

USTA TEXAS

Home of Texas Tennis



Texas Yearbook



2017 Edition



Welcome

BY TAYLOR JONES

Welcome to the 2017 Yearbook edition. In this issue, we take a look back at some of the best and brightest moments from the past year. Whether it was Jayci Goldsmith winning the Grand Slam on the court (and off the court through her sportsmanship) or international athletes coming to Houston to participate in the first ever USA Tap tournament, 2016 was one for the books.



While it's important to revisit last year's moments, January marks the beginning of a new year with new goals for the coming months and years. In 2017, we look forward to continuing the story of tennis in Texas. This issue begins the 2017 story by celebrating Black History month with the accounts of two Texas tennis pioneers in John Wilkerson and Ronnie Blake.

Whether it's through leagues, tournaments, a friendly game at your local high school or just supporting the sport, get out and spread the word about tennis - we can't wait to see what 2017 has in store!

Taylor

Share your story.... #USTATexas

GET TO KNOW USTA

Todd Reed

NTRP Coordinator /
Assistant League Coordinator



Playing tennis since the day he could grip a racquet.



Ideal doubles partner:
Someone who can run down all the lobs and short shots.



8 years at
USTA Texas!



Birthday:
October 16



Favorite player:
Federer



“

Todd's passion for USTA Texas:

“Tennis has been very good to me. I have met life-long friends, received a college education and has provided a career. I give back to the sport of tennis in anyway I can in appreciation for what the sport has done for me.”

”



LADIES GETAWAY TENNIS & WINE WEEKEND

AT HORSESHOE BAY RESORT

ENJOY WORLD-CLASS TENNIS ON HARD-COURT & RED-CLAY AT THE AAA FOUR-DIAMOND HORSESHOE BAY RESORT. RELAX & UNWIND WITH SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PLUS A **WINE TOUR** TO AN AWARD-WINNING HILL COUNTRY WINERY



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MAR 3-5 | MAR 24-26 | MAR 31-APR 2 | APR 7-9 | APR 21-23
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AUG 4-6 | AUG 11-13 | SEPT 8-10 | SEPT 15-17 | SEPT 29-31
OCT 13-15 | NOV 3-5 | NOV 10-12 | NOV 17-19

FRIDAY CHECK-IN 4PM | TENNIS SOCIAL & DRINKS STARTING AT 4:30PM

SATURDAY TENNIS CAMP 9AM-12PM | LUNCH 12:15PM-1:15PM | WINE TOUR 3PM-6PM

SUNDAY TENNIS CAMP, MIMOSAS & AWARDS 9AM-11AM | CHECK-OUT

LADIES GETAWAY WEEKEND PACKAGES STARTING AT \$499 PER PERSON
(BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)

A LA CARTE PRICING AVAILABLE | OVERNIGHT STAY NOT REQUIRED

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LADIES GETAWAY WEEKEND PLEASE CONTACT
MICHELLE STALLARD AT 512.924.7097 OR EMAIL AT MSTALLARD@HSBRESORT.COM

A TEXAS LEGEND

For Black History Month, we feature one of the most influential tennis players in Texas

At 15 years old, he was playing against adults in the Mexican League. Meanwhile, his brothers played tennis every Saturday. They tried to get him on the court for *two years*, but John refused.

“Back in those days, I thought tennis was for girls, that it wasn’t a manly sport,” Wilkerson says now with a laugh. “It never came to my mind again when I picked up the racquet and started hitting. I saw the challenge and I saw how it tested you, especially mentally.”

When his brothers finally did get him out on the court, he beat them all.

They told him to try out for the tennis team, so he did. He beat everyone on the tennis team too, including the coach. His first year with the team, he won the District and

State Championships in both singles and doubles. His name was on the front page of the Sports section of the *San Antonio Express-News*. He was hooked.

“At 16, I picked up a tennis racquet and I could tell, that’s what I was here for,” Wilkerson says. “It’s like seeing that beautiful young lady for the first time; ‘where have you been all my life?’”

Wilkerson remembers a time soon after he first started playing when he went to play some local professionals in San Antonio. There was only one court and the



John Wilkerson

group of pros only played doubles. Only problem was, Wilkerson had never played doubles – he had never even *heard* of doubles.

Wilkerson lost the first match, and with only one court, had to wait four more matches before he got another shot. His partner was none too pleased with having to wait so long and immediately scolded Wilkerson as they walked off in defeat.

“This old guy gave me the best lesson possible,” Wilkerson says. “He said, ‘damn it, if you’re going to play with me, you can’t be making all these damn mistakes.’ I didn’t take it personally. I went back in there, hit it down the middle and in a year’s time, I was the best doubles player out there.”

Wilkerson continued to excel, earning a tennis scholarship to Prairie View A&M University. When he was in his early 30s, he reached the pinnacle of his playing career, winning the 1971 American Tennis Association’s Men’s Singles Tournament.

The ATA is a predominantly black organization, originally created as an outlet for African-Americans who were not allowed in the United States Lawn Tennis Association



Xx

(USLTA) back in 1916. Wilkerson's victory was not only a massive personal achievement but also an historic one for the ATA.

"The year before, a Caucasian guy had won it," Wilkerson says. "I watched him play from the quarterfinals on and I was in awe of him and how well he played. Black people had won it most of the time – all the time before that. The ATA was so dejected.

"The next year, believe it or not, I'm in the Finals against him. It's three-out-of-five – I beat him 1, 3, 1. It was a joy for the black people to see their champ was black again. It was a great experience."

At the time, many said Wilkerson was 'the one that saved the ATA.' The organization just celebrated its 100th year and will host its 100th National Championship this coming summer.

"[The ATA] gave me the opportunity to see people who looked like me playing tennis and that I wasn't in this alone," Wilkerson says. "If you didn't see that, you'd think tennis is mostly a white sport – you would think you were unusual. But when I saw there were other people, it meant a lot to me.

"I've got friends all over the United States. I was lucky to see the Arthur Ashes and the Althea Gibsons and all the tremendous players to come through there."

Wilkerson got the next crop of young

stars ready himself, coaching both Zina Garrison and Lori McNeil from the time they were 11 years old. Wilkerson served as the head teaching pro at MacGregor Park in Houston, where most of his clients were white. To help grow diversity, he started a free children's tennis program, getting the chance to coach Garrison and McNeil from a very young age.

"Everybody is special," Wilkerson says. "I had no idea – I wasn't trying to get them ready for the pros. I just wanted to develop some young players that were black and get black players out here. I knew I could teach people to play like Chris Evert or Billie Jean King, but I wasn't thinking pros."

