

TheOjai.Net

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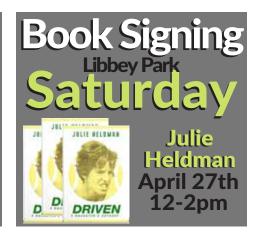


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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, April 23

• Ojai Valley Athletic Club: Men's and Women's Open Singles Qualifying Rounds

Wednesday, April 24

Libbey Park:

• One (1) Pac-12 Men's Team Dual Match Moranda Park:

Ojai Valley Athletic Club/Weil Academy:

• Three (3) Pac-12 Women's Team Dual Matches

Pierpont Racquet Club:

• Men's California Community College Team Championship

Ventura College:

• Women's California Community College Team Championship

Thursday, April 25 **OJAI SITES:**

Libbey Park:

• Four (4) Pac-12 Men's Team Dual Matches

Ojai Valley Athletic Club / Weil Academy:

- Four (4) Pac-12 Women's Team Dual Matches
- Junior Events, including CIF
- Quick Start Youth Program

Ojai Valley Inn:

• Open Men's Singles

The Thacher School:

• CIF Boys

Villanova Preparatory School:

- Junior Events
- CIF Boys

Ojai Valley School Upper Campus:

• CIF Boys

Nordhoff High School:

• Junior Events

Matilija Junior High School:

• Junior Events

Oak Grove School:

• Junior Events

Private Courts:

• Junior Events

VENTURA SITES:

Pierpont Racquet Club:

• Division III Women

Ventura College:

• Community College Women

Camino Real Park:

• Community College Women

Buena High School:

• Community College Women

OXNARD SITES:

Pacifica High School:

• Community College Men

• Community College Men

Hueneme High School:

• Community College Men

Marriott Residence Inn:

Juniors

Friday, April 26 **OJAI SITES:**

Libbey Park:

- Two (2) Pac-12 Men's Team Dual Matches
- CIF Boys

Ojai Valley Athletic Club/Weil Academy:

- Two (2) Pac-12 Women's Team Dual Matches
- Junior Events

Ojai Valley Inn:

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

The Thacher School:

• Junior Events

Villanova Preparatory School:

• Junior Events

VENTURA SITES:

Pierpont Racquet Club:

• Division III Men and Women

Ventura College:

• Community College Women

Buena High School:

• Community College Women

Camino Real Park:

• Independent Men

OXNARD SITES:

Pacifica High School:

• Community College Men

Moranda Park:

• Community College Men

Hueneme High School:

Community College Men

Saturday, April 27

ALL EVENTS IN OJAI:

The Thacher School:

- Junior Event
- CIF Boys' Simifinals

Libbev Park:

- Pac-12 Women's Team Final Dual Match. 12 Noon
- Pac-12 Men's Team Final Dual Match 3 p.m.
- CIF Boys' Finals, 6 p.m.

Lower Libbey Park:

• Selected Junior Event Semifinals

Ojai Valley Inn:

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

Ojai Valley Athletic Club/Weil Academy:

- Division III College Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles
- Independent College Men's Singles and Doubles
- Community College Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles

Sunday, April 28 Libbey Park:

(all matches are Finals, unless otherwise *indicated*; *all starting times are approximate*)

8:00 a.m.

- Select Junior Event Finals
- Community College Men's Doubles Semifinals (2) – Lower Libbey
- Community College Women's Doubles Semifinals (2) – Lower Libbey

9:30 a.m.

- Open Women's Singles
- Independent College Men's Singles
- Division III College Women's Singles
- Junior 18G Doubles

11:00 a.m.

- Open Men's Singles
- Division III Men's Singles
- Community College Men's Singles
- Community College Women's Singles

12:30 p.m.

- Open Women's Doubles
- Division III Women's Doubles
- Independent Men's Doubles
- Junior 18G Singles

2:00 p.m.

- Open Men's Doubles
- Division III College Men's Doubles
- Community College Men's Doubles
- Community College Women's Doubles



BRYAN BROS. TENNIS FEST

Sunday, Sept. 22

The Tennis Fest will once again showcase exciting tennis exhibition matches with Mike and Bob, a 12 team Pro-Am, food and wine from top area restaurants and wineries, and all capped off with an evening performance by the Bryan Bros. Band with special musical guest stars.





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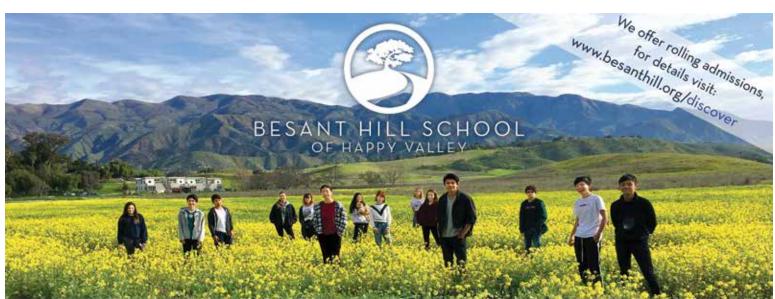


In Ojai everyone knows that the best tennis snack is an Ojai Pixie tangerine! Grown here in Ojai for you by 60 Ojai families.



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PAC-12 MEN'S **PREVIEW 2019**

The UCLA men captured the Pac-12 Championship defeating USC in

 S_{ince} the Ojai Tennis Tournament began hosting the Pac-12 Men's Dual Team Championships, USC and UCLA have hogged all of the conference titles – UCLA bearing down to emerge triumphant in 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2018, with USC fighting on to win in 2012, 2015 and 2017. UCLA downed USC, 4-1, in last year's title match.

The 2019 Pac-12 Championships at the 119th Ojai begin Wednesday at high noon and conclude with the championship match at iconic Libbey Park at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Stanford was seeded fourth in the 2018 NCAA Division I Championships before being upset in the second round and appears best positioned to upend the UCLA-USC juggernaut at The Ojai.

Stanford's top singles options and doubles team is comprised of Argentinian sophomore Axel Geller and freshman Alexandre Rotsaert, and has a battle-hardened, deep lineup which includes junior William Genesen and senior Michael Genender (The Ojai's 2015 Boys' CIF singles champ) in singles and junior Sameer Kumar and sophomore Timothy Sah in doubles.

UCLA and USC are still at the forefront of the chase for this year's Pac-12 title until it is proven otherwise.

Defending Pac-12 champ UCLA is coming off a semifinal berth in the 2018 NCAA Division I Championships – after edging USC 4-3 in a quarterfinal grudge match – and returns a young squad which features two upperclassmen in senior Maxime Cressy and junior Ben Goldberg.

Cressy and sophomore Keegan Smith, a doubles semifinalist in last year's NCAA Division I Championships and a 2015 and 2016 Boys' CIF doubles finalist at The Ojai, lead UCLA's singles ship and pair as 6-foot-7 twin towers on its top doubles team. From there, the Bruins lean on freshmen Govind Nanda and Patrick Zahraj, from Germany.

USC, arguably, has the conference's deepest singles selection led by junior and the Trojans' top player Brandon Holt, son of Ojai legend and former US Open champion Tracy Austin. Israeli sophomore Daniel Cukierman is another national top 15-ranked player and is joined in the lineup by Belgian senior Laurens Verboven and junior Riley Smith. Holt and Smith reached the 2015 U.S. Open Junior doubles finals.

Oregon and Arizona are also national top-25 squads and figure to be dark horses. The Ducks are led by a pair of Frenchmen in senior Thomas Laurent and sophomore Emmanuel Coste. The Wildcats sport a predominantly international roster led by Swedish freshman Jonas Ziverts, Swedish sophomore Filip Malbasic, and Ukranian sophomore Igor Karpovets.



Stanford's top player Axel Geller.



USC's No. 1 player Brandon Holt.



PAC-12 WOMEN'S PREVIEW 2019



Photo by Morey Spellman

Defending NCAA champion Stanford women beat UCLA for the Pac-12 title

in 2018

Why travel around the country to see how the NCAA Women's Division I Championship unfolds when there's a good chance the nation's champion is right here in Ojai this week?

