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Final ROUND BEST OF 5 SETS

EVENT
Liberation Match

Bobby Riggs VS *Billie Jean King*

WON BY *King*

SCORE *6/4 6/3 6/3*

COURT NO. *Astrodome* DATE *9/20/73*

UMPIRE *Jason Morton*
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USTA TEXAS NEWS & NOTES

Host a USTA Free Tennis Play Event

Texas tennis facilities, schools and Community Tennis Associations can leverage the brand power of Nickelodeon, the No. 1 media brand for kids and families to kick-off your fall program promotion. Bring the brand power of Nickelodeon to your event and get more kids playing! When tennis teams up with Nickelodeon, it's sure to draw new kids to your courts. Welcome the whole family - all ages and skill levels to get playing. **REGISTER** to host an event any day from Sept. 1 - 30 by visiting www.YouthTennis.com



2013 Texas Early Season League Ratings

The 2013 Early Season League Ratings for USTA Texas League Tennis players are now available. To file an appeal, please first read the FAQ. There are different processes for each type of appeal. View list at <http://bit.ly/14itm29>



Texas Wild, USTA Appreciation Day and Youth Tennis Festival a Big Hit

Check out the photo gallery from the USTA Texas Member Appreciation Day and Youth Tennis Festival from

the Texas Wild match in Irving, Texas by visiting the USTA Texas



Facebook page at <http://on.fb.me/13ielFt>.

Thank you for supporting USTA Texas, attending the event and for supporting the Texas Wild. Don't forget to like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ustatexas.

2013 Texas Community Development Workshop Date Set

To kick off another amazing Community Development Workshop, we invite you to saddle up your tennis community and ride out to Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa! We are building a tremendous line-up of featured guest speakers, pertinent educational sessions, great



gatherings and meals, all at one of the most beautiful resorts in Cedar Creek, Texas.

Date: Oct. 11- 13, 2013. Registration is up and running with a special group discount. Hotel: Details to follow after registration confirmation. Registration and hotel deadline Sept. 13, 2013 at

www.regonline.com/ustatexasCDW2013.

League Players — Play a Tournament for Free

If you are a USTA Texas league tennis player and would like to play your first Texas sanctioned tournament, we have a great deal for you! You can now play your first age division tournament for free! The USTA Texas Section will reimburse the entry fees for anyone entering an age division for their first Texas sanctioned tournament. This offer is good for the first fifty (50) league players who play their first sanctioned age division in a Texas sanctioned tournament after July 1, 2013 and submit their reimbursement forms by December 15, 2013. Tournament play is a fun way to spend a weekend playing tennis - GIVE IT A TRY! For more information go to <http://bit.ly/12fe4Vn>

Community Development Awards Nominations Due

USTA Texas will announce the 2013 Community Development Award winners at the **Community Development Workshop Awards Banquet** held Oct. 12, 2013 in Lost Pines, Texas. Award winners will receive: Free registration to the Community Development Workshop; 1 free room at Lost Pines Resort during the Community Development Workshop; and recognition in the USTA Texas magazine and website. Application deadline is Aug. 26 and available at www.texas.usta.com/CommunityTennis/cd_awards/

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Plan NOW to play in a USTA National Championship Tournament. Each year the USTA holds four (4) Category I National Championships in each age division on different surfaces: hard, grass, clay, and indoor (hard) courts. There are numerous Category II National Championships which are also held each year on various surfaces. For more information go to <http://bit.ly/10bwZ5u>




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Boyce Wins 2013 Texas Men's US Open Qualifying Tournament

BY DERICK HACKETT

MEN'S FINALS

The men's, women's and mixed doubles champions were determined in finals of the 2013 Texas US Open Qualifying Tournament at the Arlington Tennis Center, as **Charles Boyce**, **Peggy Porter** and the team of **John Mee** and **Karina Traxler** earned the section spots and will advance to the US Open National Playoffs.

Charles Boyce, 18 of Cedar Hill, Texas defeated 33-year old University of Hawaii-Hilo head tennis coach **Karl Sloss** 6-2, 6-1, to win the Texas Men's US Open Qualifying Tournament.

"This US Open thing is big," said Boyce. "It is great that anybody can get into the tournament. You never know what is going to happen so ... I just gave it a shot."

As the winner of the Texas section qualifier Boyce is invited to accept the Texas slot to enter the 2013 US Open National Playoffs - Men's Singles Championship. The Playoffs will be held August 16-19 in New Haven, Conn. at Yale University.

