Official 2011 Tennis Program



APRIL 26-MAY 1 2011

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Both a Tournament and a Tradition

The OJAI™ is not just a tournament; it is a fun these young beginners have. Come cheer and tradition! The Ojai Valley Tennis Club has not only maintained the history, traditions and legacy initiated in 1895, it continues to add to the size, variety, and prestige of this great event. This year, in addition to the Open, Pac-10, Collegiate, CIF and Junior categories, it has added, for the first time in history, a new event: a 10-and-Under Tennis Invitational. This is the highlight of a QuickStart training program conducted in the elementary schools by the Ojai Valley Tennis Club in conjunction with the Ojai Recreation Department and financial assistance from USTA.

This exciting new event will be held at the new Junior Tennis Area at the Lower Libbey Courts, a short walk down the creek from the main Libbey Park venue. It will start about 3 p.m. Friday and trophies will be awarded during the barbecue at

This is a fantastic, fast-growing program and it is heartwarming to watch the enthusiasm and

encourage our future tennis champs.

Another enjoyable (and delicious) addition is a taste of Chobani Yogurt, a new sponsor that



contributed generously to support the Youth Tennis programs and tennis facility improvements that the Tennis Club undertakes each year. While enjoying their free samples, don't forget to thank them for their support of tennis.

Living up to our reputation of the 2009 USTA award as the second Best Tennis Town in America, the City of Ojai and the Tennis Club completed a \$580,000 renovation of the Libbey Park Tennis Complex. That 8-year project replaced all eight courts with state-of-the-art post-tension concrete, added lights and the new Junior Tennis Area with QuickStart courts and a practice wall, and refurbished the aging historic site. In 2010, USTA selected Libbey Park as an Outstanding Tennis Facility for a small public park.

The Ojai Valley Tennis Club, an all-volunteer charitable organization, is proud to conduct this 111th annual Tournament to carry on the hospitality and traditions of one of the best tennis tournaments in the country and to promote tennis at all levels, particularly for the youth.

We are very pleased that you visited us. Please come again.

- Wayne Bruce, President



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2010 Ojai Tournament Boys 16s Singles Champion Patrik Fabian of Slovakia with Head Coach Mo El Bouzkouri and Weil Coaching Staff

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- 3 Orange Bowl Jr. Champions
- 20+ Professional Champions
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2011 Ojai Valley Tennis Tournament Event Schedule

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

Tuesday, April 26

Ojai Valley Athletic Club:

Men's and Women's Open Singles Qualifying Rounds

Thursday April 28

OJAI SITES:

Libbey Park:

Pac-10 Men's Singles

Lower Libbey Park:

Pac-10 Men's Invitational Singles

Ojai Valley Inn:

Open Men's Singles

Ojai Valley Athletic Club:

Pac-10 Women's Singles

Pac-10 Women's Invitational Singles

The Thacher School:

Boys' CIF

Junior Events

Villanova Preparatory School:

Junior Events

Ojai Valley School Upper Campus:

Boys' CIF

Ojai Valley School Lower Campus:

Junior Events

Nordhoff High School:

Junior Events

Matilija Junior High School:

Junior Events

Private Courts:

Junior Events

VENTURA SITES:

Pierpont Racquet Club:

Independent College Women's Singles & Doubles

Ventura College:

Community College Women's Singles & Doubles Independent College Women's Singles & Doubles

Camino Real Park:

Community College Women's Singles & Doubles

Buena High School:

Community College Women's Singles & Doubles

OXNARD SITES:

Oxnard Tennis Center:

Community College Men's Singles & Doubles

Pacifica High School:

Community College Men's Singles & Doubles

Moranda Park (Port Hueneme):

Community College Men's Singles & Doubles

Friday, April 29

OJAI SITES:

Libbey Park:

Pac-10 Men's Singles & Doubles

Lower Libbey Park:

Pac-10 Men's Invitational Singles & Doubles

Ojai Valley Inn:

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

Ojai Valley Athletic Club:

Pac-10 Women's Singles & Doubles Pac-10 Women's Invitational Singles & Doubles

The Thacher School:

Boy's

Junior Events

Villanova Preparatory School:

Junior Events

Ojai Valley School Lower Campus:

Junior Events

VENTURA SITES:

Pierpont Racquet Club:

Independent College Men's Singles & Doubles

Ventura College:

Community College Women's Singles & Doubles Independent College Women's Singles & Doubles

Camino Real Park:

Community College Women's Singles & Doubles

Buena High School:

Community College Women's Singles & Doubles

OXNARD SITES:

Oxnard Tennis Center:

Community College Men's Singles & Doubles Division III College Men's Singles & Doubles

Pacifica High School:

Community College Men's Singles & Doubles

Moranda Park (Port Hueneme):

Division III College Men's Singles & Doubles

Saturday, April 30

ALL EVENTS IN OJAI:

Libbey Park:

Pac-10 Men's Singles & Doubles Semifinals Pac-10 Women's Singles & Doubles Semifinals

Open Men's Singles Semifinals

Selected Junior Event Semifinals

All Junior Event and Boys' CIF Finals

Lower Libbey Park:

