

COLORADO TENNIS

Year 35, Issue 2

The Official Publication Of Tennis Lovers

Est. 1976

SPRING 2010

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1980-2010



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July 5 – 7	Advanced Junior Camp (ages 12 – 18)
July 9 – 11	Adult Camp
July 16 – 18	Adult Camp
July 19 – 21	Intermediate Junior Camp (ages 10 – 15)
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August 13 – 15	High School Prep Tennis Camp (ages 14 – 18)
August 20 – 22	Adult Camp
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COLORADO TENNIS

Year 35, Issue 2

The Official Publication Of Tennis Lovers

Est. 1976

COVER STORY

6 CELEBRATING THE BIG "30"

What began as a marketing initiative to explore new tennis opportunities in 1977 has become the world's largest recreational tennis league with nearly three-quarters of a million participants annually. This year, all-time USTA League Tennis participation will eclipse the 8 million mark.

In 1980, fewer than 1,000 Colorado players competed in the inaugural year of USTA League Tennis. In 2010, statewide league participation is expected to climb to nearly 30,000, and approach an all-time total of a half-million.

Join us as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of USTA League Tennis with a look back at its history, and a glimpse at the state of adult league tennis here in Colorado.



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17 AGAINST THE ODDS

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SPRING 2010

About COLORADO TENNIS

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

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THECOVERSTORY

1980-2010

30 YEARS OF LEAGUE TENNIS

THIS IS A VERY EXCITING TIME FOR TENNIS.

Thanks to a focused collaboration and cooperation within the sport, with all of the major associations working together as never before, tennis has exploded with double-digit growth across the nation.

No other traditional sport – not golf, not soccer, not baseball – has come close to approaching the phenomenal growth tennis has enjoyed for the last decade.

New players are flocking to the game, while lapsed players are returning in record numbers. The key to sustaining the sport's health is to keep these people playing – and keep them playing often.

Frequent players are truly the lifeblood of the sport. They buy the racquets and the shoes and the balls. They purchase the court time and take the lessons.

What began as a marketing initiative to explore future avenues for tennis in 1977 has become the world's largest recreational tennis league with nearly three-quarters of a million participants annually.

Thirty years ago, the USTA/Michelob Light League attracted some 13,000 players from across the county in its inaugural year. This year, all-time USTA League Tennis participation will eclipse the 8 million mark.

Join us as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of USTA League Tennis with a look back at its history, and a glimpse at the state of adult league tennis in Colorado.



They say that in Colorado,
seasons tend to blend together.

WINTERSPRINGSUMMERFALLUSTALEAGUEWINTERSPRINGSUMMER
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We couldn't agree more.

It's time to play.



30 YEARS: A BRIEF HISTORY OF USTA LEAGUE TENNIS

1977

The USTA commissions an independent marketing firm to study future avenues for tennis, including league play. The marketing firm's report urges immediate adoption of a national USTA league program.

1978

The USTA Center for Education and Recreational Tennis conducts a national survey of existing leagues. Its findings project approximately 500,000 current league participants, a figure that further emphasizes the popularity of the league format. The USTA underwrites a League Pilot Project in the Southern Section. The Mid-Atlantic Section joins the project. Teams compete within specified ability levels locally, and winners advance to a playoff between the two sections.

1979

The USTA Membership Committee appoints an Ad Hoc Committee to study the feasibility of a national league program and to propose a structure for this program. The Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations are unanimously passed by the Membership Committee during the USTA's semi-annual meeting in September, and the item is placed on the call for a vote by the entire USTA at its annual meeting the following March. Further development of rules and printed materials is continued by the Ad Hoc Committee. The pilot project continues and is joined by the Western and Middle States sections. The first Inter-Regional League Championships are held in November in Cherry Hill, NJ.

1980

The USTA unanimously adopts a national league program at its annual meeting. The program will consist of league play for three levels of women's or men's teams, 5.5, 4.5 and 3.5, with the competition beginning at local levels and the winners advancing through sectional, regional and national championships. A USTA National League Committee is appointed to oversee the development of the program. Michelob Light becomes the title sponsor of the league, and Wilson becomes the official ball. A national staff is put together for the day-to-day administration of the program. First-year participation reaches 13 sections and 13,000 participants and culminates in national championships in Chicago. ***The Denver Tennis Club squad captures the Men's 5.5 National Championship.***

1981

Information and materials are developed, refined and distributed, including scoring materials from Wilson, the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) rating brochure, an NTRP rating film, USTA League Regulations booklet, a national survey on future development and a league catalog of trophies and premium items. USTA Clinicians Service begins training NTRP verifiers through clinics. Promotion is expanded to include a feature article in World Tennis, a monthly page in Tennis USA, ads in Sports Illustrated and World Tennis, distribution of promotional materials at major USTA events, and press aides to cover sectional, regional and national league championships. Increased funding is provided to sections, and additional premium items are developed. National championships are held at the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, NY, site of the US Open. Top Seed becomes a presenting sponsor for the national championships. The involvement lasts only for the year. Program participation includes 15 sections and 27,000 players.

1982

For the second year, national championships are held at the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing, NY. Sixteen of 17 sections participate in the USTA/Michelob Light League Program, with more than 40,000 participants.

1983

All 17 sections of the USTA participate in the USTA/Michelob Light League Program, increasing player participation to more than 50,000. The 4.0 level of play is added to the national championships. National championships are held at Seabrook Island, Charleston, SC.

1984

The format of the program is changed. Regional championships are eliminated so that sectional championship winners now advance directly to the national championships. The 5.5 level of play is replaced with a 5.0 level. The rationale is to keep the league more in line with recreational tennis. The national championships are held at four sites: Las Vegas, Boston, Palm Beach, FL, and Kansas City, MO. Volvo North America Corporation becomes title sponsor of the USTA Leagues program in October. More than 65,000 players participate in the program.

1985

A three-year contract is signed with Wilson Sporting Goods, which continues to be the official ball of the league program. More than 73,000 players take part in the USTA/Volvo



's league.

DTC MEN WIN NATIONALS

The Denver Tennis Club M5.5 squad, captained by local tennis pro Gary Steifler, captures the inaugural USTA/Michelob Light National Championship.

TEAM MEMBERS: Philip Cohen, Mac Dunlap, Larry Gabler, Tom Guerts, Jim Mease, Howard Noble, Mike O'Donnell, Phil Pittz, Larry Simmons, Bruce Vaughn, Walter Vest.

SNAPSHOT OF A LEAGUE PLAYER

AGE

19-29	(02%)
30-39	(15%)
40-49	(33%)
50-59	(28%)
60-69	(16%)
70+	(04%)

GENDER

FEMALE	(62%)
MALE	(38%)

NTRP

	WOMEN	MEN
2.5	(7.2%)	(1.7%)
3.0	(24.1%)	(11.1%)
3.5	(40.9%)	(33.9%)
4.0	(22.2%)	(37.3%)
4.5	(5.1%)	(13.6%)
5.0	(0.4%)	(2.1%)
5.5+	(0.1%)	(0.3%)

WHY THEY PLAY

COMPETITION	(47%)
FUN	(26%)
FITNESS/HEALTH	(15%)
SOCIAL	(12%)

WHERE THEY PLAY

PARK & REC FACILITY	(25%)
TENNIS/ATHLETIC CLUB	(22%)
PRIVATE CLUB	(48%)
OTHER	(05%)

FAMILY PORTRAIT

SINGLE	(22%)
MARRIED	(78%)
0 KIDS	(47%)
1 KID	(13%)
2 KIDS	(26%)
3+ KIDS	(14%)

Data collected 2007



LYNMAR STRINGS EARN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Lynmar Racquet Club M4.0 squad, captained by Bill MacDonald and Tom Barker, captures the USTA League Tennis national championship.

TEAM MEMBERS: John Agnos, Gerry Bennet, Jim Butler, Jay Driscoll, Don Haller, Gary Heintz, Tim Matheson, Steve Nicholson, Eric Peterson, Mike Summers, Todd Wasmund.



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Tennis Leagues program. A sweepstakes, with the grand prize of a 1985 Volvo DL station wagon and a total of 1,245 prizes, is introduced in the program. The national championships are played in Las Vegas and Delray Beach, FL.

1986

The 3.0 level of play is added to the national championships. National championships are held in Las Vegas and Seabrook Island, SC. The format of play is a round-robin competition. A yearly procedure of updating and revising the USTA League Regulations booklet is initiated. A National NTRP Workshop is held, with emphasis on verification procedures for use in the league program. Program participation increases to more than 88,000 players.

1987

The 2.5 level of play is added to the national championships. In the first year, 20 teams compete – 14 women's and six men's. National championships are held in Tucson, Ariz., Charleston, SC. and Las Vegas. Volvo North America Corporation continues as sponsor of the program when a new three-year contract is signed with an option for two additional years. Penn Racquet Sports (formerly Penn Athletic Products) takes over as official ball of the league program, signing a three-year contract. The second National NTRP Workshop is held to expand on verification procedures and workshop formats to be used in the sections. Program participation increases to more than 97,000 players.

1988

USTA lowers the league age requirement to 19. Program participation tops the 100,000 mark with a record-high 111,181 players. National championships are held at four sites: Tucson, Fountain Valley, CA, Charleston, SC and Montgomery, TX. Randolph Park, a public facility in Tucson, is used for two of the national tournaments. The third National NTRP Workshop is held in New York to help bring the sections in line with player ratings.

1989

Program participation continues to increase, with a record-high of 124,357 league players. The CompuRank computer program is added to the league program to help ensure parity of player NTRP ratings. The computer system will be instituted nationally in 1990 and is designed to standardize the method by which skill levels are assigned. The NTRP Guidelines are updated to better define each of the skill levels. The fourth National NTRP Workshop, continuing the work of bringing the sections in line with player ratings, is held in Dallas.

1990

Program participation continues on the upswing, with an all-time high of 143,506 participants. The USTA ends its six-year relationship with Volvo, renaming the program USTA League Tennis. The USTA renews its agreement with Penn Racquet Sports, making Penn the official ball of the league program through 1993. At the USTA annual meeting, the USTA Adult Leagues Committee votes to establish a national USTA Senior League Program for 1991. NTRP levels for the Senior League will be 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5, and the championship format will be three doubles matches. The CompuRank computer program is fully functional in all but two of the sections.

1991

Participation in the adult division of the USTA League Tennis program reaches 133,196 players. The senior division completes its first year of competition with 6,397 players. Basketball great and tennis enthusiast Wilt Chamberlain signs on to serve as USTA League Tennis spokesman. He appears in a commercial, brochure and poster for the league. All 17 sections are up and running with the CompuRank computer program. The NTRP Guidelines are again updated to further refine the various skill levels.

1992

USTA League Tennis participation reaches 167,515 in the adult division and 16,978 in the senior division. USTA introduces a new promotional campaign for USTA League Tennis, "USTA League Tennis – Fun and Games aren't just for Kids." This new campaign consists of brochures, counter cards, posters and print advertisements. USTA purchases the CompuRank computer program and computer services begins the program's functional redesign. All 17 sections are using the CompuRank computer program.

1993

League participation climbs to 178,641 in the adult division and 22,810 in the senior division. A three-year contract is signed with Penn Racquet Sports, which continues to be the official ball of USTA League Tennis. **Lynmar Racquet Club wins the Men's 4.0 National Championship.**

1994

A total of 188,088 players participate in the adult division of USTA League Tennis, while 25,225 players participate in the senior division of the program. The rewrite to the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System is completed and distributed to the sectional associations for use at the local, area and sectional level. A new NTRP Training Video is created and released to the sectional associations. This training video describes the role models of each NTRP level for both men and women. It also gives tips for on-court observations and explanations on the use of the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System.

1995

A total of 201,436 players participate in the adult division of USTA League Tennis, while 28,341 players participate in the senior division of the program. The USTA NTRP Computer Rating System is updated with revisions made to various reports. Work continues on a history and tournament module. The USTA League Regulations undergo changes to become more user friendly. The 10th National NTRP Training Workshop is held in Indianapolis.

