

# COLORADO TENNIS

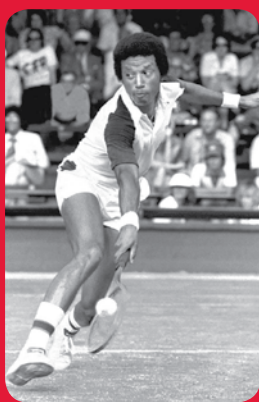
Year 36, Issue 2

The Official Publication Of Tennis Lovers

Est. 1976

SPRING 2011

# BREAKING THE BARRIERS



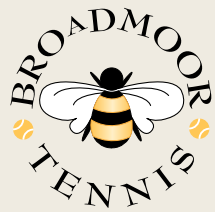
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July 18 – 20	.....Junior Camp	.....Intermediate Camp Ages 10 – 14
July 22 – 24	.....Adult Camp	.....3.5 – 4.5
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# COLORADO TENNIS

Year 36, Issue 2

The Official Publication Of Tennis Lovers

Est. 1976

## COVER STORY



## 6 AN EXHIBITION IN COURAGE

USTAColoradowelcomes the **Breaking the Barriers** exhibit, a historical retrospective on loan from the International Tennis Hall of Fame on the history of blacks in tennis. In conjunction with the exhibit, which

runs April-June, USTA Colorado has produced a documentary about the history of blacks in Colorado tennis history, **Crossing the Net: Denver City Park and the Black Tennis Experience**.

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### 16 BLENDED LINES

Discover why so many Colorado facilities are investing in 60-foot courts.

## SPOTLIGHT

### 24 STAN VAUGHAN

As Golden's Mike and Stefania Vaughan looked down on their now-completely paralyzed son, they tried not to imagine a world without Stanislav.

## HIGHFIVE

### 22 H5.07

A set of five profiles on local players and volunteers who deserve recognition for their efforts and accomplishments on and off the court.

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The business side of QuickStart  
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Changing the world. One player at a time.  
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Game-Set-Match Inc.  
Updates from the competitive scene  
Wrapping up the league season; Salute to Captains  
News and notes from USTA CO Headquarters  
Welcoming the new USTA President and more  
About USTA Colorado and contact information

## JOIN THE USTA

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### FREE PUBLICATIONS

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The BIG BOOK OF COLORADO TENNIS  
TENNIS Magazine  
USTA & SMASH Magazine

### TOURNAMENT TENNIS

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### FIND OUT MORE

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## SPRING 2011

### 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

story by ANGELLEFOUTHER



In every field of endeavor, there have been those African-Americans who have blazed uncharted trails to alter the face of US history. Hollywood had Dorothy Dandridge and Sidney Poitier. The world of Opera had Marian Anderson. Civil Rights—Rosa Parks, Literature—Gwendolyn Brooks, and the Supreme Court—Thurgood Marshall.

Five years after Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier, Althea Gibson did the same in tennis, when she became the first black to play the US Championships in 1950.

In the world of tennis, the names Gibson and Arthur Ashe are iconic, and not just because they won multiple championships. They broke through the racial barriers, changing the game forever. Gibson attained the world No. 1 ranking and became the first African-American to compete in US Nationals and to win major tennis titles—the French Open and Wimbledon tennis championships. Ashe was the first African-American man to capture a Grand Slam singles title at the US Open in 1968. In addition to his 13 titles and US Davis Cup play, Ashe was a humanitarian, leading efforts to address the many issues of the under-served.

Both Ashe and Gibson were inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

While Gibson and Ashe may be the most well-known African-American barrier-breakers in tennis, many other African-Americans have played a role in the history of the game, both on the courts and behind the scenes. To highlight that narrative, USTA Colorado and the Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library are partnering to present the *Breaking the Barriers Exhibit*. The Exhibit, which will run at the Blair-Caldwell Library from April-June, was featured at the 2007 US Open Tennis Championship in New York, and spotlights the American Tennis Association (ATA), the earliest African-American sports organization. Founded in 1916 by a group of African-American businessmen, college professors, and physicians, the ATA organized competitive tennis opportunities for black athletes, encouraged player development, and fought discrimination in the sport.



## THE AMERICAN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Formed in 1916 by a group of African-American businessmen, college professors and physicians, the American Tennis Association (ATA) has become the hub for blacks—from all walks of life—who yearn to enjoy the camaraderie and competition offered by tennis.

The ATA is the oldest African-American sports organization in the United States, and has produced two of the sport's greatest champions, Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe—the first African-Americans to be ranked No. 1 and to win Grand Slam titles.

The Gibson-Ashe legacy continues through today's black pros, including Venus and Serena Williams, Chanda Rubin, James Blake, Angela Haynes, Jamea Jackson and Donald Young. The Williams sisters, who have a combined 20 Grand Slam singles titles, frequently have said that they were inspired by Gibson, Ashe, Garrison and other former players.

When the International Tennis Hall of Fame began developing the exhibit, they were quickly pointed in the direction of Art Carrington. Carrington, who was ranked No. 1 at Hampton University, has been teaching since 1969 at his own a tennis academy in Amherst, Massachusetts. He also has one of the largest collections of tennis memorabilia and archival materials in the country. A great deal of the content for the Breaking the Barriers Exhibit comes from Carrington's collection.

"I fortunately live in an area of the country where tennis is part of the culture, and many blacks play," Carrington states. "When my mother-in-law passed away, I got to talking to her best friend, who'd just celebrated her 100th birthday. She shared with me a great deal of history and memorabilia she had collected from the early years of the ATA—between 1917 and 1925."

The picture painted of the early era of the ATA is a rich one.

"We have come to know more about the Negro Baseball League and how organized they were," Carrington stated. "But the ATA was better organized. They maintained the history, the records, and organized the circuits in an exemplary fashion."

The first generation of blacks organized the circuit for recreation only—originally black doctors, lawyers, and the upper class, who usually picked up tennis at college, played without any aspirations of playing professionally. It was the second generation who were the ones that took it to a professional level—the Althea Gibsons and the Arthur Ashes—although they still experienced segregation, each of these individuals at least had mentors from the first generation of players, and the support of the ATA.

The ATA Nationals were like a social extravaganza. Celebrities like Joe Lewis and black socialites would come down for the games, which took place on the black college campuses such as Howard, Fisk, Morehouse, and Hampton. These schools would all vie to get the Nationals to be held on their campus, as the economic benefits were great. The

tournaments were also an opportunity for Black players to get to know one another and to develop their skills and network with others.

"I played on those college campuses since the age of 12," Carrington states. "That solidified that I was going to college—seeing a lot of successful black men—doctors, lawyers, school teachers, preachers—there with their families, helped me to know it was possible. I knew that was for me. I saw it."

The Breaking the Barriers Exhibit will no doubt inspire a host of Colorado's tennis hopefuls, and remind all of us to embrace the many possibilities available when we push past established barriers.

**COLORADO'S BARRIER BREAKERS**

The Breaking the Barriers Exhibit will also highlight the stories, photos, and historical experiences and contributions of local past and present pioneers of tennis in Colorado. A documentary short, titled—*Crossing the Net: Denver City Park and the Black Tennis Experience*—captures the spirit and passion for the game of multi generations in Denver's own City Park, and will spotlight Denver's own pioneers such as Melvin McCurley, Bonnie Champion, and Frank Adams.

Lovingly known as the "Godfather of City Park," Charles Henry is a long time tennis advocate, who at 77 still plays the game regularly. He says that when he came to Denver in 1955, the first place people directed him to was City Park. "I have played at other places in Denver, but City Park has been the most welcoming. People at City Park—white, black, or otherwise—are just interested in playing good players."

Henry also said that seeing players such as Arthur Ashe and Zina Garrison allowed him to believe that he and others in his circle could have success. "We might not reach their level, but we could be successful. We knew it was a sport for life. I still play in tournaments often. I don't win a lot, but I play."

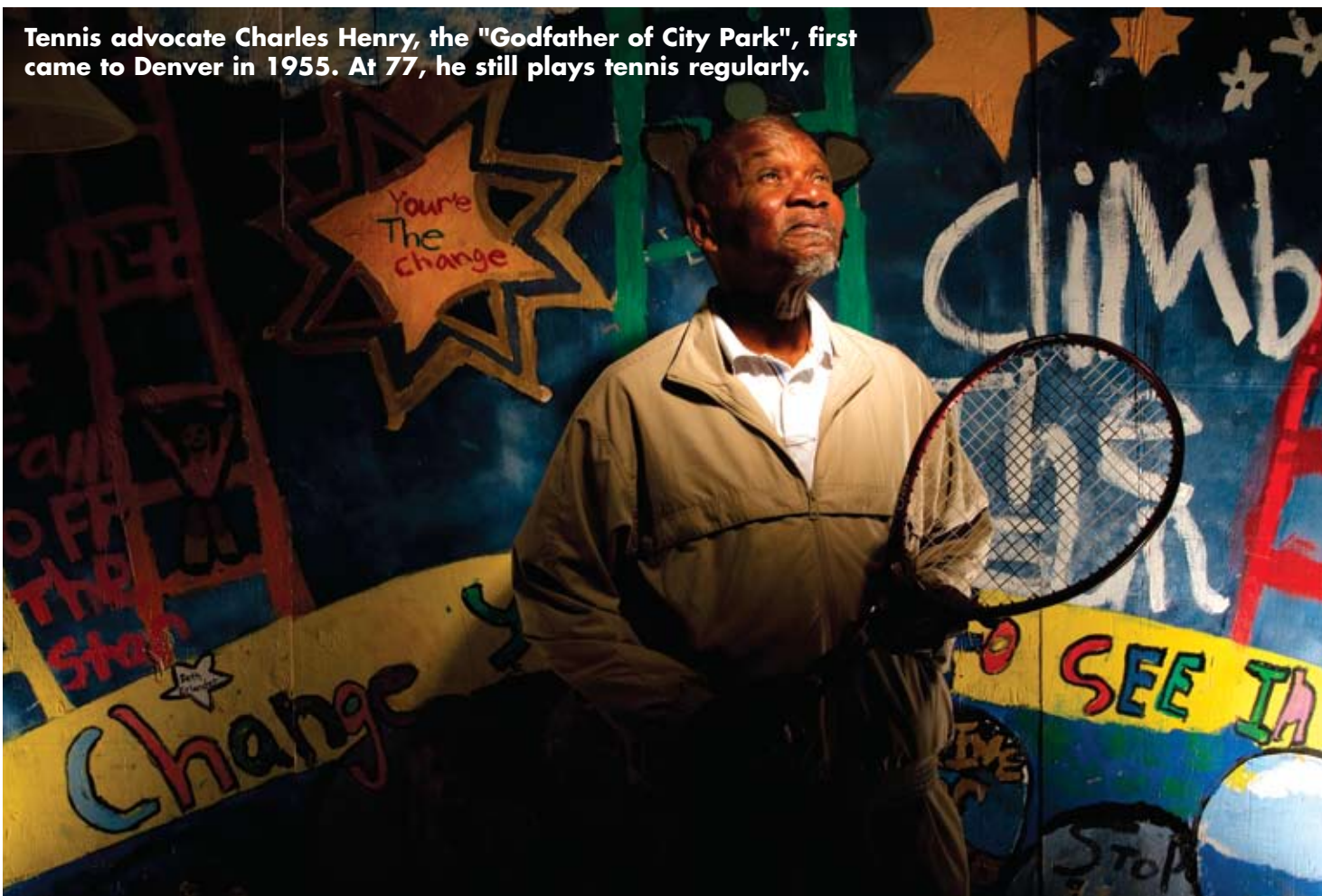
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Melvin McCurley got involved in tennis in the 1970s at age 15, when players like John Newcomb, Arthur Ashe and Rod Laver were in full swing. He was the first African-American to win a Colorado State Open Championship. "I think it is fantastic that we are bringing the exhibit. It's long overdue," McCurley says.

Even after McCurley won the Colorado State Open in the early 1980s, he still faced challenges with regard to interacting on the Country Club scene. "I remember applying for the tennis pro job at Cherry Hills Country Club, and the guys kept talking about the restaurant. They were convinced I was applying for a job at the restaurant."

