OTHER SPORTS DON'T MAKE KIDS PLAY LIKE ADULTS.

INTRODUCING 10 AND UNDER TENNIS: A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME FOR KIDS.
VOTED BY TENNIS MAGAZINE:
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THE #5 MATCHMAKING • THE #3 EVERY TASTE
IN AMERICA

TENNIS CAMPS AT THE BROADMOOR
Join us for one of our award-winning camps this year.

Winter 2010 – 2011 Tennis Camps

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Tennis Camps Include:

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- Dartfish video analysis
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After more than 100 years of raising our 10 and Under players on standard courts, using traditional tennis balls, the USTA has mandated a rule change that will fundamentally change the way they learn, the way they play, and the way they compete.

Beginning in 2012, tennis will adopt a model that other sports have been using successfully for decades, treating kids like kids, not like adults.

It’s about time.

HALL OF FAME

Please welcome the 11th class of inductees to the Colorado Tennis HOF: Clarence Dodge, Art & John Hagan, Brenda Vlasak and Kent Woodard.

H5.06

A set of five profiles on local players and volunteers who deserve recognition for their efforts and accomplishments on and off the court.

COLLEGEBOUND

MEET THE PARENTS

Part 4 of USTA Colorado’s series on finding the right tennis college.

Join the USTA

The benefits of membership

ADULT LEAGUE TENNIS

One of the country’s largest recreational league tennis menus, the Colorado Adult League Series provides organized and structured team matches for nearly 28,000 men and women throughout the state. Whether you’re a beginner or you’re in a league of your own, we’ve got a team for players like you.

FREE PUBLICATIONS

COLORADO TENNIS newspaper
The BIG BOOK OF COLORADO TENNIS
TENNIS Magazine
USTA & SMASH Magazine

TOURNAMENT TENNIS

Sanctioned tournament play is wrongly thought to be for “serious competitors only.” But in Colorado, there is a tournament for every level player, novice to expert. And with more than 160 events featuring divisions for kids under 10 to seniors 90 and up, there’s no age limit for having fun.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit USTA.com/membership for more information, to become a USTA member, or to change your address.

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*Restrictions may apply. Must be a local resident, age 18 or older with valid photo ID. First time guest only. Offer ends December 30, 2010. ©2010 Wellbridge
IN A DECISION THAT WILL **FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE**
the future landscape of tennis in the United States,
the USTA has required that by 2012,

**ALL 10 AND UNDER TENNIS TOURNAMENTS**
be played with **smaller courts**, **lower nets**, **lighter and lower-bouncing balls**, **smaller and lighter racquets**

**ADJUSTED TO** **A CHILD’S SIZE.**
What is 10 and Under Tennis?

10 and Under Tennis, using the QuickStart Tennis play format, is structured for kids to learn, rally and play quickly and in a way that is both enjoyable and rewarding. Tailoring equipment and courts so they are sized appropriately for kids makes the game more accessible—and more fun—by allowing kids to get involved right from the start.

10 and Under Tennis eliminates waiting on long lines to hit the ball, and the frustration kids feel at not being able to rally. Kids will enjoy playing the game right away and keep coming back for more—developing a lifelong passion and appreciation for tennis.

**Benefits**

10 and Under Tennis works by getting kids involved in the game immediately. Within the first hour of stepping onto the court, they are playing the game, rallying with one another, moving around and having fun. Scaling the game to their size helps make the learning process easier and a lot more fun.

The majority of youth sports have followed this formula for years:

* Baseball begins with smaller bats, smaller fields and progresses from tee ball to coach pitch to player pitch.
* Basketball and soccer employ similar methods, including shortened playing surfaces and appropriate-sized equipment. That helps ensure that your kids’ first experiences in the sport will leave them overjoyed, not overwhelmed.

The shorter and narrower courts give kids the confidence and ability to cover the entire court. Kids have trouble controlling full-sized racquets because they are too long, too heavy and the grips are too large.

* 10 and Under Tennis racquets are proportionate in length and weight, and have the grips that fit smaller hands allowing for more control
* Balls traveling slower, bouncing at a height equal to kids’ playing abilities provide for better and longer rallies, helping kids develop all-court games.

By being introduced to the QuickStart Tennis play format from the start, kids will gain confidence by seeing their own immediate progress, making them more enthusiastic about continuing to play and improve.

10 and Under Tennis arranges kids into two age groups: the first is 8 and under; the second is 9-10. By allowing kids play with their contemporaries, they have more fun while learning and developing skills.

Effect on Community Development

10 and Under Tennis is changing the way tennis is played—and taught—throughout the United States. Under the old, traditional system of teaching tennis, kids would line up, hit a tennis ball or two and then move back to the end of the line. But with smaller courts, slower-moving and lower-bouncing balls, and lighter and shorter racquets included in the QuickStart Tennis play format, kids are playing soon after they take to the court, all while engaging in a proven aerobic exercise.

"In the past, tennis was like learning the piano," says Dave Miley, Executive Director, Tennis Development, ITF. "You’d have coaches telling you, ‘look, maybe in six months time you’ll get the opportunity to play tennis.’ Well, most people want to know how I can play now. With the slower balls, in the first lesson you can at least get the players hitting back a few balls. And then from there you can teach technique and all that."

In many ways, the QuickStart Tennis play format employed by 10 and Under Tennis is an ideal fit for any for recreational, physical education or after-school program. It is easy to set up—10 and Under Tennis can be played in a gym, on a driveway or playground, or even in a dirt field with the help of portable nets (or tape strung between two chairs) and throw-down lines or lines marked with chalk or tape—and introduces kids to tennis in a safe and easy way, all while providing the exercise growing children—and adults—need to stay healthy and fit.

And it makes economic sense as well. The 36- and 60-foot courts attract more kids to a facility, thus increasing demand for tennis programming, particularly during the summer months. And best of all, one 78-foot court can be transformed into as many as four 36-foot courts, meaning any tennis facility can be converted into a veritable Kids’ Tennis Festival with the help of a few portable nets.

There are also benefits for tennis manufacturers. For decades, tennis players, whether they were 6 years old or 60, had only the option of playing on a 78-foot court with an adult racquet and a yellow tennis ball. The advent of 10 and Under Tennis translates into a new sales market with an expanded demographic, allowing manufacturers to increase business by selling right-sized equipment to young players and retaining them as customers into adulthood.

"Expanding the awareness of this approach and format for entry-level players is a huge opportunity to not just get more kids in the 6 to 10 age range into our sport (and their families), but also an opportunity to increase revenue per court and revenue overall coming into our industry," Tennis Industry Association President Jon Muir said in an interview with Racquet Sports Industry magazine. "If we can get more kids started and staying in our sport, our core serious player base will continue to grow in the years ahead."

Effect on Player Development

10 and Under Tennis is not just for those looking to get their kids started in the game. It has been endorsed by USTA Player Development as the best way to develop future American
champions, and is used and implemented in Player Development’s Certified Regional Training Centers around the country.

### the complete player

The slower-moving and lower-bouncing balls of 10 and Under Tennis allow kids to make contact in the optimal hitting zone—between the knees and shoulders—teaching proper swing technique and eliminating the extreme grips that some children develop in an attempt to make contact with balls bouncing over their heads. Moreover, the smaller, lighter racquets enable them to take even swings to ensure proper contact, and the smaller courts are instrumental in teaching the proper footwork and tactical decision-making required at the game’s higher levels—all skills reinforced through proper tournament competition.

"One of the greatest misconceptions about 10 and Under Tennis is that it’s a great format for beginners only, and that the goal is to transition players to 78-foot courts and yellow balls as soon as possible," says Martin Blackman, Senior Director, Talent Identification and Development, USTA Player Development. "But that’s just not the case. We believe that mastery is the goal at every stage, and the QuickStart Tennis play format provides our coaches with the best opportunity to develop players because the environment is appropriate for the size and ability of the player, and the player can master the fundamental skills needed to play the game throughout their career."

The result is a more complete tennis player at a younger age, and a student who will grow into his or her skills at a measured rate—making fair players very good, good players great, and turning great players into champions.

"We’re big believers in 10 and Under Tennis as an important component in developing the next generation of American tennis champions," says Patrick McEnroe, General Manager, USTA Player Development. "Not only does it reinforce what we in Player Development are trying to teach at an early age, it will increase the number of youngsters playing tennis. We believe that in the long run, the more players you have available, the better chance you’re going to find the next Serena Williams or Pete Sampras."

### one size does not fit all

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association agrees, having voted during the 2010 NCAA Tournament to allow NCAA competition on courts that are lined for both 78-foot tennis as well as the 36- and 60-foot courts employed by 10 and Under Tennis. In conjunction with the USTA, the ITA has also started Campus QuickStart, a program created to recognize those college coaches who embrace and utilize the QuickStart format in their camps, clinics and other tennis outreach events targeted at the 10 and Under market.

"When you have kids that are struggling to hit the ball, making things slower and smaller is only a benefit," says Peter Smith, coach of the two-time defending NCAA champion USC men’s team, who has incorporated the QuickStart Tennis play format in his camps and clinics. "Kids need to have success to want more success. I don’t think the general public really realizes how technical and difficult tennis can be, so if we can make it easier, it’s only going to help our sport and help everyone who’s trying to play."

