





## THE PRESIDENT'S ADVANTAGE

By Dr. Alfredo Trevino  
PRESIDENT - USTA TEXAS

PRESENTED BY



[www.texasstennishotels.com](http://www.texasstennishotels.com)

## Thank God for Volunteers...

USTA Texas continues to be one of the shining stars of the United States Tennis Association. Even though our USTA Texas is not among the top Sections of the USTA in population, we certainly are among the top in membership (No. 3), Leagues (No. 2), No cut tennis programs No. 1, and Tennis on Campus participation (No.1).

In 2011 we were the fastest growing Section in the USTA, by membership and participation. Our junior competitive numbers grew by 6-percent. Our 10 and Under initiative broke records in programs including Junior Team Tennis which exhibited success in all of the six geographic areas comprising the Section. We got into Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA's and onto Military bases. We hosted a successful Davis Cup Tie in Austin. We lined hundreds of courts for 10 and Under children's competitive play. Private Clubs have seen a boom in junior players. Everything we tried seemed to be successful. What is the deal?

The secret to our success is simple ... our VOLUNTEERS!

We have been blessed with so many dedicated, enthusiastic and competent individuals who come to the plate year after year and give us all they have in energy, time, and talent which keeps our USTA Texas Section in the top tier of the USTA's 17 Sections year after year. Our 24 Section committees are replete with these Heroes.

These very special volunteers have made my life so easy in my term as President. Don't look now but it is almost time for all of us to step down from our two year term ... the fastest two years in the history of the earth!

A new USTA Texas President will take the reigns in January 2013, which is just around the corner. He or she will want to work with many of the same dedicated volunteers that have done so much on my

watch. I would encourage my heroes to self nominate for a Section committee appointment for 2013-2014.

The self nomination process was used last term but ran into some glitches due the lack of universal knowledge of the system. This year I will appoint a special committee to help the incoming president with his appointments which is the first daunting challenge the new president faces, six months before they even take charge. This committee will be the Advisory Group on Committees. If present chairpersons, staff, volunteers, and members of the Advisory Group on Committees all work together we will help our new President appoint outstanding members to the 24 committees.

The new President will be asked to appoint Chairpersons of all committees between June 22 and July 31. The Advisory Group on Committees will each evaluate the list of self nominations for the committees that they will be working with between Sept 18 and Oct 19.

Input from present chairpersons and staff of present committees will be very valuable to the advisory group members. All the members on the advisory group, the President Elect, Executive Director, yours truly, and the Administrative Director will have a marathon meeting on Oct. 20 in Austin and all new committee members will be appointed by the President Elect with the help of the advisors.

The new process will not work unless everyone who would like to continue giving to the Texas Section self nominates for committees. These self nominations will be open from Aug. 1 until Sept. 17. (Remember the deadline is Sept. 17.)

USTA Texas is in your hands ... USTA Texas needs you .... we can not maintain our successes without you! "Muchas Gracias" for your service.



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## KENNY Mc'S CORNER

By Ken McAllister  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - USTA TEXAS

PRESENTED BY



## Ageless Tennis Revisited

This article includes material from a September 2010 KennyMc article on age which bears repeating. Several new facts and updates appear below that continue to prove that tennis is the truly lifetime sport that is both recreational and competitive to the highest levels.

This article is dedicated to the memory of **Marvin Henderson, Sr.**, who passed away April 21 at the age of 91. Marvin was taken from us soon after he began playing in the 90 and over National tournaments. Marvin reached his life-long dream to be No. 1 in the United States when he made it in Men's 85 and over Singles and Doubles. Marvin was a good friend who beat me regularly 49 years ago when I was playing No. 1 for Southwestern University. Our love for him and his wife Ouida is forever.

Two years ago, we had wished **Art Shaver** of Richardson a happy 94th birthday. We now know that Art continued his tennis play until he was almost 96 when he passed away early this year. Again we thank **Leo Mountjoy** for relaying this great story.

The Burgess-Rushing Tennis Center in Lubbock is named after two wonderful senior tennis players, "**Dub**" **Rushing** and **Hubert Burgess**. Their energy and enthusiasm as they played into their 80's and 90's served as examples for that South Plains tennis community I spoke to both at the naming ceremony a few years ago and recall that Hubert was upset that he had to quit playing at age 94 for physical reasons. It just plain made him mad. He had started playing tennis in 1913. His longtime partner, Dub, started in 1925. They began playing together in 1929. Hubert died in 1999 and Dub in 2007. Thanks to **Jim Blacketer** for supplying this information.

USTA Texas currently has 127 members over the age of 85 of which 28 are over 90. There are 24 ladies and 103 men. We can only assume that many are still active. We also have 13 men ranked in the 80 and over singles or doubles and eight men ranked in the 85 and over singles or doubles. The women currently have six ranked in the 80 and over singles or doubles.

