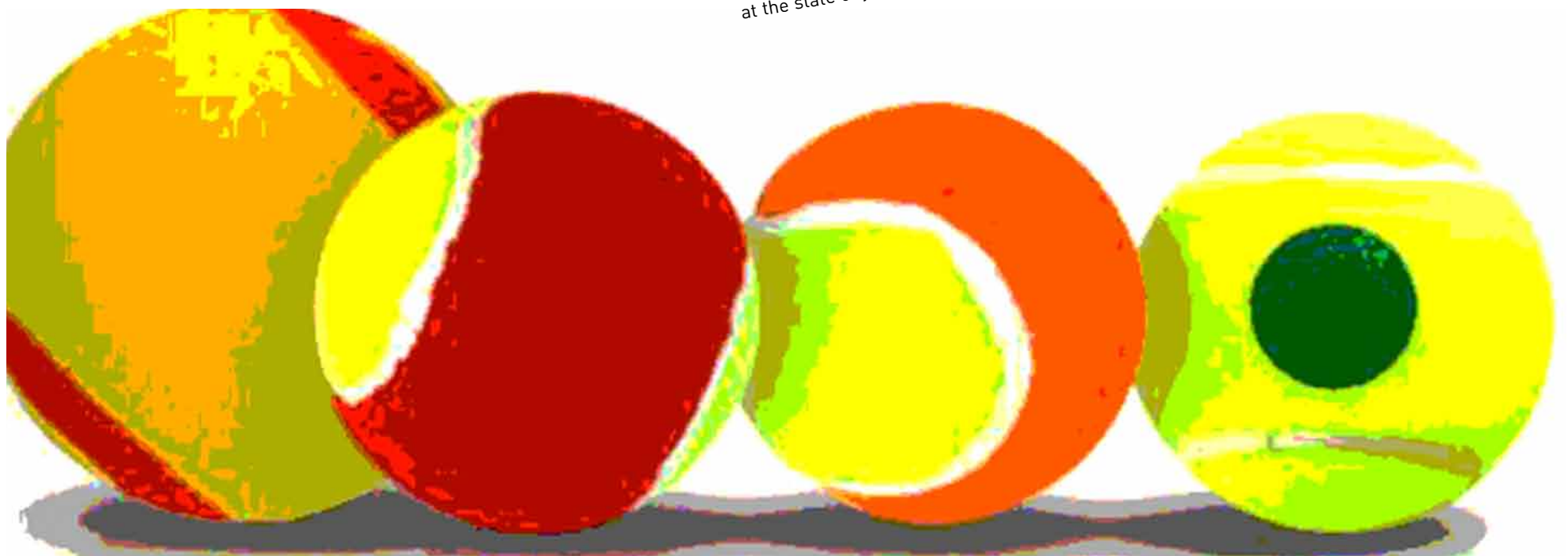
About 10 years ago, the USTA took a hard look at the state of youth tennis, and realized chang-

es needed be made. Tennis lagged far behind other traditional sports like baseball, soccer and basketball in terms of junior participation. At the age of 10, fewer than 10% of kids played tennis, while participation rates for the other sports was at 20%.

And while tennis showed better retention rates than other sports, it took longer for kids to get engaged.

One study showed that of America's nearly 5 million youth players age 6-11, less than 17,000 played competitively—a scant one-third of one percent competed in nationally-branded tennis programs (compared to more than 40% in other sports). Clearly, there was a problem.

But what was it? →



The way forward

In a survey of 28,000 boys and girls about why they played sports, the number one answer was FUN. At number two was TO DO SOMETHING I'M GOOD AT and number three was TO IMPROVE MY SKILLS. Winning didn't even make the top 10!

A related study discovered that 70% of kids quit organized sports by the age of 13, predominantly because they stopped having fun and are no longer interested in the sport any longer. Coincidentally, it was around age 13 that tennis closed the participation gap on those other traditional sports.

The question was, "What do the other traditional sports have that tennis doesn't?" The most obvious of answers was proportion.

Unlike most other sports that had long ago downsized their courts or fields in some way to make playing easier and more fun for kids, tennis hadn't made a single concession for its youngest players. While soccer shrunk its goals and youth basketball lowered its rims, young netters competed on the same court with the same ball and the same rules as the pros did.

"We realized we were asking kids who were four feet tall to play with the same equipment Roger Federer is playing with as if they're six feet tall," says Sue Hunt, chief marketing officer of the USTA. "We decided we absolutely had to change the sport, which is really frankly quite traditional."

So the USTA started mandating that courts be smaller, and that balls be slower, and have less bounce, for younger players. The International Tennis Federation got on board. Courts now come in three different sizes depending on age. There are also three different balls to be used before a player is ready to compete with a traditional yellow ball—**RED, ORANGE & GREEN**. The **RED** ball is for kids eight and under, the **ORANGE** ball is for kids 10 and under, and **GREEN** balls are used for kids 12 and under as they progress from novice through intermediate levels. Affectionately, the trio is nicknamed, "**ROG**". When kids have progressed through the ROG lineup and are ready for advanced competition on a full-size court, they play the standard yellow ball.

"Kids want to feel competent when they try something new," says Hunt. "It's true for parents too. If a parent takes their child out on the big court with a yellow ball, they're chasing balls all afternoon. Nobody is having fun and the kid doesn't feel capable."

The USTA also recommended changes for tennis lessons. Instead of standing kids on the court to hit 20 forehands followed by 20 backhands, the organization suggests throwing out red balls and letting kids just experiment for a while. And wipe out the phrase "tennis lessons". Kids don't go to "baseball lessons" or "football lessons", they go to practice. They will learn just as much, but the connotation doesn't remind them of those piano lessons you foisted on them as a 6 year-old.

Almost a year after global implementation, the initiative appears to be working. From 2011 to 2012, the USTA reported a 13% increase in USTA-associated 10-and-under tennis participation, a 38% increase in youth ball sales, and a 120% increase in the number of facilities offering 10-and-under programs.

Here in Colorado, the numbers reflect those at the national level, as participation in the 10 and under levels has met and/or exceeded expectations at all levels. Thanks to ROG, more Colorado kids are engaged in organized league and tournament play than at any time in the past.

So participation is up, but does ROG help kids play better tennis?

A recent study conducted by Australia's equivalent of USTA Player Development, Tennis Australia discovered some fascinating results when Australia's top 9 and 10 year-olds were gathered and played matches alternating between a green ball and a yellow ball.

Nearly two dozen matches were recorded from various camera angles while numerous statistics were tracked, using heat maps to show where players hit from and to. The coaching team was looking to compare several different indicators, including the height players contacted the ball; the distance from net the players met the ball; and approach shot opportunities with the green and yellow balls.

While it was anticipated that rallies would be longer with the green ball and shots hit harder with the yellow ball, the opposite was true. The average green ball rally was 5.25 shots, while the average yellow ball rally was a slightly longer 5.35 shots. But as the coaches noted, the longer yellow ball rallies was the result of "moon ball" shots that dominated the points and increased the average.

When the team looked to measure rally tempo, they assumed that the lower compression of the green ball would result in slower tempos as the ball travels slower through the air and off the bounce. But the stats turned the notion on its head, as rally tempo at yellow was one shot per .62 seconds, while the green ball tempo was one per .58 seconds, nearly 7% faster despite the lower compression. Once again, the coaches noted that the green ball rallies were higher tempo because players were able to hold a court position closer to the baseline, and take the ball on the rise comfortably.

The coaches at Tennis Australia were left with a very clear picture of the advantages of the slower traveling green ball over the traditional yellow ball for its top-level youth players.

If they could utilize a tool that helps their players rally at a higher tempo, hit more balls at a comfortable height, hit the ball in a more aggressive court position and hit more often to the corners, they should take advantage of it.

So there you have it. Not only is ROG bringing a whole new generation to the court, it's helping those players achieve in ways that traditional equipment can't.

By slowing the game down, you speed it up.



RED

Approved for all 8s divisions, the **RED** ball is 23% larger, 65% lighter, bounces 75% lower and travels up to 75% slower through the air than a traditional yellow ball.

RED BALL DIVISIONS/8s TOURNAMENT PLAY

Even though we're only in the 8 and under division's first few years of existence, the expectation is that we will start to see new participants enter events as more and more facilities offer QuickStart programming for the youngest players. This year, more than two dozen players have competed in an 8s tournament. As small as that number seems, it represents an enormous jump in relation to previous year's events.

ORANGE



Approved for all 10s divisions, the **ORANGE** ball is similar in size to a traditional yellow ball, but bounces 30% lower, weighs 50% less, and travels up to 50% slower through the air.

ORANGE BALL DIVISIONS/10s JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS/TOURNAMENT PLAY

Participation in the orange ball divisions exploded by 26% in 2013, as nearly 200 additional players competed in Colorado JTT and Sanctioned Tournament Play. Nearly half the new orange ball players competed in JTT, a 20% increase since the introduction of the orange ball to team tennis competition. New for 2013 was the rule change allowing for the creation of co-ed 10s teams.

On the sanctioned tournament side, as predicted, the 2012 10 & Under Rule Change pushed numbers down in 10s divisions as players faced the decision to move up and continue playing on the traditional court with the traditional yellow ball or move to a 60' court and the orange ball. But just one year later, participation has rebounded strongly, up nearly 60% this year (YTD), with more than a half dozen 10s events remaining.





