# SPRING 14 COLO 1300 The Official Publication of Tennis Lovers SPRING 14 COLO 1300 The Official Publication of Tennis Lovers







**Gates Tennis Center** 3300 E Bayaud Ave Suite 201 Denver, CO 80209 303.695.4116

### Summer|Fall 2014 Tennis Camps and Events

Date:	Camp:	Level:
May 30 – June 1	Adult Mixed Doubles Camp	3.0 – 3.5
June 6 – 8	6th Annual Rally for the Cure Tennis Event	
June 13 – 15	Adult CampCoe	ed 3.5 – 4.0
June 16 – 18	Junior CampCompetitive ag	ges 13 – 17
June 21 – 22	Adult Two-Day Beginner's Camp	
June 27 – 29	Adult Camp	4.0 – 4.5
July 9 – 10	Junior Two-Day Advanced CampA	ges 10 - 13
July 11 – 13	Adult CampCoe	ed 3.0 – 3.5
July 21 – 22	Junior Intermediate Camp	Ages 7 - 10
July 23 – 24	Junior Intermediate CampA	ges 11 - 14
July 25 – 27	Adult Mixed Doubles Classic6.5, 7.5 & 8.5	5 combined
August 4 – 6	Junior Camp - High School VarsityA	ges 14 – 17
August 8 – 10	Special Adult Camp, conducted by Dennis Ralsto	n
August 29 – 31	Labor Day Weekend AdultMixed Double	es 3.0 - 4.0
Sept 5 – 7	6th Annual Culinary, Wine-Tasting Tennis Camp	
Sept 19 – 21	Adult Mixed Doubles Camp	3.5 – 4.0
Oct 31 – Nov 2	Adult Camp	3.0 – 3.5
Nov 28 – 30	Adult "Thanksgiving Weekend" Tennis Camp	3.5 – 4.0
Dec 28 – 30	Adult "Holiday" CampMixed Double	es 3.0 – 3.5

### Special Events and Packages

June 6 – 8	6th Annual Rally for the Cure Tennis Tournament
July 25 – 27	Adult Mixed Doubles Classic6.5, 7.5 & 8.5 combined
September 5 – 7	6th Annual Culinary & Wine-Tasting Tennis Camp Weekend



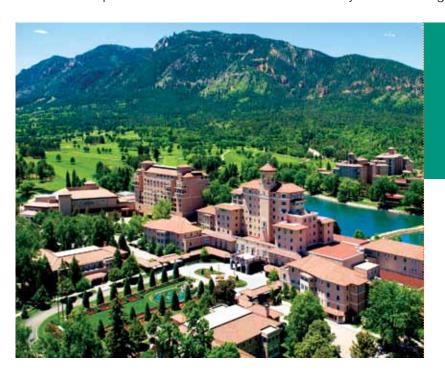
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#5 COACHING STAFF
#5 MATCH ARRANGING
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# colorado tennis



### FEATURES

### **6 ORANGE IS THE NEW YELLOW**

Until two years ago, the traditional optic yellow tennis ball was used in every pro event, every league match, every recreational tournament, every hit and giggle session, and virtually every public and private lesson taught in the United States. But with the rule change in 2012 mandating the use of lower compression balls and 60-foot courts for 10 and Under sanctioned events, nearly 4,500 10 and Under courts have been built or striped nationwide (500 in Colorado alone!). Turns out it's not just the 10 and under game that is embracing the smaller courts and softer, lower-bouncing balls. The orange ball has started to gain a following among older players, coaches and teaching professionals, too.

Is it time for you to try out the orange ball?

### YEAR 39, ISSUE 2 / APRIL 2014

### **About COLORADO TENNIS**

COLORADO TENNIS (USPS #013-371) is the quarterly publication (January, April, July & October/November) of :

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### **PROFILES**

### 16 H5.19

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Kendall Chitambar Raven Dick Fifth Gear Kids Akhil Gupta Nicole Kenneally

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Meet USTA Colorado Board President **Brett Haberstick**, a man who takes the idea of service to heart.

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### THECOVERSTORY

et's be honest. You love tennis. At the least, you like it a lot.

Now there may be days when you can't stand your racquet, your opponent, your partner or maybe even yourself. But make no mistake, you love this game. You may love it for the exercise, the friends you've made, the competition, or the sheer fun of running around on a court smashing the fuzz off a little ball. You love tennis. It's why you're reading this publication.

Don't worry. You're not alone. There are a lot of reasons to love tennis.

Kids love tennis because kids love to have fun. With friends. They love to run, and jump, and laugh. And to hit things with sticks.

Parents love tennis because physically fit children perform better academically, and tennis provides kids with numerous physical benefits, as well as plenty of psychological benefits as well.

People of all ages love it because tennis players score higher in vigor, optimism, and self-esteem, and lower in depression, anger, confusion, anxiety, and tension than other athletes and non-athletes.

And compared to other sports, like golf, running, weight-lifting, and many more, tennis outperforms them in developing positive personality characteristics like sociability, mental focus, competitiveness, adventurousness, spontaneity, creativity, and assertiveness.

Not to mention fitness. The average person burns more calories playing tennis than doing low impact aerobics, weight lifting, riding a stationary bike, hiking, walking a golf course, or playing softball, baseball, or volleyball.

All this from a little, fuzzy yellow ball that smells vaguely of gasoline when

you pop a new can open. The yellow ball IS tennis...at least it has been since it was introduced in 1972 for enhanced viewing on television.

Until two years ago, the traditional optic yellow tennis ball (we can argue later about whether it's more green than yellow) was used in every pro event, every league match, every recreational tournament, every hit and giggle session, and virtually every public and private lesson taught in the United States.

But in that short period of time, nearly 4,500 courts nationwide have been adapted for 10 and under play, nearly 500 have been permanently striped in Colorado alone! Thanks to the dedicated effort by public and private tennis entities to adapt their courts for 10 and under players, Colorado has seen a massive increase in sanctioned youth play. From 2012 to 2013, more than 250 additional players competed in sanctioned Orange-ball events (Junior Team Tennis and tournament play). JTT was up 20%, while tournaments saw a 60% increase in 10s division participation. In fact, 2013 marked an important milestone for junior tennis in Colorado, as total participation reached an all-time high with 11,199 total players, only the second time in Colorado history that total junior participation crested the 11,000 play plateau.

But it's not just the 10 and under game which is embracing the shorter courts and lower compression balls. The orange ball has started to gain a following among older players, coaches and teaching professionals, too.

It's even finding its way into organized adult league play....



new

YELLOW



### Trickle up technology...

With the infrastructure in place, and the equipment readily available for purchase, the use of low-compression balls and smaller courts has found its way into upper age divisions for a variety of reasons.

Colorado Athletic Club-Inverness teaching professional Scott Ford serves up orange balls in both his beginning adult classes and also in his peak performance workshops.

"I'm a big believer in keeping the rally going for as long as possible, not only to build your muscle memory, but also to train your concentration to hold up during long rallies," says Ford, who says that orange balls are a lot easier to control for beginners, enabling them to have a more realistic — if slower —experience of tennis.

"For older players, myself included, orange balls make for longer rallies, more strategic play, and most importantly, more fun per point."

Ford is not the only teaching professional to utilize the lower compression balls. Team Colorado coach Mary Lynn Garger has also embraced them, but not just for kids.

"Both kids and adults benefit from low-compression balls. Rallies are considerably longer, so players get more exercise, feel more confident about their games, and it's a lot more fun to watch and play than with a yellow ball."

Garger also appreciates the fact that "the ball provides a lower, truer bounce (like low altitude), and gives adults and kids the ability to hit through shots, run down opponent's replies and, as an added benefit, is easier on our arms."

In general, Garger says that kids are having more fun and she's seeing more smiles because they can rally with the low-compression balls. But it's not just the kids, she says. "My clients of all ages enjoy the game more because they are keeping the ball in play and having so much more success staying in points."

Even when she's not teaching, Garger enjoys hitting with the low-compression balls with fellow teaching pros and coaches. "We have a blast!" she says.

### The Florida experiment...

Veteran players looking to get back in the game after injuries and adults new to the game looking for a fun new challenge can now experience tennis on a whole new level in Florida.

The new Masters Tennis option is the perfect format for communities or facilities looking to

introduce the game of tennis to adults, or bringing former players back to the game, regardless of ability. Played on a 60-foot court (lined within a regulation 78-foot court) with the lower-bouncing orange ball in singles or doubles, Masters Tennis is a great way for players to stay active and in the game.

Players that have stopped playing tennis due to injuries will find the format more forgiving and accessible. The Masters Tennis format also offers a more social atmosphere with more play and less picking up of balls.

"Masters Tennis is a great way to continue enjoying playing tennis using a smaller court and slower balls as we age or have injuries," said USTA Florida Executive Director Doug Booth. "It still allows a great workout because rallies last longer using the modified format. This allows tennis to be a true lifetime sport."

### It's not about the ball ....

Whether your ball of preference is optic yellow or safety orange, tennis remains the sport you love.

In essence, the orange ball has the same "soul" as the traditional optic yellow ball. It does everything you would expect from a tennis ball, but because of its nature, it enhances many of those experiences we play tennis for — confidence, joy, camaraderie, satisfaction.

### Speed up by slowing down...

A study of junior players in Australia confirmed what many youth coaches expected — to speed the game up, you need to slow it down.

But as people of all ages experiment with the 60-foot court and orange ball — whether they do so to enhance their fitness routine, improve their consistency and focus, or just want to go hit with friends or family — they are discovering the many benefits of slowing things down.

So many of us take umbridge at the thought that we need to slow it down that we may dismiss the orange ball as a "kids' toy" or "a gimick". But as more and more players, instructors and programs embrace it's use, the "stigma" of playing with low-compression balls will dissipate, leaving only the fun.

### Give it a try....

If you are ready to try the orange ball, it's readily available at pro shops and retailers. Courts are relatively easy to come by these days, especially here in Colorado. Many public parks and private clubs have opted to paint 60-foot permanent lines on some or all of their courts. Because it's easier to sustain rallies and keep the ball in play with the low-compression ball compared to the traditional yellow ball, and because there's less court to cover than a traditional court, players of different ages and abilities find themselves instantly more compatible on the 60-foot court. Parents can hit with kids (or grandparents and grandchildren), big hitters can play with pushers, and even novice-level players can find themselves sustaining rallies and hitting with more pace than they would be able to do on a regulation court with a high altitude ball. The orange ball is a great equalizer. It rewards patience, creativity and craftiness.

If you like the experience, whatever your age, you can take your game to organized league play, thanks to the **Masters Tennis Flex League** now offered by USTA Colorado. Masters Tennis operates like a traditional flex league: schedule matches on your own time and on your court. As Masters Tennis has launched just this year, it will start by offering non-gender specific doubles, meaning that teams are comprised of men, women or a mixed doubles pairing. There are no age restrictions on Masters Tennis, other than that players must be turning 18 by the end of this calendar year.

### Is orange the new yellow?

The orange ball may not be the right ball for everyone all of the time, but maybe you will choose to use it as a part of your training regimen, your fitness plan or just as a way to enjoy a glorious day outside with friends or family. Maybe you'll decide to slow your game down and try out the new Masters Tennis Flex League. Whatever your motivation, the orange ball deserves a spot in your tennis rotation.

