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Year 40, Issue 4

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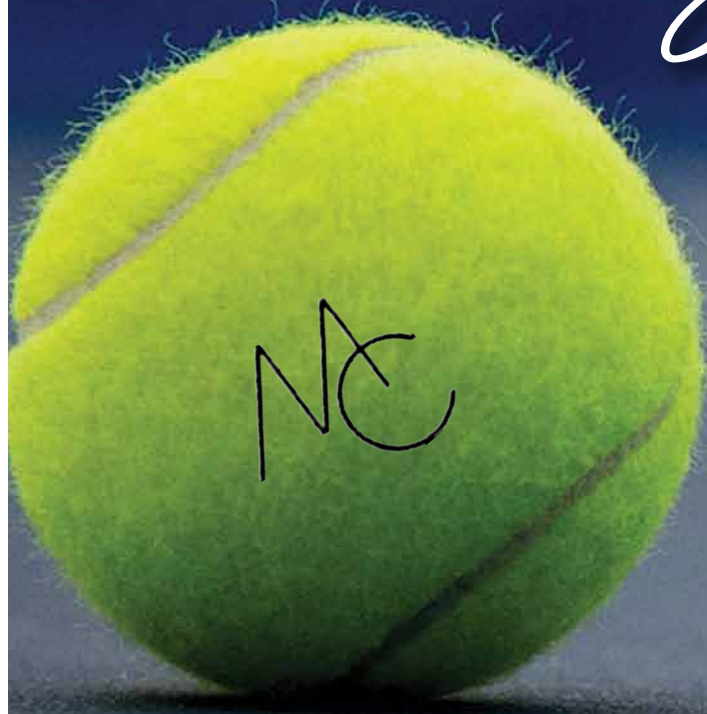


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fall/winter 2015

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USTA Colorado has spent the last several years exploring new ways to help the sport thrive, and with the collaboration of providers from all over the state, the early results are nothing short of fantastic.



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### About COLORADO TENNIS

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### COLORADO TENNIS Editor

Kurt Desautels, Phone: 303/695-4116 x203  
Email: kurt@coloradotennis.com

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# THECOVERSTORY

## PAVING THE WAY FOR NEW PLAYERS

USTA COLORADO AND PROVIDERS ACROSS COLORADO ARE WORKING TO MAKE TENNIS MORE WELCOMING TO NEW PARTICIPANTS

**T**he Tennis Boom, felt nationwide in the early 1970s, was the peak of tennis' popularity. Millions of would-be Billie Jean Kings and Arthur Ashes donned their Wimbledon whites and flooded their local tennis courts.

Tennis' popularity continued through the 1970s, as Chrissy and Bjorn became the faces of a new generation of tennis players. But slowly, participation began to wane. Grassroots participation dropped so much in the 1990s that Sports Illustrated delivered a front page eulogy, declaring tennis to be dead.

The tennis industry began to turn this all around in the early 2000s, promoting the brand of tennis versus focusing on any one brand or manufacturer. The result was a new era in tennis growth.

Throughout the early and mid-2000s, league participation boomed as the original tennis boomers from the 1970s returned to the courts in droves.

But now, as we arrive at the halfway point of the 2010s, there are signs of trouble on the horizon. Nationally, USTA

membership is on the decline. This year looks to mark the fourth straight decline in membership, even as overall play opportunities continue to climb.

A year ago, USTA Colorado engaged with providers across the state, seeking input about how to grow the game here in Colorado. The meetings generated a host of ideas and best practices to be shared among facilities.

USTA Colorado has spent the last several years exploring new ways to help the sport thrive, and with the collaboration of providers from all over the state, the early results are nothing short of fantastic.

### Bucking the trend

The USTA model is divided into 17 sections. Colorado is one of the six districts of the Intermountain Section. The other districts are Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

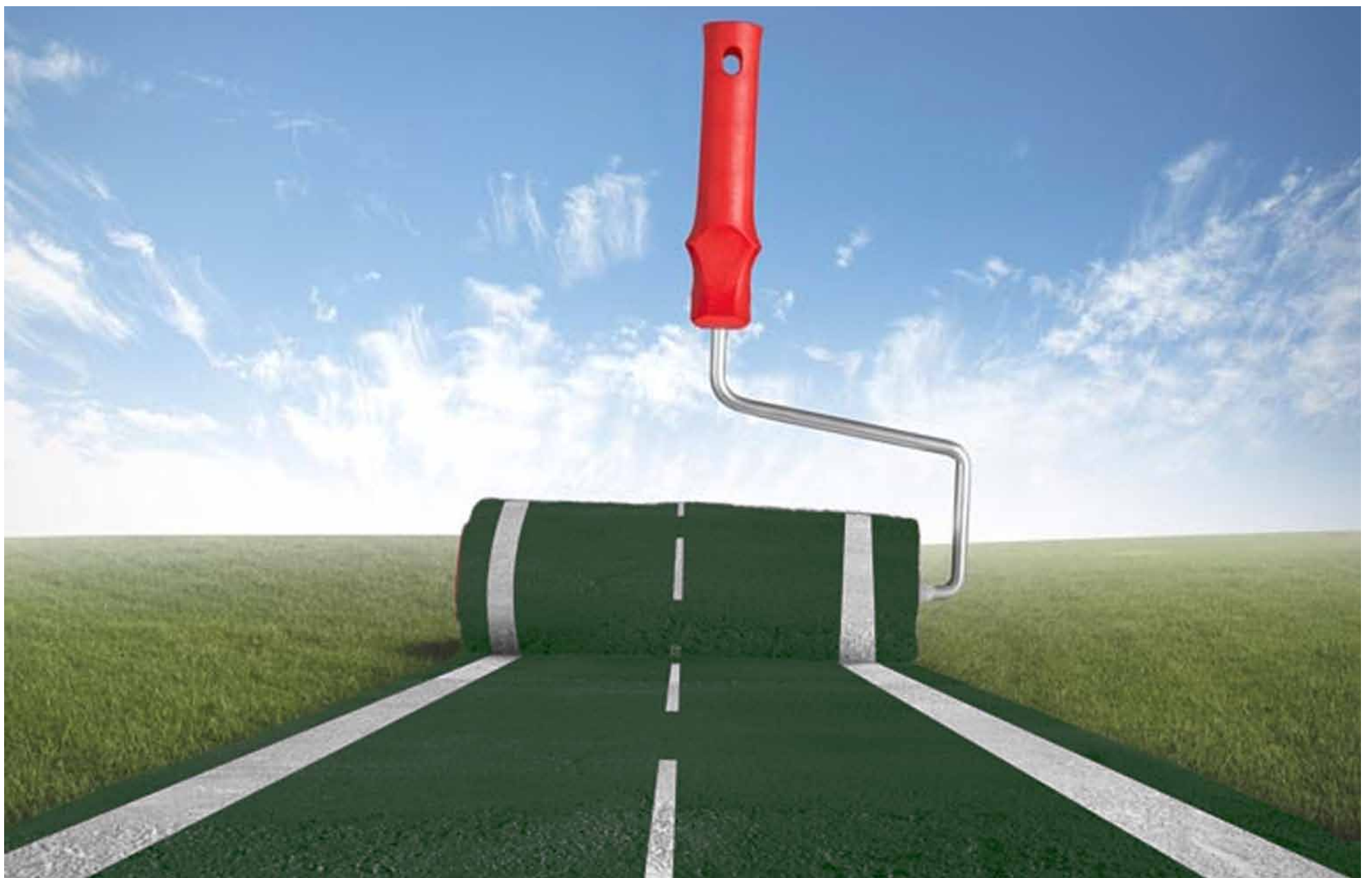
Overall, Colorado represents about 60% of the total Intermountain population, and historically, Colorado has led the way in terms of innovative programming to help

grow the game.

This year, despite membership and league play decreases across the national spectrum, Colorado and Intermountain have bucked the trend, growing in both membership and overall league play. Thanks to the strength of Colorado's league menu, Intermountain was the ONLY section in the USTA family to grow membership so far this year.

The credit does not belong to any one entity. USTA Colorado is privileged to work with outstanding providers — coaches, tennis and fitness clubs, public facilities, parks & recreation, school programs, boys & girls clubs, neighborhood tennis organizations, etc. — and the collaborative efforts to introduce new players to the sport, to bring lapsed players back, and to make tennis an easier choice for families is making a difference.

Here are a few Colorado innovations that have helped the state become the proverbial shining beacon on the hill for other districts and sections looking to reverse their downward trends and recruit the next generation of tennis players....





## How USTA Colorado is working with providers to build the next generation of tennis players.

INNOVATION		STATUS
<p>In 2012, the rules governing youth competition all changed to better reflect the physical abilities of younger players. USTA national mandated changes to the court/ball/etc. for 8- and 10-year-olds, which Colorado embraced. We then took another step forward, mandating changes at the 12-year-old level as well to better assist young players with the transition from smaller courts and slower balls to a traditional full size court. Many factors went into the decision to have both entry-level and intermediate divisions compete with a lower-compression green ball. And despite the heat that USTA Colorado took for the decision to incorporate all these changes from more traditional coaches, the vast majority of providers were enthusiastically on-board.</p>		<p>While sanctioned play in the 8 &amp; under division (RED ball) has seen very minimal increase, sanctioned participation in the 10 &amp; under division (ORANGE ball) has seen a better than 50% increase since 2012. Participation in entry- and intermediate-level play at the 12s level (GREEN ball) has climbed steadily since the transition away from the yellow ball. Perhaps the most promising statistic is that junior participation in sanctioned events (both Junior Team Tennis &amp; Tournaments) is up across the board since 2012 by almost 20%.</p>
<p>USTA National Player Development has created a nationwide initiative that focuses on the development of young junior tennis players — the first systematic approach taken by our national governing body designed for the under 10 player. Colorado was one of three Intermountain Districts requested to host the program in 2015. The program/curriculum centers on the science and philosophical approach of the ROGY progression — an essential core component of a young player’s development is ensuring they are practicing and competing on an appropriately sized court and with the proper equipment (lighter racquets, low-compression balls).</p>		<p>USTA Colorado recruited seven coaches from geographic regions around the state — all trained in the philosophy and curriculum of the EDC program and its progressions. The purpose of having geographic diversity is that these coaches could then connect with fellow coaches in their region and expand the reach of these concepts and the curriculum.</p>
<p>The first session welcomed 16 players to four camps, and in addition to the curriculum which combined key elements to ensure success and proper technique — swing patterns, grips and footwork, as well as the development of strategy and tactics — the intent was also to expose/introduce the ROGY methodology to as many coaches and teaching professionals as possible, and provide an overview of the EDC program/concepts and principles to parents (those who have kids in the program and those interested in general with getting young kids into the sport).</p>		<p>The opening camp was hosted by Anne Pankhurst (England Lawn Tennis and USTA National lead), drawing nearly 40 coaches and 45 parents to the presentations, which laid out the fundamental aspects of the ROGY methodology. The goal of bringing all these coaches and parents together, ultimately, is to have the curriculum incorporated into programs across the state.</p> <p>USTA Colorado wants to educate both coaches and parents on the opportunity that coaches and parents have to develop a passion for athletics in kids ages 7-9. Through tennis, we believe children can develop a love of sports, which benefits them in virtually all aspects of their lives....physical, social, mental, academic, etc.</p>



## INNOVATION

Providing a better tournament tennis experience for youth players is vital to helping kids embrace competition. In an effort to make changes that will benefit both players and parents, USTA Colorado adopted the multiple match **A**(bbreviated) **C**(ompetitive) **E**(xperience) format, or ACE, in 2014. In 2015, all entry-level (Level 8/Futures) and intermediate (Level 7/Challengers) events have adopted the ACE format.

ACE puts Colorado at the forefront of a growing movement across the country that challenges the age-old standard of forcing inexperienced competitors into week-long single-elimination events: the traditional lose-one-and-you're-done scenario.

A pair of changes (not exactly "innovations") were made to Colorado's Junior Team Tennis program in the last two years — moving to a "gender neutral" format for the 10s division and a new requirement that all JTT State Championship teams bring a full complement of players (4) to each match.

In 2014, USTA Colorado introduced the Play Day Tennis Series, a partnership between USTA Colorado and tennis facilities in the Denver area that provided children and their families the opportunity to participate in as many Play Days as they would like, thereby providing more chances to serve, rally and score, and practice the skills needed during JTT league play or sanctioned tournament match play. The intent of Play Days is to integrate both competitive and non-competitive play opportunities to help young players develop their skills and strategies.

Piggybacking on the success of modified formats in other youth sports, USTA Colorado is testing out 3 versus 3, a whole new take on team tennis. The format takes place on two courts, where there is a singles match and a doubles match going on simultaneously. Players can rotate or substitute in and out during the match, giving everyone an opportunity to play. The goal of this recreational format is to allow players of different abilities to compete and have fun on the same team.

ACE  
FORMAT  
1-DAY  
TOURNAMENTS

In the first year of the ACE format, entry-level (Level 8/Futures) participation grew at more than 12%, and in the second full year, participation exploded by well over 50%. At the intermediate (Level 7/Challenger) level, where ACE has been in place for just one year, participation has stabilized after a four-year slide.

