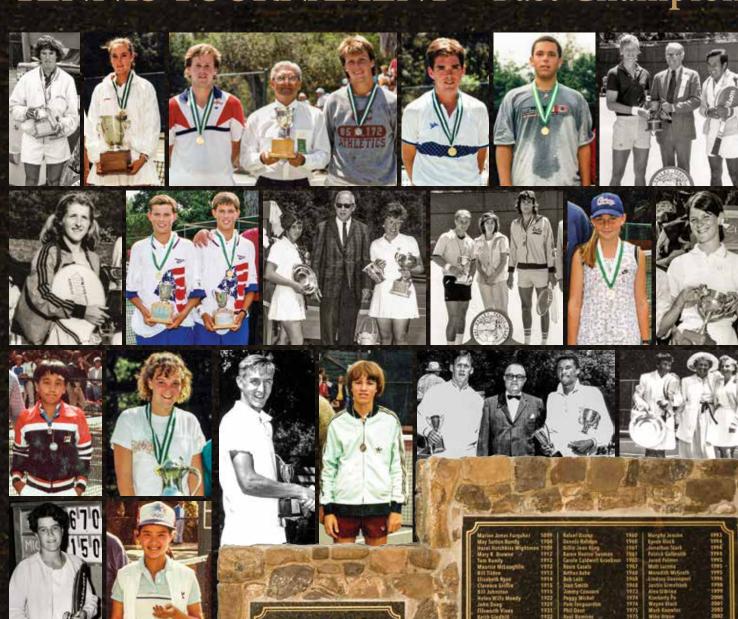
The Ojai TENNIS TOURNAMENT

121 Years Celebrating Our **Past Champions**



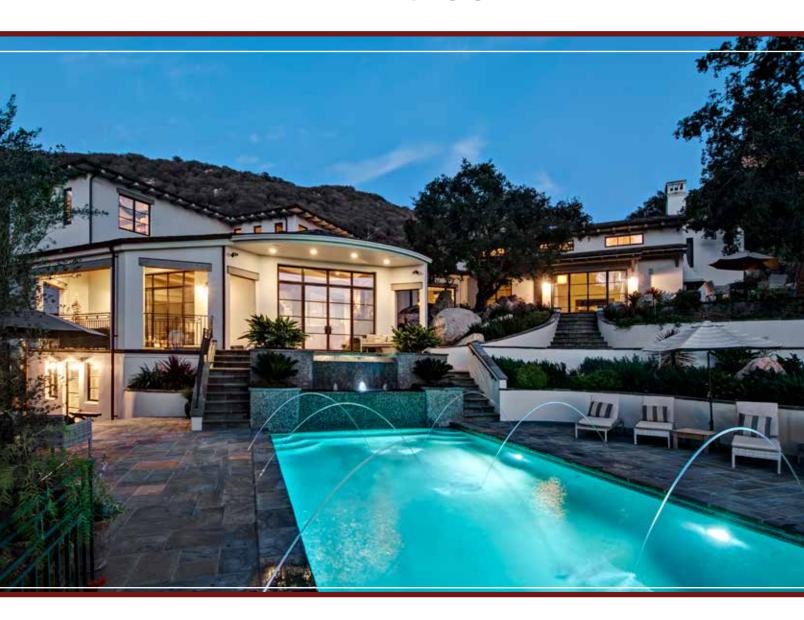
The Ojai 🏈 Wall of Fame

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Welcome Back To The Ojai!

A Letter From the President

From the Ojai Valley Tennis Club Board Members, Committee Chairs and the more than 600 volunteers, we say welcome to The Ojai!

It's because of the tireless work of all those involved that we bring you the 121st edition of The Ojai started way back in 1896 by William Thacher. This year, we are celebrating our newly updated Wall of Fame, which lists 93 players who have played The Ojai, and then went on to win a Grand Slam title in singles or doubles at the



Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon or the US Open. There are 38 of our of Wall of Famers that are also in the International Tennis Hall of Fame – a veritable who's-who list of all-time greats, including Jake Kramer, Billie Jean King, Arthur Ashe, Jimmy Connors, Pete Sampras, Lindsay Davenport, Michael Chang and Tracy Austin, just to name a few. Speaking of Tracy, she will once again be joining us at our annual special event fundraiser Honoring Our Past Champions Friday night, April 28, at the Ojai Valley Museum. Tracy will be joined by Ojai Wall of Fame members Rosie Casals, Rick Leach, Billy Martin, Peggy Michel and Pam Teeguarden to recall past stories of their legendary careers. For tickets, go to www.TheOjai.net.

Maybe this is your first time experiencing the freshly squeezed orange juice, or sipping tea under the tent from the silver urns. Or maybe you've been coming to The Ojai for years. However many years it has been, we say welcome back and we hope you enjoy all the great tennis and traditions at The Ojai.

Duane Williamson

OVTC Board President

COVER PHOTO: From top left clockwise row by row: Members of the Ojai Wall of Fame include: Eliot Teltscher, Debbie Graham, Patrick McEnroe & Luke Jensen, Patrick Galbraith, Scott Lipsky, Peter Fleming, Alex Olmedo; Tracy Austin, Mike & Bob Bryan, Billy Martin & Brian Teacher, Rosie Casals & Billie Jean King, Abigail Spears, Pam Teeguarden; Michael Chang, Lindsay Davenport, Stan Smith, Rick Leach, Dennis Ralston & Arthur Ashe, Dorothy Bundy Cheney, May Sutton Bundy & Darlene Hard; Peggy Michel, Kimberly Po.



Photo by Holly Roberts/OVTC

Once again this year, fans will flock to Ojai's storied Libbey Park for the five-day tournament.













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••• 2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS •••

The Ojai 121st Annual Tennis Tournament

Depending on the venue, play generally starts at 8am or 9am and continues throughout the day. Schedule is subject to change without notice.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

Ojai Valley Athletic Club and Weil Tennis Academy:

 Open Men's and Women's Singles Qualifying Rounds

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

Libbey Park:

• Pac-12 Men's Team Dual Match (Noon)

Weil Tennis Academy:

• Pac-12 Women's Team Dual Matches (9:00AM, Noon, and 3:00PM)

VENTURA SITES:

Ventura College:

 Community College Men's (1:00PM)
 Women's (10:0AM) Dual Match State Championships

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

OJAI SITES:

Libbey Park:

• Pac-12 Men's Team Dual Matches (9:00AM, Noon, 3:00PM, 6:00PM)

Ojai Valley Inn:

• Open Men's Singles

Weil Tennis Academy:

• Pac-12 Women's Team Dual Matches (9:00AM, Noon, 3:00PM, 6:00PM)

Ojai Valley Athletic Club

CIF Boys' Singles

Ojai Valley School Upper Campus:

• CIF Boys' Doubles

The Thacher School:

• CIF Boys' Singles and Doubles

Villanova Preparatory School:

CIF Boys' Doubles

VENTURA SITES:

Pierpont Racquet Club:

• Community College Women's Singles & Doubles

Buena High School:

Community College Women's Singles
 Doubles

Ventura College:

 Community College Women's Singles & Doubles

Channel Islands High School:

Community College Men's Singles
 Doubles

Oxnard High School:

• Community College Men's Singles & Doubles

Hueneme High School:

• Community College Men's Singles & Doubles

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

OJAI SITES:

Libbey Park:

- Pac-12 Men's Team Dual Matches (1:00PM and 4:00PM)
- CIF Boys' Singles (8:00AM)
- CIF Boys' Doubles (9:30AM)

Weil Tennis Academy:

• Pac-12 Women's Team Dual Matches (Noon and 3:00PM)

Ojai Valley Athletic Club

- CIF Boys'Singles and Doubles Quarterfinals
- Junior Boys' 16s Singles
- Juniors Girls' 14s

