



MIDWEST

## Life after Tennis and Career Opportunities | Speaker Biographies



**Frank Barnes**

Men's and Women's Tennis Coach, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Coach Frank Barnes is known as one of the top coaches in player development in the Midwest. He is the Head Men's and Women's Tennis Coach at UW-Whitewater, he is the director of the Warhawk Tennis Camp-one the best tennis camp operations in the nation, is the 12U Wisconsin District Cup teams, and the director of the Midwest Tennis Academy.

Barnes was awarded the 2016 ITA DIII Central Region Coach of the Year. He was also honored as the 2009 PTR Wisconsin Member of the Year, and in 2010 was honored by the Professional Tennis Registry again as the National College Coach of the year-across all divisions. In 2004, 2007, 2008, 2011 2013, 2014, 2015

and 2018 he was named WIAC coach of the year. He was named the Midwest USTA/ITA Community and Campus Outreach Award winner in 2012 and 2006. He was also the recipient of the

USTA Midwest WTA Rollie Mueller Presidents award in 2006. In 2012 he was selected as the WIAC All-Time Coach in women's tennis in conjunction with the WIAC Centennial Celebration. As a teaching professional he received K-Swiss national coach of the year honors in 2001 and 2002.

At UW-Whitewater he has coached the women's team to 13 consecutive NCAA tournaments for the women and a streak of 13 for the men. Both teams have dominated their conferences over the past 14 years. The women's team has won over 100 straight conference matches and the men have lost just one conference match during that same period.

Coach Barnes has been at the helm at UW-Whitewater since 2002 and has coached individuals to 24 All-American performances, 23 individual national championship appearances, eight Academic All-American honors, and 52 Chancellor Scholar Athletes.



**Brandon Currie**

CEO, Stryv365; Tennis Club Owner

A 1998 graduate of Milwaukee area Brown Deer High School, Brandon Currie excelled at tennis and won two state championships. He was inducted into the Brown Deer High School Hall of Fame in 2014.

Pursued by Butler University for his tennis prowess, he had an extremely successful tennis career receiving the Horizon League Newcomer Award after his freshman year, followed by securing Horizon League Player of the Year status the next three consecutive years of collegiate competition. While at Butler he earned the Butler Male Athlete of the Year and was inducted into the Butler Athletics Hall of Fame in 2015. He received his bachelor's degree in elementary education in 2002 and master's degree in counseling and psychology in 2006 from Butler University, while later earning a Doctoral degree in Urban Education from Indiana University in 2016.

He has worked with students as a guidance counselor for 11 years and understands the importance of education and making a difference in the lives of underserved populations. In addition, he became the Head Men's Tennis Coach at Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis. He completed 17 seasons with the Jaguars Tennis program, and 14 as head coach for the men's tennis program at IUPUI.

Seeking to provide the same opportunities to youth in the Indianapolis area as he was afforded, he opened West Indy Racquet Club (WIRC), located in a diverse community in the heart of Indianapolis. He worked as the owner, manager and director of the club and offered reduced pricing for kids on lessons, camps, memberships and equipment seeking to grow the game and get more kids playing the sport. He is currently the CEO of STRYV365 INC., which is a non-profit organization committed towards the social and emotional development of youth through trauma informed programming and activities. He believes he has a responsibility to share his experiences and journey with others, while offering his formula for success, "Visibility + Accessibility = Opportunity."

**Cy Dofitas**

US Grassroots and Promotions Director, Wilson Racquet Sports

Cy Dofitas is the North America Grassroots and Promotions Manager for Wilson Racquet Sports, overseeing Wilson's National Coaches, Collegiate, High School, Junior, and corporate partnership programs. His team is responsible for building brand connections between athletes, coaches, and parents. An industry leader with over 25 years of experience in the tennis industry. He is a graduate North Park University where he played on the Men's Tennis Team and earned a degree in Sports Medicine.

**Katie Orlando**

Director of Tennis, Towpath Tennis Center; Vice President, USTA/Midwest Section Board of Directors

Katie Orlando is currently the Director of Tennis at Towpath Tennis Center in Akron, Ohio. She has been at Towpath for 28 years. Prior to joining the tennis center, she played four years of Varsity/D1 tennis at the University of Akron. Orlando was named to the University of Akron Sports Hall of Fame in 2011 and named one of the Top 40 Women Athletes of All Time for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Title 9 in 2012.

Orlando currently serves as a Vice President of the USTA Midwest Board of Directors. She has served on a USTA National Committee since 2008. She was awarded 2019 USPTA Midwest Pro of the Year.

**Erica Perkins Jasper**

William B. Arce Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation and George R. Roberts Fellow, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps

Erica Perkins Jasper, a leader in intercollegiate tennis, successful Division I head coach, and distinguished student-athlete, is entering her second year as the Director of Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Athletics, after starting in her new position on June 1, 2019. Jasper came to CMS after serving as the chief operating officer of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA), the governing body of college tennis. Prior to joining the ITA in 2015, Jasper had been a head women's tennis coach at the University of New Mexico, Michigan State University, and Georgia Southern University, and an assistant coach at the College of William and Mary.

As a student-athlete, Jasper was team captain at Washington State University, where she was an Academic All-American and received the PAC-10 conference medal. She was the first WSU player to compete in the NCAA singles championship (three times), and also competed for the NCAA doubles championship. At WSU, she was the first player to play in four NCAA team championships, and in 2015, was the first tennis player inducted to the WSU Hall of Fame. She graduated from WSU summa cum laude in history, with a minor in French, and holds a master's degree in education from WSU.

**Kevin Theos**

Tennis Service Representative for Alabama, USTA Southern

For the last fifteen years, Kevin Theos has been the USTA Tennis Service Representative (Alabama). In his role, he advises tennis providers concerning programs, initiatives, and practices that help them recruit/retain more players and earn additional revenue. Before joining USTA Southern, he served as the first executive director of the Birmingham Area Tennis Association NJTL, where he created tennis and education programs that served and continue to serve under-resourced youth. He is originally from Chicago, where he taught tennis before moving to Alabama. Kevin is a twenty-five year member of the USPTA and is an Elite Pro. He is also the current president of the USPTA Southern Division.

**Denny Schackter (Moderator)**

Founder, Tennis Priorities Company

Denny Schackter has been integral in locating Professional Tennis Coaches for over 20 years. Understanding the need for promoting the profession of teaching tennis, Denny places the best tennis coaches at tennis clubs in Chicago, Indiana, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and the Greater Wisconsin Region. While also serving as an ambassador in support of Tennis careers, Denny remains active in Tennis Associations at the Local, Regional, and National level.