Our Super Senior tournaments in Texas begin at age 55. When I started playing in these events, I said that I liked being at events where I was one of the young ones. I am 69 and I am still four years under the median age in these events! Tennis players are the only group of people who look forward to growing older so they may play in the next age division and not have to play the younger ones. We look old, but not as old as our non-athletic counterparts. We are active, upbeat, and optimistic. And we still get angry when we miss an easy volley.

Marvin, Thank you for your example for senior players everywhere!

As usual, I welcome comments directly to me at [kmcallister@texas.usta.com](mailto:kmcallister@texas.usta.com). This time I would also welcome any stories you might have of tennis players who have played into their 90's.



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# USTA TEXAS NEWS & NOTES

## LONGBOTHAM JOINS USTA TEXAS STAFF

USTA Texas is proud to introduce our newest member to the USTA Texas family, **Megan Longbotham**. Megan will coordinate the Kids Tennis Clubs and various events and projects related to 10 and Under tennis in Texas. Megan is originally from Groesback (Central Texas) and is an accomplished tennis player and daughter of legendary high school tennis coach, **Jim Longbotham**. Megan was previously working in retail sports management in the Austin area and will be a wonderful addition to the Texas staff.

## US OPEN TEXAS SECTIONAL QUALIFIER ENTRY DEADLINE JUNE 4

The US Open National Playoffs Texas Section Qualifying Tournament will be held June 18-23 at the Arlington Tennis Center in Arlington, Texas. Men's and women's singles and mixed doubles are the divisions offered and is open to any player at any skill level. Don't miss your chance to compete and play your way to the US Open! Enter online by June 4 and complete the player questionnaire.

This tournament is part of the US Open National Playoffs – a series of tournaments that gives any person 14 years of age or older who meets the eligibility requirements the opportunity to earn a singles wild card entry to compete in the US Open Qualifying Tournament at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, in August or a mixed doubles team entry into the US Open Mixed Doubles Championship.

All the tournament information that you will need from registration, hotels, entry fees and requirements can be found at [www.texas.usta.com](http://www.texas.usta.com) or at [www.usopen.org/National\\_Playoffs/Texas/](http://www.usopen.org/National_Playoffs/Texas/)



## USTA RECOVERY RULE CHANGE

The USTA Recovery Rules have changed for all singles matches for Adults, Juniors, Seniors, NTRP and Wheelchair divisions in which the

match format is two out of three standard sets or more. For complete rule changes and details go to <http://assets.usta.com/assets/642/15/2012-Recovery%20Rule.pdf>

## MARVIN HENDERSON SR. PASSES AT 91

Executive Director **Ken McAllister** and the USTA Texas section is sad to announce the passing of **Marvin Henderson, Sr.**, at the age of 91 on April 21. Marvin epitomized the lifetime sport of tennis by playing competitively into his 90s winning gold and silver balls, reaching his lifetime goal of being No. 1 ranked in Men's 85 and over in singles and doubles. He won 10 national tournaments in his age divisions. The U.S. Navy Commander served in WWII and the Korean War and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was a resident of Georgetown, Texas, a 1941 graduate of Southwestern University and was a member of the schools Athletic Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ouida. The Southwestern tennis courts are named in his honor.



Marvin Henderson

## TEXAS WINS SHOWDOWN TROPHY

The USTA Texas section has won the Section Showdown at the 2012 USTA Annual Meetings in Carlsbad, Calif., from March 16 -19. Proves that in Texas we practice what we preach.



## WE ARE VERY SOCIAL AT USTA TEXAS

Check out the USTA Texas

social media outlets for the latest news, announcements and events on almost everything on Texas tennis and USTA the governing body of tennis in America. Like Us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/ustatexas](http://www.facebook.com/ustatexas)), Be Our Friend, Follow Us on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/ustatexas>) and see all of our 10 and Under Tuesday videos on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/ustatexas](http://www.youtube.com/ustatexas)).



**Get aboard the USTA Texas Social Media Bandwagon**

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## SR. MIXED DOUBLES LEAGUE SECTIONAL IN CORPUS CHRISTI JUNE 8-10

The USTA Texas Leagues Senior Mixed Doubles Sectionals will be held in Corpus Christi, Texas for the 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0 divisions. 2013 National invitations are at stake for the winners. For more information about the USTA Texas league schedule go to [www.texas.usta.com/adult\\_tennis/usta\\_leagues/schedule/](http://www.texas.usta.com/adult_tennis/usta_leagues/schedule/)

## TENNIS FOR AUTISM PROGRAM HELD IN CLEBURNE

[TennisforAutism.org](http://TennisforAutism.org) has been developed due to a need for athletic participation and physical activity for children with autism and provides a free tennis lesson in Cleburne, Texas on Feb. 26. Through playing tennis children further enhance hand eye coordination, motor skills, and confidence. Children also further develop social



Tennis is used in a program called Tennis for Autism that aid in the physical activity for children with autism at a free tennis lesson in Cleburne, Texas. Photo courtesy of Chappa Images.

skills while working in a group setting with other children. This program is supported by the USTA pro **Casey Chapa**, USTA and **Dr. Ayman Arouse**, a Cleburne Pediatrician.

