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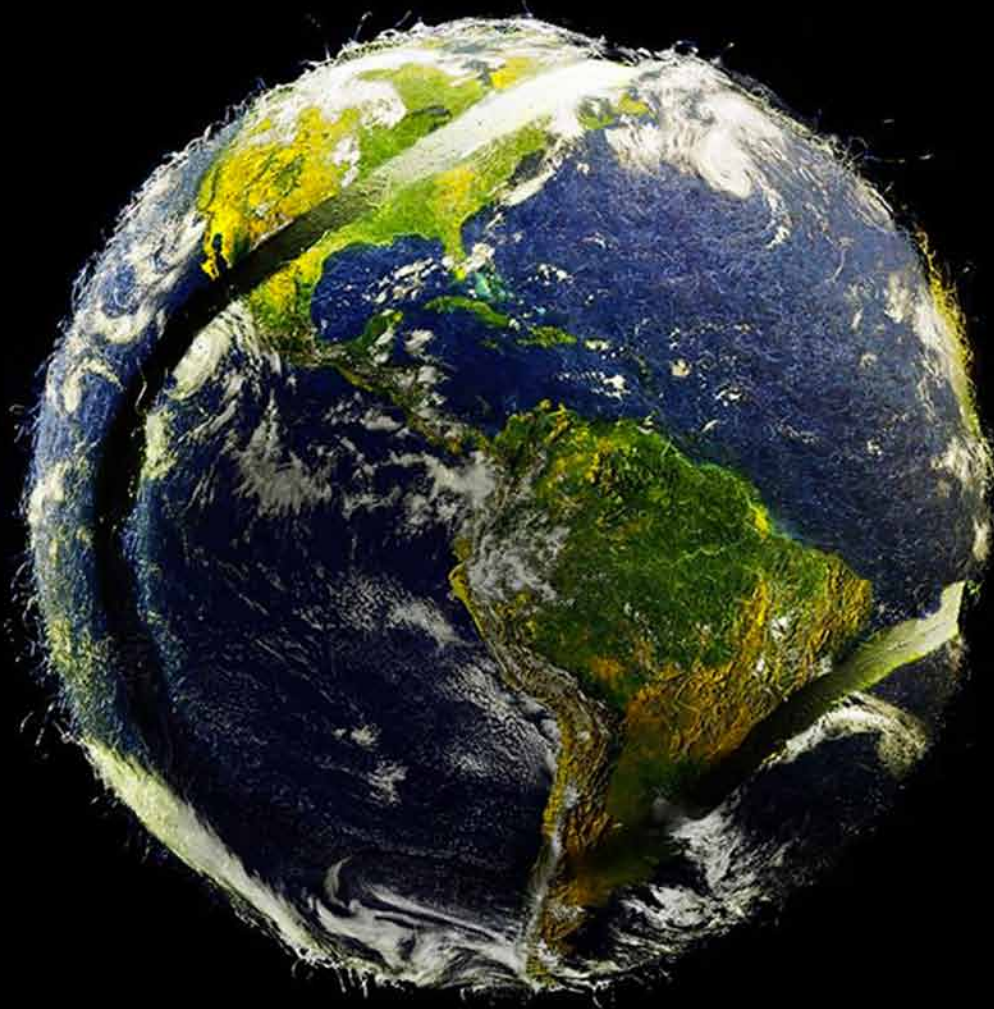
Year 40, Issue 3

The Official Publication of Tennis Lovers

tennis

SUMMER15

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Nelson Mandela



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July 27 – 28	Junior Two-Day Advanced Camp	Ages 10 – 13
August 3 – 5	Junior Camp – High School Varsity	Ages 13 – 17
August 21 – 23	Adult Three-Day Camp	2.5 – 3.0
Sept 11 – 13	7th Annual Culinary & Wine-Tasting Camp	3.0 – 4.0
Sept 18 – 20	Adult Mixed Doubles Camp	3.5 – 4.5
Oct 23 – 25	Adult Three-Day Camp	3.0 – 3.5
Oct 30 – Nov 1	Adult Three Day Halloween Camp	3.5 – 4.0
Nov 6 – 8	Adult Three-Day Camp	2.5
Nov 27 – 29	Adult “Thanksgiving Weekend” Tennis Camp	3.5 – 4.0
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FEATURES

6 PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING THE GROWTH OF PEOPLE THROUGH TENNIS....



USTA Colorado has a compelling mission—to promote and develop the growth of tennis in Colorado. But the opportunity lies before us not only to further that mission but also to transcend it; to put in place a plan that not only will help to grow the game, but also enhance the lives of those who play it. We must devote ourselves to promoting and developing the growth of people through tennis.

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The Knepper brothers are both tennis champions, but have followed different paths, each inspiring the other.

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The Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame introduces the Class of 2015:

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Bobby Curtis
Andy Potter
Susan Wright

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A set of five profiles on local players, coaches and tennis advocates for their on/off-court achievements:

Tatum Burger
Lori Canova
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Clinton C Vessels III

27 PEACE OF MIND

Concussions are real, they are more frequent than we realize, and they are "the single most important issue in sports today" according to sportswriter Bill Simmons.

It's time we face the reality and have an honest discussion about contact sports, and how to keep our children (and their fragile brains) safe.

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About COLORADO TENNIS

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THECOVERSTORY

TAKING TENNIS TO THE PEOPLE

USTA COLORADO IS DEVOTED TO PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING THE GROWTH OF PEOPLE THROUGH TENNIS



U

STA Colorado has a compelling mission—to promote and develop the growth of tennis in Colorado. But the opportunity lies before us not only to further that mission but also to transcend it; to be active in the community not only to help grow the game, but also to enhance the lives of those who play it. We must devote ourselves to promoting and developing the growth of people through tennis in communities .

"Sport", as they say, "mirrors life." The sport of tennis teaches valuable character traits — respect, fairness, integrity and honesty.

We believe that sport, especially tennis, positively impacts communities throughout our state. And because tennis is among the most universal and accessible of sports, it also creates opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds. The life skills learned through tennis are portable. They can be taken beyond the court to truly make a difference in people's lives and provide hope for a stronger, more connected, compassionate, understanding and respectful community and nation.



Photos by Bernard Grant Photography,
USTA Colorado

USTA Colorado's annual Summer Community TennisFest visited Montbello Park this year, attracting 200 participants, who enjoyed games and drills with our tremendous volunteers from Berkeley Park Tennis Club, City Park Racquet Club, Eastside Tennis Association and the Montbello High Girls' Tennis Team. On-air celebrities from Telemundo Denver joined in the fun.

Thanks to our partners: Telemundo Denver, Denver Parks & Recreation, Subaru, Xcel Energy, KIND Snacks, Coatings, Inc., Wash Park Tennis Club, Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation



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LUNCH & TENNIS

USTAColoradohostedanafternoon of tennis in conjunction with the Hispanic Chamber Foundation's "Latina Lunch & Tennis" event. After a presentation, attendees were invited to experience tennis on 36-, 60- and 78-foot courts with the red, orange and green dot balls.

Michelle Lucero (pictured third from left), Chief Administrative Officer/General Counsel at Children's Hospital in Denver, discussed leadership and career strategies among women of color in the workplace.



"It was a wonderful day, not only because of Michelle's inspirational and informational speech, but because I got introduced to a sport I have never played before. It was great fun and I will be back for more!"

Diedra A. Garcia, President/CEO, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

SPOTLIGHT

DIFFERENT PATHS LEAD BROTHERS TO THE SAME SUMMIT

HARD WORK AND DEDICATION HAS DELIVERED BOTH NATHAN AND BRYAN TO THE PINNACLE OF THEIR TENNIS DREAMS, BUT THEIR PURSUITS HAVE FOLLOWED DIFFERENT PATHS

TOM FASANO

Tennis has come full circle for Nathan and Bryan Knepper. The brothers took lessons when they were little. Bryan continued to play. And, oh yeah, he became a star at the junior level and a four-time Colorado state tennis champion at Wheat Ridge High School before playing for the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Meanwhile, Nathan went off and did other things after a few years of tennis, but he picked up the sport in bits and pieces by watching Bryan play. Nathan said he enjoyed watching Bryan win a tough point. Nathan recalls that he got interested in tennis when his parents – Nancy and Dan Knepper – started throwing balls to hit when they were really little.

“We used to bat it around when we were little,” Bryan said. “I started playing in tournaments, and we stopped playing together.”

Nathan, 38, was born with fragile X syndrome, a genetic condition that causes a range of developmental problems including learning disabilities and cognitive impairment according to the Genetics Home Reference website. Usually, males are more severely affected by this disorder than females. Fragile X syndrome occurs in approximately 1 in 4,000 males and 1 in 8,000 females.

Fragile X syndrome hasn’t stopped Nathan from getting everything he can out of life. A 1995 Golden High School graduate, Nathan has worked at the Vitamin Cottage Natural Grocers warehouse for more than 10 years and lives independently in Lakewood.

Special Olympics Colorado Tennis Director Vicky Matarazzo said Nathan is very smart.

“A lot of times someone will meet one of our athletes and not take time to get to know who they are,” Matarazzo said. “People tend to judge by initially what they see, but if you take a little bit of time and get to know Nathan, he’s got a great sense of humor and he’s just a great guy. He’s a hard worker. He’s a good family person. He and his brother are so close. Anybody would want to be friends with him.”

Fast forward more than 25 years later and it’s Nathan who is winning all the medals and trophies as a standout tennis player for the Special Olympics Colorado team, and Bryan is relishing the opportunity to coach Nathan while watching big brother pile up the hardware.

Nathan earned a gold medal at the 2010 Special Olympics USA Games in Lincoln, Neb., and took home gold from the Special Olympics Colorado Summer Classic three times. Nathan has traveled to Hilton Head, S.C., where he won a gold medal in the open doubles division and silver medal in the singles competition. Nathan has also titles at the Boar’s Head Invitational Tournament in Charlottesville, Va., on two separate occasions. He also loves to compete in Special Olympics ice hockey and alpine skiing (he medaled at the Special Olympics Colorado Winter Games at Copper Mountain).

“I like tennis the best,” said Nathan in an email interview. “I like the strategy. I have lots of room for improvement, and I plan to keep at it. I’m a very hard worker. I haven’t skied much lately. Hockey teaches hand-eye coordination and teamwork, which I like for a change.”

Nathan said learning the fundamentals to keep improving is what he enjoys most about tennis, and that his footwork is his strong point because it helps him win more points.

Nathan said he has his medals hanging up on his wall and his hockey trophies on the shelves.

Matarazzo said Bryan has taught Nathan the most about tennis.

“Bryan played at CU and he was one of the top juniors in Colorado, so he’s Nathan’s real teacher,” Matarazzo said. “I met Nathan and got him to start really competing in Special Olympics.”

Bryan, who had an incredible 80-2 record in high school with three singles state titles and a doubles state title and didn’t lose a match until his senior year, said it’s pretty fantastic to watch Nathan excel in tennis.

“He’s so into it and passionate about it,” Bryan said. “He’s played a bunch of sports, but he’s decided tennis is the one he wants to focus on which is pretty cool since I’ve played tennis my whole life. It’s something that we can do together. It’s fun to watch him get better and compete against the caliber of players that he’s supposed to be competing against.”

Bryan, who said Nathan could play competitively at the 3.5 level, added that his brother’s success doesn’t surprise him.

“He’s put in a lot of work and he’s got a lot of natural athletic ability. We both are extremely competitive and want to win, and are willing to put in the work in

order to do that,” said Bryan, who hits with Nathan one to two times a week.

“It’s so fun to watch. When he hits a good shot, he’ll pump his fists just like Nadal or anybody. He’s definitely into it. The best part of his game is his forehand on the run, and lately his serve has gotten a heck of a lot better. I know when I need to push him and when I need to let him have a water break.”

Matarazzo said Nathan, who works out at Meadow Creek Tennis in Club in Lakewood, has really come into his own and has such confidence.

“He was taught correctly by his brother. He serves correctly, and his strokes are correct textbook strokes. He and his brother are inseparable. Luckily, his brother cared about him and took the time and energy and really taught Nathan well,” Matarazzo said. “His own determination and willingness has grown in every way, shape and form. His game is unbelievable. In the years I’ve known him, he has probably increased his game tenfold. That’s how much he’s improved. He would practice probably six, seven hours a day if we’d let him. He’d hit balls every day, all day if he could.”

Nathan said Bryan, 35, has been a huge help when it comes to improving his game.

“As my regular coach, Bryan has helped me a lot with strokes, serve, footwork and strategy,” Nathan said.

Matarazzo said a lot of Nathan’s success has to do with his parents. Nathan said his parents have taught him to stay focused, do his best and have fun playing tennis. “They’re very supportive. They have driven Nathan from one end of Denver to the other to make sure that he got good instruction and everything he needed,” Matarazzo said.

Nancy said Nathan has a lot of autistic symptoms that come with fragile X syndrome.

“He has like a photographic memory and is good at math. He picked up reading on his own when he was in kindergarten,” Nancy said. “He’s good at most athletics.”