But competition at too-early a time can lead to discouragement, and the development of skills and tactics could be compromised if kids revert to bad habits for short-term success.

Since its unveiling in the spring of 2008, QuickStart has become an integral part of tennis for kids ages 10 and under," says Scott Schultz, Managing Director, Recreational Tennis, USTA. "And most importantly, it is the right play format for kids 10 and under to learn and experience tennis, regardless of whether it’s riding in their driveway or at a local park with a parent, or playing in a tournament."

Studies have shown that competition is an essential component of learning and enjoying any sport. The key is to use competition as a tool to grow and develop the game—and the games of youngsters—not to crown champions or turn late developers away from tennis. 10 and Under Tennis aims to get kids playing as quickly and capably as possible in a fun, welcoming environment. It utilizes tournament play featuring the smaller courts, slower-moving and lower-bouncing balls, and smaller and lighter racquets of the QuickStart Tennis play format as the vehicle to help kids learn the strategy and tactics of tennis—by playing matches.

"I’ve been involved in tennis for more than 30 years and this is the biggest change I’ve seen," Lew Brewer, Director, Junior Competition, USTA Player Development, says of the change in tournament format. "It changes everything in terms of how we introduce kids to youth tennis by getting more kids involved at an earlier age, learning the game the right way. To change rules of the game will forever change the future of our sport and open the sport up to millions of kids."

### opening the door

There are more than six dozen 10 and Under Tennis tournaments held in Colorado annually. Most are played in just one or two days and feature non-elimination formats such as compass draws or round robins. These formats allow kids to play a number of matches against a variety of opponents in one tournament—meaning little travel for maximum play opportunities—and open the door for more team play such as Junior Team Tennis, which encourages kids to improve their skills while offering them a chance to play with their friends. The result is more fun, and more kids playing tennis now and into the future. "There is no question that the more kids play, the more they learn about the game by developing skills, determining the correct shot selection and learning proper court positioning," says Kirk Anderson, Director, Recreational Coaches & Programs, USTA. "And with the new rule change, competition is now possible at younger ages. Staged properly, competitive events and tournaments give kids the opportunity to play with and against a variety of players, allowing them to test the skills they’ve learned. And by playing multiple matches and playing on a team, they are able to have fun and experience progress, which keeps them coming back for more."
Nouns in the News
People, Places & Things Doing This, That and the Other.

24 Hours to Give Where You Live
Increase the value of your donation when you support the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation on Colorado Gives Day, December 8, 2010! On this special day, Colorado is coming together to raise one million dollars in one day for nonprofits including the CYTF. What’s more, when you donate online on December 8, the value of your donation will be increased by the Colorado Gives Day Incentive Fund – created by FirstBank and supplemented by local organizations. To learn more about Colorado Gives Day, visit the CYTF at COLORADOTENNIS.com or find us on Facebook, and remember us on December 8!

Paluch inducted into Gustavus Adolphus Hall of Fame
Millennium Harvest House Director of Tennis Duke Paluch was recently inducted into the Gustavus Adolphus Sports Hall of Fame. An athletic singles and doubles player with a high-powered serve and volley game, Duke was a two-time All-American on the dominant Gustavus squads of the early 1980s. As a senior, he led the Golden Gusties to the NCAA Championships finals, and sixth place at the NAIA National Tournament.

Wright, Wilkinson in spotlight at USTA JTT Nationals
For some kids, giving up a Halloween in order to play tennis might be unimaginable. But not for the Lymnar Racquet Club and Tennis For Everyone squads, who hit the courts on October 28-31 in Surprise, AZ for the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Championships.

Wright, Wilkinson in spotlight at USTA JTT Nationals
This was a first for both squads, who earned berths at Nationals after capturing the Intermountain Sectional Championship at the US Air Force Academy in August. Tennis For Everyone (18-Intermediate) finished the weekend in 12th place, while Lymnar (18-Advanced) finished in 14th.

While neither squad would collect a championship title, Carolyn Wilkinson (Tennis For Everyone) earned the spotlight right off the bat, as the 17-year-old was selected to sing the National Anthem at the event. At tournament’s end, 15-year-old Danny Wright (Tennis For Everyone) was honored for his outstanding sportsmanship.

In search of hardware at the National Championships
After surviving her 4-hour 27-minute, 6-2 6-4 6-2 marathon over former world champion Mariana Hollman in the semifinals of the USTA National Hardcourt Championships, Colorado Tennis Hall of Famer Rhona Kaczmarczyk couldn’t overcome the current world champion, Fran Chandler. Chandler displayed her trademark speed in the final, winning 6-3 6-2, leaving Kaczmarczyk to bring home the silver ball.

In other hardcourt action, Aurora’s Molly Carter couldn’t stay with the No. 2 seed in the round of 16 in the W35s division, but managed to battle her way through the consolation draw to capture the consolation final for fifth place.

Perennial contender Rita Price lost her bid for another gold ball at the W80s Hardcourts when she was forced to withdraw before her semifinal match against fourth-seeded Janet Hubbard. She did manage to win the consolation doubles final with partner Beverly Little.

Willie Dann and Lew Miller had some extra weight to check in their bags on the return trip from the USTA Men’s National Grasscourt Championships back in Philadelphia. The longtime partners won the M35 doubles gold ball without losing a set, and it looked to be an all-Colorado possibility for the singles final. Miller lost in the semifinals to No. 3 seeded Rick Witsken, so it was up to Dann to ensure a Colorado gold. After dropping the first set, Dann prevailed in a three-set thriller, 4-6 6-3 6-4. Miller rebounded to earn the bronze ball.

Carbondale’s Ken Sawyer teamed up with Californian Tom Bryan for a fifth place finish at the USTA National 65s Grasscourt Championships.

No stranger to the national circuit, Grand Junction’s Susan Wright narrowly missed out on picking up more gold balls to add to her trophy case, dropping both the W50 singles and doubles finals in competitive fashion. The No. 2 ranked player in the world, Wright lost her singles match to fellow American Diane Fishburne, the top-ranked player in the world.

Burke, Daily Sentinel named Intermountain Award winners
The USTA Intermountain Section recently announced its annual award winners, and two with Colorado connections are among the honorees. Sue Burke, of Boulder, will be recognized with the David Freed Award (Lifetime Service), and the Daily Sentinel (Grand Junction) (Jay Seaton, publisher) will receive the Media Excellence Award at the Intermountain Annual Meeting in February.

Colorado players earn gold at World Senior Games
Several Coloradans earned gold at the 2010 Huntsman World Senior Games in St. George, UT. The games welcome players ages 50+ in dozens of sports. This year, more than 10,000 athletes [412 in tennis] participated in the Games, an all-time record. Complete results are available at SENIORGAMES.net. Congratulations to the following Colorado players who earned gold medals at this year’s event. Men’s Doubles 75-79/Challenger: Al Throckmorton (Englewood); Mixed Doubles 80-84/Open: Warren Foltz (Littleton) & Jeannette Ford (Denver); Women’s Doubles 80-84/Open: Ford; Men’s Singles 60-64/Challenger: Rudolph Martinez (Arvada); Men’s Singles 80-84/Challenger: Wayne Odon (South Fork)

League Teams encouraged to Adopt-A-Unit
The USTA’s Adopt-A-Unit effort is designed to guide tennis organizations and players to “adopt” a military unit of approximately 75-100 soldiers serving in Iraq or Afghanistan by sending care packages of necessities. In turn, the USTA will send portable tennis equipment to the adopted unit on your behalf with instructions and educational information on tennis. The effort allows the tennis community to show support and to introduce soldiers to a recreational means for reintegrating with family, friends and community upon their return from conflict.

In partnership with the National Recreation Foundation, the USTA will purchase and ship two (2) tennis kits with portable nets, throw down lines, racquets and balls, along with educational and instructional information about tennis and the USTA. Equipment and information will be shipped from the National office on your behalf and may include a letter from your group with thankful wishes from home and an invitation to play tennis in the community with family and friends upon their return. The USTA will contact you after registration to arrange for the equipment shipment directly to your adopted unit. For more information, please visit USTA.com/adoptaunit.

USTA Community Development Tennis Workshop
The 2011 Community Tennis Development Workshop takes place February 11-13, 2011 in Arlington, VA. Network with over 500 grassroots community tennis leaders from across the country as you enjoy top notch sessions led by specialists in their field. Gain a wealth of information and a stronger network that can have an impact on your community for years to come. Get more information and take advantage of the early registration discount through 12/30/10 by visiting COLORADOTENNIS.com.

USTA Serves partners with Usher’s New Look Foundation
The USTA announced a new three-year partnership between USTA Serves, the USTA’s philanthropic entity, and the New Look Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by R&B
superstar Usher Raymond IV, designed to mentor youth to become global and community leaders. The partnership will help guide thousands of American youth in using their athletic and creative talents to become leaders in their local communities by expanding both tennis and service opportunities to youth across the country. For more information, please visit USTA.com/foundation.

