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COLORADO TENNIS

Since 1976



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TENNIS PLAYERS • ISSUE 44.04

FALL / WINTER 2019



BREAKING THE BARRIERS

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FALL / WINTER 2019

YEAR 44, ISSUE 4 — FALL/WINTER 2019

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Planting the seeds of grassroots tennis

USTA COLORADO STAFF LISTING

Administration:

FRITZ GARGER
Executive Director, USTA CO/CYTF
x204 fritz@coloradotennis.com

LISA SCHAEFER

Associate Executive Director, USTA CO/CYTF
x201 lisa@coloradotennis.com

ANITA COOPER

Administrative Assistant
x200 anita@coloradotennis.com

CINDY SPRINGSTEEN

Accountant
x227 cspringsteen@coloradotennis.com

Player Development:

CINDY MACMASTER
Player Development Director
cindy@coloradotennis.com

Competitive Tennis:

JASON COLTER
Tournament Operations Director
x205 jason@coloradotennis.com

Marketing/Diversity:

PAULA MCCLAIN
Marketing & Diversity Director
x220 paula@coloradotennis.com

Publications:

KURT DESAUTELS
Creative & Communications Director
x203 kurt@coloradotennis.com

Community/Grassroots Tennis:

KRISTY HARRIS
Community Development Director
x300 kristy@coloradotennis.com

KRISTY JENKINS

Community Youth/School Tennis Coordinator
x301 schools@coloradotennis.com

Leagues:

JASON ROGERS
League Programs Director
x202 jason.rogers@coloradotennis.com

TAYLOR MCKINLEY

League Programs Manager
x210 taylor@coloradotennis.com

KATE JAMES

League Coordinator
x208 kate@coloradotennis.com

NICK TAYLOR

League Coordinator
x207 nick@coloradotennis.com

Information Technology:

GARY GOFF
IT/Technical Support Director
x303 support@coloradotennis.com



USTA COLORADO phone: 303.695.4116
Gates Tennis Center toll free: 800.531.7438
3300 E Bayaud Ave, Suite 201 fax: 303.695.7631
Denver, CO 80209 league fax: 303.695.6302



/USTAColorado

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COLORADO TENNIS Editor

Kurt Desautels, Phone: 303/695-4116 x203
Email: kurt@coloradotennis.com

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COLORADOTENNIS - FALL/WINTER 2019

The screenshot shows a detailed financial statement for the Colorado Tennis Association for the year 2019. It includes sections for Income Statement, Balance Sheet, and Cash Flow Statement, with various line items and dollar amounts.



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FEATURE STORY

BREAKING THE BARRIERS PORTRAIT SERIES RETURNS WITH RISE TO THE POSSIBLE

Inspired by the vision, dedication and legacy of **Vicky Matarazzo**, a long-time USTA Colorado volunteer and Volunteer Tennis Director for Special Olympics Colorado, USTA Colorado launched the fourth installment of the critically acclaimed Breaking the Barriers portrait series, **Rise to the Possible**, celebrating adaptive tennis pioneers, contributors and rising stars in Colorado. Pulitzer prize-winning photojournalist, **Barry Gutierrez**, returned to deliver his stunning craftsmanship to a collection of colorful portraits capturing a moment-in-time of expressive inspiration.

by **PAULAMCCCLAIN**
MARKETING/DIVERSITY DIRECTOR, USTA COLORADO



Special Olympics Colorado and USTA Colorado share in the vision of creating a Colorado where athletes of all abilities are celebrated and included. We are excited to use this series as a platform to inspire others to get involved.

As a follow up to the highly successful "Breaking the Barriers" series exhibit of African Americans - An Exhibit of Courage, Latinos - ¡Vive el Tenis! and Asians - The Asian Connection Colorado standouts in tennis, Rise to the Possible speaks to the passion and motivation of tennis players, their families and coaches to achieve the best in the sport and life.

Sprinkled throughout sports history, the struggle for diversity has taken our country from a time when teams were often segregated to the present when we've seen how taking a stand can demonstrate that we still have a long way to go.