*Parents like the one or two day commitment to the tournament vs. a week-long or Friday-Saturday-Sunday commitment. In our case we were able to do a specific age and gender /division in one day. We received several positive comments from parents.*

*The other thing that I noticed is that the players got to hang around each other and build some camaraderie among each other, instead of the one and done situation where the loser just leaves.*

— Mike Shellman, Highlands Ranch Recreation Center

*We found the ACE format to be very well received by parents and players alike. Ken-Caryl Ranch has offered one-day tournaments for a number of years now, and it's great to see how well other facilities and their tournament directors are embracing the format.*

*From the standpoint of the tournament director, this format is conducive to trying multiple formats perhaps even within the same tournament. While one division may have a perfect 16-draw and able to use a compass format, another may only have 6 and have to do a round-robin.*

*The ACE format is player and parent-friendly. Many tournaments can be completed in one day while others complete the pool play on day one and bring back the finals match the following day. With the ACE format, everyone is a winner.*

*One intangible advantage to the ACE format is that it fosters interaction between players both on and off the court since players remain on site for the day and they get to know one another.*

— Judy Anderson, Ken-Caryl Ranch Community Association

Although seemingly modest tweaks, the two "innovations" were both met with very positive results. The "gender neutral" format for the 10s division pushed participation up by nearly 10% in the first year (2014 vs 2013), and by more than 17% in the last two years. The JTT State Championship roster requirement had the effect of making that event run incredibly smoothly. Many JTT coaches and parents were complimentary of the change and the positive effect it had on the event.

In 2015, the number of registered Play Days increased by more than 40%, as more than two dozen providers hosted official events throughout the year (so far).

The good news is that more and more providers are offering/registering Play Days, and those who offer them are hosting more of them. Play Days are key to the process of converting samplers (players who try the sport and then give up) to frequent players (who play 7 or more times per month).

The 3v3 format was introduced during a pilot program at Lifetime Fitness in Centennial. USTA Colorado has worked with several providers to incorporate the 3v3 format into their programming. USTA Colorado is exploring the idea of adding new tournaments or leagues that utilize the 3v3 format to its menu down the road.

## JTT

PLAY  
DAYS

## 3v3



## INNOVATION

Introducing youngsters to the sport of tennis through physical education and school-based extracurricular tennis is a foundational program of USTA Colorado.

Often students who are introduced to tennis through their PE programs at school become very excited about tennis but may not easily connect to a tennis program outside of school. In an effort to connect kids and families more easily to their local tennis program provider, "Adopt-a-School" was piloted in the fall of 2014.

USTA Colorado is an active partner in the community, working with numerous Chambers of Commerce, Parks & Recreation, educational institutions and the general public.

Each year, USTA Colorado participates in cultural festivals and provides play opportunities to people of all ages and from all walks of life.

As a function of these efforts, USTA Colorado has prioritized the outreach to diverse communities through grants, education, participation and equipment donations.

## STATUS

Hundreds of thousands of Colorado kids get a chance to learn and play tennis in school each year thanks to the relatively free USTA Colorado resources and support and the teachers who take advantage of them. A long-standing partnership with SHAPE Colorado (formerly COAHPERD) continues to be an important part of the school outreach effort.

In addition, schools are discovering the benefits of adding tennis lines to their playgrounds. For more on that story, read page 15.

After signing an agreement to work closely with USTA Colorado on this grassroots outreach effort, Meadow Creek Tennis & Fitness, Miramont Lifestyle Fitness, Work Out West, Tennis Center at Steamboat and Parker Tennis worked closely with USTA Colorado and sent representatives into one or more schools to support the teachers and students and develop a closer relationship with the school community. Each provider approached the opportunity in a unique way; however, all of the responses have been extremely favorable with increased play days, kids' tennis clubs, PE tennis programs and community/club engagement.

In 2015, three new Adopt-A-School relationships were developed, with Highland Meadows, Aurora Parks & Recreation and Rocky Mountain Tennis Center. Already, four additional providers are interested in joining the initiative next year.

USTA Colorado conducted clinics at the No Barriers Summit last year in Telluride. Led by Community Development committee member and Special Olympics Colorado tennis director, Vicky Matarazzo, adaptive tennis activities and games were conducted for 19 participants. By participating in this Summit, USTA Colorado was given a platform to show that anyone can experience the joy of hitting a tennis ball and that tennis can truly change people's lives.

USTA Colorado is also looking to expand on a partnership with the Denver Veterans Administration to provide tennis opportunities to former American soldiers. Read the story on page 18.

For nearly a decade, USTA Colorado has hosted its Diversity TennisFest and Community Tennis Series in partnership with Denver Parks & Recreation. Thousands of participants of all ages have been introduced to the sport and connected to programming throughout the Denver metro area.

New and used racquets have been provided to players and programs thanks to the Racquets For All program and sponsor donations from George L. Shields Foundation, Subaru, USPTA Intermountain and Xcel Energy. More than 1,000 racquets have been handed out to kids through TennisFest, and several school tennis programs have received equipment through the Racquets For All program, enabling them to add players to their programs despite budgetary constraints. To date, the program has distributed more than 4,000 racquets and 40,000 tennis balls.

USTA Colorado's Breaking the Barriers initiative is a three-part series which highlights the accomplishments of diverse tennis pioneers, contributors and rising stars. Now in its fourth year, the initiative continues to have an impact by showcasing the sport and its rich heritage in Colorado. Collectively, the exhibits have been visited by more than 4 million people.

SCHOOL  
TENNIS

ADOPT  
-A-  
SCHOOL

OUTREACH

# THEBUZZ

## NOUNS IN THE NEWS

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

### USTA Colorado staffer Harris earns Parks & Rec award

Each year, the outgoing Colorado Parks & Recreation Association president acknowledges an individual or association that s/he feels has been an asset to CPRA, its members, their community or the state.

In 2015, outgoing CPRA president Carolyn Peters selected USTA Colorado Community Development Director Kristy Harris to receive the honor. Peters notes that Harris earned the award for her "outreach and support to the countless Colorado communities and parks and recreation agencies that provide or want to provide opportunities to engage in tennis." The award, says Peters, recognizes Harris "For the assistance and ability to hear what parks and recreation's needs are, for all the connections she made between local parks & recreation and schools, and for the leadership & vision Harris has shown, promoting tennis at the grass roots level."

### Changing of the guard for Team Colorado, Star Search

A staff restructure at USTA Colorado means that for the first time in nearly 20 years, Jason Colter will no longer be heading Team Colorado, the organization's player excellence program.

Taking over will be Cindy MacMaster, who has been a permanent part-time employee of the association since 2014. Originally holding responsibilities that ranged from 10 & under tennis and community outreach to leading Northern Colorado's Junior Team Tennis program, MacMaster will continue those efforts and have expanded involvement in USTA Colorado's Player Development arena moving forward.

MacMaster helped launch the inaugural Early Development Camps this summer, and will begin heading up Team Colorado this fall. MacMaster is certainly no stranger to the world of player development, having been involved in this arena for years.

USTA Colorado Executive Director Fritz Garger commented, "We're excited to be able to increase Cindy's role with our organization. She brings not only a lot of expertise to the table, but also an amazing work ethic and a track record for getting things done in a productive and professional manner. She also has the incredibly important attribute of being interested in and ability to understand the varied interests of all those involved in Player Development, from players, parents, coaches and administrators' perspectives. She cares about all those involved. It shows and it matters."

The staff restructure will provide Colter the opportunity to focus entirely on our Tournament Operations, which are an

integral part of USTA Colorado's offerings.

The other related program shift relates to Star Search, a free program for underserved youth who demonstrate a passion for tennis. Dan Lewis, USTA Colorado's Junior Programs Director, who already oversees several new and existing junior recreational opportunities will be heading up the program.

"Dan's passion for the game and desire to help juniors, makes this transition another perfect fit," said Garger.

Garger adds, "The restructure provides the opportunity for the organization's staff to focus on key areas and utilizes the skill sets each of them bring to our organization. We're looking forward to enhancing our efforts in these key areas of focus and making a real difference in reaching out to more people."

### DCO making plans for 100

The Denver Tennis Club (DTC), host of the annual Denver City Open (DCO) tennis tournament, has named Colorado attorney Leslie B. Greer as chairwoman for the 2016 season. The DCO is one of the oldest and most prestigious tennis tournaments in Colorado. This nine-day tournament is held yearly in mid-June and attracts not only the City and State's best tennis talent, but also top amateur talent from the Intermountain West. In 2016, the tournament will celebrate its 100th anniversary with special events planned prior to, and during the tournament.

"I am honored the Denver Tennis Club selected me to chair the 100th anniversary," says Greer. "This tournament couldn't have lasted for 100 years without the generous support of the Club's members. Their strong support helps to ensure the success of such a large, prestigious tournament."

The DCO has been held at the DTC every year since the Club's inception in 1928, except for one year, where a disagreement amongst the Club membership forced the tournament to be played at City Park's courts. The tournament was placed on hiatus for the two years the United States sent troops to fight in World War II.

### Support the CYTF on Colorado Gives Day

It's time to support the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation on Colorado Gives Day! For the sixth year, Community First Foundation and FirstBank are partnering to present Colorado Gives Day on Tuesday, December 8, 2015. Colorado Gives Day is an annual statewide movement to celebrate and increase philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. The \$1 Million Incentive Fund created by the partners is one of the largest gives-day incentive funds in the country.



### Colorado teams double up at USTA National Championships

In an incredible demonstration of consistency and perseverance, two Colorado teams reached the pinnacle of USTA League play, hoisting the National Champions banner for 2015. While it's an incredible feat to have a team even compete for the national title, 2015 will be remembered as the year two Colorado teams earned the title of National Champions.

The Wash Park Men's 5.0 team was the first Colorado squad in nearly 20 years to capture a title, as they avenged an early loss to Southern and claim the 18 & Over National Championship (see story, page 25).

And just three weeks later, the Men's 55 & Over 9.0 team from Colorado Athletic Club Inverness completed an impressive run to claim Colorado's second title of the year. The team, captained by Andy Rinehart, opened play on the final day with a semifinal victory over the Southern section team, from Bluffton, S.C., 2-1. In the 9.0 championship match, they blanked the Middle States section men's team, from Manasquan, N.J., 3-0.

"All of us have played tennis all of our lives and you dream about these moments. We feel blessed and extraordinarily lucky," said Rinehart. "Tennis is not just winning. We all came away with the friendship, camaraderie and family support we will never forget. It was a perfect experience."

Team roster: Andy Rinehart (captain), Hans Carlson (co-captain), Mike Pennell, Mike Demong, Randy Sontheimer, Kevin Kavanah, Robert Balboa, Schuyler Wells, Dave Romberg, Scot Sturgis.



### Subaru's Investment Grows Tennis Program at Denver Indian Center

A great time was had by all at the Denver Indian Center where kids enjoyed an afternoon of fun tennis games and activities with USTA Colorado staff as part of the final week of summer camp. The Center's expanded summer tennis program was made possible in large part due to Subaru because of their new tennis equipment donation to the Center in 2014.

Instead of the Center borrowing racquets and balls for a limited amount of time like they've done in the past, there's now easy access to equipment because of Subaru's investment. As a result, and for the first time, regular tennis programming will take place during the winter months, making it a year-round opportunity for the kids.



**SUBARU**





Through December, USTA Colorado is partnering with the Denver Public Library to display the full Breaking the Barriers Portrait Series in the exquisite Gates Reading Room. Thirty-eight portraits will be on exhibit for a three-month period which began in October.

Building awareness through education, inspiring action through art, these unique portraits celebrate the accomplishments of diverse tennis pioneers, contributors and rising stars in Colorado were produced by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Barry Gutierrez.

Additional activities at the Central Library include a Photographer's Workshop with Barry Gutierrez on Tuesday, November 17, 6:30-8:30pm.



Members of the Breaking the Barriers crew reconnect in the Gates Reading Room at the main branch of the Denver Public Library at a reception on October 15.

**Grants help Knollwood rebound after 2013 floods**

Rain hit the greater Denver area in September of 2013 with a vengeance. Within one week, more than 17 inches fell in Boulder County alone, causing catastrophic flooding along Colorado's Front Range. Flood waters surged down rivers and creeks, inundating fields and pastures, leaving Knollwood Tennis Courts under a blanket of thick mud. This fall, the City of Boulder's Parks and Recreation Department is beginning its facility upgrade work at the courts, with help from the USTA family.

In August, USTA Facility Assistance Program awarded a \$25,000 grant to the City of Boulder to support the rebuilding of the damaged tennis courts. USTA Colorado and the Intermountain Tennis Foundation donated an additional \$5,000. The Knollwood Tennis Courts project is one of the city's final 2013 Flood recovery efforts and is anticipated to be completed by spring 2016 (weather dependent). For more information about this project, please visit: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/parks-rec/tennis>.

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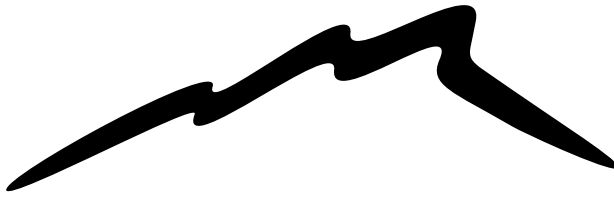


# ANNUAL AWARDS

INTRODUCING THE 2015 RECIPIENTS

## Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala honors inductees, annual award winners

Each year, USTA Colorado recognizes players, administrators, facilities and volunteers who have distinguished themselves over the course of the year. Each award is named after an outstanding individual, whose contribution to tennis in our state has had a significant positive influence to the Colorado tennis community. Recipients are honored each year at the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala. Nominations are accepted each year through September 15.