Play for Fun.
Play for Fitness.
Play for Inspiration.
Play for Family time.
Play for Whyever you play.

Play Orange.





# BREAKING THE BARRIERS

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25th Anniversary Asian Tennis League May 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31

Tennis Hope Charity Tournament May 24-25

AsiaXpress Tournament August 16-17

W. 26th & Utica

Summer Community Tennis Series & Portrait Series Showcase Colorado Dragon Boat Festival July 19 Sloan's Lake North Tennis Courts







### WELCOMEHOME/coloradotennis.com

### USTA COLORADO JOINS USTA FAMILY OF WEBSITES

YEARS IN THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, USTA COLORADO HAS JOINED THE USTA FAMILY OF WEBSITES...BUT WITH MODIFICATIONS. SOME OF OUR MOST POPULAR FEATURES CAME OVER AS WELL, INCLUDING THE INDUSTRY'S BEST FIND-A-COURT AND FIND-A-TOURNAMENT APPS.

### THE NEW LOOK

USTA Colorado spent several years exploring various options for a new website. The first step was to work extensively with our staff to explore various staff needs and requirements. Along the way, USTA Colorado convened a Communications Committee to explore our various options moving forward, given the list of necessary components that staff had identified. The Committee was tasked to look at three options — existing platform with modifications, migrate to USTA Content Management System (CMS), build a custom site.

While our existing site had worked seamlessly for a decade, a number of issues were identified that necessitated a platform change. When exploring whether to migrate to the USTA's CMS or build a custom site, the Committee tasked USTA Colorado's IT Department with exploring and testing the feature set of the USTA CMS and making a recommendation as to its viability. Once it was determined that the USTA suite could accommodate our list of requirements, the decision was made to move forward with the migration, saving USTA Colorado from the very lengthy and costly process of developing a custom site.

Some of the key components of determining whether the USTA CMS suite could accommodate our needs were:

- Ease of update;
- Consistency with the USTA brand;
- Ability of incorporate USTA Coloradodeveloped applications (the Court Locator, Tournament Finder, etc.);
- Site search;
- Expandability:
- Custom features set/modifications

### **THE MIGRATION PROCESS**

USTA Colorado immediately set forth building some custom modifications that we hope will make finding information easier for our customers.

The new site bears a striking resemblance to other USTA Section sites. Because of the sheer volume of information on our existing site, we requested to move to a Section template, rather than a District template.

In his <u>Winter 2012 column</u>, editor Kurt Desautels compared the transition from the existing COLORADOTENNIS.com site to the USTA's CMS to the annual wildebeest migration in the Serengeti, frought with challengers and unforeseen dangers. And while fortunately, none of the staff were devoured by crocodiles during the migration, what was initially planned as a three-month transition took more than a



year due to a host of surprises and deadends that had to be resolved before the site could be launched.

### **FEATURES**

A good deal of features offered by this system will go unnoticed by our customers. The flexibility and customization options of the CMS will help us package and deliver news and information to players, coaches, parents, facilities, etc. in a much more integrated fashion.

What customers see is a familiar sight (site) to those who have spent any time on the National or Section websites. That familiarity will help people as they search for the information they need.

In addition, the custom Google search bar will allow customers to skip the "hover and discover" method and find what they need directly.

In addition to added searchability, the platform offers us the opportunity to highlight specific stories and programs via the Media Wall, the rotating list of images and headlines located at the top of the middle section, right below the navigation menu. The media wall is where customers will find the "big ticket" items of the day. All our top stories, featured programming, and important announcements will be found in that rotating pool of images that will bring you right to the details.

Which leads us to the Headlines Section (NEWS>HEADLINES>BUZZ). We are very excited about this feature, as it allows us to post stories and information on the fly, versus waiting for the beginning of the month to publish them in BLAST!, our e-newsletter. It also allows you to post on Facebook (and soon, on Twitter), stories you want to share with your friends.

The Latest Headlines feature helps readers to quickly browse through recent stories, rather than wading through a big stack on the BUZZ page, and the Junior/Adult Tournament box is a quick and easy way for tournament players to identify and

register for up and coming events.

The other nifty feature on the Home Page is the addition of the Film Strip (or as the USTA calls it, the Middle of The Home page or MOTH). The MOTH is where you'll find quick links to some of our more popular programs and activities.

### **MEGAMENUS**

While the Section template provided us with a number of refinements over the District version, there were several enhancements we worked to implement to make the site more user-friendly.

Prior to selecting a move to the USTA CMS, USTA Colorado was exploring better navigation tools for our previous site. The decision had already been made to utilize a different technology than traditional spring-loaded folders...the **MegaMenu**.

The MegaMenu isn't just a traditional menu, per se. The best way to describe it is... uh, well, it's...Mega! By hovering over each Section (About Us, Juniors, Adults,

### **HOW MEGAMENUS WORK: THE ADULTS MENU**

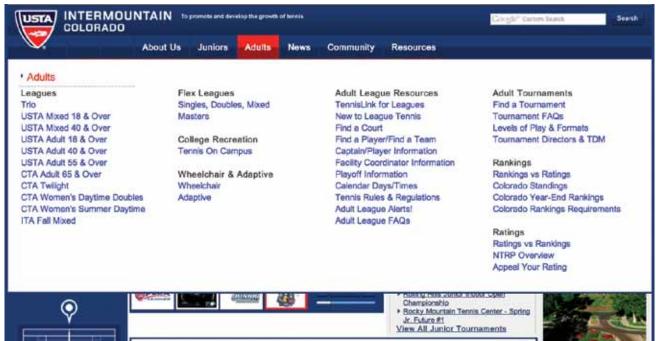
Simply point your mouse and hover over any section and a menu will drop down and show you a host of options to choose from, making the COLORADOTENNIS.com site navigation a one-click-to-nearly-every-page proposition. Mobile users must click on the section headers to reach the full menu.

News, Community and Resources), visitors will see, in one glance, the entire menu of options to choose from, allowing browsers to find exactly what they want, or "hover and discover" to search for information in a single glance. It's virtually all right at your fingertips. Mega.

Hovering on a mobile device (smart phone or tablet) isn't as convenient, so a simple click of each Section header brings up the full menu for readers to select from. Not so Mega, but we're working on a similarly elegant solution for mobile users.

### **OTHER HIGHLIGHTS**

The new site features several new pages that we hope will be a benefit to the tennis community, including a Job Listings site, where local facilities and organizations can post their available positions. We've also added (and will continue to update) a section for parents to assist them in understanding the Junior Tennis Pathway and help them find the right tennis opportunities for their kids. As the central hub of our communications strategy, the new COLORADOTENNIS.com will help us integrate our print and digital publications, our social media assets, and our marketing efforts.



### **STILL TO COME**

Now that the site has been launched, and is functioning as expected, USTA Colorado will be developing a number of additions to our new home, including a New to Tennis Section that will help would-be tennis players find the right programs and an expanded Newsstand,

that will feature archives of back issues of Colorado Tennis and High Bounce. Many other projects are also in the works, so stay tuned. The best is yet to come.

We welcome you into our new home, but if you feel we've forgotten something back at the old house, please let us know. The lights are all turned off, but we still have the keys.



### THEBUZZ

### **NOUNS IN THE NEWS**

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

### Subaru renews as Official Vehicle of USTA Colorado

USTA Colorado welcomes back Subaru of America as its Official Vehicle. The partnership, which extends back almost a decade, has been renewed for 2014. Dollars from the partnership will continue to help USTA Colorado promote and grow tennis, specifically in the areas of youth and community tennis development and diversity and inclusion.



Subaru's reach again extends to the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation's Racquets For All program. With the influx of young kids getting into the game, junior racquets are in high demand, and Subaru's

donation of 100 new youth racquets will help the CYTF introduce tennis to youngsters that have yet to experience the sport.

### RFA Girls High School Challenge is On!

Compete against other high school tennis teams off the court and make a difference for kids on the court. The CYTF is challenging girls' tennis teams from around the state to collect gently used racquets that **Racquets for All** will, in turn, refurbish and share with kids and adults who don't have access such equipment. Since 2010, Colorado high school teams have collected close to 500 racquets and given hundreds of people across the state access to the lifetime sport of tennis – including many high school students who want to play for their school!

Bring the racquets to Regionals and/ or State Championships to be tallied. *The team that collects the most racquets will receive recognition and a cash reward of up to \$200!* Get all the details at COLORADOTENNIS.com.



### Cardio Tennis Training Course coming to Valley Country Club

Calling all fitness and tennis professionals. Valley Country Club in Centennial, CO is hosting a CardioTennis training course from 9am-4pm on Friday, May 16. Learn from the experts on how to properly deliver Cardio Tennis programs and incorporate the exciting new concepts introduced in the last few years. The cost for the course is just \$150/person and includes lunch. A full schedule can be found at CardioTennis.com. USPTA Professionals receive ECUs, PTR Professionals receive MAPs and Fitness Professionals receive CEUs for NASM for taking either the Cardio Tennis Training Course and/or the TRX training course. There is a discount if you are taking both Cardio Tennis and TRX training courses offered back to back at one site. Please email Diane Selke <dsgogreengowhite@gmail.com> for more information.



Saturday, May 31 • 10am-1pm

## TENIS con TELEMUNDO en USTA COLORADO DIVERSITY TENNISFEST

Berkeley Park Tennis Courts West 46th & Tennyson St.

Saturday, July 19 • 10am-4pm

### COLORADO DRAGON BOATS FESTIVAL

Sloan's Lake North Tennis Courts West 26th & Utica St.

Sunday, August 3 • 10am-6pm

## TELEMUNDO DAY at the DENVER CITY & COUNTY FAIR

Western Complex Sports Pavilion (Sport Court) 4655 Humboldt St.









### Two Colorado programs receive 2013 USTA Serves year-end grants

USTA Serves, the national charitable foundation of the United States Tennis Association, has awarded \$450,000 in grants to 40 organizations nationwide that provide tennis and education to underserved youth and people with disabilities.



Two Colorado programs were selected to be among those receiving **Educational Foundation for** School District 50 (Westminster) and I Have A Dream Foundation of Boulder County (Boulder).

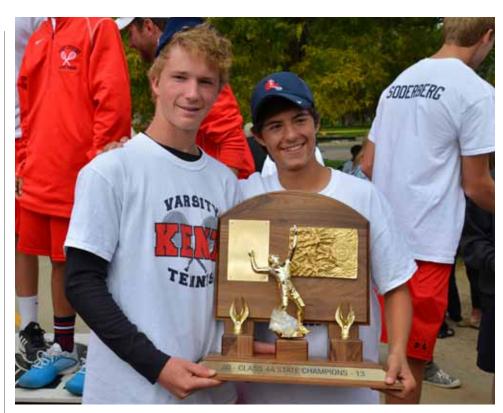
This brings the total awarded during the 2013 grant funding cycle to more than \$1.2 million. Combined with scholarships, USTA Serves awarded a total of \$1.6 million in 2013.

The bi-annual grant process, a national initiative of USTA Serves, was

established to award organizations that successfully combine tennis and education for underserved youth as well as people with disabilities. These programs also strive to help combat childhood obesity by promoting healthy lifestyles.

