



Center Court

MAY 2014

A Captain of all Ages – Debbie Fitzgerald



While walking the hallowed grounds of Balboa Tennis Club in 1997, Debbie Fitzgerald ran into BTC Tennis Director Geoff Griffin and asked him about leagues. “That guy over there – Craig McDonald – is putting a WTT Team together. “ After the two met, Debbie, Craig and a few others assembled a team. The rest is history. At that time, there were only four WTT teams. Now there are 22 and Debbie has been a proud captain ever since.

Over the past eight years, her admirable and amazing plight as a captain of 10-20 teams per year is definitely one for the record books. She claims she takes on the responsibility because being a captain is “so much fun!!!” She epitomizes the unselfish captain as one of her main concerns is that others get a chance to play. She relishes in the organizational aspect of being a captain, which is many captain’s biggest headache. She attributes her Italian background, motherly instincts and a bit of obsessive compulsive behavior for rounding out her love of this leadership role.

Compared to her former working life, when she was a full time Gynecological Surgeon in the Navy at Balboa Hospital for 26 years, being a team captain is a piece of cake. “Nothing is life threatening,” she says. Debbie enjoys playing on the team and being in charge. “I enjoy the social element as well as the camaraderie. When we make it as a team to the next level, the travel, dinners together and tennis is so much fun,” she says.

Even when she isn’t playing, Debbie will attend matches to make sure things are going well. “A third of the people on my teams wouldn’t play unless I organized the team. I believe in building the field and then the players come,” she says. “I try to keep it happy.”

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USTA National Open Hard Courts June 2-8



The USTA National Open Hard Court Championships will be played at Balboa Tennis Club June 2-8. Players from all over the country will compete in Men’s Singles and Doubles, Women’s Singles and Doubles as well as Mixed Doubles. The winners of each division will be awarded a USTA gold ball, while the runner-up will be awarded a USTA silver ball. There will also be a 3rd/4th place playoff for the USTA bronze ball. Cash prizes will also be awarded. Former tournament participants include #88 in the

world Jack Sock and #86 in the world Coco Vandeweghe. The tournament is a first round consolation so each player is guaranteed at least two matches. This is an exciting tournament at Balboa Tennis Club. Come out and enjoy the action.

The President's Court Chatter

By Dwight Van Slyke



Clubhouse update: The Clubhouse was completed around April 26th with the exception of some of the furniture that will take a week or two longer. The bathrooms and locker rooms will be completed by June 1, with some luck they will be usable a little earlier, but not quite finished.

Once all the work has been completed we plan on promoting the Club through all of the local publications with hopes of attracting families and more children. I hope to get some exposure in the Union Tribune as well.

As many of you have heard, Babycakes will not be returning after the completion of the remodel. This was their choice as they have an opportunity to build a second restaurant in Imperial Beach on the boardwalk. Sounds like a good decision. We will be announcing who the new tenant will be very soon, with hopes of having the café open by June 1.

The Director's Report

By Colleen Ferrell



The Belinsky Project, which consists of a refurbished clubhouse, locker rooms and restrooms, as well as a permanent tennis center, will soon be complete. The Club sincerely thanks Arnold and Esther Belinsky for this generous donation, as well as Larry Belinsky and the rest of the family. The historical charm of BTC remains intact and ongoing, while the physical structure gets a well deserved upgrade.

Many thanks to BTC President Dwight Van Slyke for the countless hours he has spent overseeing this project. Janene Christopher also deserves a

shout out for the design and attention to detail she bestowed upon the project from start to finish. Actually, the entire BTC Board of Directors has been involved throughout every phase, which is noteworthy and appreciated. As Hilary says, it takes a village right???

A glimpse into the future at BTC calls for continual upgrades and vigilance in every aspect of the tennis club. Our desire to remain one of the finest public facilities in the USA necessitates a group effort. Please help us in our plight. Take time to clean up when you leave the court, be respectful of others at the club, keep the puppies who visit the club quiet, use respect for one another as opponents, support the club vendors such as the Pro Shop and the café TBD, report any unusual activity and strive to be a champion on and off the court. Together we move forward into another chapter of "Life at BTC."