# COLORADO TENNIS HALL OF FAME

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2016**  
**MARRIOTT DENVER TECH CENTER**  
 5:30 PM COCKTAILS | 7:00 PM DINNER, LIVE AUCTION & PROGRAM  
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## 2015 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

Outstanding High School Players  
**CASEY ROSS**  
**AMBER SHEN**

Outstanding College Players  
**HAYDEN SABATKA**  
**KELLI WOODMAN**

Outstanding Players  
**CHRIS COOPRIDER**  
**SIMONA BRUETTING**

Senior Outstanding Players  
**MIKE LAMMENS**  
**MARTHA GULBENKIAN**

Umpire  
**DEBORAH WEINSTEIN**

Wheelchair Player  
**COLBY KORTUM**

High School Teams  
**KENT DENVER BOYS**  
**CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN GIRLS**

Organization  
**TENNIS CENTER AT STEAMBOAT SPRINGS**

Family  
**DR. TAREK ARJA FAMILY**

Volunteer  
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**MAVIS EDWARDS**  
**KOSTA GARGER**  
**SAMANTHA MARTINELLI**  
**IGNATIUS CASTELINO**  
**ATSADANG DEEBUNMEE NA CHUMPHAE**

Contributions to Under-served Players  
**BILL TRUBEY**

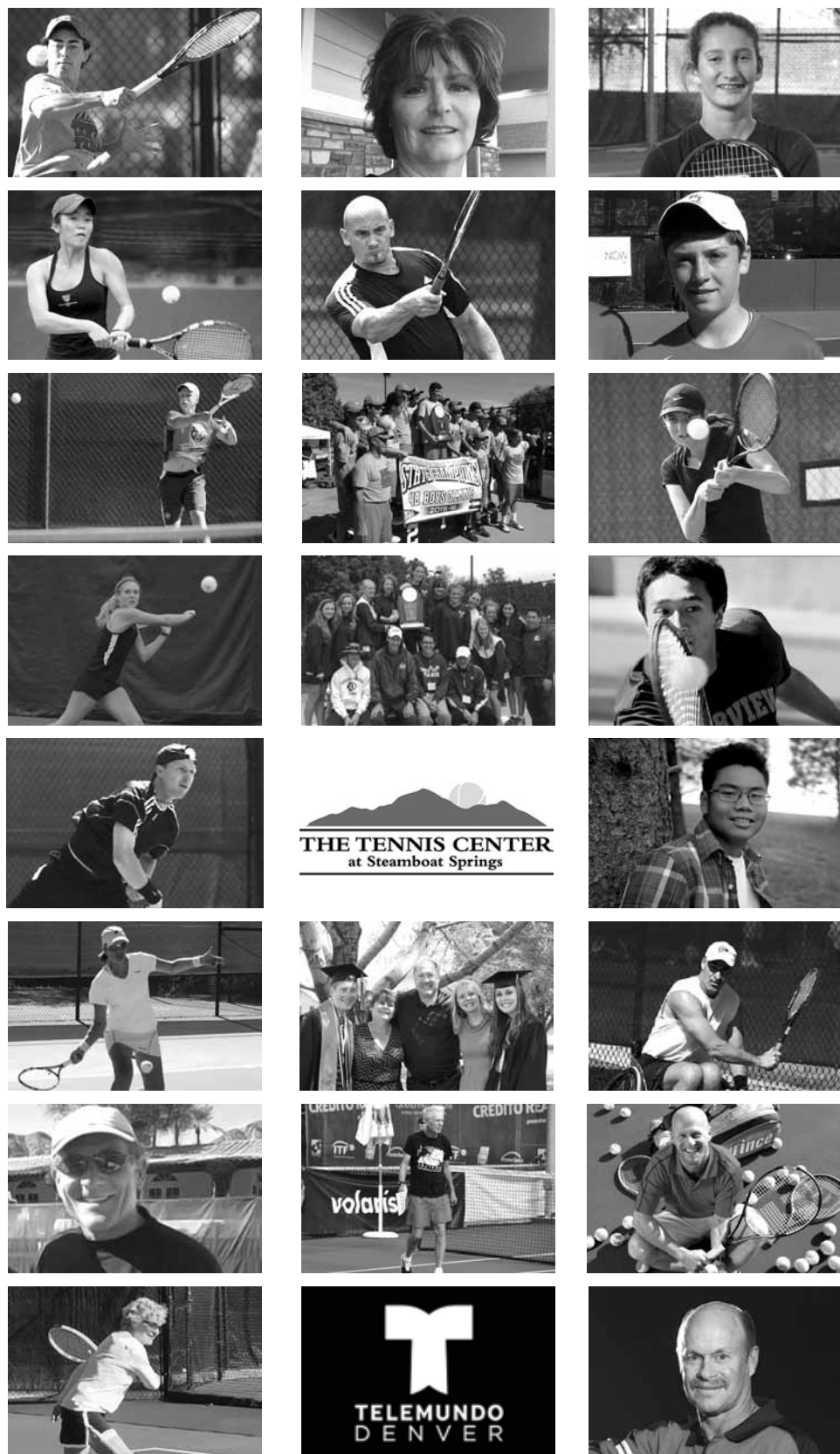
Contributions to Recreational Players  
**GONZO GARCIA**

Contributions to Tennis Community  
**RANDY ROSS**



### COLORADO TENNIS HALL OF FAME

- 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** Miko 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
- 2011** Cliff Buchholz, Maricaye Christenson Daniels, Scott Humphries, Alicia Salas
- 2012** Clayton Benham, Chad Harris, Warrick Jones, Victoria Palmer Heinicke
- 2013** Nicole Leimbach, Rita Price, Gil Roberts, John Whistler
- 2014** Sara Anundsen, Kelly Lovato, Cory Ross, Art Thomson
- 2015** Rich Berman, Bob Curtis, Andy Potter, Susan (Mehmedbasich) Wright







# TENNIS AT THE GARDEN OF THE GODS CLUB AND RESORT

## WINTER 2015 / SUMMER 2016 JUNIOR TENNIS CAMPS

GET YOUR JUNIOR TENNIS PRO ON THE ROAD TO A SOLID FOUNDATION AT GARDEN OF THE GODS JUNIOR TENNIS CAMPS. LED BY USTPA CERTIFIED STAFF, THESE POPULAR CAMPS FOCUS ON IMPROVING ALL ASPECTS OF A PLAYER'S GAME IN A FUN AND CHALLENGING ATMOSPHERE WITH INTIMATE PRO/STUDENT RATIOS.

DATE	CAMP	AGES
December 11-13	Three-Day High School Varsity/JV Camp	Ages 13-17
December 18-20	Three-Day High School Varsity/JV Camp	Ages 13-17
December 28-30	Three-Day Junior Camp	Ages 10-13
May 30-June 3	Five-Day Junior Camp	Ages 10-13
June 14-16	Three-Day Junior Camp	Ages 7-10
June 21-23	Three-Day Junior Camp	Ages 11-14
July 19-21	Tennis/Golf Camp	Ages 11-14
August 8-12	Five-Day High School Varsity/JV Camp	Ages 14-17



### JUNIOR CAMPS INCLUDE:

FAST-PACED DRILLS & QUALITY INSTRUCTION GEARED SPECIFICALLY TO THE LEVEL OF PLAY.

SINGLES & DOUBLES STRATEGY, VIDEO ANALYSIS, SUPERVISED MATCH PLAY

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## SPRING 2016 ADULT TENNIS CAMPS

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DATE	LEVEL*
March 18-20	Men's 4.5-5.0
March 25-27	3.0-3.5
April 15-17	3.5-4.0
April 22-24	Beginner to 2.5
April 29-May 1	4.0-4.5
May 6-8	3.0-3.5
May 13-15	3.5-4.5

\*Private tennis camps are also available. These three-day, two-night customized camps are ideal for women's or men's USTA teams as well as families, corporate retreats & other groups.



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# SPOTLIGHT

## THE TRANSFORMATION OF RECESS

SCHOOLS ADDING TENNIS COURTS TO PLAYGROUND OPEN SPACE

For more information on playground line grants and court specifications, contact Kristy Harris, <kristy@coloradotennis.com> or visit [www.usta.com/facilities](http://www.usta.com/facilities)

**T**ennis courts are beginning to pop up at schools across the state...and no big capital campaigns are needed to pay for them... just a couple hundred dollars to paint some lines on existing blacktop and playground areas. Paint the lines, pop up a portable net and kids are ready to play tennis!

Dan Sullivan was already connected to USTA through the school tennis program five years ago when he received a promotion about playground tennis lines. Tennis is always a popular unit for his students at Rose Hill Elementary in Commerce City, and it made sense that the lines on the playground would make the PE and after school tennis programs even better. Sullivan simply provided the specs to the Adams 14 School District facilities department with a request for four courts on the east side of the building. Rose Hill is one of the very first schools in Colorado to have 36' tennis court lines on their playground, and they have been part of the school landscape ever since.

"Teachers on the side of the building like to watch the kids playing tennis," shares Dan. "With no tennis clubs in the neighborhood, it's great to give the kids a chance to play at school."

The free technical specs and consultation provided by USTA to schools and districts in Denver, Fort Collins, Windsor, Greeley and Douglas County has made it possible for them to enhance their playgrounds and activities available to their students before, during and after school. Now that these school districts have the information needed and have painted courts at several schools, they are in a position to assist other interested schools through the process. The relationship between USTA Colorado and the school districts has been strengthened through this valuable service.

An important element of the USTA's Target Market Initiative in Northern Colorado was to increase the infrastructure in place for 10 and Under Tennis. Adding tennis lines on school grounds was an obvious place to start and was incorporated into the overall tennis outreach to schools in the area. Enter former elementary physical educator and Greeley West High School tennis coach, Robb Audette, and his business and tennis partner, Nick Hamlin. Robb's love of the game combined with his understanding of schools, made him a perfect partner with USTA Colorado.

The experience of painting 44 courts at schools



Lone Tree Elementary is abuzz with tennis activity during lunch. The school has three 36-foot courts on its playground.

throughout Northern Colorado has given Audette insight into how to make the process easier. He acknowledges that the rough, sealed asphalt often found on playgrounds can make the process a little tricky. Other important considerations are the traffic patterns, building locations, existing lines and permanent poles and stanchions for other playground activities. By working with Audette and other USTA Colorado representatives to map out the best place for the lines and the other logistics, most schools can accommodate a couple of 36-foot tennis courts to facilitate tennis during PE and even recess and lunch time.

As a 35-year PE teacher, Audette understands how the tennis court lines on playgrounds help grow the game, and additionally instills the values of being independent and responsible in the students.

"Most of the teachers we spoke with are excited about opportunities for kids to use the appropriately-sized equipment, and do so on their own after instruction. The life skills that accompany the school age tennis program will be invaluable. Having students responsible for setting up their own activities and managing themselves on playgrounds are positives for the kids, schools, and staff."



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# HIGH FIVE

For the past 38 years, Colorado Tennis (née High Bounce in 1976) has been bringing you profiles of local players, coaches, administrators and anyone else in the Colorado tennis community who shares their passion for the sport with others.

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



# HIGH FIVE

PROFILES BY  
KATIENEWELL

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

**I**t may be early in the season to predict success, but for Las Vegas-born Christian Thompson, the head tennis coach at Denver University, her third year at the helm of the women's program is looking pretty charming.

Thompson spent three years at Yale as an assistant coach before coming to Denver in 2012 as an assistant for then-coach Jeremy Wurtzman. A year later, Thompson was named head coach, a challenging role. "I feel so privileged and honored to be given the opportunity."



CHRISTIAN THOMPSON

After a stellar junior career in the Intermountain Section, Thompson competed at Notre Dame with her twin sister, Catrina. The duo played alongside Colorado Tennis Hall of Famer Alicia Salas, and were a three-time All-American selection in doubles, 2005-2007. Along with numerous awards and titles, she was Inducted into the Nevada Tennis Hall of Fame in 2008, having achieved WTA world rankings as high as No. 437 in doubles and No. 936 in Singles.

But it's her success in coaching that is currently generating both excitement and momentum for DU's program. She's led the Pioneers to back to back Summit League Championship titles, two consecutive appearances in the NCAA Tournament, and their most recent success was putting

three players through to the semis at the ITA Regionals where 128 netters competed. "As a coach you are thrilled when you can peak at a big tournament," Thompson explained.

Thompson began playing tennis with her sister at the age of six. "Everyone will tell you we've had our sibling issues on the courts," Thompson jokes, "but our chemistry is strong." Describing herself as more of the consistent, methodical player and Catrina as more of the aggressive big hitter, she said that having a built in hitting partner and accessible courts gave them undeniable advantages. "We were lucky to be able to play whenever we wanted."

When asked about her personal coaching philosophy, Christian jokes that she might be considered to be a bit strict. "I've always taught that dedication and hard work equal opportunity," she said of her approach to the sport. A self-described intense planner, she said you have to put in the hours to earn the higher level of play. She has a "no phones at dinner" policy and plans each practice down to the minute.

