

colorado | tennis

spring 2012

Year 37, Issue 2

The Official Publication of Tennis Lovers

Est. 1976



Looking ahead to the big changes
in USTA League Tennis for 2013.



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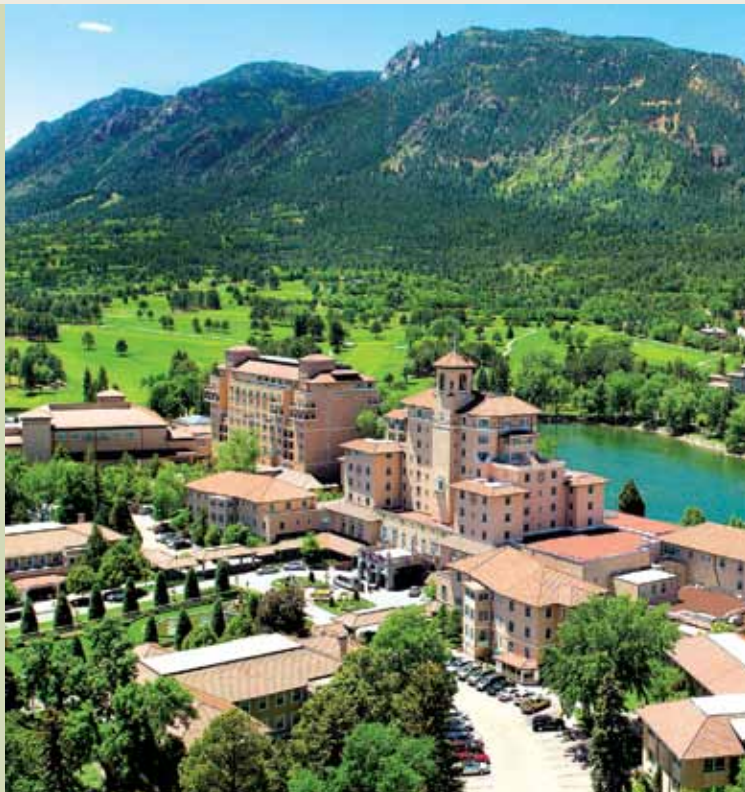
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FEATURES

6 THE FUTURE OF LEAGUE TENNIS: 2013 AND BEYOND

For 30 years, USTA League Tennis has been serving up outstanding competition. What began in 1980 with just a few thousand participants nationwide has grown into one of the largest recreational adult sports leagues in the nation – more than 750,000 players took to the courts in 2011 alone. By the end of 2012, there will have been an estimated 10 million players who have competed in USTA League Tennis over the years! And in an effort to serve the next generation of league players, the USTA is preparing substantive changes to its venerable adult league program.



HIGHFIVE

16 H5.11

A set of five profiles on local players and volunteers for their on/off-court achievements: the Edwards Family, Judi Fenner, Bill Conway, Bruce Sanderlin & Anthony Weber

SPOTLIGHT

18 OLYMPIC GLORY

The 2012 London Games are just a few months away, so we decided it would be fun to talk to a few people who know what it's like to be at the center of all the attention: the coaches.

PROFILE

20 RECONNECTING...

When we first met David Jensen, he was a young man coping with the physical challenges of epilepsy and blindness. Today, he's helping others find solutions to their own struggles.

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ADULT LEAGUE TENNIS

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 TENNIS 15-30 & BOUNCE Magazine

TOURNAMENT TENNIS

Sanctioned tournament play is wrongly thought to be for "serious competitors only." But in Colorado, there is a tournament for every level player, novice to expert. And with more than 175 events featuring divisions for kids under 10 to seniors 90 and up, there's no age limit for having fun.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit USTA.com/membership for more information, to become a USTA member, or to change your address. It's Your Game.

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



League Tennis



For more than 30 years, USTA League Tennis has been serving up outstanding competition. What began in 1980 with just a few thousand participants nationwide has grown into one of the largest recreational adult leagues in the country, with more than 750,000 players taking to the courts in 2011 alone. By the end of 2012, there will have been an estimated 10 million players who have competed in USTA League Tennis over the years, more than 500,000 in Colorado alone! But beginning in 2013, the USTA will be implementing substantive changes to its venerable adult league program.

Here's a look at the future of USTA League Tennis, beginning in 2013.



18 > 40 > 55 >

THE WHAT

USTA League is changing its structure and format for the 2013 National Championships to ensure that USTA League continues to meet the needs of its constituents in the years ahead. The restructuring encourages more frequency of play opportunities at more appropriate age divisions.

The structure and format change will only affect those USTA-branded leagues, not any locally branded (CTA- or ITA-) league tennis offerings. It is important to note that the restructuring will NOT be to add any leagues. This is an entirely new structure for USTA League Tennis.

THE WHO

Gone are the monikers "Senior" (50 & over) and "Super Senior" (60 & over), replaced instead by a more representative grouping based on age.

Under the new structure, the USTA League National Championships will fall under just two divisions – **Adult** and **Mixed**.

The **Adult Division** will be broken down into 18 & over, 40 & over, and 55 & over with a potential 65 or 70 & over league type considered for the future – the Colorado Adult League Tennis Series will continue to offer the CTA Silver Senior league.

The **Mixed Division** will be 18 & over, which is the same as the previous format, with the potential to add a 40 & over league type in the future. As they had previously, players will continue to compete by NTRP rating within each division.

THE WHEN

While some states will see the changes this year due to the overlapping of their league championship season and the calendar year, Colorado will not see any change to the current structure until next year. 2012 will look exactly like 2011 here in Colorado.

THE FORMAT

Despite the new moniker, USTA Adult 18 & over will remain unchanged, following the current format of 2 singles and 3 doubles per team match. Similarly, USTA Adult 55 & over will also retain its same format at the National level, consisting of 3 doubles matches per team match. Mixed remains unchanged as well.

A new format will follow the change in structure for the USTA Adult 40 & over, however,



which will impact local players at the District Championship level and beyond. The USTA has replaced the old USTA Senior format of 3 doubles matches and adopted the 18 & over format for the new 40 & over division – 2 singles and 3 doubles per team match.

The new requirement for the 40 & over division presents some unique challenges for Colorado, where we don't have enough light at this time of year to stagger, and not enough courts to provide the full 5 courts necessary to host a team match. Fortunately, USTA National allows the local league format to be different than the National format, so our local league format will consist of 3 lines: 1 singles and 2 doubles per team match. Once teams reach the District Championship level, however, they will be required to use the new 5-line format (2 singles/3 doubles). All teams must also have at least 8 rostered players by the registration deadline. *The current average number of players per team is 10 or more throughout Colorado, so with more players now being eligible for this league, 8 should not be a problem.*



**WE
HEARD
YOU**

**In 2012, the
CTA Twilight League
format for women
will change to
1 singles/2 doubles.**



FRIDAY NIGHT FLIGHTS



THE SCHEDULE

Since more players will need to be eligible for Districts in the Adult 40 & over division, USTA Colorado will be extending the 40 & over season up to 10 weeks beginning in 2013.

That means that many divisions will be required to play one Friday match during the season.

Friday matches will work like this: teams that play on Mondays will have a Monday match and a Friday match. The next week, the Tuesday teams will play on Tuesday and Friday. The next week, the Wednesday teams will play Wednesday and Friday and so on for Thursday.

Whenever USTA Colorado is able to avoid the scheduling of Friday matches, we will, but all teams should all plan on the possibility of playing one Friday match in 2013.

THE WHY

The decision to change the structure was made to better distribute USTA League participants among the three age categories – previously, the vast majority of USTA League participants fell in the "Adult" category (18 & over), with far fewer in the "Senior" (50 & over) and "Super Senior" (60 & over) categories – and to better align participants with players their own age.

Existing data research, player surveys and player focus groups clearly indicated a need for age restructuring in order to provide more and better play opportunities, both for competitive and social reasons. Under the previous model, players were of the same ability but not necessarily of the same playing style or fitness level. The restructuring guarantees more frequency of play opportunities at more appropriate age divisions.

Research indicates that age restructuring should provide the majority of players with additional play opportunities and produce more competitive match play, which will result in more accurate ratings. The changes also allow players to play in more homogenous groupings should they so choose (that is, older players will retain the option of playing in the younger age levels while now also having a group reserved for those closer to their age).





USTA ADULT LEAGUE TENNIS



FORMAT

SAME AS ADULT

2 singles; 3 doubles / 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
 1 singles; 2 doubles / 2.5, 5.0+

SEASON

MAY-
JULY



FORMERLY SENIOR (50+)

1 singles; 2 doubles / All levels, local league season only
 2 singles; 3 doubles / All levels, District Championships and beyond

JULY-
AUGUST



FORMERLY SUPER SENIOR (60+)

3 doubles / 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

MAY-
JULY

THEBUZZ

NOUNS IN THE NEWS

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

USTA Pro Circuit event coming to CAC Inverness

Colorado Athletic Club at Inverness has been selected to host a USTA Pro Women's Tennis Tournament to be held the first week of July 2012. Sixty top-ranked professional women are expected to compete for the \$50,000 purse and the professional ranking points that go with it. A 32-draw pre-qualifying tournament (June 28-30, \$50 entry) will be held with the qualifying draw to start Sunday, July 1. The pre-qualifying event is open to all players, visit the Inverness website <coloradoathleticclubs.com/inverness> for additional details. For additional information related to sponsorship or volunteer opportunities, please contact Lee Elliott at lelliott@wellbridge.com.

CAC Monaco to host doubles clinic to benefit CYTF, RFA

Colorado Athletic Club Monaco will host the inaugural **Spring Doubles Clinic**, a benefit for the **Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation** and **Racquets For All** – on Monday, May 21 from 9:30am to noon. Men and women of all levels are invited to participate in various drill sessions, organized by USPTA Professional Eileen Pero and Master Professional Diane Selke. The cost for the event is \$25/person, contact Eileen <e.pero@comcast.net> for details.

Renner earns ASBA recognition

Renner Sports Surfaces, Inc. (Denver) has been recognized by the American Sports Builders Association (ASBA), the national organization for builders, designers and suppliers of materials for athletic facilities, for the new construction of the 12-court Colorado State University Tennis Facility in Fort Collins, completed in 2010.

Colorado Gives Day nets big dollars for Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation

Thanks to those of you who supported the **CYTF** on the second annual **Colorado Gives Day**, December 6, 2011! Donations from generous supporters totaled over \$20,000 putting the CYTF just shy of meeting its fundraising goal of \$24,000. In all, a staggering \$12 million was raised for some 900 Colorado charities in one day! Due to the enormous traffic, the Colorado Gives Day website was overloaded and many donors experienced difficulty for several hours when trying to make a gift. If you were one of the many potential donors whose gifts didn't reach the CYTF, you can still help make a difference in the lives of our youth. Visit the CYTF online (go to COLORADOTENNIS.com and click the CYTF logo) to learn more about how the Foundation helps make tennis dreams come true for kids across Colorado, and how you can help the CYTF fulfill its mission: *Through the lifetime sport of tennis, the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation promotes the physical, emotional and social development of ALL youth to aspire to become active, productive and responsible citizens.*

Collegiate rankings feature Colorado players

The following Colorado players have secured an Intercollegiate Tennis Association national rankings for March 20, 2012:

Alex Leatu (Vanderbilt), #40 Women's Doubles; DI

Will Vasos (Iowa), #37 Men's Doubles; DI

Sophia Bergner/Steffi Rath (Denver), #77 Women's Doubles; DI

University of Denver Men's Team, #49; DI

Metro State Men's Team, #43; DI

CU Boulder wins 4th straight Tennis On Campus Sectional title

The **University of Colorado-Boulder** captured its sixth Tennis On Campus Intermountain Sectional Championship (fourth straight) since the event began in 2006, earning an automatic bid to compete at the USTA National Tennis On Campus Championship, April 12-14, 2012 in Cary, NC. USTA Tennis On Campus helps students maintain active and healthy lifestyles through their college years, providing them with opportunities for team camaraderie, social networking and competition through tennis without the rigors of a varsity program. Through the formation of tennis sport clubs on campus co-ed team-based play is offered, as are regional and national championships.

Professional organizations recognize Colorado members

Kendall Chitambar (Boulder), Director of the Harvest House Junior Development Program and Director of Tennis and Tennis Academy Director for the in-development Rocky Mountain Tennis Center, has been named the PTR 2012 Member of the Year for the state of Colorado. A former professional player, Kendall holds a PTR Master of Tennis-Performance certification and has more than 22 years of coaching experience.



Colorado players help deliver gold, silver to USA at ITF Senior World Team Championships, earn individual titles

Team USA did their best to defend their home court at the 2012 ITA Senior World Team Championships in San Diego, bringing home hardware in eight of the ten team competitions. Despite racking up two bronze medals (M45, W35) and five silver medals (M40/M50/M55, W40/W50), the Maureen Connolly Cup squad (W55) was the only US team to capture gold, which it did in dominating fashion.

