



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TENNIS ASSOCIATION

SENIOR NEWS

Boca Intersectional Showing

(Stories By Mark Winters)

Anually in the second week of November, Southern California is represented by a formidable collection of women competing at the National Intersectional Team Championships. This year's event was held at The Swim & Racquet Center in Boca Raton, Florida. As Colleen Clery Ferrell noted, "I was coordinator for all six teams, along with Annette Buck (Southern California

Tennis Association Director of Adult & Senior Tennis). The section had great representation, winning one and being a finalist in three other events, along with a fourth-place finish in another."

There is something special – magic may be a better word to use – about Boca Raton. Dori DeVries, Judy Janc, Roz King, Sheila Palmer and Norma Veal feel that way. "The Southern California 75 team did it again," Veal, the captain, said. "It was the third time in a row that the team won the Intersectional title. Dori and Roz were the stars, sweeping their singles in a '2 singles/2 doubles' format.



75 Team

Midwest and Eastern were defeated 4-0 and the final was won, 3-1 over Texas."

Amy Alcini, Nathalie Herremon-Bagby, Debbie Higa, Dina McBride and Millie Yablonicky were members of the 35 team. "The tournament started great for the team as they won 5-0 against Eastern," Yablonicky, the captain, noted.



Southern California participants at tournament banquet

"Although they won all the matches, it wasn't easy because the weather was really hot and humid. On Friday, the team had a bye so they practiced a little, watched some tennis, then headed to the beach for a sunset walk and an amazing Italian dinner. On Saturday, everyone was fired up and ready to take on Florida in the semis. Unfortunately right after the warm up, it began to rain. After a lengthy delay, play was suspended for the day.

"On Sunday morning, the tournament officials decided to shorten the format to get all the matches completed. It was cloudy and the wind was swirling, but no rain. After three tough singles matches in the difficult conditions, the team was down 1-2 going into doubles. Herremon-Bagby and Higa won their doubles 8-6, so the match came down to Dina and me. We knew we had to win to keep the trophy hopes alive. After surviving five match points, we came back to win, 9-7, and vaulted the team into the final.

In the championship match, the Southern team seemed to have a little fresher legs and came away with a 4-1 victory."

Clery Ferrell, Una Davis, Karen Haas, Jackie Heston, Tina Karwasky, Tracey Thompson and Tracy Worley-Hagen were members of the 55 team. In the event summaries provided by Karwasky, (who served as the captain), and Clery Ferrell,

it was noted that Florida was defeated 4-1, in the first round, with the only losing point coming in doubles. After a day off, the tenacious team from Northern California was the semifinal opponent.



35 Team

Thanks to the singles play of Karwasky, a doubles victory by Davis and Heston, then a down-to-the-wire escape by Karwasky and Worley-Hagen, who after losing the first set, clinched the 3-2 victory.



55 Team



65 Team

For the third year in a row, Southern was the final round opponent. Singles was their strength and they proved it by winning all three matches. Nonetheless, Haas and Tracy Worley-Hagen came back to win in the third set after being down two match points in a second set Tiebreak. Davis and Heston also earned a three set victory to make the final score, 3-2.

Cathie Anderson, Kathy Bennett, Liane Bryson, Carol Gay, Judy Louie, Crys Ren and Ann Stanley were the section's 65 representatives. Gay, who was the captain, said, "The team prevailed in close matches and enjoyed the play so much that one of the members dubbed the players on her Facebook page 'The Dream Team'. In addition to great fun and competitive tennis, the unique personalities blended together and contributed to the team's cohesiveness.



80 Team

"Seeded fourth, the team was impressive in their first round match, defeating Southwest, 5-0. The quarterfinal match against Mid-Atlantic came down to the 'wire.' Trailing after morning singles play, the doubles teams of Bennett/Bryson, and Louie/Stanley pulled the team through for the win by capturing very close matches, in the 3-2 win.

"In the semifinals, Southern, the second seed, was upset, 3-2. Ren kept Southern California in the match, winning a three and a half hour marathon at the number three position. Heading into the doubles, down 2-1, Bennett and Bryson won again. Louie/Stanley's doubles victory, at

number two, secured the win.