Under the tutelage of Wilkerson, Garrison became the first African American to win the Wimbledon and US Open Junior Titles. McNeil reached a career high singles ranking of 9th in the world in 1988, while Garrison reached 4th in 1989.

The trio still sees each other often. In 1993, Garrison founded the Zina Garrison Academy with Wilkerson, with the goal of providing the youth of Houston with the same opportunity McNeil and her were afforded over 40 years ago. Wilkerson currently serves as the Senior Director of Tennis for ZGA, while McNeil is Director of Tennis.

For all his efforts, Wilkerson has received countless awards. In 1979, he won

the Lloyd Sessions Educational Merit Award and the Eve Kraft USTA Community Service Award for his contributions to tennis development both in Texas and nationally. In 2014, he was honored as a Team USA Coaching Legend by the USTA.

He has been inducted into the Black Tennis Hall of Fame, the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame and the Texas Tennis Hall of Fame. Yet despite all of these accomplishments, Wilkerson has never let his goals change.

"Everything I have received ranks high," Wilkerson says. "I don't put one above or below the other. I just thank God that I've been able to do this and hope to be a role model and example for other people. I appreciate awards but I don't look for that. My reward is the kids I see every day – to see them succeed. To see them not only become good citizens but good parents. That's what my reward is.

"All I was trying to do and I'm still trying to do it is get young people exposed to this game and show them what it can do for you."

John Wilkerson is a classic case showing that it's never too late to start playing tennis. Much to his original dismay, he picked up a racquet for the first time at 16 years old.

For the sake of the sport and for many youngsters in Texas, thank goodness he did.



Switching Hands

Every tennis player dreams of making the trip to New York City, looking up at the bright lights of Manhattan, then making their way to the Billie Jean National Tennis Center to play in the US Open. Tyler's Ronnie Blake is one of them.

Blake steps onto the court for another match, facing an opponent he's never played before. He hits the ball over a couple of times on his right side before his opponent tests his backhand. Only problem is, Ronnie doesn't have one.

Blake shifts his racquet between hands, returning the ball with a left-handed stroke no different than his right. His opponent looks at him, puzzled.

"Man, did I just see you hit the ball with your other hand??"

Ronnie just smiles. It's a surprise for most of his opponents that he has two forehands, a feature that makes him stand out from the rest of the field.

Blake grew up a tremendous athlete, playing quarterback and point guard in high school. He was a State Champion and Player of the Year in Texas for basketball, earning him a scholarship to play in college. Tennis wasn't really on the docket in Blake's younger life.

"East Texas is football and basketball – so I was a football and basketball player," Blake says. "Summertime I started [playing

tennis] in the seventh grade and played my first tournament my 10th grade year of high school and just kept playing from then on."

Once he graduated from college and completed his time in the Marine Corps, tennis was all Blake ever wanted to do. Unlike football or basketball, Blake points out that tennis is the sport of a lifetime and "something I can do for my entire life."

It wasn't until he was in his mid-20s and a Graduate Assistant at Central Arkansas that he started dabbling with the idea of playing with two forehands. By the time he turned 30, he really started to embrace the idea of becoming an ambidextrous tennis player.





“It’s something I work on every day,” Blake says. “As a high school coach, I’m on the court every day. I have a goal of one day playing in an ambidextrous tennis exhibition.”

Blake even has the rules of this ambidextrous tennis division laid out:

- **Players serve left-handed from the left side of the court and right-handed from the right side of the court**
- **Once the ball is in play, any hand may be used to win the point**
- **8 game pro set match**
- **A white ball is used for the deuce (right) court, while a green ball is used for the ad (left) court**

And those are just some of the rules for the exhibition.

For Blake, the point of the ambidextrous tennis game is “to test each player’s tennis stroke dexterity.” It’s for the enjoyment of those watching and of course for players to show off their skills with both hands. It’s something Blake has worked tirelessly on for the past quarter century, devoting hours upon hours to the game he loves.

Few people in the state of Texas devote as many hours to tennis as Ronnie Blake. When he’s not playing on weekends, he’s coaching at Robert E. Lee High School in Tyler where he sent seven players to the 6A Spring Regionals and went undefeated in Team Tennis in the district. The school also

won the District Championship.

“It’s one of the dreams that I had when I came to this school,” Blake says of the District Championship. “I enjoy helping kids develop and try to learn this game because I think it’s a great game to play. I enjoy being in an atmosphere where I can still be competitive and try to give them the love for the game that I have.”

For most teachers, summer is a time to recharge their batteries after the long school year, but not Ronnie. Summer kicks off a seven-week program with the city of Tyler Parks and Recreation where he helps run the Youth Free Tennis Program. Equipment is all supplied by the city, with lessons from 9 a.m. to noon five days a week.

“When I was at John Tyler High School, there was a guy that came to my school to run a free summer program. From my vantage point, it seemed like he and another guy were just out there with four or five kids. I just went down to Parks and Rec and asked if I could run the program.”

For most, that would be more than enough tennis to handle, but for Ronnie, he just can’t get enough. He is also the co-leader of the Tyler NJTL Chapter, emphasizing the importance of sportsmanship, good grades and writing to those that he teaches.

Ronnie is a writer himself, with four books already published and a fifth one on the way called *A Tennis Poet, Volume 1*. He encourages all of his students to keep a

journal, not only to help them improve on their writing but to also help with their tennis game.

“I want them to know that if they start out and they’re not good, write about the problems they have or the things they’re going through,” Blake says. “If they play someone that’s a better player, write about it, what went wrong and how they felt about it so they can reflect on it later.”

And yet with all of his teaching, Blake still has time to play plenty of tournaments himself. Just this past year, he won the HTA Houston Open in Men’s 55 Singles, a victory he considers his greatest personal achievement in the sport of tennis.

Let’s rephrase that – it is his greatest achievement *to date*. There is still plenty of tennis left to play for Blake.

For as much as he has played, there’s still one thing people remember most about him. They might not remember his name, but they always remember “there’s the guy with two forehands.”

Every tennis player dreams of playing in the US Open – Tyler’s Ronnie Blake is one of them.

“One of my life ambitions is to be in New York at the US Open playing in an Ambidextrous Exhibition against pros as a way of entertainment.”

An achievement that would definitely become Ronnie Blake’s greatest tennis moment of his life.

All photos courtesy Ronnie Blake.

The Most Amazing Tennis Tournament You'll Ever See



Antonio Solano

When amputee Jeff Bourns first met with USTA Texas' Cindy Benzon just two summers ago, Bourns threw out the idea of starting an Amputee Tennis Class in Houston. Little did they know how far that idea would take them.

