

USTA NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

HALL *of* FAME

LARRY DODGE

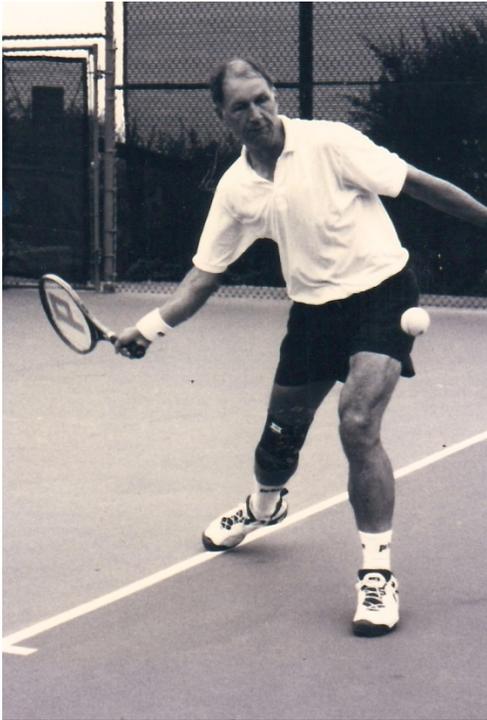


From his days as a junior player in North Dakota to extensive play in national and international senior events, Larry Dodge exemplifies the promise of tennis as a lifetime sport.

Larry grew up in Fargo, North Dakota, where tennis was a summer sport whose participants employed a variety of homegrown styles. He also played all the regular seasonal sports through high school and college. By the time he had enrolled at North Dakota State University to study architecture, Larry had won the first of six consecutive North Dakota men's singles and doubles championships. When NDSU hosted the North Central Conference tennis championships, the school's athletic director and football coach came out and watched Larry play the finals, and then

decided tennis was a “real sport.” The result was a tennis scholarship program at the University.

That boost for tennis completed his North Dakota years, and he subsequently completed his architectural degree at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. The move to Minneapolis brought frequent competition with the region’s best players and Larry soon reached a ranking of number two in the USTA Northwest Section. Recently he was inducted into the USTA Northern Section and North Dakota Tennis Halls of Fame.



In 1966, he moved to San Francisco and began playing tennis year-round. His home courts at Golden Gate Park with its tennis legends and memorable characters, were a stark contrast to his previous Midwest experience. He recalls, “It was just an amazing place,” and was the catalyst for a lifetime of tennis.

Exposure to the talent and high level of play at Golden Gate Park improved Larry’s game, so by the time he reached the 35s he was competitive nationally. That led to opportunities to compete in USTA, International Club and ITF senior events in multiple countries throughout the Americas, Europe, Africa and Australia. In senior USTA events, he has consistently been nationally ranked, including No. 1 in both 60 Singles and 50 Doubles, and he has won 11 gold balls in 50 Doubles, 55 Singles and Doubles, and 60 Singles and Doubles.

Larry was owner and managing partner and architect of La Madrona Swim and Racquet Club in Santa Cruz for over 30 years, balancing his time overseeing club operations with work as an urban designer and architect and a full tennis schedule.

More recently he has contributed to the design of the Hellman Tennis Complex expansion at UC Berkeley and the Taube Family Tennis Center at Stanford. He is currently working with the Tennis Coalition of San Francisco in planning an upgrade of the Golden Gate Park Tennis Complex and envisions a revitalized tennis center that will offer others the priceless gifts he received there half a century ago.

At 76, Larry looks forward to improving his backhand, to playing in the next age group and keeping up with tennis friends made over the years.

THE MODESTO BEE

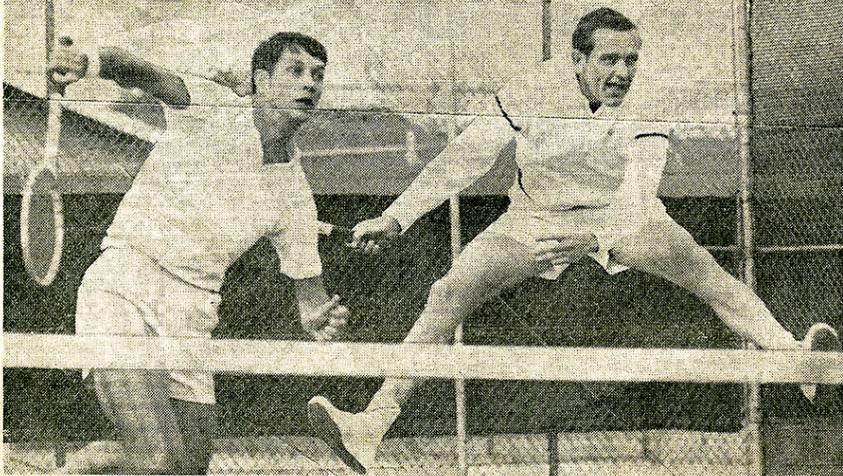
Sports

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Bee Photos

Whitney Reed jumps with joy as Larry Dodge smashes the ball in yesterday's Modesto Swim and Racquet Club's doubles-championship match. Reed-Dodge downed Erik van Dillen and Bob Hill, 6-2, 6-2, for the title.