1996

A total of 219,009 players participate in the adult division of USTA League Tennis, while 31,643 players participate in the senior division of the program. The sectional league coordinators meet for a working meeting in White Plains, NY, to discuss various aspects of the league program and receive training. Heineken and the Citizen Watch Company celebrate their first year as USTA Corporate Champions and sponsors of USTA Leagues. Pro football Hall of Famer and U.S. Representative Steve Largent competes in the 5.0 National Championships in New Orleans on a team from the USTA/Missouri Valley Section.

1997

A total of 226,826 players participate in the adult division of USTA League Tennis, while 38,023 players participate in the senior division of the program. Infiniti is in its first year as presenting sponsor and official car of the USTA League Tennis Program. Penn Racquet Sports celebrates its 10th year as the official ball of the USTA League Tennis program.

1998

A total of 232,169 players participate in the adult division of USTA League Tennis, while 43,076 players participate in the senior division of the program. The USTA League Tennis program changes its name to USA League Tennis in time for the 1999 season. USTA programs have been re-branded under the USA Tennis banner as part of the USA Tennis Plan for Growth, a five-year, \$50 million commitment to increase tennis participation in America.

DTC/Cherry Creek wins the Men's 4.5 National Championship.

1999

A total of 252,592 players participate in the adult division of USA League Tennis, while 48,711 players participate in the senior division of the program. The set tie-break was instituted at USA League Tennis National Championships. In the event of split sets, a 12-point tie-break is played in lieu of a third set with no rest period or coaching allowed. Rain cancelled the USA League Tennis 4.5 Adult National Championships in Mobile, Alabama – the first rain-out of a national championship in the 20-year history of USA League Tennis. The event was replayed in January 2000 in Tucson. The USA League Tennis program was expanded to include mixed doubles championships in 1999. Local, sectional, and regional championships were held for teams with a combined NTRP rating of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0 or straight NTRP rating of 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 and 5.0. The mixed doubles leagues had 59,028 participants in its inaugural season, bringing the total number of players in the USA League Tennis program to 360,331 in 1999.

2000

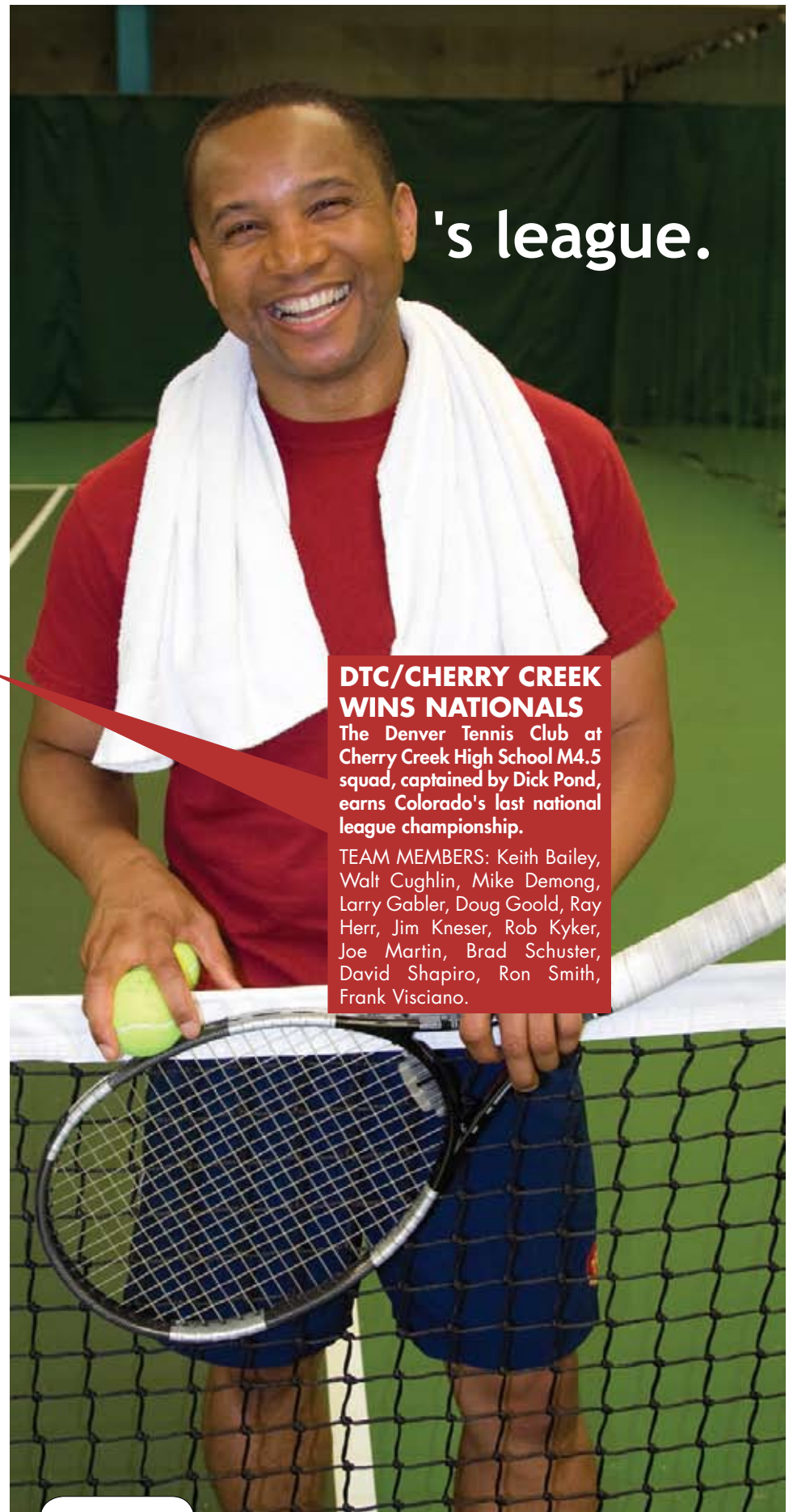
Over 390,000 players participated in the three recognized USA League Tennis divisions: Adult (268,452), Senior (54,468) and Mixed (67,882). The 15th annual NTRP Training Workshop was held in St. Louis, MO. The USA League Tennis Mixed Doubles Division completed its second year as a national program, culminating with three Regional Mixed Doubles Championships. The Southern Regional, played in Bainbridge, Ga., included the Southern, Florida and Caribbean sections. The Northeast Regional, played in Newport News, Va., consisted of the Mid-Atlantic, Middle States, Eastern and New England sections. The Western Regional, played in Tucson, Ariz., included the Southwest, Texas, Southern California, Northern California, Pacific Northwest, Northern, Midwest, Missouri Valley, Hawaii and Intermountain sections. DNTRP Plan and Methodology, which will eliminate the need for visual verification before players enter the league program, was approved in concept. TennisLink was utilized by 10 sections to register players, report scores and provide standings on the world wide web.

2001

More than 408,000 players participate in the three recognized USA League Tennis divisions: Adult (282,771), Senior (53,815) and Mixed (70,980). Lincoln completes its first year as the presenting sponsor and official car of USA League Tennis. Two adult national championships—4.5 and 5.0 are rescheduled following the aftermath of September 11. TennisLink is utilized by 16 sections to register players, report scores and provide standings via the internet. The Windows based NTRP ME is launched in November for the sections to use for calculations. Regulations and procedures for implementation of dynamic NTRP in 2003 are approved at the 2001 USTA Semi-Annual Meeting.

2002

There are more than 500,000 participants in the USA League Tennis program: Adult (296,416), Senior (58,034), Mixed (71,259), other leagues (75,425). Penn Racquet Sports celebrates its 15th year as the official ball of the USA League Tennis Program. The Dynamic NTRP rating system, which allows for ease of entry for beginning players into USA League Tennis, was piloted in four USTA sections this year, with great success. The system includes



's league.

DTC/CHERRY CREEK WINS NATIONALS

The Denver Tennis Club at Cherry Creek High School M4.5 squad, captained by Dick Pond, earns Colorado's last national league championship.

TEAM MEMBERS: Keith Bailey, Walt Cughlin, Mike Demong, Larry Gabler, Doug Goold, Ray Herr, Jim Kneser, Rob Kyker, Joe Martin, Brad Schuster, David Shapiro, Ron Smith, Frank Visciano.



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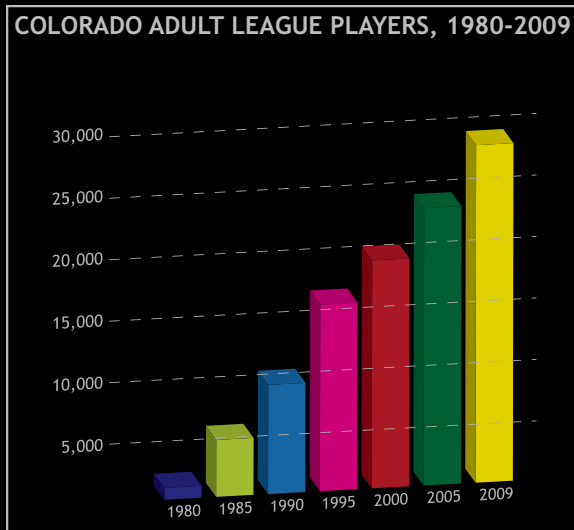
A SHORT HISTORY OF LEAGUE TENNIS IN COLORADO

Annual participation has exploded since the Colorado Adult League Tennis Series began back in 1980. Just under 1,000 players competed in the inaugural USTA League its first year in Colorado. Last year, more than 10,000 competed in the Adult division alone, and more than 28,000 competed in all USTA Colorado adult league tennis programs combined.

Since 1990, there has only been one year where league participation didn't grow. In the last 10 years, leagues have grown 50%.

The Senior and Super Senior divisions exhibit the most consistent growth of any league. Neither division has ever experienced a decline from the previous year.

To date, nearly 450,000 players have competed in the USTA Colorado Adult League Tennis Series.



DID YOU KNOW?

Metro Denver ranks as the second largest "area" in the nation:

1. Atlanta (41,392);
2. Denver (22,239);
3. Low Country LCTA, Southern Section (10,717);
4. SE Michigan, Middle States Section (10,645);
5. Houston (10,347)

The USTA Colorado Adult Division District Championships are the 7th largest championships in the nation: 1. Georgia (2,762); 2. Northern California (2,596); 3. Texas (2,148); 4. South Carolina (1,693); 5. North Carolina (1,591); 6. Alabama (1,555); 7. Colorado (1,550)

With nearly 46,000 league players, Intermountain ranks fourth in the country behind Southern (266,713), Midwest (65,374) and Texas (54,142). The Colorado District trails the 8th-ranked Southern California Section (28,689) by just 235 players.

a self-rating component to complement online registration at USTA.com. It's one-stop shopping for those looking to get involved with tennis, soon to be implemented throughout all 17 sections.

2003

There are more than 530,000 participants in the USA League Tennis program: Adult (311,310), Senior (61,117), Mixed (78,689), other leagues (80,942). The Dynamic NTRP rating system is implemented in all 17 USTA sections. The system maintains the integrity of USA League Tennis, while at the same time easing both entry into USA League Tennis and the administrative process.

2004

There are more than 570,000 participants in the USA League Tennis program: Adult (318,725), Senior (64,271), Mixed (85,841), other leagues (103,649).

2005

More than 585,000 participants take part in USA League Tennis: Adult (321,036), Senior (66,926), Mixed (86,666), other leagues (110,893). Two-thousand and five marks the 25th Anniversary of the USA League Tennis Program. The USTA celebrates the occasion in a variety of ways, including the creation of a logo bearing the 25th Anniversary color of silver. A quilt created from T-shirts from Sectional and National events throughout the years is also displayed at the national championships, along with signage and memorabilia. The USTA also celebrated this silver anniversary by honoring the program, its founders and legacy at the USTA Annual Meeting, held in Palm Springs, CA. All time participation jumps over the 5 million mark, with 5,206,855 individuals playing in the USA League Tennis program over the years. For the first time ever, four national championships were held for the Super Seniors Division. The matches, which were held in Palm Springs at the Riviera Resort and Racquet Club and the Moore Tennis Academy, decided the National Championships at the 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 levels.

