

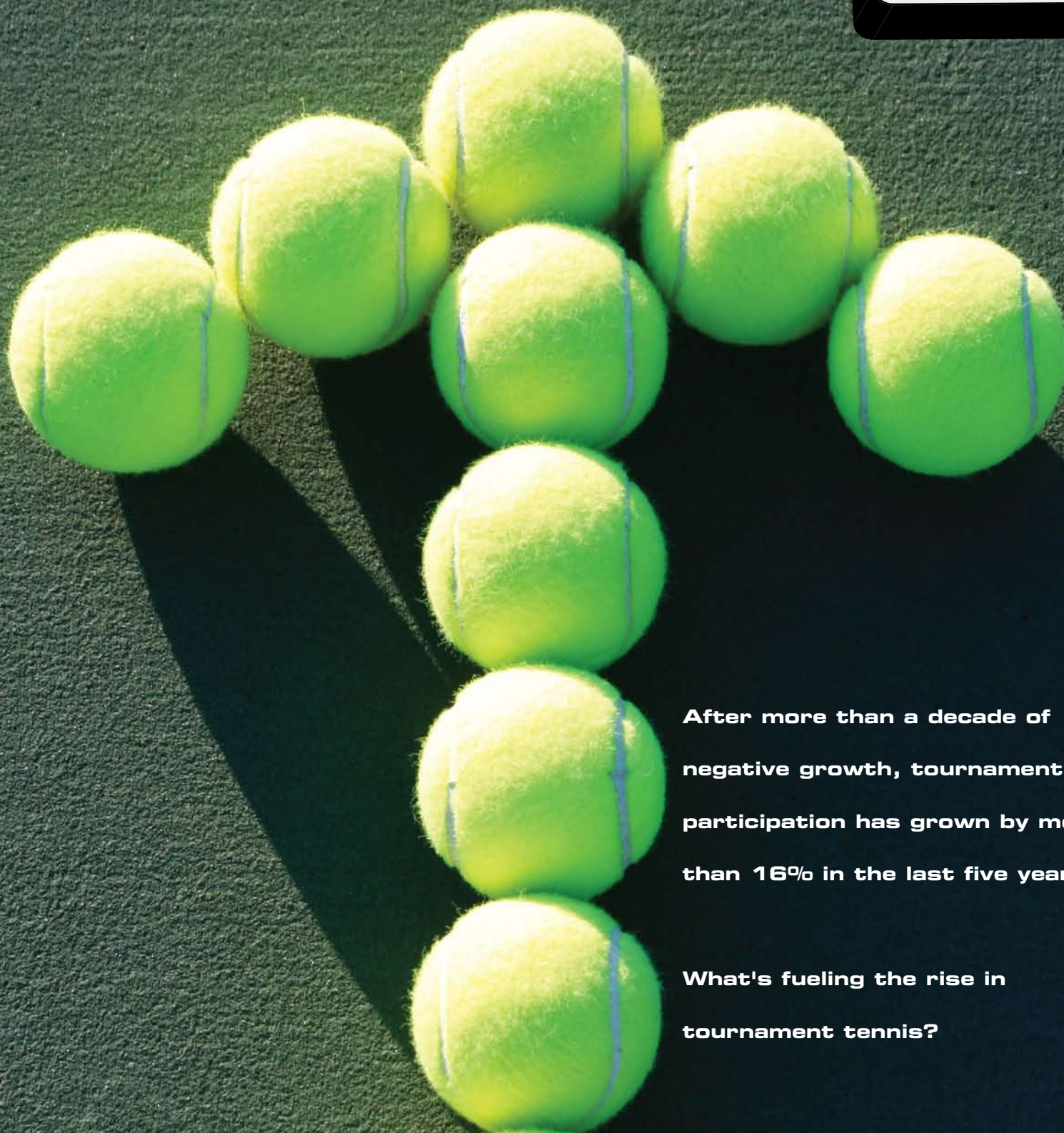
COLORADO TENNIS

Year 35, Issue 3

The Official Publication Of Tennis Lovers

Est. 1976

SUMMER 2010



After more than a decade of negative growth, tournament participation has grown by more than 16% in the last five years.

What's fueling the rise in tournament tennis?

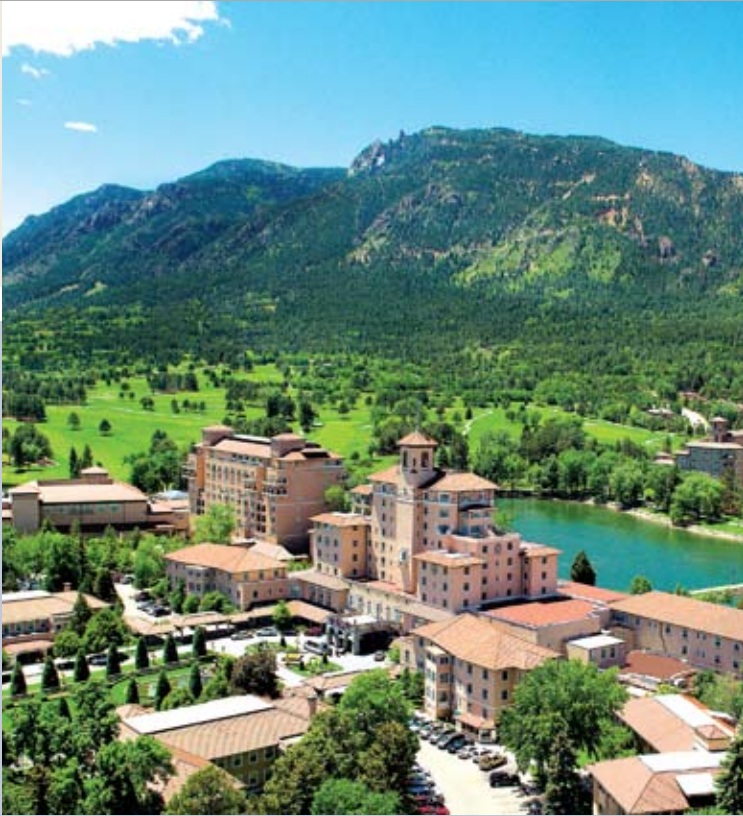


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COLORADO TENNIS

Year 35, Issue 3

The Official Publication Of Tennis Lovers

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SUMMER 2010

COVER STORY

6 TOURNAMENT TENNIS IS ON THE RISE



Most of the tennis world is all abuzz with headlines focusing on the new tennis boom.

More than 30 million Americans hit the courts in 2009, a good percentage coming from hugely popular league programs.

And while league numbers continue to break records year after year, tournament play has quietly joined in the party. In the last five years, Colorado tournament participation has jumped 16% overall, and more than 80% in the junior championship division.

What's fueling this trend? *Colorado Tennis* goes behind the numbers to find out.

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Coverage of the Junior Summer Sectional and High School

Roundup of regional college news

News and notes from USTA CO Headquarters

Stop sending your kids to tennis lessons....now!

About USTA Colorado and contact information

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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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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photo by Kurt Desautels

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THECOVERSTORY

The boom.

It's been a hot topic in virtually every major tennis publication for over a year now. The headlines read:

Racquet sales up.
Ball sales up.
Court time up.
30 million players.

Much of the attention has been focused on leagues, a long-standing barometer of tennis health. Here in Colorado alone, adult leagues have skyrocketed up, growing more than 50% in the last decade alone.

Meanwhile, tournament tennis - league tennis' older, more traditional sibling - has been flat since the late 90s.

Until recently.

Since 2004, Colorado tournament participation has climbed by 16%.

In that same time, junior championship events have seen participation jump 80%, while satellite play has gone up 20%.

continued... →

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Behind The Numbers

But it's not just the kids who are playing more tournaments. Adult numbers are up, too. Adult Championship events (Open level) have seen a sharp increase in players, jumping 58% in the last half-decade.

Meanwhile, Family Doubles events are also pushing skyward, climbing 56% in that time. And after a few years of decline in the middle half of this decade, NTRP events have recaptured their luster, jumping 10% since 2007.

The only adult divisions not experiencing healthy growth in the last few years are the Senior/Age Division events, which have been steadily declining since their peak in the early 90s.

So what's going on?

One theory is simply that tournaments are enjoying the same bump that the rest of the tennis world is experiencing. Another theory is that more and more juniors are leaving other traditional sports to play tennis, which is partially backed up by recent trends.

Still another theory is that after a decade of flat numbers, tournament directors are more willing to experiment with unique and different formats – round-robin and consolation draws – to offer more value for tournament players.

"Let's be honest," says Jason Colter, USTA Colorado Player Development and Tournaments Director, "no one likes the idea of paying \$25 to play a tournament and losing in the first round."

At the same time, says Colter, many events have also added value for players by reducing the time commitment to play in the tournament, offering one-day and weekend-only events in lieu of the traditional week-long event.

"Regardless of age, players like to know how much time they need to commit to a tournament," says Colter. "Junior players often have other sporting commitments, or school-related

events that are hard to reschedule. By offering one-day or weekend tournaments, many juniors feel they can commit to the event and not miss out on their other opportunities."

This can be especially important for parents, Colter adds, who are often tasked with trying to get a household of kids to different activities.

"Some facilities are offering a *swim-and-smash* type event, where kids can be dropped off first thing in the morning, play a couple matches, have lunch, go swimming, then play an afternoon full of tennis. Those tournament directors have added a huge amount of value to their entry fee, and parents are noticing."

For Zach Smith, the tournament director of the Denver City Open and Director of Tennis at the Denver Tennis Club, tournament tennis is a natural extension of people seeking a healthy lifestyle.

"We have new members enrolling in order to improve their fitness, and they get paired up with a new league team. They wind up making some new friends, having a great time, and if they win a few league matches, they get their competitive juices flowing. The next thing you know, they're asking their teammates to play in tournaments," says Smith.

Another DTC event, the Denver City Junior Open, has had great growth in the past few years, which Smith attributes to a hugely popular junior development program.

"Our junior team tennis numbers are way up," he says, adding that kids are quick to emulate their tennis heroes, even if they aren't always American-born. That translates to a whole generation of Federer and Nadal wannabes taking to the courts at 4th and Forest in Denver.

At South Suburban Parks & Recreation, which hosts the first adult tournament of the year (the annual Valentine's Day Classic), they have earned a reputation for running quality events, which has translated into huge growth over the last couple of years.

Vicki Holthus is the tournament director for all five adult and six junior tournaments that

TEN HOT SANCTIONED EVENTS

ADULTS (CHANGE IN PARTICIPATION SINCE 2008 IN PARENTHESES)

SOUTH SUBURBAN VALENTINE'S DAY CLASSIC (▲80%)

LYNMAR SENIOR INDOOR (▲82%)

AUSTIN SCOTT (▲24%)

PAPER CUP (▲22%)

CLYDE ROGERS (▲24%)

JUNIORS

MOUNTAIN OCEAN JUNIOR OPEN (▲21%)

NORTHERN COLORADO JUNIOR OPEN (▲50%)

LEWIS TENNIS MID-SUMMER OPEN (▲44%)

JIM KASIC MEMORIAL JUNIOR OPEN (▲27%)

