

# COLORADO TENNIS

Year 35, Issue 5

The Official Publication Of Tennis Lovers

Est. 1976

**WINTER 2010**

OTHER SPORTS DON'T MAKE KIDS PLAY LIKE ADULTS.

INTRODUCING 10 AND UNDER TENNIS:  
A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME FOR KIDS.



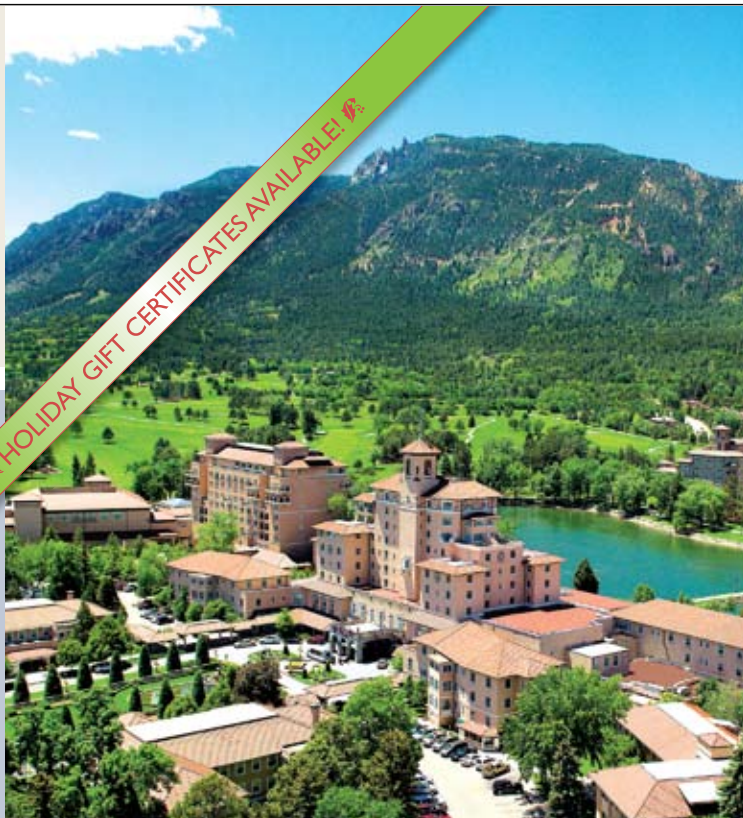
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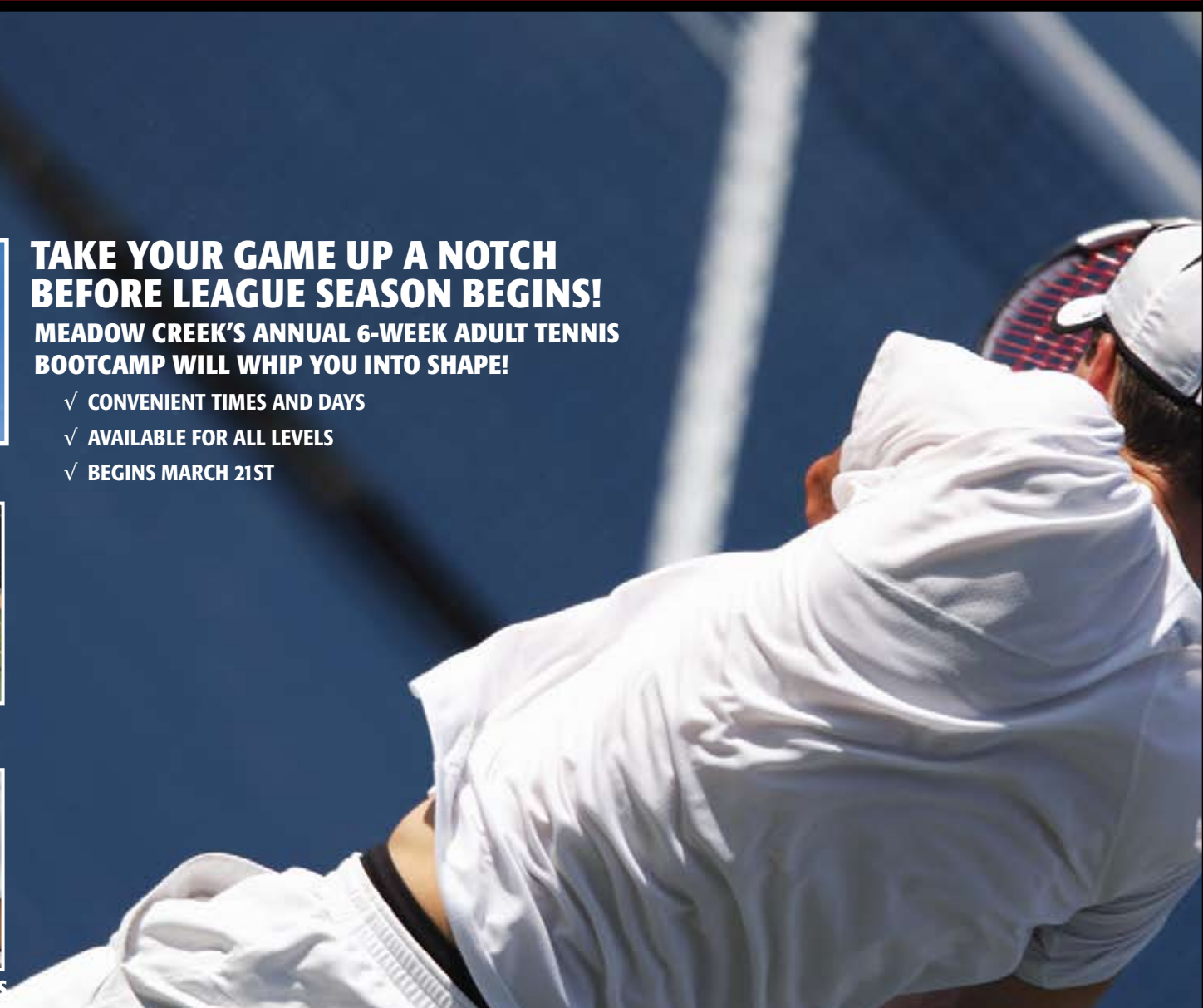
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# COLORADO TENNIS

Year 35, Issue 5

The Official Publication Of Tennis Lovers

Est. 1976

WINTER 2010

## COVER STORY

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### ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

After more than 100 years of raising our 10 and Under players on standard courts, using traditional tennis balls, the USTA has mandated a rule change that will fundamentally change the way they learn, the way they play, and the way they compete.

Beginning in 2012, tennis will adopt a model that other sports have been using successfully for decades, treating kids like kids, not like adults.

It's about time.

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### HALL OF FAME

Please welcome the 11th class of inductees to the Colorado Tennis HOF: Clarence Dodge, Art & John Hagan, Brenda Vlasak and Kent Woodard.

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

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Turning old racquets into new dreams  
Changing the world. One player at a time.  
Updates from prep and competitive action; Team Colorado  
Wrapping up the league season; Salute to Captains  
News and notes from USTA CO Headquarters  
Are your kids be playing "real" tennis?  
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.

Free subscriptions are available, contact the editor.  
Periodical postage paid at Denver, CO.

### POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

USTA Colorado  
3300 E Bayaud Ave, Suite 201  
Denver, CO 80209

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### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation		For the Issue Date of 09/02/2010	
1. Publication Title		2. Issue Date	
COLORADO TENNIS		Fall/November 2010	
3. Issue Frequency		4. Number of Issues Published Annually	
Quarterly		4	
5. Annual Subscription Price		6. Number of Copies of this Issue Published	
NA		17,810	
7. Total Number of Copies of this Issue (Sum of 8 and 9)		17,810	
8. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)		16,546	
9. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run) (Sum of 10 and 11)		16,546	
10. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 12a and 12b)		11. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 12c and 12d)	
12a. Paid Distribution Outside the Mails		12c. Paid Distribution Outside the Mails	
0		0	
12b. Paid Distribution Through the Mails		12d. Paid Distribution Through the Mails	
0		0	
12e. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 12b and 12d)		12f. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 12e and 12f)	
0		0	
12g. Unpaid Distribution Outside the Mails		12h. Unpaid Distribution Outside the Mails	
0		0	
12i. Unpaid Distribution Through the Mails		12j. Unpaid Distribution Through the Mails	
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12k. Total Unpaid Distribution (Sum of 12g and 12j)		12l. Total Unpaid Distribution (Sum of 12k and 12l)	
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12m. Total Distribution (Sum of 12f and 12l)		12n. Total Distribution (Sum of 12m and 12n)	
1,300		1,300	
12o. Copies not Distributed (Sum of 7 minus 12n)		12p. Copies not Distributed (Sum of 7 minus 12o)	
1,510		1,510	
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IN A DECISION THAT WILL **FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE** THE FUTURE LANDSCAPE OF TENNIS IN THE UNITED STATES, THE USTA HAS REQUIRED THAT BY 2012,

**ALL 10 AND UNDER TENNIS TOURNAMENTS**

BE PLAYED WITH

**SMALLER COURTS**

**LOWER NETS**

**LIGHTER AND LOWER-BOUNCING BALLS**

**SMALLER AND LIGHTER RACQUETS**

ADJUSTED TO

**A CHILD'S SIZE.**



HOW THE NEW RULES WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING ▶



## THE COVER STORY

AFTER MORE THAN 100 YEARS OF RAISING OUR 10 AND UNDER PLAYERS ON REGULATION-SIZE COURTS WITH STANDARD TENNIS BALLS, THE USTA HAS MANDATED A RULE CHANGE THAT WILL CHANGE THE WAY THEY LEARN, THE WAY THEY PLAY, AND THE WAY THEY COMPETE. BEGINNING IN 2012, TENNIS WILL ADOPT A MODEL THAT OTHER SPORTS HAVE BEEN USING SUCCESSFULLY FOR DECADES, TREATING KIDS LIKE KIDS, NOT LIKE ADULTS.

IT'S ABOUT TIME.

### What is 10 and Under Tennis?

**10 and Under Tennis**, using the QuickStart Tennis play format, is structured for kids to learn, rally and play quickly and in a way that is both enjoyable and rewarding. Tailoring equipment and courts so they are sized appropriately for kids makes the game more accessible—and more fun—by allowing kids to get involved right from the start.

10 and Under Tennis eliminates waiting on long lines to hit the ball, and the frustration kids feel at not being able to rally. Kids will enjoy playing the game right away and keep coming back for more—developing a lifelong passion and appreciation for tennis.

#### benefits

10 and Under Tennis works by getting kids involved in the game immediately. Within the first hour of stepping onto the court, they are playing the game, rallying with one another, moving around and having fun. Scaling the game to their size helps make the learning process easier and a lot more fun.

The majority of youth sports have followed this formula for years:

- \* Baseball begins with smaller bats, smaller fields and progresses from tee ball to coach pitch to player pitch.
- \* Basketball and soccer employ similar methods, including shortened playing surfaces and appropriate-sized equipment. That helps ensure that your kids' first experiences in the sport will leave them overjoyed, not overwhelmed.

The shorter and narrower courts give kids the confidence and ability to cover the entire court. Kids have trouble controlling full-sized racquets because they are too long, too heavy and the grips are too large.

- \* 10 and Under Tennis racquets are proportionate in length and weight, and have the grips that fit smaller hands allowing for more control
- \* Balls traveling slower, bouncing at a height equal to kids' playing abilities provide for better and longer rallies, helping kids develop all-court games.

By being introduced to the QuickStart Tennis play format from the start, kids will gain confidence by seeing their own immediate progress, making them more enthusiastic about continuing to play and improve.

10 and Under Tennis arranges kids into two age groups: the first is 8 and under; the second is 9-10. By allowing kids play with their contemporaries, they have more fun while learning and developing skills.

### Effect on Community Development

10 and Under Tennis is changing the way tennis is played—and taught—throughout the United States. Under the old, traditional system of teaching tennis, kids would line up, hit a tennis ball or two and then move back to the end of the line. But with smaller courts, slower-moving and lower-bouncing balls, and lighter and shorter racquets included in the QuickStart Tennis play format, kids are playing soon after they take to the court, all while engaging in a proven aerobic exercise.

"In the past, tennis was like learning the piano," says Dave Miley, Executive Director, Tennis Development, ITF. "You'd have coaches telling you, 'look, maybe in six months time you'll get the opportunity to play tennis.' Well, most people want to know how I can play now. With the slower balls, in the first lesson you can at least get the players hitting back a few balls. And then from there you can teach technique and all that."



This brilliant video from the USTA outlining the basic rationale behind the rule change is available at [TOANDUNDERTENNIS.com](http://TOANDUNDERTENNIS.com).



It's a whole new ballgame for kids tennis! With equipment and courts tailored to suit their needs and abilities, kids will feel confident as soon as they pick up a racquet.

#### changes to programming

In addition to its ramifications for teaching tennis to young players, 10 and Under Tennis has opened up a host of opportunities for tennis providers to increase programming at their local facilities—a call to action that will only increase with the impending change to feature the QuickStart Tennis play format as the primary format for 10 and Under tournaments.

"This is an ideal time to add 36- and 60-foot courts to turn your current facility into a 10 and Under Tennis facility," says Virgil Christian, Director, Community Tennis Development, USTA. "Already, providers around the country are building 36- and 60-foot courts to implement the QuickStart Tennis play format, complementing their 78-foot courts and drawing more kids to their programs. And others have incorporated blended lines that allow you to play both 78-foot tennis and 36- or 60-foot tennis on the same court. It's truly an ideal partnership that serves both local communities and tennis as a whole."

#### an ideal fit

In many ways, the QuickStart Tennis play format employed by 10 and Under Tennis is an ideal fit for any for recreational, physical education or after-school program. It is easy to set up—10 and Under Tennis can be played in a gym, on a driveway or playground, or even in a dirt field with the help of portable nets (or tape strung between two chairs) and throw-down lines or lines marked with chalk or tape—and introduces kids to tennis in a safe and easy



The USTA is offering special assistance to facilities looking to stripe for 36'- and 60'-lines and/or building permanent courts. Info at [USTA.com/technical](http://USTA.com/technical).

way, all while providing the exercise growing children—and adults—need to stay healthy and fit.