The playoffs will feature the top 13



winners or top available finishers from the 13 US Open National Playoffs Sectional Qualifying Tournaments held throughout the country. The winner of the US Open National Playoffs - Men's Championship

advances to the US Open Qualifying Tournament, held Aug. 20-23 at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, with a chance to earn a spot in the main draw of the 2013 US Open.

Porter Wins Women's Singles Crown for Second Consecutive Year

WOMEN'S FINALS

Peggy Porter, 17 of Dallas, defended her Texas Women's US Open Qualifying Tournament title by defeating **Rhiann Newborn** 6-1, 6-0, winning the invite to return as the Texas women's representative at the 2013 US Open National Playoffs.

"I played a lot of tournaments this month, so I am pretty tired and worn out," said Porter. "I know how important this is – such a huge opportunity."

After winning the Texas sectional last year, Porter went on to the National Playoffs and lost to Sandra Roma 6-1, 7-5 in the first round. She learned a lot from that experience.

"I was just blown away by the whole thing – playing next to all of those amazing top pros so I gained a lot – huge experience playing in that kind of setting. Hopefully this year I will be more comfortable," said Porter.

The 2013 US Open National Playoffs – Women's Singles Championship, held

August 16-19 in New Haven, Conn., will feature the top 13 winners or top available finishers from the 13 US Open National Playoffs Sectional Qualifying Tournaments held throughout the country.

The winner of the US Open National Playoffs – Women's Championship advances to the US Open Qualifying Tournament, held Aug. 20-23 at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, with a chance to earn a spot in the main draw of the 2013 US Open.



Mee, Traxler Bounce Collegians to Win Mixed Doubles Crown

MIXED DOUBLES FINALS

Self described "Young Guns," **John Mee**, 17 and 15-year old **Karina Traxler**, defeated University of Texas tennis player **Nicholas Naumann** and former SMU player **Heather Steinbauer** 7-6 (2), 6-4, to win the mixed doubles title at the Texas US Open Qualifying Tournament in Arlington.

"We were just thinking to have fun," said Mee, a native of Dallas, about their thoughts about entering the tournament. "It got progressively harder as we got into the tournament especially this finals match."

Traxler, from Rockwall, Texas said that she just wanted to come back after finishing deep in the tournament last year as a 14-year old.

This is the third consecutive year that the qualifier has hosted mixed double play and the first time that a team other than Samantha and Harrison Adams is going to represent Texas at the US Open National Playoffs.

The 2013 US Open National Playoffs –

Mixed Doubles Championship will be held August 21-24 in New Haven, Conn. at Yale University. The playoffs are staged during the New Haven Open at Yale presented by First Niagara, an Emirates Airline US Open Series



event. It will feature the top 13 winners or top available finishers from the 13 US Open National Playoffs Sectional Qualifying Tournaments held throughout the country.

The winner of the US Open National Playoffs – Mixed Doubles Championship advances to the mixed doubles main draw of the 2013 US Open, held Aug. 26 – Sept. 9, at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y.

2013 TEXAS US OPEN QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT FINALS

Charles Boyce def. Karl Sloss 6-2, 6-1

Peggy Porter def. Rhiann Newborn 6-1, 6-0

John Mee/Karina Traxler def. Nicholas Naumann/Heather Steinbauer 7-6 (2), 6-4.



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Ellie Douglas: A Bright Texas Star to Watch

BY CLAIRE CAHILL

When you talk to 13-year old **Ellie Douglas**, from McKinney, Texas she sounds like just a little kid, but there is nothing little about the way she looks or plays when she steps out on the tennis court.

Ellie has already achieved tremendous success at such a young age, finishing this past year as the No. 1 ranked Girls 12s player in the nation. She has also proved to be one of the top players of her age around the world after she won the 2012 Eddie Herr International Junior Championships in Girls 12s.

Her earliest introduction to tennis came when she was hitting around foam balls at 6-years old, but she started taking lessons from her current coach, **Luis Herrera**, at Select Tennis Academy in McKinney when she was eight. Even then she wasn't really serious about tennis yet because she was trying out and excelling at every sport you can think of.

At 11, she was still deciding between soccer and tennis until finally she decided she liked how individual tennis was and chose to focus exclusively on that. Neither Ellie's mom nor dad played competitive tennis growing up, so her mom, Kim calls Ellie's talent "a gift from God."