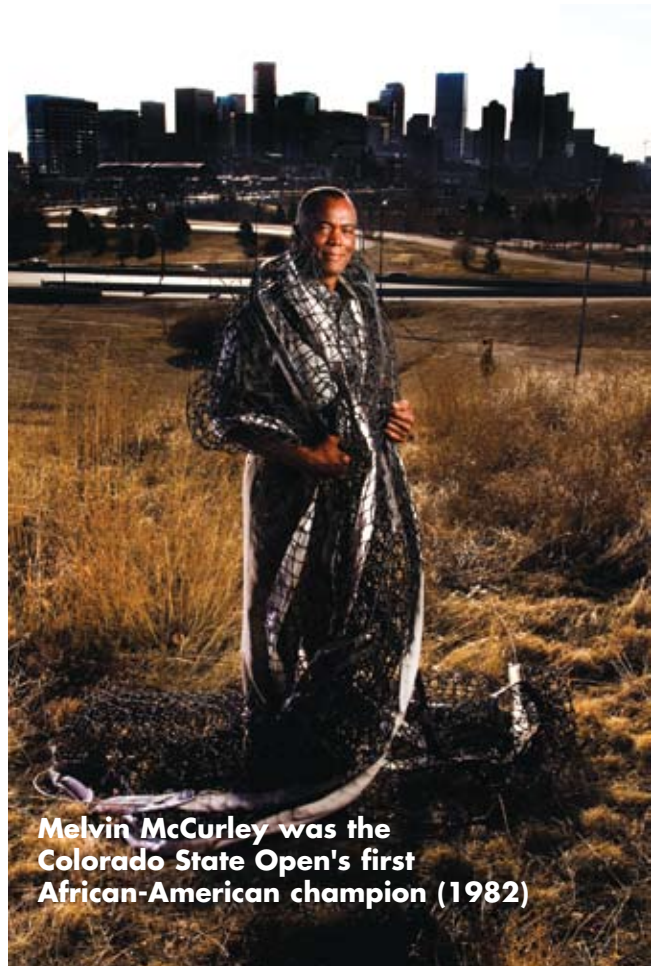
McCurley, who has coached several local young players, says, "When I talk to kids, I always say you don't have to be a pro tennis player—that doesn't need to be the goal for everyone—but do get good enough to get a scholarship. You may want to be an architect or a teacher, and you'll have your education for free."

"Althea Gibson was my main role model," says Bonnie Champion. "She was the only black person



**Tennis advocate Charles Henry, the "Godfather of City Park", first came to Denver in 1955. At 77, he still plays tennis regularly.**

photos by Barry Guitierrez



**Melvin McCurley was the Colorado State Open's first African-American champion (1982)**



**A top-ranked senior player, Bonnie Champion was Colorado's first African-American female umpire**

playing at the time, and she brought tennis to life for me."

Champion, who was the first African-American female umpire, has helped to bring tennis to life for many who have followed. At 72, she's ranked No. 1 in Colorado (W70s) and holds a top-30 national ranking.

Champion acknowledges that she grew up playing tennis on the streets because blacks weren't allowed to play on the courts in Missouri where she lived. "When I got to Colorado, doors had been opened for us. Barriers had been broken because of the guys that'd been going down to City Park. I knew what these guys had done, but our kids need to know that they are not just entitled to step right in—that there are barriers that have been broken, and those folks need to be recognized."

Frank Adams, Past President of the USTA Intermountain Section and current Delegate for USTA Intermountain, says he got involved with tennis in 1974 in Philadelphia. "I played with the National Junior Tennis League (NJTL) back then," he shares. "I remember folks like Arthur Ashe and Charlie Passerel coming into the inner city to encourage kids to pick up the game. I was one of the kids who took it up."

Adams says that the role of the ATA was critical. "It offered us an alternative, when other folks would not let us play. And I think that's an important thing about City Park, is that it represents a gathering point," he states. "It's the one place that you know if you are African-American, that it's a safe haven."

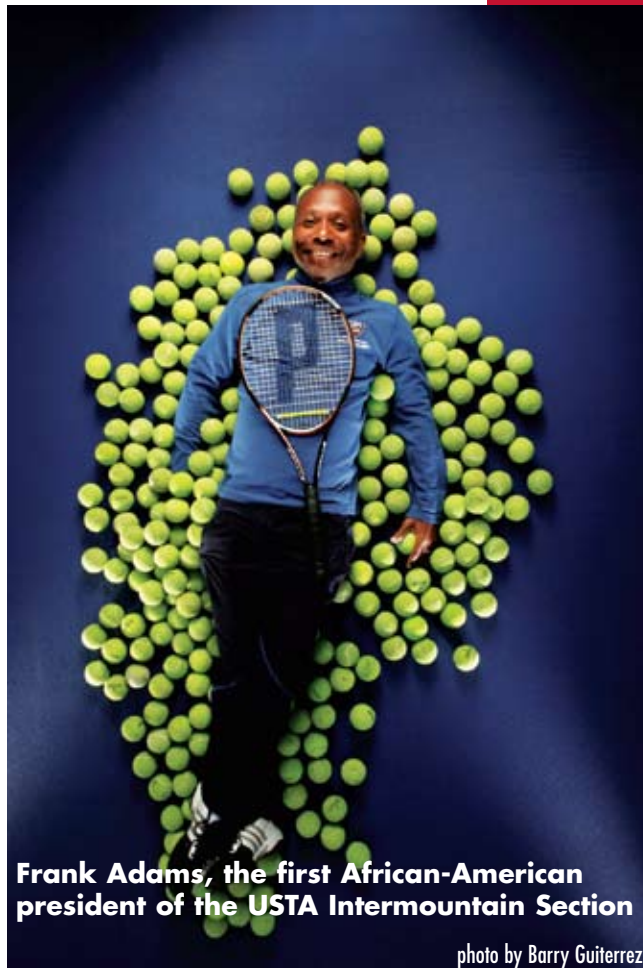
Frank has also been instrumental in encouraging and training a new generation of players, like Jessika Mozia. Jessika started playing at the age of three when she would hit with a sponge ball. By the age of seven she began playing in tournaments, and now at 17, she's a nationally-ranked player who won the 2010 4A state high school singles title.

Players like Jessika have more opportunities today, because they stand on the shoulders of people like Adams and the legion of others who persevered through discrimination. But while the barriers of racism are no longer the prevalent issue, there are still obstacles that exist for black players—mainly economic ones, explains her father, Pius Mozia, a former tennis and soccer pro who moved to Colorado from Nigeria in the 1980s.

Pius says that both of his kids have sponsorships, but sponsorships are competitive and predicated on results. To get one and keep one you have to be serious about the game and continuously move up in rank.

At the recreational level, however, tennis is one of the least expensive sports to play and enjoy. Inexpensive racquets and balls are available at local sporting goods stores, and public courts are easily accessible in virtually every neighborhood. For players interested in taking their games to the next level, there are numerous training and funding opportunities available through USTA Colorado and the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation. And for those who are intent on playing the sport at the highest level, there are numerous options to help defray the cost of training a champion.

Jessika, who has had the joyous experience of playing with her idols Venus and Serena, is serious about the game and plans to play college tennis. She also has plans for medical school. Eventually, Jessika will belong to a new generation of superstars who, having broken past the racial and economic barriers, will inspire the talented players that her follow to hit even higher marks.



**Frank Adams, the first African-American president of the USTA Intermountain Section**

photo by Barry Gúierrez



**The defending Colorado High School 4A Singles Champion, Jessika Mozia is one of the Intermountain Section's top-ranked players.**

photo by Chris McLean, *Pueblo Chieftain*

## ABOUT THE BREAKING THE BARRIERS EXHIBIT

USTA Colorado is partnering with the Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library, the repository of Black history in the West to bring the Breaking the Barriers exhibit to Denver, April through June 2011. The exhibit is a historical timeline featuring the significance of Blacks in tennis from the 1800s to Arthur Ashe's groundbreaking Wimbledon win.

Created by and on permanent display at the International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum to honor the pioneering players in the American Tennis Association, the touring exhibit has been traditionally featured at the US Open Championship.

The three-month run will be a premiere event at the Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library, showcasing the sport of tennis for the very first time. The *Breaking the Barriers* exhibit will enrich the Library's collection with historical memorabilia, stories and photos documenting the historical experiences and contributions of local past and present pioneers of tennis in Colorado.

Located in Denver's historical Five Points neighborhood, Blair-Caldwell is one of only five such libraries across the country. Serving the Denver community as a branch of the Denver Public Library system, Blair-Caldwell is committed to bringing unique and memorable exhibits focusing on the history of African-Americans in Denver and the American West.

A blockbuster event, the Breaking the Barriers exhibit will have ancillary programs providing an interactive experience highlighting both national and local African-Americans in tennis. Our goal is to educate and increase the awareness about the achievements of African-Americans and other diverse players in the sport of tennis, and to introduce tennis and its benefits including: personal responsibility, integrity, health and wellness, and family fun!

**SCHOOL OUTREACH**—Targeting grades 4-6, a school outreach effort is taking place to provide a learning experience for young people around the

importance of unity and diversity in our society and to embrace and appreciate both our cultural differences and similarities around a school or after school program field trip to Blair-Caldwell. A curriculum guide has been developed with pre- and post-visit materials for teachers and program leaders that are relevant to current events and connected to Colorado curriculum standards in social studies and physical education. In addition, an activity guide and activity area will be created onsite to engage kids and families to explore the history and issues addressed in the exhibit and experiences in the game of tennis.

**DOCUMENTARY SHORT**—Crossing the Net: Denver City Park & the Black Tennis Experience, will capture the culture, spirit and passion for tennis that began from the inception of City Park tennis, which still exists to this day, welcoming everyone from all walks of life. Showcasing the reverence displayed by spectators sitting on the

benches, to those brave enough to advance to the courts obtaining support and encouragement from experienced players.

**PORTRAIT SERIES**—To complement the exhibit, archival stylized portraits of more than a dozen local tennis standouts profiled in the documentary will be on display. These individuals started their tennis participation through grassroots tennis at City Park in east Denver and excelled as "firsts" in the sport in various areas such as: the first African-American woman umpire; the first African-American to win the Colorado State Open Tennis Championship and more. The inspirational accomplishments and contributions of local African-Americans will be a permanent display enhancing the Library's collection. It will also be available on loan for educational purposes.

**LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES**—A four week oral history lecture series with presentations by living heroes will take place with: library staff moderator(s) leading discussions with local tennis enthusiasts sharing their experiences of breaking barriers and panel discussions with a world renowned tennis historian based in Colorado Springs. In addition, there will be "talk-backs" with past and current tennis players telling their personal revelations on the battles fought and the victories won.





# BREAKING *the* BARRIERS

## AN EXHIBITION IN COURAGE 2011

### PLANNED EVENT AND DATES

**April 13, 2011, 7pm-8:30pm**

CROSSING THE NET: CITY PARK & THE BLACK TENNIS EXPERIENCE, DOCUMENTARY SCREENING  
DENVER FILM CENTER/COLFAX

**April-May, 2011**

SCHOOL OUTREACH & STUDENT GUIDED TOURS  
BLAIR-CALDWELL LIBRARY

**May 9, May 16, Jun 6, June 13, 2011, 6pm-8pm**

ORAL HISTORIES LECTURE SERIES  
BLAIR-CALDWELL LIBRARY

**May 21, 2011, 10am-6pm**

FIVE POINTS JAZZ FESTIVAL,  
PROMOTE/DRIVE ATTENDANCE TO THE EXHIBIT  
DISPLAY  
FIVE POINTS AT WELTON

**June 18, 2011, 10am-4pm**

JUNETEENTH "KIDS ZONE" 10 & UNDER TENNIS CLINICS FOR ATTENDEES OF DENVER'S JUNETEENTH CULTURAL FESTIVAL, BLAIR-CALDWELL LIBRARY  
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**June 25, 2011, 10am-4pm**

USTA COLORADO DIVERSITY TENNISFEST (IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DENVER PARKS & RECREATION, QWEST PIONEERS), 10 & UNDER TENNIS AND ADULT TENNIS ACTIVITIES  
CITY PARK TENNIS COURTS

For more information on *Breaking the Barriers-An Exhibition in Courage*, please visit [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com).