Breaking the Barriers Exhibit comes to Colorado

USTA Colorado and the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library, the repository of Black history in the West, are partnering to bring the Breaking the Barriers exhibit to Denver, April-June 2011. The Breaking the Barriers exhibit is a historical timeline of African Americans in tennis from the 1800s to Arthur Ashe’s 1975 historic Wimbledon win. Traditionally, housed at the International Tennis Hall of Fame Museum, and most recently displayed at the US Open Tennis Championships last September, Colorado is fortunate to have secured the exhibit for a three-month run at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library in Denver’s historical Five Points neighborhood.

Breaking the Barriers will be a premier exhibit featuring tennis, a new topic that has never before been showcased at Blair-Caldwell, one of only five such libraries across the country, preserving the legacy of the early pioneers to present-day heroes. A community and business initiative is working together to develop ancillary programs delivering the Breaking the Barriers message of diversity and inclusion through: VIP private showings; video documentary highlighting the history of African American tennis in Colorado; library lecture series school outreach with supporting curriculum and field trips to the Library exhibit and more.

This collaborative partnership between USTA Colorado and the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library is history in the making by telling stories that have not been told and enriching the Library’s collection with memorabilia, stories and photos of local past and present pioneers of tennis. USTA Colorado is committed to diversity and inclusion and making tennis accessible to diverse and underserved communities to inspire a whole new generation of tennis players, along with providing a healthy, fun family activity that can be enjoyed for a lifetime. For more information, contact Paula McClain, Director of Marketing and Diversity at paula@coloradotennis.com or 303.695.4116 x220

Tentative 2010 Rankings available soon

All Colorado tournament rankings (tentative) will be posted online at coloradotennis.com no later than January 5, 2011. Not all divisions conclude at the same time, so some will appear later than others. Computer standings will once again be used for all rankings, and any player wanting to appeal the computer-generated results must do so in writing via mail to USTA/CO Ranking Committee, 3300 E Bayaud Ave, Suite 201 Denver, CO 80209 or email to jason@coloradotennis.com. All appeals must be submitted by 5pm on January 24, 2011. The ranking committee will review all submitted appeals received by the deadline, to determine the final rankings, which will be published in the upcoming Big Book of Colorado Tennis. That publication will mail in early February 2011.

Tournament players encouraged to review results online

USTA Colorado Player Development/Competitive Tennis Director Jason Colter reminds tournament players that it is important to review player records in order to make sure that the current standings are accurate prior to the end of the calendar year. Review points carefully and make sure that you are receiving the correct amount of points for each round played.

Refer to page 42 of the 2010 BIG BOOK OF COLORADO TENNIS for a point breakdown. Also a reminder of the following:

- **Championship Singles/Doubles**: Players accumulating a minimum of 200 points during the calendar year will earn a numerical ranking. Only a player’s three best results at Colorado Sanctioned events will count towards a year-end ranking.
- **NTRP Singles/Doubles**: Players accumulating a minimum of 250 points during the calendar year will earn a numerical ranking (three best results will apply to ranking).
- **Seniors/Family Doubles**: Players accumulating a minimum of 100 points during the calendar year will earn a numerical ranking (two best results will apply to ranking).
- **Junior Satellite**: Players accumulating a minimum of 150 points during the calendar year will earn a numerical ranking (three best results will apply to ranking).
- **Junior Championship**: Players accumulating a minimum of 200 points during the calendar year will earn a numerical ranking (five best results will apply to ranking).

2010 Year-end NTRP ratings now available

The USTA has published players’ 2010 year-end NTRP ratings. To look up your rating, go to FIND A RATING on TennisLink and input your USTA number in the top box. If you are interested in appealing your rating, please follow the procedure detailed below. You can also visit our NTRP page at COLORADOTENNIS.com for more information on the NTRP system.

Procedure for NTRP Appeals

In early 2008, the USTA unveiled a new procedure for the appeal process. The Automated Appeal in TennisLink allows players to appeal their rating online and find out automatically if their appeal has been granted or denied. All players filing a year-end appeal must follow this procedure. Please do not submit year-end appeals to the USTA Colorado office.

Facility Coordinator meetings set

The USTA Colorado Adult League Department kicks off the 2011 league season with four Denver Metro area Facility Coordinator meetings scheduled in January. It is mandatory for each facility coordinator to attend one of the meetings. Separate meetings will be held for coordinators and/or captains in Northern Colorado, Southern Colorado, Mountains and Western Slope.

Dates and times are as follows:
- Wednesday, January 12 @ 10:00am
- Thursday, January 13 @ 10:00am
- Tuesday, January 18 @ 6:00pm
- Saturday, January 22 @ 10:00am

All meetings will take place at the USTA Colorado office at Gates Tennis Center. Please RSVP to Kailey Jonas (kailey@coloradotennis.com) regarding the date you plan to attend.

BIG BOOK OF COLORADO TENNIS coming February 2011

It’s time to renew those USTA Memberships, update your address and be on the lookout for the biggest, baddest tennis publication in the land. The 2011 Big Book of Colorado Tennis will be making its appearance in just a few short months. Advertisers can contact the Editor, or download the 2011 media kit at COLORADOTENNIS.com.

We offer Annual Tennis Memberships, and an extensive array of Adult and Junior programs.

Come and check out our limited winter drop-in programs, open to non-members.

Visit THERANCHCC.com for details.

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Miikka Keronen, Director of Tennis, at 303/469-5372, or email miikka@theranchcc.com.

The Ranch
11887 Tejon Street, Westminster

Meanwhile, back at The Ranch...

**Tournament season doesn’t have to end when the snow flies.**

NORTHERN EXTREME AT THE RANCH
TL#: 257230011
BGad 18/16
December 30, 2010-January 3, 2011
Deadline 12/23/10

RANCH INDOOR OPEN
TL#: 257230311
MWsatddkd 35/45/55/65/75
February 15-20, 2011
Deadline 2/8/11

Happy Holidays
Each year, USTA Colorado celebrates the tremendous efforts of players, benefactors, volunteers and organizations who have distinguished themselves through their dedication and commitment to the sport of tennis.

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

The Colorado tennis community will celebrate the accomplishments of five individuals (page 12-13) with their induction into the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame, at the 11th annual Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala. The event is slated for Friday, January 28, 2011 at the Marriott Denver Tech Center. The community will also honor the USTA Colorado Annual Award winners (page 14), whose efforts, passion and dedication do honor to the sport of tennis.

We invite you to join us at the COLORADO TENNIS HALL OF FAME GALA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011

Help us welcome the newest class of Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame inductees and congratulate the 2010 USTA Colorado Annual Award winners.

Visit COLORADOTENNIS.com for details.
Well-known sports business entrepreneurs Arthur and Nicholas John Hagan are Colorado natives, raised in a small house in Denver. Art was born in 1936, his younger brother John was born in 1944. Both played high school tennis, Art at East High School and John at Littleton. Art attended Colorado State University on a tennis scholarship. John matriculated at the University of Denver, also on a tennis scholarship.

In the late 1960s, the brothers worked together at The Aspen Leaf, ranked by a prominent sports magazine as the number one tennis retailer in the US. They helped grow the business from one store (located in Cherry Creek north) to 17 stores in three states. In 1980, they founded Hagan Sports, a specialty sports store that offered the finest in tennis and ski equipment.

The Colorado tennis community greatly benefited from the Hagan’s support. Through their various business relationships, they were instrumental in bringing the first women’s professional tennis matches here with the Virginia Slims of Denver, as well as being a sponsor of the United Bank of Denver World Championships Tennis every year from 1969-72.

Their support came in a variety of ways. The Hagans printed Colorado and southern Colorado tennis schedules from 1973-79, and in the early 1980s they supplied trophies for the men’s and women’s USTA events, as well as local junior interclub leagues. Their stores often donated balls, racquets and shoes to many area charities, and they would regularly supply hats and jackets for the Junior Davis Cup teams.

John served on the tennis product development team for Head Tennis Products from 1970 through 1985, leaving his mark on the design of countless racquets and shoes. For a while, he strung the racquets of some of the best players in the world, including Arthur Ashe, Billy Jean King and Bjorn Borg. He also served on various community boards.

Art also served on numerous boards through the years, including the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation, Colorado Tennis Association, the Intermountain Tennis Association and the Denver Tennis Club.

Both Art and John were also accomplished players, collecting several doubles titles at the region’s top tournaments. Together, they won the doubles title at the 1970 Denver City Open. John also earned titles in mixed doubles from the Denver City Open in 1965, 1967 and 1969, as well as at the 1970 Intermountain Championships. John’s last doubles championship came at the 1974 Colorado State Open.

Born in the spring of 1952, Kent was 7 years-old when his father built a tennis court in the backyard of his family’s Grand Junction home. Before that, no one in the family had ever played tennis.

It didn’t take long for young Woodard to get a handle on the game, and he entered his first tournament three years later. Since there were no indoor facilities in Grand Junction at the time, Kent only competed in summertime events. By the time he was 13, he was competing across Colorado, and in regional and national tournaments.

Success at the national level came just a year later, when Kent and his partner captured the doubles title at the USTA Hard Court Championships in California.

For two years, Kent played tennis on the perennial top-10 University of Utah tennis team. He later transferred to the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he competed at No. 1 singles and doubles. After graduating in 1975, he spent a semester as the tennis team’s head coach.