Thanks to Bourns, Benzon, Harold Graham and plenty of help along the way, USTA Texas, the Texas Tennis & Education Foundation and the TAP Foundation hosted the USA TAP Open from December 9 to 11 at the Galleria Tennis & Athletic Club in Houston. The event set an historic landmark as the first-ever international Standing Adaptive Tennis tournament in the United States.

"It was a wonderful experience this weekend," Bourns said, who had his right leg amputated shortly after birth. "Not only is it great to compete here but I have so many friends in this network of people that I've met from all across the world. Our passion of tennis brought us together and we all have the same goal – to advance this category of play."

"It has been an eye-opener for me," Benzon says. "The guys and girls playing here are amazing. I wish everyone got the opportunity to watch this because these people have the passion and they have the

love for tennis. They have to work so hard to make up for what they're lacking physically. It has been a thrill to be part of it."

Bourns was one of 28 competitors in the tournament, with players coming from all over the globe to play. 11 countries were represented in total, with disabilities ranging from prosthetic legs to a player with no femurs and even to a player with *no* arms.

"Antonio Solano probably has to work the hardest of any player," Benzon says. "His footwork is unbelievable and his attitude is so great."

While Bourns and Benzon were instrumental in bringing the tournament to Houston, none of this would have been possible without the work of Enzo Amadei Jerez. Jerez – who himself has Hemiparesis caused by a brain tumor – started the TAP World Tour circuit in 2015.

After the first event took place in Jerez's home country of Chile in April of that year, Jerez got in contact with Bourns.

"He invited me to compete in the Masters Championship in Santiago in December of 2015," Bourns says. "Growing up, I had only played against another amputee three times – I won all three. So I went to Chile with the mentality of 'I'm going to win this tournament.'"



Jeff Bourns

"I was quickly humbled in the tournament. While making it to the quarter-finals, I was amazed at the talent level of other players around the world. I finally lost my first match to another amputee – and it felt great! Not really, but it confirmed what I already knew: there are many highly skilled athletes around the world who can compete in the category of play."

Jeff was the only American competing in that tournament, so he also went to Chile to help expand the reach of the Adaptive game in the United States. Bourns told Benzon and Henry Cox, Adaptive/Wheelchair tennis chair for USTA Texas, what he had seen in Chile. He stayed in

constant contact with Jerez, Benzon and Cox before they settled on the date of December 9 to 11.

As he did with Bourns, Jerez got in contact with anyone he could find on the Internet. Every competitor's story sounded similar: Enzo found me on Facebook or found a video on YouTube, got in touch with me and invited me to play in this tournament.

Jerez worked tirelessly at getting players to come out, to teach them there are others just like them with a disability who love to play tennis. Bourns did the same, telling all the adaptive students that he teaches to come out and join him.

"I was approached by my coach, Jeff Bourns, several months ago to come out," Avery Mickens says. "After declining a couple of times, he impressed upon me it'd be a good idea to come and I'm excited that I did. Once I got here and got to meet everyone – this is exciting. I'm hoping to do this more."

Scott Carr teaches classes with Bourns every Monday and Wednesday. Carr himself was wounded as a Marine and heard multiple times from doctors that he would never walk again. He defied them, strolling gleefully at the tournament watching his students excel.

"I hear people say, 'I can't hit that shot' or 'I can't do this,'" Carr says. "No. There are

people that say they can't and this week I met people that do. Don't tell me you can't do it – it's just a desire. These guys and ladies have a *huge* desire and it makes me want to go out there and hit tennis balls even more."

Carr and Bourns see some incredible stories each week in their class. Inside



Jeff Bourns and Enzo Amadei Jerez

Tennis featured Bourns and his relationship with fellow amputee Veronica Vasquez just over a year ago. At the tournament, Bourns reflects on a young student named Isaac whose story got to him.

"When he started, he wasn't really able to walk and couldn't strike a tennis ball," Bourns says. "Two years later now, I start running one day just warming up. All of a sudden, I look behind me and here comes Isaac, I see him starting to run.

"After the class, his mother comes up to me and says, 'that's the first time my son's ever ran.' That is pretty cool. You should be able to play tennis any way that you want. If you want to play and have the desire to do it, I say do it."

Every match on the TAP Tour ends similarly. Whereas most tennis matches end with the opponents just shaking hands, adaptive players often go in for hugs, take pictures with each other and share stories with their new friends.

"We're all coming from the same place,"

Bourns says. "The neat thing about Standing Adaptive is whether it be hemophilia, cerebral palsy, amputations – we all use this as an outlet. All of us know what each other are dealing with and man, we just lift each other's spirits when we're around each other.

"At the end of the day, we're all brothers and sisters – we're an international family."

It's an international family that continues to grow. Thanks to the efforts of people like Jerez, Bourns and Benzon, nine Americans made their way to Houston for the USA TAP Open. With their hard work, this event won't be just a one-and-done, but will serve as a springboard for Standing Adaptive tennis.

"I wanted this event to help launch Standup Adaptive tennis in Texas, but we're also hoping other sections will jump on the horse and be part of it,"



Cindy Benzon and Enzo Amadei Jerez

Benzon says. "We have players from the Midwest section, we have players from the Southern section, we have a player from the Intermountain section. Let's see if we can work together to make this happen."

The TAP World Tour brings together so many incredible players and shows that no matter what your condition is, you can play tennis. The event in Houston added yet another story for players who have their fair share of them. For Cindy Benzon, it's a weekend she will never forget.

"Every player has touched my heart in a lot of ways."