Photo courtesy of Greenwood Athletic and Tennis Club

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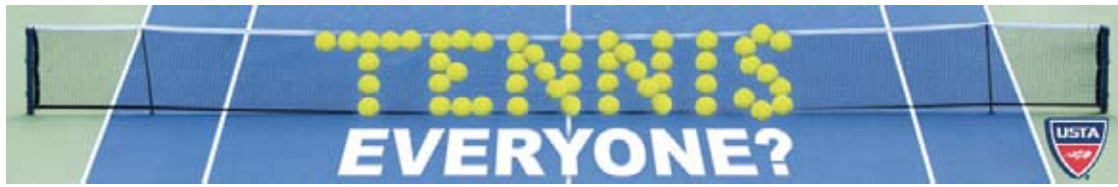
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# THEBUZZ

## NOUNS IN THE NEWS

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



### Joint Promotion between USTA and Stonyfield Farm to help net \$100K for Community Tennis

The USTA announced a joint promotion with 2010 US Open sponsor Stonyfield Farm in which Stonyfield will feature USTA Community Tennis programs on eight million yogurt lids through early spring. The lids will contain the headline, "Tennis Everyone?" and will offer consumers the chance to vote on how to allocate \$100,000 of USTA funds between three community tennis programs including USTA Schools, Tennis in the Parks and Wheelchair/Adaptive Tennis. Voting for the promotion will end on April 30, and the USTA will direct \$60,000 to the program that receives the most votes, while the other two programs will receive \$20,000 each. Voting can be done at [STONYFIELD.com](http://STONYFIELD.com).

The USTA Schools effort introduces kids to the sport of a lifetime by providing training, support and equipment to schools across the country. This support gives kids the opportunity to learn the game while helping to combat childhood obesity. Every day, while kids are having fun playing tennis, they are also achieving the health and wellness goals of their school. Tennis in the Parks helps to provide tennis programming and improve tennis facilities in parks throughout the country. The work helps to improve and expand opportunities in communities nationwide for the public to learn and play the lifelong game of tennis. Along with the health and fitness benefits, new courts and expanded programming provide ways for people to come together. Wheelchair and adaptive tennis programs provide access to everyone with a desire to play. The USTA supports wheelchair and adaptive programs nationwide through coaching, equipment and events.



### USTA Intermountain names Warren as new Executive Director

The Board of Directors of USTA Intermountain is pleased to announce that **Matthew Warren** has been hired to lead the Intermountain Section as Executive Director. The Executive Director of the Idaho Tennis Association, Warren will be transitioning to his new duties in mid-May. Intermountain Board president, Jon Messick, said the selection process involved more than 20 applicants from around the country. The board was united in its approval of Warren as the new ED.

### Summer Sectional Volunteers Wanted

The premier Intermountain event for juniors is back in Denver this summer, as the ITA Summer Sectionals returns to Colorado for the second of a two-year stint. The event is held at various sites in Denver, June 14-19, and volunteers are needed to help make the event a memorable one for the more than 500 participants and their families from across the Intermountain Section. Please contact Jason Colter [jason@coloradotennis.com](mailto:jason@coloradotennis.com) at 303/695-4116 x205 for information about volunteering for this tremendous event.

### Final Rankings CORRECTION

USTA Colorado accidentally omitted the Women's 70 Division from its 2010 Final Rankings list, published in the *2011 Big Book of Colorado Tennis*. USTA Colorado regrets the omission.

#### 2010 Final Women's 70 Rankings

Singles: 1. Bonnie Champion 2. Jean Darst

Doubles: 1. Bonnie Champion/Jean Darst

### Season 4: In the Tennis Zone with Andy Zodin

Join the conversation! The award-winning In the Tennis Zone with Andy Zodin has returned for season 4, running through late September. Offering quality coverage of pros, high-performance juniors, and USTA adult tennis across the US. Tennis Zone is proud to feature some of the most high profile tennis names in our sport, including many top players, coaches and journalists. The show airs live on Sunday nights from 6-8pm on AM 1510/FM 93.7, and streams live at [MILEHIGHSPORTS.com](http://MILEHIGHSPORTS.com).



### Devastating earthquake overshadows ITF World Team Championships

Colorado players Willie Dann and Lewis Miller (Italia Cup/M35), Rhona Kaczmarczyk (Margaret Court Cup/W45) and Susan Wright (Maria Esther Bueno Cup/W55) were all set to take on the world at the 2011 ITF World Team Championships in New Zealand until a devastating earthquake hit the city of Christchurch on February 22.

While Wright went undefeated, helping the US team capture the World Championship title in Ashburton, some 55 miles to the south, the devastating quake forced the cancelation of the M35 and W45 events.

Robin Dann was accompanying her husband, Willie, along with Michelle and Lew Miller when the 6.3-magnitude quake hit. "We had just walked into a tall glass building to have lunch, and Michelle and I were up at the counter ordering when we felt it. Everyone ran outside. Willie was able to get across the street but by the time Lew, Michelle and I got out we just had to drop to the ground because glass was falling everywhere. Lew kept yelling, 'Stay down, stay down.'"

The Danns had to dodge crumbling buildings, gas-fueled explosions, broken water pipes and fissured streets in order to pick up their daughter, Sidney, from daycare. After roaming the streets for miles, enduring countless aftershocks while looking for a safe haven, the Danns, Millers and the rest of the American team were offered shelter by a local family as they waited, and watched.

"We spent the next several hours all huddled together, watching the news of the devastation to the now-destroyed city."

After shocks came often—literally hundreds of them—and some were devastating, registering over 4.5 on the Richter scale. A 7.2 earthquake struck Christchurch just last September, but the February quake was four times as large because the epicenter was much closer to the city, and happened just six miles underground.

New Zealand lies at the southern end of the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, and above an area of the Earth's crust where the Pacific Plate converges with the Indo-Australian Plate. The country experiences more than 14,000 earthquakes a year, of which only about 20 have a magnitude in excess of 5.0. The last fatal earthquake was in 1968, when a 7.1-magnitude tremor killed three people on the South Island's western coast.

The experience was absolutely frightening, says Robin. But the hospitality they received in the midst of such devastation inspired her to help. As the program director at Meadow Creek Tennis & Fitness, Robin saw an opportunity to do something to aid not only the people affected by the quake in Christchurch, but also the hundreds of thousands who were affected by the more recent catastrophe in Japan.

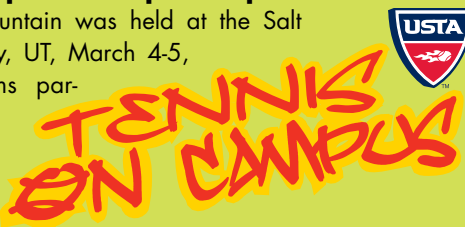
Meadow Creek is hosting a fundraiser, 6-10pm on Friday, April 15 to benefit the Red Cross Earthquake Relief fund. The event features tennis drills, an exhibition, food, drinks and a silent auction. Cost for the evening is \$40. Even if you can't make the event, Robin urges anyone who wants to help to send a check payable to Red Cross Earthquake Relief to Meadow Creek, 6305 W 6th Ave, Lakewood CO 80214, Attn: Robin Dann. More information is available by emailing [info@meadowcreektennis.com](mailto:info@meadowcreektennis.com) or calling the front desk at 303/232-6272. You can find out more on the event by visiting [MEADOWCREEKTENNIS.com](http://MEADOWCREEKTENNIS.com).





**CU, UNC move on to National Campus Championships**

The 2011 Campus Championships-Intermountain was held at the Salt Lake Swimming Tennis Club in Salt Lake City, UT, March 4-5, 2011. Eleven schools with eighteen teams participated in the Championships, kicking off an exciting two days of tennis. The **University of Colorado** (pictured above) came prepared to defend their title as they cruised through the Championships, taking first place by dropping a combined two sets. In the finals they defeated the **University of Northern Colorado** (pictured below), 28-15. Utah Valley University faced-off with home-town rivals Brigham Young University, and for the second year in a row defeated the Cougars to take third place and the last bid to the National Campus Championships. The University of Colorado, University of Northern Colorado, and Utah Valley University will be representing the USTA Intermountain Section and their schools at the National Campus Championships in Cary, North Carolina, April 7-9.



The USTA's Tennis On Campus program is designed to provide college students with opportunities for team camaraderie, social networking, and rivaled competition through tennis without the rigors of a varsity program. Perfect for athletes who have chosen not to make the jump from high school to college varsity, Tennis On Campus offers co-ed team-based play, regional and national championship competition, and helps students maintain active and healthy lifestyles through their college years. Currently, the program is offered on over 500 college campuses and services over 30,000 students.

Get Some Love at [TENNISONCAMPUS.com](http://TENNISONCAMPUS.com).

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**8th Annual Fundraiser Tennis Camps slated for June**

Adults and juniors are invited to attend the 8th Annual Fundraiser Tennis Camps, Monday through Thursday, June 20-23, at the Arvada Tennis Center. The two-hour youth (K-12) lessons begin at 3pm, the adult drills go for an hour beginning at 4pm. Cost for the lessons is \$50/junior, \$25/adult and includes a t-shirt.

The Fundraiser Tennis Camps have a twofold purpose—1. to raise money for organizations and schools in the community, and 2. to introduce kids & adults to the sport of tennis.

Dollars raised will help fund high school tennis programs, as well as benefit the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation. Ralston Valley High School tennis coach Kim Greason and USPTA Pro Chris Towell will coordinate a host of varsity tennis players to offer lessons and drills for the participants. Please contact Sonia Schwartz <[soniaschwartz2003@yahoo.com](mailto:soniaschwartz2003@yahoo.com)> at 303/420-5440 for more information and to register.

**Collegiate rankings include top Colorado players**

As of March 1, a handful of Colorado players have been nationally ranked by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA). Congratulations to Division I players **Alexandra Leatu** (Vanderbilt), 80s/51d; **Enej Bonin** (Denver), 54s; **Kellen Damico** (Texas) 88s/23d; **Will Vasos** (Iowa), 71d.

The following Division III players have been recognized with ITA regional rankings: **Carolyn Warren** (Johns Hopkins/South East Region), 4s; **Rachel Loeb** (Skidmore/North East Region), 22s/9d.

**Signing Day is April 13**

The groundhog predicted Spring, and indeed, it has sprung! Although verbal commitments have been made, the official date for seniors from the Class of 2011 to sign National Letters of Intent at Division I or II schools is April 13.

According to TennisRecruiting.net, the following Colorado high school seniors have committed to schools: **Jacob Spreyer** (Connecticut), **Colin Haas** (Kenyon) **Jake Malman** (Bryant), **Mark Miller** (Villanova), **Daniel Conroy** (Allegheny), **Sammie Watson** (Utah), **Brittney Ricci** (Fort Hays State), **Kira Woods** (Pomona-Pitzer), **Katherine Howe** (Luther).

All of us here at USTA Colorado HQ like to keep tabs on our hometown tennis products, so we encourage all prep players (or their parents) to email our Player Development Director, Jason Colter <[jason@coloradotennis.com](mailto:jason@coloradotennis.com)>, and let him know where you're attending college. Good luck to all the players and parents.

Parents, if you have a young player hoping to play tennis in college, be sure to check out our four-part series, COLLEGEBOUND, in last year's *Colorado Tennis* newspaper. Just visit [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com).

**Colorado juniors head to Las Vegas for RTC**

Ten juniors from Colorado were selected by the USTA to attend the first training of 2011 at the Regional Training Center in Las Vegas. The five boys—**Brett Finan**, **Casey Ross**, **Willie Gold**, **Alec Leaddon** and **Jackson Hawk**—and five girls—**Jessica Aragon**, **Kaylssa Hall**, **Ashley Lahey**, **Samantha Martinelli** and **Tate Schroeder**—were among the handful of Intermountain juniors who have been tabbed by the USTA to attend the invitation-only event.

The goal of the RTC program is to enhance the training and development of junior players in their respective areas of the country. USTA Player Development utilizes the partnerships formed with these facilities as vehicles to educate and collaborate with junior tennis coaches throughout the sections to work together toward developing the next generation of world-class American players. **Sue Burke** was selected to represent Colorado at the RTC.

**High Altitude Tennis welcomes Tennismith**

High Altitude Tennis will welcome Steve Smith, founder of Tennismith, to its Parker location April 15-17 for a 20-hour tennis immersion course that will help players and pros alike take their respective goals to the next level. For more information, visit [TENNISMITH.com](http://TENNISMITH.com). Space is limited, register now at [HIGHALTHITUDETENNIS.com](http://HIGHALTHITUDETENNIS.com).

**League Teams encouraged to Adopt-A-Unit**

The USTA's Adopt-a-Unit effort is designed to guide tennis organizations and players to "adopt" a military unit of approximately 75-100 soldiers serving in Iraq or Afghanistan by sending care packages of necessities. In turn, the USTA will send portable tennis equipment to the adopted unit on your behalf with instructions and educational information on tennis. The effort allows the tennis community to show support and to introduce soldiers to a recreational means for reintegrating with family, friends and community upon their return from conflict.

continued on next page ▶



### Meadows Club in Boulder completes indoor/clay court addition

The Meadows Swim & Tennis Club in Boulder recently completed the addition of three indoor courts and a pair of Har-Tru clay courts, as well as a pair of platform tennis courts. The expansion/renovation dates back to 2007, when the Club began the process of obtaining building permits with the city of Boulder.

