

Youth Tennis

The planning and executing of The Ojai Tennis Tournament takes many months of hard work of many hundreds dedicated volunteers. Actually, the Ojai Valley Tennis Club (OVTC) has a very important secondary year-round activity, and that is to conduct and support various programs that introduce and encourage the participation in the sport of tennis among the Ojai Valley Youths.

The Youth Tennis Committee of the OVTC organizes, executes and supports several youth tennis related events throughout the year. The committee members and many additional volunteers make this possible along with the generous donations of Ojai residents and organizations.

The committee works with the Ojai Rec Department, the Ojai Unified School District and just about all Ojai tennis coaches who donate their time and expertise to develop and popularize tennis among the Ojai Valley Youths.

During The Ojai Tournament on Thursday just before the BBQ Sportsmanship Awards, including the Lucking Trophy, will be presented to worthy youth tennis enthusiasts, nominated by Ojai teaching pros. Also on the Thursday afternoon during the tournament a "Ten and Under" formerly called "Quick Start" Challenge will be held at the lower Libbey courts. This is the culmination of the "Ten and Under" program that has taken place at all Ojai Valley Elementary Schools throughout the school year. Interested and capable players are invited to demonstrate their newly acquired skills and "challenge" each other in Quick Start format. Prizes and trophies and pride for all.

In late spring the "High Performance Clinic" is organized where all of the Ojai area tennis teaching pros are sharing their technical knowledge and strategy with a selected group of youth tennis players for a day. During the Christmas/New Year holiday a very interesting and much appreciated "Parent/Child" tournament takes place where 64 players (32 youth and 32 adults) form teams and play a full always eventful back-draw tournament. This is a wonderful family event which helps to bring some additional healthy activity into the holidays.

In addition the OVTC provides funding to the Ojai Recreation Department to support the youth tennis programs, like the Youth Team Tennis, group and individual lessons and the VCJTA tournaments held in the Ojai Valley during the year. These programs for our youth are made possible by the generous contributions of sponsors like Mike Taggart, a local philanthropist and tennis fan, the USTA and SCTA, the Ojai Rec. Department, Ojai Community Bank, Ojai Rotary and especially the OVTC who all made donations from time to time.

If you like to help in this effort please send your tax deductible contribution to the OVTC Youth Tennis P.O. Box 482 OJAI, Ca. 93024. For more information please contact Jakob Vos, Chair Youth Tennis Activities at JHMOVOS@AOL.COM