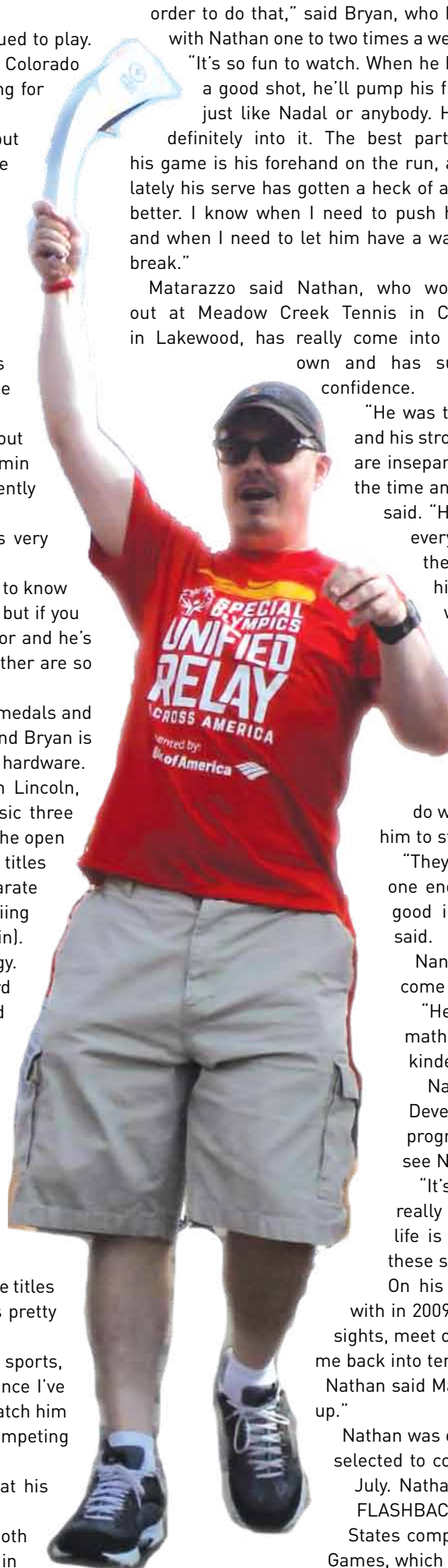
Nancy said Nathan picked up tennis again at the Developmental Disabilities Resource Center’s recreation program in Jefferson County. She said it’s tremendous to see Nathan succeed.

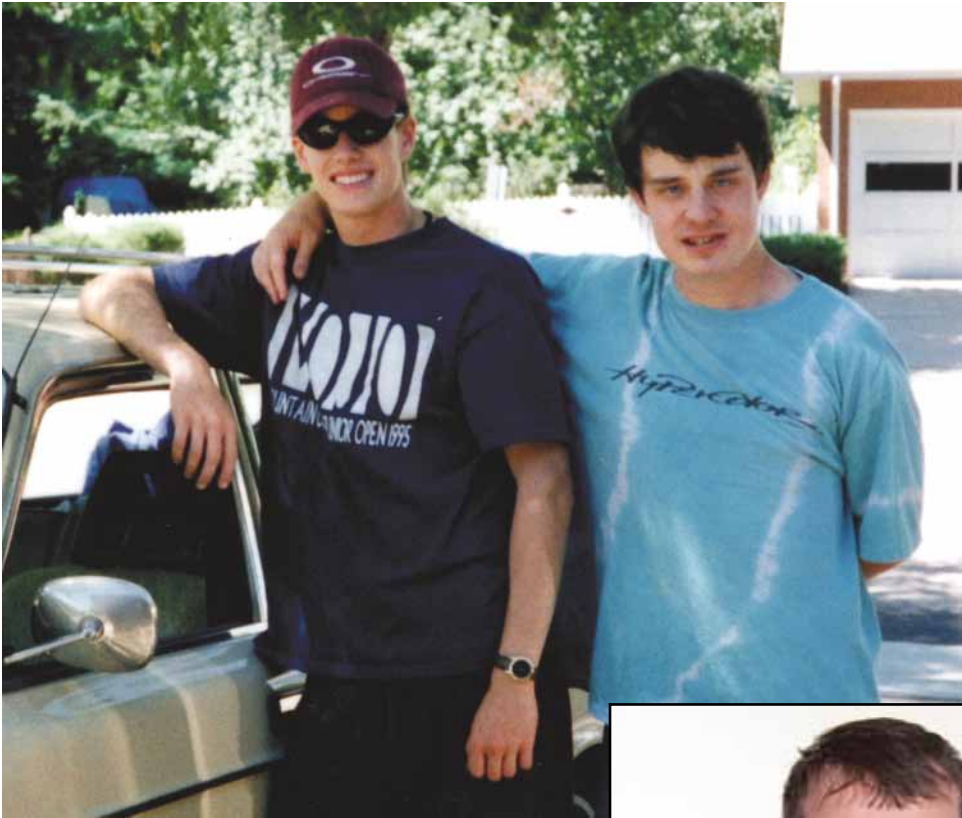
“It’s really thrilling. We love it,” Nancy said. “It’s been really fun and very rewarding for all of us. The rest of his life is pretty mundane just going to work every day, but these sports things that he does really spices things up.”

On his experience with Special Olympics that he started with in 2009, Nathan said: “We travel to fun places and see the sights, meet other players and have good, hard competition. It got me back into tennis as an adult.”

Nathan said Matarazzo has taught him “strategy and to never give up.”

Nathan was one of four athletes from Special Olympics Colorado selected to compete in Los Angeles for Special Olympics USA in July. Nathan and Julian Hall, who is also from Colorado (see FLASHBACK, page 9), were among just 16 athletes in the United States competing in tennis at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, which will be televised on ESPN beginning July 25.





The Knepper brothers, Bryan and Nathan, followed different paths in their tennis careers. Bryan was a tremendous player at Wheat Ridge High School and then the University of Colorado/Boulder. Nathan's talent for the sport began to really show when he began playing with Special Olympics in 2009.

continued from previous page

"I'm very excited and not at all nervous," Nathan said when asked about playing in the World Games at UCLA. According to a press release from Special Olympics Colorado, about 7,000 athletes from 170 nations will compete in 25 Olympic-type sports at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games including tennis. More than 500,000 family, friends, volunteers and spectators are also expected to attend.

Nathan was a torchbearer during the Special Olympics Unified Relay Across America. Nathan carried the torch with USTA Colorado through Denver on June 26. "It was a thrill and an honor to represent Colorado," Nathan said. Bryan envisions many decades of tennis in the future for the two. "When we're 65, we'll probably still go out and bang it around at least once or twice a week," Bryan said. "From him gaining confidence and playing, talking to the media, I can see him getting into leagues that are not Special Olympics associated. That's ultimately the goal that I'd like to see him do, is to be out there playing in a league and have him feel confident that he can handle himself. He has the game to do it, it's just a matter of him feeling confident to communicate and talk to people."

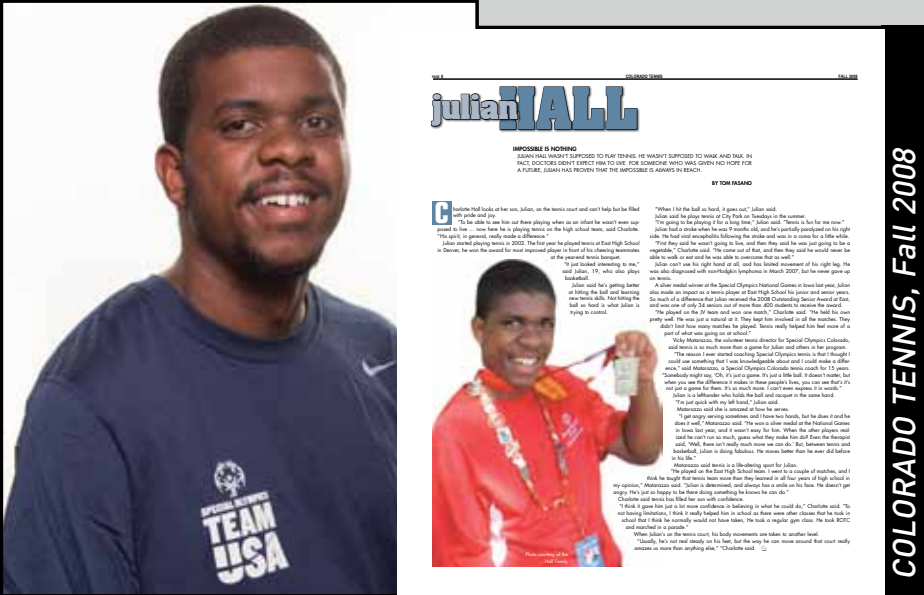


Did you know that 7,000 athletes from 177 nations will be in Los Angeles for Special Olympics' signature competition this coming July? Athletes of all ages (at least 8-years-old) will compete in one of 25 Olympic-style sports. The Opening Ceremonies will be held at the Los Angeles Coliseum — the first stadium to have hosted the Olympic Games twice, Super Bowls and World Series.



FLASHBACK

It was Fall 2008 when we first met Julian Hall. He was featured as a part of our cover story, Freedom Found. Julian has battled numerous physical and health challenges throughout his young life, and USTA Colorado is proud of him, his coaches and his family. Julian has been selected to represent the USA at the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles this year.



When Julian Hall became involved with Special Olympics Colorado in 2004, it opened a door that allowed him to engage in competitive sports. Early on, Julian's coaches realized his natural talent for tennis. He moved from bouncing a ball up and down on his racquet to winning singles and doubles matches in no time flat. But life wasn't always an ace for Julian. He has overcome many things, including a life-threatening brain infection that caused a stroke. Through it all, Hall never lets his medical prognosis determine his outlook on life and is known for his enduring smile.

Julian competed in the very first Special Olympics USA Games in Ames, Iowa in 2006, where he earned a silver medal in the tennis singles division. In 2009, he was one of a few Special Olympics Colorado athletes to participate in a citywide billboard campaign with players from the Denver Broncos. It's an experience that he will never forget.

USTA Colorado proudly supported the 2015 Special Olympics Unified Relay Across America.



THEBUZZ

NOUNS IN THE NEWS

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

Anne Pankhurst to speak at USTA Colorado EDC Parent Session

On Saturday, August 22, one of the world's leading consultants on early competitive development, Anne Pankhurst, PhD, will speak to parents at Rocky Mountain Tennis Center in Boulder. The event is open to anyone interested in early competitive development of athletes (10 and under).

Pankhurst, who has led the UK's Lawn Tennis Association coaches education program, has been instrumental in the development of the USTA's 10 & Under initiative.

The cost to attend the event is \$10 (individual or parents/family). Refreshments and light snack provided. Additional information/RSVP by Monday, August 17 to Cindy MacMaster <cindy@coloradotennis.com>. Limited seating available.

BTB exhibits return to Denver

Building awareness through education, inspiring action through art.

This fall, USTA Colorado partners with the Denver Public Library to display the full Breaking the Barriers Portrait Series in the exquisite Gates Reading Room, which houses the Western History and Genealogy research collections. Thirty-seven portraits will be on exhibit for a three-month period, October-December.

Using tennis as a backdrop to promote diversity and inclusion, health and wellness, and excellence, USTA Colorado's Breaking the Barriers is a high profile, high impact and sustainable educational and outreach program celebrating the accomplishments of diverse tennis pioneers, contributors and rising stars in Colorado.

Inspired by the International Tennis Hall of Fame's Breaking the Barriers exhibit, USTA Colorado created our own showcase with the successful three-part portrait series, which includes: An Exhibition in Courage, featuring African Americans in tennis; The Asian Connection, highlighting Pacific Asian American players; and ¡Vive el Tenis!, celebrating Latino/a Americans.

These unique and artful portraits were produced by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Barry Gutierrez.

Now a movement, Breaking the Barriers demonstrates USTA Colorado's commitment to increase awareness about diverse tennis players in the sport and foster participation in USTA Colorado program opportunities to promote and develop the growth of the sport and to inspire the next generation of tennis players from these communities. For more information about celebrating diversity in tennis go to COLORADOTENNIS.com.

Weber named SCAC Coach of the Year

Three Colorado College tennis players and Coach Anthony Weber netted several awards from the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC).

Weber was named Women's Coach of the Year, Fiona Cerf '18 was named Newcomer of the Year, and Mary Edman '15, Natalia Dellavalle '18, and Cerf were named to the 2015 Women's All-SCAC tennis team. It is the first time Colorado College has placed three players on the all-SCAC team in program history, tying Trinity for the most by a team in the league this season.

Weber earned his first Coach of the Year award after leading the Tigers to a second-place finish at the 2015 SCAC championships, falling to nationally-ranked Trinity in the title match. Competing with a roster that listed four of its top six singles players as either freshmen or sophomores, Weber guided his squad to its first conference final since joining the SCAC in 2007. Colorado College finished the 2014-15 campaign with a 9-9 record, the most wins in a season since 2011-12.

Dellavalle, who graduated from East High School in Denver, led the squad with 12 singles victories.

Westerman leaves DU to coach alma mater Wisconsin

University of Denver men's tennis head coach Danny Westerman has accepted the head coaching job at the University of Wisconsin. Westerman returns to Madison after serving as the Pioneers' head coach the last nine seasons. Denver will begin a national search for Westerman's replacement immediately.

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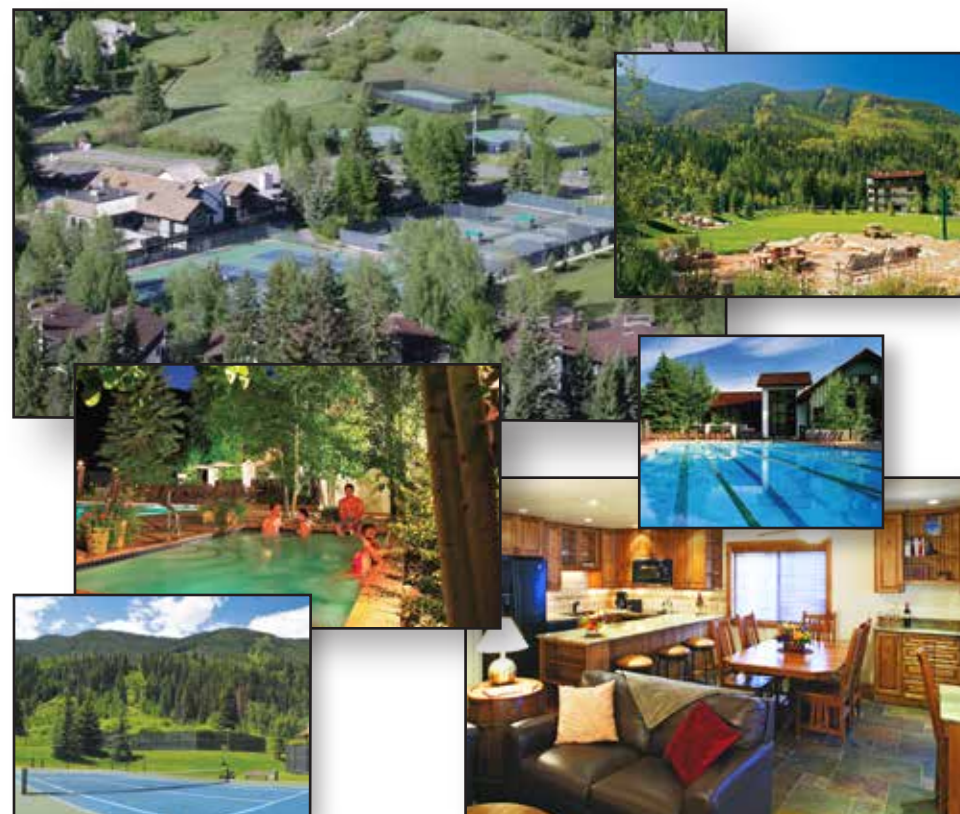
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Westerman led Denver to the NCAA tournament in each of the last three seasons, which included the school's first-ever NCAA tournament win in 2013. In nine seasons at Denver, he guided the Pioneers to a mark of 123-83-1 (.597) and a total of five NCAA tournament appearances. Westerman's teams garnered 21 All-Conference singles honors and seven doubles teams were named all-conference. Over the last three seasons, a total of 15 Pioneers took home academic all-conference honors.