Approved for 12s JTT Novice/Intermediate & Sanctioned Tournament Futures/Challengers divisions, the **GREEN** ball is similar in size to the traditional yellow ball, but with a softer feel that flies 25% slower through the air.

GREEN BALL DIVISIONS/12s

JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS/TOURNAMENT PLAY*

2013 marks the first year that USTA Colorado mandated the use of the green ball for sanctioned play. All divisions of 12 & Under play—except for the Advanced/Championship divisions—competed with the green ball.

Participation in JTT 12s divisions requiring the green ball (Novice, Intermediate B and Intermediate A) was down slightly from 2012, about 5%, while play at the Advanced level exploded exponentially by 2,300% (likely due to those players who had been using a yellow ball wanting to continue using a yellow ball so they moved from the Intermediate A & B divisions to the Advanced division). In tournament competition, the numbers of players competing in green ball divisions (12 Futures and 12 Challenger) are up slightly over last year at the same time. The number of players who moved up to play at the 12 Championship level was sizable (18% jump YTD), so the data point to an influx of new competitors at the 12F/12CH levels.

*JTT 12s Novice/Intermediate B/Intermediate A Divisions; Sanctioned Tournaments
12s Futures/Challenger Divisions



YELLOW BALL DIVISIONS/12s+

JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS/TOURNAMENT PLAY*

For the better part of the last decade, Junior Tournament participation experienced a steady growth, averaging about 8% growth each year. But for the past two years, total participation has flagged. Last year junior participation fell to a 7-year low.

Both the JTT 12 Advanced and tournament 12 Championship levels grew at unprecedented rates this year. As mentioned earlier, JTT 12ADV exploded in 2013, with a 23-fold increase, and the 12 CHP division grew by nearly 20%, largely because players who were already accustomed to competing with the yellow ball chose to continue playing with it.

*Sanctioned Tournaments 12s Championship/JTT 12s ADV; All 14s/16s/18s Divisions (JTT & Sanctioned Tournament)



THEBUZZ

NOUNS IN THE NEWS

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

PowerShares rumors grow, tour to be returning to Denver

Although the lineup has yet to be officially confirmed, it looks like Denver will indeed be a stop on the 2014 PowerShares exhibition series tour. The 2014 tour (which has added recently-retired ATP stars James Blake and Andy Roddick to the established lineup of Andre Agassi, Michael Chang, Jim Courier, Ivan Lendl, John McEnroe and Pete Sampras) is slated to be making stops in the Intermountain Section in Denver and Salt Lake City. John McEnroe won the November 2012 event over Michael Chang when the tour last stopped in Denver. For more information on the series, visit PowerSharesSeries.com.

Team Colorado viewing day set for October 20

The annual viewing day for Team Colorado has been scheduled for Sunday, October 20 at Gates Tennis Center.

Viewing for all 10 and under players (boys and girls) will begin at 10am and finish up at 11am. Play will be with orange balls on 60-foot courts.

Boys 12s will begin at 11am, with Girls 12s starting at 12:30. Both the 12s viewing windows will go for an hour and a half.

Team Colorado is USTA Colorado's elite junior tennis program. As a supplemental program, Team Colorado provides training opportunities above and beyond those received in a player's existing personal program. While each player's primary development takes place with his/her respective personal coach, the training regimen put together by TC is designed to supplement one's individual workout program. Bringing Colorado's most talented players together to practice and train with one another under the guidance of the state's top coaches and professionals will significantly benefit our players as they push each other to new heights. The stronger the practicing partners and coaching staff, the better our players will become. This translates into better results at sectional and national tournaments for our players.

For questions and an application please contact Jason Colter, 303/695-4116 x205 or email jason@coloradotennis.com.

USTA Tennis Development Workshop registration open

USTA's Community Tennis Development Workshop is the largest annual gathering of Community Tennis Association/National Junior Tennis & Learning leaders in the country. The 2013 event is coming to Denver October 31-November 3 at the Downtown Denver Sheraton. Attendees enjoy top notch sessions lead by specialists in their field and networking opportunities with more than 500 grassroots community tennis leaders from across the country. Registration is open at USTA.com/CTDW.



photo courtesy of Dave Van Liere

Colorado Gives Day 2013 coming December 10

Mark down December 10 for the fourth annual Colorado Gives Day, an initiative to increase philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. Presented by Community First Foundation and FirstBank, Colorado Gives Day has taken place during a 24-hour period each winter since 2010. Donations are accepted through the website ColoradoGives.org, with a goal to inspire and unite Coloradans in supporting local nonprofits.

The Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation will be a beneficiary of this year's event. In past years, the CYTF has received substantial funding from the event, which has helped fund the Foundation's efforts to introduce tennis to children in underserved communities across the state.

Longmont AC doubles number of indoor courts

The Longmont Athletic Club will be expanding its indoor tennis program this year, adding two indoor courts this fall to double their winter offering to four. The LAC has been instrumental in providing year-round play to the local tennis community, covering two of their eight courts for winter play nearly two decades ago.

The Longmont Athletic Club is a full service facility that has been in operation since 1977. For more information or to inquire about indoor tennis opportunities for you or your tennis organization, you can contact Judi Laursen at tcourt@lac.comcast.net.

Colorado Tennis returns after Thanksgiving

The next issue of Colorado Tennis will arrive in your mailbox and at the state's finer tennis facilities after Thanksgiving. But don't despair, you can stay in touch with all things tennis in Colorado by stopping by our website or checking us out on Facebook and Twitter. See you again soon!

USTA Colorado/CYTF help break barriers with pilot urban tennis program at Greenlee Elementary

Thirty-five Greenlee Elementary School 4th and 5th graders were introduced to tennis this fall through a pilot tennis program as a result of a collaboration between the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation (CYTF), USTA Colorado, Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver), and Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR).

The program was an urban initiative to ensure the predominantly low-income, Latino student population of Greenlee Elementary had access to extra-curricular tennis programming and resources necessary to participate.

Mr. Andy Hoffer, the school's PE teacher, organizes after-school programs for his students throughout the school year, and after attending a USTA School Tennis teacher in-service training, was eager to add tennis to his offerings to compliment the in-school tennis unit.

The free program was held twice weekly for three weeks in September on the tennis courts at MSU Denver's new athletic complex. DPR provided coaching and MSU Denver athletes mentored and escorted the youngsters to and from the school—a 15 minute walk each way.

The CYTF and USTA Colorado donated portable short nets and low compression balls to both the school and to DPR for use at MSU Denver and in the surrounding community. Subaru, partner of the CYTF and USTA Colorado, added appropriate sized racquets to the donation.

"It was a great partnership because we all brought resources to the table," said USTA Colorado's Community Development Director, Kristy Harris.

Participants received a free tennis racquet and low compression ball so they can continue to play outside of school. DPR will continue offering tennis for Greenlee elementary students this fall on the courts at La Alma Recreation Center. Additionally, plans are underway to give another group of Greenlee students the opportunity to participate in a similar tennis program at the MSU Denver courts in the spring.



What's within you is stronger than what's in your way

This summer, USTA Colorado participated in the 2013 **No Barriers Summit** in Telluride, Colorado. Four 2-hour clinics were offered on Friday, Saturday and Sunday with a maximum capacity of six attendees per court. No restriction on physical or mental ability was placed on participants, all were welcome! Severe afternoon thunderstorms on two of the days forced the cancellation of some of the clinics. There were 31 attendees registered for tennis with 19 actually participated in the planned on-court activities conducted by Vicky Matarazzo, Special Olympics Colorado tennis director, leading the on-court adaptive tennis activities, along with support from long-time Special Olympics tennis instructor, Greg Stults, and USTA Colorado staff, Kristy Harris.

No Barriers USA was co-founded in 2005 by blind adventurer—and Golden, CO resident—Erik Weihenmayer, to create a community of like-minded people who believe in harnessing their challenges for personal growth rather than being limited by them. Weihenmayer became the first blind climber in history to reach the summit of Mount Everest. At the age of 33, he became one of less than 100 individuals to climb all of the Seven Summits—the highest peaks on each

of the seven continents. At this year's Summit, there were 475 attendees of all ages and abilities participating in the adventure and arts clinics in Telluride and the San Juan Mountains.

The Innovation Village outdoor expo brought leading innovators in adaptive equipment and techniques together to showcase their solutions and promote the exchange of ideas and information.

Nationally renowned comedians, musicians, artists and filmmakers, many with physical challenges themselves, shared their creativity and talent through performances, movies and art shows.

Internationally recognized scientists and medical researchers who are developing cutting edge assistive technologies and techniques shared their discoveries, innovations and passions through panel discussions.

People with prosthetic limbs, in wheelchairs, with cognitive/developmental delays and visual and hearing impairments joined



No Barriers Summit a showcase for what's possible

urban high school Global Explorer students to play out the "No Barriers Mindset" on the tennis court.

The personal stories we heard from those attending the No Barriers Summit were firsthand accounts of the power of sport and adventure in transforming people's lives.

It is truly humbling and inspiring to be around a community that embraces the "No Barriers Mindset". By participating in this Summit, USTA Colorado was given a platform to show that anyone can experience the joy of hitting a tennis ball and that tennis can truly change people's lives.