## USPTA ANNOUNCES UPCOMING CERTIFICATION EXAM SCHEDULE

The United States Professional Tennis Association provides tennis-teaching professionals with the opportunity to earn the sport's most respected certification by participating in Certification Exams scheduled nationwide in 2012. Texas exam dates are June 3 (Austin), May 18-19 and June 22-23 in Houston. Go to [http://www.texas.usta.com/News/uspta\\_announces\\_certification\\_exam\\_dates/](http://www.texas.usta.com/News/uspta_announces_certification_exam_dates/) for fees and more information.

## Wheelchair Tennis Introduced to Basketball Players

At the National Junior Wheelchair Basketball Tournament at the University of Texas at Arlington, members of the USTA Collegiate Wheelchair Sub-Committee, USTA Texas and others had an idea that during the "down time" between games, the 100 wheelchair players would be open to learning more



Volunteers from University of Texas at Arlington, University of North Texas, USTA Texas and local tennis supporters spread the word to juniors about playing collegiate wheelchair tennis. Photo courtesy of Jeanie Peabody.

about playing collegiate wheelchair tennis.

So they set up two small nets in a room opposite of the basketball courts that could be conveniently seen through the glass walls and handed out tennis brochures to players and their parents, hung up USTA wheelchair tennis banners and ran a slide show all day from the National Collegiate Wheelchair Champi-

onships. Soon the curiosity got the best of these athletes and they were introduced to tennis as an alternate sport for cross training between basketball seasons and also reaching for those junior and seniors getting ready to choose a college that can fill their desire to match academics and provide a wheelchair sport such as tennis.

**Doug Garner**, the wheelchair basketball and tennis coach at UTA along with volunteers made this happen. They include **Camille Berkley**, **Erick Herrera** and **Jorge Sierra** from the UNT Tennis Club; **Jeff Sale** a UTA wheelchair tennis player, all working with the players and families to learn more about tennis.

**Robin Readicker**, USTA Texas Tennis Service Representative for North Texas provided the balls and racquets for the demonstrations along with contacting others. **Jeanie Peabody**, Chairperson of the USTA Collegiate Wheelchair Sub-Committee, **Taylor Helfeldt**, the USTA Texas Wheelchair Coordinator, **Todd Carlson**, USTA Texas Tennis On Campus Coordinator and **Glenn Arrington** secured volunteers.

## Join the Texas 10 and Under Approved Facilities List

USTA Texas has over 40 Approved 10 and Under Tennis facilities utilizing the QuickStart Tennis play format. Contact your local facility and ask if they officially registered. Contact USTA Texas about



the application process and getting support and to qualify for granting opportunities from USTA.

For parents to find a facility in your area or for 10 and Under program information visit [www.10andundertennis.com](http://www.10andundertennis.com) or contact **Amanda Shaw** of USTA Texas at [shaw@texas.usta.com](mailto:shaw@texas.usta.com) or call the Community Development Department at (512) 433-1334 ext 215.

Below is a current list of officially approved 10 and Under Facilities in Texas by USTA Texas.

Austin Tennis Center - Amarillo  
Amarillo National Tennis Center - Amarillo  
Arlington Tennis Center - Arlington  
Austin Tennis Academy - Austin  
Lost Creek Country Club - Austin  
Play for Sport - Coppell  
Bent Tree Country Club - Dallas  
Brookhaven Country Club - Dallas  
Lakewood Country Club - Dallas  
Northwood Country Club - Dallas  
QST Courts at Keist Park - Dallas  
Royal Oak Country Club - Dallas  
Samuell Grand - Dallas  
T-Bar-M - Dallas  
Fieldhouse USA - Frisco  
Lakes Tennis Academy - Frisco  
Cotton Creek Club - Fort Worth  
Berry Creek Country Club - Georgetown  
Georgetown Tennis Center - Georgetown  
Greenville YMCA - Greenville  
Horseshoe Bay Resort - Horseshoe Bay  
Hackberry Creek Country Club - Irving  
Las Colinas Country Club - Irving  
KATCH - Keller  
Laredo Country Club - Laredo  
Lubbock Country Club - Lubbock  
The Falls Tennis & Athletic Club - Lubbock  
Eldorado Country Club - McKinney  
Parker County Tennis Association - Parker County  
Canyon Creek Country Club - Plano  
High Point Tennis Center - Plano  
Oasis Tennis and Beach Club - Rockwall  
The Shores Country Club - Rockwall  
Southlake Tennis Center - Southlake  
Giammalva Racquet Club - Spring  
Trophy Club Country Club - Trophy Club  
Hollytree Country Club - Tyler  
Tyler Tennis and Swim - Tyler  
Weeks Park Tennis Center - Wichita Falls  
Wichita Falls Country Club - Wichita Falls

## USTA Texas Summer Camp Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the winners of the 2012 USTA Texas Summer Tennis Camp Scholarship. This award is open to all Texas section members 18 years of age and under and who will not be attending college in the fall of 2012 and want to attend a tennis camp.