The courts are getting early use from the University of Colorado's Women's tennis team who are practicing and competing on them during the winter/early spring season.

Visit the club online at [MEADOWSCLUB.org](http://MEADOWSCLUB.org).

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On your behalf and in partnership with the National Recreation Foundation, the USTA will purchase and ship equipment, along with educational and instructional information, about tennis and the USTA. You can include a letter from your group with thankful wishes from home and an invitation to play tennis in the community with family and friends upon their return. For more information, please visit [USTA.com/adoptaunit](http://USTA.com/adoptaunit).

### USTA updates 2011 Friend At Court

The Official Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations (including The Code), **FRIEND AT COURT** is an essential piece of equipment for every tennis player. The 2011 edition is now available, and includes the most recent Rules, Regulations and Code changes. The cost to purchase FAC from USTA Colorado is \$6.75 (+\$2.45 postage), call 303/695-4116. You may also order online at [USTASHOP.com](http://USTASHOP.com). The USTA has issued the following noteworthy changes for 2011. For a complete list of all the updated rules, regulations and codes, please pick up the **2011 FRIEND AT COURT**.

*Changing out call to good:* Code 12 has changed to reflect that a player who changes his "out" call to "good" loses the point.

No let will be played in this situation.

*Cell phone update:* USTA Comment 26.3 explains the penalties for a ringing cell phone:

1. Ringing during a point, opponent may stop play and claim point as a deliberate hindrance. Player must turn off the phone.
2. Ringing between points, is treated as a Time Violation (could be a Warning or a Point Penalty). Player must turn off the phone.
3. If the phone vibrates, no penalty. Player must turn off the phone unless Referee has approved vibrating phone (Doctor on call for example).

The **2011 FRIEND AT COURT** is also available in digital format as a PDF. Visit [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com) to download your copy. 📄

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- ☛ Strategy development learned from being able to cover the entire court
- ☛ Better racquet control to encourage proper technique development
- ☛ Longer rallies allowing kids to better develop their court skills



The USTA has required that all 10 and Under Tennis tournaments be played using a new combination of smaller courts, lighter and lower-bouncing balls and smaller and lighter racquets adjusted to a child's size.

### Kids 8 and Under

Court Size	Racquet	Ball	Net Height
36' x 18'	up to 23"	A red foam or red low compression felt ball moves slower, bounces lower and travels less distance.	2' 9"



### Kids 10 and Under

Court Size	Racquet	Ball	Net Height
60' x 21' singles	up to 25"	An orange low compression felt ball moves a little faster and travels farther but still has a lower bounce than the standard yellow ball.	3'
60' x 27' doubles			



For more information visit  
[10andUnderTennis.com](http://10andUnderTennis.com)



# 10 UNDER

A WIN-WIN FOR TENNIS CLUBS: encouraging commercial clubs to support 10 and Under Tennis, QuickStart Format

**A**fter an initial push to encourage public parks and recreation facilities to jump on board the new 10 and Under Tennis initiative, the USTA hosted an informational meeting with Colorado's Front Range private and commercial clubs. The meeting, which brought together more than two dozen representatives from 16 facilities up and down the Front Range, was conducted by Virgil Christian, Director of Community Tennis Development, and USTA consultant John Embree.

Most of the tennis world is uniting behind the 10 and Under Tennis/QuickStart Tennis format, which takes a new and better approach to introducing kids to the game. Balls are lower in compression; they bounce lower and don't move as fast so they are easier to hit. This allows kids time to get to the ball and helps them develop optimal swing patterns. Racquets are sized for small hands, and the courts are smaller and easier to cover. All that equals more fun and less frustration.

While most pros, parents and coaches recognize the benefits of the change, the question from many for-profit clubs is—"Is this new format financially viable?" Christian and Embree laid out the details of how commercial clubs can help dramatically increase the number of new, young players coming into our sport and ensure they start appropriately on the pathway to becoming a frequent and lifelong tennis player, and as a result expand the revenue streams coming into our industry. The goal is to put these consumers on the pathway to becoming frequent tennis players—benefiting all sectors of this industry. There has never been a stronger initiative to grow the game that is so closely linked to both short-term and long-term economic impact across a range of stakeholders in our industry. Frequent players make up only 18% of total participation in our sport, yet studies show they drive almost 70% of the overall revenues for the industry.

Facilities were shown how the 60-foot and 36-foot court configurations could be profitable—introducing new players to the game and increasing numbers on the courts— as full sized courts can be reconfigured to accommodate up to six 36-foot courts, so instead of waiting in line, kids can spend their time playing.

Nationally, the Tennis Industry Association is excited about the opportunity to support the 10U efforts. This initiative will drive not just new players into the sport but is much more closely linked (than prior USTA initiatives) to retail sales, equipment purchases in developing categories, and a sustainable pathway that will also support new consumers for certified tennis teaching professionals and programs, facilities, events and exposing entire families to our sport, which will also impact media and sponsorships.



photo by Kurt Descutels/USTA Colorado

**And here's the pitch...**

USTA Colorado welcomed for-profit clubs to an informational meeting at the Inverness Hotel to discuss how the 10 and Under Tennis initiative can be a win-win scenario for players and clubs.

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**THIS IS MY TEAM.**

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 303/695-4116 x207 or dan@coloradotennis.com



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# INDUSTRY NEWS

## 60-FOOT BLENDED LINES ALL THE RAGE

story by TOM FASANO

**T**ennis courts from Steamboat Springs to Denver to Fort Collins are undergoing a subtle change in the way they look these days.

Thanks to the QuickStart 10-and-under tennis format where the traditional 78-foot courts are being striped for younger players to compete on 36- and 60-foot areas, the smaller courts, lighter and softer tennis balls, lighter and smaller racquets and lower nets that the USTA has mandated for 2012 have given youth tennis a shot in the arm.

Tom Josephs, vice president of LERenner Sports Surfaces in Denver, said having QuickStart lines on tennis courts will be common around the state in the next couple of years.

"I see this taking a snowball effect. The USTA has spent a lot of time putting these initiatives together and rolling it out and trying to gain the momentum that it's gaining right now," Josephs said. "I think we're going to be striping almost every court we build. In two years, I foresee almost every court having at least the 60-foot, 10-and-under striping."

Renner builds 80 to 90 post-tension tennis courts a year, and completes 200 to 300 resurfaces in that same timeframe.

Josephs said a regulation 36-by-78-foot court can cost anywhere from \$35,000 to \$65,000 to build, while an 18-by-36 QuickStart court costs from \$25,000 to \$35,000.

"My belief is that we'll be building more and more dedicated QuickStart facilities at clubs, parks and other facilities," Josephs said.

Josephs said it's a great idea that the USTA is building the game with the younger generation through the QuickStart format.

"I think this is a great initiative the USTA is rolling out to get kids involved in tennis," Josephs said. "You don't put little kids out on a full-size baseball field or football field when they're in youth sports, so why should you do it in tennis. So the whole court has been scaled down to their stature, and it just makes it more fun."

Renner is under contract to stripe 18 courts for the South Suburban Parks and Recreation Department, as well as eight courts for the Columbine Knolls Grove Metropolitan District. The company striped four indoor courts at Ken-Caryl Ranch Metropolitan District last summer and six courts at the Tennis Center at Steamboat Springs last fall.

"We built four dedicated QuickStart courts at Boulder Valley Schools in Superior (Eldorado K-8)," Josephs said.

The Eldorado courts opened last summer, and were the first dedicated QuickStart courts in the state. Josephs said Gates Tennis Center in Denver is working to find the means to build their own bank of four dedicated 18-by-36-foot courts.

George Tavarez of Coatings, Inc., in Arvada said Coatings has striped 10 courts, including courts at the Millennium Harvest House Tennis in Boulder and have 32 more courts lined up in the future.

"It's becoming more and more popular," Tavarez said. "QuickStart has been very beneficial to the game, and I think it's only going to get better. It's really taken off."

The people running tennis facilities around the state say QuickStart's a good thing.

Vicki Holthus, the community tennis coordinator for the South Suburban Parks and Recreation Department in Centennial, said (Renner) will be striping 18 courts—six indoor and 12 outdoor—by the end of April.

"We decided to pursue just going ahead and putting down the lines as part of the initiative of the USTA that in 2012, all junior team tennis 10-and-unders and sanctioned junior tournaments 10-and-unders are going to have to be played on a 60-foot court," said Holthus while working from the Littleton Golf and Tennis Club's indoor facility. "We decided to crank it out now and get it done. We can use it in our programs, and we won't have to worry about lining courts anymore and we can get people familiar with it."

The USTA is providing a matching grant of up to 50 percent of the cost to the facilities. With striping the courts costing anywhere from \$200 to \$400, the facilities will only have to pay half that.

"It's an exciting time for tennis. This is the actual first major change for tennis courts, for tennis balls to get things into the little guys' hands," Holthus said.

Shorter courts are making tennis more competitive for the kids, who no longer have to play with big nets and large racquets on a full-size court.

"Tennis has been so far behind the ball. It's time to bring it down to the kids' level either by bringing the balls down to their level with less pressure, bringing the courts down to their level using smaller nets," Holthus said. "It's time to get kids hitting the ball. We want them to rally the ball. It's really exciting. I think the (USTA) mandate is awesome. We're really excited to be on the forefront of this. It's time to do this and bring the kids into the game, into the sport and help it grow even more."

Judy Anderson, facility coordinator at Ken-Caryl, said there are plans to stripe an additional



### USTA, First Lady Team Up For 'Let's Move!' Campaign

The USTA has teamed up with First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" campaign to encourage young people across the country to get active, try tennis and lead healthy lifestyles. Part of the collaboration includes a new public service announcement featuring the first lady promoting the 10 and Under Tennis initiative.

"It's important for kids to get the hour of active play they need every day, and there are so many fun things that each of us can do to be healthier," said Michelle Obama. "Thanks to programs like the USTA's 10 and Under Tennis initiative, it's easier than ever for kids to get active and have fun. And that's a big part of what we're doing with Let's Move!, America's campaign to raise a healthier generation of kids."

The public service announcement debuted on Feb. 28, during ESPN's telecast of the BNP Paribas Showdown from Madison Square Garden, featuring Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl. Feb. 28 also was Tennis Night in America and Youth Registration.

"Our new collaboration with the First Lady and 'Let's Move!' will help us reach more families to teach them that tennis is easier to learn and access than ever before," said Jon Vegosen, USTA Chairman of the Board and President.

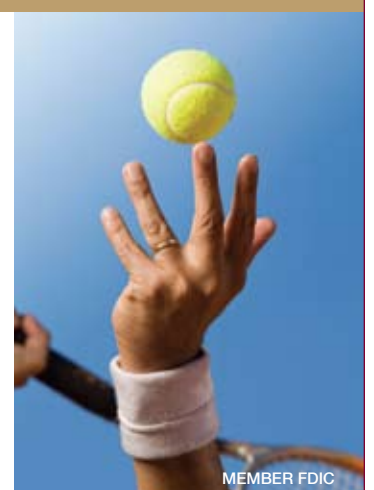
The PSA with the first lady also features Andre Agassi and Stefanie, all of whom play the role of ballpersons for youngsters playing on smaller courts with smaller racquets and modified balls. The USTA plans to create 60-second and 30-second versions of the PSA.

Another component of the collaboration with Let's Move! is the construction and renovation of 3,000 tennis courts across the country in 2011, ensuring that all will be lined for the QuickStart Tennis play format. Also, the USTA will use its resources and programs to encourage 200,000 kids to take the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA), which encourages young Americans to be active 60 minutes a day, five days a week for six weeks in an eight-week period.

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four to six outdoor courts for QuickStart in the spring.

Anderson said QuickStart has been "enormously popular."

"The kids can actually play tennis instead of just hit a ball, go chase it and pick it up," she said. "Even little ones can rally. It's wonderful. A 4-year-old can actually make contact using a QuickStart ball and actually get it over the net, where as on a regular court they would never get it over."

Larry Lewis, tennis director of Lewis Tennis School in Fort Collins who also contracts with the city of Fort Collins to run the city's tennis programs, said there are 250-300 kids signed up for QuickStart this summer.

"I've used the softer balls for years because it's so much easier for the kids and adults to learn the game when you've got a ball that's not traveling so fast," Lewis said. "I see with the QuickStart format getting the kids on the shorter courts and the short nets enables them to get out and play immediately."