"USTA Serves is proud to end the year by awarding and recognizing some of the country's most phenomenal programs for their efforts toward impacting the lives of youth through tennis and education," said Dan Faber, Executive Director, USTA Serves. "These programs have a solid foundation and exhibit tremendous dedication to serving children who deserve a life filled with education and physical activities. For this, we thank them for leading the way in designing a nurturing environment where students can thrive and succeed on and off the tennis court."

To date, USTA Serves has awarded more than \$17 million in grants and scholarships to standout players and programs throughout the country in order to provide at-risk and underserved youth with greater opportunities to achieve success.



### Settling the Score

The Winter 2013 issue of Colorado Tennis incorrectly reported that Kent Denver's No. 3 doubles team, junior Andrew Thompson and sophomore Blake Parsons, lost to the Colorado Academy No. 3 duo at the 2013 Boys' 4A High School State Championships. The correct score was Kent Denver over Colorado Academy, 6-1, 6-4. Colorado Tennis regrets the error.



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## Bruetting, Wright to represent US at ITF World Championships

Coloradans Simona Bruetting and Susan Wright have been selected to represent the United States at the 34th International Tennis Federation (ITF) Seniors World Team Championships, the senior tennis equivalent of the Davis Cup and Fed Cup competitions. Bruetting will captain the Suzanne Lenglen Cup/Women's 35 & Over team, while Wright will again anchor the 7-time Maureen Connolly Cup/Women's 55 & Over squad.

The 40 American athletes will be among some 1,000 players from 39 countries, including first-time teams from China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Haiti and Venezuela. The event will be held at different clubs across the Palm Beach Gardens and Boca Raton areas in Florida from April 21-April 26 for the team competition and from April 27-May 4 for the individual competition.

The last time the World Championships were hosted in Florida was 2002, when the Seniors World Championships were held in Fort Lauderdale. The event was last held in the US in 2012, in San Diego.

### Colorado contingent mines precious metals in Houston

A trio of Colorado's players earned hardware at the USTA National Women's

35, 45, 55, 65, 75 & 85 Clay Court Championships in Houston this spring, as **Simona Bruetting** captured a silver ball in the W35d event, while Colorado Tennis Hall of Famer **Rita Price** earned a pair of gold balls in the W85s/d events, and perennial national champion **Susan Wright** swept the W55s/d division to increase her career gold haul to more than 60.

### CWTF fundraiser supports wheelchair tennis

Kick off summer with the inaugural Tennis Mixer to benefit the Colorado Wheelchair Tennis Foundation <cwtf.net> on Saturday, May 31 from 4-9pm at the Arvada Tennis Center. Just \$35/person includes drill sessions, an "Up/Down" clinic, match play, open courts, dinner, beverages and prizes! Meet some of the elite wheelchair players in the state and support the growth of wheelchair tennis in Colorado!

Visit the fundraiser website <cwtfmixer. site90.net> for more information and to register online.

### USTA Colorado extends grant deadline

USTA Colorado is continuing to accept grants for new or expanding tennis programs reaching ADULTS and/or SENIORS as well as matching grants

to support the renovation and repair of PUBLIC TENNIS COURTS until June 2, 2014. Check out the recorded funding webinar link at COLORADOTENNIS.com for helpful tips in completing the program grant application and consider how your organization can get more adults involved with the lifetime sport of tennis. The Adopt a Court grant application is also available on the website. Join communities across the state who have received helpful financial support for crack repair, court resurfacing, new windscreens and improved lighting. Questions? Contact Kristy Harris <kristy@coloradotennis.com> 303/695-4116 x300.

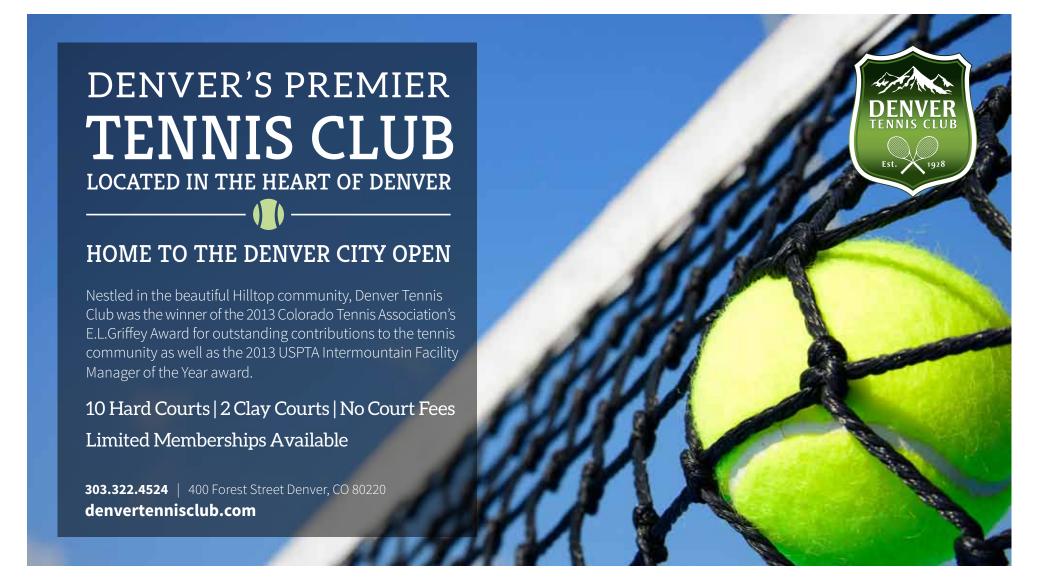
### Tennis Teachers Conference Returns To US Open

Registration is now open for the 2014 Tennis Teachers Conference, held in New York in conjunction with the US Open. The four-day conference, beginning on August 22, brings together the leading tennis teaching professionals and coaches in the industry to share best practices, and will include a series of interactive on-court sessions and presentations. Attendees can register at usta.com/ttc.

The event aims to provide the best learning experience for tennis teachers and coaches by offering educational resources, facilitating innovative teaching techniques, and creating networking opportunities among the members of the various associations. This year's keynote speakers include Patrick McEnroe, USTA Player Development General Manager; Paul Annacone, Australian Open doubles champion and former coach of Roger Federer and Pete Sampras; Judy Murray, mother of Andy Murray and British Fed Cup Captain; and Admiral James Stavridis, US Naval Institute (Ret.) Dean of the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University. In addition, attendees will receive access to the US Open and are invited to a special hospitality area at the US Open's Opening Day, August 25.

"The 2014 Tennis Teachers Conference will be a tremendous opportunity to further professional development and elevate the level of coaching in the US, while giving attendees the thrilling and exciting experience that the US Open offers," said Paul Lubbers, Director of Coaching Education & Performance, USTA. "It is a unique occasion to gather and share ideas and insights, as well as create a memorable experience for the best and brightest tennis teachers, coaches and pros in our sport."

The USPTA is joining the USTA in hosting the Tennis Teachers Conference. With this greater attendance and shared resources, the conference hopes to enhance and strengthen the education and development



of more teaching professionals across the country. The Tennis Teachers Conference will include access to The Tennis Show 2014 (held August 24), an exhibit featuring products and services from the leading tennis industry companies, organizations and manufacturers.

### Coaching kids just got easier

Coaching kids has never been easier thanks to a new accessible, online interactive program: Coach Youth Tennis. The program provides innovative education resources for a novice or experienced coach. The USTA worked in partnership with the Professional Tennis Registry, United States Olympic Committee and United States Professional Tennis Association and in conjunction with medical, coaching and child development experts to design and implement Coach Youth Tennis. The result is a student-centered, comprehensive educational curriculum that will help you develop the next generation of tennis players, fans and perhaps even champions.

Coach Youth Tennis provides a consistent educational pathway for all those interested in coaching children ages ten and under, and can lead to certification from the United States Professional Tennis Association and/or Professional Tennis Registry. In order to be eligible for certification from one or both of these organizations, one must first complete six online courses and

attend the 10 and Under Tennis workshop. For coaches already certified through USPTA and/or PTR, Coach Youth Tennis is not only a dynamic and exciting way to better one's 10 and Under tennis-teaching skills, but it is also recognized as a course to complete each organization's annual continuing education requirements. The free online courses can be accessed easily on any computer or laptop. Onlines course average between 30-40 minutes long, and the face-to-face workshop is 3.5 hours long and costs just \$15. To access the courses or sign up for an on-court workshop, visit COACHYOUTHTENNIS.com.

### **Upcoming 10 & Under Tennis Workshops**

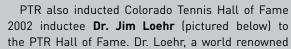
- May 17, 2014 9:00am-12:30pm Rolland Moore Racquet Complex, Fort Collins
- September 26, 2014 9:00am-12:30pm East Boulder Community Center

### Hosts wanted

Interested in hosting a workshop in your community? The USTA makes it easy with an on-line registration system, customizable marketing downloads, a certified trainer, participant materials and \$300 host site grant to cover expenses. At least 20 participants are required and interested hosts must complete an online application.

### PTR honors Berman, Loehr, Ralston

The PTR has named Boulder's **Rich Berman** (pictured at right) the Wheelchair Professional of the Year. Berman is a fixture on the wheelchair tennis scene. He coached the No. 1 player in the world — David Hall — as far back as 1993. The two reunited to create letsrollwheelchairtennis.com. The website helps coaches and athletes teach and play wheelchair tennis through a series of free video tutorials. His passion for wheelchair tennis was recognized in 2012, when USTA Colorado presented him the Arthur Ashe Award for outstanding contributions to the under served.



performance psychologist, is the co-founder of the Human Performance Institute, and author of 16 books, including his most recent, *The Only Way to Win*. From his more than 30 years of experience and applied research, Dr. Loehr believes the single



most important factor in achievement and fulfillment is one's strength of character. A longtime friend, supporter and contributor to PTR and its Founder, Dennis Van der Meer, Dr. Loehr has been a member of the organization since 1976, and serves on PTR's Sport Science Committee.

**Dennis Ralston** (not pictured) was named Honorary Member of the PTR. A 1987 inductee into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, Ralston was a Davis Cup player and captain, a Grand Slam Doubles champion and the first travelling coach on the Pro Tour. He was the Director of Tennis at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs from 1994-2006.

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### **HIGHFIVE**

For the past 38 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 <a href="kurt@coloradotennis.com">kurt@coloradotennis.com</a> with your comments or suggestions.



You can find the complete history of HighFIVEs online at: colorado.usta.com/cta/news/buzz/highfive

PROFILES BY KATIE**NEWELL** 



lose to 7,000 5th graders in Cherry Creek Schools and Aurora Public Schools are getting a chance to learn about healthy living and

balancing food intake with physical activity and the community is rallying around this important initiative. The program is called **5th Gear Kids** and it's all about promoting energy and good health.

Driven from the data that one in three children in Colorado is overweight or obese which leads to type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol, getting to children old enough to understand but also young enough to embrace change can have a life changing impact. 5th grade kids in the program are taught about nutritious foods and earn points for healthy choices, which then gives them discounts to a large variety of restaurants and recreational facilities.