Ojai Valley Inn:

- Open Men's Singles & Doubles
- Open Women's Singles

Ojai Valley School Upper Campus:

• Junior Girls' 18s Singles & Doubles

The Thacher School:

• Junior Boys' 14s Singles

Villanova Preparatory School:

• Junior Girls' 16s Singles

Private Courts (Near Ojai Village):

• Junior Girls' 14s, 16s, 18s Singles

VENTURA SITES:

Pierpont Racquet Club:

• Community College Men's & Women's Singles & Doubles

Oxnard High School:

• Community College Men's Singles & Doubles

Ventura College:

• Community College Women's Singles & Doubles

Buena High School:

Community College Women's Singles
 Doubles

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

ALL EVENTS IN OJAI:

Libbey Park:

 CIF Boys' Semis Singles and Doubles Semifinals (8:00AM)

- Junior Boys'14s and Girls'14s Quarterfinals (8:00AM & 9:30)
- CIF Boys' Singles and Doubles Finals (11:00PM)
- Pac-12 Women's Team Final Dual Match (3:00 PM)
- Pac-12 Men's Team Final Dual Match (6:00PM)

Ojai Valley Athletic Club and Weil Tennis Academy:

- Community College Men's & Women's Singles and Doubles
- Junior Semifinals (1:30PM & 3:00PM)

Ojai Valley Inn:

- Open Men's Singles and Doubles Semifinals
- Open Women's Singles Semifinals and Doubles Quarterfinals and Semifinals

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

ALL MATCHES ARE FINALS AT LIBBEY PARK:

- Starting times are approximate

8:00AM

• Community College Men's & Women's Doubles Semifinals (Lower Libbey)

9:00AM

- Open Women's Singles (Court 1)
- Junior Girls' 14s,16's &18's Singles

10:30AM

- Open Men's Singles (Court 1)
- Junior Boys 14s Singles
- Community College Men's & Women's Singles

Immediately Following Open Men's Singles:

• Youth Tennis Awards (Court 1)

12:30PM

- Junior Boys' 16s Singles
- Community College Men's Doubles
- Community College Women's Doubles

1:00PM

• Open Women's Doubles

(immediately following Youth Tennis Awards)

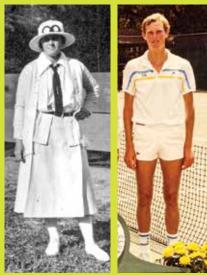
2:00PM

• Junior Girls' 18s Doubles

2:30PM

• Open Men's Doubles

Wall to Wall Champions













Ojai Wall of Fame members from left to right include: May Sutton Bundy, Jim Pugh, Phil Dent, Alex O'Brien, Wayne Black, Patty Fendick and Tony Trabert.

The Brand New Wall of Fame Allows The Ojai to Celebrate 93 Past Grand Slams Winners From Marion Jones Farquhar (1899) to Ena Shibahara (2022)

By Steve Pratt

In the year 2000 Ojai Tennis Tournament organizers had a grand plan to immortalize some of the biggest champions the game has ever known by listing their names on a Wall of Fame – three plaques displayed on stepped

rocks as you entered the courts at storied Libbey Park.

The 76 names were of players who had once played under the massive eucalyptus and oak trees on the same Libbey Park courts, and then went on to win one of tennis' Grand

Slam events – the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open – in singles, doubles or mixed doubles.

The project was spearheaded by longtime tournament volunteer Alan Rains and a committee that included Ojai tennis historians, as well as those from the offices of the Southern California Tennis Association. The committee

dove into tennis' records books and researched tennis' earliest champions, including the first name listed on the Wall of Fame – Marion Jones Farquhar from Santa Monica, who won one Ojai doubles title in the year 1909,

but more importantly before that won the United States Nationals in 1899 and again in 1901 and 1902.

"You're talking about all-time greats like Bobby Riggs, Jack Kramer, Arthur Ashe, Billie Jean King, Pancho Gonzales, Stan Smith, Jimmy Connors, Tracy Austin, and the list goes on and on,"

- Duane Williamson

Over the past 22 years it was discovered there were a few erroneous names of players who played The Ojai, but had never won a major title. And there were players missing who should have been included in 2000, such as Art Larsen from

the 1950s and Phil Dent, who in 1975 won the Australian Open in doubles and later came back to win The Ojai Men's Open doubles in 1987 while in Ojai coaching his son Taylor Dent. Just like Jones Farquhar, a "reverse Wall of Famer" having won a major before playing The Ojai.

Another important issue: Because the names were set into the bronze and not engraved, there was no way to add names for winners of Grand Slams in future years. In 2004 a small added plaque

that included the famous Bryan Brothers Mike and Bob and was placed above the middle plaque.

But what to do about the more recent majors winners like Pac-12 studs Jean-Julien Rojer of UCLA and Robert Farah of USC, not to mention former Arizona State star and Ojai winner

Desirae Krawczyk, who won the first of her four Grand Slam mixed doubles titles at the 2021 French Open. And the most recent addition Ena Shibahara, who won the Ojai Women's Open doubles as a high schooler, played for UCLA and

captured her first Grand Slam title at the French Open in mixed doubles in 2022.

After 22 years, it was time to re-build the wall and recognize these champions year by year, as the wall was not only in dire need of updates, but a newly designed look as well.

Following the 2019 tournament, tournament organizers gathered and began volleying around ideas to re-do the Wall of Fame. I, as the Tennis Publicity

and Marketing Chairman spearheaded a new committee set out to basically re-build the Wall of Fame.

Then Covid hit and we were left with two years of no tennis at The Ojai. We knew it was important to keep the legacy and history alive for the tournament by updating the Wall of Fame,



In 1991, Stanford's Jared Palmer, at left, and Jonathan Stark won the Pac-10 doubles title before going on to win Grand Slams.











The 121st Ojai Tennis Tournament 2023

From left to right: Keith Gledhill, Hank Pfister, John Doeg, Bob Lutz and Karen Susman Hantze (on the left).

but our ideas and planning were all put on hold until tennis returned to The Ojai.

I had the support of Ojai Valley Tennis Club President Duane Williamson, who agreed the history and tradition of players who had played

The Ojai was indeed remarkable and needed to be preserved.

"You're talking about all-time greats like Bobby Riggs, Jack Kramer, Arthur Ashe, Billie Jean King, Pancho Gonzales, Stan Smith, Jimmy Connors, Tracy Austin, and the list goes on and on," Williamson said. "We all felt it was so important to keep

the Wall of Fame going and that it was time for a fresh new look."

The Ojai Board of Directors were unanimous in voting for the removal of the old bronze plaques, and the insertion of new Laurentian green granite stone panels with classy gold lettering. Interestingly, the Ojai Valley Museum Director Wendy Barker got word of that the bronze plaques would be coming down and requested them to be kept at the museum once dis-assembled.

Word got around that the Wall was going to be re-constructed. The OVTC Fundraising Committee, led by the likes of Sandi Dawson, Mark Weil, Leslie Gache and others, came up with the idea to have a special unveiling for tournament VIP and Patrons.

"When I first started playing at The Ojai as a young junior, I remember walking through Libbey Park and seeing the names on the Wall of Fame," Shibahara said. "It's amazing to think that now my name will be added to that illustrious list of players - like Lindsay Davenport, Pete Sampras and Michael Chang - who played The Ojai and went on to win a Grand Slam."

- Ena Shibahara

All-time great and Wall of Famer Tracy Austin said: "The Ojai has always done a tremendous job in preserving its history and celebrating all of the great champions who have passed through storied Libbey Park. Seeing the names on the Wall of Fame provides an inspiration to the

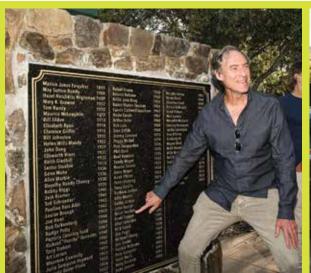
juniors and college players who someday hope to achieve the same success as those who have come before them."