In 2015, Westerman was named ITA Mountain Region Coach of the Year after Denver's 18-9 campaign that included a perfect 5-0 conference mark and Summit League championship. The Los Angeles native guided the Pioneers to three of the four highest single-season win totals in school history, equaling the school's record with 19 wins in 2010.

Prior to arriving at Denver, Westerman served as an assistant coach for three seasons at the University of Wisconsin. From 1998-2002, Westerman enjoyed one of the most successful playing careers in UW history. Just the fifth three-time All-Big Ten selection at UW, Westerman also claimed the prestigious Big Ten Medal of Honor in 2002.

"Denver gave me an incredible opportunity as a young head coach and I will forever be indebted to them. I would also like to thank every single Pioneer Tennis player that I coached. It was truly my pleasure to work with all of the guys and together we achieved some amazing feats. I know the program will continue to grow to the next level and I will always be cheering on all the Pioneers from back in Wisconsin."

AMTA has courses for doctors seeking CME credit

The American Medical Tennis Association (AMTA) is offering two Continuing Medical Education courses with CME lectures in the mornings, and tennis tournaments in the afternoons. The fall 2015 event will be at Longboat Key Club near Sarasota, FL, October 31-November 5, and the spring 2016 event will be at Smoke Tree Ranch in Palm Springs, March 13-18, during the PNB Paribas ATP Tour stop at Indian Wells. The AMTA promises competitive, camaraderie-building tennis at all levels and 10-12 hours of stimulating CME lectures in nice tennis resorts. Members can also attend the World Medical Tennis Society, held in a different country each year. This year's event is in Rotterdam, The Netherlands July 18-25, and next year's in Lima, Peru October 8-14, 2016. For further information, visit mdtennis.org, or contact Executive Director John Kirkpatrick <John.Kirkpatrick48@gmail.com> at 206/914-3335.



Wanna talk tennis? Join the conversation at [facebook.com/USTACOLORADO](https://www.facebook.com/USTACOLORADO)



Love Set Match benefits The Adoption Exchange

Join The Adoption Exchange for the third annual **Love Set Match** event being held at Gates Tennis Center on Saturday, August 15, 2015, from 5:30pm-10pm. The event has a 120-player limit this year and will be using a Top Gun format, where players will be divided according to level of play (all levels welcome).

The \$35 Player Pass also includes food, live music by Bruce Cole, and non-alcoholic beverages. For an additional \$10 those 21 or older can purchase a wristband which entitles them to a "bottomless bar" with a signature drink using Woody Creek Distillers award winning vodka as well as beer and wine. Players will receive a "swag" bag filled with goodies and of course a t-shirt. Friends, family and other non-players can purchase a "Party Pass" for \$20, which entitles them to the food, music and non-alcoholic beverages with the option of the \$10 "bottomless bar" wristband. This is a great option for those who want to enjoy great party atmosphere while also benefiting a wonderful cause. Finish up the evening with a visit to the Massage by Symmetry tent.

Perennial host Andy Zodin will again emcee the event, and many of the areas top pros will be lending their support — Jeff Salzenstein, Peter Richman, Chris Coopridge, Trent Broach, Zach Sivalls, Art Turnbull and players from DU's NCAA tournament team.

This year's Presenting Sponsors are VectraBank Colorado and Colorado Athletic Club/Wellbridge. In the words of Wellbridge President and CEO Ed Williams "The Adoption Exchange has a very important mission to help children and families, and Love Set Match is a fun way to support such a special cause. We're honored to be a part of the great event."

For tickets, visit adoptex.org/tennis.

Love Set Match benefits The Adoption Exchange, and 100% of the net proceeds raised through this event will help The Adoption Exchange fund their Family Recruitment Programs. A family is the best preventive service a child in foster care can receive to avoid a life of poverty and hardship, and to become a productive member of the community. Since 1983, The Adoption Exchange has helped find families for more than 7,500 children who were waiting in the foster care system for a place to call home. The children who will benefit from your support are our country's most vulnerable. They have survived abuse and neglect, and they long to have what most take for granted—a permanent, loving family. Join us in our mission to help find every child in foster care a family, so that they will not be left in a struggle to survive physically, emotionally, academically, and financially.

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Subaru and USTA Colorado investing in kids

In October 2014, USTA Colorado made its first of many investments which are paying good dividends for students at McGlone Elementary in the Montbello neighborhood. Because of its high ratio of Latino students, McGlone was selected as one of two schools to receive an official visit as part of the USTA Colorado Breaking the Barriers 2.0 project – ¡Vive el Tenis! — celebrating the achievements of local Latino tennis pioneers, contributors and rising stars.

During the program, students were inspired by Colorado Latino tennis pioneers and had the chance to hit some balls for themselves. The excitement was contagious and the kids were eager to learn more about tennis, a sport not as common as others in the neighborhood.

Soon afterwards, and through the help of generous support from Subaru of America, USTA Colorado's Official Vehicle, appropriate sized racquets and low-compression balls were donated to the school, and tennis was officially incorporated into the McGlone PE curriculum this past spring. All of a sudden tennis was a real option for the kids.

In May, USTA Colorado held its annual Diversity TennisFest at Montbello Central Park just blocks from the school. Students experienced the sport in a fun and festive environment, and local inexpensive summer tennis programs were promoted for kids to take advantage of. Tennis specific lines (36' courts) will be painted on the playground by DPS Facilities this summer in preparation for the upcoming school year.

With this new infrastructure in place, along with the equipment and resources donated by Subaru and USTA Colorado, tennis play is a viable recess, lunchtime and after school option for students.



SUBARU

"McGlone Elementary is so thankful for the donation of the tennis racquets and balls from Subaru. As a program this past school year (2014-2015) we used the racquets and balls to start our first [PE] tennis unit."

"During our 4-week unit, students learned the fundamentals of tennis and why tennis is such a great lifetime activity for them to learn. We are looking to expand our tennis experience for students this coming school year by adding it as a choice for students during lunch/recess time. I am also looking into starting an after school tennis club during the next school year and all of this would not be possible without the generous donation we received."

"Thank you so much!"

Joe Szwaja

McGlone Elementary PE Teacher
Montbello High School Tennis Coach


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Many great prizes



Complimentary use of a Maserati Ghibli for one weekend courtesy of Mike Ward Maserati of Denver. Certain restrictions apply.



Weekend at The Beaver Creek Lodge with dinner at The Chop House



Weekend at The Charter in Beaver Creek with dinner at Blue Moon Pizza

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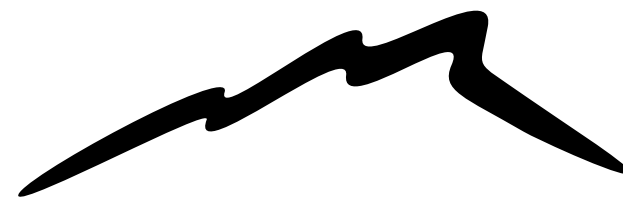


HALLOFFAME

INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF 2014

Upcoming Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala honors tennis tradition

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



COLORADO TENNIS HALL OF FAME

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2016
MARRIOTT DENVER TECH CENTER
 5:30 PM COCKTAILS | 7:00 PM DINNER, LIVE AUCTION & PROGRAM



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 Varum 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

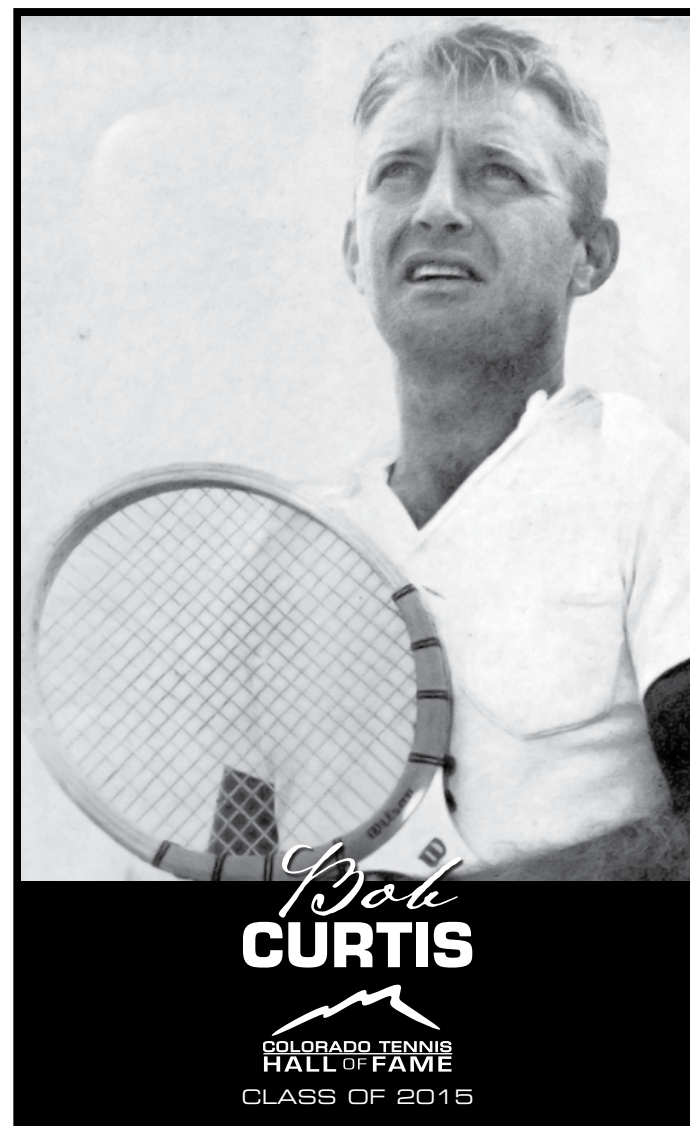


A top Southern California junior tennis standout, Rich received All American Honors at Cal State Long Beach for his college play. He quickly moved into teaching — all but a handful of those years in Colorado — where he's produced dozens of top junior players.

In 1993, Rich began teaching and coaching wheelchair tennis. He served as coach to Australia's David Hall, and while working together, Hall dominated wheelchair tennis across the globe, finishing No. 1 in world singles rankings for six years. With Rich in his coaching box, Hall amassed an unmatched nine Australian Opens, eight US Opens and seven British Opens and won gold in Sydney at the 2000 Paralympics.

With Bill Trubey, Rich created the wheelchair tennis curriculum for the PTR — the world's largest tennis teaching organization.

Later, in 2014, Rich teamed with Hall again to create a free online resource for wheelchair players to learn mechanics and strategy of the game.



During the years he called Colorado home, Bobby firmly cemented his place in the state's tennis history. Born and raised in Houston, TX, he dominated on the courts, winning the University Interscholastic League Texas State Boys' Championship singles title in 1936, '37 and '38 — each of the three years he played.

While at Rice University, Bobby won the Southwest Conference doubles championship three times in all and captured the NCAA national doubles title in 1947 with partner Sammy Match. He was inducted into the Rice University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1973 and Texas Tennis Hall of Fame in 1992.

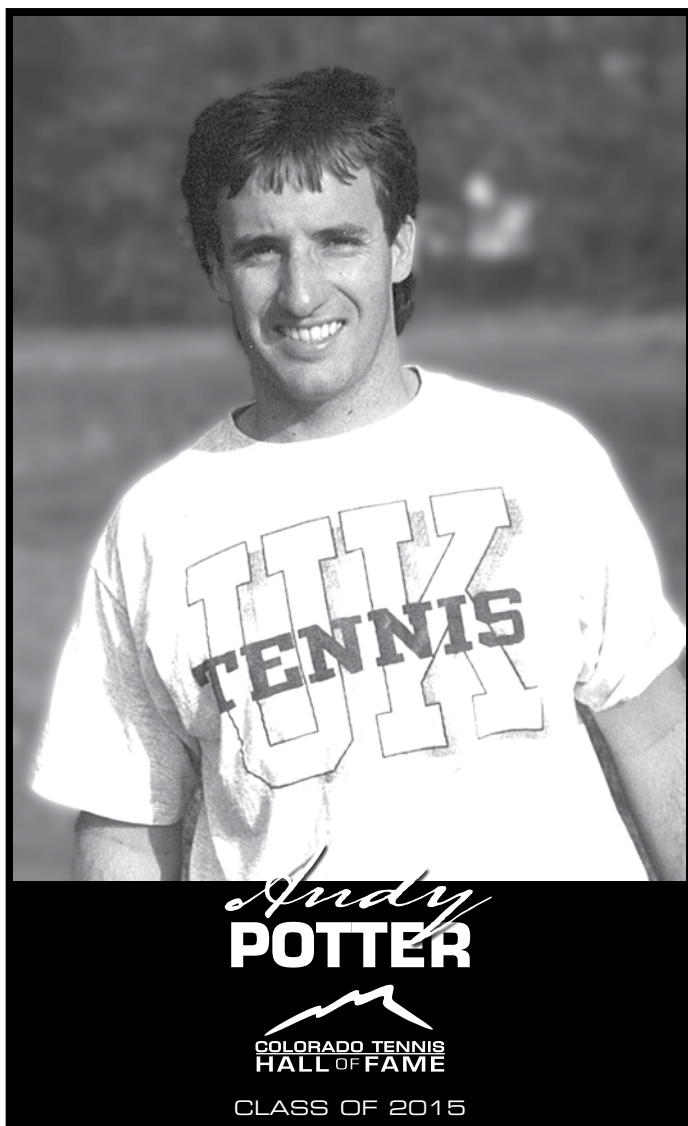
In 1950, Bobby and Clayton Benham took home the National Public Parks Championship doubles crown, and in 1951 he beat Bill Talbert in the Good Neighbor Championship. He's titleholder of one Denver City Open singles crown (1951), four doubles titles (1951, '58, '60, '61), one mixed doubles title (1951) as well as two USTA Intermountain doubles championships (1950, '52).

