



Youth Tennis San Diego

Junior Tennis News

George E. Barnes Family Junior Tennis Center

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First Annual Hit-A-Thon

Youth Tennis San Diego (YTSD) is proud to introduce its first annual Hit-A-Thon fundraiser. This new and exciting event will take place at the Barnes Tennis Center on Saturday, September 19. The goal is to raise money for the many worthwhile activities that YTSD underwrites.

Through sponsorships, pledges, and donations YTSD hopes to raise funds for junior programs, equipment, tournament scholarships, and financial assistance. Local corporations, tennis clubs, and individuals will be asked to sponsor a player or a team. A Hit-A-Thon sponsorship will earn money by tracking the number of tennis balls the sponsored child can hit in a rally (or through a flat donation in the child's name).

Participants will receive a commemorative t-shirt to wear during the event and to keep thereafter. Awards will be presented to top finishers, top team finishers, and fundraisers in each division. Hundreds of kids are expected to participate, from tournament players to Barnes program participants to After School Tennis players. All are welcome and encouraged to take part in this fun-filled day.



A carnival type atmosphere will prevail with food booths, music and prizes. There will be a Fast Serve booth and local pros will be on hand to put your serving and return skills to the test. Something will be happening on every court. Participate by sponsoring a player that you know and help junior tennis in San Diego!

Official rules, entry forms and pledge sheets are available at www.barnestenniscenter.com or by calling (619) 221-9000.

San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame

Since 2006, the San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame (SDTHOF) has inducted 20 outstanding members into the organization. Individuals who are chosen have left an indelible mark in San Diego's rich and abundant tennis history.

The 2009 inductees each have a connection to Youth Tennis San Diego (YTSD) and the Barnes Tennis Center. **Kelly Jones** played junior tennis in San Diego and was the keynote speaker at YTSD's Annual Banquet in April. **Bob Carrothers** was a junior standout; the sportsmanship award given at the Harper Ink tournament is named for Mr.

Carrothers. **Ed Collins** is a wonderful coach and has been a mentor to many junior players in San Diego County.

Two of the men nominated this year can be credited with the development of the Barnes Tennis Center. **George Barnes** and his family donated \$1 million toward the construction of the Center. Mr. Barnes had a dream that through tennis, children could have a healthy alternative during the after school hours. He was a visionary, and now 14 years later thousands of children are enjoying tennis at the Barnes Center and throughout San Diego County.

Homer Peabody was the capitol campaign chair for the Barnes Tennis Center project. Dr. Peabody had been a player since he was a youth; he encouraged young players to strive to achieve in their tennis and to grow to be healthy, participating citizens in their everyday lives.

The induction ceremony for the 2009 class of the SDTHOF will take place on August 29th at Balboa Tennis Club at Morley Field. The induction will begin on the stadium court at 4:00 with a dinner reception following. Please come to honor these five special people.

For more information go to www.sandiegotennis.com and click "SDTHOF" or call (619) 299-8647.



My Point

By Kerry Blum, Executive Director, YTSD



Happy 14th birthday, Barnes Tennis Center! Yes, it has really been 14 years since we opened the doors of the George E. Barnes Junior Tennis Center on July 25, 1995. We had a grand celebration, with many of the wonderful friends in attendance whose support made it possible to build this special place for the children of San Diego County.

It's time to ask, have we achieved our goal—our campaign promise to build a place where children have court priority—where families play together? I think so. Of course the work is never done, but we are well on our way. The players and families are enjoying the attention our architects paid to the court layout, allowing for front row viewing from every court.

We host numerous national, open, satellite and novice tournaments—providing a complete pathway for competitive players. Every six weeks more than 100 children from our After School Tennis program play tennis on 21 courts followed by a shopping trip to our “free store” for gently used tennis clothing donated throughout the year. During the summer more than 800 youngsters storm the courts for tennis camp.

The Center is also home to hundreds of kids a week for a complete pathway of tennis programs and homework assistance. The Excellence Team program was added this year to create a highly competitive team of under-privileged youth who will compete nationally with the ultimate goal of achieving college acceptance by way of tennis and/or academic scholarships.

