

COLORADO TENNIS

Year 34, Issue 3

The Official Publication Of Tennis Lovers

Est. 1976

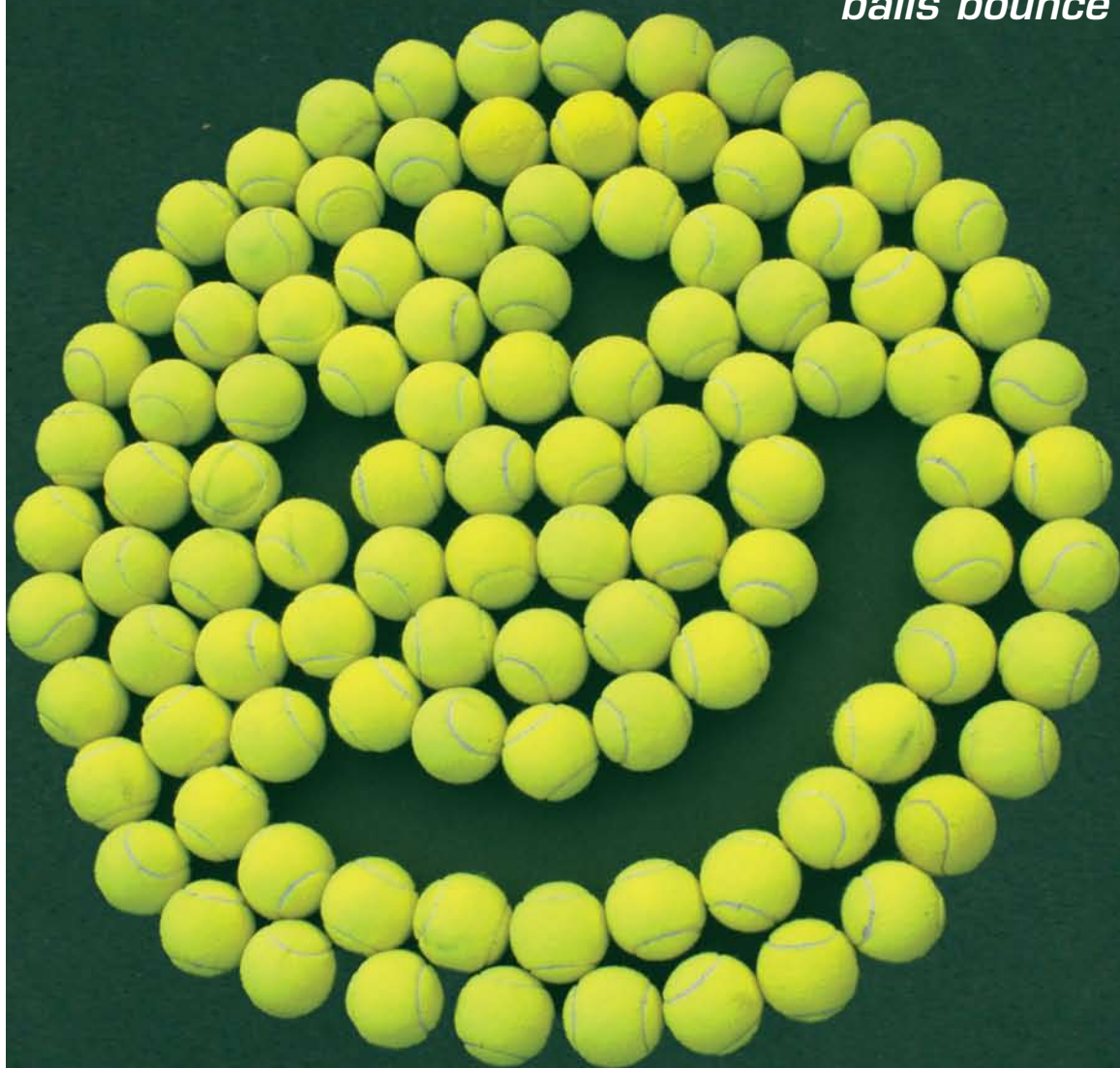
SUMMER 2009

*Ball cans are hissing,
Out comes the buffet,*

*Beer-brats and corn chips,
And hot crudités.*

*Line-ups are juggled and
balls bounce on strings.*

*These are a few
of our favorite things.*



Celebrating Adult League Tennis
and the

SUMMER OF LOVE!

IN THIS ISSUE:

IT MUST BE LOVE:

We share some of the things we love most about league season.

NTRP MADE EASY:

Our in-depth look at how NTRP works, 30 years after it was created.

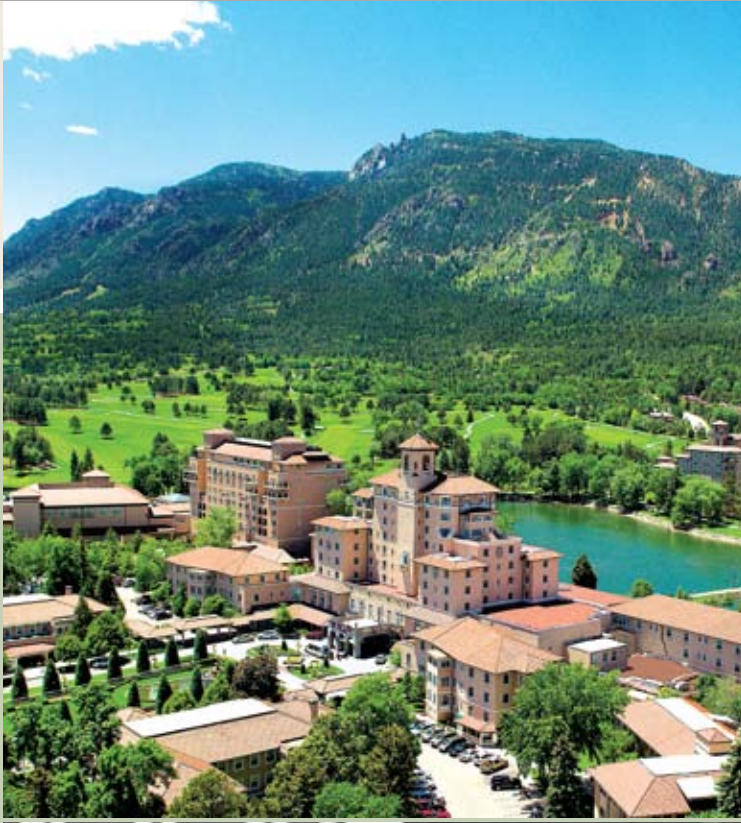
DON'T MISS:

- Scenes from Tennis Month
- Spotlight on Wheelchair Tennis
- Playing for your country
- A player's second chance at life
- The 300 year-old workout
- and much more



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July 10 – 12	Broadmoor Adult Camp
July 31 – August 2	Broadmoor Adult Camp
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August 21 – 23	Dennis Ralston "Premier"
August 28 – 30	Broadmoor Adult Camp

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July 20 – 22	Novice Juniors (Ages 7 – 13)	Aug 5 – 7	High School Varsity (Ages 14 – 18)

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COLORADO TENNIS

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Est. 1976

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SUMMER 2009

About COLORADO TENNIS

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

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THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

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One of the country's largest recreational league tennis menus, the Colorado Adult League Series provides organized and structured team matches for nearly 28,000 men and women throughout the state. Whether you're a beginner or you're in a league of your own, we've got a team for players like you.

FREE PUBLICATIONS

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

TOURNAMENT TENNIS

Sanctioned tournament play is wrongly thought to be for "serious competitors only." But in Colorado, there is a tournament for every level player, novice to expert. And with more than 160 events featuring divisions for kids under 10 to seniors 90 and up, there's no age limit for having fun.

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coverstory



USTA Colorado coordinates one of the largest adult league tennis series in the country.

How big is it?
 Although you can't see it from space with just the naked eye, it takes a staggering 9,000 hours of staff time to make the 26-week season run smoothly and efficiently.

Thank you to all the facilities, coordinators, captains and players who make adult league tennis such a marvelous experience each and every year. Without you, it wouldn't be the summer of love.

A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS ♦ ♦ ♦

...THOSE WHO SHARE

When the Sporting Goods Manufacturer's Association names your sport as the ONLY traditional sport to have grown in the last half-decade, you know times are good. Much of the credit for tennis' popularity goes to tennis players who are out in their communities, sharing their passion with others.

Do you have a passion to share your love of tennis with your family? Your friends? Your co-workers? Kids in the neighborhood? Let us know. Let us help you keep tennis growing.

...POST-MATCH BEER & WINE

...HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS

Some people hear the acronym "HOA" and immediately think *covenants* and *pool parties*. But in the world of tennis, HOAs are an important part of the league season. While private facilities offer mega-court complexes and lesson opportunities for every age and level, HOAs can help grow tennis at the grassroots level by bringing new players to the game in a very casual way.

Some HOAs use tennis as a social networking opportunity for adults and seniors, while others provide structured play programs for aspiring juniors and hyperactive toddlers.

If your HOA would like to begin offering more tennis options, including adult or junior league tennis, please contact USTA Colorado to find out how we can assist you in bringing tennis to your community.

...WILLOW CREEK TENNIS CLUB'S TIM STEINHELBER

The vision started with a great mission statement: *The Willow Creek Tennis Club strives to create an active, dynamic and growing private Tennis Club in Willow Creek, promoting and organizing tennis activities for all ages and abilities within our beautiful community.* Add to this statement a dedicated troop of twenty plus volunteers and a comprehensive plan and the outcome is a strong, vibrant HOA tennis program.

Tim Steinhelber, originally from the Twin Cities, came to Colorado to be close to his daughter and grandchildren who reside in Willow Creek. Now Facility Coordinator, he was instrumental in taking the program to new heights, along with other Willow Creek tennis enthusiasts. Willow Creek has three HOA's with approximately 1650 residents and 15 courts which are busy with leagues, social play, junior activities, and lessons that can be obtained from Rocky Mountain Tennis Academy Professional Mark Taylor for solely the cost of lessons. Willow Creek went from having 12 league teams in 2006, to the near capacity 30 teams it welcomes now.

Tim's IT background and experience with planning with multi-million dollar budgets helped him when he decided to get involved in helping grow the Willow Creek Tennis Program on a modest budget.

"You can basically figure that it's going to be \$2/month per resident based on 100 residents per court, to have the reserves needed to keep the courts in shape," he said.

All 15 courts at Willow Creek have been either replaced or resurfaced due to the board's understanding of the benefits to the community. The Tennis Committee is responsible for getting bids, contracts and overseeing the work for maintenance on the courts. They are also responsible for submitting a budget to the Board. In return the committee asks for the authority to schedule courts that is done by a volunteer.

"To have a successful program, you must start with a strong volunteer committee," Tim explains. And you must "get the community to understand that a thriving tennis program adds value to the neighborhood."

He also said that it is important to have self-funding socials that bring residents together. The only small revenue producing activity they have is the Willow Creek Invitation Tennis Tournament held in September. This year will mark the fourth anniversary of the tournament, which usually draws approximately 75 players, and the proceeds pay for their website: WILLOWCREEKTENNISCLUB.com.



...NEW TRADITIONS

Last year, over 5,000 thousand players participated in USTA Colorado's nine different District Championships. Maybe you're one of them. Maybe you were there a few years back. Maybe this year is your year!

If you have been there before, you may remember the award you received for winning your local division. Then again, maybe not. Was it a towel, a water bottle, a shirt? Hmm, what ever happened to that award?

Well, you'll never have to worry about misplacing your local division champion award again – unless of course, you misplace your favorite racquet bag. This year, USTA Colorado is starting a new tradition! For each player who has helped his/her team win its local division, we will be providing a traveling trophy. No, it's not a new car or a t-shirt with wheels. It's a keepsake key chain or bag tag that you can display with pride on your tennis bag. We'll be providing a slightly different item for each of the leagues and will continue this every year for years to come.

As some of you may know, we didn't come up with this idea on our own. Several sections across the country have been doing this for years. We hope this new idea will be as popular in Colorado as it is elsewhere in the country. So, let's get this new tradition off and running. Proudly display your award for making it to the "Big Show." It's not as hard to coordinate as the Green Jacket they win at the golf's Master's, and you don't have to have it resized if you gain a few pounds.

...GIRLS/GUYS NIGHT OUT

...CUTE TENNIS SKIRTS

...CAMARADERIE

...GOVERNOR'S RANCH HOA

For Jeanne DeVita, loving the sport of tennis has been one of the key factors in managing the successful Homeowners' Association tennis program at Governor's Ranch in Littleton. In her eighth year now, Jeanne says, "I loved tennis before it became part of my job. It's a sport that you can play for your whole life. There's something about hearing the racquet hit the ball that invigorates you!"

A strong passion for tennis, combined with an understanding of what makes a program successful, is a formula that has grown tennis at Governor's Ranch. There are 1,022 households in the community, and an estimate 300-350 people who utilize the courts.

"We are very fortunate to have eight courts, four of which are lighted," Jeanne explains.



The beautiful courts are always buzzing with leagues, lessons, and programs aimed at getting people involved in tennis.

"I came in when the Board was eager to make some changes," Jeanne acknowledges, grateful for their full support as she oversees a program that grows each year. She said they were able to streamline some processes, and make sure proper policies were in place to build the programs. It's that combination of rules that keep play fair, and a community of tennis enthusiasts that keeps Governor's Ranch tennis thriving.

"When you have a board that isn't focused on power, but instead understands how tennis adds values to the neighborhood, it's great... People who live here have an awesome set up!"

And that's true. Governor's Ranch residents enjoy the courts, a swimming pool, and a clubhouse that allows rental of a party room. She also has a staff of two part-time people.

"Being on-site means there are high expectations, but we're able to meet them," Jeanne explains.

She also feels lucky to have strong professionals come into their community to spread the love of tennis. Australian Brad Trost, a former coach at Metro State College, is currently heading up lessons, and community members are embracing him. In addition to adult programs, he's added some fabulous programs for kids, including Little Lobbers (4-8 year-olds) and Junior Aces (9 and up), both drop-in programs that are creating a new generation of tennis enthusiasts. Brad plans on adding after-school programs in the fall.