Dr. James O. Hill, Ph.D., Healthy Kids Advisor for Children's Hospital Colorado is instrumental in this initiative and believes that the efforts at this age can be life changing. He believes that these kids who go through the program will have a much greater chance to avoid becoming overweight in their lives.

Research shows that 5th graders are at the right age to make personal choices, understand the impact healthy choices have on their bodies, and also have some influence with their family members.

Kenny Webb, Aurora Public Schools 5GK coordinator, explains that, "one of the most rewarding parts of the program so far has been seeing how 5th graders can drive



5TH**GEAR**KIDS

their parents and siblings to making better food choices at the store as a result of their new knowledge and excitement." He's also thrilled at the strong involvement from the community including a strong variety of Activity Partners, Food Partners and Rewards Partners.

Wherever there's a chance to make a positive difference to kids, the Colorado tennis community is right there. "USTA Colorado is proud to be one of the first sports activity partners to this very important program," Kristy Harris, Community Development Director, USTA Colorado explains. And while the program is in its second year, it's encouraging to see some of the outcomes including coordination between direct tennis providers and kids who may not

have had the exposure to tennis otherwise. It's also brought tennis into the PE curriculum for Cherry Creek Schools and Aurora Public Schools which is great for everyone.

Megan Mistler-Jackson, Ph.D., the 5th Gear Kids Grant Coordinator for the Cherry Creek School District agrees. "Partnerships with organizations like the USTA are what set this program apart and make it really special. In addition to learning about energy balance in school, 5th Gear Kids' participants get the chance to practice making healthy choices at school, home and in the community. We hope that these skills will stay with kids through middle and high school and lead to a lifetime of good health."

W

ith some unique twists and turns, **Kendall Chitambar**'s path to becoming a professional instructor was not an ordinary one. He hails from a tennis family. His father, who is from India, taught him

the game, and his grandfather taught his great uncle, who competed on India's Davis Cup team, to play tennis.

Chitambar was essentially self-taught until 18, played at Norwich University and then competed for the one spot available on the varsity team through the walk-on tournament at Vanderbilt. He lost in the finals and realized then that he would need a whole new approach to find success in that higher level of play. He also became aware that navigating through the system of tennis in the US was very different than what his family had learned.

Leaving school to train at Van Der Meer Tennis, Chitambar was finally given the opportunity to study the game. Over the next five years, had was coached by such greats as Dennis Van Der Meer, Nandor Veres in Norway, Fritz Nau (coached Andre Agassi) and Bill Stearns, who completely changed his game.

"He basically took me from a 70s player to a 90s player," Chitambar jokes about Stearns.

"I learned so much from all of them – Billy completely redid my stroke mechanics, Fritz overhauled my tactics, and Nandor taught me how to move, train, and put it all together. Because of them, I evolved into a competitive player."

With their help, he went on to compete on the ITF professional satellite circuit in 14 countries around the world.

Now the Director of Tennis and Director of Player Development at Rocky Mountain Tennis Center, Chitambar directly oversees all aspects of the teaching programs and is widely recognized for his success in developing competitive players. He also has his PTR Master of Tennis-Performance certification, and is working on his PTR Master of Tennis-Junior Development.

Chitambar is passionate about helping kids develop their skills early enough in their tennis experience to have success later in life. He works with kids in preschool up through college.

"They might start out hitting a balloon, or a foam ball," he explains, "but it isn't about that. It's about the fact that they are having an actual exchange of the ball. It's very exciting."

Chitambar considers his work developing the High Performance Tennis Program at RMTC-Boulder the most important and the best project of his career.

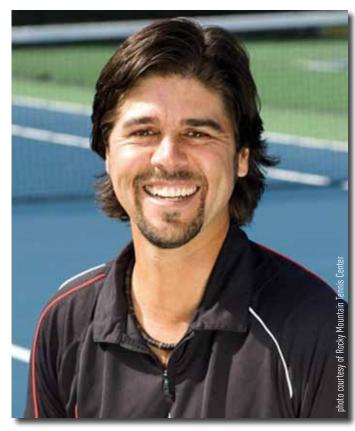
"It has basically been an incredible collaboration of so many great coaches and people, and it has been an privilege to be a part of seeing the players and the program develop."

He is currently working with business partners, Duke Paluch, Bill Boothby, his wife, Donna, and a group of tennis enthusiasts to build a permanent home for this program in Louisville, the Rocky Mountain Tennis Center – Louisville, a beautifully planned facility with 25 red clay and hard courts and eight dedicated 10 and under courts. For Chitambar, "It's the dream."

Crediting his wife, Donna, with much of the impact he is making is important to Chitambar.

"She is the most important person in my life, my partner in this endeavor for 17 years. I couldn't do what I do without what she does."

She handles all of the administrative side of things while he focuses on the player development side. Becoming a strong player herself with his coaching, Chitambar jokes



**KENDALLCHITAMBAR** 

that he loves to see the seeds of his work come to fruition. "I am thrilled to see her reaching the levels she is!" Also under his wing is daughter, Lily, who is now part of the High Performance Tennis Program at RMTC-Boulder and was selected to USTA Colorado's Team Colorado 10s squad, where Kendall is a coach.





dentifying where a dream starts can sometimes be pretty elusive. But in the case of 11-year-old

Akhil Gupta, everyone who knows him agrees it started when he was stuck in a stroller watching his older siblings hit tennis balls. His tennis career began — as did his passion, drive and commitment to the sport — at 2, pushing a tennis ball around with his racquet. Those first days on the court would also ignite his dream of one day becoming a professional player. "I like tennis because is it really challenging and I have to work hard it! I want to be a top player with a big career," he said.

Mature beyond his years, the humble 6th grader outlines the work ahead of him if he wants to keep his drive alive, both in terms of mental and physical training. "I used to get down on myself and I'm learning to stay positive," he says.

Focused solely on tennis without the benefit of cross-training, Akhil describes his warm up routine as a combination of shoulder exercises, dynamic stretching, and plyometric work. "I'm definitely not the fastest," he admits, and works diligently on gaining speed on the court, as well as focusing on footwork and coordination drills to optimize his performance.

Team Colorado Coach Michael Humphrey appreciates the dynamic that Akhil brings to the team. "He's always happy, always smiling. He's driven and always a strong supporter of everyone else- cheers people on." One of the main goals of Team Colorado is to bring a team aspect to the individual sport, and Humphrey says Akhil truly understands that. "He does everything right."

Mom, Anu Gupta, describes her son as very devoted to tennis. "He is extremely passionate and hardworking. He is also very kind and respectful and doesn't want to hurt anybody."

Akhil's proudest moment on the court so far was at the Rolling Hills Jr. Winter Blast in January 2014 coming in as the 6th seed but winning the whole tournament having weathered tie breakers in both the semi-finals and finals.

Looking up to Roger Federer for being "fluid and smooth," Akhil seeks a similar game. He also admires Federer's winning attitude. When asked how he would advise younger players with a dream of going professional someday Akhil doesn't hesitate. "I would tell them to work their hardest and listen to your coaches. You will learn from them!"



**AKHILGUPTA** 



**NICOLEKENNEALLY** 

L

eading the University of Colorado's Women's Tennis Team for 15 years now, **Nicole Kenneally** hasn't lost any steam in her mission to build a top team over the years. Presently the most winning coach

on campus and the recipient of a long list of awards both on and off the tennis court, the Brisbane, Australia native feels as lucky to be leading the CU netters as they are to have one of the top coaches in the country.

"CU has all the integral parts of being a top program and this was one of the many things that attracted me to apply for the position. I am fortunate that they chose me as their final candidate back in 1999 and with the new athletic administration I look forward to continuing to build the program in the Pac-12 conference," Kenneally said.

One of the most prestigious awards came for Kenneally when she was named 2007 Big 12 Conference Coach of the Year. In 2008, Kenneally was awarded the Colorado Professional Tennis Registry's (PTR) Member of the Year. The award is based on efforts to help the game of tennis grow and for being an outstanding member of the PTR organization.

In 2006, Kenneally earned her most prestigious honor off the court being named the Intermountain Region USTA/ITA Community Service Award. She was one of 15 coaches honored for significant contributions in developing community-based tennis programs throughout the community. In addition to other efforts, she spearheads the Tennis Marathon for Breast Cancer event. Over the course of the nine years, it has raised over \$125,000. All of the money raised has helped families within Boulder County with the help of the Boulder Community Hospital Foundation. The event will take place again this year on Saturday, August 16, 2014.

Embracing the pressure that comes from competing in one of the most elite conferences in the country, Kenneally

sees her role as much as a life coach as she does as a tennis coach. Understanding that as a head coach in a pressure packed environment she will sometimes fill the challenging role of a sports psychologist, it's the evolution of the young women in their time at CU that inspires her. "Every year I reflect on the seniors that are on the team and the ups and downs and the learning and growing up that I have seen them do over the course of their career." She acknowledges that each player has also taught her things so the continued spirit of learning is what she loves about the team and the coaching staff.

And while there are many constants in competitive women's tennis, the changes over the last 15 years have been interesting for Kenneally to see. Most obviously she's seen how technology changes have affected the lives of her student-athletes. "Technology and how in tune this generation is with everything going on around them is pretty incredible," she explains, adding that it has made the world smaller but is a continual adjustment.

She also talks about how the level of expectation has risen for student-athletes today, which is the result of the increased resources being invested into the players. She says because tennis has come to the forefront of college athletics, departments, and administrators, the pressure to succeed is increased. "We are fortunate to compete in one of the deepest conferences (Pac-12) in the country and this requires a high level of commitment and dedication as we are always looking for those players who are fully engaged in the process of becoming the best tennis player they can be."



W

hen you speak with **Raven Dick**, you immediately pick up on three qualities she has. First, she is extremely grateful for the opportunities she's had in her life and the people who have helped her

get where she is. Second, you learn how proud she is of her background and the people in her circle, whether they are family, coaches, or teammates. And finally, you understand how dedicated she is to being a strong role model to others in her Native American community, her college community, as well as anyone who needs to know they can overcome adversity to live a purposeful life.

Learning to play tennis from her father who was a Native American from the Tlingit Tribe in Alaska, Raven said tennis became a way to a better world. "My dad and his friends paid a construction worker to roll the left over asphalt from an old construction side to make a surface flat enough to play on," she said adding that, "he would use a racquetball racquet and tennis balls." Now tennis is a family sport and she is thrilled they get the time on the courts together.

A strong overall athlete, Raven played both volleyball and tennis and her senior year at Poudre High School she placed 4th at #2 Doubles in the Colorado High School state championships. "I decided to focus on tennis over volleyball," she explained, "because you

have more control over your own destiny. How much you play isn't determined by a coach. If you work hard and you win- you play." She also credits then coach Dave Boon to being the difference in her tennis career. "He's made the biggest difference to me along with the First Serve program." Bursting with enthusiasm over the camaraderie, friendships and growth on the court as a freshman at Ft. Hays in Kansas, she is proud of the results her team is showing this season. Raven received a \$1,000 NJTL College Scholarship from the NJTL Fort Collins Chapter that was provided as a matching grant from USTA Serves to help her get there.

"Coach Brian Flax is a great coach. He teaches us to believe that it's what you do every day that matters," she said. "He expects us to go out there and get better with every single practice and so we do!" She also said her teammates are close friends who care deeply about each other and have a fun playing together.