Ellie started participating in USTA Texas Regional Training Center camps when she was 10. These camps bring together the area's top players ages 8-13, along with the



Ellie Douglas of McKinney, Texas was the No. 1 ranked 12's in the nations but often plays against 18s.
Photos by Derick Hackett / USTA Texas.

top national and area junior coaches. The goal of these Player Development Camps is for the coaches to collaborate and help develop up-and-coming American tennis players. These RTC camps implement the low compression balls to help the players develop appropriate technique and construct longer points. Ellie said the low compression balls really helped her training.

"I got a lot more confidence. With the low compression balls you're able to swing harder which helped me become more aggressive," she said. Her aggressive all-court game style is now her strength.

Ellie has started testing her game against older players and already finished as the runner up in Girls 18s at the 2013 Texas

Summer Grand Slam. While some might find it intimidating playing girls five years older, Ellie loves the challenge.

"It's really fun. The ball comes so much different and a lot harder, but I'm not intimidated at all," she said. This fearless attitude and love for the game is what makes her so tough to beat.

When asked to share her secrets for how she's so good, some may find it

disappointing to learn she has no magic quick fix or secrets to share.

"I don't have a secret, I just train really hard. When I go on the court in tournaments I do what I do in practice. My success comes from my training," she said.

Her work ethic and "hate to lose" mentality seem to be her strongest attributes no matter who you talk to. This keeps her going five hours a day, everyday in the Texas heat, because she is determined to reach her goals.

"I'm so proud of her. It's a lot of hard work but she loves it. I'm just letting her do her own thing and not pushing her," said her mom Kim. She couldn't do this without her supportive parents.

Ellie said her ultimate goal is to go pro as soon as possible and be No. 1 in the world just like her favorite professional tennis player, **Serena Williams**. While her coach says this is a good dream, and a reachable goal, both him and her mom agree that she has a long way to go until then and focusing on the "step by step process" is best.

Now that Ellie is 13, she and her coach have agreed it's time to play ITF tournaments as the next step in her process. These tournaments will give her more exposure to the international level and will challenge her against older players.

"We're just taking it one day at a time," said her mom. For now her daughter is still just a regular eighth grader who loves to play tennis, but who knows what's in store for the future and she's definitely a Texas star of the future to watch.

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Texas Tennis and Education Foundation Award 15 Scholarships

BY CLAIRE CAHILL

The Texas Tennis and Education Foundation, the charitable foundation of United States Tennis Association – Texas, has announced the 15 scholarship winners for 2013-14. Each winner is receiving a \$1,000 award to attend school and continue their higher educational goals.

The scholarships are administered by USTA Texas. The purpose of the scholarships is to award ambitious and worthy young persons from funds donated to the [Texas Tennis and Education Foundation](#).

Heba Abdel-Rahim, Katy, Texas – The recipient of the Texas Tennis and Education Foundation Scholarship to Southwestern University where she plans to study biology. Heba is a graduate of Cinco Ranch High School.

Lena Adams, Missouri City, Texas – The recipient of the Texas Tennis and Education Foundation Scholarship to the University of Houston. Lena is a graduate of Hightower High School and she plans to study nursing.

Wade Dillenbeck, Schulenburg, Texas – The recipient of the Ben T. Ball Scholarship to Texas Lutheran College where he will pursue a degree in accounting. Wade is a graduate of Schulenburg High School.

Ryan Gudino, Lyford, Texas – The recipient of the Texas Tennis and Education Foundation Scholarship to The University of Texas-Pan American. Ryan was the Salutatorian of his graduating class at Lyford High School and plans to study rehabilitation services and biology in hopes of becoming an occupational therapist.

Dasia Harris, Sugar Land, Texas – The recipient of the Texas Tennis and Education Foundation Scholarship to Xavier University of Louisiana where she will study business

management. Dasia is a graduate of Elkins High School.

Heather Henson, Poolville, Texas – The recipient of the Texas Tennis and Education Foundation Scholarship to Tarleton State University where she plans to study nursing. Heather is a graduate of Poolville High School.

Michelle Hernandez, Fort Worth, Texas – The recipient of the Texas Tennis and Education Foundation Scholarship to Texas Christian University. Michelle graduated tenth in her class at Boswell High School and plans to study finance at TCU.