Governor's Ranch Tennis is a model HOA tennis program, growing the value of their neighborhood, and doing it with the love for tennis. It's about families, fun and a real sense of community.

"Tennis is great," Jeanne says, "you don't have to be great to play it. You can run around and have fun and enjoy it!"

See what else Jeanne and her staff at Governor's Ranch have on tap for the summer, at GRHOA.com.

NTRP: Setting the Record Straight

STRAIGHT

The **National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP)** has been around since 1978. Since that time, various changes have been made to improve how the program works. Over the years, efforts have been made to help players understand NTRP; however, since it is the single topic that still produces the highest volume of calls to the USTA Colorado office on an annual basis, we thought we'd take this opportunity to address some of the misconceptions and questions that we frequently hear. Even if you are one of the few who 'know it all' about NTRP (*you know who you are...*), please take a few minutes to read this information. We hope that everyone can learn something from this article.

NTRP 101: HOW DOES THIS THING WORK?

The primary goal of the program is to help all tennis players enjoy the game by providing a method of classifying skill levels for more compatible matches in league and tournament play, group lessons, and other programs. The rating categories are *generalizations* about skill levels. You may find that you actually play above or below the category which best describes your skill level, depending on your competitive ability. Your rating is not meant to be permanent, but may be adjusted as your skills change or as your match play demonstrates the need for reclassification. Ultimately your rating is based upon match results.

WHAT THE HECK IS DNTRP?

Dynamic NTRP, or DNTRP, calculates a player's rating based on the result of a single match, and may change with each match played. Your dynamic rating is the result of your current match averaged with up to three of your most recent dynamic results.

Here's how it works (the following examples are for demonstration purposes only, the exact statistical method used by the DNTRP program is known only to the USTA and American Vice President Joe Biden):

1. The program compares the likely result with the actual result. For example, if one player or doubles team has a tenth of a point higher rating than the opponent, the likely match score could be 6-4, 6-4.
 - If the higher rated team wins by a larger than expected margin, each player's rating is increased based on the margin of victory and the losing player's rating is decreased by the same amount;
 - If the higher rated team wins by less than the expected margin, the players' ratings will actually decrease and the losing players' ratings will increase.
 - Likewise, the lower-rated team may win which causes their rating to increase markedly and the rating of the team which was favored would decrease by the same amount.
2. The rating obtained for each player in a given match is averaged with a maximum of their previous three dynamic ratings and that number becomes their new current dynamic rating. *Indirectly this connects the current dynamic to all previous matches but weights the four most recent matches more heavily.* The reason for this averaging is to even out the ratings in cases where some unusual situation causes an atypical result (for example, a player is injured but does not retire, etc.).
3. All player ratings are maintained in the system to the nearest hundredth of a point (sorry, that number is kept in our super-secret underground vault here at Gates, and we lost the key last month).
4. The difference in ratings of the members of a doubles team is held constant in a calculation of an individual match. If the two players are three hundredths (.03) of a point apart going into the match then they will remain three hundredths (.03) apart after the calculation for the given match. *However, once that number is averaged with the three previous dynamic ratings that difference may change.* This is how we measure the performance of players as they change partners.

Disqualification, aka, Three Strikes and You're Out!

Dynamic NTRP ratings will be calculated to determine if any player is "clearly above level" using the current Disqualification Procedure Guidelines. Players will be disqualified if they achieve the currently established 'clearly above level' status three times based on all matches reported in the national database for Adult and Senior Divisions. This includes all match play nationwide in Adult and Senior divisions only. Remember, you must reach this disqualification level three times during the championship league year in order to be disqualified. Only players with a rating type A, S, M, T or D next to their rating can be disqualified by the dynamic disqualification. Rating type C or B cannot be disqualified based on three strikes.

Key to Type of Rating

- S – Self-rate or Medical Appeal
- A – Appeal
- B – Benchmark (advanced to playoff or championship round)
- C – Computer
- D – Dynamic
- M – Mixed Exclusive Year-end Rating
- T – Tournament Exclusive Year End Rating

Solving the NTRP Puzzle

USTA Colorado gets more calls every year by players regarding their NTRP rating than any other issue. We hope this in-depth look at the program will help you understand how the whole thing works, and why you hold the rating you do.



DNTRP, continued

Does the dynamic calculation treat doubles partners differently?

No. Dynamic calculation maintains the rating differential between doubles partners that existed before a match. For example if a 3.3 and a 3.5 player are paired together, specific match results are applied to each player equally and the two partners will maintain the .2 differential.

Do USTA sanctioned tournaments count toward DNTRP?

And if so, can a tournament win be used as one of the three strikes?

Each section has the option of including tournament results for year-end calculations. Currently, the Intermountain Section includes tournament results for year-end calculations. In this case, sanctioned tournament match scores will not be calculated into the system until after the national championships. Sanctioned tournament results do not generate strikes; however, they will impact your year-end rating. Open/Age Division national tournament results are also entered into the NTRP system after league national championships.

How high can my dynamic rating go before I earn a strike?

The Dynamic NTRP program allows a certain tolerance for player improvement – a greater range for lower-level players where rapid improvement is more likely; a smaller range for higher-level players. The specific improvement factor is not published for concerns that individuals, captains or others will attempt to manipulate their ratings.

Will I be notified if I earn a strike?

No. Notice occurs only after three strikes are accumulated. Many players receive one or two strikes and never get that third. To needlessly worry or prevent a player from participating based on the possibility of getting a strike is not fair to the player or the team.

Can I be disqualified by the dynamic calculation during the District Championships?

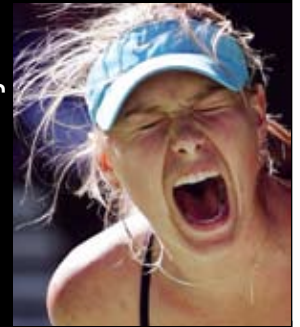
Yes.

According to USTA Regulations, each section can elect whether to run the dynamic calculation during or after the Championship. The Intermountain Section and all Districts (i.e. Colorado) within the Intermountain Section run the dynamic calculation throughout the championship event. Should a player receive a third strike, he/she will be disqualified from participation at that NTRP level for the balance of the year and the succeeding year:

- **Round Robin format:** Throughout the championship, any player reaching the DQ criteria will have all matches at that NTRP level reversed to 0-6, 0-6.
- **Single Elimination format:** Throughout the championship, the last match played by the player at that NTRP level will be reversed to 0-6, 0-6.

NTRP TOP-8: COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS/FAQs...or WHAT WE WISH EVERYONE KNEW...

Given the frequency of the calls to our office, players generally have many of the same questions and misconceptions about how the NTRP process treats them individually. Realizing that every situation is unique, we would like to publish our Top-8 list of questions we get each year about the NTRP system.



Are all players in a given NTRP level equal in ability?

No. The NTRP program identifies general levels of ability, but an individual will be rated within those levels at 50 different hundredths of a point. For example, a 3.5 player can fall anywhere between a 3.01 and a 3.50. That is the reason many people feel they are playing sandbaggers – they are closer to the bottom of that range while their opponents are closer to the top of the range. For example, a typical match result between a player with a 3.01 rating versus a 3.49 rating – both of whom hold a computer rating of 3.5 – could be 6-0, 6-0 in favor of the higher rated player.

I had a winning/losing record, I should move up/down.

Your NTRP rating moves up or down depending on the actual score of the match as compared to the expected outcome. The expected outcome is determined based on the difference of the players' ratings (in hundredths). Basically, your rating will move up or down depending on who you played and how well you played against them, as compared to the expected outcome. If the actual score is closer than the expected outcome, the higher-rated (winning) player will move down; whereas the lower-rated (losing) player will move up. It is for that reason that your win/loss ratio is not always indicative of the direction your rating is moving.

I want to "play up" at the next NTRP level to challenge myself.

Bad idea. Really. Quite often, players want to play up for a "challenge." We strongly discourage this line of thinking, because while it will undoubtedly be a challenge for the lower-rated player, it will often come at the expense of an enjoyable experience for the higher-rated player. If you are thinking about playing up, consider this: How enjoyable would your experience be if most of your opponents were playing up for the "challenge?"

Other points to ponder:

- When you play at your rated level, do you win all of your matches easily (i.e. 6-1, 6-1)? If not, you are still probably having close matches within your level. Why move up at the expense of other players' enjoyment?
- If you are winning all of your matches easily, are they against players who have the same rating as you or are they against players who are "playing up?"

It is a cycle that is tough to break once it is started, so help everyone out, DON'T PLAY UP!

I'm being penalized for having a weak partner.

If you truly have a weaker partner, the expected outcome of the match may be that you and your partner should lose, so if you lose by a closer than expected margin, you could actually move up.

If I play singles, can I move up more quickly? Or, they "hide" him in doubles.

The position that you play, whether it's singles or doubles, #1 or #3, is not going to make a difference with your rating. The NTRP algorithm does not include a variable for the position in the line up, so all positions are treated equally. What matters is how you (and your partner in doubles) do against your particular opponent(s), as compared to the expected outcome of the match.

I live in a smaller geographic area and I know that the ratings are not correct for people here.

The NTRP algorithm has branches that compare all players throughout the entire country. When players from across the state (in each NTRP level) make it beyond the local season and advance to Districts, Sectionals and/or Nationals, they create a more direct link to the rest of the players in the area who did not advance that far. This branching effect makes it possible for everyone in Colorado to be objectively compared to players from Washington, California, Texas, Florida, New York or anywhere else in the country.


My club pro says I'm a 3.0, but the self-rating system says I'm a 3.5.

Years ago, verifiers were trained across the country on how to visually rate players. While the number of these 'trained' pros is dwindling, there are still some left who possess that knowledge. However, when the move was made to utilize the computer calculation and self-rating process for controlling the rating system, the USTA ended its use of verifiers. The self-rate system, as it is now, asks a series of questions to determine the highest level a player has achieved in his/her past. Depending on the highest level, and in many cases, the player's age, the computer provides a rating range from which the player can select one.

In an effort to ensure that new players are not introduced at a level that is too low, the program will often place players higher than what they had expected or wanted and higher than what their pro might visually rate him/her. For this reason, there is a unique appeal process – for self-rated players only – in which they can provide more specific details and information about their past experience. Next an NTRP committee (comprised of skilled verifiers), reviews the information and determines if the player can be moved to a lower level. This process is taken very seriously since an incorrect self-rating can result in serious problems for the player and the team. Often, players who self-rate too low end up being disqualified either by the Dynamic NTRP calculation or by having a self-rate eligibility grievance upheld against them.

Can I see my rating to the hundredth?

No. The USTA does not publish this information.

Much of the information contained within this article, as well as additional NTRP information is available both on COLORADOTENNIS.com under the NTRP section and on USTA.com under LEAGUES & TOURNAMENTS (USTA League). If you have additional questions that are still unanswered about NTRP, please email jason.rogers@coloradotennis.com. 

buzzbuzz

Colorado loses three tennis icons

Colorado Tennis has lost three of its most outstanding tennis representatives. **Carolyn Roberts Byrne**, a member of the 2004 Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame class, **Mike Reidy**, a member of the 2003 class, and **Don Carleton**, a long-time tennis advocate, all passed away this spring.

An outstanding junior player in New York, Byrne moved to Colorado in 1943 and captured several City, State and Intermountain singles and doubles championships. A seemingly ageless competitor, her victory at the 1951 City Open makes her one of the oldest singles champions in tournament history, at the age of 38. Ten years later, she captured the doubles crown at the State Open. Read her Hall of Fame bio online at COLORADOTENNIS.com.

Reidy's impact on the sport here in Colorado is tremendous, helping to draft the articles of incorporation for the Colorado Tennis Association in 1955 as well as serving on numerous boards at the local and sectional level. Until his death at the age of 90, Reidy was an active member of the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame selection committee, and an annual attendee of the Hall of Fame Gala. Read his Hall of Fame bio online at COLORADOTENNIS.com.

Carleton was the local Wilson Sporting Goods representative from the mid-1960s until 1983, and was a fixture at seemingly every local tournament for nearly two decades. He will be fondly remembered for his generosity and his love of the sport, which he shared freely with players of all ages.

Boulder's Lahey to represent US in International Competition

Boulder's **Ashley Lahey** has been selected to represent the US. at the "Little Mo"/Smrikva Bowl, the only international team competition which features the top boys and girls from the United States and the rest of the world who are 10 & under. The event, now in its eighth year, is slated for Sunday, June 28 at the Tennis Club Smrikve in Pula, Croatia.

The American players were selected due to their outstanding results in "Little Mo" competition at the Sectional, Regional, National and International level. "Little Mo" (Maureen Connelly) was the top ranked woman's player in the world in the early 1950s, winning Wimbledon in 1952, 1953 and 1954. In 1953, she became the first woman (at age 18) to win the Grand Slam. She remains the youngest player and the only American woman to ever win the Grand Slam. The "Little Mo"/Smrikva Bowl is named after two prestigious tournaments: the "Little Mo" Nationals which features the best young players in the United States from 7-11 years of age and the Smrikva Bowl which is one of the top European tournaments for boys and girls having gathered players from 40 countries and six continents over the fourteen year history. For more information, visit MCBTENNIS.org.

Junction's Shields awarded national collegiate honors

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) has awarded Boise State senior **Clancy Shields** (Grand Junction) the 2009 ITA/Rafael Osuna Sportsmanship Award. The award is a national award given to an athlete who displays outstanding sportsmanship, character, excellent academics and has outstanding tennis accomplishments. The ITA/Rafael Osuna Sportsmanship



Award is the ITA's longest-running award and goes to a Division I men's player. The award was established in 1969 in memory of Rafael Osuna, who was killed in a plane accident at the age of 30. Osuna is one of the all-time great collegiate tennis players, winning three NCAA doubles titles (1961-63) and the '62 NCAA singles title as part of USC teams many consider to be the greatest of all-time.

As the only returning starter from last year's team, Shields led the squad to the Round of 16 at the NCAA Championships. He finished the season ranked No. 27 in the nation, compiling a record of 28-10 (singles) and 22-13 (doubles). The 2009 WAC Conference Player of the Year, Shields has been named first team All-WAC and WAC Scholar Athlete three times, earned the Mountain Region's ITA/John Van Nostrand

Memorial Award and was also selected to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District At-Large First-Team for his 3.93 GPA in kinesiology.