Grand Junction's **Susan Wright** (pictured above, second from right) went undefeated in match play to help her Connolly Cup teammates (Leslie Airola-Murveit, Carolyn Nichols and Diane Barker) win the competition for the sixth consecutive year. With Susan playing at No. 2 singles, the American squad totally dominated the competition, losing just nine games in their eight singles matches. After demolishing Sweden and Canada in the preliminary rounds, they then swept South Africa in the semifinals and looked to complete the sweep against Great Britain after winning both the singles matches before the British squad rebounded to take doubles match and keep the USA from a perfect record.

Denver's **Willie Dann** and **Lew Miller** (flanking Wright) went undefeated throughout the competition, but couldn't help their teammates (Jeff Tarango and Eoin Collins) overcome France in the final of the Tony Trabert Cup (M40) after falling behind 2-0 with only the doubles match left to play.

In the ITF Individual Senior World Championships the following week, Wright continued her domination. She lost just nine games in her first three matches before running into the second seed and eventual runner-up, Patricia Medrado of Brazil, in the semifinals. She battled hard against the former touring pro, but fell 6-4, 6-3 to finish the tournament in the 3/4 slot. In doubles, Wright teamed with Kathy May Fritz of San Diego to win the world championship. The duo lost just ten games in four matches, beating the American team of Tina Karwasky and Mary Ginnard 6-1, 6-1 in the final to uphold their top seeding.

Colorado Tennis Hall of Famer **Rhona Kaczmarczyk** reached the quarterfinals of the W45 singles division, and was a doubles finalist (W35) with fellow Greenwood Tennis Center teaching professional **Molly Carter**. Former Colorado tennis pro **Mark Vines** captured the M55 singles championship.

The ITF Seniors/Super-Seniors World Team Championships is the most coveted team event on the ITF Seniors circuit. The Seniors World Championships is divided into two groups, Seniors for the 35-55 and over and Super-Seniors for the 60-80 and over.



The USPTA Intermountain named its 2011 Award Winners, recognizing several Colorado teaching professionals. **Kerwin Swenson** (Colorado Springs) was named the Recreational Coach of the Year for his work as coach of the Vanguard School boys' and girls' tennis teams, and as a volunteer with Tennis Across America, Lessons for Life, and the Tiny Tots tennis program with the US Air Force Academy head women's tennis coach Kim Davis.

Tobias Ortegon (Denver), Tennis Coordinator for Denver Parks & Recreation and assistant coach with the Denver Urban Youth Tennis Academy, was recognized as USPTA Intermountain Star of the Year for his commitment to grassroots tennis and the promotion of multiculturalism in the sport. Meadow Creek Tennis & Fitness Director of Tennis **Alden Bock** (Evergreen), was named USPTA Intermountain Pro of the Year. In addition to his duties at Meadow Creek, Alden sits on the board of USTA Colorado and is the USPTA Intermountain Division Regional Vice President. A tennis professional for 35 years, he has been USPTA certified for 23 years.

Two Colorado facilities nab Outstanding Facility status

Two Colorado facilities have been recognized by the USTA as Outstanding Facilities in 2011, **Lone Tree Park and Tennis Center** (Small Tennis Center category, 2-10 courts) and **The Tennis Center at Steamboat Springs** (Large Tennis Center category, 11+ courts). Only nine facilities nationwide were recognized. The USTA's Outstanding Facility Award Program was created to recognize facilities that set high standards for themselves and make a positive statement about the growth and vitality of tennis. The two Colorado selections join other facilities here in the state to have garnered similar honors: Gates Tennis Center (1981, 2008), Greenwood Athletic Club (2001), Littleton Golf & Tennis (2004), Memorial Park Tennis Center (1984), Ken Caryl Ranch (2006), Redstone Park Tennis Center (2001), Rolland Moore Tennis Center (2002) and Utah Park Tennis Center (2003). Lone Tree is home to six outdoor post-tensioned concrete tennis courts, complete with state-of-the-art surfacing, fencing, lighting, permanent 60-foot lines and other amenities. South Suburban Parks & Recreation, which operates the facility, was honored with USTA Colorado's Organization of the Year award in 2011. The Tennis Center at Steamboat Springs boasts 16 courts (six of which are indoor, six of which are clay). The indoor courts feature the RSS Reflex 500 cushion surface (specially developed by Renner Sports Surfaces) that enables safer and more comfortable play. TCSS director Jim Swiggart and his family were recently honored by USTA Colorado with the Family of the Year award.

CTM seeking tennis pro for JCC, Gates Tennis Center

Colorado Tennis Management (CTM) is currently looking for a full-time, year-round tennis professional to teach private and group lessons for both youth and adults the JCC and Gates Tennis Center. The JCC is a community membership facility with 4 indoor and 4 outdoor courts; the Gates Tennis Center is a public facility with 20 outdoor courts. Apply with a letter of interest and resume to jctennis@jccdenver.org.



Weiner, Haber finally nab coveted gold ball

Mike Haber (former Team Colorado coach/second from left) and **Marc Weiner** (Fort Collins/far right) earned the elusive gold ball at the USTA National Men's 45 Indoor Championships in Salt Lake City, UT last November. The duo upgraded from silver (Men's 35 National Hardcourts) and bronze (Men's 40s National Indoors) by beating the No. 4 seed and then taking advantage of early round upsets to finally secure the coveted national title against Berwald and Pretorius from Utah. Haber also captured the silver ball in singles.



Diversity TennisFest



We're causing a RACQUET downtown!

Nothing beats a good ol'-fashioned street festival...unless it's a good ol'-fashioned street festival with lots of tennis! Celebrating its 6th Anniversary in 2012, USTA Colorado's **Diversity TennisFest** brings together hundreds of tennis newbies every year for a day of tennis, music and food. Mark your calendars for the 2012 Diversity TennisFest, in partnership with Denver Parks and Recreation, for Saturday, June 30, 10am-2pm at City Park in Denver.

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INDUSTRY NEWS

TENNIS NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION

Tennis Media Company Launches Digital Magazine, Tennis 15-30

Tennis Media Company Managing Partners Bob Miller and George Mackin announced the launch of a new digital magazine called Tennis 15-30. Delivered twice each month, on the 15th and 30th, the interactive digital-only editions are purebred products that serve as a stand-alone to be consumed on both desktop browsers and such tablet devices as iPad and Kindle Fire. The digital magazine offers previews, insight and analysis of professional tennis in addition to fitness tips, instruction help and other useful content designed to improve the reader's game. Tennis 15-30 employs a responsive design layout to power the content on multiple platforms and gives readers the ability to scroll through stories, watch videos and swipe through slide shows.

Produced in collaboration with the United States Tennis Association, Tennis 15-30 will be available to all USTA members. Jon Vegosen, USTA Chairman of the Board and President said, "This is an extraordinary opportunity to reach out and have a direct relationship with our members. We are thrilled with this adaptable form of communication designed for the growing tennis community."

Tennis Industry Joins National Health Through Fitness Day on Capitol Hill

After an inspirational talk from golfing great Gary Player, more than 125 leaders in the sports and fitness industry – including tennis industry executives – descended on Capitol Hill on March 7 to talk with members of Congress and their staffs about the issue of physical fitness. The event was the Sporting Goods Manufacturer's Association 13th Annual **National Health Through Fitness Day**, SGMA's signature event that promotes policies that will increase participation in sports and fitness activities to improve healthy and active lifestyles. The USTA was a Special Event Sponsor and the Tennis Industry Association was a Supporting Sponsor.

US Open champion Stan Smith, who was attending on behalf of the TIA, said, "I am particularly interested in obesity and its effect on young people. If we can break that chain, then we can make some progress on this health issue. Promoting fitness will do just that."

The SGMA pointed out that starting in the 1990s, Americans have successfully reversed the upward trends of other major health concerns, including cardiovascular deaths, cancer deaths and the prevalence of infectious diseases. But the prevalence of obesity in the US has continued to rise, with about 30% of Americans now either overweight or obese.

Cardio Tennis To Be Featured At Prestigious Health Conferences

The popular **Cardio Tennis** program will be featured for attendee participation at two prestigious conferences this spring: the American Association of Neurologists (AAN) and the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM).

Attendees of the AAN Conference held April 21-28 in New Orleans and at the ACSM Conference May 29-June 2 in San Francisco will have opportunities to participate in Cardio Tennis workouts each morning. The heart-pumping sessions will be led by members of the National Cardio Tennis Speakers team and local Cardio Tennis pros.

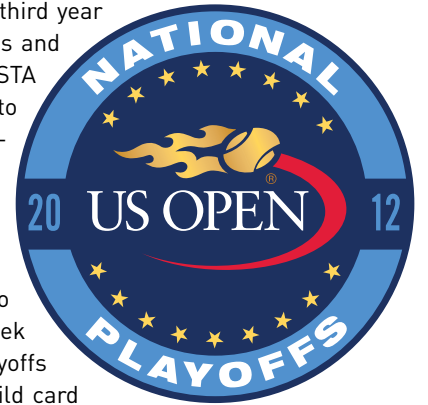
"These are great opportunities for us to showcase Cardio Tennis to two important non-tennis-specific audiences, and to show what a great sport tennis is for any ability level, providing tremendous health benefits – for body and mind," says Cardio Tennis Manager Michele Krause.

US Open National Playoffs return for third year

The US Open National Playoffs return for their third year in 2012, once again including competition in men's and women's singles as well as mixed doubles. The USTA created the US Open National Playoffs in 2010 to expand the footprint of the US Open to cities nationwide by providing the opportunity for all competitors 14 years of age and older – regardless of playing experience or ability – to play in the US Open.

The US Open National Playoffs men's and women's singles champions earn wild cards into the US Open Qualifying Tournament, held the week prior to the US Open. The US Open National Playoffs mixed doubles champions receive a main draw wild card into the Open.

The US Open National Playoffs begin as a series of sectional qualifying tournaments. In 2012, there will be 13 sectional qualifying tournaments held in 13 different USTA sections throughout the country. The 13 men's, women's and mixed doubles champions from each sectional qualifying tournament advance to the US Open National Playoffs – Men's Singles, Women's Singles and Mixed Doubles Championships, single-elimination events that decide the 2012 champions. For the second consecutive year, all three tournaments will be held in conjunction with the New Haven Open at Yale, presented by First Niagara, a US Open Series event. Registration for each of the 13 sectional qualifying tournaments is now open at USTA.com/tennislink. The entry fee for each of the sectional qualifying tournaments is \$100 for singles and \$120 for each mixed doubles team (\$60 per player).



US Open National Qualifiers

May 19-21 Scottsdale, AZ
 May 26-30 Clearwater, FL
 June 2-5 College Park, MD
 June 8-13 West Windsor, NJ
 June 11-15 Claremont, CA
 June 11-17 Flushing, NY
 June 14-17 West Haven, CT
 June 18-23 Arlington, TX
 June 18-24 Salinas, CA
 June 21-25 Minneapolis, MN
 June 28-July 1 Prairie Village, KS
 June 29-July 2 Mason, OH
 June 29-July 3 Alpharetta, GA

National Playoffs/Men's & Women's Singles

August 17-20 / New Haven, CT

National Playoffs /Mixed Doubles

August 22-25 / New Haven, CT

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 DESIGNATED 3.5/5.0
 06/03-06/10, deadline 05/27

RANCH ROUNDUP

TL# 257216512 BGsd 18/16/14/12/10
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 06/23-06/27, deadline 6/16



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Recently released reports show mixed results for Tennis industry

The Tennis Industry Association (TIA) has recently released its 2011 Tennis Consumer Reports, which measure consumer trends among frequent tennis players (21+ play occasions per year). The results showed mixed results for the tennis industry.

The overall sentiment among frequent tennis players in regard to their 2011 spending and projections for 2012 spending is reserved optimism. Over three-fourths of frequent tennis players have become more strategic in how they buy things, thinking more about how their purchases will fit into their lives, according to the report.

"The ongoing economic concerns and changing consumer buying habits continue to have an impact on the tennis industry," says TIA Executive Director Jolyn de Boer.

For example, the percentage of frequent players who indicated putting off new racquet purchases is up to 38% in 2011 from 32% in 2010. However, frequent tennis players do expect 2012 to be fairly similar or slightly better than 2011, leaving room for positive results for the industry in 2012. For instance, 32% of frequent players expected an increase in household expenditure in the 6 months following the survey period, which is up six percentage points versus the 2010 survey period.

Frequent tennis players are no different from the general consumer with the ever growing and emerging trend of mobile digital information consumption. According to this year's consumer reports 65% of frequent tennis players are using a mobile web browser on their mobile phone and nearly 60% use their mobile phone to download applications. When asked "what kind of tennis specific activities would you like to engage in on your mobile phone," nearly 50% of frequent players indicated they would like to check professional tennis scores and 45% indicated they would like to find a tennis partner to play with.

"As an industry, it's important to recognize the growing consumer demand for digital information and develop new technology platforms that can help channel these opportunities. When PlayTennis.com is re-launched – target date is May – it will provide a new social connection for players and sticky features to attract usage and ultimately more play," adds de Boer.