Kaitlyn Huskey, Tyler, Texas – The recipient of the Texas Tennis and Education Foundation Scholarship to Texas A&M University. Kaitlyn is a graduate from All Saints Episcopal School and currently studies kinesiology at Texas A&M. She hopes to pursue a doctorate in physical therapy after she finishes her undergraduate studies.

Jordan Jackson, Stockdale, Texas – The recipient of the Texas Tennis and Education Foundation Scholarship to the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Jordan plans to earn a degree in education and someday become a tennis coach like his parents. He is a graduate of Stockdale High School.

Karhen Jimenez, Houston – The recipient of the Texas Tennis and Education Foundation Scholarship to Sam Houston State University where she plans to study criminal justice. Karhen is a graduate of Chavez High School.

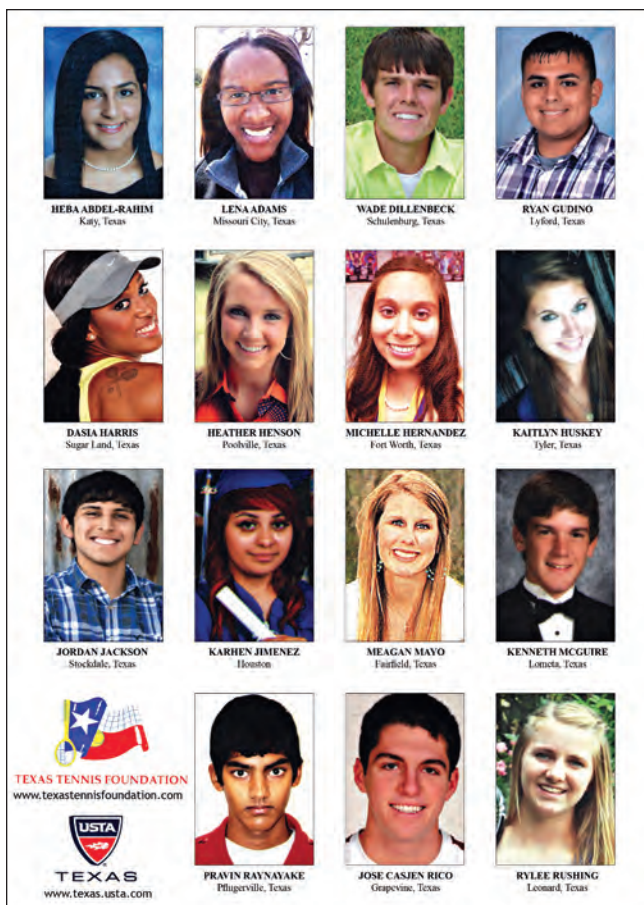
Meagan Mayo, Fairfield, Texas – The recipient of the Texas Tennis and Education Foundation Scholarship to Texas A&M University where she will study education. Meagan graduated from Fairfield High School with a 4.84 GPA.

Kenneth McGuire, Lometa, Texas – The recipient of the Harold Green Memorial Scholarship to Texas A&M University where he plans to study biomedical sciences and become a veterinarian. Kenneth graduated third in his class from Lampasas High School.

Pravin Raynayake, Pflugerville, Texas – The recipient of the Marti Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship to The University of Texas at San Antonio where he plans to study business management. Pravin is a graduate of Hendrickson High School.

Jose Casjen Rico, Grapevine, Texas – The recipient of the Texas Tennis and Education Foundation Scholarship to McMurry University where he is currently pursuing a degree in business finance with a minor in mathematics. Jose is a graduate of Grapevine High School.

Rylee Rushing, Leonard, Texas – The recipient of the Texas Tennis and Education Foundation Scholarship. Rylee is a graduate of Leonard High School and hopes to study either veterinary medicine at Texas A&M University, or radiology at Texas Tech University.



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Laredo Sweeps Leagues Qualifying Area Championships

BY CLAIRE CAHILL

The 3.5 and 4.0 ladies teams from Laredo, Texas along with the 3.5 and 4.0 men's teams from Laredo all advanced to the USTA Texas League Sectionals with victories at the 2013 Adult Qualifying Tournament / Area Championships held July 12-14 in Austin, Texas at the University of Texas Pennick Allison Tennis Courts. This was the qualifying tournament for teams from cities who do not have a league for advancement to sectionals.



Ladies 4.0 – Laredo

Laredo defeated Abilene, Waco and Wichita Falls to win the 4.0 ladies division of the 2013 Adult Qualifying Tournament / Area Championship. The team captained by Dalia Martinez includes Roxanne Alvarez, Maria de Lourdes Benavides, Martha Dellano, Sonia Mayre Diaz, Renee Moreno, Annais Richer, Cindy Lee Robledo, Tammy Lynn Trevino and Mahtena Waters.