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- Tommy Ho
- Tom Hunt
- Matt Jacobs
- Frank Kelly
- Dalia Martinez
- Sheryl Osborn
- Jackie Payne
- Emily Schaefer
- Kathleen Wu



Back Row, L to R: Dalia Martinez, Matt Jacob, Sheryl Osborne, Tom Hunt, Jackie Payne. Front Row, L to R: Dan Barta, Emily Schaefer, Frank Kelly. (Not pictured: Tommy Ho, Kathleen Wu)

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TBD

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2016 USTA Texas Tri-Level Championship

Ladies 4.0 – Houston
 Men's 4.0 – San Antonio
 Ladies 4.5 – Dallas
 Men's 4.5 – Fort Worth

2016 USTA Texas 40 & Over Mixed Doubles League Championships

Mixed 6.0 – Dallas
 Mixed 7.0 – Houston
 Mixed 8.0 – Fort Worth
 Mixed 9.0 – Austin

2016 USTA Texas 18 & Over League Championships

Lone Star Ladies Champions – Abilene
 Ladies 2.5 Champions – San Angelo
 Ladies 3.0 Champions – Austin
 Men's 3.0 Champions – Dallas*
 Ladies 3.5 Champions – Dallas
 Men's 3.5 Champions – Dallas
 Ladies 4.0 – Wichita Falls
 Men's 4.0 – NOHO
 Ladies 4.5 – San Antonio
 Men's 4.5 – Austin
 Ladies 5.0 – Austin
 Men's 5.0 – Dallas

2016 USTA Texas 40 & Over League Championships

Ladies 3.0 – Austin
 Ladies 3.5 – Dallas
 Men's 3.5 – Dallas
 Ladies 4.0 – Fort Worth
 Men's 4.0 – Wild San Antonio
 Ladies 4.5 – NOHO
 Men's 4.5 – Austin





2016 USTA Texas 55 & Over League Championships

- Ladies 6.0 – San Antonio
- Ladies 7.0 – Austin
- Men's 7.0 – Dallas
- Ladies 8.0 – Austin
- Men's 8.0 – Fort Worth
- Ladies 9.0 – Dallas
- Men's 9.0 – Dallas

2016 USTA Texas 18 & Over Mixed Doubles League Championships

- Mixed 6.0 – Amarillo
- Mixed 7.0 – Dallas
- Mixed 8.0 – Valley
- Mixed 9.0 – Houston



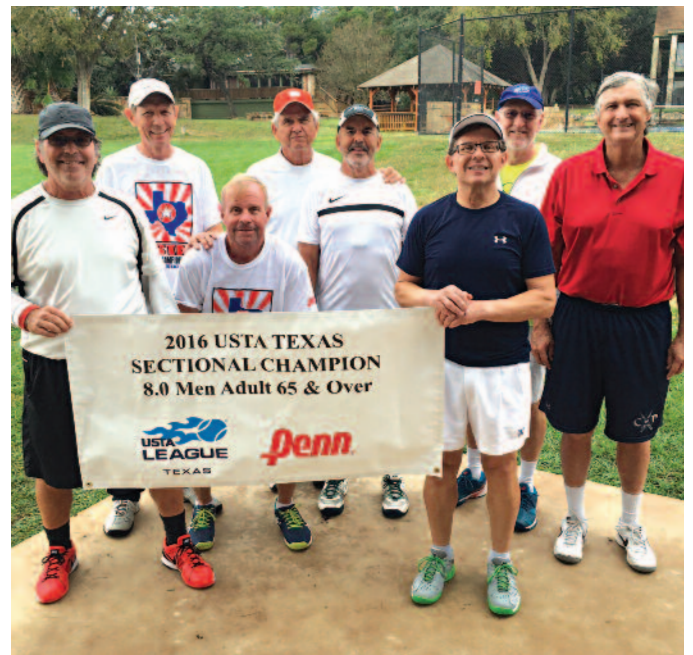
Mixed 10.0 – Dallas*

2016 Combo League Section Championships

- Ladies 6.5 – Austin
- Men's 6.5 – SETX
- Ladies 7.5 – Houston
- Men's 7.5 – San Antonio
- Ladies 8.5 – Dallas
- Men's 8.5 – Dallas

2016 USTA Texas 65 & Over League Championships

- Ladies 6.0 – San Antonio
- Men's 6.0 – Dallas
- Ladies 7.0 – Austin
- Men's 7.0 – Waco
- Ladies 8.0 – Houston



Men's 8.0 – Houston

2016 USTA Texas 55 & Over Mixed Doubles League Championships

- Mixed 7.0 – NETX
- Mixed 8.0 – Dallas
- Mixed 9.0 – Midland

*Won National Championship

USTA Texas: 2016 Sectional Champions

ADULTS

Men's Open Singles: Trey Hilderbrand d. Tomas Stillman 4-6, 6-3, 6-4

Men's 30 Singles: Travis Wagner d. John Swords 6-2, 4-6, 6-2

Men's 35 Singles: Jason Holland d. Oscar Jackson 6-2, 6-2

Men's 40 Singles: Guillermo Cosson d. Gabriel Venter 5-7, 6-3, 7-5

Men's 45 Singles: Sean Straley d. Rafael Herrera 6-1, 6-4

Men's 50 Singles: Eric Kruseman d. Robert Bickmore 7-6Ret (ill)

Men's 55 Singles: Peter Markes d. Tim Klitch 4-6, 6-2, 6-3

Men's 60 Singles: Ross Persons d. Sal Castillo 6-4, 6-3

Men's 65 Singles: Carl Morris d. Richard Griffin 6-2, 6-3

Men's 70 Singles: Paul Cass d. Donald Clark 6-2, 6-4

Men's 75 Singles: William Wolff d. Del Campbell 7-6, 6-0

Men's 80 Singles: Douglas Kerin d. Alan Gow 6-2, 6-2

Men's Open Doubles: Alejandro Gonzalez/Juan C. Moreiras Trivella d. Jose Antelo/Michel A. Maciel 6-1, 6-4

Men's 40 Doubles: Charles Johnson/Andrew Swanson d. Tim Marco/Sean Straley 6-2, 7-5

Men's 50 Doubles: Robert Bickmore/Eric Kruseman d. Stephen Creel/Greg Hixon 6-3, 6-4

Men's 55 Doubles: Sal Castillo/Timothy Garcia d. David Luedtke/Alexander Pier 6-3, 6-4

Men's 60 Doubles: Robert Barrie/Bill Stetzer d. Sal Castillo/Mel Collazo 7-5, 6-1

Men's 65 Doubles: Cecil Eager/Dennis Reblin d. David Camp/Aaron O'Neal 5-0Ret (inj)

Men's 75 Doubles: Wayne Downhour/Glenn Schmittou d. Del Campbell/John Newman 7-5, 2-1Ret (pc)

Men's 85 Doubles: Edwin Hosking/Robert Toms d. T.C. Chang/Russell Seymour Wd (ill)

Women's Open Singles: Rachel Janssen d. Haley Winton 6-3, 6-2

Women's 35 Singles: Julie Thu d. Nancy Hilliard 6-4, 7-5

Women's 40 Singles: Dianne Lee d. Ana Castano-Mears 6-2, 7-6

Women's 45 Singles: Julie Cass d. Danielle Royston 6-1, 6-3

Women's 50 Singles: Jenny Klitch d. Shelly Works 6-0, 6-3

Women's 55 Singles: Kathy Vick d. Teal Lang 6-1, 7-6

Women's 65 Singles: Barbara Starnes d. Ann Eaton 6-3, 6-3

Women's 80 Singles: Mary Ann Winden d. Nevada Hudson 6-2, 6-1

Women's Open Doubles: Caroline Kutach/Blaire Porter d. Taylor Jones/Sylvia Krywacz 6-1, 4-6, 6-1