Damico, Boren help guide teams to semifinals at NCAAs

University of Texas sophomore **Kellen Damico** (Parker) and Emory University senior **Mark Boren** (Englewood) helped guide their respective teams to the semifinal rounds of the NCAA Tennis Championships. Damico's Longhorn squad fell in the penultimate round to the eventual NCAA Division I champions, USC Trojans. In the 4-1 loss, Damico was the only Texas player

NOUNS IN THE NEWS

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



Colorado State Open to offer "Tennis for Kids Day" Event

The 2009 Colorado State Open will kick off this year with an event introducing kids to this great game, "Tennis for Kids Day". Similar to the "Arthur Ashe Kids Day" event that kicks-off the US Open, this day-long FREE extravaganza will introduce kids to tennis by giving them opportunities to play, watch the matches, win prizes, and a whole lot more. The action takes place on Saturday, September 12 from 8:30-11:30am. Children between the ages of 4-16 are welcome, all levels encouraged. The Gates Tennis Center is committed to growing this great game, and raising awareness about the Colorado State Open, one of the premier tennis events in the Rocky Mountain region.



USTA Colorado and Denver Parks & Recreation hosts the Celebrating Diversity TennisFest Series
in conjunction with the

DENVER BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL 2009
Saturday, July 11 10 A.M. – 4 P.M.
[Denver City Park Tennis Courts](#)
[East 23th Ave. & York St.]

DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL 2009
Saturday, July 25 10 A.M. – 4 P.M.
[Denver Sloan's Lake Tennis Courts](#)
[West 26th Ave. & Tennyson]

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- Free Tennis Instruction
- QuickStart Tennis
- Prizes and Giveaways
- Adult Tennis Social (only at City Park)

Supported by USTA Intermountain and Coatings, Inc.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
go to COLORADOTENNIS.com or
Call Paula McClain, at 303-695-4116 ext. 220.

to record a win. Boren helped lead his Eagles to the Division III semifinals before falling to eventual champion UC Santa Cruz. Emory won the third place match behind a strong showing in singles and doubles from Boren, who also competed in the Division III singles draw.

Weissman selected to USTA Devo Camp

The USTA has selected Loveland's **Rebecca Weissman** to participate in the USTA Player Development Camp, June 22-24, at the USTA Training Center in Boca Raton, Florida. USTA National Coach, Richard Ashby will be conducting the training camp for players born in 1997. Daily fitness training will be provided by Strength and Conditioning Coach, Satoshi Ochi.

USTA National Championships Redux

Colorado Tennis Hall of Famer, **Roald Flater** of Evergreen, earned another Gold Ball by capturing the USTA National Indoor Championships (M80s), in Vancouver, WA. The top seed, Flater defeated Fort Collins' Gene Wilken in the semifinals, then beat William Davis of Palm Springs, CA, in the final, 6-4,2-6,6-2. He narrowly missed out on a double-gold, losing in the doubles final (with partner Jack Graham of California).

Rita Price nearly earned another finals appearance at the USTA National Hardcourt Championships (W80s), but she couldn't quite keep up with top-seeded Louise Russ. Price overpowered un-seeded Elizabeth Harper 6-0,6-4 to claim third place and a Bronze Ball.

Georgia Granger turned some heads at the USTA National Hardcourt Championships (W75s) at the Midtown Tennis Club in Overland Park, KS. The Fort Collins resident upset No. 3 seed Mary John Lynch in three sets, then took on the No. 2 seed in the semifinals. Although she lost, she did bring home a Bronze Ball by defeating fourth-seeded Margaret Canby, 6-2,2-6,6-2 in the consolation match.

Dennis Fulgenzi of Windsor made a strong showing at the USTA National Men's 40s Hardcourt Championships in Park City, UT. Unseeded, Fulgenzi lost early but worked hard in the back draw, winning six consecutive matches to reach the consolation finals, before falling to top-seed Curtis Dunn in three sets. In the doubles draw, Fulgenzi partnered with his brother to capture the consolation final.

Denver's **Christian Thurstone** overcame a tough second round loss to the No. 3 seed to battle back in the consolation draw at the USTA National Men's 35 Hardcourt Championships in Scottsdale, AZ. Thurstone won five matches in a row before getting clipped by seventh-seeded Mark Palus 6-4,4-6,6-2.

Boulder couple win Prince Demo Promotion

James and Timolyn Esson of Boulder won an all-expense paid trip to the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy through the Prince *Wanna Go to Wimbledon* Demo Promotion. The couple registered for the prize at the Prince Demo event held by Gonzo Tennis last summer. The pair enjoyed several days of tennis instruction at the world famous Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy in mid-April, and received a gift pack of Prince equipment, apparel, footwear, racquets, strings and racquet bags. In case you're wondering, Timolyn chose the O3 Hybrid Hornet and James chose the O3 Speedport Black as their weapons of choice.

Junction's Elliott honored by parks group

Longtime Grand Valley tennis supporter **Lena Elliott** was honored for her contributions during the 2009 Midwest Region Parks and Recreation Conference in Grand Junction with the Individual Citation Award, an honor presented to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the park, recreation and conservation movements. Lena and her husband, Carter, are members of the inaugural class of the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame, and the tennis courts at Mesa State College are named after them.

Meadow Creek, Memorial Park recognized as Top-50 TWCs

Two Colorado facilities have been named among the "Top 50 Tennis Welcome Centers of 2008" by the Tennis Industry Association, USTA and the trade magazine *Racquet Sports Industry*. **Meadow Creek Tennis and Fitness** in Lakewood and **Memorial Park Tennis Center** in Colorado Springs were recognized for their efforts to lead the charge in the growth of the sport by providing well-rounded programs to new and current players of all ages and abilities. A joint effort by the TIA and USTA to promote tennis, the Tennis Welcome Center initiative has been a key factor in tennis reaching nearly 27 million recreational players in 2008, which is the highest participation level in 15 years.

Great Education Colorado Tennis Open returns to Gates

The second annual Great Education Colorado Tennis Open returns to Gates Tennis Center on Sunday, September 20 from 4-7pm. With 18 courts of non-stop tennis action, Great Education Colorado will have something for everyone. Great Education Colorado is a

continued on next page



Serving up tennis for breakfast

Congratulations to the winners of the Senior Breakfast League 3.0/3.5 Division at Meadow Creek Tennis Club for the Winter 2008-09 session. The winning squad consisted of Jane Hastings, Tom Briner, Nancy Eicher, Dave Rich, Dianne Apperson, captain Will Burt, Gene King and Holly McDonell. The USTA Colorado Senior Breakfast League is open to all USTA members ages 55 and up. Throughout the year, various divisions play at several tennis facilities around the metro area. The league emphasizes the fun and social aspects of the sport. New 16-week sessions run every few months: January-April, May-August, September-December. Registration begins 60 days and closes 30 days prior to the beginning of each session. For details call the USTA Colorado office at 303.695.4116.

WORLD-CLASS STAFF AND YEAR-ROUND FACILITIES

Participate in the Junior Tennis Academy, adult programs, socials and league play. Choose from affordable membership options and amenities such as:

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- Indoor 25-yard lap pool and hot tub
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* Subject to availability. 2-night minimum and 10-day advance booking required.

continued from previous page

grassroots organization focused on increasing Colorado's long-term investment in education, from preschool through college. Joining Great Ed in their mission to improve investment in public education will be several well known area tennis pros and public figures including House Speaker Terrance Carroll, State Treasurer Cary Kennedy, CBS-4 News Anchor Jim Benemann, Comedian Sam Adams and Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey. For more information, call Patty at 303/722-5901 or email patty@greateducation.org. Register at www.GREATEDUCATION.org.

ITA Summer Circuit returns to Mountain Region

Over 22,000 men and women have competed in Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) circuit events since they began in 1993. The circuit is the brainchild of Indiana head women's tennis coach Lin Loring and provides college (and junior) players the opportunity to compete in organized events virtually year round. It is made up of seven regional circuits (East, Southeast, Midwest, Central, Mountain, Southwest and West) and six of the seven regions consist of four consecutive open tournaments played during the month of July, leading up to the August 8-12 ITA National Summer Championships in Bloomington, Indiana. New in 2008 were two extra circuit events in the state of Colorado, with a third added in 2009.

- #1 July 4-6 Air Force Academy
- #2 July 11-13 University of Colorado
- #3 July 18-20 University of Denver

Go to ITATENNIS.com for registration information. Follow all the collegiate tennis action at COLLEGETENNISONLINE.com.

Top-flight tennis action making a return to Mile High City

The dates are set for another year of top-flight tennis action, as some of the nation's best players battle it out at Colorado Athletic Club Inverness in Englewood for the \$25,000 prize money at the Safeway Foundation Men's Open, July 13-19, TL# 257232609.

Last year, it was South African Raven Klaasen upsetting former Roland Garros semifinalist Michael Russell and taking the \$8,000 winner's check. Local duo Lewis Miller and Willie Dann surprised everyone, including the top seeds, to capture the doubles championship and the \$4,000 prize money. Don't miss out on any of the action. For information or questions, please contact Cory Ross: cmross8@gmail.com or 720/989-6831.

Meadow Creek will host USPTA Certification Exam

Colorado tennis players interested in earning a United States Professional Tennis Association certification are invited to take part in the USPTA exam on Sunday, August 2 at Meadow Creek Tennis and Fitness in Lakewood.

The Certification Exam includes an on-court evaluation of tennis strokes and playing skills, stroke and grip analysis, private and group lesson instruction, and other skills needed in the tennis-teaching profession. The exam also includes a two-hour written test covering teaching, playing and business management skills, rules, club activity programming and other topics. Applicants can now opt to take the written exam and the grip exam online after completing the on-court portions of the certification exam. Contact USPTA at 800/877-8248 or email membership@uspta.org to register for an upcoming exam, or for further details. Advance



CAUTION: EXTREMELY SHORT SHORTS AHEAD

Colorado Tennis Juniors of the 70s, unite!

Ever wonder what's become of your old doubles partner, or that guy who beat you in the finals of the state tournament? Stop sifting through 30+ year-old photos of junior tournaments and join us for a reunion of Colorado junior players from the 1970s. Players from that era (high school graduates between 1970-80) are encouraged to attend a dinner buffet in Lakewood, slated for Friday, July 17. There is also an optional gathering the following day in the metro area, site TBD. Please contact Stacy Reily Pardue (stacypardue@earthlink.net) to put your name on the invitation list. Reunion committee members include Stacy Reily Pardue, Bonnie Benson Zeller, Ken Mason, Jimmy Miller and Fritz Garger. To view the invitation list and help locate players to go: <http://sites.google.com/site/tennisinvite09/Home>.

registration is required. The total fee for the exam and application is \$175, plus prorated USPTA membership dues.

In The Tennis Zone back for second year, now runs two hours

USTA Colorado is excited to again partner with one of the nation's only all-tennis radio shows, *In The Tennis Zone with Andy Zodin*. The now two-hour-long program airs each Sunday, 7-9pm on AM1510, Mile High Sports Radio, with a re-airing of the broadcast on Tuesday mornings, 10am-12pm. Last year, Andy interviewed the likes of Martina Navratilova, Billie Jean King, the Bryan Brothers, Patrick McEnroe, Nick Bolletieri and many more. Don't miss another incredible year of insight from the greatest tennis minds in the business hashing it out with local tennis pro Andy Zodin, plus coverage of local events, newsmakers and players making a splash in our own tennis community. Sign up for BLAST! at COLORADOTENNIS.com and get a schedule for upcoming shows. You can also download past shows at TENNISZONE1510.com or on iTunes.

Meanwhile, back at The Ranch...

Thanks to all the players who participated in the 2009 Ranch Country Club Shootout and Roundup, and the ITA Memorial Day Circuit.



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The Ranch
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USTA unveils new NJTL name and logo

The National Junior Tennis League will be re-branded as the National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) network, the USTA announced. With the new name and logo, the 40-year-old network of community tennis associations will continue its mission of developing the character of young people through tennis and education.

The re-brand will heighten awareness of NJTL initiatives and will also broaden the public's understanding of the mission to instill in youngsters the values exemplified by Arthur Ashe throughout his life – humanitarianism, leadership, and academic excellence.

Carnelian racquet line launches in Denver

Demanding Colorado players who are seeking to step outside the lines offered by traditional racquet manufacturers have a new option to consider, as Carnelian Tennis has entered the market with the introduction of its first tennis racquet into the industry. The Carnelian Pro Tour Racquet was intentionally designed to be a blend of several top of the line racquets by other manufacturers. A new company dedicated to giving back to the community as it grows, Carnelian Tennis will be a sponsor of the Special Olympics here in Denver, as well as a sponsor for an after-school program for abused kids in Charlotte. Carnelian will also be participating in the Racquets for All program offered by the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation. Stop by Gates Tennis Center or Colorado Athletic Club to demo one today.

