

# **Youth Tennis San Diego**

# **Junior Tennis News**

**George E. Barnes Family Junior Tennis Center** 

No. 110 • Youth Tennis San Diego • 4490 West Point Loma Blvd. • San Diego, CA 92107 • 619-221-9000 • October 2015

# 2015 Barnes Center Gala

airbanks Ranch Country Club was transformed into the Roaring 20s days of flapper girls, gangsters, dancing til dawn and bathtub gin. Nearly 200 friends of Youth Tennis San Diego attended to support 20 years of Junior Tennis on October 3. The celebration was filled with stories from Jamie Saben, a former YTSD player, along with great food, amazing auction items, and music and dancing by JP Hunten Music. Thank you to our Auctioneer, Mark J. Thomas, for an animated live and silent auction.

The funds raised will help support After School Tennis, community outreach programs, tournaments and scholarships for San Diego Juniors. We would like to thank all those who sponsored the event, attendees, and especially our volunteers. Also, a very special thank you to Linn Walker, YTSD Executive Director, for all her hard work in organizing this special event.

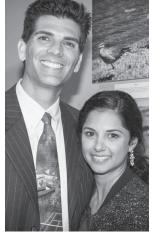


Belinsky Family and Friends gather to celebrate 20 years of Junior Tennis at our 2015 Gala.









Top Left: Board members Cindy Driver and Kathy Jones Center: Roaring 20's celebration with Larry Belinsky and Ruth Jorgensen

**Right:** Speaker and former YTSD player Jamie Saben and wife, Girvinda.

Bottom Left: Wendy McWethy, Diamond Sponsor, with YTSD Executive Director Linn Walker

## In This Issue

III IIII3 I33UG
My Point 2
Tournament Director's Report 3
Junior Programs 4
World Team Tennis 4
AST In Our Community 5
AST & Education Program 5
San Diego Junior Players Take the Spotlight
Junior Aces for Preschoolers 6
Jim Hillman 6
YTSD Camp Scholarships 6
2015 USTA Girls Nationals7
Ladies Ad-In League7
Sharp Rees-Stealy8
Calendar of Events 8
JTT is in Full Go Mode!8



My Point

By Kerry Blum, Executive Director, YTSD

## The Important Role of Parents in Youth Tennis

ately there has been a great deal of discussion on the role of a parent as it pertains to their involvement with their child in youth tennis. As a parent, I feel our job is to love our kids and try to provide the best for them. When it comes to youth sports, especially tennis, too many parents seem to lose all notion of what is best for their kids. It is a telling sign that virtually every youth sports league in the country has enacted some measure to curb violence and negative behavior by parents. Tennis included! Some leagues and organizations have even gone so far as to not let parents utter a single word during the game, or match, calling it 'Silent Saturdays'. As enticing as it may seem to some tournament directors, coaches, league coordinators, and kids, taking the parents out of youth sports may not be the best solution to the problem. I think parents have an important role to play, and the role that the parent does play can impact a child's interest and enthusiasm for sport for years to come. At Barnes and throughout YTSD tournaments, we have seen first-hand that a positive relationship between parents that are involved with their child's tennis activities and the child's enjoyment of tennis and continued future participation. In other words, the right type of parental involvement can help a child to have a positive experience that motivates him or her to want to continue playing. The role of the parents in tennis is to provide support for our children, both emotionally and financially, without becoming over-involved to the point of being fanatical. Providing the proper emotional support can be difficult in an adult society that emphasizes winning, or the product of the performance, and social comparisons. It is important to

step back and remember that children are not mini-adults and we cannot have the same expectations for our child that we would have for a professional athlete. To provide proper emotional support for our children may mean changing our view of success and aligning it more with how children view things. Children play sports for the fun and enjoyment of it all. Winning is not always high on the priority list of reasons children play tennis. In fact, one thing we have found children say if they could change something about sports in general, is putting less emphasis on winning. Our kids don't need us to yell at the officials, harass the coach, or bark out instructions to them while they are on the court. This will give them a negative opinion of us, teach them to treat adults with disrespect, and possibly embarrass them. What they do need from us is our love and support. We can give this by providing them with positive feedback about their performance and lots of encouragement. It is important that we do this in a way that is sincere and does not employ social comparisons. We need to turn the focus to their effort and personal improvement. It is so critical for the development of confidence and self-efficacy that we focus not on the final outcome, but on the improvements our child made or the things our child did well. Did they play exceptionally hard during the game? Did they complete a point or a stroke that has previously given them difficulty? Redefine success as something that is process oriented, not product oriented. All most of us really want is for our child to succeed. With this new definition of success, what have we got to lose? Here are some pointers to help us parents re-focus on helping our children have a wonderful youth tennis experience.

