

USTA NorCal Hall of Fame

CATHIE ANDERSON • CLASS OF 2024



Cathie Anderson grew up in Dayton, Ohio, and began playing tennis at the age of six. Although her parents introduced her to both golf and tennis, it was clear from day one that tennis was her true passion.

Cathie played college tennis at the University of California, Berkeley, and was the runner-up in the NCAA tournament during her final year. She graduated in 1964 and spent the following years in the Bay Area working as a cartographer for architecture firms. While working, Cathie also began teaching tennis in Oakland and continued to play competitively herself.

She quickly made a name for herself in the NorCal tennis scene. Cathie was consistently ranked in the top 5, and she never fell below the top 10 rank before she entered the 35 and over class. That was when her senior tennis career really took off.

Now a local legend in both Northern and Southern California, Cathie regularly competes in—and wins—senior tournaments. She has played on the same courts as tennis legends like Arthur Ashe and Billie Jean King at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club.

In the 1980s, Cathie balanced her tennis career with a unique role at SeaWorld, where she spent Thursdays caring for penguins after her daughter, Cindy, began volunteering there. Cathie has an impressive record in the World Championships and boasts more medals and tournament wins than she can count. In 1982, she was the top-ranked senior women's player among those aged 40 and over. In 1986, she was ranked No. 2 in the same category, and in 1988, she was No. 3. After turning 35, Cathie has consistently ranked in the top ten of every age group. Even during challenging times, such as playing through a knee injury in 1982 and 1983, she maintained her competitive edge.

Senior tennis tournaments have taken Cathie all over the world, from Perth, Australia in 1988, to Mallorca, Spain in 2023.

Cathie has been a force both on and off the court, spending many years at the San Diego Tennis and Racquet Club playing and teaching. Based in Del Mar for the past three decades, she is a member of the Southern California Senior Tennis Hall of Fame. Over her illustrious career, she has won more than 100 USTA Gold, Silver and Bronze balls and regularly

represents the United States on senior women's teams.

When she's not on the tennis court, Cathie spends her time with her beloved dogs. She has raised several litters of Labradors and trained them in obedience and agility. Additionally, she volunteers annually at the Best Friends Animal Society in Utah, the largest no-kill sanctuary in the country. The sanctuary cares for dogs, cats, horses, pigs, rabbits and birds, leading a nationwide movement towards making every shelter and community no-kill.

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JOEL DRUCKER • CLASS OF 2024



Joel Drucker has been one of the world's leading tennis writers for over 35 years. His work has been featured in such print and broadcast outlets as HBO, CBS, Tennis Channel, Tennis.com, the *New York Times* and *Racquet*. Two of his stories have been cited in the annual anthology, *The Best American Sports Writing*. Joel is also the historian-at-large for the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Tennis aficionados and new fans alike have long turned to Joel's work for his distinct perspective on the sport.

Boosted by a longtime passion for tennis gained from having played as a child in Southern California, in his 20s and early 30s Joel freelanced for several Bay Area media outlets (*Inside Tennis*, *City Sports*, *San Francisco Chronicle*) while spending a decade working full-time in the public relations agency business. In 1993, Joel made the leap to become a full-time freelancer, attending tennis events everywhere from Los Angeles to London and beyond.

In 1998, Joel began writing for HBO at Wimbledon, which sparked a longstanding career in television. From 2001 to 2008, Joel was an on-air analyst for the U.S. Open world feed broadcast. Joel has been an integral part of Tennis Channel since its inception in 2003, including work on several of the network's documentaries, as well as its coverage at more than 40 Grand Slam events.

A hallmark of Joel's work is his deep engagement with the culture of tennis—the human interest and textured layers of the sport that comprise its rich history. Joel considers "Fingerprints," a twin profile he wrote for *Racquet* about Hall of Fame player Pauline Betz and her daughter, Bay Area poet Kim Addonizio, one of his best works.

Joel is the author of two books. The first, *Jimmy Connors Saved My Life*, was published in 2004. *Don't Bet on It*, a loving ode to his 28-year partnership with his late wife, Joan Edwards, who he met while both were working for *Inside Tennis*, was published in 2017.

A high honors graduate of UC Berkeley, Joel lived in Berkeley and Oakland from 1978 until 2022. For more than 30 years, he was a member of the historic Berkeley Tennis Club. He has since moved to Los Angeles and now plays at the Malibu Racquet Club, sometimes with the same friends he once faced on the court as a child.

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JIM MCLENNAN • CLASS OF 2024



Jim McLennan has had a far-reaching impact on the sport and community of tennis in NorCal. As a lifelong player, educator and scientist, Jim first took inspiration from his coach, Blackie Jones. It was Jones who introduced him to both the enjoyment and mystery of tennis, and who remained a great friend and motivator throughout Jim's many accomplishments in the sport.

Jim graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UC Berkeley in 1970 and went on to earn his master's degree in Sports Psychology in 1992 from the University of West Florida. During his graduate work, Jim studied tennis through a biomechanical lens, leading to the development and patenting of "The Whistler," an electromechanical swing trainer, alongside Rick Davis and Don Kerr.

With the support of the Stanford Biomechanical Engineering Department, Jim investigated the efficiency of various types of tennis footwork and postural awareness, including his concept of "Gravity Motion," which he published and championed throughout his later coaching career.