And it makes economic sense as well. The 36- and 60-foot courts attract more kids to a facility, thus increasing demand for tennis programming, particularly during the summer months. And best of all, one 78-foot court can be transformed into as many as four 36-foot courts, meaning any tennis facility can be converted into a veritable Kids' Tennis Festival with the help of a few portable nets.

There are also benefits for tennis manufacturers. For decades, tennis players, whether they were 6 years old or 60, had only the option of playing on a 78-foot court with an adult racquet and a yellow tennis ball. The advent of 10 and Under Tennis translates into a new sales market with an expanded demographic, allowing manufacturers to increase business by selling right-sized equipment to young players and retaining them as customers into adulthood.

"Expanding the awareness of this approach and format for entry-level players is a huge opportunity to not just get more kids in the 6 to 10 age range into our sport (and their families), but also an opportunity to increase revenue per court and revenue overall coming into our industry," Tennis Industry Association President Jon Muir said in an interview with Racquet Sports Industry magazine. "If we can get more kids started and staying in our sport, our core serious player base will continue to grow in the years ahead."

### Effect on Player Development

10 and Under Tennis is not just for those looking to get their kids started in the game. It has been endorsed by USTA Player Development as the best way to develop future American

champions, and is used and implemented in Player Development's Certified Regional Training Centers around the country.

## the complete player

The slower-moving and lower-bouncing balls of 10 and Under Tennis allow kids to make contact in the optimal hitting zone—between the knees and shoulders—teaching proper swing technique and eliminating the extreme grips that some children develop in an attempt to make contact with balls bouncing over their heads. Moreover, the smaller, lighter racquets enable them to take even swings to ensure proper contact, and the smaller courts are instrumental in teaching the proper footwork and tactical decision-making required at the game's higher levels—all skills reinforced through proper tournament competition.

"One of the greatest misconceptions about 10 and Under Tennis is that it's a great format for beginners only, and that the goal is to transition players to 78-foot courts and yellow balls as soon as possible," says Martin Blackman, Senior Director, Talent Identification and Development, USTA Player Development. "But that's just not the case. We believe that mastery is the goal at every stage, and the QuickStart Tennis play format provides our coaches with the best opportunity to develop players because the environment is appropriate for the size and ability of the player, and the player can master the fundamental skills needed to play the game throughout their career."

The result is a more complete tennis player at a younger age, and a student who will grow into his or her skills at a measured rate—making fair players very good, good players great, and turning great players into champions.

"We're big believers in 10 and Under Tennis as an important component in developing the next generation of American tennis champions," says Patrick McEnroe, General Manager, USTA Player Development. "Not only does it reinforce what we in Player Development are trying to teach at an early age, it will increase the number of youngsters playing tennis. We believe that in the long run, the more players you have available, the better chance you're going to find the next Serena Williams or Pete Sampras."

## one size does not fit all

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association agrees, having voted during the 2010 NCAA Tournament to allow NCAA competition on courts that are lined for both 78-foot tennis as well as the 36- and 60-foot courts employed by 10 and Under Tennis. In conjunction with the USTA, the ITA has also started Campus QuickStart, a program created to recognize those college coaches who embrace and utilize the QuickStart format in their camps, clinics and other tennis outreach events targeted at the 10 and Under market.



*Tennis can be a difficult sport for a youngster to play. By helping them master the fundamentals at an earlier age, the QuickStart format builds confidence and skills that are easily transferable to the next level of development.*

one of the greatest misconceptions about 10 and under tennis is that it's a great format for beginners only.

# but that's just not the case.

through quickstart, players can master the fundamental skills needed to play the game throughout their career.

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"When you have kids that are struggling to hit the ball, making things slower and smaller is only a benefit," says Peter Smith, coach of the two-time defending NCAA champion USC men's team, who has incorporated the QuickStart Tennis play format in his camps and clinics. "Kids need to have success to want more success. I don't think the general public really realizes how technical and difficult tennis can be, so if we can make it easier, it's only going to help our sport and help everyone who's trying to play."

## Effect on Junior Competition

There has long been a disconnect in tennis between what is good for practice and what is good for play. By amending the rules used for 10 and Under tournaments, the USTA is working to bridge that gap, increasing play—and the number of players—across the board.

## an essential component

At some time children will be on the court competing against another player or doubles team. Competition at the correct time will provide a focus to the game, bring an awareness of strengths and weaknesses, and sharpen skills and tactics. Competition will also provide valuable opportunities for your child to make decisions in real time.

But competition at too-early a time can lead to discouragement, and the development of skills and tactics could be compromised if kids revert to bad habits for short-term success.

Since its unveiling in the spring of 2008, QuickStart has become an integral part of tennis for kids ages 10 and under," says Scott Schultz, Managing Director, Recreational Tennis, USTA. "And most importantly, it is the right play format for kids 10 and under to learn and experience tennis, regardless of whether it's rallying in their driveway or at a local park with a parent, or playing in a tournament."

Studies have shown that competition is an essential component of learning and enjoying any sport. The key is to use competition as a tool to grow and develop the game—and the games of youngsters—not to crown champions



*USC's Steve Johnson (foreground) readies a forehand at the USTA/ITA National Indoor Intercollegiate Championships at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. Notice the permanent 60' lines? Most of the players didn't!*

or turn late developers away from tennis. 10 and Under Tennis aims to get kids playing as quickly and capably as possible in a fun, welcoming environment. It utilizes tournament play featuring the smaller courts, slower-moving and lower-bouncing balls, and smaller and lighter racquets of the QuickStart Tennis play format as the vehicle to help kids learn the strategy and tactics of tennis—by playing matches.

"I've been involved in tennis for more than 30 years and this is the biggest change I've seen," Lew Brewer, Director, Junior Competition, USTA Player Development, says of the change in tournament format. "It changes everything in terms of how we introduce kids to youth tennis by getting more kids involved at an earlier age, learning the game the right way. To change rules of the game will forever change the future of our sport and open the sport up to millions of kids."

## opening the door

There are more than six dozen 10 and Under Tennis tournaments held in Colorado annually. Most are played in just one or two days and feature non-elimination formats such as compass draws or round robins. These formats allow kids to play a number of matches against a variety of opponents in one tournament—meaning little travel for maximum play opportunities—and open the door for more team play such as Junior Team Tennis, which encourages kids to improve their skills while offering them a chance to play with their friends. The result is more fun, and more kids playing tennis now and into the future. "There is no question that the more kids play, the more they learn about the game by developing skills, determining the correct shot selection and learning proper court positioning," says Kirk Anderson, Director, Recreational Coaches & Programs, USTA. "And with the new rule change, competition is now possible at younger ages. Staged properly, competitive events and tournaments give kids the opportunity to play with and against a variety of players, allowing them to test the skills they've learned. And by playing multiple matches and playing on a team, they are able to have fun and experience progress, which keeps them coming back for more." 🎾



# THEBUZZ

## NOUNS IN THE NEWS

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

### 24 Hours to Give Where You Live

Increase the value of your donation when you support the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation on **Colorado Gives Day**, December 8, 2010! On this special day, Colorado is coming together to raise one million dollars in one day for nonprofits including the CYTF. What's more, when you donate online on December 8, the value of your donation will be increased by the Colorado Gives Day Incentive Fund – created by FirstBank and supplemented by local organizations. To learn more about Colorado Gives Day, visit the CYTF at [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com) or find us on Facebook, and remember us on December 8!

### Paluch inducted into Gustavus Adolphus Hall of Fame

Millennium Harvest House Director of Tennis **Duke Paluch** was recently inducted into the Gustavus Adolphus Sports Hall of Fame. An athletic singles and doubles player with a high-powered serve and volley game, Duke was a two-time All-American on the dominant Gustavus squads of the early 1980s. As a senior, he led the Golden Gusties to the NCAA Championships finals, and sixth place at the NAIA National Tournament.

### Wright, Wilkinson in spotlight at USTA JTT Nationals

For some kids, giving up a Halloween in order to play tennis might be unimaginable. But not for the Lynmar Racquet Club and Tennis For Everyone squads, who hit the courts on October 28-31 in Surprise, AZ for the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Championships.

This was a first for both squads, who earned berths at Nationals after capturing the Intermountain Sectional Championship at the US Air Force Academy in August. Tennis For Everyone (18-Intermediate) finished the weekend in 12th place, while Lynmar (18-Advanced) finished in 14th.

While neither squad would collect a championship title, **Carolyn Wilkinson** (Tennis For Everyone) earned the spotlight right off the bat, as the 17 year-old was selected to sing the National Anthem at the event. At tournament's end, 15 year-old **Danny Wright** (Tennis For Everyone) was honored for his outstanding sportsmanship.

### In search of hardware at the National Championships

After surviving her 4-hour 27-minute, 6-2 4-6 6-2 marathon over former world champion Mariana Hollman in the semifinals of the USTA National Hardcourt Championships, Colorado Tennis Hall of Famer **Rhona Kaczmarczyk** couldn't overcome the current world champion, Fran Chandler. Chandler displayed her trademark speed in the final, winning 6-3 6-2, leaving Kaczmarczyk to bring home the silver ball.

In other hardcourt action, Aurora's **Molly Carter** couldn't stay with the No. 2 seed in the round of 16 in the W35s division, but managed to battle her way through the consolation draw to capture the consolation final for fifth place.

Perennial contender **Rita Price** lost her bid for another gold ball at the W80s Hardcourts when she was forced to withdraw before her semifinal match against fourth-seeded Janet Hubbard. She did manage to win the consolation doubles final with partner Beverly Little.

**Willie Dann** and **Lew Miller** had some extra weight to check in their bags on the return trip from the USTA Men's National Grasscourt Championships back in Philadelphia. The long-time partners won the M35 doubles gold ball without losing a set, and it looked to be an all-Colorado possibility for the singles final. Miller lost in the semifinals to No. 3 seeded Rick Wietsken, so it was up to Dann to ensure a Colorado gold. After dropping the first set, Dann prevailed in a three-set thriller, 4-6 6-3 6-4. Miller rebounded to earn the bronze ball.

Carbondale's **Ken Sawyer** teamed up with Californian Tom Bryan for a fifth place finish at the USTA National 65s Grasscourt Championships.

No stranger to the national circuit, Grand Junction's **Susan Wright** narrowly missed out on picking up more gold balls to add to her trophy case, dropping both the W50 singles and doubles finals in competitive fashion. The No. 2 ranked player in the world, Wright lost her singles match to fellow American Diane Fishburne, the top-ranked player in the world.

### Burke, Daily Sentinel named Intermountain Award winners

The USTA Intermountain Section recently announced its annual award winners, and two with Colorado connections are among the honorees. **Sue Burke**, of Boulder, will be recognized with the David Freed Award (Lifetime Service), and the **Daily Sentinel** (Grand Junction) (Jay Seaton, publisher) will receive the Media Excellence Award at the Intermountain Annual Meeting in February.

### Colorado players earn gold at World Senior Games

Several Coloradans earned gold at the 2010 Huntsman World Senior Games in St. George, UT. The games welcome players ages 50+ in dozens of sports. This year, more than 10,000



### USTA Colorado donates equipment to Fit Fun After-School Students

USTA Colorado and Qwest Pioneers, the largest industry-related volunteer organization in the world, presented tennis racquets, balls, hoppers and portable tennis nets to Fit Fun after-school students at Trevista at Horace Mann on November 12 followed by a tennis carnival for the students. As part of an ongoing partnership to introduce Denver Public School students in low-income elementary schools to tennis, DPS Fit Fun after-school programs have received more than \$8,000 worth of tennis equipment, staff training and program consultation from USTA Colorado and Qwest Pioneers in the past year. Nine DPS schools have Fit Fun after school programs, which blend together physical fitness and nutrition with homework assistance and a variety of reading, math and creative activities that enhance the academic, social and physical development of students in grades K-5. The program specifically operates in low-income elementary schools with 80% or more of the student population qualifying for the free and reduced lunch plan.

athletes (412 in tennis) participated in the Games, an all-time record. Complete results are available at [SENIORGAMES.net](http://SENIORGAMES.net). Congratulations to the following Colorado players who earned gold medals at this year's event. **Men's Doubles 75-79/Challenger: Al Throckmorton** (Englewood); **Mixed Doubles 80-84/Open: Warren Foltz** (Littleton) & **Jeanette Ford** (Denver); **Women's Doubles 80-84/Open: Ford**; **Men's Singles 60-64/Challenger: Rudolph Martinez** (Arvada); **Men's Singles 80-84/Challenger: Wayne Odom** (South Fork)

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

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

In partnership with the National Recreation Foundation, the USTA will purchase and ship two (2) tennis kits with portable nets, throw down lines, racquets and balls, along with educational and instructional information about tennis and the USTA. Equipment and information will be shipped from the National office on your behalf and may include a letter from your group with thankful wishes from home and an invitation to play tennis in the community with family and friends upon their return. The USTA will contact you after registration to arrange for the equipment shipment directly to your adopted unit. For more information, please visit [USTA.com/adoptaunit](http://USTA.com/adoptaunit).

### USTA Community Development Tennis Workshop

The 2011 Community Tennis Development Workshop takes place February 11-13, 2011 in Arlington, VA. Network with over 500 grassroots community tennis leaders from across the country as you enjoy top notch sessions led by specialists in their field. Gain a wealth of information and a stronger network that can have an impact on your community for years to come. Get more information and take advantage of the early registration discount through 12/30/10 by visiting [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com).

### USTA Serves partners with Usher's New Look Foundation

The USTA announced a new three-year partnership between USTA Serves, the USTA's philanthropic entity, and the New Look Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by R&B



superstar Usher Raymond IV, designed to mentor youth to become global and community leaders. The partnership will help guide thousands of American youth in using their athletic and creative talents to become leaders in their local communities by expanding both tennis and service opportunities to youth across the country. For more information, please visit [USTA.com/foundation](http://USTA.com/foundation).

### Breaking the Barriers Exhibit comes to Colorado

USTA Colorado and the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library, the repository of Black history in the West, are partnering to bring the **Breaking the Barriers** exhibit to Denver, April-June 2011. The Breaking the Barriers exhibit is a historical timeline of African Americans in tennis from the 1800s to Arthur Ashe's 1975 historic Wimbledon win. Traditionally, housed at the International Tennis Hall of Fame Museum, and most recently displayed at the US Open Tennis Championships last September, Colorado is fortunate to have secured the exhibit for a three-month run at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library in Denver's historical Five Points neighborhood.