"We always work on something specific," she said, adding that, "I always try to put them in as many pressure situations as I can during practice." Whether that means playing games with a single serve, or challenging them to get tougher physically with early morning practices, she knows that ultimately all of that will continue to help the DU ladies play to their potential.

"Ultimately it's about not playing scared," Thompson said. And it is her own fearlessness and gratitude that make her a great fit for the Pioneers. "I am blessed to be here and excited to see how far we can take the program."

**B**eing involved in the community and making a difference is a way of life for the Arja Family, USTA Colorado's 2015 Family of the Year. Led by father, Dr. Tarek Arja, a Grand Junction family practitioner, and mother Eileen, home-maker and volunteer, the Arja Family has been committed to serving the thriving tennis community in beautiful Grand Junction.

The three Arja children, all in college, have learned from example how to be involved in the local community and serve others. It is through their consistent dedication to many of the events that they were chosen to be recognized as the Lena and Carter Elliott Family of the Year award recipients..

Jillian, the oldest daughter, played four years of tennis for Grand Junction High School and is now at the University of Colorado studying Integrated Physiology. She is described by her parents as a thoughtful role model for her younger siblings. Nicky, the second child, followed in her sister's footsteps, playing at GJHS and now studying Early Childhood Education at Colorado State University. Laid-back, according to her parents, but definitely shows the middle child competitive nature! Ben is the youngest member of the family, and is a feisty independent thinker who also played tennis at GJHS. He joined Nicky at CSU

where he is studying Biomedical Engineering.

Lena Elliott, who along with husband Carter and their 11 grown children, has been the heart of tennis in Grand Junction for many years. She describes the Arja family as invaluable to the tennis community in Grand Junction. "They all are very involved, always willing to help in whatever capacity is needed. They have been selfless volunteers and a great example to our community."

Tarek jokes when he moved to Grand Junction he was envisioning a life of golf, but as a busy physician he hasn't been out more than a handful of times. "It's tennis that's been our sport. It's something that we can all play together as a family and with friends."

Eileen said that she was blessed to be able to be home with her kids, giving her the opportunity to be involved. "I was always at school or bringing snacks, or helping wherever I was needed, so the kids just grew up understanding that involvement." She also said that the Elliott family has been a big part of their family's life — whether having coached her children or working side-by-side in the variety of tennis events offered in the town. She said that variety of divisions



ARJAFAMILY

in the tournaments also promote a family atmosphere.

Tennis thrives in Grand Junction in part thanks to a community that supports each other and welcomes people of every ability level. The Arja family is a perfect example of how tennis can not only help bring families together, but communities as well.



**B**ill Curtis was a young boy in Belgium when he stepped on his first tennis court, a court which belonged to his maternal grandfather's estate. He also got the chance to try golf, but it was tennis that quickly became Bill's passion.

Now, having just celebrated his 90th birthday in March, Bill gently jokes that he and his buddies, Rich Berman and Alan Tsuda, are really just playing "at tennis."

But don't let that humble spirit fool you, he is quite accomplished both on and off the court.

The son of a multinational marriage, Bill's father was in the US Army in WWI and his mother was a Belgian citizen. Allowed to declare his preference at the age of 15, Bill became a US citizen and would thrive in Boulder, where he would eventually obtain his PhD in Astrogeophysics from the University of Colorado.

His expertise was given to NCAR, the National Center for Atmospheric Research. "I studied the sun," he said, keeping it in layman's terms. That career would give him the opportunity to travel all over the world, yet it would be the lifestyle in Colorado that offered Bill two activities he cherishes in his life — tennis and skiing.

The real love of his life, however, is wife, Mag, who recently passed away. Bill and Mag encouraged the passion for both court and slopes to their four children, Kevin, Brigitte, Sean and Moira. His kids, and his 14 grandchildren, enjoy spirited tennis-playing family reunions where Bill describes the action as, "not so friendly!" One of his grandchildren is playing tennis for Regis High School this year, which Bill is happy to see.

A good friend of Rich Berman, Bill said tennis rose to the top of his avocations even above skiing, which he was forced to give up two years ago due to neuropathy. "I have loved and enjoyed playing tennis my entire life," he said of the low pressure approach he took to the sport.

When asked what secrets a man in his early 90s might reveal to others hoping to be on the courts at his age, he said his lifestyle gives him two advantages: "I've enjoyed relatively good health my whole life and I always had a strong desire for physical activity."

Keeping in shape through skiing, bicycling and working out has allowed him to enjoy days on the court with very good friends.



BILL CURTIS

**W**hen you come from a family of 10, you learn how to share. Such is the life of minority business owner, Donald Fairconeture, a phenomenal supporter of USTA Colorado. Donald's passion is sharing of himself, his time, and his professional skills.

Originally from Florida, it wasn't tennis specifically that got Donald involved with USTA Colorado. It was simply his willingness to help out with any good cause. Having recently co-chaired the Alzheimer's Walk, he stays continually involved with nonprofit work and being involved with organizations such as Project Angel Heart. He is a Leadership Denver graduate and is able to leverage his background of meeting and event planning and promotional products to benefit worthy causes.

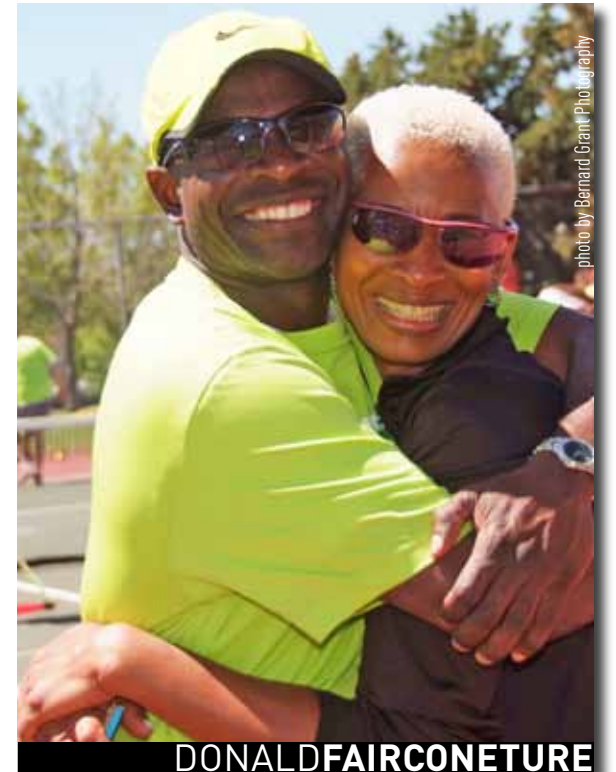
Raised to give back, Donald's values were instilled by his mother. "She always told me not to stand on the sidelines and complain about things," he said, adding, "you have a responsibility to be involved in the community where you live and play."

After meeting Paula McClain (pictured with Donald), Marketing and Diversity Director for USTA Colorado, Donald discovered yet another opportunity to be involved, as well as introduced him to recreational tennis. Not only did tennis provide new opportunities to volunteer and to use his marketing expertise, but it also would provide him with a recreational outlet to enjoy with friends.

"Donald has been a phenomenal supporter," said McClain. "He has provided his events management and marketing expertise for the Breaking the Barriers project, along with volunteering at the Diversity TennisFest for the past three years."

McClain noted that when Donald volunteered to help with the Breaking the Barriers exhibit, she also got his friends, several of whom he rallied to help set up and take down the many components of the exhibit.

Helping out with the variety of programs offered through USTA Colorado, it was only natural that Donald would eventually become a tennis player. "I'm hooked!" he jokes about the sport he didn't try until he was 50 years old. "It's a sport you can start late like me or early and get great benefits," he said, also noting about how it can keep at-risk youth off the street. "It keeps youth active and gives them a platform and a way to be engaged in something positive," he said.



DONALD FAIRCONETURE

**F**or Mountain Vista Junior netter Ben Antonsen, the past few years have been an increasingly impressive time. Consistently finishing strong in the 5A High School Championships, Ben is committed to the work it will take to reach his personal goals athletically and academically.

Taking 2nd at #2 Singles as a freshman, and then getting to the quarterfinals as a sophomore at the #1 position, he made it to the semifinals at #1 position this October. Ben plays tennis, basketball and baseball (and has earned a black belt in Tae Kwon Do), and is blessed with a natural confidence, meaning that he doesn't struggle with the mental aspect of the game like so many players do. It's that combination that has helped him achieve success, be a natural leader for his teammates, and set his eyes on the top prize for next year, his senior year.

Having been introduced to tennis by his older cousin, Abby, Ben credits Frank Adams (Highlands Ranch), his uncle Ed Johnson, and high school coach, Jim Flannigan, with his success on the court. He also said the dynamics with his teammates makes the whole experience unique.

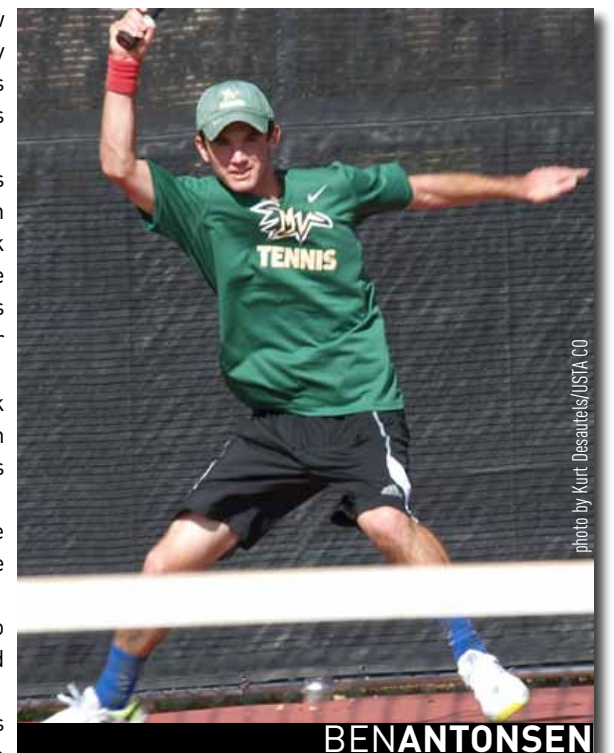
"We get along great on and off the courts," he said of the camaraderie with the other Mountain Vista players. "We can have tough challenge matches and leave it all out there on the courts, but are all good friends."

A consistently strong competitor in USTA Sectional events, Ben is looking to play at the collegiate level. While he is hoping to stay in-state if possible, he said he will be happy to go where his opportunities take him.

When asked how his game needs to evolve to get the next level, Ben is quick to reply. "I need to be aggressive all of the time, and increase my first serve percentage." He said his cross training involves exercises that improve his fitness and footwork, and focuses on his core strength. In terms of who he identifies with in the professional world of tennis, Ben likes Federer's game best, but "always roots for the Americans!"

Particularly interested in history and math, Ben would like to study business in college in addition to continuing his tennis career. Balancing both academics and athletics is difficult but he is up for the challenge. He knows how to prepare himself and manage his time — skills which will help in the future.

Appreciative of the opportunities he's had and the large goals that he's set for himself in the near term, he knows what it's going to take to succeed. "I am excited to get the next level," he said.



BEN ANTONSEN



# PROFILE

## VETERANS DEVELOP SKILLS, CONFIDENCE ON THE COURT

AS PART OF USTA COLORADO'S NEW OUTREACH PROGRAM, VETERANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TRY NEW THINGS, EXPLORE NEW HORIZONS THROUGH TENNIS

TOMFASANO



Photo by Debbie Yoder/City Park Racquet Club

### Veterans feel the love

After a successful tennis clinic held with the Colorado Wheelchair Tennis Foundation on Veteran's Day in 2014, USTA Colorado is continuing to explore new opportunities to reach out to local veterans.

**S**hawn Lawson never played tennis before. He didn't know what to expect when he finally did. Now, the 35-year-old Denver resident doesn't want to leave the court.

"I first started kind of like, 'OK, it's something new. I'll try it out and give it a fair shot.' Shoot, I fell in love with it," Lawson said. "At first, though, it wiped me out. I hit the ball and it would just fly out of the court. After all summer long with the tennis clinic I really learned that I'm not an expert by any means, but I really learned a lot about tennis."

Lawson, who served in the US Army from 1997-2009, was one of many veterans who participated in the Denver Veterans Administration Tennis Clinics, free to the veterans, thanks to a collaborative effort from the USTA Colorado, Denver VA, City Park Racquet Club in Denver, Denver Tennis Club and the Wounded Warrior Project in Colorado Springs, which provided the funding to pay for program director Mark Martinez Luna and the minimal tennis court fees. Racquets for All provided racquets for the players, and members of

the Denver Tennis Club and Greenwood Tennis Club donated racquets, shoes and clothing. Most of the eight volunteers came from the Denver Tennis Club.

### THE PURPOSE OF PROGRAM

"The purpose is to teach the veterans, initially, how to play holding the racquet, (teach) drills, how to hit a forehand, how to hit a backhand, overhead, how to serve," said Debbie Yoder, former president of City Park Racquet Club and currently the club's tournament director. "There are those who are more advanced and play a few more games. We play a game with them as if they're playing a tournament so they know how to score and how to win a match. Most of them now are getting really familiar on how to play tennis and they want to hit more and more."

Luna, who is a teaching pro at the Denver Tennis Club and formerly a senior teaching pro at the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, RI, said he's found that veterans are latching onto the game of tennis.