COLORADO TENNIS HALL OF FAME THE HALL HAS A PERMANENT HOME



See the entire HOF Dedication photo gallery:



Photo by Bernard Grant

Hall of Fame Classes gather for the public dedication ceremony

More than two dozen of the greatest personalities in Colorado Tennis history gathered for the dedication of the new permanent home of the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame at Gates Tennis Center on September 19. The event brought together the state's historically greatest players, coaches and organizers for an evening of appreciation and reminiscing.

The event was held in conjunction with the Colorado State Open, allowing spectators not only to enjoy the sizzling action on the court, but also a chance to join in the festivities commemorating the many achievements of the assembled guests. For the inductees, it was a chance to relive some of their former glory, as the assembled group

had amassed more than 100 Colorado State Open Singles and Doubles Championships among them.

The featured speaker of the evening was former board member and internationally renowned attorney, Richard Young, who remarked, "Denver was one of the stops for some of the earliest professional tours from 1926 and 1940 to the Kramer tour in 1955 with two Panchos—Gonzales and Segura; and the somewhat more contemporary Virginia Slims women's tour and the United Bank Tennis Classic men's tour of the 70s and 80s. Some of the greatest players in the history of the sport have graced courts in our state—the likes of Martina Navratilova, Billie Jean King, Bjorn Borg, Arthur Ashe and John McEnroe.

Thousands—in fact tens of thousands of players have been involved with our sport at extremely high levels. And in Colorado our sport has benefitted from countless coaches and others, who have contributed to tennis off the court as well. And yet with ALL those who have been involved over the years we have 69 people in our Hall of Fame. Those who are on the plaques of the beautiful display—many of whom have taken the time to come from all over the state and even out-of-state to be here tonight—ONLY those folks are in the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame. This is an impressive and very select group... CONGRATULATIONS! We honor you AND we honor the Hall of Fame itself with this special dedication."

THE GALLERY

7th Annual DiverseCity TennisFest at Berkeley Park sets record attendance

For the first time in the event's 7-year history, USTA Colorado's annual DiverseCity TennisFest was held at Berkeley Park in northwest Denver, and the turnout exceeded all expectations. A record 350 kids and adults joined in the festivities on June 29, enjoying on-court games and drills along with free food and fun off-court. Of the more than 200 youth participants, nearly half were given new racquets. Thanks to a long-standing partnership with CenturyLink, more than 500 racquets have been given away and more than 1,200 kids have enjoyed free tennis over the last five years of the TennisFest.



DiverseCity TennisFest photos courtesy of Roz Reese

See the entire DiverseCity TennisFest photo gallery:



photo courtesy of Bernard Grant

Chamber Reception focuses on inclusion

More than 200 attendees took part in USTA Colorado's 7th Annual Celebrating Diversity in Tennis Chamber Reception on May 17 at Gates Tennis Center, featuring USTA Chief Diversity Officer, D.A. Abrams and Christine Chang, the celebrity emcee from Channel 7.



Community TennisFest Series wraps up in Loveland

The 2013 USTA Colorado Summer Community Tennis Series, featuring the 36-foot Sport Court for Kids, wrapped up at the Old Fashioned Corn Roast Festival in Loveland. The event, which coincided with the USA Pro Cycling Challenge, drew thousands to the area and gave kids the chance to hit with the CSU Ram girls' tennis team. Loveland was the final stop of the series, which also included the Five Points Jazz Festival and Get Outdoors Day in Denver, and the Rocky Mountain State Games in Colorado Springs.





photos courtesy of Erik Morin

6th Annual Tennis With The Stars showcases talent, helps CYTF

The 2013 edition of **Tennis With The Stars** was held on August 24 at Columbine Country Club in Littleton. The 6th annual event, under the direction of Andy Zodin and his committee—presented by The Lowrie Foundation, Coldwell Banker and Pacific Shipping and brought to you by Advantage Capital Advisors, LLC, Blacktie Colorado, LoAn Vo, Columbine Country Club & Mile High Sports Radio—again benefited the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation and Jeremy Bloom’s Wish of a Lifetime.

Former ATP top 10 player Bill Scanlon was joined by former Bryan Brothers Coach, Philip Farmer, Aspen’s own Randy Crawford, Colorado Tennis Hall of Famer Jeff Salzenstein and Director of Tennis at the Met in Houston, Keith Christman. The event also featured several other local pros and celebs, as well as adult players of all levels, and advanced juniors in action on the courts. Set to a backdrop of high-energy music, instructional drills, competitive games, and opportunities to “beat the pro” were all a part of the day that also featured a live auction to benefit the charities. Storm clouds interrupted the evening’s world class exhibition that was moved to the next day, Breakfast at Wimbledon-style including an elite field of the aforementioned headliners as well as Denver University’s Alex Clinkenbeard who teamed with Andy Zurcher and Columbine pros Ian Ayler and Stephen Nolan, who took home this year’s title.



Sharing the love at the 14th Annual Punk Relic Charity Doubles Tournament

Forty-eight adult/junior combo teams competed in the **2013 Punk Relic Charity Doubles Tournament**, which was held on August 18 at Gates Tennis Center and raised money for the CYTF.

Man/Boy Doubles Intermediate

Winners: Bradley & Oliver Greenwald
Finalists: George Tavarez & Kacey Walisundara

Man/Boy Doubles Advanced

Winners: Richard Beard & Luke Lorenz
Finalists: Mike Phillips & Mitchell Johnson

Woman/Girl Doubles Advanced

Winners: Kristi McCauley & Rachael Scheper
Finalists: Carolyn Schilling & Emma Schilling

Mixed Doubles Intermediate

Winners: John Darden & Devin O’Connor
Finalists: Chris Beasley & Allison Snyder

Mixed Doubles Advanced

Winners: Kaitlyn Hamel & Ram Vupala
Finalists: Lori Kiser & Stefan Orton-Urbina



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Check out the rest of the Punk Relic photo gallery:



OUTREACH

HOW CYTF AFFILIATED EVENTS HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUTH NEWS FROM CYTF HEADQUARTERS



Affiliated events give people a way to support the CYTF by running their own fun events, where proceeds benefit the Foundation. Affiliated events also raise awareness about the work the CYTF is doing in the community.

An affiliated event can be anything from a tennis mixer, a restaurant or store donating a percentage of sales to the CYTF, a ping pong tournament among friends, wine club or barbeque at your house. The options are endless. As long as it is raising money and raising awareness for the CYTF, it's an affiliated event. Thanks to the organizers of the following CYTF affiliated events where dollars benefited the Foundation.



Debbie Boose Memorial Tennis Tournament benefited the CYTF. Boose was a long-time CYTF board member

Proceeds from the 10 and Under tennis clinic held during the 13th Annual **Debbie Boose Memorial Tennis**



Meadow Creek Tennis & Fitness Club rounded out the summer by hosting the second of two annual golf events where proceeds from special activities on two of the holes benefited the CYTF.

Held on the courts at Cherry Creek High School, **Cherry Creek Tennis Camps** provided competitive players the



opportunity to take their game to the next level. A portion of camp proceeds benefited the work of the CYTF.



Crestmoor Community Association hosted a mental toughness event with Audrey Boxwell, PhD (see page 22). Players participated in a mental imagery exercise and then practiced what they learned on the court. Participant fees were donated to the CYTF.

Tennis Loves Company again donated proceeds from their annual summer tennis camp to the CYTF. The camp celebrated 10 years in 2013 and



featured learn and play opportunities for youth and adults, from beginners to advanced players.



A new addition this year, the **Denver Tennis Club** conducted a silent auction in conjunction with the Denver City Open. The auction was featured during the member and player parties. Dollars raised through the auction benefited the CYTF.

Upcoming Affiliated Event

The second annual Pro Am to benefit the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation is being held again at the **Colorado Athletic Club Monaco** on November 9, from 6-10 pm.

Interested players will have the chance to bid on a pro and then partner with that pro in a fun match play format at the event.

Coming back to defend their title are the dynamic duo of Jerad Harbaugh and Dan Washburne! A partial list of participating pros: Cary Hodges, (Arapahoe Tennis Club), Chris Croxton (Gates and the JCC), Tom Wilson (Columbine Country Club), Kuba Ilowski (CAC Monaco), George Tavarez (CAC Inverness), and Vasilisa Bardina (former professional player). Pros interested in donating their time for the event should contact event organizer, Eileen Pero (see email below).

Thanks to Colorado Athletic Club Monaco's Wendy Donovan for donating courts and Dan Washburne of Mile High Catering who will provide refreshments. Anyone interested in donating prizes for the event should contact Eileen. Prize donors will be recognized. Email Eileen Pero <e.pero@comcast.net> for event details.

Affiliated events can be big or small. For more information on how you can host an affiliated event of your own, contact the CYTF at <lisa@coloradotennis.com>.

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SPOTLIGHT

FAMILY AFFAIR

THE ANATOMY OF A TENNIS FAMILY

TOMFASANO

Rich and Lisa Harris are all in when it comes to raising their family, helping others and playing tennis.

