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## **Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott To Be Honored At Storied Ojai Tennis Tournament**

***Tickets Now On Sale for Special Event Fundraiser, Which Will Include Tennis Hall of Famer Tracy Austin and Pac-12 Men's Tennis Player of the Century Steve Johnson***

OJAI, Calif. (April 9, 2019) – International Tennis Hall of Famer Tracy Austin and the greatest singles players in Pac-12 history and past Ojai champion Steve Johnson have been added to a special night honoring Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott at the upcoming 119<sup>th</sup> Ojai Tennis Tournament.

The special fundraiser will take place on Friday night, April 26, at the Ojai Vineyard Tasting Room, next to the tournament's headquarters at downtown Ojai's venerable Libbey Park.

The event is a fundraiser for the Ojai Valley Tennis Club and funds raised will be used to expand and support youth tennis programs and tournaments in Ojai, as well as enhance Libbey Park and local school tennis facilities and support funding for The Ojai Tennis Tournament.

The 54-year-old Scott has been the Pac-12 Commissioner since 2009. He previously served as chairman and CEO of the Women's Tennis Association and as president and COO of ATP Properties, a division of the Association of Tennis Professionals. A former Harvard University captain of the tennis team, Scott went on to play on the ATP Tour in the mid-1980s.

In 2016 the Pac-12 celebrated 100 years and named an All-Century team in which the former USC Trojan Johnson was bestowed the honor of Pac-12 Men's Tennis Player of the Century. Johnson won NCAA team titles in all four seasons and won two NCAA singles titles (2011-12) with the USC Trojans. Johnson finished 2011 and 2012 as No. 1 college player for USC, ending with 72 straight wins. He was the 2011 2012 ITA Player of the Year and Pac-12 Player of the Year. Johnson was also part of the 2009, 2010 and 2012 Pac-12 Doubles Team of the Year.

The Rolling Hills resident Austin is no stranger at The Ojai and was last year's tournament honoree. Her son Brandon is a former Ojai CIF champion and currently the No. 1 player at USC. She first burst onto the tennis scene winning The Ojai in 1977 (women's open) and 1978 (Girls' 16s), just one year before becoming the youngest player to win the US Open at the age of 16. The former world No. 1 beat Martina Navratilova in the semifinals and Chris Evert in the final at that 1979 US Open, and was later named that year's Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year.

Austin went on to win 30 singles titles and five doubles titles during her amazing career. Austin holds the distinction as being the youngest player to be inducted into the International Hall of Fame in 1992. She can be seen at tennis' top events and has been the face of the U.S. Open for more than 20 years for USA Network and Tennis Channel.

The Dianne Miller Band will perform at the fundraiser, which will also include a Q&A session with Austin interviewing Scott and Johnson. The cost of the fundraiser is \$130. For more information and to purchase tickets online, go to: [www.TheOjai.net](http://www.TheOjai.net) or click [HERE](#).

In recent years, Ojai Tournament honorees have included Austin, former Grand Slam champion Rod Laver, former world No. 1, Wimbledon champion and USC All-American Stan Smith, and legendary former Stanford coach Dick Gould.

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**About The Ojai**

The Ojai Valley Tennis Club, Inc., is a non-profit organization that was established in 1895 by William Thacher. In 1896, the Ojai Valley Tennis Club initiated its first valley-wide tournament consisting of a single elimination mixed doubles event and The Ojai was born. Today the Ojai Valley Tennis Club is still running The Ojai but has broadened its mission to promoting interest in physical fitness and tennis, and providing recreational facilities for young people throughout the area.