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

FORMS AVAILABLE AT COLORADOTENNIS.COM
ANNUAL AWARD NOMINATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 15



**NOMINATIONS
OPEN FOR 2015
ANNUAL AWARDS**



A Colorado native, Andy won his first USTA Intermountain Summer Sectional Championships at age 10. He went on to win the tournament for three years in a row at age 16, 17 and 18. He captured the 1986 Colorado High School State Championships title at the No. 1 singles spot for Regis High School. Andy reached a national ranking high of No. 29 in singles and No. 2 in doubles in the boys' 18s division. He won boys' 18s doubles titles at both the USTA National Clay Court Championship and USTA Indoor Championship in 1988.

Andy captured 12 major Colorado open titles in all at the Denver City Open, Colorado State Open and Intermountain/Boulder Open combined – 3 singles, 8 doubles and 1 mixed doubles.

Receiving NCAA All-American honors in 1992 at the University of Kentucky, Andy captained the team that won the school's first SEC Championship in its 75 year history and reached a team ranking of No. 3 in the country.



Winner of nine national junior tennis titles, Susan reached a US ranking high of No. 3 in Girls' 18s. In 1974, at age 17, she joined the WTA tour, defeating former world No. 3 Wendy Turnbull. She left tennis but returned after moving to Grand Junction in 2000.

From 2003-2015, Susan amassed 80 Gold Balls, 35 Silver Balls and 10 Bronze Balls in national championship play. While on the US International Team, she earned 9 gold medals. Susan won four ITF world doubles titles (2006, '09, '12 and '13) and has completed the US "Golden Slam" on four occasions (2007, '08, '12 and '14).

She's been ranked No. 1 in US singles 8 times, 6 times in team doubles, 9 times individually in doubles and 3 times in ultra-senior father-daughter doubles. Susan held the No. 1 ITF world ranking in W50 singles (2008) and W55 doubles (2013), and in 2014 she was inducted to the USTA Northern California Tennis Hall of Fame.

Jack Cella Award

(Outstanding High School Player-Boy)

Jim & Anne Dyde Award

(Outstanding High School Player-Girl)

Richard Hillway Award

(Outstanding High School Team-Boys')

Willa Wolcott Condon Award

(Outstanding High School Team-Girls')

Rosemary Fri Award

(Outstanding Collegiate Player-Woman)

Vernon John Award

(Outstanding Collegiate Player-Man)

Joan Birkland Award

(Outstanding Female Player)

Jim Landin Award

(Outstanding Male Player)

Fay & Dorothy Shwayder Award

(Outstanding Senior Female Player)

Sam & Sid Milstein Award

(Outstanding Senior Male Player)

Jerry & Lillian Brawer Award

(Outstanding Wheelchair Player)

Ade Butler Award

(Outstanding Umpire)

E.L. Griffey Award

(Organization of the Year)

Carter & Lena Elliott Family Award

(Family of the Year)

Jody Riser Knudsen Award

(Volunteer of the Year)

Dorothy Mauk Award

(Media Excellence)

Margaret Rogers Phipps Award

(Junior Sportsmanship)

John Hough Award

(Junior Sportsmanship)

Phyllis Lockwood Award

(Junior Sportsmanship)

Mike, Gene & Maurice Reidy Award

(Junior Sportsmanship)

Charlie & Ira Brown Award

(Junior Sportsmanship)

Arthur Ashe Award

(Service to Under-served Populations)

Clyde Rogers Award

(Service to Recreational Players)

Bud Robineau Award

(Service to Tennis Community)

HIGHFIVE

For the past 40 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> with your comments or suggestions.



HIGH FIVE

PROFILES BY
KATIE NEWELL

It's a family affair for Tatum Burger, the 2015 class 4A State Champion. Second to the youngest with tennis loving siblings including older brothers, Keegan, Jack, Brian, along with her twin sister, Shae, and younger brother Teague, the quiet netter from Steamboat Springs boldly captured the prestigious title in just her freshman year. She also just went to Zonals finishing undefeated and got into her first level 1 national tournament which will be in San Diego in August.

Nicknamed "Tater Tot" by her family, she is an all-around athlete, excelling in soccer, going to state in cross-country and now winning the state title in tennis. Known for her quiet demeanor, Tatum is humble in discussing her own accomplishments, but readily discusses how grateful she is towards her family for all of their support-being consistent hitting partners, coaching her, and giving her emotional support.

Being a multi-sport athlete, she said the cross-training she gets from cross country and soccer have helped her on the tennis court in terms of stamina and agility. "I'm pretty fast," she responds when asked her what makes her so effective on the

court. Tatum has confidence in her groundstrokes, and said she knows developing a more powerful serve is needed as she sets her site on top level play.

While her physical skills are readily apparent, it is her mental game that particularly impresses those around her. She just never really gets rattled. How does she do it? "I try to stay calm and positive and not get down on myself. I learn from my brothers and how they act on the court," Tatum explains. She also said she tries to mirror the approach to the game of Roger Federer because she "likes the way he never gets upset and shows good sportsmanship."

Setting her near sights on a college career at Duke (her mother, Darby Dale-Burger, attended there for gymnastics) she hopes to play professionally one day. For now, she is focusing on doing well in school and putting everything she has into sports. "I try to stay organized with my schoolwork so that I can play tennis and all of the other sports. My mom says I have to have straight As!" she jokes.

Darby said she used to worry about how quiet Tatum was but now she understands that her calmness is a gift. She also said Tatum is extremely self-disciplined. "She has an amazing work ethic and gets every bit of her work done and then wants to train every single day," she said. She also said that Tatum's biggest strength is her heart- she leaves everything out there every match.

With Tatum's athleticism she could excel in any sport but when asked what it was about tennis that made it her favorite, she explained that "it's just such a mental game. I like that part of it. And that you can just start over if you have to." That never quit attitude is a key component in her success. 🎾



Photo by Chris McLean/Pueblo Chieftain

TATUMBURGER

Twelve-year-old Clark Steinhauser has literally spent a decade on the tennis court. Having picked up his first racquet at the age of two, the young netter is finding increasing success. Born to two collegiate athletes, (mom Diane Schwab played tennis, and father Ed Steinhauser ran track) Clark's natural gifts and family commitment are combining to make him a rising star.

Currently ranked 44 in the national standings, Clark just captured the 2015 ITA Summer Championship title B12 Singles after having won the ITA Level 4 Spring Masters Event in Las Vegas. Clark is ranked No. 1 in Colorado.

Entering the 7th grade at Colorado Academy, Clark currently enjoys several additional sports including running and baseball (watch out... he's a switch-hitter!), but knows that playing tennis at the higher levels can require a dedicated focus in the upcoming years.

When asked what his favorite shot is Clark is quick to reply. "I love to come to the net, to hit overheads," he said. Admiring the aggressive style of play of Djokovic, he feels his own best attributes are "being smart and quick."

Those natural abilities were recognized early on by Diane. "Clark has good hands," she said of his strong hand/eye coordination and agility on the court. In terms of his mental game he's also well-suited for tennis. "He's calm and cool-headed," she explains, qualities that help bring him through the challenging times any top player will face.

In addition to his natural athleticism and a strong mental approach, Clark understands the time commitment and hard work that lie ahead as he continues to grow in the sport. He also understands how to prepare for matches. "The warm-up is really important," he explains of big matches, and taking care of his body with good sleep and nutrition. "I try to eat healthy foods and try not to eat too much sugar."

Having been recognized for his good sportsmanship at tournaments, Clark has a mature perspective when it comes to competing. "I try to let it go when I lose. I don't hold onto it."

While playing professionally down the road is a potential goal, he's also interested in possibly becoming an engineer and following in his dad's footsteps. With his favorite subject being math, he's well-rounded and loves to play the guitar – especially classical pieces. 🎸



CLARKSTEINHAUSER

For Colorado native Lori Canova there was never any doubt that her path in life was going to be to help people. Getting her masters in social work from Denver University, Lori's now in her 18th year serving as President and CEO of the "I Have a Dream" Foundation in Boulder County. The nationally recognized program has been providing poverty-stricken school children with a long-term intervention program focusing on mentoring, tutoring and cultural enrichment.



LORICANOVA

Lori, the 2010 winner of the Boulder Professional Women group's Woman of the Year award and one of the 2015 Boulder Chamber Women Who Light the Community honorees, says the program has been successful because of the wonderful community support and the fact that they can bring these at-risk kids through the program from early elementary years through college, offer comprehensive programs that prepare the kids for college and then help to support them through college with scholarships. It's a dream that many young people would not have had without the foundation. Under her leadership, the program has grown from two classes to 15 and has served nearly 800 students.

Lori also helped to start the Mentors Matter group which focuses on the recruitment of mentors, especially mentors of color.

Picking up her first tennis racquet at 40 years young, Lori became immediately hooked not just on the game itself, but what it offered in terms of social interaction and sportsmanship. She's been a co-captain on a 3.5 team for several years now and tennis has become a passion she enjoys and wants to share with others.

Since adding tennis to the foundation curriculum, over 350 kids have now been introduced to tennis thanks to funding from the USTA, support from the NJTL, and over 400 volunteers who make it all possible.

"The kids are getting access to life skills curriculum," Lori explains about the programming. "It's about being engaged, staying in school, setting the goal to get to college and then getting them there." The kids can play tennis at the recreation centers, on their own time, and receive the coaching and tutoring needed to help them excel on and off the courts.

With the strong success of the program Lori said there is still a hidden population that most people don't know exists in places such as Boulder. "People don't realize there are 15,000 kids on the free reduced food program in the area. There is a huge disparity of income levels in the St. Vrain and Boulder Valley regions."

Because of the number of kids in need and the comprehensive programs, Lori said there is always a need for not only donations, but for more volunteers, coaches and mentors especially. There is a particular need for coaches in Longmont and Lafayette. If you are interested you can find a volunteer application at IHADBOULDER.org. 📄

When Mark Stangeland found the opportunity to own TGA (Teach. Grow. Achieve) of Douglas County, he knew he'd found the perfect fit. TGA runs the leading school based youth tennis programs in North America. The mission of TGA is to introduce youth of

all backgrounds to the fun, positive, character-building aspects of tennis with programs that build life values, instill confidence through achievement, provide physical fitness and offer a fun and educational experience.

Graduating in 1999 from Western Michigan University and getting his MBA from Regis, Mark's an engineer with the Department of Defense. He's also an avid tennis player who competes in USTA Colorado League Tennis. The fact that the USTA partners with TGA sold it for Mark and he's thrilled to have the chance to own his own business while bringing tennis to the youth of Douglas County.

The franchise business is offered throughout the US, Canada and Spain.

"Tennis is so multi-faceted, the physical and mental aspects of it. It's good for you. It's kind of a chess match in that you have to think so far ahead," he said of the appeal of the game. He said people are looking for sports they can compete in throughout their lifetime-something not every sport can offer.

It wasn't love at first sight on the court, however. Mark was introduced to tennis by his dad in an era when the sport was taught much differently. "I honestly didn't love it at that time," he laughs about the early years and how it was very difficult to get a feel for the game due to the large, heavy racquets and fast moving balls. TGA uses equipment sized right for children and lessons that give kids the opportunity to rally over the net right away, at school, without needing to find a tennis court. It can be played in the gym or the blacktop and it builds the passion and success for the sport early on.

Promoting the player pathway, TGA builds a strong foundation for not only tennis skills but life skills. The educational component bridges the gap between academics and sports.

Playing in several leagues at the 4.0 level himself, Mark said that spirit of competition is great for kids and helps them prepare for life. "Every time you play it's different. Every player you face is different. It's a battle."

"This program offers a high level of engagement right away. It's fun! The students are able to learn the game and can do it right after school on their school's campus." It gives parents a convenient way to get their kids introduced to tennis in a safe and fun setting and gives the kids something fun to do after school. Many of the kids go onto playing junior team tennis.

Mark, his wife Suzanne, and their children Matthew (6 years old), Charlie (21 months old), and Eleanor (21 months old) live in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. If you have interest in the TGA program, you can find more information at PLAYTGA.com. 📄



MARKSTANGELAND

see HighFIVE, page 18



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A

Arthur Ashe has said, "From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life." Those words hold special meaning for Clinton C. Vessels, III, the interim president of the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation (CYTF). The stage 4 cancer survivor, who at one point had been given 6 months to live, is now more determined than ever to solidify his legacy of bringing the opportunity of tennis to everyone — especially underprivileged young people.

Stepping onto the tennis court at the age of 10 under the influence of his beloved father, Clinton C. Vessels, Jr., his life direction would be permanently altered and the number of doors tennis would open would become hard to count. Starting as a ball boy for Arthur Ashe and then going on to be selected to play national tournaments, he would get to meet other tennis greats such as Althea Gibson.

Being one of the first African-American athletes to have this opportunity ignited his passion to open doors for others. "I was very lucky to be a part of that," he explains regarding his extraordinary opportunity to travel the world and play tennis in clubs that at that time was prohibited to most African-Americans. He said he was also blessed to have two highly educated parents who had the means and desire to support the tennis dreams he had. Understanding that even in today's world, however, economic and social factors still exist that can be a barrier for young athletes, he is on a mission to raise as much money for the foundation as he can.

