

USTA Northern California is dedicated to individuals in our tennis community whose achievements and contributions have gone above and beyond the game of tennis within the NorCal section. The USTA Northern California Hall of Fame was established by retired banker Elmer Griffin in 1974 to honor NorCal's outstanding tennis community.

### Class of 2018 Inductees:

- Rich Andrews
- Mike Bauer
- Dana Gilbert Heinemann
- Wendell Pierce
- Tad Taube

### Rich Andrews: Paying it Forward

Rich Andrews earned a myriad of accolades over a long career. A few that come to mind include Vic Braden's USTA Coaches Certification in 1980, USTA NorCal Adult Sportsmanship Award in 1984, USTA/USPTA Specialist in Competitive Development Certification in 1999 and USTA NorCal Fred A. Earle Pro of the Year Award in 2010. But these awards are the icing on a long, storied tennis career.



Crediting a babysitter for introducing him to the game at age 9, Rich started in USTA tournaments at age 11 thanks to a friend. He continued to grow his tennis skills at Gunn High School where he won league championships with his team. In 1970, Rich won the Doubles Central Coast Section Championships with Glen Miller. He reached the semifinals at the Pacific Coast Championships, and won the Canadian Open Junior Championship at age 17.

Rich spent his college years at Foothill Community College first, then University of Washington. He played #1 for Foothill. In 1971-72, he was the California State Junior Champion and Foothill College "Athlete of the Year." After receiving a full scholarship at UW, he reached the round of 32 at the NCAA Championships in 1974. Unfortunately, he missed playing in his senior year due to an ankle injury, but that didn't stop him.

In 1975, Rich started the Racquet Shop Incorporated, a tennis shop in Palm Springs. He also started a program for disadvantaged youth at the Boys and Girls Club, teaching the game to 70 boys and girls. In late 1975, when John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg were coming up, he joined Mission Hills Country Club as interim Tennis Director. Mission Hills Country Club used to host the American Airlines tournament (now the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, CA), and a sponsor, Bancroft, asked him to hold a clinic, which Bjorn Borg participated in.

Working in 1976 at Marina Yacht & Tennis Club, the owners and members raised the money to send him to the Australian Satellite Circuit, helping launch his pro career. He made it to Wimbledon and the U.S. Open qualifying, and sustained an ATP ranking for seven years—405 in singles and 286 in doubles. Rich developed a strong junior program with players doing well in college and pro tour.

Rich retired after 32 years from Spare Time where he was Tennis Director. While there, he helped found and develop the Spare Time Junior Tennis Academy which now has two locations—Rio Del Oro Racquet Club in Sacramento and Broadstone Racquet Club in Folsom. He worked closely with Bill and Margie Campbell (Owners) to develop the academy as Corporate Tennis Director. His program has produced more than 25 national junior titles. He also organized Friday Night Live, a state-sponsored endeavor to promote alcohol and drug free youth programs.

Rich served as a Tournament Director for more than 30 events. Between his pro career as a player and a coach and his leadership in developing youth programs, you could say Rich lived his desire to pay it forward.

## **Mike Bauer: As a Player and Coach – Committed to Helping People Enjoy the Game**

As a young boy, Oakland-born Mike Bauer wanted to spend time with his dad. This gave him a very human reason to jump into tennis, which he did on Park and Rec courts. His dad is a passionate tennis player. Mike also played soccer and basketball, so you can say he was a sports enthusiast.



He attended JFK High in Richmond, first, then when the family moved to Orinda, he attended Miramonte High. He met his longtime coach, Lynne Rolley, the Tennis Director at Sleepy Hollow Tennis Club. By 1977, he was North Coast Champion in singles and doubles, was ranked 45 nationally in 18s and was in the top 10 in Northern California.

As a freshman, Mike made the tennis team at the University of California, Berkeley, as a walk on. He credits his time at Berkeley as his game changer by learning how to be a pro player and noting that most of the players on his team eventually went on the pro tour. As a sophomore, he played #5 on the team that went to the NCAA finals. During the 1980-1981 season, he was ranked #3 in the nation in singles. By 1978, he was #1 in the NorCal Men's Open. He was ranked #1 in the 21-under circuit. He joined the Davis Cup team in 1980 as a sparring partner, which included playing with John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, Stan Smith, Bob Lutz and being around Arthur Ashe, who was the captain.

In the summer 1981, Mike was on the Junior Davis Cup team and participated in the satellite tour – five weeks, four tournaments. In the fall of that year, he won the Manila Grand Prix in doubles with partner John Benson and reached the quarterfinals in singles. He then went on to win at Taipei Grand Prix.