Highlights from Tennis Industry Report

- The "feel" of a racquet is the most important factor influencing a frequent player's buying decision of a new frame.
- Frequent players still prefer buying new frames from specialty stores over other outlets.
- Frequent site shoe "comfort" as the most important determining factor when purchasing tennis shoes.
- Frequent players purchase between two and three new pairs of tennis shoes each year with 31% of those players preferring to buy tennis shoes from the internet, followed by 26% who buy from chain sporting goods stores.
- Frequent tennis players marginally prefer buying balls in an 8-pack format over a case (24 cans) or a single can format. Their lowest preference is for a 4-can format.
- Mass merchants and chain sporting goods stores are the outlets of choice for ball purchases among frequent tennis players.
- Each year frequent tennis players have approximately 5.3 restringing jobs completed.
- Pro shops are the most favored outlet for frequent players to purchase tennis strings from.

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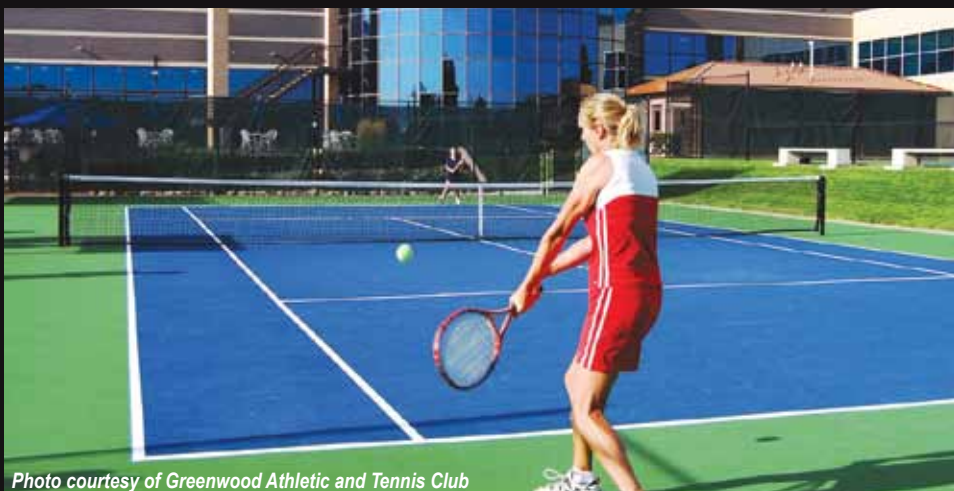


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OVERRULED

OMISSIONS, CORRECTIONS & REVISIONS IN THE NEWS

2011 FINAL NTRP RANKINGS CORRECTED

Due to a production error, the 2011 NTRP Rankings on page 37 of the 2012 Big Book of Colorado Tennis (printed version) are incorrect. The corrected final rankings for the NTRP divisions are printed below. All digital versions of the 2012 Big Book of Colorado Tennis, which can be found online at COLORADOTENNIS.com (click NEWS) are accurate.

ADULT NTRP/2011 FINAL RANKINGS

Men's 5.0 Singles

1. Phillip Lupo
2. Nicholas Dargene
3. Chris Minihan
4. Christopher Croxton
5. Thomas Schultz
6. Peter Antons

Men's 5.0 Doubles

1. Wes Blakeslee/John Linton

Women's 5.0 Singles

1. Nora Harrison

Men's 4.5 Singles

1. Don Stilwell
2. Xinlin Li
3. Wes Blakeslee
4. Gustavo Belloso
5. Thomas Schultz
6. Christian Muna
7. Graham Johnson
8. Marcel Pieters
9. Benjamin Walker
10. Luke Hay-Arthur
11. Jordan Jacob
12. Brent Mazza
13. David Burns
14. J.D. Ready
15. Bradley Schuster
16. Hugo Jimenez
17. Randy Sontheimer
18. Mark Sherman
19. James Hay-Arthur
20. David Hitchings
21. Daniel Garza
22. Kenneth Moy
23. Brian Emeson
24. William Epping
25. Andrew Green
26. Brandon Hall
27. James Kasic
28. Dale Oberlag
29. Arthur Turnbull

Men's 4.5 Doubles

1. James Hay-Arthur/Luke Hay Arthur
2. Wes Blakeslee/Alan Tsuda
3. W.A. Hancock/Adam Huff
4. Scott Alexander/Frank Coyle
5. Brett Haberstick/Graham Johnson
6. James Bray/Jake Thamm
7. Jeff Casey/Ken Moy
8. Andy Duncan/Benjamin Walker

Women's 4.5 Singles

1. Debra Brown
2. Claire Douthit
3. Christine Molek
4. Chelsea Laursen
5. Kristeen Dehning
6. Hailey Weiss
7. Mridula Sugadhan
8. Nancy McCarthy-Hallowell
9. Nicole Cimino
10. Alexis Junker
11. Jacquelyn Deyoung-Boyle
12. Erin Egglund

Women's 4.5 Doubles

1. Catherine Dunbar/Dawn Schuerkamp
2. Chelsea Laursen/Judi Laursen
3. Erin Egglund/Lee Ann Flora
4. Lori Anne Benson/Melissa Griese
5. Molly Doyle/Marie Nguyen
6. Denise Belk/Kelly O'Shea

Mixed 4.5 Doubles

1. Lauren Grimditch/Alan Tsuda
2. Karina Hauser/Thomas Hauser
3. Sean Stevinson/Hailey Weiss
4. Dawn Schuerkamp/Art Turnbull
5. Clarie Douthit/Graham Johnson
6. Lance Martin/Christina Walker
7. Jeff Ceurvorst/Erin Egglund
8. Shawn Cooper/Christine Molek
9. Erin Egglund/Dean Harper
10. Nick Taylor/Beverly Tellis

Men's 4.0 Singles

1. James Blackman
2. Anish Parikh
3. Jiri Cechak
4. Dominic Massa
5. Scott Laughead
6. Ari Krichiver
7. Devin Treack
8. Randy Schumaker
9. Brad Swim

10. David Baird

11. Dal Hurtt
12. Sam Lin
13. Sean Cochran
14. Curt Caywood
15. Steven Inman
16. Eric Nickerson
17. Phill Treddenick
18. Pete Dascalos
19. Spence Anderson
20. Pete Kesler
21. Michael Pierce
22. Steven Cohen
23. Ryan Inman
24. Trey Johnson
25. Robert Schanowski
26. Arlyn Peters
27. Mike Warren
28. Norman Lowery
29. David Kaiser
30. Andy Fross
31. Roger Montoya
32. Idi Omar
33. Michael Lemar
34. Todd Shattuck
35. Scott Heck
36. Andrew Martin
37. Jeffrey Sanders
38. Robert Tseng

Men's 4.0 Doubles

1. Dominic Massa/Jerry May
2. David Kaiser/Idi Omar
3. Kirk Jamison/James Myers
4. Jere Barto/Jeff Teebken
5. James Blackmon/Rick Bolin
6. Steven McDaniel/Brian Pinkerton
7. Greg Fisher/Hank Fisher
8. Elliott Linz/John Linz
9. Todd Berich/Scott Grimmett
10. Rich DeGuevara/Craig Swegle
11. Aril Krichiver/Taylor Lawton
12. Russell Bowler/Hunter Hook
13. William Bonthron/Patrick Sullivan
14. Andrew McPherson/James McPherson
15. Steven Inman/James Selak
16. David Harr/Daniel O'Shea
17. Andrew Adams/Stuart Adams
18. Frank Curtis/Hank Fisher
19. Bob Dunn/Craig Swegle
20. Craig Claxton/Hector Hornedo
21. Martin Froehlich/Scott Justus
22. Richard Flanigan/Rick Lannon

Women's 4.0 Singles

1. Maria Rudolph
2. Katherine Krause
3. Ursula Duran
4. Michelle Topf
5. Alexis Junker
6. Melissa Griese
7. Jan Kennedy
8. Yoko Ito
9. Kelly O'Shea
10. Gabriela Parker
11. Karen Kappius
12. Donna Chitambar
13. Shannon Miday
14. Nancy Quayle
15. Angel Spivak
16. Jane Burnham
17. Stephanie Greco
18. Sylvia Henderson
19. Susan Kozlowski
20. Molly Beyer
21. Sarah Schupp
22. Robin Ashmore-Guin
23. Michelle Pinkerton
24. Mari Marsico
25. Kristin McCandless
26. Midori Simpson

Women's 3.5 Singles

1. Allyson Robson
2. Carol Konitshek
3. Melissa Harris
4. Kimberlee Harmon
5. Lucy Vento
6. Amanda Phan
7. Susan Stephani
8. Amy Day
9. Katie Fassbinder
10. Mia Moe
11. Sarah Shook
12. Chris Landberg
13. Kristin Holmquist
14. Isabella Latak
15. Cheri Brandt
16. Ruth Weinberg
17. Lynn Macaluso
18. Megan Fischbach
19. Maureen Marrs
20. Nicci Howson
21. Kelly Calabrese
22. Kathleen Colbert
23. Jen Jewett
24. Kendra Krauss

Women's 4.0 Doubles

1. Molly Doyle/Marie Nguyen
2. Melissa Doidge/Susie Farrar
3. Jennifer Bui/Leslie Rios
4. Karina Hauser/Sue McGee
5. Denise Belk/Kelly O'Shea
6. Sue McGee/Kelly O'Shea
7. Melissa Griese/Stephanie Major
8. Donna Chitambar/Kristi Smith
9. Karen Kappius/Carole Keller
10. Susan Jeffries/Katherine Krause
11. Smita Merchant/Mary Taylor
12. Nicole Baker/Ursula Duran
13. Ursula Duran/Debbie Yoon
14. Jo Anna Cline/Lisa Schweiss
15. Lisa Bischoff/Kara Calendine
16. Linda Bartels/Colleen Carlson

17. Tanya Harrington/Tanya Taylor

18. Jane Davis/Heidi Dery
19. Brenda Cook/Anne Henning

Mixed 4.0 Doubles

1. Corey Murray/Mary Murray
2. Elizabeth Humbarger/Ronald Smith
3. Daniel O'Shea/Kelly O'Shea
4. Colleen Carlson/Greg Foster
5. Denise Belk/Randy Schumaker
6. Patti Bowman/Rick Bowman
7. Jamie Kinkade/Leslie Rios
8. Jennifer Armstrong/Brian Pinkerton
9. Lisa Grimmett/Scott Grimmett
10. Elaine Mariner/Christopher Williams
11. Brian Pinkerton/Michelle Pinkerton
12. Greg Foster/Susan Hoelscher
13. Craig Claxton/Emily Jensik
14. Melissa Doidge/Wade Doidge
15. Stacey Gilmore/Daniel Warrick

Men's 3.5 Singles

1. Brent Erickson
2. David Thompson
3. Roger Freeman
4. Trey Johnson
5. Ira Wellen
6. Kevin McMahon
7. Robert Foy
8. Tom Toronto
9. Nilee Knez
10. Mark Walter
11. Anil Nimmagadda
12. David Richards
13. Peter Whitmore
14. John Youle
15. Ronald Marx
16. Brandon Dumler
17. Scott Gaisford
18. Chris Decicco
19. Joe Butler
20. Juan Lucero
21. Ajay Balan
22. Shaun Shanahan
23. Ken Eslick
24. Steven Arnold
25. Jason Nunnery
26. Thad Scholl
27. Dalton Ross
28. Kevin Boland
29. Oscar Dillon
30. Bill Brusckhe
31. Robert DeVine
32. Qui Pham
33. Craig Johnson
34. Richard Beckey

Men's 3.0 Singles

1. Qui Pham
2. Lee Wolfe
3. Richard Bagley
4. Garrett Fisher
5. Mark Heiden
6. Andrew Nash
7. Gary Licht
8. Cecil Macgregor
9. John Appelhans
10. Matt Moon
11. Bang Nguyen
12. Bryce Licht
13. Tor Nielsen

5. Laura Green/Susan Lewis

6. Stacey Koch/Chris Landberg
7. Pam Gelwick/Veronica Leto
8. Patricia Knapp/Amanda Phan
9. Lindsey Cheney/Sarah Shook
10. Claudia Deere/Kathryn Kirvan
11. Joanie Jones/Deneige Nash
12. Pamela Catalano/Mandy Coughlin
13. Julie Anderson/Bridget Schroder
14. Theresa Deville/Carol Konitshek
15. Diane Cleveland/Heidi Pennink
16. Ursula Scarano/Michele Voecks
17. Megan Fischbach/Christian Hawley
18. Karen Dunbar/Patti Helper
19. Nancy Hiester/Gwen Riley
20. Chris Landberg/Helen Young
21. Margaret Baxter/Kelly Deligio

Mixed 3.5 Doubles

1. Brad Barnhart/Melissa Doidge
2. Susan Conway/Richard Lyford
3. Kristin Holmquist/James Sharp
4. Craig Tierney/Karen Tierney
5. Andrew Reisbeck/Lindsey Reisbeck
6. Rebecca Hite/Derrol Moorhead
7. Elizabeth Whitmore/Peter Whitmore
8. Mia Hamel/Michael Moses