Ladies 3.5 – Laredo

Laredo defeated Abilene and Wichita Falls to win the 3.5 ladies division of the 2013 Adult

Qualifying Tournament / Area Championship. The team captained by Carilyn Walker and Sandra Garza includes Jessalynn Arthur, Irene De La Fuente, Amarilis Espinosa, Rosie Guzman, Elizabeth Levendecker, Marcela Mounetou and Courtney O'Daniel.



Men 4.0 – Laredo

Laredo defeated Wichita Falls to win the 4.0 men's division of the 2013 Adult Qualifying Tournament / Area Championship. The team captained by Jose Telesforo Villarreal includes Jorge Abboud, Guillermo Javier Castanon, Francisco Flores, Rudy Martinez, Francisco Mendoza, Alejandro Quetzeri, Raul Miguel Ramos and Alfredo Solar.



Men 3.5 – Laredo

Laredo defeated Abilene to win the 3.5 men's division of the 2013 Adult Qualifying Tournament / Area Championship. The team captained by Alejandro Garza includes Luis Ramon Abascal, Carlos Alonso, Alfredo Casso, Michael Herbig, Ernesto Carlos Knosel, Rafael Miner, Luis Montesdeoca, Rolando Salazar, Oscar Torres, Carlos Trevino and Jose Vazquez.

Texas Tennis On Campus Alumni Tournament

In July, former USTA Texas Tennis On Campus players who have graduated within the last eight years participated in the Alumni Tournament in Austin.



Thirty-two players from eight colleges and six cities (Austin, Houston, Midland, San Antonio, San Marcos and Tyler), participated. Former TOC players that attended represented Cornell University, Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M, Texas State University, Tyler Junior College, University of Houston, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Texas at Tyler.

This was one of nine national Tennis On Campus Alumni Pilot Events. These are non-advancing tournaments. USTA Texas is planning two more tournaments this year. The tournament began with a Friday evening social with Ping Pong, and interviews by **Dave "Koz" Kozlowski**, an award-winning tennis teaching professional and tennis commentator.

Tennis play was held with eight teams of four players each based on skill level. Each team had four matches (8-game pro sets). A evening dinner was held.

Tennis On Campus is one of USTA's fastest growing programs. The TOC Alumni Tournament is a way to keep players playing when they graduate college and continue to build their relationships with each other. Some may not have played since college while others are currently active in USTA adult leagues and play recreationally with their friends.

USTA Texas Promotes Tennis at Houston Pride Festival

BY CLAIRE CAHILL

USTA Texas held a booth at the 35th Annual LGBT Houston Pride Festival in June to promote and develop the growth of tennis in Texas to all members of the community. Houston Pride is a week-long series of events that brings together members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities to support diversity and equality. The week is capped

off by the biggest event which is the Houston Pride Festival and Parade. The Festival usually draws around 65,000 people and the Parade over 400,000, making it the largest gay pride event in the Southern U.S. USTA Texas had a booth at the Austin Pride in previous years but this was our first year attending the Houston Pride Festival which is an even larger event. The goal was to engage the community to play tennis as well as provide them with

local tennis resources in the Houston area.

Hundreds of people stopped by the USTA Texas booth to take a picture with the giant tennis racquet, witness the USTA Texas staff's foam ball tennis demo, grab some free beads, or to simply find out more information on how to get started in tennis.

Over one-hundred people signed up to receive the USTA Texas biweekly newsletter via email to stay updated on tennis events around the state. Tennis truly is a sport for everyone and it was great to welcome so many new and diverse members to the Texas tennis community.



TENNIS TIPS

By Steve Cobb

DIRECTOR OF COMPETITIVE TENNIS -
USTA TEXAS

Top 10 Keys to Competing Better

I originally composed this "Letterman-style" list several years ago, and am often asked to "re-visit" this topic. None of this is new or ground-breaking. It is simply a list of reminders designed to help players of all ages and levels compete better.

No. 10 – All tennis is still the basic concept that you have to hit the ball inbounds for one more shot than the other guy. Play percentage tennis. A framed ball dribbling off the sideline beats the 100 mph "almost winner" that was half-inch out EVERYTIME.

