

USTA NorCal Hall of Fame

Doug King | Class of 2025



Doug King: Devoted Student & Player Becomes Prominent Teacher *by Joel Drucker*

Though Doug King played many team sports as a child, he found himself drawn to tennis because of its focus on singular effort. Said Doug, “The thing I really liked about tennis was that I didn’t have somebody telling me what position I was going to play when I was going to play. It was just me. The only limitation I had was how hard I wanted to work.”

Doug’s work ethic took him far. By 1972, Doug was the second-ranked junior in Northern California. At UC Berkeley, King played number one, was the squad’s captain, and in 1976 earned a degree in political science. In 1979, he was ranked

number one in the section, an effort that highlighted by a title run at the Cal State Open and earning the honor of NorCal Player of the Year.

A dedicated student of the game, influenced by such experts as iconic instructor Tom Stow and pros Jim McManus and Torben Ulrich, Doug proved a natural teacher and coach. From 1979-’84, he was director of tennis at Moraga Country Club. For more than 40 years, he has been the director of tennis at Meadowood, a private club and luxury resort in St. Helena. During that time, King was also co-director of the Napa Valley Tennis Classic and editor-in-chief of TennisOne, a popular instruction website.

“I wanted people to fall in love with the game and see what a wonderful sport it can be,” said Doug. “Tennis can be a very, very valuable experience. What we do on the court is extremely worthwhile.”

And yet, for all the ways self-reliance has aided King, his biggest tennis highlight came in a highly collaborative manner. In 2011, at the Pacific Coast Championships, King and his entire family dominated the tournament. Doug and his son Jeff won the father-son doubles. Jeff and Doug’s wife, Nancy, took the mother-son event. And then Doug paired with his daughter, Katie, to emerge victorious in the father-daughter competition. “It was a magical moment,” said Doug. “It’s one thing to win a tournament by yourself. But to share that with your whole family is even more amazing.”

This tribute was written by Joel Drucker. USTA NorCal Hall of Fame inductee Joel Drucker ('24) is the historian-at-large for the International Tennis Hall of Fame. His work has appeared in such outlets as *Inside Tennis*, the *New York Times*, Tennis.com, Tennis Channel, HBO and CBS.

Doug King: Tennis Accomplishments

- **Juniors**
 - Ranked #2 in Norcal Juniors '72
- **UC Berkeley**
 - #1 player, singles and doubles, '75, '76
 - Team Captain '75, '76
- **Professional Tennis**
 - Career high ATP singles ranking 429
 - Ranked #1 in Northern California Men's Singles '79
 - California State Singles Champion '79
 - NorCal Player of the Year '79
- **Other**
 - Head Pro, Moraga Country Club '82-'84
 - Head Pro, Meadowood, Napa Valley '84-2020
 - Co-Director, Napa Valley Tennis Classic '02-'18
 - Editor-in-Chief Tennis One (online instructional site '06-'16
 - Member of Ygnacio Valley High School Hall of Fame