Here in Colorado, I've had the honor of working with a group of people determined to bridge cultural gaps in the spirit of unity. USTA Colorado has been on the forefront of eliminating disparities between athletes of all cultures, races and abilities. We have wit-

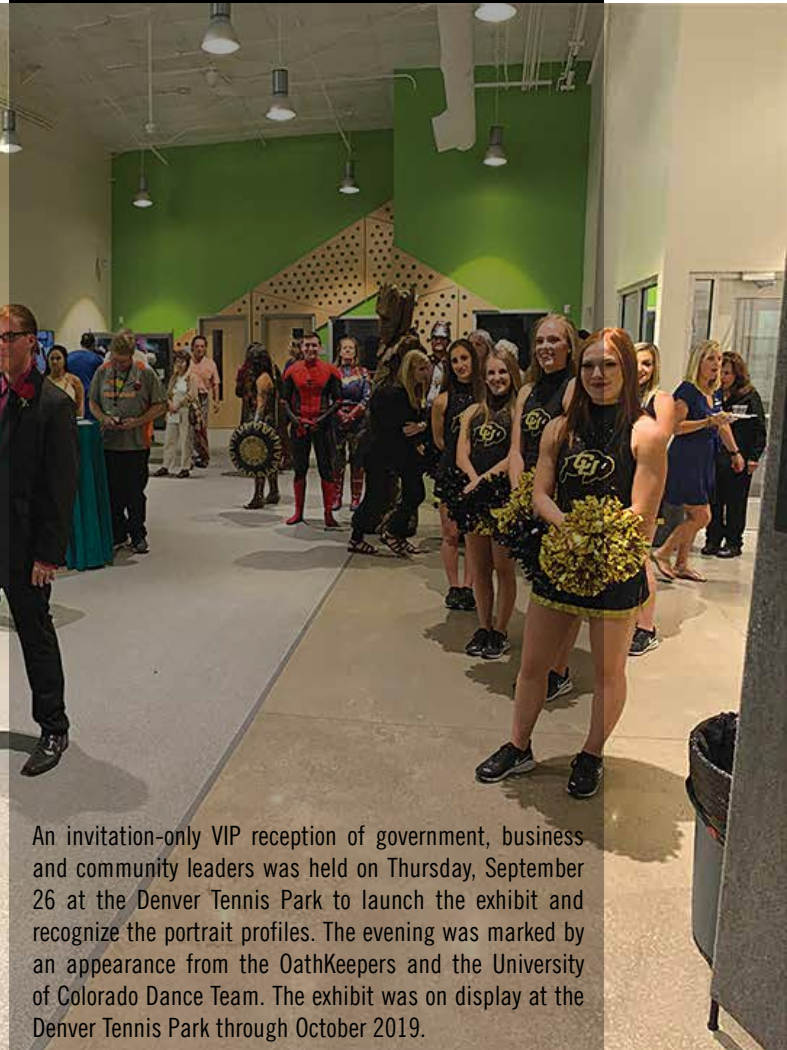
nessed how tennis can bring people together.

The Breaking the Barriers: Rise to the Possible Portrait Series was inspired by the late Vicky Matarazzo, a longtime USTA Colorado volunteer and Special Olympics Colorado volunteer tennis director. Her dedication sparked an amazing journey that culminated in the players, coaches and families participating in a photographic depiction of a passion for tennis. The portraits, shot and produced by Pulitzer prize-winning, photojournalist, Barry Gutierrez, feature his stun-

CREATING AWARENESS THROUGH EXPOSURE, INSPIRING ACTION THROUGH ART

**Tennis is the backdrop to promote diversity and inclusion,
health & wellness, and excellence in
USTA Colorado's Breaking the Barriers Portrait Series.**

"Special Olympics Colorado is honored to partner with USTA Colorado on this beautiful portrait series that showcases the incredible abilities of the athletes of Special Olympics as well as the dedication of the coaches who work tirelessly alongside them," says Special Olympics Colorado's Interim President & CEO, Megan Toohey.



An invitation-only VIP reception of government, business and community leaders was held on Thursday, September 26 at the Denver Tennis Park to launch the exhibit and recognize the portrait profiles. The evening was marked by an appearance from the OathKeepers and the University of Colorado Dance Team. The exhibit was on display at the Denver Tennis Park through October 2019.

ning craftsmanship that resulted in a collection of ten colorful, expressive, extraordinary portraits.

Vicky convinced each of our players that obstacles can be transformed into victories. Our portrait profiles bring to life the dynamic, strong, competitive spirits each of our players take to the court. Using clouds of colored smoke as a creative element, the photographs capture the very essence of beauty and determination. Each one reflects the pride and confidence our athletes take to the court (and beyond) to achieve the best in sports and in life.

continued on page 8

BREAKING THE BARRIERS

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RISETOTHEPOSSIBLE.com

Visit the Event's Photo Gallery at facebook.com/USTAColorado



COLORADOTENNIS.com



For a special look at the Special Olympics tennis coaches, see our story on page 16.

continued from page 7

The launch event for the month-long exhibit, brought together a project team, including USTA Colorado, Special Olympics Colorado and Denver Tennis Park. The mindful collaboration resulted in a memorable experience for all.