- Relax and don't take yourself so seri-
- Remember, it's just a game!
- · Challenge yourself to redefine what success means. Success can mean being ahead in the score column at the end of the set, but success can also mean improving on skills or playing an outstanding game. Look for the little successes your child makes in the match and focus on them more than on the final score. This will help your child to develop a sense of accomplishment and competence.
- Don't compare your little Stevie to little Joey who lives next door. Each child is equally wonderful in his/her own unique and special way. Focus on the wonderful qualities in your own child.
- · Remember that children all grow and develop at different rates. Two children who have the same birth date could be years apart developmentally. When it comes to tennis, use your child's own developmental status to gauge what experiences they are ready for.
- At any time should the two words "scholarship" or "professional" pop into your head and your child is younger than high school-aged, immediately replace those words with the words "fun" and "learning." Then repeat "fun" and "learning" as many times as it takes to get those unrealistic thoughts out of your head. It is reported that a mere "one half of one percent of all high school athletes" will make it far enough to call themselves a professional athlete.
- · Focus on creating a love of tennis and physical activity at a young age. This can go a long way to helping your child attain and maintain a healthy active lifestyle as an adult.
- Enjoy the time spent together.

## Tournament Director's Report By Anne Podney



With summer over and everyone focusing on school, I begin working on the 2016 tournament schedule. This year San Diego added two Open tournaments, five Satellite tournaments and nine Novice tournaments, all at locations throughout the county. We expect to add additional tournaments for 2016, so there will be something for everyone almost every weekend!

Players are probably aware that Level 4 tournaments give them more ranking points than Level 5 tournaments. Satellite tournaments (Level 6) also provide some ranking points, but novice tournaments (Level 7) do not award points. Therefore, players entering Level 4 tournaments can expect a slightly higher caliber of play than at a Level 5 tournament, although there are no restrictions on who can enter a Level 4 or 5. The Harper Ink (March) and the Esmé Pearson (May) are the only two Level 3 San Diego tournaments; they give the most ranking points.

To find out how many ranking points the various tournaments award, go to scta.usta.com and under "Youth Tennis" refer to the "Points per Round" chart. For example, points for winner and finalist in a Level 3 tournament are 600/450; Level 4, 240/180; Level 5, 120/90; and Level 6, 20/15.

Players should compete at an appropriate level of play for their abilities. Some weekends will see both Level 5 and 6 tournaments held on the same dates. Players must choose which tournament they plan to enter—they may not play in two tournaments held on overlapping dates unless they have written permission from both tournaments directors before they register. There have been numerous violations of this USTA rule this year; penalties are enforced.

As you know, in 2015 there were no Level 2 tournaments in San Diego. A bid was made for one, but the Southern California Tennis Association did not accept it. We again will try to obtain this high-level tournament in 2016 so that our San Diego players



San Diego Doubles Girls 16 winners and finalists: Emilee Duong & Cali Jankowski def. Julia Deming & Jennifer Kerr



San Diego Doubles Mixed 14 winners and finalists: Giulia Hayer & Eshan Talluri def. Elizabeth Goldsmith & Eric Silberman

won't always have to travel great distances to play in one. The Barnes Center, with 25 courts devoted exclusively to junior play, is by far the best junior facility in Southern California.

Youth Tennis San Diego has a Tournament Evaluation Committee but with so many new tournaments, we are relying on players and parents to help us evaluate tournaments. Seeding, scheduling, umpiring, facilities, the tournament desk—all are important parts of a well run tournament. If there are problems, the Committee needs to know about them so that we can guide directors to do better at their next event. If you have a good—or bad—experience at a tournament, let us know. Either email me, barnescenter@yahoo.com, or complete the tournament evaluation form on our website (barnestenniscenter.com/The Facility/Tournaments) and return it to YTSD. Your comments are kept privileged, of course.