Tournament updates

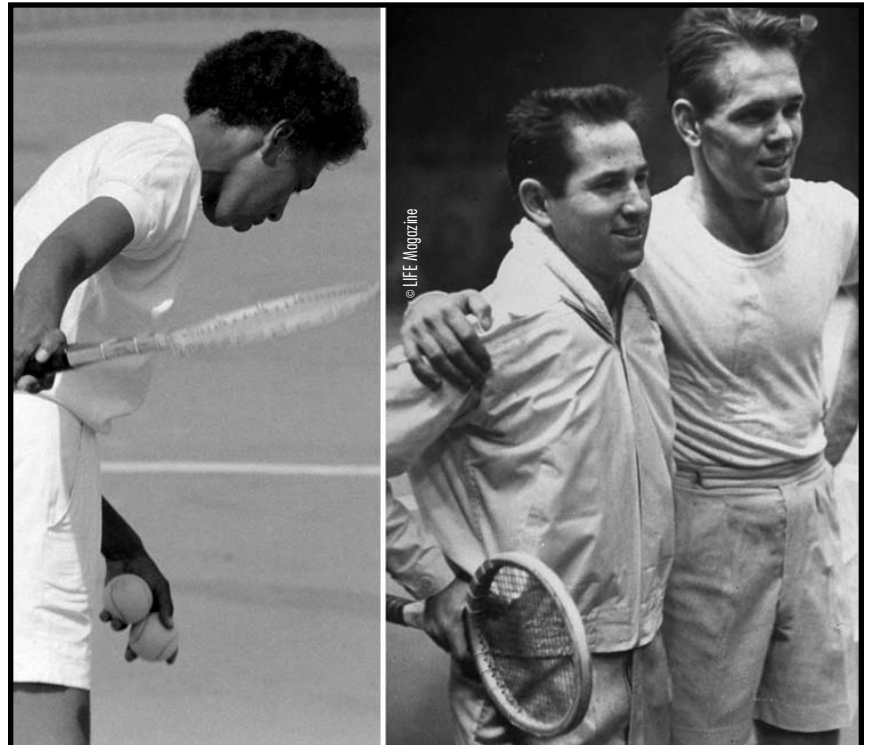
The dates for the **Aurora Labor Day NTRP** have been changed to September 2-7. TennisLink #257221209. Entry deadline is now 8/26.

The **Ned Cooney Memorial Day Meadows Club Open** also has new dates. The correct dates for the tournament are August 28-September 4. TennisLink #257221809. Entry deadline is 8/21.

The **33rd Annual Ted Swenson Super Senior Tournament** has a new home. This year's tournament will be held at Pinehurst Country Club. The dates of the tournament will be August 10-15, TennisLink #257232809. Entry deadline is August 2. David Ray will be the new tournament director and you can contact him at 303/985-3240 with questions.

Never miss another deadline

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



Three of tennis' all-time greats, Althea Gibson (left), Bobby Riggs (center) and Jack Kramer are past champions at the Colorado State Open, celebrating its 115th anniversary this year.

State Open celebrating former champions with a bash

Played by many, but won by few. All past winners of the Colorado State Open are being recognized this year at a Champions' Party. Past champions from all divisions are invited to this fun night, Thursday, September 17 from 6-9pm, to relive their glory days. The champions will receive the red carpet treatment on this night, dining on fine hors d'oeuvres and champagne. If you are a past champion please contact the Gates Tennis Center, 303/355-4461.

Colorado State Open

September 11 – 20, 2009



4 EXCITING NEW FEATURES FOR 2009

"Tennis for Kids" Day

Fun FREE Day for Kids

Champions Party

Past Champions Reunion

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New Prize Money Event



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FAMILY FUN & FITNESS IS THE FOCUS AT TENNIS MONTH FESTIVITIES

MAY IS NATIONAL TENNIS MONTH, FILLED WITH TENNIS FESTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY. IN CASE YOU MISSED IT, HERE ARE A FEW SHOTS OF THE ACTION.

WTT/QuickStart Demo Day

On Saturday, May 16, USTA Colorado hosted a World Team Tennis/QuickStart Tennis Day. Players enjoyed a great day of quality tennis and a chance to compete in the WTT format. We would like to offer a special thank you to WTT Kansas City Explorers head coach Brent Haygarth and former top-40 WTA star Tara Snyder for making this a truly unforgettable event, and for sharing their insights on the world of professional and competitive tennis.

But it wasn't just a day for the grown-ups, as more than 40 kids (under 10) took the courts to try out the latest tennis format, QuickStart Tennis (see pages 22-23). Local tennis pro and USTA Intermountain Section President Frank Adams led a presentation of the format to parents while the kids got an up close look at why QuickStart is the new way to play for kids 10 and under.

TENNIS SCENES FROM MONTH



USTA COLORADO QUICKSTART TENNIS DEMO



WTT Coach Brent Haygarth (left) and USTA Colorado Executive Director Fritz Garger were rival coaches during the WTT Exhibition.



Former ATP pro and Colorado Tennis Hall of Famer Jeff Salzenstein lended his coaching skills for the 3.0 ladies.



USTA COLORADO QUICKSTART TENNIS DEMO



FRASIER VALLEY
TENNIS BLOCK PARTY

Rockin' the Block

Communities around the state got their groove on this May with Tennis Block Parties, free tennis extravaganzas that help introduce the sport to new players and welcome back those who left.

Especially popular this year were Block Parties showcasing the all-new QuickStart Tennis format, as well as opportunities to help players find information about tennis programming in their community.



WOODMOOR PINES
TENNIS BLOCK PARTY



USTA COLORADO
QUICKSTART TENNIS DEMO



DENVER CITY PARK
TENNIS BLOCK PARTY



USTA COLORADO
CINCO DE MAYO-BLOCK PARTY



USTA COLORADO
QUICKSTART TENNIS DEMO

atplay

TAKING CENTER STAGE

DIVERSITY TENNISFEST HIGHLIGHTS
ART, CULTURE AND TENNIS THROUGH-
OUT SUMMER

Diversity in Tennis Celebration

USTA Colorado celebrated Tennis Month in style with a weekend of memorable and fun tennis activities. The celebration began on Friday night, May 15, with the Third Annual Diversity in Tennis Celebration at Gates Tennis Center. The Diversity in Tennis Celebration was held in conjunction with the Cherry Creek Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours, and more than 250 people came out to celebrate USTA Colorado's commitment to diversity. Leaders from the Colorado Black Chamber, Denver Hispanic Chamber, Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber, Colorado Women's Chamber, and Colorado Asian Chamber of Commerce joined business leaders and representatives from the tennis community to help USTA Colorado in its mission to develop and promote tennis across the state. This event was a concerted effort to build relationships with the goal of extended outreach and inclusivity. Guests enjoyed an evening of networking, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, live music and tennis exhibitions.



By marrying arts and culture with athletics, participants will have access to community resources and information about various tennis programs offered throughout the city. In addition, festival goers will be able to participate in a healthy family activity in a fun festive environment while learning the benefits of the great, life-long sport of tennis.

Partnering with Denver Parks and Recreation, a variety of tennis activities will be conducted including QuickStart Tennis, a new learning format for kids 10 and under. New players are encouraged to come out and participate in free tennis instruction and games for all ages and abilities. An Adult Tennis Social for more experienced players will take place at the Denver Black Arts Festival (DBAF). The fee for the social is \$10, and includes drills, food and social competition.

The Celebrating Diversity TennisFest Series was first featured at last year's DBAF. "The tennis activity at the booth in the past was always a hit – especially with the kids – and by taking the activities over to the tennis courts, our festival attendees had the opportunity to enhance their overall experience with a healthy, family activity," said Michael Wilhite, DBAF Chairman and Production Manager.

The TennisFest Series looks to expand on its past success by reaching out to a whole new generation of tennis players by participating at the Black Arts and Dragon Boat Festivals. "We are excited to celebrate the various cultural backgrounds represented in Colorado by serving the communities we live in," says Paula McClain, USTA Colorado Marketing and Diversity Director.

For more information, see the ad on page 10 or visit COLORADOTENNIS.com.



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY TENNISFEST SERIES

DENVER BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL
Saturday, July 11, 10am-4pm
City Park Tennis Courts

COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL:
Saturday, July 25, 10am-4pm
Sloan's Lake North Tennis Courts
Sorry, no parking allowed at courts.

USTA Colorado to host the Celebrating Diversity TennisFest Series

Tennis, Art and Culture at Denver Black Arts and Colorado Dragon Boat Festivals

In conjunction with the Denver Black Arts Festival on July 11 and the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, on July 25, USTA Colorado will host the **Celebrating Diversity TennisFest Series**.

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spotlight

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS EVENTS HIGHLIGHT SUMMER SEASON

IN ADDITION TO THE ASSORTMENT OF RETURNING WHEELCHAIR TOURNAMENTS THIS SUMMER, COLORADO WILL PLAY HOST TO SEVERAL NEW EVENTS THAT WILL HELP PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE FASTEST GROWING WHEELCHAIR SPORT.

Wheelchair tennis isn't like other sports where able-bodied players and disabled players essentially play two different games. Quite the opposite, in fact. Chair players are expected to play by the exact same rules as their able-bodied partners, with only one exception: chair players are entitled to two bounces of the ball.

Which is why wheelchair tennis has grown so rapidly in the United States. Not only can chair players enjoy competitive matches against able-bodied players, but they can spend quality time with their peers and their families, helping to lead to a normalization of life after sustaining a disabling injury.

But the sport is challenging. Not only must players master the game of tennis, they have to learn to master their wheelchair, hone their maneuverability and improve their speed. This is why USTA Intermountain, USTA Colorado and the Colorado Wheelchair Tennis Foundation are co-hosting a clinic for wheelchair athletes this summer.

2009 USTA Intermountain Section Wheelchair Tennis Instructors' Clinic, Player Camp and Up-Down Tournament

The USTA Intermountain Section, in conjunction with USTA Colorado and the Colorado Wheelchair Tennis Foundation, is extremely pleased to host a Wheelchair Tennis Instructor's Clinic, Player Camp and One-up One-down Tournament at the Ken Caryl Ranch House in Littleton, CO. Trained wheelchair teaching professionals, Frank Adams (PTR) and Rich Berman (PTR), will lead the instruction throughout the weekend of August 21-23.

The instructor's clinic will take place from 9am-1pm on Friday, August 21. Teaching professionals, seasonal instructors, coaches and anybody interested in getting more involved will learn how to teach wheelchair tennis in the areas of mobility, stroke progression, specialty shots and strategy as well as adapting drills and integrating chair players with able-bodied players. Participants are encouraged to stay throughout the afternoon Friday and assist on



Saturday at the player camp to apply the lessons learned during the clinic.

The camp on Friday and Saturday is open to players of all ages and ability-levels – from absolute novices to those who have been playing in national and international tournaments. A One-Up One-Down social will conclude the Saturday activities in a relaxed atmosphere. All are invited to the camp, but space is limited so register early.

The weekend will finish up with a One-Up One-Down tournament on Sunday – a fun and exciting way for a chair player and able-bodied player to join forces and compete. Teams will have the choice to battle it out in a competitive or a recreational level draw. Able-bodied players will be needed for the One-Up One-Down aspects of the camp to partner with chair players in attendance.

Players can participate in any aspect of the three-day clinic, camp and tournament. More details and registration, including hotel information and costs, will be available at INTERMOUNTAIN.USTA.com (click on [WHEELCHAIR](#)) For questions, contact Patricia Chien at USTA Intermountain (pchien@ita.usta.com, 303/695-4117 x223) or Kristy Harris at USTA Colorado (kristy@coloradotennis.com, 303/695-4116 x300).

RM Wheelchair Open

The 2nd Annual Rocky Mountain Wheelchair Open will be held at Gates Tennis Center in Denver, July 10-12 (Enter online at USTA.com, TennisLink #257230809), \$10/player per event. The Colorado Wheelchair Tennis Foundation's unwavering goal is to make this

tournament the crown jewel of wheelchair tennis tournaments in the Intermountain Section of the US and beyond. Contact tournament director Alex Davydov, davy1224@yahoo.com for information.

Colorado Clinic For Junior Players July 10th in Denver

As a part of the Rocky Mountain Wheelchair Open tennis weekend, July 10-12, the Colorado Wheelchair Tennis Foundation will kick off the second annual event with an instructional tennis clinic for junior wheelchair players. The clinic will be held July 10, 3pm-4:30pm at Gates Tennis Center. Participants are invited to stay and watch the first round of the adult tournament beginning at 5pm. All levels of players are encouraged to attend. Help us spread the word to all junior disabled athletes, parents or organizations that assist with kids living with disabilities. RSVP by email: cwtfdirector@gmail.com.

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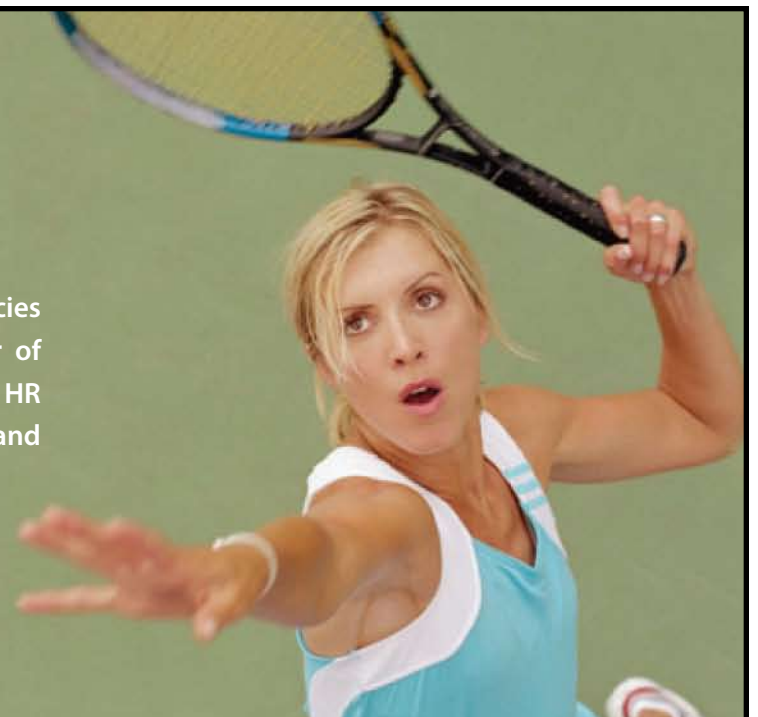
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www.peliton.net



spotlight

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE COLORADO YOUTH TENNIS FOUNDATION

The Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation raises money through our two premier events – the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala and the ever-popular Punk Relic Charity Tournament, as well as through donations from foundations, corporations and individuals.

In 2009, the CYTF's goal is to raise \$15,000 in individual gifts to help us provide tennis opportunities to kids in need across Colorado. Please help us reach our goal by

making a tax deductible gift today. Your dollars will go a long way in making sure that all kids who have an interest have a chance to play tennis.

To make a gift – big or small, visit our website at COLORADOTENNIS.com and click on the CYTF logo. Your gift will be acknowledged in the next issue of Colorado Tennis newspaper.

If you are aware of corporations who might be interested in sponsoring one of our events please contact us at 303/695-4116 x 201.

