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## **Ojai Tennis Tournament Names Six Past Grand Slam Champions on its Wall of Fame as Honorees for 121<sup>st</sup> Edition of its Storied Event, April 26-30**

***Tickets On Sale at [TheOjai.net](http://TheOjai.net) for Tournament Week, Which Includes Special Fundraiser Event on Friday, April 28, at Ojai Valley Museum***

OJAI, Calif. (April 12, 2023) – The Ojai Valley Tennis Club has unveiled its newly designed Wall of Fame at storied Libbey Park in downtown Ojai, and tournament organizers have announced that six of the names on that wall will be honored at this year’s Ojai Tennis Tournament.

Started in 1896 and headquartered at Libbey Park, the venerable and classic tournament will play its 121<sup>st</sup> edition April 26-30. Ojai legend and International Tennis Hall of Famer **Tracy Austin** – who first burst onto the tennis scene at The Ojai before becoming the youngest player to ever win the US Open at just 16-years-old – will return as one of the Tournament Honorees to be celebrated along other special guests, including 12-time Grand Slam champion **Rosie Casals**, former World No. 1 doubles player **Rick Leach**, legendary UCLA coach **Billy Martin**, three-time Grand Slam champion **Peggy Michel**, and French Open doubles champion **Pam Teeguarden**.

There are 93 names of all-time greats on the Ojai Wall of Fame. Players like Bobby Riggs, Jack Kramer, Billie Jean King, Pancho Gonzales, Arthur Ashe, Stan Smith, Pete Sampras, Lindsay Davenport, Michael Chang and Mike and Bob Bryan played The Ojai before winning a Grand Slam title.

The Ojai will once again serve as host to the Pac-12 Championships and the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) State Championships for teams and individuals that qualify.

The Ojai’s Men’s and Women’s Open singles and doubles events will be contested with an overall purse of \$25,000, with both the men’s and women’s singles winners taking home \$5,000. The tournament also includes the Boys’ CIF singles and doubles tournaments, and more junior competitions with the Boys’ and Girls’ 14s and 16s draws, and a Girls’ 18s draw.

Players can enter The Ojai by clicking on the link at [www.TheOjai.net](http://www.TheOjai.net) and clicking on the 'PLAYER INFO' tab.

The six tournament honorees for 2023 will be feted at The Ojai and honored at The Ojai's traditional tournament week fundraising event – an exclusive evening featuring food, wine and personal tennis memories from each of the players – on Friday, April 28 at 6 p.m. at the Ojai Valley Museum (130 W. Ojai Ave., Ojai, CA 93023). A limited quantity of tickets (\$150 each) are available at [TheOjai.net](http://TheOjai.net) by clicking [HERE](#), with proceeds supporting the Ojai Valley Tennis Club, youth tennis programs and tournaments in Ojai, the enhancement of Libbey Park and local school tennis facilities, and The Ojai Tennis Tournament.

"The Ojai Tennis Tournament is one of the crown jewels of Southern California tennis and we are excited especially for this year's event and the unveiling of our new Wall of Fame," said Duane Williamson, President of the Ojai Valley Tennis Club. "With our unique traditions like the Tea Tent and freshly squeezed orange juice, to the top quality of play in the Open, collegiate and junior divisions, The Ojai is a one-of-a-kind tournament in the United States."

Williamson added: "Come out and watch which of this year's players will go on to win a major title and get their name added to the Wall of Fame."

In recent years, The Ojai Tennis Tournament honorees have included Austin, Ojai Wall of Famer Patrick McEnroe, iconic Grand Slam champion Rod Laver, past World No. 1, Wimbledon champion and USC All-American Stan Smith, and legendary former Stanford coach Dick Gould.

Major sponsors of The Ojai include: Crabel Capital Management, In Memory of Mike Taggart, SCTA Foundation, the Chris Lewis Family, Ojai Turtle Conservancy, Mechanics Bank, Ojai Vineyard, Q-Time BBQ, Ojai Valley Museum and Tennis-Warehouse.

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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.