SB Monumental in Santa Barbara was commissioned to order the new panels and handle all the engraving prepared in artwork files by Oak View's Katie Fagan, my Publicity Co-Chair for The Ojai, who left room at the bottom of the third column for names to be engraved in future years and every time another former Ojai player wins a Grand Slam title.





On April 1, a special Ojai Tennis Tournament Patrons event was held to unveil the new Wall of Fame.





At left, former UCLA All-American Brian Teacher was the special guest that helped celebrate the new Wall of Fame. Committee members I to r: Steve Pratt, George Conrad, Katie Fagan, Tina Leslie, Craig Fugle and Duane Williamson.

I sought out the help of noted tennis author and International Tennis Hall of Famer Historian Joel Drucker who was commissioned to review all the names. Drucker asked about a Clarence

Griffin, who had won US National doubles titles with Ojai Wall of Famer Bill Iohnston in 1915. 1916 and 1920. I quickly called up the Record of Events and saw a Clarence Griffin, who happened to be the uncle of the TV personality Mery Griffin, had lost in the Men's Open singles final in 1906.

Bingo! A lost Ojai Wall of Famer had been found and Griffin's name will

be added to the total number of the present 93 other names on the wall.

From Marion Jones Farquhar to the last player to win a Major – Ena Shibahara in 2022 – the Wall of Fame number now stands at 93, and now there is room under Shibahara's name for

new players to be sand-blasted on the wall after the next name is ready to be added.

"When I first started playing at The Ojai as a young junior, I remember walking through Libbey Park and seeing the names on the Wall of Fame," Shibahara said. "It's amazing to think that now my name will be added to that illustrious list of players - like Lindsay Davenport, Pete Sampras and

Michael Chang – who played The Ojai and went on to win a Grand Slam."



The 93 names on the updated Wall of Fame, 38 of which are players currently in the International Tennis Hall of Fame.









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From Ojai to Melbourne

This year's first Grand Slam included 19 former Ojai players:



ASU's Desirae Krawczyk
Ojai: 2011 Open doubles champion
2023 Aussie: Semis mixed doubles



Taylor Fritz
Ojai: 2013 CIF singles finalist
2023 Aussie: 2nd round singles



USC's Giuliana Olmos Ojai: 2014 Pac-12 doubles champion 2023 Aussie: 3rd round doubles



UCLA's Jean-Julien Rojer
Ojai: 2002 Pac-12 doubles champion
2023 Aussie: Quarters doubles



UCLA's Mackie McDonald
Ojai: 2013 Open singles champion 2023 Aussie: 3rd round singles



UCLA's Marcos Giron
Ojai: 2011 Open singles champion 2023 Aussie: 1st round singles



USC's Kaitlyn Christian & Sabrina Santamaria Ojai: 2012-13 Pac-12 doubles champions 2023 Aussie: Christian 1st round, Santamaria 2nd round doubles



USC's Brandon Holt
Ojai: Pac-12 team champion 2023 Aussie: 2nd round singles



UCLA's Ena Shibahara
Ojai: 2014-15 Open doubles champion
2023 Aussie: Finals doubles



Claire Liu Ojai: 2014 Open doubles finalist 2023 Aussie: 2nd round singles



UCLA's Max Cressy Ojai: Pac-12 team champion 2023 Aussie: 2nd round doubles



Jenson Brooksby
Ojai: Open singles semifinalist
Aussie Open: 3rd round singles



USC's Brandon Nakashima Ojai: Played juniors 2023 Aussie: 1st round singles



USC's Yannick Hanfmann Ojai: Pac-12 team champion 2023 Aussie: 1st round singles



USC's Angela Kulikov Ojai: No. 1 doubles 2023 Aussie: 1st round doubles



USC's Robert Farah
Ojai: 2010 Pac-12 singles champion
2023 Aussie: 3rd round doubles



Cal's Ben McLachlan Ojai: No. 1 singles 2023 Aussie: 2nd round doubles



UCLA's Catherine Harrison
Ojai: 2015 Pac-12 singles champion
2023 Aussie: 1st round doubles



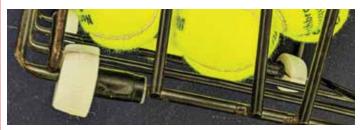


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Legendary Leader

UCLA's Longtime Mentor Billy Martin celebrates his 40th season guiding the Bruins at The Ojai, where he first burst onto the scene winning junior and college titles in the 1970s.

Editor's Note: The following story was published in the UCLA Daily Bruin commemorating UCLA men's coach Billy Martin's 40th season at the helm of the Bruins' program. As a member of The Ojai Wall of Fame, Martin will be honored at this year's tournament.

By Jack Nelson

Billy Martin long resisted the idea of coaching.

The thought of spending his days in an office was unappealing in and of itself.

"I'm not a coat-and-tie guy, never have been," Martin said.

Even when his playing days came to a close, those thoughts remained unchanged. It took his parents' insistence and his mentor's persuasion to finally reel him into the coaching world.

Martin's 30th year as head coach of UCLA men's tennis – and his 40th since he first stepped in as an assistant – is underway. He's the not-so-newest face on the Mount Rushmore of head coaches that have spearheaded the program since 1921, with only four coaches ever having held the position.

His accolades speak for themselves. Martin boasts a career dual-match record of 630-147 and an even better mark in conference play, where he's accumulated a 173-34 resume. The five-time Pac-12 Coach of the Year has earned 15 regular-season conference titles, once rattling off a 33-match undefeated streak in regular-season conference play that spanned nearly six years.

On the national stage, the Martin-led Bruins have finished in the top five at the NCAA team championships 82.1% of the time. His crowning achievement came with the 2004-2005 team, which earned the sole NCAA team title of Martin's tenure.

At the root of all that success is a desire to win so intense that it baffled redshirt senior Patrick Zahraj back in his freshman year when he found himself in a clinching situation against USC.

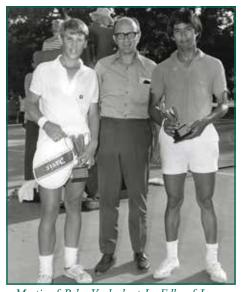
"I didn't notice it on the court, but after the match, I was wondering, 'Where's Billy?" Zahraj said. "During the tiebreaker when everything was going



Longtime UCLA coach Billy Martin spent 11 years working alongside Glenn Bassett as a player or assistant coach, and in 2019, passed him for first place on the program's all-time wins list. (Courtesy of UCLA Athletics)



Martin beat UCLA teammate Brian Teacher for the Pac-8 singles title at The Ojai in 1975.



Martin of Palos Verdes beat Joe Edles of Long Beach Poly for the high school title in 1972.

bananas over here, he was just in the tunnel apparently praying at the wall. He really has a passion for the game, and apparently if it gets too tight, it's tough to watch us."

But Martin's laundry list of accomplishments was never meant to pile up with him in the coaching chair.

After moving from Chicago to Palos Verdes, Calif., before his sophomore year of high school, Martin took the junior circuit by storm. He emerged as the victor

at the Junior Wimbledon, Junior U.S. Open and Junior Orange Bowl singles tournaments in both 1973 and 1974. It was a multiyear campaign of dominance that pushed Inside Tennis Magazine to praise him as the Junior Player of the Century.

The praise didn't dissipate once he donned the blue and gold. Martin secured the NCAA singles and team championships as a freshman for UCLA in 1975, along with an undefeated dual-match season to boot, before bursting onto the ATP Tour. Inside Tennis Magazine subsequently recognized Martin with the 1977 Rookie of the Year award.