From the red-carpet welcome by a group of superhero mascots, known as The Oath Keepers, along with the University of Colorado Dance Team, we began with an official Olympic Torch presentation and lighting by the Keepers of the Flame. Our law-enforcement partners presented a City and County of Denver Mayoral proclamation read enthusiastically by Special Olympics athlete Cody Field proclaiming September 26, 2019, *Breaking the Barriers: Rise to the Possible Day!* True to form, modeling Vicky and the coaches end of tennis season party, our “Tennis Starts With Love” sock-hop was the icing on the cake. It was a grand celebration of our friends, athletes and supporters of all abilities coming together in music and dance!

To play a part in telling the story of acceptance and inclusion was an experience like none other. My colleagues, supporters and I will continue to reinforce the USTA Colorado’s commitment to tennis is accessible to all.

The portrait series celebrates incredible stories and enduring lives. My thanks to you all for coming along on this rewarding journey. We did it!

Rise to the Possible, celebrating adaptive tennis... the embodiment of diversity and inclusion. **CT**



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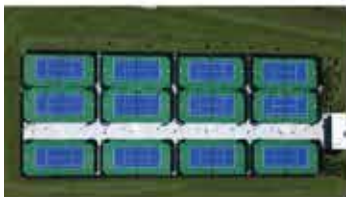
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Team CO announces 2019 rosters

Devo 10s: Davis Samuelson, Jackson Wells, Jaime Prieto Lin, Kaitlyn Tran, Kasia Chen, Khai Nguyen, Leo Teryazos, Liam Chang, Maddie Dickey, Malaika Chinyerere, Marcus Magno, Sabrina Newell

Devo 12s: Adam Rydel, Andrew Ballenger, Blake Wright, Brooke Roper, Cale Brush, Caroline Daugherty, Clay Dickey, Cornelia Rainey, David Tran, Drake Solley, Emmitt Richardson, Eric Pham, Faith Galyardt, Finley Wiggins, Jace Nakamura, Jackson Turner, Juliette Jaycox, Karissa Manley, Michael Song, Nathanael Trevey, Rufus Thompson, Remy Nguyen, Ryder Landry, Sebastian Wright, Scarlett Lutz, Sophie Parr, Will Moses, Zoe Hochstadt

Devo/EDC Coaches: Mike Phillips/Lead Faculty Coach, Meike Babel/Asst Lead, Alex Davydov, Brent Mazza, Glauco Nascimento, Jamal Heydari, Peggy Bernardis, Wendy Donovan, Madison Porter (EDC), Maureen Slattery (EDC)

Competitive Training Squad: Amina Abdullaeva, Anika Sharma, Beilynn Geiss, Bella Andrade, Bridger Galyardt, Emma Aubert, Katie Parr, Raphael Wieland, Quinn Bernthal

CTS Coaches: Mike Phillips, Meike Babel, Meredith McGrath



Greg Patton helps launch Collaborative Coaching Series

USTA Colorado has launched its **Collaborative Coaching Series** by bringing in the country's winningest collegiate coach, Greg Patton, to discuss his thoughts on how to create a strong community through tennis. The Series debuted on October 11 at Club Greenwood with long-time Boise State University coach Patton hosting the discussion. More than a year in development, the free-to-attend series aims to support tennis coaches throughout our community by bringing them together to socialize, learn and share ideas on and off the court. The CCS will continue on November 15. For details and more dates, please visit COLORADOTENNIS.com.



Colorado's "Big Three" Open Champions

Denver City Open

MS: Ethan Hillis
WS: Rebecca Weissmann
MD: Wyatt Lovera/Jesse Ruder-Hook
WD: Carol Benito/Anita Miner
MxD: Stanislav Korshunov/Carol Benito

Boulder/Intermountain Open

MS: Stanislav Korshunov
WS: Rebecca Weissmann
MD: Damon Gillette/Staniav Korshunov
WD: Carol Benito/Alexandra Weil
MxD: Rob Kuseski/Rebecca Weissmann

Colorado State Open

MS: Yannik James
WS: Rhiann Newborn
MD: Yannik James/Jesse Ruder-Hook
WD: Anna Riedmiller/Camille Verden-Anderson
MxD: Jeffrey Kamei/Yana Ruegsegger

Regis Jesuit, Cheyenne Mountain on top of Boys Tennis

For the first time since 2012, Coach Dave Adams has his Cheyenne Mountain squad on top at 4A, earning the program's 17th boys' state tennis championship. After day two, Cheyenne had a nearly insurmountable lead versus runner-up Mullen, but still needed a single point on Sunday to earn the title. The Indians stepped up and won four titles to earn a decisive victory with 85 points. Mullen was second (57) and Niwot was third (43).

