Women's History Month 2014

Women’s History Month, now celebrated annually in the United States, grew out of a weeklong celebration of women’s contributions to culture, history and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, California, in 1979. The idea quickly caught on within communities, schools and organizations across the country. In 1981, the U.S. Congress made it official, passing a resolution establishing Women’s History Week. Six years later, the event was expanded into the entire month of March.

USTA recognizes the many women who have made remarkable contributions. They rallied against the odds, have broken through barriers in what was at one time considered a male only sport and have set a true definition of inspiration for all players regardless of gender.

Raquel Kops-Jones

Raquel Kops-Jones is a San Jose native. This up and coming super star started playing at age 8 when introduced by father to the game. She graduated from UC Berkeley in 2004 (majored in American Studies). Her favorite tournament is Wimbledon and her goal is to win a Grand Slam title. She made her debut in professional competition in 2000, aged 17, at an International Tennis Federation (ITF) tournament in Boca Raton.

2000 - Played first events of career on ITF Circuit in USA.
2001-2004: Continued to play on ITF Circuit.
2005 - Won one doubles title on ITF Circuit.
2006 - Won one singles title and six doubles titles on ITF Circuit.
2007 - Played first two Women’s Tennis Association (WTA) main draws, won one WTA doubles title; won three doubles titles on ITF Circuit.
2008 - Won one singles title and five doubles titles on ITF Circuit.
2009 - Won two WTA doubles titles; won one doubles title on ITF Circuit.
2010 - Fell in WTA qualifying once; won one doubles title on ITF Circuit.
2011 - Fell in WTA qualifying three times; won one WTA doubles title.
2013- Won Bank of the West Classic doubles with her partner Abigail Spears against Julia Goerges and Darija Jurak

Tayler Davis

Tayler was born on September 27, 1991 in San Jose, CA. Her dad started her when she was 5 years old by hitting balls with her. It was a lot of fun and was soon discovered by coach, Don Johnson, at Los Paseos Park where at age seven she started playing in group clinics and taking private lessons from Johnson. Johnson gave her an opportunity of a lifetime and she became the recipient of his passion for tennis and expertise. His favorite quote was “if you work hard, it will pay off”. As she developed over the years of practice, private lessons, tournaments, playing on the high school team and traveling the country, tennis certainly became the driving force that molded her to the person she is today. Tayler states, “I initially enjoyed winning the trophies and then it became much greater than that and my focus shifted to developing my game to be the best player I can be and being able to compete at the highest level to challenge myself to be successful.”
Her goal after graduating from CAL is to keep developing her game and play some “Futures/Challengers”, ultimately becoming a sports agent or working in the sports management field.

Kathryn Bartel

“Every idea begins with a spark of imagination, but change begins with a spark of community service.” Those are the wise words spoken by Kathryn “Kiki” Bartel, a unique and very spirited young lady.

Kathryn, who is from Campbell, first got into playing tennis when she was 7 years old, when she first saw Wimbledon on television. She loves to play tennis, and loves to introduce the sport to other people, which motivated her to do a lot of things. She started her middle school tennis team, became captain of the high school team, and started non-profit organization Serve Up Some Love which brings tennis to kids living in homeless shelters and low income schools.

In the fall of 2013, she began attending Mills College—an all-women’s college in Oakland, California. She’s studying Biopsychology and Computer Science while also playing on the tennis team. Go Cyclones! While living in Oakland, she hopes that she can spread awareness about her non-profit, and spend time sharing tennis with more kids.

Barbara Lewis

Barbara is a force to be reckoned with. Since 1990 when she took early retirement from Pacbell, she has been changing lives through tennis. She had had enough of the circumstances young boys were dealing with in San Francisco. She quickly connected the impact of tennis on the youth. Soon after, she started becoming certified and started a program in Richmond.

She not only praised and disciplined, but also instilled love for a sport she hoped would take kids to college and beyond through her National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) program. She used tennis as a teaching tool for self-control, confidence and living within boundaries. Barbara creates a haven for kids who would otherwise be out in the streets “just hanging out”.

In Richmond, the NJTL caters to mostly inner city kids. Barbara used tennis as a tool by which to teach responsibility, integrity and honesty. Her dedication has been recognized by USTA, USTA NorCal, City of Richmond and many more.

She currently teaches through the Oakland Parks and Recreation Program where her focus has not wavered. She still uses tennis as a tool to teach responsibility on and off the court. She has witnessed first-hand the many successes of “her kids” going to college, becoming responsible citizens, etc.

She currently teaches in Oakland, CA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1995 - 2000</th>
<th>Director of YTF (Youth Tennis Foundation) San Francisco Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000 - 2012</td>
<td>Director and Coach of the Richmond Youth Tennis Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The program won the USTA/NJTL Chapter of the year award in 2001 and again in 2009, an honor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
bestowed annually among the nation’s 1,000 chapters.

- The RYTC received the National Recreation and Parks Association Recognition award, the California Recreation and Parks Commissioners Award for youth programming and the USTA/NorCal Minority-Participation Award. The Director was also awarded the USPTA Teaching Professional Award.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Received the USTA NorCal ACES Award (Awards Celebrating Excellence in Service)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Featured in SF Gate. [Click here for article]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 - 2007</td>
<td>Serves on the USTA NorCal Diversity &amp; Inclusion Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Blackhawk Women’s Tennis Association donated over $6,000 in cash and equipment to the Richmond Youth Tennis Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 7, 2012</td>
<td>The City of Richmond and the USTA proclaimed July 7, 2012 as Youth Tennis Day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Featured in the “Breaking the Barriers” exhibit at the San Francisco Public Library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>