He was drawing comparisons to the Bruin-turned-tennis-pro greats of the past, but Martin's health was not as kind to him as it was to previous program legends. Hip dysplasia forced him out of the bigs in 1982.

The young retiree soon found himself back home with his parents' demands awaiting.

"My parents were adamant when my tennis career was over at 26, saying, 'You're going back to school,'" Martin said. "I reenrolled here, much to my displeasure."

His love for Westwood still burned, but it was a love that existed on the tennis courts, not in the classroom.



Alan Rains presents trophy to Martin.

When Glenn Bassett – Martin's former coach at UCLA who still helmed the program at the time of his reenrollment – caught wind of his protege's return, he invited him to practice. He asked

Martin what he thought about the players and if he'd be interested in helping guide them.

Ashamed by his abbreviated playing career, Martin didn't jump at the offer. But after all Bassett had done for him, he elected to return the favor.

"He was a marvelous coach, and that's why I went to UCLA, but he had a way with people and was very disciplined," Martin said. "He expected nothing less than 100% of anybody, including himself, and that's the kind of personality I was, quite honestly."

Ten years of returning the favor as an assistant coach would eventually help to earn Martin the position as Bassett's successor.

Martin said the principles of Bruin tennis that Bassett expected of him are precisely what he now expects of his own players.

"If you were going to wear blue and gold, you were going to go out there and give it 110%," Martin said. "If you didn't win, OK, but you better go down fighting your hardest. I've tried to keep that tradition going."

The professional landscape of tennis has evolved since Bassett once instructed Martin on how to translate his collegiate talents, but Martin has since successfully adapted to that evolution. The top-70 trifecta of No. 41 Maxime Cressy, No. 56 Marcos Giron and No. 65 Mackenzie McDonald currently residing in the ATP singles rankings is the latest testament to the purveyor of UCLA's pro tennis pipeline. Martin products Justin Gimelstob and Jean-Julien Rojer have amassed six Grand Slam titles between the two, with Rojer most recently adding a 2022 French Open men's doubles title to his trophy case.

Player-turned-volunteer-assistant-coach Ben Goldberg said Martin's knack for enforcing next-level habits in his players contributes greatly to on-tour success.

"They do a great job of carrying themselves with professional-like behaviors here, and then they stick with it," Goldberg said. "They get out on the pro tour, and they're able to do all these habits they had here, but really just focus on tennis."

And when players arrive at UCLA expecting to leave prepared for the pros, Martin has little patience for unprofessional attitudes.

"You're kidding yourself," Martin said.
"I'm very adamant about calling a spade a spade, if one day you're going to have that attitude and the next day, not."

Beneath the blanket of successful students and accumulating awards, though, there is an undeniable passion for the game. There's a boy who fell in love with collegiate tennis while practicing with UCLA and USC as a high schooler, years before he ever stepped on the court as a Bruin.

Goldberg grew up attending Martin's



Martin celebrates another Ojai Pac-12 team title in 2013.



Martin has been a fixture at The Ojai for more than 50 years.

tennis camps and, in part because of his father's job in the athletic department, interacted with Martin regularly from a young age. He considers Martin to be the person he's looked up to most in life, outside of family.

Among a sea of legends of the game, Goldberg said, Martin's humility is what distinguishes him.

"Always respecting the opponent, whether it's our greatest year ever, that hasn't really mattered," Goldberg said. "Just the most class, and I think other people would say the same."

As a member of four separate halls of fame following a 2015 induction into the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame, Martin's legacy is secure.

But it was already secure in year 30, and few would refute it was 10 years prior.

Only men's volleyball coach Al Scates has reached the half-century tenure

in UCLA history, and Martin doesn't plan on making a run at him.

"I'm hoping I can do this another three or four more years. I'll see how it goes. But I'm going to be honest with myself," Martin said. "And I've got to know that the guys respect me, that I can be relevant."

Whatever those years hold, they won't be needed to earn Martin his seat at the legends' table.

He's sitting there comfortably, and has been for some time.



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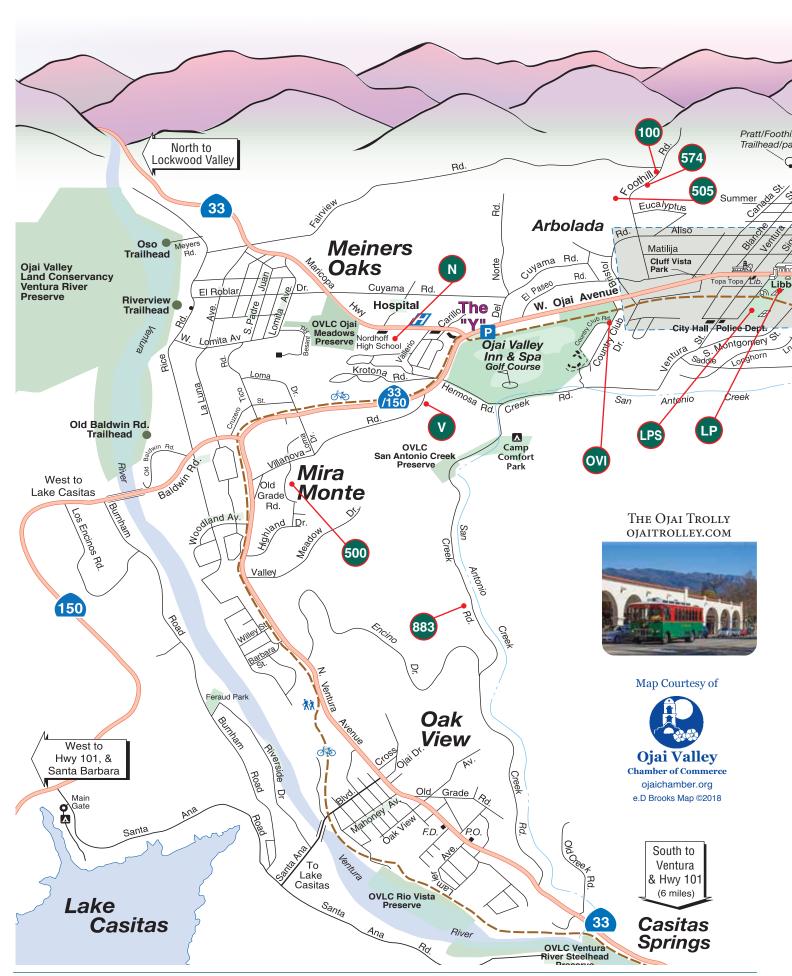
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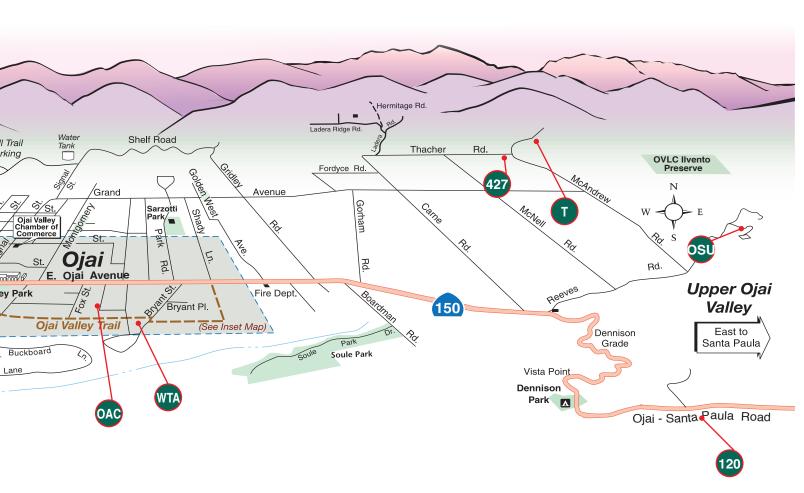