Women's 35 Doubles: Kaysie Smashey/Julie Thu d. Nancy Hilliard/Amy McCampbell 6-3, 6-0

Women's 40 Doubles: Wendy Graham/Ashley Wernli d. Ana Castano-Mears/Julie Gibson 6-3, 6-2

Women's 45 Doubles: Beverly Bowes-Hackney/Julie Cass d. Wendy Graham/Kristen Guszak 6-2, 6-0

Women's 50 Doubles: Shelly Works/Anna Zimmermann d. Gay Myrick/Nancy Nitardy 6-1, 6-1

Women's 60 Doubles: Lynn Rush/Barbara Starnes d. Martha Barrie/Marsha Scott Wd (pc)

Women's 65 Doubles: Ann Eaton/Barbara Starnes d. Deborah Connell/Lynn Rush 6-0, 6-1

Mixed Open Doubles: Fiona Crawley/Campbell Erwin d. Amy McCampbell/John Swords 6-3, 6-1

Mixed Doubles 35: Jory Ereckson/Ashley Wernli d. Oscar Jackson/Amy McCampbell 7-6, 6-1

Mixed Doubles 45: Jenny Klitch/Tim Klitch d. Wendy Graham/Greg Hixon 6-3, 6-4

Father & Son: Peter Markes/Colin Markes d. Andrew Stanley/Ian Stanley 7-5, 6-2

Mother & Daughter: Patty Fendick-McCain/Keegan McCain d. Monika Dalkin/Anya Dalkin 6-0, 6-1

Husband & Wife: Anh Pise/Hersh Pise d. Holly Perry/Richard Perry 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(7)

Men's 3.0 Singles: Tony Lewis d. Sean Kent 3-6, 6-2, 6-2

Men's 3.5 Singles: Philip Kelleher d. Gregory Grissom 6-3, 7-5

Men's 4.0 Singles: Sean Nguyen d. Jose Rodriguez 6-4, 6-3

Men's 4.5 Singles: Roberto De Leon d. Igor Milisavljevic 6-1, 6-4

Men's 3.0 Doubles: Tiziano Barberi/Dale Paustian d. Kenneth Coleman/Enrique Deleon 6-2, 6-3

Men's 3.5 Doubles: Ryan Carroll/Jason Garriott d. Gregory Grissom/Derek Muller 4-6, 6-1, 6-4

Men's 4.0 Doubles: Mike Caldarella/Ranganath Kanchi d. Chris Burton/Kalim Sawires 3-6, 6-3, 6-3

Men's 4.5 Doubles: David Hallinan/Subu Jayaram d. Red Benzon/Michael Clayborne 6-3, 6-3

Men's 5.0 Doubles: Jason Crabtree/Oleg Dyachenko d. Mario Gloria/Guillermo Martin Del Campo 6-7, 6-4, 7-5

Women's 3.0 Singles: Jennifer Truitt d. Isabel Garcia 6-2, 6-1

Women's 3.5 Singles: Anissa Culp d. Sharon Fernandez 6-2, 6-2

Women's 4.0 Singles: Kimberly Carter d. Dan Su 6-3, 6-2

Women's 4.5 Singles: Kelly Anderson d. Dianne Lee 2-6, 6-4, 6-4

Women's 5.0 Singles: Amy McCampbell d. Shelly Works 6-1, 6-0

Women's 2.5 Doubles: Adeline Waterman/Melissa Woolard d. Julissa Cavazos/Milersy Rodriguez Wd (inj)

Women's 3.0 Doubles: Kathleen Dodgen/Jennifer Truitt d. Nicole Cannon/Kristina Kehm 6-3, 3-6, 7-6

Women's 3.5 Doubles: Milly Gonzalez/Chelsea Sump d. Susie Keylon/Summer Richbourg 4-6, 6-3, 6-2

Women's 4.0 Doubles: Becky Nuss/Virginia Talley d. Christine Dvorsky/Jennifer Nguyen 6-2, 6-3

Women's 4.5 Doubles: Evonne Allerkamp/Melissa Fuller d. Kimberly Campbell/April Street 6-3, 6-3

Mixed 2.5 Doubles: Maria Chase/Brian Chase d. Julie Hilberg/Fonz Beltran Wd (inj)

Mixed 3.0 Doubles: Nellie Pantanini/Arnold Rodriguez d. Isobel Suhr/Charles Suhr 6-1, 6-2

Mixed 3.5 Doubles: Cheryl Ellison-Hargrove/Gilbert Carbajal d. Wayne Alexander/Pat Alexander 4-6, 6-3, 6-4

Mixed 4.0 Doubles: Stephanie Rodriguez/Kalim Sawires d. David Jenkins/Brandie Jenkins 5-7, 6-2, 6-3

Mixed 4.5 Doubles: Melody Garcia/Subu Jayaram d. Lauren Gremminger/Lemuel Herrera 7-6(6), 6-3

USTA Texas: 2016 Grand Slam Champions

JUNIORS

- Boys' 18 Singles:** Jaycer Lyeons d. Erik Kerrigan 4-6, 7-6, 6-0
- Boys' 16 Singles:** Arman Dave d. Andrew Keene 7-5, 0-6, 6-0
- Boys' 14 Singles:** Max Schmidhauser d. Avery Zavala 4-6, 6-0, 6-3
- Boys' 12 Singles:** Kabeer Kapasi d. Christian Gonzalez 7-5, 6-2
- Boys' 18 Doubles:** Jeremiah Gonzalez/Erik Kerrigan d. Jonathan Sheehy/Parker Wynn 6-3, 4-6, 6-3
- Boys' 16 Doubles:** Arman Dave/Vikas Deo d. Nathan Arimilli/Anish Sriniketh 7-6, 7-6
- Boys' 14 Doubles:** Vishwa Aduru/Avery Zavala d. Daniel Ardila/Arman Zamani 6-4, 6-3
- Boys' 12 Doubles:** Lucas Brown/Grant Lothringer d. Qidao Lian/Ritesh Patil 6-4, 1-6, 6-3