Lewis said Evergreen Tennis Courts (out of Loveland) striped eight 36-foot courts, allowing him to some host QuickStart tournaments and an indoor league for kids.

"They just have a blast because the ball goes back and forth a lot of times rather than just one hit and run and chase it. They're getting in these 10-, 15- and sometime 20-hit rallies and just loving it," Lewis said. "The kids start to learn to craft points right off the get-go. They're learning how to hit little angle shots, how to hit lobs."

Lewis said even adults use the QuickStart courts at times.

"We even see adults out here playing, too. They have a great time with it, too," Lewis said. "We did a couple of extravaganzas last year where we have kids and adults out and we'll have a couple of courts set up with QuickStart. We have adults out there playing games, and they're having every bit as much fun as the kids are."

Lewis said a push is being made to convert a platform tennis court into three QuickStart courts in Fort Collins.

"We'll just have to see how the budget goes, but it would be just amazing," Lewis said. "It would be pretty unique and really kind of a showcase." 🎾

### AN UP-CLOSE LOOK AT BLENDED LINES

Tom Josephs, vice president of LE Renner Sports Surfaces in Denver, said it takes about an hour to apply the 60-foot blended lines to a regulation tennis court.

And depending on the number of courts his company stripes, Josephs said the cost can run from \$400 to \$500 for a single court to \$200-\$300 per court for four courts and up.

But thanks to grants available from the USTA, the cost to the facility can be significantly lower. "USTA will pay up to 50 percent of the cost of the lines up to \$200 per court," Josephs said, meaning a full-facility conversion can be cost-effective.



There are a handful of regulations on the line size, color and spacing, Josephs said.

"The line size is an inch and a half wide where a typical line is two inches wide," Josephs said. "The color of the line is of the same family

as the court—if you have a green playing area, then your lines need to be a shade of green, also. USTA prefers darker, but we recommend lighter than the actual court color."

Josephs said the new lines must stop and start three inches away from any tennis lines.

"They share some of the regular tennis lines where you can utilize the existing tennis lines for some of the QuickStart lines," Josephs said. "There are two sizes of the QuickStart courts, the 60-foot, 10-and-under courts, and the 18 by 36-foot court for 8-and-under—the type that we built at Eldorado in Boulder."

Josephs said the process is to go in and measure from the existing tennis lines, apply masking tape and paint the appropriate color.

Josephs' company put down the QuickStart lines at The Tennis Center at Steamboat Springs and he said facility director Jim Swiggart noted that a regular player was very concerned about the lines being applied because of possible distractions.

"When we were done she came to him and said that she never even noticed they were there," Josephs said.

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# SPOTLIGHT: RACQUETS FOR ALL



**Racquets For All**

Equipment Recycling Program of the  
Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation

## HIGH SCHOOL CHALLENGE

The 2011 girls' high school tennis season is underway and while teams hope to compete for the state title, all 5A and 4A teams also have the chance to be named the winner of the 2nd Annual Racquets for All High School Challenge. The Challenge is simple – whichever 5A or 4A girls' team collects and donates the most racquets to Racquets for All wins. The prize? \$200 to be used however the team chooses!

The winner of the 2010 Challenge was the Ralston Valley High School team, which collected 31 racquets. The team used creativity in collecting racquets – they searched thrift shops and garage sales and asked friends, family and business partners to contribute. They reached out using Facebook and Craigslist, even receiving two brand new racquets from outside of Colorado.

Any team interested in participating just needs to bring their collected racquets to the regional tournament, clearly documenting their high school name and number of racquets collected. The winning team will be recognized at the State Championships.

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

## HALL OF FAME GALA RACQUET COLLECTION

A big thank you to those who attended the annual Hall of Fame Gala in January and contributed racquets to Racquets for All. More than 70 racquets were collected at the event, helping to make this past January our second highest collecting month since the program started in 2008.

## RACQUETS FOR ALL

NETTED NEARLY 700 RACQUETS IN 2010, RE-DISTRIBUTING 97% OF THEM BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY.

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[RFA@COLORADOTENNIS.COM](mailto:rfa@coloradotennis.com)

## EQUIPMENT COLLECTION/ DONATION UPDATE

Through March 31, 2011 RFA has collected 213 tennis racquets, 63 dozen tennis balls and 53 racquet covers and bags.

Already this year, RFA has distributed 227 racquets and more than 2,000 balls to schools and recreation districts throughout Colorado.

## 2010 RECOGNITION

### Gold

Meadow Creek  
Ken Caryl  
South Suburban (Holly & Littleton)

### Silver

Work Out West  
The Broadmoor

### Bronze

CSU Tennis  
Miramont Lifestyle  
Valley Country Club  
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Rolling Hills Country Club  
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## MEADOW CREEK TENNIS & FITNESS: 2010 GOLD MEDAL WINNER

One of the primary ways that racquets are collected for Racquets for All is through tennis facilities. We currently have 43 collection sites – a combination of public and private tennis clubs, health clubs and parks and recreation facilities. Our goal for 2011 is to increase the number of collection facilities by at least 50%.

Becoming a collection site for Racquets for All is easy. Meadow Creek Tennis and Fitness Club was one of the first clubs to join the program and have been very successful, collecting more than 150 racquets since the program started in 2008. Owner Adam Kahn says "The program was easy to start and is easy to administrate. We have our collection barrel at the front of the club right when people enter so it is easy for them to see." Meadow Creek informs members of the program through their newsletter as well as through their teaching pros who verbally promote the program to members and guests. In 2010, Meadow Creek went a step further and incorporated Racquets for All in to their annual Pro Extravaganza event and asked attendees to donate racquets. Adam says "We think the Racquets for All program



is a tremendous way to help continue growing our sport by helping people in need have a way to get involved in the game."

If you are a facility that would like to get involved with Racquets for All, please email [rfa@coloradotennis.com](mailto:rfa@coloradotennis.com).

# SPOTLIGHT: COLORADO YOUTH TENNIS FOUNDATION

## GIFTS TO THE CYTF

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the tennis and business communities, the 2010 Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation individual giving fundraising goal of \$34,000 was accomplished! In addition, nearly \$24,000 was raised at the the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala and the Punk Relic Charity Tournament, the two primary events hosted by the CYTF. In addition, the CYTF raises money 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 2011, the CYTF's goal is to raise \$31,000 in individual, corporate, foundation and "affiliated event" dollars. To make a gift – big or small – visit our website at [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com) and click on the **CYTF logo**. Your gift will be acknowledged in the next issue of *Colorado Tennis* newspaper. If you'd like to host an event to benefit the CYTF, contact Lisa Schaefer [lisa@coloradotennis.com](mailto:lisa@coloradotennis.com), 303/695-4116 ext. 201.

### Colorado Gives Day nets over \$15,000 for the CYTF.

Christmas came early for the CYTF. The Foundation benefited from the generosity of donors who went online and made a gift to the CYTF on December 8, Colorado Gives Day. Thanks to those gifts and the generosity of an anonymous matching donor, over \$15,000 was raised to support the important work of the CYTF. In all, 50 gifts were made and the maximum \$3,500 in matching dollars was received. The CYTF also received an additional match from Giving First Incentive Funds provided primarily by First Bank. Special thanks to:

Anonymous (7)  
Taryn Archer  
Anne Ashmore  
Jerry & Marty Berglund  
Shannon Bigner  
Alden Bock  
Miles & Jan Cortez  
Crestmoor Community Assn. W3.5 Twilight Team  
Kurt & Jeanne Desautels  
Michael Donnelly  
Gregg & Karen Engel  
Fritz & Mary Lynn Garger  
Robert Gnaegy  
Grand Junction Tennis Club  
Linda Hanson

Tanya Harrington  
David Hill  
Sonny & Mary Anna Hutchison  
Lisa Japha  
Jon Cox Memorial Tennis Tournament  
Allen Kiel  
Art & Sue Knott (memory of Bill Oakes)  
Lorens Knudsen  
Dr. Linda Lister  
Donna Mandava  
Dallas & Dorothy Mauk  
Meadow Creek Tennis & Fitness  
Gene & Dee Milstein  
Leanne Palmisano  
Deanna Paul

Martha Peck  
PK Foundation  
Dave Romberg  
Lisa Schaefer  
Diane Selke  
Lee Silver  
Ron Steege  
Gary Stiefler  
Bill Trubey  
*Tennis with the Stars*  
David Van Liere  
Lynn Veit  
Colleen Weaverling  
Jon & Kathleen Winegrdner  
Debbie Yoder

### Other gifts made in December 2010:

Jane Burnham  
John Boose  
C. Burnett & Susan Dunn (memory of Bill Oakes)  
Liza Butterfield  
Julie Ciarvella  
Barbara Campas  
Vivian Epstein  
Mary Jane Gorab (memory of Peggy Gieringer)  
Michael Hayes  
Jack & Jackie Lewis (memory of Bill Oakes)  
Chris Spicciati (memory of Peggy Gieringer)  
Gary Stiefler  
Jeff Stroh & Janey Hanley (memory of Bill Oakes)  
Barry Sundland

### Gifts made through March 15, 2011—\$12,100

Toby Beamguard  
Jeremy Behm-Meyer  
John & Darlene Clifford  
Bedford Davies Foundation  
Jody Knudsen  
Times Call  
Lakewood Tennis Association  
Judith Palmer (memory of Peggy Gieringer)



**\$31,000**  
2011 FUNDRAISING  
GOAL FROM  
INDIVIDUAL,  
CORPORATE,  
FOUNDATION AND  
"AFFILIATED EVENTS"

**\$12,100**  
SPRING 2011  
FUNDRAISING

WE'RE CHANGING  
THE WORLD.

ONE PLAYER AT A TIME.

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

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

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

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

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

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

To learn more about the CYTF Scholarships and Grants program, or to help us change the world, one player at a time, please visit [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com).



CONNECTING WITH THE CYTF IS  
EASIER THAN EVER.



# SPOTLIGHT: STAN VAUGHAN

story by DENNISHUSPENI

**A**s Golden's Mike and Stefania Vaughan looked down on their now-completely paralyzed son, they tried not to imagine a world without Stanislav.

Stan was like a Russian Kodiak at 6-foot, 3-inches, 190 lbs. With a big serve and big smile, it was hard to see him bed-ridden. Just a week before that terrifying day late last October, Stan was playing doubles for Liberty University against some of the best Division I tennis players in the nation.

"When he attacks the net it's pretty intimidating," said his father, Mike.

Then doctors put the tube down Stan's throat when his lungs could no longer draw in air unassisted. The hospital room was filled with 10 members of the Liberty tennis team. Like Vaughan, none of them could speak. But they prayed.

Stan moved the only part of his body he could, his right "tennis" arm.

"I kind of hand gestured to my dad, like 'Are you OK?'" he said. "He started to choke up a little as if I don't want to see my son like this. ...That was definitely the hardest part for them."

Vaughan—a 2010 Mullen High School graduate and standout tennis and soccer player—had become a productive member of the Liberty Flames, taking the court at the ITA Indoor Regionals in Charlottesville, VA.

Now Vaughan lay in a hospital bed, being crippled by his own body—which was struck with a rare nervous system disorder called Guillain-Barré (according to WEBMD.com, pronounced "ghee-YAN bah-RAY").

"Essentially the immune system starts to attack the perioral nervous system," Mike explained.

Stan wondered whether he'd ever play tennis again. Mike and Stefania worried about their son's life.

"We were bracing for the worst."

Vaughan, some say miraculously, has fought his way through recovery faster than any but he could have imagined. He's actually played a few matches—won one—and is trying to help the team in any way he can.

Tennis is his lifeline.

## PROMISING LATE-BLOOMER

One of Vaughan's coaches at Mullen, Andy Zodin, described the team's former number one as "a phenomenal athlete."

"He got a late start, but his rankings and his results belied his true talent level," Zodin said. "He was a hard-worker and very mature, beyond his years in a lot of ways."

Vaughan didn't start playing tennis competitively until he was 12 or 13-years-old. But he caught up quickly, flashing "big serve and a big forehand" skills with a contagious smile that made him popular with the girls and boys at Mullen, Zodin said.

Mike remembers the time Stan delivered a farewell speech to the seniors at the end of the season banquet. A standing ovation ensued.

"He focused on the challenge of how everyone should lead their lives. About how discipline was needed in our lives; what the school meant to him and how his parents had raised the bar for him; how not to be a partier and not to screw around with drugs or gals. Tennis became a real discipline. And health-wise to stay on track with commitments to your class and yourself," Mike said.