That’s also about the time Kent started dominating the Colorado tournament scene. In all, he amassed 13 titles at the Denver City Open, Colorado State Open and Intermountain Sectional Championships combined. In addition to capturing the 1974 Intermountain Championship – both in singles and mixed doubles – Kent won the same two events at the ’74 Denver City Open. He took the singles titles at the Colorado State Open in 1977 and at the Denver City Open in 1984, as well as four Elam Classic titles in the 70s and early 80s. From 1977 until 1985, Kent earned seven doubles titles at the Denver City Open.

But Kent wasn’t just a Colorado phenomenon, he also traveled around the world playing tournament-level tennis. He finished sixth in singles on the South African Tour, and played pro tournaments in Sweden and Spain.

For the past half-decade, Kent has been a tennis professional at the Maroon Creek Club in Aspen.

Celebrating Colorado’s Rich Tennis History

Research by RICHARD HILLWAY
Words by DENNIS HUSPENI

Hall of Fame gets permanent home

Gates Tennis Center will be the new permanent home of the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame.

The new exhibit will be completed shortly, and will reside on the west wall on the first floor.

Look for an announcement on the Grand Opening of the new permanent exhibit in an upcoming issue of Colorado Tennis.
Born in Honolulu in 1877 and growing up in Connecticut, Clarence Dodge was an outstanding tennis talent. In the early 1900s, all the best players in America were in Ivy League schools, and it was as the captain of the Yale University tennis team that Clarence honed his game by practicing with and playing against some of the top ranked players in the country. A big, strong and athletic player, Clarence won the consolation singles title at the 1897 US National Championships in Newport—the tournament that later became the US Open—and was ranked as high as No. 16 in the nation.

Clarence graduated from Yale University in 1899, and moved to Colorado where he would become a dominating force in Colorado tennis. In 1904, he won the first of three consecutive singles titles at the Rocky Mountain Tennis Championships, the predecessor of the Colorado Open. He won the event again in 1910. From 1904 to 1922, Clarence owned and published what is now the Colorado Springs Gazette. During that time, he regularly traveled to play tournaments throughout Europe. He won the French Covered Courts Championship with a doubles partner who later went on to win four Wimbledon singles titles. In 1911, he won the doubles title at the European Covered Courts Championships.

Along with tennis, Clarence had a great passion for civic and philanthropic work. He served as a state representative for two terms, and served as both chairman of the state YMCA and president of the Colorado Springs YMCA. Clarence was the first resident west of Chicago to be elected to the International Committee of the YMCA.

Though Clarence left Colorado Springs in 1930 to move to Washington DC, his family maintained a summer home in Haystack Gulch, near Mount Evans. He died in Denver in 1939 at the age of 62.

From the time Brenda Vlasak was five, she’s gripped a tennis racquet with both hands. She learned the game at Berkeley Park in north Denver, where she and her father, Frank, would spend hours honing her strokes and developing her mental toughness. Those traits would prove invaluable when, at age eight, she won her first tournament at Ken Caryl Ranch.

Brenda continued to play tournaments through grade and middle school, winning her first national singles title at the Columbus Indoor Championships (G12). It didn’t take long for her to climb the national rankings, and in 1991 reached No. 16 in the G14 division. The next year, firing her signature two-handed backhand and forehand, she parlayed a victory at the USTA National Indoor Championships and a fifth-place finish at the USTA National Clay Court Championships to a top-3 national ranking.

In 1995, Brenda earned a bronze medal at the US Olympic Festival. Her doubles game took off the very next year, as she won the doubles title at the prestigious Easter Bowl in 1996 with Diana Osipina. She maintained a top 20 national ranking before dropping to No. 29 in 1995. In 1996, she still held on to a top 3 national doubles ranking.

Brenda’s collegiate career began at Tyler Junior College in Texas, where as the No. 1 singles player, she led the team to a pair of NJCAA titles (1998-99). After transferring to the University of Arkansas—where she played No. 2 singles and No. 1 doubles—Brenda and her Razorback teammates advanced to the NCAA Championships. She earned SEC All-Academic honors, as well as a top-100 Intercollegiate Tennis Association ranking.

Brenda returned to Colorado to earn her Master’s degree in sport administration from the University of Northern Colorado. She became the assistant women’s tennis coach at UNC in 2004, later assuming the role of head coach. In 2005, UNC women’s team captured the NCAA Division I Independent Championship. The next year, Brenda took over as head coach for the men’s team, and in 2010, she was named UNC’s director of tennis.

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## ANNUAL AWARDS

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

### Bud Robineau Award
**SUSAN BURKE (Boulder)**
Sue has been sharing her passion for the sport with players of all ages for decades. A true ambassador for tennis, she has served the Colorado tennis community as a player, a coach, and an advocate.

### Clyde Rogers Award
**GEORGE COVINGTON (Broomfield)**
A tennis advocate and coach, George has promoted tennis at the Broomfield community for five decades. He was coach/assistant coach of the Broomfield High School tennis teams for the better part of 25 years.

### Sam & Sid Milstein Award
**LUIS CAUDRA (Colorado Springs)**
 Ranked No. 1 in W45, Luis is undefeated (13-0) this year, winning all five tournaments he entered, including the Colorado State and Denver City Opens.

### Jody Riser Knudsen Award
**TARYN ARCHER (Denver)**
Vice president of USTA Colorado, Taryn sits on many committees, helps raise funds for the CYTF and volunteers for other community tennis organizations.

### Fay & Dorothy Shwayder Award
**CHENG-ER MEHMEDBASICH (Grand Junction)**
In 2010, Cheng-Er won the Colorado State and Denver City Opens, Glen Hines and the Austin Scott (W45s and W50s). She ends 2010 ranked No.1 in W45 and W50 Singles in Colorado.

### Rosemary Fri Award
**SIMONE KALHORN (Colorado Springs)**
As a junior at Syracuse University, Simone won 15-6 in singles, 17-4 in doubles (including a season-ending 11-match doubles win streak). A team co-captain, Kalhorn led the Orange to the best win percentage since 1978-79.

### Margaret Rogers Phipps Award
**JESSIE MURPHY (Centennial)**
Jessie is 13 and passionate about tennis. She rose in the G12 and under rankings in 2010 after her success in Colorado and Intermountain competition. She is respected as a leader and is well known for her exceptional sportsmanship.

### Jim & Anne Dyde Award
**NATALIE DUNN (Fort Collins)**
Poudre High School’s Natalie Dunn took home the SA Colorado High School State Championships No. 1 singles title for the second year in a row in 2010. The Denver Post named her Player of the Year and All-Colorado First Team.

### Jerry & Lillian Brawer Award
**AKIJI KIOWALAKAI (Westminster)**
A junior at George Washington High School, Akiji was introduced to tennis in third grade through Net Results Junior Tennis, a program that he now serves in the capacity of volunteer student coach for younger kids.

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### Jerry & Lillian Brawer Award
**AKIJI KIOWALAKAI (Westminster)**
A junior at George Washington High School, Akiji was introduced to tennis through the Colorado Wheelchair Tennis Foundation. In 2010, he competed in numerous tournaments, including the USTA Open Wheelchair Championships, earning a top-40 national division ranking.

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Dear Racquets for All,

My name is Gabriela Garcia and I played tennis at Venture Prep this trimester. I had a lot of fun in tennis. The best part of playing tennis was learning how to play for the first time and improving in such a short time. But the best out of all tennis was getting to meet new friends. In the spring I am going to join the team and play competitive matches for the first time. During practices I learned a lot like how to do a forehand and properly hold a racquet.

Today, Mr. Franzblau told me I earned my racquet. This means I showed responsibility by showing up on time and practicing whenever I could and respect by encouraging others. Thank you for donating racquets to our program.

Sincerely, Gabriela Garcia
Spotlight: Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation

Gifts to the CYTF

The Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation raises money through our two primary events—the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala and the ever-popular Punk Relic Charity Tournament, as well as through donations from foundations, corporations and individuals. Supporters host affiliated events (such as tennis socials, house parties, cocktail receptions, etc.) and donate proceeds to the CYTF. In 2010, the CYTF’s goal is to raise $34,000 in individual, corporate, foundation and “affiliated event” dollars.

To make a gift—big or small—visit our website at COLORADOTENNIS.com and click on the CYTF logo. Your gift will be acknowledged in the next issue of Colorado Tennis newspaper. If you’d like to host an event to benefit the CYTF contact the CYTF office <lisa@coloradotennis.com>, 303/695-4116 ext. 201.

The CYTF would like to thank the following business and individuals for helping make tennis dreams come true:

In Loving Memory of Peggy Gieringer
Anonymous
Tracey Crisp
Lea Cartes-Swenson
Nancy Engard
Marcia Gardner
Mary Jane Garab
Judy Hjelkrem

In Honor of Taryn Archer
Cindy Freehauf

In Loving Memory of Bill Oakes
John Farrah
Paula Prutsman
Tammi Lencke
Terry & Nancy Todd
Erika Schafer

In Loving Memory of Peggy Gieringer
Anonymous
Tracey Crisp
Lea Cartes-Swenson
Nancy Engard
Marcia Gardner
Mary Jane Garab
Judy Hjelkrem

Connect with the CYTF is easier than ever.

