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2022 USTA PNW Hall of Fame Inductee Highlight



For Paul Wulf, being inducted into the USTA PNW 2022 Hall of Fame is a surreal honor. “It’s something I never even dreamed of”, he mentioned, while also praising those who have been inducted prior to his class, “It doesn’t seem real”. Throughout his tennis career, USTA has provided Wulf, not only with the opportunity to play and compete, but to meet new people. “Without the USTA, I wouldn’t have the opportunity to compete, and get to meet people from all over the world.” Wulf credits tennis for fostering connection and building relationships. “It’s a wide variety of people you play

with. When you’re on the tennis court, you have no idea if the person you are playing with is a heart surgeon or a plumber. Tennis includes people of all sorts of different backgrounds.”

Wulf’s many experiences on the tennis court have taught him that one of the great things about the sport is connection. His love affair with the sport began at a young age. In fact, if you ask Wulf, he can’t remember ever not playing tennis. Born and raised in Salem, Oregon, Wulf’s parents believed in playing sports that could last their children a lifetime, ones they could play at any age. His mother attended Willamette University in the 1920s, and was on the tennis team. Naturally, Wulf and his three brothers picked up tennis at an early age and never looked back. Tennis provided a way for him and his family to connect and spend time together.



At the time when Wulf started playing tennis, he had to rely on the public park across the street, and lessons at his local recreation center to learn the necessary skills, until Salem’s first tennis club opened in 1962. Wulf played throughout high school, and then in college at Oregon State University, and continues to this day. Wulf noted, “It is something I have enjoyed doing and I have been blessed with good health.” Wulf still plays at Salem Tennis and Swim Club, and has since it opened in 1962. He also

continues to play in leagues and plays 3-6 tournaments every year. In 2021, he played on an Over 40 4.5 team and an Over 55 9.0 team. His team won sectionals and are headed to Nationals. Joining a club to learn the proper strokes and the skill of tennis is important, but to Wulf, it is and has always been, about the people. “You need to have friends you enjoy playing with. It’s all about the people you are on the court with. Tennis is not just a sport, but a camaraderie.”

Wulf has acquired many successes on the tennis court, including nine World Team Championships and one World Individual Championship, and he ended that year ranked #1 in the nation in both singles and doubles. Paul and his doubles partner, Len Wolford, won the Golden Slam by winning all three National Titles in 2021. The following year Paul reached a ranking of #4 in the world in doubles. The winner of five single gold balls and 17 doubles gold balls, Paul will be recognized at the *USTA PNW Hall of Fame* Induction ceremony at the Seattle Tennis Club in October. Click [here](#) to support his contributions to the profession.

