



We bring kids and tennis together!



Today's news regularly reflects negative implications for us, our country and the entire world. Our media is often accused of focusing on those negatives and ignoring positive developments, thus creating anxiety and distrust. It is precisely in times like these that we should learn from the attitudes of children. Viewing current challenges as opportunities is an ideal vehicle to overcoming adversity.

When we take time to look around, we may find many reasons for optimism. One national news program is reversing course and featuring stories of real people making a difference in their communities through community service.

This newsletter is dedicated to the growing ranks of special people who give of themselves to the hundreds of children who participate in The Tucson Community Tennis Program. Thank you for helping children open the door to a sport that can lead to healthier, more active and happy lives.



The child sees everything which has to be experienced and learned as a doorway. ~Nietzsche

Excellence is not a skill. It is an attitude. ~Ralph Marston

TCTP's **Excel Program** is concluding its third year of building on the success of the basic in-school fifth grade sessions. It is an after-school and weekend program offered free of charge throughout the school year. Excel is designed to continue tennis training for those students who demonstrate a superior interest in and aptitude for tennis. The sessions are held twice each week on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at the Himmel Park courts under the leadership of **Coach Serena Quarelli**.

When Excel began during the 2006 – 2007 school year with six participating students, its goals included development of tennis as a lifetime sport, as well as qualities such as self-esteem, discipline and teamwork. Moreover, for those so motivated, TCTP hoped to create opportunities for play on high school tennis teams. That hope is realized as several current or recent TCTP participants, including Fernando Aguilar, Sergio Corona and Medina Cross now play for their high schools.

Original Excel classes were conducted by Coach Serena with the help of a single volunteer. In 2007 – 2008 the program grew to ten regular participants and in 2008 – 2009 to fourteen. Excel is now a multi-tiered program with a variety of coaches. Nearly all original participants remain with the program and are becoming advanced

young players while newer members form a nucleus of those developing skills for the future. Excel's coaching staff has grown as well, permitting more individual instruction. Coach Serena is joined regularly by board member Rick Shaine and assistant coaches, **Enrique Zarate, Rafael Sepulveda and Francisco Aguilar**, all of whom are local college students. It is particularly gratifying that they are all both former Pueblo High School players and TCTP graduates. Current local high school players also assist from time to time as volunteers.

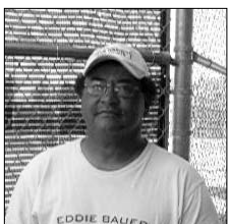


Coaches & kids from the Excel Program exemplify an attitude of excellence.

Excel has also attracted support from notable collegiate and high school coaches. In recent weeks Excel players have been treated to coaching help from legendary former University of Arizona and Cal Berkeley head coach and

ITA Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame member, **Bill Wright**, former Brown University and Boise State assistant coach, **Matt Shaine** and former Pueblo High School boys' head coach and current TCTP board member, **John Davis**.

There is every reason to believe that through innovative programming such as Excel, TCTP will continue to enhance recreational tennis opportunities to children within the Tucson community.



Meet our new coach...

Nelson Payne has recently joined TCTP as a teaching pro. Born in Del Rio, Texas, He moved to Tucson two years ago to continue coaching two nationally ranked teen tennis players whose family relocated here from San Angelo, Texas. He is also a teaching pro at Tucson Racquet Club.

USTA quickstart at Randolph Tennis Center

Remember when you were learning to play tennis how fast those little fuzzy balls moved and how tired you got from always chasing them to the fence? Well, things have changed.

Now, learning to play tennis has never been easier – or more fun – for kids and it's all because of tennis balls that travel slower and bounce lower. That's the secret behind the success of the United States Tennis Association's **quickstart** tennis instruction program. With the Randolph Tennis Center and The Tucson Community Tennis Program having adopted this innovative format, thousands of Tucson children are learning for themselves just how well it works.

Instruction in **quickstart** involves specialized equipment to make learning tennis a whole new experience. Different-sized foam or low compression balls,



Randolph's little courts for little players

all larger and less lively than a regular tennis ball, slow the game down making the learning process fun and easy. For kids, **quickstart** downsizes the game with shorter racquets, easier scoring and shortened and relined tennis courts.

Randolph Tennis Center adopted the USTA's standardized **quickstart** format in 2006. Now, with help from TCTP who initiate instruction with children in the schools, Randolph has become a USTA model of grassroots tennis for beginners and the largest **quickstart** center in the country. Fifteen monthly **quickstart I** and **II** events are scheduled at Randolph using 10 courts permanently lined in blue to reduce the size.

Over the years, the Randolph Tennis Center and the Tucson Community Tennis Program have been extremely successful reaching thousands of children. We plan on continuing our collaboration on what has become one of the largest ongoing grassroots programs in the United States. With **quickstart** we will become even more successful!

