

2012 USTA Northern California Tennis Hall of Fame Nick Saviano



Nick Saviano

Recognized around the world as one of the top tennis development coaches and coaching educators, Bay Area native Nick Saviano is often viewed as having an unparalleled understanding of how the game of tennis is played.

Through his esteemed USTA coaching positions and the advent of his own tennis academy, Saviano High Performance Tennis (SHPT), Nick has coached and developed more than 50 ATP and WTA players, including Grand Slam winners and those who have reached a world ranking of number one.

"There's only a handful of people that can do what Nick can do in the world of tennis coaching," says former pro player Justin Gimelstob, who has trained with Nick on and off since he was eight years old. "Nick has the total package; he is a complete developmental coach with an incredible attention to detail. He has been a mentor as well as a very close family friend."

Tennis started for Nick at the age of 12. He explains, "We moved to Los Altos Hills when I was eight years old and got an automatic membership to Fremont Hills Country Club. At 12 I started playing tennis and by the age of 14 I was playing full time." Nick went on to earn a ranking of 7 in boy's 14s. From there he earned a NorCal ranking of #2 and a national ranking in the top 10 in the boy's 16s. In the 18s in 1973, Nick reached the #1 ranking in NorCal and #3 in the U.S., along with being named Player of the Year.

"The '70's was the golden era for tennis growth in Northern California and the launching ground of my whole junior and collegiate career," says Nick. "I watched my first pro match in 1967, Buchholz vs. Segura, at the old Stanford pavilion, which helped to stimulate my interest and enthusiasm."

A scholarship to Stanford University led to a distinguished collegiate career as an All-American player and NCAA Championship team member in 1974 and 1975. Nick was also a member of the Junior Davis Cup Team.

Nick turned pro after his sophomore year of college and continued on the ATP Pro Tour for nine years, spending the entire time ranked within the top 100. He achieved a top-50 ranking in singles with numerous wins over top-10 players, while winning four ATP titles; one in singles and three in doubles. "I retired from the pro tour on February 10, 1984 when my daughter was born," says Nick.

Initially intent on working in the family business in California, Nick soon realized that coaching was in his heart. He held numerous revered coaching positions with the USTA, including, Director of Coaching for Men's Tennis, Director of Technical Development, Director of Coaching Education & Sport Science and National Coach. Nick was named United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Developmental Coach of the Year and USTA Florida Section Developmental Coach of the Year for 2006.

In 2003 Nick founded Saviano High Performance Tennis. His students have won virtually every major junior title in the world and they have also earned scholarships to such top ranking schools as Stanford, Brown, Princeton, Notre Dame, Vanderbilt and Wisconsin.

Nick is also the author of "Maximum Tennis: 10 Keys to Unleashing Your On-Court Potential".

Nick says regarding his NorCal Hall of Fame induction, "It's an honor to be inducted. My induction into the Hall of Fame in many ways is more a tribute to and about NorCal tennis than it is about me; it's through their efforts and the opportunities that they helped provide that afforded me the chance to achieve many of the things that I have in tennis."