Aware of the challenges and struggles on the reservation, Raven understands and embraces her responsibility as a role model to younger kids in the Native American community. Her message: you can do something with your life that is meaningful. Working with all children is a passion she expresses. "Whenever I am frustrated or feel like giving up, just working with kids makes me remember my roots and reminds me of the



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### **SPOTLIGHT**

### **LEADING WITH HIS HEART**

USTA COLORADO BOARD PRESIDENT BRETT HABERTSTICK BRINGS PASSION FOR CITIZENSHIP, SERVICE TO ROLE

TOM**FASANO** 



leader. Innovator. Collaborator.

There really aren't enough to describe **Brett** Haberstick, but he fits all of the above characteristics and so many more.

Haberstick, 46, the president of the board of directors for USTA Colorado for the second year and the Colorado representative to the Intermountain Tennis Association's board of directors, truly walks the walk instead of talking the talk.

Haberstick, who fell in love with tennis when he was a young boy and even met his wife Denise on the tennis court, strives to make tennis in the state a sport that can be enjoyed and appreciated by everyone who picks up a racquet.

"Tennis is one of those passions I've had since I was 9 when I started playing at the YMCA in Omaha, Nebraska," said Haberstick, who is still an active player.

Tennis, though, isn't the only item on Haberstick's plate.

First and foremost, Haberstick and Denise are caregivers to three developmentally disabled adults.

"While being a part of USTA Colorado is giving back to a wider community, it is really special to be able to help improve an individual's life directly," Haberstick said.

Haberstick is employed as a senior research associate in the area of psychology and psychiatric Colorado at Boulder. Haberstick



has earned a PhD in psychology, a master's degree in developmental psychology and undergraduate degrees in economics and organizational leadership.

Haberstick, who lives west of Boulder, is genetics at the University of currently a volunteer firefighter and wildlife specialist for the Boulder Rural Fire Protection District. He became the fire chief of Sunshine Fire Protection District three weeks after the Fourmile Canyon Fire in Boulder County in 2010. He was also the information officer working alongside the Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team Type 1 for the High Park fire in 2012 in Larimer County.

When Haberstick lived in Minnesota, he volunteered for organizations that assisted those involved in domestic violence. Haberstick is also involved with the Colorado Tennis Umpires Association.

Haberstick is passionate when he talks about the importance of volunteerism.

### Meanwhile, back at The Ranch...

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Our tournaments offer many player benefits, some of which include: t-shirts, complimentary food and beverages and player-friendly scheduling when possible. "I believe when you get involved you get involved and try not to do something half-heartedly. I think it's really important to give back," Haberstick said. "I think it's very rewarding. It's a part of citizenship to an extent in the old sense of the word, and it is something that can bring you to places that you never imagine from the experiences that you can have as a volunteer or anybody can really have when they're involved in their organization."

Haberstick grew up in Omaha (first 13 years) and Minneapolis (12 years) with parents who prioritized giving back, being a part of the community and community service.

"My father worked with prisoners and transitioned them out of prison and back into civic life," Haberstick said. "My mother's been on school boards, League of Women Voters, been on boards of arts organization.

That all is very much a tradition and family background that I come from and it's something I prioritize now."

Haberstick has experienced many cultures during his life.

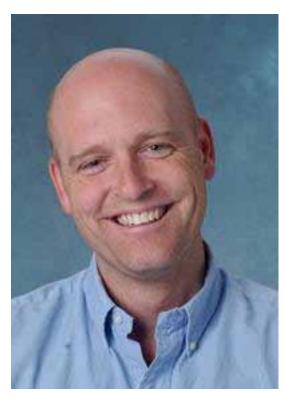
"I've been fortunate. I've lived in China for about nine months as part of the study abroad program. I lived in London. I lived in New York and Seattle. I've gotten to see a lot of different countries and different states and met a lot of people along the way," Haberstick said.

Fritz Garger, Executive Director of USTA Colorado and the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation, said Haberstick is a special person who leads in a quiet way.

"He's a quiet leader and is very thoughtful. For example, in board meetings, he wants to make sure he's running an open meeting where anybody and everybody has the opportunity to provide their input, their feedback, their comments which I think is so invaluable when you're trying to create a really positive and constructive atmosphere."

Garger said it motivates the board to know they have the opportunity to provide input and comments.

"He's very in tune with our organization as a whole, he cares about the staff here and he cares about the departments and their work," Garger said. "He plays in a lot of our leagues. He's a leader that is very much tapped into what's going on with our sport, what's going on at the national level as well as what's going on in the local level. He's very engaged. He's excited about innovation. It matters to have somebody with his skill set leading our association. He's a great leader."



Haberstick takes his role at USTA Colorado very seriously.

"USTA Colorado is really a fantastic organization. Fritz Garger and his staff ... you think I work hard? They work hard as well," Haberstick said. "It is amazing the hours and dedication they have to the tennis community here in Colorado. In many respects, it is inspiring to see that. It's inspiring to be a part of that. It is encouraging even more involvement. The board of directors are people from around the state of Colorado and they are involved in so many different aspects and have so many talents that it's a privilege to be a part of the organization."

Garger said Haberstick is also very results oriented.

"He recognizes that some things aren't going to happen overnight and could take time to develop. As long as things are well thought out and that the direction is one that's very logical, very rational and fulfills and supports our mission to promote and develop the growth of tennis, he wants to put some things in place that are going to make a difference, not just short term but clearly midterm and long term."

Rob Scott, the executive director for the six-state USTA Intermountain section, is impressed with Haberstick's integrity.

"He does what he says he'll do, and takes his volunteer roles very seriously," said Scott, a former president of USTA Colorado for two years. "Brett does the volunteering because he believes in promoting and developing tennis in the section. He's a very agreeable guy. He's a coalition builder. He's a collaborator. He's good at getting people in a room to rally around the cause,



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and yet he doesn't ram an agenda down people's throat."

Haberstick said tennis in Colorado is alive and well, and expects it to continue that way.

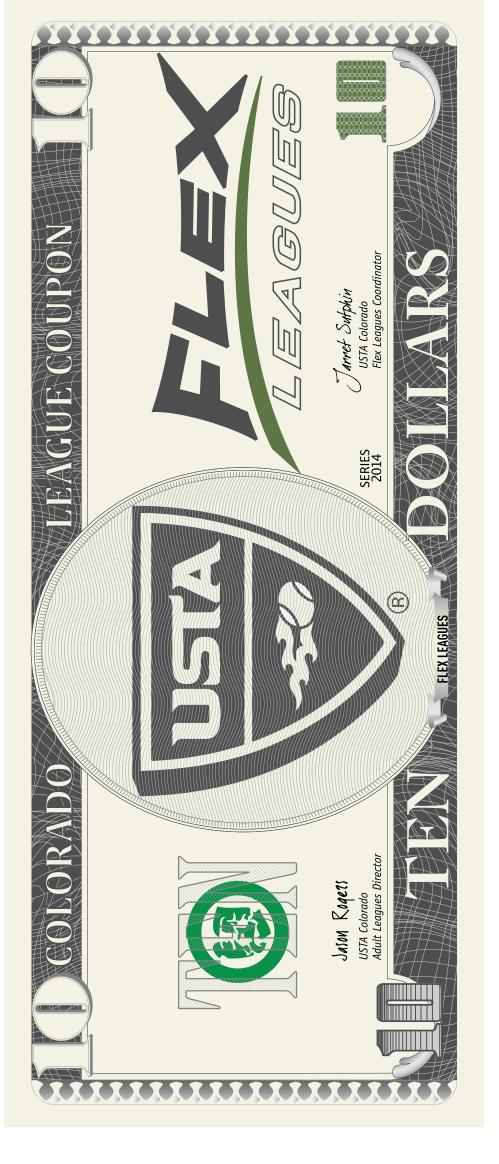
"The Denver-metro area is the second largest in the country for league participation, and that's huge when you think about other districts and other sections," Haberstick said. "We're behind Atlanta, Georgia district, which has a huge number of league players. It's an amazing community out there, but Colorado has a very involved community as well. Colorado tennis is in a really good place in the sense that if we could build more courts, they would be used and there would still be no extra courts left. If there was the opportunity to build courts, it would be great to grow the sport even more. Tennis is really investing in juniors, 10-and-under as well as high school students, and that is an exciting aspect. The district is one of the leaders in Play Days (free or lowcost events designed to introduce kids

to competition in a low-pressure setting where results are not documented) in the country and one of the leaders in having blended line courts in the country, and is very passionate about growing that."

Haberstick said he'd really like to see tennis grow more into the high schools and with young adults getting out of college, getting involved in careers and starting families.

"We, as an organization, should make it easier for people to be able to be involved in tennis," Haberstick said. "I think tournaments with new formats with one-day or two-day tournaments (is a possibility). It can be more unstructured, casual play that's more organized. There are a lot of clubs here along the Front Range in Colorado that have great communities that are committed to tennis as well as a variety of other things, and offering alternatives to the more traditional league and tournament structures may be a way to do that."





### **ADULTLEAGUES**

### 2014 BRINGS NEW TIEBREAK PROCEDURE TO STANDINGS

A CHANGE HAS BEEN MADE TO HOW TENNISLINK CALCULATES LEAGUE STANDINGS FOR 2014, WHICH WILL DETERMINE HOW TEAMS WILL ADVANCE TO SUBSEQUENT PLAYOFFS. HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW....

In the past, TennisLink calculated standings based on the following tiebreak criteria:

1. Team Wins; 2. Individual Wins; 3. Sets Lost; 4. Games Lost; 5. Head-to-Head

Team Name	Wins	Losses	Indiv. Wins	Indiv. Losses	Sets Lost	Games Lost
Α	6	4	26	22	62	430
В	6	4	28	22	- 56	455
С	6		24	26	63	493
D	5	5	29	21	49	449
E	. 5		23	27	63	492
F	2		17	33	75	510

eam Matches	B vs				
Date	Copponent	Result	Date	Opponent	Result
5/4/2011	A	Won 3-2 Confirmed	667011	A	Won 3-3 Confirmed
5/11/2011	D	Lost 3-3 Conferred	6/15/2011	D	Won 3-2 Confirmed
5/18/2011	С	Lost 2-3 Confirmed	6/25/2011	С	Lost 2-3 Confirmed
5/25/2011	E	Lost 2-3 Confirmed	W29/2011	E	Won 3-2 Confirmed
61/2011	F	Won 4-1 Confirmed	7/6/2011	F	Won 4-1 Confirmed

New this year, Head-to-Head will become tiebreak #3 (below Team Wins and Individual Wins), bumping Sets Lost and Games lost down a notch each.

In 2011, Team B finished tied with Team A in Team Wins (6) and Individual Wins (28), and lost more sets (56) than Team A did (52). Despite beating Team A twice (3-2 on 5/4 and 3-2 on 6/8), Team B finished second in that division.

With the 2014 structure in place, Team B would finish atop the division because it had beaten Team A in both meetings. Here's how the new tiebreak criteria is set up:

- 1. Team Wins
- 2. Individual Wins
- 3. Head-to-Head
- 4. Sets Lost
- 5. Games Lost

This new tiebreak procedure will be applied during the regular season, and in all District, Section and National championships as well.