Lastly, congratulations to the following San Diego players who either won or were finalists at the recent Level 3 "Los Cab" Tournament in Costa Mesa: Ivan Thamma, Brandon Nakashima, Matthew Sah, Paulina Ferrari, Britt Pursell and Midori Castillo.

San Diego Doubles Mixed 10 winners and finalists: Tatum Buffington & Trevor Svajda def. Kristina Kruglova & Brayden Lelevier



# **Junior Programs**

unior programs Session 1 is in full swing with great participation and many return juniors continuing their training with our excellent coaches. From Rising Stars to our Elite Team Training Program, the Barnes Tennis Academy (BTA) provides the full progression of athletic development for kids of all ages.

## **Rising Stars**

The first phase of the Barnes Junior Tennis developmental pathway, and a great place for kids to have fun playing tennis! Utilizing the Quick start program guidelines and tools, our goal is for everyone to love tennis, and learn the important basic biomechanical fundamentals that will help their game to grow strong later.

## **Competitive Program and High School Competitive**

The focus of this program is to give kids the skills necessary to begin playing tennis competitively. Appropriate grips, technique, and footwork are stressed along with basic match play tactics to give students the knowledge and confidence to successfully construct a point.

## **High Performance Program**

Designed for players who have already begun playing competitively but are looking to take the next step in their performance. This program focuses on the physical, technical, and tactical aspects of the game, with the goal of enhancing tournament performance. Fitness and match play are included.

### **Elite Program**

PHOTO CREDIT: DELAINE MAST

Provides training for future collegiate and professional players. By invitation only, this program challenges the strongest players, and brings goals of collegiate play into focus.



### **Summer Camp**

Summer 2015 saw close to a thousand kids ages 4 to 18 participate in Barnes summer camps. All of us here at Barnes would like to extend a big thank you to all the amazing kids and families who participated!

### **Adult Programs and Yoga Too!**

Adult Programs at the Barnes Tennis Center offer tennis instruction through evening classes and morning clinics. Adult Programs are flexible, and new programs are being created throughout the year. Looking for a great workout? Check out one of our five cardio tennis classes offered for a calorie burning, fast paced aerobic session set to music! Sign up at the front desk for Yoga and special Yoga integrated tennis classes too.

Please don't hesitate to contact Jake at the tennis center at (619) 221-9000 for more information on all programs.

## **World Team Tennis**

Sixteen coed junior tennis teams with players representing 20 states competed for a national title at the 2015 World TeamTennis Junior Nationals hosted by Billie Jean King, July 28-30, at the George E. Barnes Tennis Center. The junior invi-

2015 World TeamTennis
National Champions

tational event which was created by King and is now in its 20th year, is a showcase for many of the nation's promising junior tennis players.

Team members, ages 18 and under, are selected based on their sectional and national rankings. They are not eligible if they attain a ranking of 1-150 on the USTA Seed Selection List.

The tournament follows the World TeamTennis non-elimination draw format with the 16 teams divided into four groups. Each team is comprised of three boys, three girls and a coach. Team matches consist of eight events; with two sets each of boys' singles, girls' singles, one set of boys' and girls' doubles, and two sets of mixed doubles.

Teamwork, leadership and sportsmanship are key areas of focus for the three-day event. The Southern Team was awarded \$1,000 from the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation and the Maureen Connolly Brinker Team Spirit Award which is voted on by coaches, players and tournament officials for a team's outstanding sportsmanship and camaraderie.

Youth Tennis San Diego's team battled throughout the three days emerging as the champions. Way to go Barnes Bashers!!!

## Barnes Bashers (Youth Tennis San Diego)

Gabriela Armas, Chula Vista, Calif. Valeria Corral, San Diego, Calif. Lindsay Brown, San Diego, Calif Peter Trhac, San Diego, Calif. Patrik Trhac, San Diego, Calif. Martin Marin, San Diego, Calif. COACH: Wolf von Lindenau Assistant Coach: Jwany Sherif

## **After School Tennis In Our Community**

ith the start of the 2015-2016 school year this past September, hundreds of children throughout the community happily welcomed back the After School Tennis (AST) program at their school or recreation center.