The winners were selected from applications, letters of recommendations and submitted essays about how someone has enriched his / her playing experience - "My Best Tennis Friend" or about what you have learned from the sport of tennis - "What Tennis Has Taught Me."

### LONGHORNS TENNIS CAMP (UT)

**Lindsey Edwards** (Austin)  
**Jasmin Tripathy** (Lubbock)  
**Juan deDios Abboud** (Laredo)

### BAYLOR TENNIS CAMP

**Cailin Cifra** (Austin)  
**Jered Wilson** (Red Oak)  
**Andres Chavez** (Mesquite)

### TEXAS A&M TENNIS CAMP

**Alexander Hung** (Frisco)  
**Britney Velasco** (Channelview)  
**Ruth Ling** (Houston)

### UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS NIKE TENNIS CAMP

**Matthew Galli** (Houston)  
**Anna Galli** (Houston)  
**Mercedes Garcia** (Lewisville)  
**Trinity Klamecki** (Lewisville)

### JOHN NEWCOMBE TENNIS RANCH

**Kendall Murray** (Spring Branch)  
**Jonathan Christie** (Corpus Christi)  
**Trut Huynh** (Beaumont)  
**Cynthia Chavez** (Mesquite)  
**Jinjie Ling** (Houston)  
**Murphy Graham** (Forestburg)  
**Kelsey Robinson** (Beaumont)  
**Lionel Stephen Jr.** (San Antonio)

### AUSTIN TENNIS ACADEMY

**Richard Noah Puente** (Corpus Christi)  
**Sarah Rhodes** (Weatherford)  
**Marcus Martinez** (Dilley)

## USTA Texas Diversity Grant Award Winners For 2012

The USTA Texas Diversity and Inclusion Committee is pleased to announce the Texas Diversity Grant winners for 2012. USTA Texas strive to reach players who are in need of financial assistance with expenses relating to both tournament preparation and tournament play. Along with serving as role models and ambassadors to the state's multicultural community, the goal is for the recipients to play and promote the sport of tennis in Texas.

A grant award ranges from \$300 to \$1,000 for tournament entry fees, racquet cost and stringing, one pair of shoes, travel for tournaments, lessons and instructions, and is limited to players between the ages of 6-18 not entering college in 2012. Congratulations to you all.

**Stephanie Baerman**, San Antonio  
**Daniel Banda**, San Antonio  
**Natalia Barron**, Richmond  
**Nicole Barron**, Richmond  
**Raven Bennett**, Mesquite  
**Alyssa Cardenas**, San Antonio  
**Jay Jay Carder**, Red Oak  
**Cynthia Chavez**, Mesquite  
**Domonique Garley**, Fort Worth  
**Alexandria Gilbert**, Dallas  
**Chuyang Guan**, San Antonio

**Andrew Gula**, Duncanville  
**Austin Gula**, Duncanville  
**Ayinde Hall**, Katy  
**Dasia Harris**, Sugarland  
**Emmanuel Johnson**, Houston  
**Summer Jones**, Katy  
**Preston Kohler**, Austin  
**Alberto Martinez**, Roma  
**Jordan Meza**, Houston  
**Alexander Nguyen**, Houston  
**Bayo Philips**, Houston

**Haba-Abel Rahim**, Katy  
**Sergio Rico**, Grapevine  
**Andrew Rodriguez**, Red Oak  
**Abigail Sanchez**, Houston  
**Vicente Sanchez**, Duncanville  
**Antonio Sanz**, Houston  
**Sergio Sanz**, Houston  
**Edgar Torres**, San Antonio  
**Kristopher Vasquez**, Dallas  
**Melanie Wunsch**, Humble



# Second Serve: 14-Year-Old Dustin Strelsky Going For It All

BY D. HACKETT / USTA TEXAS

In the game of tennis most people are cautious with their second serve in fear of double faulting. If not an ace, the great concord of game is that you get a second chance after the first service attempt. This may translate the same when someone gets a second chance to serve in life, but being cautious is not the attitude of 14-year old **Dustin Strelsky**. With his second chance he is swinging for the winning shot in school, with friends, all of his daily activities and with tennis.