A month before Stanford's women won the 2018 NCAA Division I Championship, fans flocked to last year's Ojai Tennis Tournament watched the same championship-caliber tennis when the Cardinal defeated UCLA for the Pac-12 women's championship.

Ojai tennis fans owe it to themselves to see how the final act of one of the greatest runs by a select group of Pac-12 women plays out at the third edition of the Pac-12 Women's Dual Team Championships at the 119th Ojai. The Ojai Valley Athletic Club and Weil Academy host women's Pac-12 matches Wednesday-Friday, leading up to Saturday's Pac-12 final at famed Libbey Park at high noon.

Defending Pac-12 champ Stanford's five outgoing seniors won NCAA Division I team titles in 2016 and 2018, and finished runner-up in 2017. Among this senior-laden group is Melissa Lord and the No. 1 doubles team of Caroline Lampl and Kimberly Yee. Sophomore Michaela Gordon and junior Emily

UCLA senior Ayan Broomfield.

Arbuthnott are Stanford's No. 2 doubles duo who join Lord and Lampl atop the singles lineup.

2018 NCAA Division I quarterfinalist UCLA could return to the Pac-12 final at The Ojai behind junior Jada Hart, The Ojai's 2015 champion and 2016 runner-up while competing in Open Division doubles, and freshman Elysia Bolton. Seniors Gabby Andrews and Ayan Broomfield may be the Pac-12's best doubles team, alongside Hart-Bolton.

Upstart Washington can fiercely compete with the aforementioned perennial conference powerhouses behind senior Stacey Fung and sophomore Vanessa Wong, singles stalwarts who also spearhead their top two doubles pairings.

California is strong atop its singles lineup through senior leader Olivia Hauger and sophomores Julia Rosenqvist (from Sweden) and Anna Bright, the latter two of whom split their talents among the Bears' two best doubles entries.

USC is a formidable foe and figures not to go down without a fight behind freshman singles sensation Salma Ewing. Senior Rianna Valdes and junior Angela Kulikov join Ewing atop Troy's singles ranks and are USC's No. 1 doubles duo.



Washington State clinches a match at The Ojai.



The following article is a reprint from Sports Illustrated. The Ojai Tennis Tournament has so many timeless traditions, like the Tea Tent which started in 1904, and the freshly squeezed orange juice given out each day dating back to the 1930s. After reading this article, try and guess the year it was written. See answer at end of article.





Photos courtesy OVTC These images from 1958 are the same year that Sports Illustrated printed a feature story on The Ojai Tennis Tournament.



An Ojai Explosion

A California garden spot yearly opens its sheltered, almost undiscovered beauty to a cascade of future Davis Cup stars

For 360 days of the year, the Ojai Valley of California is a serene, 18,000 acre oasis of orange groves, retired millionaires and exclusive schools, 75 miles northwest of sweaty, bustling Los Angeles. But in the last week of April the place explodes. This is the week of the annual Ojai Valley tennis tournament, an event which brings cascades of youngsters from all over California onto the sleepy streets and the mountainside tennis courts for one of the oldest youth festivals in the world.



"The Ojai," as it is known in every corner of California where a tennis net is spread, has been in existence since 1896. It has grown from a simple tourney into a 20-event complex ranging from a tournament for boys and girls under 15 to the invitational men's and women's singles in which the finalists are very likely last year's finalists at Wimbledon or Forest Hills. And since the activities inevitably take on the tone of a week-long house party for youngsters, the Ojai is also probably the most eagerly awaited event of the California social calendar. The entire valley of 16,000 throws open its homes and hospitality to the boys and girls, and the picturesque hillside courts come alive with the *ping!* of balls on rackets and the tinkle of ice in tea glasses. As the overseer of California tennis and new Davis Cup captain Perry T. Jones puts it:

"I always think of Ojai as the Oberammergau of tennis because it gives all of us, young and old, the opportunity of coming to this garden spot to pay our homage to the finest game in the world and to those developing players who represent the finest of our youth."



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The 119th Ojai **Tennis Tournament**



Multiple Ojai champion Lester Cook returns to play doubles with his brother, former UCLA star Jason Cook while another former Bruin Gage Brymer is entered in singles.

here are some familiar names Ojai tennis fans will recognize, and some new ones they most assuredly will be hearing for years to come as the prize money Open divisions are stacked once again for the 119th year event.

For three straight years during his high school career – and four more playing for UCLA - Gage Brymer awed the Ojai crowds with his stylish play and impeccable sportsmanship. Last time we saw Brymer in Ojai, all eyes were on Court 1 as he and Brandon Holt went down to the wire with the Pac-12 Championship all knotted at 3-all with the freshman Holt outlasting the Ojai veteran and senior Brymer in the most memorable Ojai final in years.

Brymer, who won three straight Ojai CIF Boys' Interscholastic

titles playing for Woodbridge-Irvine High in 2011-13, is currently on the ATP professional tour and will vie for prize money against some other past former Ojai winners.

The 2017 Men's Open singles champion Henry Craig from Murrieta, Calif., is once again entered in the tournament after skipping last year. Two years ago, Craig beat 2015 Ojai Men's Open champion Philip Bester in the final. Bester, originally from Vancouver, British Columbia, currently resides in Westlake Village and fell in last year's final to Sebastian Fanselow.

Former USC star Raymond Sarmiento will be sure to rekindle his old friendship with former teammate Steve Johnson this week as Sarmiento has been struggling with injuries the past few years, but is still grinding away on the pro tour.

OPEN PREVIEW





Photo by David Kenas/Easter Bowl; Top photo by Morey Spellman Ojai fans will get a look at two top juniors in the Open divisions as 2019 Easter Bowl champ Vivian Ovrootsky from San Jose and 2018 Ojai Boys' CIF champ Stefan Dostanic.

Last year's Boys' CIF champion Stefan Dostanic from Brymer's old school Woodbridge-Irvine is entered. The high school senior and USC recruit Dostanic, a recent semifinalist at a Grade 1 ITF junior event in Carson, will play doubles with fellow top-ranked SoCal junior Jacob Bullard from Calabasas. Bullard, who will play for the University of Texas in the fall, recently reached the singles semifinals at the Easter Bowl USTA Spring Nationals.

Another familiar Ojai name and former college No. 1 and Ojai champ from UCLA Clay Thompson will play doubles with Blaine Hovenier. In 2016, Thompson teamed with Holt to win the Open Doubles title.

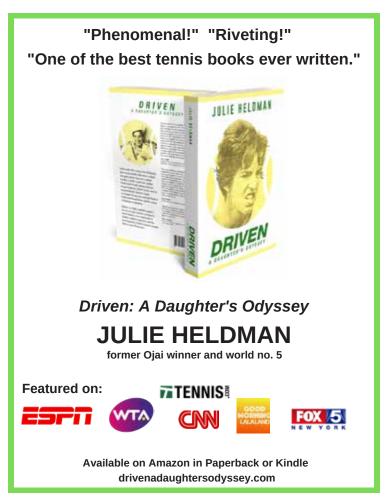
Multiple Ojai champion and current Ojai resident Lester Cook

is entered in the Men's Doubles draw with his brother Jason Cook. Also entered in doubles is 2015 doubles champion Quinn Borchard. In 2014, Borchard and partner Calle Hansen also made the doubles final.

Last year's Girls' 18s champion Eryn Cayetano from Corona will be playing this year in the Women's Open division. The Girls' 16s Ojai singles runner-up in 2017 will play for USC next fall and is a high school senior from Corona.

San Jose's Vivian Ovrootsky is also foregoing the juniors to test her skill against the older players. She recently won the Girls' 16s singles title at the Easter Bowl in Indian Wells.











Editor's Note: The following story is a reprinted article from Inside Tennis by IT Publisher and Editor Bill Simons on former UCLA great Patrick Galbraith, who is currently serving a two-year term as USTA President. In 1989, Galbraith won what was then known as the Pac-10 Individual Singles title beating Bruins' teammate Buff Farrow. The previous year, Galbraith teamed with Brian Garrow to win the NCAA Doubles Championship. In 1987, Galbraith and Garrow won the Ojai doubles title beating USC's Eric Amend and Luke Jensen. Galbraith is also a member of The Ojai Wall of Fame.