Through AST we are able to reach thousands of kids each year, and share the love of tennis throughout the community. The program, which started in 1989, is geared towards elementary and middle school age children. Most of the programs are set up on school's blacktop surfaces, using portable tennis nets. YTSD provides an instructor and all needed equipment. AST collaborates with schools and parks/recreation departments throughout San Diego County introducing the basics of tennis, while imparting the valuable life skills and experiences which are inherent to the game of tennis.

For more information on any of our After School or Education Programs, please contact Lindsey Vosburgh, lvosburgh@ytsd.org or (619) 221-9000 x104.



Coach Karen Villa with Roosevelt AST students

# After School Tennis & Education Program

The After School Tennis & Education Program is back in action at the Barnes Tennis Center. Children participating in the low cost program are given a one-hour tennis lesson, followed by 30 minutes of homework assistance in our library. The tennis portion of the program consists of students learning the game, performing drills, and understanding the benefits of physical fitness. The library portion gives children the opportunity to get help with their homework, as well as providing students with a quiet area for reading. We invite you to join the tennis fun every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. This program runs throughout the school year. Session 1 started September 16th. Cost is \$50 per six week session, scholarship prices available for those who qualify.

# San Diego Junior Players Take the Spotlight



#### **Ivan Thamma**

A member of the Point Loma High School tennis team joined a longtime friend to win a national doubles championship at Kalamazoo.

Ivan Thamma, who is a junior at Point Loma High School, teamed with another California player to capture the United States Tennis Association's 16's Doubles Championship August 8 at the Markin Center in Kalamazoo, Mich. Thamma

played with Bryce Pereira, also entering his junior year at San Marino High School, near Pasadena, to score a 2-6, 6-1, 6-1 victory in the finals.

Despite being seeded number eight in the tournament, Thamma and Pereira took the title, but not without a brief case of nervousness that peaked during the first set of the finals.

"I was definitely nervous in the final," said Thamma. "After the first (set), the nerves just went away and we started playing our game, relaxed and focused. We'd never been in such a big place, but after the first set losses, got ourselves back together and started playing."

The two teens have played together since the age of 12.

After an injury forced Thamma to withdraw from an earlier doubles tournament with Pereira, Thamma said "I had to make it up to Bryce in Kalamazoo."

As a freshman at PLHS, Thamma teamed with fellow ninth grader Keegan Smith to win the San Diego CIF section doubles title. In September, Ivan took the title of 18's singles and doubles championship at Los Caballeros.

Ivan began playing tennis in Youth Tennis San Diego's After School Tennis program. He played at Rosa Parks Elementary School and at the Urban Village tennis center in City Heights. He was on YTSD's first Barnes Center Excellence Team. Ivan's tennis has been sponsored for seven years by YTSD and generous donors.

#### **Taylor Fritz**

Another San Diego player won the 18's Doubles Championship at Kalamazoo, and also got to the semi-finals in singles in the tournament. Taylor played on the San Diego Aviators this summer. Sunday, September 13, Taylor won the U.S. Open boys' singles title completing a top performance by U.S. junior boys' players in three of the world's best tennis events. Fritz, 17, beat a U.S. teammate in the final, Tommy Paul, 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-2. Paul had rallied from 3-1 in the second set.

Paul won the French Open junior title, beating Fritz in the final, and another U.S. player, Reilly Opelka, took the title at Wimbledon.

Fritz, son of former tour standout Kathy May, will finish the season as the top-ranked junior in the world and has chosen to turn pro. He likely will play no more junior events.

Taylor's Mother, Kathy, has served on the YTSD Board for many years and is a great supporter of our programs.

## **Junior Aces**

## Tennis & Education Program for Preschool-Age Children, Space Available

he fun continues this year with our Junior Aces Program! We are happy to welcome new teacher, Carrie Stratton, alongside Coach Lindsey Vosburgh. The program is based on the philosophy of learning through movement. Our program emphasizes kinesthetic learning through multisensory experiences. By combining structured, academic learning and active play we build a foundation of academic and physical excellence in the young child.

In the classroom, children explore, investigate, and create with a range of developmentally appropriate activities. On



the tennis court children participate in their first lessons in sports through drills, games, and teamwork.