What happened to Dustin more than two years ago is enough to make anyone quit after a car accident in Hearne, near his hometown of Rockdale, Texas, placed him in the Scott & White Hospital in Temple. His neck was broken in two places and according to his father **Billy Shane Strelsky**,

it almost decapitated him. After stabilizing the then 12-year old, doctors started working on his damaged spinal cord, small intestine, colon, a fractured skull and his broken jaw. After five surgeries, the active eighth grader is an inspiration to all he comes in contact with.

"His vitals were not that good overnight," said Dustin's father who goes by Shane, a middle name that he and Dustin share. "The good Lord and the doctors saved his life ... I am just thankful to have him with me."

Tennis is Dustin's favorite sport. Dustin said that he never played tennis before the accident. He attended an Orthotic and Prosthetic Technologies Tennis Clinic and saw that it was one-on-one and a sport that could be played by people with disabilities.

"I loved how smooth it felt when I hit the ball and it was an independent sport," said Dustin. "I wanted to do something immediately after getting home (from the hospital) and not just sit around all day."

As you can tell, Dustin takes pride in being able to play by himself against others. He doesn't want anyone to feel sorry for him for being in a wheelchair. He doesn't want to be treated differently and he definitely does not want you to feel sorry for him. If you meet him on the court you can tell by his fearless swing that he doesn't feel sorry for you.

"I love to watch and make them move all over the court, especially able-bodies," said Dustin.

Attending Rockdale Junior High School as a straight A student on the Honor Roll, Dustin's weekly schedule typically consists of a full day of classes, then going to after school meetings as a member of the Jr. National Honor Society and Student Council. He then works out in the school's weight room and two to three times per week plays tennis at the city park in Rockdale. He is a member of the school's tennis team and finished third in the district, always playing against able-bodied players.

Academically, he says that he is currently tied at No. 2 on the valedictorian list for his class. Dustin takes tennis lessons on Saturday mornings, traveling about 150 miles round trip to the Austin based Grey Rock Tennis Club (formerly the Circle C Tennis Center). He volunteers and practices with **Mike Haynes** and other wheelchair and able-bodied players at the club. They train under USPTA and Master Tennis Professional **Fernando Velasco**, along with **Dennis Ralston**, a Wimbledon champion and former US Davis Cup player, Captain and coach.

"When he first came out and took his first swings and continued to hit the ball in the middle of the strings, the sound it made



With Mike Haynes in the background (upper left), who is a veteran high level wheelchair tennis tournament player and supportive friend Dustin Strelsky take big forehand swings during drills at Grey Rock Tennis Club in Austin.



and the smile on his face opened up my heart,” said Velasco, the general manager and director of tennis at Grey Rock. “This is what it is all about and since then Dustin has been a part of our family”

Velasco said that they refuse to charge the Strelsky family for Dustin’s lessons and are focused on him getting ready for district tennis at his school. They are pushing him because he expressed a desire and interest to compete regionally and nationally.

“He never asks to stop, he listens and never complains,” said Ralston. “At first he is very quiet but once he starts talking he can rattle off. I don’t know of any collegiate player that is playing varsity in a wheelchair but Dustin can be the one.” Ralston said that he and Velasco believe that Dustin can go far in tennis; eventually play at Wimbledon, the US Open and the other major Grand Slam events that now feature a wheelchair division.

Both Velasco and Ralston also said that Dustin’s attitude and family support system are to be admired. They both said that Dustin and his parents are always smiling and positive and that they never get down even when life has presented a road bump. Ralston said he told Dustin that life is not over; he just has a different path and a different doorway to go through.

“At a USTA wheelchair training I was strapped in a wheelchair for three hours and only hit about three balls over the net,” said Velasco who is a Men’s 65 and over singles champion. “It was an awesome and humbling experience with the challenges of rolling to the ball, stop, hit, reset and roll again.”

Dustin does his rehabilitation and therapy in Austin but loves to hang out with his cousins either riding four-wheelers, fishing or hunting. During wheelchair basketball season, he and his dad travel to Houston during the week for prac-



Like most youth, during a break from practice Dustin Strelsky checks his cell phone for messages.



Fourteen year old Dustin Strelsky of Rockdale, Texas takes instruction from Wimbledon champion and International Tennis Hall of Fame inductee Dennis Ralston. All photos by D. Hackett / USTA Texas.

tices, sometimes from 7-9 p.m. and get back home at midnight. His basketball games are held about every three weeks sometimes in Dallas or even out of state in Colorado and Oklahoma.

“One of his favorite sayings is ‘I got this!’ when someone is trying to help him, especially without asking,” said Shane about his son who is popular at school and very sociable.

Shane said that Dustin’s mom and his two older sisters are extremely hard on girls that are his friends. Guess that comes with the territory of being the baby boy in the family.

Scott & White asked the Strelsky family to mentor and serve as role models for families who may share their same experiences. Because of this, Dustin is very good friends with and encourages a girl who recently experienced the same level of injuries in a delivery truck and bus accident.

