

USTA NorCal Hall of Fame

MARK ELLIOTT · CLASS OF 2023



From being named one of the top six California Interscholastic Federation Players of the Year in 1964, to a six-year tenure as the women's tennis coach at SouthEast Missouri State, Mark Elliot's tennis career spans more milestones than can fit on one page. His clients included Raquel Welch and Harrison Ford, among others, and counted Farah Fawcett and Clint Eastwood among his doubles partners. Surely, those alone warrant election to the USTA NorCal Hall of Fame.

"This is something I never expected," Elliot said. "I was so happy having a great group of other coaches as friends. This is pretty overwhelming." Elliot moved to northern California in 1967 and was the Junior College Player of

the Year while attending Foothill Junior College the following year. He went on to play for San Jose State and enjoyed a brief professional career before getting into coaching. He played on the professional circuit in New Zealand in 1972, winning multiple tournaments, including becoming a National Mixed Doubles champion. He twice played on the Grass Court Circuit in England and reached the round of 16 in mixed doubles at Wimbledon twice. Throughout 1972 to 1974, Elliot played the US Open, Australian Open, and other professional events in England, France, Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands. Throughout his career Elliot held numerous high level certificates, including as a USTA High Performance Coach and Life Member, USPTA Elite Professional, PTR Elite Professional, and in 2016 reached 34 years of service to the USPTA. He coached nine ATP and WTA top 100 players, as well as Li Na, the 2011 French Open and 2014 Australian Open winner, and Li Ting, who won gold in doubles at the 2004 Olympic Games. From 2001 to 2004, Elliot served as the head coach of the Chinese National Team, Chinese Davis Cup team, and Federation Cup.

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DANA GILL · CLASS OF 2023



Dana Gill's induction into the USTA NorCal Hall of Fame is an honor meaningful not just for encompassing a lifetime of tennis but because it also honors those who made it possible. "I share this moment with all of the players, coaches, friends, colleagues, Lifetime Team members, and of course my family that have helped me become the player, community contributor and tennis advocate I am today" Gill said. "I'm only here because of all those shared lessons, relationships, and experiences we have forged throughout the years."

The co-founder of Lifetime Tennis with Michael Scadden in 1993, Gill was introduced to tennis 43 years ago and has spent the bulk of that time in the Bay Area. After moving to northern California in the 1980s, he played in age division junior tournaments and eventually became a two-time captain at Division 1 San Diego State while playing from 1987-1990.

Gill is a shining example of tennis being a lifetime game with some of his greatest triumphs coming after leaving San Diego State. "I love that you can enjoy tennis at any age and ability level that you're interested in. I like the combination of self-reliance, decision-making and persistence needed to compete, mixed with the camaraderie and friendships I've forged throughout my lifetime."

In 2017, he was named to the US National Senior 45s Tennis Team and finished as the No. 1 ranked singles player in the US Men's 45+ division. In 2018, he was again ranked No. 1 in the 45+ division and named to the US National Senior 45s team.

Last year, Gill was the No. 1 ranked player in both singles and doubles in the US Men's 50+ division and was selected to the US National Senior 50s team. 2023 has been a banner year with Gill winning his 8th national title at the USTA 50+ Indoor Championships and becoming the No. 1 ranked player in the ITF Men's Singles 50+ division and No. 2 in Men's Doubles. He was also a player/captain to the US National Senior 50s team in Istanbul, Turkey.

Gill's involvement with USTA NorCal goes far beyond his playing career. Lifetime Tennis was awarded three consecutive USTA youth participation growth awards in its early years and Gill served on the USTA NorCal Board of Directors from 2010-2013. Gill has also operated numerous facilities over the years, including the Cupertino Municipal Sports Center, the Pleasanton Municipal Tennis Center, the Walnut Creek Municipal Tennis Center, the Sunnyvale Municipal Tennis Center, and the Santa Clara Municipal Tennis Center.

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KATE GOMPERT · CLASS OF 2023



When Kate Gompert arrived in Northern California as a 16-year old teenager, she was already an established name on the national junior scene. "My transition to NorCal was pretty seamless," she said. "I entered local tournaments, got to know the players in my age group and fit right in."