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• • 2023 Court Locations •



CODE	PRIVATE COURTS	
100	1000 Foothill Road	
120	12055 Sulphur Mtn Road	
427	4274 Thatcher Road	
500	500 W. Country Drive	
505	505 Foothill Road	
574	574 Quail Oaks Drive	
883	10883 Oak Knoll Road	

VENUE	0005	ADDRESS
VENUE	CODE	ADDRESS
Libbey Park	LP	Ojai Avenue
Libbey Park South	LPS	Ojai Avenue
Nordhoff High School	N	1401 Maricopa Hwy.
Ojai Valley Athletic Club	OAC	409 Fox St.
Ojai Valley School Upper Campus	OSU	10820 Reeves Road
Ojai Valley Inn	OVI	905 Country Club Road
Thacher School	T	5025 Thacher Road
Villanova School	V	12096 Ventura Ave.
Weil Tennis Academy	WTA	428 Bryant Circle

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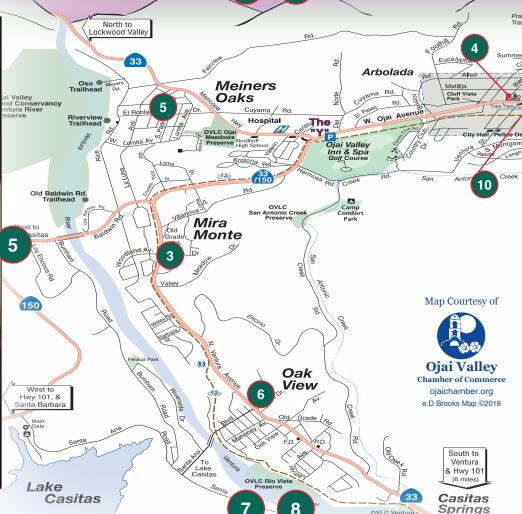
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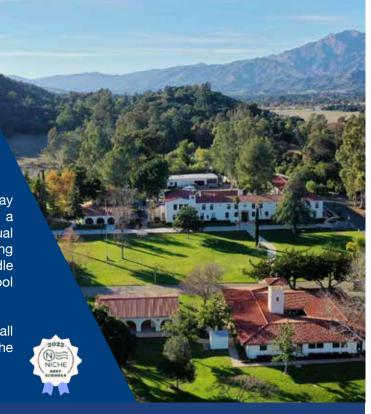




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Pac-12 & Community Colleges Preview



Former Irvine Woodbridge High star Stefan Dostanic won the Boys' CIF title at The Ojai in 2018, and is now the No. 1 player for Pac-12 powerhouse USC.

Entering April and the final month of the season, the USC men held the highest spot with a No. 8 national ITA/NCAA ranking. The Trojans are the three-time defending Pac-12 Champions, winning in both 2019 and 2022 at The Ojai, and 2021 in San Diego. USC is followed in the national rankings by No. 17 Arizona, No. 25 Stanford, No. 27 California, No. 31 Arizona State, No. 34 UCLA, No. 45 Washington, No. 55 Oregon, and No. 72 Utah.

On the women's side, the top national teams as of the March 7 rankings were: four-time defending Pac-12 champion/No. 14 Stanford, No. 25 Washington, No. 27 Arizona State, No. 36 USC, No. 44 Utah, No. 51 Oregon, No. 54 California, No. 60 Arizona, No. 64 UCLA, and No. 71 Washington State.

Here are some players to keep an eye on at The Ojai as they have been honored as this season's

Pac-12 Men's and Women's Players of the Week:

Jan. 17: Jonas Ziverts, Arizona; Maxine Murphy, Washington State

Jan. 24: Alexander Hoogmartens, UCLA; Madison Sieg, USC

Jan. 31: Peter Makk, USC; Alexandra Yepifanova, Stanford

Feb. 7: Stefan Dostanic, USC; Midori Castillo-Meza, Arizona

Feb. 14: Gustaf Strom, Arizona; Hikaru Sato, Washington

Feb. 21: Arthur Fery, Stanford; Ares Teixido Garcia, Oregon

Feb. 28: Cesar Bouchelaghem, Washington; Hikaru Sato, Washington

March 7: Max McKennon, Arizona State; Astrid Olsen, Washington

March 14: Herman Hoeyeraal, Arizona; Sasha Vagramov, UCLA

March 21: Franco Capalbo, Utah; Kimmi Hance, UCLA

March 28: Dzianis Zharyn, Washington; Alexandra Yepifanova, Stanford



Stanford has won the last four Pac-12 women's team title played at The Ojai.

Battling it out in Ojai on the men's side will be 17 ranked Pac-12 players, led by four of Stanford's finest: No. 3-ranked Nishesh Basavareddy, No. 8 Max Basing, No. 13 Arthur Fery, and No. 114 Samir Banerjee.

Additionally, 17 Pac-12 women included in the top-125 ITA rankings will dazzle crowds at The Ojai. Taking the court for fourtime defending Ojai champion Stanford will be No. 6 Connie Ma. No. 25 Alexandra Yepifanova, No. 29 Angelica Blake, and No. 75 Alexis Blokhina.

Showcasing their talents will be a pair of Calabasas residents playing for Arizona, freshman Dominique Rolland on the men's side and women's player Lexi Ryngler, who attended both Pepperdine and the University of Texas prior to becoming a Wildcat. Also hailing from Calabasas is Arizona State junior Jacob Bullard, who graduated from Calabasas High School and became a Sun Devil after transferring from Texas.

Rounding out the outstanding list of local Golden State sensations will be Stanford freshman and Thousand Oaks native Emma Sun (Westlake High) and Utah junior Charlie Spina of Valencia, who transferred from Cal Lutheran.

Community Colleges State Championships Return to The Ojai

Community college play will commence on Thursday during Ojai week with men's and women's singles and doubles matches at Ventura College. The thrilling action will continue Friday at Pierpont Racquet Club (men's) and Ventura College (women's), and on Saturday at Ojai Valley Athletic Club/Weil Tennis Academy (both men's and women's). Finally, the champions will be crowned at the finals on Sunday at historic Libbey Park.

Local players to watch include Santa Barbara City College's top player and Santa Barbara High School graduate Taylor Kleine, who will attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the fall of 2023. Joining Kleine will be SBCC teammate/freshman Daniel Truong, an alumnus of Dos Pueblos High School in Goleta.

OPEN AND BOYS' CIF PREVIEW

The granddaddy of all competitions at the Ojai Tennis Tournament, since 1899 and 1900, is the Men's and Women's Open singles and doubles events. The Open division competitors are playing for a combined total purse of \$25,000, with \$5,000 going to each of the Men's and Women's Open singles champions.

If the 21st century is any indication, Open division competition at The Ojai has trended younger to feature junior players who have used The Ojai as a springboard toward future professional careers on the ATP and WTA Tours.

The Ojai Men's event last year saw Santa Barbara native and current Harvard freshman Masato Perera capture the Men's Open singles crown before graduating from San Marcos High School.

Historically, the Men's Open event has seen the likes of Sam Querrey reach the singles final in 2006 as a Thousand Oaks High School student before embarking on a hugely successful pro career that has amassed 10 ATP singles titles and five doubles titles.

Before they enrolled at UCLA and began ATP careers, Marcos Giron and Mackenzie McDonald won The Ojai's Open singles title in 2011 and 2013, respectively. At 17, Jenson Brooksby reached the Men's Open singles semifinals in 2018. The trio is currently ranked within the world's top 75.

Grand Slam doubles champions and Southern California natives Ena Shibahara and Desirae Krawczyk won Women's Open championships at The Ojai before embarking on WTA Tour careers. Krawczyk won the Open doubles title in 2011, and Shibahara netted consecutive Open singles (2014-2015) and doubles (2015-2016) titles at Libbey Park.