Children in our program LOVE Junior Aces! When they leave us, they are ready for kindergarten and have huge self-confidence from all their hard work on the tennis court. We are proud to help in the journey of creating happy and healthy kids.

Space Available! Join today!

#### **Class times:**

M/W/F 9:30-12:30 - \$395 per month T/Th 9:30-12:30pm - \$265 per month



## Jim Hillman

With great sadness we learned of the death of Jim Hillman on August 9, 2015. He was the former longtime Southern California Tennis Association Director of Junior Tennis.

In 1979 Jim called Jean Kremm of Youth Tennis San Diego (formerly San Diego Tennis Patrons) and asked if we would like to host the very first USTA National Championship in Southern California, he liked how our tournaments were being run. The 1980 USTA Boys' 12 National hardcourt Championships were held at Morley Field in Balboa Park. (In 1981 players included Agassi, Chang and Sampras)

Jim was the lead referee for all the National Tournament her in San Diego and worked closely with Jean on our National USTA tournaments each year. After the 1989 tournament, the USTA decided to discontinue the 12s Championships. Jim and Jean bid for another National Tournament and were awarded the Girls' 16s National Championships, which was held at Balboa Tennis Club until 1995 when it was moved to its current home here at the Barnes Tennis Center.

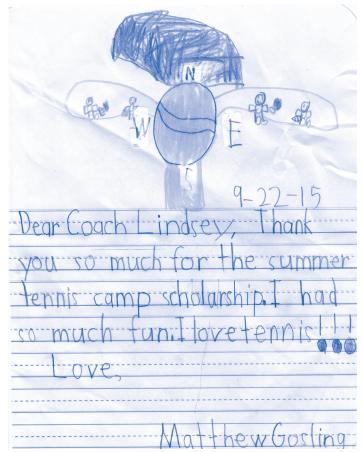
Tournaments in San Diego would not be where they are today without the leadership and direction of Jim Hillman.

Those who spent time with him can look back and feel very fortunate to have witnessed his magic as he inspired young and old alike to take part in programs that got people on the courts.

— MARK WINTERS

Our USTA National tournaments at the Barnes Center would never have happened without Jim Hillman's backing us. It was a privilege knowing and working with Jim. I will miss him and always thank him for his support. — JEAN KREMM

## **YTSD Summer Camp Scholarships**



YTSD proudly awarded over 50 summer camp scholarships this year to deserving AST students. Students were chosen based on their dedication, teamwork and sportsmanship displayed in their school program. Congratulations to all scholarship recipients, we hope you enjoyed summer camp!

## 2015 USTA Girls Nationals

Submitted by Liz Blum

rom August 1 to 9, The Barnes Center played host to some of the finest junior girl players in the country. In the sixth year of hosting the USTA Girls 16s and 18s National Championships in San Diego, the tournament saw a return to the format of 2013. Both draws returned to 192 competitors, and the qualifying tournament of 2014 was eliminated.

On Opening Night, USTA President Katrina Adams spoke to the players and entertained questions about her career both during and after tennis. Many former players and champions were present as a result of a reunion organized by Steering Committee member Marianne Werdel Whitmeyer.

Adidas returned as the Presenting Sponsor of the tournament. A new addition to their sponsorship was the Adidas lounge. During the first days of the tournament, all players received a complimentary pair of Adidas shoes. After the shoe distribution was complete, the space transformed into a lounge area where players and spectators could relax and cool off in the shade. Adidas also provided the tournament t-shirts and apparel for officials and volunteers.

The College Coaches Forum was offered again for players to discuss their college plans with any of the more than 40 coaches who registered. In all, coaches from more than 80 schools were present at the tournament.

After seven days of great play and grueling matches, champions were crowned on August 8 and 9:

**G16s Singles:** Abigail Desiatnikov defeated Whitney Osuigwe. Abigail received a wild card entry into the US Open Junior Championships.

**G18s Singles:** Sofia Kenin defeated Tornado Ali Black. Sofia was awarded The Maureen Connolly Brinker Trophy, as well as a wild card entry into the US Open Women's Main Draw. Sofia also played in the Jr. US Open, where she was the finalist, losing to the second seed.

