

2008 USTA Northern California Tennis Hall of Fame Harry Likas



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Dedicated junior: "Rankings were big stuff"

"Northern California tournaments were such a major part of my life. To be honored at this stage in my life is absolutely wonderful."

Harry Likas, age 84, misses playing tennis. Indeed, a lifetime spent playing the sport you love and having to quit is not an easy thing. "I had to give it up five years ago because of a foot injury and I miss it every day," he says.

Born in San Francisco, Harry started playing tennis when he was five years old. "We would go to Benicia to see my grandparents and my dad, who was a social player, would toss me balls," he reminisces. But Harry didn't get serious about tennis until he joined the Cal Club in San Francisco at the age of 12 and started playing NorCal and national junior tournaments. "When I was 15 I was the No. 2 boy in the nation. I won the Boy's California Championship. When I was 18 I was selected to be on the national Jr. Davis Cup team. "

After graduating from Lowell High in San Francisco, Harry went on to play tennis for the University of San Francisco. During his collegiate years he beat five Wimbledon champions: Drobney, Faulkenberg, Budge Patty, Dick Savitt and, in the 1948 National Intercollegiate Championships, Vic Seixas. He also beat US Open champion Pancho Gonzales.

In the late forties Harry and his wife Ann moved to Marin County and raised four children. Harry started his own business providing group insurance. In addition to being involved in the Rotary Club, Harry served on the board of USTA NorCal , then known as the Northern California Tennis Association (NCTA). In his role as board member he transitioned the old Pacific Coast tournament, a tournament he had won as a junior, into a money tournament, the \$50,000 Fireman's Fund Open International. The tournament was played at Round Hill Country Club and, due to Harry's perseverance, was televised nationally on PBS. Throughout his adult life and until relatively recently, Harry continued to play in tournaments as well as socially as a member of the Belvedere Tennis Club, Cal Club and the Mt. Tam Racquet Club.