ADULT LEAGUE PLAYERS WANTED

Last year, more than 27,000 players competed in the adult leagues throughout Colorado. If each one made a small gift of \$10 (the cost of just two venti lattes or one glass of nice chardonnay), the CYTF could invest more than a quarter million dollars back into the tennis community, helping juniors across the state join the game.

Now just imagine if every league player gave a bit more....

Help us save the world, one player at a time. Please donate to the CYTF. There's a child counting on your help.

WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

Thank you to the following donors who have supported the CYTF in 2009:

In memory of Colorado Tennis Hall of Famer, Carolyn Roberts Byrne.

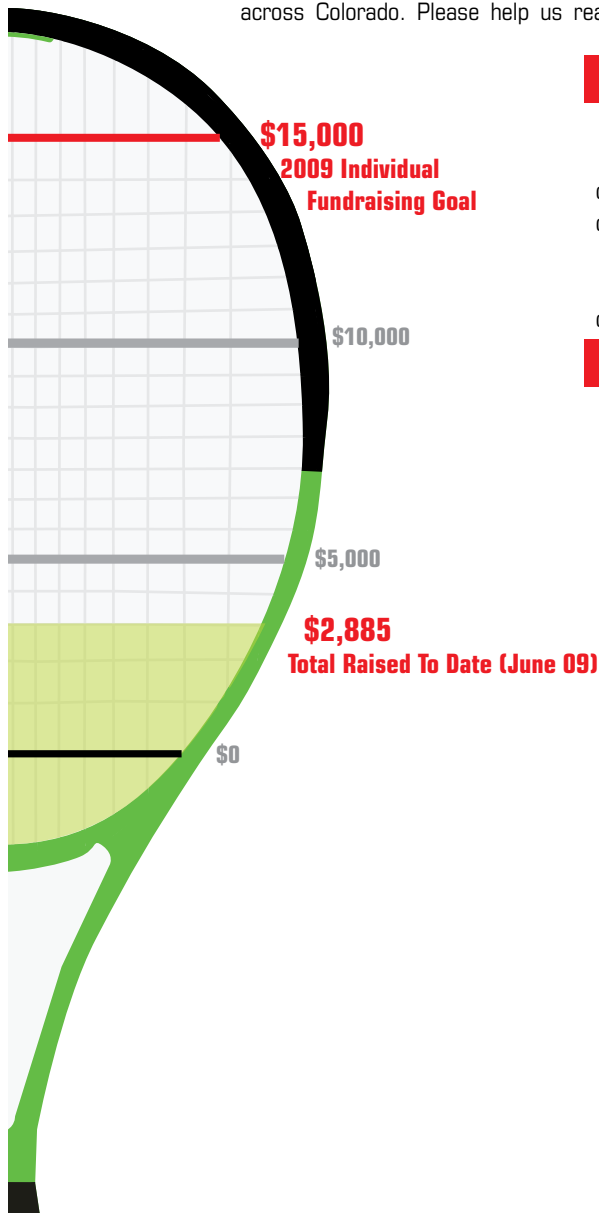
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Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation seeks volunteers

Are you passionate about kids and tennis? Are you interested in making a difference in the lives of children? If so, the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation is looking for you. The CYTF is a fundraising arm of USTA Colorado. Its mission is simple, yet important – to provide tennis opportunities to kids in need across the state. The CYTF is currently seeking volunteers in the following areas:

Development Committee This group raises money through corporate, foundation and individual asking.

Punk Relic Charity Tournament Committee The 2009 adult/junior combined tournament will be held on August 23. Volunteers are needed in the areas of event promotion and marketing, sponsorship acquisition and fundraising.

Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Committee The 2010 Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala will be held early next year. Volunteers are needed in the areas of promotions and marketing, sponsorship acquisition, fundraising, logistics and auction management.

Racquets For All Committee Volunteers are needed to assist with racquet collection and distribution efforts throughout the state.

If you have an interest, call our offices at 303/695-4116 x 201 and get involved. Visit our website to learn more at COLORADOTENNIS.com or email lisa@coloradotennis.com.

WE'RE CHANGING
THE WORLD.

ONE PLAYER AT A TIME.

The CYTF recently held its first of two disbursement committee meetings of 2009 to review a record number of special need scholarship and program grant applications. Although many of the needs were met there were many others that were not. The demand was simply too great to meet the need. All in all, 17 programs and 22 individuals were granted CYTF dollars. Scholarship awards are confidential, however here's a small sampling of the programs that received funding.

The Brighton High School Summer Tennis program will use CYTF dollars to deliver quality tennis instruction to under-served kids in the community who show an interest and proficiency in tennis.

Students at Holmes Middle School in Colorado Springs are exposed to tennis in their physical education classes. Because of the CYTF grant, about 60 less fortunate and high-risk students will be given the opportunity to participate in the school's intramural tennis program.

Mesa County Tennis Program will use funds to expand their instructor base and purchase much needed equipment to provide tennis instruction to 280 under-served kids in the community.

The Mitchell Tennis Club Summer Program will give interested students of Cole Arts & Science Academy the opportunity to participate in their summer tennis program. Over 83% of Cole's student population is on a free or reduced lunch program, and kids are currently being exposed to tennis both in and after school.

With a CYTF grant, the Town of Parker will expand their tennis program – specifically incorporating QuickStart Tennis – to reach over 300 youngsters at the Railbender Park Tennis Center.

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

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10th Annual

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juniorrec

PREPPY IS IN

STUDENT ATHLETES TAKE CENTER STAGE IN THE SPRING

STAFF REPORT



From left to right:

Ben Frymier (8th grade, Level 2, Summit Ridge MS) Justina Rameriz (7th, Level 3, Summit Ridge) Nick Bigger (6th grade, Level 2, Westridge Elem) Adam Weiss (8th, Level 1, Dunstan MS) Dewitt Davis (6th, Level 1, Westridge Elem) Kelly John (7th, Level 2, D'Evelyn MS) Morgan Bullen (6th, Level 3, Home schooled) Breanna Krushensky (7th, Level 3, Summit Ridge MS)

Jeffco Middle School League finishes season in style

The Jeffco Middle School Tennis league ended their spring season with a tournament and potluck at Clement Park, May 29-30. The 54 participants – 6th, 7th and 8th graders of various levels of ability – and their families enjoyed perfect tennis weather. The middle school league is open to all middle school students and runs for six weeks in the fall and again in the spring. Participating middle schools include D'Evelyn, Summit Ridge, Ken-Caryl, Dunstan, and Creighton, along with sixth graders from surrounding elementary schools. For more information, contact Janna Albers at 303/979-9027. ☺

Cherry Creek High School continues dominance in 5A, Cheyenne Mountain returns to prominence in 4A

The more things change, the more they stay the same in girls' high school tennis. Cherry Creek High School wrapped up its 27th overall state tennis championship, their 13th in a row, and Cheyenne Mountain bounced back from last year's disappointing finish to claim their 14th overall state title. But the big news came at the No. 1 singles spots, where Poudre's Natalie Dunn avenged a semifinals drubbing she suffered last year to 5A champion Caroline Schnell by dominating the Bruins junior 6-2,6-0. In 4A action, Sammie Watson (Kent Denver) lost the first three games of the championship match to Colorado Academy's Jessica Mozia before running off 12-straight games to win her second consecutive 4A singles title. Watson is bidding to become just the fourth player in Colorado history to win four singles titles at the No. 1 position (Becky Varnum, Alicia Salas and Nicole Leimbach).

CLASS 5A: Team scores — Cherry Creek (CC) 71, Ponderosa 49, Chatfield 37, Grand Junction 33, Pine Creek 16, Poudre 16, Ralston Valley 16, Cherokee Trail 11, Boulder 9, Fort Collins 9, Heritage 8, Arapahoe 6, Fairview 6, Air Academy 2, Doherty 2, East 2, Fruita Monument 2, Rocky Mountain 2, Mountain Vista 1, Palmer 1, Rampart 1, Grandview 0, Green Mountain 0, Legacy 0, Smoky Hill 0, ThunderRidge 0. **5A Championship matches** — No. 1 singles: Natalie Dunn, Poudre, d. Caroline Schnell, CC, 6-2,6-0. No. 2 singles: Brittany Warly, CC, d. Jenny Jessup, Grand Junction, 6-2,6-1. No. 3 singles: Kaley Carmichael, Ponderosa, d. Keiko Kasho, CC, 6-4,6-1. No. 1 doubles: Stephanie McCauley-Caitlyn Shafner, CC, d. Sara Palmer-Sarah Layman, Chatfield, 6-3,6-2. No. 2 doubles: Gina D'Silva-Jamie Pledger, Pine Creek, d. Molly Reynolds-Kimberly Arfsten, Chatfield, 6-3,4-6,6-4. No. 3 doubles: Emmie Madison-Alex Proietti, Grand Junction, d. Caroline Warly-Alexa Warly, CC, 6-2,6-1. No. 4 doubles: Krysta Zayac-Lauren Broyhill, CC, d. Madeline Mathis-Ashley Blaylock, Heritage, 3-6,6-2,6-3. **CLASS 4A:** Team scores — Cheyenne Mountain (CM) 69, Fossil Ridge 38, Regis 31, Greeley West 30, Mullen 22, Fountain Valley 21, Kent Denver 18, Steamboat Springs 17, Niwot 17, Colorado Academy 16, Pueblo South 5, Pueblo Centennial 2, Thompson Valley 2, Wheat Ridge 2, Longmont 2, Lewis-Palmer 2, Montrose 2, Alexander Dawson 1, D'Evelyn 1, Pueblo West 1, Widefield 1. **4A Championship matches** — No. 1 singles: Sammie Watson, Kent Denver, d. Jessica Mozia, Colorado Academy, 6-3,6-0. No. 2 singles: Molly Joyce, Niwot, d. Genevieve Tarlton, Regis, 1-6,6-1,7-5. No. 3 singles: Emily Venner, CM, d. Catherine Arend, Mullen, 6-7(5),6-3,6-3. No. 1 doubles: Kylee Swiggart-Sara Bearss, Steamboat Springs, d. Alyson Waloch-Alex Lehnert, Greeley West, 5-7,7-5,6-3. No. 2 doubles: Kristen Sullivan-Katie Stagnard, CM, d. Carmen Whitehead-Isebeau Tallon, Greeley West, 3-6,6-3,6-4. No. 3 doubles: Frances Adams-Katie Boe, CM, d. Amy Sanderman-Elana Staroselsky, Fossil Ridge, 7-5,1-6,6-2. No. 4 doubles: Kristen Lux-Anne Elder, CM, d. Sarah Brown-Lea Johnson, Fossil Ridge, 6-1,4-6,7-6 (2).

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spotlight

MAKING THE MOST OF A SECOND CHANCE

BRITTAN SUTPHIN IS DESPERATE TO MAKE SURE THAT AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS ARE IN EVERY SCHOOL AND ATHLETIC FACILITY IN THE STATE. AFTER ALL, HER LIFE WAS SAVED BY ONE.

For this active and enthusiastic teenager, a good day was getting to play tennis and working to maintain her 4.3 GPA at Wheat Ridge High School. That changed one day in December 2008 when Brittan Sutphin was swimming laps during her swim team practice at Wheat Ridge Recreation Center. This was a new sport for Brittan which had proven successful during the season. She is a nationally ranked tennis player who decided, at the encouragement of her friends, to try swimming given her competitive nature.

During a routine swim team practice, Brittan had a seizure in the pool. One of her teammates quickly realized that Brittan wasn't just fooling around and pulled her from the pool. A lifeguard used CPR to try to revive her, but that didn't work. Fortunately one of the guards retrieved the recreation center's Automated External Defibrillator (AED) that is accessible for these types of emergencies. The AED and the training that this lifeguard had received about using the device saved Brittan's life.

According to the American Heart Association more than 250,000 Americans die each year from sudden cardiac arrest, the most common being ventricular fibrillation (VF) in which the heart beats in a chaotic and irregular manner. Death follows within ten minutes of this occurring. Defibrillation, which is providing an electrical shock to restore a heart to its normal rhythm, is the only therapy for VF. A person's chance of surviving VF decreases by 7-10% for every minute which passes without defibrillation after the episode begins.

This means that AEDs need to be accessible in order to save lives. The American Heart Association estimates that with widespread availability of AEDs, 50,000 lives in America alone could be saved each year. Congress has promised to help fund public access to AEDs but awareness about the importance of the devices and education/training involved in using one, continues to be key.

Brittan shares, "I have always been very active. Looking back the connections I can make to this is that I had a seizure a couple of years ago, and for about a year prior to this, I would feel dizzy after doing sprints during practices and have occasional migraine headaches. Then I fainted in September of 2008 and had many tests run to see what might be the cause. All tests came back normal. I was originally treated with mild hormones which did help a little bit to combat the dizziness and migraines."

Following Brittan's episode in the pool, she underwent surgery in January 2009 in LaJolla, California to have an internal defibrillator positioned in her body. At the end of March, that defibrillator had to be removed because it proved to be defective. The doctors did not put in another defibrillator as they had planned because a vein clotted, causing complications. Now Brittan and her family await the results of some genetic testing to determine the actual cause of her heart's problem. This will decide their next course of action for treatment.

It is impressive to note that Brittan has recovered beautifully and is back playing tennis regularly. Additionally, during her recovery in these past six months, Brittan has not only endured multiple surgeries and plenty of doctor visits alongside championing her school work, she has rallied her tennis playing and high school communities in support of spreading awareness for the importance of AEDs on-site at parks and recreation centers and at schools. She has done this by way of a fundraiser she developed utilizing the game of tennis.

Brittan had Wheat Ridge High School and other schools in the Denver Metro area use pledge forms to promote the AED cause during the girls' high school tennis season. For every game a player won, people would pledge money. Some schools made flat out donations too. Cherry Creek High School made a \$500 donation. She even had a booth at the Girls' 4A and 5A State Championships to promote her cause and collect donations.