Zodin recalls Vaughan at his fiery best during a Denver City Open match where Vaughan dropped the first set, but won the next two to advance.



Photo courtesy of Liberty University

**A 2010 graduate of Mullen High School, Stan Vaughan hoped he could make a big impact on the Liberty University tennis squad. Instead, he found himself fighting for his life after developing Guillain-Barré Syndrome in October.**

"He's definitely a guy that would stay out there with you and fight all day," Zodin said.

Stan's dream was to play D1 tennis. The University of Northern Colorado wanted Vaughan to be a Bear and offered him a full ride. But he passed for an opportunity at Liberty, the largest private Christian university in the nation, even though it wasn't a full-ride.

"Liberty was a good personality fit for him," Mike said.

That fighting spirit would help Vaughan more than he could know when leaving Colorado for Lynchburg, VA.

continued on next page 

## Meanwhile, back at The Ranch...

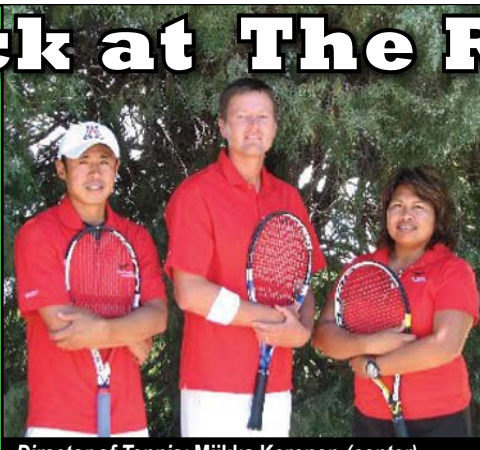
We offer Annual Tennis Memberships, and an extensive array of Adult and Junior programs. Come and check out our limited winter drop-in programs, open to non-members. For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Miikka Keronen, Director of Tennis, at 303/469-5372, or email [miikkak@theranchcc.com](mailto:miikkak@theranchcc.com).



*The Ranch*

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Visit [THERANCHCC.com](http://THERANCHCC.com) for details.



Director of Tennis: Miikka Keronen (center)

Staff Professional: Aki Iino

Adult Coordinator: Nora Harrison

Thanks to all the 2011 Northern Extreme and 2011 Ranch Indoor Open players. Join us for the 2011 Ranch Country Club Shootout and 2011 Ranch Roundup in June.

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**JUNE 5-12 / RANCH COUNTRY CLUB TENNIS SHOOTOUT**

257214011 DESIGNATED 5.0/3.5

MWsdMXd 5.0/4.5/4.0/3.5/3.0/2.5

\$34s, \$22d/player. Entries on TennisLink or to Miikka Keronen by 5/30. Weekday matches will begin at 5pm. Matches will be scheduled around USTA Leagues at level (not MXd).

▶ continued from previous page

**LIKE A TON OF BRICKS**

Vaughan had just returned from the regionals when he felt ill. Zodin said he never knew Vaughan to miss any matches because of injury, other than an ankle roll here or there.

“He was healthy as a horse and in great shape,” Zodin said.

Vaughan tested positive for mononucleosis—which can sometimes trigger GBS—and started downing antibodies immediately.

It didn’t work

Just four days later, Vaughan’s resident assistant in his dorm rushed him to the emergency room.

“He got hit with a ton of bricks,” Zodin said.

The call went out.

“As parents, to receive that call you hope you never get—that something bad has happened to your son and you must get here as soon as possible,” Mike Vaughan said.

The numbness started in Vaughan’s face and feet. Soon he couldn’t walk. Then he couldn’t even lift himself up from bed.

“It wasn’t until I was completely paralyzed that I wondered if I would ever hit the ball again,” he said. “The people around me were more scared about me playing tennis than I was. ... But it didn’t really hit me, what had happened to me, until a couple of weeks after. It all happened so fast, my brain couldn’t wrap itself around it in time.”

After 13 days in the Intensive Care unit, Vaughan finally began treatment. It was a nerve-racking week considering they didn’t know if the treatments would work. A third of GBS sufferers die, a third have residual injuries and the final third recovers completely, doctors told Mike Vaughan.

**ROAD TO RECOVERY**

Vaughan made it home for Thanksgiving when he was transferred to Craig Hospital for the rehabilitation phase of his ordeal. He had taken leave of his classes at Liberty and wondered if he’d be able to recover in time to return for the spring semester. He dropped 30 lbs.

“I got depressed when I thought ‘Wow. I have so far to go.’ I was just playing tennis at almost the highest level, and now I’m here with a bunch of 80-year-old stroke victims doing physical therapy,” Vaughan said. “That was the hardest part for me.”

No matter what he felt inside, he didn’t show it.

“One of the most amazing things is that not once through this entire time did he say ‘poor me’ or complain. He said there’s a reason for this. Let’s all learn something,” Mike said. “I was pretty shocked. Not too many people could maintain that. I thought his mind would be an emotional wreck at the thought of not being able to play tennis. It is such a big part of his life.”

But he did respond to the treatment and recovery came relatively quickly after that, considering doctors had told Vaughan it would be at least six months to a year before he could even pick up a racquet.

First it was a few steps. Then he began inching along with a walker, graduating to a cane.

“I had a lot of trouble moving,” he said. “I basically felt like I had been lying in bed for two months straight doing nothing.”

He dragged his numb feet across the court during Christmas break, next to some juniors who Vaughan said must have thought “this guy is just learning how to play.”

It was likely Vaughan’s super-conditioning helped muscle memory, which made rebuilding easier.

“Before I was doing 20-25 pull-ups and benching 200 pounds,” he lamented.

He made it back to school January 10, flying east on his own.

With persistence and that fighting spirit, the Russian-born Vaughan has earned his way back on the team. He’s just waiting to see if he can perform well enough to keep his spot on the roster and avoid the red-shirt. He’s grateful to have come this far.

In either case, he knows he’ll be stronger and faster come next season.

“Stan has been very blessed in how quickly he’s recovered,” Mike Vaughan said. “He’s been an inspiration to both me and my wife, for such young person to rally and not ever once feel sorry for himself. He just let his passion for tennis motivate him to work hard and get out on the court again.”

As crazy as it sounds, Stan said he’s actually grateful for the experience.

“You know now that I’ve gone through it, I’ve gained a whole new perspective on winning and losing,” he said. “The bad days aren’t so bad anymore.”



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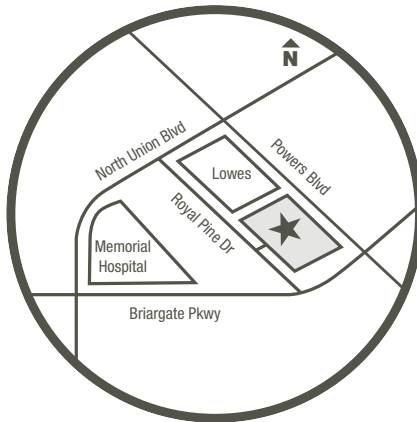
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# HIGH FIVE

For the past 35 years, *Colorado Tennis* (née *High Bounce* in 1976) has been bringing you profiles of local players, coaches, administrators and anyone else in the Colorado tennis community who shares their passion for the sport with others.

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

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

profiles by  
**KATI NEWELL**

**A**pril M. Washington is lending her passion and storytelling skills to bring a never-before-told story to life. The former *Rocky Mountain News* journalist has been passionate about telling important stories of ordinary people who have accomplished extraordinary feats for more than 18 years.

Prior to returning to her hometown of Denver, April worked for the *Dallas Morning News*, covering then-Governor George W. Bush. In 2003, she covered Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper's Administration, becoming the first African-American to cover the Colorado State House in 2006.

## APRIL WASHINGTON



Now, she's brings her talents to a landmark exhibit and documentary. USTA Colorado Marketing/Diversity Director, Paula McClain, had a vision that April not only shared, but one she became committed to fulfill. She is serving on the committee to bring the ***Breaking the Barriers*** exhibit to Colorado (see cover story), and to combine with it a companion documentary that chronicles the life and times of Colorado tennis heroes who crossed the color line at Denver's City Park, breaking barriers of their own.

At one time in Denver's history, African-Americans were not allowed to play under the lights at City Park, were treated as second-class citizens, and forced to live under restrictive housing policies as well as endure other injustices. Through it all, many preserved and forced change.

In her 15-plus interviews so far, April explains that she "has unearthed all these incredible people. These are people who didn't realize the impact they made, the legacy they created."

The exhibit is coming to the Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library in the Five Points from April-June. For more information, check out the story on page 6.



**KELLIWOODMAN**

**T**here's a sign that hangs on the bedroom wall of Cherry Creek High School sophomore, Kelli Woodman. It says, "Never, never, never give up!"

It's a motto she lives by daily.

After finishing second at the state tournament last year, losing the No. 3 singles final to Fairview's Katie Kuosman, Kelli is more focused than ever.

This winter, Kelli's been on a hot streak, racking up titles at the Turkey Shoot Thanksgiving event in Colorado Springs, the Northern Extreme at the Ranch CC, and a second place finish at the Lynmar Junior Open. On the regional circuit, she's had identical 5th place finishes at the ITA Snowball Sectional and the ITA Sweetheart Circuit.

She entered the high school season in good form. Her goal—winning the state title at No. 1 singles—meant that she had to secure the top spot on the state's all-time greatest high school program. After a grueling week of challenge matches, Kelli is now one step closer to that dream, having secured the No. 1 spot on the perennially powerful Cherry Creek squad.

"We are all definitely friends," says a proud Kelli, adding that her experience on the team "has been so much fun!"

Kelli's father Dave, a dedicated sports enthusiast, recognized her special athletic skills and introduced her to tennis five years ago. It became her passion, and she's taken her game to the next level through strength training and mental-toughness workouts.

As she prepares for the high school season, Kelli has her sights set on a few other goals as well—the upcoming Easter Circuit in Las Vegas and a Division I college scholarship.

The state 5A high school tournament will take place in May, and while Kelli won't be the favorite to win the singles title, you can bet that she'll be fighting for every point until the last match is played. It's what she does.

**A**kiji Koiwalakai not only appreciates what tennis has meant in his life, he literally attributes it for *saving* his life.

Akiji started playing tennis at the age of 12 when he first came to Colorado from Hawaii. He won his first tournament at 14, played competitively, became certified and taught for the "Play Tennis America Program." His passion for spreading the love of tennis was evident both in his teaching and in his volunteering efforts as he improved the lives of others.



**AKIJKOIWALAKAI**

After an auto accident left Akiji a paraplegic, tennis gave him back his own life, lifting him out of depression and giving him a way to combat the physical and mental health issues that his disability had given him.

"Competing in tennis changed me from being a survivor to a hard core competitor. It gets my heart racing and keeps my mind sharp," he explains.

He also credits the sport with many other benefits, including increasing his upper body strength, increasing his self-esteem, relieving stress, and decreasing disappointment.

In 2010, Akiji's strong results at the Rocky Mountain Open, the Capital City Wheelchair Tennis Classic in Lincoln, NE (where he won a free invite back as most promising player), and the US Open Wheelchair Championships in Saint Louis, garnered him USTA Colorado's Jerry & Lillian Brawer Award as the Outstanding Wheelchair Player in Colorado.

Coached by tennis professional and friend, Rich Berman, his passion is to bring others the experience of playing wheelchair tennis and he has done this with a grass roots, door-to-door effort.

He invites anyone who wants to learn wheelchair tennis, or volunteer to help with the tournaments, to contact him at [akijikoi@gmail.com](mailto:akijikoi@gmail.com).

**W**ith his favorite forehand shot to lead him, seventh grade netter Alec Leddon of Boulder is powering his way through some formidable opponents as of late. In February, he completed the double at the ITA Snowball Sectionals in Salt Lake City, winning both the singles and doubles (with Jackson Hawk). Alec followed his success in Utah with a doubles title at the Regional event in Lehi, UT (with Dylan Levitt).

But it isn't just his strokes that are bringing this young talent to the next level. His father, Richard, admires the motivation his son is showing, adding that in addition to his personal training regimen three days per week, Alec also gets up to work out with his coaches and teammates from 5:30-7:30am during off days. Having taken up the sport at 6, Alec acknowledges that the head game is a challenge and has concentrated on adding mental toughness training to his physical conditional regimen that combines running and strength training. "I practice being really level headed," he explains about the challenge of staying mentally tough under the inevitable pressure that comes

**ALECLEDDON**



with competitive tennis.