Rich, 46, and Lisa, 41, have been married for 15 years. They have two biological children—Zach, 14, and Rachel, 12—five adopted children—Rebecca, 11, Josh, 9, and Olivia, 8, from China, and Mara, 5, and Davinson, 5, from Haiti. A sixth adopted child, a boy who is almost 2 from China, will be arriving in January or February.

“The short answer is my wife’s a saint,” Rich said. “She has the hard job. She stays home with them and runs them around.”

Rich and Lisa, who live in Bow Mar outside of Littleton, run a four-year-old Littleton-based nonprofit organization called The Road to Hope which focuses on building schools and self-sustaining communities in Haiti. So far, they have two schools in Haiti with an enrollment of 100 and 150 students.

“We wanted to do something to make a difference in our kids’ homeland,” Rich said. “It’s just something like we felt we were able to, and we were able to give back. We just love doing it. Haiti is an amazing country, it’s an aspiring place and it’s a place that needs a lot of help. We partner with Haitians. We have people we really respect and trust who are leaders in their own communities who we support with funding and strategic expertise. They actually hire the teachers and run the schools themselves.”

Rich and Lisa raise the money for the organization and travel down to Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere with a population of about 9 million, three to four times a year to watch over it and provide support. More information on the organization can be found at THEROAD-TOHOPE.org.

“I always thought that I would do something outside of the practice of law. I love being a lawyer, and I’m proud of what I do,” Rich said. “We always wanted to do something much more to help change the world. When we go to Haiti, the Haitians inspire us. They’re incredible people, and we love being able to play a tiny little part to help them. It’s really invigorating.”

Lisa said they really enjoy empowering people and giving them the tools to lift themselves up.

“That’s where our passion comes from for helping people of Haiti,” Lisa said. “We also really believe in our children realizing that there is a world beyond their world, and that they can have an impact.”

Zach and Rachel are doing their part at such a young age.

Zach is also involved in helping kids in Haiti. He is a great musician who helps lead an orchestra at a public school in a little town in Haiti.

“He raised money and did an enormous instrument drive, and we have carried down 50 or 60 musical instruments down there. It changes kids’ lives,” Rich said.

Rachel is currently writing a children’s book with landscape photographer John Fielder about a little village in Haiti, and all the proceeds from that book is going to go to that village.

Rich said having so many kids makes life special.

“It’s a labor of love. We love kids. Our life is very, very full,” Rich said. “It’s very fun. It’s an adventure. We have our challenges like any family, but we wouldn’t have it any other way. Those kids all adore each other, that’s for sure.”

The entire Harris family plays tennis, and they love it. Lisa



“I think that really instills a sense of values and responsibility,” Rich said. “I don’t think the 5-year-olds are yet playing matches, but the 7-, 9- and

11-year-olds are. The 12-year-old is, and my 14-year-old is on the junior varsity team at school (Colorado Academy in Denver).”

Rich said Rachel and Zach will play tennis with each other, or then they’ll play with me,” Rich said. “Then they’ll play with their younger siblings and teach them stuff. It’s neat to see.”

Rich said he hopes that the whole family will play tennis for their rest of their lives. They play at Pinehurst Country Club in Denver and at courts in Bow Mar.

“First of all, it’s easy. There are courts everywhere. It’s inexpensive compared to other sports,” Rich said. “The whole family can play. It’s fun. We like watching it on TV.”

Lisa said there isn’t one member of the family who doesn’t love tennis.

“Every single one of them loves tennis,” Lisa said. “They’ll give up swimming to go play tennis. We go out and have fun and laugh. Some of them are competitive with each other. They have enjoyed learning about tennis through watching others play.”

Lisa said tennis has taken a special place in all of the kids’ lives. “They just love to hit, and they really love tennis.”



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HIGH FIVE

For the past 37 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.



PROFILES BY
KATIENEWELL



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THE 2013 FALL ISSUE WINNER IS
KACEY WALISUNDARA.

Starting in the sport herself at 14 years-old, it makes sense that Janna Albers would be passionate about helping middle school and high school kids find their way onto a tennis court.

And because her parents had built a tennis court in their backyard when she was that challenging age, she knew all of the benefits that could come from learning the lifelong sport. In a hypercompetitive era where young athletes might feel that it's too late to start a new sport in the early teens, she makes sure that not only will they have a place to play, but that they will have the training and support to keep playing and improving through match play.

In addition to being a USTA Colorado schools clinician who helps support schools wanting a tennis program, Albers runs the Jeffco Middle School PE tennis league and coordinates the play of over 100 young netters. Scheduling that many players and finding available courts is a daunting task to say the least. For her, though, it's well worth it.

"My goal is to prepare these kids for high school and also to introduce tennis as an alternative," she said, knowing that for many of these kids it's a secondary sport, but one filled with a long list of both physical and emotional rewards. She also sees that unlike many sports, tennis can be played for a lifetime, and reminisces fondly of the multi-generational matches now happening on her parents' court and courts everywhere.

An avid league player herself, it's the family interaction which really motivates Albers. "I'm especially thrilled to have the chance to play mixed doubles with my sons, Jared and Aaron."

In addition to her commitment to the younger athletes, Albers takes on scheduling several adult leagues. It's a task most shy away from. "My years of doing statistical work prepared me for this," she jokes of her ability to manage multiple spreadsheets simultaneously. "It's almost like I retired from one, and then took on the other!"

She's also been involved in coordinating kids who want to be ball kids for the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, offered to kids ages 12-20 who want to have this experience of a lifetime. "The ball kid staff is outstanding with their top priority being a positive experience for the kids," she explains. Training would take place in Denver in January and February and would be free. A long list of benefits awaits those get to go, including two free passes for the tournament for parents and/or friends.

Albers would love to speak with you in more detail if you have a young netter who would be interested in this incredible opportunity, 303/931-5737 or <albersgang@comcast.net>.



(LtoR) Catherine Day, Janna Albers, Morgan Bullen

JANNAALBERS



photo courtesy of University of Northern Colorado

BRANDONLUPO

It takes a unique combination of physical talent and mental toughness to achieve what Brandon Lupo has on a tennis court, specifically, becoming the first player from the University of Northern Colorado to earn a Big Sky All-Conference First Team Selection in school history.

Putting a racquet in his hands at the age of three, and providing him with lessons and tournament opportunities, Lupo's parents put him on the path to having a successful shot at tennis. But finding the passion to stay on the path was something he would have to do for himself.

After winning the Colorado High School State 4A championships for Broomfield in 2005 and finishing second in 2006, Lupo proved he had more than a solid game, but it would take burning out and quitting for a while to reignite his passion. To evolve, he had to reinvent himself on the court from a physical standpoint, and find the passion within to take his game up a notch.

That process started with some time off after his freshmen year at Metro State University, which allowed him to recognize that he would need to do more to get to the next level. Under UNC Bear's head coach, Tim Bearman, he found that weight training, intense cardio workouts and a methodical approach to nutrition helped transform him into a Division I contender and brought the UNC program some well-deserved accolades.

"If I could advise young players of any one thing," Lupo explains, "it would be to really enjoy it. If you don't, you will burn out." Witnessing the burnout of other top players, he cautions parents out there to be aware of their impact on their child's passion for the sport. "Tennis should be enjoyable first and foremost because you can't achieve the higher levels without loving the game."

He also adds a quick note to young players about learning from the experience of their coaches. "Be coachable!" In fact, he just in the last six months learned what spin can do in keeping some of his hardest hard hits in. "It's amazing what I'm still learning."

With huge success behind him, Lupo prepares for the future. He wants to give the professional circuit a fair shot and understands the training and commitment needed to get him there. He is also taking some additional classes, having switched from business to chemistry. "I'd ultimately like to teach high school chemistry," he says, "and be a coach, too."

When you have a chance to speak with Kacey Walisundara, the 2012 USTA Colorado Charlie and Ira Brown Award winner (for outstanding Parks and Recreation junior player in Colorado), you are struck by two things.

First, you realize how mature he is for a young player.

Second, you know that this young athlete is filled with gratitude—towards his family, his coaches, and the opportunities he's been given both on and off the tennis court.



photo courtesy of the Walisundara Family

KACEYWALISUNDARA

Introduced to tennis at the age of 6 at Eastside Tennis Association in Montbello, Walisundara was selected to the USTA Colorado Star Search program, and was recently given the honor of being one of two to represent the Intermountain Section at the NJTL Leadership Camp in Sonoma, California. It was an experience that allowed him to grow both on and off the tennis court. It also solidified that tennis is a sport Walisundara lives and breathes.

"I liked it right away," he said of tennis, especially the competition. "I have always had the urge to win!" he explains. But he adds that he knows his coaches, Tobias Ortegon and George Tavarez, have helped give him the tools he needs. He watches as many matches as he can on YouTube, drawing from the play and sportsmanship of his favorite professional players. "I like Federer because he is calm and Djokovic because he's funny."

In terms of pregame rituals, Walisundara explains that before a match he comes up with his game plan and keeps a smile on his face.

"My parents have taught me a lot about attitude and respecting your opponent," he said. "I try to lay off the junk food, too, and think about nutrition." He said that losing doesn't necessarily bother him because it makes him better.

Walisundara's short term goals include playing for his high school team and playing in college down the road. In terms of a career, he's very interested in mechanical engineering and has a special interest in planes and cars.