2006

USA League Tennis changes name to USTA League for 2006 season. Chrysler also becomes the presenting sponsor of the USTA League program. More than 625,000 participants take part, the highest participation number to date. All time participation grows to over the 5.5 million mark, with 5,832,533 individuals playing over the years. Super Senior Championships played in April 2007.

2007

More than 665,000 participants take part in USTA League Tennis: Adult (335,582), Senior (71,576), Mixed (97,111), other leagues (150,710). All time participation grows to more than 6.4 million, with 6,457,773 individuals playing USTA League tennis over the years. Head Penn Racquet Sports celebrates its 20th year as the official ball of USTA League.

2008

In excess of 705,000 participants take part in USTA League Tennis: Adult (346,778), Senior (75,697), Mixed (100,708), other leagues (170,399). All time participation grows to 7,164,749. The Super Senior National Championships take place in Surprise, AZ.

2009

A whopping 738,789 participants take part in USTA League Tennis: Adult (352,134), Senior (79,277), Mixed (105,481), other leagues (189,356). All time participation grows to just under 8 million: 7,903,538.

Meanwhile, back at The Ranch...



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 Staff Professional: Aki Iino
 Adult Coordinator: Nora Harrison
 Junior Coordinator: Ryan Walker

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THEBUZZ

NOUNS IN THE NEWS

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

Boulder's Burke heads to China for "Swing for the Stars"

Sue Burke, former USA National Team women's coach, arrived in Beijing on March 7 to begin her tenure as international coach-in-residence of the Mercedes-Benz "Swing for the Stars" Junior Development Program. A certified USTA High Performance Coach & Quick Start trainer, Sue takes a wealth of USPTA, PTR & USTA tennis teaching experience to China – including nine years as coach for Lisa Raymond, former WTA No. 1 ranked doubles player. In addition to receiving numerous awards, Sue serves on the USPTA "Tennis for the Health of it" National Advisory Council. During 2010 Coach Burke will lead the "SFS" coaching team for all (10) local sites of the combined junior (SFS), school (STP) and university (UTP) programs which are sponsored by Mercedes-Benz, Deerway and Dunlop Sport. Tennis enthusiasts can follow Coach Burke's teaching as well as communicate with her through CHINATENNIS.ORG.CN.

In the Tennis Zone with Andy Zodin returns for Season Three

USTA Colorado is excited to partner with one of the nation's only all-tennis radio shows, In The Tennis Zone with **Andy Zodin**, which began its third season in February. The two-hour-long program airs each Sunday, 10am-Noon (through April 18) on AM1510, Mile High Sports Radio. Beginning April 25 and running through September 19, the show will move to its regularly scheduled time, 6-8pm. In the past two years, Andy interviewed the likes of Rocket Rod Laver, Martina Navratilova, Billie Jean King, the Bryan Brothers, Patrick McEnroe, Nick Bolletieri and many more. Don't miss another incredible year of insight from the greatest tennis minds in the business hashing it out with local tennis pro Andy Zodin, plus coverage of local events, news makers and players making a splash in our own tennis community. Sign up for BLAST! at COLORADOTENNIS.com and get a schedule for upcoming shows. You can also download past shows at TENNISZONE1510.com.

Coloradans represent USA at ITF World Team Championships

The USTA announced that three Colorado players will represent the United States at the 30th ITF Seniors World Team Championships hosted by Federacion Mexicana de Tenis. Denver's **Willie Dann** and **Lew Miller** (Italia Cup, Men's 35 & over), and Grand Junction's **Susan Wright** (Maria Bueno Cup, Women's 50 & over) will join other top American tennis players March 29-April 3, in Mexico City, Mexico. The ITF Seniors/Super-Seniors World Team Championships is the most coveted team event on the ITF Seniors circuit. Since its inception in 1981, the number of competitors attracted to this event has increased year by year. The ITF World Individual Championships will take place April 4-11 in San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Team Championships for Seniors age groups date as far back as 1958 when Leon Dubler of Switzerland presented the Dubler Cup trophy for the first time to the winning Italian team of men 45 and over.

The success of this event led the ITF to offer a full range of team competitions for 35 year-olds through to men ages 80 and over and women ages 75 and over. These 19 age categories have since been divided into two groups: the younger Seniors (35-55) players and the older Super-Seniors (60 and upwards) players.

Many of the team events are named after tennis greats such as Fred Perry and Maureen Connolly. Others are presented by National Tennis Associations which have contributed greatly to the tennis world.

As with all individual ITF Seniors tournaments the team competitions are divided into five-year age groups. Nations nominate teams of up to four players to contest the trophies annually. The competition is played on a round robin basis, followed by a knock out in the later stages to give a complete ranking of all teams.

Romberg set to retire from Cherry Hills

A fixture at the Cherry Hills Country Club tennis clubhouse for 29 years, Director of Tennis Dave Romberg will officially retire on April 28. The search to find his replacement is ongoing, stay tuned for details.

City of Boulder Summer Tennis Camp Instructor positions available

The City of Boulder is looking for summer tennis camp instructors to plan and teach tennis to kids ages 5-15. Summer camps begin June 1 and run through August 6. The deadline to apply is April 16, 2010. For more information, please visit City of Boulder Sports website, BOULDERCOLORADO.gov.



Serving up tennis for breakfast

Congratulations to the winners of the Senior Breakfast League 3.0/3.5 Division at Meadow Creek Tennis Club for the Fall 2009 session. The winning squad is (left to right): Jan Heitzmann, Bill Law, Shirley Dino, Ray Mendoza, Karen Hone, and captain Larry Hone (not pictured, Eleanor Bolin).

The USTA Colorado Senior Breakfast League is open to all USTA members ages 55 and up. Throughout the year, various divisions play at several tennis facilities around the metro area. The league emphasizes the fun and social aspects of the sport. New 16-week sessions run every few months: January-April, May-August, September-December. Registration begins 60 days and closes 30 days prior to the beginning of each session. For details call the USTA Colorado office at 303/695-4116.

Grant/Scholarship deadline is April 1

USTA Colorado and the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation are seeking new and creative approaches to getting more people involved in tennis. **Program grants** typically range between \$100 and \$1,000 and are available for organizations targeting almost any population or group – adults/seniors, adaptive, ethnically diverse and youth. **Adopt-A-Court grants** are available through USTA Colorado to match funds needed for repairing and/or upgrading existing public tennis courts, court equipment or amenities. The deadline for all grants is April 1, so get your application in soon. Contact Kristy Harris <kristy@coloradotennis.com>, USTA Colorado Community Development Director, for information, 303/695-4116 ext. 300.

The CYTF is also accepting special need **scholarship applications** from juniors who need assistance in order to pursue tennis. The application deadline is also April 1. For more information and an application, please contact Lisa Schaefer <lisa@coloradotennis.com> at 303/695-4116 ext. 201.

2010 Tennis Block Parties highlight Tennis Month

Tennis Block Parties are an integral part of the USTA's Tennis Month promotional platform designed to kick off the outdoor tennis season in May. This year's theme is "It's Time"... To sign up the kids, coach tennis or get the family involved. Tennis Block Parties are easy to organize and provide a great platform to promote your local tennis programs to players of all ages and abilities. These events can be hosted at any public facility and should feature two to three hours of tennis instruction, interactive games, and attractions for player of all ages and abilities.

The online 2010 Block Party Site Commitment Form is now available. Once it is completed and submitted to the USTA, Block Party organizers will have access to downloadable marketing materials and printed tips to help make the Block Party a success. Your event will also be featured on USTA.com and Active.com! Local Tennis Block Party organizers submitting their commitment forms by March 31, 2010 will be considered for the USTA marketing grants,

which are available to increase attendance at and awareness of the events. Contact Kristy Harris <kristy@coloradotennis.com>, 303/695-4116 ext. 300 for more information and to coordinate events within Colorado.

QuickStart Tennis Workshops offered

Recreational QuickStart Tennis Workshops are a 3.5 hour interactive, on-court training for coaches, instructors and parents who work with children ages 10 and under. The topics covered in this session include:

- Extensive coverage of the QuickStart Tennis play format including age appropriate play situations and games for 5-6 year-olds, 7-8 year-olds & 9-10 year-olds
- Recreational QuickStart Tennis Practice Plans
- Organizing/coaching a junior team match

Upcoming Recreational QuickStart Tennis Workshops:

April 24, 2010

12-3:30pm, Arvada Tennis Center

Contact Michele Crouse, 303/467-7158

May 1, 2010

12:30-4pm, Pueblo Central High School

Contact Tennis Mania, 719/251-9406

May 20, 2010

11am-2:30pm, Railbender Park (Parker)

Contact Parker Tennis, 720/979-6880

Tournament Schedule Updates:

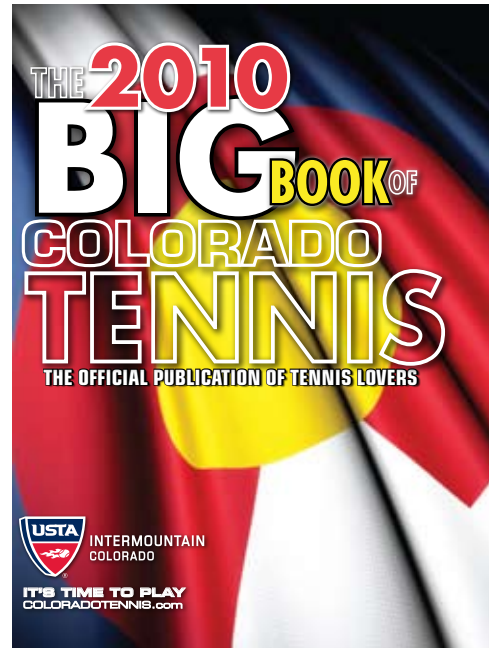
The **Clyde Rogers Memorial Day Tournament** May 27-31 and the **Chet Niemeyer Labor Day Tournament** September 3-6 are both sponsored by *Govnr's Park Tavern*.

The **Mountain Ocean Junior Open** is offering first round singles consolation. Players can only play one age division: 1 singles and 1 doubles.

North Jeffco Parks & Recreation changed its name to Apex Park & Recreation. All matches will continue to be played at the Arvada Tennis Center. The following tournaments will be held there: **Summer Swing Junior Satellite**, **Glen Hines Memorial**, **Arvada Tennis Center Summer Smash**.

Junior Satellite Tournament Ineligibility List update

USTA Colorado will publish the 2010 Satellite Ineligibility List online at COLORADOTENNIS.com on March 26. This list is based on tournament results from 2009. Junior players are ineligible to compete in Satellite tournaments if they: 1) attained a national or sectional ranking in 2009; 2) reached the quarterfinals of a *designated* championship event, or the semifinals of any sanctioned championship event. The USTA Colorado Seeding and Ranking Committee will consider written appeals from players for the Ineligible List through April 13.



2010 Big Book of Colorado Tennis hits the streets

The 2010 Big Book of Colorado Tennis is now available at tennis facilities and fitness centers across the state. USTA members should have received their copies in the mail by March 1. Members who have not received their copy should contact our office.

Digital copies of the Big Book (along with current and back issues of *Colorado Tennis* newspaper) can be found on our website, COLORADOTENNIS.com.

Tennis, Art and Culture combine at USTA Colorado 2nd Annual Diversity TennisFest Series

In conjunction with Cinco de Mayo, Colorado Black Arts Festival and the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, USTA Colorado will host the 2010 Celebrating Diversity TennisFest Series. By marrying arts and culture with athletics, participants will have access to community resources and information about various tennis programs offered throughout the city. In addition, festival goers will be able to participate in a healthy family activity in a fun festive environment while learning the benefits of the great, life-long sport of tennis.