"What I'm finding out working with these vets is that a lot of their training and what

they've gone through connects to the game of tennis, and it's been a privilege and an honor to be part of the program," Luna said.

### SPECIAL FEELING

Luna said it's special to see the veterans' reaction when they hit the ball on the sweet spot of the racquet.

"I think it goes back to their training discipline. You get this beautiful feeling of hearing the sweet spot and the sound of the ball and having it go over the net and into the court," Luna said. "I think they enjoy the challenge. It's good medicine. They're having to deal with these issues that we as a society never think about. Tennis is a sport where you have to completely focus and concentrate 100 percent on making the moment happen, and it takes away from all the other physical pain, mental pain and spiritual pain that they're dealing with every day and every moment."

Yoder said some of the veterans are self sufficient and live on their own, and some are still recuperating from their medical conditions. She said the program is a wonderful thing.

"I see their eyes light up when they have a good hit, and I really see the glow in their eyes. It's one way of saying thank you for their service," Yoder said. "I know that they probably haven't been appreciated for all the services that they've done for their country. This is one way for them to get them incorporated into the community. This is a venue where they can come out and learn about tennis. It's another way of getting tennis out there."

### MONTHLY CLINICS

From May through September on the second Wednesday of every month anywhere from 16 veterans participated in the clinic for 1½ to 2 hours at Lindsley Park in Denver, across from the Denver VA Medical Center. Being able to exercise and learn the sport of tennis is huge for veterans who have to deal with PTSD or other issues from their time of service.

Lawson and some of his fellow veterans also attended the Wounded Warrior Tennis Camp in San Diego in May.

The clinics at Lindsley Park were so successful and well received by the veterans that the plan is to hold them twice



a month in 2016.

"For me it's very beneficial. It gets me out of the house and gets me physically active and doing something," Lawson said. "I could easily be a hermit, which is not good for me."

Lawson had such a positive experience at the clinics that he's looking online to play at tennis clubs in Denver.

Stephen Schutzler, recreation therapist for the Denver Veterans Administration Medical Center, said the age ranges of the veterans who participated in the clinics were from 25 to 85, men and women included.

"The veterans coming to the program allows them to work on improving their physical activity level as well as their emotion regulation, just another possible coping skill that they can use when dealing with stressors and other challenges that they have in their life," Schutzler said. "They can actually enjoy a leisure activity that they might have never tried if we hadn't had this clinic offered, which was really cool."

## FEELING INDEPENDENT

Schutzler said one of the things for recreation therapy at the Denver VA is getting the veterans independent into the community whether it's through leisure activities, navigating public transportation or taking back control of their lives.

"It was kind of cool because USTA Colorado offered all the veterans tennis racquets, so we were able to give them tennis racquets and tennis balls," Schutzler said. "Whatever neighborhood they're in, they can go to a tennis court in their area, especially after we gave them a skill of this is how the game works."

USTA Colorado's involvement came

about as a result of the successful tennis clinic it held with the Colorado Wheelchair Tennis Foundation on Veteran's Day in 2014 at the Jewish Community Center in Denver.

Kristy Harris, Community Development Director for USTA Colorado, recalls how special it was to hear the stories of the veterans who attended that first play day last November.

"One had fought in the Korean War and was quite a tennis player in his day," Harris said. "Once he started hitting the ball, I could see his anxiety level decrease and even a few smiles."

Harris said another veteran brought his teenage son to the clinic and she watched father and son connect through the shared experience at the tennis clinic.

"They talked about continuing to learn and play together," Harris said. "After the initial tennis clinic, it made sense to connect the Denver VA to a nearby community tennis association that would welcome the veterans and get them involved in tennis programs nearby. Since City Park Racquet Club was right down the street, it seemed natural to reach out to them."

## GIVING BACK TO VETERANS

Harris said Yoder didn't hesitate to jump in and make it happen.

"She's been an amazing connector between the Denver VA and the local tennis community and volunteers," Harris said of Yoder. "As more people become involved, the overall program becomes more consistent and sustainable."

Yoder said she's learned a lot from seeing the veterans play, which also included two in-patient clinics at the Denver VA Medical Center.

"Giving back is just a little part of what I've learned," said Yoder, a USTA Colorado

board member. "To let them feel how to hold the racquet or hit the ball, it was so wonderful to see them happy and laughing, although they're probably in pain. After a while they get involved and they're happy. That's the payoff that we get from this."

Luna said the veterans always tell him how much they enjoy being outside.

"They don't have to get in the car and drive to the mountains. Some of them walk to the court, and it's a positive moment," Luna said. "It's a be-here-now type of attitude. To take some of the frustrations of hitting the ball and having no negative consequences, that's what I'm noticing. I'm very honored to be the catalyst to give them a tool that maybe makes their life more pleasant."

Schutzler said he sat down with Harris and Yoder to hammer out a program that they thought would serve the veterans well.

"This was kind of our pilot year seeing what we needed to do and what we thought would work best for the veterans," Schutzler said. "This year's program was pretty amazing."

## MAKING AN IMPACT

Schutzler noticed improvement in the veterans' play on the court from the start of the clinics to the end.

"Definitely. There was some definite improvement going on along with skill development," Schutzler said. "It's very nice to see them getting out there and doing it and enjoying something that you can do on your own as well. It helps with staying in shape, which obviously keeps us healthier and all kinds of good stuff."

Harris said that tennis can make a huge impact in the life of a veteran who is trying to re-integrate into the community.

"It evens the playing field and no matter

where people are coming from, the tennis court can be a safe place to exercise, laugh, learn, compete and make new friends," Harris said. "This was certainly evident at each of the clinics this past year as relationships developed between the participants and Coach Luna, Debbie and the other volunteers who helped. These veterans sacrificed a lot for us and, upon their return home, it can be incredibly challenging for them individually and for their families. It's so cool to see the eagerness of the veterans to participate and the positive response from the tennis volunteers who want to give back to those who have served us."

Nicole Alberico, the public affairs officer at the Denver VA Medical Center, said the tennis clinics are great opportunities for veterans.

"I think it's amazing," said Alberico, an Army veteran of 5½ years. "Anytime you can get a veteran out and active and focus on something else, it's a part of taking care of our veterans."

Luna said the veterans are very appreciative of what is being offered them.

"They're very courteous in regards to their language and their behavior," Luna said. "If I asked them to pick up balls compared to me doing my junior programs and sometimes adult programs, it's simple, beautiful, instinctive things that they learn being in the service. That's something I appreciate and they deserve it. The ultimate goal is to have a lot of people playing the game of tennis. My motto is Tennis Is For Everyone. For me to teach our veterans of America how to play this beautiful sport is fantastic and the crux of my career."



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# JUNIOR RECREATION

## 2015 JTT SEASON BREAKS PARTICIPATION RECORD COLORADO JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS WRAPS UP SUCCESSFUL SEASON, CROWNS 2015 CHAMPIONS

**N**early 4,200 kids competed in the 2015 Colorado Junior Team Tennis league this past summer, surpassing the previous high set last year by nearly 100 players.



Colorado JTT is one of the largest and most innovative junior leagues in the country, and has become the model for new programs throughout the USTA family. Among other innovations, Colorado JTT moved away from a membership model more than two decades ago, and offers co-ed play at 10 & Under. Colorado was also one of the first programs to incorporate both the orange ball/60-foot court for 10s and the green ball/78-foot court for 12s (for entry-level and intermediate divisions).

# MAKE FRIENDS HAVE FUN

PLAY JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS



### 2015 JTT COED STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**10 & Under: Division/Champion/Finalist**  
Challenger A Crestmoor Community Association / Denver Parks & Rec  
Challenger B Pinehurst Country Club / Ken Caryl

### 2015 JTT BOYS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**12 & Under: Division/Champion/Finalist**  
Championship Homestead in the Willows / Tennis Kids Green Oaks  
Challenger A Miramont Lifestyle Fitness / Pinehurst Country Club  
Challenger B Denver Tennis Club / Crestmoor Community Association  
Futures Gates Tennis Center / Ken Caryl

### 14 & Under: Division/Champion/Finalist

Championship Broomfield Swim & Tennis / Columbine Country Club  
Challenger A Denver Country Club / Ken Caryl  
Challenger B Eastmoor Swim & Tennis / Ken Caryl  
Futures APEX Park & Rec / Applewood Athletic Club

### 18 & Under: Division/Champion/Finalist

Championship Rocky Mountain Tennis Center / Cherokee Trail High School  
Challenger A Fossil Ridge High School / Fossil Ridge High School  
Challenger B Eastmoor Swim & Tennis / Fossil Ridge High School

### 2015 JTT GIRLS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**12 & Under: Division/Champion/Finalist**  
Challenger A Colorado College / Ken Caryl  
Challenger B CAC Inverness / Highlands Ranch Community Association

### 14 & Under: Division/Champion/Finalist

Challenger A Lifetime Fitness Centennial / Mt Vernon CC  
Challenger B Meadow Creek / Highlands Ranch Community Association  
Futures Highlands Ranch Community Association / Miramont Lifestyle Fitness

### 18 & Under: Division/Champion/Finalist

Championship Flying Horse Club / Mountain Vista High School  
Challenger A Highlands Ranch Community Association / Ken Caryl  
Challenger B Highland Meadows Tennis Center / APEX Park & Rec

USTA Colorado extends a special thank you to Colorado Athletic Clubs Monaco & Inverness, Ken Caryl Community Center & Ranch House, and Pinehurst Country Club for hosting the 2015 Colorado JTT State Championships.

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### JTT PLAY KIND AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the 2015 Colorado Junior Team Tennis Play KIND Award winners. The award, presented by USTA Colorado official snack partner KIND, invites players to practice good sportsmanship. Members from both teams received a KIND Prize Pack in recognition of their awards.



**Girls 12 Challenger A**  
Ken Caryl Fuschia team: Mariah Dean, Isabel Musarra, Kristen Thomas, Mikaela Mueller, Anna Day and Cheranne Wang (not pictured)

"While it is always nice to win a State Championship, Ken-Caryl couldn't be more proud of these rising tennis stars both on the court and off. They work hard, play hard and play fair," says Ken-Caryl tennis coordinator Judy Anderson.



**Boys 18 Challenger B**  
Fossil Ridge Grey team: Matthew Ruiz Diaz, Evan Diehl, Braden Bontempo, Jay Chandra, Patrick Faust (not pictured)

"I am very pleased and excited to have our Boys 18 CB Grey team receive the KIND award," says coach Steve Schultz. "They are true examples of the sportsmanship that we have stressed at Fossil Ridge High School. I look forward to them representing our teams in the future."





# PREP COMPETITION

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD: 4A & 5A CROWN NEW SINGLES CHAMPS, TEAMS REPEAT

### HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP WRAP-UP

Perfect weather greeted all the competitors at this year's Colorado State High School Championships, held October 15-17 at Gates Tennis Center in Denver (5A) and Pueblo City Park (4A).

The 5A team race was won by Cherry Creek High School, their 41st state championship since 1972, and the 4A title was captured by Kent Denver, their third straight team crown and 8th overall.

With the previous No. 1 singles champions having graduated, the door was open for last year's runners up. At 5A, Boulder's Kap Smith overcame a point penalty, a bloody nose, and an 0-4 deficit in the second set to defeat Ryan James (CC), 5-7, 6-4, 6-4. Smith's Boulder teammates Jackson Hawk and Cutter Esson hoped to make it a clean sweep in singles for the Panthers, and it appeared as if they might pull it off after Hawk defeated Charlie Franks (Denver East) at No. 2. But Esson was upended in the final by Mitch Johnson (CC), who won at No. 2 doubles last year.

At the 4A level, Casey Ross (Kent) continued his streak of finals appearances, having won at No. 3 singles in 2013 and losing in the finals at No. 2 last year. Ross entered the event undefeated and looked unstoppable throughout the event, winning his first No. 1 singles title in dominant fashion over freshman Nick Lorenz of Discovery Canyon. Kent's Willie Gold, a finalist at No. 1 last year, earned the title at No. 2 over Colorado Academy freshman Richter Jordaan while CA's Noah Forman repeated as the 4A No. 3 singles champion by defeating Kent junior Niko Hereford.

### 5A RESULTS

#### No. 1 singles

Championship: Kap Smith, Boulder, def. Ryan James, Cherry Creek, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Third Place: Kai Smith, Denver East, def. Ben Antonsen, Mountain Vista, 7-5, 6-2.

#### No. 2 singles

Championship: Jackson Hawk, Boulder, def. Charlie Franks, Denver East, 6-1, 6-2.

Third Place: Tom Melville, Fairview, def. Robby Hill, Cherry Creek, 6-4, 6-3.

#### No. 3 singles

Championship: Mitch Johnson, Cherry Creek, def. Cutter Esson, Boulder, 6-3, 7-6.

Third Place: Ben Blea, Heritage, def. Ethan Schacht, Fairview, 6-4, 6-1.

#### No. 1 doubles

Championship: Steven Bummer/Erich Nuss, Regis Jesuit, def. Jacob Bendalin/Erin Norwood, Cherry Creek, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

Third Place: Graham Blanco/Devin Harper, Fairview, def. Sam Meyer/Austin Stutz, Chatfield, 7-6, 6-3.

#### No. 2 doubles

Championship: Patrick Seby/Luca Abbott, Regis Jesuit, def. Andy Duggan/Andy Hsu, Cherry Creek, 6-4, 6-4.