When asked what he needs to do to get to the next level, Walisundara thoughtfully responds with, "I just to need to listen to my coaches, and keep doing what I'm doing!"



photo courtesy of the US Air Force

HANNAHDAKE

Not many people can sum up their life's mission statement with three words, but United State Air Force Academy tennis player, Hannah Dake can. "Service before self," is the motto she and other cadets live and breathe by. The list of community organizations who have benefitted from her service is comparably long to the number of records she's broken and the firsts she contributed to in Air Force women's tennis history.

Dake was recently named the 2013 Women's Intercollegiate Tennis Association Arthur Ashe Jr. Award winner for Leadership and Sportsmanship. The Award recognizes outstanding individuals in all divisions at the regional and national level. In August the national winners were honored during a special ceremony hosted by the USTA during Arthur Ashe Kids' Day inside Ashe Stadium in Flushing Meadows.

On the court, the three-time co-captain topped off her remarkable time there by helping her team to a fourth consecutive winning season, a first for the Air Force women netters. Her 85 doubles victories were the second most of any Air Force Player. Her doubles team won a round at the ITA/Riviera Women's All-American Championships. She broke a remarkable 26 records during her collegiate career.

But breaking records on the court aren't what define Dake. It's her dedication to efforts such as March for Babies, which raises funds for premature babies, the 5K Buddy walk, which supports children with Downs Syndrome, the Starfit Kids 5K race and other events and organizations that have people talking about this outstanding young woman.

Air Force coach Kim Gidley is proud of Dake and how she graciously handled the grueling schedule that comes with the territory as a top-level athlete at the academy—adding that her dedication to service was truly inspiring. "It was amazing to see her mature throughout her time here, how she evolved and became a true leader."

That ability to rise above expectations helped her become a two-time member of the Commandant's List and the Athletics' List. She also services as Squadron Superintendent, as well as a Squadron PEER, making herself readily available as a go-to person for anyone having problems or needing advice.

Picking up a racquet at the age of 27 in Bloomington, Indiana, in the 1970s colorful era of Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe, Greg Stults was hooked. Tennis would offer him that unique combination of athletic challenge and social interaction that most netters thrive on, and it would also give him the chance to serve others.

Stults moved to Colorado in 1980 and into the welcoming tennis communities of Gates and Washington Park. His passion for the sport grew and he became an avid 4.0 league player. In time, he would pass on those skills to sons, John and William, both of whom would go on to stand on the podium at the State Tournament representing Mullen High School. A JV coach at Mullen for four years, Stults would also become involved with the Special Olympics program held there. In addition to coaching, Greg participates as an SO Unified Partner, playing doubles with many of the area SO athletes in the local and state games along with the Southwest regional tournament.

"I started out as a kind of a cheerleader," Stults explains of working with the athletes and Special Olympics Volunteer Tennis Director, Vicky Matarazzo. "But I realized pretty quickly that I was the one who was doing most of the learning."



photo courtesy of No Barriers Summit

GREGSTULTS

Grateful for the opportunity to see things from a new perspective, a committed Stults would be called on for other opportunities, such as the No Barriers Summit in Telluride, which promotes innovation, education and assistive technologies that enable participants of all abilities to discover the potential that lies within them and the world. "I jumped at the chance to help bring tennis into the mix of activities," he said of the four-day event held in beautiful southwestern Colorado this past August.

Grateful for the opportunity to reach out to people through tennis, service that his sons are also integrating in their lives, Stults explains that the courts are just a great place to bring people together. He still can't get over the number of kids and adults of all ages playing on his six local courts at Heritage Village.

"Tennis just brings a neighborhood together," he said. "It's incredible."

YOURGAME

IT'S ALL IN THE BREATH

THOUGHTS FROM A PSYCHOTHERAPIST ON YOUR TENNIS GAME

There's an old saying that goes something like this...
 "If you can start the day without caffeine; resist complaining about your troubles; take criticism and blame without resentment; lose a tennis match to your biggest rival without bitterness; relax without alcohol; sleep without aids; you are most likely the family dog...or have learned the art of meditation.

I was first introduced to meditation in graduate school by a professor who promised his students it would lessen our overall angst and improve our grades. He asked us to meditate at least 20 minutes each morning and night during that first semester and note any changes in our levels of concentration, overall clarity and understanding of material. Without exception, we all managed to meditate and noticed improvement in all of them.

Upon graduation, I began using meditation with all of my patients, regardless of their issues or diagnosis. In most instances, symptoms and overall outlook and mood improved. They noticed a sense of calm just by focusing on their breath.

When a friend asked if I could help with his golf game after reading about the positive effects of meditation on golf performance I readily agreed. We began meeting once a week for 4 weeks and after that time he was able to lower his handicap by 5 strokes. He has lowered it even more in the last few years and credits his ability to "relax and focus on the present moment" he now experiences as a result of his meditative practice.

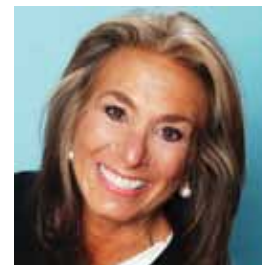
I have since worked with student athletes in all sports, as well as adults seeking improvement in their performance and overall play; be it golf, tennis, swimming or baseball.

The bottom line is that our breath is vital to achieving a calm focus. When we feel nervous during a competition we experience fight-or-flight-like symptoms. Breathing properly down into our abdomen immediately starts to bring the body back to a calmer state. The longer we practice meditation and learn to just follow our breath and watch and observe our thoughts, the more able we are to do that in our athletic endeavors and perform in a more zone like state.

To gain the benefits from meditation simply start by sitting for 5 to 10 minutes with your spine upright. You can either sit cross legged or in a chair. All you have to do is be aware of your breathing. Don't control it, just be aware of it. The more you do it, the less you'll focus on negative mind chatter.

If you'd like to experience the benefits of meditation, you can sign up for an introductory class by emailing: audrey@audreyboxwell.com.

Remember, great performances take place when being fully engaged in the moment. Take a moment to improve yours!



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EXPLORING THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF TENNIS

THIRTY YEARS AGO, LOCAL TENNIS PRO SCOTT FORD MAPPED OUT A SIMPLE PATH FOR ANY LEVEL OF PLAYER TO GET IN "THE ZONE". TODAY, HE IS DELVING INTO THE COMPLICATED MÉLANGE OF SPORT AND SPIRITUALITY.

STORY BY
KURT DESAUTELES

Back in 1984, a dozen years after Timothy Gallwey's revolutionary look at **The Inner Game of Tennis**, local USPTA tennis pro Scott Ford penned **Design B, How to Play Tennis in the Zone**, his first attempt at helping players of all abilities find the rarely-trodden path to peak performance. Both books served as a profound exploration into human potential instead of serving up re-treads into technique or the oft-quoted "turn-step-swing" mantra of traditional instructional manuals.

Gallwey built his Inner Game on a foundation of Zen spirituality, and his work became synonymous with "sports psychology" before such a thing ever existed. His theory that every game is comprised of two parts: an outer game—played against opponents, and filled with contradictory advice—and an inner game—played within the mind of the player, who faces self-doubt and anxiety—was radical in the early 70s, but today is as much an accepted aspect of the sport as is fostering a solid backhand.

A standout junior player who went on to play at the University of Wyoming, Ford experienced some of the same limitations in his own game that Gallwey had detailed, but Ford's path to strengthening his inner game led him to discover unconventional ways to focus his eyes while playing tennis. That discovery led to Design B, and later to the Parallel Mode Process (PMP), Ford's model of integrating the body-mind into its peak performance state by retraining your eyes to locate the contact point using a radically different visual pattern.

That's where my part of the story begins. I first met Ford

in early 2000 when he promised me that he could get me in the zone on the tennis court. As an athlete, I was familiar with the concept, but not with the experience of getting into the zone on demand. The results were truly mind-blowing.

Since I first met him, Ford has been conducting clinics and seminars across the country for people in and out of the tennis world—elite players and coaches, Navy SEALs, and just about everyone in between. And while he continues to offer his Peak Performance Clinics at Colorado Athletic Club Inverness, Ford has recently collaborated with Ken Wilber, one of the world's great modern philosophers to offer a one-of-a-kind glimpse into how tennis in the zone is a gateway to spiritual experience—where awareness and action merge and you experience the full depth of your human potential.

The five-hour Spiritual Dimension of Tennis workshop is a mixture of on-court activity with off-court lectures/discussion. Ford's model adapts Wilber's "Integral Theory" to tennis. Whereas most spiritual practitioners require decades of meditative and contemplative spiritual training—often sitting in a dark room, meditating on the true nature of the world day after day—Ford conducts his Parallel Mode Process training on a tennis court. It doesn't take years to experience Integral Consciousness in tennis, it takes minutes. Literally.

To help explain the fairly profound concepts, Ford has enlisted the help of Wilber's Senior Assistant, Colin Bigelow. Bigelow's own personal journey to find his spirituality left him unsatisfied and disconnected. In his first on-court experience with Ford, Bigelow's frustration soon gave way to fun,

and ultimately, happiness.