- Girls' 18 Singles:** Chelsea Kung d. Sydney Jones 6-2, 4-6, 6-4
- Girls' 16 Singles:** Jayci Goldsmith d. Addison Guevara 6-4, 6-2
- Girls' 14 Singles:** Malaika Rapolu d. Caroline Wernli 6-2, 6-2
- Girls' 12 Singles:** Liv Hovde d. Anna Bouleau 6-2, 6-3
- Girls' 18 Doubles:** Priya Niezgoda/Janice Shin d. Kristina Yu/Marlee Zein 6-3, 7-5
- Girls' 16 Doubles:** Gabriella Cusano/Addison Guevara d. Madison Ballow/Samantha Gillas 6-2, 6-3
- Girls' 14 Doubles:** Kailey Evans/Katherine Petty d. Simran Kortikere/Saumya Vedula 6-4, 6-3
- Girls' 12 Doubles:** Anna Bouleau/Santianna Chrysopoulo d. Aleksandra Dimitrijevic/Katherine Wurster 6-7, 6-4, 7-6

Junior Tennis Awards

John McFarlin Award: honors the outstanding junior boy in Texas who exemplifies outstanding sportsmanship and leadership, civic responsibility, character and a good tennis ranking due to superior tournament play

Winner: **Parker Wynn** – North Richland Hills

Art Foust Sportsmanship Award: honors a Super Championship Boy for outstanding sportsmanship and fair play both on and off the court.



Final selection is made by the players at the Texas Summer Grand Slam.

Winner: **Parker Wynn** – North Richland Hills

Maureen Connolly Brinker Sportsmanship Award:

honors a Super Championship Girl for outstanding sportsmanship and fair play both on and off the court. Final selection is made by the players at the Texas Summer Grand Slam.

Winner: **Priya Niezgoda** – Austin

Bob McKinley Sportsmanship Award: honors a Super Championship 16s Boy for outstanding sportsmanship and fair play both on and off the court. Final selection is made by the players at the Summer Grand Slam.



Winner: **Campbell Erwin** – Olmos Park

Zina Garrison Sportsmanship Award: honors a Super Championship 16s Girl for outstanding sportsmanship and fair play both on and off the court. Final selection is made by the players at the Summer Grand Slam.

Winner: **Jayci Goldsmith** – Dripping Springs

Mary Lowdon Award:

an outstanding junior girl in Texas who has shown exceptional ability, a good ranking, a willingness to work with up-and-coming players, cooperation and proper respect, and a sportsmanlike and competitive spirit.

Winner – **Janice Shin** – Houston



Chuck McKinley Award: a USTA Texas Section junior tennis player who achieved the most outstanding results at the National and/or International level, during the previous calendar year.

Winner – **Trey Hilderbrand** – San Antonio



JTT Spring Section Championship Winners

10U – Lakes Whispering Warriors (Dallas)



- 12U intermediate – Dealey Dragons (Tyler)
- 12U advanced – High Point Part 2 (Dallas)
- 14U beginner – T Bar M (Dallas)
- 14U intermediate – King Daddy Blue Tornadoes (Houston)
- 14U advanced – ATA Dream Team (Austin)
- 18U intermediate – ace-n-slackers (Houston)
- 18U advanced – ATA Dream Team (Austin)

JTT Spring Whataburger Sportsmanship Winners

- 10U boys – **Shepherd Stapp** from Team Harris (Amarillo)
- 10U girls – **Ellie Morrow** from King Daddy Silver Tornadoes (Houston)
- 12U boys intermediate – **Aryan Prakash** from King Daddy Silver Tornadoes (Houston)
- 12U girls intermediate – **Skyler Kinney** from TCU Aces (South Tarrant County)
- 12U boys advanced – **Emiliano Murguia** from STC 12U Qualified (Northeast Tarrant County)
- 12U girls advanced – **Sarah Allen** from High Point Part 2 (Dallas)
- 14U boys beginner – **Teddy Huang** from Dare Doubles (Southlake)
- 14U girls beginner – **Madelyn Stewart** from Lantana Terminetters (Denton)
- 14U boys intermediate **Alex Mendez** from Bulldogs (Odessa)
- 14U girls intermediate **Camille Morrison** from Allen Eagles (Dallas)
- 14U boys advanced **Austin Beckham** from Ace Breakers (Abilene)
- 14U girls advanced **Victoria Caster** from Fairfield (Houston)
- 18U boys intermediate **Connor Crumly** from FTW (Corpus Christi)



- 18U girls intermediate **Megan Morris** from Hollytree (Tyler)
- 18U boys advanced **David Pirtle** from Hollytree (Tyler)
- 18U girls advanced **Isabella Rodriguez** from Laredo Court Crushers (Laredo)

JTT Summer Section Championship Winners

- 14U intermediate – Spring Branch (Spring Branch)
- 14U advanced – ATA Dream Team (Austin)



- 18U intermediate – ACE 10S (San Antonio)
- 18U advanced – ATA Dream Team (Austin)

JTT Summer Whataburger Sportsmanship Winners



- 14U boys intermediate – **Chris Chenoweth** from Georgetown Red (Georgetown)
- 14U girls intermediate – **Callie Guess** from Georgetown Red (Georgetown)
- 14U boys advanced – **Aidan Canada** from ATA Dream Team (Austin)
- 14U girls advanced – **Morgan Pyrz** from High Point Smashers (Dallas)

- 18U boys intermediate – **Diego Gonzales** from San Marcos/Seguin (San Marcos)
- 18U girls intermediate – **Emma Caddell** from Lockhart (Lockhart)
- 18U boys advanced – **Jordan Pitts** from Straight Outta 512 (Austin)
- 18U girls advanced – **Callie Creath** from ATA Dream Team (Austin)

JTT Fall Section Championship Winners

10U Green Ball – HCC 10U Green Hoolies (Houston)



- 12U Intermediate – King Daddy Red Tornados (Houston)
- 12U Advanced – Southlake Tennis Center (North East Tarrant County)
- 14U Beginner – Royal Oaks (Dallas)
- 14U Intermediate – King Daddy Blue (Houston)
- 14U Advanced – Ace Breakers (Abilene)
- 18U Intermediate – Georgetown Black (Austin)
- 18U Advanced – ATA Dream Team (Austin)

JTT Fall Whataburger Sportsmanship Award Winners

- 10U Green Ball Girl Sportsmanship – Kendal Cedar (Southies - Austin)
- 10U Green Ball Boy Sportsmanship – Nicholas Castillo (Southies - Austin)