Men's 3.0 Doubles

1. Matthew Turner/Lee Wolfe
2. Kip Shuman/Patrick Wallace

Women's 3.0 Singles

1. Melinda Mueller
2. Natalie Meskers
3. Kristin Janos
4. Beatrice Nielsen
5. Teri Smith
6. Traci Robinson
7. Valeria Moore
8. Elizabeth Phillips
9. Diane Rubinstein
10. Marina Connors
11. Alicia Jiron
12. Peggy Kagohara
13. Teri Wrobel
14. Lissa Bartle
15. Michelle Foster

Women's 3.0 Doubles

1. Catherin Cooper/Kimberly Creedon
2. Charlene Cashin/James Tenney
3. Kristin Hanson/Angelique Manley
4. Darci Cruickshank/Angie Vigil
5. Carol Gebhardt/Kelly Miller-Taylor
6. Teresa Alleman/Cindy Gee
7. Maureen Hartigan/Tara Hartigan
8. Stacey Anderson/Crystal Hostetley
9. Teresa Alleman/Shannon Mooney

Women's 2.5 Singles

- Special Recognition*
- Charity Aslin
 - Lissa Bartle
 - Rebecca Burckhardt
 - Heidi Elliott
 - Hope Leoni
 - Jill Nelson
 - Mille Wolfgang
 - Danielle Zgut

Women's 2.5 Doubles

- Special Recognition*
- Charity Aslin/Heidi Elliott
 - Shelly Coffman/Adrienne Cramer
 - Heidi Elliott/Trina Jones
 - Jill Nelson/Danielle Zgut



Colorado Adult League Teams advance to Nationals

In addition to the three teams that were listed in the the last issue of COLORADO TENNIS newspaper (2011 League Champions Honor Role, p25), the following three squads represented Colorado at the USTA League Tennis National Championships (with captains):

USTA ADULT W5.0: CAC Inverness Silver/Laura Lafors

USTA SENIOR M4.5: Monument Hill CC Balboa/Robert Balboa

USTA SENIOR W4.5 (pictured): Heritage Greens Red/Sarah Patterson Peggy Seyfert, Sarah Patterson, Anne Lehigh, Janice Simpson, Leslie Hanna, Marcy MacDonnell, Cindy McLemore, Kathy Anselmo, Cathy Corbett. Not pictured: Suzanne Green, Patty Kreutz.

All six teams who earned the distinction were officially recognized at the 2012 Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala in January.

Colorado sends two teams to Super Senior Nationals

Congratulations to the **Heritage Eagle Bend ladies (W6.0 and W7.0)** who won their respective divisions of the 2011 Intermountain Super Senior Sectional Championships held at Darling Tennis Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 9-11, 2012. All teams now qualify to advance to the National Championships in Surprise Valley, Arizona, in April.



W6.0 SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS: HEB GOLD

Carrie Sharp, Donna Rufner, Neoma Jean Felton, Carol Lawson, Joy Ann Bole, Janice Allmacher, Margaret Hinderliter.



W7.0 SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS: HEB RED

Carol Chiolerio, Sharian Schroeder, Elinor Jessie Newman, Kathy Ebdon, Joanne Postluszny, Jan Rankin, Gail Hedy, Jean Duncan, Louise Forsythe.

OUTREACH

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

RACQUETS FOR ALL SURPASSES COLLECTION GOALS

Racquets For All, the equipment recycling program of the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation, had hoped to collect 900 new and gently-used tennis racquets in 2011, but thanks to the hard work of RFA volunteers and the many organizations and donors across the state, more than 1,000 racquets were donated last year. The windfall of equipment, which included more than 8,000 tennis balls, was collected from 39 distribution points across the state. After the inventory was collected, catalogued and assessed, RFA distributed nearly 600 racquets and all the balls to 53 organizations and individuals in need of equipment.

Looking ahead to 2012

For 2012, Racquets For All will be looking to help even more organizations by collecting 1,100 racquets and distributing to 60 organizations/individuals across the state.

In order to accomplish its goal, RFA is building on its successful High School Challenge model, where high school teams compete against each other by seeing which team can collect the most racquets. Several new "Challenges" are being piloted: a Denver-metro Junior Team Tennis challenge and a USTA Mixed Doubles League challenge in Colorado Springs.

All girls high school tennis teams across the state are encouraged to step up to the challenge of collecting racquets and giving others the chance to play.

Find out more about the 2012 Challenge at coloradotennis.com or facebook.com/racquetsforall



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HIGHFIVE

For the past 36 years, Colorado Tennis (née High Bounce in 1976) has been bringing you profiles of local players, coaches, administrators and anyone else in the Colorado tennis community who shares their passion for the sport with others.

In each issue, we are profiling five individuals who deserve recognition for their efforts and accomplishments. As always, some you will know, while others will be fresh names and faces. We encourage readers to help us recognize others who they think deserve special recognition. Email Kurt Desautels <kurt@coloradotennis.com> with your comments or suggestions.

PROFILES BY
KATIE NEWELL

Tennis instructor Judi Fenner is not just logging hundreds of miles on her car every week, she's putting hundreds of smiles on the faces of young netters and their families all over Colorado.

Founding Centennial Tennis Academy, a nationally recognized youth tennis center that follows USTA guidelines, has been a true labor of love for "Coach Judi."

"I felt there was a niche I could fill with these kids who weren't getting the opportunity to play at country clubs, but had the skill and commitment for advanced play. It's in my heart to help them fulfill their destiny," she said.

In its third year now, the Brighton, CO-based academy is focused on a strong work ethic and "teaching excellence." Many of her students come from challenged backgrounds and Judi knows that it's not just a game on the court for these young athletes. For many, it's

their only shot at getting scholarship money for college. "These kids are on the court, every day," Judi says, "it's about practice, practice, practice." With an individualized program that starts with strong fundamentals, many of her students have gone on to play at the top levels.

Sixteen years ago, a job in the oil industry brought Paul and Vivian Edwards to Bayfield, a small town in the four-corners region of the state. But it was the mountainous beauty of the secluded area that the young couple fell in love with. They bought a secluded lake house, and now years later and three wonderful children richer, that isolation has yielded a close-knit family – bonded by many hours spent together on a tennis court.

Born in Los Angeles to Cuban immigrants, and moving to Saudi Arabia at five, Vivian discovered the sport of tennis and excelled at it. After collegiate play, she taught tennis at Meadow Creek in Lakewood. Once the couple relocated to secluded Bayfield, Vivian was thrilled to find tennis courts, even though they were 30 minutes away in Durango. Tennis has since become a family affair for the entire Edwards clan, especially for their children Eva-Lou (15), Fred (13) and Mavis (10), who have all become accomplished players, a feat in and of itself, considering the only usable outdoor courts during the winter are located

ninety minutes away in Farmington, NM. The nearest indoor courts are located nearly four hours away in Grand Junction.

This commitment of family time, instruction, drilling and just being on the courts together insured all three kids would become strong players. Paul jokes that "it keeps the kids out of trouble," but this tennis family has managed to show some impressive results, despite their lack of play opportunities.

Involving kids in competitive junior tennis takes effort for all parents, says Paul. "But for us, we have a few additional and unique challenges." The kids don't belong to any program or club, says Paul, and don't have an outside coach other than their parents. One of the hardest challenges the kids face in the pursuit of their tennis goals is that they don't have any peer hitting partners.

"They have each other, their parents,

and local adults that enjoy hitting with them," says Paul. "The main way they learn and compete is by playing in tournaments, so we have to travel to Grand Junction, Albuquerque, Colorado Springs and Pueblo for local 'close-by' tournaments."

Eva-Lou balances her love of the game with a strong desire to excel academically. In her sophomore year at Bayfield High School, she loves math but is strong across the board. Regarding tennis, she acknowledges that sometimes it's difficult to see her parents as coaches, but it's something they're working through together, by looking for other coaches when possible. Her strong results in tournaments in New Mexico and Utah reflect her powerful, consistent game – one that could take her into college play. She finished 2011 as the top-ranked doubles player in the state (G16), and No. 5 in singles. She's also a very strong runner – earning a trip to the Colorado High School Cross Country State Championships. But first and foremost, she's committed to her academic future. "It's challenging, and I want to make the most of it," Eva-Lou explains of her academic potential.

Fred, a Bayfield Middle School student who also excels in math, is an all-around athlete who excels in tennis but has a deeper love of baseball and basketball. "The first time I picked up a tennis racquet was about the same time I learned to walk," Fred said. A strong all-around player who finished the year ranked No. 2 in doubles (B12) and No. 7 in singles, he feels his best shot is his forehand. In regards to his future, he would love to play baseball at the high school level and beyond and knows that his tennis skills will help him in all sports – especially in baseball as they are strong cross-training sports.

Mavis, a Bayfield Elementary student, is also seeing strong results for tournament play. Her mature analysis of the unique family dynamics, including the ups and downs, good times and bad times of being a traveling tennis family is honest and interesting. Mavis loves singles but also enjoys doubles play because of the teamwork component, and says she plays tennis "for the love of it!" She's already ranked in the top 10 in doubles (G12), and is just outside the top 10 in singles, despite being just 10. In addition to tennis, she loves gymnastics.

Having strong tennis ability in a somewhat isolated community has been an interesting challenge and the Edwards family is extremely grateful to people like Sheriff Jim, who personally helps shovel snow off the tennis courts.

And when they travel, says Paul, many of the other Intermountain players and families know them and their situation. They've made many friends from their trips around the region, and enjoy seeing players when they travel to the many events across the Section.



JUDIFENNER

Teaching tennis to potentially less fortunate kids from elementary age through college age is Judi's calling in life. Having played high level tennis herself and having been educated at Christian-based Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, OK, her knowledge of the sport and commitment to help others succeed is a winning combination. She is also passionate about the kids supporting one another, and ultimately getting joy—not pressure—from the great sport of tennis.

"We're one big happy family," she beams. And like any family, they deal with the bigger issues life throws their way like financial struggles, sickness, and even death. But Judi knows the positive environment she's creating through competitive tennis helps heal and create brighter futures. "It's not recreation we're doing on the courts; it's a chance at a scholarship."

One of Judi's main goals is to continue growing the program by attracting other players from across the Front Range, and eventually being on permanent courts. She's grateful for the use of the Chapel Hill Church of the Nazarene and pastor Brad Paradee who lets her use the full gymnasium to set up her portable net. She's also thrilled to have the help from tennis coaches Veronica Randall and Travis Crouch.

Judi and the Centennial Tennis Academy can make use of any financial assistance to help juniors in reaching their potential. If you can contribute to this wonderful program, please contact Judi at 347/461-2190.

For Bill Conway, a tennis professional at Colorado Athletic Club Inverness since May, it isn't just about getting more young players onto the tennis courts. It's about doing the right thing once you get them there.

Gone are the days when kids would have to drill for years before tasting competition. It's a new tennis era for the young netters, and formats like QuickStart Tennis where 8 and unders learn to hit on a 36-ft, then move up to a 60-ft court before moving to regulation 78-ft courts, helps them develop an all-around game earlier. Scoring is unique, depending on the format of play. Red Ball play consists of one match tiebreak to ten points. Orange Ball play is usually the best of three tiebreaks to seven points, or one short set to 4 games. Green Ball play is similar to Orange, but on a larger court. The formats allow true play while players develop physically.

Having grown up all over the country and playing and coaching a variety of sports, Bill says, "Tennis has always been where my heart is." Explaining that there is nothing quite like watching a young netter *get it* for the first time,



Photo courtesy of Bill Conway

BILLCONWAY

he feels that exposure to these youth programs is key to attracting lifelong, high-level players. "These formats give young athletes the opportunity to play games, strategize and be competitive right from the start."

One of Bill's main challenges is not with his young athletes, however. "Getting parents to understand the path – that's the biggest challenge!" Bill said. "It's sloppy tennis when it starts." But he knows from having worked at the City of Oakland in their extremely successful youth tennis program that this approach works.

Developing a new Kids' Tennis Club for children ages 5-12, Bill wants to bring trial-sized tennis to kids in ways that are low-key, fun, social and attractive to players of all ability levels. "My personal goal is to create a groundswell of players." And while it's always fun to find the truly high level learner, he said that he is looking to find young athletes who love to play.

Bill is also aware that for kids to develop passion about tennis, he as a coach must model it. "If you have a coach on a court that isn't passionate about it, the kids pick up on that. If you don't want to be there, they don't want to be there."

Visit ColoradoAthleticClub.com/Inverness for more information about Bill and his 10 and Under programs, which are open to anyone who wants to join in the fun and learn to love tennis.

Bruce Sanderlin keeps his motto pretty simple. "If you have a racquet, a ball, and a friend, you have a sport for life." Teaching at Dalton and Century Elementary, Bruce was part of the pilot program to bring an after school tennis program to the Aurora area. Supported by Kristy Jenkins, School Tennis Coordinator at USTA Colorado, the main goal was to find fun ways to introduce tennis to kids with eight intramural sessions, and was held in the gymnasium with portable nets.