"The 65 team certainly met their match in the final against the top seed, Florida. Ren again came very close to keeping the team in the match, but ultimately, she was defeated. Louie and Stanley won at number two doubles, but Bennett and Bryson had to default at 5-5 in the first set because Liane injured her leg, giving Florida a 4-1 decision."

Nancy Kibbey, the experienced captain and player, was fully aware of the competitive level that her 80 team would face. For this reason, she summoned Patti Dodgen and Pat Giebink, who are also Balboa Tennis Club members, to join her and Janet Hubbard in the quest for a title.

Kibbey said, "Though Southern California was unseeded, Dodgen and Giebink pulled out a clutch three setter to defeat a seasoned Florida team and take the match 2-1. In the next round, they achieved another three set victory, this time against Middle States. I teamed with Hubbard to win an exciting three set, 7-4, Tiebreak to spring into the final."

Unfortunately, Kibbey was unable to compete in the next match, and the team came up short in the third-fourth place playoff. Still, she admitted, "The matches were played in 87 degree heat and 90% humidity. The resilience of these 80 something senior women was amazing. It shows that tennis is, truly the sport of a lifetime."

Overcoming health and scheduling issues faced by a group of players, Nancy

Abler Sanchez, Cynthia Delgado, Mary Graber, Rainy Miller, Lisa Naumu, Prentiss Van Den Berg and Ruth Young stepped up to represent the SCTA in 45 play. Miller, who was co-captain with Van Den Berg, said, "Everyone enjoyed the competitive matches, meeting players from around the country, seeing old friends, and cheering for their fellow Southern California teammates in other age divisions. Additionally, the high level of tennis made for some awesome



45 Team

matches, and the clay court surface made for some very long and exciting points. In working toward the same goal, the camaraderie that resulted is something the whole team will always remember. It was a great experience."

Adding to the tournament summary, Clery Ferrell offered, "I was really proud of all the teams. The players were all very thankful for the support provided by the SCTA, and they are looking forward to next year's event in San Antonio. I must add that at the tournament banquet, Amy Alcini won a free ticket from United Airlines to anywhere in the US."



Amy Alcini (center) was the winner of the United Airlines ticket.

Bennett, Little & King On Winning Teams

The 35th International Tennis Federation (ITF) Super-Seniors World Team Championships took place in late September in Umag, Croatia. The annual tournament, which is a Davis Cup/Fed Cup-like competition, featured players representing their countries in the 65, 70, 75, and 80 age groups.



Lynn Little and Roz King



Chuck Nelson



Cathie Anderson



Kathy Bennett

Kathy Bennett was a member of the Women's 65 Godfree Cup team that defeated Great Britain in the title round, 2-1. Lynn Little and Roz King teamed up for the final doubles victory in the US 3-0 shutout of Great Britain in the Women's 75 Queens' Cup final.

Chuck Nelson was on the Men's 80 Mulloy Cup team that defeated France 2-1 for third place. Cathie Anderson made an impact on the Women's 70 Gibson Cup team that downed Australia, 2-1 for fifth place.

For the first time in recent memory, none of the Southern Californian participants went on to capture a title in the Individual Championships, which followed the first week of team play.

Desert Circuit – January Institution

The Desert Circuit is a set of four January senior tournaments that take place at storied locations in all places, the desert. The competitions, along with the hotel arrangements, player gifts, party and awards are, for all intents and purposes, an extension of the holiday season.

The 27th Monterey Country Club Senior Tennis Classic, (at the facility of the same name), in Palm Desert will be held January 5-10. The Tournament ID number is 651710416. Andy Scorteanu,

at (760) 346-0670, is the event's point person.

In Palm Springs, the Plaza Senior Tournament, presented by Kristine Eastling-Agee of Stewart Title, along with Patty Service of Las Casuelas Terraza Restaurant, (another competition staged at a location of the same name), is set for January 11-17. The Tournament ID number is 651710516. Kurt or Ana Haggstrom, at (760) 323-8997, can answer questions about the event.

The 34th Palm Springs Racquet Club

Senior Championships, (the final of the Desert Circuit contests taking place at a spot with the same name), begins on January 17th and concludes on the 23rd. The Tournament ID number is 651700916. Glenn Erickson, at (760) 318-1716 is the individual to contact for details.

The ASICS World Tennis Classic (Super Category II) is scheduled for January 24-31 at the Mission Hills Country Club. The Tournament ID number is 651711416 and any questions should be directed to Ed Trost at (760) 325-7693.