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Director's Office..... 619-295-4242

Pro Shop..... 619-291-5248

Club hours of operation:

Monday - Friday 8am – 9pm

Saturday & Sunday 8am – 8pm

Wounded Warriors Camp 2014

By Steve Kappes



If you've been to the courts in the past few weeks, you've no doubt seen the colorful patriotic banners announcing that the 3rd Annual Wounded Warrior Tennis Camp

is around the corner -- May 20-23. Our club is the only tennis facility in the country that hosts this kind of event which we proudly run in collaboration with the San Diego District Tennis Association and Naval Medical Center San Diego. These annual camps are part of weekly programs for wounded, ill, and injured service members and veterans that we have hosted since 2009. The goal of the program is to expose the participants to tennis as a means of rehabilitation and re-integration into the community. Our pros and volunteers have run over 100 free clinics for over 600 disabled military personnel so far, and the program has been recognized for its excellence and impact by senior Pentagon officials, military medical leaders, the USTA, and many local, regional, and national publications.

Interest in the annual camp continues to grow; this year the District's Military Outreach organizing committee received over 80 applications from disabled military members in more than 25 states, twice as many applications as in previous years. We will be allocating 10 courts for this event, and our pros will be providing the instruction. Because the camp participants have significant financial challenges resulting from their injuries and illnesses, the camp organizers are attempting to cover the costs of participants' airfare, lodging, meals, tennis equipment, social events and incidentals. They have been successful in securing grants and other financial donations from the USTA, national disabled sports organizations, veteran support groups, community service organizations, tennis equipment and apparel companies, local businesses of all sizes, local tennis associations and leagues, youth groups, and individuals.

If you would like to help make the 3rd Annual Wounded Warrior Tennis Camp a success, please stop by the pro shop where you can make a donation of any size by cash or check (payable to our 501(c)3 fiscal agent "Tennis Lovers For Charity"), or sign up to provide a dish for one of the meals. If you have any questions contact Geoff Griffin at griffintennis@msn.com.

Max Salonga Fitness Training



BTC member Maximo Salonga is offering personalized fitness classes here at Balboa Tennis Club. He is looking for players who want to take their game to the next level or merely feel better about their health. Max takes into account the players' current fitness and skill set as he customizes training programs that help the players meet and exceed their goals.

"There's no need to fear the old drill sergeant screaming at you to get results," says Max. That's not his style as Max believes in a positive atmosphere where a client can actually have fun while exercising. "I'm motivating, yet patient and you'll learn a lot about yourself and your body in the process," he says.

Max was born and raised in Toronto, Canada, yet moved to Long Beach. From 1989-1991 he played for Long Beach City College and later received a full athletic scholarship to Cal State University in Los Angeles. It was during those early years that Max discovered a passion for fitness training. During his post college days, Max gained experience as an instructor and a competitor. He was the 2002 Lightweight division winner of the Orange County Max Muscle Nationals Bodybuilding Championships. He was also won the 2006 NPC Los Angeles Bodybuilding Championships.

Max moved to San Diego in 2010 and merged his passion for fitness training with tennis. As a USPTA Tennis Professional, he has instructed high level juniors using his Etcheberry Tennis Fitness Certification. Max is now offering his services here at Balboa Tennis Club to all levels of players from beginner to advanced and highly competitive.

For more information, feel free to contact Max at, trainermax71@yahoo.com.

Sibling Success – Maria and Sam Nunez



BTC Member Maria Nunez grew up as a very serious ballet dancer and only played tennis on occasion until she moved to San Diego in 1980. Ballet became secondary when she started college and needed some type of stress release. Tennis provided a much needed outlet

while she attended law school. Now Maria has her own law firm – Nunez Law Group – so she is making time to play national and category 11 tournaments.

Brother Sam on the other hand, was a junior champion in Mexico. At 14 years old, Sam played in the national 14 and under age group and lost in the quarters to Dick Stockton. Sam played for Central Texas Junior College on a tennis scholarship, where he was twice an All American. He finished his collegiate career at West Texas State University and then began his teaching career. Sam taught tennis in Mexico, the US and France. He moved to San Diego in the late 80's and then launched his business as a financial advisor. Sam is currently a vice president at Merrill Lynch.