Gompert's father was the head basketball coach at Wayne State University in Detroit and during the summer was the head pro at Oakland Hills Country Club in the Detroit area. He taught Gompert and her siblings there and as a result, her formative tennis years were spent competing in the midwest and southwestern regions.

after moving, she won the 1980 18 and Under Nationals for her first national age group title. She finished that year ranked No. 1 in the USTA Girls 18 & Under age group and was the No. 3 ranked player in the International Tennis Federation Junior World rankings. It was more than just competitive accolades that made NorCal memorable though. After moving around often as a child, settling in Menlo Park allowed her to form friendships on the tennis

court. That connection to Northern California only strengthened during her collegiate career at Stanford, which she attended on a scholarship. At Stanford, Gompert was a member of two NCAA National Championship teams in 1982 and 1984. She went on to win World Tennis Magazine's Most Improved Player Award in 1986 and achieved a career-best professional world ranking of No. 18 in 1987.

As a pro, Gompert owns wins over Chris Evert, Hana Mandlikova, Pam Shriver, Manuela Maleeva, Carling Bassett, Kathleen Horvath, Patty Fendick, Marianne Werdel, and Linda Gates, to name a few.

One of the most decorated players to emerge from NorCal in the 1980s, this year Gompert adds another award to her mantle: USTA NorCal Hall of Fame Inductee. "It is an honor to be recognized for my achievements in the sport and to be held up alongside such an impressive list of prior inductees."

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BRIAN MACPHIE · CLASS OF 2023



For Brian MacPhie, an introduction to tennis came as a matter of necessity. "When I was 7 years old tennis was the only sport offered for one month and I decided to give it a try and loved it," he said.

It was only a year later that MacPhie was living and breathing tennis, so much so that he was stopped by security after sneaking under the ropes at an exhibition event being held at Maples Pavilion to get Bjorn Borg's autograph. "Bjorn turned around and came back to me and signed my program," MacPhie recalled. "It was great. That was a "wow" moment for me. It made me want to play every day after that." And play he did. MacPhie's family wasn't familiar with USTA Tournaments but learned quickly

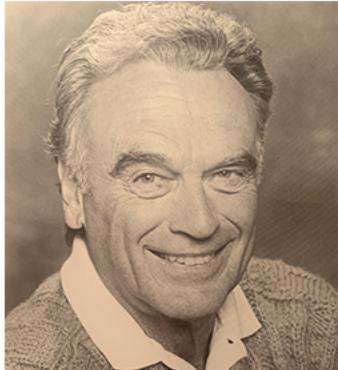
after his coach at the time suggested entering an event.

After graduating high school in 1990, MacPhie played on two NCAA Championship teams at USC from 1990-93. He played No. 1 singles and doubles for the Trojans, winning NCAA Rookie of the Year in 1991 and was an All-American in singles and doubles from 1991 to 1993. He turned professional after college and played on the ATP Tour from 1993 until 2005. He had a career-high singles ranking of 126. At one point, MacPhie was ranked No. 1 in the world doubles rankings with partner Mark Knowles, achieving seven titles and 13 runner-up finishes. He and Knowles reached the World Doubles Championships semifinals in 2001. In 2005, MacPhie was honored as one of the four Top Players in World Team Tennis history along with Billie Jean King, Martina Navratilova, and Jimmy Connors. He won five WTT Championships with the Sacramento Capitals, was the Most Valuable Player in the WTT in 1995 and 1996 and won Rookie of the Year in 1995. Since retiring in 2005, MacPhie has been an active coach working as a club professional and has also coached ATP World Tour professionals such as Ryan Sweeting, Ivo Karlovic, Vince Spadia, Luka Gregorc, Fritz Wolmarans, and Blaz Rola.

Though MacPhie had a wildly successful collegiate career and did what a small percentage of players are able to accomplish in playing professionally, the major themes of tennis are what kept him in the game. "Tennis has given me very strong relationships with many people from around the world," he said. "Tennis teaches life lessons, dealing with ups and downs, teamwork, focus and loving the fight on court."

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VIC SEIXAS · CLASS OF 2023



There truly are no hall of fame resumes quite like Vic Seixas. The oldest living Grand Slam champion in the world, Seixas is adding USTA NorCal Hall of Fame inductee to that decorated list of accomplishments. Seixas was the face of American tennis from 1940-1968, playing in 24 straight US National and Open tournaments, a national record. Following a tour of duty as a pilot in the Army Air Corps during World War II, Seixas enrolled at the University of North Carolina in 1946 and went on to win 63 of his 66 singles matches over a three-year career.

Seixas broke out internationally in 1950, making the semis at the French Open and Wimbledon. The 1953 and 1954 seasons though, were his most

successful. In 1953, Seixas was a semifinalist at the Australian Open, finalist at both the French and U.S. Nationals, and won the Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles Championship.