### 2014 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT COMING FOR 65 & OVER:

Expect a major announcement soon from the USTA regarding the addition of a 65 & Over National Championship event for the 2014 league season.

More details will be provided as they become available, stay tuned.













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.

### **JUNIOR RECREATION**

### **PLAY DAY SERIES DEVELOPS YOUTH SKILLS**

COMPETITION WITHOUT PRESSURE, PLAY DAYS ARE THE PERFECT VENUE FOR YOUNGSTERS TO HONE THEIR SKILLS

### What is a Play Day?

A Tennis Play Day is a great way for kids to play tennis in a fun, non-threatening, non-elimination, competitive environment. With equipment sized right and play that is appropriate, kids build confidence, improve their skills and stay active.

### The benefits of a Play Day

Over the duration of a few hours, a Play Day allows kids to experience serving, rallying and scoring in an informal competition. Players participate at their level against opponents of similar skills. The emphasis is on participation, effort and sportsmanship, as opposed to highlighting the achievements of certain players.

These low-key competitions are organized in formats that allow children to play again and again, whether they win or lose, and allows them to improve their skills without focusing on the outcome of a match. Play Days are the perfect complement to Junior Team Tennis and Sanctioned Tournament play.

### Introducing the USTA Colorado Play Day Series

The USTA Colorado Play Day Tennis Series is a partnership between USTA Colorado and tennis facilities in the Denver area. The series provides children and their families the opportunity to participate in as many Play Days as they would like, thereby providing more chances to serve, rally and score, and practice the skills needed during JTT league play or sanctioned tournament match play.

Kids will receive a Play Day Passport, which will help them track which Play Days they attended. The more you play, the more chances they get to win prizes from USTA Colorado.

### 2014 Colorado Tennis Play Days Series/ Upcoming Events (Denver Metro)

### South Suburban Parks and Recreation Tiny Tennis Play Day

Thursday, May 29, 4:30pm-6pm, Holly Tennis Center

Ages: Children 4-8

Cost: \$20 non resident/\$17 resident Contact Information: 303/794-6933

### Tenis Con Telemundo Denver y USTA Colorado & Diversity

Saturday, May 31, 10am-1pm, Berkeley Park Tennis Courts

Ages: All ages Cost: Free

No registration required

Contact Information: <paula@coloradotennis.com>

### Ken-Caryl Ranch Play Day

Monday, June 30, Ken Caryl Ranch Community Center

3-4pm (8-10 year-olds) 4-5pm (11-14 year-olds) Cost: \$15 for each session

Contact/Registration: 303/979-2233

### CTS/Colorado Dragon Boat Festival

Saturday, July 19, 10am-4pm, Sloan's Lake North Tennis Courts

Ages: All ages Cost: Free

No registration required

Contact Information: <paula@coloradotennis.com>

### Ken Caryl Ranch Play Day

Tuesday, August 12, Ken Caryl Ranch Community Center

Course #28327: 1-2pm (8-10 year-olds) Course #28328: 2-3pm (11-14 year-olds)

Cost: \$15 for each session

Contact/Registration: 303/979-2233

Please check COLORADOTENNIS.com for more scheduled events in the Colorado Tennis Play Days Series.





### Upcoming Events (Northern Colorado)

### NoCO Play Day Circuit

Saturday, May 3, 1-3p, Highland Meadows Tennis Center Saturday, May 10, 1-3p, Work Out West

Arrive 10 minutes prior to play time Cost: \$10/player for each supervised session

Contact/Registration: Laurie Anderson <landerson@

workoutwest.com> 970/330-6707







## JUNIORTEAMTENNIS TUNIORTEAMTENNIS TUNIORTEAMTENNIS TUNIORTEAMTENNIS TUNIORTEAMTENNIS TUNIORTEAMTENNIS TUNIORTEAMTENNIS

In Colorado Junior Team Tennis, the team concept emphasizes fun, fitness, and friends. The focus in this kind of play is on enjoying the exhilaration of exercise and refining the skills that make tennis fun for players at all ages and levels of competition. Teams are comprised of players of similar skill, and compete against other teams from the same geographic region in one of four age divisions.

### Schedule:

Regular Season: June 16-July 28 State Championship: August 8-10

### Age Divisions:

10 & under: gender-neutral (boys and girls can play on the same teams)
12 & under: gender-specific (boys and girls play on separate teams)
14 & under: gender-specific (boys and girls play on separate teams)
18 & under: gender-specific (boys and girls play on separate teams)

### Levels of Play:

Futures (Novice): 12s, 14s, 18s

Challenger A/B (Intermediate High/Low): 10s, 12s, 14s, 18s

Championship (Advanced): 12s, 14s, 18s

### Format:

2 singles matches and 1 doubles match. The team winning the MOST GAMES wins the team match.

### **USTA Membership:**

A USTA MEMBERSHIP IS NOT REQUIRED, however, it has many benefits for players of all ages.



### Registration:

The final day to register is May 28. Please contact your local facility to register your child for the summer season.

## Randy Ross

### **Welcome J.P. Ritchie to the RRTC!**

at the Inverness Hotel and Conference Center

## No Membership Required!

There is no need to belong to an expensive athletic or country club. At the RRTC anyone can take a lesson at anytime. We are always open to the public.

### Contact Randy to Learn More and Register

303.521.4941 randy@randyrosstennis.com www.RandyRossTennis.com

### Located at:

200 Inverness Drive West Englewood, Colorado 80112

## We have the perfect tennis program or lesson option for you:

- Private & Group Lessons
- Junior Academy
- High School Boys
- High School Girls
- Adult Drills
- Adult Group Lessons
- Tournament Camps
- Adult School of Tennis Camp
- RRTC Leagues
- USTA Team Practices
- Stay N Play Weekends

View our website for details, schedule, rates, and registration.

J.P. is coming to join the team at the RRTC from his position of Director of Junior Tennis at the Sunset Tennis Center in St. Louis, MO. He coached collegiately at Illinois State University and the College of William & Mary and played at the University of Iowa.



Schedule today!

J.P. Ritchie

918.914.3735 JP@randyrosstennis.com

Easy Online Registration: www.RandyRossTennis.com



## **Where Tennis Comes First**

Located on the banks of sparkling Boulder Creek and featuring the Flatirons for a backdrop, Rocky Mountain Tennis Center is the perfect place to learn and play the great sport of tennis. RMTC Boulder offers:

- \* Colorado's Premier High Performance Program for players age 6 -18
- \* Lessons, USTA Leagues and fun for adults of all ability levels
- \* 15 Courts, including 5 Indoor
- \* USPTA and USPTR Certified Coaches
- \* The Home of the CU Buffs
- \* Featured USTA Tournaments
  - Colorado State Mountain Ocean Junior Open June 21-26
  - Babolat Boulder Open & Senior Intermountain Sectional July 19-27
  - Labor Day Master Series August 29 Sept 2
- \* Summer RMTC & Nike Camps

### **NEW for 2014!**

RMTC will be hosting Junior Futures, Challengers and Open Tournaments

Phone RMTC @ 303.449.5033



Fun for All Ages and Abilities Accepting Applications for Membership: RMTennisCenter.com

### JUNIOR COMPETITION

### TRANSFORMING THE TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE

MULTIPLE MATCH A.C.E. FORMAT MEANS PLAYER-. PARENT-FRIENDLY EVENTS



Beginning this year, Colorado's tournament offerings for entry-level (Futures) and many intermediate (Challenger) junior players look a whole lot different than in years past. In an effort to provide a better tournament tennis experience for youth players in Futures and select Challenger events, USTA Colorado has adopted the multiple match **A(bbreviated) C(competitive) E(xperience)** format, or **A.C.E.**. The multiple match A.C.E. format requires all sanctioned entry-level events to guarantee multiple matches by instituting modified scoring and scheduling formats.

The changes are important for both players and parents. Let's be honest. More matches is more fun, and playing in an all-day event against a variety of opponents provides a much more social atmosphere than a lose-one-and-you're-done experience, not to mention how complicated it becomes for parents who need to schedule their responsibilities around dropping off their young players for tennis tournaments at various hours of the day for an entire week

Compass draw tournaments are also a perfect way for junior players to practice the skills they are learning from their coaches. With the new formats, coaches can help players recognize mistakes and correct them over the course of a day of matches. This repeated feedback from coaches can greatly benefit young players who are experiencing competitive tennis for the first time.

The A.C.E. format puts Colorado at the forefront of a growing movement across the country that challenges the age-old standard of forcing inexperienced competitors into a lose-one-and-you're-done scenario. to experience tournament play. A.C.E. includes either round robin or compass draw formats, guaranteeing players a minimum of three matches.

**bbreviated:** Events will use different compass and round robin options, ranging from short sets (first to 4), one-set formats or timed formats (8s and 10s divisions only). Futures events will also adopt no-ad scoring. Tournaments will complete pool play in a single day, with advancement play taking place on a subsequent day.

petitive: Compass draw formats are tailor-made for the tournament sampler, who get real tournament experience without the expense, time and travel commitments of traditional week-long tournaments. The compass draw format keeps matches competitive, allowing better players to play tougher matches and less-skilled players to play easier matches. This keeps kids from getting discouraged and helps them feel successful.

**xperience:** By condensing the event and offering guaranteed, competitive play, tournament directors are ensuring a player- and family-friendly experience. Some organizers are even offering other social opportunities (swimming, pizza party, etc).

For an in-depth look at the specific formats, schedules, scoring options for Futures/Challenger-level events, please check out the **2014 Big book of Colorado Tennis**.