“I try to keep her inspired and to always look forward to the positives,” said Dustin. “She is going through some hard times. I try to keep her away from the negatives and to focus on the brighter things in her day.”

Dustin has a personal goal of earning a varsity tennis scholarship to college.

“I will never quit playing tennis! Tennis is a sport that all you need is a racquet and a ball, and you can be out there for hours,” said Dustin.



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## University of Texas Place Second at 2012 USTA Tennis On Campus Spring Invitational

The University of Texas club team finished second at the 4th Annual 2012 USTA Tennis on Campus Spring Invitational at the Jim Reffkin Tennis Center in Tucson, Ariz., April 20-22, falling to the University of Arizona 23-21.

Texas State University finished 23rd out of the 32 participating teams in this National Club Tennis Tournament that complements the USTA Tennis on Campus National Championship and offers the perfect season-ending tournament and travel experience for teams who are not attending the National Championship!

As one of the top two teams, UT will earn an automatic bid to the 2013

Tennis on Campus National Championship. The Tennis on Campus Spring Invitational is open to all teams from across the country, including "B" teams. To be eligible to participate in the Spring Invitational a team must compete in their local Section Championship.



The University of Texas club team finished second at the 4th Annual 2012 USTA Tennis on Campus Spring Invitational. Photo by Picasa / USTA

## PSJA Independent School District Supports Tennis Growth In South Texas

The Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District (PSJA) and superintendent **Dr. Daniel King** has been very welcoming to the growth of tennis and the impact it is having on the health and growth of the community. The district, centered in Pharr, Texas located on the Mexico – Texas border between McAllen and Brownsville, services almost 32,000 students with a population that is 99-percent Hispanic.

The district within the last six months have allowed the local Community Tennis Association to host a ZAT at one of its four high schools and approved USTA Texas to conduct a 10 and Under / QuickStart workshop that attracted 100 participants, to start the implementation of the program in their 26 elementary schools within the next year. The district also has eight middle schools, four special purpose campuses and an early

start program.

Pharr City Manager **Fred Sandoval** traveled with the Rio Grande Valley Tennis Association and the South Texas Tennis Association to Cary, N.C., to the USTA Facility Workshop. The city is working on resurfacing the two courts that it owns and planning and developments are in the works for a city owned tennis center in the future. 10 and Under permanent lines are now at one of the districts middle school tennis courts and a USTA leagues team is planning to base at the high schools in the area.

Congratulations to PSJA ISD for incorporating tennis in its programming and for being a catalyst in the area. For more information and for help in developing tennis in South Texas contact **Katy Rogers**, USTA Texas Tennis Service Representative for South Texas at [krogers@texas.usta.com](mailto:krogers@texas.usta.com).



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# Houston Hosts World Class Tennis At Clay Court Championship

BY D. HACKETT / USTA TEXAS



American John Isner reacts to a call against Juan Monaco at the US Men's Clay Court Championships at River Oaks Country Club in Houston. Isner reached the finals but lost to Monaco 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. All photos by D. Hackett / USTA Texas.



Juan Monaco reacts after defeating John Isner for the singles title at River Oak Country Club and takes the winners traditional dive into the pool at River Oaks.



Americans James Blake and Sam Querrey wins doubles title at the 2012 US Men's Clay Court Championship in Houston over Treat Conrad Huey and Dominic Inglot 7-6 (14), 6-4.

Playing at the majestic River Oaks Country Club in Houston fans were treated to a week of exciting world-class tennis at the 2012 US Men's Clay Court Championship with Americans **James Blake** and **Sam Querrey** winning the doubles championship title and Argentina's **Juan Monaco** holding off top-American **John Isner** to win the singles crown.

Monaco ranked No. 16 in the world entering the championship defeated No. 10 ranked Isner 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 and Blake / Querrey beat **Treat Conrad Huey** and **Dominic Inglot** 7-6 (14), 6-4, both taking the traditional victory plunge into the River Oaks swimming pool after the matches.

One of the highlights that drew the hometown support of the tournament was the advancement of Houston resident **Michael Russell**. He won five straight matches coming from the qualifying rounds and upset the tournaments highest seed **Mardy Fish**. Russell was beaten by the eventual champion Monaco in the semifinals, but in his 14-year professional career, this was the first career ATP semifinal for the 33-year old Russell who entered ranked No. 136 in the world.

At 6-foot-9, Isner was a fan favorite who garnered national attention by leading the US Davis Cup team to victory over France, the week before coming to Houston. With a finals finish at the US Men's Clay Court Championships, Isner surpassed Fish as the highest world ranking American moving up to No. 9 overall by the end of the tournament.

The week of events also included USTA Texas Member Appreciation Day on April 13 where booth visitors showing

their membership card received raffled prizes and current member information about USTA services and programs. Photos can be viewed on the USTA Texas Facebook page and the photo gallery at [www.texas.usta.com](http://www.texas.usta.com).