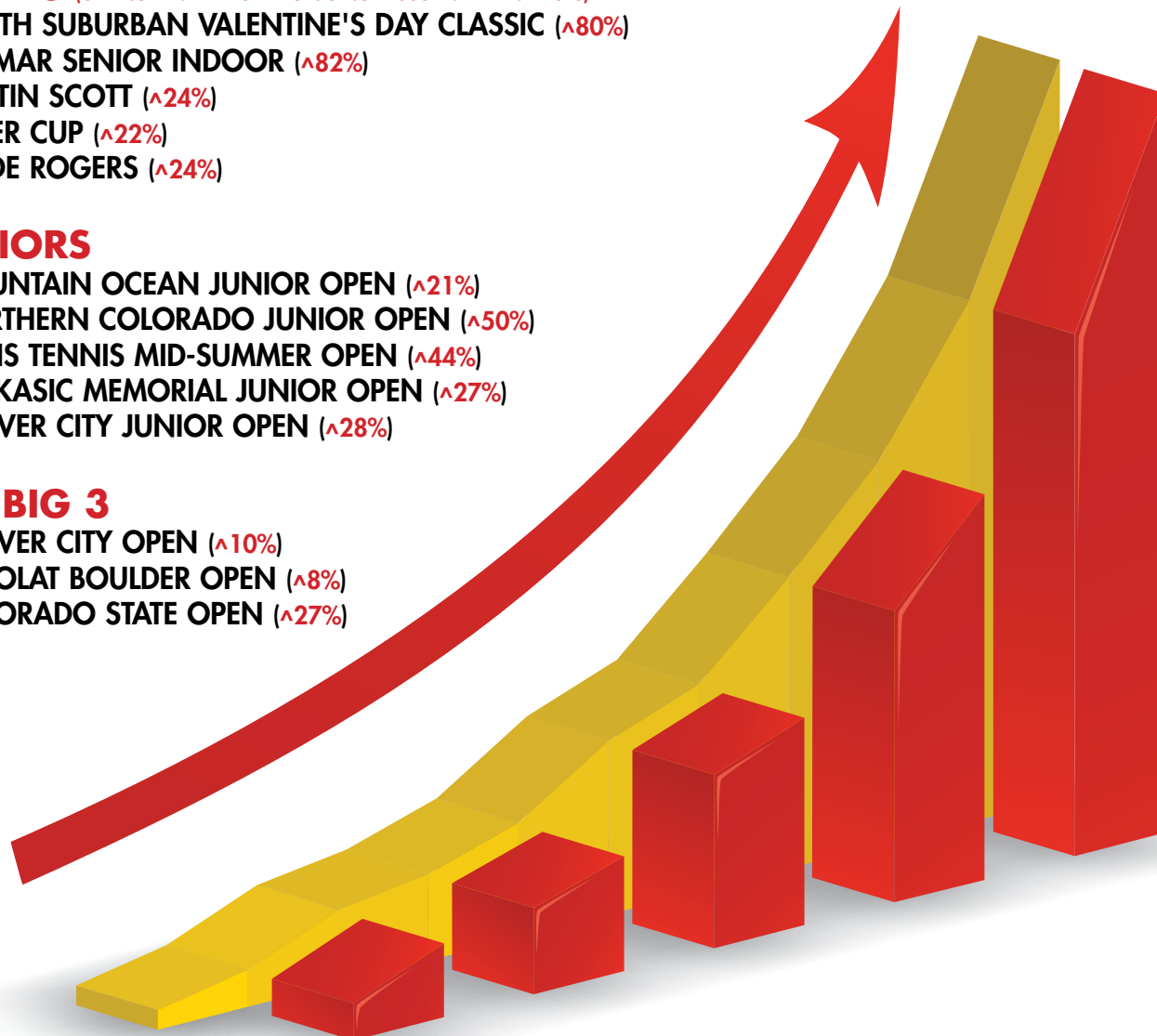
DENVER CITY JUNIOR OPEN (▲28%)

THE BIG 3

DENVER CITY OPEN (▲10%)

BABOLAT BOULDER OPEN (▲8%)

COLORADO STATE OPEN (▲27%)



COVERSTORY

continued from previous page

South Suburban hosts each year at their three facilities (Littleton Golf & Tennis, Holly Tennis Center and Lone Tree Park & Tennis Center). She credits her staff, and their effort, for the increase in tournament participation over the last couple years. "We have a lot of fun with [the Valentine's Day] tournament, playing on the Valentine's Day theme, with Hershey's Kisses, Candy Hearts, to participant gifts and trophies that 'have a heart'," says Holthus. From her perspective, it's important to have fun with the participants and to accommodate their requests as much as possible. In the last two years, the Valentine's Day event has grown from 242 players to 433 this year. That's a huge challenge for a February event in Colorado, where outdoor matches are typically impossible, but Holthus and her staff made it work by coordinating some creative scheduling with players.

"One year the weather was in our favor and we played several of the first round matches outdoors," says Holthus. "Another year we put matches on earlier than 4pm on the weekdays and started at 6am on Saturday & Sunday. The players were very accommodating."

That kind of give and take is only possible when you offer outstanding customer service, says Holthus, who was recently named a Tennis In the Parks (TIP) Peer Advisor. Tennis In the Parks is a joint USTA/National Recreation and Park Association initiative to help grow the game in public facilities across the nation. In her position, Holthus will mentor other parks and recreation entities on how to create, expand, accentuate tennis programs, and learn about grants and what Tennis In the Parks is all about.

Play For A Cause

Beyond rising participation in sanctioned events, there is a growing number of charity events that are starting to gain traction as well. Charity tournaments frequently package player mixers, round-robin draws, pro-ams, and fun and unique giveaways in order to maximize value to participants. And while some are not technically "tournaments", the social atmosphere of the events helps to tame the fierce competitive drive and makes the experience more fun for some participants.

The Debbie Boose Memorial Tournament, which benefits Pathways Hospice in Larimer County, is one such example.

"Our numbers get stronger every year," says Kristy Harris, whose mother is the namesake

of the event. "The response from the community has been incredible. We had 214 players in 2008, and this year we were up to 287 participants."

Harris says that they've added divisions and numerous tennis-related community activities since the event began 10 years ago, all in an effort to serve the interests of the tennis community and draw more people to the event each year.

"We love to cater to families," says Harris, "so adding Family Doubles divisions has been great for us." She adds, "The addition of a QuickStart clinic for the 10 and under crowd helps us to really focus on tennis as a family activity. That's really what the tournament is all about, celebrating family."

Other charity events – like the Tennis Marathon for Breast Cancer at the Harvest House in Boulder, the 24-Hour Tennis Marathon at Arvada Tennis Center and the Great Education Colorado Family Festival and Tennis Open at Gates Tennis Center – combine drills, lessons and fun for the whole family, all in the name of a good cause. When participants get to experience some fun competition, they become more comfortable with the notion of competing in other events, and as a result, sanctioned tournament play gets a bump.

More Players = More Players

The good news about the increase in tournament participation is that every player who registers for a tournament is helping to grow tennis in Colorado. A portion of each registration fee in a sanctioned tournament is funneled back into programs for under-served kids, adopt-a-court grants and program grants for communities looking to expand their tennis offerings.

"Sustainable growth in tournament participation is very important to the future of tennis in Colorado," says Fritz Garger, Executive Director of USTA Colorado. "Our association provides financial assistance to many organizations in need. With tennis experiencing such tremendous growth over the last decade, we've been able to expand our reach to entities across the state that simply don't have the money to offer tennis to communities."

With nearly 170 sanctioned tournaments on this year's calendar, and dozens of other community charity tournaments and play for a cause events, chances are that players of virtually any age, level or interest can find a tournament that suits their style. Go play!



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THEBUZZ

NOUNS IN THE NEWS

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

Lebsack hosts Randy Snow Colorado Memorial Tennis Social

A memorial tennis social will be held at Redstone Park (Lebsack Tennis Center) in Highlands Ranch on Sunday, June 27, from 3-8pm to celebrate the life of Randy Snow, who passed away in November while conducting a tennis clinic in El Salvador. He was 50 years old.

A frequent visitor to Colorado, leading numerous tennis camps throughout the 1990s, Snow was one of the greatest wheelchair athletes in history, winning the US Open singles championship 10 times. He was a singles & doubles gold medalist at the Barcelona Paralympics Games in 1992, a silver medalist in the 1500-meter track event at the 1984 Los Angeles games & a member of the bronze medal winning wheelchair basketball team in the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games. In 2004, Snow was the first paralympian inducted into Olympic Hall of Fame. All those interested in attending the memorial are encouraged to bring your tennis gear and share your memories of how Randy impacted your life. Please RSVP to jshafroth@comcast.net as early as possible.

Shields brothers dominate 50th Annual Elam Classic

Luke and **Clancy Shields** dominated their hometown tourney, as the Elam Classic pro invitational celebrated its 50th year with one of its deepest and strongest fields in years. With a \$10,000 purse, the Grand Junction event draws some of the best players in the Intermountain region.

After a predictable first round where the seeds took care of business, unseeded **Stephen Nolen** (Centennial) drew first blood in the round of 16, upending No. 6 seed **Richard Johnson** (Grand Junction). Then it was No. 5 Luke Shields taking out fourth-seeded **Phillip Eilers** of Salt Lake City, in the quarterfinals. The semifinals were set, with Clancy (No. 2) taking on former ATP tour player **Oren Motevassel** (No. 3), and Luke taking on top seed **Cory Ross** (Littleton), who was trying to make history by winning an unprecedented fifth singles title. Ross is tied with three other players with four Elam Classic titles. He won it in 2003, 2006, 2007 and 2008. The other four-time champions are Jim Landin (1963, '65, '66, '69), Kent Woodard (1971, '73, '74, '84) and Martin Barba (1991, '92, '94 and '96).

In one semi, Clancy took down Motevassel in straight sets, while older brother Luke avenged a loss in last year's semifinal to take down Ross in three sets. Clancy got the best of his older brother in the all-Shields final, 7-5, 6-2.

The brothers were equally dominant in the doubles draw, sweeping through their first two matches dropping only six games. In the final, they faced Ross and Johnson, who upset Denver's **Willie Dann** and **Lew Miller** in the semifinals. The Shields took the first set 6-3, then dropped the second in a tiebreak before storming back to win the third 6-2. For their dominance, Clancy earned \$3,700 in overall prize money, while Luke picked up \$2,200.

Tom Van Fleet started the tournament, called the Bookcliff Country Club Invitational, in 1960. The event was later run by Carter Elliott, who helped bring sponsors and prize money to the tournament. Harold Elam, founder of Elam Construction, picked up sponsorship of the tournament in 1983.

Eilers, Pegula claim Intermountain US Open Qualifier event

Phillip Eilers (Salt Lake City, UT) and **Jessica Pegula** (Baco Raton, FL) grabbed a bit of US Open history, winning the Intermountain US Open Sectional Qualifier event, held June 16-20 at Gates Tennis Center. After losing in the quarterfinals at the Elam Classic, Eilers found the Front Range more to his liking, whipping through the men's draw without losing a set. Pegula enjoyed the mile high air as well, dropping a mere six games en route to the title.

Two of the Colorado's top juniors made impressive runs at the event. **Taylor Sargent**, a recent Cherry Creek High School graduate, and **Jessika Mozia**, the 4A High School Champion, each reached the semifinal round.

With their wins, Eilers and Pegula earned a spot at the National Qualifier, where just 16 men and 16 women will compete for a spot into the US Open Qualifying Tournament at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, August 24-27, 2010. The Atlanta Athletic Club in Atlanta, GA will host the Men's Championship, July 22-25, and the Taube Family Tennis Stadium at Stanford University will host the Women's Championship, July 29-August 1.

USTA names Colorado scholarship winners

USTA Serves, the National Charitable Foundation of the United States Tennis Association, announced that two Colorado students were among the 70 high schoolers across the nation who will receive a variety of college scholarships, totaling \$398,000.

Seniors **Samantha Engel** (Thornton) of Mountain Range High School and **Jared Leventhal** (Arvada) of Pomona High School will each receive a \$6,000 college education scholarship. They were selected for excelling academically, demonstrating community service and partici-



photo courtesy of USTA Intermountain

Intermountain juniors kick off RTC in Vegas

On April 7, 2010, the USTA announced that the Amanda and Stacy Darling Memorial Tennis Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, was selected as a USTA Certified Regional Training Center. To kick off this announcement, the tennis center hosted the first of six camps this year for 24 kids ages 7-12 years old from around the Intermountain Section. At each of the camps, coaches from around the Section plus a roving USTA National Coach will be on-hand to work with the kids, helping them tune their games for the next level of competition.

Six Colorado kids, and one Colorado coach, attended the first camp, held in May. The players were Samantha Martinelli, Kalyssa Hall, Tate Schroeder, Max Wild, Tom Melville and Brett Finan. USTA High Performance Coach Sue Burke represented Colorado at the camp.

The Colorado contingent and other campers from around the Section were treated to three days of rigorous tennis training with USTA National Coach Roger Smith and USTA Director of Coaching Education and Sport Science Paul Lubbers.



photo courtesy of Brad Brehmer

SBL crowns champs of winter session

USTA Colorado's Senior Breakfast League wrapped up the winter session, crowning the 3.0/3.5 champions: (left to right) Kay Karet, Holly McDonell, Tom Lew, Donlie Smith, Perry Peine, (bottom) captain Bob Preston, Nancy Eicher. Not pictured is Polly Wirtz.

pating in an organized tennis program.

One objective of USTA Serves is to encourage children to pursue their goals and highest dreams by succeeding in school and becoming responsible citizens. "USTA Serves is proud to be able to contribute almost \$400,000 to help these deserving students across the country to begin their college careers," said Deborah Slaner Larkin, Executive Director, USTA Serves. "It is our hope and firm belief that these young men and women will continue to positively impact the sport of tennis and the world at large throughout their lives."

USTA awards rec tennis grants to three Colorado organizations

Recently, the USTA announced more than \$315,000 in recreational tennis grants to non-profit organizations across the country as a part of its community-building initiative. Three Colorado organizations were among the 38 entities to receive the grants: **Ricardo Flores Magon Academy, Inc.** (Westminster) received \$5,000, **Tennis Mania, Inc.** (Pueblo) received \$5,000, and **Net Results Junior Tennis** (Denver) received \$4,000. In addition, Net Results was awarded a USTA Serves Aces for Kids Grant in the amount of \$7,500 to increase children's academic and life skills through the sport of tennis.