After last year's success with reaching out to a whole new generation of tennis players, USTA Colorado is looking forward again to bringing a healthy, family activity in a fun festive environment while learning the benefits of the great, life-long sport of tennis at this summer's festivals. Collectively, nearly a quarter of million-festival goers were exposed to tennis. Partnering with Denver Parks and Recreation, a variety of tennis activities will be conducted including QuickStart Tennis, a new learning format for kids 10 and under. People are encouraged to come out and participate in free tennis instruction and games for all ages and abilities.

In 2009, more than 100 youth received tennis racquets thanks to Qwest Pioneers, the largest industry employee volunteer network, who is returning as a sponsor to provide tennis racquets to youth who participate in the tennis clinic. "It was an awesome experience working together with USTA Colorado to impact Denver's under-served communities through tennis," said Sylvia Johansen, Qwest Pioneers Auraria Council President. "We are very excited



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about continuing the partnership to achieve our community outreach priorities in education, youth and diversity communities.

"The TennisFest Series enables USTA Colorado to participate in the summer cultural events and provide free on-court tennis instruction to children who may not otherwise have the opportunity to learn about tennis and inspire a whole new generation of tennis players," said Paula McClain, USTA Colorado Marketing and Diversity Director.

What: **2010 USTA Colorado Celebrating Diversity TennisFest Series**

When/Where:

Cinco de Mayo Festival at Civic Center Park, May 8-9, 2010

Colorado Black Arts Festival at Denver City Park, July 10-11, 2010

Colorado Dragon Boat Festival at Sloans Lake Park, July 24-25, 2010

Share your love of tennis: volunteer at USTA Colorado's Celebrating Diversity TennisFest

Looking for an opportunity to share your passion for tennis and give back to the game? Are you a high school or junior tennis player looking for volunteer hours? USTA Colorado has a place for you! A variety of tennis activities will be conducted including QuickStart Tennis to introduce tennis and encourage league participation to a whole new generation of tennis players. Volunteer two (2) or more hours at any of the following Denver-area events:

Cinco de Mayo Festival at Civic Center Park

May 8 & 9 (9am-6pm)

- Information booth and QuickStart Tennis activity
- National Tennis Month Celebration

Colorado Black Arts Festival at Denver City Park

July 10 & 11 (9am-6pm)

- Information booth – July 10 & 11
- QuickStart Tennis and other on-court kids activities at the tennis courts – July 10
- Information booth – July 10 & 11

Dragon Boat Festival at Sloans Lake Park

July 24 & 25 (9am-6pm)

- Information booth – July 24 & 25
- QuickStart Tennis and other on-court kids activities at the tennis courts – July 24

For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Paula McClain <paula@coloradotennis.com>, 303/695-4116 ext. 220.

League registration now open statewide

All adult leagues are now open for registration for the 2010 season. League dates, rules and regulations can be found under the ADULTS tab at COLORADOTENNIS.com. The registration deadline for many leagues is coming soon, so make sure you and your teams get registered today. If you need a team number, please contact your facility coordinator. For more information please contact the USTA Colorado league department.

Playing leagues? Get BLAST!

A reminder to all Adult League players, captains, coordinators and Junior Team Tennis parents and coordinators, make sure you are signed up to receive BLAST! and either the Adult League or Junior League Alerts! in time for the upcoming 2010 season. Critical information is communicated through these publications, and you don't want to miss out on any of the details for your season.

To sign up, please visit COLORADOTENNIS.com and click on the BLAST! logo. You can choose to receive Adult or Junior League Alerts! from the registration screen.

Never miss another deadline

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

COLORADO TENNIS returns in June

Got a story or a photo to share with the Colorado tennis community? Submit your ideas for the summer issue of COLORADO TENNIS, which will arrive at your doorstep in June. The deadline to get your story/photo submitted is May 19. Send it to editor@coloradotennis.com. 📧

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CINCO DE MAYO
May 8-9, Civic Center Plaza



COLORADO BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL
July 10, City Park



COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL
July 24, Sloan's Lake



Marrying Arts & Culture with Athletics,
USTA Colorado and Denver Parks & Recreation host the
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY TENNISFEST

Come out and enjoy tennis instruction and games for all ages/abilities.

For more information, contact Marketing/Diversity Director Paula McClain
<paula@coloradotennis.com> or 303.695.4116 x220.



www.COLORADOTENNIS.com

BE A FAN

TENNIS ISN'T JUST A GREAT SPORT TO PLAY, IT'S A GREAT SPORT TO WATCH. HERE'S OUR GUIDE TO FINDING THE BEST COLORADO TENNIS EVENTS TO WATCH IN 2010.

JUNIORS

MEADOW CREEK JUNIOR OPEN (MARCH 14-19) | COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' STATE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS (MAY 13-15) | ITA MEMORIAL DAY CIRCUITS (MAY 29-31) | JON COX MEMORIAL (JUNE 1-6) | ITA SUMMER SECTIONAL (JUNE 8-13) | COLORADO STATE JUNIOR OPEN (JUNE 15-20) | MOJO (JUNE 21-25) | USTA NATIONAL OPEN (JUNE 27-JULY 1) | NORTHERN COLORADO JUNIOR OPEN (JULY 5-9) | JIM KASIC MEMORIAL (JULY 13-16) | DENVER JUNIOR CITY OPEN (JULY 23-27) | ITA SUMMER SIZZLER CIRCUIT (AUGUST 6-8) | COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' STATE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS (OCTOBER 14-16)

CHAMPIONSHIP/OPEN

ELAM CLASSIC (JUNE 11-13) | US OPEN QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT (JUNE 16-20) | DENVER CITY OPEN (JUNE 18-27) | MEN'S SAFEWAY OPEN (JULY 12-18) | BABOLAT BOULDER OPEN (AUGUST 7-15) | COLORADO STATE OPEN (SEPTEMBER 10-19)



INTERMOUNTAIN
COLORADO

THE SPOTLIGHT

AGAINST THE ODDS

THERE'S NO MAGIC PILL THAT WILL CURE BOB CASSOU'S CANCER. BUT THAT HASN'T STOPPED HIM FROM TRYING TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE.

Story by
TOM FASANO



photo courtesy of the Cassou family

Bob Cassou understands what it means to be a fighter. Cassou played Division I basketball for Fordham University in New York from 1967-70 against future NBA Hall of Famers Julius "Dr. J" Erving and Calvin Murphy. The 6-foot-4-inch Cassou played guard and was Fordham's co-captain in 1969-70.

"I realized right off the bat that I wasn't going to the NBA," Cassou laughs.

Instead, Cassou, 61, carved his way into a successful career as an executive in the cosmetics industry working for L'Oréal and Chanel in New York City for almost 30 years before moving to Colorado in 2003 with his wife, Barb, and daughter, Nicole.

The New York City native who grew up in Paramus, NJ, was still playing full-court pickup basketball into his late 50s when his life changed forever. A routine heart scan detected a tumor on his right lung in March 2008. It turned out to be advanced stage 3 lung cancer.

"I was the healthiest. I was a 59-year-old guy who was playing full-court basketball," Cassou says. "I was in great shape. I didn't over-drink. I ate all the right food. I did all the right tests. Who in the hell thought I'd get lung cancer? Anybody who thinks it can't happen to them, call me up."

The Parker resident started playing tennis in his mid-50s thanks to his wife, who was a tennis player long before her husband picked up a racquet. Tennis has been a way for Cassou to remain active since he was diagnosed. Cassou says he plays tennis three days a week when he's feeling good.

"When you're diagnosed with cancer, you want your life back and most people don't get it back. I'm blessed to get it back," Cassou says. "Sports has always been a big thing in my life. There is a sense of accomplishment, of relief and there is a sheer joy to going back to something you love to do that is physical that tells you that you're a normal person still. You're not dead. You're not dying. You're not sick and you're outside with a bunch of guys you like playing a sport you like. I enjoy tennis. I really love tennis. The second I finished chemo, I tried to get back out on the tennis court."

Cassou's wife remembers that.

"The question immediately after surgery was, 'When can I play tennis?' It gave him something to get back to," says Barb. "When people are taking parts of your lung especially when you live at altitude, it's not easy to get back. It was really very positive. It's something we can do together. We get to play mixed doubles together, too, which is fun. He's pretty good. It makes me mad."

continued on page 28



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June 16-20, 2010
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HIGH FIVE



photo courtesy of GARRETT ELLWOOD

In her 12th season as head coach for the US Air Force Academy's women's tennis team, **Kim Gidley's** civilian status isn't the only thing that makes her stand out. Her continuous community involvement efforts underscore her belief that, even off the court, the game of tennis can make a difference in the lives of others. Kim's remarkable approach to helping other organizations raise funds has garnered her recognition in the national tennis community. She received the USTA/ITA Community Outreach National Award in December 2009, an honor given to an Intercollegiate Tennis Association coach for significant contributions in developing community-based tennis programs through multiple community venues including schools, community centers and inner city, suburban or rural programs.

To accomplish this, Kim (pictured at right with the blue visor, conducting drills during the 2009 USTA/NJTL Tennis Leadership Camp) places her players, the cadets, at various fundraising events around the Colorado Springs community in an effort to bring increased exposure to each particular charitable cause. The cadets are given one free weekend a month which Kim, and now the team captains, challenge themselves to utilize with community involvement.

"We aren't concerned about fundraising for ourselves. We want to help you fundraise for your organization," Kim says. She believes that, overall, it's good for tennis if her players are actively involved with these pursuits. Through their fundraising efforts, the players become contributing citizens in their community and in turn, the community sees tennis in a positive light. A true win-win for all.

The team offers their time to many good causes. *Servicing The Community* is a new fundraising program in which cadets get sponsored for each ace they serve throughout the season, with a minimum goal of \$1200 (the money goes to a local charity). The squad also supports American military personnel serving overseas. They send tennis-themed care packages – *Tennis* magazine, cans of tennis balls, t-shirts, and posters – to former Intermountain player Kevin Harris and his troop, currently serving with the US Army in Afghanistan.

For 2010, Kim has scheduled a number of events to promote tennis in the Colorado Springs area, from hosting a Kids Day in February to intercollegiate tennis competition throughout the summer and fall.

"Not everyone can play great tennis – but everyone can watch great tennis," says Kim. Her overall concept is to increase the exposure of tennis while participating in non-tennis related endeavors in hopes that others will get excited about tennis and come watch the great tennis matches offered in their community. It has proven to be a successful formula on many levels. 🎾

Story by **LINDA SARGENT WEGNER**

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

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

As always, we encourage readers to help us recognize others who they think deserve special recognition. Email Kurt Desautels, at EDITOR@COLORADOTENNIS.com with your suggestions.

If you're lucky enough to have met **Tyler Crippen**, you may know him as one heck of a soccer player (he played at Northwestern and still coaches.) You may know him as a devoted family man, teaming up with his wife, Sara, to raise three great children including Maria (10), Sammy (8) and TJ (5). It's possible that you know him from Cole Arts and Science Academy where he's a devoted PE teacher, or from the middle school where he coaches several sports. But it's also possible; however, that you were introduced to Tyler out on the three courts nestled in the Cole neighborhood, where his devotion to bringing the residents tennis has been a huge hit with kids and parents alike.

By all accounts, Tyler was just the right person for the job. He embraced the USTA Schools Tennis Program, started an after school program, and formed the Mitchell Tennis Club, which became a registered National Junior Tennis League Program. He also represented the Intermountain Section at the USTA Tennis Teacher's Conference in 2007. When USTA Colorado reached out to the school, Tyler quickly saw the value that it could bring to the families in the area and he didn't hesitate to commit his time and expertise to the cause.

next page



photo courtesy of Tyler Crippen

Story by **KATIE NEWELL**

HIGH 5.03

TYLER CRIPPEN, *continued from previous page*

"Sue Burke was a big help to me in securing grants," Tyler explains, adding that he originally got involved because it "was just a good way to have a fun summer job!"