4A also crowned a new singles champion, **Neil Wilcox** (Jr, Niwot) — who finished in third place a year ago — dropped the first set against Cheyenne Mountain senior **Joey Geisz** before turning on the jets to grab the title, Niwot's first No. 1 singles crown since 2014.

In 5A, the Regis Jesuit Raiders accomplished a feat no other big school category team (not named Cherry Creek) has successfully done since Denver East in 1968: winning back-to-back boys team championships. Since East went back-to-back more than 50 years ago, Cherry Creek has won 42 team titles. But while the Bruins were able to hang close to the Raiders through day two, Regis captured three of the four head-to-head matches against Creek, securing the repeat. The title was Regis Jesuit's fifth team crown (83 points), Cherry Creek (70) was second and Valor Christian was third (46).

The 5A singles championship match featured two veteran state competitors, **Morgan Schilling** (Jr, Regis) and **Luke Silverman** (Jr, Fairview). After losing in the finals in 2018, Schilling left no doubt this year en route to a straight-set victory.

For complete results, please visit CHSAANOW.com.

Fernandez named to Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame

Former Aspen resident **Gigi Fernandez** will be the lone induction at the 20th annual Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala in February 2020.

Fernandez, a 17-time Grand Slam doubles champion, and two-time Olympic gold medalist, lived and trained in Aspen (for all but one of her major titles).

Named "Female Athlete of the Century" in her native Puerto Rico, Fernandez was enshrined in the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2010. In addition to her pair of Olympic gold medals, Fernandez has captured all four major championships in women's doubles: Australia (2), French Open (6), Wimbledon (6) and US Open (5). Find her bio online at **COLORADOTENNIS.com**.

20th Annual HOF Gala set for February 8

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Colorado's Tennis Hall of Fame, which has inducted 96 players, advocates, coaches, administrators and benefactors to date. This year's Gala, slated for February 8, 2020, will honor past inductees as well as welcome long-time Aspenite Gigi Fernandez into the Hall and celebrate 2019 USTA Colorado Annual Award winners. Visit coloradotennis.com for tickets.



Annual Award Winners announced

USTA Colorado is excited to announce the 2019 Annual Award winners, who will be honored for their contributions to the Colorado tennis community at the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame Gala.

Players of the Year:

Male Player: Ethan Hillis/Centennial
Female Player: Rebecca Weissmann/Loveland
Senior Male Player: Bob Litwin/Lafayette
Senior Female Player: Rita Price/Aurora

Sportsmanship Awards:

B14U: Will Moses/Littleton
B15-18: Neil Wilcox/Longmont
G14U: Karolina Jacobson/Broomfield
G15-18: Valerie Negin/Centennial
Parks: Eileen Tran/Westminster

Service Awards:

Organization: Steamboat Tennis Association
Volunteer: David Jensen/Littleton
Media: Barry Gutierrez/Denver
Family: Chris Stevens Family/Littleton
to Under-resourced: Pam Rogers/Colorado Springs
to Rec players: Laura Ecton/Fort Collins
to Tennis community: Kris Johnson/Larkspur

Martinelli wins for Yale

It was a big day Denverite **Samantha Martinelli**, who captured the Saint Francis Health System ITA All-American Championships main draw doubles titles Sunday afternoon with her partner Jessie Gong. The Yale duo rallied from down a set to defeat Tennessee's Tenika McGiffin and Kaitlin Staines (Tennessee); 2-6, 6-3, 10-8.

The duo of Monica Malinen and Sara Nayar (Colorado) won their first two matches before falling in the quarterfinals to the No. 5 seeds.



Bidding a fond farewell to members of our USTA family

USTA Colorado is saying goodbye to league coordinators **Kate James, Nick Taylor** and **Kent Waryan**, who are departing to explore new adventures.

Kate, who joined our league staff in 2016, is expecting her second child, which has inspired her to become a stay-at-home-mom.

Congrats to Nick, who joined the team in 2018 (not pictured), who recently got engaged to his special lady.

Kent, who un-retired for the third time to rejoin our staff in the spring, is retiring again to spend more time in Arizona.

We will miss their shining faces and wish them all the best in the future.