Clinton is in his 19th year serving on the board of the CYTF, which helps fund young netters from the ages of 8-18 by providing scholarships and program grants to ensure all kids have access to tennis, regardless of their economic, social or ethnic background. He knows that tennis isn't just a sport — it's much bigger than that. "Tennis teaches etiquette, sportsmanship, honesty," he explains, adding that it's allowed him to meet "extraordinary people from all over the world." He also says that's such a mental game, one where you are forced to think for yourself.

Clinton awakes each day grateful for life and tennis and the way they have complemented each other, life giving him tennis skills and tennis giving him life skills. He credits battling cancer to how he's approached tennis. "Had I never been involved in tennis, I might not have approached it the same way. My life would not have been the same."

Supported by his incredible doctors, the tennis community, and his wife, Debra, who he's known for 48 years, Clinton says that life after cancer forces him to prioritize and live each and every day with an understanding of how precious life is. Looking to solidify a legacy with the Foundation, he is focused on raising as much money as he can for as many kids as he can so that they will lead more fulfilling lives. Helping the families of disadvantaged youths, keeping them on track and putting them into a community where their dreams can come true is what it's all about.

USTA Colorado Executive Director Fritz Garger said Clinton's strength and commitment are invaluable to the kids and the foundation. "Clinton has been an integral part from day 1 of the revitalized CYTF Board of Trustees. I have known him for most of my life and he represents so much of what is truly good about this sport. He's thoughtful, considerate, caring and professional. The CYTF has been fortunate to have someone of his character involved with our work and our mission. He's passionate about helping kids in need and knows first-hand what this sport can do for youngsters."

Acknowledging that tennis has given him more than he can give it, Clinton said he knows he must give back. And dealing with cancer? As financially and emotionally devastating as it has been and continues to be he said being forced to reprioritize has been rewarding. "I'm going to pick life over death," he says laughing. "I was not born with an expiration date on my forehead."

You can help Clinton continue to bring the sport of tennis to kids by visiting COLORADOTENNIS.com and clicking on the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation logo.



CLINTON C VESSELS III

ADULT LEAGUES

35 AND COUNTING

USTA LEAGUES CELEBRATE 35TH ANNIVERSARY

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USTA Adult 18 & Over July 31-August 2 / August 21-23 (SLC)	CTA Adult 65 & Over September 15-17 / October 16-18 (Boise)
CTA Women's Daytime Doubles August 11-13	CTA Women's Summer Daytime September 28-30
USTA Adult 55 & Over August 14-16 / September 25-27 (Denver)	CTA Twilight October 2-4
USTA Adult 40 & Over August 28-30 / September 18-20 (Denver)	

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78' court, YELLOW ball

Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation

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2015 ITA SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS

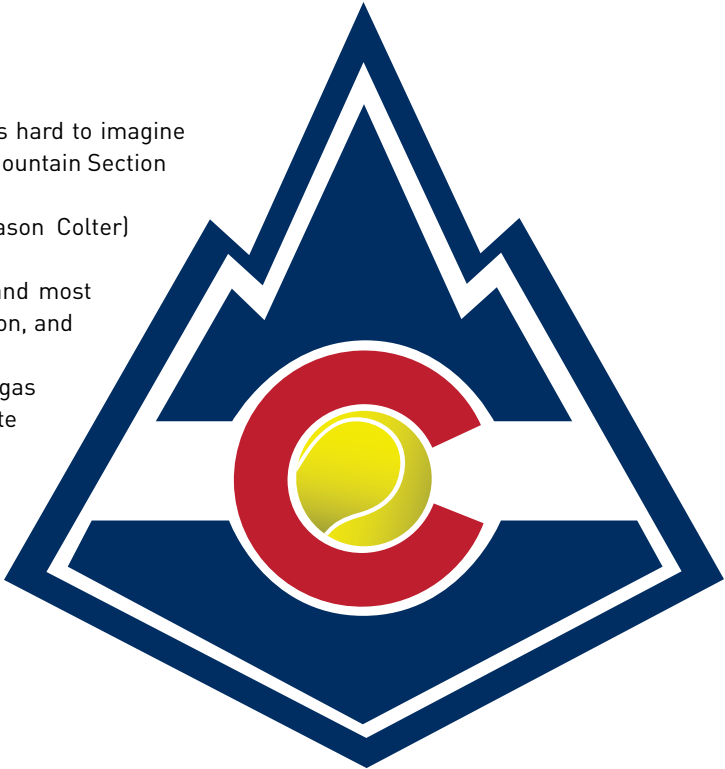
COLORADO JUNIORS MAKE THE MOST OF HOME COURT ADVANTAGE

Given the unnatural outbreak of Pacific Northwest weather Colorado had throughout most of June, it's hard to imagine finding enough dry courts in a four-day span to accommodate the 750 entrants from across the Intermountain Section and the more than 900 matches it took to crown champions in 16 competitive divisions.

But the tennis scheduling gods (and the incredible staff assembled by tournament director Jason Colter) managed to do just that for the 2015 ITA Summer Championships, held in Denver from June 6-9.

This is the third consecutive year that Colorado has hosted the Summer Championships, which is the largest and most prestigious event on the Intermountain calendar. The annual event is one of just two USTA Level 3 events in the Section, and the only one to be held in Colorado.

This year's event featured some of the nation's top players, especially the Girls 18s draw, which featured Las Vegas native (and newest Stanford recruit) Kimberly Yee alongside Colorado high school champions Kalyssa Hall, Tate Schroeder and Rebecca Weissmann. Other Girls 18s notables include two-time Colorado high school finalists Nicole Kalhorn and Alexandra Weil, as well as 2015 Easter Bowl Champion Samantha Martinelli (from Denver).



2015 ITA Summer Championships Boys' Divisions (Colorado results)

- B18s: Casey Ross (Champion)
Ethan Hillis (3rd)
- B18d: Casey Ross (Finalist)
- B16s: Nicholas Lorenz (Finalist)
Kap Smith (3rd)
Kai Smith (4th)
- B16d: Tom Melville (Champion)
Richter Jordaan/Nicholas Lorenz (Finalists)
- B14s: Jett Middleton (4th)
- B12s: Clark Steinhauer (Champion)
Nico Jamison (6th)

2015 ITA Summer Championships Girls' Divisions (Colorado results)

- G18s: Rebecca Weissmann (Champion)
Tate Schroeder (4th)
Samantha Martinelli (5th)
- G18d: Tate Schroeder (Champion)
- G16s: Madison Gallegos (Finalist)
Amber Shen (3rd)
- G14s: Veronika Bruetting (6th)
G14d: Morgan Hall (Champion)
- G12s: Valerie Negin (3rd)
Eliza Hill (5th)
- G12d: Eliza Hill/Nichole Hill (Finalists)

JUNIOR PLAYERS RECEIVE PLAY KIND AWARD

Meet the 2015 USTA Intermountain Summer Closed Championship Play KIND Award winners. The award, presented by USTA Colorado official snack partner KIND, invites players to practice good sportsmanship. Both players received a KIND Prize Pack in recognition of their awards.

Vinay Merchant (Colorado)

What do you love about tennis?

The thing I love the most about tennis is how social it is. I have made so many great friends.

What does playing KIND mean?

Playing KIND on and off the court is a major expectation I have for myself. I always want to perform my best, but it's not worth performing when I sacrifice my composure for a win.

Why is playing KIND important?

Playing KIND gives you a certain respect on and off the court.

Life skills learned from tennis:

Tennis has given me the ability to be independent and react under pressure. I know it also has given me the ability to learn and grow.

What would you tell young players about playing KIND?

I encourage younger players to have fun and make as many friends as they can. But most of all, don't be afraid to compete and give 100% in practice and everything you do.



Julia Fenn (Wyoming)

What do you love about tennis?

Tennis is a fast paced chess game that involves quick and smart shots in trying to overcome one's opponents.

What does playing KIND mean?

RESPECT!! No matter the skill level of your opponent, she needs to be treated with value. Playing KIND also means that it's important to take time to hit with younger players.

Why is playing KIND important?

It raises the level of play for the players, spectators, officials and coaches. I want to be the best person I can be on and off the court. Playing KIND helps me win graciously and lose with honor.

Life skills learned from tennis:

I've learned how to manage adversity and work with different people. Tennis has helped me control pressure. The physical, mental and emotional stress of tennis causes me to be patient and calm when dealing with pressure as it does with my school work

What would you tell young players about playing KIND?

Tennis is more fun when you and your opponent respect each other. You can achieve this by playing KIND.

COLORADO CHAMPIONS PHOTO GALLERY
SINGLES // INTERMOUNTAIN SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS



CASEY ROSS
CHAMPION B18 SINGLES
FINALIST B18 DOUBLES



REBECCA WEISSMANN
CHAMPION G18 SINGLES



CLARK STEINHAUSER
CHAMPION B12 SINGLES



MADISON GALLEGOS
FINALIST G 16 SINGLES



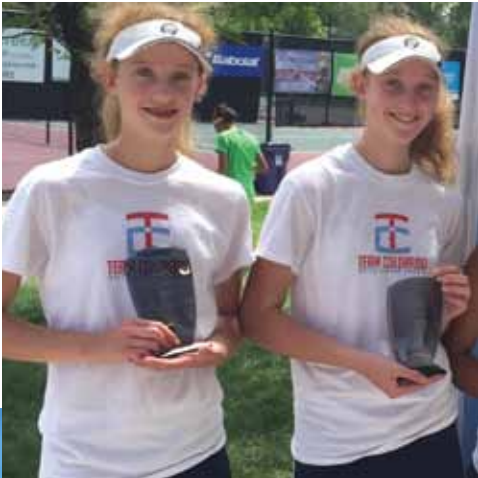
TOM MELVILLE	NICHOLAS LORENZ	RICHTER JORDAAN
CHAMPION B16 DOUBLES	FINALIST B16 SINGLES FINALIST B16 DOUBLES	FINALIST B16 DOUBLES



MORGAN HALL (L) ▲
CHAMPION G14 DOUBLES



ELIZA & NICOLE HILL ▲
FINALISTS G12 DOUBLES





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Summer Champions
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PREP**COMPETITION**

BURGER STANDS TALL; CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN SECURES 7TH CONSECUTIVE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (20TH OVERALL)

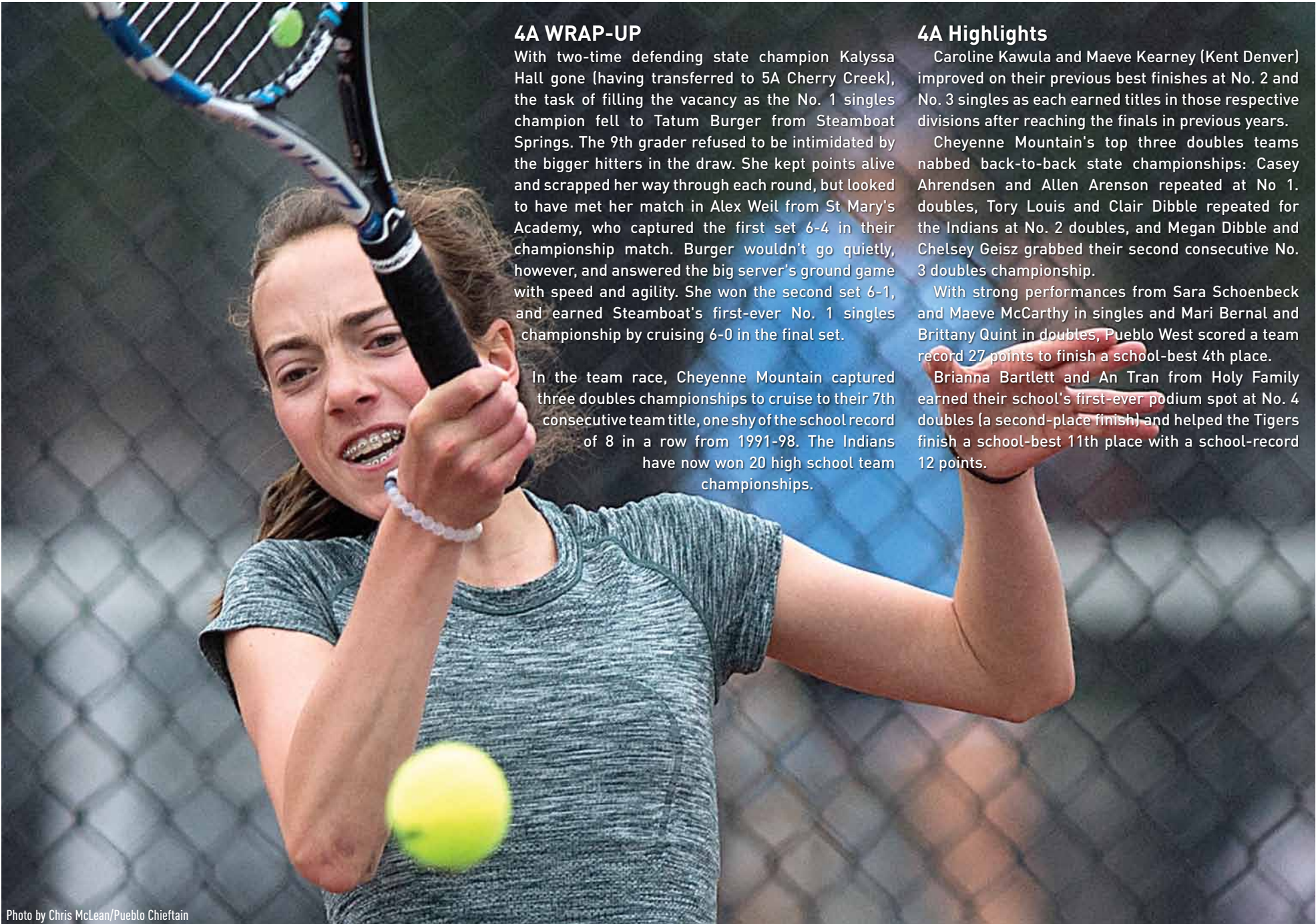


Photo by Chris McLean/Pueblo Chieftain

4A Individual Results

No. 1 singles

Championship: Tatum Burger, Steamboat Springs, def. Alex Weil, St. Mary's Academy, 4-6, 6-1, 6-0
3rd place: Sara Schoenbeck, Pueblo West, def. Tara Edwards, Colorado Academy, 6-4, 7-6

No. 2 singles

Championship: Caroline Kawula, Kent Denver, def. Daniela Adamczyk, Cheyenne Mountain, 6-4, 7-6, 7-5
3rd place: Taylor Thulson, Niwot, def. Savannah Mease, Colorado Academy, 6-3, 6-3

No. 3 singles

Championship: Maeve Kearney, Kent Denver, def. Jessica Metz, Cheyenne Mountain, 6-3, 6-1
3rd place: Maeve McCarthy, Pueblo West, def. Morgan Bullen, Colorado Academy, 7-6, 6-1

4A WRAP-UP

With two-time defending state champion Kalyssa Hall gone (having transferred to 5A Cherry Creek), the task of filling the vacancy as the No. 1 singles champion fell to Tatum Burger from Steamboat Springs. The 9th grader refused to be intimidated by the bigger hitters in the draw. She kept points alive and scrapped her way through each round, but looked to have met her match in Alex Weil from St Mary's Academy, who captured the first set 6-4 in their championship match. Burger wouldn't go quietly, however, and answered the big server's ground game with speed and agility. She won the second set 6-1, and earned Steamboat's first-ever No. 1 singles championship by cruising 6-0 in the final set.