- 12U Intermediate Girl Sportsmanship – Kathleen King (ATA Devastators - Austin)
- 12U Intermediate Boy Sportsmanship – Zachary Carpenter (Team Carpenter - San Angelo)
- 12U Advanced Girl Sportsmanship – Stealey Crousen (Rockin Racquets - Abilene)
- 12U Advanced Boy Sportsmanship – Jacob Golden (ATA Dream Team - Austin)
- 14U Beginner Girl Sportsmanship – Ellen Meltzer (Sonterra Team Ballers - San Antonio)
- 14U Beginner Boy Sportsmanship – Michael Stricker (Sonterra Team Ballers - San Antonio)
- 14U Intermediate Girl Sportsmanship – Katie Delgado - (Rally Masters - Abilene)
- 14U Intermediate Boy Sportsmanship – Alex Viner (#1 - Lubbock)
- 14U Advanced Girl Sportsmanship – Mary Tacorda (Bay Area Racquet Club Bulldogs - Houston)
- 14U Advanced Boy Sportsmanship – Carson Stovall (Beaumont Tennis Academy)
- 18U Intermediate Girl Sportsmanship – Riley Brown (Ridglea Hawk Eye - Fort Worth)
- 18U Intermediate Boy Sportsmanship – Ethan Royal (Smokin' Aces - San Antonio)
- 18U Advanced Girl Sportsmanship – Lauren Schaeffer (Serves U Right - Abilene)
- 18U Advanced Boy Sportsmanship – Hayden Steffes (ATA Dream Team - Austin)



USTA Texas Announces 2016 Community Development Award Winners

AUSTIN, Texas – USTA Texas is pleased to announce eight individual recipients and six organizations for its 2016 Community Development Awards.

The entire section is well represented in this year's awards, with Fort Worth taking home the most with four. San Antonio had three winners, Austin two and Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Dallas, San Angelo and Waco with one each.

"This has been the toughest year to decide on our USTA Texas Community award winners," says USTA Texas' Todd Carlson. "We are so thankful for the many volunteers in Texas that make a long lasting impact in their communities. Let's continue to Play It Forward!"

These awards recognize the outstanding work of the 14 winners and highlight how much they have given back to the tennis community. The full description of each award is available on the Community Development section of the USTA Texas website.



Each winner was surprised with a USTA Texas Award after being announced the winner. USTA Texas will be rolling out videos on its YouTube page.

The following people/organizations were selected as the 2016 winners:

2016 INDIVIDUAL AWARD WINNERS:

- Volunteer of the Year – **Nancy King**, Keller
- High School All-Star No-Cut Coach – **Leslie Crook**, Fort Worth*
- Millennial Volunteer of the Year – **SuJaan Lal**, Austin
- Advocate of the Year – **Debbie Grieder**, San Antonio
- Junior Team Tennis Coordinator of the Year – **Cris Perkins**, Fort Worth*
- Junior Team Tennis Rookie Coordinator of the Year – **Stacy Duffell**, San Angelo
- Diverse Achievement Award – **Sarah Pernell**, Austin
- Wilson Blast Excellence Award – **Danny Espinosa**, Brownsville

2016 ORGANIZATION/PROGRAM AWARDS:

- CTA of the Year – **SATA**, San Antonio*
- CTA Excellence – **FWTA**, Fort Worth
- Partner UP! – **San Antonio Sports iPlay Program**, San Antonio
- NJTL Chapter of the Year – **DTA**, Dallas*
- Youth Excellence Program – **EMS Tennis Academy at Chisholm Trail High School**, Fort Worth
- Hot Shots Program of the Year – **CCTA Hot Shots**, Corpus Christi

*These award winners will be the USTA Texas nomination for the USTA National Award





Whataburger Scholarship

The NJTL program strives for excellence on and off the court and the USTA Texas NJTL Whataburger Scholarship recognizes those who go the extra mile. This year USTA Texas would like to recognize four NJTL participants who have proven their hard work on the court within their NJTL program, school tennis, and tournament play as well as their work off the court in the classroom, in extra curricular and volunteer activities, as well as their ambitions to continue their education by attending college this upcoming year. Below is a list of our recipients for 2016.

Name	NJTL Chapter	University Attending
Halle Brazda	Houston Tennis Association	UT Austin
Haleigh Johnson	San Antonio Tennis Association	University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
Mikayla Smith	Dallas Tennis Association	Texas Wesleyan University
Karina Diaz	Laredo Court Crushers	Western New Mexico University

A big thank you to Whataburger for your continued support of the NJTL program and our student athletes. Even the participants channel the Whataburger spirit in their essay:

“Whata way to give back! ... I have happily “given back” to the sport I love. Playing tennis so long in Houston’s NJTL has enabled me to interact with the finest people I know who support me on and off the court. The diversity of youth players, coaches, and staff is exactly what founder, Arthur Ashe, desired. “Going for it: has meant forging special and lasting relationships with those from all backgrounds that I would not have had the opportunity to do if not being associated with the program and giving back with my time, donations, and loyalty.”

Halle Brazda, Houston Tennis Association

Whataburger has served as a long-time partner of the section and presenting sponsor of the USTA Texas NJTL program.

USTA Texas would like to wish all of our NJTL participants, past and present, good luck in the upcoming school year.



Community Tennis Association (CTA) Directory- USTA Texas

ABILENE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Abilene, Texas
www.abilenetennis.org
(325) 518-1284
Abilene.tennis.assoc@gmail.com

AMARILLO AREA TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Amarillo, Texas
www.amarilloareatennis.org
(806) 236-7827
donna@amarilloareatennis.org

ARLINGTON TENNIS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Arlington, Texas
www.arlington.usta.com
(214) 215-1845
arlingtontennis@yahoo.com

AUSTIN TENNIS CLUB

Austin, Texas
www.austintennisclub.com
AustinTennisClub@yahoo.com

BRAZOS VALLEY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Bryan, Texas
www.brazosvalleytennis.org
(979) 705-5941
info@brazosvalleytennis.org

BROWNSVILLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Brownsville, Texas
(956) 831-9347
nhooover@rgv.rr.com

BURLESON TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Burleson, Texas
(817) 528-6145
mesamuel@flash.net

CAPITAL AREA TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Austin, Texas
www.austintennis.org
(512) 443-1342
director@austintennis.org

CARROLLTON TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Carrollton, Texas
www.carrolltontennis.org
(214) 538-7429
social2tex7429@yahoo.com

CENTRAL TEXAS TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Austin, Texas
www.cttatennis.org
(512) 280-5800
info@cttatennis.org

CONCHO VALLEY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

San Angelo, Texas
www.conchovalleytennis.net
(325) 212-4318
info@conchovalleytennis.net