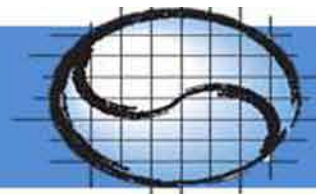
"This was nothing short of a revelation for me," writes Bigelow in his introduction to Ford's upcoming book, **Integral Consciousness and Sport**. "I had spent years trying to collapse the Grand Canyon between subject and object with limited success. Nothing helped.... Nothing except...tennis?"

As I mentioned, I met Ford more than a dozen years ago, and I have adapted his visual technique to a variety of applications in my life. While not a certified Zone Master, I can summon my peak performance state and experience the now moment almost at will. The challenge, as you ultimately discover, is staying there. This workshop helps you understand why that is so challenging, and plumbs the true relationship between spirituality and human potential.

Ford told me that the workshop is for players looking for something more out of tennis. But from the reactions I heard from the other participants, they were all looking for something more out of their lives. The tennis part is just the filter, the lens to see the deeper truths that are there for the discovery if only you have the desire to look. That tennis is far more fun than sitting in a dark room exploring the inner reaches of your mind hour after hour is the bonus. It's why they come back for more.

"Every time I step on the court I find peace," said one participant. "At first, I just wanted to play better tennis, but that has become secondary to the joy I get from experiencing this deeper connection to my true self. I still want to get better at tennis, but I have never felt as good on a tennis court as I do when I step on the court with Scott." ☺

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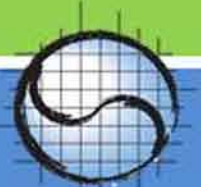
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PLAYERDEVELOPMENT

CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLLEGE

ADVICE FROM THE "PROS" (FROM THE RECRUITING 101 SERIES)



Weil Tennis Academy is a proud sponsor of the Recruiting 101 series of articles at TennisRecruiting.net.

For many teenagers, choosing a college is the first big decision they make in their young lives, and the decision process can be a difficult one. Big university or small college? What factors should come into play? How to narrow a list? When you add athletics to the equation, the process gets even more interesting. How do you balance athletics and academics? How important is the coach, or your future teammates?

With so many questions, we thought it best to engage a group of young women who have recently finished up their college tennis careers. Take a look at what they had to say...

Q) Hindsight is always 20-20, and wisdom comes from experience and learning from mistakes. You went through the recruiting process just a few years ago, and now you have the college experience fresh in your mind. What were the most important factors in your college decision when you chose your college and tennis program as a high school student? If you had to do it over again—or if you were advising a younger sibling—what would your most important factors be today?

Danielle Lao, USC

At the age of 17 and being recruited by many exceptional schools, I was given the biggest dilemma of my life. Weighing the pros and cons, I realized each university had so much to offer, but a few key things were vital in my decision. I was looking for a program with a culture of high ambition on and off the court—and an environment where I could surround myself with people who would make me feel important because they believed in me. While I was thrilled with how things turned out, I wish I had reached out and made connections to col-

lege coaches earlier in my junior career. Although my last-minute decision worked out fine, I would advise others not to leave their future to chance by waiting for the coaches to reach out to them. Sometimes you need to be the first to catch their attention so that you can get the communication started before you are crunched on time.

Aeriel Ellis, Texas

Looking back, one thing I would have done different is to take all five recruiting trips. Each school brings different assets to the table. The more schools you see, the more you'll know what you'd want out of the school. Another thing that a high school senior should pay attention to is the vibe they receive from the team. Girls should realize that they will spend countless trips, practices, and memorable nights together with the girls on the team. If you're lucky, these girls will easily become sisters, and that's definitely an experience that any girl should be able to have. Lastly, I think the connection with the coaches is really important as well. Your coaches are the people you go to not only when you're having problems on the tennis court—but probably situations off-court too. These are the people that you need to develop a positive relationship with to fully complete the college athlete's college experience.

Jordan Wylie, Emory

Finding a school with the right balance between tennis and the other things that are important to me was one of the most difficult parts of choosing a college, but it provided me with a valuable and completely unforgettable life experience. I didn't want to sacrifice parts of who I was to pursue a specific tennis program or a specific academic life. There are always times where

you have to compromise, but my main criteria were non-negotiable. Those criteria included: being close to my family, a diverse population of students, access to a city, good and challenging academic world, and, of course, a great tennis program. The one piece of advice is to decide on which of your criteria are paramount and then to find the atmosphere that embodies those criteria. What you are looking for is out there—it just may take some time to find.

Alexa Guarachi, Alabama

I don't think teenagers can fully appreciate the transition from junior to college tennis. College tennis is such a team environment, and you really need to find people that will support you and make you better everyday. For that reason, the best advice I can give someone going through the recruiting process today is to find teammates and a coaching staff that you know you can rely on—and a situation where you have great relationships. Your teammates and coaches are the people who you will surround you—you will be with them almost every day.

Gina Suarez-Malaguti, North Carolina

I considered a lot of factors. What was the bond like between the head and assistant coaches? Did they get along well? Do the players show respect towards the coaches? Is there good chemistry between the girls? How many girls are on the team? Has the team been making progress towards its goals—improving over the past few years? How are the practices set up? How much importance is given to fitness and nutrition? College tennis it is no longer just about the individual—it is about the team. Everything you do—good or bad—will affect the team. A huge responsibility is put on you to rep-

resent your team in the best way possible.

Mary Weatherholt, Nebraska

The most important factors for me were the coaches, team, and overall fit with the university. I also wanted to go somewhere close to home which played a big part in my decision. A lot of it comes down to differences in the recruits as well... Are you looking for a school that will prepare you for pro tennis? Graduate school? Are you looking to contribute to a team that's a national championship contender? Propel a team to national prominence or help build a program? I think the biggest thing is finding coaches and a team culture you fit in with, and the next biggest thing is asking the right questions and finding out which is the overall best fit for your tennis and academic goals.

Kathryn Talbert, Wake Forest

The recruiting process for me personally was very exciting—but a stressful one as well. When I first began deciding where to take recruiting trips, the way coaches reached out to me was a big factor. I felt more inclined to visit places where not only I wanted to visit but also where I felt wanted. Each visit I really tried to grasp the feel of the team and coaches, the athletic department's mission as a whole, and most importantly the academics of each university. While the academic side was always a significant priority, the tennis program was the main factor. I wanted to make sure that I chose a school where I felt I was going to have the ability to thrive as an athlete and reach a new set of goals I had set for college tennis. 🎾

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COLLEGE BUZZ

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE COLLEGIATE SCENE

NEW COACHES MAKE DEBUTS AROUND THE STATE



Christian Thompson will take over the reins of the University of Denver women's tennis program after the departure of head coach Jeremy Wurtzman. Thompson helped guide the Pioneers to an 18-4 record last year.

Photo courtesy of Denver Athletics

DU promotes Thompson, adds Wake Forest assistants to staff

Christian Thompson has been named as the head coach of the University of Denver women's tennis program, Vice Chancellor for Athletics and Recreation and Ritchie Center Operations Peg Bradley-Doppes announced today.

Thompson has been an assistant coach on the DU women's tennis staff since August 2012 and helped guide the Pioneers to an overall record of 18-4 in 2012-13, including an unblemished mark of 8-0 in Western Athletic Conference (WAC) action and a berth in the WAC Tournament Finals.

"We are very excited about having someone with the qualifications and background that Christian brings to the table leading the University of Denver women's tennis program," Bradley-Doppes said. "Her experience as an assistant and head coach at Yale, in addition to her outstanding playing career at Notre Dame, makes her the ideal candidate to take the program to the next level. Christian was a driving force behind the team's success last season and we feel she is the perfect person to continue to lead the continuous elevation of the DU women's tennis program."

Thompson replaces **Jeremy Wurtzman**, who recently accepted the associate head coach position at the University of Michigan. Wurtzman spent four seasons at the helm of the DU women's tennis program while leading the Pioneers to an overall mark of 47-43 over that stretch. Wurtzman previously served as an assistant with the DU's men's tennis program from 2006-08.

Thompson initially joined the Pioneers after serving the previous three seasons as an assistant coach at Yale. Thompson led the Bulldogs to a 59-15 record during that span, including a sparkling 18-3 mark in Ivy League play, three ECAC Indoor Team

Championships and a pair of Ivy League titles. The Bulldogs also reached a program-best No. 18 ranking. Thompson, who was named Ivy League Assistant Coach of the Year in 2010, served as Yale's interim head coach in the fall of 2011.

"I am honored to be selected as the next head coach of the University of Denver women's tennis program," Thompson said. "I look forward to the opportunity to continue working with the outstanding student athletes at DU. This past season, we had an exciting run with an 18-4 record. Our success was due to the hard work and camaraderie of our players as well as the support of the DU administration and Denver tennis community."

As a player, Thompson captured several Las Vegas High School and Intermountain Sectional championships before starring at Notre Dame from 2004-07. She was a three-time All-America choice in doubles along with her twin sister, Catrina, from 2005-07. The siblings were the top-ranked doubles tandem nationally in 2005 and 2006. The Thompson sisters captured the Riviera/ITA All-America doubles title in 2005 and finished second overall in 2004 and 2006. Christian Thompson also was a five-time Big East All-Tournament Team selection.

Thompson went on to make her mark on the pro circuit, achieving WTA world rankings as high as No. 437 in doubles and No. 936 in singles.