Cytf Dollars at Work

With assistance from USTA Colorado diversity dollars, the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation, provided program grants to 19 Colorado organizations running programs for kids in need. Additionally, 33 youngsters received special need individual player scholarships to help pursue tennis opportunities. Over $25,000 was disbursed in 2010.

The Western Eagle County Metro Recreation District increased their summer tennis lesson program by 40%. CYTF grant dollars were used to help purchase short courts, age appropriate racquets and balls. The courts and specialized equipment will also allow the WECMD to bring the tennis program inside during the winter months.

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Cindy Freehauf

In Loving Memory of Bill Oakes
John Farrah
Paula Prutsman
Tammi Lencke
Terry & Nancy Todd
Erika Schafer

To learn more about the CYTF Scholarships and Grants program, or to help us change the world, one player at a time, please visit COLORADOTENNIS.com.
You know that you’ve had an impact in your tennis community when people decide to name a tennis court in your honor. Today, you can play a match at Broomfield Swim and Tennis Club on "The Covington Court", a living tribute to George Covington, 83, who symbolizes what recreational tennis is all about.

It’s fitting that Covington will be the recipient of USTA Colorado's Clyde Rogers Award at the 11th annual Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala on January 28, 2011, at the Marriott Denver Tech Center. The award is given annually for outstanding contributions to the recreational tennis players of Colorado.

"It's kind of interesting to be given an award for having so much fun doing it all these years. I spent my whole life at Broomfield Swim and Tennis Club trying to improve tennis there, and I've been teaching a lot of kids and a lot of people," said Covington, who loves teaching tennis to players of all ages. He loves it so much, he’s done so without ever charging a fee. This fall, he also assisted the Broomfield High School boys tennis team.

"I also spent about 21 years in Arizona. We went down there for three months every year, and I've been teaching seniors down there, some of which have never hit a ball in their life."

Covington, whose wife, Charlotte, 78, also plays tennis two or three times a week, said he owes a lot to tennis for keeping him in such great shape for so long.

"I just quit playing competitive tennis this summer. I've been playing 4.0 and 3.5 tennis competitively," said Covington, who has played in more than 175 USTA tournaments. "Essentially, tennis was really a plus for me in my life just from the standpoint of keeping in shape and to live long enough to be able to give back to it."

And giving back is what Covington is all about.

"I decided to give back to it a long, long time ago. I never charged for a lesson. Of course, you get what you pay for, right? That was a fun thing to do," Covington said. "As I got older, it was gratifying to be able to help people that have never hit balls before or to coach at the high school and teach the kids how to play."

Gene Wilken, 82, of Fort Collins met Covington while playing tennis on the Colorado league circuit, and the two have known one another for the past 30 or 40 years.

"We both partnered up and played against each other," said Wilken, who nominated Covington for the Clyde Rogers Award. "The man is a lot bigger than the story behind that award. This is one of these really great guys, tremendous sense of community of giving back and of helping people. He’s what you think of when you think of these bigger than life people who made a big difference in the community. And it’s not only Broomfield, it’s the tennis community in Colorado, too."

Covington grew up in Denver and started playing tennis when he was 17.

Charlotte Covington said her husband has given so much of his time and effort because of his love for the game. Their four kids grew up playing tennis, too.

"He’s one of those guys who sees himself as a moving force and devotes it to this game he loves so much," Wilken said.

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Chris Weyer caught the tennis bug early in her life. As a child, she would go watch her mom play tennis on the courts at Arvada Tennis Center, then go home and fill her house with the reverberating “bang, bang” of a tennis ball methodically hitting her garage. For her, it’s a joyous sound, made all the more special these days because it is her 10-year-old son, Conor, doing the hitting.

“For him, we made a tennis wall inside the garage,” Chris laughs.

Chris played junior varsity tennis for Arvada West High School, but it wasn’t until recently that Chris jumped head first into tennis again.

“I wanted to find something that I could do while committing to my full time job, motherhood!”

Today, Chris plays leagues, tournaments, and teaches tennis at the Arvada Tennis Center whenever she can. She’s also on a mission to bring tennis to young people.

“Just being able to expose kids to tennis is a wonderful experience. They really don’t even need a court. Sometimes just getting a racquet and a ball in their hands can get them going,” she explained.

Chris takes advantage of any opportunity to expose kids to tennis, from being involved in any number of special events at area tennis clubs to introducing tennis to the after-school program at a local elementary school in Arvada.

Always seeking more ways to bring tennis to the community and giving back to tennis, Chris answered an advertisement seeking volunteers for the Racquets for All (RFA) program. Immediately she knew it was a great fit for her. Racquets for All was started in 2008, but really hit its stride in 2009. The program recycles used tennis equipment of all types and gets it into the eager hands of those who need it. With a dozen or so volunteers on board, the program is growing. Unlike many other programs, however, RFA is completely run by volunteers. Because of this, finding the right volunteers is critical.

Kristy Harris, Community Development Director for USTA Colorado is proud of Chris’ commitment and drive.

“Chris is the type of person who when she gets involved, she GETS involved. She recognizes where opportunities are to expose RFA. She’s serious about the success of the program, because she knows what the program can do and will do for players.”

Kristy said that commitment like Chris’ is crucial, and she can’t even begin to work with a facility without knowing there’s a strong volunteer in place and a succession plan for that volunteer.

Chris has already been able to make a difference for many kids who would not have had the chance to pick up a racquet and we are extremely grateful for her dedication.

If you have a racquet or other equipment that you are not using, consider donating it to the RFA program. Also, if you think you might want to be a volunteer for your area, please email rfa@coloradotennis.com.

Even though Monica Li is one of the best tennis players in Colorado for her age group, that kind of recognition doesn’t define her. At 16, Monica is much more than a great tennis player.

She’s one of the top students at Fairview High School with a 4.7 grade-point average in advance-placement classes in the school’s International Baccalaureate program. While her high school coach, Susan Stensrud, says Monica is easily a future Division I tennis player, Monica said it’s her academics that will be the top priority when selecting a college.

Another priority for Monica is making sure her actions on the tennis court are at a high standard. Monica, a junior at Fairview and a member of the National Forensic League and National Honor Society, is not only a great tennis player, but the way she conducts herself when playing tennis has made others take notice.

Monica will be the recipient of USTA Colorado’s Phyllis Lockwood Award at the 11th annual Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala on January 28, 2011, at the Marriott Denver Tech Center. The award is given annually for girls sportsmanship in the 15 to 18-year-old age group.

Being nice and respectful to everyone on and off the court are important to Monica.

“It’s a great honor to receive this award,” the 5-foot-5-inch Monica said. “On the court, you have to act your part. Tantrums are not allowed. If we have a scoring dispute, I’ll settle it in an orderly manner.”

Stensrud said Monica is deserving of the honor.

“If you are in control of your emotions, you’re in control of your game. I think it goes hand in hand. Monica really is a standout,” Stensrud said. “She’s always composed. She’s always thoughtful. She’s always really thinking about how she’s playing. She’s great about calling scores. She’s always polite to her opponents, but she always has a certain steely resolve underneath it all. She likes to win, but winning or losing is not everything. I think she just likes to play well to have a good match.”

Monica, her father, Xinlin, and her mother, Jinfang, as well as her 14-year-old sister, Katie, have a family USTA membership. The tennis family loves to get out on the courts, and are members of the Millennium Harvest House in Boulder.

“Our whole family plays,” Xinlin said. “When we go on vacation, we specifically look for a resort with tennis courts so we can have fun and play tennis always together.”

Xinlin played table tennis before taking up tennis in the US about five years ago. He plays at the 4.5 level in USTA leagues and is ranked No. 2 in the state.

Winning the Phyllis Lockwood Award is a big honor for his daughter, said Xinlin.

“I feel glad she is being recognized. On the court, she has a very good attitude like real good sportsmanship when she plays tournaments,” Xinlin said. “We talk about this at the dinner table that good sportsmanship is definitely good and don’t get frustrated.”

Monica started playing Colorado Association of Recreational Athletics (CARA) tennis at the age of 10, and she played in her first open tournament when she was 12. She qualified for state at 5A as a freshman in No. 1 singles and lost in the first round. This past spring, she finished fourth in the Class 5A girls state tennis tournament, and is the top returner in the state at No. 1 singles in 5A. The three girls who finished ahead of her at state were seniors.

She also placed sixth at the Intermountain Summer Sectional (G16s).

The annual Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala on January 28, 2011, at the Marriott Denver Tech Center. The award is given annually for girls sportsmanship in the 15 to 18-year-old age group.

Stensrud, who has been coaching in Colorado since 1988, said Monica is extraordinary in everything she does.

“She has an exceptional game. It’s very well rounded. She doesn’t really have any weaknesses,” Stensrud said. “She’s a great baseliner, but she can easily come into the net. She’s very quick. She’s very strong, and when she plays somebody tough, her game improves. She’s a real gamer.”
Rikk Shimizu is a 17-year old junior tennis player, but his path to tennis and his commitment to the sport are anything but typical. Rikk started tennis like many other juniors – his parents played and he took lessons when he was younger. But, early on, Rikk chose swimming over tennis. He had great success, going to the Colorado High School State swimming championships three straight years. As recently as 2009, Rikk attended a swim camp in Florida with a former Olympic coach. And, that’s where Rikk’s commitment to tennis really began.