Berman named PTR member of the year for Colorado

Rich Berman (Boulder) was named Colorado Professional Tennis Registry Member of the Year for Colorado. PTR presented Rich his award during its 2010 International Tennis Symposium, February 12-18, 2010, at PTR Headquarters on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Berman is the owner of Rich's Tennis School in Erie. The personal coach to David Hall, Gold Medalist at the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney, Australia, he has also coached nine Colorado State Singles Champions. In 1999, Berman was named PTR Volunteer of the Year.

Potter gets the nod at Cherry Hills

Colorado native Andy Potter has assumed the helm at Cherry Hills Country Club following the retirement of long-time Director of Tennis, Dave Romberg. Potter, a junior standout at Regis Jesuit, has spent the last decade as a tennis pro at Colorado Athletic Club Inverness. Potter's playing resume includes Colorado State Open and Denver City Open Championships, with coaching stints at his high school alma mater and with Team Colorado.

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

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

After last year's success with reaching out to a whole new generation of tennis players, USTA Colorado is looking forward again to bringing a healthy, family activity in a fun festive environment while learning the benefits of the great, life-long sport of tennis at this summer's festivals. Collectively, nearly a quarter of million-festival goers were exposed to tennis. Partnering with Denver Parks and Recreation, a variety of tennis activities will be



photos courtesy of Dan Hendricks

Cortez community celebrates life of Harkendorff

The small community of Cortez, Colorado came together this spring to celebrate the life of Jim Harkendorff, a long-time resident and tennis teacher. A civil engineer, Harkendorff had moved to the area in the late 1970s. After retiring, he started teaching a summer youth tennis program, eventually becoming the coach for the local high school boys and girls tennis teams.

In his honor, the City of Cortez established a memorial to Jim, the Harkendorff Tennis Bleachers, at the local recreation center tennis courts. Cortez, population 8,757, is nestled in southwest Colorado, just north of Mesa Verde National Park and a mere 25 miles from Four Corners.

conducted including QuickStart Tennis, a new learning format for kids 10 and under. People are encouraged to come out and participate in free tennis instruction and games for all ages and abilities.

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

"The TennisFest Series enables USTA Colorado to participate in the summer cultural events

continued on page 12

Meanwhile, back at The Ranch...



Director of Tennis: Miikka Keronen
Staff Professional: Aki Iino
Adult Coordinator: Nora Harrison
Junior Coordinator: Ryan Walker

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Facilities can get half-off new QuickStart lines

The United States Tennis Association is offering funding assistance to tennis facilities and organizations looking to paint permanent lines for 36- and 60-foot QuickStart Tennis courts, designed for children 10 and under. The funding assistance – 50% of the cost of the lines – is offered through the USTA’s Facility Assistance Services.

The QuickStart Tennis format gets kids into the game by using shorter courts, shorter racquets, lower pressure balls and modified scoring, ensuring children have fun while learning tennis. A standard 78-foot court can accommodate four 36-foot QST courts, or one 60-foot court.

Many tennis facilities have painted permanent QuickStart Tennis lines onto regular-size courts, which aids in setting up for children’s tennis programs. The QST lines are usually in a color shade related to the surface of the court, so that they are unobtrusive when the standard 78-foot court is used. *(The Rules of Tennis do allow USTA National/Sectional/District events or tournaments to be played on courts with additional lines, such as those used for the QST format, and recently the Intercollegiate Tennis Association approved a rule change to allow its competition courts to have permanent QST tennis lines.)*

While the national USTA office provides 50% funding assistance, some USTA sections also offer additional funding for painting permanent lines. To apply for national USTA funding, complete the application at <http://CT.USTA.COM/PFA/> prior to the start of the project.

For more about the QuickStart Tennis format, please visit QUICKSTARTTENNIS.com.




photo courtesy of Boulder Valley School District

QuickStart anyone?

After a year of planning and anticipation, the brand new QuickStart Tennis courts at **Eldorado K-8** in Superior are nearly ready for prime time. The installation of the four 36-foot courts (right) at Eldorado make it officially the first permanent QuickStart Tennis facility in Colorado. The regulation 78-foot court (left) has been lined for a 60-foot court as well, for the slightly older kids who have mastered the 36-foot format. More than half of the \$20,000 reconstruction cost was funded through USTA and USTA-Intermountain grants, along with \$3,800 from the Boulder Valley School District. The remainder of the money came from private donations.

QuickStart Tennis facilities have been popping up all over the nation, as more and more tennis facilities look to provide age-, size-, and ability-specific tennis programming for their 10 and under clientele.

USTA Colorado Community Development Director Kristy Harris hopes that Eldorado isn't alone in recognizing the value of the QuickStart formula. "Now that the first QuickStart facility has been built in Colorado, we anticipate other communities will see first-hand the positive impact that can be made on kids through tennis when the right size courts and appropriate format are readily available. The collaboration between the community, Boulder Valley School District and USTA provides a perfect model for many more QuickStart facility projects throughout Colorado in the future."



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

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

When/Where:

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

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

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

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

Colorado Black Arts Festival at Denver City Park

July 10 & 11 (9am-6pm)

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

Dragon Boat Festival at Sloans Lake Park

July 24 & 25 (9am-6pm)

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

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

Tennis Marathon for Breast Cancer returns to Harvest House

Sunday, August 22 marks the 6th year of the Tennis Marathon for Breast Cancer, a one-day community tennis event helping to provide financial assistance to families dealing with breast cancer. Be prepared for a fun-filled day of playing and drilling – be on the courts for 1 to 9 hours! Sign up or start a team for this worthy cause. For more information please visit CUBUFFS.com/tennis or email Nicole Kenneally at tm4bc@yahoo.com. Event includes t-shirt, door prizes, silent auction and dinner. The title sponsor for the event is the Etkin Johnson Group.

What: 6th Annual Tennis Marathon for Breast Cancer

When: Sunday, August 22, 2010

Where: Millennium Harvest House, Boulder, Colorado

Times: All Day – flexible; Play 8am-5pm, Dinner to follow

Arvada Tennis Center hosts "Extreme 24-Hour Tennis Marathon"

The Arvada Tennis Center is hosting a unique tennis event in August benefiting The Children's Hospital. The "Extreme 24 Hour Tennis Marathon" starts Friday, August 27 and ends Saturday August 28, and features 24 hours of non-stop tennis. Participants can win hourly prizes while taking part in free drills with tennis pros. Form your own team or join an existing one. For more information contact the Arvada Tennis Center at 303/420-1210 or email Michele Crouse at michelec@apexprd.org. Sponsorship opportunities available.


Great Ed CO Family Festival & Tennis Open back for third year

Don't miss the 3rd Annual Great Education Colorado Family Festival & Tennis Open, slated for Sunday, September 12 from 1-4pm at the Denver Tennis Club. There will be 12 courts of non-stop fun including free drills and lessons, prize courts, a QuickStart court (for 3-6 year olds), and competitive and noncompetitive play courts. Food and drink will be provided from a variety of local merchants including: Bombay Clay Oven, Kona Grill, Gourmet Fine Catering, Domino's Pizza and Colorado Liquor Mart. Live entertainment, a silent auction, and prizes will be available for everyone. Great Education Colorado is a leading grassroots organization focused on increasing Colorado's long-term investment in education, from pre-school through college. Joining Great Ed in their mission to improve investment in public education will be well known area tennis pros and a variety of notable persons from the metro Denver community. Register today at GREATEDUCATION.org/tennis. For further information, call Patty at 303/722-5901 or email patty@greateducation.org.

Twilight League/USTA Senior League update

The USTA Colorado league department will publish Twilight and USTA Senior schedules on July 9, instead of July 2.

COLORADO TENNIS returns in September

Got a story or a photo to share with the Colorado tennis community? Submit your ideas for the fall issue of COLORADO TENNIS, which will arrive at your doorstep in September. The deadline to get your story/photo submitted is August 11. Send it to kurt@coloradotennis.com. 

USTA Colorado welcomes Sutphin to staff

USTA Colorado recently brought former intern Jarret Sutphin into the fold on a permanent, part-time basis. Sutphin, an intern with USTA Colorado in 2009, will assist the Adult and Junior League departments with a variety of tasks.

Born and raised in Denver-Metro area, Jarret's passion for tennis began at Meadow Creek when he was 12 years old, taking lessons from Paula Coulter, Alden Bock and Art Quinn.

"Art nicknamed me Crash because I would always be scraped up from diving for balls on the hard court or running into the fence chasing down a lob," recalls Jarret.

He attended high school at Foothills Academy, a small private school in Wheat Ridge, but played hockey and tennis for Wheat Ridge High School, where coach Tom Sabus taught him all the doubles strategy he could handle.

"He taught me stuff that I will use for the rest of my life in terms of how to play doubles," says Jarret.

As part of his high school senior project, Jarret organized and taught a tennis clinic for underprivileged children in Baja, Mexico. He was able to get used racquets donated from clubs around town for the children to keep and then court time and instructors for the three day clinic in Mexico.

Jarret graduated from high school in 2005, and attended college in St. Augustine, FL at Flagler College where he was president of the tennis club and captained their club tennis team competing against national powerhouses of University of Miami, University of Florida and Florida State University.

During the summers, he returned to Colorado, teaching the junior summer program and running the junior team tennis teams at Evergreen Tennis and Fitness Center.

Jarret completed his senior internship project with USTA Colorado in 2009, "loving every minute of it." After graduating with Sport Management major and minor in Business Administration, Jarret returned to USTA Colorado, this time as a paid summer assistant to Junior Leagues Director Dan Lewis helping out with the Colorado Junior Team Tennis league. After another seasonal job in the fall working fan services for the Denver Broncos, he jumped at the chance to get back with USTA Colorado.

Jarret is a natural fit for USTA Colorado, says Fritz Garger, Executive Director.

"He grew up here in the Denver area, and has spent a lot of time as an intern for us, and as a volunteer for our many events and programs. His work ethic and approach to each aspect of the position were exceptional. He assisted with virtually each of the departments and learned a lot about our operations and systems. There's not much of a learning curve he'll have to go through, having spent so much time with us already. His attitude, professionalism and desire to provide the highest level of customer service make him a great fit and asset to our organization. We're excited to have him on board."

Jason Rogers, Director of Adult Programs, agrees.

"Jarret did an outstanding job for our organization during his internship and he has continued his tremendous work now that he has come on-board as a part-time employee."

Jarret's primary role will be to assist the Adult and Junior League departments through the busy summer season, helping schedule the Colorado Junior Team Tennis league and coordinate adult programs with current USTA Colorado league staff Kailey Jonas and Taylor McKinley.

"I'm extremely excited to be able to stay within the tennis world and to be a part of this life long sport," Jarret said.



photo by USTA Colorado

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4th Annual USTA Colorado Diversity in Tennis Reception

More than 300 community and business leaders gathered at Gates Tennis Center on May 21 to help celebrate diversity in tennis. Leaders from the Colorado Black Chamber, Denver Hispanic Chamber, Colorado Asian Chamber, Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber, Colorado Women's Chamber and Cherry Creek Chamber were on hand to learn more about USTA Colorado's commitment to diversity in tennis. Guests enjoyed an evening of networking, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, live music, and tennis exhibitions featuring some of Colorado's young rising stars – Brett Finan, Madison Gallegos, Jennifer Phan and David Kijak, along with junior top guns James Martinez, Jessika Mozia, Matt Sayre and Caroline Schnell.

Photo Gallery (from top left): Tony Nimmons (USTA), Paula McClain (USTA Colorado), Chris Michel (USTA); Nikki Ricks (The Colorado Black Chamber Connect), Myra Donovan (Eagle Strategies Corp.); Jennifer Phan; James Martinez; Diversity in Tennis draws a big crowd at Gates Tennis Center.



photo by Rosalyn Reese



photo by Rosalyn Reese



photo by Kurt Desautels



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Marrying Arts & Culture with Athletics, USTA Colorado and Denver Parks & Recreation host the 2010 DIVERSITY TENNISFEST



COLORADO BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL
July 10, City Park



COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL
July 24, Sloans Lake



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SPOTLIGHT: RACQUETS FOR ALL



RACQUETS FOR ALL

 Equipment Recycling Program of the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation

 Find us on Facebook

RFA HIGH SCHOOL CHALLENGE

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

This is a great way for high school tennis players in Colorado to give back to the tennis community, participate in a fun "green" project and also meet any community service requirements that their school might have.



photo by USTA Colorado

The ladies of Ralston Valley collected 31 new and gently used racquets, winning the 2010 Racquets For All High School Challenge (Girls) and earning a \$200 check. See their story in **HIGHFIVE**, page 20.