All Open finals will take place at Libbey Park on Sunday, April 30. Forty percent of the overall purse towards all Open singles and doubles events comes from a tournament donation from the late Mike Taggart, The Ojai's longtime supporter and sponsor.

Boys' CIF Preview

From Ventura County all the way down to San Diego, The Ojai's Boys' CIF singles and doubles brackets (draws of 64) continue to display possibly the nation's deepest collection of quality high school tennis talent.

The Ojai returns one semifinalist – Canyon High School (Anaheim) senior and U.S. Naval Academy-bound Steve Nguyen – and one quarterfinalist – Corona del Mar junior and early USC commit Niels Hoffmann – from last year's singles tournament.

University High (Irvine), winner of The Ojai's Griggs Cup for the eighth time in 2022, reloads behind senior singles No. 1 James MacDonald and the doubles tandem of senior Ani Gupta, a Claremont-Mudd-Scripps recruit, and junior SangHyuk Im, who was The Ojai's runner-up and a CIF-Southern Section champion in doubles in 2022.

Yorba Linda junior Mason Bui, Mater Dei junior James Krantz and Villa Park sophomore Gregory Gamal round out the top singles contenders from Orange County's tennis hotbed.

Palos Verdes Peninsula is represented in singles by senior Sean Ferguson, committed to play at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and in doubles through Chris Koeberle and Takehiro Shuda.

Palisades senior Jex Frankel was the CIF



Photo by Holly Roberts/OVTC

Last year, Santa Barbara's Masato Perera won the Men's Open singles crown before graduating from San Marcos High School.

LA City Section's singles runner-up in 2022 and reached the second round in doubles at The Ojai last year.

Ventura County will rally around Oak Park junior Drew Koval, the reigning Coastal Canyon League MVP and singles champion who made The Ojai's second round last year.

A pair of brother acts are among the title contenders in The Ojai's doubles draw. Senior Kane Kelley and freshman Chase Kelley take the court for Chaminade, while senior Avery Tallakson and his freshman brother, Brayden, represent Woodbridge.

Corona del Mar junior John Cross, a 2022 CIF-Southern Section doubles runner-up, will partner with Jonathan Hinkel.

Calabasas seniors Derek Shiffer and Darius Tamaddon arrive to Ojai off a 2022 campaign that saw them reach the CIF-Southern Section Individual doubles semifinals.

Claremont junior Caleb Settles advanced to The Ojai's doubles semifinals last year and pairs with sophomore Mateen Ghafarshad this week.

Granada Hills junior Aydan Fatu, who finished third at the 2022 LA City Section singles championships, will team with David Tinajero.

Among those representing San Diego

County, The Bishop's School (La Jolla) seniors Aden Dorros and Rex Harrison might be its best doubles hope. Dorros, the singles runner-up at the 2022 CIF San Diego Section Individual Championships, reached last year's Boys' CIF doubles quarterfinals at The Ojai before enduring an injury withdrawal.

Canyon Crest Academy seniors Jackson Codd and Kyle Villeponteau reached the Boys' CIF doubles quarterfinals at The Ojai in 2022 before serving as vital cogs on the San Diego school's CIF Southern California Regional championship team. This week, Codd plays singles and Villeponteau teams with Franklin Liu in doubles.

Junior Robert Freedman will fly the singles flag for traditional tennis powerhouse Torrey Pines.



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Tournament Sanctioning Organizations

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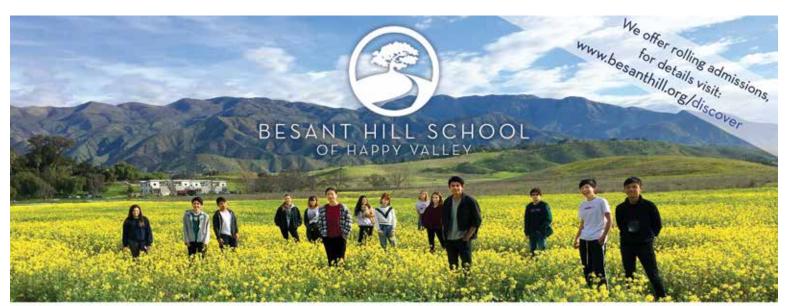
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The Tea Tent Makes the Tourney



"Tennis, tea and talk" is synonymous with the father of The Ojai Tennis Tournament, William L. Thacher, whose love for his favorite sport, beverage and pastime coalesced into the showpiece of the oldest amateur tournament in the country – Ojai's very own Tea Tent.



Exactly what makes the Tea Tent so special? Tradition.



Photos by Holly Roberts/OVTC

For over 120 years, nestled between the stately oaks and tennis courts of Libbey Park, tournament goers and players have relished the comforting ritual of afternoon tea and conversation. The Tea Tent was born in 1904 from a modest booth adorned with wildflower garlands, today's elegant tea service is served from a striking pavilion-style tent and befits the renowned caliber of champions and competition which have graced Ojai's courts for more than a century.

More than one hundred community volunteers, working in intricately orchestrated harmony, consider it a privilege to help pull off the annual fête. Polishers of exquisite urns, washers of hundreds of teacups, slicers of freshly picked lemons, sparklers of silver trays, positioners of fine table linens, all add meticulous elegance to every detail. At the appointed hour, an artistic floral arrangement designed by the Ojai Valley Garden Club magically arrives and is positioned, just so, on the table between two gleaming silver tea services. Voila! It's showtime!





Most importantly, the Tea Tent's signature hospitality is graciously

extended to every guest with the service of more than 1,500 cups of tea and thousands upon thousands of cookies from volunteers happily dressed up in Tea Tent finery.

All of this. Year after glorious year.

Perhaps the best evidence of how much this gracious tradition is revered by both volunteers and tea takers is how the stewardship of this beloved custom has been lovingly handed down, some

families having participated for three plus generations. The warm glow of a job well done was felt last year when Ojai Wall of Famer and Grand Slam Champion Patrick McEnroe accepted the invitation to return to Libbey Park's hallowed grounds as tournament honoree and specifically inquired "will the Tea Tent be open?" Truth be told, opening hours were enthusiastically adjusted to help warmly welcome one of our own storied champions back to the battleground courts of his college career. The Tea Tent never disappoints.

Tea and cookies will be served in Libbey Park near center court as follows: Thursday 1:00-4:00; Friday 2:30-5:00; Saturday 2:00-5:00; and Sunday 1:00-4:00. Please join us for "tennis, tea and talk" and enjoy the tradition!



STAY INFORMED! FOLLOW US!

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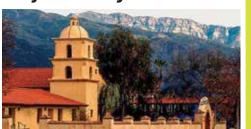
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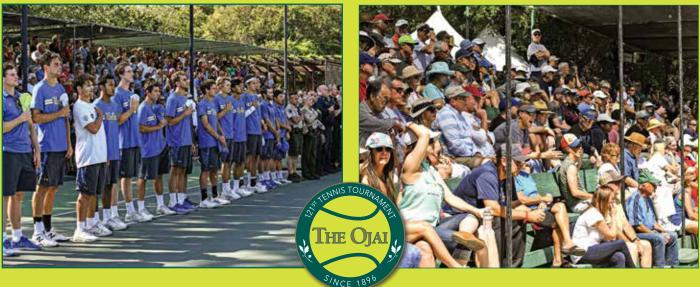
Pac-12 Finals **Libbey Park**



SATURDAY April 29 • 3pm & 6pm

Donations Critical To The Ojai's Continued Success

The Ojai Tennis Tournament is a wonderful and unique tradition dating back to the first event in 1896. It is put on each year by the Ojai Valley Tennis Club, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax-exempt organization, whose charitable mission is the promotion of interest in tennis and physical fitness by providing recreational facilities for young people and the combating of juvenile delinquency.