Breaking the Barriers will be a premier exhibit featuring tennis, a new topic that has never before been showcased at Blair-Caldwell, one of only five such libraries across the country, preserving the legacy of the early pioneers to present-day heroes. A community and business committee is working together to develop ancillary programs delivering the Breaking the Barriers message of diversity and inclusion through: VIP private showings; video documentary highlighting the history of African American tennis in Colorado; library lecture series school outreach with supporting curriculum and field trips to the Library exhibit and more.

This collaborative partnership between USTA Colorado and the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library is history in the making by telling stories that have not been told and enriching the Library's collection with memorabilia, stories and photos of local past and present pioneers of tennis. USTA Colorado is committed to diversity and inclusion and making tennis accessible to diverse and underserved communities to inspire a whole new generation of tennis players, along with providing a healthy, fun family activity that can be enjoyed for a lifetime. For more information, contact Paula McClain, Director of Marketing and Diversity at [paula@coloradotennis.com](mailto:paula@coloradotennis.com) or 303.695.4116 x220

### Tentative 2010 Rankings available soon

All Colorado tournament rankings (tentative) will be posted online at [coloradotennis.com](http://coloradotennis.com) no later than January 5, 2011. Not all divisions conclude at the same time, so some will appear later than others. Computer standings will once again be used for all rankings, and any player wanting to appeal the computer-generated results must do so in writing via mail to USTA/CO Ranking Committee, 3300 E Bayaud Ave, Suite 201 Denver, CO 80209 or email to [jason@coloradotennis.com](mailto:jason@coloradotennis.com). All appeals must be submitted by 5pm on January 24, 2011. The ranking committee will review all submitted appeals received by the deadline, to determine the final rankings, which will be published in the upcoming Big Book of Colorado Tennis. That publication will mail in early February 2011.

### Tournament players encouraged to review results online

USTA Colorado Player Development/Competitive Tennis Director Jason Colter reminds tournament players that it is important to review player records in order to make sure that the current standings are accurate prior to the end of the calendar year. Review points carefully and make sure that you are receiving the correct amount of points for each round played.

Refer to page 42 of the 2010 BIG BOOK OF COLORADO TENNIS for a point breakdown. Also a reminder of the following:

**Championship Singles/Doubles:** Players accumulating a minimum of 200 points during the calendar year will earn a numerical ranking. Only a player's three best results at Colorado Sanctioned events will count towards a year-end ranking.

**NTRP Singles/Doubles:** Players accumulating a minimum of 250 points during the calendar year will earn a numerical ranking (three best results will apply to ranking).

**Seniors/Family Doubles:** Players accumulating a minimum of 100 points during the calendar year will earn a numerical ranking (two best results will apply to ranking).

**Junior Satellite:** Players accumulating a minimum of 150 points during the calendar year will earn a numerical ranking (three best results will apply to ranking).

**Junior Championship:** Players accumulating a minimum of 200 points during the calendar year will earn a numerical ranking (five best results will apply to ranking).

### 2010 Year-end NTRP ratings now available

The USTA has published players' 2010 year-end NTRP ratings. To look up your rating, go to FIND A RATING on TennisLink and input your USTA number in the top box. If you are interested in appealing your rating, please follow the procedure detailed below. You can also visit our NTRP page at [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com) for more information on the NTRP system.

### Procedure for NTRP Appeals

In early 2008, the USTA unveiled a new procedure for the appeal process. The Automated Appeal in TennisLink allows players to appeal their rating online and find out automatically if their appeal has been granted or denied. All players filing a year-end appeal must follow this procedure. Please do not submit year-end appeals to the USTA Colorado office.

### Facility Coordinator meetings set

The USTA Colorado Adult League Department kicks off the 2011 league season with four Denver Metro area Facility Coordinator meetings scheduled in January. It is mandatory for each facility coordinator to attend one of the meetings. Separate meetings will be held for coordinators and/or captains in Northern Colorado, Southern Colorado, Mountains and Western Slope.

Dates and times are as follows:

Wednesday, January 12 @ 10:00am

Thursday, January 13 @ 10:00am

Tuesday, January 18 @ 6:00pm

Saturday, January 22 @ 10:00am

All meetings will take place at the USTA Colorado office at Gates Tennis Center. Please RSVP to Kailey Jonas ([kailey@coloradotennis.com](mailto:kailey@coloradotennis.com)) regarding the date you plan to attend.

### BIG BOOK OF COLORADO TENNIS coming February 2011

It's time to renew those USTA Memberships, update your address and be on the lookout for the biggest, baddest tennis publication in the land. The 2011 Big Book of Colorado Tennis will be making its appearance in just a few short months. Advertisers can contact the Editor, or download the 2011 media kit at [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com). ☺

## Meanwhile, back at The Ranch...



Director of Tennis: Miikka Keronen  
Junior Coordinator: Aki Iino  
Adult Coordinator: Nora Harrison

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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doesn't have to end  
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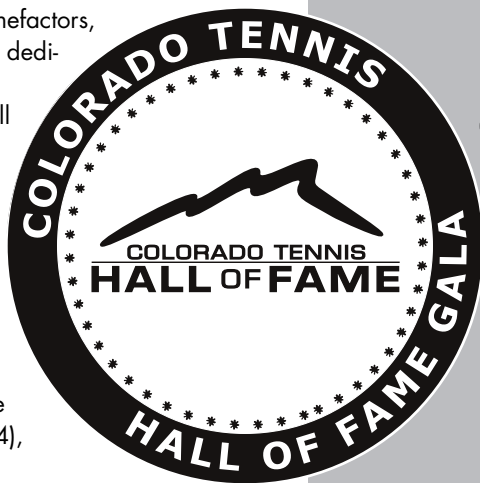
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# HALLOFFAME

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

The state has had a rich tradition of tennis throughout the years and the Hall of Fame provides a vehicle for due recognition of Colorado players, coaches or administrators for their contribution to tennis. The Hall will also seek to provide exposure for the recipients and for tennis in the state of Colorado. The mission statement of the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame is to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to tennis in Colorado.

The Colorado tennis community will celebrate the accomplishments of five individuals (page 12-13) with their induction into the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame, at the 11th annual Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala. The event is slated for Friday, January 28, 2011 at the Marriott Denver Tech Center. The community will also honor the USTA Colorado Annual Award winners (page 14), whose efforts, passion and dedication do honor to the sport of tennis.



We invite you to join us at the  
**COLORADO TENNIS  
HALL OF FAME GALA**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011**

Help us welcome the newest class of  
Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame  
inductees and congratulate the  
2010 USTA Colorado Annual Award winners.

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

Proceeds benefit the



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**W**ell-known sports business entrepreneurs Arthur and Nicholas John Hagan are Colorado natives, raised in a small house in Denver. Art was born in 1936, his younger brother John was born in 1944. Both played high school tennis, Art at East High School and John at Littleton. Art attended Colorado State University on a tennis scholarship. John matriculated at the University of Denver, also on a tennis scholarship.

In the late 1960s, the brothers worked together at The Aspen Leaf, ranked by a prominent sports magazine as the number one tennis retailer in the US. They helped grow the business from one store (located in Cherry Creek north) to 17 stores in three states. In 1980, they founded Hagan Sports, a specialty sports store that offered the finest in tennis and ski equipment.

The Colorado tennis community greatly benefited from the Hagan's support. Through their various business relationships, they were instrumental in bringing the first women's professional tennis matches here with the Virginia Slims of Denver, as well as being a sponsor of the United Bank of Denver World Championships Tennis every year from 1969-72.

Their support came in a variety of ways. The Hagans printed Colorado and southern Colorado tennis schedules from 1973-79, and in the early 1980s they supplied trophies for the men's and women's USTA events, as well as local junior interclub leagues. Their stores often donated balls, racquets and shoes to many area charities, and they would regularly supply hats and jackets for the Junior Davis Cup teams.

John served on the tennis product development team for Head



**ART & JOHN HAGAN**



CLASS OF 2010

Tennis Products from 1970 through 1985, leaving his mark on the design of countless racquets and shoes. For a while, he strung the racquets of some the best players in the world, including Arthur Ashe, Billy Jean King and Bjorn Borg. He also served on various community boards.

Art also served on numerous boards through the years, including the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation, Colorado Tennis Association, the Intermountain Tennis Association and the Denver Tennis Club.

Both Art and John were also accomplished players, collecting several doubles titles at the region's top tournaments. Together, they won the doubles title at the 1970 Denver City Open. John also earned titles in mixed doubles from the Denver City Open in 1965, 1967 and 1969, as well as at the 1970 Intermountain Championships. John's last doubles championship came at the 1974 Colorado State Open.

## *Celebrating Colorado's Rich Tennis History*

**B**orn in the spring of 1952, Kent was 7 years-old when his father built a tennis court in the backyard of his family's Grand Junction home. Before that, no one in the family had ever played tennis.

It didn't take long for young Woodard to get a handle on the game, and he entered his first tournament three years later.

Since there were no indoor facilities in Grand Junction at the time, Kent only competed in summertime events. By the time he was 13, he was competing across Colorado, and in regional and national tournaments.

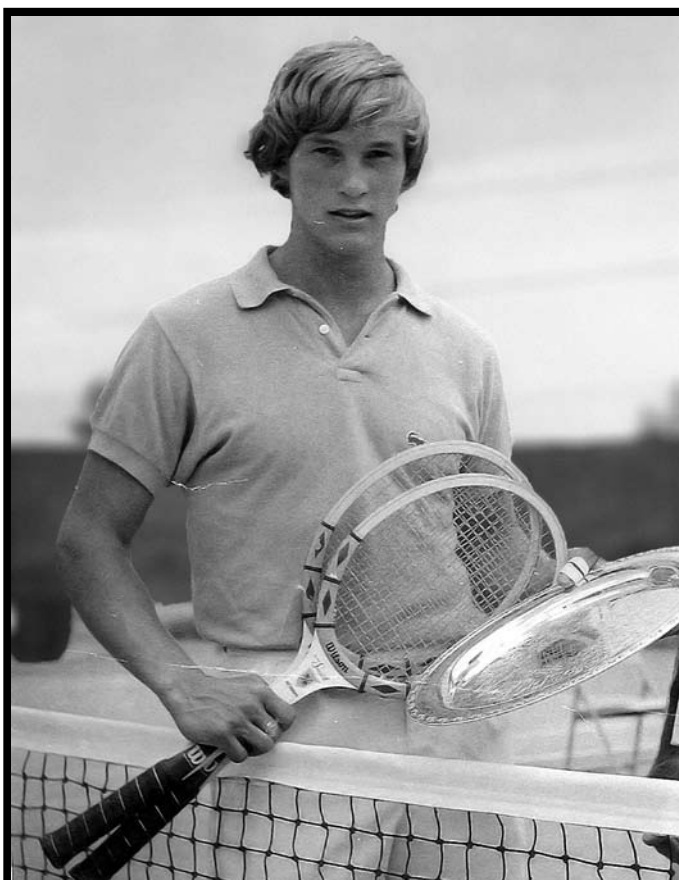
Success at the national level came just a year later, when Kent and his partner captured the doubles title at the USTA Hard Court Championships in California.

For two years, Kent played tennis on the perennial top-10 University of Utah tennis team. He later transferred to the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he competed at No. 1 singles and doubles. After graduating in 1975, he spent a semester as the tennis team's head coach.

That's also about the time Kent started dominating the Colorado tournament scene. In all, he amassed 13 titles at the Denver City Open, Colorado State Open and Intermountain Sectional Championships combined. In addition to capturing the 1974 Intermountain Championship – both in singles and mixed doubles – Kent won the same two events at the '74 Denver City Open. He took the singles titles at the Colorado State Open in 1977 and at the Denver City Open in 1984, as well as four Elam Classic titles in the 70s and early 80s. From 1977 until 1985, Kent earned seven doubles titles at the Denver City Open.

But Kent wasn't just a Colorado phenomenon, he also traveled around the world playing tournament-level tennis. He finished sixth in singles on the South African Tour, and played pro tournaments in Sweden and Spain.

For the past half-decade, Kent has been a tennis professional at the Maroon Creek Club in Aspen.



**KENTWOODARD**



CLASS OF 2010

Research by **RICHARD HILLWAY**  
Words by **DENNIS HUSPENI**

### **Hall of Fame gets permanent home**

Gates Tennis Center will be the new permanent home of the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame.

The new exhibit will be completed shortly, and will reside on the west wall on the first floor.

Look for an announcement on the Grand Opening of the new permanent exhibit in an upcoming issue of Colorado Tennis.



## CLARENCE DODGE



CLASS OF 2010

**B**orn in Honolulu in 1877 and growing up in Connecticut, Clarence Dodge was an outstanding tennis talent. In the early 1900s, all the best players in America were in Ivy League schools, and it was as the captain of the Yale University tennis team that Clarence honed his game by practicing with and playing against some of the top ranked players in the country. A big, strong and athletic player, Clarence won the consolation singles title at the 1897 US National Championships in Newport – the tournament that later became the US Open—and was ranked as high as No. 16 in the nation.

Clarence graduated from Yale University in 1899, and moved to Colorado where he would become a dominating force in Colorado tennis. In 1904, he won the first of three consecutive singles titles at the Rocky Mountain Tennis Championships, the predecessor of the Colorado State Open. He won the event again in 1910.

From 1904 to 1922, Clarence owned and published what is now the Colorado Springs Gazette. During that time, he regularly traveled to play tournaments throughout Europe. He won the French Covered Courts Championship with a doubles partner who later went on to win four Wimbledon singles titles. In 1911, he won the doubles title at the European Covered Courts Championships. Thanks to his status as a player, Clarence routinely dined, socialized and played tennis with Wimbledon and French champions.

Along with tennis, Clarence had a great passion for civic and philanthropic work. He served as a state representative for two terms, and served as both chairman of the state YMCA and president of the Colorado Springs YMCA. Clarence was the first resident west of Chicago to be elected to the International Committee of the YMCA.

Though Clarence left Colorado Springs in 1930 to move to Washington DC, his family maintained a summer home in Haystack Gulch, near Mount Evans.