"Bruce is an exceptional educator who really cares about his students," Kristy said. "It is obvious in the way he takes the time to prepare, plan and execute a well-rounded physical education program, which includes tennis." She also said that level of enthusiasm he had was contagious and that the kids had a great time!



Photo courtesy of Bruce Sanderlin/Dalton Elementary

BRUCESANDERLIN

For \$20 per player, the 31 kids participating in Bruce's program received lessons, their own racquet to keep, plus \$10 of each registration went to help buy the school much-needed PE equipment. Bruce was most excited about the pulse bars they purchased, which helps to monitor heart rates.

Growing up in Colorado and having attended Arapahoe High School, Bruce enjoys giving back to the community in such a meaningful way. He said that even though there were challenges, especially with so many kids in the crowded gym setting, it was a great experience.

While he says the main goal was to, "Have a Blast!" keeping the kids' heart healthy and starting them young with an active lifestyle is the real passion for Bruce. He also admits it's the smaller successes that sometimes mean the most. "When some of the kids who aren't real successful with eye-hand coordination make that connection for the first time, it's amazing!" he explained.

In addition to the tennis introduction, Bruce is also involved in bringing his students the Kids Running America program. Through April 28, these young athletes are challenged with running a marathon, logging 25.2 miles in the running club, and completing the final mile at City Park.

Bruce joins the USTA to encourage other schools to take advantage of the pilot program at their schools. It's a fun, easy way to bring the lifelong sport of tennis to kids who may not otherwise get the

chance. To find out more about this program, please contact schools@coloradotennis.com.

Several years ago, a young Anthony Weber was dropped off on public courts in Colorado Springs (Shooks Run, Memorial, Rampart, etc.) with just his lunch pail, his tennis racquet and his mission to hit with anybody and everybody. His love for the sport of tennis and for his Colorado Springs community grew strong. Anthony was recently hired as the new tennis director at Memorial Park Tennis Center and assistant coach for the men's and women's teams at Colorado College. Returning to his roots was a natural fit for the passionate professional who has coached at both the High School and College level.

Anthony, along with his wife, Kasey, and children, Jackson, (5) and Ty (1), are excited to call Colorado Springs home. Having obtained his B.S. in Finance from Colorado State University after playing Division 1 Tennis at Lamar University in Beaumont, TX, and sitting at a corporate desk long enough to know he belonged on the tennis court, he's happy with his life. "I can't complain about anything," Anthony beams, "I'm hitting outdoors in February and it's just beautiful."



Photo courtesy of Anthony Weber

ANTHONYWEBER

An outstanding player as a junior, Anthony was ranked #4 in the State of Colorado and #10 in Intermountain at one point, it's his off-the-court training that makes him a true gift to the Colorado Springs tennis community. As a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist, his interest and understanding of sports performance, conditioning, resistance training and biomechanics gives himself and his students a deeper understanding of what it takes to become a top athlete. In addition to tennis, Anthony is passionate about volleyball, as well.

Anthony's technique involves getting back to the basics. "When you look at kids across the board," he explains, "it's really about getting down to the basic fundamentals such as using your legs for positioning and power."

Beyond the physical fundamentals, Anthony finds the psychological component of competing a fascinating topic as well. In one session, he filmed players' behaviors and body language between points. The catch was that they didn't realize they were being filmed. He says it was eye opening for those who had never considered that aspect of their game.

With an opportunity to bring a diverse tennis community together, Anthony is committed to bringing tennis to everyone – regardless of race, gender, age, or socioeconomic background. He wants to work closely with other tennis professionals committed to growing tennis from the ground up. In an effort to introduce kids in the community to tennis, Memorial Park is hosting "SpongeBall, SmallRacquet...a Kids Tennis Event" on May 12 from 10am-1pm. Information about the event can be found at ColoradoSpringsTennis.com.

SPOTLIGHT

OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

WE ASK WHAT IT TAKES TO COACH AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL TEAM COMPETITION

STORY BY
TOM FASANO



Gayle Godwin could write a book about her experiences as a player and coach in tennis.

She played at UCLA from 1969-73.

She then coached at UCLA for 11 years earning six Final Four appearances in seven years.

Gayle, 60, coached a national title team at UCLA in 1981.

She was the national coach for the US Tennis Association for 11 years.

But with all her accomplishments, being named to coach the US Women's Olympic Tennis Team in 1984 in Los Angeles and participating in the Opening Ceremonies at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum are at the top of the list.

"It was probably the biggest coaching honor I ever had. The Olympics is such an amazing event. In my opinion, there's no other event like it," said Gayle, currently the tennis director at Snowmass Club in Snowmass Village. When you're staying in the village and you're living with all the other athletes from all over the world, it's a pretty unique experience. I think you see now the top players are all wanting to play in the Olympics. It's once every four years, and there's not that many opportunities to win a gold medal."

The Opening Ceremonies still stand out for Gayle, even though it's been almost 30 years ago.

"There's probably no experience like the Opening Ceremonies because everybody had expectations, no one had competed yet and everyone's hopes were still there," Gayle said. "The energy at the Opening Ceremonies was one of the best athletic experiences I think all of us had. The Closing Ceremonies had a different feel. People were walk-

ing around with their medals and it was sort of over, but the feeling at the Opening Ceremonies was pretty incredible I thought."

Tennis in the Olympics was making a comeback for the first time since the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City.

"It was the first year that tennis was back in the Olympics (since 1968). It was a demonstration sport," Gayle said.

On the 1984 US women's team were Andrea Jaeger, Kathleen Horvath, Andrea Leand and Gretchen Rush. Horvath lost in the quarterfinals, and Jaeger had to withdraw in the second round because of a shoulder injury. Steffi Graf won the Olympics that year.

Gayle, who moved to the Aspen/Snowmass area in 1987 to help Vic Braden run a ski college for eight years before getting back into teaching tennis at the Aspen and Snowmass clubs, said players in the 1984 Olympics could be professional or amateur but they had to be 21 years of age or younger.

"How the team was picked was they picked the top two based on their WTA rankings that were 21 or younger, so Andrea Jaeger and Kathleen Horvath were named automatically to the team," Gayle said. "And then they had an open tournament where anybody could enter and the two finalists of that tournament were the other two players on the team and that was Gretchen and Andrea."

With the exception of Rush, it was the first time Gayle had worked with the other three players. Rush was on a national team that Gayle was coaching that summer, and she worked with her during that time.



With the 2012 Summer Olympics in London fast approaching, Colorado Tennis is running a series of features on local people who put their stamp on tennis at the Olympics. This is the first part of the Colorado Tennis' Olympics tennis series for 2012.

The second part will be on former University of Colorado player/head coach Scott Davidoff, who is the head coach for India at the 2012 Summer Olympics.

Another Colorado resident, Gayle Godwin, was the head coach for the US Women's Olympic Tennis Team in 1984.

"It was the first year that tennis was back in the Olympics since it was in Mexico City in 1968," said Gayle, who is the tennis director at Snowmass Club in Snowmass Village.

Steffi Graf and Stefan Edberg placed first in 1984 in Los Angeles, where matches were held at the Los Angeles Tennis Center and at UCLA.

Tennis was a demonstration sport in 1968 and in 1984, but it became an official medal sport in 1988 for the first time since the 1924 Summer Olympics.

"The rules I thought were kind of interesting. You could be a professional or an amateur, but you had to be 21 years of age or younger," Gayle said. "The rules haven't been the same since then, but those were the rules for choosing the team that year."

"They're playing tennis throughout the year and then you kind of meet at the Olympics and you compete," Gayle said. "Everyone was honored to be on the team and representing the US. We made a decision to meet and train in northern California. We had about a week of practice time prior to when the competition started."

Gayle said not working with the players on a full-time basis before the Olympics made it different than coaching players at the collegiate level.

"That's a little different where in college you're working with people a very long period of time," Gayle said. "You get to know them a little bit better. During the Olympics in '84, there was no real coaching on the court. You sat in the stands and watched, where as college tennis there's more involvement during the matches and whatever. That was a little bit different, also, between the two. The Olympics is one big tournament where college is a whole series of matches."

Gayle said she tried to get to know the players as quickly as possible, figure out what they needed and what made them click.

"Some of the time they knew the opponents better than I

did because they had been playing them on the Tour," Gayle said. "You just try to be sure that you're getting them as ready as they can be to compete, however that is. Every person is different. If their forehand is a little off, you may give them a little input to what you see. It's mainly getting them mentally and physically ready to compete at their best."

Gayle remembers the tennis team stayed in dorms at UCLA, and rode buses to the Opening Ceremonies.

"We were all brought over on buses. The entire freeway system in LA was shut down so that the buses could arrive," Gayle said.

Gayle said she traded a few pins with Olympians from other countries, and she has them displayed and framed with a photo collage of Olympic pictures and experiences. Gayle also remembers the sense of pride the players and coaches had representing their countries.

"Tennis players hadn't had that opportunity since 1968 to play," she said. "I've never been to a Davis Cup match or a Fed Cup match, but I think you kind of get the same feeling there," said Gayle, who grew up in Long Beach, CA. "It's about team and representing your country. Tennis is such an individual sport. There aren't that many opportunities to play for your country or on a team. It's kind of neat to see. You're wearing clothes that say USA on the back, and there's a total sense of pride. You're competing for not just you, but for something bigger than you."

Gayle now coaches players in the age range of 4 to 87 at Snowmass Club.

"I coach 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 teams. I coach mother-daughters that compete in national tournaments. I coach some players that compete in national age-group tournaments," Gayle said. "It's just as important to them to compete well as it is for the Olympic team to compete well. It's all about people to me. I just try to connect and try to help people at whatever level they're at and whatever place in their life they're at. It's just as satisfying to have someone hit a forehand correctly for the first time in their life as to coach someone on the Olympic team because it's just about people and the connections that you make with them."



Flashback....1984

Tennis returned to the Summer Olympic Games for just the second time in 60 years at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, but it was only a demonstration sport like it had been the previous time in 1968 (Mexico City). At the next Games in 1988, tennis would once again be an official medal sport, having last been an official sport in the 1924 Summer Olympics.

Two events (men's and women's singles) were demonstrated at these Games. The competition venue was the Los Angeles Tennis Center at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Each event had a draw of 32 players.

In the men's draw, top-seeded Jimmy Arias (USA) was knocked off in the semifinals by the No. 3 seed Stefan Edberg (SWE), who defeated little-known Francisco Maciel (MEX) in the final.

On the women's side, American Kathleen Horvath was upended by Yugoslavian Sabrina Goles in the quarterfinals. Goles, the No. 8 seed, faced a 15-year-old named Steffi Graf (FRG), seeded No. 7, in the finals. The young West German needed three sets to defeat Goles.

Four years later, Graf became the only player to win a second Olympic singles title. She combined her 1988 Olympic Gold Medal with a sweep of the 1988 Grand Slam – Australian Open, Roland Garros, Wimbledon, US Open – the only player in history to complete the "Golden Slam".

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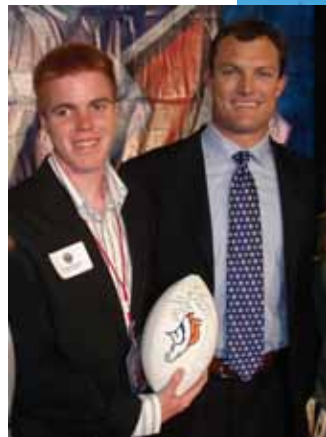
PROFILE

RECONNECTING WITH A FIGHTER

DAVID JENSEN TAKES HIS EPILEPSY MESSAGE TO THE WORLD

STORY BY
STEPHEN ALLEN

Colorado Tennis readers may remember David Jensen from the 2008 feature "Freedom Found," which profiled a group of young athletes who were facing numerous physical and emotional challenges. The story described David's epilepsy and it also described David's stroke at age 12, which resulted from complications during brain surgery. David lost 90% of his vision and his memory was wiped almost totally clean. But "Freedom Found" was remarkable not for its account of David's experience with adversity, but rather for its description of his remarkable accomplishments as an athlete and a person. David has built on those accomplishments, which included playing tennis in the Special Olympics, and in 2012 it has become clear that tennis has served as an important launch pad for David's work during the past four years. Today, David is a college student at Community College of Denver, he is an avid volunteer, and he is still an active athlete.



David currently serves on the Youth Panel of the Epilepsy Foundation of Colorado (EFCO) and is a counselor for their Jason Fleishman Summer Camp. David explains, "Camp is great ...by the end all you hear is 'I do not want to go home' and all you see is dead-on confidence in each and every one of those camper's eyes." His work is important because epilepsy affects fifty-thousand people in Colorado. A seizure might range from distraction to violent convulsions or, rarely, death. David has a seizure every ten days or so and his efforts to educate the public are particularly compelling considering his personal experience.

As a high school tennis player, he recalls experiences with teammates in which they would routinely ignore his input. David explains, "I had a lot to overcome...[but] because of my love for the game I kept playing. In my second or third year I approached the coach and told him I needed a chance to try out for varsity. Though I didn't [make varsity] it felt great to at least have a chance."