CORPUS CHRISTI TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Corpus Christi, Texas
www.cctaonline.org
(361) 888-4782
penny@cctaonline.org

DALLAS TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Dallas, Texas
www.dta.org
(972) 387-1538
office@dta.org

DALLAS WHEELCHAIR TENNIS CLUB

Dallas, Texas
www.dwtc.org
(972) 317-7972
dwtcpresident@aol.com

FORT WORTH PROFESSIONAL TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Fort Worth, Texas
(817) 540-0613
ernie.abraham@ourclub.com

FORT WORTH TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Fort Worth, Texas
www.fortworth.usta.com
(817) 795-4015
info@fortworthtennis.com

FREDERICKSBURG TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Fredericksburg, Texas
http://fredericksburgtenn.wixsite.com/fbgxtennis
(254) 258-2914
fredricksburgtennis@gmail.com

GREATER FORT WORTH TENNIS COALITION

Fort Worth Area
www.tennisfortworth.com
(817) 946-8346
ftwusta@gmail.com

GULF COAST COMMUNITY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Sweeny, Texas
gulfc coasttennis.org
(361) 877-6484
president@gulfc coasttennis.org

HOUSTON TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Houston, Texas
www.houstontennis.org
(281) 580-8313
info@houstontennis.org

JACKSONVILLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Jacksonville, Texas
(903) 586-4488
sompat1964@suddenlink.net

KELLER ALLIANCE TENNIS CHARTER

Keller, Texas
www.kellertexas tennis.org
(817) 680-5502
KATCHtennis@aol.com

LAGO VISTA TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Lago Vista, Texas
www.lvta.us
(512) 762-5786
admin@lvta.us

LAREDO TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Laredo, Texas
www.laredotennis.com
(956) 724-7273
tinat@trevinoeyclinic.com

LONGVIEW TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Longview, Texas
www.eteamz.com/longviewtennis
(903) 237-6063
twhite@eastman.com

MANSFIELD AREA TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Mansfield, Texas
www.matatx.com
(817) 475-1433
tgibbs@matatx.com

MASON TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Mason, Texas
www.masontennisassociation.com
(325) 347-5040
Banner4@verizon.net

MESQUITE YOUTH TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Mesquite, Texas
(972) 965-8179
harnessmatt@gmail.com

METROPLEX TENNIS ASSOCIATION INC.

McKinney, Texas
(972) 886-8580
metroplex tennis@aol.com

MIDLOTHIAN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Midlothian, Texas
www.midtennis.org
(972) 775-7893
mtapres@yahoo.com

MISSOURI CITY COMMUNITY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Missouri City, Texas
(713) 931-5141
mccta123@comcast.net

NORTH EAST TARRANT TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Southlake, Texas
www.nettleague.org
(940) 765-0153
Rosie@nettleague.org

**NORTHEAST TEXAS COALITION
TENNIS ASSOCIATION**

Tyler, Texas
www.netx.usta.com
(903) 534-5389
NETXcta@gmail.com

**PARKER COUNTY TENNIS
ASSOCIATION**

Weatherford, Texas
www.parkercountytennis.org
(817) 475-5682
info@parkercountytennis.org

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY TENNIS
ASSOCIATION**

Rio Grande Area
www.rgvta.com
(956) 874-4323
rgvtennis@gmail.com

**ROUND ROCK TENNIS
ASSOCIATION**

Round Rock, Texas
www.rrtennis.com
(512) 789-6440
info01@rrtennis.com

**SAN ANTONIO MEN'S TEAM
TENNIS**

San Antonio, Texas
(210) 829-5790
reganssatx@gmail.com

**SAN ANTONIO TENNIS
ASSOCIATION**

San Antonio, Texas
www.satennis.com
(210) 735-3069
sataoffice@satennis.com

**SOUTH PLAINS TENNIS
ASSOCIATION**

Lubbock, Texas
www.spta.ws
(806) 745-8515
southplainstennis@gmail.com

**SOUTH TEXAS COMMUNITY
TENNIS ASSOCIATION**

McAllen, Texas
www.southtexascta.usta.com
(956) 874-4323
sotxcta@gmail.com

**SOUTH TEXAS PROFESSIONAL
TENNIS ASSOCIATION**

Corpus Christi, Texas
(361) 991-7561
roddy40@aol.com

**SOUTHEAST TEXAS TENNIS
ASSOCIATION**

Beaumont, Texas
(409) 782-6975
beaumontsetta@gmail.com

**SPRING BRANCH TENNIS
CENTER**

Spring Branch, Texas
www.springbranchctennis.com
(210) 488-8063
tennis@gvtc.com

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VAN'S ADVANTAGE

By Van Barry
USTA TEXAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PRESENTED BY  JOHN NEWCOMBE TENNIS RANCH

The Road Ahead

January is a great time for planning and preparation as embark on a new year. One of the great challenges of any organization is the ability to innovate. I've written and spoken often about the need to critically look at procedures and processes that impede our ability to grow. That does not mean that we move away from the programs, policies and services that give us a competitive advantage but simply to look to streamline and refine how we operate.

Disruption can be very powerful but I believe one of our biggest challenges and opportunities is the ability to be agile enough to exploit new sources of growth. It has been said that the need for agility is the new normal. Well if that is true then this is a very exciting time for USTA. The climate and need for innovation and agility is here.

Disruption may connote a serious overhaul but that's not necessarily the case, nor what I'm advocating. Disruption, like

technology, like innovation, is simply a search for a better way. So, allow me this opportunity to describe one area in my work where I will innovate this year. Many of you may be familiar with the Pareto Principle, also known as the 80/20 rule. In short, this principle states that 80% of results will come from just 20% of the action.

Thus, when applied to the growth example, 80% of the new sources of growth will come from 20% of the programs or services. If we're using a meeting as an example, then 80% of the value will come from 20% of the discussion. The key is to understand which activities are providing the most results and focus in those areas. This principle holds up remarkably well in many areas, both simple and complex, thus it can be a very powerful tool for our innovation.

I am challenging myself in 2017 to always endeavor to step back and look at a situation, project, program, task, etc. and ask that critical question, what part of this is the 20% that will provide the 80% success? Or as I like to say what part will "move the needle". Throughout our association wherever feasible, I encourage everyone to seek to streamline how we operate and manage the vast and diverse offerings we have. Within our overall structure, we made countless strides in this area in 2016 so my excitement for the opportunities this year is considerable. Here's to each of your successes in 2017.

As always, your questions, comments and observations are welcomed at vbarry@texas.usta.com.

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