He died in Denver in 1939 at the age of 62.

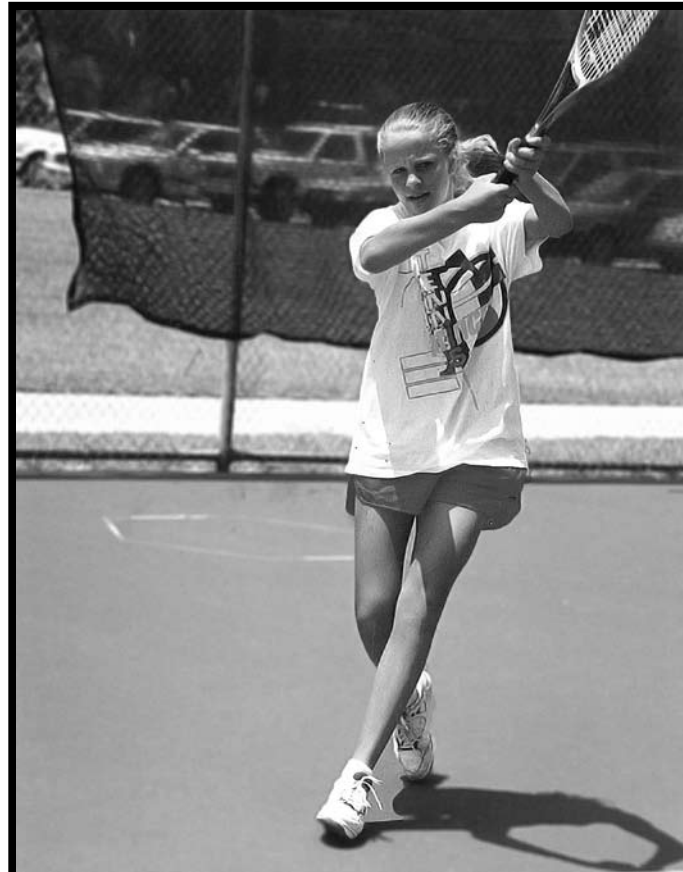
**F**rom the time Brenda Vlasak was five, she's gripped a tennis racquet with both hands. She learned the game at Berkeley Park in north Denver, where she and her father, Frank, would spend hours honing her strokes and developing her mental toughness. Those traits would prove invaluable when, at age eight, she won her first tournament at Ken Caryl Ranch.

Brenda continued to play tournaments through grade and middle school, winning her first national singles title at the Columbus Indoor Championships (G12). It didn't take long for her to climb the national rankings, and in 1991 reached No. 16 in the G14 division. The next year, firing her signature two-handed backhand and forehand, she parlayed a victory at the USTA National Indoor Championships and a fifth-place finish at the USTA National Clay Court Championships to a top-3 national ranking.

In 1995, Brenda earned a bronze medal at the US Olympic Festival. Her doubles game took off the very next year, as she won the doubles title at the prestigious Easter Bowl in 1996 with Diana Ospina. She maintained a top 20 national ranking before dropping to No. 29 in 1995. In 1996, she still held on to a top 3 national doubles ranking.

Brenda's collegiate career began at Tyler Junior College in Texas, where as the No. 1 singles player, she led the team to a pair of NJCAA titles (1998-99). After transferring to the University of Arkansas—where she played No. 2 singles and No. 1 doubles—Brenda and her Razorback teammates advanced to the NCAA Championships. She earned SEC All-Academic honors, as well as a top-100 Intercollegiate Tennis Association ranking.

Brenda returned to Colorado to earn her Master's degree in sport administration from the University of Northern Colorado. She became the assistant women's tennis coach at UNC in 2004, later assuming the role of head coach. In 2005, UNC women's team captured the NCAA Division I Independent Championship. The next year, Brenda took over as head coach for the men's team, and in 2010, she was named UNC's director of tennis.



## BRENDA VLASAK



CLASS OF 2010

## COLORADO TENNIS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

2000: Carol Baily, John Benson, Jack

Cella, Carter & Lena Elliott, Phyllis

Lockwood, Sam & Sid Milstein,

Margaret Rogers Phipps

2001: Joan Birkland, Sherrie Pruitt Farris,

E.L. (Elmer) Griffey, Tom Keach, Jim

Landin, Jeff Salzenstein, Kathleen

Winegardner

2002: Anne Dyde, Rosemary Fri, Stephanie

Hagan, James Loehr, Dorothy Mauk,

M.H. "Bud" Robineau, Jake Warde

2003: Edwin "Ned" Crow, Irwin Hoffman, Dan

Luna, Mike, Gene & Maurice Reidy,

Karen Sather

2004: Adolph "Ade" Butler, Carolyn Roberts

Byrne, Richard Gugat, Fay Shwayder,

Joseph Thompson

2005: Miiko Ando, Arnold Brown, Chet

Murphy, Jeanette Paddock, Willa

Wolcott Condon

2006: Bruce Avery, Willard Douglas Corley

& Willard Douglas Corley, Jr., Don

Harker, Carlene Petersen, Bill Wright

2007: Tariq Abdul-Hamid, Ned Cooney,

Sandra Elliott, Roald Flater, Andrea

Jaeger

2008: Paula Coulter, Charlie Gates, Jr., Allen

Kiel, Katie Koontz, Jeff Loehr

2009: Chester Harris, Vernon John, Rhona

Kaczmarczyk, Jack TerBorg, Becky

Varnum Bucolo

2010: Clarence Dodge, Art & John Hagan,

Brenda Vlasak, Kent Woodard

# ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year, USTA Colorado hosts the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala & Colorado Tennis Annual Awards Celebration. In addition to the formal induction ceremony for the incoming class of the Hall of Fame, USTA Colorado recognizes those players, coaches, administrators, volunteers and facilities who have made significant contributions to tennis over the course of the past year. The nomination period for the Annual Awards concludes in September of each year.

## **Bud Robineau Award**

### **SUSAN BURKE (Boulder)**

Sue has been sharing her passion for the sport with players of all ages for decades. A true ambassador for tennis, she has served the Colorado tennis community as a player, a coach, and an advocate.

## **Clyde Rogers Award**

### **GEORGE COVINGTON (Broomfield)**

A tennis advocate and coach, George has promoted tennis at the Broomfield community for five decades. He was coach/assistant coach of the Broomfield High School tennis teams for the better part of 25 years.

## **Sam & Sid Milstein Award**

### **LUIS CAUDRA (Colorado Springs)**

Ranked No. 1 in M75, Luis is undefeated (13-0) this year, winning all five tournaments he entered, including the Colorado State and Denver City Opens.

## **Jody Riser Knudsen Award**

### **TARYN ARCHER (Denver)**

Vice president of USTA Colorado, Taryn sits on many committees, helps raise funds for the CYTF and volunteers for other community tennis organizations.

## **Fay & Dorothy Shwayder Award**

### **CHENG-ER MEHMEDBASICH (Grand Junction)**

In 2010, Cheng-Er won the Colorado State and Denver City Opens, Glen Hines and the Austin Scott (W45s and W50s). She ends 2010 ranked No.1 in W45 and W50 singles in Colorado.

## **Richard Hillway Award**

### **REGIS JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL (Aurora)**

After finishing second by just three points in 2009, Regis Jesuit HS earned its first 5A state title in a decade by claiming four individual titles and going undefeated during the season in team match play.

## **Ade Butler Award**

### **RANDY BRAME (Evergreen)**

Randy has served as Colorado Tennis Umpires Association president, and is currently USTA Intermountain's chairperson of officials. As a sectional trainer/evaluator, he teaches certification schools for the USTA.

## **Rosemary Fri Award**

### **SIMONE KALHORN (Colorado Springs)**

As a junior at Syracuse University, Simone went 15-6 in singles, 17-4 in doubles (including a season-ending 11-match doubles win streak). A team co-captain, Kalhorn led the Orange to the best win percentage since 1978-79.

## **Margaret Rogers Phipps Award**

### **JESSIE MURPHY (Centennial)**

Jessie is 13 and passionate about tennis. She rose in the G12 and under rankings in 2010 after her success in Colorado and Intermountain competition. She is respected as a leader and is well known for her exceptional sportsmanship.

## **Jack Cella Award**

### **SPENCER WEINBERG (Grand Junction)**

Spencer took home the Boys' 5A Colorado High School State Championship title at the No. 1 singles position. He maintains a 3.9 GPA and gives back to his community through various volunteer efforts.

## **Jim & Anne Dyde Award**

### **NATALIE DUNN (Fort Collins)**

Poudre High School's Natalie Dunn took home the 5A Colorado High School State Championships No. 1 singles title for the second year in a row in 2010. The Denver Post named her Player of the Year and All-Colorado First Team.

## **Carter & Lena Elliott Family Award**

### **THE RIDDLE FAMILY (Parker)**

Every member of the Riddle family is an active tennis player. Barry is Director of Tennis for the Town of Parker, Castle Rock and Pradera Country Club. Suzette is a teaching pro at Greenwood Athletic and Tennis Club.

## **Arthur Ashe Award**

### **WAYNE EMERICK (Broomfield)**

Wayne is a USPTA Professional 1 Coach, and director and head coach of the Denver Urban Youth Tennis Academy where he works to develop under-served juniors.

## **Jim Landin Award**

### **LEWIS MILLER (Denver)**

Lew captured the USTA Indoor Championships (M35) and won two national M35 doubles crowns – the USTA National Clay Court and Grass Court Championships. He also represented the USA at the ITF World Championships.

## **Dorothy Mauk Award**

### **GRAND JUNCTION SENTINEL (Grand Junction)**

The Daily Sentinel prints results from local tennis events and features lengthy stories about players who compete in those events. In addition, The Daily Sentinel reports on national and international tennis news and features.

## **Joan Birkland Award**

### **MALLORY VOELKER (Greeley)**

A DU graduate, Mallory reached the round of 32 at the 2009 NCAA Singles Championships. She won the 2010 Colorado State and Boulder Open titles.

## **E.L. Griffey Award**

### **GRAND JUNCTION PARKS & REC (Grand Junction)**

Grand Junction Parks & Recreation offers year-round, low-cost tennis lessons for youth and adults. Programs encourage and develop the desire for lifelong participation in tennis and the development of fundamental tennis skills.

## **Willa Wolcott Condon Award**

### **FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL (Boulder)**

The Fairview High School Girls' Varsity Tennis Team advanced players to four state title matches and captured three of those titles in all. The team's success led to a second place overall finish at the tournament.

## **Mike, Gene & Maurice Reidy Award**

### **MARK MILLER (Englewood)**

A senior at Regis, Mark was a No. 1 singles finalist at the High School championships. He has a reputation as a respectful player and frequent volunteer.

## **Charlie & Ira Brown Award**

### **JAVIER ZAMUDIO (Denver)**

A junior at George Washington High School, Javier was introduced to tennis in third grade through Net Results Junior Tennis, a program that he now serves in the capacity of volunteer student coach for younger kids.

## **John Hough Award**

### **CASEY ROSS (Littleton)**

One of the most talented 12 year-olds in the Intermountain Section, Casey was recognized with tournament sportsmanship awards at the USTA National Championships and the USTA Zone Team Championships.

## **Jerry & Lillian Brawer Award**

### **AKIJI KIOWALAKAI (Westminster)**

Akiji was introduced to tennis through the Colorado Wheelchair Tennis Foundation. In 2010, he competed in numerous tournaments, including the US Open Wheelchair Championships, earning a top-40 national division ranking.

## **Phyllis Lockwood Award**

### **MONICA LI (Boulder)**

A junior at Fairview, Monica earned the sportsmanship award at the 2009 USTA Zone Team Championships. She finished 4th at the 2010 5A High School championships, 6th at the Intermountain Sectionals, and carries a 4.7 GPA.

## **Vernon John Award**

### **WILL VASOS (Fort Collins)**

Will went 15-9 in singles, 12-12 in doubles for the University of Iowa, earning the team's Outstanding Singles and Doubles records. He won the Tyler Cleveland MVP award and was named Iowa's Big Ten Sportsmanship Honoree.

MALE HIGH SCHOOL PLAYER  
Jack Cella Award

FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL PLAYER  
Jim & Anne Dyde Award

MALE COLLEGE PLAYER  
Vernon John Award

FEMALE COLLEGE PLAYER  
Rosemary Fri Award

MALE PLAYER  
Jim Landin Award

FEMALE PLAYER  
Joan Birkland Award

SENIOR MALE PLAYER  
Sam & Sid Milstein Award

SENIOR FEMALE PLAYER  
Fay & Dorothy Shwayder Award

UMPIRE  
Ade Butler Award

WHEELCHAIR PLAYER  
Jerry & Lillian Brawer Award

BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL TEAM  
Richard Hillway Award

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL TEAM  
Willa Wolcott Condon Award

ORGANIZATION  
E.L. Griffey Award

FAMILY  
Carter & Lena Elliott Family Award

VOLUNTEER  
Jody Riser Knudsen Award

MEDIA EXCELLENCE  
Dorothy Mauk Award

GIRLS' SPORTSMANSHIP (UNDER 14)  
Margaret Rogers Phipps Award

BOYS' SPORTSMANSHIP (UNDER 14)  
John Hough Award

GIRLS' SPORTSMANSHIP (15-18 YRS)  
Phyllis Lockwood Award

BOYS' SPORTSMANSHIP (15-18 YRS)  
Mike, Gene & Maurice Reidy Award

JUNIOR SPORTSMANSHIP (PARK & REC)  
Charlie & Ira Brown Award

CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNDER-SERVED PLAYERS  
Arthur Ashe Award

SERVICE TO RECREATIONAL PLAYERS  
Clyde Rogers Award

SERVICE TO TENNIS COMMUNITY  
Bud Robineau Award

# SPOTLIGHT: RACQUETS FOR ALL

## RFA HIGH SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Fossil Ridge High School was named the inaugural Racquets for All Boys High School Challenge winner. The announcement came during the Colorado State 5A High School Boys' Tennis Tournament at Gates Tennis



The 2010 RFA Boys High School Challenge winner:  
**FOSSIL RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL (FORT COLLINS)**

Center. The FRHS boys' tennis team from Fort Collins was awarded \$200 for their efforts to collect the most racquets of any team in the state. The Racquets for All High School Challenge was open to all 4A and 5A high school boys' tennis teams in Colorado. Overall, teams collected 41 gently used tennis racquets and donated them to Racquets for All.