Each team interested in participating just needs to bring their collected racquets to their regional tournament. The boys' team collecting the most racquets will be awarded \$200 at a presentation during the State Championships in October 2010. This year's RFA High School Challenge (Girls) was won by **Ralston Valley**.

Connect on Facebook or contact Kristy Harris <kristy@coloradotennis.com>, USTA Colorado Community Development Director, for information, 303/695-4116 x300.

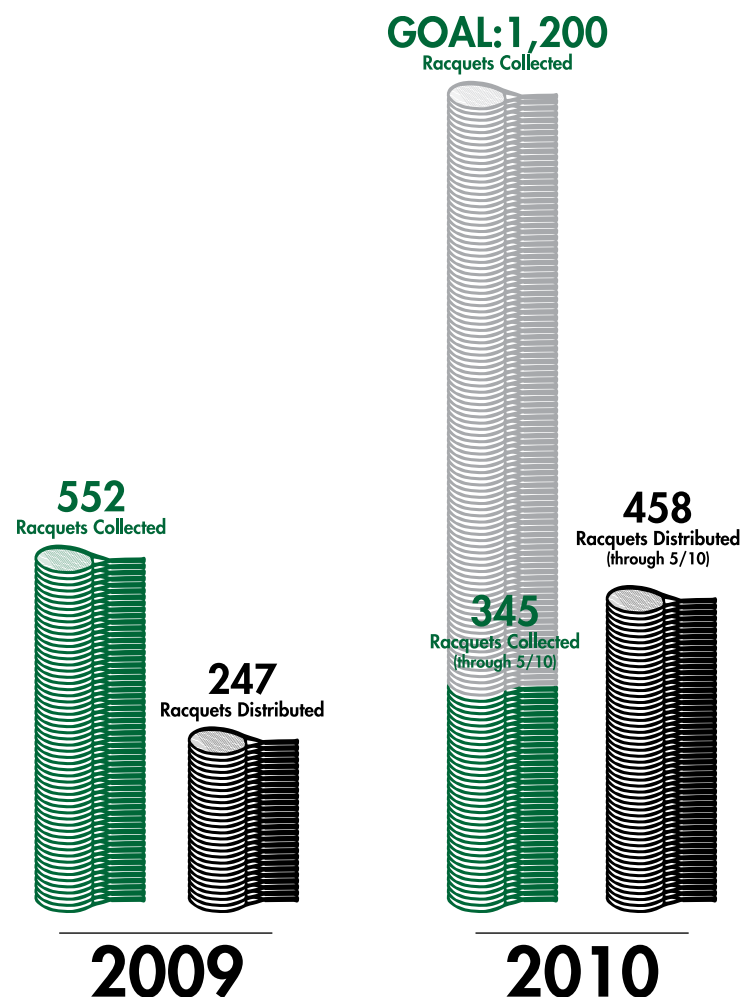
RFA COLLECTION AT ADULT LEAGUE DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP SITES

Look for Racquets for All collection barrels at all of the Adult League Playoff sites this summer – beginning with USTA Mixed Doubles, ending with Colorado Tennis Women's Daytime and all playoffs in between. Members of the league season winning teams are asked to give back to the game through a donation to Racquets for All to help meet the demand across the state for gently used tennis equipment. A great opportunity to clean out your basement or upgrade to that new racquet for the playoffs and donate the old one!

EQUIPMENT COLLECTION/DONATION UPDATE

Through May 31, 2010 RFA has collected 345 tennis racquets, 284 dozen tennis balls and 117 racquet covers and bags. (99 of those racquets came in through the Girls HS Tennis Challenge)

Through May 31, 2010 458 racquets, 3,712 balls, and 109 racquet covers and bags were distributed to 24 schools and recreation districts.



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

SPOTLIGHT: COLORADO YOUTH TENNIS FOUNDATION

**WE'RE CHANGING
THE WORLD.
ONE PLAYER AT A TIME.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



photo courtesy of Eric Lucero

MEADOW CREEK'S ANNUAL PRO EXTRAVAGANZA BENEFITS CYTF

Meadow Creek Tennis & Fitness Club recently held its popular Pro Extravaganza, benefiting the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation for the second year in a row. The annual event featured tennis activities with Meadow Creek teaching professionals Ashley Tindle, Alden Bock, Gary Alpert, and John Goodrich. Club members and non-members participated, and the event also included a silent auction and catered dinner. The fun-filled evening ended with a much anticipated and very entertaining pro exhibition match, with all players in vintage tennis gear. The "Pro Ex" also served as a fundraiser for the CYTF, raising much needed dollars for the cause as well as dollars and tennis racquets for the Foundation's Racquets for All program. Over \$1,300 was raised and a dozen gently used racquets were collected. These racquets will be refurbished and distributed to people in need.

Facilities and organizations who are interested in hosting an event to benefit the CYTF should call 303/695-4116 x201 or email lisa@coloradotennis.com.



\$34,000

2010 FUNDRAISING
GOAL FROM
INDIVIDUAL,
CORPORATE,
FOUNDATION AND
"AFFILIATED EVENTS"

GIFTS TO THE CYTF

The Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation raises money through our two primary events – the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala (see our ad on page 29) and the ever-popular Punk Relic Charity Tournament (see our ad on page 12), as well as through donations from foundations, corporations and individuals. Supporters host affiliated events (such as tennis socials, house parties, cocktail receptions, etc.) and donate proceeds to the CYTF. In 2010, the CYTF's goal is to raise \$34,000 in individual, corporate, foundation and "affiliated event" dollars.

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

Thank you to recent donors: Toby Beamguard, Thomas Clark, Bud Ferdon, Sidney Gates, Lowrie Family Foundation, Meadow Creek Tennis & Fitness Club, Gene Milstein, Christian Thurstone

INVESTING IN KIDS

At its spring disbursement meeting, the CYTF disbursed 15 special need scholarships to youngsters, and with the help of USTA Colorado Diversity dollars, 20 program grants were awarded to organizations running programs for kids in need. Overall, nearly \$17,000 was awarded.

\$7,915

SUMMER 2010
FUNDRAISING



YOUTH WHO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS ARE:

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- 35% **LESS** likely to smoke cigarettes;
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PROFILE

IT'S NOT A MATTER OF AGE, IT'S A MATTER OF TENNIS

Story by
TOM FASANO

The Garden of the Gods Gang (left to right): Burt Harmes, Tom Van De Hey, Dick MacLeod, Dick Eckenrode, John Scharrer, Greg Ireton, Bill Madden, Chuck Jordan, Dick Ostein, Dave DuBois, Rodger Bildstein, Dick Thompson.



photo courtesy of Garden of the Gods Club

If there were 12 days in a week, Greg Ireton would probably play tennis on at least 10 of those days.

Forget the fact that the former bank president is 84 years of age. The man just loves to play tennis, as do about 16 or so other highly successful retired men in their 60s, 70s and 80s at the Garden of the Gods Club in Colorado Springs.

Ireton is the oldest of the players, but he plays tennis five times a week with the magnificent Pikes Peak as his back drop.

"The young guys are all in their 70s," said Ireton, who didn't take up the game of tennis until he was 50 when he moved to Colorado from Oklahoma.

"I played basketball for 60 years until I was 72 years old," said Ireton, who also organizes the matches for the other players. "I played baseball and softball up until my late 40s. I don't play golf, and a friend of mine talked me into learning to play."

The fields where the players enjoyed their success before they retired range from Ireton as a bank president, to Dr. Rodger Bildstein as a doctor in internal medicine, to Bill Madden as a trial attorney, to Dick Eckenrode as an executive with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to Chuck Jordan as vice president of Chevron Corporation, to John Scharrer as an electronics engineer for Hewlett-Packard to Dr. Dave DuBois as a plastic surgeon in Colorado Springs.

From their big-time careers to the tennis court, the men find a way to remain competitive playing a more controlled doubles game where placing shots is a premium over a power brand of tennis.

Tom Van De Hey, the director of tennis at Garden of the Gods Club, said it's amazing to watch this group play tennis.

"They play on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday," Van De Hey said. "These guys play from 9:30 to 11 just about every day of

the week. It's a very controlled game, and it's quite remarkable what they do and they just enjoy each other."

When asked to disclose his strengths, Ireton said: "It used to be my speed, but I've slowed down a little bit. I can still run. I've developed a pretty good serve, and my backhand has improved considerably."

Ireton enjoys the workout he gets from playing tennis, as well as the camaraderie involved during his 9:30 a.m. tennis matches that go 90 minutes. Once a month, the men get together for what they call the "Lunch Bunch" and play some cards while enjoying one another's company at the men's respective homes.

Ireton said the tennis is still competitive.

"I've played sports all my life, and all of our guys are very competitive," Ireton said. "They talk about golf being such a buddy type game, but I don't think it's any more so than tennis is. It's a great group of guys. We kid each other. It's just great camaraderie."

John Scharrer is one of the younger players. The 68-year-old Scharrer plays two or three times a week at the 13-court Garden of the Gods Club.

"I first started playing when I was 35," said Scharrer, a 45-year resident of Colorado Springs.

Like Ireton, Scharrer loves the friendships that have been made through playing tennis.

"There just comes a time that for one reason or another you can't play, but we still always get together because the friendships you form do last all your life," he said.

Dr. Bildstein, 77, also plays tennis five times a week like Ireton.

Playing tennis off and on since high school, Bildstein said he doesn't like to work out in gyms or lift weights, and that's why he likes tennis and the exercise it provides. He still says he finds himself working to perfect his game.

"I play on Monday, Tuesday night, Wednesday afternoon, Friday and Saturday mornings," Bildstein said. "It's a reasonable workout."

Another 80-plus player, Bill Madden, just wants to get back on the court. After three hip replacements and two shoulder replacements, Madden is coming back from another hip injury and plans to play again in the near future.

"My right shoulder is perfect. I can serve perfectly with that, but with the left shoulder I can't reach up like I could with my right. I can reach up enough to toss the ball so I can serve," Madden said. "I played tennis until about three months ago, but the pain in my left hip area was so bad that it slowed my running down. I finally stopped, but I intend to get back playing again. I am determined to get back."

Madden started playing tennis when he was 12, some 72 years ago.

"I'm a graduate of West Point and I played tennis at West Point, but after I graduated I stopped playing for 20 years," Madden said. "I didn't get back into it until I was 42 years of age."

Dick Eckenrode, 77, jokes that his tennis playing – three to four times a week – is cutting into his golf game. Like Madden, Eckenrode's been playing tennis since he was 12.

"It's a game you can play for life," said Eckenrode, who started his high school tennis team in Harrisburg, Pa., in 1947. "A couple of months ago we had three young girls playing on the court next door. They watched us play and they said they were glad they started playing tennis because they know they can play it for a long time seeing us."

Chuck Jordan, 74, started playing tennis in 1980 and plays three or four times a week.





HIGH FIVE

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

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


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



photos courtesy of Wayne Emerick


WAYNE EMERICK

Story by **KATIE NEWELL**



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There are people in life who make it their mission to make a positive difference in the lives of others. One of those impressive individuals is Wayne Emerick, a founder of The Denver Urban Youth Tennis Academy, which provides under-served, inner-city children (7-19) the opportunity to receive high performance training for competitive teams. Up to 56 players are selected to receive high-level training, clothing, equipment, and scholarships to offset tournament entry fees.

Wayne's love of tennis began in upstate New York in the sixth grade, when he decided to trade his baseball bat for a tennis racquet – developing basic

tennis skills on a city park with red clay courts. It was quite the contrast from the cold, white playground where Wayne's passion for alpine skiing was also growing and thriving.

It didn't take very long for Wayne to excel at tennis, however, and he became captain of the Shaker High School Tennis Team in Latham, NY. Making the team at Dartmouth (he graduated from there and then went onto Cornell University Johnson School of Management for his MBA), Wayne was still pulled in two directions, and missed much of the tennis season as a member of the ski team. The tennis seed was firmly planted, though, and Wayne has developed a very impressive resumé.

Wayne is a USTA Tennis High Performance Coach, having been Head Coach of the USTA Albany Competition Training Center for 14 years. He was Head Men and Women's Tennis Coach at Union College in Schenectady, NY, from 2003-05 and was Head Men's Coach at Colorado College in 2008. Wayne has also spent a decade off the court, working for ESPN and Sports Software as a statistical match analyst at ATP Tour Events.

So, what drives this former USTA Eastern Coach of the Year and two-time USPTA Eastern High School Coach of the Year to invest his time in a program like The Denver Academy <DENVERURBANYOUTHTEENNIS.org>?

"I've always felt that all kids who want to play at a competitive level should have access to high level coaching," Wayne explains. "And this program is for those kids, the ones who otherwise wouldn't have the access, the ones who want to excel, play competitively, through high school and hopefully into college."