And There Is More...

There is more to the January tournament schedule than the Desert Circuit. The 43rd Frank Simmons No. 1 Memorial Doubles Shoot-Out will be held on New Year's Day. Pre-registration isn't required at this player friendly drop-in event. All an individual and his/her partner need to do is to be at Harvard Park, 1535 W. 62nd Street, in Los Angeles, by 8:30 a.m. in order to register. One of the "player friendly" aspects of the January 1st activity is that partners can always

be found for those without them. (The only necessity for participants is that they must bring a can of tennis balls.) Calvin Bennett is the Tournament Director, and Delores Simmons, wife of the late tournament founder, is the person to contact with any questions at (323) 293-0189.

A little over a week later, the 98th Los Angeles Metropolitan Tournament will take place at Griffith Park in Los Angeles, January 9-10 and 16-17. The Tournament ID number is 651710316. Juan Aynat, at

(818) 246-5613, can provide full details regarding the championship.

Finally, give thought to taking part in the 39th Martin Luther King Memorial Tournament. Organized by the Mountain View Sports & Racquet Association, the championship will be staged at Martin Luther King Park, in San Diego, January 9-10, 15-17. The Tournament ID number is 650008716 and Victor Gamez, at (619) 467-9235, can provide the necessary specifics.

In Memoriam

Patricia (Pat) Canning Todd

Patricia (Pat) Canning Todd, who was born in San Francisco, earned a US top 10 ranking ten times. Her zenith came in 1947 and '49 when she was No. 4. As things played out, she enjoyed her most international success and a bit of stress at Roland Garros.

She was the singles winner in 1947, defeating Margaret Osborne duPont, the defending champion who had just won Wimbledon (in those days The Championships was played before Paris) in a semifinal that took two days to complete. In the final, she used her telling groundstrokes, particularly the backhand, and her ability to scramble about the court, to down Doris Hart for the title.

Canning Todd and Hart were the 1947 Wimbledon doubles champions, and they were US National Championships finalists to Louise Brough and duPont that year and again in 1948. As the Roland Garros title holder, she was favored to win again, but was stymied by a situation that, in those days, could only be described as "Oh, so French..." Canning Todd was defaulted for refusing to play her match that had been scheduled for the center court, but was moved to court two. As the 1947 champion, she wasn't interested in playing at a secondary location. Even worse, the move was requested late in the day, and there would not have been a full set of lines people on hand.

Canning Todd is supposed to have said, "They can scratch [default] me if they like. I am not going to play anywhere but on the center court where my match is scheduled."

She was defaulted, but then the tournament officials reconsidered and they gave her the telephone number of her French opponent, Nelly Adamson Landry, to see if she could reschedule the match. Landry could not be reached so the default stood, which resulted in Todd saying that she would never enter the tournament again. But, in 1950, she returned to Roland Garros, and lost to Hart in the title round, but ended up in the hospital with blood poisoning following the contest.

Interestingly, the United States Lawn Tennis Association ranked Canning Todd No. 6 in 1948. She claimed (to no avail) that she was placed behind Beverly Baker Fleitz, Gussy Moran and Hart for having refused to play Landry in Paris.

According to John Olliff and Lance Tingay, the tennis journalists for The Daily Telegraph and the Daily Mail (both Great Britain newspapers), Canning Todd was ranked in the World Top 10 from 1946 through 1952. In 1950, she was the fourth best player in the world.

A consistent champion throughout her career, Canning Todd, who passed away in early September, became a member of the San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame in 2010, and a year later was inducted into the Southern California Tennis Association Hall of Fame.

Bobby Perez

Bobby Perez, the son of Mexican immigrants who became a tennis and business star because of his hustle and grit, passed away at the end of September. He began playing tennis as a ten-year-old at the Exposition Park courts near the Coliseum and after serving in the Navy in the Second World War, he attended USC and was a member of the team that won the school's first NCAA championship in 1946. In time, he became the squad's top singles and doubles player. The game provided an introduction to Helen Pastall, a Southern California talent, who became his wife and the love of his life. Early in his professional career, he carpooled with Johnny Carson to CBS studios where he worked as a copyboy (having graduated from USC with a degree in journalism). In time, he became a CBS Vice President and General Manager in National Sales and was based in New York. Once he retired, Perez and his family returned to Southern California where he became a senior standout. He also coached the men's team at University of California, Irvine in the late 1980s. Perez was a formidable competitor and a wonderful conversationalist, Bob Perez left his mark in both tennis and the business world, along with an impact on so many of the people with whom he crossed paths over a meaningful life.