Together brother, sister and another sibling Miguel, work out together at least once a week. Maria and Sam have played some doubles together, representing Mexico in the Nationals and various local tournaments as well. The combination seems to be working as Maria is advancing in many of the national tournaments she is entering. She credits Sam with much of her progress. Sam says that since joining BTC, he is hooking up with many of his past tennis friends and playing more, in addition to coaching Maria. This is a sibling success story which just keeps getting better.

Don't Poach for Poach Sake!

*by Mimi Loucks
BTC Teaching Professional – USPTA certified*

We've all been in a doubles situation where we are standing at the net watching the ball go past us. It is a terrible feeling to watch the opponent's ball whiz by. The player knows he or she could have easily poached, but instead hesitates and makes the partner take the ball. The next shot we are so frustrated with ourselves, we decide to poach no matter what and end up taking a ball away from our partner that was clearly their ball. Ugh!

I always tell my students, "Don't poach for poach sake!" What I mean by this statement is don't poach because you want to be a part of the point. In order to be an effective poacher you must 1) anticipate the volley and 2) move to the volley with proper footwork.

The best way to anticipate the right time to poach is by watching your opponent. Is your opponent in trouble and out of position? Are they pushed way back behind the baseline? Are they off balance while striking the ball? If so, most likely they will hit a weaker return. When you recognize that your opponent is in a defensive position this is the time to anticipate a weaker shot. Now we must move to the volley with the proper footwork. Our first step towards the volley we are going to poach on is forward, our second step is diagonal. The closer we are to net the more options we have to place our volley and the diagonal step allows us to cut off the angle of our opponent's ball.

When done correctly poaching is a powerful doubles strategy. Remember in order to poach with authority, you must anticipate the right time and move to the ball forward and diagonally. If done right, your partner is really going to like playing with you.



Estate Planning—Tennis Legacy for BTC

Leave a wonderful tennis legacy in your name that will significantly help carry forward the BTC tradition of service to the tennis community. You can arrange a bequest in your will or trust. You could also make BTC the beneficiary of an insurance policy, an IRA or a bank account. For additional information, call the Club Director, Colleen Clery Ferrell at 619-295-4242.

Jean Doyle Garrett – 1927-2013



Jeanne won the US Open girls 18 and under doubles twice and was the US Open Girls 18 Singles finalist once. In 1944 and 1945, she was ranked one nationally in junior girl's competition. Jeanne spent her freshman year at San Diego State, yet they didn't have a tennis team. Jeanne transferred to the University of Arizona and was undefeated in intercollegiate play. She competed in National Senior Tennis Tournaments for many years and won about 50 national doubles titles. She also coached at City College for 10 years. Jeanne is enshrined in three Hall of Fames for her accomplishments – the San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame, the San Diego Hall of Champions and the University of Arizona Sports Hall of Fame. In her memory, the University of Arizona created the Jeanne Doyle Garrett Memorial Tribute Fund to benefit women's tennis players in need of financial assistance. Between 1944 and 1945, Jeanne won at least 38 gold balls. She played with 10 partners and won on all four surfaces.

A Star is Shining

by Fran Wakefield Hunter

“My friend, Jeanne Doyle Garrett, was a star in the world of tennis, family and friendship. Tennis-wise, Jeanne's winning records are numerous, which made her one of the most outstanding junior and adult players from San Diego, even the nation. Accolades have been many, ensuring Jeanne's selections into the SD Hall of Champions, the SDDTA Hall of Fame and the University of Arizona Sports Hall of fame. As a player in the USTA Senior Doubles divisions, her entry into a national event was almost automatic number one seed, as her winning results were very impressive.

Jeanne was best known for her outstanding prowess in playing the game, yet she was also a talented teacher and coach of the sport having fulfilled these roles at San Diego City College, Berkeley City Schools, Cal Western University, University of San Diego and San Diego Yacht Club.