But The Ojai doesn't just happen.

It requires the dedicated efforts of literally hundreds of officials and volunteers, not only at tournament time but throughout the year.

It also requires money.

Alas, each year, tournament expenses have been increasing, especially as the Tennis Club continues its efforts to expand and modernize The Ojai Tournament and generally improve The Ojai experience for players and spectators alike.

In order to help offset the raising expenses the Ojai Valley Tennis Club has created a Patrons Organization.

The Patrons are individuals dedicated to financially help sustain the excellence of the Ojai Tennis Tournament and tennis overall in the Ojai Valley.

Proceeds from the Patrons are being used to make enhancements to the venerable Libbey Park and other capital improvements to various tennis facilities in Ojai. These facilities not only are essential to the conducting of The Ojai Tournament, but are used during the year by thousands of young people throughout the Ojai Valley and surrounding areas.

It is very important for the OVTC to continually have our Patron support to sustain the wonderful commitments to the tournament and youth tennis.

There are two ways to contribute to the Ojai Valley Tennis Club.

One is through the Patron organization, and for more information contact OVTC President Duane Williamson at duanewill31@yahoo.com.

The second way is to make a one-time contribution by sending a check made out to Ojai Valley Tennis Club to the address below:

OVTC, PO Box 482, Ojai, CA 93024

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Ojai Tennis Tournament!

Holiday Tennis Challenge Makes



Photo by Holly Roberts

More than 60 jubilant junior and adult players gathered for the 10th annual Jakob Vos Holiday Tennis Challenge.

The 10th Annual Jakob Vos Holiday Tennis Challenge returned to Libbey Park on Saturday, Jan. 7, following a two-year Covid hiatus.

The unique event paired 32 doubles teams composed of one adult and one child in a bracket format. Win or lose, grace and sportsmanship was demonstrated by all.

This year, 64 youth and adult players competed in either the In To Win or In for Fun divisions and were treated to a delicious lunch by Toppers Pizza in between match play.

As so many wanted to participate in the In To Win group, organizers decided to put anyone under age 13 in the more fun and less competitive division.

At the end of this special day, Mark Harradine and Luca Falvo defeated father-son team Danny and Cole Everett in the finals of the In To Win division, while Alan Siu and Kira Branson won the consolation match over Andy and Clark Werner.

Additionally, mother-son duo Bernadette and Noah Perttula of Simi Valley captured the In For Fun finals over Christian and Chris Montecino, while Cortney Rasura and Zach Powers took the consolation division over Andrew and Maddox Fritz.

Over the course of the spectacular special event, the Ojai Youth Tennis Committee raised \$1,000 to help fund Ojai Recreation Department tennis programs, as well as each year's High Performance Clinic, Sportsmanship Awards, and Quickstart Tennis Program in local elementary schools.

Craig Fugle, the event's tireless organizer, compressed what is normally a two-day event into one due to forecasted rain and storms that hit the Ojai Valley in the days leading up to the event.

Regardless of what the weather has in store, Fugle is leaning toward keeping this year's abbreviated format at next year's Holiday Tennis Challenge.

"This one-day event was such a tremendous success among players and spectators," Fugle said. "The new format brought out more fans to watch the semis and finals."

More than two-and-a-half months after the Holiday Challenge, the 16th Annual Ojai High Performance

Triumphant Return to Ojai



Photo by Holly Roberts

From left to right the father-son runners-up Cole and Danny Everett pose with event organizers Craig Fugle and Jakob Vos alongside the winning team of Luca Falvo and Mark Harradine.

Clinic took place Saturday, March 25, at Libbey Park for the second consecutive year following a two-year hiatus.

More than 50 youth tennis players hailing from Ojai, Ventura, Camarillo, and Simi Valley participated, and were joined by an outstanding group of eight coaches and many enthusiastic volunteers.

In the morning sessions, groups of six players rotated as the highly skilled instructors taught a different skill on each court.

Next up for the Ojai Youth Tennis Committee is the annual Sportsmanship Awards to be presented on Libbey Park's Court One at Noon on the final day of the Tournament, Sunday, April 30.

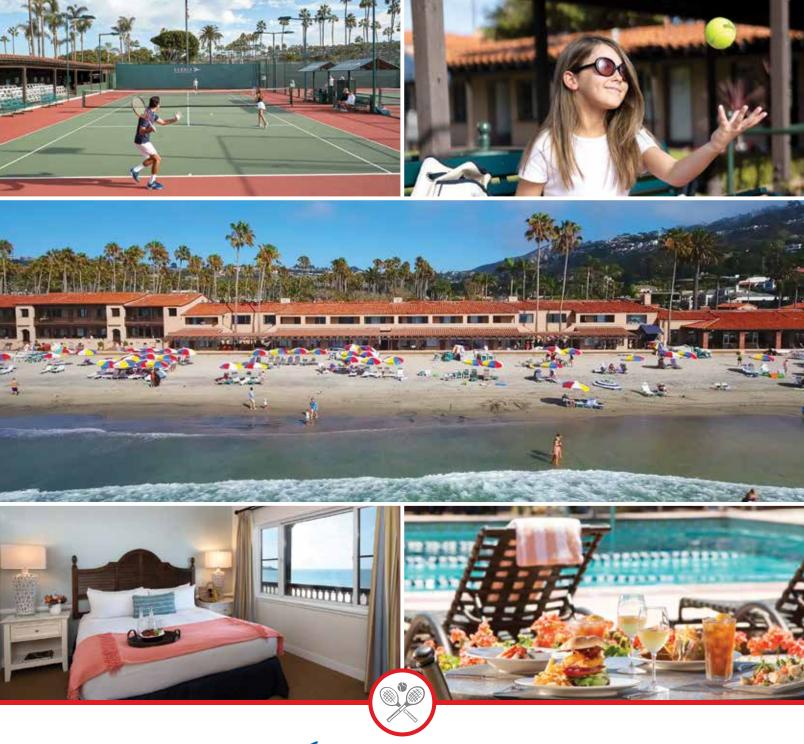
John Veit contributed to this report.



Photo by Paul Del Signore

Local High Performance juniors took part in a clinic taught by local teaching pros.

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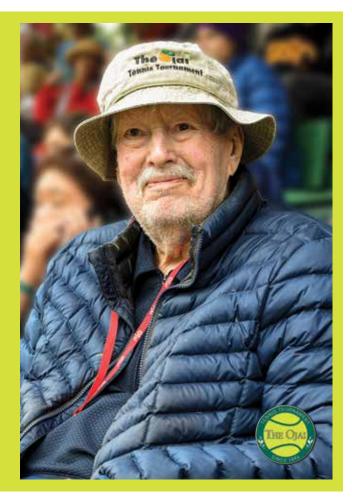
In Appreciation of Mike Taggart

Mike Taggart loved holding court and talking about The Ojai Tennis Tournament – an event he first attended some 60-plus years ago when he worked as a lines judge calling matches that included greats like Arthur Ashe, Billie Jean King, Stan Smith and Jimmy Connors.

Back in 2003, Taggart – a retired English professor – began giving some of his own personal wealth to the Ojai Valley Tennis Club to attract better players in the men's and women's Open division. Taggart passed away in the summer of 2019 in Michigan, but his generousity and kindness will never be forgotten.

"I always say this is the most underappreciated tournament on the planet," Taggart once said. "Once you see it, you're hooked."

THANK YOU to the Taggart Family for their continued support of The Ojai!



THE OJAI MERCHANDISE

Take a piece of the 121st tournament home with you & pick up something from our merchandise tent. This year's artwork was designed & printed locally.

Unisex shirts, hats, & hoodies are available in 2 different designs unique to this year. Quantities are limited.