2011 will mark the second year for the High School Challenge with the girls winner being named in May and the boys winner named in October.

## ADULT LEAGUE PLAYOFF COLLECTIONS

Forty-four racquets were collected during the 2010 adult league playoff season – including USTA Adult, CTA Women's Daytime Doubles, USTA Super Senior, USTA Senior, CTA Twilight, ITA Fall Mixed and CTA Women's Summer Daytime leagues. Three players who donated racquets to Racquets for All at a district league playoff tournament were randomly selected to win a case of balls. Congratulations to Rendall Ayers, Laura Kannady and Angel Spivak! Thanks to all of the players that contributed to the collection efforts!



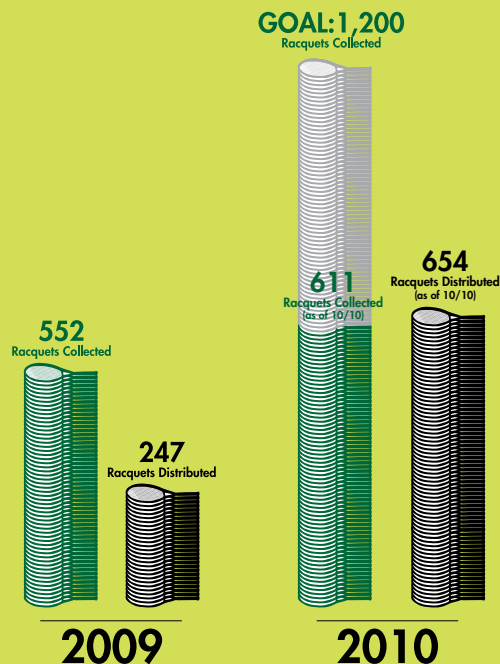
**RACQUETS FOR ALL**  
NEEDS YOUR HELP TO  
REACH ITS GOAL OF  
1,200 RACQUETS  
IN 2010.

DONATE YOUR UNUSED  
NEW AND GENTLY USED  
RACQUETS TO ONE OF  
THE MANY COLLECTION  
POINTS IN COLORADO.

EMAIL US AT  
[RFA@COLORADOTENNIS.COM](mailto:RFA@COLORADOTENNIS.COM)

## EQUIPMENT COLLECTION/ DONATION UPDATE

Through October 31, 2010 RFA has collected 611 tennis racquets, 394 dozen tennis balls and 372 racquet covers and bags. RFA has distributed 654 racquets, 434 dozen balls, 277 racquet covers, 11 bags and 16 miscellaneous items to 35 schools and recreation districts throughout Colorado.



HAVE AN OLD RACQUET GATHERING DUST?  
DONATE IT TO  
**RACQUETS FOR ALL**  
FIND A COLLECTION SPOT AT  
[COLORADOTENNIS.COM](http://COLORADOTENNIS.COM)



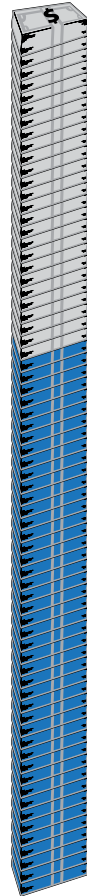
Dear Racquets for All,  
My name is Gabriela Garcia and I Played tennis at Venture Prep this trimester. I had a lot of fun in tennis. The best part of playing tennis was learning how to play for the first time and improving in such a short time. But the best out of all tennis was getting to meet new friends. In the spring I am going to join the team and play competitive matches for the first time. During Practices I learned a lot like how to do a forehand and properly hold a racquet.  
Today, Mr. Franzblau told me I earned my racquet. This means I showed responsibility by showing up on time and practicing whenever I could and respect by encouraging others. Thank you for donating racquets to our program.  
Sincerely, Gabriela Garcia

# SPOTLIGHT: COLORADO YOUTH TENNIS FOUNDATION

## GIFTS TO THE CYTF

The Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation raises money through our two primary events – the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala and the ever-popular Punk Relic Charity Tournament, as well as through donations from foundations, corporations and individuals. 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](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com) and click on the **CYTF logo**. Your gift will be acknowledged in the next issue of *Colorado Tennis* newspaper. If you'd like to host an event to benefit the CYTF contact the CYTF office [lisa@coloradotennis.com](mailto:lisa@coloradotennis.com), 303/695-4116 ext. 201.



**\$34,000**  
2010 FUNDRAISING GOAL FROM INDIVIDUAL, CORPORATE, FOUNDATION AND "AFFILIATED EVENTS"

**\$19,078**  
WINTER 2010 FUNDRAISING

### The CYTF would like to thank the following business and individuals for helping make tennis dreams come true:

#### IN LOVING MEMORY OF PEGGY GIERINGER

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Anonymous          | Judy Kretzinger      |
| Tracey Crisp       | Elizabeth Mulholland |
| Lea Curtes-Swenson | Sandy Murphy         |
| Nancy Engard       | Linda Silver         |
| Marcia Gardner     | Suzanne Sindt        |
| Mary Jane Gorab    | Jane Titus           |
| Judy Hjelkrem      | Becky Weaver         |

#### IN HONOR OF TARYN ARCHER

- Cindy Freehauf

#### IN LOVING MEMORY OF BILL OAKES

- John Farrah  
Paula Prutsman  
Tammi Lencke  
Terry & Nancy Todd  
Erika Schafer



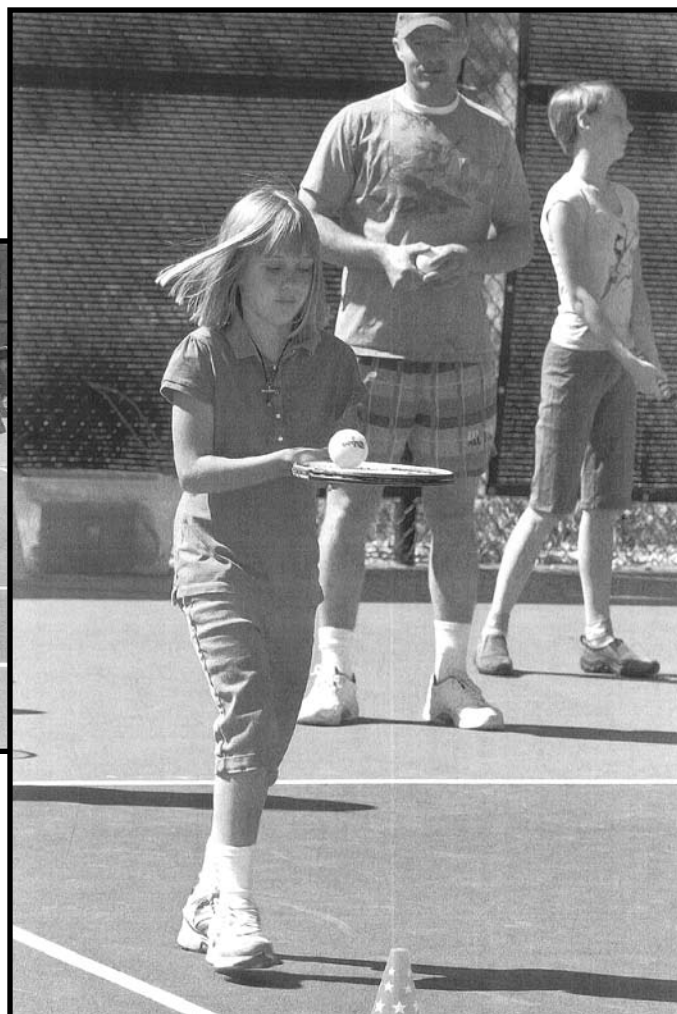
CONNECTING WITH THE CYTF IS EASIER THAN EVER.

## CYTF DOLLARS AT WORK

With assistance from USTA Colorado diversity dollars, the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation, provided program grants to 19 Colorado organizations running programs for kids in need. Additionally, 33 youngsters received special need individual player scholarships to help pursue tennis opportunities. Over \$25,000 was disbursed in 2010.



*The Western Eagle County Metro Recreation District increased their summer tennis lesson program by 60%. CYTF grant dollars were used to help purchase short courts, age appropriate racquets and balls. The courts and specialized equipment will also allow the WECMD to bring the tennis program inside during the winter months.*



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





**Y**ou know that you've had an impact in your tennis community when people decide to name a tennis court in your honor. Today, you can play a match at Broomfield Swim and Tennis Club on "The Covington Court", a living tribute to George Covington, 83, who symbolizes what recreational tennis is all about.

It's fitting that Covington will be the recipient of USTA Colorado's Clyde Rogers Award at the 11th annual Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala on January 28, 2011, at the Marriott Denver Tech Center. The award is given annually for outstanding contributions to the recreational tennis players of Colorado.

"It's kind of interesting to be given an award for having so much fun doing it all these years. I spent my whole life at Broomfield Swim and Tennis Club trying to improve tennis there, and I've been teaching a lot of kids and a lot of people," said Covington, who loves teaching tennis to players of all ages. He loves it so much, he's done so without ever charging a fee. This fall, he also assisted the Broomfield High School boys tennis team.

"I also spent about 21 years in Arizona. We went down there for three months every year, and I've been teaching seniors down there, some of which have never hit a ball in their life."

Covington, whose wife, Charlotte, 78, also plays tennis two or three times a week, said he owes a lot to tennis for keeping him in such great shape for so long.

"I just quit playing competitive tennis this summer. I'd been playing 4.0 and 3.5 tennis competitively," said Covington, who has played in more than 175 USTA tournaments. "Essentially, tennis was really a plus for me in my life just from the standpoint of keeping in shape and to live long enough to be able to give back to it."

And giving back is what Covington is all about.

"I decided to give back to it a long, long time ago. I never charged for a lesson. Of course, you get what you pay for, right? That was a fun thing to do," Covington said. "As I got older, it was gratifying to be able to help people that have never hit balls before or to coach at the high school and teach the kids how to play."

Gene Wilken, 82, of Fort Collins met Covington while playing tennis on the Colorado league circuit, and the two have known one another for the past 30 or 40 years.

"We both partnered up and played against each other," said Wilken, who nominated Covington for the Clyde Rogers Award. "The man is a lot bigger than the story behind that award. This is one of these really great guys, tremendous sense of community of giving back and of helping people. He's what you think of when you think of these bigger than life people who made a big difference in the community. And it's not only Broomfield, it's the tennis community in Colorado, too."

Covington grew up in Denver and started playing tennis when he was 17.

Story by  
**TOM FASANO**

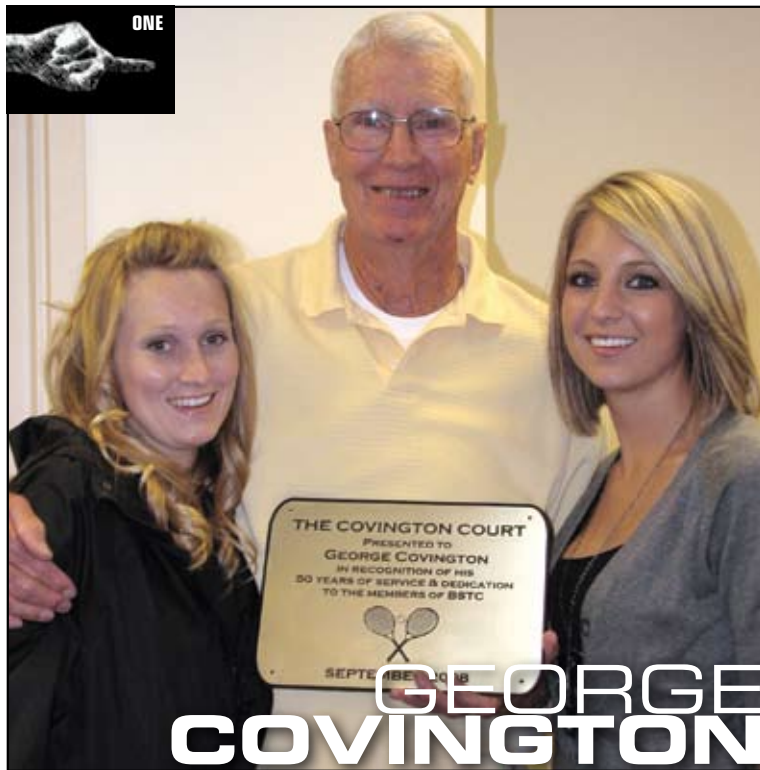


photo courtesy of George Covington



# HIGH FIVE

**F**or the past three decades, *COLORADO TENNIS* (née *High Bounce* in 1976) has been bringing you profiles of local players, coaches, administrators and anyone else in the Colorado tennis community who shares their passion for the sport with others.

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

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

Charlotte Covington said her husband has given so much of his time and effort because of his love for the game. Their four kids grew up playing tennis, too.

"He initiated the first Broomfield open tournament, and volunteered with the girls and boys tennis teams at the high school during the time we had our kids playing there and years after because he loves the game and he loves doing it," Charlotte said.

Wilken said tennis continues to be a big part of Covington's life.

"It's not just now and then and once in a while, it's continuous," Wilken said. "He is constantly putting a lot of energy and a lot of his time into the game. He's sort of been Mr. Tennis around Broomfield. How many people have courts named after them? He practically single-handedly developed the program there, and he's still doing it out there on the courts teaching the young people for free."

Wilken said Covington has rock-solid values who is willing to put in the time and energy.

"He's one of those guys who sees himself as a moving force and devotes it to this game that he loves so much," Wilken said.

more HIGHFIVES, next page



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# HIGH FIVE

continued from P17

**C**hris Weyer caught the tennis bug early in her life. As a child, she would go watch her mom play tennis on the courts at Arvada Tennis Center, then go home and fill her house with the reverberating "bang, bang" of a tennis ball methodically hitting her garage. For her, it's a joyous sound, made all the more special these days because it is her 10 year-old son, Conor, doing the hitting.

"For him, we made a tennis wall *inside* the garage," Chris laughs.

Chris played junior varsity tennis for Arvada West High School, but it wasn't until recently that Chris jumped head first into tennis again.