Jim lent his skills on and off the court to coaching from 1989 to 2002. He was the boys' 18s Intersectional coach and Maze Cup coach in 1989 and 1990, and the 14s Zonals coach in 2002. An avid player himself, Jim won the NorCal USPTA Pro of the Year award in both 1989 and 1992.

In addition to coaching, Jim served on the NorCal USTA Board of Directors in 1992 and 1993 and was President of the NorCal USPTA in 1994 and 1995.

More recently, Jim was the head professional at the Fremont Hills Country Club in Los Altos Hills, California. He was a founding member of TennisOne.com, serving as the site's Senior Editor from its inception. He also founded and published EssentialTennisInstruction.com, where he taught his foundational method, focusing on players' physical awareness rather than cognitive awareness during play.

Jim passed away in January 2024, leaving an undeniable and lasting impact on generations of tennis fans, players and scientists alike. His inventions, theories and teaching methods continue to influence the tennis community today.

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CARL MENDOZA • CLASS OF 2024



Carl Mendoza had always excelled athletically, but it wasn't until he was in his early twenties that he picked up a tennis racquet for the first time. Carl grew up in Salinas, California, where he was a high school football star. At 23 years old he was introduced to tennis by his then-wife, and his then-brother-in-law showed him the ropes on the court. It was love at first volley for Carl, and he never looked back.

Carl had been prepared to continue his academic career in law school, but he soon found that he'd rather be on the tennis court than in the classroom. His tennis hobby turned into a profession when he began working with NorCal's inner-city programs in Oakland. Together with Warren Brown, the then president of USTA NorCal, Carl helped develop the Warren Brown Tennis Program to support youth tennis. From there, Carl also contributed to the Oakland Mayor's

Program and the National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) of San Francisco.

While Carl enjoyed playing in USTA tournaments, especially doubles, his true calling was coaching. At 40, he became a certified tennis instructor and has since been devoted to coaching through his NJTL program and Youth Tennis Advantage's inner-city tennis program. His proudest achievement is the NJTL camp he founded for underserved junior players to allow them to learn and experience the joys of tennis. The program has stood the test of time and has been active for over 30 years, introducing generations of children to the sport.

Throughout his extensive career, Carl has received numerous accolades, including the USPTA Top 10 Point Holder for Career Development Program, PTR Volunteer of the Year and PTR California Pro of the Year. His dedication earned him the USTA NorCal Outstanding Community Tennis Volunteer Award and the USTA NorCal Diversity & Inclusion Mark Manning Icon Award for outstanding leadership for advocating, representing and contributing to diversity and inclusion issues and strategies. It was an accomplishment that meant a lot to Carl, as Mark Manning had been a dear friend, whose work in the inner-city tennis community was something he had deeply admired.

Beyond the achievements, Carl's passion for tennis extends beyond simply coaching. He always actively worked to understand the "nuts and bolts" of tennis, attending industry seminars and conferences to continuously improve his teaching methods.

His unwavering commitment to the tennis community has been evident through his service on various USTA National committees, including the Community Tennis Association, NJTL and Sportsmanship committees. Locally, Carl has held leadership positions on the USPTA Board, where he served as president, and contributed to USTA NorCal as a Board of Directors member for five years. He has also volunteered on numerous USTA NorCal committees as a member or chair including the Budget, Diversity & Inclusion, Adaptive, Community Tennis and Grants committees.

And through it all, the same excitement that ignited Carl's passion for tennis in his early twenties still drives him today as a coach. He takes great joy in watching his players succeed both on and off the court, continuing to inspire and nurture the next generation of tennis enthusiasts.

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LINDA SIEGEL • CLASS OF 2024



Linda Siegel's passion and skill for tennis were evident from an early age. Encouraged by her parents, she attended a summer camp in her hometown of Piedmont at age eight. She quickly excelled, playing in her first USTA NorCal 10 and under event and winning. By 1973, at age 12, Linda was ranked No. 1 in the United States in the 12 and under division, winning both the National Hard and Clay Court Championships. Throughout her junior career, Linda consistently held the No. 1 ranking in her USTA NorCal division.

In 1975, she was the 14s National Singles Hard Court champion and was ranked No. 2 in the United States. In 1977, Linda won the US 16s Nationals, defeating Tracy Austin and Pam Shriver, achieving the No. 1 ranking in the US. That same summer she won the US 18s Clay Court Championship.

In 1978, having been named to the US Wrightman Cup team, Linda won the US Open Girls' Championship, which is among her proudest achievements, defeating Hana Mandlikova along the way to the title.

A significant turning point in her career was reaching the finals of the South African Open Women's Singles Championships, transitioning her from junior competitions to the WTA Professional Circuit. 1979 was the height of Linda's international career, as she competed at the US Open, the French Open and Wimbledon, where she faced Billie Jean King. Linda achieved her highest WTA ranking of No. 35 in the world.

Linda spent one year attending and playing tennis for the University of Southern California. Apart from tennis, Linda has always been a well-rounded individual on and off the court. Her early success led her to travel around the world by herself at a young age, introducing her to exciting new experiences and places.

After her professional career, Linda turned to teaching, sharing her love and knowledge of tennis with the next generation. She has coached the girls' Northern California National team and the NorCal 16 & 18 Maze Cup teams. Additionally, she taught tennis at several private clubs.

Her favorite part of teaching is seeing kids find enjoyment in and self-confidence through tennis.