See pictures of the merchandise on our social media pages & follow for updates:











PAST FINALISTS

Boys' CIF-SS Interscholastic Singles Championship Champion & Finalist



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2019-Aditya Gupta (University-Irvine) Wally Thayne (Newbury Park)

2018-Stefan Dostanic (Woodbridge)

Benjamin Gollin (La Jolla Country Day)

2017-Jake Sands (Palisades)

Stefan Dostanic (Woodbridge)

2016-Connor Hance (Peninsula)

Bjorn Hoffmann (Corona del Mar)

2015-Michael Genender (Harvard-Westlake) Bjorn Hoffmann (Corona del Mar)

2014-Austin Rapp (Palm Desert)

Michael Genender (Harvard-Westlake)

2013-Gage Brymer (University-Irvine) Taylor Fritz (Torrey Pines)

2012-Gage Brymer (University-Irvine) Tyler Pham (Rancho Bernardo)

2011-Gage Brymer (University-Irvine)

Johnny Wang (San Marino)

2010-Clarke Spinosa (Claremont)

Denis Nguyen (Canyon-Anaheim)

2009-Marcos Giron (Thousand Oaks) Clay Thompson (Crossroads)

2008-Kyle McMorrow (Thousand Oaks) Reese Milner (Crossroads)

2007-Andre Dome (Arroyo Grande) Steve Johnson (Orange)

2006-Jason Jung (West Torrance)

Andre Dome (Arroyo Grande)

2005-Michael McClune (Woodbridge) Blake Muller (Santa Barbara)

2004-Sam Querrey (Thousand Oaks) Kaes Van't Hof (Mater Dei)

2003-Jeffrey Das (Troy)

Kaes Van't Hof (Mater Dei)

2002-Doug Stewart (Malibu)

Aaron Yovan (University-Irvine)

2001-Patrick Buchanan (Servite)

Aaron Yovan (University-Irvine)

2000-Philip Sheng (Thousand Oaks) Paul Warkentin (San Marcos)

Girls' 18s-and-under Singles Championship Champion & Finalist



2022-Yimei Zhao (Ojai) Isabella Asenov (Ojai)

2019-Zoe Olmos (Fremont) Natalie Duffy (Hemet)

2018-Eryn Cayetano (Corona) Nicole Mossmer (La Jolla)

2017-Cali Jankowski (Carlsbad)

Charlotte Chavatinon (Fullertor

Charlotte Chavatipon (Fullerton) **2016**-Alexa Ryngler (Calabasas)

Tatum Burger (Steamboat Springs, Colo.)

2015-Ryan Peus (Palos Verdes Estates) Seira Shimizu (Ojai)

2014-Hanna Chang (Fontana)

Ryan Peus (Palos Verdes Estates)

2013-Monica Robinson (Valley Center) Meredith Xepoleas (Huntington Beach)

2012-Alison Ho (Thousand Oaks) Meredith Xepoleas (Huntington Beach)

2011-Tess Bernard-Feigenbaum (Ojai) Jessica Worring (Oxnard)

2010-Lynda Xepoleas (Ojai) Miya Jin (Rancho Palos Verdes)

2009-Monica Turewicz (Ojaj) Rio Kitagawa (Ojai)

2008-Britney Sanders (Chino) Kaitlyn Christian (Orange)

2007-Pamela Montez (La Quinta) Catherine Isip (Anahiem)

2006-Gail Brodsky (Ojai)

Marianna Khachatryan (Burbank)

2005-Kirsten Flower (Ojai) Mykala Hedberg (Oxnard)

2004-Nazlie Ghazal (Temecula)
Daron Moore (Studio City)

2003-Elizabeth Exon (Irvine)

Kady Pooler (Laguna Niguel)

2002-Elizabeth Exon (Irvine) Kady Pooler (Laguna Niguel)

2001-Kim-Ahn Nguyen (Orange)

Anne Yelsey (Corona Del Mar)

2000-Erin Burdette (Ojai) Kim-Ahn Nguyen (Orange)

PAST FINALISTS

Men's Open Singles Championship Champion & Finalist



2022-Masato Perera (Santa Barbara) Alex Kuperstein (Cathedral City)

2019-Karue Sell (Los Angeles) Raymond Sarmiento (Los Angeles)

2018-Sebastian Fanselow (Calabasas) Philip Bester (Westlake Village)

2017-Henry Craig (Murrieta) Philip Bester (Vancouver, B.C., Canada)

2016-Deiton Baughman (Carson) Brandon Holt (Rolling Hills)

2015-Philip Bester (Burnaby, B.C., Canada) Lester Cook (Marina del Rev)

2014-Dennis Novikov (Milpitas) Haythem Abid (Los Angeles)

2013-Mackenzie McDonald (Piedmont) Lester Cook (Marina del Rey)

2012-Artem Sitak (Malvern, Ariz.) Peter Lucassen (Los Angeles)

2011-Marcos Giron (Thousand Oaks) Aaron Yovan (Irvine)

2010-Lester Cook (Marina del Rey) Brian Wilson (Las Vegas)

2009-Lester Cook (Marina del Rey) Cecil Mamiit (Los Angeles)

2008-Cecil Mamiit (Los Angeles)

Lester Cook (Marina del Rey) 2007-Lester Cook (Marina del Rey)

Travis Rettenmaier (Fountain Valley)

2006-Zbynek Mlynarik (Chatsworth) Sam Ouerrey (Thousand Oaks)

2005-Cecil Mamiit (Los Angeles) Lester Cook (Marina del Rey)

2004-Michael Joyce (Los Angeles) Travis Rettenmaier (Venice)

2003-Adriano Biasella (Palm Desert) Bryan Juinio (Fresno)

2002-Peter Jeschke (Montecito) Mark Ellis (Ventura)

2001-Peter Jeschke (Montecito) Aaron Webster (Santa Barbara)

2000-Mark Ellis (Ventura) Peter Jeschke (Montecito)

Women's Open Singles Championship Champion & Finalist



2022-Chanel Simmonds (Redmond) Rebecca Lynn (Newport Beach)

2019-Mahak Jain (San Jose) Eryn Cayetano (Corona)

2018-Hanna Chang (Fontana)

Denise Starr (Brooklyn, N.Y.)

2017-Salma Ewing (Long Beach) Megan McCray (Oceanside)

2016-Ena Shibahara (Rancho Palos Verdes) Katherine Sebov (Ontario, Canada)

2015-Ena Shibahara (Rancho Palos Verdes) Emma Higuchi (Los Angeles)

2014-Katsiaryna Zheltova (Sacramento) Emma Higuchi (Los Angeles)

2013-Noelle Hickey (Hackensack, N.J.) Ashley Harkleroad (Malibu)

2012-Sachia Vickery (Ojai) Amanda Fink (Calabasas)

2011-Monica Turewicz (Ojai) Ashley Dai (Temple City)

2010-Gail Brodsky (Ojai) Olga Puchkova

2009-Pamela Montez (La Quinta) Maureen Diaz (Glendale)

2008-Pamela Montez (La Quinta) Maureen Diaz (Glendale)

2007-Gail Brodsky (Ojai) Tanya Raykova (Ojai)

2006-Kasenia Milevskaya (Ojai) Maureen Diaz (Glendale)

2005-Jessica Nguyen (Chatsworth) Amanda Fink (Calabasas)

2004-Martina Nejedly (Palm Springs) Maureen Diaz (Glendale)

2003-Martina Nejedly (Palm Springs) Dina McBride (Woodland Hills)

2002-Dina McBride (Woodland Hills) Stacy Margolin-Potter (Ojai)

2001-Dina Birch-McBride (Woodland Hills) Amanda Parson Siegel

2000-Nicole Elliott-Herrmann (San Diego) Mary Fallara (San Bernardino)

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