But that quickly evolved as he saw the interest level that tennis was getting from a community that normally wouldn't have the exposure. Now, approximately 60 people from the neighborhood are learning the basic skills to play tennis, understanding the rules of the game, and are forming friendships through their interaction on the court.

Kristy Harris, USTA Colorado Community Development Director, boasts that Tyler is "the model person for the job. He cares about the community, the kids, and wants to promote an active and healthy lifestyle for the neighborhood."

It's helped that he lived right across the street from the courts for so many years, and has been able to have his own children involved in the program.

"What I like the most about the program," Tyler says, "is that we're not training to be an elite tennis club. I'm getting to introduce kids to tennis and I get to see the older kids helping out with the younger players."

One such standout is Quinten Balzer, one of Tyler's young players who came through the Star Search Program, has played some tournaments, and has helped to coach the other kids for two years now. Another athlete who's made a difference to Tyler's program is Alejandra Rodriguez, now a player at East High School, who's giving back to the community by helping Tyler coach, as well. Tyler hopes that this type of community commitment by people like Quinten and Alejandra will ensure the program keeps growing and thriving down the road.

"I think seeing families out there playing that aren't your typical tennis demographic is the greatest thing. You see moms and dads, aunts and uncles, knocking the ball around and just having a great time laughing – sometimes six to a court!" Tyler laughs.

One of his favorite memories so far was that of a father and his kindergartner daughter who were out on the court with their badminton equipment hitting the birdie back and forth on the court. After an introduction from Tyler, the girl became involved in the tennis program, and the father started hitting tennis with another mom. Both were excited to be playing "real" tennis.

Tyler sees several opportunities for partnering with other programs, such as the Glenarm Recreation Center who've sent about 15 or so of their kids to the program so far. But he doesn't want the program to lose its original purpose – to give the Cole neighborhood a strong and growing tennis program. It's not an easy balance and there's only so much time for a father of three who teaches, coaches, and volunteers to the level that Tyler does so graciously.

What are Tyler's future goals? He'd love to grow family night which brings everyone out together. He'd be thrilled to see some of the kids start to enter local tournaments and get a feel for the competitive side of the sport. He'd love to get some adult racquets for the parents who want to start hitting with their kids. But mostly, he'd love to keep spreading the joy of tennis to a very worthy community. ☺

Few straight-A students describe themselves as being "defined by tennis." Fewer still plan on riding their tennis and academic prowess straight to Harvard. Just 12 years old, **Jessica Metz** has already figured out what many adults have yet to determine – her purpose in life.

A self-described "math-science geek with a wicked backhand", Jessica is a sixth-grader from Cheyenne Mountain Elementary School in Colorado Springs. She began playing tennis at the age of 4, when her dad, Brian – who worked his way through medical school as a tennis pro – would toss her tennis balls in their driveway.

Eight years later, Jessica represents Team Broadmoor, and recently became a member of Team Colorado. She finished 2009 ranked No. 19 in the state (G12s), ranking sixth in doubles. This year, she'll be competing in the 12s at Sectionals (14s and 16s locally), which in itself is a big accomplishment.

Just over a year ago, Jessica fell on the court and broke her elbow. Forced to wear a huge arm cast, she wasn't sure if she'd ever play tennis again, but she's back and playing with enthusiasm, inspired as much to win as by the social aspects of the sport.

"I have met some of my best friends [playing] tennis. It is always fun to meet someone new. I also like the feeling of being a part of something. Most of the girls I know aren't competitive athletes. I feel special and unique because most kids aren't a part of an elite athletic group. I believe that my tennis groups define most of who I am and what I like to do."

But while some young players dream of tennis stardom, Jessica plans on riding her game to a different destination. "I have a few tennis friends that want to go pro and win all of the Grand Slam tournaments. Even though I could be famous and known all over the world if I did this, I want to use my tennis to get into an Ivy League college, like Harvard, play through college, and then find a cure for cancer."

"I'm not joking," she adds, as if anyone could possibly doubt her resolve.

Keeping Jessica from heaping too much pressure on herself is one of her parent's bigger challenges.

"The key is academics always come first," says her mom, Jeannie. "Jessica is more likely to make her mark in the world in science or medicine, than in tennis... she believes this, so she plays for the love of the sport."

Love, and perhaps a bit of pragmatism. Jessica says that she will use tennis to help her earn a living, just like her dad did.

"If I need to earn some money for school, I could always walk into a club and ask for a coaching job."

This winter, Jessica and her parents began coordinating the CYTF-affiliated Racquets For All program in Colorado Springs. To spearhead the effort, Jessica stepped into the lead role as the RFA coordinator for Team Colorado and launched a racquet collection drive that has already netted more than five dozen racquets and 500 balls for the program, which helps financially challenged programs distribute gently used and new equipment to kids who may not otherwise have been able to play tennis. Tennis can be a very expensive sport, says Jessica, but that shouldn't limit opportunities.

"I started collecting racquets for the Racquets For All program because I was taught to always give back. I think everyone should have a chance to try it, so maybe if someone without a lot of money is given a racquet, they too could learn to love the sport."

And it is this love of the sport that Jessica's parents have cultivated.

"Jess always works hard, has a great attitude and never gives up on the court," says her mom. "That is what our family defines as success."

Whether she ultimately becomes an oceanographer, a veterinarian, a doctor, scientist, or a physical therapist (all currently on her list), Jessica has identified her goal in life: "Hopefully, I'll make a difference in the world, like finding cures or important information to help people."

Jessica has her whole adult life to find cures, but for the kids who have already been on the receiving end of her generosity, she's already made a difference in their world. ☺



photo courtesy of the Metz family

Story by
**KURT
DESAUTELS**

What is it that brings out Taryn Archer's passion for connecting tennis to the people? It's her appreciation for how a person's life can be improved by tennis. "Tennis is the great equalizer. It doesn't care how old you are, what your physical attributes are, what your cultural background is, or if you have ever played before. Everyone can play," Taryn says.

Taryn is the Vice President of the USTA Colorado Board of Directors and has been on the Board for four years. During the tennis season, she plays in a tournament each week, as well as in numerous leagues. She sees part of her role with USTA Colorado as receiving fellow participant feedback and responding to it at the organizational level. A responsibility she very much enjoys.

USTA Colorado's Diversity TennisFest Series holds special appeal for Taryn. The Series includes three events – Cinco de Mayo (May), Colorado Black Arts Festival (June) and the Dragon Boat (July) – in which USTA Colorado has a presence and introduces tennis to diverse communities in the Denver area.

"It's so satisfying to bring families together on the tennis court and to watch them interact with each other in a way that they never have before, but in a way that they can continue to enjoy mental and physical activity," says Taryn. "Every community has a tennis court. It's important that we bring tennis to diverse areas."

Taryn's was always involved in sports, but never tennis. That changed in 1998, after watching a men's 4.0 tennis team play for about a year. She coordinated a women's 2.5 team which went all the way to nationals that year. In subsequent years, her teams have followed with many successes.

Her involvement is thorough and unwavering, says Fritz Garger, Executive Director of USTA Colorado. "Taryn is a tireless ambassador for USTA Colorado. She has a good pulse on the tennis community because of how much she plays. A true asset to our Board and the whole organization by not only contributing in a traditional board member role, but also finding other ways she can support us. Many times, without hesitating, she'll take on the tough jobs like finding and scheduling volunteers for our outreach events or bringing in more silent auction items."

Taryn's hope for the future of tennis is to see a more expanded and varied volunteer group show up for events or donate to the silent auction at the Hall of Fame Gala. "Each tennis player or tennis enthusiast brings something different to the table, and we'd love to have them more involved. Finding the kids who want to play tennis isn't the problem. It's volunteers we need." 🌱



FOUR



TARYN ARCHER

Story by
LINDA SARGENT WEGNER

photo by Kurt Desautels

If you pass a vibrant lady at the grocery store, post office, or restaurant who's wearing fashionable tennis togs, there's a good chance it's Linda Wenz. And most likely, if you aren't already involved in the Lakewood Tennis Association, she'll invite you in and make sure that you get connected with other wonderful tennis enthusiasts.

Involved for two decades now and currently serving as both Treasurer and VP of the Lakewood Tennis Association, Linda is dedicated to bringing as many people to tennis as she can and to make sure they feel embraced- just like she did when she was first introduced to the sport and the association in her forties. And the dedication of Linda and others are why the LTA is thriving not just on a tennis level with strong adult programs, lessons, leagues and events, but also on an equally important social level. There are over 200 adults involved in the various offerings and Linda wants to see more people, especially young adults, enjoying the fun in the sun as much as she does.

Perhaps coming into the great sport of tennis a bit later in life than many others has kept her energized, or maybe it's the camaraderie of tennis partner Pat McCausland. It could be as simple as the joy itself that tennis has brought her that keeps her so dedicated to its growth. She prefers playing outdoors in any weather to the option of indoor play, and boasts about the dedication of her fellow board members who share in her enthusiasm. Not wanting to be the LTA President at this point in her life, Linda says she just feels more comfortable in the background, supporting others. "I'm just here to have fun," Linda jokes, adding that "being embraced like I was made me feel worthy. I just want others to feel that way, too."

"Linda just exudes tennis," Kristy Harris, USTA Colorado Community Development Director, explains. "She's just always the person to go if you need anything!"



FIVE

photo courtesy of the Lakewood Tennis Association



Members of the Lakewood Tennis Association take a break during the 2009 Windscreen Social.

LINDA WENZ

Story by
KATIE NEWELL

Kristy relays how Linda's dedication to the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation, and the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame, in addition to the many programs that the Lakewood Tennis Association supports for adults makes her a standout. She's been instrumental in the formation of leagues, monthly mixers, court improvements, working with the City of Lakewood on special events and coordination of the tennis programs.

If it's not on your calendar, you may want to consider kicking off the spring tennis season with the 2010 Windscreen Social, a great place to meet Linda (kneeling in the photo above) and the gang on May 1 from 8am-2pm. The members volunteer to hang the windscreens for the City. Breakfast and lunch are included, and of course, a great day of tennis for all. 🌱



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THE COMPETITIVE JUNIOR

Star Search winter program developing young players

The 2009-10 USTA Colorado Star Search winter program is under way, bringing 20 promising juniors together for drill sessions and coached match play. The program, now in its fourth year, runs from December to May and is hosted by Colorado Athletic Club Monaco. There is no-cost to the player for this program.

The mission of the Star Search program is to develop, nurture and promote the tennis skills of identified 8-12 year-olds from culturally-diverse communities throughout Colorado who are already involved, committed and have a love of the sport of tennis. It provides a platform for those culturally diverse players to excel in their tennis skills and expand their involvement in more formal competitive events and activities, such as Junior Team Tennis, High School Tennis, and sanctioned tournaments.

2009-10 Star Search Winter Program Roster

Jon Abrahamson	Jake Quan
Ashia Shakira Ajani	Conor Smith
Illijah Bailey	Adriana Strode
Bazil Cunningham	Ram Vuppala
Zack Fox	Kacey Walisundara
Carter Harrington	Quentin Yamasaki
Draden Hoover	
Samson Johnson	
David Kijak	Coaching Staff
Roger Nakagawa	Tobias Ortegon
Erin Norwood	Sue Burke
Chanon Penvari	Wayne Emerick
Daniel Phan	George Tavarez
Jennifer Phan	Frank Adams

Team Colorado program brings together the best players, coaches

Home for the state's top juniors for more than 20 years, the goal of USTA Colorado's junior excellence program is to help 14-and-under players succeed at the Sectional and National levels of competitive play. Players are selected in October for one of three different squads: 12s, Devo and Select. The season runs mid-November through mid-spring.