Epilepsy, stroke, vision loss inspire Jensen to great heights

Despite ongoing epileptic seizures and the loss of most of his vision as a result of a stroke, David Jensen remains upbeat and positive – an attitude he developed on the tennis court. He shares his experiences with epilepsy with others as a volunteer and camp counselor. In 2008, Colorado Tennis profiled David after he was named a finalist for the John Lynch Superstar Award, recognizing student-athletes in Colorado.

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David views the sport as a component of his support network. Vicky Matarazzo was David's coach when he was 12, right after his stroke, and right after he lost most of his vision and most of his memory. He also lost his balance and his ability to walk. "Coach Vicky saw what my needs were and adapted around them so I could succeed. She was really the key to my getting my balance back because she taught me to plant my feet and worked with me on getting my balance back. That is why tennis means so much to me."

David also has a few tips on doctors and seizures: "It definitely depends on the neurologist and how they alter your medication. Making sure that you get enough to eat and drink is important too." EFCO lists nutrition and hydration among the top factors to monitor to avoid a seizure.

David continues about sports, "When you have epilepsy, always tell someone about it... what to do if you have a seizure... If you have tonic-clonic (grand mal) seizures, they may need to dial 911 whereas if you have complex partial or absence seizures, people can likely help you on-site. Also tell them to not be scared. ...they just need to be understanding."

Epilepsy can be a serious challenge for David, but he also gains a sense of accomplishment in finding solutions to its problems. David is making a great contribution by sharing those solutions with the world and he is grateful for the support he has received along the way from the tennis community.

Article submitted by Stephen Allen of the Seize The World Foundation, a Denver 501(c)(3) organization that promotes the idea that people with epilepsy can lead active lifestyles. For information about Seize The World or to Share Your Story, please visit SEIZETHEWORLD.com.



Did You Know?

Epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions. It is also called a seizure disorder. When a person has two or more unprovoked seizures, they are considered to have epilepsy. Seizures happen when clusters of nerve cells in the brain signal abnormally, which may briefly alter a person's consciousness, movements or actions.

EPILEPSY AFFECTS NEARLY 3 MILLION AMERICANS AND 50 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE.

While medications and other treatments help many people of all ages who live with epilepsy, more than a million people continue to have seizures that can severely limit their school achievements, employment prospects and participation in all of life's experiences. It strikes most often among the very young and the very old, although anyone can develop epilepsy at any age. In the US, it affects more than 300,000 children under the age of 15 – more than 90,000 of whom have seizures that cannot be adequately be treated.

The number of epilepsy cases in the elderly is climbing as the baby boom generation reaches retirement age. More than 570,000 adults age 65 and above have the condition. Our returning veterans are also affected as studies show an increased risk of developing epilepsy following traumatic brain injury.

Epilepsy is the third most common neurological disorder in the US after Alzheimer's disease and stroke. Its prevalence is greater than cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease combined. Despite how common it is and major advances in diagnosis and treatment, epilepsy is among the least understood of major chronic medical conditions, even though one in three adults knows someone with the disorder.

Source: Epilepsy Foundation of America, epilepsyfoundation.org



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NEWS AND UPDATES FOR PLAYERS AND PARENTS

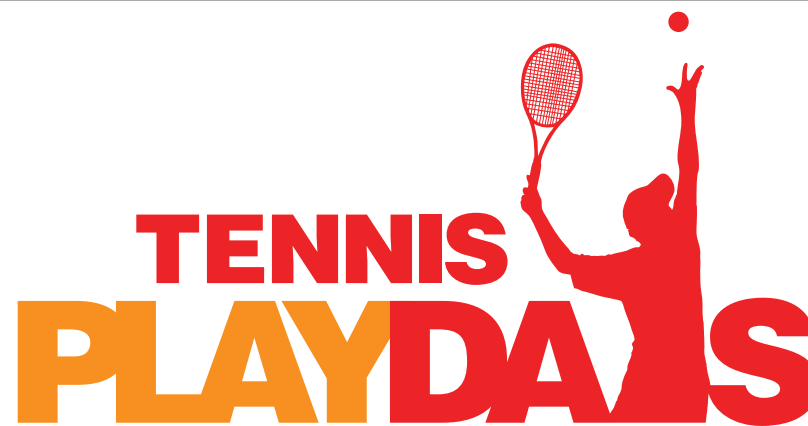
The Play-Day-Palooza

When USTA Colorado began coordinating with organizations and facilities across the state to offer Play Days, the plan was to promote the events in each issue of Colorado Tennis and online at ColoradoTennis.com. The process was simple and easy, and enabled both organizers and consumers/parents a one-stop shop for Play Days in Colorado. But as the national promotional effort for Play Days ramped up, organizers were asked to register online at 10andUnderTennis.com in order to receive various promotional items, which complicated the process for organizers and for parents alike who wanted to find Play Days in their area.

As the USTA and Tennis Industry Association continue to implement their 10 and Under Tennis models, the marketplace for Play Days has become a bit confusing, as a plethora of websites have been launched with the promise of helping parents find the right program for their child. The good news is that there are now numerous resources available to parents. The bad news is, none of the lists are entirely complete.

As we continue to work with the various 10 and Under Tennis resources in an effort to provide organizers and parents a simpler means of promoting and finding Play Days, we are excited that the USTA has implemented the new icon system (see following page) which will help everyone have a clearer understanding of how to both deliver and find the right tennis opportunity for kids. While it is still early in the process, we expect the icon system will help create a more consistent environment for organizers, as well as a measure of confidence on the part of parents who want to engage their children in quality programming as provided by trained staff.

In the coming weeks, we expect more and more organizers to fill out their profiles utilizing the new icon system at 10andUnderTennis.com. Any facilities or parents who have additional questions or comments are encouraged to contact USTA Colorado's Director of Junior Recreation Dan Lewis <dan@coloradotennis.com> at 303/695-4116 x207.



Play Days are a great way for kids 10 and under to play tennis in a fun, non-threatening, non-elimination, competitive environment. It is a wonderful way to get ready for that next step of playing Junior Team Tennis and in sanctioned junior tournaments.

The Play Days listed below are those who have signed an agreement with USTA Colorado that they will incorporate the six components of the QuickStart Tennis format: STAGE, AGE, COURT, NET HEIGHT, RACQUET and SCORING. Additional Play Days can be found at 10ANDUNDERTENNIS.com.

NORTHERN

MIRAMONT LIFESTYLE FITNESS, 901 OAKRIDGE DR, FORT COLLINS, CO 80525. 970/672-4224.

RYAN MAURIER

April 14; 4-5:30PM

May 26; 4-5:30 PM

WORK OUT WEST, 5701 W 20TH ST, GREELEY, CO 80634. 970/330-6707. LAURIE ANDERSON

April 22; 1-3PM

May 12; 1-3PM

SOUTHERN

FLYING HORSE CLUB, 1880 WEISKOPF POINT, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80921. 719/487-2625.

MIKE HUMPHREY

May 18-20

July 13-15

MOUNTAINS

ARIA SPA & CLUB, 1300 WESTHAVEN DR, VAIL, CO 81657. 970/479-5941. PETE ANDERSON

April 14; 1-2:30PM

May 27; 10:30-12PM

June 24; 10:30-12PM

July 15; 10:30-12PM

August 12; 10:30-12PM

September 9; 10:30-12PM

October 7; 10:30-12PM

November 4; 10:30-12PM

December 2; 10:30-12PM

METRO DENVER

APEX PARKS & RECREATION, 6430 MILLER ST, ARVADA, CO 80004. 303/431-9004. MICHELE CROUSE

May 19; 1-2:30PM

July 11; 12-1:30PM

August 7; 10-11:30AM

COLORADO ATHLETIC CLUB INVERNESS, 374 INVERNESS PKWY, ENGLEWOOD, CO 80112. 303/790-7777. BILL CONWAY

May 20; 2-7PM

July 13; 4-8PM

September 7; 4-8PM

EAST BOULDER COMMUNITY CENTER, 5660 SIOUX DR, BOULDER, CO 80305. 303/441-4400. GONZO GARCIA

May 19; 1-3PM

GREENWOOD ATHLETIC CLUB, 5757 S QUEBEC, GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111. 303/771-2588. PEGGY BERNARDIS

April 28; 2:30-4:30PM

June 2; 2:30-4:30PM

July 27; 2:30-4:30PM

August 10; 2:30-4:30PM

MOUNT VERNON COUNTRY CLUB, 24933 CLUBHOUSE CIRCLE, GOLDEN, CO 80401. 303/526-0616. LILI BELL SHELTON

June 16; 1-3:30PM

June 30; 1-3:30PM

July 14; 1-3:30PM

July 28; 1-3:30PM

August 18; 1-3:30PM

HOLLY TENNIS CENTER, 6651 S KRAMERIA WAY, ENGLEWOOD, CO 80111. 303/771-3654. VICKI HOLTHUS

May 19; 1-3PM

July 7; 1-3PM

TENNIS CENTER AT LONE TREE GOLF CLUB, 9810 SUNNINGDALE BLVD, LONE TREE, CO 80124. 303/768-8109. VICKI HOLTHUS

June 9; 1-3PM

August 4; 1-3PM

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Organizations interested in registering their Play Days with USTA Colorado should email Dan Lewis <dan@coloradotennis.com>.

10ANDUNDERTENNIS™

IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME

USTA Unveils New Icon System for 10andUnderTennis.com

The USTA has unveiled a new "icon system" for its growing 10andUnderTennis.com website, allowing tennis facilities and providers to enhance their consumer search profiles. The new icon system makes it easier for parents and consumers to easily identify what programs and services tennis providers are employing in their 10 and Under Tennis programming.



Understanding the 10U Icon System

10 AND UNDER TENNIS BALLS

- RED BALL
- ORANGE BALL
- GREEN BALL

THE RIGHT BALL FOR THE RIGHT STAGE:

- Red for 8U Players
- Orange for 10U Players
- Green for 12U Players

OFFER USTA PROGRAMMING

- PLAY DAYS
- TEAM TENNIS
- JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS

THE WAY TO PLAY FOR KIDS 10 AND UNDER:

Finding the right opportunity for your child is easy with this basic guide to play options

MODIFIED COURTS

- 36'
- 60'

THE RIGHT STAGE FOR THE RIGHT AGE:

- 36' Courts for 8U Players
- 60' Courts for 10U Players

MODIFIED YOUTH RACQUETS

THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB:

Adult racquets are too unwieldy for young players; they are too long and heavy and the grips are too large. An appropriately-sized racquet, one designed for kid-sized hands and strength, is essential.

SELLS 10 AND UNDER TENNIS EQUIPMENT

BRING THE GAME HOME:

It's perfectly fine to demo the sport with equipment provided by the facility, but when you're ready to bring the game home, you'll want to know which retailers specialize in providing youth-appropriate equipment.

10 AND UNDER TENNIS TRAINED STAFF

KIDS AREN'T MINI-ADULTS:

Not all tennis pros are experts in youth tennis education. As parents, you want to know which facility's pros have attended the specific workshops necessary to develop the appropriate skills to teach the younger generation.

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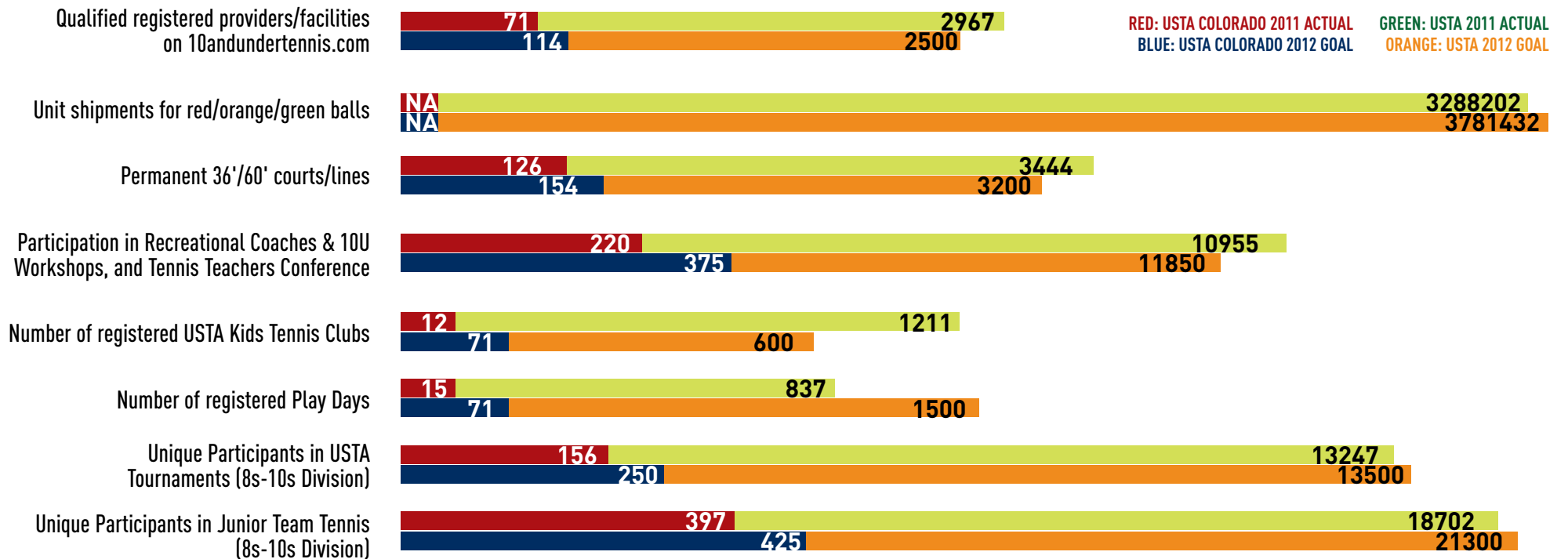
10 AND UNDER TENNIS™

IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME

Plotting the Future

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

to encourage more organized play among the younger age groups, which would be a boon not just for the USTA, but for tennis organizations and facilities who are looking to sow the seeds of grassroots participation. Here's a quick look at the 2012 goals that USTA has set forth for the 10 and Under Tennis initiative (COLORADO and NATIONAL), now in its first full year of implementation.