**G16s Doubles:** Natasha Subhash-Ann Li defeated Anna Brylin-Clarissa Hand **G18s Doubles:** Tornado Ali Black-Ingrid Neel defeated Jessie Aney-Ena Shibhara

Sportsmanship is a very high priority of this historical tournament. The USTA Sportsmanship Awards went to Natasha Subhash (16s) and Jessica Failla (18s). Chairmen's Awards went to Whitney Osuigwe (16s) and Raveena Kingsley (18s). The Molden Family Award for Sportsmanship was presented to Jessie Muljat, by Marty Molden.

Tournament Directors Ellen Ehlers and Liz Blum would like to thank the Tournament Steering Committee, all the outstanding volunteers, and especially the staff of the Barnes Tennis Center for the invaluable support they give to the tournament.



Hannah Zhao named Adidas Player of the Day, and was a Consolation Finalist (5th place).



Jessica Failla won a sportsmanship award.

## Ladies Ad-In League

What is the Ladies Ad-In League? It's a Thursday Morning Women's Doubles League that is open to all female tennis players. The season runs for seven to nine weeks and the cost is \$130.00 per doubles team. This fee includes: organization of league play, tennis court fees at the Barnes Tennis Center, Wilson tennis balls, and our End of Season Awards Luncheon + Prizes + Fun! There are three league division levels, "A", "BB", and "B". For more information please email Jennifer Myers at imyers@ytsd.org or stop by the Barnes Tennis Center Pro Shop. The next Ad-In Season will begin place mid-November.

# Congratulations to our Ad-In Spring Season Winning Teams:

#### "A" Division:

First Place: Christina Rassvetaieft & Laticia Blancaforte

First Place: Renta Renison & Beryl Reynaud

Second Place: Kerry Blum &

Lisa Hudson

Second Place: Jimena Cuevas &

Jennifer Valadez

Second Place: Aida de Garcia &

Fortuna Sacal

Second Place: Lisa Gray &

Kristen Hanson

#### "BB" Division:

First Place: Nancy Kutner & Kathy Miller

Second Place: Maribel Haro & Martha Fernandez

#### "B" Division

First Place: Margo Gosselin & Elayne Berman

First Place: Michiyo Kileen &

Kanako Ide

Second Place: Gerri Thornton &

Betty Wu

Second Place: Debby Gumb &

Helen Pecka



Youth Tennis San Diego **Barnes Tennis Center**4490 West Point Loma Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92107

E-mail address: info@ytsd.org

Website: www.barnestenniscenter.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage PAID San Diego, CA

Permit #1911

#### **Our Mission:**

Youth Tennis San Diego is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote the educational, physical and social development of all youth through organized tennis and educational activities.



#### **Sharp Rees-Stealy**

Betty Peabody, Jamie Saben and the Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group relax after participating in a Round Robin Tennis Tournament at the Barnes Center. Proceeds raised through the tournament will be used to support scholarships for the Homer Peabody Holiday Open in December. Dr. Homer Peabody was involved with Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group for more than 50 years and instrumental in building the Barnes Tennis Center.

## **Calendar of Events**



17-18 YTSD Winter Novice

23-25 Adult Tournament

**31** AST Field Day Happy Halloween!

### **November**

1 Barnes Cup

3 Election Day

6-8 YTSD Winter Satellite

**11** Veteran's Day

**14-15, 21-22** Thanksgiving Vacation Open

26 Happy Thanksgiving

## December

5-6. 12-13

Homer Peabody Holiday Open

**19** AST Singles Event

20 Barnes Cup

25 Merry Christmas

26-28 YTSD Holiday Satellite

31 New Year's Eve!

### **January**

1 Happy New Year!

**16** Owenita & John Sanderlin Novice

18 Martin Luther King Day

# Junior Team Tennis (JTT) is in Full Go Mode!

We have managed to put nine teams together which means approximately 80 kids playing matches. JTT is a great way for junior tennis players to enjoy the game in a team atmosphere, different than tournament play. From on court coaching to team spirit building, JTT provides valuable experiences across the board. Kindly, this fall season, the San Diego Aviators have donated free t-shirts for all of San Diego JTT teams. Go Aviators and thank you for your support.

Fall season ends December 13. If you would like to be included on a team for the spring season, contact Jake at jworseldine@ytsd.org. Detailed information can be found on the official JTT website: www.sandiegoteamtennis.com.