"To me, Wimbledon will always be the crowning jewel in tennis," Seixas told the International Tennis Hall of Fame. "It's the one tournament every player would most like to win. It was also the first major that I won so it was really important to me." He followed that up with quarterfinal finishes at the Australian and French Opens, and Wimbledon in 1954, capturing the U.S. National singles championship later that Summer. In addition to his outstanding singles career, Seixas teamed with the likes of Mervyn Rose, Tony Trabert, and Shirley Fry over the years to win five doubles titles - the 1952 U.S. Nationals, the 1954 U.S. and French Nationals, the 1955 Australian Open, and the 1955 French Open. Seixas also won four consecutive Wimbledon Mixed Doubles titles from 1953-56.

For many years, Seixas played more Davis Cup matches than any other American in history, winning 38 of 55 singles and doubles matches from 1951-57. His tenacity, unparalleled fitness, and attacking style kept Seixas playing competitively into his 40s. At 42, he played 94 games over four hours to defeat a 22-year old opponent at the 1966 Philadelphia Grass Championship and he defeated a 19-year old at the 1966 U.S. Nationals.

Despite winning 56 singles championships during his amateur career, Seixas never turned professional. He was ranked in the U.S. top ten 13 times between 1942 and 1966, setting a longevity record of 24 years between the first and last time as one of the all-time greats in American tennis history. In 1971, Seixas was enshrined in the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

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BOBBY SISKA · CLASS OF 2023



From day one, Bobby Siska was a force to be reckoned with. A natural player from the start, he began playing tennis at about age six and had won his first tournament by age seven, winning the 11-year-old boys' singles in 1950 at the San Francisco Park and Recreation All-City Championship. From there, Bobby went on to post an impressive record as a junior player in multiple divisions and often played two-to-three age groups above his age.

At 10 years old, Bobby won the boys' 11s, 13s, and 15s at the Call Bulletin Tennis Championship, and by age 11, he became the youngest player ever to qualify and play in the boys' 15s singles at the U.S. National Junior Boys' Championships. Starting in 1954, Bobby became a regular fixture, and quite often the youngest, in the men's tennis tournaments circuit. In 1956, Bobby was ranked No. 2 in the

U.S. boys' 15s singles and was the winner of the 15s singles boys' National Western Boys & Junior tournament. He was also a finalist in the boys' 15s singles U.S. Hardcourt & Pacific Coast Tennis Championship, which he won the next year in 1957. That same year, he reached the finals of the Seattle Championships. In addition to being ranked No. 2 in boys' 15s singles, Bobby was also ranked No. 2 in the U.S. in boys' doubles. He was the youngest person to play in the U.S. National Clay Court Tennis Championships at 14, was a winner of the men's doubles Seattle City Championship in 1958, and he made it to the third round of the U.S. National Men's Singles Championship in 1959. Bobby was also selected to play on the Junior Davis Cup Team in 1959 at 16-years old.

On top of playing in numerous tournaments, Bobby also played high school tennis, winning all-city singles in 1958 and 1959. By 1960, he did not compete in high school, as he pursued playing tennis at the national and European levels. That year he traveled to Europe for the first time at 17 years old and competed in the French Tennis Championship and at Wimbledon, where he competed from 1960 to 1963. Bobby was ranked No. 10 in the U.S. for men's doubles by 1964, as well as ranked for men's singles. He played collegiately at San Francisco State, winning Big 8 Conference singles and doubles in 1962, was the Northern California Junior College winner of singles and doubles in 1962 and 1963 and the team winner of the California State College Team Championships in 1962 and 1963.

In 1966, Bobby was ranked No. 1 in Northern California men's singles and continued having great performances, including various championship wins and being a finalist in the California State Tennis Championship. As an adult player, he posted three consecutive wins at the Oakland City Tennis Championship men's singles from 1972-1974. In 1979, Bobby was No. 3 in the men's 35-year-old U.S. ranking and won the U.S. men's 35-year-old Grasscourt Tennis Championship. He also won the U.S. men's 40-year-old Grasscourt Tennis Championship in singles and was runner-up in doubles.

Bobby was recognized for his outstanding early career and inducted into the Abraham Lincoln High School Hall of Fame in 1980 and the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame in 1984.

Today, Bobby leads an active life pursuing another hobby of his – car racing, competing in the U.S. and Europe. Nevertheless, you can still find him playing his lifelong passion of tennis four days a week.

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