Other events at the tournament included Juniors Night, Ladies Day, a fashion show and Armed Forces Appreciation Night.

Other notable ranked Americans who entered the tournament included 19-year old and No. 65 ranked **Ryan Harrison** who now resides in Austin; No. 74 James Blake; No. 103 Sam Querrey and No. 143 **Ryan Sweeting**. The international players that entered included No. 15 ranked **Feliciano Lopez** of Spain; No. 33 **Kevin Anderson** of South Africa; No. 37 **Carlos Berlocq** of Argentina; No. 40 **Alex Bogomolov, Jr.** of Russia; No. 62 **Ivo Karlovic** of Croatia; No. 68 **Xavier Malisse** of Belgium; No. 98 **Tatsuma Ito** of Japan, and No. 91 ranked **Igor Kunitsyn** of Russia.



Houston resident Michael Russell won five straight matches coming from the qualifying rounds and upset the tournaments highest seed Mardy Fish.



The buzz of the tournament was when No. 9 ranked Mardy Fish; the top seed at the tournament was stunned by qualifier Michael Russell 6-3, 6-1, thrilling the Texas fans in the quarterfinals.



## Dallas Challenger Boast Four Evening Session Sellouts

The 2012 ypChallenger of Dallas, held March 12-18, extended its streak of 14 consecutive years with another record-breaking crowd that included four sold out evening sessions. The tournament experience was enhanced this year by the introduction of a serve speed display on the stadium

handler **Jesse Levine** knocked out then No.71 ranked **Steve Darcis** from Belgium 6-4, 6-4, to win the 2012 ypChallenger of Dallas singles title. This was Levine's fourth professional singles title gamering at 70-percent first serve rate against Darcis. Levine, ranked No.134 at the time earned \$14,400 in prize



Supported by the ypChallenger of Dallas tournament, the Dallas NJTL Slam Jammers / Invest in a Child program by the Dallas Tennis Association allow area children the opportunity to receive equipment and play tennis. Photo courtesy of Ron Morrill and Bob Raedisch / TBARM Racquet Club

court and **Dominic Inglot** was clocked with the fastest serve during the tournament at 138 MPH.

The professionals participated in junior clinics throughout the week to support the Dallas Tennis Association's Invest in a Child program. Hundreds of area children were awarded tennis equipment and the opportunity to learn from some of the world's best. Portions of all Challenger proceeds went to the Dallas Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen For the Cure, the Dallas Tennis Association, and the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation.

Canadian born American left-

money and 100 ATP points while Darcis earned \$8,480 as a finalist.

Prior to the singles match, an intense 2-hour doubles final brought the crowd to their feet as the British team of **Chris Eaton** and Inglot defeated 2011 US Open mixed doubles champion **Jack Sock** and **Nick Monroe** 6-7(8-6), 6-4, 19-17. Eaton and Inglot finally won one of the longest doubles matches in Challenger history 19-17 in the third set tiebreaker.

For updates for the 2013 Challenger of Dallas go to [www.ChallengerofDallas.com](http://www.ChallengerofDallas.com).

## Texas A&M University Repeats to Win USTA Texas Tennis On Campus Championships

Texas A&M's "Do It Big" defeated the Texas Tech "Red Raiders" 30-20 to repeat as the 2012 USTA Texas Tennis On Campus Championship on Sunday, March 4 at the UT Austin Intramural Tennis Courts.

Following three days of ac-

Rice University won the USTA Texas Wild Card draw while Lone Star College - Cy Fair was named the USTA Texas Tennis On Campus Club of the Year.

Battling for the final spot, SMU narrowly defeated a feisty Texas State Gold 24-23 in a



Texas A&M's "Do It Big" defeated Texas Tech 30-20 to repeat as the 2012 USTA Texas Tennis On Campus Championship, that was held at the UT Intramural Tennis Courts in Austin, March 2-4. Photo by D. Hackett / USTA Texas

tion, the top five Texas teams plus a Wild Card and the USTA Texas Club of the Year all earn trips to nationals and will represent Texas at the 2012 USTA National Campus Championships.

Following champion Texas A&M and runner up Texas Tech was Baylor, University of Texas - Orange and Southern Methodist.

tiebreaker for the fifth place spot. Also recognized at the Championships was **Jorge Siera** from the University of North Texas for the Leader of the Year and the Spirit Award went to Texas State University. Boko the official Bobcat mascot of Texas State made a special guest appearance at the championships.



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## USTA Texas Tri-Level Champions Crowned

The 2012 USTA Texas Tri-Level Championships were held from Feb. 17-19 in Kingwood Texas. Tri-Level is a three doubles format. Winners included teams from Dallas, San Antonio and Fort Worth, Texas.