MEET PATRICK GALBRAITH

By Bill Simons — Publisher and Editor Inside Tennis

All different types of folks become president of the USTA – oilmen, car manufacturers, insurance execs and lawyers. More recently a great doubles player – Katrina Adams, who reached the Wimbledon doubles semis - headed the group for four years.

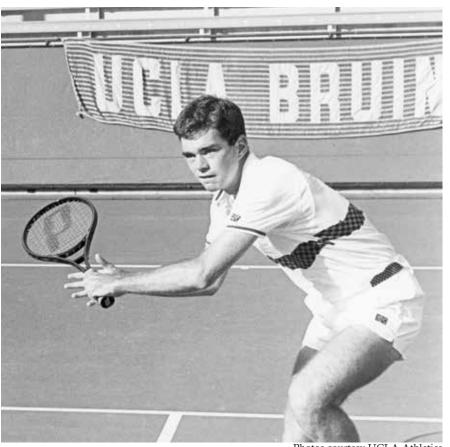
Now another doubles whiz (and former Ojai singles and doubles champion), Patrick Galbraith, became president on January 1. In fact, the Washington state resident is the finest player to lead the federation since seven-time US National champ Richard Sears headed the group over 130 years ago.

Galbraith's resume sizzles. At UCLA he captured the 1988 NCAA doubles championship. He twice won the US Open mixed doubles. And three times he reached the semis of the men's doubles at Slams. And, yes, he was No. 1 doubles player in the world – that works. His doubles partners included

the likes of Jim Courier, Wayne Ferreira and Rick Leach, and he played singles against some lads you may have heard of – Laver, Sampras and Chang.

After his 11-year pro career, Galbraith became a financier. And, as a longtime USTA board member, that was a dandy skillset to have. The USTA just went through a five-year period when it totally revamped the US Open site, built two new stadiums and created a daring national campus in Florida. Gallbraith's skills were put to good use. Now he beams about the USTA's accomplishments, including making the US Open a far more user-friendly domain. It is a far more roomy place – you can breathe.

In an interview with Inside Tennis, Galbraith downplayed the impact of his fiscal skills. "It didn't hurt [my being there]. If the projects hadn't gone well we wouldn't be talking



Photos courtesy UCLA Athletics

Current USTA President Patrick Galbraith won the 1989 Ojai Pac-10 Individual Singles title. The former UCLA star is also a member of The Ojai Wall of Fame.

today. But I'm not the one who got this all done – we had an incredible team...I'm not the financial guru, I was there at the right time and I was helpful."

Galbraith is candid about Lake Nona, the \$63-million, 64-acre, 250-employee, spare-little-expense project (for which they imported 450 tons of Italian clay).

On the one hand, he notes that "the Nirvana with nets" was proposed at a bad time. Just then USTA was sinking huge monies into the US Open upgrade. But Florida developers and communities presented offers that were just too good to refuse. It was now or never.

But, Galbraith notes, "Now that we have all those infrastructures in place, we can look at our real mission – to develop and promote the growth of tennis. Maybe we took our eye off the ball slightly during this time, but it's

hard not to when you're doing [big] projects. Going forward our board will be very focused on our mission."

For the first time USTA leadership will no longer be about a single president coming in and having a specific project they focus on – a trophy initiative if you will. Patrick explained, "Instead of a president coming out with their own initiative, for the first time, we've assigned the strategic planning committee with the task of putting together a six- to eight-year plan. The goal is that each new board and president will...keep pushing out what we are going to do and what we focus on. We've gotten to be too big of an organization for a president to come in with their own agendas, pass them to the sections, that then pass it onto the grassroots – so that every two years we

work on three new things. It's completely inefficient. We're at a point that we're too big – we can't do that. If you were running a business, every two years you wouldn't [shift and] focus on three different things... This way, when I'm finished there will be no question about where the USTA is headed, because they'll look at the strategic plan. That's a big shift."

Galbraith says, "The greatest strength of the USTA is its people, both the staff and the volunteers. The stories you hear at annual and semiannual meetings bring tears to your eyes – you hear how passionate people are about the game."

Patrick is passionate about tennis, too. To him, both Lake Nona, which gathers so many elements of tennis to the national campus, and Net Gen, which will "really activate" this year and will long be the

USTA's pathway for getting kids into the game," are just in their early phases. There's much more to come – stay tuned.

A dedicated student of the game, Patrick's favorite moment in tennis was twice playing on the '96 Davis Cup team when he teamed with another Patrick – a fellow named McEnroe. "Putting on the Davis Cup outfit and hearing your anthem," he recalls. "That's special."

It was also special to face the Bryan brothers early in their careers at the US Open. Bob and Mike were just skinny wannabes, 140 pounds dripping wet and hitting their serves at just 90 or 95 mph. "They weren't ready for primetime," quipped Galbraith.

One guy who knew a thing or two about primetime was Jimmy Connors. When we asked Patrick what the most important thing he learned from any of his considerable opponents was, he explained that practicing with Connors, even if it was just an hourlong session, was just so incredibly intense. It changed the whole way he thought about practicing.

Reared in Washington, Galbraith was anxious to prove himself and wanted to play in a big pond. Going to tinseltown and UCLA, with its history of great players (think Connors, Ashe, Pasarell, Teltscher), was a natural for the Tacoma kid.

So it was hardly shocking that last July, on a sunny Monday afternoon out on a Wimbledon back court, we spotted him in a blue Bruin cap rooting for Mackie McDonald during the UCLA grad's surge to the second week at the All-England Club. Similarly, it's no surprise that if Galbraith could

change one thing in tennis, it would be to "get more people playing the game."

But Galbraith is a realist. He readily admits that getting kids into tennis these days is "a higher mountain than it was 15 years ago."





Patrick Galbraith, at left, teamed with Brian Garrow to win the NCAA Doubles Championship in 1988. One year before that, Galbraith and Garrow won The Ojai Pac-10 doubles title.

Then again, as a player, Galbraith climbed many a mountain. And now, for the next couple of years, US tennis will be led by a president who has the best on-court record of any USTA leader in 131 years. And that sounds pretty good to us.



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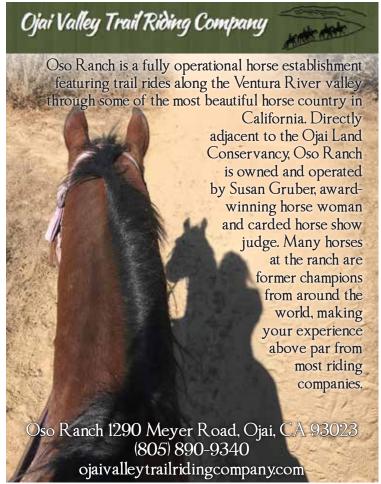
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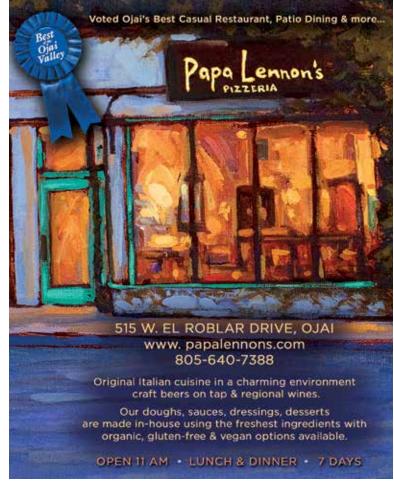
Dr. Claire Azzam Optometrist

Dr Claire Azzam is native to Ventura County; she was born and raised in Simi Valley. She moved to LA at the age of I7 to attend UCLA where she graduated in 2004 with a Bachelors of Science in Psychobiology. She attended the SUNY College of Optometry in Manhattan, NY and graduated in 2008. She practiced Optometry all over New York City for 8 years. In 2016 she moved back to California with her husband, three boys, and border collie. She always knew she wanted to be in private practice and when the opportunity came to take over California Street Optometry she knew it was exactly what she wanted to do.