"I wanted to find something that I could do while committing to my full time job, *motherhood!*"

Today, Chris plays leagues, tournaments, and teaches tennis at the Arvada Tennis Center whenever she can. She's also on a mission to bring tennis to young people.

"Just being able to expose kids to tennis is a wonderful experience. They really don't even need a court. Sometimes just getting a racquet and a ball in their hands can get them going," she explained.

Chris takes advantage of any opportunity to expose kids to tennis, from being involved in any number of special events at area tennis clubs to introducing tennis to the after-school program at a local elementary school in Arvada.

Always seeking more ways to bring tennis to the community and giving back to tennis, Chris answered an advertisement seeking volunteers for the Racquets for All (RFA) program. Immediately she knew it was a great fit for her.

Racquets for All was started in 2008, but really hit its stride in 2009. The program recycles used tennis equipment of all types and gets it into the eager hands of those who need it. With a dozen or so volunteers on board, the program is growing. Unlike many other programs, however, RFA is completely run by volunteers. Because of this, finding the right volunteers is critical.

Kristy Harris, Community Development Director for USTA Colorado is proud of Chris' commitment and drive.

"Chris is the type of person who when she gets involved, she GETS involved. She recognizes where opportunities are to expose RFA. She's serious about the success of the program, because she knows what the program can do and will do for players."

Kristy said that commitment like Chris' is crucial, and she can't even begin to work with a facility without knowing there's a strong volunteer in place and a succession plan for that volunteer.

Chris has already been able to make a difference for many kids who would not have had the chance to pick up a racquet and we are extremely grateful for her dedication.

If you have a racquet or other equipment that you are not using, consider donating it to the RFA program. Also, if you think you might want to be a volunteer for your area, please email [crfa@coloradotennis.com](mailto:crfa@coloradotennis.com). ☺



photo courtesy of Chris Weyer

Story by  
**KATIE NEWELL**

**E**ven though Monica Li is one of the best tennis players in Colorado for her age group, that kind of recognition doesn't define her. At 16, Monica is much more than a great tennis player.

She's one of the top students at Fairview High School with a 4.7 grade-point average in advance-placement classes in the school's International Baccalaureate program. While her high school coach, Susan Stensrud, says Monica is easily a future Division I tennis player, Monica said it's her academics that will be the top priority when selecting a college.

Another priority for Monica is making sure her actions on the tennis court are at a high standard. Monica, a junior at Fairview and a member of the National Forensic League and National Honor Society, is not only a great tennis player, but the way she conducts herself when playing tennis has made others take notice.

Monica will be the recipient of USTA Colorado's Phyllis Lockwood Award at the 11th annual Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala on January 28, 2011, at the Marriott Denver Tech Center. The award is given annually for girls sportsmanship in the 15 to 18-year-old age group.

Being nice and respectful to everyone on and off the court are important to Monica.

"It's a great honor to receive this award," the 5-foot-5-inch Monica said. "On the court, you have to act your part. Tantrums are not allowed. If we have a scoring dispute, I'll settle it in an orderly manner."

Stensrud said Monica is deserving of the honor.

"If you are in control of your emotions, you're in control of your game. I think it goes hand in hand. Monica really is a standout," Stensrud said. "She's always composed. She's always thoughtful. She's always really thinking about how she's playing. She's great about calling scores. She's always polite to her opponents, but she always has a certain steely resolve underneath it all. She likes to win, but winning or losing is not everything. I think she just likes to play well to have a good match."

Monica, her father, Xinlin, and her mother, Jinfang, as well as her 14-year-old sister, Katie, have a family USTA membership. The tennis family loves to

get out on the courts, and are members of the Millennium Harvest House in Boulder.

"Our whole family plays," Xinlin said. "When we go on vacation, we specifically look for a resort with tennis courts so we can have fun and play tennis always together."

Xinlin played table tennis before taking up tennis in the US about five years ago. He plays at the 4.5 level in USTA leagues and is ranked No. 2 in the state.

Winning the Phyllis Lockwood Award is a big honor for his daughter, said Xinlin.

"I feel glad she is being recognized. On the court, she has a very good attitude like real good sportsmanship when she plays tournaments," Xinlin said. "We talk about this at the dinner table that good sportsmanship is definitely good and don't get frustrated."

Monica started playing Colorado Association of Recreational Athletics (CARA) tennis at the age of 10, and she played in her first open tournament when she was 12. She qualified for state at 5A as a freshman in No. 1 singles and lost in the first round. This past spring, she finished fourth in the Class 5A girls state tennis tournament, and is the top returner in the state at No. 1 singles in 5A. The three girls who finished ahead of her at state were seniors. She also placed sixth at the Intermountain Summer Sectional (G16s).

Stensrud, who has been coaching in Colorado since 1988, said Monica is extraordinary in everything she does.

"She has an exceptional game. It's very well rounded. She doesn't really have any weaknesses," Stensrud said. "She's a great baseliner, but she can easily come into the net. She's very quick. She's very strong, and when she plays somebody tough, her game improves. She's a real gamer." ☺



photo courtesy of the Li Family

Story by **TOM FASANO**

**R**ikk Shimizu is a 17-year old junior tennis player, but his path to tennis and his commitment to the sport are anything but typical. Rikk started tennis like many other juniors – his parents played and he took lessons when he was younger. But, early on, Rikk chose swimming over tennis. He had great success, going to the Colorado High School State swimming championships three straight years. As recently as 2009, Rikk attended a swim camp in Florida with a former Olympic coach. And, that's where Rikk's commitment to tennis really began.

Rikk spent his last morning in Florida watching the epic Wimbledon final between Roger Federer and Andy Roddick. The intensity of the match and the mental toughness displayed by both players resonated with Rikk. He said, "The match had me glued to the television thinking, could I do this? I realized how much I wanted to go for something great and it seemed clear that I should try another sport and work toward something. It had been so long since I played tennis, but it was the sport that I wanted to go for."

Rikk certainly has gone for it over the past year. He played doubles for Legacy High School, went to Regionals and placed fourth. This summer, he played six tournaments and went to the Junior Team Tennis Colorado District Championships.

One of the greatest things about Rikk's determination and spirit for tennis are that they extend beyond the court. Rikk has become a valuable volunteer for USTA Colorado, helping at the Black Arts Festival and with the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation online auction and Hall of Fame Gala. Lisa Schaefer, Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation Director, has worked with Rikk and says, "It is refreshing to interact with a young person who sees the importance of volunteering – of giving back to the community. We are fortunate to have Rikk on our team."



photo courtesy of the Shimizu family

Story by  
**RACHEL MORLEY**

Rikk also volunteered with young players at North Jeffco as well as at the Colorado Athletic Club Monaco adult tournament. Rikk says, "I felt that if I wanted to be a great tennis player, it would be best for me to sit in other's shoes. I decided I would give back to the game of tennis while being part of tennis."

His commitment to tennis is recognized and applauded by many in the tennis community. He was nominated for the 2010 USTA Colorado Mike, Gene & Maurice Reidy Award, which recognizes those who exemplify sportsmanship, leadership and achievement on and off the court.

Currently, Rikk is home schooled and spends his free time improving his tennis game as well as the tennis experience for others. "I plan to take a risk playing open tournaments. I'm 17 and I have nothing to lose and tons to gain," says Rikk. This positive attitude gives Rikk a true perspective of the importance of tennis. He says, "If I manage to stay healthy, tennis is for life. If I make a college tennis team, it will be a stepping stone to hopefully making it big in tennis, but if not, tennis is still for life. I see playing tournaments for the rest of my life. Volunteering will always be part of my life – I have been blessed and giving back is not hard." 🎾

**C**herry Creek High School has virtually written the book on winning boys' high school tennis championships, claiming 36 of the past 38 team titles. Last year, Regis Jesuit High School lost the crown to Cherry Creek by the narrowest of margins (three points). With most of the Regis team returning, they did not forget about it during the off-season.



**HAIL TO THE CHAMPIONS:** Ricky Drexelius, David Klippel, Jacob Spreyer, Zach Fryer, Matt Colapinto (co-captain), Colin Haas (with trophy), Garrett Cochran, Alex Gnaegy (co-captain), Tyler Brasel, Mark Miller, Dylan Gust

Story by **LINDA WEGNER**

This year, Regis tore a page out of Creek's playbook to write their own bit of tennis history, scoring points at every position and upending the perennial favorites to take the school's first tennis title since 2000. It was, as everyone on the squad will attest, a team victory.

"The brotherhood we have at Regis transfers to the tennis court too. The whole school was amped-up about it. We were all determined, knew what we had to do and were excited to do it," shares co-captain and senior Alex Gnaegy.

On the morning of the first day of tournament play this year, Head Coach Laura Jones, in her first year as the Regis head coach, said, "The boys came out focused, had a good warm up and got loose. They were ready to play hard."

By the end of that day, all seven positions – three singles and four doubles – had a Regis representation in the semi-finals brackets. This helped to secure a significant lead and some breathing room.

Coach Jones recalls, "We all felt relief that we were doing what we had planned to do and that was nice."

This is quite a seasoned team, with eight seniors, most of the players had individual championship titles from previous seasons, and as a team they have been ever-so-close to a team championship, but never have they been able to find their way to holding the coveted championship trophy. Now, they were poised to realize their team dream.

All but one position secured a spot in the finals. To advance this way, as a team, was moving for Coach Jones, "I watched with pride. These boys, who had remained on their mission all season long, were finally attaining their dream together."

Individual state championship titles went to Colin Haas at No. 2 singles, Jacob Spreyer at No. 3 singles, Matt Colapinto and Zach Freyer at No. 2 doubles, Rick Drexelius and David Klippel at No. 4 doubles. Second place designations went to Mark Miller at No. 1 singles and Alex Gnaegy and Dylan Gust at No. 1 doubles. A third place trophy went to Tyler Brasel and Garrett Cochran, the No. 3 doubles team. Each position adding points to the team's total of 86 points, far out-scoring Boulder High School with 43 and Cherry Creek with 38. The victory was truly a team championship and the culmination of perseverance, experience and brotherhood playing out with dignity and heart.

Next year the team must rebuild. Eight of the eleven players will graduate this spring. The boys who remain behind will have this experience to help lead the new players. Coach Jones believes they are up for the challenge.

"I look forward to rebuilding. The graduating players will leave a legacy of hard work and the players who remain have developed some good leadership skills from this experience," expressed Coach Jones. "Next year we'll have some foundation to build from. This year I was along for the ride."

And what a ride it was – crossing the finish line with four individual titles and the school's second-ever team state championship title that will go down in history as a most impressive and dominating win. 🎾

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# JUNIOR COMPETITION

## Regis interrupts Creek's streak, captures four state titles and the team championship; Cheyenne Mountain tops again in 4A

For just the third time in 39 years, Cherry Creek was a spectator during the state high school tennis trophy presentation, as Regis Jesuit claimed four individual state titles en route to the 5A team championship, their first since 2000 and second in school history (see **HIGHFIVE**, page 19). Since 1972, only Wheat Ridge (1991) and Regis (2000, 2010) have defeated Cherry Creek at a state meet.

The 5A singles crown was won by sophomore Spencer Weinberg of Grand Junction, who defeated Regis' Mark Miller in a gripping title match. The win gave Grand Junction the school's first singles title since 2006, and earned Weinberg USTA Colorado's Jack Cella Award as the outstanding high school player.

Regis captured titles at No. 2 and 3 singles (Colin Haas and Jacob Spreyer), and at No. 2 and No. 4 doubles (Matt Colapinto/Zach Fryer and Rick Drexelius/David Klippel) to earn 86 points in the team competition, twice that of second place finisher Boulder, who captured the No. 1 doubles title (Ian Ron/Harrison Vivas). Cherry Creek did win the No. 3 doubles title (Spencer Anderson/Connor McPherson), and as a team finished third, with 38 points.

In 4A action, Cheyenne Mountain returned to its dominant ways, capturing the team title and winning five individual titles.

Niwot captured the top-two singles positions with sophomore Harrison Lang and junior Michael Ogez earning their first-ever state titles for the Cougars.

After finishing second in last year's title hunt at No. 2 singles, Cheyenne Mountain sophomore Stephen Moore took home the No. 3 singles title this year. The Indians then swept the doubles, Billy Fielding/Parker Curry at No. 1, Andrew Venne/Hayden Cramer at No. 2, Abe Yellen/Cole Benson at No. 3 and Vincent Chow /Canyon Barry at No. 4.



photo by Kurt Desautels, USTA Colorado



photo by Chris McLean, Pueblo Chieftain

Harrison Lang of Niwot (above), rifles a shot during the 4A singles championships. Lang defeated Connor Hudson of Mullen to take his first-ever state title.

East High School's Jake Malman (left) gives a post-match hug to 5A champion Spencer Weinberg of Grand Junction after their thrilling semifinal match.

## Colorado netters squash the competition at the Great Pumpkin

Colorado netters carved out some great results at the 2010 Great Pumpkin Junior Sectional Championships in Las Vegas, bringing home a total of four singles and doubles titles.

Colorado swept the Boys 14s, earning both the singles and doubles titles. After a fourth-place finish at the Summer Sectional in Denver, Spencer Lang (Longmont) captured the Boys 14 singles title by upending fellow Coloradan and top-seed David Mitchell (Castle Rock) in the semifinals, then finishing off sixth-seed Rohan Gupte in a thrilling three-set final, 6-2 3-6 6-3. Mitchell would get the best of Zach Fryer (Highlands Ranch) in the consolation final to finish third. In doubles action, Fryer partnered with Luke Lorenz (Colorado Springs) to capture the B14 doubles championship.

In the Boys 12s division, Willie Gold (Denver) and Alec Leddon (Boulder) were never seriously tested en route of the doubles championships. The pair also faced each other in the consolation final, with Gold earning third place. Top-seeded Casey Ross (Littleton) reached the final, but was upended by Utah's Jonathan Dollahite.

Rebecca Weissman (Loveland) delivered on her No. 1 seed in the Girls 16s singles draw, dropping only 14 games in six rounds to take the Sectional title.

Littleton's Erin Gebes, who placed third at the Summer Sectional and second at the state's 4A high school championships last spring, finished second in the Girls 18s division, while Englewood's Brittney Warly finished sixth.