Donald Scott

Donald Scott, a long-time city resident, was a San Marino activist. Both as a businessman and in his civic involvements, he made a difference. This was particularly true of the San Marino Tennis Association. He was the organization's Vice-President at its inception and he was in charge of building the San Marino Tennis Center facility. Scott passed away in mid-November.

Ed Sukla

For Ed Sukla there wasn't a sport he couldn't master. At Huntington Beach High School, he was a football, basketball, track and baseball all-star. In fact, he was so good on the diamond that the Angels gave him a bonus contract upon his graduation in 1961. After playing professional baseball for seventeen years, he became a scout and was acknowledged as National Scout of the Year in 2007. During the off-season, he used his prodigious talent to become a success in pool and bowling. Having never played the game as a youngster, he used the Palisade Tennis Club, in Newport Beach to develop the skill to earn a national senior ranking. Known for his openness and ability to make almost everyone he came in contact with a friend. Sukla passed away in late September.

Back-Story

Coming up with a count of national and international triumphs scored by Southern California seniors during the 2015 season requires sleuth-like investigative skills, and of course, all the research that it entails. Practically speaking, a quest of this sort is sure to fall short. Local players accomplished far too much to tabulate in totality during the past year.

Still, there is an interesting back-story to tell. A number of competitors achieved distinctive combinations. Ros Nideffer defended her National Women's 50 Hard Court title, defeating Fran Chandler, 6-4, 6-0, in the final. She was also responsible for two points in the US Women's 50 Bueno Cup 2-1 triumph over France.



Ros Nideffer
Photo J. Fred Sidhu

Mike Federly was a member of the Men's 55 Austria Cup team that defeated Spain, 2-1 in the final. The week following the event, he teamed with Mike Tammen of Portland, Oregon in the Individual World Championships, to capture the doubles title in that same age group.

In an epic marathon tussle, Tina Karwasky outlasted Carolyn Nichols, 3-6, 7-6, 7-5, for the National Women's 60 Hard Court title. Nichols rebounded, scoring a 6-0, 6-4 victory with Una Davis over Karwasky and Jan Kirkland-Cochran of Tyrone, Georgia for doubles honors.

Together, Karwasky and Nichols led the US to a 2-1 victory over Great Britain to claim the Women's 60 Marble Cup in the trophy round. In the Individual final, a reversal of their La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club meeting took place. That time out, Nichols edged Karwasky, 6-7, 6-4, 6-1 and added to her winning total, taking the doubles with Lyn Mortimer of



Mike Federly
Photo camerawork usa



Carolyn Nichols
Photo La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club

Australia. Karwasky, though, earned her 100th gold ball at the National Women's 60 Clay Court Championships and finished 2016 with a total of 107 that included a singles Grand Slam.



Tina Karwasky
Photo J. Fred Sidhu

Changin'...

In 1964, Bob Dylan, the musical poet laureate, crafted "The Times They Are A-Changin'" and released the song in an album of the same name. Borrowing from the thought provoking and, for some, iconoclastic troubadour – The Times Are A-Changin' for the Senior News.

Since its inception in 1999, the publication has sought to provide a venue for individual and tournament storytelling, coverage of many national and international playing venues, as well as other aspects that make the senior game so special.

The Southern California Tennis Association's executive staff has decided that the Senior News will no longer be printed on a quarterly basis. From this point on, the publication will appear only on the SCTA website (www.scta.usta.com).

Anyone wishing to have a printed version should contact Linda Milan, SCTA Director, Support Services, either by email at lmilan@scta.usta.com or by calling (310) 208-3838 Ext. 225.

Having been involved, writing and publishing the Senior News from the very beginning, I appreciate the assistance that has been provided in an effort to call attention to Southern California senior tennis. The process of sharing the successes that have been enjoyed over the past seventeen years has been an experience I will always fondly remember.

As Dylan pointed out –

Your old road is
Rapidly agin'.
Please get out of the new one
If you can't lend your hand
For the times they are a-changin'.