There has always been a strong focus on the education component of our mission statement. Monday through Thursday, our learning center is busy with students using free homework assistance, tutorials, and computers. Children from Monarch School visit three times a week. Programs for preschoolers engage youngsters in an entertaining introduction to tennis and education. The library doubles as a study space where award winning children's literature and an extensive collection devoted to tennis foster the imaginations of our young readers. A generous gift made by Lee and Steve Booth will expand our educational emphasis in several new directions.

Our continuing challenge is to “find” the funds to support the maintenance of the Center. Because there is no membership fee at the Center, and because of our commitment to provide free courts for youth, we do not have a regular source of income. What we do have is a wealth of supporters who appreciate Barnes Center. If you stop to think about all that the Center has to offer, you will agree that it deserves your support and you'll see the value of joining the Annual Giving campaign.

The Center is a vital instrument in providing opportunities for youth to learn and enhance tennis and academic skills. We thank all of our sponsors and supporters for making the Center a safe haven for so many of our youth. Please join us to help raise funds for our youth through the first annual hit-a-thon scheduled for September 19th on Barnes courts.

A special thanks to Angel Lopez, Youth Tennis San Diego's Olive Pierce Award winner. Please click our website link to see his letter of support at www.barnestenniscenter.com.

Going Green

America is shifting to a “green culture” and Youth Tennis San Diego (YTSD) is joining in. To conserve resources, YTSD's newsletter will now be sent electronically via your e-mail. For uninterrupted service, please send your e-mail address to cvastola@ytsd.org to make sure the newsletter reaches you. If you would still like to receive a hard copy of the newsletter, please

contact Calla at (619) 221-9000 x307.



Belinsky Family Contributes \$150,000



The Esther and Arnold Belinsky family have donated \$150,000 for naming rights to the playground that will be built at the Booth Education Building at the Barnes Tennis Center. The Belinskys have been ongoing supporters of the programs of Youth Tennis San Diego (YTSD) for many years. They are founders of YTSD's After School Tennis program and have contributed to that program for 20 years.

Arnold and Esther have both enjoyed playing and watching tennis for many years. All the Belinsky children are excellent players and feel the values they learned from tennis have helped them in their careers. We cherish the family for their commitment to our kids and their futures. Thanks, Esther and Arnold!



Tournament Director's Report By Anne Podney



I've had many questions directed to me regarding the announcements in big red letters: "This event is considered a SCTA Level Five (or Four) Tournament" that show up when players are looking online at a tournament's home page. Clicking on the link provided leads you directly to a page that should answer all your questions. To

summarize some of the main items: Level 4 tournaments earn more points than Level 5 tournaments. And, while the Esme Pearson and Harper Ink appear to be permanent Level 4 tournaments, this year the Metropolitan, Balboa, La Jolla and Thanksgiving are also San Diego Level 4 tournaments. Next year, the list may be different.

Another question I have been asked is, "Do you earn points for playing consolation rounds in a tournament?" The answer is "yes" and the exact number of points you earn depends, of course, on how many rounds you play. All the information is available on the page entitled "SCTA Junior Points Table." Satellite rounds won also win points, but only for satellite play. Again, check the table provided on the SCTA website.

Points per round in Southern California have just been implemented. I have been getting tons of questions from players; I am finding that there are many questions that I cannot easily answer. I hope to schedule a meeting later in the year where representatives from the SCTA Junior Player Council come to perhaps explain some of the anomalies in the system.

For example, from reading the "Play and Complete" section about "Commonly Asked Questions" I would not be able to tell you if a retirement due to injury/illness is going to be treated differently than a walkover due to injury/illness. Will a player be given credit for the matches won if the tournament

director codes it a walkover but not a retirement? How many tournament directors code these incidents correctly and what are the ramifications for the player if they are coded wrongly? These are all issues which will need to be dealt with over the coming months.