Wayne adds that the program is a cooperative effort of Denver Parks & Recreation and City Park Racquet Club, with support from local organizations like USTA Colorado. "It's the commitment of local professionals like Tobias Ortegon, Frank Adams and Sue Burke that make this program succeed," he explains.

"The ultimate goal is to make the program self-sustaining," says Wayne who knows from past experience how to get the job done. "I am a strong believer that you have to have good players involved in order to attract strong players and grow the program." By increasing the time they can get on the court, and having access to the type of tennis professionals these young players have, that's just the type of players that will be thriving in the program for many years to come. ☺

For being such a tennis tiger, Madison Gallegos just has to be one of the nicest young ladies around. Not only is she articulate and bright, but she's funny and doesn't take for granted the opportunity she's been given to play the sport she loves. She's pretty much a tennis gem – a young athlete who knows they are going to have to work hard to reach their dreams and one that is going to make friends along the way.



photo by Kurt Desautels

Story by **KATIE NEWELL**

A student at Aurora Quest Academy, Madison is among the top players in the 12s division in the six-state Intermountain Section. Her goal for this year is to be ranked No. 1. Beyond that, she'd love to become a professional and eventually teach – not high-level players, but kids just starting out – kids like she used to be when she hit her first ball at a small drill class at age 5 after trying a variety of sports including gymnastics, soccer, and even flag football.

Madison is coached by her father, Joe, a tennis player himself.

"Madison is so nice and has a great disposition," he acknowledges, "but we talk about how players like Federer can still be like that but can also be fierce competitors."

Once Madison showed signs of loving tennis and wanting to commit to it, Joe explains, "We were all hooked!" Madison's mother, Cassandra, also plays, so it's definitely a family activity that they all enjoy.

Colorado Athletic Club Monaco has also been instrumental in helping Madison develop into the competitive player she is.

"The coaches are so nice to me there," she says, "and the level of play there has helped me improve."

When asked about her favorite match this year, Madison explains that it was against her practice partner, Gloria Son.

"We played for three hours and then we decided to play a match. We played five sets that included two tie-breakers. I lost, but it was a great match!" That type of attitude combined with her work ethic of hitting everyday for 1-2 hours is why dreaming of being a professional isn't unrealistic for Madison.

Her favorite player on the pro tour is Andy Roddick, whom she met at Indian Wells during a tournament.

"I like Andy Roddick, because I just love him, and because he's a classy player," she says. "He's even nicer in person, and just so nice to the kids."

Like many of us, Madison admits that nerves can be a challenge for her but that she works it out. Her advice to young players who may want to follow in her impressive footsteps: "Always believe in your shots and don't hold back!"

That philosophy serves Madison well, as she's had good results lately, capturing both the singles and doubles championship at the Colorado Springs Junior Open. 🎾

It's been a long time since Colorado high school tennis players have had to "break in" a new commissioner. So long, in fact, that many of next year's freshmen class weren't even born when Paul Angelico assumed the helm as the Tennis Commissioner at CHSAA (Colorado High School Activities Association) in 1998. But in July, Paul will step away from tennis to become CHSAA's eighth Commissioner since its inception in 1921.

Paul has presided over tennis during an era of tremendous growth. In the last dozen years, Colorado high school tennis participation has grown by more than 35%, from 5,524 in 1998 to 7,472 this school year. Girls' tennis has seen the majority of growth, from 3,230 in '98 to 4,530 in 2010, a jump of more than 40%! During this same period, only a handful of high school sports (lacrosse, soccer, cross country and spirit) have seen comparable growth.

And as the Tennis Commissioner, he has been continually challenged with a situation that most other sports don't present – by the time most tennis players begin playing with their high school teams, they have been involved in the sport at very competitive levels as individuals for quite some time. Making the transition to a team sport can be quite a challenge, for both parents and players.

"It can be a tough transition for players and parents to realize that when you play for your high school, you are now part of something bigger – a team," says Paul. "Coaches often need support to address this issue as well."

Ultimately, Paul believes that both coaches and parents can benefit from the realization that, "Tennis is not about individuals but rather about kids learning life lessons." Paul says that the reason that tennis is so special is because it is a sport where you don't have an official making the calls for you. "The kids are in charge and trained to deal with calling out-balls or foot

faults. They learn to compete while being honest, truthful, respectful and gracious."

Like golf, says Paul, tennis is about integrity.

"It fits in perfectly with our mission and core values," he says. "It teaches life skills, develops positive character and promotes sportsmanship."

Paul credits the USTA's 'No-Cut' School Tennis Team program with helping to grow tennis in Colorado's high schools. The program is designed to recognize schools who do not cut players from a tennis team, but rather create opportunity for players who have interest in playing. In Colorado, high schools are already adept at accepting any and all players who come out for the tennis team.

"That's what we (CHSAA) are all about," says Paul. "More kids representing their schools by wearing their school's name on their jersey and taking pride in that."

And it's not just that kids are out on the courts, or fields, or diamonds or in the gym representing their schools. The impact that high school sports has on our students is profound, says Paul.

"Other countries don't offer high school sports at the same level as we do in the United States. The kind of programs that are offered across the country, and in Colorado, far surpass those in other countries. Higher level programs which provide opportunity for more kids set us apart."

When Paul takes over as Commissioner on July 1, he has already said that he wants to re-double efforts to support coaches who strive to offer quality programs in their schools, as well as to continue to make strides in improving sportsmanship.

"Sports teach kids how to compete gracefully, be part of something bigger and how to succeed," he says. 🎾



photo courtesy of Paul Angelico

Story by
LINDA SARGENT WEGNER



HIGH FIVE

continued from P19

An engineering executive by profession, Hai Ho has a definite plan for growing the game through diversification.

As a member of the USTA Colorado Board of Directors, Chair of its Diversity Committee, and Founder of the Colorado Asian Tennis Association, he is dedicated to familiarizing tennis to a more diverse group of players.

His tennis influence begins at home. All three of his children play tennis, including his oldest daughter who was her high school's tennis team captain for three years and has just graduated, a son who had a very satisfying high school freshman tennis experience and a 10 year-old daughter who is getting a positive start with Colorado Junoir Team Tennis leagues this summer. His wife started a couple of years ago, and together they have enjoyed the 7.0 Mixed Doubles League.

"The impact I hope to make is to create stronger participation from minority groups in the USTA Colorado programs such as leagues, tournaments and volunteerism," says Hai. "This links them to the bigger tennis community which is a good thing all by itself, but it also affects the level of play for everyone. By introducing more players to the system, the bar is raised because the quality of skill increases by playing different players."

As Chair of USTA Colorado's Diversity Committee, his main goal is to create a system for tracking and measuring the demographics of the tennis-playing population. Having this information will help USTA Colorado understand where grassroots efforts need to be focused to raise awareness about tennis and hopefully strengthen participation numbers.

In 2006, Hai founded the Colorado Asian Tennis Association to support his diversity mission. The primary activity for this organization is its annual tennis tournament, held over the July 4th weekend at the Arvada Tennis Center. Entering its fourth year, the tournament has seen participation numbers jump 20% each year, and now boasts more than 150 players. Registration is open online at COLORADOASIAN TENNIS.com to people of all ages. The tournament is focused on fun and networking, and welcomes people of all ethnic backgrounds.

"The most inspiring thing about this tournament is the kids," says Hai. "We see new kids every year, and the kids who return to play are excited to be there and show us what they've got. The kids seem to be inspired by the tournament."

The Colorado Asian Tennis Association has done clinics for the kids in the past, but they don't have the resources to host clinics on a continuing basis. The tournament provides a place for the adults to encourage the kids and for the kids to feel good about the game.

It was Hai's suggestion that USTA Colorado become a part of the 2009 Colorado Dragon Boat Festival at Sloans Lake. The event drew more than 80,000 people last year, the biggest Asian event in the Denver area. USTA Colorado hosted clinics and play opportunities for the festival goers, and many of the guests tried tennis for the first time. By all accounts, the festival was a success and began conversations with the Asian population about what is offered in the Denver area for tennis players.

Hai hopes to continue to initiate more occasions for diversity in tennis.

"I want the minority community to feel the inclusiveness and opportunities that tennis presents."



photo courtesy of Hai Ho

HAIHO

Story by

LINDA SARGENT WEGNER

The Ralston Valley High School girls' tennis team has had great success on the court in the last decade, often placing 1st or 2nd in league and regional tournament play as well as high finishes in the state high school tournament.

But, none of those accomplishments mean as much to the team as the sportsmanship awards they have won. "This year, we were voted as one of the top 5A teams for sportsmanship in Jefferson County," says Coach Kim Greason. "That speaks volumes for our program. I'd take this over a league or a state title any day."

Greason has been the head coach since 2004 and stresses more than winning and stroke technique. The team website has an "Expectations" section which reads "The foundation of our program is based on the following cornerstones: fair play, sportsmanship, citizenship, competitiveness, academics, leadership, and participation".

This approach, combined with a no-cut program, allows the girls at the Arvada school to be part of a team, build relationships and gain confidence. As a result of the program's foundations, team members can often be found giving back to the community, whether working as tennis coaches or running summer tennis camps for kids. In 2009, the team helped with the first ever Tennis For Kids day at Gates Tennis Center.

Last month, the team added another impressive award to their list as they were named the inaugural Racquets for All Girls High School Challenge winner, collecting 31 racquets for the cause. All 4A and 5A high school girls tennis teams in Colorado were asked to collect gently used tennis racquets and donate them to Racquets for All. The racquets are then assessed, refurbished as needed and given to those in need. The Ralston Valley High School girls' team was creative in collecting racquets, searching thrift shops and garage sales and asking friends, family and business partners to contribute. They reached out using Facebook and Craigslist, even receiving two brand new racquets from outside of Colorado.

The team was awarded \$200 for winning the Challenge and Coach Greason had promised the players a Starbucks party if



photo courtesy of Sonia Schwartz

RALSTON VALLEY TENNIS TEAM

Story by

RACHEL MORLEY

they won. But, after learning that the brother of one of their own teammates had just passed away from cancer, the team decided to donate the money to the family's foundation, "Win the Battle!", an organization that offers support and resources to children and adolescents who have fought or are fighting cancer or other debilitating diseases. The team now plans to donate any future Challenge winnings to a charity selected by team members.

Coach Greason says "I think our girls walk away from the tennis season with a sense of pride and win or lose, they know they've played with integrity and heart."

Only time will tell what titles and awards the Ralston Valley High School girls' tennis team will continue to receive. But, one thing is certain; team members will continue to learn valuable lessons about character, sportsmanship, adversity and camaraderie. Lessons which will serve them well on the court and in whatever path in life they take.

What I did on my summer vacation...

- I started to play twice a day, every day
- I improved my forehand and serve
- I won my first junior tennis tournament
- I improved my consistency and hit 1,642 balls in a single rally
- I made it into the top 20 in the state



Alec Leddon
#5 State Ranking Boys 12's
2-year HPTP Player

photo courtesy of Doma Chitambar



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THE COMPETITIVE JUNIOR

USTA COLORADO PLAYS HOST TO THE 2010 SUMMER SECTIONALS

USTA Colorado was a proud host of this year's Intermountain Summer Sectional Championship, which drew more than 450 of the top junior players in the six-state Intermountain Section to the state to vie for the opportunity to compete at National tournaments later in the summer.

Colorado players fared well in these Championships, making 10 appearances in the 16 finals, claiming four titles. Overall, Coloradans received 29 of the 64 medals handed out, a strong showing for the "home" contingent. **Jesse Ruder-Hook** of Denver pulled off the rare double-championship by winning both the singles and doubles titles in the Boys 14s division, and Littleton's **Casey Ross** earned the Sportsmanship Award. Congratulations to all the Colorado players competing in, and earning medals at the 2010 Intermountain Summer Sectional Championships.

Many of these talented young players will be back here in Denver next year, as the Intermountain Summer Sectional rotates between Colorado and other states in the Section, with Colorado hosting two out of every three years.



GIRLS

- Erin Gebes (G18s-3rd)
- Caroline Schnell (G18s-4th)
- Sammie Watson (G18s-5th)
- Rebecca Weissmann (G16s-2nd, G16d-2nd)
- Alexa Brandt (G16s-3rd)
- Jennifer Weissmann (G16s-5th)
- Monica Li (G16s-6th)
- Samantha Martinelli (G14s-2nd)
- Alex Middleton (G14s-3rd)
- Kalyssa Hall (G12s-2nd, G12d-2nd)
- Ashley Lahey (G12s-6th)

BOYS

- Casey MacMaster (B18s-2nd, B18d-1st)
- Harrison Lang (B16s-3rd)
- Hayden Sabatka (B16s-4th)
- Matt Sayre (B16s-5th)
- Jamey Swiggart (B16s-6th)
- Jesse Ruder-Hook (B14s-1st, B14d-1st)
- John Koza (B14s-3rd)
- Spencer Lang (B14s-4th)
- Zach Fryer (B14s-6th, B14d-2nd)
- Luke Lorenz (B14d-2nd)
- Casey Ross (B12s-3rd, B12d-1st)
- William Gold (B12s-5th)
- Brett Finan (B12d-2nd)

**MOZIA BREAKS THROUGH IN PUEBLO,
DUNN REPEATS IN DENVER**

Cheyenne Mountain and Cherry Creek capture team championships

Colorado Academy sophomore **Jessika Mozia** (pictured, top) returned to high school tennis' biggest stage this May, hoping to erase the disappointment of losing in last year's 4A No. 1 singles final to Sammie Watson. Her 7-5,6-4 victory over D'Evelyn sophomore **Erin Gebes** put an exclamation point on the end of her perfect 24-0 season, in which she never lost a single set.