In the Girls 14s, Samantha Martinelli (Denver) repeated her Summer Sectional performance by finishing second. Boulder's Ashley Lahey upended Kalyssa Hall (Colorado Springs) in the back-draw to finish fifth.

Top-seeded Tate Schroeder (Lone Tree) made quick work of her early rounds, but couldn't topple third-seeded Skylar Schossberger (Idaho) in the final. Aurora's Madison Gallegos (Aurora) dropped the No. 2 seed in the consolation final for third place.

Colorado 4A state champion Harrison Lang couldn't improve on his third place finish at the Summer Sectional. The top seed was upset in the semifinal, then rebounded to win the consolation final. Hayden Sabatka (Highlands Ranch) and Matt Sayre (Denver) finished fifth and sixth respectively.



## Team Colorado announces 2010-11 rosters

Team Colorado has completed the selection process for the 2010-11 season, naming 24 players to the 12s Squad, 20 players to the Devo Squad, and 11 players to the all-new 10 & Under team. The selection process for the Team Colorado Select Team is not yet complete.

Team Colorado is an elite junior training program designed to enhance the performance of the state's top players at Sectional and National tournaments. As a supplemental program, Team Colorado provides training opportunities above and beyond those received in a player's existing personal program. While each player's primary development takes place with his/her respective personal coach, the training regimen put together by Team Colorado is designed to supplement one's individual workout program.

Bringing Colorado's most talented 12-and-under players together to practice and train with one another under the guidance of the state's top coaches will significantly benefit them as they push each other to new heights. The stronger the practice partners and coaching staff, the better our players will become.

**Team Colorado 12s Squad:** (Boys) Ben Antonsen, Cutter Esson, Brett Finan, Charlie Franks, Kosta Garger, Nick Lorenz, Mitch Johnson, Richter Jordaan, Joshua King, Jacob Maxwell, Tom Melville, Ben Murray, Erich Nuss, Patrick Seby, Ram Vuppalla, Eli Wiener; (Girls) Maeve Kearney, Allison Murphy, Amber Shen, Anshika Singh, Emily Strande, Heather Volls, Anna Waller, Casey Zhong

**Team Colorado Devo Squad:** (Boys) Zack Fox, Skyler Gates, Daniel Guiot, Stone Heyman, Connor Johnson, Carter Logan, Jack Moldenhauer, Ryan Neale, Tyler Paddor, Daniel Pearson, Brooks Savage, Laird Stewart; (Girls) Natalie Bronsdon, Tatum Burger, Sarah Casey, Ky Ecton, Natalie Hagan, Caroline Jordaan, Tamara Katthain, Emily Wilkins

**Team Colorado 10s Squad:** Philip Ahn, Teague Burger, Henry Cox, Carter Harrington, Caden Kammerer, Miranda Kawula, Jett Middleton, Evan Nuss, Sophie Pearson, Andrew Seehausen, Hayden Snyder.

For more information on the Team Colorado program, please visit [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com) and click on the JUNIORS tab.

# COLLEGE BOUND

## COLLEGE-BOUND, PART FOUR

### MEET THE PARENTS

USTA COLORADO'S GUIDE TO PLAYING COLLEGE TENNIS.

Story by  
**DENNIS HUSPENI**



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**F**or parents of junior tennis players, helping them find the perfect college can feel like a monumental balancing act.

On one side, parents want to provide their child with enough guidance to help them make the most informed decision possible.

On the other side, most parents know it's important to let their child own the process so they can develop maturity and truly take responsibility for their own fate.

The stakes, of course, seem huge.

"It's worth the effort, that's for sure," said Joe Vasos of Fort Collins, whose son Will Vasos is a junior at the University of Iowa.

The effort by Joe Vasos, and his wife Becky, paid off because their son found the right college to play tennis, earn an education and become a part of a team.

"He loves the team and the coach and just the whole scene there," Vasos said.

Vasos is one of three parents who shared advice on how to navigate the often confusing and overwhelming terrain of the college landscape.

Their stories show that persistence, good communication with potential coaches and exhibiting the qualities of a winner all play an important part of finding the right college.

### SEEING IS BELIEVING

Alex Lineberry of Sedona, AZ, is a freshman at the US Air Force Academy and a member of its tennis team. How he got there is a lesson on the importance of campus visits, said his father Larry Lineberry.

Alex was playing good junior tennis and it became obvious he would play college tennis somewhere, said Lineberry, a USTA master professional and director of tennis at the Sedona Racquet Club.

He had his eye on several colleges and began the process, like most sophomores and juniors, by sending letters and emails to the coaches of programs where he wanted to play.

"He had no clue where he wanted to go," Lineberry said.

But during the summer before his senior year, Alex Lineberry played a national juniors tournament in Denver. His mom, Debbie Pardee, took him to visit the USAF campus.

"He called afterward and said 'Dad, this is where I want to go,'" Lineberry said. "It was the most lucid statement I'd ever heard him make."

At that point, it was easy for Alex to let go of the search for other schools and concentrate on the "very complicated and very intense" process of getting into a service academy, Lineberry said.

"Once a kid makes up his mind, that's really what you want," he said.

Alex put himself into a strong position with good grades, solid high school tennis play and junior tournament success, Lineberry said. The visit helped him turn the corner.

"Touring a campus is key, probably the most important thing," Lineberry said. "For the kids, it makes it concrete and literal. They see the campus and can picture whether they see themselves there or not. It clarifies the decision-making."

### HAVING OPTIONS

Natalie Dunn, a freshman at the University of Denver, expressed from a young age a desire to learn tennis so well, she would earn a college scholarship, said her mother Leticia Dunn.

"I told her that's not really necessary because by the time you get there we'll be able to afford to send you," Leticia Dunn said.

After she watched her daughter suffer some injuries while playing at Poudre High School in Fort Collins and lose a coach she liked, Leticia Dunn again told her daughter she didn't have to play tennis at a college level.

But Natalie Dunn never lost sight of her goal to play after high school. She played as



Photo by Dong Wang, TennisRecording.net

continued on next page



NATALIEDUNN

many tournaments as she could while holding down the challenging rigors of Poudre's International Baccalaureate program.

Perhaps because she entered high school a year younger than most students, Leticia Dunn said, Natalie hesitated in making her final decision. Her success on the court – and in the classroom – had coaches reaching out.

"I just left it to her and figured if she wants to do it, she will find a way," Dunn said. "I took a step back."

The combination of having a friend that was going to DU, as well as clicking with one of the team's assistant coaches, finally set Natalie's decision.

"Her thing was looking for consistency of a coach," Dunn said.

Natalie had options because of her grades.

"Academics are huge," Dunn said. "There are academic scholarships out there for

kids."

And though she couldn't get to as many tournaments as some junior players, Natalie made the most of the ones she attended.

"We always told her it doesn't matter how many, but how you play them," Dunn said. "You do your best and try hard ... keep fighting hard and have good behavior on the court."

Dunn said often they didn't even know they were being watched.

"You never know who's watching," she said, noting coaches may be there to observe someone else but take notice of good effort and sportsmanship.

In retrospect, Dunn said she wishes Natalie had started the process sooner. She also advised parents to help students create a chart of different schools, complete with academic highlights, team information, contacts with coaches, etc. They should also familiarize themselves with NCAA rules surrounding recruiting.

**USING EVERY ADVANTAGE**

Will Vasos was lucky in his college search in that he had older siblings who had earned college athletic scholarships to help guide him, Joe Vasos said.

"It was invaluable to have an older sister who knew the ins-and-outs of the process," he said.

The 2008 state singles champion from Rocky Mountain High School sent a video tape showing his strokes and included an interview highlighting "who he is and what he wanted to accomplish," to mostly Big 10 schools.

Joe and Becky Vasos graduated from UI and the family has relatives living there, so Will Vasos focused his efforts on that school.

Building a good player profile was crucial, Vasos said, to shape "how he would be perceived as a teammate and a member of the institution."

Three integral pieces of that profile were Vasos' love of the sport, his desire to play at the next level and the importance of teamwork.

"Will had to sell himself and represent himself," Vasos said.

Getting to know his future coach was important to Will and Vasos said it should be a priority of any junior player before making a decision.

"They really saw life on the same plane," Vasos said. "It was just like that relationship existed from day one. It should feel right for the kids."

Vasos said it's a long road, for both the junior player and their parents, but "if you're serious, it can happen."

"It can be tough deal for student athletes. Even for so-called minor sports, the demand can be incredible," Vasos said. "But we've found out the rewards are greater for all that effort you put in." ☺



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# LEAGUETENNIS



## ADULT LEAGUE PARTICIPATION BREAKS ALL-TIME RECORD, 30,000 TAKE TO THE COURTS IN 2010

Following on the heels of nearly a decade of positive growth, the Colorado Adult League Tennis series grew 7% over last year, and broke the 30,000 participant mark in 2010 (30,632), nudging the all-time participation number to nearly 500,000 players.

The USTA Adult District Championship event was the largest tennis event in Colorado history, totalling 1,168 matches in three days (338 more matches than the 2009 US Open!). While these impressive numbers are fun to use for comparisons across the country, this growth has required USTA Colorado to make some changes to the formats used for the 2011 USTA Adult and CTA Twilight District Championships. We will have much more information about this in the upcoming Big Book of Colorado Tennis.

We would like to thank all of the players, captains, coordinators and facilities that played a part in making this a magical year for league tennis. We would also like to congratulate all the teams that won their respective division in Districts.

## 2010 COLORADO ADULT LEAGUE DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

### USTA MIXED

**2.5: Pinehurst Country Club**

6.0: Jewish Community Center

7.0: Niwot Tennis Association

8.0: Aurora Parks & Recreation (**8.0 Gates Tennis Center, wildcard entry to Sectionals**)

**9.0: Willow Creek**

SPORTSMANSHIP: 6.0 Foxridge Swim & Racquet Club

### USTA ADULT

W2.5: Glenwood Springs Country Club

**W3.0: Colorado Athletic Club Inverness**

W3.5: South Suburban Littleton Golf & Tennis

W4.0: Harvest House

W4.5: Colorado Athletic Club Monaco

M3.0: Lebsack Tennis Center

M3.5: Highlands Ranch Community Association

M4.0: Sundance Hills

**M4.5: Lebsack Tennis Center**

**M5.0: Arapahoe Tennis Club**

SPORTSMANSHIP: W4.0 River Valley Ranch / M4.5 Aurora Parks & Recreation

### CTA DAYTIME DOUBLES

W2.5: Lebsack Tennis Center

W3.0: South Suburban Lone Tree

W3.5: Highlands Ranch Community Association

W4.0: Point Athletic Club

W4.5: Lebsack Tennis Center

SPORTSMANSHIP: W3.5 Highlands Ranch Community Association

### USTA SUPER SENIOR (Sectionals/Nationals in 2011)

W6.0: Heritage Eagle Bend

W7.0: Gates Tennis Center

W8.0: Gates Tennis Center

M6.0: Longmont Tennis Association

M7.0: South Suburban Littleton Golf & Tennis

M8.0: Gates Tennis Center

M9.0 Northern Colorado

SPORTSMANSHIP: W7.0 North Jeffco Parks & Recreation / M7.0 Harvest House

### USTA SENIOR

W3.0: Longmont Athletic Club

W3.5: Colorado Athletic Club Monaco

**W4.0: Parker Tennis**

**W4.5: Woodmoor Pines Country Club**

**M3.0: North Jeffco**

M3.5: Colorado Springs Racquet Club

**M4.0: Colorado Springs Racquet Club**

M4.5: Arapahoe Tennis Club

SPORTSMANSHIP: W3.0 Evergreen Sports Center / M3.0 Green Oaks

### CTA TWILIGHT

W2.5: Woodmoor Pines Country Club

W3.0: Lebsack Tennis Center

W3.5: Colorado Athletic Club Inverness

W4.0: Country Club of Colorado

W4.5: Meadow Creek Tennis & Fitness

M2.5: Arapahoe Tennis Club

M3.0: South Suburban Lone Tree

M3.5: Fort Collins Country Club

M4.0: Snowmass Club

M4.5: Gates Tennis Center

SPORTSMANSHIP: W3.5 Crestmoor / M3.5 Lakewood Tennis Club

### CTA SUMMER DAYTIME

W2.5: Governor's Ranch HOA

W3.0: Broomfield Swim & Tennis Club

W3.5: Meadows Swim & Tennis

W4.0: Piney Creek

W4.5: Steamboat Springs Tennis Center

SPORTSMANSHIP: W3.5 Piney Creek

### ITA FALL MIXED

**6.5: Foxridge Swim & Racquet**

**7.5: North Jeffco**

8.5: Miramont Lifestyle Fitness

SPORTSMANSHIP: 7.5 Tennis Association of Greeley Work Out West

Colorado teams highlighted in **BLUE** won the Sectional Championships, teams attending National Championships are highlighted in **PINK**.



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# LEAGUETENNIS

It's December, and that means it's time for USTA Colorado's annual

## SALUTE TO CAPTAINS

This year, more than 2,100 captains helped make Colorado's adult program one of the premier league tennis series in the nation.

And so, without further ado, the eternally beloved *Captain & Tennille* will serenade our hard-working captains with a passionate rendition of their timeless tennis-themed classic.....