The remainder of the summer offers many novice, satellite and open tournaments throughout the county. At the Barnes Center, the 25th Annual Junior Doubles Tournament (Level 4 doubles tournament for national ranking) will take place September 4-7. Both boys and girls and mixed doubles will be offered. The Syril Press Memorial Satellite is scheduled for August 21-23 and August 28-30 will see the 1st Annual Jim Buck Junior Team Tournament (for 12s and 14s). Six boys and six girls from each of the four areas in Southern California will compete in this team event.

Now that San Diego has lost the Acura Classic, some of the best women's tennis for viewing can be found at the USTA National Girls 16s Championship, August 9-16, at the Barnes Center. Top players from San Diego expected to participate include: **Dominique Cetale, Hailey Johnson, Karen Forman and Tory Parravi.**

Folsom Girls 16 Doubles finalists Maika Adair and Salish Davis with winners Sophia Najera-Salas and Victoria Robertson



National Father-Daughter and Mother-Son

The National Father-Daughter and Mother-Son Hardcourts were played at the Barnes Tennis Center on May 29-31; several local teams went home as champions. **Mariel Verban-De Young** won the Gold Ball in the Senior division, defeating the #1 seed. **Donald Neuman** of La Mesa and his daughter **Jodi** took the Silver Ball in the Super Senior (over 70) division. The team of **Kerry Payne** and **Addison Appleby** of Rancho Santa Fe and La Jolla won the consolation division in the Ultra Senior Division.

The Mother-Son was a true San Diego-dominated event with **Susan** and **Alex Yermanos** winning Gold, **Tina** and **Guy Giubilato** winning Silver, and **Carolyn** and **Cameron Bernhardt** winning the Bronze ball. **Carolyn** and **Jack Barber** finished in fourth position, **Kathy May Fritz** and **Taylor** finished in fifth by winning the consolation over **Cherise** and **Luke Meoli**, who finished in sixth position.

Excellence Team

Youth Tennis San Diego (YTSD) recently received a \$50,000 matching grant from the United States Tennis Association (USTA) *Serves* to replicate Team Agassi in San Diego. The purpose of the program is to create a new, highly competitive Excellence Team that will compete nationally with the goal of achieving college acceptance and graduation by way of a tennis and/or academic scholarship. The USTA/NJTL staff is managing the project.

Youth Tennis San Diego will be required to match the \$50,000 grant and oversee the Excellence Team. In replicating Team Agassi, YTSD has asked Sam Querrey to “sponsor” YTSD and to help raise the \$50,000 match requirement. We are on our way! YTSD graciously thanks Skeets Dunn for donating \$25,000 towards the goal.

The program focuses on youngsters who have displayed need, potential, talent, determination, and a commitment to hard work on the court and in the classroom. The goal is that every player in the program who wants to play college tennis will have that opportunity. With contacts and coaches who have both played and coached at the NCAA Division I level, YTSD can assist in making that happen.

This is a minimum two-year commitment. Each team member will receive elite-level tennis training directed by a highly experienced team of coaches



Some of the team with Wolf von Lindenau and Steve Bickham.

(local as well as visiting national coaches). Match play with charting and video review along with developing proper training patterns will help players learn how to compete in a more intelligent manner.

Player will have access to a wide array of coaching resources to develop their individual training program and realistic goals. The key to success in competitive tennis at any level is developing an optimal schedule of training and competition. The program will include physical conditioning and movement training. To address academic needs of juniors, YTSD will offer homework assistance and supplemental tutoring. Computers and Internet access are available to all students. Players will need to maintain a 3.0 grade point average and perform four hours per month of community service to remain on the team.

The public perception of tennis players, their parents, and our coaches is an important element of the program. Our players will have a positive competitive attitude and will be models of sportsmanship. Our players and coaches will exhibit fairness, they will be friendly on and off the court, and will be known as hard-working players with class who

hold their heads high—win or lose. Anything less will result in not being allowed to participate.

The Excellence Team consists of **Ibrahim Akbar, Kimo Barrere, Trevor Faulk, Martin Marin, Joshua Randle, Victoria Robertson, Lynn San Ramon, Liliana Serylo** (team captain), **Jwany Sherif, Ivan Thamma and Jared Thompkins**.