Elements Massage® pampers League Captains

Congratulations to the league captains listed below who received a free massage from Elements Massage, official sponsor of USTA Colorado's Captain Appreciation Program. Captains were nominated by team members who had the ability to choose from the qualities that best describe their captain:

- Helps me and my game be at its best
- Inspires my game and self-improvement
- Encourages injury prevention
- Makes it easy for me to participate

Judy Brantz
Chris Brekke
Tracy Brogan
Christy Chak
Bonnie Cleaver
Cathy Corbett
Amie Elcan
Julie Gall
Sue Grubich
Kris Hansen
Toni Hipp
Heather Johnson
Mona Jones

Kelsey Keene
Amy Keller
Carmen Lorenzo
Lindsay Morgan
Sean Page
Nanci Robertson
Cheryl Scheck
Christina Schwartz
Tara Sisneros
Jeanine Smith
Samantha Spiwak
Ben Walker
Adrienne Wilson



Full interviews can be found online at coloradotennis.com.

Previous episodes of HighFIVE can also be found there.



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balancing the self-reliance gained from his homeschooled background with a strong desire to support others, Niwot star netter, **Neil Wilcox** is set up for an extremely bright future.

Neil first discovered his passion for tennis as an 8 year-old. That passion was helped along by his dad, who encouraged his interest.

An obvious fit, Neil recently captured the 2019



NEIL WILCOX

Class 4A Colorado State No. 1 Singles Title, a little more than one year after falling in the semifinals to the eventual champion.

Going into the state tournament, Neil's focus was just on winning.

"It's about HOW you win. That's the key. If you win being a poor sport, or poor teammate, who cares if you win," he said.

His advice for younger players came from his own introspection and learning how to overcoming anger and frustration.

"No matter what you do, have fun playing. If you lose the passion, there's no point in playing." **CT**

Some people say that tennis has given their life added value.

Judy Anderson, says, "quite simply, it is the story of my life."

Her love for the game and her Ken Caryl community has been on display for 34 years as the Director of Tennis, but she is soon to retire, leaving behind an incredible legacy of service to players in her own community and across the state.

JUDY ANDERSON



Judy has served as USTA Colorado's Board President, and was named the 2005 recipient of the Bud Robineau Award, given for service to the Colorado Tennis Community.

"Tennis has been such a good thing in my life," she said. "It's been my passion, my life with my kids, my social life."

She is the most proud of the growth in programming, and the way new players have been drawn to the sport. Last year 119 teams played in beginners' programs at Ken Caryl.

"I'm going to miss these people!" she said. "I haven't figured out exactly how yet, but I want to stay involved." **CT**

It's not often a world-class player moves into your neighborhood, but Boulder residents are getting used to seeing former world no. 18 **Andreas Seppi** on the courts, often hanging out at practices and sharing advice with young players.

The 35 year-old Italian is still competing on the tour — he's currently ranked inside the top 75 with a recent win against top 10 Karen Khachanov. When



ANDREAS SEPPi

he arrived in Boulder with his wife who was earning her Master's degree at CU in 2017, they didn't intend for Boulder to become their home. It reminded them of their home in the Dolomites, so they made a plan to stay.

For now, "Andy" is content to spend his off-season living and training in Boulder, while also sharing his talents with the youngsters at Rocky Mountain Tennis Center.

"Andy is always willing to spend time at our High Performance practices and our USTA junior tournaments," says Kendall Chitambar, Director of Tennis at RMTC. "He shares advice, and gives autographs." **CT**

building a community where everyone feels supported has been a life-long focus for **Carolyn Peters**. A massive supporter of the role of parks and recreation in our communities, with a special interest in tennis as an invaluable component, Carolyn's background has given her the passion and the platform to improve the quality of life for thousands of people.

As the Highlands Ranch

CAROLYN PETERS



Metro District Manager, she believes that "Parks and Rec is all about community engagement. It's about improving health and wellness and doing that through social engagement."

Carolyn is also a committed tennis advocate, and has been a longtime USTA Colorado Board Member, serving as President in 2016-17 while simultaneously acting as President of the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association.

For 43 years, she has advocated for tennis programming in the parks, saying "Tennis is sport that families can play and life-long friendships are developed." **CT**

maximizing the mind and body potential is the mission for tennis instructor and philanthropist, **Ben Wolfe**, who runs tennis programming in Castle Rock and coaches at Castle View High School. He also runs two non-profits he founded: *Return of Serve*, which brings tennis to under-served youth, and *Colorado to Ghana*, which provides global volunteer opportunities to Colorado



BEN WOLFE

students.

With a Master's in Education from Michigan State University plus 15 years as an instructor, Ben's experience in health and fitness blends a unique perspective on how to improve both on and off the court.

"It's about mobility, conditioning and mental strength," he said.

Realizing that this information was not available for tennis players, he began an interactive website *teachyourselftennis.com*, has written blogs on the subject, and has completed a soon-to-be-released book to help others achieve their best on and off the court. **CT**



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SPOTLIGHT

by TOM FASANO

The smiles on their faces, the determination of hitting a shot, the passion to participate and their overall joy on the court is an inspiration for all.