Thompson's first act as head coach was to bring on **David Lowenthal** as assistant coach. For the last seven years, Lowenthal worked as a private tennis coach in New Jersey where he specialized in proper stroke mechanics, point construction and strategy, footwork/court speed and match preparation. He also advised students and their parents on collegiate recruitment and various scholarship options.



Photo courtesy of Bozeman Daily Chronicle

Four-time Big Sky Coach of the Year Mike Phillips will lead the UNC Bears beginning in 2013.

In addition, Lowenthal managed all the marketing, planning and operations of his widely successful tennis program.

Prior to his time as a private tennis coach, Lowenthal traveled with the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour for two years. During his time with the tour, Lowenthal trained under famed coach Jose Higuera and achieved the No. 692 ATP world ranking.

Lowenthal also has previous collegiate coaching experience as he was on the staff for his alma mater, Wake Forest University, as the assistant men's tennis coach for the 2005-06 season. During his coaching tenure with the Demon Deacons, Lowenthal helped with coaching, recruiting, travel arrangements and budget management. He provided group and individual training as well as leading structured practices.

As a competitor, Lowenthal was a four-year member of the Wake Forest University men's varsity tennis team (2000-04). During his time on the team, Lowenthal was a team captain and ranked as high as 24th in singles and 23rd in doubles. He also captured an ACC singles title, was a two-time All-ACC choice and a two-time NCAA qualifier during his collegiate career.

The departure of assistant coach **Christopher Lim** on the men's side has also led to another Wake Forest hiring, as men's tennis head coach **Danny Westerman** has tapped **Jeremy Feldman** as his new assistant.

"We could not be more thrilled to hire Jeremy to our staff," Westerman said. "He is an intelligent, motivated, and extremely passionate coach that will be able to relate extremely well with our players. He was involved in every aspect of managing the tennis program at Wake Forest, and I know he will help continue the momentum we have built at Denver."

Feldman recently completed his first season on the Wake Forest staff in 2012-13 as a volunteer assistant. During his time with the Demon Deacons, Feldman assisted with all aspects of the program, including on-court coaching, coordinating individual practice sessions and serving as the team's liaison with the rest of the athletic department and the community.

"I am extremely excited to begin work at the University of Denver," Feldman said. "I would like to thank Coach Westerman, Ron Grahame and Peg Bradley-Doppes for this tremendous opportunity. I am looking forward to helping Danny and the men's tennis team continue to build upon their success."

In his one and only season on the Wake Forest staff, the Demon Deacons posted a third-place showing in the competitive Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and made a run to the conference tournament final before finishing the season ranked No. 19 nationally.

During his collegiate playing career, Feldman was a standout at Cornell University, where he was a two-year captain. He captured the clinching match to help lead the Big Red to their first-ever Ivy League championship in 2011.

Feldman was a two-time All-Ivy-League selection and in 2008 was named the Ivy League Rookie of the Year, the first Cornell player to earn the honor. Feldman graduated from Cornell in 2011 with a degree in economics.

The Men and Lady Pioneers opened fall play at the end of September. Full schedule available at DENVERPIONEERS.com.

Phillips set to coach UNC Men

One of the most successful men's tennis coaches in Big Sky Conference history returns to the league as the newly appointed head coach at Northern Colorado. **Mike**

Phillips, who won four Big Sky Coach of the Year awards takes over the Bears' program from Tim Bearman, who left the profession to work in the private sector.

"We are extremely excited to have Mike lead our men's team," said Dan Weaver, who is serving as a special assistant to the President for interim athletic responsibilities. "He has a proven track record in the Big Sky Conference and feel he can continue the positive advances that Northern Colorado men's tennis has made in the last two years."

Phillips spent 12 years (2000-12) as the head coach at Montana State, advancing to the Big Sky tournament semifinals in nine of his 12 seasons and winning three titles in a row from 2004 through 2006. With the Bobcats, he had 31 Big Sky All-Conference selections, 42 Big Sky All-Academic picks and his 2005 team ended the season ranked 69th.

During that 2005 season, Phillips was named both the USPTA Intermountain and the ITA Mountain Region Coach of the Year.

"This is the opportunity of a lifetime to get back into coaching collegiate tennis," Phillips said. "I feel really lucky already having met the team and inheriting such a great group of guys, both on and off the court. One thing I've been amazed with is how UNC has grown in its facilities, the campus and the university center. This is a great place to be and to recruit to and this program has great potential."

Prior to Montana State, Phillips was an assistant coach at the University of Colorado from 1997-00. During his tenure in Boulder, the Buffaloes recorded 33 wins.

Phillips served as a tennis pro for two years at the Breckenridge Recreation Center and was the head pro and program director at the Boulder Country Club for four years before joining the CU staff. He also served as a tennis pro at the Tennis Club of

Albuquerque.

As a player, he played collegiately at Colorado Mesa, where his team was ranked in the top 20 of the NAIA. Phillips was twice named MVP of the Mavericks in his four-year career.

A native of Las Cruces, NM, Phillips earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology in 1999 from Colorado. He and his wife Ginger, a former CU women's assistant coach, have conducted numerous camps and clinics throughout the United States.

"I have so much respect for Brenda [Vlasak] and Tim [Bearman] for building the program and getting it to where it is today," Phillips said. "I'm ready to get to work with this team."

The Bears began their fall schedule at the Drake Invitational in mid-September. Full schedule available at UNCBEARS.com.

Hangstefer takes over at Metro

Metropolitan State University of Denver Director of Athletics Joan McDermott announced **Daniel Hangstefer** as the school's new head men's and women's tennis coach on Thursday. Hangstefer will replace **Beck Meares**, who stepped down in June to return to her native Australia after 12 years with the program as a student-athlete, assistant coach and head coach.

"Daniel brings all of the attributes we are looking for in our next head coach," McDermott said. "He is a proven hard worker and will bring quality values to our program. He has been a major part of one of the most successful programs in our region and also really emphasizes academics. He also has a reputation of someone who can recruit local players and that's what we want our program centered around. We will certainly miss Beck, but we are confident Daniel is the best person to replace her and will continue to build off her success."

Hangstefer has spent the past three seasons as an assistant coach at Midwestern



Daniel Hangstefer assumes the helm at Metro State after the departure of long-time coach Beck Meares.

State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, where he was named Intercollegiate Tennis Association South Central Region men's assistant coach of the year in 2013. He helped the Mustangs win the Lone Star Conference, the regional tournament, and advance to the Elite Eight in NCAA Division II. On the women's side, Midwestern State advanced to the Sweet Sixteen after also winning the regional title, helping both squads to a top-20 national ranking. In his three seasons, six of his student-athletes earned national academic awards.

"I look forward to working with the men and women on the tennis team at Metro State," Hangstefer stated. "Denver presents many opportunities to be successful on and off the court. I believe MSU Denver has the potential to be a top nationally-ranked team. I have high expectations and hopes for this team. We have a great group of men and women coming into the program and a few solid returners. Metro State athletics has a rich tradition of success on the court and in the classroom, and I look forward to building on it."

As a student-athlete, Hangstefer played four years at NCAA Division I Lipscomb

University in Nashville, Tenn., playing No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles, while earning academic all-conference honors and serving as team captain. He earned his bachelor's degree in oral communications with a Bible minor in 2010. He earned his master's degree from Midwestern State in training and development in 2013.

Meares was named Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference women's coach of the year in 2013 after helping the women's team to a 14-14 overall record, including 4-1 in the RMAC. The men's team finished 12-16 overall. Full schedules for the squad can be found at GOMETROSTATE.com.

UCD searching for coach

University of Colorado Denver Club Tennis Team is looking for a coach for the upcoming 2013/2014 season. This will be a paid position. The team will practice two nights a week during the fall and spring semesters. If interested please send your resume to Brett Lagerblade at Brett.Lagerblade@ucdenver.edu and Remi Helm at Remi.Helm@ucdenver.edu. For questions please call 303/352-3865. ☎

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THEBIGCHAIR

STATE OF THE DISTRICT NEWS FROM USTA COLORADO HEADQUARTERS

FRITZGARGER

USTA COLORADO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For years USTA Colorado has touted the health of tennis in Colorado—referencing how our participation numbers and our outreach have increased in virtually all areas of our association's efforts to promote and develop the sport of tennis in our state. And while these past status reports are accurate, we have been enlightened with the fact that there is an underlying component that is actually quite alarming to the overall long-term health of tennis in Colorado and the country as a whole.

Even though we have noted on numerous occasions the need for us to expand the pipeline of younger players (i.e. 4-10 year olds), the issue brought to our attention at the recent USTA semi-annual meeting is that the void is actually much greater than the narrow segment earlier targeted. The additional information does not diminish the continued success of our programs—growth in a lot of areas has been impressive (year after year)—but does add significant weight to the urgency of our need to attract an even broader range of players to our game.

