

## 2014 USTA Northern California Tennis Hall of Fame Susan Mehmedbasich Wright



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Susan Wright at the 2014 Clay Court Championships in Houston.

Susan Mehmedbasich Wright had an enviable junior career. Ranked #1 seven times in Northern California and #3 nationally in the G18S, she was a USTA 16s national doubles champion and USTA 16s indoors champion. She won 9 national junior titles. She joined the WTA professional tour at age 17 defeating Wendy Turnbull, the Australian star who won nine Grand Slam doubles titles.

Susan left the tour a couple of years later, and played her last tournament in 1978, winning the state doubles title with Peanut Louie for the third time.

Afterwards, "I quit," Wright said. "I just hit my last ball and that was it for awhile."

Two year later, she left competitive tennis, not to return for a quarter century.

Wright started playing again after moving to Colorado in 2000. She began playing with her father who had helped shape her involvement in tennis as a child. The pair continues to compete and have won nine father/daughter titles. This is when she began her seniors career in earnest.

Since joining the USTA and ITF senior circuits in the fall of 2002, she has become one of the world's top 50 and over players. By mid-2014, Wright has won 70 gold balls from senior national singles and doubles competition and in 2008 had risen to #1 in W50 singles and in 2013 ranked #1 in W55 doubles in the ITF senior rankings.

Wright was the ITF World Doubles Champion in 2005, 2009, 2012 and 2013 and winner of the "Golden Slam" - the four major national double titles - in 2007, 2008 and 2012.

In 2013, Wright was named captain of the U.S. Maureen Connolly Cup team, which competed in Turkey at the ITF Senior World Championship. Wright has represented the U.S. in international competition the past 12 years. She won 9 gold metals and 3 silver metals.

In the years 2002 - 2006 Wright had attained Intermountain #1 in singles or doubles 11 times in various age divisions. She was outstanding female player in Colorado in 2004, 2008 and 2013, and also a two-time sportswomen of the year in that state.

In the years 2003 - 2013 Wright was ranked #1 in the U.S. 7 times in singles, 5 times in doubles, 7 times individually in doubles and 2 times in Ultra Seniors Father/Daughter.

Wright plans to make the trip to California for the induction ceremony, along with several family members, including the man she calls the biggest influence on her career - her dad.