Mike turned pro in 1982 and won Bangkok Grand Prix in singles and doubles, again with partner John Benson. His accolades and wins continued, including a win at the South Australian Open, third round at Wimbledon, and beating Jimmy Connors (#1 in the world at the time) at the La Quinta tournament. His best ranking in doubles came in 1983, reaching #25 in the world and in 1984 in singles, reaching #29. By 1990, he retired in singles and focused on doubles play, reaching the top 40 again. Making good on his desire to spend more time with his dad, the duo won a Silver Ball in La Jolla at the USTA National Father-Son Hard Court Championships that year.

Fully retired from tennis in 1996, Mike stayed in Germany, coaching for the German Federation and working with the Fed Cup team. He won a German Singles Championship in 35-and-over and European Singles Championship. He returned to the San Francisco Bay Area in 2002, where he coached and served as Tennis Director at the Harbor Bay Club. He organized a charity event benefitting the Susan G. Komen Organization for Breast Cancer Research, an event that continues annually today.

Mike is back living in Cologne, Germany. He counts nine ATP doubles titles and three singles titles. With over 40 years of playing or coaching tennis, Mike loves helping people enjoy the game, regardless of their level or background.

## Dana Gilbert Heinemann: Do What You Love to Achieve Your Highest Goals

Six months after picking up her first racquet, Dana was playing in tournaments, shortly after her 10th birthday. Tennis, to Dana, represented a great outlet because of the camaraderie and the focus on practice. Both her brothers, Barry and Brad, were avid players as kids. They began the game with their father, a recreational hard-court player. The family played on public courts practicing up to seven days a week.



Dana continued her love of the game when she entered Piedmont High and joined the Boys' Team because that group provided the competitive challenge she needed. Other girls, like highly ranked Linda Siegel, soon joined this highly ranked team. Dana was a four-time California State Jr. Girls Singles Champions in 14s, 16s, and twice in 18s. She mirrored that accolade in doubles paired with Linda Siegel. She also ranked in the top 10 USTA National Jr. Singles for 12s, 14s, 16s and 18s. By 1976, Dana won the California State Open Champion Mixed Doubles with her brother Barry and Girls' 16 Pacific Coast Singles Champion.

In 1977, Dana joined the UCLA team, playing #1 and #2 for the next two years. Dana was part of the first group Tennis Coach Gayle Godwin recruited with Title IX, allowing them to compete against top tennis schools including U.S.C., Stanford, Florida and Texas. While at UCLA, she played in the Maccabiah Games, the Jewish Olympics. She earned a gold medal in Singles in Israel, her first international competition. She also qualified for the first WTA main draw Singles, but lost to Martina Navratilova in the first round. In 1978, Dana was ranked #1 in Girls' 18 in NorCal and traveled with the USTA Jr. Federation Cup team.

As an amateur in 1978, Dana racked up her most prestigious title at the U.S. Clay Court Women's Singles Championship in Indianapolis. Entering as a wild card, she beat French Open winner, Virginia Ruzici, on her way to winning the title. She had her best ranking that year reaching #40. In 1980, Dana won the Japan Borden Classic in Singles and was a quarterfinalist at the Japan Open. She went on to win a gold medal in doubles at the 1981 Maccabiah Games. In 1982 at the French Open, she reached the round of 16 as a lucky loser, and also won the Japan Open Doubles Championship with Peanut Louie Harper. She earned a finalist spot at the Sardinia Open and semifinalist spot in Atlanta in Singles. Her results in 1982 earned her a WTA ranking of #53 in the world.

In 1984, Dana retired from the WTA tour and became a teaching pro at Mulholland Tennis Club in Los Angeles. In 1985, she became the first woman tennis teaching pro at Hillcrest Country

Club. From 1986 until 1992, she assisted her brother Brad with day-to-day tennis affairs and also joined the family's real estate property management firm. To this day, she continues to work in the family business.

## **Wendell Pierce: A Passion for the Game**

Oakland-born Wendell Pierce lived his passion, tennis. It was a lucky Christmas day for him when, at 15, his sister received a tennis racquet that year. He found the sport interesting and was looking to join a sports team at school. It just so happened that the team practiced close to his home.