Her goals are focused on creating more fundraisers, which will include the Wheat Ridge High School boys' high school tennis season in the fall and the Wheat Ridge High School

LINDA SARGENT WEGNER

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Wheat Ridge High School junior Brittan Sutphin's life was saved by an automated external defibrillator, or AED, after she suffered a seizure while swimming last December. Sutphin is campaigning to raise money and awareness for the Daniel J. Lunger Memorial Fund. The fund purchases and donates AED devices to schools and sporting venues.

photo courtesy of Brittan Sutphin



swim team during their season, and ultimately bring greater AED awareness, education and training to public facilities and schools. Education about AEDs could even include the video that was captured of Brittan's incident in the pool, showing that the lifeguard who gave her CPR was unsuccessful, but that the AED saved her life. She would also like to see more attention given to the subject in newspapers and on radio.

All in all, Brittan's spring fundraising endeavors garnered between \$1,500-\$2,000. That's enough to purchase one AED and provide education and training to the recipient. The money collected goes to the Daniel J. Lunger Memorial Fund, DANSFUND.org. Lunger was an energetic Colorado high school student and athlete who died in 2006 of sudden cardiac arrest. This fund was established to buy AEDs for Jefferson County schools and pools.

Another organization Brittan is working with is Kick Start My Heart, KICKSTARTMYHEART.org. Its mission is to "provide Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), emergency training and cardiovascular wellness education at local schools and sports facilities, specifically to benefit in the event of traumatic heart conditions." To place an AED with essential accessories and complete educational training, costs approximately \$1,900-2,400. Kick Start My Heart has raised over \$85,000 and placed 41 AEDs all over Colorado, including Boulder, Castle Rock, Denver, Colorado Springs, Windsor, Pueblo and many places in between.

Working in conjunction with The Daniel Lunger Fund and Kick Start My Heart, Brittan hopes to make an impact. "I am surprised by all of the community support we have received toward our fundraising in such a short period of time. I realize that I can deal with more than I thought I could, and I want to make a difference moving forward," says Brittan. ☺


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quickstart tennis

Learn more about the new way to play for kids 10 and under at QUICKSTARTTENNIS.com.



Today, kids have more options than ever for what to do with their free time. Tennis no longer has to compete with other traditional sports alone. The marketplace in the sporting world has continued to grow exponentially with the rise of "extreme" and other non-traditional sports. And, of course, in addition to athletics, tennis goes head-to-head with technology – including computers, the internet, video games, and iPods.

Tennis is just one sport that can get children physically fit (as it works out the arms, legs and cardiovascular), but tennis is also a sport that has psychological benefits to go with it.

Studies have indicated that those taking part in sports activities on a regular basis showed an increase in academic performance and memory. Scientists at the University of Illinois found that tennis might actually generate new connections between

the nerves in the brain, due to the sport's requirement of alertness and tactical thinking.

The vast array of play choices for children means that tennis has to be – more than ever before – especially accessible, fun and easy to play. To get children into the game and to keep them playing, there needs to be a fast and fun way for them to get started.

AT A GLANCE: QUICKSTART TENNIS

QuickStart Tennis is an exciting new play format for learning tennis, designed to bring kids into the game by utilizing specialized equipment, shorter court dimensions and modified scoring, all tailored to age and size. It is divided into two different levels – ages 8 and under and ages 10 and under. It's the fast, fun way to get kids into tennis – and keep them playing.

GETTING STARTED: EQUIPMENT

Racquets: For players to succeed at tennis, racquet control is essential. Kids need racquets that are proportionate in length and

weight and have a grip that fits their smaller hands. Racquets are downsized in order to facilitate easy learning and fun, from a 19" to a full sized 27" racquet.

Balls: Kids need a ball that's sized and paced to their playing abilities. A regulation tennis ball moves too fast, bounces too high and is too heavy for their smaller racquet. Each age group, therefore, uses a ball better suited to their size and unique playing ability – an oversized foam ball for the younger, less experienced kids, and a pressureless ball for players who have a bit more experience.

Courts: Instead of having kids run around a full-sized tennis court, QuickStart scales the playing surface down to a more manageable size to help maximize the players' enjoyment and skill development: a 36'x18' for the 8 and unders who find it easier to sustain a rally and develop angles at a much earlier age; and a 60'x21' court (60'x27' doubles) for the 10s, which effectively cuts in half the amount of court a developing player has to cover.

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INTRODUCING:**QUICKSTART TOURNAMENTS**

Kids have more fun with QuickStart than with other approaches to the game because it is real tennis. Instead of pulling at the grass while waiting their turn to hit balls, kids are on the court in an actual match. Real tennis means real competition, and competition means tournaments. QuickStart events don't crown champions or establish rankings, they help kids learn strategy and tactics by actually playing matches. The more matches kids play, the more they learn about the game.

IT'S TIME TO PLAY

USTA Colorado is working with several local facilities to promote the all-new format in tournament play for 2009. This is the first time QuickStart events have appeared in the Colorado Tennis Sanctioned Tournament Schedule.

A USTA membership is not required to participate in Novice or QuickStart tournaments. Please note that these are one day tournaments, even the South Suburban ones, even though they list multiple days. Please contact tournament director personally to see which day the QuickStart event will run.

Additional QuickStart tournaments may be added throughout the year.

Check our tournament finder at COLORADOTENNIS.com, or look for details in upcoming issues of Colorado Tennis newspaper.

You can also register to receive BLAST!, USTA Colorado's monthly e-newsletter, which lists upcoming tournaments in each issue. Visit COLORADOTENNIS.com to sign up.

JUNE 26-28**WIMBLEDON FOR KIDS TENNIS TOURNAMENT****BG 5-7, 8-10 year old Divisions**

Drop Shots Tennis at Park Meadows, 8433 Park Meadows Center Dr. #D-149 Lone Tree, CO. 80124. \$20/player. Entries at parkmeadows@dropshotstennis.com or call 720/447-3722

JUNE 28**GREENWOOD QUICKSTART TOURNAMENT – SERIES 4****BG 9-10 year old Divisions**

Greenwood Athletic Club, 5757 S Quebec St., Greenwood Village, CO 80111. 303/771-2588. \$15/payer. Entries to Rhona Kaczmarczyk by 6/21. For entry/information call 303/771-2588. Matches will be played Sunday afternoon.

JULY 13-19**SOUTH SUBURBAN NOVICE #2/QUICKSTART – SERIES 5****BG 7-8 year old Divisions**

Holly Tennis Center, 6651 S Krameria Way, Englewood, CO 80111. 303/771-3654. Entries to Vicki Holthus by 7/6.

AUGUST 3-9**SOUTH SUBURBAN NOVICE #3/QUICKSTART – SERIES 6****BG 5-6 year old Divisions**

Holly Tennis Center, 6651 S Krameria Way, Englewood, CO 80111. 303/771-3654. Entries to Vicki Holthus by 7/28.

QUICKSTART TENNIS WITH A SCOTTISH BROGUE

Kinburn Park
Double Dykes Road,
St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland



photo courtesy of Elizabeth Wallace

QuickStart Tennis may be the new way to play for kids 10 and under here in the United States, but combining shorter courts, slower bouncing balls and tiny racquets has been a European hallmark for many years, as Heritage Eagle Bend resident Elizabeth Wallace recently discovered on her trip to St. Andrews, Scotland.

While Wallace was researching the area for her new book, she came across three mini tennis courts. Never having seen such small courts before, she took a photograph. It wasn't until she returned to Colorado and inquired further that she discovered the courts belonged to the St. Andrews Tennis Club. Wallace called the club and spoke to the head coach, Mike Aitken. He was busy with a tournament, but graciously took time to answer Wallace's questions.

"We start the kids on the mini courts with the tennis fundamentals, but we make it fun! That's important! I see mostly boys turning out on the mini courts, but there are a few girls – I just wish there were more. The kids, under 8 years of age play on a mini court approximately 12 meters by 6 meters with a serve box 3 meters x 4 meters; the court surface is porous asphalt. At this level, the kids play with a soft red felt ball with the net height in proportion to the court size. When the kids are 8 and 9 years old, they move to a court that is approximately 18 meters by 10.5 meters and use an orange ball to indicate they've mastered the fundamentals. By the time the kids are 10 years old, they use a regular, full size court, but a green ball which is softer than a standard tennis ball. We do everything we can to make tennis fun; after all, it's a game they can play for life!"

Elizabeth Wallace is a local author who has published five nonfiction books. She has just finished her first novel. For more visit: EXTRAORDINARYPLACES.net.



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USTA Colorado and Denver Parks gearing up for another season of Star Search

Star Search is a free program supported by USTA Colorado and Denver Parks and Recreation offering training outdoors every Saturday from August through October at Denver City Park. Its mission is to develop intermediate to advanced-level players and to nurture and promote tennis skills of a select group of 7-12 year old players from culturally diverse communities throughout Colorado who are already involved, committed to and have a love of the sport of tennis. It provides a platform for those culturally diverse players to excel in their tennis skills and expand their involvement in more formal competitive events and activities, ie. Junior Team Tennis, High School Tennis and Sanctioned Tournaments. From the summer group of 50 players, 16 will be selected to continue training indoors from December through April.

Tryouts for the 2009 Star Search program will be held on Saturday, August 1 from 2-4pm at Denver City Park (courts 1-6). Interested juniors must fill out an application prior to the tryout. For questions or for an application, please contact Jason Colter at USTA Colorado, 303/695-4116 x205, email jason@coloradotennis.com, or contact Tobias Ortegón, Denver Parks & Recreation Tennis Coordinator, 303/880-4102, email tobias.ortegon@denvergov.org. All applications must be received via fax (303/695-7631) or email to Jason Colter by July 20.



As a fundamental program geared toward raising the next generation of tennis stars, the USTA Colorado Star Search program continues to make significant strides in developing, nurturing and promoting the tennis skills of blossoming young talent from culturally diverse communities. Our dedicated coaching staff continues to implement a year-round program of tennis instruction for these 7-12 year olds, all at no cost to the players.

STAR SEARCH

2009 SUMMER TRYOUTS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

2-4PM

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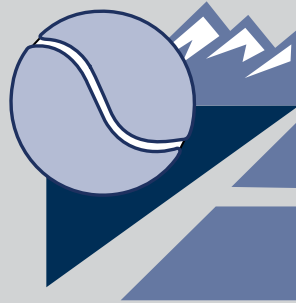
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Team Colorado wraps up season, looks ahead to 2009-10 campaign

In an effort to dramatically enhance our ability to develop talented young players, USTA Colorado added a new Development Squad to its Team Colorado junior excellence program in 2006.

Catering to the state's up and coming 12 and under players, the "Devo Squad" was created to assist in the development of younger kids who were not quite ready for Team Colorado, but whose drive, dedication and talent make them good candidates for future consideration.

In addition to the creation of the Devo Squad, Team Colorado implemented mandatory sessions for players and parents designed to incorporate the parents into the player development process. Topics included information sessions on tournaments and rankings, sportsmanship and the rules and regulations of tennis. Special guest Anne Pankhurst, USTA Director of Coaching Education, presented her view of the player development process to parents and players at one of the special sessions.



USTA INTERMOUNTAIN SUMMER SECTIONAL

Boy's 12 Singles:

David Mitchell (Castle Rock)
Champion

Boy's 14 Singles:

Hayden Sabatka (Littleton)
Runner-Up

Boy's 18 Singles:

Casey MacMaster (Fort Collins)
4th Place

Girl's 12 Singles:

Rebecca Weissmann (Fort Collins)
Champion
Samantha Martinelli (Denver)
Runner-Up

Girl's 14 Singles:

Alexa Brandt (Broomfield)
Champion
Katie Kuosman (Superior)
3rd Place

Girl's 18 Singles:

Alexandra Leatu (Littleton)
Runner-Up
Caroline Schnell (Greenwood Vllg)
3rd Place

For a complete list of results please go to TennisLink and enter tournament number 257707409.



USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS SECTIONAL QUALIFIER

July 14-16 • Gates Tennis Center

CALLING ALL JUNIOR PLAYERS!

Do you want to represent Colorado at the USTA Junior Team Tennis Sectional Championships this August? Grab some friends and register for the JTT Sectional Qualifier in Denver. All teams are co-ed (minimum 3 girls and 3 boys per squad), and all players must have a current USTA membership. The entry fee is \$29.50/person, and includes a Nike Dri-Fit Uniform. Team matches consist of: 1 boys singles, 1 girls singles, 1 boys doubles, 1 girls doubles and 1 mixed doubles match. Four divisions are offered: 14 & under Intermediate & Advanced, and 18 & under Intermediate & Advanced.

For a player to be eligible at the Sectional Championships, he or she must play at least three team matches at this three-day event. Qualifying Champions would be expected to compete at the Intermountain Junior Team Tennis Sectional Championships, held here in Denver, August 14-16.



Contact Dan Lewis/USTA Colorado
Junior Leagues Director
303/695-4116 x207 or
dan@coloradotennis.com

profiles

CELEBRATING LIVES WELL LIVED

THERE ARE MORE THAN A DOZEN MEMORIAL EVENTS IN THE COLORADO SANCTIONED TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE. WE WANTED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A FEW OF THE PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES ARE COMMEMORATED BY THESE ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS. PART 2 OF A SERIES.

For more than 30 years, the name Ted Swenson has been synonymous with tournament tennis. From its humble beginnings at Mountain Shadows in Golden in 1977, the Ted Swenson Super Senior Tournament has afforded senior tennis players the opportunity to act their age. The annual event is a living testament to its namesake, a man affectionately known as Colorado's Mr. Super Senior, who passed away more than a decade ago.

The Athlete

Ted Swenson was a natural athlete, as straight and svelte at 80 years old as he was in his college days where he starred in tennis, basketball and track at the University of Iowa. A self-taught player, Ted placed second in both singles and doubles in the Big Ten Conference championships. For good measure, he also earned a silver medal in the 440 and a bronze in the high jump, and was a member of the Iowa basketball squad that captured Big Ten Conference titles in 1923 and 1926.

Graduating from the University of Iowa with a degree in journalism and a room full of trophies, Ted spent his post-graduate career



photograph originally appeared in High Bounce

teaching, coaching and training young athletes in Iowa, first at the high school level and then back at his alma mater. In his 40s, Ted began a career with the US Navy, working with naval cadets prior to their flight training, ultimately retiring as a Commander and embarking on a new career in academics in Chicago.