For Colorado Special Olympics coaches **Michelle Arend** and her son **Connor Arend**, **Greg Stults**, **Sharif Abdelhamid** and **Trent Sutton**, just being given the opportunity to coach Special Olympics athletes in tennis is about as fulfilling as it gets. The respect when they speak about **Vicky Matarazzo**, a key figure behind Special Olympics tennis in Colorado and whom many consider their hero and inspiration, is a beautiful thing to hear. Listening to these coaches talk about what these athletes mean to them is just as wonderful.

"Vicky Matarazzo is my biggest inspiration for coaching adaptive tennis," Abdelhamid says. "When I first started coaching, she took me under her wing and mentored/coached me on how to build and run a great adaptive tennis program. She cared for and loved her athletes and I take great inspiration in that and how I care for my team."

Michelle Arend, who has coached Special Olympics tennis for 15 years, remembers an unforgettable interaction she had with Matarazzo in 2004 that stoked the fire to coach Special Olympics tennis.

"In the summer of 2004, I beat Vicky Matarazzo in a women's

"Success in life is not measured by what we have, but what we give, and who we are."



Coach Vicky Matarazzo, a long-time USTA Colorado volunteer and Special Olympics Colorado volunteer tennis director.

Be Like Vicky – Get Involved!

doubles tennis match and afterward she half-jokingly said that anyone who beats her has to volunteer with Special Olympics tennis," Michelle recalls. "If you lost to her, volunteering was strongly encouraged, but optional. That was just one example of the power of Vicky's devotion to Special Olympics tennis."

Michelle says the joy that a Special Olympics athlete brings to the court during practice and matches is undeniable.

"The concept of scoring as it pertains to winning and losing is irrelevant," Michelle says. "The athletes play tennis for the sense of community they find in fellow athletes, unified partners, coaches and volunteers — who are all there to celebrate and cheer wildly for every accomplishment. Their joy and boundless enthusiasm is humbling and inspiring. As a coach and unified partner, I catch myself wondering if they know how truly amazing they are."

COLORADOTENNIS • FALL/WINTER 2019



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RISE TO THE POSSIBLE

Special Olympic coaches — (left to right) Sharif Abdelhamid, Connor Arend, Michelle Arend, Trent Sutton and Greg Stults — are featured in the Breaking the Barriers: Rise to the Possible Portrait Series. The Series, photographed by Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Barry "Bear" Gutierrez, is the fourth installment from USTA Colorado celebrating diversity and inclusion in tennis.



*"LET ME WIN. BUT IF I CANNOT WIN,
LET ME BE BRAVE IN THE ATTEMPT."*

Special Olympics Athlete's Motto

Stults says he has benefited from coaching Special Olympics athletes in tennis and ice skating a thousand times over.

"If I've helped any athlete have fun and improve their game, that's great," Stults says. "I think we are all motivated when told we can't do something. I'm constantly amazed by the motivation and perseverance of Special Olympics athletes. I get to skate and play tennis with them."

Stults has been coaching Special Olympics tennis for 13 years and says the joy of coaching makes it worthwhile.

"It's the ongoing process of learning new skills," Stults says. "We're all the same. Anything we're trying we want to be better and we enjoy making improvement. I think it's the process of seeing the athletes' development and the fun they have and confidence they build. It's a great reward when something clicks. I've always thought Special Olympics was the most inspired and charitable idea of the last century."

Coaching Special Olympics tennis for 10 years, Abdelhamid says he loves the support that athletes receive.

"What inspires me when working with Special Olympics athletes is the sense of community between the athletes, their families and the coaches," he says. "It's such an incredible support network for everyone involved."

Abdelhamid says his fondest moment over the last decade is replayed every summer.

"It's when we have a new athlete on our team and they hit their first ball over the net with success. The sense of accomplishment that plays out each time that happens is awesome!" Abdelhamid says.

Connor Arend started coaching Special Olympics tennis when he was just 8 and has been a coach for 15 years. He says some of the greatest achievements as a coach are the small ones that the athletes make.

"Whether it is learning how to swing a racquet,

hitting a ball over the net or learning how to rally, each step forward makes them so happy and brings a smile to your face as well," Connor says.

Sutton has been coaching for 16 years and says his special tennis achievement is when Matarazzo, who could no longer coach the team herself, asked him to be the 2018 Special Olympics National Games tennis coach for Colorado in Seattle. It was a rewarding moment for Sutton.

