

Brymer Looking to Make History at The Ojai

University High of Irvine senior Gage Brymer is well aware of the history of one of the oldest and most prestigious events at The Ojai.

This year, Brymer is trying to become the first player in almost 80 years to capture three straight Boys' Interscholastic CIF titles at Ojai. The last player to do so was none other than Bobby Riggs from Franklin High who won three straight from 1934-1936.

The Farnam Cup, also called The Ojai Valley Tennis Club Cup is the oldest of the Ojai Valley Tennis Tournament perpetual trophies and was first presented in 1902. Every available space is covered with the names of those who've won it, even the inside, the handles and the bottom. The later names were re-engraved on the pedestal plate, according to Tony Thatcher's 100-year book on the history of The Ojai.

Allen Fox, Billy Martin, Rick Leach, Jeff Tarango and Robert Kendrick are just some of the great players who have won Boys' Interscholastic titles at The Ojai.

"I've always been impressed with the professional atmosphere of the tournament," Brymer said. "Being surrounded by the top junior, CIF, college and open players, all at the same tournament, is a truly remarkable experience for a junior player. Just seeing pictures of the champions as you walk into LibbeyPark, and seeing the names of the Wall of Champions really leaves a lasting impression on the younger players."

Following his first CIF victory in the finals two years ago, Brymer said he recalled winning the final against Johnny Wang of San Marino High and playing next to a Pac-10 semifinal match. After he won, he was congratulated by UCLA Coach Martin. "That was an unforgettable moment that will stay with me forever," Brymer said.

The UCLA-bound Brymer will have some stiff competition this year if he is to make history and win his third straight title.

Corona del Mar is once again a Southland powerhouse led by its top player Alec Adamson, who will play at UC Davis next year, and junior Carson Williams. NewportHarbor boasts sophomore stud Reese Stalder and Los Alamitos has a strong 1-2 punch with senior Camden Marco and freshman Riley Smith, who is the son of USC men's coach Peter Smith. Smith will likely play in the Boys' 16s division this year. Palos Verdes High also has the son of a former Ojai champion as Tracy Austin's son Dylan Holt is playing in the top doubles spot for PV High along with Brett Landon.

Thousand Oaks High traditionally is one of the top Ventura County high schools represented at The Ojai. The top two Lancers' players are Chris Lees and Daniel Minami.