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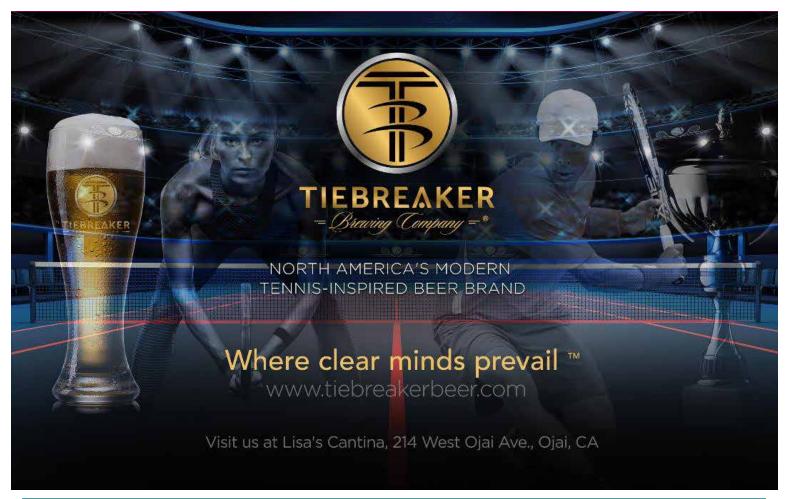
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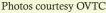
What is the Tea Tent?

magine you are taking a break from the exciting tennis, and you climb out of the bleachers onto the grass and you see – Bistro tables with tennis green cloths and yellow chrysanthemum center pieces; you see people sitting and standing – and they have china cups and saucers in their hands and they are eating – cookies!

You look farther and see a large white tent – and in the tent you see a long, damask-covered table with a silver urn at each end – and sitting at each end is a nicely-dressed lady talking and smiling and pouring tea for those who approach her.

In the center of the table you see cut lemons and sugar cubes on silver







trays – and a magnificent floral arrangement in the center.

Just in front of the tent you see a beautifully-dressed lady on each side holding a tray – with all kinds of cookies! A sign says, "Please join us for tea!" And so you do!

Ah, the Tea Tent – a tradition of The Ojai since 1904.

Ruby Morrison, former tournament president, secretary, and board member for decades, used to say,

"The Tea Tent is the nicest tradition of The Ojai Tennis Tournament. It is so beautifully done and such a nice surprise to people. Some say we are the Wimbledon of the West."

So what does it take to run the Tea Tent each year?

Well, it takes a board of directors' liaison, a special assistant, a Tea Tent chair and vice chair, 4 day hostesses and 15 assistant day hostesses, and 4 floral arrangers from the Ojai









The Tea Tent is a tradition like no other at The Ojai and first began in 1904. Former Tournament President Ruby Morrison used say because of the Tea Tent, The Ojai is like "Wimbledon of the West."

Valley Garden Club, who create an extraordinary floral arrangement each day for the tea table.

There are 5 kitchen staff members in our makeshift galley, the manager, Mona Woolwine, being a third generation (after grandma and mother) Tea Tent kitchen manager and brewer of tea. Assisting the kitchen staff are 20 girls, 5 each day, from all the high schools in Ojai, who arrange the cookies on the trays and keep the trays full and flowing,

while also removing used cups and saucers to the kitchen.

And very importantly, we have our lovely cookie servers and tea pourers, active tennis and community women – 42 of each! – who come to serve cookies or pour tea for a half hour.

It takes a total of 140 ladies to welcome our honored guests, spectators and players alike, so they can eat over 10,000 cookies and drink over 1,800 cups of tea, while

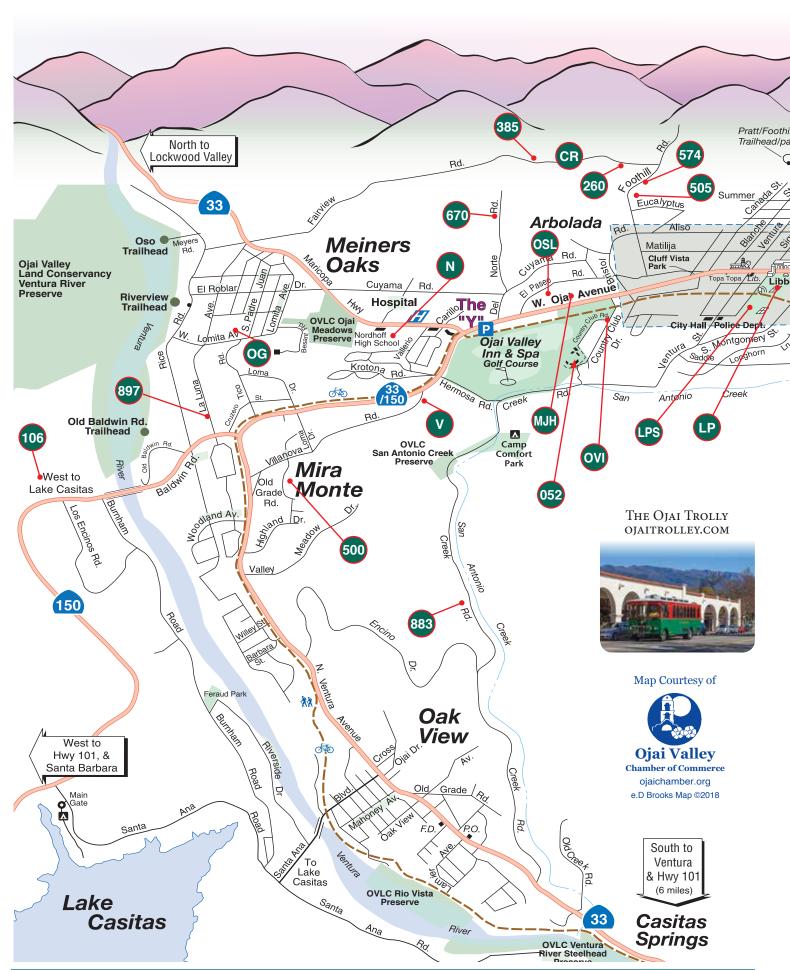
taking a break from watching the best that tennis has to offer.

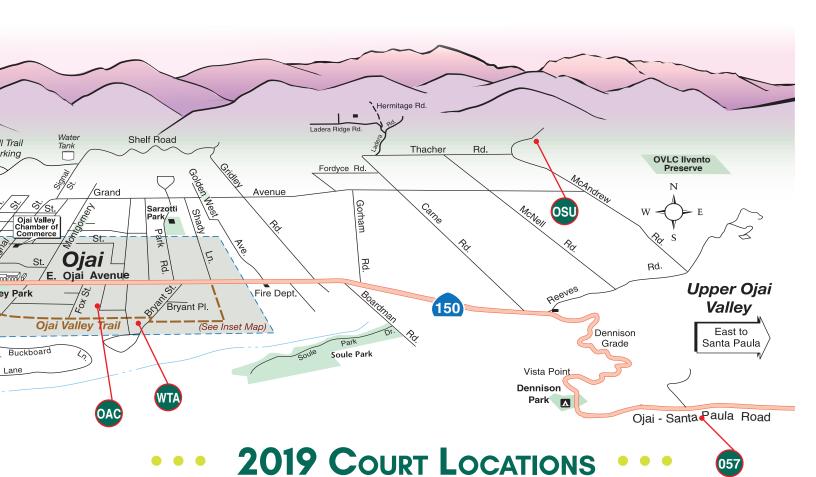
These folks come to The Ojai for the competition of tennis, they come for the camaraderie and the tennis talk, for the orange juice and for the tea and cookies, for the ambience of Ojai and for the created stage in Libbey Park. And, oh yes, they come for the TRADITION that is The Ojai – now in its 119th year!

See you there!