Ted moved to Denver in 1968 to be closer to his daughter, and despite having not picked up a racquet in decades, he quickly rediscovered his talents when he finally did step back on the court in 1973. But despite his acumen with a racquet, Ted (who was then in his mid-70s) struggled to win in the oldest age bracket available, the Men's 45s.

"We kept getting waxed because of the tremendous age differentials," remembered Ted. "And we certainly had no chance of winning against these faster and stronger 'kids', 25 to 30 years our juniors."

The Advocate

So Ted set out to remedy this situation and establish peer competition by promoting, publicizing and advocating Super Senior tennis. He wrote a monthly column in *Colorado Tennis* newspaper (originally named *High Bounce*), and worked closely with national organizations to promote tennis among the 60 and over crowd.

His impact has been huge, and lasting, as the number of players 60 and older has exploded since Ted began promoting Super Senior tennis back in the 1970s.

"We want more of the Super Seniors to play," said Ted in a 1980 interview. "I know it's good for them – their health, physical and mental – look at me," smiles the slim, trim Ted. "I know I'm in better shape than most of my non-tennis contemporaries."

Despite his athletic prowess and consistent ranking as one of the top senior players in the state, Ted was quick to point out that for many Super Seniors, tennis was more than wins and losses. "Most of us are not that interested in winning anymore. We enjoy the camaraderie and the ego satisfaction of still being able to be out there – for us, it is also a big social event."

The Event

Despite helping to define tennis as a lifetime sport, the future of the Ted Swenson Super Senior was up in the air until just recently. For the first time since 1981, the Swenson will be hosted by a facility other than Rolling Hill Country Club in Golden. Just last month, Rolling Hills notified USTA Colorado that it will not be able to host this year's Swenson, but thanks to a concerted effort by former tournament director Joe Thompson and USTA Colorado Tournament Director Jason Colter, a new home has been found for the 33-year-old event. This year, the Ted Swenson Super Senior will be hosted by Pinehurst Country Club in Denver, who will help carry on the legacy of both the tournament and the man whose name graced the trophies. A gentleman, an athlete and a passionate advocate for the sport. 🎾

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profiles

DONNING THE STARS AND STRIPES

IN SPORTS, FEW EXPERIENCES CAN RIVAL THE FEELING OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO WALK BEHIND THE AMERICAN FLAG DURING AN OPENING CEREMONY, KNOWING THAT YOU ARE ONE OF THE HANDPICKED FEW THAT'S BEEN SELECTED TO REPRESENT YOUR COUNTRY AT THE WORLD TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS.

STORY BY TOM FASANO

The pride of wearing a USA warmup and playing for your country on the red clay courts of Mallorca, Spain, is about as good as it gets.

Such was the case for three Colorado tennis players recently who took their games on the international level stage for non-professionals.

Susan Wright, who played in the Maria Esther Bueno Cup, and Denver residents Willie Dann and Lew Miller (teammates on the Italia Cup) all represented the United States in Spain at the International Tennis Federation World Team Tennis Championships in April.

"It is a tremendous honor, and it's pretty amazing. Your uniform and warmup show up from the USTA, and you're playing with a flag on your sleeve," Miller said. "It gives you a little extra motivation if you need it. They have an opening ceremony, and you march out with the flag with all the teams from all the different countries. It's not something you get to do every day."

Dann, who carried the American flag during the Cup's opening ceremonies, agreed.

"You get chills in your back when you hear, 'United States.' You're holding the flag, and you almost get like a tear in your eye. A lot of people have done a lot of sacrifices to be



The Wright Way

Susan Wright drives a backhand on the red clay in Mallorca, Spain.

Colorado's Female Player of the Year in 2008, Wright has represented the US all over the world, in Spain, Turkey, South Africa, Germany and Austria.

photo courtesy of Carolyn Nichols.com

able to hold up this flag and represent my country. I was very honored to have that ability to do something like that."

Dann and Miller, both 37, have been doubles partners for the past five years and live just a mile apart from each other in Denver. The pair were part of a USA foursome that competed at the ITF World Team Championships, placing seventh out of the 24 countries represented.

Other Colorado players who have competed at the international level over the years were Roald Flater of Evergreen

and Katie Koontz of Denver, both Colorado Tennis Hall of Famers, Rhona Kaczmarczyk of Denver and Rita Price of Aurora.

"It sounds a little cliché, but it was a fabulous experience all the way around. There were eight to 10 courts at the facility where we were playing, and you've got all the guys around watching all the matches," Miller said. "It kind of builds camaraderie on your team, and then you have all the guys from the different countries cheering."

"You're hearing 15 different languages. It's a little bit different than playing the City Open," added Miller about his experience in Spain. "Mallorca, itself, was beautiful. You can picture it in the Old World club with the red clay with the courts terraced down to the sea. It was a pretty amazing environment to be playing in."

Dann, who played on a tennis scholarship for Rice University and gave up tennis for 10 years before starting back up again, played in Turkey the previous two years before competing in Spain.

"This year was a lot of fun. Spain is absolutely a beautiful country," said Dann, who along with Price and Wright were named players of the year by USTA Colorado in February. "Half the fun of going there is to hang out with people from Switzerland, Lithuania, Austria, Germany, France. All the different cultures involved ... 24 different countries. Where do you get to hang out with people from all over the world like that? We're not pros. We're there just to have a good time, and to represent our country. It's an honor."

The competition was stiff in Spain.

"There was a guy from Austria that was currently 200 in the world playing professionally. In 2007, he was top 50 in the world," said Dann, a volunteer assistant coach for the University of Denver tennis team who has six national titles to his name. "The top players are still playing some sort of club tennis or semi-professional, where as we all have jobs."

Wright of Grand Junction played in the 50-54 age division with three other women in Spain,

and was on the US team that placed second in the world. This was Wright's seventh straight year to play on the International Cup team.

Wright, who won an amazing 11 Gold Balls (representing a USTA National Championship) last year between singles and doubles, is no stranger to traveling the world when it comes to tennis. Growing up in El Cerrito, CA, Wright started playing at the age of 8 and turned pro at 17. She didn't play from 1977-2002, but since then has really picked up her game where she's one of the best players in the country in her age group.

The US team Wright played for in Spain came in second place after finishing first in 2006, '07 and '08. At 51, Wright is a USA squad veteran, having not only played in Spain, but in Turkey three times, South Africa, Germany and Australia.

"It's very exciting. It's like Olympics for the seniors," Wright said. "It's really a proud time. You get friendships all over the world, and then you see the same people year after year. It's great at 50 to be able to do that."

Koontz, 70, has also played around the world in the ITF-sanctioned tournaments.

"It's so much fun and the competition is fabulous. It's a very special feeling to play for your country. You're playing against people who have played Wimbledon, the French Open, the US Open who maybe have taken some time off and come back," said Koontz, who started playing tennis when she was 35. "I've made a lot of friendships of people that I still keep in touch with, mostly in South Africa and in Australia."

Kaczmarczyk, 44, played previously for the US at the Young Cup in Turkey.

"It was a great experience. It was great to be a part of an international team," she said. "I've actually played for Ireland before. I had already experienced playing internationally, but for another country. I have dual citizenship, so it allows me to play for the US. It was great to be a part of a group of girls that have the same common goal and interests, travel overseas, be able to spend two weeks all tennis and not any other distractions."

While Dann and Wright have played internationally several times before, this was the first time for Miller.

"Willie's gone three times. This was the first year that I was selected," said Miller, who played tennis at Kalamazoo College in Michigan and was in a program that won three team NCAA Division III national championships while Miller won the singles title twice.

Wright, Miller and Dann all earned their spots on the US squad by playing a number of events in their respective age division, including one of four national events. The USTA chooses a number of players it puts under consideration based on their records from the prior year, and then it has a committee make the ultimate selection for the four players in each age group (35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54 and 55-59). Players were given \$3,000 in expenses for the trip to Spain.

"It's fun to do something as part of a team again because tennis is so individual," said Miller, whose team lost to France in the championship bracket in its pool, also lost to Sweden but beat defending champions Argentina for seventh place. "Everybody's competing very hard, but they're also there to kind of meet the guys from other countries. Everybody has dinner together, and you learn about the guys on the other teams. We spent a lot of time with the guys from the Lithuanian team who we had played, and the Switzerland team who we played. I got to know a couple of guys on the Sweden team real well."

Miller hopes to compete for the US next year at the hard courts in Mexico.

"Once you do it once, and I know Willie's done it three times now, you kind of want to keep going back," Miller said. ☺

Dann's the Man

Willie Dann hammers a forehand during the World Team Tennis exhibition at Gates Tennis Center. He carried the flag for the US squad at this year's ITF World Team Tennis Championships in Mallorca, Spain.



photo by Kurt Desautels, USTA Colorado

bodytalk

WORKOUT OF THE MONTH

THE KETTLEBELL HAS BEEN AROUND FOR MORE THAN 300 YEARS, BUT IT IS JUST NOW FINDING ITS PLACE AMONG AMERICA'S FITNESS ROUTINES

STORY BY NORA HARRISON, TENNIS PROFESSIONAL, RANCH COUNTRY CLUB

Pop quiz, get out your No. 2 pencils. Ready? What fitness craze has its origins in the early 18th century as a way for Russian merchants to measure the weight of produce at market? Yes, of course, it's the kettlebell (the photo probably clued you in, right?).

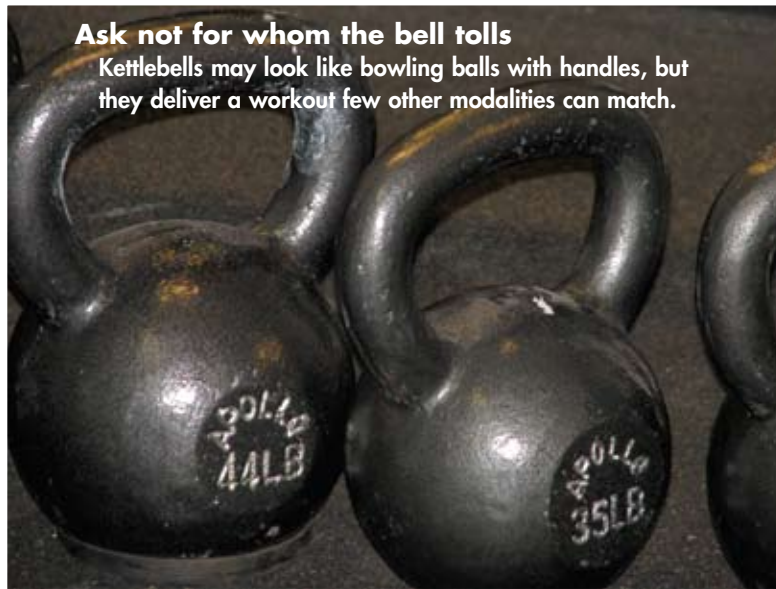
Russian athletes and common folk have been using kettlebells for centuries – the first documented mention of the kettlebell dates back to a Russian dictionary from 1704. Czarist Russia declared the kettlebell as the conditioning tool for the masses, and it has been the modality of choice for Russian olympians and military personnel for decades. Kettlebell (KB) training has grown in popularity over the last few years among athletes and recreational exercisers alike, and is a great addition to any strength and conditioning program. Many professional teams, athletes and collegiate teams use the KB in their programs.

Kettlebells and Tennis Players

So how does this black bowling with a suitcase handle benefit tennis players? Ranging in size from 8lbs to upwards of 100 lbs and have a displaced center of gravity, making them

Ask not for whom the bell tolls

Kettlebells may look like bowling balls with handles, but they deliver a workout few other modalities can match.



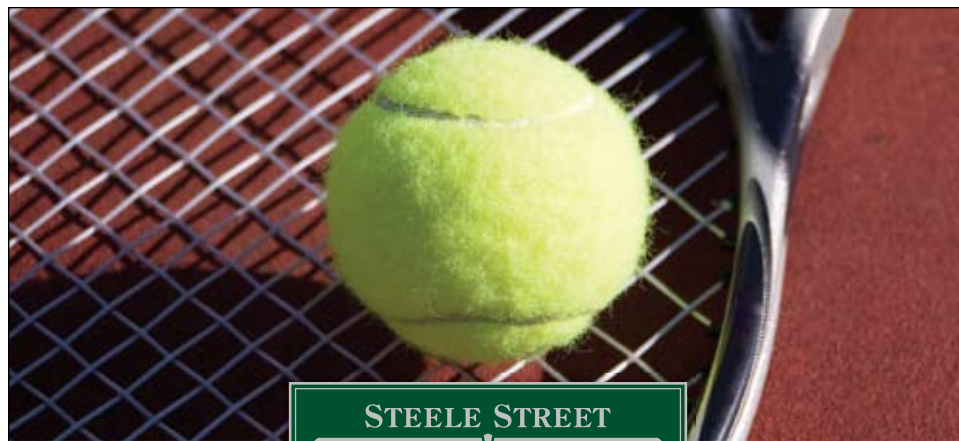
much harder to control, thereby placing increased demands on agility, neuromuscular proprioception and core stabilization. More stabilizer muscles will be used and these targeted muscles will work through a longer range of motion. KB exercises and movements improve the athletes core stabilization, range of motion, unilateral training, rotational pattern training, application of tension/relaxation principles and the

An International Kettlebell Fitness Federation Certified Kettlebell Teacher, Nora is also an IFPA Certified Tennis & Sports Conditioning Specialist and IFPA Certified Advance Personal Trainer. She can be reached at 303/469-5372 or pelawak@aol.com.

key combination of functional movement strengthening.

Standard weight training exercises can be done with KB such as bench presses, curls, rows, and squats. However, the unique value of KB is derived from ballistic (fast exercise) work such as: snatches, swings, cleans and jerks. These movements will give you incredible muscular endurance when done in high repetition, and possess much greater ranges of motion, increasing dynamic flexibility and extreme range strength.