No. 9 - Prepare for all situations in advance – eliminate potential concentration stealers - organize drinks, towels, hats, grip wrap, sunblock, etc. BEFORE you walk on court. Know the location of the sun, wind speed and direction (look at a flag).

No. 8 - Save your energy for stuff you can control. Outbursts, arguing line calls, throwing racquets, etc. is a waste of vital energy. Walk the walk of the confident warrior – between points and on changeovers - head up, chest out.

No. 7 - SCOUT. What do you or others see or know about your opponent? Note stroke strengths and weaknesses, favorite patterns, serve locations, etc.

No. 6 - COMMUNICATE! If you are playing doubles - it's like a marriage, there is no too much communication, only not enough - make physical contact (high-five) with your partner between every point.

No. 5 - Play to win by playing within yourself. Some sage advice: "Hit the shot you're good at, not the shot you wish you were good at."

No. 4 - Game Plan - HAVE ONE – and stick to it, "on big points serve into the body, hit deep and attack short balls, attack all second serves to the backhand" are good examples; but have a back-up if it's not working- change it after about a set, not after two points!

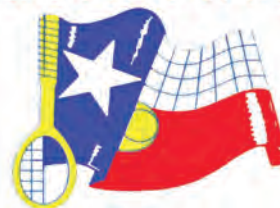
No. 3 - BREATHE! Slow down your breathing between points and between serves - fight the urge to rush- breathe in through your nose, and out through your mouth 15-20 seconds every time.

No. 2 - HYDRATE. If you're 2-percent dehydrated, the point at which you feel thirst, your muscles are already negatively affected. Don't drink too late – start the night before. Your "pee" should be clear – a great indication you are properly hydrated.

No. 1 - Play in the HERE and NOW- present tense tennis - one ball at a time. Avoid thinking "three more points and I've got this set" which is letting your mind drift into the future. Nor can you let your mind dwell in the past, "how did I let those two match points get away?" Stay current – it's why so many coaches yell "right here, right now!"

There's a reminder of things you already know about how to compete. Have fun out there, it's why we do this.

TEXAS TENNIS AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION



The Texas Tennis Foundation promotes health and education through tennis by providing assistance to Texas players and organizations. Your donation will help others who cannot otherwise afford to play the game. You can help to send a player to college, buy a wheelchair, or simply hold a racket in their hand and take it home. Learn how your tax-deductible gift can help at:

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KENNY Mc'S CORNER

By Ken McAllister
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - USTA TEXAS

PRESENTED BY



Texas – The ROOTS of Modern Tennis

Forty years ago on Sept. 20, 1973, 35,000 gathered at the Astrodome in Houston along with 50 million TV spectators worldwide to watch an older man play one of the best women players at the time. With Woman's Lib reaching its peak, the older man played the part of the ultimate male chauvinist pig proclaiming that even an over-the-hill male tennis player could defeat the best woman pro in the world.

Sponsors put up a \$100,000 winner-take-all incentive in a three out of five set match. If you younger folks think this is a joke, I know that it was not, because I was there as a linesman on that crazy evening. Among other Texans involved were Hall of Famers **Russell Seymour**, **Tim Heckler**, **Jason Morton**, **Jim Schulze**, and **Lee LeClear** as well as **Jim Robinson** of Waco, who still officiates throughout Texas. Oh, and yes, **Billie Jean King** defeated **Bobby Riggs**, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3. Tennis in America changed and grew almost within the hour.

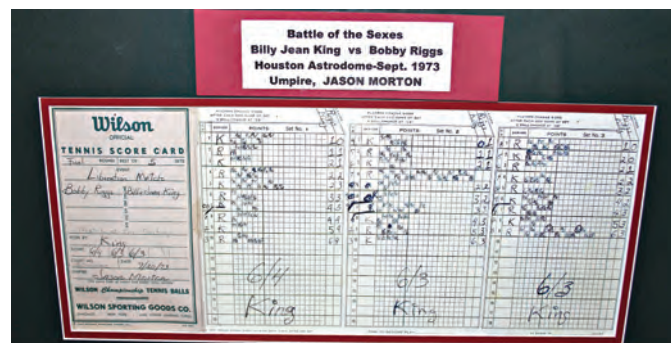
Was Texas chosen for this event because of the Astrodome? Partially yes, but the facts were that the major changes in tennis in the world were happening in Texas at that time. World Championship Tennis started in 1967 with **Lamar Hunt** of Dallas leading and forming the "Handsome 8" professional tour that was the predecessor of modern men's professional tennis. In 1971, the WCT quarterfinals and semifinals were held in Houston (yours truly worked in these) leading to the Finals held at the SMU campus in Dallas between **Rod Laver** and **Ken Rosewall**. These finals continued to be held in Dallas through 1989 until the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) took over in 1990 and continues today.