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| Libbey Park | LP | Ojai Avenue |
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| Oak Grove School | OGS | 220 Lomita Ave. |
| Ojai Valley Athletic Club | OAC | 409 Fox St. |
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| Ojai Valley School-upper campus | OSU | 10820 Reeves Road |
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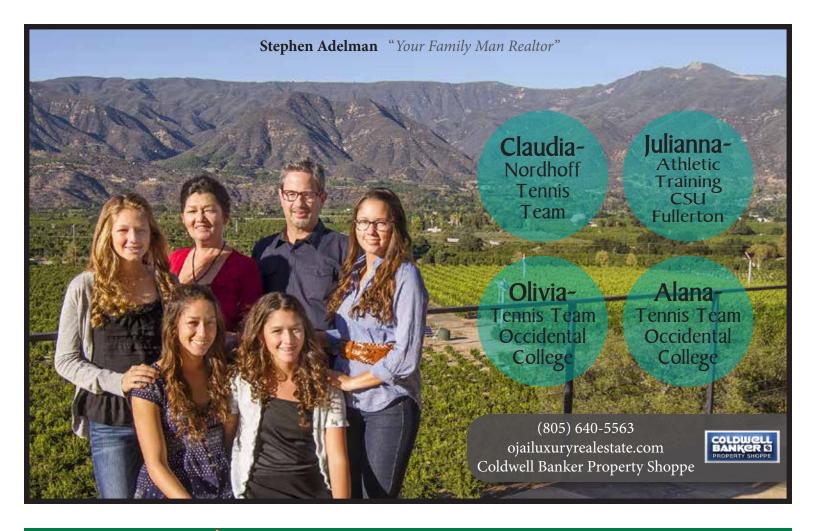
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Driven: A Daughter's Odyssey

One of the founding members of the WTA Tour, Julie Heldman has recently released a memoir titled Driven: A Daughter's Odyssey. Heldman was twice ranked No. 2 in the U.S. and No. 5 in the world. She played on two winning Fed Cup teams, she won a gold, a silver, and a bronze at the 1968 Mexico Olympics, and she had wins over every top player of her era. Julie won The Ojai Collegiate division in 1963 playing for Stanford, and fell in the 1964 final to Billie Jean Moffitt. In addition, Julie's father Julius won The Ojai in 1937 playing for UCLA.

Heldman will be signing her book "Driven" in Libbey Park on Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. near the merchandise tent. Heldman recently recalled her earliest Ojai memories in this story for The Ojai Tournament Magazine.

My family moved to New York City in 1953, when I was seven, and once I started playing tennis, I learned that there was almost nowhere to play when the City's weather was inclement. During the winter, I took a noisy and jangling subway ride from our apartment in Manhattan to play for at most three hours a week at Brooklyn's Heights Casino. As a high school senior, I sought a college that

had far better weather. In the early 1960s, only a few "tennis colleges" in Texas and Florida offered tennis scholarships for women. but they didn't appeal to me. Both my parents had gone to Stanford, and that's where I landed.

In September 1962, I flew from New York to San Francisco to start my life as a 16-year-old Stanford freshman. I knew that it lacked a women's tennis team, but I pinned my hopes on the fact that several quality women players attended Stanford, and I hoped they'd practice with me. But once I arrived on campus, I discovered that those players were gone; that the main tennis center, where the men's team practiced, was several miles across campus, and I didn't have a car; and that



although the "women's courts" were close to my dorm, they were usually empty. My practices consisted of me walking to the women's courts several times a week and waiting around for someone to show up. In other words, the tennis situation was grim.



Photo courtesy OVTC

In 1964 Stanford's Julie Heldman (right) lost in the final of the Women's Collegiate Division to Billie Jean Moffitt.

Still, I hoped that the university would offer some assistance. I became momentarily optimistic when I received a phone call from a Mrs. Guthrie, who worked in the women's P.E. department. She said she provided support for women tennis players, but it turned out that her help was limited to driving us to two tennis tournaments in the spring.

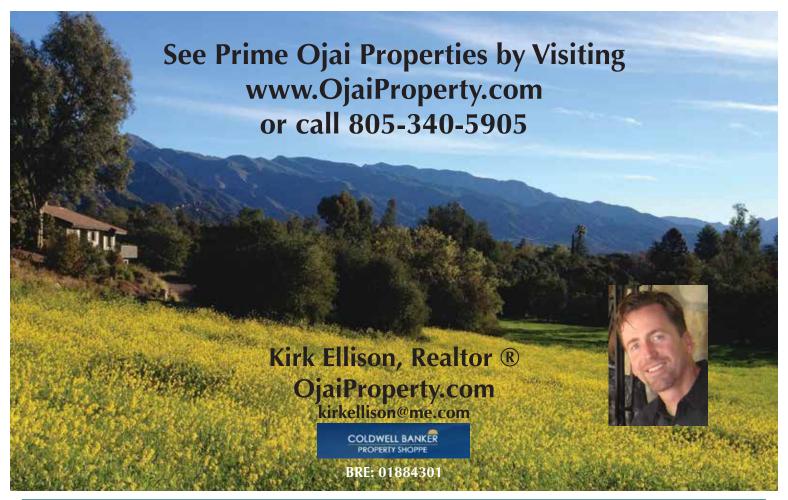
One of those tournaments was Ojai, which my dad had played when he was growing up in Southern California. In 1934, he lost to Joe Hunt in the finals of the Boys 15s event (Two years later, dad would beat Hunt in the finals of the U.S. National 18s.), and in 1937, he won the intercollegiate event on behalf of UCLA.

In April 1963, four women players, including me,

piled into Mrs. Guthrie's station wagon for the trek to Ojai. Dad had told me little about his junior career, so I didn't know what to expect. So when we checked in, I was amazed to discover that the Ojai tournament was unique. It had over 1,500 competitors and it co-opted every single tennis court in the Ojai Valley. We discovered loads of friendly volunteers who filled us in on how the tournament would work. But the friendly volunteers couldn't control the weather, and from the moment we arrived, we encountered constant rain storms, which prevented both practice and matches. My first match, which was postponed for rain, was scheduled for 10 a.m. It was rescheduled the next day for 8 a.m., and then the following day for 7 a.m., both times rained out. The tournament committee must have been gnawing its knuckles, with all those matches to play. On the fourth day, to my horror, my match was rescheduled for 5:45 a.m., which I considered inhuman. But that's when Mrs. Guthrie earned her stripes. She promised to get up early and to wake me up after the rains had stopped. I was the happiest kid around when I opened my eyes at 7 a.m. and saw that rain was still descending. When the skies finally cleared, I won the Women's Independent College division for Stanford, and Mrs. Guthrie drove us back to campus. She wasn't a tennis coach, and she couldn't help me with my game, but she was a kind woman, and I was grateful for that.

The following year, in April 1964, Mrs. Guthrie once again donned her chauffeur's cap, and drove us to Ojai. This time, the skies were friendlier, but the competition was fiercer. Since the previous year, I had proudly won the U.S. National 18-and-unders, but on the other half of the draw sat Billie Jean Moffitt, two years older than I and perched near the top of U.S. women's rankings. She had a reputation as a player with great promise, due to her athletic talent, her attacking style, and her ability to rise to the occasion. I'd previously played Billie Jean several times back east on grass courts, which suited her style, but not mine, as I was a ground stroker, and only once had I taken her to three sets. I hoped that I'd fair better on Ojai's cement courts, but once again she beat me, and won Ojai on behalf of L.A. State.

After the finals, Mrs. Guthrie returned us to the Farm, where I signed up for six months in Stanford in France, from September 1964 through March 1965. After I finished my studies there, I played tournaments in Europe for several months, and I caught the travel bug big time. So for many years, I indulged my wanderlust, and the result was that I never again competed in the Ojai tournament. No matter where I played, I never found another tournament with 1,500 participants, and I was never again scheduled to play a match at 5:45 a.m..