"I took three super fun, incredible athletes to Seattle to face off with tennis players from around the country," Sutton says. "It was such a fulfilling time to chuck everything away and for one whole week I was basically their guardian and their coach and we just had so much fun. It was an absolutely amazing opportunity for them and even more so for me. As an entrepreneur, I hear that things are impossible all the time. It's hard to push through when those claims come from all directions. Coaching is wonderful in the way it helps build your confidence as you see your role in the success of others, incrementally one Special Olympics session at a time."

Michelle Arend reflects on the past 15 years of coaching and comes away with many fond memories. She has one special memory that she'll never forget.

"My favorite moment happened nowhere near the courts," Michelle says. "On October 5, 2019, my son, Connor Arend married Maddie Ward, and to our delight, Special Olympics tennis athletes, Doug, Logan, Gina, Nick and Willie attended the wedding and reception — joining with our family to celebrate the biggest day of Connor's and Maddie's lives! Fifteen years ago, on the Mullen High School tennis courts we first met these awesome athletes and they have been part of our extended family ever since."

You can share your passion and make a difference. Visit Risetothepossible.com and discover how. **CT**



PLAYKIND

Meet the 2019 USTA Intermountain Summer Closed Championship and Junior Team Tennis PlayKIND team award winners. The award, presented by USTA Colorado official snack partner KIND, invites players to practice good sportsmanship. All players received a KIND Prize Pack in recognition of the awards.

JTT PlayKIND Award Winners



Columbine Country Club G12 CA Team:

Jillian Taylor, Livia Pett,
Jordan Christenson, Lilly
Evans, Addie Hossfeld

Boulder Parks and Rec 10 CA Team:

Amitai Sebba, Max
Weisblatt, James Laird
with Coach Gonzo Garcia

Intermountain Sectional PlayKIND Award Winners

Xavier Calvelo / Las Vegas, NV

What does playing kind mean to you?

Playing kind means having a great attitude and fighting till the end.

What would you tell a younger player that would inspire them to play kind?

I would tell the younger player that if he keeps working hard and has a good attitude and gets rid of the distractions like video games and the internet, amazing things will happen.

Eliza Hill / Greenwood Village, CO

What does playing kind mean to you?

Playing kind means respect. It means that I'll respect my opponent by being fair and considerate. It means that I will respect the officials by following the rules. It means that I'll respect the court and my racquet. It means that I will be the best I can be in order to respect and make the most of this amazing game.

What would you tell a younger player that would inspire them to play kind?

I would tell them that it's not about how many opponents you defeat; it's about who you are at the end of the day. Playing kind allows you to enjoy the game and become a better person. You are able to compete, work hard, and make so many great friends while having fun at every tournament.



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DATE	CAMP	LEVEL
December 27-29	Adult 3.0-3.5 Mixed Doubles Camp	3.0-3.5 Women & Men
January 17-19	Adult 4.0 Doubles Camp	4.0 Women & Men
February 7-9	Adult Tennis, Pickleball & Wellness Camp	3.0-4.0 Women & Men
March 21-29	Spring Break Tennis Week Drills	All Levels & Ages!
April 10-12	Easter Weekend Adult Camp	3.5 Women & Men
May 30-31	<i>Dink for Pink</i> Charity Pickleball Weekend	
June 12-14	Adult Pickleball Camp	Intermediate Men & Women
June 19-21	Adult Tennis Camp	3.5-4.0 Women & Men
June 29-July 1	Junior Tennis Camp (Ages 8-11)	Intermediate & Advanced

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Dink for Pink Charity Pickleball Weekend • May 30-31

The first pickleball tournament of the season! Supporting breast cancer research, this charity event will feature women's doubles and mixed doubles to be conducted on our dedicated pickleball courts. The event will include a fun, pickleball pink-themed cocktail party at the Golf Club.

Wood Racquet Classic • Dates to be Announced

Dust off your wood racquet, bring out your best tennis whites and find a partner! Dates to be announced soon!

Farm-to-Table Event & Wine Tasting Tennis Camps • August & September

Designed for adults, these camps will include special culinary and wine adventures at unique Broadmoor venues. These are our most popular camps coming in August and September! Dates will be announced soon!



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YOUR**GAME**

LINE 3 celebrates a successful launch, continues to pay it forward to Colorado youth

It's not easy to break into the tennis fashion business, but LINE 3, a Colorado company founded and owned by women, has reason to celebrate this year.

LINE 3 introduced their PLAY CO line of apparel last year as part of their partnership with USTA Colorado, which includes that a percentage of PLAY CO sales is donated to the Colorado Youth Tennis Foundation. To date, LINE 3 has donated \$1,150 to the CYTF!

"At the CYTF, we use tennis as a vehicle to teach life skills. LINE 3's giveback to the CYTF is a meaningful piece to our partnership," said Lisa Schafer, the CYTF's associate executive director.

