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There are several components that have gone into making Craig Marshall, Co-owner/Director of Junior Tennis at the Parker Racquet Club, the man he is. And it's his grassroots philosophy — that there should be no barriers to tennis — that came from his life of public service.

Fit and positive about life at 61, he was a career public school PE teacher



CRAIG MARSHALL

for over 30 years, a tennis coach at Rangeview High School and Legend High School, and is a supporter of wheelchair tennis, as well as and an advocate for Aceing Autism.

A visionary in helping to bring the new public/private tennis facility to the Parker community, he said the road to the March 19th opening was a long haul but well worth the efforts.

"We have had a loyal following that invested into this vision," he says.

"Our top goal is to give 100% customer service to our players."

Love, actually, was what brought Mike Ferrufino, CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of commerce to the sport of tennis.

"Early on, it was the realization that my marriage and relationship would be much better if I participated," Mike jokes about taking up tennis for his wife, Sarah Marks. "We even got engaged at the French Open."

MIKE FERRUFINO



Colorado has the 8th largest Hispanic population in the nation but also the worst Hispanic Achievement gap out of the top 10 most populated states, Mike has a specific interest in the education and health of the community and has seen how tennis can be an integral part of that mission.

"The role that tennis can play is substantial by teaching universal values, addressing health and exercise, and opening new doors," Mike said. "The barriers to entry are actually quite low in tennis."

It isn't often that a golf professional transitions into a career in tennis, but that's exactly what happened with Jaime Stokes, who began her tennis career without ever having held a racquet before.

A Colorado native, Jaime earned a golf scholarship from the University of Hawaii, and was Event Coordinator at Fossil Trace Golf Club. Long hours (80-90 hours a week) resulted



JAIME STOKES

in burnout and prompted the need to change. Six years ago, Jaime was recruited by Meadow Creek Tennis & Fitness Club for her proven organizational skills to help out with anything that's "organized." Jaime was recently promoted to Assistant GM. She helps with virtually all aspects of running the club including customer service, accounting, payroll, employee management, as well as USTA leagues, 10 annual tournaments and anything else that comes across her desk.

"Ultimately it's all about everyone having fun and being connected."

It has been said that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, and in the case of 5-star recruit, Nico Jamison (Nicholas Jamison III), the tennis ball didn't fall far from his family tennis tree. His father, Nicholas Jamison II, won a state title at Greeley West.

An incoming freshman who attends Frontier Academy (they don't have a tennis team), Nico will

NICO JAMISON



most likely play for his father's alma mater.

Nico finished 4th in singles and won doubles at the Sectional Level 3 that was in Denver in June. He has competed strongly in a number of national events, collecting dozens of wins and numerous podium finishes (top-6). He was also a 2018 USTA Colorado Boys Sportsmanship Award Winner, a reflection of his tennis and life philosophy.

"Be a humble winner—it's your time to shine, your time to find a way to win. But off the court it's time to be friends with other players," Nico said.

Although she's just entering 8th grade, Amina Abdullaeva is already being recognized as a fine tennis player, but she is also an exceptional young lady.

On the court, Amina recently reached the finals of the Girls 14s division at the Intermountain Summer Championships (as an unseeded player), and won the Intermountain District Cup Series back in May.



AMINA ABDULLAEVA

A recipient of the Little Mo Kindness Award, Amino believes that respect for one another and respect the game is key.

She approaches her off-court life with the same zeal, having started a foundation to help give back to younger players in her community.

Her advice for younger players is simple.

"If you really want to grow with the sport and become big in the sport, just keep doing what you are doing. Respect is a big thing — work hard and never give up. Set a big standard for yourself!"