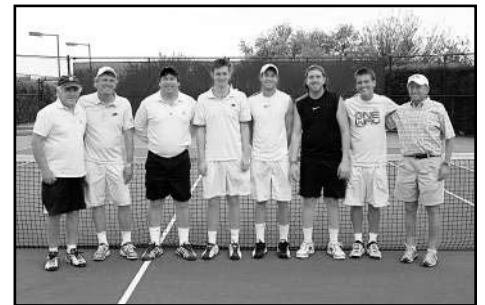
Junior tennis is now a realistic option for youth who were once limited to soccer and little league.

Mac Dunlap Memorial Tennis Tournament

The board of directors of the Tucson Community Tennis Program and executive director Serena Quarelli want to thank everyone who attended, sponsored and participated in the **2nd annual Mac Dunlap Memorial Tennis Tournament** held at **The Lodge at Ventana** on April 19, 2008. The tournament was a benefit for the expansion of TCTP's after school and Saturday tennis programs. We are pleased that the event was a social and financial success and that **KGUN 9 TV** covered it. All who were present enjoyed meeting some of the kids who participate in TCTP's Excel Program and the excellent tennis competition between 8 men's doubles teams. Congratulations to the winners.

A big "thank you" to the committee of Lodge at Ventana tennis members who organized and promoted the event; Scott Anders, Ventana Director of Tennis & Eric Gessner, head pro; and especially to the following sponsors:

- **The Anderson Foundation • BeachFleischman PC**
- **Foote Fault • Main Management, LLC, Investment Advisors**
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2008 Mac Dunlap Memorial Tournament organizers, Jon Foote (left) and Rick Shaine (right) with winners (from left) Eric Styrmoie & Mike Lee (2nd place), Evan Feldhausen & Nick Caldwell (1st place), Mitch Brown & Francois Van de Merwe (3rd place).

Please visit www.TCTPforKIDS.org for the results of the **3rd annual Mac Dunlap Tournament** held at the Lodge at **Ventana on April 19, 2009.**

Who we are: Established in 1993, the Tucson Community Tennis Program is Tucson's only private, non-profit organization bringing free tennis to elementary and middle school children. TCTP's focus is on multi-cultural schools in Tucson's inner city, where funding is too limited to provide physical education instructors.

What we do: We send a team of professional tennis instructors and experienced volunteers to school playgrounds for 6 weeks of beginner lessons on playground mini courts. The final session is held at Randolph Tennis Center. At this "graduation" each child receives a can of tennis balls and a new tennis racquet and participates in fun games led by our tennis pros. In the 2008/2009 school year nearly 900 children from eleven schools participated in TCTP programs. TCTP recently changed the "Next Level" after school program to include any children interested in participating. As a result, approximately 200 children participated compared to 100 in the previous year. Also, in

cooperation with Tucson Parks and Recreation's Randolph Tennis Center, Palo Verde, Catalina and Pueblo High Schools, the children from the after school programs are invited to continue free lessons at these locations for a minimum of 5 weeks. The Excel Program at Himmel Park provides more advanced instruction and competition aimed at preparing selected students to play on their high school tennis teams. The program is currently attended by approximately 20 students.

What we stand for: TCTP believes that tennis can provide a lifetime of fun and good health at minimal cost. Tennis is a unique individual sport that effectively teaches self-discipline, cooperation and good sportsmanship. It helps develop self-esteem, which, in turn, will help children become productive members of their communities. An important goal of TCTP is that of helping children take a step in making tennis a lifetime sport.

Ninth Annual Kids' Day at the UA

For each of the past 8 years approximately 80 TCTP kids have been treated to an afternoon of tennis fun at the UA by members of the women's and men's tennis teams made possible by UA coaches Vicki Maes and Tad Berkowitz. This event is long remembered by the fifth graders. We hope that the experience will plant a seed about the good things university has to offer and will help influence some of them in making a decision for continuing their education beyond high school. The **2009 Kids' Day at the UA** will be held at the **UA Robson Tennis Center on Thursday, April 30 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm.** TCTP friends welcome! Thank you to the UA volunteers, the athletic department and the tennis coaches for continuing to make this wonderful event possible.



Coach Serena & friends enjoying Kids' Day at UA



2008 Kids' Day coaches (from left to right) Natalia Toporowska, Claire Rietsch, Morgan Ramser, Jane Huh, Claire Cox, Katie Orletsky.



(Left to right): Francois Vandermerwe, David Humphreys, Nate Cochrane, Pat Metham, Claudio Christen and Ravid Hazi



**Join
the
fun!**

Help our pros teach 5th graders at an elementary school playground for as few as 2 midday hours once a week for 6 weeks.



A Special Thank You to Our Volunteers

We sincerely believe and never tire of saying that our volunteers are our most precious resource. Your talent, commitment and caring show in all you do. Thank you for helping open doors to a wonderful sport for the children of Tucson!



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The children, parents and staff of Cavett, C. E. Rose, Davidson, Erickson, Fort Lowell, Hollinger, Manzo, Pueblo Gardens, Mission View, Reynolds and Van Buskirk elementary schools appreciate your time and effort.