Jeanne was a true friend. She admired in others the character qualities of social responsibility, intellect, loyalty, honesty and curiosity. She expected the best from and for her family, and sought ways to help them meet those goals while never wavering. Not one to overtly push her abilities and results to the limelight, Jeanne was generous in sharing her attributes whenever possible. I knew a funny side to Jeanne's personality which did not always appear at first acquaintance, but made the friendship truly enjoyable.

Tennis will miss Jeanne Garrett and her excellence in playing the game. I will miss our friendship in the game of life. Her star will shine.”

Thoughts on Jeanne Garrett Doyle

by Jerry Kibbey

“The tennis world has been deeply saddened by the passing of Jeanne Garrett (formerly Jeanne Doyle, Jeanne Lareau and Jeanne Datten). Jeanne and I were both born in 1927 and played friendly tennis against each other as kids. She was a freckle faced, pig tailed and a terror on the court. I remember telling her she had the ‘best looking legs of the bunch’ to which she answered, ‘you are my new best friend.’

Jeanne came on the tennis scene as a seventh grader in the Ink Tournament, totally unknown and beat the number two seed 6-0,6-0. This started a pattern of holding the winner's trophy six years running. As a senior player, Jeanne had more gold balls than I can count, and she deserved every one along with being a lovely person with beautiful game manners and sportsmanship.

An interesting thing happened in her last marriage – it was to Gene Garrett – one of our leading San Diego players. The outcome was two Gene/Jeanne Garrett's in the same household!!

Jeanne was truly a San Diego and national “icon”.

Professional Tennis is Returning to San Diego!



Back in the 1970s and early 80s, the San Diego Friars, led by Rod Laver, were one of the top teams in the World Team Tennis league. Now, we are excited to bring back world-class professional tennis to our city in the form of the San Diego Aviators! In its 39th season, Mylan World Team Tennis showcases some of the very best players in tennis competing for the King Trophy, the league's championship trophy which is named after league co-founder Billie Jean King.

The San Diego Aviators is one of the seven teams in Mylan World Team Tennis (WTT) professional tennis league. The team's inaugural season will take place between July 7-27, with the Aviators playing seven home and seven road matches. All home matches will be held at the Valley View Casino Center (formerly the San Diego Sports Arena). The Aviators will feature the greatest doubles team in the history of tennis, Mike and Bob Bryan; four-time Grand Slam champions, Daniela Hantuchova; and will be coached by David Macpherson, one of the top coaches on tour.

Other teams in the seven-team league include Boston Lobsters, Austin Aces, Texas Wild, Springfield Lasers, Philadelphia Freedoms, and Washington Kastles. Andy Roddick will play for the Austin Aces, Venus Williams and Martina Hingis will play for the Washington Kastles, along with many other renowned professional tennis players.

For more information on all 7 matches VIP Package deals, or Group Discounts, please contact: Camila Gill at: cami@sandiegoaviators.com or phone 281-995-4011.

Congratulations Adult 55 & Over National Champions



Left to right: Cathie Anderson, Liane Bryson, Sue Sprague, Fran White, Jennifer Anderson, Ruth Young, Capt. Masako Beppu and Linda Bray

2014 Balboa Spring Championships

NTRP Men's 3.5 Singles – Brandon Roberts def. Andrew McKewy 6-4, 6-3
NTRP Men's 4.5 Singles – Jason Hom def. Dary Dayani 6-2, 6-2
NTRP Women's 4.5 Singles – Thanh Chung def. Jillian Gee 6-0, 6-2
NTRP Men's 3.5 Doubles – Hoffman/McKewy def. Bernard/Dutt 6-4, 6-3
NTRP Men's 4.5 Doubles – Aldan/Satoshi def. Matias/Sabio 6-2, 6-2
NTRP Women's 3.5 Doubles – Gee/Satterlee def. Griffin/Pathammavdng 4-6, 6-4, 6-3
NTRP Mixed 3.5 Doubles – Pitteloud/West def. Irvine/Isaacs 4-6, 7-6, 6-1
NTRP Mixed 4.5 Doubles – Hiromi/Winters def. Chung/Hom 6-0, 6-1

Ivan Smith: Carving a Path to Success through Junior Tennis

At the young age of 12, BTC Junior Star Ivan Smith has been shown every opportunity in the tennis world to succeed and he's taking advantage of this golden opportunity. He's earned a Blue Chip five star ranking with Tennis Recruiting and a National USTA ranking of #5. Coupled with a Southern Cal ranking of #1, Ivan is traveling on the path of many former tennis greats. "Ivan is a very lucky boy," says his father Gary. "He is surrounded by good people."