Cheyenne Mountain claimed its 15th team title, finishing with 89 points to 54 for runner-up Regis Jesuit. Overall, the Indians claimed five titles: **Meha Semwal** (pictured, bottom left) won at No. 2 singles, **Emily Venner** defended her title at No. 3, and CM captured the No. 1 (**Kalyn Miller** and **Kristen Sullivan**), No. 3 (**Katie Stagnaro** and **Lauren Renjard**) and No. 4 (**Lara Walden** and **Lainey O'Neal**) doubles championships. **Megan Harrison** and **Kerbi Brisch** of Regis took the No. 2 doubles title.

In 5A action, **Natalie Dunn** of Poudre (pictured, bottom right) became the first repeat champion since Sara Anundsen (2001-03) at No. 1 singles, defeating 2008 champion and '09 finalist Caroline Schnell (CC). Cherry Creek nabbed its 14th consecutive team title, despite a furious finish by Fairview to close the gap on championship Saturday. Creek finished with just two individual titles and a total of 77 points to Fairview's 69, as the Knights' No. 1 doubles team of **Megan Moore** and **Becca Warren** earned a state title with a victory against **Kimberly Arfsten** and **Molly Reynolds** of Chatfield. Fairview also recorded championship wins at No. 2 singles (**Kat Pepin**) and No. 3 singles (**Katie Kuosman**) against Cherry Creek. The Bruins did earn titles at No. 2 doubles (**Samantha Henry** and **Lindsey Pond**) and No. 3 doubles (**Yekaterina Golyenko** and **Madeleine Bernstein**).

Odds/Ends

- Jessika Mozia is the first African American to win the 4A No. 1 singles title (Tabatha Knop, Air Academy was the 5A champ in 2005). Mozia is the first Colorado Academy student to earn a state tennis championship.
- Two-time defending 4A singles champion Sammie Watson (junior, Kent) elected not to defend her high school title this season.
- The 8-point victory for Cherry Creek is the second-smallest margin in more than a decade (the Bruins won the 2008 team title over Ponderosa by 7 points, 65-58).
- Cherry Creek has won a total of 28 team championships. Cheyenne Mountain is second on that list with 15. Kent is third with 5, Mullen is fourth with 2, and five schools have 1.
- Since 1991 when tennis was split into divisions, only two other schools have defeated Cherry Creek at the state tournament: Manual (6A, 1993) and Grand Junction (5A, 1996).

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS PHOTO GALLERY



photo by Chris McLean, Pueblo Chieftain



photo by Chris McLean, Pueblo Chieftain



photo by Kurt Desautels



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COLLEGEBOUND

COLLEGE-BOUND, PART TWO

MARKETING U: HOW TO STAND APART FROM THE CROWD

USTA COLORADO'S GUIDE TO PLAYING COLLEGE TENNIS.

Story by
DENNIS HUSPENI

If junior tennis players think about getting on a college tennis team as a job hunt, not just "picking a college," then developing a marketing plan makes a lot more sense.

Yes, there are thousands of colleges with tennis programs in America. But look at openings with scholarships attached and the availability just shrunk dramatically. Plus there are more than 300,000 varsity high school tennis players potentially vying for those scholarships, according to the USTA.

And it's safe to say with the price of college tuition, books, coaches, facilities and travel – that "job" can be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. So college coaches are sure looking at the process as adding a valuable employee.

The junior players with skills usually don't have problems getting attention. Tournament winners find their way on to ranking lists, either via the United States Tennis Association or private companies like Tennisrecruiting.net and collegetennisonline.com. Coaches find those lists and watch top players either virtually online or by attending tournaments.

But for those students without a national ranking – and that's obviously the majority – a little marketing can go a long way towards getting on a coach's player radar.

But there's a right way, a wrong way and an extremely expensive way to market yourself professionally.

In the last decade, the marketing industry for junior tennis players has blossomed into a multi-million-dollar industry. Players today have their own websites, video producers and recruiting agents to supplement the high school and private coaches' contacts.

Here's what one of the state's best junior players, a university tennis coach and a Colorado college player and her parents say about the process.

Go national

Rocky Mountain High School's Casey MacMaster never had to worry about getting attention from college coaches. His potent skills and blisteringly powerful 130 mph serve gave him a top 20 ranking on any mainstream list.

So MacMaster was in the rare spot of not even having to produce a video.

"I didn't do any of that," MacMaster said. "I traveled to tournaments I knew the college coaches would be at. ... Of course, I had to fight to get my ranking high enough to get into those tournaments and get that exposure."

University of Colorado Women's Tennis Coach Nicole Kenneally agrees, saying tournament exposure is invaluable.

"This may make some recruiting companies mad, but you could save money as well," Kenneally said. "Think about spending more money on tournaments and travel."

MacMaster attended four national tournaments in the summer before his senior year. But Kenneally said Colorado high school students can get plenty of experience and exposure at more regional events like the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's (ITA) summer circuit and college camps.

"Players not looking to go pro have an opportunity to compete and get ready for the school year," she said.

MacMaster, who recently signed

SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

NUMBER OF DIVISION 1 COLLEGES THAT OFFER TENNIS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MEN: 274

NUMBER OF DIVISION 2 COLLEGES THAT OFFER TENNIS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MEN: 164

NUMBER OF DIVISION 1 COLLEGES THAT OFFER TENNIS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN: 316

NUMBER OF DIVISION 2 COLLEGES THAT OFFER TENNIS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN: 211

NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS:

MEN – DIVISION 1: 4.5 DIVISION 2: 4.5
WOMEN – DIVISION 1: 8 DIVISION 2: 6

NUMBER OF MEN'S SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE: 1,971

NUMBER OF WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE: 3,794

NUMBER OF VARSITY HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS PLAYERS (BOYS & GIRLS): 334,758



MARKETING U

IN ORDER TO STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD,
YOU NEED TO BE DIFFERENT.
A VIDEO IS A GREAT WAY TO
SHOW WHO YOU ARE.

with Harvard, said he started the process with a simple email to the coaches of the handful of colleges he was interested in.

"You've got to reach out to the coach," MacMaster said. "Making the first move is truly beneficial."

With the internet, it's easy to find current contact information for college coaches via the ncaa.org web site, or pay web sites like collegetennisconnect.com and the previously-mentioned collegetennisonline.com. For a fee, users can generate lists of colleges and programs that suit their needs.

But most players don't achieve the "blue chip" or "four-star" status MacMaster earned.

Those junior players have to be a little savvier about attracting attention.

Become a movie star

Morgan Forsyth of Parker went through the process in 2008 and has the benefit of hindsight from her spot on the Colorado State University-Pueblo's women's team.

"The first major thing I did was make a recruiting video," said Forsyth, who graduated from Ponderosa High School and earned a tennis scholarship to CSU-Pueblo.

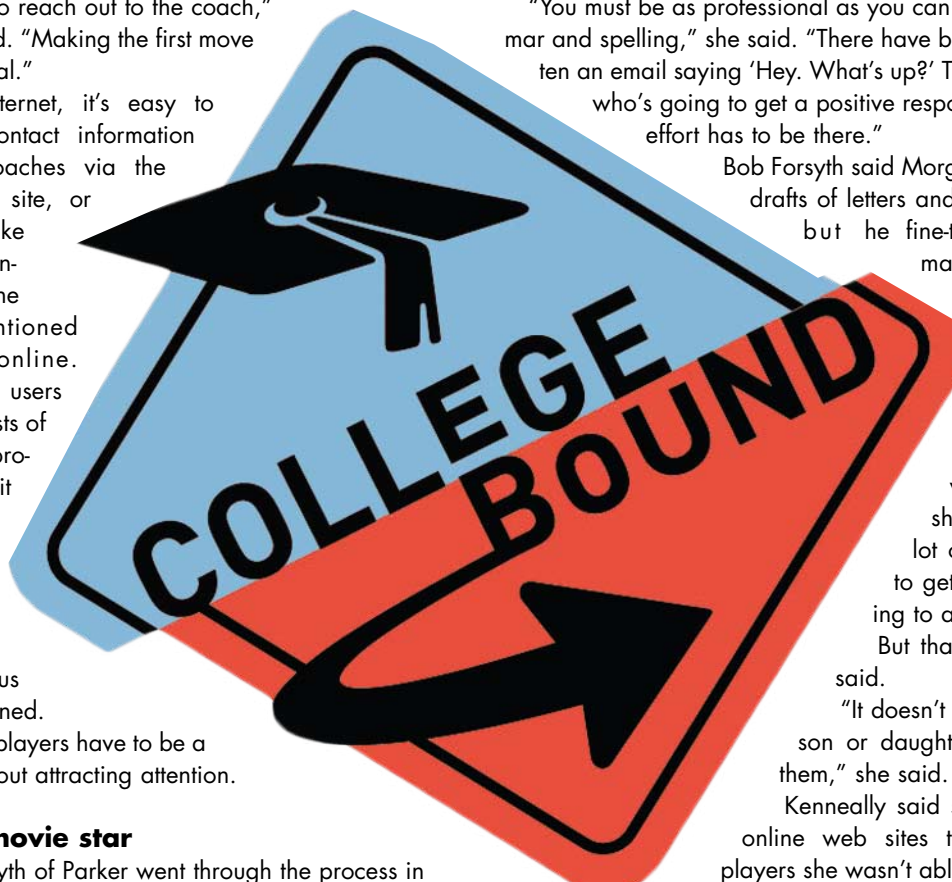
With the help of her parents, Bob and Vicki, Forsyth sent that video with a cover letter to some 25 colleges she was interested in. They found the colleges on NCAA.org.

Kenneally said she looks at every DVD or video that comes across her desk. Many prospective student athletes have also been posting videos on Youtube.com and just sending the coach an email with a link.

"That's been really popular and cheaper," she said.

She also warns against over-producing a DVD. Coaches are smart enough to see through the bells and whistles.

"The biggest thing on the video is to show everything," Kenneally said. "Show the mistakes. Too many times I've seen videos that have been sliced, diced and edited to show the player making every shot. When I see 500 forehands and one backhand, well I know what the player's weakness is. Be honest and up front with the coach."



Kenneally suggests the student take control of the marketing process, but the parents continually look over his or her shoulder.

"You must be as professional as you can with all the grammar and spelling," she said. "There have been times I've gotten an email saying 'Hey. What's up?' That's not someone who's going to get a positive response from me. The effort has to be there."

Bob Forsyth said Morgan did all the first drafts of letters and correspondence, but he fine-tuned them "and made sure she hit the right points."

Morgan made all her own calls to coaches.

"At first, it was very intimidating," she said. "It took a lot of getting used to to get comfortable talking to a coach."

But that's key, Kenneally said.

"It doesn't bear well on your son or daughter if you call for them," she said.

Kenneally said she also used the online web sites to keep track of players she wasn't able to see at tournaments. She was not able to mention any specifically because of NCAA rules.

But it's no secret TENNISRECRUITING.net is one of the major players.

"It was cheap - like \$20 a year," MacMaster said. "You can get a list of college coaches looking at you. Coaches can choose to reveal their name and school. I'd say 95 percent of colleges do that."

Go door-to-door

Another great marketing technique - and a way to get some possible face time with a coach - is unofficial visits.

If the family is traveling this summer, stop at the local college campus. Even if the prospective student athlete doesn't necessarily want to play there, it can be good to get a feel for different programs and college campuses.

"Unofficial visits are a huge missed opportunity by most," Kenneally said. "They are way under-used. A coach loves to

continued on next page

COLORADO TENNIS asked Alex Davydov, the founder of Peak Your Game, LLC, to name the most important features of an effective college recruit video. Here's his top 5:

FIVE KEYS TO AN EFFECTIVE RECRUIT VIDEO

Know Yourself

Before heading to the courts with your camcorder, take time to determine your strengths and how you can make them stand out in your video.

Polish Your Introduction

The introduction is your first (and sometimes only) chance to make a good impression on a coach. Be sure you come across as personable, enthusiastic, and confident.