Steve Bickham, Director of Tennis & Operations at the Barnes Tennis Center, will direct the coaching staff. Wolf von Lindenau, Director of Elite/National Team Development Programs at the Center, will be assisted by Sergio Elias. An Advisory Council—a group of local, national, and international coaches and experts in the field of tennis and fitness—will be available to assist and supplement the program. These members include: Jim Ault, Brett Dickinson, Angel Lopez, Sargis Sargsian, Mike Sell, Peter Smith, Larry Willens, and Kathy Willette. Youth Tennis San Diego staff and Board members will comprise the Excellence Team Committee that will oversee the program: Steve Bickham, Kerry Blum, Kathy May Fritz, Scott Rogers, Chris Swortwood, Linn Walker, and Kathy Willette.

Summer Camps Still Open!

Sessions Available:
 August 17-21
 August 24-28
 August 31-September 4
 Contact Tom O'Brien at tobrien@yttd.org



Community Service at Barnes Center

On a typical San Diego July 4th weekend, when most teenagers' thoughts turn to the beach and having fun in the sun, a group of civic-minded tennis players and Barnes Tennis Center supporters helped clean-up the Center's grounds. Litter and debris had accumulated inside and outside the Center's surrounding fences.

Armed with sunscreen, water, gloves and large trash bags, 12 volunteers spent more than three hours picking up such items as paper and plastic bags, many old gray tennis balls, dead birds and gophers, plastic and metal tennis can lids, sleeping bags and pillows, and too many cigarette butts to count!

Their efforts did not go unnoticed by some residents who live nearby. The Center received an e-mail from a neighbor, praising the clean-up project: "Please express my thanks to the volunteers who picked up the trash and other debris both on the tennis center grounds and outside your fence....The entire corner looks much, much better."



Kneeling, left to right: Bob Alden, Leslie Evans, Marty Molden. Standing, left to right: Brian Alpert, Zubin Anklesaria, Sofia Donlevy, Nick Nassir, Melissa Shega, Adam Lohnes, Mackenzie Gaura. Not pictured: Kathy Volle Brown, Hal Jurgenson

Girl's First Serve High School Tournament

The 2009 Girl's First Serve High School Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, at the Barnes Tennis Center. High school coaches and tennis team members—mark your calendars!

The First Serve event is a full-day, dual-match team round-robin tournament (three singles and three doubles). Players who have been ranked in the top 150 in the Southern California Tennis Association rankings for the past two years are ineligible, however. Each school will be guaranteed to compete in at least three tennis matches.

Please contact Tom O'Brien at tobrien@ytsd.org for registration information. This event is a great way to build camaraderie, teamwork and friendships that will last a lifetime!

Clay Court Tournament



The first annual Barnes Center Junior Clay Court tournament was held July 10-12, on the weekend before the junior national clay court championships. Entries were restricted to eight players in each division. There were 40 players from Arizona, Orange County and Los Angeles as well as San Diego. San Diego winners were: B14s Taylor Fritz, B18s Alex Yermanos, G14s Maryanne Zhao and G18s Elena Najera-Salas.

Corey Smith and Alex Yermanos

Scholarship Winners 2009

Angel Lopez Scholarship:

\$500 each
Casey Alcantar
Joshua Isaacs

Walker Family Scholarship

\$500
Sarah Weng

Homer Peabody Scholarship

\$500
Duke Miller

Dottie and Bob Alverson/ YTSD Scholarship

\$500
Michael Lin



20 Years of After School Tennis

This September, Youth Tennis San Diego will celebrate the 20th year of the After School Tennis (AST) program. The program is held throughout the school year at more than 100 San Diego County elementary, middle and high schools. Since the AST program began in 1989, more than 115,000 children have participated. Many of these children have gone on to play at higher levels, including tournaments, high school teams and some collegiate level play.

Organized into five six-week sessions, each session includes a special event at the Barnes Tennis Center. With the help of hundreds of instructors and volunteers, the AST program can fulfill its mission of encouraging youth participation, personal integrity, leadership and competitive spirit in a friendly environment that builds responsible citizens.