As a thank you to the Colorado tennis community for its local support, LINE 3 is offering USTA Colorado members a 25% discount off entire online orders. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer, and is valid thru November 25.

Check out all of LINE 3's fun and stylish apparel at LINE-3.com. While you're there, sign up for the **LINE 3 PERKS Reward** program. Existing customers who set up a Rewards account will be able to apply points retroactively.

CT

Thank You Colorado!

This holiday season, give your tennis enthusiast the gift that keeps on giving.

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BRAINSTORM

by KURT DESAUTELS

Every so often, it's good to walk away from your desk, push your chair in, and walk away from the nitty gritty details that consume you every day, especially when you "can't see the forest for the trees".

Such was the opportunity provided last month when USTA Colorado hosted a Provider Forum, which brought coaches, directors, and managers from across the front range together to discuss some of the key issues facing our sport, and how their input can help shape our focus in the next five years.

The meeting served to highlight two incredibly important aspects of USTA Colorado's efforts "to promote and develop the growth of tennis" in Colorado: the development of our next five-year strategic plan, and celebrating the collaboration between USTA Colorado and tennis providers.

The first — the development of USTA Colorado five-year strategic plan — acknowledges that while tennis participation in Colorado continues to grow in many areas, there are challenges ahead.

Colorado, specifically the Denver metro area, is the largest league "area" in the country (*ED-at the time of this printing*), surpassing Atlanta this year with nearly 42,000 competitors. Youth participation continues to hold strong, with more than 4,000 JTT players.

Sanctioned tournament competition throughout the state is also solid. Year-to-date adult and youth participation is holding consistent with years past, with some indication that NTRP events are becoming more popular than ever.

USTA Colorado's five-year plan will focus its efforts on continuing to grow youth tennis, as well as exploring various ways to maintain the highest quality programming. A number of changes will be implemented from the National office in the coming years — including the re-tooling of TennisLink and a realignment of the youth tournament structure — that will help direct our strategies.

In addition, USTA Colorado is working to finish a new website for Colorado players. The existing site is hosted by USTA, but that platform will not be serviced beyond next year.

The second primary goal for the Provider Forum acknowledges that the future of tennis in Colorado is highly dependent on the continued dedication and excellence of the providing facilities.

Decades of successful collaboration between USTA Colorado and tennis facilities across the state has fueled tremendous growth in league participation and sanctioned youth programs. In addition, facilities drive cross-promotion between other fitness activities and tennis, acting as recruitment centers for future players. To the level that they are successful, tennis is successful. And it's important to recognize that when tennis grows in Colorado, communities can thrive.

In that vein, USTA Colorado surveyed providers prior to the Forum, the results of which drove the discussions. Key areas included tournaments, league play, community development, and communications/marketing. Small group discussions on each of these topics and additional surveys were collected, categorized and presented to the USTA Colorado staff and board of directors, which will drive the process of developing our five-year plan.

It is with great appreciation to all our providers, and to those who attended the Forum, for your dedication to growing tennis in Colorado. All of us at USTA Colorado are deeply committed to promoting tennis, which we believe can empower individuals through an active, healthy lifestyle, give our youth a solid foundation of social, mental and physical strength, and strengthen all of our communities by providing opportunities for any and all to be involved in our lifetime sport. **CT**

FOR THE RECORD

Colorado teams advance to USTA League Nationals

USTA Adult 18

M4.5: Lebsack Tennis Center

M5.0: Wash Park Tennis Club

W5.0: Lifetime Fitness Centennial

USTA Adult 40

W3.5: Glenmoor CC

USTA Adult 55

M6.0: Lifetime Fitness Centennial

W6.0: Highlands Ranch

W7.0: CACMonaco

W9.0: South Suburban Littleton

USTA Adult 18 Mixed

10.0: Gates Tennis Center



DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

All 2019 Colorado JTT and Adult League State and District Champions can be found online at COLORADOTENNIS.com

NTRP Ratings to be published December 2 by USTA

Official NTRP ratings will be published December 2, 2019 by the USTA. Visit COLORADOTENNIS.com.

Support the CYTF on Colorado Gives Day, December 10

Colorado Gives Day is an annual statewide movement to celebrate and increase philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. The event takes place December 10. Donations are accepted through COLORADOGIVES.org.

2020 Big Book of Colorado Tennis deadline December 13

The space reservation deadline for the 2020 Big Book is December 13, 2019. The annual keeper magazine listing Colorado tournaments will be mailed to all USTA member households in early February 2020.

Contact Karen Engel for details and to book your ad <karenengel628@gmail.com>.

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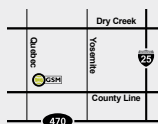
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