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JUNIOR COMPETITION

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SWEETHEART CIRCUIT RESULTS

Boys 18

Hayden Sabatka B18s-2nd; B18d-1st
 Matt Sayre B18d-1st
 David Mitchell B18s-3rd
 Jamey Swiggart B18s-4th; B18d-2nd

Boys 16

Zach Fryer B16s-2nd; B16d-1st
 Luke Lorenz B16s-3rd/4th Playoff; B16d-1st
 Fletcher Kerr B16s-3rd/4th Playoff; B16d-1st

Boys 12

Joshua King B12s-1st
 Richer Jordaan B12s-2nd

Girls 18

Nicole Kalhorn G18s-3rd
 Mira Ruder-Hook G18d-1st
 Meaghan Monaghan G18d-2nd
 Kelli Woodman G18d-2nd

Girls 16

Alexa Brandt G16s-1st
 Alex Middleton G16s-2nd
 Madison Gallegos
 Bria Smith G16s-3rd/4th Playoff
 Eva Lou-Edwards G16d-1st

Girls 12

Tamy Katthain G12s-2nd
 Julia Berggren G12d-2nd

SNOWBALL SECTIONAL RESULTS

Boys 18

David Mitchell B18s-ConsFinal
 Hayden Sabatka B18s-ConsFinal
 Sabatka/Matt Sayre B18d-1st

Boys 16

Spencer Lang B16s-2nd
 Luke Lorenz B16s-4th
 Ignatius Castelino B16s-ConsFinal

Boys 14

Willie Gold B16s-3rd
 Casey Ross B14s-4th; B14d-1st
 Jackson Hawk B14s-ConsFinal
 Ethan Hillis B14s-ConsFinal

Boys 12

Brett Finan B12s-1st; B12d-1st
 Nicholas Lorenz B12s-2nd
 Richer Jordaan B12s-ConsFinal
 Stefan Orton-Urbina B12s-ConsFinal
 Mitchell Johnson B12d-1st

Girls 18

Kelli Woodman G18s-ConsFinal
 Jennifer & Rebecca Weissmann G18d-2nd

Girls 16

Mira Ruder-Hook G16s-1st; G16d-1st
 Nicole Kalhorn G16s-2nd
 Kalyssa Hall G16s-ConsFinal
 Alex Middleton G16d-2nd

Girls 14

Gabrielle Schuck G14s-1st; G14d-1st
 Ashley Lahey G14s-2nd; G14d-2nd
 Tate Schroeder G14s-ConsFinal

Girls 12

Anshika Singh G12s-1st
 Morgan Hall G12s-2nd
 Julia Berggren G12s-3rd
 Mavis Edwards G12d-2nd

Omissions

Kai Smith B12s-4th and Stefan Orton-Urbina B12s-6th were omitted from the coverage of the Intermountain Great Pumpkin Sectional event (Colorado Tennis/Winter 2011-2012).



Colorado juniors invited to Regional Training Centers

Eleven of Colorado's top juniors were selected to attend the Las Vegas Regional Training Center in March (back row: Joshua King, Coach Miikka Keronen, Tom Melville, Brett Finan, Grace Koza; front row: Jessica Aragon, Richter Jordaan, Nicholas Lorenz, Mitchell Johnson, Seraphin Castelino, Amber Shen, Anshika Singh).

The establishment of Regional Training Centers has enabled the USTA to partner with the best Regional programs in the country, building relationships between its best coaches, and raising the level of training for the nation's best juniors. These supplemental competitive opportunities are provided at no-cost to the player, and allow the kids to stay relatively close to home.

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TENNIS GOES 3-DIMENSIONAL (NO GLASSES REQUIRED!)

Getting better at tennis just took a very high-tech turn in Colorado.

In March, several Coloradans gathered at the Greenwood Tennis Center to get a taste of a new tool now surfacing in the sport called 3-D Tennis Technologies 3D-TENNIS.com.

Players were outfitted in stretchy, black clothes and Velcro straps that included white, gumdrop-sized sensors (racquets also got the sensors). Then, looking like characters from the old TV cartoon, "The Jetsons," they hit forehands, backhands and serves as 10 high-speed cameras recorded their swings and sent data to a computer with state-of-the-art software so coaches and players could analyze those strokes like never before.

It's the brainchild of Colorado native **Brian Gordon** who grew up playing junior tennis in Colorado Springs and earning degrees from The Colorado College (where he also played tennis) and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. He also holds a Ph.D. in sport biomechanics; his dissertation explored how the upper arm's longitudinal axis is used in tennis serves.

After college, Brian taught tennis and worked with swimmers at the US Olympic Training Center. He says eventually he became intrigued with how to improve athletic performance and decided to embark on what has



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become a 20-year journey to create a way to help tennis players get better through science. The result is 3-D Tennis Technologies.

All stroke information ends up on a website where players and coaches work to develop biomechanically efficient strokes. Brian says ideally measurements are taken periodically to assess stroke progress and to work on additional stroke variations. A 3-D session costs \$300 and includes the measurement, data analysis and review with a coach.

"We've seen pretty amazing results," says Brian, who spends much of his time using the technology with players at The Rick Macci Tennis Academy in Boca Raton, FL. "I had one 13-year-old girl who, after just four months of work with 3-D imaging, beat one of the University of California at Los Angeles' players 6-1, 6-1."

Macci, who has worked with Venus and Serena Williams, Andy Roddick, Maria Sharapova, Jennifer Capriati among others, has said he sees 3-D Tennis Technologies as "the most advanced stroke technique improvement program in the world."

Brian says Colorado was a logical place to expand. "Plus, it gives me a good excuse to come home and visit my mom in Colorado Springs and my brother in Denver."

One of Brian's long-time friends, **Harold Fong**, a former teaching tennis pro in Colorado Springs, has wanted Brian to bring his system to Colorado for a while. (Fong's son used the system last year and liked the improvement to his game.)

"Colorado has had a long history of developing good players, and I thought the program would benefit Colorado player development," Fong says.

So earlier this year, Fong approached **Randy Ross** – managing director of Randy Ross Tennis Enterprises LLC in Littleton and a long-time director of Team Colorado, the state's premier junior player development program – to organize the Greenwood Tennis Center event.

"I wanted to bring it here because it's the only system where a player's strokes are compared to a model based upon biomechanically proven, scientifically measured stroke technique," Randy says. "There's nothing else like it in the world of tennis."

Brian says he's "very happy" with the event. "I've found there are two kinds of coaches in tennis, those who are afraid of technology and those who say, 'bring it on if it helps players get better,'" Brian says. "Randy is the latter – he wants players to get better."

Randy and Brian say they plan to host the training in Colorado quarterly during 2012. Those interested in learning when the next session will be held are encouraged to e-mail Randy at randyrosstennis@gmail.com.



CHALK TALK (WINNING THE PRE-MATCH WARM UP)

Senario: You are on court hitting with your opponent(s) in a first round tournament or perhaps a USTA league match on a bright and sunny summer day.

Your warm-up goals should address two key areas:

1. What do I want to make happen?
2. What do I want to prevent from happening?

First and foremost I want players to focus on performance and the process of playing well under pressure. I want them to forget about winning and losing, who is on the other side of the net, and only on what they can control. Remember, you can only control how you respond to situations and events, and key choices such as staying confident if your opponent is playing well. You can't control what calls you receive, the score or your opponents' actions that might distract you.

It is also vital that players get in the right intensity zone (or as we sometimes use the acronym "OIL" or optimal intensity level), which will vary from player to player, but involves raising the heart rate, "switching on" positive thoughts, staying in the present moment, noticing how they feel and also detecting any important cues from the opponent such as strengths, weaknesses, reluctances (they

may have been reluctant to take warm-up volleys), or tendencies (they love to smack the ball hard on every shot).

On the other hand I want players to avoid negative self-talk such as "I hate the wind," or "I always lose to pushers and she is a real pusher," etc. It's not important to "win" the warm up by never missing a ball! According to Nick Saviano, one of the world's premier tennis coaches, "John McEnroe was one of the worst warm-up players I ever saw. Once a match started, however, John was a different player."

Players must also avoid and deal with many distractions such as wind, sun, noise, their own thoughts, bad line calls, lack of focus etc. Many players incorrectly believe that if they win the next two points they can win the match! They must focus on staying in the present only and although they believe they are not concentrating, actually they are just using incorrect type of concentration. Simply focusing on the ball narrows focus and allows us to read the ball's flight, speed and spin like the pros (remember how still Roger Federer keeps his head on all shots!).

The way to "win" a warm-up is to be better prepared for the match than your opponent. By implementing these goals you will have not only a moving experience but play the match of your life!

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



CAREY BRADING
TEAM COLORADO SITE DIRECTOR

Carey is a USTA High Performance Coach and a USPTA P1 professional.

SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR OLD BANDANA (AND SAY HELLO TO THE LATEST IN TENNIS FASHION)

After trying unsuccessfully to find a stylish custom headband to coordinate with their USTA Adult League uniforms, **FLY Headties** founders Barbara Askenazi and Vikki Goldberg created the Denver-based company to fill the void left by the major manufacturers whose products are emblazoned with large corporate logos.

"Fly headties are dry-wicking, unisex, one-size-fits all and they come in four colors, either plain or custom embroidered with any monograms, team names, club or company logos desired," says Barbara. Manufactured in Denver, the ties are "the latest 'must-have' sports accessory," she says.



The Specs: Fly Headties are made from 92% polyester/8% spandex dry-wicking fabric, are 36" long x 3" wide. Four colors: black, white, blue and red; \$12 (customization is available for an additional \$3 per Fly Tie).

The Analysis: The Fly worked as advertised, virtually eliminating eye-burning sweat even during the most intense workouts. The material stayed soft, and dried quickly, unlike those cotton bandanas of yesteryear. Tie it tight, or leave it a bit slack, the material stayed stretchy and absorbant even after saturation. Our female tester was quite happy with the Fly, wearing it to Zumba and yoga classes in addition to playing tennis. "It was really comfortable, and kept the sweat off my face throughout my entire workout." The only issue, she said, was that the tie was a wee bit too long. "The ends flopped against my neck and were a distraction." Our male tester put the Fly through some grueling paces, wearing it for indoor cycling workouts in addition to other gym sessions. While he also thought the tie was a bit too long, he raved about the wicking properties and feel. "I wore the tie for about 25 hours before considering washing it," he said. Despite looking a little rough and feeling a bit stiff, the fabric kept on wicking. After a wash, the Fly looked and felt like new.

The Verdict: A no-nonsense product that gets the job done even when you forget to take it out of your tennis bag, the Fly Headtie is an essential piece of tennis equipment for anyone who is tired of sweat running into their eyes during a match. It's also a great accessory for teams who want to show a little camaraderie without putting on a billboard for a major manufacturer. Info/orders at FLYHEADTIES.com.

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NEWS FROM USTA COLORADO HEADQUARTERS

FRITZ GARGER
USTA COLORADO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings! Things are shaping up nicely for another terrific year of tennis. Most outdoor courts, even those in the high country, are free of snow and the temperatures are climbing. The girls' high school tennis season has begun – without the typical snow, sleet and rain – which I'm sure has been pleasant for players and coaches alike.

We hope the beautiful weather (for tennis players anyway – and outdoor players in particular) is an indication of a wonderful tennis season to come. We are gearing up for another exciting year with some significant changes already in effect as well as some that are on the horizon.

Change is in the air

The USTA just recently approved changes to the junior competition schedule – changes that will have a real impact on our highly competitive juniors as the structure of National and Sectional events will change – beginning in 2014. It is too early to know all the effects of the change – especially the subtle ones – but our office will be studying the expected impact and will provide as much information as possible – as we receive it.

Obviously another change that's still one year away (and one you can read about in our cover story) is the modified structure of Adult and Senior leagues – with the different age divisions set to kick-in for the 2013 season. Everyone's hope is that these changes will enhance the experience of league players by creating additional opportunities for play – not restricting them.