The women professionals formed the Women's Tennis Association which started – you guessed it! – in Texas (Houston) with leadership from **Billie Jean King** and **Gladys Heldman**, publisher of

the Houston and New York based *World Tennis Magazine*, the leading authority of tennis at the time. Three years prior, in 1970, the Virginia Slims ("You've come a long way, baby") women's professional tennis tour also started in Houston at the Net Set Racquet Club (now the Westside Tennis Club). Dallas also hosted regular season Virginia Slims events as well as a WCT men's event and the WCT Finals. Yes, you could see all of the greatest men and women players in the world without leaving Texas.

The wonderful parallel story that continues to contribute to tennis today involves **Maureen Connolly**, the only woman to have won tennis' Grand Slam until **Steffi Graf** many years later. After injuries took "Little Mo" out of competitive tennis, she moved to Dallas and married. In 1968, she and her lifelong friend, **Nancy Jeffett** cofounded the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation in 1968. Its purpose was to provide opportunities for girls to play tennis. For many years they even owned the WCT men's tournament held in Dallas. It has since grown to hosting several national and international events. Their best known and most successful event is the highly popular "Little Mo" local, national, and international tournaments for girls and boys ages eight, nine, 10 and 11. For more I encourage you to go to their website, www.mcbtennis.org.

As the quote goes, "It is difficult to know where you are going until you know where you have been." Hopefully, you have enjoyed a brief tour down Texas Tennis memory lane and realize how much Texas has contributed to modern tennis. Elsewhere in this issue of *Inside Tennis* are more articles and information of this time in tennis history. If you have comments on this article, please share them by email to kmcallister@texas.usta.com.



The score card from the 1973 "Liberation Match" tennis match between Billy Jean King and Bobby Riggs is on display at the Texas Tennis Museum and Hall of Fame in Waco, Texas. More info on the TTMHOF can be found at www.texastennishistory.org. Photo by Derick Hackett / USTA Texas.



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THE PRESIDENT'S ADVANTAGE

By Dan Barta
PRESIDENT - USTA TEXAS

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Sportsmanship: A Pleasure to Meet Xavier Gonzalez

In early July, I had the opportunity to accompany our Executive Director, **Ken McAllister**, to the International Tennis Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies in Newport, R.I. Inductees included famed tennis professionals **Martina Hingis**, **Ion Tiri**, **Cliff Drysdale** and others. What a wonderful experience! But the real reason for our trip was to show support for a Texas junior player receiving the Bill Talbert Sportsmanship Award. This award is presented annually to four junior players from across the country who exemplify the quality of sportsmanship while competing at a high level in the sport of tennis.

It was my pleasure to meet our Texas award winner, **Xavier Gonzalez**, from Houston, and his family the evening before the award presentation. What a gentleman Xavier is! With all the horror stories we sometimes hear about junior competitive tennis, it was refreshing to meet Xavier, a 17-year old that any parent would be proud to have. Well spoken, polite, and an enthusiastic tennis competitor. It was also brought to my attention that he had received several other sportsmanship awards in the past year proving that he is a true sportsman. Xavier continues a long line of Texas juniors who have won this award. Xavier – it was a pleasure to meet you and thank you for making Texas proud once again.

In mid-July, the Section experienced its first season of World Team Tennis with the Texas Wild competing at the Four Seasons Resort in Irving. What a fun format for watching tennis. The matches were played in an intimate stadium setting with a lot of crowd involvement. The last home match was USTA Texas Member Appreciation Night and included on-court tennis activities for young players and an opportunity to meet the Wild players. The Section and the team partnered in several activities and will continue to find ways to work together throughout the year to promote both the team and tennis across the Section. Thank you to the Dallas Tennis Association for their involvement and support in this event and throughout the three week season.

By the time you read this, our game will be focused on the US Open – another exceptional tennis experience. We will be rooting the Bryan Brothers to a calendar year Grand Slam in Men's Doubles and looking for exceptional accomplishments from our up and coming young American players.

Enjoy your tennis and put a little more sportsmanship and a little less gamesmanship into your competition.