Mark your calendars for September 26, from 9:00 to noon. Youth Tennis San Diego will host its annual AST Half Day Camp. This will be our kick-off celebration for the 2009-2010 school year. Designed for children of all ages and all levels of play, juniors will spend the day rotating from court to court, participating in a variety of fun tennis drills and games. All children are welcome to join the fun!

Fall Programs at Barnes

The Barnes Tennis Center proudly introduces the Barnes Tennis Academy, a comprehensive training program that encompasses all of our tournament level players. From age eight and up, the Academy program will take a player from the beginning stages of competition to national tournament play.

There are three levels in the Academy program: The Competitive program gives kids the skills to begin playing competitive tennis. Grips, technique, and footwork are learned along with basic match play tactics to give these students the confidence they need to begin tournament play.

The High Performance program is designed for players who have already begun playing competitively but are looking to take the "next step." This program focuses on the physical, technical, and tactical skills with the goal of enhancing tournament performance. Fitness and match play are included.

Finally, the Elite Training program aims to take our junior players to "the next level"—collegiate teams and professional circuits! We provide the training necessary to get their game to that level, plus we have the college contacts and professional playing experience to mentor each player. Players in this program already have a high Southern California ranking and have achieved a USTA national ranking. Selection to this program is by invitation or tryout only.

For further information, please contact us at (619) 221-9000.

A big thank you to long-time supporter Roberto Ancira and his company, Graphic Interfaces, who donated his time and graphic design to create the huge, wonderful map of our After School Tennis sites in San Diego County. It hangs in the foyer at the Barnes Tennis Center. One look and you will be impressed with the scope of our outreach activities!

If you are interested in starting our AST program at your school or would like more information about the AST Half Day Camp, please contact Lindsey Vosburgh, AST Director, for further details at (619) 221-9000 x306 or lvosburgh@ytsd.org.

Tournament Results

Summer Classic Novice Tournament

Boy's 10's	Joe O'Brien	def. Chase Denholm
Boy's 12's	Thomas Shaffer	def. Will Denholm
Boy's 14's	Colton Kellogg	def. Hayden Hensley
Boy's 16's	Derek Mertins	def. Remedan Aklile
Boy's 18's	Wes Lowe	def. Jonel Tiongco
Girls' 10's	Vanessa Shaffer	def. Ofelia Lopez
Girls' 12's	Sheyda Khonji	def. Annie Andriasyan
Girls' 14's	Kristen Oeser	def. Alejandra Gallegos
Girls' 16's	Joanna Rodriguez	def. Suong Ho

Dr. John P. Sheposh Memorial Satellite Tournament

Boy's 10's	Ryan Seggerman	def. Brandon Nakashima
Boy's 12's	Dimitar Gougov	def. Reid Ponder
Boy's 14's	Kyle Koshland	def. Philippe Rivard
Boy's 16's	Lucas Whaley	def. Max Weishan
Boy's 18's	Miguel Acosta	def. Alex Abbuhl
Girls' 10's	Elana Dirkes	def. Olia Javidi
Girls' 12's	Jessica Anzo	def. Victoria Zaks
Girls' 14's	Karla Dulay	def. Jenai Machhi
Girls' 16's	Delaney Brannigan	def. Andi Cescolini

Boy's 10's Finalist Chase Denholm (L) and Champion Joe O'Brien





Summer Happenings in the Junior Tennis World

The 107th Annual Southern California Junior Sectional Championships took place at Los Caballeros Racquet & Sports Club in late June. SCTA's Sectionals is the largest junior tournament in the United States with more than 1,800 entries, 1,500 total players and 2,000 matches played. San Diegans made it to the finals in several divisions.

Third-seeded Daniel Kosakowski of Downey and #4 Zachary Leslie of San Diego engaged in a dramatic showdown that lasted nearly three hours and 30 minutes. With both players fighting fatigue, Kosakowski edged Leslie 6-7, 7-6, 7-5. Boys' 18 doubles title finalists were Axel Bouillin and Gannon Nicoll.