In the team race, Cheyenne Mountain captured three doubles championships to cruise to their 7th consecutive team title, one shy of the school record of 8 in a row from 1991-98. The Indians have now won 20 high school team championships.

4A Highlights

Caroline Kawula and Maeve Kearney (Kent Denver) improved on their previous best finishes at No. 2 and No. 3 singles as each earned titles in those respective divisions after reaching the finals in previous years.

Cheyenne Mountain's top three doubles teams nabbed back-to-back state championships: Casey Ahrendsen and Allen Arenson repeated at No. 1. doubles, Tory Louis and Clair Dibble repeated for the Indians at No. 2 doubles, and Megan Dibble and Chelsey Geisz grabbed their second consecutive No. 3 doubles championship.

With strong performances from Sara Schoenbeck and Maeve McCarthy in singles and Mari Bernal and Brittany Quint in doubles, Pueblo West scored a team record 27 points to finish a school-best 4th place.

Brianna Bartlett and An Tran from Holy Family earned their school's first-ever podium spot at No. 4 doubles (a second-place finish) and helped the Tigers finish a school-best 11th place with a school-record 12 points.

No. 1 doubles

Championship: Casey Ahrendsen/Ally Arenson, Cheyenne Mountain, def. Claudia Morse/Sage Lochhead, Colorado Academy, 6-2, 6-1
3rd place: Elizabeth Smedley/Natalie Brondson, Kent Denver, def. Annie Hertel/Tiffany Parobek, Valor Christian, 6-3, 6-1

No. 2 doubles

Championship: Tory Louis/Claire Dibble, Cheyenne Mountain, def. Mikayla McDuff/Meghan McDuff, Valor Christian, 6-1, 6-2
3rd place: Angie Reed/Taylor Whatley, D'Evelyn, def. Tempel Haifleigh/Isabel Haifleigh, Kent Denver, 6-3, 6-1

No. 3 doubles

Championship: Megan Dibble/Chelsey Geisz, Cheyenne Mountain, def. Keva O'Connor/Anna Oosterhous, Air Academy, 6-4, 6-1
3rd place: Alaina Dawson/Jackie Pettit, Valor Christian, def. Mari Bernal/Brittany Quint, Pueblo West, 6-3, 7-5

No. 4 doubles

Championship: Trinity Payne/Cammy Lee, D'Evelyn, def. Brianna Bartlett/An Tran, Holy Family, 6-3, 6-1
3rd place: Tatum Mika/Rachel Perry, Cheyenne Mountain, def. Toni Troje/Allison Reeder, Air Academy, 6-3, 6-1

4A Team Results

1 Cheyenne Mountain	73
2 Kent Denver	46
3 Colorado Academy	37
4 Pueblo West	27
5 D'Evelyn	25
6 Valor Christian	24
7 Steamboat Springs	21
8 Air Academy	17
9 Niwot	16
10 St Mary's Academy	14
11 Holy Family	12
T12 Conifer	3
T12 Durango	3
T14 Mullen	2
T14 Eaton	2
T16 Discovery Canyon	1
T16 Palmer Ridge	1
T16 Windsor	1
T16 University	1
T16 Longmont	1
T16 Pueblo South	1
T16 Montrose	1

SHEN UPSETS HALL; CREEK GIRLS TIE CREEK BOYS WITH 19TH STRAIGHT TEAM TITLE



5A WRAP-UP

The 2015 Colorado Girls 5A State High School Tennis Championships may go down in prep history as the "Draw That Might Have Been", as three of the state's top high school contenders — including the last two No. 1 singles champions (who were both named High School All Americans) — opted out of prep play. Missing from the ranks is last year's champ, Tate Schroeder (Junior/Arapahoe), 2014 champion Rebecca Weissmann (Senior/Loveland) and two-time runner-up Nicole Kalhorn (Senior/Pine Creek).

All eyes were on two-time reigning 4A champ Kalyssa Hall from Cheyenne Mountain — who moved to the Denver metro area and now attends 5A Cherry Creek High School — to see if the junior could become the first player to win three consecutive state No. 1 singles titles since Nicole Leimbach (4A) and Sara Andunsen (5A) both accomplished the feat back in 2004. Standing in her way Fairview's Amber Shen, who was competing in her first-ever high school championships. After playing tentatively and dropping the first set 3-6, Shen proceeded to go down 1-3 in the second set. Although Shen is just a freshman, she regained her composure and won the next four games. But Hall would battle back. Despite being overruled several times by the chair umpire, Hall took a 6-5 lead, just one game away from a third consecutive championship. Shen then broke Hall, and leveled the match at one set apiece, winning the tiebreak 7-3. The third set was filled with drama, as Hall was again overturned by the chair several times. Shen's two-handed groundstrokes from both sides proved to be more consistent than Hall's big forehand in the final set, and the match was locked 6-6 with a tiebreak left to determine the champion. Due in part to two more overrules by the chair, Shen went on to win the third set tiebreak 8-6 to secure Fairview's first No. 1 singles championship since Becky Callan in 1979.

5A Highlights

Cherry Creek won its 19th consecutive state team title, equaling the record set by the Cherry Creek Boys' Squad (1972-90).

Mountain Vista and Mountain Range both scored firsts in this year's event, as Casey Zhong (MV) and Kristen Kirby (MR) led the schools to their highest ever team finishes (4th and 6th respectively)

Ralston Valley seniors Haley Weidemann and Adrien Horowitz led the Mustangs to a school-high 25 points. The duo had played every match in their high school careers together, and finished with a state title at No. 1 doubles.

5A Individual Results

No. 1 singles
Championship: Amber Shen, Fairview def. Kalyssa Hall, Cherry Creek, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (6)
3rd place: Casey Zhong, Mountain Vista def. Kristen Kirby, Mountain Range, 6-1, 4-6, 6-2

No. 2 singles
Championship: Anshika Singh, Cherry Creek def. Natalie Munson, Fairview, 6-0, 6-0
3rd place: Emma Jo Wiley, Fossil Ridge def. Kendra Lavallee, Mountain Vista, 6-1, 6-3

No. 3 singles
Championship: Gloria Son, Cherry Creek def. Angela Cai, Fairview, 6-1, 6-3
3rd place: Tara Teslow, Fossil Ridge def. Haley Hilenbrand, Legend, 6-3, 6-1

No. 1 doubles
Championship: Haley Weidemann/Adrien Horowitz, Ralston Valley def. Sam Penhale, Bailey Koronich, Fossil Ridge, 6-3, 6-3
3rd place: Maddie Roberts/Micha Handler, Cherry Creek def. Natalie Sloboth/Sarah Shortall, Arapahoe, 6-2, 6-1

No. 2 doubles
Championship: Jessie Murphy/Mariela Hollines, Cherry Creek def. Carolyn Roberts/Ellie Savage, Fairview, 6-2, 6-3
3rd place: Katie Mead/Alyssa Schroeder, Denver East def. Sydney Boyle/Caroline Skibness, Rock Canyon, 6-2, 7-6 (5)

No. 3 doubles
Championship: Sarah Sharpe/Skylar Caledonia, Fairview def. Julia Mannino/Sara Grace Walker, Cherry Creek, 6-3, 6-4
3rd place: Caroline McLeod/Olivia Woods, Heritage def. Laura Froning/Olivia Boyd, Chatfield, 7-5, 7-6 (4)

No. 4 doubles
Championship: Hannah Peterson/Allison Murphy, Cherry Creek def. Riley Knipp/Priya Keller, Ralston Valley, 6-3, 6-3
3rd place: Lydia Supe/Katie Hinz, Fossil Ridge def. Caralynn Jamison/Lily Siegert, Fairview, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4)

5A Team Results

1	Cherry Creek	87
2	Fairview	67
3	Fossil Ridge	39
4	Mountain Vista	25
5	Ralston Valley	25
6	Mountain Range	15
T7	Denver East	11
T7	Heritage	11
9	Rock Canyon	9
10	Arapahoe	7
11	Legend	7
12	Poudre	6
13	Greeley West	4
14	Chatfield	3
T15	Columbine	2
T15	Highlands Ranch	2
T15	Lakewood	2
T16	Regis Jesuit	1
T16	Liberty	1
T16	Legacy	1
T16	Ponderosa	1
T16	Douglas County	1
T16	Fruita Monument	1