Wendell joined the Castlemont High School team in 1970, playing #2 Singles in 1971 and #1 singles the next year. He played at #3 for the Merritt College team both in 1973 and 1974. Wendell's college career continued at Cal State Hayward including such milestones as earning NCAA Division 2 All American status in doubles and finishing #1 in the Far Western Conference both years. Wendell played in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division 2 in doubles with partner Doug Ditmer. In 1976, he won the Far Western Conference tournament for the #4 singles line, and was a runner-up for the #2 line in doubles with Jeff Jue. In 1977, he won that same tournament for the #2 in singles and the #1 line in doubles with Doug Ditmer.

By 1981, Wendell began playing on a larger stage being ranked #20 in the Men's Open in Northern California. In 1990, he was ranked #2 in USPTA National 35 ranking and was also Player of the Year for the USPTA in singles and runner-up for doubles. He won the USTA Men's 40 National Grass Court Championship in 1995. That same year, Wendell was a finalist in the Men's 40 National Indoor Singles and Doubles Championship and ranked #7 in the nation. He continued to rack up the accolades including reaching #1 nationally in Men's 45 in 2000 and #2 in Men's 50 singles in 2004 and 2005. Wendell has accumulated an impressive 6 Gold Balls, 10 Silver Balls, and 14 Bronze Balls in his career.

Wendell worked for a decade at Plaza Tennis and Sports Shop starting in 1974. He then spent two years in Europe playing in Germany and France. Returning to the U.S., Wendell joined Chabot Canyon Racquet Club as the Head Tennis Pro in 1988. In 1991, he began working as the Boys' and Girls' Tennis Coach at College Prep.

Wendell met a crisis in his tennis career in 2006 when he ruptured a ligament in his wrist a month before playing in the Fred Perry Cup. He was on the national team and won, but his wrist didn't heal. The doctors diagnosed him with Slack Wrist Syndrome. That wrist needed to be fused. For a lesser player, this may mean the end to tennis. But that's not Wendell. He worked

hard to switch hands. He had to start as a beginner, learning strokes, practicing footwork and honing a new spatial awareness. According to Wendell, it took nearly four years to be able to volley. He was ranked #52 nationally in 2016 and #36 in 2017. Wendell is a living example for pure passion for tennis making his mark as a player at all levels, as a coach and as an iconic recovery story.

## **Tad Taube: Philanthropist and Sports Enthusiast**

If you know tennis in Northern California, chances are you know of Tad Taube. After all, his family's name graces the Stanford tennis stadium and he's been a significant supporter of and past chair of the Stanford Athletic Board.



Tad, who was born in Poland in 1931 and immigrated to the United States in the summer of 1939 just before World War II, built a remarkable legacy as a philanthropist, business man and sports enthusiast. His storied career began when he earned \$50 a day at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. The studio needed Polish and Russian child actors for pro-war propaganda films.

His father guided him to select Stanford for college where he joined the tennis team. After graduation, Tad joined the Air Force where he developed and installed landing systems to help pilots navigate in zero visibility. During his service, he was sworn in as a U.S. citizen.

Tad's post-service career included earning a master's degree in industrial engineering, starting a research lab that developed test equipment for the newly forming semiconductor industry, taking that firm public and then starting his career in real estate. Tad helped apparel magnates, Joseph and Stephanie Koret, diversify their fortune with real estate.

At Stanford University, he established the Taube Center for Jewish Studies and serves on its advisory board. He is also past chair for the Stanford Athletic Board. His support for Stanford Athletics includes his family's principal gift to the Taube Family Tennis Stadium as well as his significant support for Stanford's new football stadium built in 2006. Tad was a founder of the United States Football League in 1982 and principal owner of the Oakland Invaders football franchise.

Other milestones for Tad include serving as chair and founder of the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture, serving as President Emeritus of the Koret Foundation, and serving as chair and founder of Woodmont Companies, a diversified real estate investment and management firm. He also has served as a trustee at University of Notre Dame de Namur, the

University of San Francisco and as governor of Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He is a past member of the Board of Overseers of the Hoover Institute as well as its Executive Committee. He is a founder and past chairman of the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR).

In 2006, Tad was inducted into the Northern California Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and in 2014 into the Stanford Real Estate Hall of Fame. In 2011, he founded the first of three sports-related charitable partnerships. These are Touchdown for Kids with the San Francisco 49ers, Hoops for Kids with the Golden State Warriors and Goals for Kids with the San Jose Sharks. In 2007 and 2013, Tad was recognized by The Forward, the most widely read Jewish newspaper, as one of the 50 most influential Jews in the U.S. Tad received the Commander's Cross, the highest civilian medal from the president of the Republic of Poland in 2004 and in 2015, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.