The 12s squad curriculum focuses on technical development and exposure to the many facets of tennis training that create better agility, balance, and coordination. It is very common to see the players working on-court on skills without tennis racquets in their hands and on tactics when the racquet is being held. All-in-all the program is on the cutting edge of junior tennis development nation wide and we appreciate all the work the players have done and the help of the parents in getting them to this stage of their tennis journey.

In addition to the annual team trip to Steamboat Springs, the 12s squad has added clay court training to their regimen this year, playing on the slow red clay indoor courts at the Club at Flying Horse in Colorado Springs. Training there supports the USTA directive to expose more of our younger players to the slippery surface popular across Europe and South America.

In addition to using some of the state's top facilities, USTA Colorado continues to select the very best coaches to work with the 12s Squad. Coaches Carey Brading and Leslie Davis have been with the program since its inception (20 years), while Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame player and coach Rhona Kacmarczyk has coached Team Colorado players for more than 15 years. The 12s squad welcomed Director of Tennis at the Ranch Country Club, Miikka Keronen this year, while Mike Humphrey from Flying Horse returns for his second season with the team.

The Devo Team is training under the Direction of Randy Ross at Inverness, along with Simona Bruetting, Mary Lynn Garger and Gay West. Members of the Devo Team are 8-12 years old, and represent the future of the Team Colorado program. Their primary instructional goal is patterns of play, and the players are enthusiastic about learning something new each workout. In addition to having the opportunity to work out against other rising talent, USTA Colorado provides off-court training for players and parents as well, including parent sessions conducted by staff and volunteers. Topics range from identifying the right tournaments to college tennis forums.

The Select Team, coached by Randy Ross, Cory Ross, Becky Bucolo and Mike Humphrey, has also reached the mid-point of its season, and continues to train on both Meadow Creek's hard courts and the red clay at Flying Horse. This team uses their workouts and match plays to gear up for the rigorous upcoming Colorado, Intermountain and National tournament schedule.

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COLLEGE-BOUND, PART ONE
ASSESSING GOALS, MANAGING EXPECTATIONS
 USTA COLORADO'S GUIDE TO PLAYING COLLEGE TENNIS.

Story by
DENNIS HUSPENI

WHERE CAN I PLAY COLLEGE TENNIS?

Such a maddeningly simple question, yet the answer for many junior players may take years of self-exploration and research before they arrive at a definitive answer.

And many, many other questions are going to have to be answered first.

High-school aged tennis players need to start the process of answering that question sooner, rather than later. Did you catch that, sophomores? And while every student will complete the process in his or her own way, experts agreed there are key steps to make it less daunting.

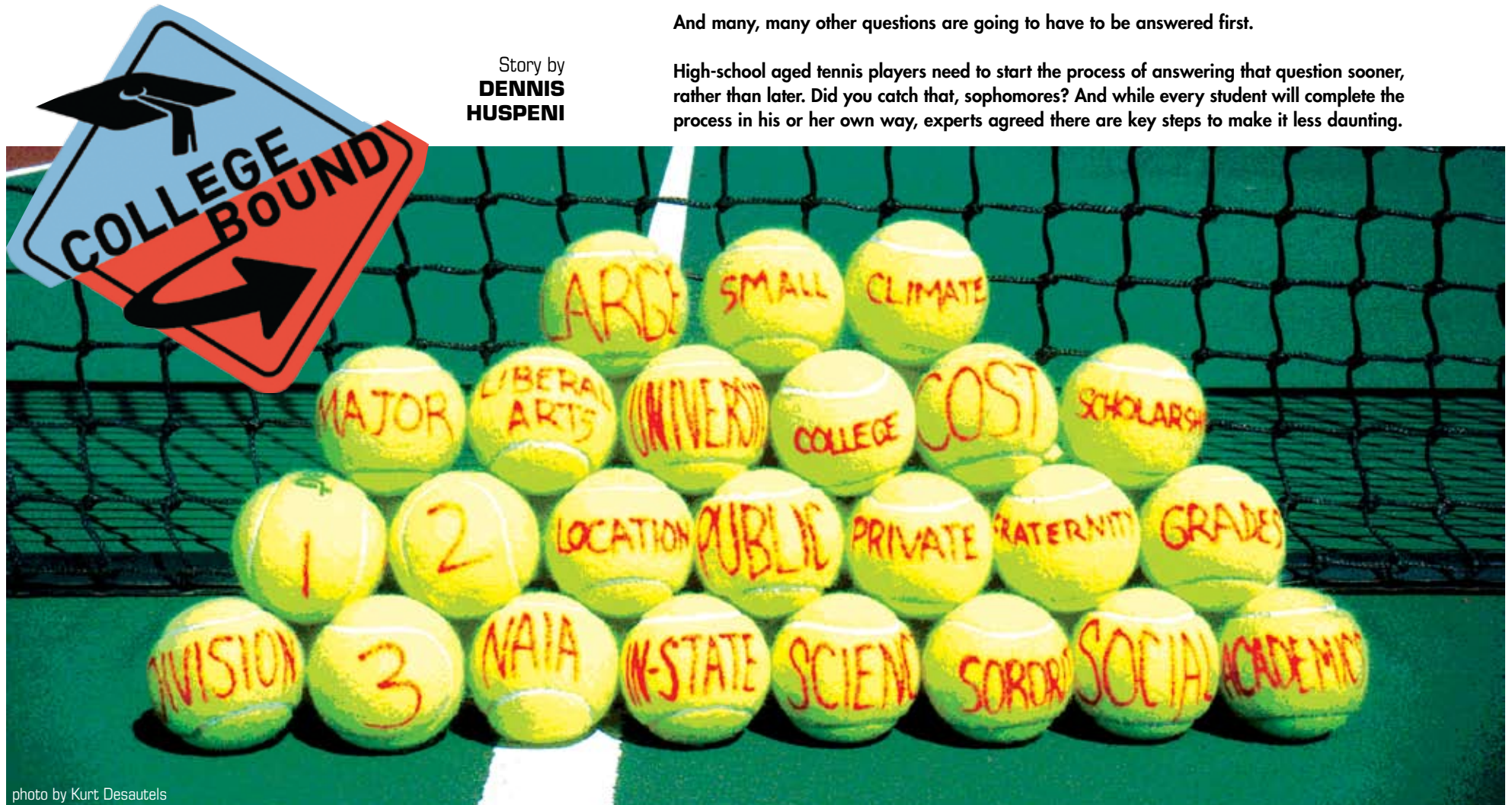


photo by Kurt Desautels

ASSESSING GOALS, MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

Invariably, the first step is going to be differentiating between where the high-school athlete wants to play versus where s/he can actually play.

That means a healthy dose of assessing goals and managing expectations.

"You have to have a good idea of your level before making your list," said Danny Westerman, the University of Denver men's tennis coach.

Rankings are just part of that equation.

Ross Greenstein, president and chief operating officer of Scholarship for Athletes, suggests getting in front of some college coaches for a true assessment. His company, SCHOLARSHIP-FORATHLETES.com, does consulting for student athletes and their families.

"Don't ask anyone else," Greenstein said. "Take a lesson from them. (The college coaches) are really the only ones that matter since they're the only one's hiring. They determine the kid's market value."

If it's not possible to get a lesson from a college coach, many colleges have summer tennis camps. While the camps are helpful in building skills, they can also get you in front of a coach for an honest assessment, Greenstein said.

Don't worry too much about what that level turns out to be. After all, there are but a few scholarships available to top-tier college tennis programs.

"No matter your ability, there is a school for everyone who wants to play college tennis," said Jason Colter, director of player development for USTA Colorado. "There is a perception in high school tennis that if you're not playing singles, then college tennis is beyond your reach. The reality is, now matter where you play in the lineup, there is a college for you."

That brings up the most important part about finding a good college. The experts were unanimous: don't look at the school's tennis program first.



COLLEGE COACHES WILL ASSESS WHAT KIND OF PLAYER YOU ARE, IT'S UP TO YOU TO ASSESS WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE:

Do you feel dejected if you don't get playing time?

Do you rise to the level of your competition?

Do you have the patience to slowly work your way into the lineup from the bench, or do you need to play right away?

Do you want the glamor of being a big fish in a little pond, or do you prefer to work hard to be a little fish in a big pond.

Every player has to identify their own expectations, and assess where they stand on things like academics, public vs private schools, social atmosphere, proximity to home, climate, liberal arts or science and business, and many, many more.

You are a student-athlete – in that order. Understanding this makes it easier for you to find the right college to fit your personality, and your game.

"Ultimately you're going to college to get an education," Greenstein said.

So the academic qualities of a school should be first on the priority list. Then there is a dizzying array of school factors to consider: public or private; large or small; in-state or out; liberal arts, science or business-based. Even the climate where the college is located is an important factor.

"You have to assess what kind of person you are, what kind of student you are and what kind of athlete you are," Colter said. "You must answer those three questions to start the process."

"It's important for kids not to underestimate the academics," Westerman said. "Don't just think about the tennis piece. ... If it's not a good fit academically or socially – say the academics are too tough or not challenging enough – it ultimately will affect your tennis."

Not to mention the ever-present risk of career-ending injury, loss of interest or shifted priorities.

"Most kids don't play the whole four years," Greenstein said. "So you have to make your choice based on off-the-court reasons."

THE SELECTION PROCESS BEGINS

Obviously the high-ranking players who are being heavily recruited will quickly have a short list of schools. It's those middle-tier players who will have to whittle the list on their own, Colter said.

"It can be overwhelming and stressful," Colter said. "To avoid that, try to narrow your list as much as possible at the beginning."

With that short list in hand, it will be a lot easier to make the next move: contacting the college's tennis coach.

While the next article in the College 101 series will deal exclusively with players marketing themselves and making connections, it's never too early to start, Greenstein said.

"They need to pick up the phone, call the coach at the college they're interested in, and ask them: 'What grades, test scores and athletic level do I need to be a part of this team?'," Greenstein said.

continued

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It's part of a three-pronged approach Scholarship for Athletes uses for its student athletes: teach them how to build relationships, network and gain job interview skills.

"We're not a marketing company," Greenstein said. "In today's economy, in order to get a job and be successful, the number one biggest quality of the most successful people is unbelievable networking. It takes work, time and skill."

Getting the information about what it takes to play for a given college's tennis team will help narrow the list and prevent a lot of frustration trying to reach an unattainable goal.

The experts also agreed that using tools like TENNISRECRUITING.net can be helpful – for both the student athlete and college coaches.

"The rankings don't matter and they're not accurate, but it's good at telling you where the junior players are ending up at college," Greenstein said.

The reasons the rankings don't matter, he said, is because every college coach is going to base her decision on watching the player – not an internet site's rankings.

"It's a great tool," Colter said, noting the site's resources for answering a whole slew of questions from the student athlete and his or her parents.

"It's also a great way for coaches to track a player's progress," Westerman said. "They can add him to their recruiting list and it's a great way to keep in touch."

To summarize: do the leg work and do it early.

"You can't do enough homework and you can't ask enough questions," Greenstein said.

"Planning early is the key to all of this," Colter said. "It's overwhelming as it is. The longer you wait, the quicker a decision is going to need to be made and that can cause more stress and anxiety." ☺

This is the first article of the series Colorado Tennis newspaper will publish in 2010 for junior tennis players seeking information about collegiate tennis. Here's the upcoming schedule:

Spring: Assessing Your Goals, Managing Your Expectations

Summer: Marketing You: Making Connections

Fall: What College Coaches are Looking For

Winter: Finding the Right College: A Parent's Perspective






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SPOTLIGHT: COLORADO YOUTH TENNIS FOUNDATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Colorado
Youth Tennis
Foundation



I want to play tennis because it gets your brain and heart working. Its very active I love running and jumping and it makes you strong!
-Jenny!

How to make a difference in the lives of Colorado's youth

Like many of you, I want to help make a difference in kids' lives. But many of us make it too complicated. Helping kids is easy, and it starts with your television.