But perhaps the biggest and most meaningful change – maybe the biggest since the USTA first began operating as the USLTA in 1881 – is the rule change regulating **10 and Under** play. As of January 1, 2012, all Colorado 10 and under sanctioned play will take place on the 60-foot court with the "orange" ball. After seeing some matches at one of the early tournaments of the year with a 10 and under division, it reaffirms the logic and rationale for such a change. The players are playing real tennis – constructing points, rallies with the number of shots averaging well into double digits, and a high majority of shots being hit in a neutral or offensive position (and in the natural strike-zone – I might add), a stark contrast to a typical 10s match on a 78-foot court with standard high altitude balls that results in having even skilled players hitting the vast majority of shots in neutral or defensive positions and making contact with the ball nowhere near their natural strike zone. And given the vast expanse of a regulation court, these players had absolutely zero chance of tracking down drop shots or coming in to the net with any degree of proficiency or success.

We now have some of the most well-respected tennis coaches in the country encouraging kids even with exceptional skills to work to "master" the game on a 60-foot court and orange ball before moving on to the 78-foot court and yellow ball. For the USTA in general and USTA Colorado in particular, we see this new approach as being key to increasing (hopefully exponentially) the number of kids who are introduced to the sport – including those 5, 6, 7 and 8 year olds who will begin on a 36-foot court with a lower net and red ball.

There are opportunities for facilities (public and private – traditional and non-traditional) to be creative in their programming to attract youngsters to the sport. And while there are plenty of existing professionals and instructors who have the skill set to teach players of all ages, our facility directors should consider taking a page out of the ski instruction playbook and recognize that for the 5-8 and even 9-10 year olds, there is a unique skill set that's best suited to attract and retain this player demographic. Those facility directors who employ instructors/coaches who cater to and demonstrate an expertise in working with these youngsters will be the most successful. Our association hopes the list of facility directors who employ such instructors/coaches is long so that kids everywhere will have quality opportunities in close proximity to their homes and schools.

We also encourage programs to incorporate **Play Days** and **Kids' Tennis Clubs** (and register them with the USTA) to attract young players. USTA Colorado can be a very meaningful resource to market these opportunities and provide significant exposure for programs that are registered with us. Our goal will be to utilize any number of our communication and marketing vehicles to get the word out and promote these opportunities. We want everyone's efforts to promote and implement this initiative to be recognized and rewarded. Getting more kids into the game is ultimately a win-win for everyone (first and foremost the kids and their parents), as this sport provides all kinds of benefits.

Our interest is to assist in making the success of this initiative a reality – to see thousands and even tens of thousands of kids (ages 5-10) engaged in our sport. Our schools TENNIS program (which includes before-, during-, and after-school opportunities) has been instrumental in introducing kids to tennis. Now we have the opportunity to do even more and to have hundreds of programs statewide that incorporate both the 36-foot and 60-foot courts to introduce even more kids and to serve as a vehicle to *retain* and *capture* kids in the sport.

The equipment and materials (curriculum) are there and we are seeing more courts with blended lines. The key will be to have as many facilities as possible developing quality programs with instructors/coaches who have a skill set and expertise to excite and develop an interest in the sport within this demographic. Just about every other sport has accomplished this. With all the pieces in place, tennis can do the same. The difference is, tennis will be with these youngsters for life, and that's not something many other sports can claim.

Our sport will always retain a host of constants – things that will never change, no matter how much time has passed. These changes will have a long-standing and incredibly meaningful impact on the lives of our youth. Tennis has always changed lives – now we have the opportunity to change even more lives, because we are enabling this 5-10 year old demographic to experience it in a way that is more fun and provides greater success that will result in more kids getting into and staying engaged in our sport. That's exciting and rewarding!





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THE LAST WORD

INAUSPICIOUS BEGINNINGS

PLAYTENNIS.COM, THE LATEST TIA COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE, STUMBLES OUT OF THE GATES

KURT DESATUELS
EDITOR, COLORADO TENNIS

So by now you now that the whole 10 and Under Tennis Initiative is a collective effort by the **Tennis Industry Association** (TIA), a collaborative entity of manufacturers, retailers, facilities and organizations – including the United States Tennis Association, which championed the QuickStart Tennis Format and the implementation of the 10 and Under Rule Change.

And while there will likely be a few growing pains along the way, the momentum of 2011 should carry the initiative to great results. More and more facilities are recognizing the essential need for kid-specific courts, lessons and equipment. Those facilities that haven't embraced the initiative (with permanent blended lines and age-appropriate programming) are becoming conspicuous in their refusal to join the party.

But not everyone bats 1.000. Take **PlayTennis.com**, the latest collaborative effort by the TIA to create a one-stop shop for *All Things Tennis*. Like anything new, there will be a gradual process of steps forward, steps back, and adjustments made along the way. And while PlayTennis.com doesn't say it's in beta testing, it has a very beta-like feel. Or maybe it's still in the alpha stage.

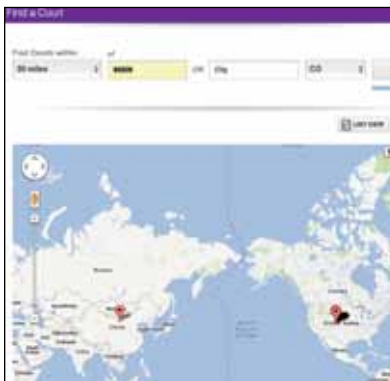
The site just isn't ready for prime time. It's not even ready for late-night. To be fair, the site is currently being offered as a "soft launch" to consumers. But with any soft launch, you typically want those features that you do release to be functional and accurate, even if they aren't complete. PlayTennis.com was soft launched under no such illusion. The tabs that are enabled offer limited, if not comical, results.

Click "Find Programs" and you're invited to search for tennis programs in your area. Typing in our USTA Colorado HQ zip code and a 5-mile radius, I was delighted to discover that the number one return was for a youth fishing camp in Evergreen....more than 30 miles away. But that's not all! In addition to a few tennis options in Evergreen, I learned that PlayTennis.com could also offer programming options like Mad Science and Basketball Handling Skills...also in Evergreen. But wait! There's more. Do you know about "Time Travelers"? PlayTennis.com can also help you register your child to partake in this "tennisy" camp:

"Oh, the places we will go! Each day a magical box will appear in our classroom to give us clues as to where are our imaginations and art making will take us for the day. We will travel through time as we explore different cultures and their art. Our adventures will fly us to back in time to form dinosaurs, to China as we create colorful prints, then off to Africa to make masks and more! So, come join us in our time traveling ventures!"

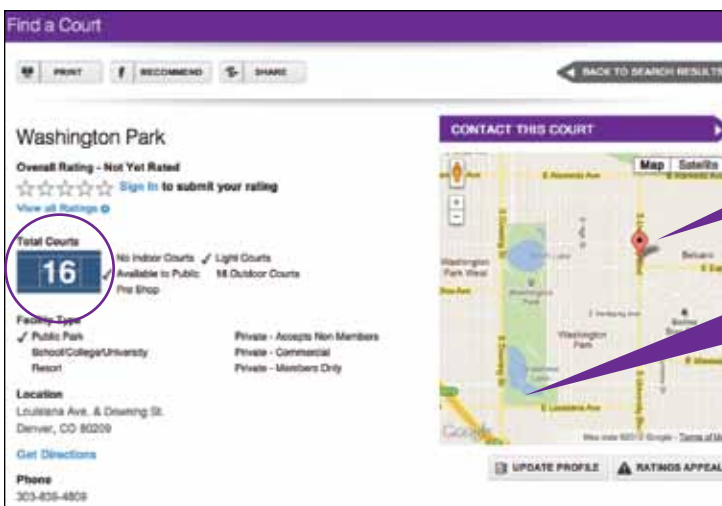
Actually, that does sound like fun. Maybe I'm being too hard on the TIA. Perhaps we can time-travel to France during the Renaissance to learn about *courte-paume* and the roots of modern tennis.

But maybe you're not in the market to find a program. Maybe, you just need to locate a tennis court where you can have a hit with a friend. So you click the PlayTennis.com "Courts" tab and plug in your zip code and you get a host of returns that seem to be fairly accurate. A quick search for courts in the 80209 zip code returns a slew of results that will help get you started. But beware the mapping function. Select the Washington Park Tennis Courts location at Louisiana Avenue and Downing Street and the directions will bring you more than a mile and a half away, smack dab in the middle of University Boulevard near Exposition Avenue. Not that it's a bad neighborhood or anything – the Campus Lounge and the Saucy Noodle are lovely spots for a post-match nosh, and there are few pizzerias in the metro area that serve as tasty a

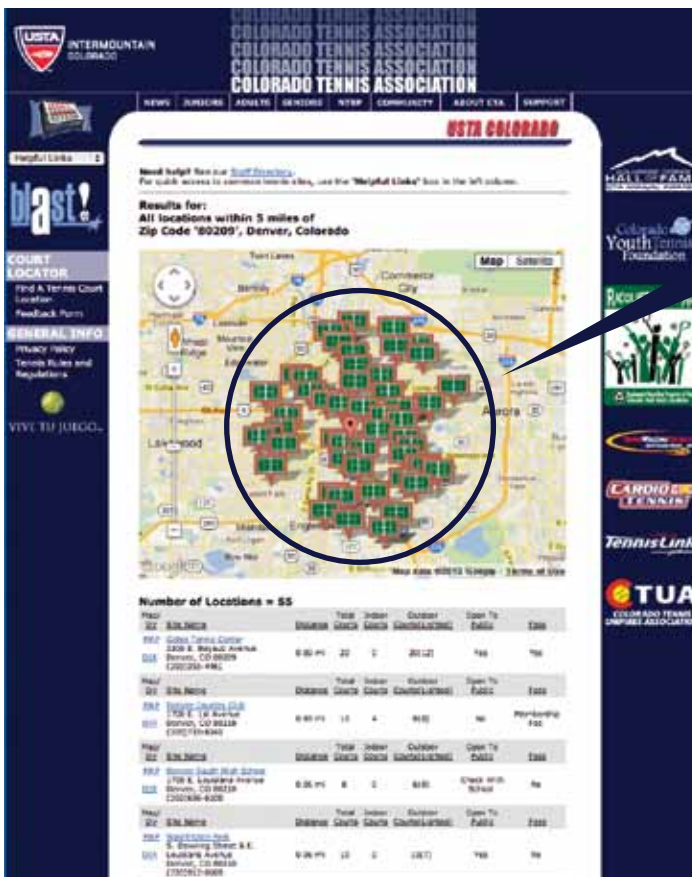


Oh, the Places You'll Go

After entering my zip code to see which local courts PlayTennis.com recommends in the Washington Park area of Denver, I couldn't help but wonder if I needed to renew my passport.



Miles to go before I play
Despite correctly identifying the address for the courts in Washington Park, the PlayTennis.com court finder lists 16 lighted outdoor courts (there are actually just 10 courts, 7 of which are lighted) and sends me 1.5 miles away from the actual location.



Search smart, search easy
Type in the same zip code search (80209) with the same radius (5 miles) on ColoradoTennis.com and you get nearly twice as many returns (55 unique locations) and a precise GPS location so that you can map out your directions with confidence. You can even confirm via satellite image that the University of Denver only has six courts (as listed in the CT.com database) vs. the 12 courts listed in the PlayTennis.com database.

Next issue of Colorado Tennis slated for June

The summer issue of Colorado Tennis newspaper is scheduled to publish in mid-June, and will feature numerous topics ranging from 10 and Under Tennis to the National Public Parks Tennis Championships. Any and all editorial submissions must be received by May 18, and all advertising reservations must be made by the same date. Final ads must be received by June 1.

Readers who would like to submit names for consideration for the HighFIVE or other profiles should contact the Editor, Kurt Desautels <kurt@colorado-tennis.com> by May 1.

*No government agency has evaluated this claim.



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photo by Kurt Desautels



USTA COLORADO

BACK ROW: Dan Lewis, Fritz Garger, Paula McClain, Kurt Desautels, Jason Colter.
FRONT ROW: Kailey Jonas, Lisa Schaefer, Taylor McKinley, Jarret Sutphin, Kristy Harris, Anita Cooper, Jason Rogers.

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ABOUT USTA COLORADO

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

We provide grants to organizations that want to introduce tennis to their communities and we offer scholarships to junior players who seek to take their game to the next level. We coordinate adult league play for more than 31,000 players across the state, and offer programs for junior players of all ages and abilities. Our sanctioned tournament schedule offers more than 160 events this year, including opportunities for wheelchair athletes.

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

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

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

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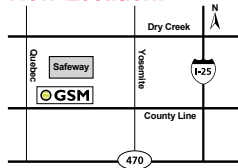
Enjoy this sale at our Centennial and
Cherry Creek locations while supplies last!

#1 TENNIS
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*Ball machines, court equipment and balls are excluded. Sale on in-stock select apparel items only. Offers cannot be combined.

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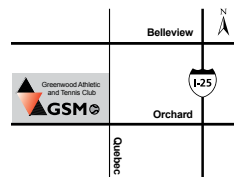
New Location!



**GAME-SET-MATCH
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