Third Place: Kevin Ball/Jimmy Kasic, Fairview, def. Eric Dellavalle/Jonny Cook, Denver East, 6-4, 7-6.

#### No. 3 doubles

Championship: Ben Murray/Spencer Buted, Cherry Creek, def. Evan Nuss/Kosta Garger, Regis Jesuit, 7-6, 7-6.

Third Place: Brooks Savage/Spencer Clauson, Fairview, def. Thomas Paluch/Jack Lacy, Monarch, 6-4, 7-5.

#### No. 4 doubles

Championship: David Glazer/Will Burton, Denver East, def. David Zhao/Aaron Nguyen, Fairview, 6-2, 6-3.

Third Place: Will Dennen/Matt McCarthy, Regis Jesuit, def. Sam Angell/Stone Heyman, Cherry Creek, 1-6, 7-5, 6-4.

#### Team Sportsmanship Award

Regis Jesuit



Photo by Kurt Desautels/USTACO

*Boulder High School was trying to replicate neighbor Fairview's feat of the year before, with all three singles players competing on Championship Saturday.*

*Kap Smith's win at No. 1 singles was the school's first title since Nick Quatrochi won his fourth state title in 1995. Combined with Jackson Hawk's title at No. 2 singles, and Cutter Esson's 2nd place result, Boulder finished with 46 points, just one short of its best-ever team finish.*

### 5A TEAM RESULTS

Cherry Creek	75	Fossil Ridge	7
Fairview	51	Ponderosa	2
Denver East	47	Arapahoe	1
Boulder	46	Grand Junction	1
Regis Jesuit	46	Broomfield	1
Heritage	13	Cherokee Trail	1
Mountain Vista	13	Fort Collins	1
Chatfield	12	Overland	1
Monarch	10		





Photo by Chris McLean/Pueblo Chieftain

*It was a sweet day for Randy Ross, head tennis coach at Kent Denver. Ross celebrated his 20th year at the helm of the program with a team victory in Pueblo, outpacing second place Colorado Academy by 17 points. Kent has now won 8 team tennis championships.*

*The cherry on top might have been watching his son, Casey (pictured), take home the No. 1 singles title in dominant fashion.*

*Casey became the second Ross to win the No. 1 singles title. His brother, Cory, captured back to back titles in 1998-99.*

*Casey Ross finished his season undefeated, earning the 2015 USTA Colorado Jack Cella Award as the outstanding high school player.*

*Coach Ross will also be recognized by USTA Colorado this year, earning the Bud Robineau Award for his service to the Colorado tennis community.*

**4A RESULTS**

**No. 1 singles**

Championship: Casey Ross, Kent Denver, def. Nick Lorenz, Discovery Canyon, 6-3, 6-1.

Third Place: Max Petrak, Niwot, def. Jeremiah Hansen, CSCS, 1-6, 6-4, 6-2.

**No. 2 singles**

Championship: Willie Gold, Kent Denver, def. Richter Jordaan, Colorado Academy, 6-2, 6-4.

Third Place: Tom Hudson, D'Evelyn, def. Dustin Bohuslavschi, Discovery Canyon, 6-1, 6-0.

**No. 3 singles**

Championship: Noah Forman, Colorado Academy, def. Niko Hereford, Kent Denver, 6-4, 6-4.

Third Place: Allen Fu, Niwot, def. Alex Ilic, Aspen, 2-6, 6-3, 6-1.

**No. 1 doubles**

Championship: Kevin Adams/Jack Moldenhauer, Kent Denver, def. Quinn Birmingham/Tyler Fairbairn, Colorado Academy, 6-2, 6-2.

Third Place: Will Moody/Jack Clancy, Cheyenne Mountain def. Max McClellan/Jackson Kegel, Dawson, 6-0, 6-1.

**No. 2 doubles**

Championship: Blake Parsons/Drew Parsons, Kent Denver, def. Brent Edwards/Jordan Wagner, Colorado Academy, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5.

Third Place: Brendan Leap/Drew Connaughton, Cheyenne Mountain, def. Eli Mills/Eric Grieshaber, Mullen, 6-3, 6-2.

**No. 3 doubles**

Championship: John Barron/Steven Mitchell, Colorado Academy, def. Travis Rase/Laird Stewart, Kent Denver, 6-4, 6-2.

Third Place: Ryan Ruppert/Mike Dashiell, Cheyenne Mountain def. Nolan Connell/River Fox-Welch, Steamboat Springs, 6-1, 6-1.

**No. 4 doubles**

Championship: Brendan Schwartz/Garrett Sutter, Colorado Academy, def. Alex Wimer/Oliver Greenwald, Kent Denver, 6-2, 7-6.

Third Place: Manas Saini/Gabe Hyde, Niwot, def. Ben Rowland/Wesley Stuart, Lewis Palmer, 7-5, 5-7, 6-4.

**Team Sportsmanship Award**

Cheyenne Mountain

**4A TEAM RESULTS**

Kent Denver	89
Colorado Academy	72
Niwot	35
Discovery Canyon	27
Cheyenne Mountain	23
D'Evelyn	12
Dawson	10
Aspen	10
Mullen	9
Steamboat Springs	8
CSCS	8
Air Academy	6
Lewis Palmer	5
Peak to Peak	4
Pueblo Centennial	3
Palmer ridge	2
Fountain Valley	2
Durango	2
Thomas Jefferson	1
Evergreen	1





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## TENNISONCAMPUS

### COLORADO SCHOOLS WELL-REPRESENTED AT USTA/ITA MOUNTAIN REGIONALS

CU, DU PLAYERS EARN TITLES



### Colorado athletes fare well at USTA/ITA Mountain Regionals

University of Colorado junior Nuria Ormeno Ruiz (above) captured the USTA/ITA Mountain Region Championship, becoming the first player in CU history to win the regional singles title.

Ormeno Ruiz staged an impressive comeback against University of Denver's Julia O'Loughlin in the final after rain forced the players inside for the final set. Ormeno Ruiz won the deciding frame 6-3 to earn the title and automatically qualify for the USTA National Indoor Championships in New York City, November 12-15.

Even though the loss will not automatically qualify O'Loughlin for National Indoors, there is a chance she could receive a wildcard into the event.

"It was a dream tournament for us," head coach **Christian Thompson** said. "This was the best result Denver has ever had at the ITA Mountain Regional event. Out of 128 draw, to have 3 out of 4 girls in the semifinals is very rare."

Overall, DU finished 28-14 between singles and doubles, which was the best showing by any team at regionals.

Another Colorado squad is celebrating their results at the event, as the Northern Colorado Women's Tennis team finished with their best result since becoming a Division I program.

"We are extremely happy and very proud of our overall team efforts in both singles and doubles this week," head coach **Brenda Vlasak** said. "We had the opportunity to play many top players and pulled out some big wins, proving that we can compete at the same top level."

UNC's **Beth Coton** and **Remi Immler** had a run to the semifinals where they were eliminated by a team from BYU.

On the men's side, the University of Denver squad won the 2015 ITA Regional Championship tournament after capturing two first place finishes. Junior **Diogo Rocha** (middle) defeated Dan Little of UU 6-0, 5-7, 6-4 for the singles title, while **Henry Craig** and **Alex Gasson** (bottom) beat former Colorado High School champion **Hayden Sabatka** and **Bart Van Leijsen** of UNM 3-6, 7-6, 10-6 for the doubles title.

"It's a long tournament where you have to play multiple matches in a day, so it's mentally and physically draining," new DU head coach **Ricardo Rubio** said. "But I thought the guys fought hard and they fought through adversity. The competition was very strong and now we will just keep building, keep working hard and get these three guys ready for the national tournament."

In addition to the two championship titles DU captured, local boy **Jesse Ruder-Hook** fell just short in the consolation final against **Jorge Escutia** of UNM 6-7, 7-5 6-7.





# SPOTLIGHT

## WASH PARK TENNIS CLUB CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

WPTC MEN'S 5.0 TEAM GIVES CLUB A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR AN ANNIVERSARY PRESENT

**T**ennis has been a staple in Denver's Washington Park since early in the 1900s, but a new era began in 1965 when the Washington Park Tennis Club (WPTC) formed. This year, the Club is celebrating 50 years of organizing monthly recreational tennis games and tournaments along side competitive play for fans across metro Denver. Annual Club activities also provide additional amenities to these public courts, including hanging screens and cleaning courts — of rain, snow, leaves, and geese.

Tennis in Colorado began about a decade after the sport was introduced to the US by Mary Outerbridge in 1874, at a court located at 14th and Court Place in Denver. By 1910, Denver built public tennis courts in three city parks, including Wash Park.

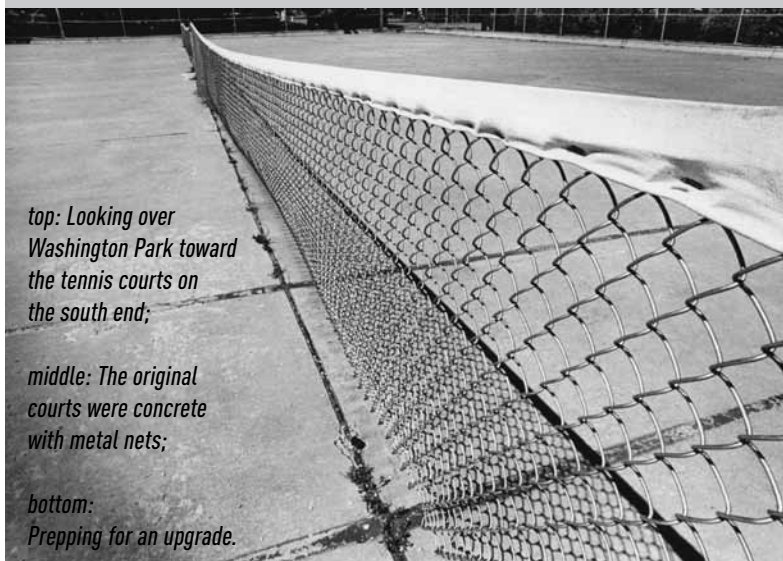
When the Washington Park Tennis Club began, players wore white and played with wooden racquets and white tennis balls (the first yellow tennis balls appeared in 1968). Hard core enthusiasts waited two to three hours to play on concrete courts with painted yellow lines and metal nets. These courts became home to the legendary Memorial Day tournament for players rated 4.0 to 5.0 organized by early Colorado Tennis Association (CTA) member Clyde Rogers, who ran this tournament for more than 25 years.

In recognition of Clyde's personal promotion of this tournament, the CTA named Clyde 1963's "Mr. Colorado Tennis". In 1983, the CTA established the "Clyde Rogers Award" for outstanding contributions to recreational tennis players in Colorado. Three of WPTC's former officers have received this award.

In 1997, Len and Carrie Hierath were honored for their efficient running of the Memorial Day Tournament after Clyde retired — Len invented the Scor-Post in 1992 that is now used worldwide. Former WPTC President, June Wooldridge, also received the award in 2006.

Since tennis arrived in Denver 130 years ago, its enduring popularity remains evident in Washington Park. Thanks to WPTC, if it is sunny in Denver, tennis is being played here. Congratulations to the Washington Park Tennis Club on its 50th Anniversary!

— Contributed by Sarah McCarthy



*top: Looking over Washington Park toward the tennis courts on the south end;*

*middle: The original courts were concrete with metal nets;*

*bottom: Prepping for an upgrade.*



*The WPTC Men's 5.0 squad became just the fifth Colorado team to capture a USTA League National Championship.*

**T**he excitement of an incredible season for the Wash Park Men's 5.0 team was celebrated October 4th with a HUGE win over the Southern Section at Indian Wells to be the first team to bring home a national championship to Colorado in almost two decades. I'd say that is a pretty nice 50th birthday present Wash Park Tennis Club!

I was lucky enough to tag along to experience the fun and got to see first hand the sportsmanship, effort, strategy and sheer determination that went into it all. Not only are these guys a class act, but as a passionate player myself, I was overwhelmed by the quality of tennis. It was a dream tennis weekend and I didn't even pick up a racquet! All 17 sections of the USTA came to win, and not only did the Denver boys pull it out in the end, they did it while overcoming heat stroke, leg cramps and a quick adjustment to playing sea level ball.

Jerad Harbaugh, the team captain, attributes their success to the fact that they are all great friends on and off the court but they also came together this year focused with a mutual understanding of the goal: to win and win it all. Tennis runs in their blood, as many of these boys have played together since they were juniors, but times have changed and careers, family and outside obligations keep them from enjoying time on the court as often as they'd like. However, in preparation of this season, they committed to team practices 3-4 times a week in addition to many of them playing tournaments.

The Men's 5.0 Wash Park Team — Jeff Loehr, Dietz Fry, Chris Jenkins, Martin Krbec, Jerad Harbaugh, Stephen Nolen, Chris Celechovsky, Cary Hodges and Bryan Knepper (not pictured: John Hereford and Hayden Sabatka) — didn't have an easy road into the final four. They actually lost a nail biter to Southern in their original flight, but they persevered in hopes that they would secure the 4th place wild card into the final rounds. As luck would have it, that is exactly what happened as they squeaked into that spot by being one set better than the other teams!