Turn your family room into a CYTF fundraiser by inviting over your tennis friends to watch an upcoming tournament, like the BNP Paribas Open (formerly the Pacific Life Open), the French Open or Wimbledon.

Even if you're not an expert entertainer (pot lucks and pizzas go great with tennis), having friends over to catch the latest tournament action is easy and fun! And just a small donation from each person will make the event a success.

It's that easy! We had a great time when my family hosted a CYTF fundraiser, we talked tennis and shared good times. We put out a can for donations and people were happy to write a check or contribute to such a good cause.

Sincerely,

Nancy Sayre

Tennis Fan

Board Member, Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation

Gifts to the CYTF

The Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation raises money through our two primary events – the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala and the ever-popular Punk Relic Charity Tournament, as well as through donations from foundations, corporations and individuals. Supporters host affiliated events (such as tennis socials, house parties, cocktail receptions, etc.) and donate proceeds to the CYTF. In 2010, the CYTF's goal is to raise \$34,000 in individual, corporate, foundation and "affiliated event" dollars.

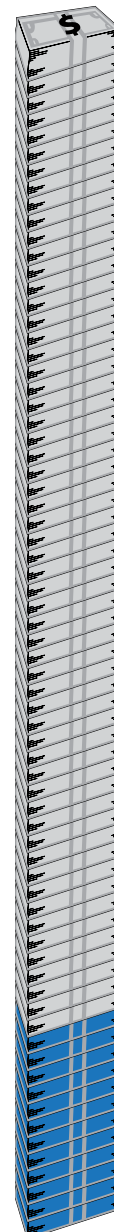
To make a gift – big or small – visit our website at COLORADOTENNIS.com and click on the **CYTF logo**. Your gift will be acknowledged in the next issue of *Colorado Tennis* newspaper. If you'd like to host an event to benefit the CYTF contact the CYTF office lisa@coloradotennis.com, 303/695-4116 ext.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

Thank you to recent donors: David & Rosanne Appel, Jon Cox Memorial Tennis Tournament, Mitch & Karen Robinson, Lakewood Tennis Association, Brandon & Jessica Shaffer



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2010 CYTF OVERALL
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SPOTLIGHT: RACQUETS FOR ALL



RACQUETS FOR ALL



Equipment Recycling Program of the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation

RFA HIGH SCHOOL CHALLENGE

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

This is a great way for high school tennis players in Colorado to give back to the tennis community, participate in



photo courtesy of IMAGECATCHERMAN.COM

Pictured left to right: Cynthia Wooldrige (Tennis Manager); Andrew Gunberg (Junior Tennis Coordinator); Shane Hunsinger (General Manager); and Cindy MacMaster (League Coordinator).

MIRAMONT: 2009 RFA GOLD MEDAL

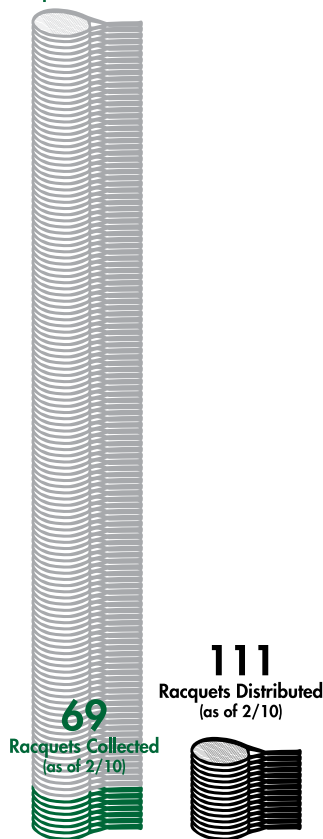
With three locations in Fort Collins, **Miramont Lifestyle Fitness** became the first club in Colorado to implement the Racquets for All program back in April 2008. Since then, Miramont members and staff began generously donating their gently used racquets, collecting 77 racquets, 51 racquet covers & bags, & more than 25 dozen tennis balls!



photo by Kurt Desautels

RACQUET TRACKER: Racquets For All needs your help to reach its goal of 1,200 racquets in 2010. Donate your unused new and gently used racquets to one of the many RFA collection points in Colorado.

GOAL: 1,200
Racquets Collected

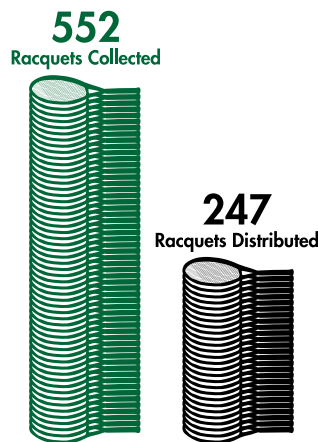


a fun "green" project and also meet any community service requirements that their school might have.

Each team interested in participating just needs to contact the Racquets for All regional coordinator in their area before the regional tournament to coordinate the drop off of collected racquets.

The girls' team and the boys' team collecting the most racquets will each be awarded \$200 at a presentation during the State Championships in May and October 2010.

Contact Kristy Harris <kristy@coloradotennis.com>, USTA Colorado Community Development Director, for the specific information to participate, 303/695-4116 x300.



2009



2010

HONOR ROLL

The following facilities/individuals have helped **Racquets For All** collect nearly 650 tennis racquets and thousands of tennis balls for distribution to organizations and players who don't have the financial ability to purchase them. Please take the time to support our efforts by dropping off your gently used equipment at one of these facilities.

GOLD MEDAL (>50 racquets)

- Miramont Lifestyle Fitness
- South Suburban Parks & Recreation (Littleton Golf & Tennis and Holly Tennis Center)

SILVER MEDAL (25-49 racquets)

- Ken Caryl Ranch Community Center
- Meadow Creek Tennis & Fitness Club
- Rob Scott / Babolat
- Woodmoor Country Club
- Colorado Athletic Club Inverness
- First Serve of Fort Collins
- Arvada Tennis Center
- Millennium Harvest House

BRONZE MEDAL (<25 racquets and/or balls)

- Work Out West Fitness & Tennis
- Pagosa Springs
- High Country Racquet Sports
- Game Set Match
- Columbine Country Club
- Gates Tennis Center
- Lebsack Tennis Center at Redstone Park
- Net Results Junior Tennis
- Evergreen Sports Center
- Castle Pines Village HOA
- Governors Ranch
- Rolling Hills Country Club
- Valley Country Club

For a complete list of participating facilities, please visit COLORADOTENNIS.com.

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- Don Allayaud
- Joe Collins
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2009 RFA Oversight Committee

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- Michelle Barr** Northern Colorado Regional Coordinator
- Tom Talmadge** SE Metro Denver Regional Coordinator and Inventory Director
- Rachel Morley** Marketing & Program Reporting
- Chris Weyer** NW Metro Denver Regional Coordinator
- Jerry Eddy** Southern Colorado Player Representative
- Diane Selke** USPTA Pro
- George Tavarez** USPTA Pro

SPOTLIGHT

continued from P17

Cassou says the cancer made him dizzy and weak from losing weight.

"I started to hit some balls. Because I had surgery I was out of breath right away so it took me a good six months," he remembers. "I was up and running by January of '09 starting to play indoors, and by April I was in a Super Senior League. I played [USTA] Adult League and on top of that I played Twilight. We made the [Adult] District Championships. I came back pretty fast in '09 after my disastrous '08 of having chemo and surgery and all that. That was one of my first thoughts was to be able to come back and play tennis because it's a return to normalcy. You can be physical again. It doesn't have to stop you from being a normal human being."

Cassou and Dr. Ross Camidge, his physician at the University of Colorado Cancer Center in Aurora, are trying to raise awareness about lung cancer.

"When you have cancer you hold out hope. It's very daunting to hear you have a terminal disease with no cure," says Cassou. "It goes underpublicized and underfunded, and that's the sin of the whole thing."

Cassou hopes to start a tennis tournament fundraiser for the lung cancer at The Pinery Country Club in Parker, where he and his wife are members. A television commercial called, "The Match," centering around Cassou's story and tennis brought awareness last fall to the work being done by the University of Colorado Cancer Center.

"I've done fundraising for the Cancer Center. We're trying to get more awareness for lung cancer. It's a disease that kills more people than any four cancers you can put together," Cassou says. "In fact, more women over 50 will die of lung cancer than they will of breast cancer, and most women don't

know that fact. Lung cancer kills more people than prostate cancer, breast cancer, colon cancer and any fourth cancer you want to throw in. The problem we have is we're very underpublicized, and it's underappreciated because everybody thinks, 'Oh, you smoke, you deserve it.' But there is a larger percentage of people that get it that don't smoke, and I met many of them."

Barb says the Cancer Center is the best there is. "I don't think anybody realizes the level of institution that we have right in our backyard."

Cassou says he's never smoked a cigarette in his life.

"One of the fastest-growing segments of lung cancer are non-smoking women," says Cassou. "No one really understands what this disease is, how devastating it is and how big it is. There is very little funding for it."

Despite two operations on his right lung and what he calls a harsh kind of chemotherapy, Cassou feels good enough to be working and does some consulting, and he credits his wife for hooking him on tennis.

"My wife made me start in my mid-50s because she was sick of me playing basketball," Cassou says. "I was still playing. I wrecked my knee. I got hurt. My wife said, 'This is baloney. You've got no knee left.' I had an operation. She was a big fan of tennis, and she kind of got me hooked. I'm not that great of player. You don't start anything at 55 and get really good at it, but I'm improving. I play at the Pinery a lot. I'm a 3.5 player, but I like it. I'm down to about half a (right) lung, so I make some concessions. I have a lot of fun with doubles. It's like a marriage."

Cassou says he undergoes body scans about three times a year. "My particular tumors respond very well to a medicine I take. If you look at my scans, you wouldn't know I had

cancer. Unfortunately, it will come back because the tumors mutate. The longer I can last without it coming back, the better off I am. I get tired. My medicine gives me some side effects.

"There are some times where I don't feel like playing tennis, but for the most part I'm pretty normal. Now I'm on a maintenance pill to keep the cancer down. The goal is to keep it as small as possible for as long as possible. It's not that I don't have it, you just can't see it."

Barb says she's thankful she got her husband interested in tennis before he was diagnosed with lung cancer.

"Tennis is the only thing that he can do consistently. It's just so nice because we have the Pinery," says Barb. "I can't say enough about how supportive that (Pinery) staff was. Everybody there was so great."

Barb said Garry Seymour, the director of tennis and head tennis pro at the Pinery, has been very encouraging. Seymour says Cassou is the type of guy who won't give up.

"Bob is just a fighter. He's not going to let anything get him down," says Seymour. "Tennis is a way to still be competitive. It's an individual sport, but it's also a team sport. Just in all those ways, I think Bob really bought into that tennis is a fun way to exercise. If he wasn't playing, he'd be missing the guys he played with."

It's not as though Cassou gets a free pass from his opponents when he's playing, either.

"I think he would be insulted if someone felt sorry for him. He's kind of a gentle, tough guy. He's a New York guy," says Seymour. "We're concerned for him obviously, but I don't think anyone at the club really treats him any different. They don't cut him much slack when he comes out to play doubles, I'm pretty sure." ☺

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THEBIGCHAIR

Our organization is coming off a very successful year, especially considering how severe the economic conditions have been for so many people. Participation was up in every key component of sanctioned play – Adult/Senior League play, Junior League play and Tournament play – significant signs that our sport is healthy and thriving in Colorado.

USTA Membership

Many of our programs require USTA membership and it follows that with participation up overall in all sanctioned play our membership numbers are also up for 2009. Membership dollars are essential to our organization. USTA members receive their own direct benefits, but the membership dollars that come back indirectly to the District (state) make a difference and help our association in the delivery of tennis programs and services statewide. Our revenue base supports our programs and services that require membership but also extends well beyond our core membership programs. We made significant strides in all areas in 2009 and look to build on that success as we move forward this year.