Rikk spent his last morning in Florida watching the epic Wimbledon final between Roger Federer and Andy Roddick. The intensity of the match and the mental toughness displayed by both players resonated with Rikk. He said, “The match had me glued to the television thinking, could I do this? I realized how much I wanted to go for something great and it seemed clear that I should try another sport and work toward something. It had been so long since I played tennis, but it was the sport that I wanted to go for.”

Rikk certainly has gone for it over the past year. He played doubles for Legacy High School, went to Regionals and placed fourth. This summer, he played six tournaments and went to the Junior Team Tennis Colorado District Championships.

One of the greatest things about Rikk’s determination and spirit for tennis are that they extend beyond the court. Rikk has become a valuable volunteer for USTA Colorado, helping at the Black Arts Festival and with the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation online auction and Hall of Fame Gala. Lisa Schaefer, Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation Director, has worked with Rikk and says, “It is refreshing to interact with a young person who sees the importance of volunteering – of giving back to the community. We are fortunate to have Rikk on our team.”

Rikk also volunteered with young players at North Jeffco as well as at the Colorado Athletic Club Monaco adult tournament. Rikk says, “I felt that if I wanted to be a great tennis player, it would be best for me to sit in other’s shoes. I decided I would give back to the game of tennis while being part of tennis.”

His commitment to tennis is recognized and applauded by many in the tennis community. He was nominated for the 2010 USTA Colorado Mike, Gene & Maurice Reidy Award, which recognizes those who exemplify sportsmanship, leadership and achievement on and off the court.

Currently, Rikk is home schooled and spends his free time improving his tennis game as well as the tennis experience for others. “I plan to take a risk playing open tournaments. I’m 17 and I have nothing to lose and tons to gain,” says Rikk. This positive attitude gives Rikk a true perspective of the importance of tennis. He says, “If I manage to stay healthy, tennis is for life. If I make a college tennis team, it will be a stepping stone to hopefully making it big in tennis, but if not, tennis is still for life. I see playing tournaments for the rest of my life. Volunteering will always be part of my life – I have been blessed and giving back is not hard.”

Cherry Creek High School has virtually written the book on winning boys’ high school tennis championships, claiming 36 of the past 38 team titles. Last year, Regis Jesuit High School lost the crown to Cherry Creek by the narrowest of margins (three points). With most of the Regis team returning, they did not forget about it during the off-season.
Make your gift to the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation go farther.

Donations made to the CYTF on December 8 will automatically increase through incentive funds.

GIVE where you LIVE
C O L O R A D O  G I V E S D A Y
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FIND OUT MORE AT COLORADOTENNIS.COM
Regis interrupts Creek’s streak, captures four state titles and the team championship; Cheyenne Mountain tops again in 4A

For just the third time in 39 years, Cherry Creek was a spectator during the state high school tennis trophy presentation, as Regis Jesuit claimed four individual state titles en route to the 5A team championship, their first since 2000 and second in school history (see HIGHFIVE, page 19). Since 1972, only Wheat Ridge (1991) and Regis (2000, 2010) have defeated Cherry Creek at a state meet.

The 5A singles crown was won by sophomore Spencer Weinberg of Grand Junction, who defeated Regis’ Mark Miller in a gripping title match. The win gave Grand Junction the school’s first singles title since 2006, and earned Weinberg USTA Colorado’s Jack Cella Award as the outstanding high school player.

Regis’ captured titles at No. 2 and 3 singles (Colin Haas and Jacob Spreyer), and at No. 2 and No. 4 doubles (Matt Colapinto/Zach Fryer and Rick Drexelius/David Klippel) to earn 86 points in the team competition, twice that of second place finisher Boulder, who captured the No. 1 doubles title (Ian Ron/Harrison Vivas). Cherry Creek did win the No. 3 doubles title (Spencer Anderson/Connor McPherson), and as a team finished third, with 38 points.

In 4A action, Cheyenne Mountain returned to its dominant ways, capturing the team title and winning five individual titles.

Niwot captured the top-two singles positions with sophomore Harrison Lang and junior Michael Ogez earning their first-ever state titles for the Cougars.

After finishing second in last year’s title hunt at No. 2 singles, Cheyenne Mountain sophomore Stephen Moore took home the No. 3 singles title this year. The Indians then swept the doubles, Billy Fielding/Parker Curry at No. 1, Andrew Venne/Hayden Cramer at No. 2, Abe Yellen/Cole Benson at No. 3 and Vincent Chow/Canyon Barry at No. 4.

Team Colorado announces 2010-11 rosters

Team Colorado has completed the selection process for the 2010-11 season, naming 24 players to the 12s Squad, 20 players to the Devo Squad, and 11 players to the all-new 10 & Under team. The selection process for the Team Colorado Select Team is not yet complete.

Team Colorado is an elite junior training program designed to enhance the performance of the state’s top players at Sectional and National tournaments. As a supplemental program, Team Colorado provides training opportunities above and beyond those received in a player’s existing personal program. While each player’s primary development takes place with his/her respective personal coach, the training regimen put together by Team Colorado is designed to supplement one’s individual workout program.

Bringing Colorado’s most talented 12-and-under players together to practice and train with one another under the guidance of the state’s top coaches will significantly benefit them as they push each other to new heights. The stronger the practice partners and coaching staff, the better our players will become.

Team Colorado 12s Squad: (Boys) Ben Antonsen, Cutter Esson, Brett Finan, Charlie Frank, Kosta Garger, Nick Lorenz, Mitch Johnson, Richter Jordaan, Joshua King, Jacob Maxwell, Tom Melville, Ben Murray, Eric Nuss, Patrick Seby, Ram Vuppalla, Eli Wiener; (Girls) Maeve Kearney, Allison Murphy, Amber Shen, Anshika Singh, Emily Strande, Heather Volls, Anna Waller, Casey Zhong

Team Colorado Devo Squad: (Boys) Zack Fox, Skylar Gates, Daniel Guiot, Stone Heyman, Connor Johnson, Carter Logan, Jack Moldenhauer, Ryan Neale, Tyler Paddor, Daniel Pearson, Brooks Savage, Laird Stewart; (Girls) Natalie Bronsden, Tatum Burger, Sarah Casey, Ky Ecton, Natalie Hagan, Caroline Jordaan, Tamara Kathain, Emily Wilkins


For more information on the Team Colorado program, please visit COLORADOTENNIS.com and click on the JUNIORS tab.
For parents of junior tennis players, helping them find the perfect college can feel like a monumental balancing act.

On one side, parents want to provide their child with enough guidance to help them make the most informed decision possible. The stakes, of course, seem huge. "It's worth the effort, that's for sure," said Joe Vasos of Fort Collins, whose son Will Vasos is a junior at the University of Iowa.

On the other side, most parents know it's important to let their child own the process so they can develop maturity and truly take responsibility for their own fate. The effort by Joe Vasos, and his wife Becky, paid off because their son found the right college to play tennis, earn an education and become a part of a team. "He loves the team and the coach and just the whole scene there," Vasos said.

Vasos is one of three parents who shared advice on how to navigate the often confusing and overwhelming terrain of the college landscape.

Their stories show that persistence, good communication with potential coaches and exhibiting the qualities of a winner all play an important part of finding the right college.

SEEING IS BELIEVING

Alex Lineberry of Sedona, AZ, is a freshman at the US Air Force Academy and a member of its tennis team. How he got there is a lesson on the importance of campus visits, said his father Larry Lineberry.

Alex was playing good junior tennis and it became obvious he would play college tennis somewhere, said Lineberry, a USTA master professional and director of tennis at the Sedona Racquet Club.

He had his eye on several colleges and began the process, like most sophomores and juniors, by sending letters and emails to the coaches of programs where he wanted to play. "He had no clue where he wanted to go," Lineberry said.

But during the summer before his senior year, Alex Lineberry played a national juniors tournament in Denver. His mom, Debbie Pardee, took him to visit the USAF campus. "He called afterward and said 'Dad, this is where I want to go,'" Lineberry said. "It was the most lucid statement I'd ever heard him make."

At that point, it was easy for Alex to let go of the search for other schools and concentrate on the "very complicated and very intense" process of getting into a service academy, Lineberry said.

"Once a kid makes up his mind, that's really what you want," he said.

Alex put himself into a strong position with good grades, solid high school tennis play and junior tournament success, Lineberry said. The visit helped him turn the corner. "Touring a campus is key, probably the most important thing," Lineberry said. "For the kids, it makes it concrete and literal. They see the campus and can picture whether they see themselves there or not. It clarifies the decision-making."

HAVING OPTIONS

Natalie Dunn, a freshman at the University of Denver, expressed from a young age a desire to learn tennis so well, she would earn a college scholarship, said her mother Leticia Dunn.

"I told her that's not really necessary because by the time you get there we'll be able to afford to send you," Leticia Dunn said.