As the youngest of four children, all of whom played Division 1 tennis in college, Ivan is reaping the benefits of being the last child with an outpouring of effort from parents and siblings to help his tennis journey. Gary is a retired superintendant focused solely on Ivan's tennis. His brother Xavier, who works as a Teaching Pro at Fairbanks Ranch Country Club, hits with Ivan regularly to enhance his game. Former BTC Pro Catalin Chira is Ivan's main coach and the cornerstone of his development. In fact, Gary and family actually moved to San Diego from Visalia in December of 2009 so Ivan could continue working with Catalin at Balboa. "We recognized that the weather was better and the competition was more challenging so we made the move to follow Catalin to Southern California," said Gary. The move has paid off as Ivan's tennis continues to improve.

With an early background in soccer and kickball, Ivan actually began hitting tennis balls at age 5. Ivan was the little brother who was dragged along to all the sibling's tournaments and had to keep himself occupied. Gary would throw balls to Ivan in the service box for early development. Ivan played his first tournament at age 6 in Northern Cal and started taking clinics at the Visalia Racquet Club where Catalin coached.

"I like to compete," says Ivan. "I'm faster and hit harder than the other kids and I love to hit drop shots," he says with a smile. When asked what separates him from the other kids, Ivan proclaimed, "my forehand."



I have a slice and a drive forehand and my footwork is better than a lot of the other kids." The basic game strategy Ivan employs is as simple as his answer; "I just kind of hit" and obviously with more authority than most of the juniors in his age group.

Ivan qualifies to play in the 12 year old age group until his August birthday. Gary wants him to keep competing with the younger group until he is forced to move up to the next age group. "Moving up to the 14's is a different level with most of the players being bigger and stronger," says Gary. Right now Ivan is focused on staying #1 in the 12's. He recently won the prestigious Fullerton Junior Championships which featured a draw of 128 players who were mostly from Southern Cal. Ivan had to play seven rounds to win the tournament. He captured the title by winning a third set tiebreaker 10-6.

"Ivan is the one moving his opponent around the court" says Gary. "He's more mentally tough."

Long term goals include a full tennis scholarship to a highly rated school. Ivan is presently enrolled at Rosebank Elementary School in Chula Vista, unlike many of Ivan's tennis contemporaries who are home schooled to allow for more tennis time. "I felt like Ivan needed the experience of a public school. There he would have to deal with lots of issues and interact with society. He will be better prepared later in life," says Gary. He believes Ivan should develop as a good person first. There are no visions of professional tennis yet, just a full ride hopefully to whatever college he wants to attend.

Ivan currently practices 2-3 hours per day with tournaments on the weekends. His physical size is big for his age, with a projected height of 6'2". "Ivan is blessed with physical abilities and mentally he doesn't want to lose," says his proud father. His focus is on agility drills in clinics and hitting a lot of balls. The sky is the limit at this point. "It's up to Ivan," says Gary.

MAY 2014

Calendar of Events

May

12-15	CIF High School Boys Tournament	
20	BTC Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
20-23	3rd Annual Wounded Warrior Camp	
31	Free Tennis Clinic	3:00 p.m.

June

2-8	National Open Championships	
18	BTC Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.

July

5-7	SDTF Championships	
11-13	K&W Junior Tournament	
16	BTC Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
19-21, 26-28	Balboa Open Tournament	
21-25	Balboa Junior Tournament	

August

10	Free Tennis Clinic	3:00 p.m.
19	BTC Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
23	San Diego Hall of Fame Ceremony	
22-24, 30-Sept 1	San Diego District Tournament	

September

6	North Park Car Show	
9-11	Senior Olympics	
16	BTC Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.

October

4-5, 10-12	San Diego Metropolitan Tournament	
4	Free Tennis Clinic	3:00 p.m.
13	USPTA TEST	
18-19, 25-26	Junior Satellite	