PLAYERDEVELOPMENT

COLLEGE RECRUITING LIST, SUMMER 2015
THE LATEST NATIONAL STANDINGS FROM TENNISRECRUITING.NET



TENNISRECRUITING.NET

BOYS

CLASS RANK	PLAYER	HOMETOWN	CLASS RANK	PLAYER	HOMETOWN	CLASS RANK	PLAYER	HOMETOWN	CLASS RANK	PLAYER	HOMETOWN
2015 62	David Mitchell	Castle Rock	2016 1637	James Kasic	Boulder	2018 974	Quinn Bermingham	Denver	2020 386	Caden Kammerer	Longmont
2015 93	Spencer Lang	Longmont				2018 1034	Tanner Jones	Colorado Springs	2020 606	John Dick	Highlands Ranch
2015 204	Ignatius Castelino	Superior	2017 78	Casey Ross	Littleton	2018 1054	Stone Heyman	Englewood	2020 657	Paul Jones	Manitou Springs
2015 388	Tommy Mason	Boulder	2017 111	Ethan Hillis	Centennial	2018 1115	Aaron Nguyen	Louisville	2020 681	Nicholas Svchar	Greenwood Village
2015 418	Fletcher Kerr	Denver	2017 371	Ben Antonsen	Highlands Ranch	2018 1149	Connor Larson	Boulder	2020 698	Cruz Culpepper	Lafayette
2015 448	Keenan Kaltenbacher	Colorado Springs	2017 379	Kai Smith	Denver	2018 1176	Jordan Wagner	Littleton	2020 742	Akhil Gupta	Severance
2015 543	Harshil Dwivedi	Greenwood Village	2017 424	Robby Hill	Greenwood Village	2018 1238	Evan Nuss	Castle Rock	2020 815	Stefan Hester	Longmont
2015 569	Lucas Martin	Fort Collins	2017 540	Ryan James	Denver	2018 1345	Sam Angell	Denver	2020 959	Riley Burridge	Boulder
2015 681	William Hobbs	Boulder	2017 544	Draden Hoover	Aurora	2018 1349	Arjun Gupta	Severance	2020 976	Austin Kattenhorn	Lafayette
2015 728	Colby Jimenez	Denver	2017 633	Niko Hereford	Denver	2018 1386	Finn Gullickson	Colorado Springs	2020 984	Jean-Loup Auzias	Denver
2015 734	Dakota Burns	Pueblo	2017 725	Matthew Lambert	Aspen	2018 1398	Jack LaBarge	Denver	2020 1019	Alex Gordon	Cherry Hills Village
2015 757	Dante Alcala	Pueblo	2017 736	Frederick Edwards	Bayfield	2018 1413	Carter Holbrook	Boulder	2020 1075	Kian Grimison	Boulder
2015 814	Ashwin Vaithianathan	Highlands Ranch	2017 737	Dylan Zumar	Aurora	2018 1446	Adam Chehadi	Louisville	2020 1085	Dario Alcala	Pueblo
2015 875	Cody Carlton	Castle Rock	2017 755	Matthew Chavez	Mead	2018 1448	Brooks Savage	Boulder	2020 1106	Alex Baum	Littleton
2015 936	Carter Pentz	Niwot	2017 779	Andrew Gillette	Arvada	2018 1472	Ethan Katz	Boulder	2020 1124	Lukas Bachmann	Boulder
2015 965	Jimmy Amundson	Littleton	2017 839	Tom Hudson	Golden	2018 1509	Laird Stewart	Englewood	2020 1200	William Holst	Greenwood Village
2015 972	Nic Hoime	Ft. Collins	2017 844	Alex Gelevei	Denver	2018 1576	Christian Ridings	Colorado Springs	2020 1213	Caleb Aguirre	Cherry Hills Village
2015 987	Dylan Griffin	Longmont	2017 908	Devin Harper	Westminster	2018 1582	Everett Martin	Boulder	2020 1219	Michael Conde	Superior
2015 1006	Joseph Bove	Castle Rock	2017 1091	Aaron Weil	Highlands Ranch	2018 1617	Zack Fox	Littleton	2020 1231	Ben Bicknell	Niwot
2015 1019	Keller Hartline	Lafayette	2017 1207	Graham Blanco	Boulder	2018 1629	Alexander Wimer	Englewood	2020 1250	Ieodor Cariov	Boulder
2015 1027	Trace Collins	Parker	2017 1209	Erich Nuss	Castle Pines	2018 1637	Benjamin Krafstur	Fort Collins	2020 1261	Robert Metz	Colorado Springs
2015 1035	Zachary Fluck	Canon City	2017 1253	Cameron McGregor	Littleton	2018 1646	Drew Hill	Greenwood Village	2020 1278	Nicholas Solimene	Highlands Ranch
2015 1080	Sean Snediker	Monument	2017 1263	Stefan Orton-Urbina	Colorado Springs	2018 1647	Luke Aubert	Grand Junction	2020 1285	Cam Cramer	Niwot
2015 1102	Alex Dressen-Shipley	Fort Collins	2017 1274	Jack Ferry	Lafayette	2018 1689	Zachary Smith	Greenwood Village	2020 1300	William Jones	Littleton
2015 1105	Azur Ali	Boulder	2017 1287	Samuel Hoelscher	Lakewood				2020 1328	Zach Scott	Aurora
			2017 1290	Connor Clancy	Greeley	2019 49	Nicholas Lorenz	Colorado Springs	2020 1340	Jake Blunt	Colorado Springs
2016 280	Jacob Lapkin	Grand junction	2017 1356	Joshua Fields	Franktown	2019 57	Richter Jordaan	Cherry Hills Village	2020 1343	Blake Davis	Littleton
2016 309	William Gold	Denver	2017 1442	Xavier Pacheco	Englewood	2019 151	Brett Finan	Broomfield	2020 1346	Benjamin Idler	Golden
2016 408	Alec Leddon	Boulder	2017 1474	Charles Smith	Steamboat Springs	2019 277	Christian Holmes	Littleton	2020 1365	Ryan Grayson	Boulder
2016 424	McCulloh Mease	Littleton	2017 1479	Coulten Davis	Colorado Springs	2019 528	Carter Logan	Denver	2020 1368	Michael Crum	Denver
2016 517	Jackson Hawk	Boulder	2017 1492	Jacob Stringer	Longmont	2019 575	Kosta Garger	Englewood	2020 1375	Andre Maltzahn	Fort Collins
2016 651	Noah Forman	Golden	2017 1555	David Zhao	Superior	2019 591	Sam Nassif	Denver	2020 1396	Roy Lundeen	Steamboat Springs
2016 657	Jeremiah Hansen	Colorado Springs	2017 1575	Nolan Connell	Steamboat Springs	2019 690	Teague Burger	Steamboat Springs			
2016 670	Ben Petrak	Boulder	2017 1587	Will Dennen	Castle Rock	2019 766	Jackson Klutznick	Denver	2021 99	Clark Steinhauser	Denver
2016 703	Ben Blea	Parker	2017 1598	Ryan Lahr	Evergreen	2019 777	Andy Wu	Boulder	2021 198	Neil Wilcox	Boulder
2016 704	Colton Hill	Colorado Springs	2017 1611	Drake Wilson	Monument	2019 882	Henry Cox	Parker	2021 310	Luke Silverman	Boulder
2016 738	Cutter Esson	Boulder	2017 1662	Samuel Vang	Westminster	2019 959	Alexander Ilıc	Aspen	2021 411	Nicholas Dietrich	Golden
2016 741	Thomas Koszowski	Denver				2019 1078	Cal Hegstrom	Grand Junction	2021 633	Grigor Karakelyan	Aurora
2016 906	Jake Becker	Centennial	2018 97	Kasper Smith	Boulder	2019 1089	Tyler Landen	Centennial	2021 667	Louis Salfi	Denver
2016 1001	Zhan Su	Louisville	2018 260	Charlie Franks	Denver	2019 1144	Jackson Holland	Windsor	2021 713	John Austin Dick	Highlands Ranch
2016 1114	Maxwell Koszowski	Denver	2018 289	Tom Melville	Boulder	2019 1246	Andrew Seehausen	Lonetree	2021 770	Chase Walters	Highlands Ranch
2016 1153	Joshua Hunt	Castle Rock	2018 291	Joshua King	Englewood	2019 1280	Luke Miller	Colorado Springs	2021 780	David Bomgaars	Aurora
2016 1259	Spencer Clauson	Boulder	2018 346	Jack Moldenhauer	Denver	2019 1282	Beck Chrisbens	Boulder	2021 844	Andy Schuiling	Steamboat Springs
2016 1260	Eli Wiener	Denver	2018 479	Jack Alexander	Littleton	2019 1373	Alex Aljani	Denver	2021 848	Phillip Albright	Denver
2016 1302	Nathan Lazarus	Boulder	2018 486	Mitchell Johnson	Cherry Hills Village	2019 1426	Mason Lewis	Broomfield	2021 857	Arjun Batra	Aurora
2016 1341	Jackson Johar	Fort Collins	2018 507	Daniel Guiot	Denver	2019 1471	Maxwell Probst	Highlands Ranch	2021 862	Nico Gonzalez	Denver
2016 1353	Vamsi Senthilvel	Highlands Ranch	2018 523	Skyler Gates	Littleton	2019 1472	Christopher Du	Highlands Ranch	2021 892	George Henry Hanzel	Denver
2016 1364	Grant Wood	Westminster	2018 567	Dillon Leasure	Carbondale	2019 1503	Brenden Arndt	Longmont	2021 926	Dayton Fisher	Arvada
2016 1383	Chanon Penvari	Aurora	2018 597	David Kijak	Aurora	2019 1507	Cameron Weckerly	Niwot	2021 947	Christopher Nelson	Castle Rock
2016 1504	Cameron Bergan	Aurora	2018 607	Vinay Merchant	Centennial	2019 1519	Riley Black	Niwot	2021 949	Chris Swanson	Highlands Ranch
2016 1545	Troy de Jong	Steamboat Springs	2018 618	Ryan Neale	Parker	2019 1529	Wyatt Stempel	Steamboat Springs	2021 988	Wyatt Stack	Boulder
2016 1571	Simon Lupo	Westminster	2018 801	Ethan Schacht	Boulder	2019 1555	Ethan Paulus	Steamboat Springs	2021 990	Jack Larson	Arvada
2016 1594	Daniel Stephan	Highlands Ranch	2018 824	Benjamin Murray	Englewood	2019 1565	Samson Knappe	Fort Collins	2021 1002	Zak Chehadi	Louisville
2016 1595	Brent Edwards	Littleton	2018 848	Henry Hawk	Boulder				2021 1005	Samuel Keronen	Longmont
2016 1611	Dustin Bohuslavski	Peyton	2018 852	Patrick Seby	Denver						
2016 1613	Henry Raeder	Evergreen	2018 932	Bradley Ma	Colorado Springs						

GIRLS

CLASS RANK	PLAYER	HOMETOWN	CLASS RANK	PLAYER	HOMETOWN	CLASS RANK	PLAYER	HOMETOWN	CLASS RANK	PLAYER	HOMETOWN
2015 27	Nicole Kathorn	Colorado Springs	2017 490	Madison Wolfe	Monument	2019 314	Morgan Hall	Colorado Springs	2020 828	Noelle Cerone	Steamboat Springs
2015 31	Gabrielle Schuck	Colorado Springs	2017 495	Shawnea Pagat	Fort Collins	2019 380	Josephine Schaffer	Greenwood Village	2020 832	Mae Thorp	Steamboat Springs
2015 357	Alexandra Weil	Cherry Hills Village	2017 536	Sadie Moseley	Denver	2019 567	Sayuri Garud	Englewood	2020 870	Isabella Pacheco	Englewood
2015 455	Isabella Melena	Arvada	2017 586	Maeve Kearney	Englewood	2019 730	Laura Bobby	Castle Rock	2020 899	Lexie Fisher	Greenwood Village
2015 583	Kylie Simons	Colorado Springs	2017 701	Sara Schoenbeck	Pueblo West	2019 766	Trisha Somasundaram	Superior	2020 917	Lauren Karaba	Castle Pines
2015 709	Ashley Burnett	Monument	2017 714	Grace Koza	Littleton	2019 786	Sophie Pearson	Longmont	2020 942	Rylee Jones	Castle Pines
			2017 1063	Maleeha Chowdhury	Highlands Ranch	2019 821	Amanda Schlatter	Cherry Hills Village	2020 953	Katherine Cantor	Centennial
			2017 1098	Tiffany Parobek	Lone Tree	2019 878	Madissen Allen	Centennial	2020 1034	Jordan Korb	Westminster
2016 13	Rebecca Weissmann	Loveland	2017 1105	Morgan Bullen	Denver	2019 899	Ashlen Grote	Highlands Ranch	2020 1042	Amanda Pruitt	Highlands Ranch
2016 66	Tate Schroeder	Centennial	2017 1134	Jennifer Phan	Thornton	2019 910	Emma Morrissey	Denver	2020 1063	Rebecca Pavot	Longmont
2016 105	Kalyssa Hall	Colorado Springs	2017 1166	Jamie Smith	Colorado Springs	2019 929	Mia Oliver	Denver			
2016 216	Gloria Son	Englewood	2017 1201	Murphy Harr	Arvada	2019 929	Mia Oliver	Denver	2021 142	Leyden Games	Boulder
2016 351	Caroline Kawula	Cherry Hills Village				2019 1017	Alexandra Bush	Greenwood Village	2021 146	Sarah Hamner	Fort Collins
2016 390	Kristen Kirby	Thornton	2018 85	Amber Shen	Broomfield	2019 1038	Samhita Bheemireddy	Highlands Ranch	2021 158	Samantha Anthony	Longmont
2016 393	Tara Edwards	Littleton	2018 168	Anshika Singh	Greenwood Village	2019 1050	Willow Purvis	Denver	2021 213	Eliza Hill	Greenwood Village
2016 466	Daniela Adamczyk	Colorado Springs	2018 245	Annika Bassey	Denver	2019 1080	Cassandra Sehic	Highlands Ranch	2021 242	Miranda Kawula	Cherry Hills Village
2016 532	Lauren Lindell	Parker	2018 258	Tatum Burger	Steamboat Springs	2019 1103	Josie Williams	Centennial	2021 284	Valerie Negin	Centennial
2016 597	Natalie Hagan	Lone Tree	2018 277	Emily Strande	Centennial	2019 1195	Trini Somasundaram	Superior	2021 299	Dilafzo Abdullaeva	Aurora
2016 663	Natalie Munson	Longmont	2018 289	Seraphin Castelino	Superior	2019 1220	Isabel Pan	Highlands Ranch	2021 393	Anna Reimers	Highlands Ranch
2016 800	Kendra Lavallee	Highlands Ranch	2018 351	Micha Handler	Englewood	2019 1246	Allyson Horvath	Broomfield	2021 404	Rachel Swan	Highlands Ranch
2016 894	Hanna Fernley	Greenwood Village	2018 403	Heather Volls	Colorado Springs	2019 1341	Olivia Thero	Fort Collins	2021 410	Nicole Hill	Greenwood Village
2016 906	Elsa Erickson	Longmont	2018 491	Ky Ecton	Fort Collins	2019 1348	Carley Bennett	Lakewood	2021 434	Lucy Lu	Broomfield
2016 907	Alexandria Bellas	Colorado Springs	2018 609	Natalie Bronsdon	Highlands Ranch				2021 484	Tatum Smith	Boulder
2016 913	Gabriella Hesse	Colorado Springs	2018 613	Julia Pentz	Niwot	2020 295	Mavis Edwards	Bayfield	2021 516	Mahima Gurung	Boulder
2016 919	Lauren Petty	Colorado Springs	2018 615	Sarah Fleming	Grand Junction	2020 362	Veronika Bruetting	Highlands Ranch	2021 582	Marina Youngdahl	Superior
2016 954	Sarah Megilligan	Pueblo West	2018 643	Mariela Hollines	Cherry Hills Village	2020 377	Meghna Chowdhury	Highlands Ranch	2021 583	Julia Rydel	Denver
2016 969	Jade Moore	Littleton	2018 737	Taylor Thulson	Louisville	2020 380	Samantha Moore-Thomson	Denver	2021 599	Cassidy Rich	Highlands Ranch
2016 1032	Sarah Casey	Monument	2018 872	Rachel Nguyen	Westminster	2020 412	Emily Untermeyer	Denver	2021 629	Camille Marsh	Englewood
2016 1038	Danielle Morin	Colorado Springs	2018 875	Emma Gaydos	Monument	2020 418	Lela Daszuta	Evergreen	2021 651	Natalie Stone	Broomfield
2016 1055	Mari Dudek	Highlands Ranch	2018 909	Alexandra Djomaliev	Loveland	2020 420	Hana Kimmey	Parker	2021 808	Lauren Manwiller	Evergreen
			2018 940	Savannah Mease	Littleton	2020 460	Olivia Desso	Evergreen	2021 844	Dahlia Rappaport	Englewood
2017 14	Samantha Martinelli	Denver	2018 1118	Tristen VanDeVeer	Colorado Springs	2020 517	Natalie Hamill	Fort Collins	2021 860	Anna Fusaris	Castle Rock
2017 100	Madison Gallegos	Aurora	2018 1135	Katie Herby	Broomfield	2020 642	Ellie Strande	Centennial			
2017 269	Casey Zhong	Highlands Ranch	2018 1146	Jenesse Johnson	Denver	2020 804	Haley Artis	Aurora			
2017 367	Alex Pessoa	Denver	2018 1238	Adriana Strode	Denver	2020 812	Mattie Kuntzelman	Colorado Springs			

THELASTWORD

TENNIS & THE BRAIN

PEACE OF MIND MAY BE THE SINGLE BEST REASON TO GET KIDS PLAYING TENNIS

KURTDESAUTELS
EDITOR, COLORADO TENNIS

I am a huge advocate for youth athletics. Sport — ALL SPORTS— do great things for kids. Organized sports not only keep kids healthier physically, but mentally as well.

Regular physical activity benefits youth in many ways, including helping build and maintain healthy bones, muscles and joints; helping control weight and reduce fat; and preventing or delaying the development of high blood pressure. The list of benefits goes on:

- Childhood sports participation is a significant predictor of young adults' participation in sports and physical fitness activities. Adolescents who play sports are eight times as likely to be active at age 24 as adolescents who do not play sports.
- In addition to living physically healthier lives, physical activity is associated with improved academic achievement, including grades and standardized test scores. Further, such activity can affect cognitive skills, attitudes and academic behavior, including enhanced concentration, attention, and improved classroom behavior.
- High school athletes are more likely than non-athletes to attend college and get degrees; team captains, MVPs achieve in school at even higher rates.
- A number of studies provide support for the premise that physical activity, and sports in particular, can positively affect aspects of personal development among young people, such as self-esteem, goal-setting, and leadership.
- Compared to non-athlete peers, female high school athletes are less likely to be sexually active, to use drugs, and to suffer from depression. The benefits extend to the workplace. A survey of 400 female corporate executives found 94 percent played a sport and that 61 percent say that has contributed to their career success.