Going into their Sunday matches as the underdog, everyone was pumped and ready to play. If they could reach the finals they would again take on Southern, the team that beat them in the early round. But first they had to take on Pacific Northwest. It was perfect conditions for their 7:30am match, and they pulled out a 2-1 victory. After that semifinal match, the team gathered, put their heads together and submitted a line up, all egos aside, that they believed had a good chance of slaying the dragon. Arthur Ashe once said, "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." That is exactly what this team did.

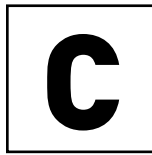
As a spectator who witnessed their 2-1 victory over Southern that beautiful California Sunday my heart was filled with joy for all of them. It didn't matter how much you knew about the game, those who watched that final round knew that they had witnessed a great accomplishment and a memorable day for these local athletes. And guess what? Not only did they bring home the title, the Wash Park Men's 5.0 team also won the USTA Sportsmanship Award. I told you they were a class act.

— Contributed by Kristy Jenkins

# ADULT LEAGUES

## COLORADO ADULT LEAGUE SERIES CROWNS 2015 CHAMPIONS

ADULT LEAGUE PLAY NEARS THE 40,000 PARTICIPATION MARK, DEFIES NATIONAL TREND



Colorado league play continues to defy national trends, as participation climbed an unprecedented 9% to nearly 40,000 in 2015, another all-time high. USTA Colorado extends a very hearty thanks to all the facilities which hosted Colorado District Championship events in 2015: Aurora Parks & Recreation, Colorado Athletic Club Inverness, Colorado Athletic Club Monaco, Ken-Caryl Ranch Metro District, Pinehurst Country Club and South Suburban Parks & Recreation.

In all, there were 2,810 individual matches played during all of our ten District Championship events this year!



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

LEAGUE	TEAM	FACILITY	SECTIONAL RESULT	NATIONAL RESULT	LEAGUE	TEAM	FACILITY	SECTIONAL RESULT	NATIONAL RESULT
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### USTA LEAGUE TENNIS CHAMPIONS

#### ADULT 18 & OVER

W 2.5	HIW GREEN	2nd	
W 3.0	PAC PINK	6th	
W 3.5	CPV RED	4th	
W 4.0	GTC BLUE	4th	
W 4.5	HRCA RED	1st	
W 5.0+	GTC BLUE	1st	
M 3.0	LTFC TULLOCH	4th	
M 3.5	CM RED	2nd	
M 4.0	BTA RED	3rd	
M 4.5	LEBTC BLUE	2nd	
M 5.0+	WP GREEN	1st	NATIONAL CHAMPION/SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

#### ADULT 40 & OVER

W 3.0	CSU GREEN	1st	
W 3.5	HW RED	1st	SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD
W 4.0	LEBTC BLUE	2nd	
W 4.5+	HRCA RED	1st	
M 3.0	LTFC TULLOCH	2nd	
M 3.5	LTFC RIDLER	1st	
M 4.0	LTFC BLUE	1st	4th PLACE
M 4.5+	CVTA BLUE	2nd	

#### ADULT 55 & OVER

M 6.0	LAC BLUE	Automatic Advancement	
M 7.0	ARCA BLUE	3rd	
M 8.0	CACM RED(WC)	4th	
M 9.0	CACI GREEN	1st	NATIONAL CHAMPION
W 6.0	LEBTC SILVER	1st	
W 7.0	ARCA BLUE	4th	
W 8.0	SSLT BLUE	2nd	
W 9.0	CR RED	1st	

#### MIXED 18 & OVER

X 6.0	KNO BLUE	6th	November 13-15; 20-22
X 7.0	SV RED	3rd	
X 8.0	TTA GREEN	Didn't participate	
X 9.0	WP RED	2nd	
X 10.0	MC GREEN	Didn't participate	

#### MIXED 40 & OVER

X 6.0	LEBTC BLUE	2nd	November 13-15; 20-22
X 7.0	PH BLACK	4th	
X 8.0	CACM BLACK	5th	
X 9.0	MC GOLD	Didn't participate	

### ITA LEAGUE TENNIS CHAMPIONS

#### FALL MIXED

5.5	PCC RED	Not played	
6.5	PAC RED	2nd	
7.5	FCCC BLUE	1st	NA
8.5	WP RED	1st	NA
9.5	WP RED	2nd	

### CTA LEAGUE TENNIS CHAMPIONS

#### ADULT 65 & OVER

M 6.0	LAC RED	1st	April 1-3; 8-10, 2016
M 7.0	ARCA RED	2nd	
M 7.0	CACI	3rd	
M 8.0	LTA GOLD	1st	
W 6.0	HEB GREEN	1st	
W 7.0	MLF	3rd	
W 8.0	GTC BLUE	1st	

#### WOMEN'S DAYTIME DOUBLES

W 2.5	CPV GREEN
W 3.0	LTC RED
W 3.5	LTFC RED
W 4.0	LVTA BLUE
W 4.5	CK GREEN

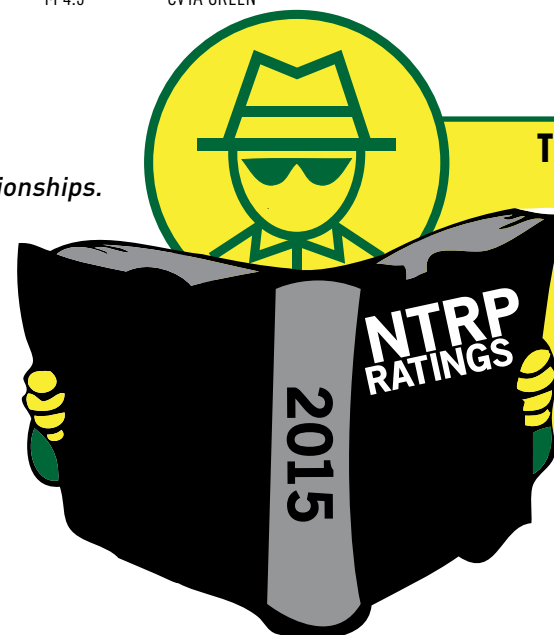
#### WOMEN'S SUMMER DAYTIME

W 2.5	HIW NAVY
W 3.0	LTFC RED
W 3.5	NJ GREEN
W 4.0	LTA RED
W 4.5	CK RED

#### TWILIGHT

W 2.5	CPV RED
W 3.0	PAC BLUE
W 3.5	MLF RED
W 4.0	NJ BLACK
W 4.5	GAC GREEN
M 3.0	LTFC TULLOCH
M 3.5	LTFC ABELLO
M 4.0	TTA BLUE
M 4.5	CVTA GREEN

Teams listed in **RED** qualified to compete at the 2015 USTA League National Championships.



### THE LEAGUE INSIDER SAYS:

Final NTRP ratings will be published by the USTA in early December.

Remember: There are several websites that pretend to publish legitimate NTRP ratings. They are like the cheapo Halloween costumes that you bought for the kids this year ... the minute the fun is over, you toss them in the trash.



# ADULT TOURNAMENTS

## BIG THREE RECAP

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS FROM COLORADO'S THREE "MAJORS"

**C**olorado has a long and storied tradition of top-flight events that have drawn some of history's top players, including Bobby Riggs, Jack Kramer, Althea Gibson and

Dodo Bundy. This year, USTA Colorado Male Player of the Year **Chris Cooperider** defeated defending champion Hayden Sabatka to win the 99th Denver City Open, while Colorado Female Collegiate Player of the Year **Kelli Woodman** was a finalist at the Boulder

Open. Colorado Tennis Hall of Famer **Rhona Kaczmarczyk** added to her overall "Big 3" title count by capturing the Colorado State Open Women's Doubles title with 2015 Female Player of the Year **Simona Bruetting**.



### Denver City Open/June 13-21

#### Men's Open Singles

F (4) Chris Cooperider d. (5) Samir Iftikhar 6-4; 6-7(2); 6-3  
 SF (5) Samir Iftikhar d. (2) Yannik James 6-2; 6-3  
 SF (4) Chris Cooperider d. (1) Hayden Sabatka 6-4; 6-3

#### Women's Open Singles

F (2) Lauren Strasburger d. (4) Kelli Woodman 6-1; 6-2  
 SF (2) Lauren Strasburger d. (3) Sammie Watson 6-4; 6-4  
 SF (4) Kelli Woodman d. (1) Meagan Monaghan 1-6; 6-4; 6-3

#### Men's Open Doubles

F (1) Iftikhar/McDaniels d. (6) James/Loewenthal 7-6(4); 2-6; 6-3  
 SF (6) James/Loewenthal d. (4) Cooperider/Hillis 4-6; 6-3; 7-5  
 SF (1) Iftikhar/McDaniels d. (3) Haywood/Miller 6-4; 6-3

#### Women's Open Doubles

F (1) Strasburger/Watson d. Gallegos/Son 6-3; 6-1  
 SF Gallegos/Son d. (2) Monaghan/Porter 6-2; 5-7; 6-3  
 SF (1) Strasburger/Watson d. Greason/Ruegsegger 6-1; 6-4

#### Mixed Open Doubles

F (2) Porter/Sabatka d. Bass/Thompson 6-2; 6-2  
 SF (2) Porter/Sabatka d. Spreyer/Strasburger 6-3; 6-7; 6-3  
 SF Bass/Thompson d. Cooperider/Monaghan 7-6; 2-6; 7-6

### Babolat Boulder Open/July 18-26

#### Men's Open Singles

F (6) Bryan Mehall d. (8) Jevgenij Cariov 3-6; 7-6(4); 6-3  
 SF (8) Jevgenij Cariov d. Trent Broach 6-4; 7-5  
 SF (6) Bryan Mehall d. (7) Drew Machholz 7-6(5); 6-4

#### Women's Open Singles

F Sammie Watson d. Kelli Woodman 6-1; 7-5  
 SF Kelli Woodman d. (2) Carla Manzi 6-0; 6-2  
 SF Sammie Watson d. (1) Alexandra Aiello 6-1; 6-0

#### Men's Open Doubles

F (2) Haywood/cariov d. (1) Koprivica/Kuseski 4-6; 6-4; 7-6(4)  
 SF (2) Haywood/cariov d. (3) Hay-Arthur/Hay-Arthur 6-2; 6-3  
 SF (1) Koprivica/Kuseski d. (4) Flanigan/Vaithianathan 7-5; 6-3

#### Women's Open Doubles

Event not held in 2015

#### Mixed Open Doubles

F (3) Broach/Woodman d. (1) Johnson/Manzi 6-4; 1-6; 7-6(1)  
 SF (3) Broach/Woodman d. (2) Ruegsegger/Weiner 6-2; 6-4  
 SF (1) Johnson/Manzi d. (4) Diaz/Sperry 6-0; 6-0

### Colorado State Open/September 18-27

#### Men's Open Singles

F (2) Phillip Simmonds d. (4) Joel Kielbowicz 7-6; 6-3  
 SF (2) Phillip Simmonds d. (5) Ty Trombetta 6-1; 6-3  
 SF (4) Joel Kielbowicz d. (6) Henry Craig 6-3; 4-6; 7-5

#### Women's Open Singles

F (1) Petra Rampre d. Rebecca Weissmann 7-5; 1-0Ret (inj)  
 SF Rebecca Weissmann d. (2) Jacqueline Cako 6-4; 6-4  
 SF (1) Petra Rampre d. Gloria Son 6-0; 6-1

#### Men's Open Doubles

F (1) Kielbowicz/Witten d. Harbaugh/Nolen 7-5; 6-2  
 SF Harbaugh/Nolen d. (2) Craig/Gasson Wd (inj)  
 SF (1) Kielbowicz/Witten d. (3) Cooperider/Cariov 6-3; 3-6; 6-1

#### Women's Open Doubles

F (1) Bruetting/Kaczmarczyk d. (2) Matthews/Young 2-6; 6-3; 6-2  
 SF (2) Matthews/Young d. Marshall/Payne 6-3; 6-0  
 SF (1) Bruetting/Kaczmarczyk d. Gallegos/Son 6-4; 6-2

#### Mixed Open Doubles

F (1) Cako/Kielbowicz d. (2) Vaughan/Witten Wd (pc)  
 SF (2) Vaughan/Witten d. Ruegsegger/Weiner 6-3; 6-4  
 SF (1) Cako/Kielbowicz d. Cooperider/Weissmann 6-1; 6-3

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# THEBIGCHAIR

## STATE OF THE DISTRICT

NEWS FROM USTA COLORADO HEADQUARTERS

FRITZGARGER

USTA COLORADO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**T**his issue of *Colorado Tennis* centers around several key themes that are meaningful to our organization and the promotion of our sport. One trait of ours is the desire to avoid complacency and coupled with that is our willingness to change. Not for change's sake and not always because there's a financial benefit — but because the change is ultimately the right thing to do. The cover story highlights the fact that Colorado is bucking a lot of downward trends and the sport in our state is energized and gaining a lot of positive momentum as we look to get more people involved in the game.

Without question USTA Colorado's strength is our people. We have an incredible Board of Directors — with broad representation of members from regions across the state, of members diverse in their ethnicity and backgrounds — personally and professionally. This group is an excellent cross-section of our general population demographics as well as knowledge and involvement in the sport of tennis. Couple that with our committee members, staff and the host of provider representatives, players, coaches, etc. and we have a tremendous collection of people who truly care about the game — and its development at all levels.