Be a Volunteer

By giving as little as two to nine hours of your time over the course of a year, you can make a difference to a child.

School Yard Coach Graduations Only Other _____

I live in Tucson year round I am a winter visitor available from _____ to _____

Name _____

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Mail to: Tucson Community Tennis Program • P.O. Box 65916 • Tucson, AZ 85729-5916

All the art of living lies in letting go and holding on. ~Henry Ellis

With the completion of my thirteenth year working for TCTP, eight as president of the board of trustees, I have come to the decision that it is time for me to leave a job I have truly enjoyed and grant my husband's wish for more free time for us to indulge our wanderlust. I let go with some reluctance and sadness even as I reflect on all that I have gained over the years from my involvement with TCTP. I have truly enjoyed getting to know and working with the talented and devoted people who give so generously of their time serving on the board, working in collaboration with our programs and volunteering at the schools and parks. Indeed, I count many of you as friends and look forward to our continued association.

I sincerely believe that change is a good thing for the health and growth of an organization. I am confident that TCTP is healthy, thriving and in very good hands. Executive director, Serena Quarelli, founder and new board president, Britt Feldhausen and the talented long-time and new board members are all committed to the core programs for which TCTP has become known and respected. At the same time, they continue to be

enthusiastic and filled with energy and new ideas for growing and enhancing the organization.

The children I have had the opportunity to work with have brought much joy into my life. There is no doubt that while we adults tend to feel we have much to teach children, they often teach us even more. The smiles, enthusiasm and energy of the children have been a wonderful reward for the time I have spent with TCTP. They have helped me remember that playing and having fun are a very important part of life and that lessons are not given but taken.

Dolores Davenport

New Board President...

Britt Feldhausen, co-founder of the Tucson Community Tennis Program and board member since 1993 will become president of the TCTP board of trustees effective May 2009.

He was born in Wyoming but grew up in Springfield, Illinois learning to play tennis from tennis notables Earl and Cliff Buchholz. In 1981 Britt moved with his wife Jil to Tucson and became a professional tennis instructor at the Centre Court Racquet Club where



Dolores Davenport and Britt Feldhausen

he began working with elementary school children. Britt later served as Director of Tennis for 5 years at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort. It was there that he met the dynamic Bud Minkin who admired Britt's dream of spreading the sport of tennis to Tucson elementary schools. The two joined forces with Don Hammonds and Louise Robbins and made that dream a reality by launching the Tucson Community Tennis Program in 1993. Britt has three children who share his love of tennis. His wife Jil is also an avid player and fellow professional. He is currently the president of the Southwest Professional Tennis Association. In 2003, in recognition of Britt's work with TCTP, he was honored with the first USPTA Star award.



Louise Robbins and TCTP graduate

The loss of a friend

The Tucson Community Tennis program lost a friend, founder and long time supporter with the death of Louise Nash Robbins in Greenwich, CT, June 30, 2008. Louise enthusiastically joined forces with Bud Minkin, Don Hammonds and Britt Feldhausen to found TCTP in 1993. She was a generous financial supporter and hands-on volunteer who served on the board of trustees for fifteen years including two years as president. Her lifelong love of tennis and of children very naturally led to her involvement with a program that brought the two together. While Louise preferred to stay out of the limelight, she was devoted to the children of Tucson and discreetly showed her pleasure when assisting in lessons at a school or at graduations.

Born in Cleveland, Louise traveled throughout Southeast Asia and Europe in the early years of her marriage before raising her family of two daughters and a son in Istanbul, Turkey and Greenwich, CT. Louise was committed to community service and was a dedicated supporter of the arts including work with the Cleveland Orchestra and Severance Hall and as registrar for the Bruce Museum in Greenwich. As a member of the Inland Wetlands Commission during the 1970s and a long time supporter of The Nature Conservancy and The Arizona Open Land Trust, Louise displayed her value of the environment and land preservation.

Louise will be long remembered by her TCTP friends and the children of Tucson will continue to benefit from her generosity.

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for your continued funding of
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give to the kids!**

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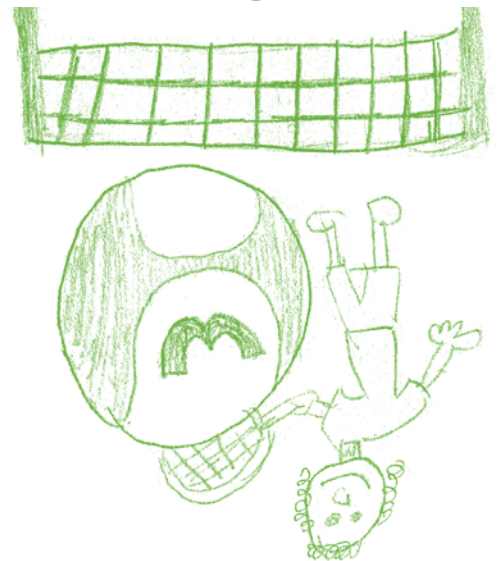
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Champions keep playing until they get it right.

~Billie Jean King

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