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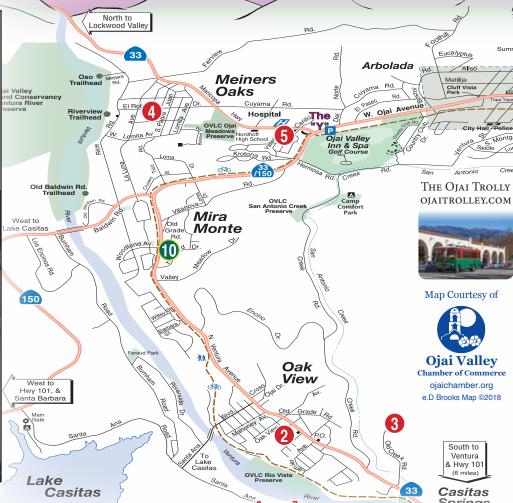


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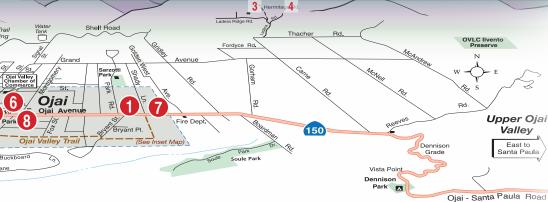
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8th Annual Ojai Holiday Tennis Challenge Rings Out 2018

A community tennis tradition treasured by many at the end of each December continued to close out 2018 as the 8th Annual Ojai Holiday Tennis Challenge was once again contested by 32 Adult/Youth teams at Libbey Park in downtown Ojai.

Led by Craig Fugle and Jakob Vos, the event was sponsored by the Ojai Valley Tennis Club (OVTC) and received substantial support from many volunteers – particularly, Scott Burton, Ojai Recreation Department Tennis Director, who motivated many of his students to register and participate.

There were several firsts in the 8th Annual Challenge. The draws were completely filled two weeks ahead of the closing date. There were a record total of 19 (out

of 32) parent/child teams and the majority of the finalists were parent/child teams. This confirms the family fun and popularity aspects of this event.

The Challenge included two divisions: "In to Win" and "In for Fun," each with 16 teams consisting of one adult and one youth player. Jakob Vos explained, "One cannot help but to notice the special atmosphere when you have an adult and a junior (especially a parent and their child) forming a team and working and cooperating together to get the most out of each other and create a team spirit that will lead to a very satisfying experience and hopefully a win."

Craig Fugle concurred, "This Challenge is a great way to meet new and old friends, all of whom have an interest in tennis and good old fashioned family fun." The entertaining "In to Win" Final was between Rick and Jules Thompson and the Gaston's father and son team of Ryan and Campbell. It became obvious that the Thompsons had the experience and strategy that gave them the edge, and they won the trophy with a score of 10-4.

The "In for Fun" Championship final was between Neil Quinn and Adrian Zamora and the Schmidt team of Katrina and son Eric. The competitive match featured both Juniors who showcased masterful shots on both sides of the net. In the end the Quinn/Zamora team won the Championship with a final score of 10-6.

All winners and finalists in the championship divisions received trophies, and the winners and finalists in the consolation divisions received goodie bags



Photos by Paul Del Signore

From left to right: Rick Thompson, Jules Thompson, Jakob Vos, Craig Fugle, Campbell Gaston and Ryan Gaston. The Thompsons beat the Gastons in the final of the 2018 Holiday Tennis Challenge "In to Win" division.



Ojai Tennis Tournament Junior Direction Craig Fugle said the 2018 Holiday Tennis Challenge "is a great way to meet new and old friends, all of whom have an interest in tennis and good old fashion family fun."

with tennis gear. Toppers Pizza once again generously donated a delicious pizza and salad lunch for all the players and many volunteers on Saturday, while the Southern California Tennis Association (SCTA) donated T-shirts and some USTA gear.

According to Jakob Vos, the OVTC Youth Tennis Chair, "This was a great family event, which certainly had the support of all the participants and spectators. Many people deserve a hearty "Thank You!" for making this annual Challenge such a success. They include the participants for their enthusiasm, the spectators for their support, and the parents for their dedication and motivation. Everyone is already looking forward to next year's event, and

that is a wonderful compliment."

The 2018 8th Annual Ojai Holiday Tennis Challenge provided a weekend of family fun and raised approximately \$700 for future youth tennis programs in the Valley. For more information about the event or Ojai Youth Tennis, please contact Craig Fugle at: Ojaifugle@gmail.com or Jakob Vos at: jhmyos@aol.com

The following tennis teaching pros donate their time to area youth by giving free or discounted tennis lessons to the Ojai and surrounding Ventura and Oxnard communities. The Ojai Valley Tennis Club wishes to thank them for their generous support of OVTC Youth Programs.

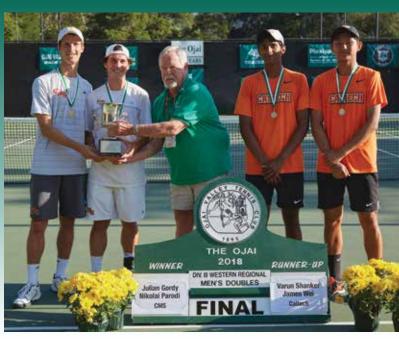
Mark Weil, founder of Weil Tennis Academy
Steve Beckendorf, Tennis Director at Ojai Valley Athletic Club
Jim Kasser, teaching pro at Ojai Valley Athletic Club
Scott Burton, Tennis Director for City of Ojai
Tom Rohrbacher, Director of Tennis of the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa
Stacy Margolin Potter, M.A. Certified Health Coach & Co-owner of Trails by Potter
Todd Dickey, Nordhoff High School Tennis Coach
Ron Edwards, Rio Mesa High School Boys' and Girls' Tennis Coach
Andy Hoerer, Hueneme School District Boys' and Girls' Tennis Coach



DIVISION III/INDEPENDENT COLLEGES PREVEW







Jim Maxwell presents trophy to Division III West Region doubles champions Julian Gordy and Nikolai Parodi of Claremont Mudd-Scripps after beating Cal Tech's Varun Shanker and James Wei in the final.

It's conventional for Southern California to associate with the California Institute of Technology when it turns on the television or goes online to learn how earthquakes and aftershocks of the day measured on the Richter scale. But, Caltech, a tennis school? It is intent on engineering its own shock at the 119th Ojai Tennis Tournament.

This week's Division III collegiate competitions might signal a seismic shift on The Ojai's medalist platform, unearthing a tennis renaissance at Caltech and proving there is indeed brawn to match the brains. Last year's Ojai success served as a foreshock to this notion.

Caltech's Varun Shanker and James Wei took the top-ranked doubles team from perennial NCAA Division III powerhouse Claremont-Mudd-Scripps to three sets in the Men's Division III West doubles final at the 2018 Ojai. Similarly, the Beavers' Kana Moriyama and Sarina Liu advanced to last year's Women's Division III Invitational doubles final.

Could this be the week the Beavers break the dam and win their first tennis title at The Ojai?

Shanker and Wei are back in Ojai as sophomores. Shanker is among NCAA Division III's upper echelon of singles players. Together, he and Wei have been ranked No. 1 in the West region, and within the top five, nationally.

Moriyama, a senior, and Liu, a sophomore, also return to The Ojai. The Women's Division III Invitational returns for a second year and showcases players from select NCAA Division III universities in singles and doubles competition.

Cal Lutheran is the local NCAA Division III school playing in The Ojai's Men's Independent Colleges division, which plays at Camino Real Park in Ventura on Friday, and the Ojai Valley Athletic Club and Weil Tennis Academy on Saturday. Kingsmen senior Ransom Braaten returns to The Ojai hoping to repeat as the Independent College men's singles and doubles champion.

Early rounds of the Division III women's singles and doubles competition takes place Thursday at Pierpont Racquet Club and Ventura College, and Friday at Pierpont Racquet Club before moving to the Ojai Valley Athletic Club and Weil Tennis Academy on Saturday. Division III West men's singles and doubles competition commences Friday at Pierpont Racquet Club.

All Division III and Independent College finals conclude Sunday at Libbey Park:

9:30 a.m. – Division III Women's Invitational singles final; Independent College men's singles final

11:00 a.m. – Men's Division III singles final

12:30 p.m. – Division III Women's Invitational doubles final;
Independent College men's doubles final

2:00 p.m. – Men's Division III doubles final

THANK YOU-

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Since 2003, Mike Taggart has graciously supported the Ojai Tennis Tournament by donating the prize money for the Men's and Women's Open events. Mike has also been the major financial benefactor of all of the Ojai Valley Tennis Club's Youth Tennis activities. The Ojai wishes to thank Mike for all he has done to support tennis in our community!