A natural athlete who also loves basketball, Alec listens to Green Day on his iPod as part of his pre-match ritual. He admires Roddick, because "he's pretty cool both on and off the court and because he has a big serve." Alec enjoys the challenge of math at Seven Hills School and looks forward to playing high school tennis. His longer term goals are to work very hard, improve his National ranking, and achieve an ITF ranking before playing college tennis.

Photos courtesy of April Washington, Akiji Koiwalakai, Joe Pologar, the Woodman family and the Leddon family.

**G**rand Junction's Joe Pologar is good at many things. With his Masters in Health Services Administration from Central Michigan, this Leadville-born native is good in science, using his clinical skills as Medical Technologist at St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center in Grand Junction.

He's a natural at skiing. He competed on his high school team, and still sports the tell-tale raccoon eyes of an avid alpine and cross country skier.

He's outstanding on the trumpet. Joe has loved music since high school, and he currently plays in a traditional Bavarian quarter called the Alpine Echo Band...CDs are available at [www.ALPINEECHOBAND.com](http://www.ALPINEECHOBAND.com).

**JOEPOLOGAR**



And for those in the tennis community in Grand Junction, he's been better than good... he's been great for tennis. And the sport has been great for him, as well. "I always say that the highest highs and the lowest lows are on the tennis court," Joe jokes, adding that he's made some of his best friends on the tennis courts. Giving the last decade to growing USTA program and serving as the Western Slope Area League Tennis Coordinator, Joe's been invaluable. During his tenure, that area has seen a steady increase in participation, rising 10% in just the last year alone.

In addition to his league responsibilities, Joe has been an umpire and regularly attends many of the high school matches. With his scientific mind, he loves the rules and regulations aspect of the game. "Tennis is a game of ultimate fairness," he explains.

Stepping back now, Joe is looking forward to working on his own tennis game, cross country skiing with his wife, Vikki, and having more time for his music.

# YOURGAME

RACQUET ABUSE: buying a cheap racquet doesn't mean you're getting a good deal.

**T**hink of it as the tennis industry's evil twin. With all the positive things going on in tennis—programs to encourage play, a boost in 10-and-under tennis and tennis in the schools, new technologies to help players improve—there's also a dark side. In this case, it's the proliferation of the counterfeit racquet business.

Knock-off racquets, built cheaply, painted to look like the originals and often sold through online auctions or other sites at significant discounts, are making their way into the consciousness of retailers and manufacturers, and into the hands of players.

The Tennis Industry Association—the non-profit group representing the tennis trade including the major racquet manufacturers—is pulling together its forces to help combat the growing counterfeit business. Tennis has become more popular in recent years in the US and around the world. But with that good news comes some bad: sales of counterfeit racquets have been increasing.

"Tennis has been growing in popularity with more than 30 million players in the US, but this has given rise to a more unsavory side—companies that make and sell counterfeit racquets," says Jolyn de Boer, executive director of the TIA. "There is a proliferation of internet

shopping sites popping up, with the majority from China, offering discounts and amazing deals and these sites are illegal. They hurt the industry, the manufacturers, retailers and the unknowing consumers who buy counterfeit equipment and product."

Counterfeit products in all industries are estimated to account for up to 7% of global trade, costing manufacturers \$30 million a year to sales of fake tennis racquets.

"But it's not just manufacturers who suffer," de Boer says. "Retailers are losing hundreds or thousands of dollars in sales, and consumers are getting inferior products that may well turn them off to playing tennis. In this economy, consumers often are looking for lower-priced bargains, and they may not be as diligent in researching a product or sales outlet."

Because budget racquets have a low profit margin and are readily available, it's the more expensive high-end racquets that are commonly copied and sold illegally. Stories abound, and generally it follows this theme: Customers buy equipment online, then discover they've been duped.

"The vast majority of counterfeit racquets are purchased through internet auction sites," says Steve Vorhaus of Rocky Mountain Racquet Specialists in Boulder. "Typically what hap-

pens is people will come in with a racquet they've bought that way, and they don't like the way it plays or they don't like the string on it, and they want it restrung, and we have to tell them it's a knock-off. But all they saw when they were buying it was the price. Everyone loves to brag about getting a deal."

The auction site eBay contains guides on how to tell the difference between legitimate racquets and knock-offs. YouTube has instructional clips showing side-by-side comparisons. But, say the experts, the biggest red flag to a consumer should be the asking price.

"If the deal sounds too good to be true, it usually is," says Jon Muir, worldwide general manager of Wilson Racquet Sports and president of the TIA. "Consumers may think they're getting a good deal on a new or used racquet, but if it's counterfeit, chances are they'll spend more in the long run. If they're avid players, the fake frame probably will break soon, or it just won't feel right so the player will end up junking it. Then they'll have to buy a new, legitimate racquet in the end."

Consumers should only purchase a racquet from an authorized, reputable tennis retailer. Also, avoid online sites or sellers based out of China. Differences in cultural attitudes toward counterfeiting combined with low levels of

intellectual property rights enforcement in certain countries all contribute to the problem. China, in particular, is rife with counterfeiting operations. "It's relatively easy to set up shop in China and not be bothered by law enforcement," de Boer says. Some estimates indicate that more than 20% of all goods on the Chinese market are counterfeit, and the production, distribution and sale of fake products is getting more sophisticated every year.

"If someone is trying to sell you a racquet at an incredibly low price, there's a good chance it's a counterfeit frame," adds Muir. His suggestion on how to avoid getting scammed: "Only buy from reputable dealers and websites."

Counterfeit merchandise is nothing new, adds Vorhaus. "Guys in trench coats have been selling Rolex watches for \$20 on street corners in New York for years. The problem is that this is a smaller industry, so it hits us harder."

The TIA has a site where retailers and consumers can report counterfeit frames and websites that appear to be selling fake products. The site also provides tips to help identify bogus sites and equipment, and has a list of reputable dealers to buy from. Visit [TENNIS-INDUSTRY.org](http://TENNIS-INDUSTRY.org), click "Racquet Alert".

## COLORADO'S BEST-KEPT TENNIS SECRET



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# PROFILE: GAME-SET-MATCH, INC.

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For more than 20 years, Game-Set-Match has been one of the premier tennis retailers in the the Rocky Mountain region. The store recently opened a new location (with plentiful parking) at 8280 South Quebec in Centennial. Like the two other Game-Set-Match locations on Colorado Boulevard and at Greenwood Athletic & Tennis Club, the new 3,000 square foot shop is stocked with the latest racquets, shoes, apparel, strings, grips, ball machines, court equipment and accessories.

Adam Burbary, founder of Game-Set-Match and an accomplished player, credits his staff of experienced tennis players who understand the game and how to best help their tennis-playing-customers.

"Our customers appreciate the professional and personalized service we're able to provide, and the fact that we love the game as much as they do."

In addition to tennis racquets, the store also carries many racquet-ball, squash, platform tennis, and badminton frames along with balls, string, and protective gear.

"Tennis players want a store where they can find a large variety of equipment and learn how a certain racquet, racquet string or shoe can help their game. We're able to do that, whereas a large retailer simply displays a few racquets and leaves the research up to you," says Burbary.



Billing itself as the "Total Tennis Solution", Game-Set-Match also offers demos on the latest frames, including closeout frames and used demos, a wide selection of tennis team apparel (for league and high school teams), tennis equipment for clubs and personal courts (such as ball machines, wind screens and more), ball machine repairs and trade-ins, and connections and advice regarding some of the best coaches and training programs in the state.

For more information regarding Game-Set-Match and its store locations, please visit [GameSetMatchinc.com](http://GameSetMatchinc.com).

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# JUNIORCOMP

## COLORADO JUNIORS HEAT UP SNOWBALL SECTIONAL

The mountains surrounding Salt Lake City are known for their copious amounts of snow during ski season, but that didn't keep Colorado juniors from scorching the competition at the 2011 ITA Snowball Sectional in February.

Colorado took eight of the possible 16 title spots, and placed 10 other players in the top-6.

<b>BOYS 16S</b> Hayden Sabatka (1st) David Mitchell (5th) Matt Sayre (6th)	<b>GIRLS 18S</b> Sammie Watson (3rd)
<b>BOYS 16D</b> Sabatka/Sayre (1st)	<b>GIRLS 16S</b> Mira Ruder-Hook (1st) Kelli Woddman (5th)
<b>BOYS 14S</b> Galen Arney (5th)	<b>GIRLS 16D</b> Ruder-Hook (1st)
<b>BOYS 12S</b> Alec Leddon (1st) Ethan Hillis (2nd) Jackson Hawk (4th)	<b>GIRLS 14S</b> Samantha Martinelli (1st) Ashley Lahey (2nd) Kalyssa Hall (4th)
<b>BOYS 12D</b> Hawk/Leddon (1st)	<b>GIRLS 14D</b> Nicole Kalhorn/Martinelli (1st)
	<b>GIRLS 12S</b> Madison Gallegos (2nd)
	<b>GIRLS 12D</b> Morgan Hall/Anna Weissmann (2nd)



## SATELLITE INELIGIBLE LIST NOW ONLINE

Each year, under USTA Colorado Junior Satellite Tournament Regulations (listed on page 39 of the 2011 Big Book of Colorado Tennis) certain players are identified as too advanced for Satellite-level tournament play. Players who fall into these categories are determined from 2010 sanctioned tournament play and rankings.

### Junior players are ineligible to compete in Satellite tournaments if they:

- 1) attained a national or sectional ranking in 2010;
- 2) reached the quarterfinals of a designated championship event, or the semifinals of any sanctioned championship event.

The **Satellite Ineligibility List** is published annually based on these prior year results. The USTA Colorado Seeding & Ranking Committee periodically may determine additional players to be ineligible for Satellite level play based on recent Championship or Satellite tournament results. Players are strongly encouraged to play within their age group in the Championship level rather than playing up an age group in the Satellite level.

The 2011 Satellite Ineligibility List is now available [online](http://online) at [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com).

The Seeding and Ranking Committee will consider written appeals from players for the Satellite ineligible list until **April 20, 2011**. Please send correspondence to USTA Colorado Player Development Director, Jason Colter [jason@coloradotennis.com](mailto:jason@coloradotennis.com).

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# LEAGUETENNIS

## TENNISLINK GETS A MAKEOVER

On February 17, USTA released the new user interface for TennisLink. There are several differences with how users will navigate the site. In an effort to minimize some of the questions that may arise, USTA Colorado sent out an *Alert!* on February 25 with some helpful hints for captains and players. See the full *Alert!* at [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com).

### USTA LEAGUE HOMEPAGE

#### Account Creation

When you arrive at the revised TennisLink for the first time, the first recommended step is to Create an Account. This is different from your membership number and is the first step to having access to some of the new benefits to TennisLink.

#### Welcome Banner

Once you have logged in, you will see a welcome banner. On the right, you'll find your rating, and a link to appeal it. Below that, there is a link to manage your account. If your membership is expired (or nearing expiration), you can renew under the manage account link.

#### Start Playing

Register for a team, find your coordinator, search stats and standings and find NTRP information at the click of a button. *NOTE: All players must have a phone number and email address associated with their membership account in order to register for a team.* By confirming that your information is current and complete—Manage Account—you could save yourself a lot of lost time and trouble. Many clubs/facilities complete the league registration process for its players. If

you play for one of these organizations, it is very important that you verify that your USTA membership has both a phone number and an email address. *NOTE: In Colorado, online team creation is not available, so if you need a team number, you must contact your facility coordinator.*

#### Stats and Standings Search

The stats and standings search has been changed to a 'fuzzy' search, meaning you can enter any number of items in the same box to get to stats and standings. The possible searches include search by name, USTA Membership number, team number and match number. The stats and standings area still contains match schedules and team rosters as well as now-the familiar stats and standings.

#### NTRP Rating Search

The NTRP Rating Search box is also a 'fuzzy' search, so you can enter a USTA Membership number, a team number or a player name to look up NTRP information.

#### Self-Rating

One significant change for new players or players with expired ratings is that you no longer need a team number to self-rate. If you are eligible to self-rate, you can simply click on the Self Rate link that is located in the NTRP Search area. *NOTE: National Regulations have changed for 2011 for players with expired ratings. They will not be allowed to self-rate below their last level, so 'sitting out' is no longer an effective approach to attaining a different rating.*

#### My Teams and Teams Following

Once you have logged in, the lower section of the page will contain two tabs—MY TEAMS and TEAMS FOLLOWING. Teams you are registered on will automatically populate, however teams from 2010 or earlier will not be listed. If you want access to that data, you can search for them and add them to your TEAMS FOLLOWING tab. You can also add any other teams you'd like to follow to that tab, allowing you to see them easily once you login without having to search for them each time. Played matches will automatically appear under MY MATCHES.