Gannon and Axel

Daniel Faierman was the finalist in the Boys' 16 singles and Christina Makarova in Girls' 14 singles. Top-seeded Logan Smith captured his second sectionals title with a victory over #4 Garrett Mak in the Boys' 12 singles final. The only piece missing from Carolyn Xie's sectionals triple crown was a singles title. She completed that element this year. Xie's trophy will take its place alongside her sectionals doubles and mixed doubles crowns.

Stephanie Hoffpauir won the Most Improved Player award at the SoCal Awards Banquet and Liam Caruana (Boys 10s) received a sportsmanship award.

Daniel Faierman was part of the Southern California team at the 16s Intersectional Team Championships in Shreveport, Louisiana. He went on to Delray Beach, Florida where he was joined by Cameron Bernhardt, James Boyd, Sam Todd and Warren Wood for the Boys 16s Clay Court Championships. Delray Beach also hosted the Boys 18s where San Diegan Zach Leslie was seeded #3. Joining him were Campbell Johnson, Michael Lin and Alex Yermanos.

Over in rainy Memphis, Tennessee, Gabrielle DeSimone (#17), Elena Najera-Salas, Kaley Schultz and Lacey Smyth struggled with inclement weather. Gaby was the big San Diego winner at clay courts this year as she defeated the #12 seed in the round of 32 and #4 seed in the quarterfinals to reach an all-Southern California final against eventual winner, Krista Hardebeck of Santa Ana.

The Boys 12 Clay Courts in Greensboro, North Carolina had Rafael Lenhard and Billy Rowe while Gregory Garcia (#7) and Ryan Rosen competed in the 14s in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

In nearby Plantation, Florida, Christina Makarova (#10) headed the San Diego Girls 14 Clay Court contingent, joined by Jwany Sherif and



James Boyd and Sam Todd



Gaby DeSimone

Sophia Costes. Virginia Beach hosted the Girls 16 with Hailey Johnson (#9), Karen Forman, Lindsey Kostas and Tory Parravi representing San Diego.

Representing Southern California at 12 Zonals (July 29-August 2) in Tucson, Arizona were San Diegans Jack Barber, Kalman Boyd, Liam Caruana, Taylor Fritz, Chloe Kuo, Peter Trhac, and Simon Yundov. Heading to Colorado Springs, Colorado for the 14 Zonals were Christopher Bernhard, William Chiu, Sophia Costes, Tyler Hansen, Rozel Hernandez, Ryan Rosen, Logan Smith, Oliver Welsh and Maryann Zhao. And, in the 16s Zonals in Salt Lake City, Utah, players from San Diego included Jenny Borck, James Boyd, Dominique Cetale, Daniel Faierman, Karen Forman, Derek Klein, Lindsey Kostas, Jana McCord, Sophia Najera-Salas, Monica Pastor, Tyler Pham, Sam Todd, Dylan Trent and Warren Wood.

August 5-8, will find the Barnes Tennis Center hosting the 14th Annual World Team Tennis Junior Nationals. Billie Jean King is the host and sponsor. Sixteen teams representing USTA Sections and Community Tennis Associations will participate with teams made up of three girls and three boys in the 18 and under event. The team representing the Barnes Center will consist of Bryce Bettwy, Mimi Hamling, Niko Karnopp, Sophie Najera-Salas, Gannon Nicoll, and Anna Yang.





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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.

Barnes Tennis Center Calendar of Events

August

- 5-8 World Team Tennis Tournament
- 9-16 Girls 16 National Championship
- 21-23 Cyril Press Satellite
- 28-30 Jim Buck Team Tournament
- 29 Hall of Fame Induction

September

- 4-7 San Diego Open Doubles
- 8 Fall Programs Begin
- 12 First Serve Tournament
- 19 Hit-A-Thon
- 26 AST Half-Day Camp



The Junior Tennis News is a bi-monthly publication of YTSD. We welcome all comments. Editor: Anne Podney.