### LADIES 4.5 & UNDER

Dallas defeated Fort Worth 2-1 to win the USTA Texas Tri-Level 4.5 & Under Ladies Championship. Dallas was captained by **Celesta Caldwell** and the team included **Anita Adoba, Melanie Finnegan, Michelle Fitch, Kristi Howard, Kristine Killmeyer, Shana Larazine, Ana Castano-Mears, Heather Presley and Katie Smith.**



Dallas team that won the Ladies 4.5 and Under division at the USTA Texas Tri-Level held in Kingwood, Texas Feb. 17-19. Photo by Todd Reed / USTA Texas.

### LADIES 4.0 & UNDER

San Antonio defeated Dallas 2-1 to win the USTA Texas Tri-Level 4.0 & Under Ladies Championship title. San Antonio was captained by **Susan Galloway** and the team included **Patty Anderson, Patricia Barton, Michelle Brink, Becky Fralix, Jill Joyce, Angelina Keaton, Courtney O'Daniel, Elizabeth Owen and Melissa Shelly.**



San Antonio team that won the Ladies 4.0 and Under division at the USTA Texas Tri-Level held in Kingwood, Texas Feb. 17-19. Photo by Todd Reed / USTA Texas.

### MEN 4.5 & UNDER

Fort Worth defeated Houston 2-1 to win the USTA Texas Tri-Level 4.5 & Under Men's Championship title. Fort Worth was captained by **Noeh Romero**, co-captained by **Shawn Arcaria** and the team included **Stephen Bennett, Ryan DelaPaz, Manuel Diaz-Marta, Michael Glasgow, Eric Gordon, Jason Kern, William Kaiser, Johan**

**Mudsam, Jean Nguyen and Andrew Schultz.**

### MEN 4.0 & UNDER

Dallas defeated Southeast Texas (SETX) 2-1 to win the USTA Texas Tri-Level 4.0 & Under Men's Championship title. Dallas was captained by **John Sisk** and the team included **Reginald Bibb, Tommy Coleman, Jake Goff, Ron Corcoran, Roderick Gauvin, Chase Hardin, Nicholas Keney, Sergio Sanchez, Scott Russell, Jon Udden and Paul Welch.** (No photo available)



Fort Worth team that won the Men's 4.5 and Under division at the USTA Texas Tri-Level held in Kingwood, Texas Feb. 17-19. Photo by Todd Reed / USTA Texas.

## Tyler Women Crowned National Champions At USTA League 6.0 Super Senior National Championship

The women's team from Tyler, Texas, representing the USTA Texas Section, captured the national title at the USTA League 6.0 Super Senior National Championship held at the Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex in Surprise, Ariz.

The Tyler team defeated a team from Edmonds, Wash., 2-1 in the Championship match. Earlier in the day, the Tyler team defeated a team from Mechanicsburg, Pa., 3-0 in the semifinals after winning their round-robin flight.

The team is captained by **Kathy Cox** and features **Jerrilyne Roberson, Lee Ann Pittard, Johnetta Thomas, Karen Cook and Scarlet Drane** and plays at the Hollytree Country Club.

The top four teams in order of finish are: Texas, Pacific Northwest, Middle States and Hawaii.



Women's First Place: 6.0 Texas Section from Tyler - L to R: Jerrilyne M. Roberson, Lee Ann Pittard, Johnetta Thomas, Karen Cook, Scarlet F. Drane, Kathy Cox (Captain). Photo by Jen Pottheiser / USTA.

## Texas 8.0 Finish Second As USTA Sr. Mixed National Invitational Players Impressed by City of San Antonio, McFarlin Center

Battles were won and lost on the courts and champions were crowned at the USTA Leagues Senior Mixed National Invitational held at the McFarlin Tennis Center, in San Antonio, March 30 – April 1.

The 8.0 Texas team from Dallas made it to the finals and was defeated but the talk of the 400

plus participants from 16 of the 17 USTA sections was how wonderful the City of San Antonio and the McFarlin Tennis Center were as hosts.

The Texas team from Dallas won Flight 3 in the division over Eastern, and collected a 2-1 semi final win over Northern California. Then the team was defeated by Middle States finishing second in the 8.0 division.

USTA Texas would like to thank the staff at McFarlin and Blossom Tennis Center for serving as great ambassadors for the state. Early morning on Day 1, with no overnight showers and with no rain in the forecast, phone calls and questions besieged the tournament desk and staff. Credit the tidiness of the City of San Antonio, who had washed the streets outside the host hotel the night before which gave the appearance of an overnight sprinkle that started the calls from teams and captains about a rain delay schedule.

Northern (9.0), Middle States (8.0), Southern California (7.0) and Pacific Northwest (6.0) won the national titles for their division.



The 8.0 Texas team from Dallas placed second in the division at the Senior Mixed National Invitational held in San Antonio from March 30 – April 1. Photo by D. Hackett / USTA Texas.