#### Score Entry

The scorecard has been updated, but the functionality is still the same. *NOTE: captains can no longer make corrections to a completed scorecard. You must contact USTA Colorado to make the correction.*

#### MY TENNIS PAGE

The USTA has created a new feature, the MY TENNIS PAGE. Locate the tab along the top menu bar, below the blue drop-down USTA.com menu. Here you'll find your league and tournament results, including tournament rankings and a list of upcoming events in your area.

If you have any difficulty navigating the new TennisLink page, please consult our TennisLink help guide at [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com).

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# THEBIGCHAIR

STATE OF THE DISTRICT: news from USTA Colorado headquarters

FRITZGARGER Executive Director/USTA Colorado

**G**reetings! We've held both Annual Meetings for USTA Colorado and the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation in March. And while that is a time to look back on the past year, we are in the midst of a lot of activity in 2011.

I do want to take a moment to thank two very special people who have stepped down from the USTA Colorado board of directors as required by term limits—Karen Brandner and Kathleen Winegardner. Both served on our Board for 10 years, many of which were served as officers. The Executive Committee (officers), the Board and our Association were fortunate to have such quality people involved with the governance and promotion of our sport in Colorado. We thank them for their work, support and dedication to tennis and USTA Colorado.

We had an incredibly good year last year and anticipate having another banner year in 2011. There are some major milestones on our horizon.

Our youth foundation (CYTF) is celebrating 50 years of supporting youth tennis in the state. Since its founding in 1961, thousands upon thousands of kids have benefitted from the efforts of those involved in the CYTF. The CYTF Board approved an updated mission statement as we celebrate a half-century of dedication to Colorado's children. The new mission statement exemplifies a clearer message about what our organization is focused upon – "Through the lifetime sport of tennis, the CYTF promotes the physical, emotional and social development of all youth to aspire to



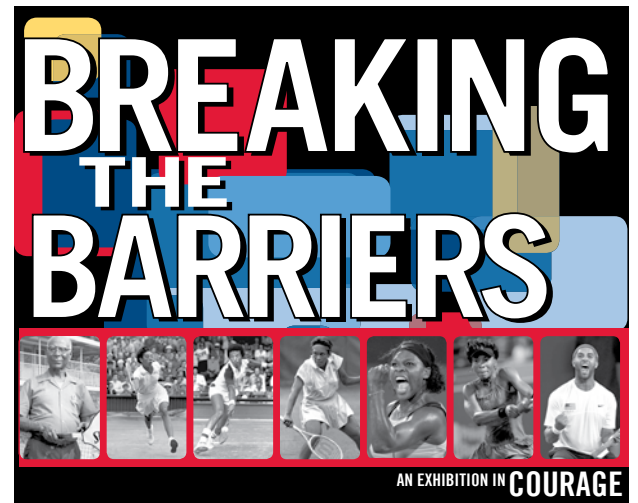
become active, productive and responsible citizens." The Board, led by Eileen Pero, and the staff are excited about the upcoming year and the celebration of 50 years of serving Colorado's youth through tennis.

Another milestone is the celebration of the 500,000th league participant in sanctioned Colorado league play—a milestone that is expected to occur during the 2011 league season. That's a lot of players. It is a number that clearly demonstrates the impact our sport has made on people's lives on a daily/weekly basis. It also illustrates the fact that Colorado—even with our climate—has one of the largest league programs overall (numbers of offerings and number of players) in the entire country. We more than hold our own even when compared to sunbelt states and tennis hotbeds like Florida, Texas and California. I want to take a moment to thank all those involved over the years in making league tennis so strong here in Colorado.

become active, productive and responsible citizens." The Board, led by Eileen Pero, and the staff are excited about the upcoming year and the celebration of 50 years of serving Colorado's youth through tennis.

As you've read in our cover story, our District (USTA CO) is hosting a National exhibit—**Breaking The Barriers**—in Denver. Unlike other organizations that may have just brought in the physical exhibit and displayed it for a month or two, our organization used the exhibit as a catalyst to do much, much more. We've produced a documentary short entitled "Crossing the Net: Denver City Park and the Black Tennis Experience" and created a portrait series with the intent of highlighting and archiving our local heroes who have been such an integral part of our tennis heritage in Colorado. In addition, we created a curriculum piece for our schools to incorporate into their social studies classes to discuss the history of racism, discrimination and to address and celebrate the benefits of having all people of all backgrounds coming together to recognize our similarities and to value our differences in a way that brings people together in a good, positive and constructive manner. Tennis is a wonderful platform for all this and our efforts to create an incredibly comprehensive collection of elements around this topic is impressive. There are way too many people to thank with listing names—but to all those involved, your tireless efforts and passion are much appreciated. I do, however, want to highlight our leaders of this endeavor, **Taryn Archer** (USTA Colorado's newly elected President) and **Paula McClain** (Staff Director of Marketing/Diversity) as they have poured immeasurable amounts of time and energy to pull this together. Our hope is that through these efforts we will impact the lives of those around us—all through the sport of tennis.

A quick note to facility directors and managers—10 and Under Tennis and the new formats related to it are exciting and a real benefit to our sport and those who provide tennis programming. USTA Colorado is 100% behind this initiative and hopes that every facility in the state makes it a point to paint 'blended' lines on courts (see story, page 16) to accommodate practice and competitive play for this age division. If you have any questions and/or want to tap into USTA funding to assist your efforts, don't hesitate to contact our office. This concept is long overdue, it's here to stay, and it's a win-win for everyone involved.



Enjoy the warm weather – and get on the court!

Enjoy the warm weather – and get on the court!

Enjoy the warm weather – and get on the court!



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# THE LAST WORD

POTPOURRI: welcoming the new president, and a financial update on CU

**I**n January, the USTA welcomed Jon Vegosen as its new Chariman/President of the Board. Having served on the USTA board for four years, and having been a volunteer in the sport for nearly two decades at virtually every level, Vegosen is a compelling candidate to assume the helm as the USTA's 50th president.

Those unfamiliar with Vegosen should read his interview (*USTA magazine*, March/April 2011), where he outlined his plans for where he hoped to take the organization during his two-year term. What struck me most about his plan of attack was the way he envisions tennis expanding its reach beyond sport. He wants to be able to promote and develop the growth of people *through* tennis, a profoundly more humanistic approach than simply growing membership numbers or league participation. His administration's theme—"Tennis: The Sport of Opportunity"—will likely mean we start seeing tennis positioned as a lifestyle choice, accessible and available to all, regardless of age, background or socio-economic status. That tennis transcends these limitations should help introduce the sport to legions of non-players who can discover the many ways in which tennis can literally change lives.

Over the course of the last few years, the USTA has tackled some very ambitious goals—empowering grassroots organizations to act as their own advocates and re-defining how kids learn to play the sport. But by effectively adding an entirely new dimension to the USTA's mission, Vegosen is looking to take the association to new heights. Tennis has transformed Vegosen's life, as it has transformed the lives of everyone in the USTA Colorado office.

As he points out, "It is within our power to grow our sport to become completely inclusive. We can markedly expand the base of tennis players and create the environment for more American tennis champions. And we can ensure that both on and off the court, and in the classroom, we are developing champions for life from every point of the compass."

## The Countdown to 500K

As I mentioned several times in my recent columns, USTA Colorado will welcome the 500,000th adult league player later this summer. In the coming months, we will provide additional details related to this announcement. We're still putting the finishing touches on our plans for this tremendous milestone, so stay on your toes.

## Tapping into the Social Network

Soon, you'll be able to drop you paddle into our stream of consciousness, as USTA Colorado is moving to expand our communications efforts to the social media constructs of Facebook and Twitter. In fact, you can sample our Twitter feed now, free for a limited time. As we continue to develop the pieces necessary to launch our Facebook page, we'll also be developing cool contests, give-aways and a host of other features that would make Mark Zuckerberg blush with envy. I'll fill in more details in the next issue. Stay tuned.

## Ex-CU Men's Tennis revenues go to good cause <snark>

According to Boulder's *Daily Camera*, the University of Colorado has finished its \$780,000 branding project and will be phasing out its hodgepodge of logos, replacing them with a standard CU symbol. April Foo.... <SPOILER ALERT: this isn't fake>

*Flashback, 2006: CU athletic director Mike Bohn cuts the top-25 ranked men's tennis program and its \$300,000/year price tag due to budget constraints, thus saving less than 1% of the school's athletic budget of \$42 million. And remember, the team solicited private pledges of nearly \$650,000 to help fund the program, but got the axe anyway.*

KURT DESAUTELS Editor, COLORADOTENNIS

So instead, the school spends \$780,000—or two-and-a-half years of funding for the men's tennis team—on a new logo and some stationery.

But wait, there's more. The school could have extended the men's tennis team for an additional three years had it not decided to pay huge salary increases to its nine assistant football coaches.

According to the *Daily Camera*, CU fans can rest easy, knowing that the university is serious about fielding a winning college football program that has "consistently lagged behind competitors in compensating assistant coaches."

In 2011, the coaches will each get their salary bumped from a pool of nearly \$900,000. A big chunk of the increase, says the article, can be attributed to the multi-year deal signed by offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy, who became the highest paid assistant in CU history when he agreed to a deal that pays him roughly \$500,000 annually. Factor in the \$150,000 signing bonus Bieniemy was given to leave the Minnesota Vikings, and CU is paying its 2011 assistants more than \$1 million above what it paid its 2010 staff.

Bohn said he and Chancellor Phil Distefano "recognized the problem in analyzing the salaries at other institutions and view the increased salary pool as an investment in the future of the program."

Phew. I feel better knowing that men's tennis died for a legitimate cause, don't you? I mean, we're talking stationery and assistant coaches, here!

It's nice to see that, on the eve of the move to the Pac-10—a conference that features six of the top-50 men's tennis programs in the country—the University of Colorado continues to have its priorities straight.

## Colorado Tennis returns in June

The deadline to advertise in and to submit stories for the Summer 2011 issue of Colorado Tennis newspaper is May 26. To reserve your space or submit a story idea, please email [kurt@coloradotennis.com](mailto:kurt@coloradotennis.com). ☺

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photo by Kurt Desautels

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## ABOUT USTA COLORADO

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

We provide grants to organizations that want to introduce tennis to their communities and we offer scholarships to junior players who seek to take their game to the next level. We coordinate adult league play for more than 30,000 players across the state, and offer programs for junior players of all ages and abilities. Our sanctioned tournament schedule offers more than 170 events this year, including several opportunities for wheelchair athletes.

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

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

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

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## New Address

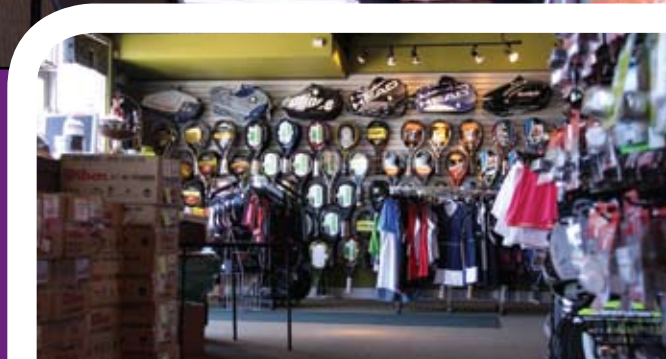
8280 S. Quebec St. Suite A  
Centennial, CO 80112

Park Meadows Location

(In the Safeway parking lot in front of Starbucks on the  
Corner of County Line Road and Parkway – Just East of Quebec)

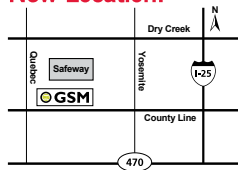


## YOUR TOTAL TENNIS SOLUTION



WWW.GAMESETMATCHINC.COM

New Location!



### GAME-SET-MATCH OF PARK MEADOWS

8280 S. Quebec St., Suite A  
Centennial, CO 80112

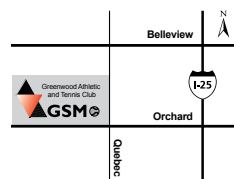
303.790.1991



### GAME-SET-MATCH OF CHERRY CREEK

333 S. Colorado Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80246

303.394.1991



### GAME-SET-MATCH OF GREENWOOD ATHLETIC & TENNIS CLUB

5801 South Quebec Street  
Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111

303.771.2588