Avoid The Temptation To Produce A "Highlight Reel"

If all a coach can see are the top 50 shots you caught on film, he/she cannot make an accurate assessment of your game. Instead, be sure to include some unedited point play in your video.

Focus On The "Intangibles"

In addition to big strokes, coaches look for less tangible attributes such as footwork, shot selection, attitude, leadership, and coachability. Scoring well in these categories can pay off in a big way. It can be helpful to work with an experienced tennis professional to bring these attributes to light in your video.

Place Your Video In The Right Hands

While it can be helpful to post your video on YouTube or TennisRecruiting.net, the most effective way to get exposure is to make a list of schools that interest you and send your video to the head coaches.

Alex Davydov is the founder of Peak Your Game, LLC, a Colorado-based program designed to help players of all ages and abilities realize their tennis potential. Peak Your Game specializes in customized workout routines and college recruiting videos.

PEAK YOUR GAME TENNIS

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MAXIMIZE YOUR POTENTIAL

COLLEGEBOUND continued from P25

see 500 players. The coach also loves these visits because it's exposure for the school. Even if the player doesn't go there, they may tell their friends about it."

In all of this, be aware of NCAA recruiting rules – none of which apply before Sept. 1 of a junior tennis players' junior year in high school.

If a coach doesn't respond to an email before this time, it's because they can't. Coaches can only answer email after that Sept. 1 date. They can also send information on the college or program after that date. After July 1 of a high school student's junior year, a coach can then make personal contact via telephone up to once a week. Coaches are forbidden from talking to students at a tournament, but may talk to the student's parents (which counts as one-of-three allowed official recruiting visits), according to NCAA rules.

Everyone interviewed suggested starting the marketing process sooner than later – like sophomore year.

"We crunched it all into my senior year and that made things a little more stressful," Morgan Forsyth said. "Take your time to do it right. No later than junior year. Graduation seems so far away, but that time goes so quickly!"



THE STORY BEHIND TENNISRECRUITING.NET

One of the most popular websites for junior tennis players and college coaches is TENNISRECRUITING.net. Though "recruiting" is in its name, the site is more of an informational clearinghouse with detailed, independent, rankings and a massive database with customizable search capabilities.

Dallas Oliver, the company's vice president of business development, said more than 1,200 college coaches created an account with the service. Thousands more visit the site and use only the information available for free, he said.

"We have every player, even if they don't work with us to do their profile page," Oliver said. "Every year we get more users."

The service's rankings, which factors in head-to-head play, are valuable for players who can't afford to travel to national tournaments, thus compile points to boost a USTA ranking.

"Coaches know the ranking is a good predictor of performance," Oliver said.

The coaches can also use the "coaching advantage" to create lists – i.e. all sophomores interested in Division III schools with a certain GPA or SAT score.

The company originally developed tournament management software for the USTA. But in 2003, the USTA took over that job, moved it in-house and tennisrecruiting.net was born in 2005.

"There was a niche there," Oliver said. "We mainly wanted to show things could be done differently.... We don't necessarily consider ourselves a recruiting site. Most recruiting services act as agents. We don't."

RESOURCES ON THE WEB:

Here are some key websites to help junior tennis players get more information and exposure.

www.NCAA.org

www.USTA.com

www.ITATENNIS.com

www.COLLEGETENNISONLINE.com

www.COLLEGETENNISCONNECT.com

www.TENNISRECRUITING.net

www.JUNIORTENNISNEWS.com

www.JUNIORTENNIS.com

www.BERECRUITED.com

www.SIMPLIFYATHLETICS.com

www.advantagetennisacademy.com

Babolat

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Junior Finalist at 2010
Australian Open

Advantage
tennis academy

**Making champions...
one player at a time**

THE CAMPUS SCENE

COLLEGE TENNIS RECAP

The University of Denver women's tennis program celebrated the announcement that two of its members were selected to compete in the 2010 NCAA Individual Championships, held May 26-31 at the Magill Tennis Center in Athens, Ga. Senior **Ute Schnoy** (Altenstadt, Germany) received a bid to the 64-player singles field, while the team of Schnoy and freshman **Sophia Bergner** (Schechen, Germany) was selected to the 32-team doubles field.

Schnoy (pictured) earned All-Sun Belt Conference singles honors for the second consecutive season after leading Denver with a 14-8 record at No. 1 singles. Schnoy, who is the top-ranked singles player in the SBC with a No. 88 ranking, made her first appearance in the NCAA Individual Singles Tournament with a win in the first round. She faced No. 4 ranked Hilary Barte (Stanford) in the second round, losing in straight sets. Schnoy defeated three ranked opponents this season and is the first DU player since Mallory Voelker (2009) to participate in the individual tournament.

No. 54 Schnoy and Bergner posted an 8-1 mark at No. 1 doubles for the Pioneers. The duo defeated one ranked opponent this season and won seven straight matches heading into the tournament. Their streak ended in the first round, however, as they lost in straight sets to No. 10 Gabriela Mejia and Laura Vallverdu (Florida).

The DU men netted three ITA Mountain Region awards following the 2009-10 season, which ended after their first round loss to Michigan at the NCAA Team Championships. Senior **David Simson** (Vienna, Austria), freshman **Enej Bonin** (Kopar, Slovenia) and assistant coach **Chris Lam** (Honolulu, Hawaii) were honored after the Pioneers' school-best 19-5 dual season.

Simson earned both the Arthur Ashe Award for Sportsmanship and Leadership and the Raphael Osuna Award, Bonin was named Rookie of the Year, while Lam earned Assistant Coach of the Year.

One of two seniors on the team, Simson's 13 doubles wins and eight singles wins paced DU to a No. 25 ranking and its second NCAA Tournament appearance. Simson was also named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District VII At-Large First Team for the University Division on May 20. Simson, who was named Academic All-District last year, carries a perfect 4.0 GPA in finance.

The ITA/Arthur Ashe Leadership and Sportsmanship Award recognizes outstanding individuals in all divisions at the regional and national level. In August the national winners are honored during a special ceremony hosted by the USTA during Arthur Ashe Kids' Day inside Ashe Stadium. This award which dates back to 1982, goes to NCAA Divisions I, II and III, NAIA and JuCo men's and women's players who have exhibited outstanding sportsmanship and leadership as well as scholastic, extracurricular and tennis achievements.

Bonin earned the rookie honor after an outstanding freshman season at Denver. Bonin posted a 22-3 singles record en route to All-Sun Belt Conference honors. Bonin was 16-1 at No. 3 singles and added 11 doubles wins.

Lam's assistant coaching was instrumental to DU's success this season. The Pioneers started the season with six straight wins and won a school-best 10 consecutive matches from March 5-April 8. DU placed second in the Sun Belt Conference and advanced to its second NCAA Tournament in Division I.

US Air Force Academy women's tennis player **Sarah Cassman** is the Mountain Region recipient of the ITA/Arthur Ashe Award. The junior from Columbus, GA, became the first Air Force female in the Division I era (1996) to have three consecutive 20-win seasons in singles after posting a 25-16 overall record this season. Cassman finished third on the team in wins and helped the Falcons to a 16-12 overall record, their best record since 1999. Cassman has a 67-56 career singles record in her three years at the Academy.

Mesa State College (Grand Junction, CO) senior **Jordan Chomko** was unanimously selected Rocky Mountain Athletic Academic Player of the Year, and named RMAC First Team singles and second team in doubles, becoming a four-time all-conference selection. Chomko was named NCAA Division II Central Region Senior Player of the Year following his outstanding year long performance as the Mavericks number one singles and doubles player. He finished 17-9 overall in singles and 21-8 in doubles with partner Nick Provenza. He graduated with a finance degree, finishing with a 3.82 GPA.

Head Coach **Dan MacDonald** was named Central Region Coach of the Year. MacDonald guided the men's team to its third regional tournament berth and the first men's regional tournament spot. He was named Central Region Coach of the Year (women) in 2009.

MacDonald and the Mesa men won their regional match versus St. Cloud State on May 8 and advanced to the school's first ever NCAA Division II National Championship Tournament in Altamonte Springs, FL, where they fell in the first round.

Senior **Rashad Khamis** earned the Division II ITA/Arthur Ashe (Central Region) Award for Leadership and Sportsmanship.



Mesa State sophomore **Cyndle Curfman** was named to the RMAC First Team All-Academic Team. Curfman played number six singles and number two doubles for the Mavericks this season. She posted a 13-9 overall record in singles and a 14-10 record with doubles partner Amber Armenderaz. Curfman is a Radiology major with a 3.38 GPA. MSC went 16-9 this season and advanced to the central regional final for the second consecutive year.

Sophomore **Kelleen Sera**, Mesa State College, was recognized by the ITA as the Division II Player to Watch (Central region).

Three-time Colorado High School state champion **Sara Anundsen** got the nod for ITA Assistant Coach of the Year (North Carolina/Carolina League). Anundsen, a former NCAA Doubles Champ at UNC and two-time All-American was named assistant coach for the UNC women's tennis team in 2008. Anundsen, a 2007 UNC graduate, combined with Jenna Long to win the 2007 NCAA doubles title – the first national championship in program history. Anundsen earned All-America honors in 2006 and 2007, and helped lead the Tar Heels to a pair of Sweet Sixteens and an Elite Eight.

Former USTA Intermountain player development coordinator **Hayden Perez** was named the ITA Central Region Assistant Coach of the Year (University of Nebraska) for the second time in his career (2007).

A quick shout out to former CU Men's coach Sam Winterbotham, who brought his Tennessee Volunteers squad to the NCAA finals, going 31-1 during the season (their only loss came to No. 1 ranked Virginia). CU's men's program thrived under Winterbotham, reaching a program-high top-25 national ranking before it was unceremoniously dumped in 2006.

If you know of a local player making the college scene, let us know. The deadline for the Fall issue of Colorado Tennis is August 11. Email the Editor, KURT@COLORADOTENNIS.com.

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PROFILE

continued from P17

"We went to Australia and my wife and I played quite a bit of tennis over there. That was quite the social sport on Sunday afternoons," Jordan said. "A lot of people had their own courts, clay courts, so we played quite a bit over there. I played in Houston when I lived down there."

Jordan said tennis keeps him fit.

"Some of the older guys, you don't take them lightly," Jordan said. "You have to be careful. Certainly they've learned to cut the ball and control the ball instead of just hitting it, although Greg Ireton is a dynamo and he's continually going and he moves real well."

The competitive juices still flow when the seniors play.

"Everybody wants to win. It's still very competitive, not cutthroat or anything like that," Jordan said. "That's the difference with tennis and golf. In golf, you're kind of playing against yourself and your handicap, but tennis you're playing against somebody on the other side of the net."

Dr. DuBois, 69, plays three days a week and started playing tennis in college in intramurals. Being the young guy at 69, DuBois said playing with guys 10 to 15 years older gives him incentive.

"They provide a reference point for me. Greg Ireton is 15 years older and he still hits a pretty strong forehand, and I think it's an incentive to keep going," DuBois said. "I look at them and project what maybe I can do in 10 years, 12 years. We kind of look out after each other, but we all like to win. We try to play fair. It's a very positive thing in my life because I retired about two-and-a-half years ago and I enjoy the camaraderie and the physical exercise."

Van De Hey said tennis has become a key part of the guys' social life.

"It truly does represent what we talk about tennis being, which is a lifetime sport," Van De Hey said. "I think it's special. I think that when you see these guys playing it's pretty inspirational. I think if you're going to age, everyone wants to age that way."

What it comes down to is that these guys love to play tennis no matter how many hip replacements or how many birthdays pass them by.

"Tennis is very important to me because it's good exercise, and also mentally it's stimulating," Madden said. "Tennis is in my blood. If I get rid of this pain, then I think I can go for another six or seven years. I'm sure I can play into my 90s." ☺

3RD ANNUAL



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Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation

CAMPUS SCENE

continued from P27

ITA SUMMER CIRCUIT EVENTS RETURN TO COLORADO

Over 23,000 men and women have competed in Intercollegiate Tennis Association Summer Circuit events since it began in 1993. The circuit provides college (and junior and alumni) players the opportunity to compete in organized events virtually year round. Although the primary focus of the circuit is to provide incoming freshman and collegiate players the chance to compete in the summer months, for NCAA compliance purposes, the events within the ITA Summer Circuit are categorized as "open"; therefore anyone is eligible to compete in these events as long as he/she is a current ITA member.