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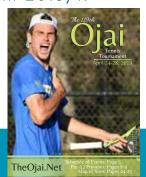
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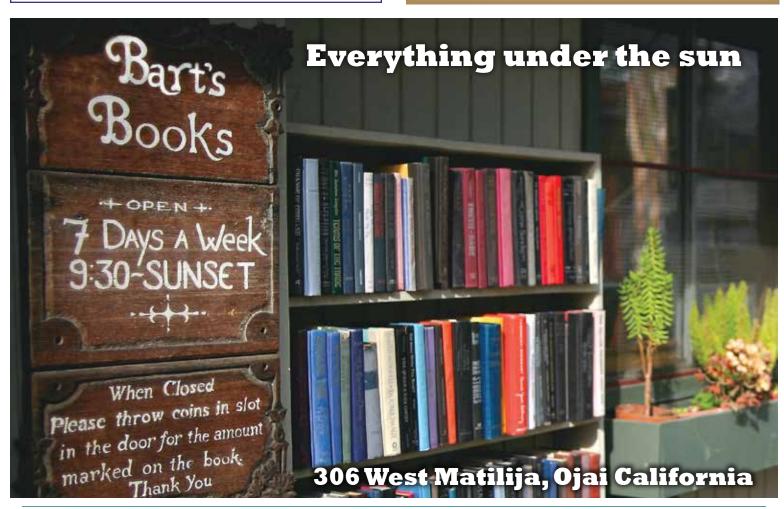
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2019 CCCAA PREVIEW



Photos courtesy OVTC

Alan and Jan Rains presented the CCCAA doubles title to Alexy Prokopchuk and Marcos Silvestre of Cerritos College as they beat teammates Victor Castro and Kent Hunter in the final.

The California Community College Athletic Association's men's and women's team and individual singles and doubles State championships return to the 119th Ojai Tennis Tournament for the sixth consecutive year (since 2014).

Wednesday's CCCAA State Team Championships are the first titles awarded at The Ojai – the women's final at 12 p.m. at Ventura College and the men's final at 1 p.m. at Pierpont Racquet Club.

The CCCAA State Individual Championships begin Thursday – the men play at Moranda Park in Port Hueneme, Pacifica and Hueneme High Schools; the women play at Ventura College, Camino Real Park and Buena High School – and conclude Sunday at Libbey Park with CCCAA State singles finals at 11 a.m. and the CCCAA State doubles finals at 2 p.m.

In 2018, Cerritos College became the second California community college to win the men's and women's CCCAA Team State championships in the same year. The Falcons' women have won two of the past three CCCAA State crowns, while the Falcon men won in their first championship match appearance. The Falcons also swept the CCCAA State men's and women's singles and doubles championships.

Sophomore Moa Lindstrom is the only holdover from Cerritos' 2018 women's championship team. Cerritos' men's roster has turned over completely from last year and has reloaded with such talented players as freshman Arthur Toledo and sophomores Bruno Duarte and Jan Simon.

Irvine Valley College, the men's CCCAA State champion from 2015-17, is in the hunt for CCCAA hardware and is spearheaded by Parker McBride and Julian Lafond and Leszek Mirecki.

American River College's men's team has won the CCCAA's Northern California regional the past three years. The Beavers are led by Sam Hall, ARC's lone sophomore, and

Younes Kodiji and Micah Erwin.

Orange Coast College, which won the 2017 CCCAA State women's team title, may be poised to take back that throne from Cerritos. The Pirates are anchored by sophomore Miri Inoue and freshmen Shayee Sherif and Nicole Knickerbocker.

Riverside City College features competitive freshmen in Torrey Mateljan and Maxelle Bernie.

Contending Northern California females to watch include American River sophomore Eva Spindler, arguably the top women's player in Northern California and a CCCAA State doubles finalist in 2018 at The Ojai, and Chabot College sophomores Stephanie Huang and Sophie Moeckelmann.

The CCCAA State individual championships at The Ojai are open to qualification from all California community/junior colleges that field tennis programs. Each individual draw is plugged into a bracket of 128 (seeds are chosen by CCCAA coaches).

2019 CCCAA PREVIEW



Robin Neumann presented Kseniia Prokopchuk and Lisa Suzuki of Cerritos College with the CCCAA doubles trophy as the pairing beat Eva Spindler and Lilana Spindler of American River College in the final.



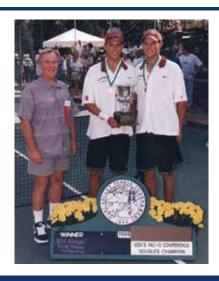
Bryan Bros. Record at the Ojai

Before becoming the winningest doubles team of all time, Camarillo's Mike and Bob Bryan ruled at The Ojai

It's hard to fathom playing a tournament for three straight years, and never losing a single game.

That's exactly what Camarillo's Mike and Bob Bryan did when they were the toast of The Ojai in the 1990s.

The Twins had one stretch where they won 116 consecutive games, taking home a fourth straight Ojai junior title in 1996 as Rio Mesa High seniors, and leading the Spartans to their first-ever Griggs Team Trophy.



Doubles Championships at The Ojai: Juniors

1993-Boys' 16s 1994- Boys' 16s

CIF Interscholastic

1995-Boys' CIF for Rio Mesa High 1996-Boys' CIF for Rio Mesa High **Pac-12 Division**

1998-Pac-12 champs for Stanford Note: Bob Bryan won the Pac-12 Singles title in 1997; and the Bryans led Stanford to the Thacher Cup team title in 1997 and 1998.

Bryan Bros. Record on the ATP Tour

The Bryan Twins went straight from dominating at The Ojai to doing the same against the world's best on the professional tour. Here's a quick look at some of their records and accomplishments achieved on the ATP World Tour during their 20-year career.



- Most career men's doubles team titles: 118 (Woodies second with 61)
- Most times year-end #1 doubles team: 10 (Woodies second with 5)
- Most Grand Slam doubles championships: 16 (Newcombe-Roche second with 12)
- Most weeks at #1: Mike, 495; Bob No. 2, 439; (John McEnroe 3rd with 270 weeks)
- Most times ITF World Doubles Champions awards: 11 (Woodies second with 3)





- Most career doubles finals: 176 (118 titles and 58 runner-ups)
- Most Grand Slam doubles finals: 30 (Woodies second with 15)
- Most consecutive Grand Slam finals: 7
- Only team to win over 1,000 matches (Woodies are second with 508 and Knowles-Nestor are third with 464)
- Most Masters 1000 doubles titles: 39
- Most wins by a *US Davis Cup* doubles team: 24 (*John McEnroe-Peter Fleming second with 14*)
- Most prize money ever won by a doubles team in a career: over \$32,000,000
- Only team to win every Grand Slam at least twice
- Only team to win the Olympic Gold Medal plus four consecutive Grand Slam titles
- Most times voted Fans Favorite Doubles Team: 13





The 2018 Bryan Bros. Doubles Race winners were honored at the recent BNP Paribas Open. The teams played together over the last 12 months by

earning points in pursuit of etching their names on the prestigious Bryan Bros. trophy. Mike and Bob Bryan were on hand to recognize each top performer and helped to present awards, along with USTA Southern California Director of Tennis, Trevor Kronemann.



G18s:

Britt Pursell Oceanside

Amanda Chan Pasadena



B18s:

Christopher Papa Cypress

Ivan Smith



G16s:

Sara Beckman Chula Vista

Olivia Madarang San Diego



B16s:

Sundeep Chakladar Redondo Beach

Gianluca Brunkow Topanga



C1/e-

Eliana Hanna La Canada Flintridge

Sarah MacCallum Laguna Beach



B14s:

Hunter Lynch San Diego

Thomas Lynch La Mesa



G12s:

Kate Fakih Arcadia

Olivia Center South Pasadena



B12s:

Mason Bui/ Yorba Linda

Brandon Vu Chino Hills



G10s:

Maria Aytoyan Valley Village

Julieta Pareja Carlsbad



B10s:

Sebastian Cressi Long Beach

Andrew Johnson Rancho Palos Verdes

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The 119th Ojai JUNIORS PREVIEW



A few years ago, Aditya Gupta and his family made the decision to make the move from Palo Alto to Southern California to be closer to the USTA Training Center – West in Carson where he would get coaching from some of the nation's top coaches.