### TEN-YEAR CAPTAINS\*

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Cheryl Caldwell  
Cynthia Cederberg  
Debra Cirillo  
Ghods Daneshbod-S  
Becky Dickson  
Greg Drake  
Penny Dumas  
Jerry Eddy  
Louis Elster  
Wayne Fleischer  
Marlene Frankel  
Andrew Geiss  
Gail Givens  
Judy Gober  
Michele Gosselin  
Ileana Gross  
Adolph Grundman  
Michael Hall  
Gail Hamilton  
Ronald Hamilton  
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Eli Manzo  
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Terry Taylor  
Mona Tell  
Darlene Tennant  
Connie Tucker

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Claire Benjamin-Brown  
Jeanette Bol  
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Patti Bowman  
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Darien Brinkman  
Deborah Cavness  
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Vern Classen  
Gaynell Colaric  
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John Driesbach  
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John Elmer  
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David Smith  
Don Smith  
Peggy Solinsky  
Bill Speck  
Daniel Sunada  
Tommie Tennison  
Judy Tersteeg  
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Mary Thompson  
Steve Thompson  
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Greg Treviso  
Lise Uhrich  
Malou Van Eijk  
Larry Walling  
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Barbara Wright  
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Gary Yost  
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Andy Zodin

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Norman Black

Walter Boggs  
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Larry Bundy  
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Robert Straeb  
Marlene Swartz  
Kristy Thomas  
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Carol Barela  
Ralph Barraza  
Nancy Barrs  
Eleanor Blandin  
Jim Bodkin  
Gene Boyd

Timmy Bromell  
Lisa Christie  
Donna Coates  
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Wendy Cody  
Dottie Colton  
Lindy Conter  
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Billy Downs  
Patricia Dudley  
Catherine Dunbar  
Mariane Erickson  
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Renee Fleisher  
Brian Ford  
Leandra Frazier  
Joseph Gadd  
Steve Gardner  
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Joanne Groome  
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Tanya Harrington  
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Marcia Henry  
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Judy Holthus  
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Joann Johnson  
Mona Jones  
Kim Kerk  
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Ron Kocsis  
Cami Kostecki  
Dina Koucky  
Sandy Lang  
Judith Laursen  
Nancy Leone  
Keith MacLeod  
Linda Maisonneuve  
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Tony Matthews  
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Shirley McAllister  
Kristi McCauley  
Debbie McGough  
Tim McWhite  
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Joan Nagel  
Joshua Neugebauer  
Mary T Nickerson  
Carrie Ochitwa  
Becky Olson  
Stephen Olt  
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Carmel Osullivan

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Jill Williams  
Dee Woodcock

Curtis Wyeno  
Ellen Yu  
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Maria Ammaturo  
Kathy Appel  
Janie Arnold  
Kathryn Arroyo  
Peggy Aswell-May  
Roger Baumgartner  
Patti Beauchamp  
Stephen Bell  
Michael Berman  
Darlene Bessette  
Amanda Billow  
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Susan Brown  
Mary Buchanan  
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Claudia Cardozo  
Jeffrey Carroll  
Terri Conine  
Tom Conter  
Frank Coria  
Lisa Crandall  
Jack Cronkhitte  
Lloyd-Norton Cutler  
Rae Ann Decuio



If you would like to share your love of league tennis by becoming a captain, please contact your facility coordinator or Kailey Jonas, USTA Colorado Adult League Coordinator at [kailey@coloradotennis.com](mailto:kailey@coloradotennis.com).

\* Years of service beginning in 2001. Although we have numerous captains that have been leading their teams for 10, 15 or even 20+ years, we only began tracking this information in 2001.



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Mark Gray	Maureen Marrs	Laurie Sinclair	Jeni Anderson	Sandy Courtney	Karen Gertz	Tyler Katrina	Samantha McBride	Tamara Radtke	Mary Sullivan
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Ursula Hamel	Kara McDowell	Ann Spangler	Ursula Hamel	Janice Bailey	Zada Cunningham	Deena Green	Pam Miller	Angie Richter	Eric Teruel
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Megan Henry	Christopher Midanier	Lisa Sullivan	Megan Henry	Carol Bender	Vicki Dean	Steve Gustafson	Michelle Kissner	Carmen Mould	Peg Tyler
Martha Heppard	Cyndie Miller	Bonnie Suter	Martha Heppard	Steve Berg	Kimberly Decker	Lisa Haifleigh	Katie Kline	Meredith Munro	Paul Ulmer
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Karen Hiraki	Debra Minich	Lauren Sveen	Karen Hiraki	Ben Blanchard	Ilene Dell'Acqua	Chris Haines	Michael Knapp	Dan J. Murphy	Denise Van Essen
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William Hudson	Susie Nelson	Mark Tiernan	William Hudson	Lisa Doris	Lisa Doris	Andrew Harrison	Andrew Harrison	Florence Landblom	Jay Waddell
Dawn Jacobsen	Roberta Nicknisch	Linda Timmins	Dawn Jacobsen	Vince Brady	Bridget Dornbirer	Chris Hartman	Vicki Lang	Vicki Lang	Barbara Wagner
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Paula Leake	Jennifer Segale	Sarah Zodin	Paula Leake	Gail Clark	Tim Flatt	Jen Jewett	Helen Marshall	Melanie Powell	Frank Starr
Kelly Lipsteuer	Jenna Sellers	<b>FIRST-YEAR CAPTAINS*</b>	Kelly Lipsteuer	Gloria Clark	Kris Folsom	Jennifer Jirous	Andrew Martin	Catherine Preisser	Leslie Stasinios
Robin Longobricco	Teri Sexauer	Rene Adema	Robin Longobricco	Brian Cobb	Tsanford Francis	Ann Marie Johnson	Donnie Martin	Paul Preston	Urs Steck
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Brian MacMillan	Staci Shepherd	Steven Allison	Brian MacMillan	Georgine Coleman	Victoria Fullmer	Lisa Johnson	Steve Marx		
Cathy Madison	Jack Shoffner		Cathy Madison	Olga Coleman	Sharlene Funk	Randy Johnson	Mark Masters		
Matthew Mammola	Bryan Short		Matthew Mammola			Ken Kaiser	Lori Mateer		

\* Years of service beginning in 2001. Although we have numerous captains that have been leading their teams for 10, 15 or even 20+ years, we only began tracking this information in 2001.

# THEBIGCHAIR

## NEWS FROM USTA COLORADO HEADQUARTERS

STATE OF THE DISTRICT

BY FRITZ GARGER, USTA COLORADO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**G**reetings! After a gorgeous and relatively dry fall season, the snow has finally started to fall on the Western Slope and along the Front Range. We have had a very successful year in our efforts to promote and develop the sport throughout the state. As we've remarked in the past, it takes a coordinated effort to bring it all to fruition. We want to thank all those involved who have supported and provided the opportunity for people to get on the court and participate in one of the best and fastest growing traditional sports in the country.

### The challenges ahead

When we reflect back on the year, we recognize there are areas that we need to address as we strive to get more players into the game (one such area is youth 10 & under and the development of QuickStart). There are also challenges that arise in other areas where our growth was off the charts this past year – and the growth has been significant for each of the years preceding this one as well. Many facilities have had capacity issues these past few years and the number of facilities in that same boat is multiplying. We are working on ways we can alleviate the issue and we'll be communicating those plans as we move forward. In conjunction with that issue is the need for newly constructed facilities and the renovation and/or refurbishment of courts that have fallen into disrepair over the years. While there are projects on tap that we are not involved with, our office is assisting with a whole host of projects (in various phases of development) throughout the state that will hopefully have an impact and make a difference in providing opportunities for players to get involved in our sport. If you or someone in your community is interested in assistance along these lines – please contact our office.

### A time for celebration

And as is the case each year at this time, we reflect back on the people and players who have excelled in the sport or have contributed in a major way to the development of the sport across the state. Our Awards Committee and our Hall of Fame Selection Committee have held their respective meetings and we have yet another amazing group of Annual Award winners (24 annual awards in all) and a most worthy class of inductees who will be honored at the upcoming Hall of Fame and Annual Awards Gala (January 28). These honorees represent all of what makes our sport so impressive and impactful. They are a collection of people who encompass the ethnic, social and geographic diversity of our state. I encourage all of you to attend our Gala. You will be touched by the contributions several of our recipients have made, you will be impressed by the accomplishments of the many players being honored, AND you will be a part of our outreach efforts to raise dollars for the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation – as the Gala serves as a major fundraising event of the Foundation and its goal to expose the sport of tennis to all kids across the state.

### A special thanks to advertisers

I want to take an opportunity to thank the numerous businesses, facilities, individuals and organizations that you see advertised in this publication throughout the year. Their continued support is vitally important to our efforts to grow the sport in Colorado. USTA Colorado encourages our readers to support our advertisers by shopping locally. We realize that in these tough economic times, it's tempting to look online for the best deal on equipment and services. Our local retailers and facilities routinely go the extra mile to help local inner-city youth programs, non-profit agencies and a wide variety of charity events. Your patronage helps to support the game in your own backyard.

In closing, I want to thank our Boards (USTA Colorado and the CYTF), their respective committees and our staff (in-house and all those coordinators, clinicians, coaches and contractors who are so instrumental in the implementation of our programs and services). Thanks for all you do to support our association and the game – your efforts are much appreciated.



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# THE LAST WORD

## KEEPING IT REAL

WHAT'S YOUR DEFINITION OF "REAL" TENNIS?

BY KURT DESAUTELS, COLORADO TENNIS EDITOR

**F**rom time to time, I have to admit that the USTA (national office) can really get on my nerves. Dictums emerge from national committees—without any real world practicality or foresight—and head south to sections and districts and community tennis associations at rapid speed. Few of these charges are good policy, with a fully operative support system in place to actually help them survive at the grassroots level. Anyone remember the Type III ball? Rock & Rally? Tennis Welcome Centers? Cardio Tennis? These programs entered the world with the best of intentions, but many died on the vine because of the lack of a long-term commitment from the USTA and our various partners within the Tennis Industry Association: the USPTA, PTR, Racquet Sports Industry, facilities, etc.

So along comes QuickStart tennis, which we saw a preview of in 2007 and which made its official debut in 2008. It has the support of the teaching organizations, which have been using components of the QST application for years. The manufacturers are on board, ready to commit to making kid-specific equipment, and the facilities embrace the concept by beginning to transition many of their youth-programming to kid-sized courts and equipment.

But until recently, the QST format has remained a teaching application. The full spectrum of the format has yet to be incorporated into a full-fledged playing apparatus. A couple of months ago, the USTA announced the *Rule Change*, and it's taken the tennis world by storm. The Rule Change (see our cover story) relates to the 10 and Under division, and it has thrust the QST format onto center stage. Facilities and parks that may have been slow to react to the adoption of the smaller court/shorter net aspects of the play format are now beginning to realize that unlike past measures that may have not carried the full weight of the USTA behind them, the QST format is here to stay.

And why not? It's an idea whose time is long, long overdue. Our Executive Director, Fritz Garger, said it best. The USTA should not meekly defend this rule change. It should be out in front of the movement, apologizing profusely for pursuing its 100-year model of treating kids like adults. For the first time, Tennis will treat kids like kids, just like every other sport does.

But like any revolutionary idea, there has been some faint grumbling in the ranks, specifically that the Rule Change prevents 10 and Unders from playing "real" tennis.

"Real" Tennis. I first heard this phrase about a month ago, and I'm still trying to wrap my head around it. What is "real" tennis?

Webster's has, like, a half-dozen definitions, typically centered around words like GENUINE, FUNDAMENTAL and ESSENTIAL. One version of the definition is PROFESSIONAL, but I can't imagine we expect our 9 year-olds to be engaged in playing pro tennis.

If you were to characterize youth baseball—or youth soccer, football, basketball or any other youth sports—that scale down the game to an age-appropriate level, would you say that these players weren't engaged in "real" athletics? Is it the playing surface/area that makes a game "real", or is it the equipment that confers "real"-ness?

We delight at the speed at which Rafael Nadal patrols the baseline, and how much of the

1,000+ square foot court Roger Federer can cover. But can we possibly expect our 9 and 10 year-olds to cover the same angles and reach the same short balls that these top-level professionals do? Isn't hard enough for fit adults to manage? I'm 6'3" and I have trouble covering those down-the-line shots from time to time.

Other sports don't make kids play like adults. We don't demand that our 9 and 10 year-olds pitch at Coors Field, navigate the vast expanses of Mile High Stadium or even pace the sidelines at Dick's Sporting Goods Park. Heck, even college hoopsters shoot three-pointers from a modest 20.75', more than a foot shorter than the NBA. I haven't heard anyone complaining that the NCAA doesn't offer up "real" basketball.

I would submit that it is the action that takes place within the scope of the game that makes a sport "real" or, well, not "real". I think we can all agree that college hockey, with its full-face shield mandate is pretty "real". I think we can also agree that watching a 9 year-old trying to handle balls bouncing two feet above his head is decidedly un-"real".

What makes tennis "real" isn't the court, it's not the ball, and it's certainly not the racquet. "Real" tennis is about effort, movement, timing, action and reaction, strategy, losing and winning, and above all, athleticism. The fastest way to make an athletic youngster look clumsy is to shove her out on a full-size court and make her play like a grown-up.

The vast, vast majority of 9 and 10 year-olds can't be expected to play "real" tennis on a regulation 78-foot court with a standard tennis ball any more effectively than they can toss curve balls from a major league mound or execute the wishbone offense wearing full pads. "Real" tennis should be defined by the essence of the action, regardless of the size of the court, how fast the ball travels or how high it bounces.

As I said, I've been frustrated by the USTA and its deaf-eared handling of various initiatives that come down the pike to the grassroots level. But not this time. The 10 and Under Rule Change fundamentally changes the way kids learn, play and compete at tennis.

Bravo to the USTA and ITF for having the courage to push this initiative through. It's been far too long that we've tolerated our children being treated like adults. It's time for them to act their age.

## The Countdown to 500K

As I mentioned in my column in the Fall issue, USTA Colorado will welcome the 500,000th adult league player sometime next spring. This is a big deal. Think about it. Since 1980, a half-million people have competed in Colorado league tennis. This isn't a hamburger, or a 99¢ song download. This is a significant milestone in the history of our league program. Each player served, volleyed, and sweated his/her way through a season of competition — friends were gained, pounds were lost, and lives were changed.

And so we're celebrating this milestone in a big way.

Starting in the Spring issue of *Colorado Tennis*, we'll officially begin the countdown to 500,000. We'll keep the countdown going at [COLORADOTENNIS.com](http://COLORADOTENNIS.com).

Right now, we're putting the finishing touches on our plans for this tremendous milestone, so stay on your toes. We're not going to spoil the surprise, but let's just say that after 30 years in the making, this event will be bigger than the Beatles coming to iTunes!

## Big Book back in February

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photo by Kurt Desautels



### USTA COLORADO

BACK ROW: Dan Lewis, Fritz Garger, Paula McClain, Kurt Desautels, Jason Colter.  
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## ABOUT USTA COLORADO

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

We provide grants to organizations that want to introduce tennis to their communities and we offer scholarships to junior players who seek to take their game to the next level. We coordinate adult league play for more than 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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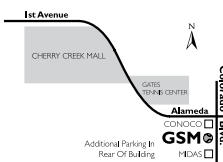
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