### **FUTURES**

APRIL 30-MAY 4 / AURORA MAY DAY FUTURES TOURNAMENT / 257208414

MAY 10-11 / SOUTH SUBURBAN JUNIOR FUTURES #1 / 257214114

MAY 31 / LEWIS TENNIS FUTURES SUMMER KICK-OFF / 257202814

JUNE 7 / RMTC SUMMER JUNIOR FUTURES #2 / 250021814

JUNE 28 / LEWIS TENNIS FUTURES FIRECRACKER / 257203014

JULY 9-13 / AURORA HEAT WAVE FUTURES TOURNAMENT / 257212414

JULY 12 / RMTC SUMMER JUNIOR FUTURES #3 / 250021914

JULY 22-24 / THE BROOMFIELD SWIM & TENNIS JUNIOR FUTURES / 257219314

JULY 27-AUGUST 3 / CENTRAL COLORADO JUNIOR FUTURES @ GATES TENNIS CENTER / 250011014

AUGUST 9 / LEWIS TENNIS BACK TO SCHOOL FUTURES / 257212714

AUGUST 9-10 / SOUTH SUBURBAN JUNIOR FUTURES #2 / 257262914

### **CHALLENGERS**

MAY 3 / LEWIS TENNIS SCHOOL MAY DAY CHALLENGER / 250010814 JUNE 1-2 / MEADOWS JUNIOR BOYS COMPASS CHALLENGER / 250007214 JUNE 7 / JCC ONE DAY CHALLENGER COMPASS TOURNAMENT / 250007114 JUNE 7 / LEWIS TENNIS SUMMER SUPER SET CHALLENGER SERIES #2 / 257226214 JUNE 8-9 / MEADOWS JUNIOR GIRLS COMPASS CHALLENGER / 250008114 JUNE 19-20 / KEN CARYL RANCH CHALLENGER 14S TOURNAMENT / 257214314 JUNE 21 / JCC ONE DAY CHALLENGER COMPASS TOURNAMENT / 250009014 JUNE 21 / LEWIS TENNIS SPECTACULAR CHALLENGER / 257210014 JUNE 21-22 / JAYHAWK JUNE CHALLENGER / 250006214 JUNE 26-27 / KEN CARYL RANCH CHALLENGER 18S TOURNAMENT / 250006514 JUNE 28 / STEEL CITY JUNIOR CHALLENGER #1 / 250016114 JULY 10 / KEN CARYL RANCH CHALLENGER 12S TOURNAMENT / 257216014 JULY 11 / KEN CARYL RANCH CHALLENGER 16S TOURNAMENT / 257218814 JULY 12 / JCC ONE DAY CHALLENGER COMPASS TOURNAMENT / 250009214 JULY 12 / LEWIS TENNIS SIZZLING SUMMER CHALLENGER / 257210514 JULY 17 / AURORA SUMMER CHALLENGER / 257217614 JULY 19 / LEWIS TENNIS SUPER SET CHALLENGER SERIES #3 / 257226314 JULY 26 / JCC ONE DAY COMPASS CHALLENGER / 250007614 JULY 27 / STEEL CITY JUNIOR CHALLENGER #2 / 250015714 AUGUST 9 / RMTC SUMMER JUNIOR CHALLENGER #2 / 250022014 AUGUST 23 / LEWIS TENNIS FALL CHALLENGER / 257222014 AUGUST 23 / STEEL CITY JUNIOR CHALLENGER #3 / 250016214 SEPTEMBER 13 / RMTC FALL JUNIOR CHALLENGER #3 / 250022214 OCTOBER 4 / LEWIS TENNIS AUTUMN CHALLENGER / 257222814 OCTOBER 18 / RMTC FALL JUNIOR CHALLENGER #4 / 250022414



### **CHALLENGER INELIGIBILITY LIST, 2014**

MOVING ON UP, THESE JUNIOR PLAYERS HAVE GRADUATED FROM CHALLENGER PLAY AT THEIR AGE DIVISION

Each year, under USTA Colorado Junior Challenger Tournament Regulations certain players are identified as "too advanced" for Challenger tournament play in the age division in which they've competed. Players may continue to participate in Challenger level events at a higher age division. Players who fall into these categories are determined from previous year sanctioned tournament play and rankings.

### A player is ineligible for Challenger level play if:

- s/he has attained a National or Sectional ranking the previous year;
- s/he has earned 300 or more points in their age division at which they competed at the Championship level.

Players are strongly encouraged to play within their age group in the Championship level rather than playing up an age group in the Challenger level.

### **BOYS**

Kevin Adams Joseph Adducci Gregory Alcala Ben Antonsen Galen Arney Illijah Bailéy Ren Blea David Bomgaars Teaque Burger Ignatius Castelino Matthew Chavez Trace Collins Harshil Dwivedi Frederick Edwards Cutter Esson Jason Ferry Brett Finan Charlie Franks Zach Fryer Allen Fu Kosta Gargei Skyler Gates

Willie Gold Oliver Greenwald Austin Gruszczynski Daniel Guiot Akhil Gupta Jeremiah Hansen Devin Harper Carter Harrington Henry Hawk Jackson Hawk Niko Hereford Stefan Hester Canyon Hill Colton Hill Ethan Hillis Christian Holmes Draden Hoover Teller Hoskins Tom Hudson Joshua Hunt Alexander Ilic Matthew Jacobberge Andrew leffries

Mitchell Johnson Richter Jordaan Fletcher Kerr David Kijak Joshua King John Koza Eric Kwiatkowski Spencer Lang Jacob Lapkin Dillon Leasure Alec Leddon Luke Lorenz Bradlev Ma Tommy Mason Lucas Martin Matthew Matsuvama Connor McPherson Tom Melville Vinay Merchant lett Middleton David Mitchell Jack Moldenhauer

Brandon Nachhai Sam Nassif Rvan Neale Erin Norwood Erich Nuss Evan Nuss Stefan Orton-Urbina Blake Parsons Chanon Penvari Max Petrak Andrew Pollack Noah Reiss David Rosencrans Casey Ross Patrick Ross Jesse Ruder-Hook Nicholas Svichar Patrick Seby Andrew Seehauser Vianesh Senthilvel Kai Smith Kasner Smith

Laird Stewart Tanner Trace Ram Vunnala Aaron Weil Max Weine Dvlan Zumar

**GIRLS** Daniela Adamczyk Samantha Anthony Inrdan Annel Jessica Áragon Annika Bassev Meghan Beer Julia Berggren Alexa Brandt Chloe Brandt Natalie Bronsdon Veronika Bruetting Morgan Bullen Tatum Burger Seranhin Castelino Meghna Chowdhury Haley Chirico lessee Clauson Paige Crews Natalia Dellavalle Olivia Desso Kavl Ecton Ky Ecton Eva-Lou Edwards Mayis Edwards Tara Edwards Payton Fielding Sarah Fleming Madison Gallegos Shelby Graber Natalie Hagan Kalyssa Hall Morgan Hall Natalie Hamill Sarah Hamner Micha Handler Mariela Hollines Caroline Iordaan

Nicole Kalhorn Tamy Katthain Caroline Kawula Maeve Kearney Katherine Kirby Grace Koza Katie Kuosman Ashley Lahey Clara Larson Katie Li Lauren Lindell Lindsay Lynch Julia Mannino Samantha Martinelli Savanah Meese Jessica Metz Alex Middleton Sadie Moseley Andrea Motley Natalie Munsi Shawnea Pagat Isahel Pan

Iulia Pentz Alex Pessoa Mira Ruder-Hook Josie Schaffer Rachael Scheper Amanda Schlatte Tate Schroeder Gahrielle Schuck Amber Shen Anshika Singh Bria Smith Gloria Son Emily Strande Alexandra Weil Anna Weissmai Rebecca Weissman Madison Wolfe Casev Zhong





### **COLLEGE RECRUITING LIST, SPRING 2014**

THE LATEST STANDINGS FROM TENNISRECRUITING.NET

### **BOYS**

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**ROCKY MOUNTAIN TENNIS CENTER** The Millennium Harvest House - Boulder

**Junior Day Camps** Directed by: Duke Paluch

### **UNIVERSITY OF DENVER**

TENNISRECRUITING.NET

**Junior Day Camps** Directed by: Danny Westerman and Christian Thompson

### FOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL Colorado Springs

Junior Overnight and Day Camps Directed by: Dave Adams

1-800-NIKE CAMP (1-800-645-3226)

### YOURGAME

### ILLUSTRATED ANDY ACE BOOKS ASSIST, ENCOURAGE KIDS TO PLAY TENNIS

REACHING KIDS, AND PARENTS, ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL

KRISTY**JENKINS** USTA SCHOOLS COORDINATOR



et's Play Tennis! is an illustrated tennis guide for parents and kids, written and illustrated by Patricia Egart, a former physical education teacher and tennis professional.

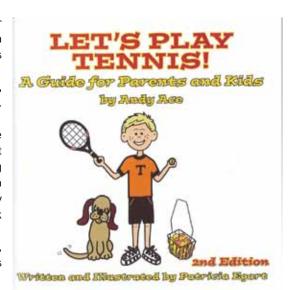
Egart introduces tennis as a subject through the story's protagonist, Andy Ace, who takes the reader on a guided tour of all things tennis... especially youth tennis.

When I say "guide" I mean that quite loosely. It is actually more of a tennis manual as it covers basically everything you could want or need to learn about tennis for those who are considering playing the sport. There are nice full-color illustrations and well written descriptions to help players get out on the court and learn to play tennis without confusion. Beginners of every age will definitely walk way with something after checking out this book.

Andy Ace breaks it down and gives us suggestions on equipment, information on 10 and Under Tennis, how to hit the different tennis strokes and even tips on what to eat before you play.

There is a lot of information in this book and I suspect most parents would want to read it with their child. It is an easy-to-navigate resource to have on hand in case you need the answer to an instructional tennis question. It doesn't dig too deep, it just gives the reader a solid foundation. It also provides information on additional resources in case you can't find the answer you're looking for.

I believe this book is appropriate for boys and girls ages 7-12. In addition, I'm thinking it may be a wise investment for tennis facilities to have laying around for parents to sneak a peek at while their child is taking lessons. It will educate them on the language of tennis!



Patricia Egart's Andy Ace series reaches kids on their level, and introduces parents to tennis through relevant tips and ideas to help their children experience the game in a fun way.

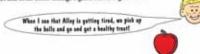




Additional Tips for Mom and Dad

Remember the 5-1 Rule: For every corrective comment you make to your child, make five positive comments! Keep play sessions short for young kids; thirry minutes maximum for ages

Keep play sessions short for young kids; thirty minutes meximum for eight and under; sixty minutes maximum for ages ten and under. Change games and drills often. Change a game before it gets "old".



Lebsack Tennis Center



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Adults Leagues & Socials



Adult Drills Cardio Tennis & TRX



We offer classes for all ages and ability levels with short sessions to go along with your busy lifestyle.

**Learn>** Now tennis is easier to learn than ever. With kid sized courts and equipment, everyone learns fast and has fun!

**Play>** Tennis should be a game before it's a sport. Classes for all ages with fun Play Days!

**Team Tennis>** Tennis is better on a team, join one of our fun summer leagues!

- After school, weekend and evening classes during the school year.
- Morning and evening classes during Summer.
- Spring and fall break camps.

### **Cardio Tennis is H.O.T. (High Octane Training)**

Blast your conditioning, amp your energy, and blow your mind. Cardio Tennis is for anyone who wants more than just the same tennis drills. In addition to hitting lots of balls, workout at stations designed to improve your speed, strength and stamina.







Lebsack Tennis Center is under new management. 62 Plaza Drive Highlands Ranch, CO 80129 303.791.2348

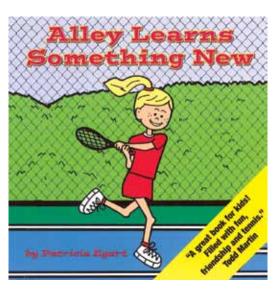


gart continues with the kids' tennis theme with her second book, Alley Learns Something New. This sweet story is about a young girl, named Alley, who is encouraged to try tennis by her older brother, Andy Ace, the protagonist in Let's Play Tennis!.

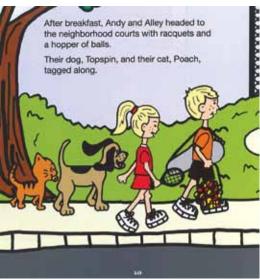
To her surprise she really likes it but realizes that trying something new, and getting the hang of it, takes practice. When Alley ends up spending a lot of time on court, her close friends obviously get jealous. They aren't quite sure about her new sport! Her friends soon realize she's having a ton of fun playing tennis so they decided to pull themselves away from their video games and tv shows and join her on the tennis court. Now everyone is all smiles!