After she watched her daughter suffer some injuries while playing at Poudre High School in Fort Collins and lose a coach she liked, Leticia Dunn again told her daughter she didn't have to play tennis at a college level.

But Natalie Dunn never lost sight of her goal to play after high school. She played as

continued on next page
many tournaments as she could while holding down the challenging rigors of Poudre’s International Baccalaureate program. Perhaps because she entered high school a year younger than most students, Leticia Dunn said, Natalie hesitated in making her final decision. Her success on the court—and in the classroom—had coaches reaching out.

“I just left it to her and figured if she wants to do it, she will find a way,” Dunn said. “I took a step back.”

The combination of having a friend that was going to DU, as well as clicking with one of the team’s assistant coaches, finally set Natalie’s decision.

“Her thing was looking for consistency of a coach,” Dunn said.

Natalie had options because of her grades.

“Academics are huge,” Dunn said. “There are academic scholarships out there for kids.” And though she couldn’t get to as many tournaments as some junior players, Natalie made the most of the ones she attended.

“We always told her it doesn’t matter how many, but how you play them,” Dunn said. “You do your best and try hard ... keep fighting hard and have good behavior on the court.”

Dunn said often they didn’t even know they were being watched.

“You never know who’s watching,” she said, noting coaches may be there to observe someone else but take notice of good effort and sportsmanship.

In retrospect, Dunn said she wishes Natalie had started the process sooner. She also advised parents to help students create a chart of different schools, complete with academic highlights, team information, contacts with coaches, etc. They should also familiarize themselves with NCAA rules surrounding recruiting.

USING EVERY ADVANTAGE

Will Vasos was lucky in his college search in that he had older siblings who had earned college athletic scholarships to help guide him, Joe Vasos said.

“It was invaluable to have an older sister who knew the ins-and-outs of the process,” he said.

The 2008 state singles champion from Rocky Mountain High School sent a video tape showing his strokes and included an interview highlighting “who he is and what he wanted to accomplish,” to mostly Big 10 schools.

Joe and Becky Vasos graduated from UI and the family has relatives living there, so Will Vasos focused his efforts on that school.

Building a good player profile was crucial, Vasos said, to shape “how he would be perceived as a teammate and a member of the institution.”

Three integral pieces of that profile were Vasos’ love of the sport, his desire to play at the next level and the importance of teamwork.

“Will had to sell himself and represent himself,” Vasos said.

Getting to know his future coach was important to Will and Vasos said it should be a priority of any junior player before making a decision.

“They really saw life on the same plane,” Vasos said. “It was just like that relationship existed from day one. It should feel right for the kids.”

Vasos said it’s a long road, for both the junior player and their parents, but “if you’re serious, it can happen.”

“It can be tough deal for student athletes. Even for so-called minor sports, the demand can be incredible,” Vasos said. “But we’ve found out the rewards are greater for all that effort you put in.”
ADULT LEAGUE PARTICIPATION BREAKS ALL-TIME RECORD, 30,000 TAKE TO THE COURTS IN 2010

Following on the heels of nearly a decade of positive growth, the Colorado Adult League Tennis series grew 7% over last year, and broke the 30,000 participant mark in 2010 (30,632), nudging the all-time participation number to nearly 500,000 players.

The USTA Adult District Championship event was the largest tennis event in Colorado history, totalling 1,168 matches in three days (338 more matches than the 2009 US Open). While these impressive numbers are fun to use for comparisons across the country, this growth has required USTA Colorado to make some changes to the formats used for the 2011 USTA Adult and CTA Twilight District Championships. We will have much more information about this in the upcoming Big Book of Colorado Tennis.

We would like to thank all of the players, captains, coordinators and facilities that played a part in making this a magical year for league tennis. We would also like to congratulate all the teams that won their respective division in Districts.

2010 COLORADO ADULT LEAGUE DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

**USTA MIXED**

- **2.5:** Pinehurst Country Club
- **6.0:** Jewish Community Center
- **7.0:** Niwot Tennis Association
- **8.0:** Aurora Parks & Recreation  (8.0 Gates Tennis Center, wildcard entry to Sectionals)
- **9.0:** Willow Creek

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** 6.0 Foxridge Swim & Racquet Club

**USTA ADULT**

- **W2.5:** Glenwood Springs Country Club
- **W3.0:** Colorado Athletic Club Inverness
- **W3.5:** South Suburban Littleton Golf & Tennis
- **W4.0:** Harvest House
- **W4.5:** Colorado Athletic Club Monaco
- **M3.0:** Lebsack Tennis Center
- **M3.5:** Highlands Ranch Community Association
- **M4.0:** Sundance Hills
- **M4.5:** Lebsack Tennis Center
- **M5.0:** Arapahoe Tennis Club

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** W4.0 River Valley Ranch / M4.5 Aurora Parks & Recreation

**CTA DAYTIME DOUBLES**

- **W2.5:** Lebsack Tennis Center
- **W3.0:** South Suburban Lone Tree
- **W3.5:** Highlands Ranch Community Association
- **W4.0:** Point Athletic Club
- **W4.5:** Lebsack Tennis Center

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** W3.5 Highlands Ranch Community Association

**USTA SUPER SENIOR** (Sectionals/Nationals in 2011)

- **W6.0:** Heritage Eagle Bend
- **W7.0:** Gates Tennis Center
- **W8.0:** Gates Tennis Center
- **M6.0:** Longmont Tennis Association
- **M7.0:** South Suburban Littleton Golf & Tennis
- **M8.0:** Gates Tennis Center
- **M9.0:** Northern Colorado

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** W7.0 North Jeffco Parks & Recreation / M7.0 Harvest House

**USTA SENIOR**

- **W3.0:** Longmont Athletic Club
- **W3.5:** Colorado Athletic Club Monaco
- **W4.0:** Parker Tennis
- **W4.5:** Woodmoor Pines Country Club
- **M3.0:** North Jeffco
- **M3.5:** Colorado Springs Racquet Club
- **M4.0:** Colorado Springs Racquet Club
- **M4.5:** Arapahoe Tennis Club

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** W3.0 Evergreen Sports Center / M3.0 Green Oaks

**CTA TWILIGHT**

- **W2.5:** Woodmoor Pines Country Club
- **W3.0:** Lebsack Tennis Center
- **W3.5:** Colorado Athletic Club Inverness
- **W4.0:** Country Club of Colorado
- **W4.5:** Meadow Creek Tennis & Fitness
- **M2.5:** Arapahoe Tennis Club
- **M3.0:** South Suburban Lone Tree
- **M3.5:** Fort Collins Country Club
- **M4.0:** Snowmass Club
- **M4.5:** Gates Tennis Center

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** W3.5 Crestmoor / M3.5 Lakewood Tennis Club

**CTA SUMMER DAYTIME**

- **W2.5:** Governor’s Ranch HOA
- **W3.0:** Broomfield Swim & Tennis Club
- **W3.5:** Meadows Swim & Tennis
- **W4.0:** Piney Creek
- **W4.5:** Steamboat Springs Tennis Center

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** W3.5 Piney Creek

**ITA FALL MIXED**

- **6.5:** Foxridge Swim & Racquet
- **7.5:** North Jeffco
- **8.5:** Miramont Lifestyle Fitness

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** 7.5 Tennis Association of Greeley Work Out West

Colorado teams highlighted in **BLUE** won the Sectional Championships, teams attending National Championships are highlighted in **PINK**.
IN 1980, USTA LEAGUE TENNIS WAS BORN.

IN THE LAST 30 YEARS, NEARLY A HALF-MILLION COLORADANS HAVE COMPETED IN LOCAL LEAGUE TENNIS PROGRAMS.

BUT IN 2011, ONE LUCKY LEAGUE PLAYER WILL BECOME NO. 500,000.

WILL IT BE YOU?
It’s December, and that means it’s time for USTA Colorado’s annual

**SALUTE TO CAPTAINS**

This year, more than 2,100 captains helped make Colorado’s adult program one of the premier league tennis series in the nation.

And so, without further ado, the eternally beloved Captain & Tennille will serenade our hard-working captains with a passionate rendition of their timeless tennis-themed classic.....
*  Years of service beginning in 2001. Although we have numerous captains that have been leading their teams for 10, 15 or even 20+ years, we only began tracking this information in 2001.
Years of service beginning in 2001. Although we have numerous captains that have been leading their teams for 10, 15 or even 20+ years, we only began tracking this information in 2001.
Greetings! After a gorgeous and relatively dry fall season, the snow has finally started to fall on the Western Slope and along the Front Range. We have had a very successful year in our efforts to promote and develop the sport throughout the state. As we’ve remarked in the past, it takes a coordinated effort to bring it all to fruition. We want to thank all those involved who have supported and provided the opportunity for people to get on the court and participate in one of the best and fastest growing traditional sports in the country.