But.... (there's always a "but").

Concussions: the elephant in the room

There is a silent epidemic in youth sports, one that sportswriter Bill Simmons calls "the single most important issue in sports today."

Concussions.

Concussions are real, they are dangerous, and they are becoming more and more frequent in youth sports. CDC reports show that the amount of reported concussions has doubled in the last 10 years. The American Academy of Pediatrics has reported that emergency room visits for concussions in kids ages 8 to 13 years old has doubled, and concussions have risen 200% among teens ages 14-19 in the last decade.

Many parents understand the dangers, but avoid the issue by wishing the problem away or hoping and praying that their sons or daughters never face the issue.

The simple fact of the matter is, while science is learning more and more about the danger of concussions and sub-concussive impacts each and every day, as a society, we need to answer some tough questions as to the nature of youth sports and the danger

of trauma on a developing young brain. The current research demonstrating the severity of trauma from a blow to the head while playing football — and even sports like hockey, lacrosse, soccer, baseball and basketball — is frightening to think about.

So, we don't. We shake our heads, and then we continue on as we always have, and put our collective heads in the sand. If we don't see it, or hear about it, or talk about it, maybe the whole thing will just go away.

But it's not going away. It's getting worse.

In 2012, there were 3,800,000 sports concussions reported. Breaking it down further, 1 in 5 high school athletes will sustain a sports concussion during the season, and 33% of those report two or more in the same year. Cumulative concussions have been shown to increase catastrophic head injury leading to permanent neurologic disability by nearly 40%.

Pulling our heads out

As a parent, you need to ask yourself the following question: Am I voluntarily putting my son/daughter at unnecessary risk by allowing him/her to play contact sports like football, hockey, lacrosse, or even soccer?

Before you consider the fairness of the question, consider the statistics (from the CDC):

Football players led all high school athletes in concussions, at 0.77 per 1,000 Athletic Exposures (defined as one athlete participating in one game or practice, in which he/she is exposed to the possibility of athletic injury). That may help explain why the number of boys playing Pop Warner football, the largest such program in the country, is down by nearly 10% since 2010.

The second most concussion-prone sport for boys is ice hockey (0.54), then lacrosse (0.46), followed by wrestling (0.24).

Girls have it even worse, especially when starting out. Soccer was considerably tougher on girls, who recorded a score of 0.67 per 1,000 AE compared to 0.19 for boys — concussions constitute fully 33.4% of all girls' soccer injuries, equalling the next two most common types of soccer injuries, to knees and to hips/thighs/upper legs, combined. By comparison, concussion accounted for a more modest 25.8% of boys' soccer injuries.

As with soccer, there's a gender imbalance present in basketball, the number two concussion sport for girls, at 0.56 per 1,000, twice the rate for boys' basketball (0.25).

The same gender disparity was present on the baseball diamond, where, as counterintuitive as it might seem, softball was more dangerous than hardball, with boys' concussion rates at 0.05 compared to girls' softball injury rates of 0.16.

And with the recent explosion in popularity of girls lacrosse and field hockey, it's also no surprise that concussion rates have climbed significantly in those sports as well, 0.35 and 0.25 per 1,000 AE respectively. Even cheerleading boasts an alarming concussion rate, at .014 per 1,000 AE. Remarkably, even non-contact girls' sports such as volleyball and gymnastics have concussion issues (0.09 and 0.07 per 1,000 AE respectively).

But concussions aren't the only problem when it comes to sports and young brains.

see PEACE OF MIND, page 29



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THEBIGCHAIR

STATE OF THE DISTRICT NEWS FROM USTA COLORADO HEADQUARTERS

FRITZGARGER

USTA COLORADO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This summer is absolutely humming along! Seems like schools just got out, and now many districts are kicking things off earlier in August than ever (seemingly). There are a lot of exciting things to report, and opportunities abound for players across the state. Here are a few items I'd like to highlight at this mid-way point of the year:

- Diversity & Inclusion — this has been a very exciting and meaningful year (to date). Our events at Cinco de Mayo (Denver's Civic Center Park), Diversity TennisFest (Montbello), Latina Lunch & Learn (Gates Tennis Center) and the Special Olympics Flame of Hope Torch Run were outstanding. We are reaching out to more people, exposing those involved to the benefits and opportunities provided through tennis. We're trying to make a difference — using tennis as a vehicle to bring people together — to benefit from tennis' physical, emotional, mental and social components; as well as to promote the fundamental core values of the sport — like fairness, and respect (of others and self) and share with others these ideals off-court.

- League tennis (adult and junior) is faring well, with increases across the board. We implemented changes to our overall schedule for 2015 that have proven to be beneficial overall. We have had significant activity and are now approaching an incredibly exciting time with a lot of local league play and upcoming playoffs that will extend into October. Our leagues continue to be some of the strongest in the entire country!

- Tournaments — we've rolled out (with the support of tournament directors) the new A.C.E. format for junior events — Futures, Challenger and some Championship level as well. The feedback from players and parents alike has been exceptional. People love the one-day events and all that comes with it (multiple matches, variety of opponents, one site, on- and off-court activity, social aspects). Despite this format's growing popularity across the country, USTA software does not yet support the new formats as well as we'd like. Our Tournament Directors are putting a lot of additional time into the orchestration of these events. It's not easy, and yet they have been very supportive of the idea that our tournament products need to evolve to better meet the needs of parents (primarily) and players alike. Our office has communicated our thoughts and ideas to USTA national in hopes that the software can be updated and enhanced to better support our directors.

- Community Development — we have hosted numerous workshops throughout the state in an effort to support coaches and ultimately collaborate with providers to insure the best possible tennis experience for newcomers. We anticipate that by year's end we'll have had close to 250 coaches participate in these workshops statewide. Our provider (facility) adopt-a-school initiative has been incredibly successful and we'll be building upon it this fall. We continue to provide the very best in support of schools with our USTA Schools Program — incorporating tennis units in before-, PE and after-school programs.

- Sponsorship & Special Events — Many thanks to our

sponsors. We could not provide the kind of experience we do for so many of our events were it not for the support of our sponsors. We have great partners who know the benefits of being connected to this great sport and our association. We're already gearing up for the 2016 Hall of Fame & Annual Awards Gala — congratulations to our soon-to-be inducted Hall of Famers: Susan Wright, Rich Berman, Andy Potter and Bobby Curtis (deceased).

We have two initiatives that we'll be rolling out the 2nd half of this year. One is a USTA initiative: Early Development Camps. We will be assembling players to be a part of four camps (August-November), but a major emphasis for us is centered on coaches education and parent education (see invite on page 10). A primary focus of ours is to spread the word re: a youngsters' development (i.e. importance of multi-sport participation/non-specialization and other key items) to both coaches and parents. The other roll out is our promotion of 3v3 tennis for juniors. For parents who have kids in other sports (i.e. hockey, soccer, basketball and/or volleyball) you'll know the premise. We're looking to collaborate with existing junior programs for them to incorporate our 3v3 program for youth tennis. So, providers should be on the lookout for updates about this new format and contact our office (dan@coloradotennis.com) for more information. It's exciting and another way to reach kids in a fun, active and, (importantly) 'team' atmosphere.

We appreciate your support of tennis and hope you're having a wonderful summer. From all of us at USTA Colorado... best wishes and enjoy!!! 🎾

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PIECE OF MIND...

continued from page 17

Other brain injuries

Purdue researchers recently compared changes in the brains of high school football players who had suffered concussions with the brains of players who were concussion free. They found brain tissue damage in both. That's scary stuff. That means brain injuries are occurring without concussions and without players, coaches or parents being aware of it (remember that girls soccer is the most concussion-prone sport for youth and high school female athletes). It turns out that it's not only helmet-to-helmet contact that can result in brain trauma.

A study conducted at Humboldt State University in California, revealed that both female and male soccer players who headed the ball the most during a game did worse on cognitive tests after the game than their peers who hadn't headed a ball. Moreover, the players that did the most heading also suffered more often from headaches and episodes of dizziness compared to players that headed the ball less often.

Another study by Harvard researchers looked at the brains of soccer players to those of swimmers, where they determined that there were changes in the white matter of the soccer players' brains that weren't there in the swimmers' brains.

Using our heads to protect young brains

Underlying these statistics is an important fact: the brains of youth and high school athletes are still developing, making them more vulnerable to brain injuries. As such, Dr. Robert Cantu, a neurosurgeon and leading expert on sports concussions, recommends that kids don't play tackle football before age 14. He also recommends banning heading in soccer and body checking in ice hockey before 14. In a New York Times editorial, Dr. Cantu even suggested that kids could be held out from these activities longer, as late as 16 or 18.

"In light of what we now know about concussions and the brains of children, though, many sports should be fine-tuned. But many parents and coaches are satisfied with the rules as they are. They like seeing youngsters in helmets and pads, and watching them slide headfirst into second base. The closer the peewee games resemble those of the professionals, the happier we are. It's natural for a parent or a coach. Even a neurosurgeon.

But children are not adults. Their bodies are still maturing. Their vulnerabilities to head trauma are far greater.

A child's brain and head are disproportionately large for the rest of the body, especially through the first five to eight years of life. And a child's weak neck cannot brace for a hit the way an adult's can (think of a bobblehead doll.) A child's cranium at 4 is about 90 percent the size an adult's. That's important to a discussion of concussions and concussion risk."

Now that we know what's going on, Cantu says we cannot continue to look the other way and pretend concussions will go away on their own. It's time to have an open discussion. His comments beg the question, do we really want to place a kid in any sport in which they are hitting their head on a regular basis?

So as parents, we need to embrace the benefits of youth sports and balance that with what we now know is dangerous and scary about them.

It boils down to this... How much contact is acceptable?

Now that you know....

So by now if you've read this far, you're virtually an expert on concussion frequency in youth sports. As an expert, what will you do with this new information?

Like you, I've kept my head in the sand on this issue when it comes to my own kids. But after a particularly alarming story told to me by an acquaintance, it made me realize that we, as a culture, as coaches and as parents, need to bring concussions out of the shadows. Better diagnosis, better after care, better awareness...all of these are crucial as we move forward. Since concussions happen even in non-contact sports like gymnastics and cheerleading, and since progressive brain injuries can occur even when there is no person-to-person contact, we need to rely on science and medicine and their ability to better prepare our players, and to better educate our parents and coaches. The danger is too high, given that the vast majority of concussions aren't even diagnosed properly, putting kids at risk for a secondary concussive event, which both prolongs and intensifies the dangerous effects to the brain.

Of course, there are always alternatives. You could yank your child out of sports altogether, but then all those positive attributes go by the wayside. Or you can enroll your child in a safer activity, one that offers all the tremendous benefits of sports but protects your child's most important asset....

Life lessons...minus the risk of concussion

As this is a tennis publication, you might not be overly surprised to learn that among the top 10 most popular high school sports, tennis ranks with golf and swimming as the activities with the fewest concussions/head injuries.

In fact, according to Dr. Neeru Jayanthi, the Medical Director of Primary Care Sports Medicine at Loyola University Chicago, concussions in tennis are incredibly rare (although they do occur). In his data set (comprised of more than 150 junior players competing in thousands of athletic exposures), they have recorded zero concussions.

Dr. Jayanthi and other neuroscientists have come to label tennis and swimming as a non-concussion sports, which may be a big relief to those parents who are anxious to introduce their kids to tennis.

Something else parents might not know is that compared to other sports, tennis players get better grades (48% have an "A" average), are better behaved (73% have never been sent to the principal's office), are more community-minded and well-rounded (82% volunteer in their community), and are less prone to risky behaviors, such as binge drinking, cigarette smoking and marijuana use (*More Than a Sport: Tennis, Education and Health*, Don Sabo, PHD).

You see, tennis isn't just a game. It's a great teacher.

It teaches you many of the important things in life, like perseverance, the value of sportsmanship, how to win or lose with dignity, good judgment, integrity and a sense of honesty. Introducing tennis to kids isn't just about teaching them the game, it's about teaching them a set of values that will last a lifetime.

All the teamwork, none of the padding

Tennis isn't unique in producing youngsters with positive characteristics. And tennis isn't unique in providing a safe environment for competitors. But other than tennis, how many sports can you name that have all of the positive benefits of physical exertion, balance, coordination, strength, stamina, problem-solving, competition....with virtually zero risk of head injury?

For those of you who have your children participating in any of the sports mentioned in this article, please understand that there is no finger-pointing or sideways glances directed toward you. My own children participate in contact sports, and thankfully, neither has experienced any collisions that would cause me to be concerned about their brains.

But...

It is estimated that at least one player sustains a mild concussion in nearly every American football game, and that the likelihood of an athlete in a contact sport experiencing a concussion is as high as 20% per season.

And once an athlete has suffered an initial concussion, his or her chances of a second one are 3 to 6 times greater than an athlete who has never sustained a concussion. In fact, more than a third of high school players in one recent survey reported two or more concussions within the same school year.

Yikes! These are odds that simply cannot be ignored. It's time that we, as parents, openly acknowledge and address the risks associated with youth contact sports.

As a parent of young athletes, both of whom are competing in contact sports, these statistics are sobering. And while I won't forbid my children from playing lacrosse or soccer or basketball, the reality is that we are now exploring new athletic opportunities, including tennis — which my son has previously sworn off (another story for another time).

The purpose of this article is not to scare anyone away from other sports, or to capitalize on fear in such a way to lead parents to tennis. We must educate ourselves and assess for our kids their best interests. As tennis players, you already know the value that this sport adds to your lives. Tennis has been called the "ideal sport for a healthy heart." But as we learn more and more about the dangers associated with physical contact in athletics, it is also time to recognize tennis as the "ideal sport for a healthy brain." 🧠





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ABOUT USTA COLORADO

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

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

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

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



USTA COLORADO

BACK ROW: Jarret Sutphin, 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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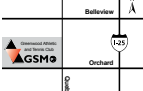
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