New in 2010 is the addition of a fourth site (New Mexico) in the Mountain Circuit. The ITA Summer Circuit is currently made up of eight regional circuits (East, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Midwest, Central, Mountain, Southwest and West) played during the month of July, leading up to the August 7-11 ITA National Summer Championships in Bloomington, Indiana. Information can be found at: ITATENNIS.com

2010 ITA Summer Circuit Events presented by the USTA

Mountain Circuit

Univ. of Colorado	July 3-5	Nicole Kenneally nicole.kenneally@colorado.edu
Univ. of Denver	July 10-12	Christopher Lam christopher.lam@du.edu
Univ. of New Mexico	July 17-19	Roy Canada rcanada@unm.edu
US Air Force Academy	July 24-26	Kim Gidley kim.gidley@usafa.edu

CU FINISHES 8TH AT CAMPUS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The University of Colorado-Boulder finished a respectable 8th place at the Tennis On Campus National Championships, held April 15-17, 2010 at the Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex in Surprise, AZ.

After dominating their first-round flight against Tyler Junior College, Penn and Clemson, CU won their first round in the Gold Bracket against Dartmouth. That's where their run ended, as CU dropped their final three team matches to Florida, Michigan and Penn State. Visit NIRSA.org to see the complete results.



The USTA National Campus

Championship is the pinnacle of the Tennis On Campus program. Hosted in partnership by the USTA, National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA), World TeamTennis (WTT), and

Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA),

this championship features 64

college and universi-

ty co-ed teams compet-

ing for bragging

rights and the illustri-

ous title of National

Champion. Teams

can qualify for a bid

to the USTA National Campus

Championship through participation in their USTA Campus

Championship - Section Event or by applying for an at-large bid.

The USTA's Tennis On Campus

program is designed to provide college students with

opportunities for team camaraderie, social networking, and rivaled competition through

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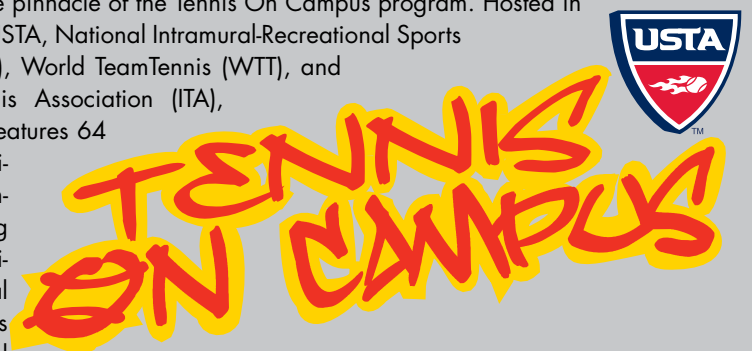
varsity, Tennis On Campus offers co-ed team-based play, regional and national champion-

ship competition, and helps students maintain active and healthy lifestyles through their

college years.

Currently, the program is offered on over 500 college campuses and services over

30,000 students. Visit TENNISONCAMPUS.com for more information.



THEBIGCHAIR

NEWS FROM USTA COLORADO HEADQUARTERS
STATE OF THE DISTRICT

BY FRITZ GARGER, USTA COLORADO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings! We're off to a great start to the summer season. The participation levels this Spring have increased in the league and tournament areas and it looks the same for the Summer programs and tournaments as well. All of this activity affirms that the interest in tennis is on the rise here in Colorado and the entire country.

In addition to the standard administration of our staple programs and behind the scenes activity, we have been involved with several more high profile events. These include the Cinco De Mayo festival (the first of our three-part Diversity TennisFest Series), the Diversity Reception and the most recent hosting of the Junior Intermountain Summer Sectional Championships. All of these events were extremely successful as we look to both outreach to new players and communities; and provide a top-flight event for what can be considered the most prestigious tournament for the juniors who reside in the six-state Intermountain Section. There are so many people who step up and support these efforts. The aforementioned events alone brought together well over a hundred volunteers to support and assist the efforts of our staff. Without question, we would not be so successful without such amazing support. A big thank you to all those who help make these events possible.

In looking back over the years, there have been certain occasions where I have highlighted the efforts of the USTA Colorado staff – primarily during Board meetings, our Annual Meeting and other special events. I am well aware that the staff is not perfect – we're human – and we are always interested in looking at ways we can improve upon our existing work. However, this group works extremely hard to provide the best possible administrative support and leadership for the projects and services that make a difference for tennis players and communities across the state. There are those who are more familiar with the effort and dedication that's involved with our programs and services. And there are thousands who don't know the behind the scenes commitment (and extra effort) that is made by the staff as we strive to produce the highest quality of work product and services for those involved with the sport and our association.

There is always more work to be done, more suggestions and feedback to listen to as we move forward each year. But I would like to take this opportunity to say that I am extremely proud of our staff and the work that they perform. We have an amazing group of people whose dedication is real and inspiring. They truly care about the people we serve and the outreach efforts to bring more people into the fold of Colorado tennis. We have an extremely strong and capable group of both "in-house" staff and those independent contractors whose skill and expertise are essential for us to accomplish the things we do statewide.

I have made mention over the years of the leadership and support provided to the staff from the Board of Directors and our committees. Hand-in-hand, we are working together to bring the best possible programs and services to those interested and involved in our sport throughout the state. We are growing, and in some areas the growth is so substantial that we are embarking on new challenges and issues. From my perspective it is good to know we have very capable people who genuinely care about people and the work we do to execute our mission to promote and develop the sport in our state. Those people include our staff, independent contractors, Board and Committee members, the amazing number of volunteers who support our events and all our tennis industry partners who help us all deliver tennis to communities throughout Colorado.

I am extremely proud and grateful to be a part of such an organization. And while we will continue to look for new and improved ways to go about our business, what a wonderful collection of people it is with which to work.



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**Nominate someone for the
Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame.**

The deadline to nominate a candidate
for consideration is September 15.

For a complete list of Hall of Fame inductees,
or to download a nomination form,
please visit COLORADOTENNIS.com.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMERS WANTED

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 it from the USTA Colorado website, COLORADOTENNIS.com.



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THE LAST WORD

STOP SENDING YOUR KIDS TO TENNIS LESSONS!

THINK ABOUT IT. YOU DON'T SEND YOUR KIDS TO SOCCER LESSONS, WHY SEND THEM TO TENNIS LESSONS? IT'S TIME TO BREAK OUT OF THE AGE-OLD TEACHING MODEL OF LEARNING TO PLAY TENNIS, AND START PLAYING TO LEARN.

BY KURT DESAUTELS, COLORADO TENNIS EDITOR

It's boom time again for tennis. With more than 30 million people picking up a racquet last year, expectations are high that the sport will continue to experience the sort of growth that makes retailers and facility managers giggle in anticipation.

But there's one demographic that seems to be lagging in this resurgence. Kids, specifically, the 10 & under variety, are vastly under-represented in organized play opportunities. Considering the sales of junior racquets (designed specifically for kids in this age group) are up almost 90% in the last decade, the scarcity of youngsters competing in leagues and tournaments is puzzling.

In 2009, USA Soccer registered 1.1 million kids on 10 & under teams. That same year, just 11,436 unique players were competing in USTA sanctioned 10 & under tournaments nationwide. Junior Team Tennis didn't fare much better, with only 6,500 kids registered in the 10 & under division. In Colorado, there are fewer than 150 unique 10 & under competitors, and just 362 registered JTT players in the 10 & under division.

If you're trying to develop the next generation of American pro tennis players, these types of numbers are not likely going to get it done. Even on a purely recreational level, these numbers reveal a soft spot in the system, as industry projections are that only 2% of all 10 & under tennis players are involved in ANY type of competition.

Consider this – recent studies indicate that a vast majority of youth sports participants (35-70%, depending on the sport) quit by the time they are teenagers. The number continues to nose dive as teens become adults, as recreational play opportunities dwindle. Tennis, on the other hand, seems to favor late bloomers. Whereas the numbers for 10 & under competition (recreational leagues and tournaments) are relatively small, the numbers for all USTA leagues and sanctioned tournaments are comparatively huge. So what's going on with our youngest players? Why are so many kids taking tennis lessons, yet so few playing tennis?

While the answer to this question is quite complex, the solution is simple. QuickStart.

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I know many of you are familiar with QuickStart Tennis, the latest play format developed by the USTA (and many others) for kids 10 and under, but for those who need a refresher, QST is to Tennis what Little League is to Baseball – it's age-, size-, and ability-appropriate tennis for kids 10 and under. Shorter, narrower courts; shorter, lighter racquets; slower, less-lively balls; and kid-friendly scoring combine to bring tennis down to their level. But what makes QuickStart *QuickStart* is that it is not just another teaching application until the kids are big enough to move to a regular court. It's regulation play.

Other teaching applications – like USPTA's Little Tennis and a hundred variations seen in clubs and facilities across the land – break out the mini-nets, the shorter racquets and the foam balls to introduce kids to the concepts of swinging, hitting, timing, etc. This traditional method is where kids learn to play tennis.

In the QuickStart format, kids don't *learn to play* tennis. They *play to learn* tennis.

Kids learn sports best when they are continually engaged and having fun. And what better way to make sure kids are engaged than to have them playing games, rather than learning the fundamentals of how to hit a backhand volley?

Besides, the practice of bringing our children to *tennis lessons* seems to be a sure-fire way to turn them off. When was the last time you heard a child say he was hustling off to a soccer lesson? There's nothing inherently wrong with the traditional "tennis lesson". That's probably how you learned to play tennis. But there's something going on with that age-old formula that isn't serving our future generation of tennis players.

Perhaps it's that we expect too much from our young players. I see it all the time, a tennis teacher will bring a handful of kids out on court for a "QuickStart" lesson. Of course, they have the QuickStart approved scaled-down equipment – the short nets, the smaller racquets, the foam balls, the short courts. The instructor proceeds to toss balls to each child, while the rest of the group dutifully and patiently awaits their turn. After two or three attempts at a volley, the child goes to the back of the line to wait for their turn to come again.

Are we to assume that equipment size is the only thing that separates a 6 year old from a 43 year old? As a parent, I can assure you that by the age of 6, a child hasn't yet developed the patience or attention span required to learn this way. Why would you go through the hassle of providing kids the age-appropriate tennis equipment if you're going to give them an adult lesson? Does the term, "picking daisies" ring a bell?

It's this type of hackneyed thinking about orthodox tennis lessons that has kept the younger generation from becoming active participants in organized tennis.

I'm not a tennis instructor, but in a former life I was a ski coach and instructor. And whether you're teaching skiing, or tennis, or any other sport, there is one rule that I think many instructors ignore: there is no learning without motion. It doesn't matter whether a kid is freezing on the side of a hill watching his instructor diagram the perfect turn, or waiting in line for her turn to hit a volley, at that moment there is no fun, no joy, no learning.

You want to know the prescription for getting more kids playing organized tennis (and maybe even developing the next generation of American superstars)? QuickStart Tennis. Here's why:

First, by getting kids out and enjoying the sport on a recreational/competitive level, QuickStart helps develop tennis skills and confidence early on. Teaching an 8 year old using shorter courts and kid-friendly balls, then switching to a full-size venue with standard-issue balls for match play is a recipe for shattered nerves and crushed egos.

Second, as young players progress from the initial 36-foot court (8 and under) to the 60-foot court (9 and 10 year olds) with a bit livelier ball, they can take their skills and strategies with them. Learning to compete on a 78-foot court teaches a youngster three skills: 1. hit the ball hard; 2. hit the ball really hard; 3. hit the ball really really hard.

Third, kids shouldn't have to wait until high school geometry class to learn about angles.

Fourth, you can drill for hours in "simulated match play", but there's really no simulation that can simulate the emotional, physical and mental challenges that are part of a real tennis match, whether in a tournament setting or playing junior team tennis. Regardless of your age, there's a lot to learn about yourself in these situations. As parents and coaches, we should be very excited about these opportunities for growth.

Fifth, and finally, we have got to start building the foundations for the future by investing in new QuickStart courts, or at the very least, striping our traditional courts with QST lines. So far, few facilities have been willing to make this investment in the future of our sport, but both the USTA and Intercollegiate Tennis Association have gotten behind the campaign by issuing guidelines allowing for the additional lines.

Colorado is lagging behind other states that have been quicker to build new QST facilities, or stripe existing courts with the QST lines. To date, only one dedicated QST facility has been completed (see page 11). Imagine what can happen in 5-10 years if our facilities get behind the QST movement and begin offering true competitive opportunities to the 10 & under crowd. Imagine how much fun our kids will be having when they develop the confidence that comes with competing in a nurturing and confidence-inspiring environment.

The time for QuickStart is now, and not just as a teaching gimmick or a catch-all phrase for foam balls and short racquets. Instead of enrolling your child into another round of tennis lessons, maybe you should insist on having them *play* tennis instead.





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IT'S YOUR GAME™

ABOUT USTA COLORADO

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

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

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

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

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

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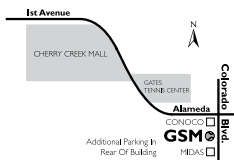
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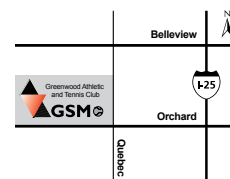
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