The challenges ahead

When we reflect back on the year, we recognize there are areas that we need to address as we strive to get more players into the game (one such area is youth 10 & under and the development of QuickStart). There are also challenges that arise in other areas where our growth was off the charts this past year – and the growth has been significant for each of the years preceding this one as well. Many facilities have had capacity issues these past few years and the number of facilities in that same boat is multiplying. We are working on ways we can alleviate the issue and we’ll be communicating those plans as we move forward. In conjunction with that issue is the need for newly constructed facilities and the renovation and/or refurbishment of courts that have fallen into disrepair over the years. While there are projects on tap that we are not involved with, our office is assisting with a whole host of projects (in various phases of development) throughout the state that will hopefully have an impact and make a difference in providing opportunities for players to get involved in our sport. If you or someone in your community is interested in assistance along these lines – please contact our office.

A time for celebration

And as is the case each year at this time, we reflect back on the people and players who have excelled in the sport or have contributed in a major way to the development of the sport across the state. Our Awards Committee and our Hall of Fame Selection Committee have held their respective meetings and we have yet another amazing group of Annual Award winners (24 annual awards in all) and a most worthy class of inductees who will be honored at the upcoming Hall of Fame and Annual Awards Gala (January 28). These honorees represent all of what makes our sport so impressive and impactful. They are a collection of people who encompass the ethnic, social and geographic diversity of our state. I encourage all of you to attend our Gala. You will be touched by the contributions several of our recipients have made, you will be impressed by the accomplishments of the many players being honored, AND you will be a part of our outreach efforts to raise dollars for the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation – as the Gala serves as a major fundraising event of the Foundation and its goal to expose the sport of tennis to all kids across the state.

A special thanks to advertisers

I want to take an opportunity to thank the numerous businesses, facilities, individuals and organizations that you see advertised in this publication throughout the year. Their continued support is vitally important to our efforts to grow the sport in Colorado. USTA Colorado encourages our readers to support our advertisers by shopping locally. We realize that in these tough economic times, it’s tempting to look online for the best deal on equipment and services. Our local retailers and facilities routinely go the extra mile to help local inner-city youth programs, non-profit agencies and a wide variety of charity events. Your patronage helps to support the game in your own backyard.

In closing, I want to thank our Boards (USTA Colorado and the CYTF), their respective committees and our staff (in-house and all those coordinators, clinicians, coaches and contractors who are so instrumental in the implementation of our programs and services). Thanks for all you do to support our association and the game – you’re efforts are much appreciated.
KEEPING IT REAL
WHAT'S YOUR DEFINITION OF "REAL" TENNIS?

BY KURT DESAUTELS, COLORADO TENNIS EDITOR

From time to time, I have to admit that the USTA (national office) can really get on my nerves. Dictums emerge from national committees—without any real world practicality or foresight—and head south to sections and districts and community tennis associations at rapid speed. Few of these charges are good policy, with a fully operative support system in place to actually help them survive at the grassroots level. Anyone remember the Type III ball? Rock & Rally? Tennis Welcome Centers? Cardio Tennis? These programs entered the world with the best of intentions, but many died on the vine because of the lack of a long-term commitment from the USTA and our various partners within the Tennis Industry Association: the USPTA, PTR, Racquet Sports Industry, facilities, etc.

So along comes QuickStart tennis, which we saw a preview of in 2007 and which made its official debut in 2008. It has the support of the teaching organizations, which have been using components of the QST application for years. The manufacturers are on board, ready to commit to making kid-specific equipment, and the facilities embrace the concept by beginning to transition many of their youth-programming to kid-sized courts and equipment.

But until recently, the QST format has remained a teaching application. The full spectrum of the format has yet to be incorporated into a full-fledged playing apparatus. A couple of months ago, the USTA announced the Rule Change, and it’s taken the tennis world by storm. The Rule Change (see our cover story) relates to the 10 and Under division, and it has thrust the QST format onto center stage. Facilities and parks that may have been slow to react to the adoption of the smaller court/shorter net aspects of the play format are now beginning to realize that unlike past measures that may have not carried the full weight of the USTA behind them, the QST format is here to stay.

And why not? It's an idea whose time is long, long overdue. Our Executive Director, Fritz Garger, said it best. The USTA should not meekly defend this rule change. It should be out in the open to realize that unlike past measures that may have not carried the full weight of the USTA behind them, the QST format is here to stay.

Webster's has, like, a half-dozen definitions, typically centered around words like GENUINE, FUNDAMENTAL and ESSENTIAL. One version of the definition is PROFESSIONAL, but I can’t imagine we expect our 9 and 10 year-olds to be engaged in playing pro tennis.

If you were to characterize youth baseball—or youth soccer, football, basketball or any other youth sports—scale down to the age-appropriate level, would you say that these players weren’t engaged in “real” athletics? Is it the playing surface/area that makes a game “real”, or is it the equipment that confers “real-ness”?

We delight at the speed at which Rafael Nadal patrols the baseline, and how much of the 1,000+ square foot court Roger Federer can cover. But can we possibly expect our 9 and 10 year-olds to cover the same angles and reach the same short balls that these top-level professionals do? Isn’t hard enough for fit adults to manage? I’m 6’3” and I have trouble covering those down-the-line shots from time to time.

Other sports don’t make kids play like adults. We don’t demand that our 9 and 10 year-olds pitch at Coors Field, navigate the vast expanses of Mile High Stadium or even pace the sidelines at Dick’s Sporting Goods Park. Heck, even college hoosters shoot three-pointers from a modest 20.75’, more than a foot shorter than the NBA. I haven’t heard anyone complaining that the NCAA doesn’t offer up “real” basketball.

I would submit that it is the action that takes place within the scope of the game that makes a sport “real” or, well, not “real”. I think we can all agree that college hockey, with its full-face shield mandate is pretty “real”. I think we can also agree that watching a 9 year-old trying to handle balls bouncing two feet above his head is decidedly un-“real”.

What makes tennis “real” isn’t the court, it’s not the ball, and it’s certainly not the racquet. “Real” tennis is about effort, movement, timing, action and reaction, strategy, losing and winning, and above all, athleticism. The fastest way to make an athletic youngster look clumsy is to shove her out on a full-size court and make her play like a grown-up.

The vast, vast majority of 9 and 10 year-olds can’t be expected to play “real” tennis on a regulation 78-foot court with a standard tennis ball any more effectively than they can toss curve balls from a major league mound or execute the wishbone offense wearing full pads. “Real” tennis should be defined by the essence of the action, regardless of the size of the court, how fast the ball travels or how high it bounces.

As I said, I’ve been frustrated by the USTA and its deaf-eared handling of various initiatives that come down the pike to the grassroots level. But not this time. The 10 and Under Rule Change fundamentally changes the way kids learn, play and compete at tennis.

Bravo to the USTA and ITF for having the courage to push this initiative through. It’s been far too long that we’ve tolerated our children being treated like adults. It’s time for them to act their age.

The Countdown to 500K
As I mentioned in my column in the Fall issue, USTA Colorado will welcome the 500,000th adult league player sometime next spring. This is a big deal. Think about it. Since 1980, a half-million people have competed in Colorado league tennis. This isn’t a hamburger, or a 99¢ song download. This is a significant milestone in the history of our league program. Each player served, volleyed, and sweated his/her way through a season of competition—friends were gained, pounds were lost, and lives were changed.

And so we’re celebrating this milestone in a big way.
Starting in the Spring issue of Colorado Tennis, we’ll officially begin the countdown to 500,000. We’ll keep the countdown going at COLORADOTENNIS.com. Right now, we’re putting the finishing touches on our plans for this tremendous milestone, so stay on your toes. We’re not going to spoil the surprise, but let’s just say that after 30 years in the making, this event will be bigger than the Beatles coming to iTunes!

Big Book back in February
The deadline to advertise in the 2011 Big Book of Colorado Tennis is January 7. Don’t miss out on what is sure to be the most complete and informative tennis publication of all time! For advertising information, please email kurt@coloradotennis.com.
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ABOUT USTA COLORADO
A District of the United States Tennis Association, USTA Colorado is the governing body of tennis in our state. USTA Colorado’s mission is to promote and develop the growth of tennis in Colorado. We do this in a number of ways.

We provide grants to organizations that want to introduce tennis to their communities and we offer scholarships to junior players who seek to take their game to the next level. We coordinate adult league play for more than 28,000 players across the state, and offer programs for junior players of all ages and abilities. Our sanctioned tournament schedule offers more than 160 events this year, including several opportunities for wheelchair athletes.

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

We are nearly 22,000 members strong, but our scope is not confined to those players alone. We represent the nearly 500,000 tennis players in our state, providing information and opportunities to play for each and every one of them. We reach out to all players, including those of diverse cultural backgrounds, mentally and physically challenged athletes, and under-served communities. Diversity and Inclusion is a strategic priority for USTA Colorado and one of our core values. Diversity allows us to touch all of Colorado and Inclusion allows all of Colorado to touch us.

We invite you to find out more about the lifetime sport of tennis. We will help you find a court, find a program, find a league or find a team. We will help you put the FUN back in FITNESS. So whether you want to learn to play tennis, get back into the sport, or just find more opportunities to play the game, we’re here to help.

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Our new location is only 3/4 mile up the road:
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Opening January 2nd, 2011
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(In the Safeway parking lot in front of Starbucks on the corner of County Line Road and Parkway – Just East of Quebec)

While our Park Meadows location is moving, our Cherry Creek and Greenwood locations are restocking with the latest gear and holiday fashions.

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