This touches another theme that is important to recognize and also essential to incorporate re: our past, present and hopefully future success — namely, our desire and ability to work collaboratively. One single organization cannot truly effect change and positive development statewide or industry-wide on its own. It takes a collaborative effort and in our case involves countless people and entities.

Colorado has ridden the wave of success with other Sections and Districts when tennis has thrived, but we have also bucked many of the downward trends that have adversely affected our industry in other parts of the country. That is not to say that all our programs, initiatives and efforts have resulted in success. We've had some 'less than stellar' performances or outcomes from time to time. But overall and when assessing the majority of our efforts, Colorado has seen very solid growth and stability year after year.

The mission statement of our association is straightforward — to promote the growth and development of tennis in the state of Colorado. However, tied to that mission is the genuine and passionate interest to get more people (of ALL ages and backgrounds) involved in this sport so they can benefit from it.

To do that we need to be open to new ideas and we need to assess (and where possible strengthen) our existing programs and initiatives. One of our greatest challenges is getting the word out about our sport to the general public. How to inform people of how much easier the game is to learn than ever before— how many programs and variety of offerings exist to accommodate those with interest, and where one can go to access these opportunities?

Tennis is in a better place now and easier than ever before to pick up and have success (for all people). The programming — facilities and USTA offerings — is changing and improving in ways that cater to the lives of people who are busier than ever.

And Colorado is leading the way in countless efforts to expand the scope and reach of our sport. We have one of the largest (if not the largest) league menus in the country; our league participation — junior and adult — leads in a host of categories nationwide; our tournament offerings are bountiful and are changing to meet the times; our community outreach is a major focus, and is felt in large and small communities throughout the state; and few Districts or Sections can match the publications and communications pieces that are produced here in Colorado.

Virtually ALL of the aforementioned areas have incorporated thoughtful and meaningful changes/modifications over the years. Colorado tennis has not been complacent — and we'll continue to look for ways to enhance what we do and how we do it. AND we value all the ideas and leadership that have come from all corners of the tennis industry across the state. The ability for providers, industry organizations and USTA Colorado to be open to innovation — to effect change in well thought out ways is what has been a primary driver in our success over the years. We look forward to continuing that trend, which ultimately benefits everyone involved — individuals, communities and all those engaged in the tennis industry as a whole.

We're delighted with the successes of 2015 and look forward to many more in the year and years to come!!!

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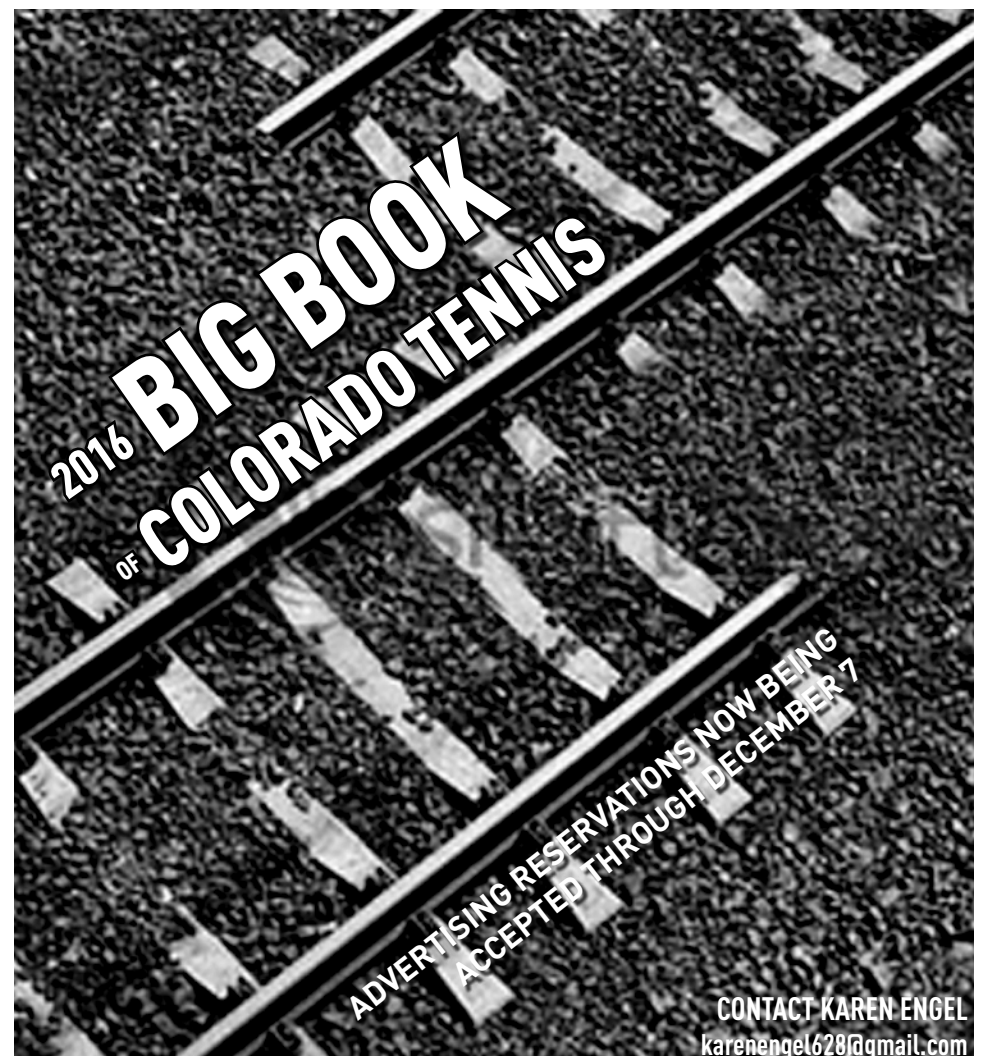
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# THE LAST WORD

## UN-BREAKING YOUTH SPORTS

WHEN IT COMES TO YOUTH ATHLETICS, WE SHOULD REMEMBER THE FIRST RULE OF HOLES

KURT DESAUTELS  
EDITOR, COLORADO TENNIS

If you've read any of my ranting in the past, you're familiar with my personal feelings about kids and sports. If not, here's the short version: kids are good, sports are good. Put them together and they can become great.

But as you've read right here several times before, kids and sports aren't necessarily enjoying the same mutually beneficial relationship that they've had in the past. In fact, fewer and fewer youth are playing sports these days, and that is very bad news for our kids.

Traditional staples of American childhood, like baseball, basketball, softball and soccer are all feeling the pain, which is worrying public health officials, league organizers and professional sports organizations.

It's not just about equipment and merchandise sales, organized sports play a crucial role in the development of our youth, and when 70% of kids quit sports by the age of 13, that spells trouble for the future of our society.

Active kids are less likely to be obese and are more likely to have higher test scores, attend college and have higher incomes. And guess what happens when those active kids become parents...they start the process over again with their children.

The problem is that only 30% of kids are active into their teen years, and that number is diminishing each year.

Much of the blame is being leveled at a parent-driven culture of focusing on elite travel clubs, specialization in one sport and the pursuit of scholarships. Let's have a

quick look at some recent statistics.... More than 26 million children ages 6-17 played team sports in 2014, down nearly 4% from 2009, according to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association. Total sports (including individual activities) have plummeted by 10%.

While some of the drop-off is attributable to the recession, particularly in low-income urban areas, some experts are now voicing their fear that larger socioeconomic forces are in play. Over the last two decades, there's been a shift to elite competition, especially in the suburbs, where children are specializing in one sport, and the less talented are left behind in recreational leagues that often send the message that those kids aren't good enough.

"The system is now designed to meet the needs of the most talented kids," says Mark Hyman, a professor of sports management at George Washington University and the author of several books on youth sports. "We no longer value participation. We value excellence."

As you might imagine, this emphasis on developing elite-level players at an early age did not begin with kids. The blame, say experts, sits squarely on the shoulders of parents.

In the past 20 years, sports has become an investment to many parents — competitive youth sports are now a \$7 billion industry in the US — one that they believe could lead to a college scholarship, or even the professional ranks, even though the odds are increasingly poor.

"Parents now start their kids in sports as toddlers, jockey to get them on elite travel teams at an early age, and spend

small fortunes on private coaching, expensive equipment, swag and travel to tournaments," writes Michael Rosenwald in the Washington Post.

Those who study the issue, like Tom Farrey of the Aspen Institute, are more worried about the millions of kids who just want to play sports for fun but get the least attention.

"The rec leagues become much less sustainable," he says. "These kids kind of know they are second-class, and they check out quickly. The quality of coaching isn't as good. The kids fall behind. It becomes a compounding effect."

When you ask kids what they like about sports, they don't include the cool uniforms or expensive equipment. They like positive team dynamics, trying hard, positive coaching and learning. And you know what they like most?

"Having fun", No. 1.

"Winning" slotted in at No. 48.

Here's the take-away... Sports are very important for a child's development, but we, as parents, need to recognize the true value of sport.

We need to put the joy back into sports by stressing sampling and free play at a young age. Perhaps most importantly, we should be encouraging age appropriate training that is in the best interest of the young athlete.

As a community, we have the obligation to do and promote the right thing, and do right by our young athletes to give them the best chance to succeed at whatever path they follow in life.



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### STAFF LISTING

#### Administration:

**FRITZ GARGER**  
 Executive Director, USTA CO/CYTF  
 x204 fritz@coloradotennis.com

**ANITA COOPER**  
 Administrative Assistant  
 x200 anita@coloradotennis.com

**THERESA DICKSON**  
 Accountant  
 x208 theresa@coloradotennis.com

#### Junior Recreation:

**DAN LEWIS**  
 Junior Leagues Director  
 x207 dan@coloradotennis.com

**CINDY MACMASTER**  
 Community Youth Tennis Coordinator  
 cindy@coloradotennis.com

#### Adult Leagues:

**JASON ROGERS**  
 Adult League Programs Director, IT Coordinator  
 x202 jason.rogers@coloradotennis.com

**TAYLOR MCKINLEY**  
 Adult League Coordinator  
 x210 taylor@coloradotennis.com

**KENT WARYAN**  
 Adult League Coordinator  
 x210 kent@coloradotennis.com

#### Community/Grassroots Tennis:

**KRISTY HARRIS**  
 Community Development Director  
 x300 kristy@coloradotennis.com

**KRISTY JENKINS**  
 Community Youth & School Tennis Coordinator  
 x301 schools@coloradotennis.com

#### Sponsorship/Development:

**LISA SCHAEFER**  
 Associate Executive Director, USTA CO/CYTF  
 x201 lisa@coloradotennis.com

#### Competitive Tennis/Player Development:

**JASON COLTER**  
 Player Development & Tournaments Director  
 x205 jason@coloradotennis.com

#### Marketing/Diversity:

**PAULA MCCLAIN**  
 Marketing & Diversity Director  
 x220 paula@coloradotennis.com

#### Publications:

**KURT DESAUTELS**  
 Creative & Communications Director  
 x203 kurt@coloradotennis.com

#### Information Technology:

**GARY GOFF**  
 Information Technology & Technical Support Director  
 x303 support@coloradotennis.com



photo by Kurt Desautels

### ABOUT USTA COLORADO

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

We provide grants to organizations that want to introduce tennis to their communities and we offer scholarships to junior players who seek to take their game to the next level. We coordinate adult league play for more than 33,000 players across the state, and offer programs for junior players of all ages and abilities. Our sanctioned tournament schedule offers more than 170 events this year, including opportunities for wheelchair athletes.

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

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

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.

**GRASSROOTS TENNIS IS OUR GAME.  
 WE PLANT IT, GROW IT, AND NURTURE IT.  
 WE'RE USTA COLORADO.  
 IT'S TIME TO PLAY.**



### USTA COLORADO

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

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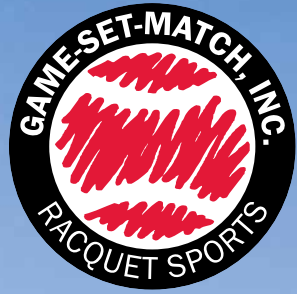


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Subaru and Legacy are registered trademarks. \*EPA-estimated hwy fuel economy for 2016 Subaru Legacy 2.5i models. Actual mileage may vary. †Based on IHS Automotive, Polk U.S. total new light vehicle registrations in the model years 2004 through 2014 (through October 2014) in the Non-Luxury Traditional Midsize Sedan segment for models that have been on the U.S. market for the entire ten-year time period. \*\*MSRP excludes destination and delivery charges, tax, title, and registration fees. Retailer sets actual price. 2016 Subaru Legacy 2.5i Limited pictured has an MSRP of \$29,935.



UNIVERSITY HILLS  
Plaza



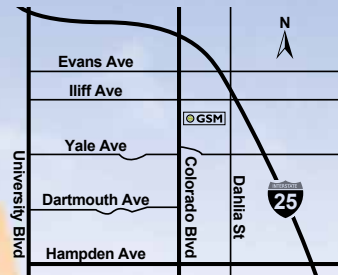
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Our Cherry Creek location will be moving to a new location in the University Hills shopping center in 2016. Let's celebrate with a huge

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\*Some vendor exclusions apply. See store for details. Excludes Ball Machines, Balls, Court Equipment, Sale Items, Stringing and Labor. Sale on in-stock items only. Offers cannot be combined. No racquet trade-ins for credit in combination with this sale.



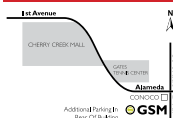
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