The top-seeded singles player in the Boys' CIF Interscholastic division at the 119th Ojai Tennis Tournament soon after found he loved the training at the Brymer Lewis Tennis Academy in Irvine under the direction of coaches Chuck Brymer and Chris Lewis, and his game continues to flourish there.

The senior from University High in Irvine won the 2017 SoCal Junior Sectionals in the 16s and has committed to play his college tennis at Penn.

He told TennisRecruiting.net the reason he chose Penn. "I just feel like their tennis program is showing a whole lot of growth," Gupta said. "Their recruiting has gotten better. They have a couple of five-star players and they are trending in the right way. It's a good chance to play for a team that is improving and could make NCAAs really soon."

Gupta will face a group of talented singles players in a quest to win the coveted Farnam Cup, which is the oldest perpetual trophy still awarded at The Ojai and first presented in 1902. Other top-seeded players include: Brett Brinkman (Chaminade), Christopher Papa (Cypress) and Ian Freer (St. Francis).

Last year, Woodbridge-Irvine High's Stefan Dostanic captured the singles title after falling in the finals in 2017. He led Woodbridge (in photo above) to the CIF team title and the John Van B. Griggs Memorial Challenge Trophy. This year, the high school senior Dostanic has entered The Ojai Men's Open division.

Matthew Sah and Eshan Talluri from Torrey Pines High are the top-seeded team in the CIF doubles division. They will look to capture the Wightman Cup, first presented at The Ojai in 1910.

Talluri is a five-star recruit who will play his college tennis at the University of Texas. Last year, he teamed with future Longhorns teammate Siem Woldeab to win the SoCal Sectionals 18s doubles title. He and Woldeab also earned a USTA Silver Ball in doubles in the 16s at the USTA Hardcourt Nationals in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Sean Holt and recent transfer Kai Brady from Palos Verdes High will also be among the top-seeded teams. Last year, Brady made the final in doubles with Sundeep Chakladar playing for Redondo Union before transferring. Holt is the younger brother of current USC No. 1 Brandon Holt and his mother is tennis Hall of Famer Tracy Austin.

Other teams to watch include David Arkow and Jonah Dickson from Harvard-Westlake and Matthew Poh and Kyle Sillman from Mira Costa.

West Ventura County players entered in the junior divisions include: Boys' 14s: Benjamin Wang, Ventura; Harnoor Singh, Somis; Drake Nguyen, Camarillo; Josiah Jenkins, Ventura; Yan Bolotsky, Camarillo; Girls' 14s: Hana McKinney, Camarillo. Boys' 16s: Shawn Rothermel, Santa Paula; Hunter Leija, Ventura; Andy Hess, Somis; Christopher Boydston, Ojai; Ilya Bolotsky, Camarillo; Girls' 16s: Alexis Schmidt, Camarillo; Moga Belladora, Ojai; Samantha Lei Condevillamar, Camarillo.



Boys' 14s Singles: (5) Lachlan Robertson (West Vancouver, BC) d. (5) Conrad Brown (Irvine), 6-2, 6-2





Boys' 16s Singles: (3) Shervin Dehmoubed (Irvine) d. (9) Ayato Arakaki (Ojai), 4-6, 6-1, 6-3



Girls' 16s Singles: (1) Casie Wooten (Torrance) d. (4) Scout Mathews (Ojai), 6-3, 1-6, 6-3



CIF Boys' Singles: Stefan Dostanic (Woodbridge) d. Benjamin Gollin (La Jolla Country Day), 6-1, 7-6(3) Note: Woodbridge wins overall high school Griggs Cup



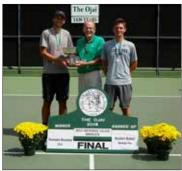
Girls' 18s Singles: (5) Eryn Cayetano (Corona) d. (1) Nicole Mossmer (La Jolla), 6-3, 4-6, 6-2



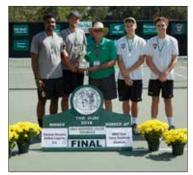
Men's Division III West Doubles:
(1) Julian Gordy/Nikolai Parodi
(CMS) d. Varun Shanker/James
Wei (Cal Tech), 6-4, 6-7, 6-3



Women's Division III West Doubles:
(1) Mary Cardone/Anna
Schneemann (Southwestern) d.
(2) Sanna Liu/Kana Moriyama
(Cal Tech), 6-2, 6-2



Men's Independent College Singles: (1) Ransom Braaten (Cal Lutheran) d. (2) Keaten Baker (Occidental), 6-2, 6-2

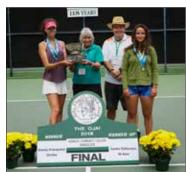


Men's Independent College Doubles:
(2) Ranson Braaten / Joshua
Legardy (Cal Lutheran) d.
Miles Hale / Corey Stephens
(Westmont), 3-6, 6-3, 10-5



Men's California Community College Athletic Association Doubles:
(2) Alexy Prokonchuk/ Marcos Silvestre

(2) Alexy Prokopchuk/ Marcos Silvestre (Cerritos) d. (1) Victor Castro/Kent Hunter (Cerritos), 3-6, 7-6 (5), 10-4



Women's California Community College Athletic Association Doubles: (1) Kseniia Prokopchuk/Lisa Suzuki (Cerritos) d. (3) Eva Spindler/ Lilana Spindler (American River), 6-3, 6-0



Men's Open Singles: (1) Sebastian Fanselow (Calabasas) def. (2) Philip Bester (Westlake Village), 4-6, 6-0, 6-4



Women's Open Singles: (1) Hanna Chang (Fontana) d. Denise Star (Brooklyn, N.Y.), 6-4, 6-1

2018 Tournament Winners CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH RESULTS FROM THE 118TH OJAI TENNIS TOURNAMENT



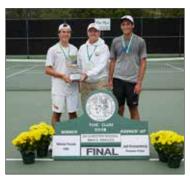
Girls' 14s Singles:
(1) Isabelle Kouzmanov d. (2) Iris
Berman (Los Angeles), 6-3, 6-2



Girls' 18s Doubles: (1) Amanda Chan (Pasadena)/Lauren Ko (Temple City) d. (2) Katherine Nguyen (Fountain Valley)/ Danielle Willson (Newport Beach), 7-5, 6-2



CIF Boys' Doubles: Timothy Li/Sacha Pritzker (Harvard-Westlake) d. Sundeep Chakladar/Kai Brady (Redondo Union), 7-6 (6), 6-4



Men's Division III West Singles:
(1) Nikolai Parodi (Claremont
McKenna) d. (2) Jed Kronenberg
(Pomona-Pitzer), 6-2, 6-0



Women's Division III West Singles: (1) Mary Cardone (Southwestern) d. (3) Alisa Ogranovich (Chapman) 6-1, 6-1



Men's California Community College Athletic Association Dual Team State Championship: Cerritos College d. American River, 5-0



Women's California Community College Athletic Association Dual Team State Championship: Cerritos College d. De Anza College, 5-0



Men's California Community College Athletic Association Singles: (7) Alexy Prokopchuk (Cerritos) d. (1) Kent Hunter (Cerritos), 6-3, 6-4



Women's California Community College Athletic Association Singles: (6) Kseniia Prokopchuk (Cerritos) d. (2) Sandra DeFrancescu (De Anza), 6-4, 6-2



Men's Open Doubles: (4) Sebastian Fanelow (Calabasas) / Lester Cook (Ojai) d. (2) Haythem Abid (Los Angeles) / Rylan Rizza (Redondo Beach), 6-3, 3-6, 7-5



Women's Open Doubles: (1) Maegan Manasse (Berkeley)/Denise Starr (Brooklyn, N.Y.) d. Sarah Lee (Los Angeles)/ Holly Verner (Los Angeles), 6-0, 6-0



Pac-12 Men's Team Championship: No. 1 UCLA d. No. 3 USC, 4-1



Championship: No. 1 Stanford d. No. 2 UCLA, 4-2



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for more info & to buy tickets: The Ojai.net

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