Finding an appropriate tennis book on the shelf for a young reader is like finding a needle in a haystack. That's why this book is a gem. If you have a sport-minded youth in your home or work with young tennis players I'd consider introducing them to this story. The play on words in the book using tennis terminology is cute (ie. Alley is the main character and Topspin is the dog). In addition, the opportunity it presents to sit down and talk about tennis will give you a little insight into the child's knowledge and interest in the sport. An adult with limited tennis know-how may also learn a thing or two as well!

It's a quick read and gives a nice introduction to the sport of tennis but also captures a few relatable conflicts along the way. As a mother myself I often have the internal battle over my children's constant need for technology time. This book demonstrates that children can have a balance of tube time and tennis time — they are not mutually exclusive. You can't go wrong with a book that encourages the lifetime sport of tennis AND provides a few life lessons along the way. Alley Learns Something New is appropriate for children in preschool through third grade.



In addition to presenting tennis to kids in a fun and easy to understand way, the Andy Ace series also addresses some of the challenges that kids face today, including peer pressure and the sedentary lifestyle most often attributed to technology.





## tennis plus



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### THEBIGCHAIR

### STATE OF THE DISTRICT

**NEWS FROM USTA COLORADO HEADQUARTERS** 

FRITZ**garger** 

USTA COLORADO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### he constant need to explore new ways of doing things to meet the needs of an ever-changing world

USTA Colorado (aka The Colorado Tennis Association — established in 1955) has certainly changed and developed over the years. I have seen the changes first-hand in my current position for nearly 20 years, but from the

early years in the mid-fifties and throughout, the Association has adapted and changed with the times. Here is an overview of a number of areas USTA Colorado has spurred growth and development — and some of the areas we'll be addressing as we move forward.

### The new landscape for youth (and also older) tennis players

We have addressed on numerous occasions the changes and innovations of our sport, particularly in the last five or so years, focusing largely on the efforts of our industry to develop a pathway for youth who enter the sport that is age and size appropriate. Much has been made and written about the 36-foot and 60-foot courts, the graduated length youth racquets and importantly the new balls — red, orange and green — which travel at slower speeds and bounce at lower heights than the traditional yellow ball. As has been seen in other parts of the country, these innovations also appeal to adult players, including but not limited to those whose mobility "ain't what it used to be" (i.e. our offering of the Masters Flex League division). We intend to explore and develop this exciting offering.

### **Junior Recreation**

We hope that more and more facilities look to offer events like Play Days, which provide developmental opportunities for existing and especially new players to the game in a fun and festive setting. Once these new players are engaged in the sport, they are likely to delve into a number of other program offerings. Thanks to input from facility coordinators, coaches and parents, our junior league program has evolved over the years. We're utilizing orange and green balls, the 60-foot court and gender neutral divisions (for the 10 & U) to provide a more attractive product for players and providers alike. Kids are now practicing

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AND competing on the same court. We're continuing to explore a variety of new concepts for the future.

### Adult/Senior Leagues

Our organization has been extremely agile over the years when looking at adult/senior leagues and developing a host of opportunities to match the interests of a wide range of player needs. We have one of the largest league menus in the entire country with a total of 13 – when including our two newest additions of Flex and Masters' offerings.

### **Tournaments**

Colorado's adult tournament offerings include options for championship, age division and NTRP divisions. And in the world of juniors, we have just instituted our new multiple match **A.C.E.** format, starting with all the entry level events (Futures) and some of our intermediate (Challengers) events (see page 31). All tournaments in these two levels will incorporate the new format in 2015. We're starting our review and assessment of all our tournament offerings (schedule, formats, etc.) as we look to provide options and opportunities for the tournament player, and to enhance the tournament experience for all, including newcomers.

### **Community Development**

While much of the work in the area of 'community development' initially was related to the expansion of existing programs like leagues, tournaments and grants, we created a separate department in the late 1990s to address such areas as a greater focus on the schools, grants, support of community tennis associations and advocacy (for facility development and enhancement). This department spearheaded USTA Colorado's strategic focus on our diversity and inclusion efforts.

### **Diversity & Inclusion**

This is our most recent area of expansion (structurally) for our organization. We have combined this focus with Marketing as we look to expose our sport to everyone in the state and insure we are doing our best to have our tennis demographic match the general population demographic of Colorado. We have been real innovators and leaders in this arena. Examples include our efforts with the Breaking the Barriers initiative in 2011 and this year's version, Breaking the Barriers 2.0, an emphasis on the Asian and Latino communities. Our goals are many, primarily to highlight and provide recognition of past efforts of those in each community, but we also want to reach out at the same time and bring new people (youth and adult) into the game.

### Special Events - Hall of Fame and Annual Awards Gala

Our Association's efforts in this arena have evolved in a big way over the years. Gone are the days of award presentations to a few recipients in a small room with some Board members and special guests. We've inducted our 14th class of Hall of Fame members and we now recognize 24 annual award winners at our Gala amongst a crowd of supporters numbering well over 300. Few states have a long-standing Hall of Fame or an awards event like ours. We have an established event that celebrates what our sport is all about and the people who bring it to life in our state.

### Collaboration is the key to continued success

Our mission is to promote and develop the growth of tennis in Colorado. It's a broad mission that includes far more than just promoting USTA-based programming. We've demonstrated our commitment, ability and desire to affect the game in general through many of our efforts and areas of focus. While tens of thousands of people are involved in our sanctioned events and activities, there are literally hundreds of thousands of Coloradans who pick up a racquet and head out to courts to just bat the ball around. These folks are incredibly meaningful. Our intent is to not just to grow tennis in areas not traditionally supportive of the sport, but also to cultivate more 'frequent' players in both the formal (sanctioned play) and less formal (hit and giggle) arenas. The key is for us to build on our existing relationships and expand to new ones so more opportunities are readily available. It's essential that we retain a mind-set that allows for new ideas and an openness to explore and develop ways to engage the broader community as well as serve the existing player who has come to know, enjoy and benefit from the programs and services we provide.



### THELASTWORD

### IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUTH ATHLETICS?

WHY KIDS ARE QUITTING ORGANIZED SPORTS

**KURTDESAUTELS** 

EDITOR, COLORADO TENNIS



s a father and a former coach, my own casual survey of the youth athletic landscape indicates that something is wrong.

You may not have kids, or maybe your kids are grown, but for those concerned about the future of youth sports, the statistics reveal a disturbing trend.

According to the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA), participation in organized team sports peaks at age 11. After that, the percentage of kids playing on at least one team drifts downward. It's hard to fathom, but today's youth are giving up organized sports before they even hit puberty.

It may come as no surprise to you that youth athletics are suffering a unique malaise right now. Football is plagued by reports of concussion-related health issues, parents are becoming insufferable at youth games, sometimes leading to violence in the stands, and kids are burning out early due to the pressure put on them by overzealous parents and high-intensity

When Physical Education first debuted in schools, it's intention was to teach kids to be athletic in gym class. Every day, the entire class would run around and build coordination, endurance and strength. The whole point of PE was that everyone participated. Americans lived in an era of physical labor, and PE was indispensable in the training of future generations of

Today, kids don't learn how to be athletic in gym. So parents and clubs hire coaches who specialize in these fields to help

our kids succeed at the "highest level" of youth competition. But not every child has access to conditioning coaches and coordination specialists. We rely on youth sports, which are not only pricey but also time consuming, to be the primary physical educators of our kids.

This isn't bad per se, but as a youth coach, I can attest that many kids show up ill-prepared to engage in physical activity. When I was young, I never played organized baseball or football. But PE helped me learn to be athletic and healthy, and the local playground taught me the fundamentals of those sports as well as any coach could have done. In the last 30 years, those experiences have gone by the wayside. We've traded them in or outsourced the task to coaches who are busy trying to teach sports-specific skills to a group of unathletic youth.

There are dozens of reasons for this, I realize, and space and time don't allow for me to elaborate here. But the point is that we have upset the learning process so that instead of providing kids the opportunity to become athletic, and to let them apply this skill to a particular craft (baseball, tennis, basketball, soccer), today we teach children the craft first. Athleticism is no longer a skill that kids learn, it has become a secondary by-product of sport, if it comes

In generations past, by the time kids entered full-time schooling, they were receiving athletic training in the form of structured fun-time. They would run, and chase, and climb, and cut, and move, and build muscle, and coordination and balance. Today, we leave those lessons to volunteer coaches who have little or no training in how to teach athleticism. Either they grew up playing a particular sport, or slept in a Holiday Inn Express the night before the call went out to volunteers. It's a tough job to teach little athletes how to play baseball. It's even tougher when so many of the players aren't coordinated enough to run to first base.

I find it appalling that we have so little investment in sports these days. And I'm not talking financial. For decades, sports were opportunities to create lasting bonds within our circle of friends, our families, and our communities. Sports brought generations together, not just to root root root for the home team, but for fathers and sons to play catch, and mothers and daughters to play tennis. We bonded during our athletic pursuits. Brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors, grandparents and aunts and uncles and cousins.... Family. Community. Friendships.

So much of that has been left behind. Today, youth sports is but the first step toward the professional ranks, with travel teams and college scholarships as major milestones along the way. At 8, my son's soccer club disbanded his team because they wanted to push the better players into competitive situations while the lesserskilled players remained in the development leagues. Four boys were invited to move up to two different teams. The other six boys could continue playing, but not with the coach they had been with for three years (they had played six consecutive seasons together, a spring and a fall season), and likely not together. As you may expect, the boys who were very good wanted to keep

playing, even though they preferred to stay with their team of three years. The other six all quit soccer. The reason wasn't that they were disappointed they weren't picked to move up. They quit because for them, soccer was a social outlet, a place to be with their friends and schoolmates. When that was no longer possible, the desire to play waned quickly.

National participation numbers mimic this situation. Soccer owns nearly a quarter of all 8 and under sports participants. It drops steadily after that. Baseball participation peaks at 9. Basketball takes over as the nation's most popular sport by age 10, but kids start quitting before they even hit high school. Meanwhile, tennis - whose participation rates are dwarfed by other sports in younger age divisions — shows small, but progressive growth through high school. By the time kids reach their senior year, there are more tennis players in this country than there are soccer or baseball players.

Tennis has faced this reality with an infusion of ideas aimed at transforming the youth experience. By focusing on the fun and friendship part of the equation, Colorado Junior Team Tennis is growing steadily, and the recent changes to junior tournament formats aim to address both the competition side and the schedule side for players and parents.

Now you know the background, but here's the \$64,000 question: Can tennis become the model for the cultural rejuvenation of American youth sports?

I will wrestle with that question (and a few crocodiles, just for fun) in the Summer 2014 issue of Colorado Tennis. 🕢





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

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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 33,000 players across the state, and offer programs for junior players of all ages and abilities. Our sanctioned tournament schedule offers more than 170 events this year, including opportunities for wheelchair athletes.

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

We are more than 23,000 members strong, but our scope is not confined to those players alone. We represent the half-million tennis players in our state, providing information and opportunities to play for each and every one of them. We reach out to all players, including those of diverse cultural backgrounds, mentally and physically challenged athletes, and under-served communities. Diversity & Inclusion is a strategic priority for USTA Colorado and one of our core values.

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

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