KB training will benefit tennis players by increasing grip strength, generating more explosive power, increasing acceleration and deceleration rates, improving core, shoulder and lower back strength/stability, as well as increasing cardiovascular endurance and anaerobic capacity. KB training will help teach the tennis player's neuromuscular and skeletal system to move as a unit. Most KB exercises involve big body movements requiring several groups of muscles to work together to complete the lift/exercise, so a full-body workout can be had in as little as 20-30 minutes, and full body lifts/exercises more closely mimic the demands of ADL (activities of daily living). KB training is about muscle integration, not muscle isolation. 🌀



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GETTING STARTED WITH KETTLEBELLS

Some basic KB exercises particularly effective for tennis players are shown here. It's important to approach these exercises slowly, and with appropriate weight for your current fitness level. In general, men can start with the 36lb KBs and women can start with the 18lb KBs. To learn more about tennis-specific KB exercises, it is highly recommended that you seek a Kettlebell certified trainer.

The Woodchop: Can be done in both the "closed" or "open" stance in tennis. This movement closely imitates the rotational swing in both the Forehand and Backhand groundstrokes. With both hands on the KB, rotate low to high, load the swing through (follow through) using your legs, hips and core stabilizers. Do 2-3 sets of 10 swings on both sides.



Around the Body Pass: This is a great exercise to use as a warm up for the shoulder area. Pick a moderate weight, start in the athletic stance. Holding the KB in the front of the body with your hands, swing the KB around the body from the right side to your left, switching hands behind the body as you swing the KB back to the front of the body. Switch directions after 10 reps. The heavier the weight, the more core stabilizers you will use to control the motion of the KB.

thebigchair

NEWS FROM USTA COLORADO HEADQUARTERS
STATE OF THE DISTRICT

BY FRITZ GARGER, USTA COLORADO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Of the recent comprehensive studies conducted regarding the participation in sports nationwide, tennis surpasses every other traditional sport with a 12.2% increase over the six-year period of the survey. Golf was a very distant second at 2.4% and the other major traditional sports like soccer (-2.7%), baseball (-8%) and basketball (-9.7%) were lagging and experiencing deficits across the board (source SGMA and NGF).

This is something to celebrate, as our sport provides opportunities and benefits that few if any others can provide and at a cost that is relatively low when compared to other sporting activities. Those of us in the game know this, but it's exciting to see the sport grow and include new people to the game who will now have a chance to realize these benefits and opportunities as well.

Our association's charge is to keep the momentum going and continue the effort to bring more people into the game while at the same time fulfilling our responsibilities of providing quality programs and services. To date our participation numbers continue to climb in most if not all our offerings (initial junior league registration is up 2.4%, and adult leagues are up 4% already this year). And many of the tournaments in our sanctioned tournament schedule have also seen increases – in some cases very significant gains.

With our quest to broaden the reach of tennis, a highlight of this past spring includes our third annual Diversity in Tennis Reception, which we held here at the Gates Tennis Center's Joan Birkland Pavilion in conjunction with the Cherry Creek Chamber of Commerce's "Business After Hours" event. One of our primary goals is to expand our reach and create partnerships in communities across metro-Den-

ver and throughout the state that will make a difference. The joint event brought our tennis community together with representatives from the majority of the Denver/Colorado Chambers including: Colorado Women's, Colorado Black, Denver Hispanic, Asian, Rocky Mountain Indian and Cherry Creek. Between 250-300 people were in attendance for the celebration of tennis and community outreach.

As we celebrate the exciting developments of our sport there inevitably comes a time to pause

and recognize those who were so involved with the sport and have recently passed away. I am sure there are any number of individuals who have passed on that we don't know about, but I want to acknowledge several who have been so involved in either the sport itself and/or our Association (USTA Colorado/Colorado Tennis Association) or our Foundation (Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation). Our warmest regards go to the families and friends of these wonderful people: Gib Gardner (long-time teacher, counselor and multiple sport coach at Manual H.S. Avid player at City Park and The Denver Tennis Club), Don Carleton (long-time Wilson Sporting Goods representative), Carolyn Byrne and Mike Reidy (the latter two are Colorado Hall of Fame members). You all touched the lives of so many through the sport of tennis and those who came to know you are certainly better off for having crossed your paths. Thanks.

I mention this every year, because it is so important. Thanks to all the teaching professionals, coaches, facility owners and personnel, retailers, advertisers, league coordinators, tournament directors and our volunteers for the work you put into promoting and developing the sport in your areas. Tennis is doing well because all of us are working together with a common goal. Colorado tennis would not be so solid without such dedication and

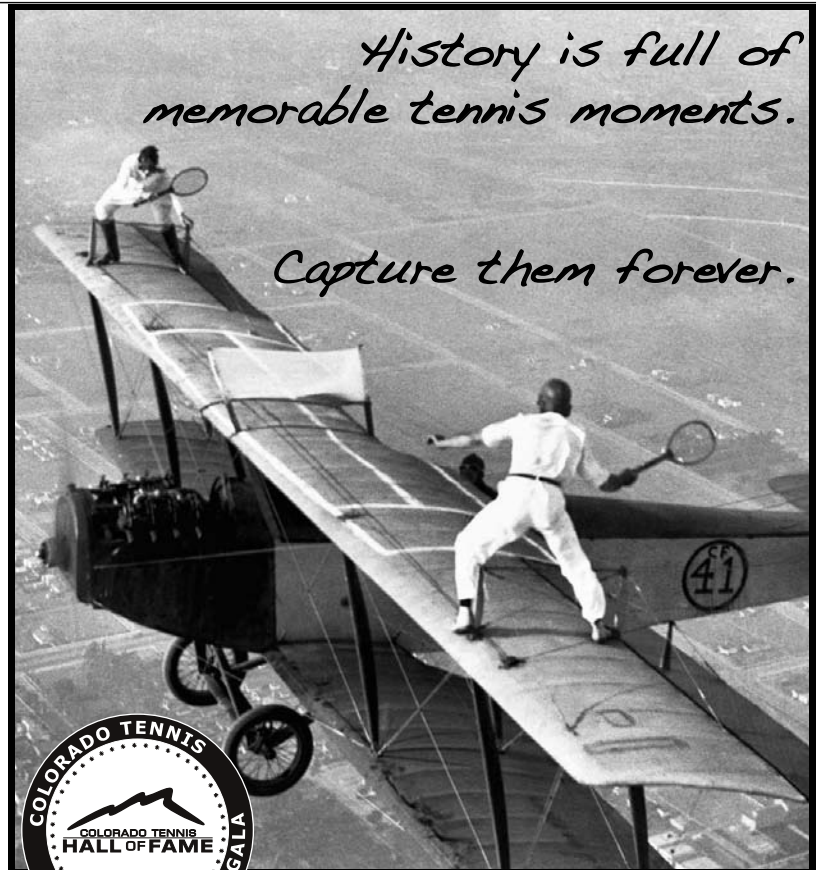


USTA CO hosts Cherry Creek Chamber's After Hours

USTA Colorado's Paula McClain shares a laugh with Raymond Dean Jones from the Denver Mayor's African American Commission at the USTA Colorado Diversity in Tennis Reception.

support. We're looking forward to this summer and beyond. Thanks again.

Closing note: we had two Board members resign from their positions on their respective Boards. On behalf of the Association and Foundation, thanks to Dave Kuosman for his years of service on the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation board and to Nik Sorovic for his support of and involvement in USTA Colorado. Both have been instrumental in any number of programs, initiatives and services. Thanks.



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Each year, USTA Colorado celebrates the outstanding efforts of players, benefactors, volunteers and organizations who have distinguished themselves through their dedication and commitment to the sport of tennis.

USTA Colorado will accept nominations for the **Colorado Tennis Annual Awards** – to be presented at the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala – through September 15.

Please call USTA Colorado for a nomination form, 303/695-4116, or download one from the USTA Colorado website, COLORADOTENNIS.com.



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the last word

In what will likely turn out to be the only time I ever do this, I am going to refrain from exercising my privilege to blather needlessly. Instead, I'd like to print a terrific column from Mike Hall, South Suburban Parks and Recreation's Head Tennis Professional, one of the founders of the Team Colorado program and a person who has willingly shared his

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ABOUT TO DO THIS....

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I LIKE TO DO MORE THAN TO HEAR MYSELF TALK, AND THAT'S TO READ MY OWN STUFF IN PRINT. SO WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD I LEASE OUT MY CUSHY COLUMN?

BY KURT DESAUTELS, COLORADO TENNIS EDITOR

Some Draws are Tougher Than Others

By Cowboy Bob

We were one of the host sites for a prestigious, six-state junior tournament held last summer. Returning from lunch on quarterfinals day, I asked the site coordinator if everything was running smoothly. Expecting the customary reply of "yes, we're right on time," I was surprised when he pulled me aside beyond earshot of players and spectators.

"Thanks for asking," he said, "it's been going great but I'm concerned about a Boys' 16s match now going on court. He asked if I, as the head pro, could keep an eye on the match? "Certainly, I replied, "Which player should I be aware of?" He didn't identify either player but said there had been some very volatile situations in two recent tournaments. Motioning for me to follow, he walked briskly to a shade tree near our storage shed.

"It's not the players who concern me." He indicated that the mother of one player had been a consistent thorn in the side and hoped that the presence of more official types would quell her aberrant and abusive behavior. I observed the first set than ended without incident and returned to my office to complete a project due the next morning. Later, I learned that

her history was to remain in control during the early part of matches and then, in the later stages, to erupt. This match went true to form.

In the deciding set, her son had numerous chances to put away the match but seemed too anxious and outcome obsessed to execute his shots. The mother, now a full-fledged participant in the match, (a sideline saboteur) was beyond agitated. Spectators and other tournament players cringed as her outbursts redefined the word R A G E. Predictably, the boy's tension and embarrassment cost him the match. As he came off court, the player received an earful – definitely not repeatable here.

As I was leaving the center an hour later, a car abruptly emerged from between two out of state SUVs. It jerked to a stop nearby and I looked closer. It was immediately apparent that a player was receiving a verbal lashing. I could see two wildly animated arms motioning feverishly....trying to make a point. There was no response from the shaken junior who, earlier in the day, had looked forward to this important match.

I immediately felt the urge to pull my car out and block the exit. I wish I could have tapped on his window, reached out to him with understanding eyes, and said "nice match." I also

would have liked to tell him that he has rights as a player and to call the state tennis association for help.

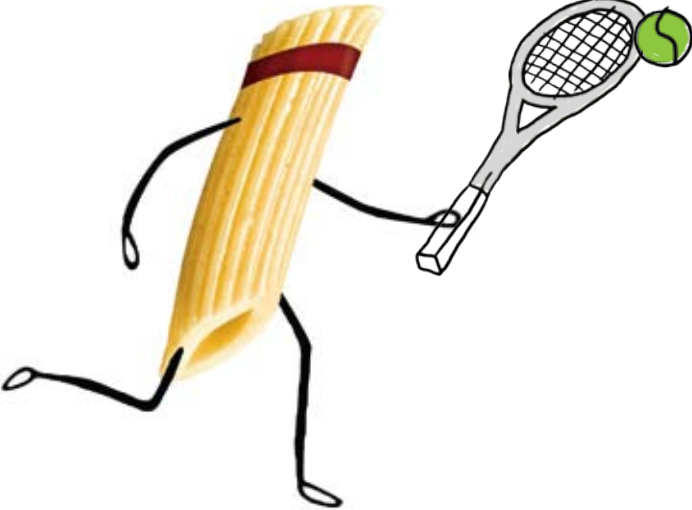
It's unfortunate that an aspiring player has to overcome his toughest draw at home before he ever enters the warmup. I found myself praying for this player later that night. I prayed that he would recognize the absurdity of this situation and confront his misguided mom. I hope I see him thriving next summer as tournament season heats up. Perhaps he'll feel less anxious on the courts if his mother stays away or gets the help she needs.

Ninety-seven per cent of the parents at tournaments exhibit good sportsmanship and dignity. Some enlightened ones have even viewed their child's match from our pro shop or from a distance so as not to create a distraction. The bottom line is that as competitive pressures increase, so should positive reinforcement from parents and coaches.


Just like the heart patient who may require cardiopulmonary resuscitation to survive, young athletes thirst for CPR (continuous positive reinforcement) so their spirits thrive in the challenging world of tournament tennis. ☺

Kurt Desautels' column will return in the Fall issue of *Colorado Tennis*. That's a promise. Or maybe it's a threat....

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ABOUT USTA COLORADO

A District of the United States Tennis Association, USTA Colorado is the governing body of tennis in our state. We are one of six districts in the Intermountain Section, which also includes Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming and Nevada.

Founded in 1955, USTA Colorado's mission is to grow tennis in our state. We do this in a number of ways. We provide grants to public and private groups who want to introduce tennis to their communities. We offer scholarships to players who seek to take their game to the next level. We coordinate adult league play for 25,000 participants across Colorado, and offer many recreational programs for junior players of all ages and abilities. We reach out to players of diverse cultural backgrounds, to mentally and physically challenged athletes, and to under-privileged communities across the state. Our sanctioned tournament schedule lists more than 150 events in 2009 for players of all ages and abilities, 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 are 22,000 members strong, but our scope is not confined to those players alone. We represent the nearly 500,000 tennis players in our state, providing information and opportunities to play for each and every one of them. Our publications reach out to players around Colorado and in neighboring states. We strive to make tennis available to anyone who is interested in our sport – all ages, all abilities, all backgrounds.

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.



USTA COLORADO

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

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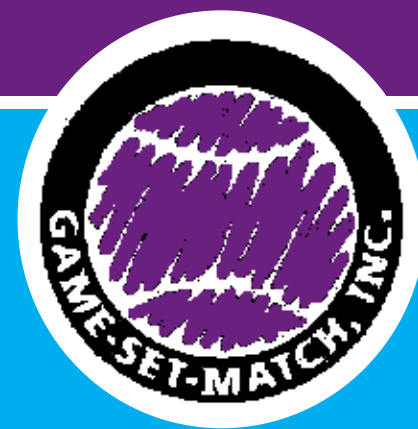
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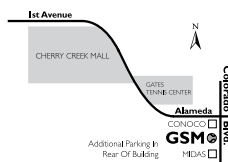
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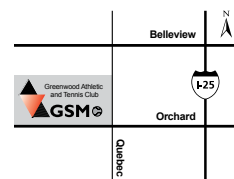
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