Take a look at these "National" statistics, and note that while the figures may not be exactly the same here in Colorado, they are likely not far off:

USTA Adult Leagues – Average ages

- 18 & Over League → 46 years old
- 40 & Over League → 52 years old
- 55 & Over League → 62 years old

Other compelling National statistics:

- **We have more than twice as many players over 50 than we have under 40!**
- **We have more players over 65 than we have under 30!**
- In our Adult Leagues 18 & Over division, **we have more people over 50 than we have in their 20s, 30s and 40s combined!**
- In our 40 & Over division, **we have more people 55+ than we have under 55!**

Beginning this year, we received a number of concerns from participants who were afraid of playing the majority of their matches against far younger players (i.e. 18-20 year olds in the 18 & Over; 40-42 year olds in the 40 & Over; 55-57 year olds in the 55 & Over). The reality is that the numbers don't bear out those worries, and in fact demonstrate a disturbing trend for the sport.

For USTA Colorado and the entire country, this has dire consequences for the health of our sport when looking long term. Rest assured, the USTA and USTA Colorado especially and our partners, are doing a lot of very good things with our offerings and we do continue to see increased participation year after year. And no doubt we'll continue to focus on providing quality opportunities for all players—we are a "lifetime" sport after all—and proud of it!

But for the sport to continue to have the success we obviously have had with our current demographic, there is a major void that needs to be filled—and we need to address these issues. So, our recent call to focus on increasing programs in every community to engage the 4-10 year olds is still incredibly valid; but we also need to do more to attract the 11-30 year olds to this wonderful game. We have a plethora of programs that are available to those age segments, but there are many questions to answer...

- How do we (USTA Colorado and the local tennis industry) get a whole lot more of those folks engaged in our sport?
- Do we (our association and the entire tennis industry) possess a keen sense of urgency about the need to reinvent our current play/competition model?
- Are we content to maintain today's business model, or are we architects imagining tomorrow's business model—looking at ways we can succeed well into the future?
- How do we make that model more appealing for new players?

What's on deck

We have focused much of our attention on the younger player: literally the 4-8 year olds and the 9-12 year olds. USTA Colorado has adopted (and was early to adopt these components) the 60-foot court for 10 & under league and tournament competition. We have incorporated (and/or endorsed) the red ball for 4-8 year olds, orange ball for 9-10 year olds, and the green ball for the 11-12 year olds in the entry level (Futures) and intermediate level (Challenger) events. The rationale for these changes is ever apparent.

Our next step is to address the structure of our tournament offerings for **all** junior divisions in the entry-level and intermediate level events. Again, the numbers are staggering in support of the need for change. In 2014 USTA Colorado will be working specifically with our Futures (8-18s entry level) and Challenger (8-18 intermediate level) tournament directors to implement new formats in an effort to make these tournament offerings more attrac-

tive—for the player and parent alike. Initially (in 2014), we are not making any changes in format to the Championship level tournament. There are already significant changes to the tournament schedule for these players in 2014. However, all program offerings need to be assessed as we look in the near and mid-term to address this issue. The changes (in a nutshell) you'll see for ALL futures and Interested Challenger tournaments include:

- One-day events (for all pool play)—note advancing players out of pool play would have a Day 2;
- Multiple matches in one day (estimate 3-5 matches via the pool play or compass draw formats);
- Shortened matches to accommodate the multiple matches in one day (varies based on age division).

Any Challenger tournament director who chooses to not implement the above changes will be required to provide a minimum of 2 matches for all singles divisions. We are going to get rid of the one and done tournament structure. Note: the one exception to this is indoor tournament season (coincides with permanent court time) where court time availability is an issue as is the cost per indoor court hour.

Moving forward

Our USTA Colorado Board, committees and staff have coordinated a host of changes over the years—especially with some of the more revolutionary elements in recent years. We are poised to look at things differently—and to look at ways we can significantly enhance what we do to better our outreach and retention.

Without question, it will take a team effort—from all in the tennis industry. USTA Colorado is interested in doing all we can to bring people together and usher in new ways of thinking that will impact communities and enable more people to get into the game.

We have an extended history of success—there's no reason to think we can't succeed in this endeavor. The need for us to act is real—and we're looking forward to tackling this issue and building our base for the future. The greater the support the better—join us as we look to and plan for the future! 🎾

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THE LAST WORD

UNDER PRESSURE

ARE WE USING THE WRONG BALL AT ALTITUDE?

I have a major problem when it comes to playing tennis. Chances are, many of you have the same issue. When it comes time to have a hit, I have a standard routine:

- Check the strings, make sure nothing looks like it's ready to bust.
- Vibration dampener? Shoot, where'd it go? Okay, grab a rubber band and tie it in there.
- Give a glance to the grip, see if it's holding tight or ready to unravel like a cheap suit.
- Check. Check. Check.
- Open fresh can of balls....PSSSSHHHT!

That there is the problem, the PSSSSHHHT! Here at 5,280 feet (give or take some elevation), those fuzzy yellow spheres bounce like they're made of FLUBBER, not rubber!

They don't have this problem at sea level, where traditional yellow balls have a feel and bounce like, well, a tennis ball. It's a totally different gig, this high altitude ball deal. You'd think I should be able to figure it out by now, given that I've lived here for 37 years, but in the last few months I've become acutely aware of how disadvantaged we altitude players are here in the Centennial State, where the mean elevation is 6,800 ft.

Consider this. High altitude tennis balls are designed for play at or above 3,500 ft. Colorado's lowest elevation is 3,317 at the Nebraska border, so technically, the folks up in northeast Colorado can go either way. But the vast majority of play in our state happens at or above one mile high. Here in the Denver metro area, we are 51% higher than the threshold to use high altitude balls. In most of our resort towns, the elevation is significantly higher than that. Serve it up in Breckenridge or Telluride and you're approaching three-times that threshold.

Now think about this. In Mexico City, elevation 7,943 feet, professional tournaments don't utilize the high altitude balls we pop open here in Colorado, they use pressureless balls that more approximate the feel and bounce of a traditional yellow ball at sea level. I admit I've struggled to find a ruling on where the dividing line is between the use of pressurized (PSSSSHHHT!) high altitude balls and the Mexico City pressureless ball, but do the math and you'll discover that Denver is smack dab in the middle of north-eastern Colorado and Mexico City. Colorado Springs, Boulder and the mountain areas are all higher than the metro area and its suburbs, which means that more than 90% of sanctioned play in Colorado takes place closer (in terms of elevation) to Mexico City than it does to Julesburg in northeast Colorado.

So why do we play with a ball designed for Julesburg instead of a ball designed for Mexico City?

While you ponder that a second, I wanted to share a story with you that unfolded during the November 2012 PowerShares event. I was standing on the court shooting photos of John McEnroe during his warm-up. After hitting about a dozen balls, he stopped and told his hitting partner to switch hoppers. Apparently, the balls used for the pre-event clinic were all high altitude balls. McEnroe didn't like the feel of the ball, despite the fact that it bounced at the ITF prescribed height. "Those balls are hard as <insert colorful McEnroe dialog here>", complained the 7-time Grand Slam champion. "Get those out of here before the match starts."

The pros could easily handle the more zippy low altitude ball at elevation, what they couldn't adjust to was the firmness and lack of feel that our stock balls offer.


The incident—along with the knowledge that we are smack dab in the middle of the high altitude range—got me wondering....

Are we playing with the right ball?

As I looked at the statistics that are beginning to emerge from the new rules governing junior play, I became skeptical. After spending a couple days hitting with the green ball (see page 10), I felt conflicted. Slick, almost greasy-feeling balls fresh out of a can are a blast to serve with, but for the vast majority of us who play for fun, exercise and giggles, playing with the rock-hard high altitude ball is as often an exercise in frustration as it is an exercise for the body.

Did you know that even the US Open made a move in this direction more than five years ago? Since 2008, women use regular duty felt balls while the men play with the extra-duty felt balls. The major difference between the balls is the weight, and since they fuzz up far more

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KURTDESAUTELS
EDITOR, COLORADO TENNIS

quickly, the balls don't travel nearly as fast once they've been played in.

Canadian tennis instructor Michael Emmett likened it to golf:

"A seven handicap golfer is comparable to a 4.5 tennis player. Most golfers try to play the championship tees because they think it will be fun to try to play where the pros play. If you are not a 4 handicap and below—some courses worldwide insist you play from the closer tees—you should not be playing from the *tips*. The same attitude should be adopted for tennis. Playing a course from 7,000 yards is ridiculous for most people who try to hit the little white ball—very few people are capable of breaking 100 and that is from tees that are much closer in. Playing a golf course from nonsensical distances can slow down an entire golf course if the player or foursome is taking 5 hours to complete the

round. And this can be disastrous to some golf courses. Tennis doesn't have the same problems—however, if the enjoyment factor went skyward then the tennis courts would be busier and the game would flourish."

My suggestion is to give the low compression balls a try. Get some green balls and give it a go with your usual partner or foursome, or grab some orange balls and play from the blended 60-foot lines to really appreciate how fun tennis can be when you aren't so completely consumed by over-emphasizing topspin just to keep the ball on the court.

And you won't have to worry about cutting yourself on the metal ring on that brand new can of balls.

PSSSSHHHT!



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photo by Kurt Desautels

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 33,000 players across the state, and offer programs for junior players of all ages and abilities. Our sanctioned tournament schedule offers more than 170 events this year, including 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 23,000 members strong, but our scope is not confined to those players alone. We represent the half-million 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.

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

BACK ROW: Dan Lewis, Fritz Garger, Paula McClain, Kurt Desautels, Jason Colter.
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