Diversity and Inclusiveness

In 2009 our focus on diversity and inclusiveness brought together an expansion of our past efforts (with individual festivals) by creating our first ever Diversity TennisFest Series. We had a presence last year in three of the major ethnic celebrations – Cinco de Mayo, Colorado Black Arts Festival and Colorado Dragon Boat Festival – and will repeat TennisFest again this year.

Advocacy

Our office was involved in numerous efforts of community organizers interested in renovating existing or constructing new tennis courts throughout the state. This effort will likely play an even bigger role in years to come as our office looks to partner with communities to have the development and maintenance of infrastructure keep up with the demands of participation.

School Tennis and Colorado Junior Team Tennis

Two of our largest 'programs' that are not membership driven relate to youth activities. Our School Tennis program continues to place an emphasis on getting more "in-school" physical education classes to incorporate a unit of tennis in schools across the state. But we are also devoting more time to coordinating our efforts with after-school programs at schools and recreation centers as there are real opportunities to get even more kids access to our sport in that arena. Our Colorado Junior Team Tennis league continues to be a primary focus. The program keeps growing and provides kids of all skill levels and ages the opportunity to play opponents of similar abilities and develop a love of the sport. A format of play that applies to both these programs is QuickStart Tennis. One of our objectives in 2010 is to have as many schools, parks and tennis facilities paint permanent QuickStart lines so that the execution of the format's programming is that much more efficient (for players and coaches/instructors alike). We would like Colorado to be a front-runner in its adoption of this format. The existence of properly striped lines to accommodate the format is a real factor in making that happen.

Marketing Efforts

Last year was also our first television marketing campaign to our Latino community statewide. We are planning to carry forward in 2010 with our Azteca America television promotion. In addition to television, we are coordinating efforts on radio with AM 1510 with their "In the Tennis Zone with Andy Zodin" segment and we will be focusing additional marketing resources for the year on banners and mailings to get new and former players involved. The newly formed Marketing Committee will be tracking our efforts this year as we plan for the years to come. This is an opportunity to promote our sport at a time when we are seeing consistent increases in participation that show the health of tennis in Colorado (and nationwide).

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NEWS FROM USTA COLORADO HEADQUARTERS STATE OF THE DISTRICT

BY FRITZ GARGER, USTA COLORADO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Annual Awards and the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala

We have already held the 2010 Annual Awards and Hall of Fame Gala. It is always important to take some time – in this case annually – to reflect on the accomplishments and contributions of Coloradans in tennis. This year's event was magnificent and highlighted the accolades of our five new Hall of Fame members as well as the 24 USTA Colorado Annual Award winners. This annual event reminds us all of how much this sport means to individuals, families and communities. The common thread of tennis brings so many people together and the opportunity to 'celebrate' the sport is important and meaningful. The event also serves as one of our major fundraising efforts each year for the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation. So, for those who attended and/or contributed, we appreciate your support. And thanks also to all those involved in hosting this year's event and making it so successful.

Preparations are being made to finalize the design for the permanent Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame display, which will be located on the first-floor west wall of Gates Tennis Center. We anticipate a spring-time unveiling of the Hall of Fame's new home, and will let you know more about the design as the time grows closer.

We are looking forward to another great year in 2010. We thank our Board of Directors, our committees, the staff and all those who support the growth and development of the sport of tennis statewide.

May everyone have a wonderful and rewarding 2010. 🎾



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THE LAST WORD

It's that time of year again, when American businesses begin the dizzying task of estimating lost productivity due to the NCAA National Championship Basketball Tournament. Legions of die-hard college basketball fans and barely casual observers dutifully pay their \$5, \$10 or \$20 entry fee, print out blank brackets and scour the internet for clues as to who will be this year's bracket-buster and Final Four shoo-in. While many pool-goers favor Bracketology – the process of studying each team's strengths, weaknesses, three-point shooting average, depth charts, and wins and losses in the hopes that a discernible pattern exists that will help accurately predict the outcome of each game – others opt for less systematic approaches, such as the Battle of the Mascots or picking winners based on uniform colors.

Since I know little about college basketball, and never seem to have any success using my preferred method of prognostication (Magic 8 Ball), I've decided to forego this year's Bracket Invitation and make a few predictions about what will happen in the world of tennis in 2010.

PREDICTION #1: LEAGUE PRIZES UPGRADED AGAIN

Last year, USTA Colorado began a new tradition, handing out District Champion Bag Tags in lieu of t-shirts, glassware and the ever-popular tennis clock. While the bag tags proved to be popular, thanks to a special buy through Costco the leagues' top performers will receive a Microsoft Zune with the phrase "I'm #1" engraved on the back. Runners-up will receive copies of the Windows Vista operating system and a month's supply of pickles.

PREDICTION #2: USTA DUMPS QUICKSTART, GOES VIRTUAL

Tired of introducing sweeping changes to its player development model, the USTA adopts wholesale changes to its virtually brand new QuickStart Tennis format. Dubbed HPWii, the USTA replaces all High Performance coaches with 14 year-old gamers in an effort to develop the next great American tennis champion...Wii style.

MARCH MADNESS

AS MARCH MADNESS ENSUES, AND PRODUCTIVITY ACROSS THE COUNTRY FALLS, THE EDITOR MAKES A FEW PREDICTIONS OF HIS OWN

BY KURT DESAUTELS, COLORADO TENNIS EDITOR

PREDICTION #3: SUMMER OF Wii

Citing scheduling conflicts and climate change (resulting in unpredictable weather and dangerous summer storms), USTA Colorado will abandon all District Championship formats and conduct round-robin Wii tournaments. Despite the abundance of available LCD and plasma screens, players will still play a tiebreak in lieu of the third set. Note: Coman will still be used for all events. Players will not be allowed to keep their controllers.

PREDICTION #4: USTA RETIRES NTRP

In a stunning move, the United States Tennis Association will announce that it is retiring the 20-year-old National Tennis Ratings Program (NTRP). The primary goal of the program was to help all tennis players enjoy the game by providing a method of classifying skill levels for more compatible matches, group lessons, league play, tournaments and other programs.

Despite numerous enhancements to the program over the years, the system just can't keep up with the times. Larry Jones, who wrote the original CompuRank model that would later become the NTRP program in 1991, will say these exact words: "We've spent nearly twenty years poring over the code, making small adjustments, trying to make the game better for all."

But after years of denying the problem, the USTA will finally admit that too many players were deriving their self-worth from the NTRP system.

"We want players to identify with their sport, but not in a way that robs them of their own individuality," Jones will be reported as saying.

Dave Schoebel, USTA Director of Competitive Play, will subsequently announce that the USTA has been exploring two new ratings systems that are currently undergoing beta testing in Atlanta.

The first method will be derived from Sigmund Freud's little-known Athletic Rating Thesis, which assigns a player's rating based on scientific measurements of the id, ego and super-ego. For those unfamiliar with the Freudian structural model, the ID is the unconscious part of the brain that controls our base urges, and is completely illogical. The SUPER-EGO is the opposite of the ID, and is where we develop feelings of remorse and guilt. The EGO is the rational part of the brain that tempers the ID and SUPER-EGO, and is the epicenter of reason and common sense.

The Freudian Athletic Ratings Thesis is a complex measurement that analyzes these parts of the brain to assign a tennis player's true rating. While the exact formula will be a closely guarded secret, Schoebel will have all his new business cards printed with this slightly altered phrase by Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy: *A tennis player is like a fraction whose numerator is what s/he is and whose denominator is what s/he thinks of himself. The larger the denominator the smaller the fraction.*

A second model under consideration is based on the traditional martial arts practice of conferring various colored belts to players based on a formalized ranking structure. Unlike modern martial arts training, where the white belt indicates a novice or beginning status, recreational tennis players will instead be issued rainbow suspenders by the USTA.

Top-level players (such as Roger Federer) will be allowed to wear colored belts of their own choosing, but each will be monogrammed.



Roger Federer – the world No. 1 and arguably the Greatest Player of All Time – beta tests the new USTA Ratings Belt.

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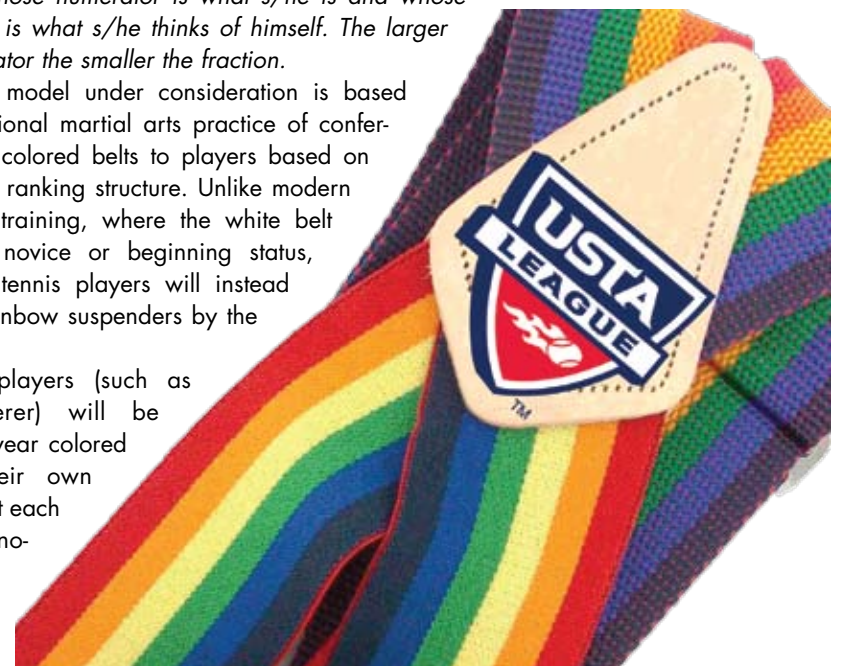
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IT'S YOUR GAME™

ABOUT USTA COLORADO

A District of the United States Tennis Association, USTA Colorado is the governing body of tennis in our state. USTA Colorado's mission is to promote and develop the growth of tennis in Colorado. We do this in a number of ways.

We provide grants to organizations that want to introduce tennis to their communities and we offer scholarships to junior players who seek to take their game to the next level. We coordinate adult league play for more than 28,000 players across the state, and offer programs for junior players of all ages and abilities. Our sanctioned tournament schedule offers more than 160 events this year, including several opportunities for wheelchair athletes.

We are in the parks. We are in recreation centers and in private clubs. We are in schools helping physical education teachers introduce our kids to a game that they can play for a lifetime, keeping them fit and healthy. We believe that fundamental tennis principles like sportsmanship, hard work and personal responsibility translate into every area of life. Through tennis we are helping people realize their potential both on and off the court.

We are nearly 22,000 members strong, but our scope is not confined to those players alone. We represent the nearly 500,000 tennis players in our state, providing information and opportunities to play for each and every one of them. We reach out to all players, including those of diverse cultural backgrounds, mentally and physically challenged athletes, and under-served communities. Diversity and Inclusion is a strategic priority for USTA Colorado and one of our core values. Diversity allows us to touch *all of Colorado* and Inclusion allows *all of Colorado* to touch us.

We invite you to find out more about the lifetime sport of tennis. We will help you find a court, find a program, find a league or find a team. We will help you put the FUN back in FITNESS. So whether you want to learn to play tennis, get back into the sport, or just find more opportunities to play the game, we're here to help.

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USTA COLORADO

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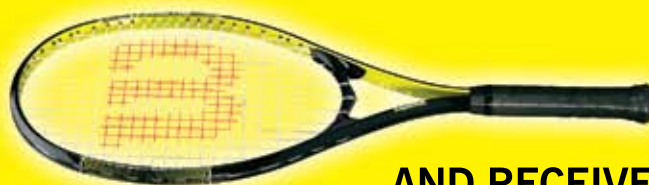
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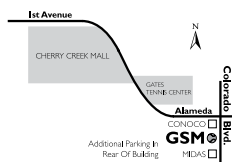
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