Pac-10 Men's Invitational Singles & Doubles Semifinals Pac-10 Women's Invitational Singles & Doubles Semifinals

Selected Junior Event Semifinals

Ojai Valley Inn:

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

Ojai Valley Athletic Club:

Independent College Men's Singles and Doubles Independent College Women's Singles and Doubles Community College Men's Singles and Doubles Community College Women's Singles and Doubles

The Thacher School:

Division III College Men's Singles & Doubles

Sunday_May_1

ALL EVENTS IN OJAI:

Libbey Park:

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

8 a.m. - Pac-10 Men's Invitational Singles Independent College Men's Singles Community College Women's Singles

(Lower Libbey)

Division III College Men's Singles Semifinals

(Lower Libbey)

Community College Men's Singles Semifinals

9:30 a.m. - Open Women's Singles

Pac-10 Men's Singles Championship

Pac-10 Women's Invitational Singles

11 a.m. - Pac-10 Women's Singles Championship Pac-10 Men's Invitational Doubles Independent College Women's Singles

Community College Men's Singles

(Lower Libbey)

Community College Women's Doubles Semifinals

12:30 p.m. - Open Men's Singles

Pac-10 Men's Doubles Championship Pac-10 Women's Invitational Doubles

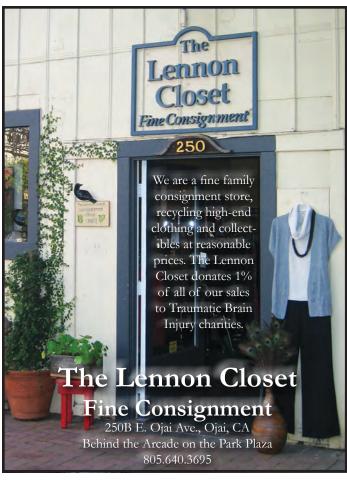
Division III College Men's Singles

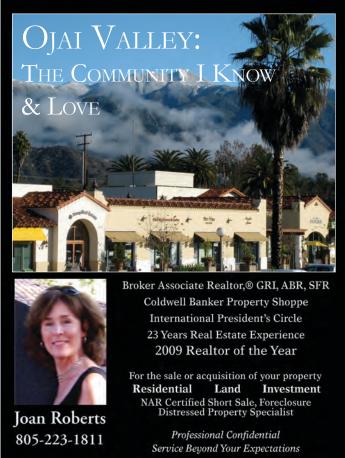
2 p.m. - Open Women's Doubles Pac-10 Women's Doubles Championship Independent College Men's Doubles Community College Women's Doubles

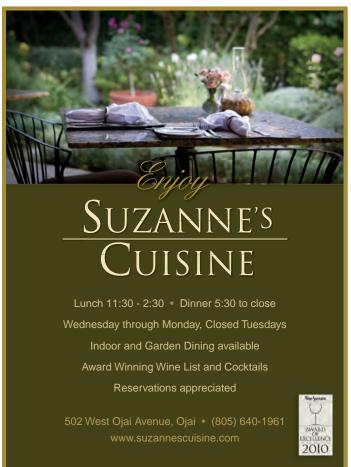
3:30 p.m. - Open Men's Doubles Division III College Men's Doubles Independent College Women's Doubles Community College Men's Doubles



6 111th 'The Ojai'









Pac-10 Tournament Previews

The Pac-10's seven men's teams and nine

women's teams come to Ojai, Calif., Thursday, April 28 — Sunday, May 1 to decide the league's singles and doubles individual champions. The 32-player men's singles draw consists of four studentathletes from each school, with four additional competitors selected by the Pac-10 Men's Draw Committee. The 16-team men's doubles draw consists of two doubles teams from each school, with two additional teams selected by the Draw Committee.

For the women, the 32-player singles draw consists of three players from each of the nine schools that sponsor women's tennis, with five additional competitors selected by the Pac-10 Women's Draw Committee. The 16-team women's doubles

draw will have one doubles team from each school and seven additional teams

selected by the Draw Committee.

Pac-10 competition will be held in conjunction with the 111th

held in conjunction with the 111th Annual Ojai Valley Tennis Tournament. The Pac-10 men will compete at Libbey Park in Ojai for all rounds. The Pac-10 women will play at the Ojai Valley Athletic Club Thursday and Friday. All semifinal and final matches for both men and women on Saturday and Sunday, are at Libbey Park. Thursday matches begin at 8 a.m., with two rounds of singles on opening day. One round of singles and two rounds of doubles will be played on Friday, starting at 8 a.m. Check the Schedule of Events for the semifinals and finals times.

Pac-10 Men Compete for Singles, Doubles

Arizona Wildcats Tucson, Arizona

Head Coach: Tad Berkowitz 2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 8-11 Overall; 0-4 Pac-10

Heading into the 2011 season, the Wildcats are without three seniors, who helped lead the team to the NCAA tournament for their eighth time and a fifth place tie in the challenging Pac-10 conference. The team finished the

season with a 13-11 record overall including a 2-4 finish in the Pac-10. This season's team will rely on its depth and experience from its four seniors, along with a talented freshmen class.

Last season the Wildcats finished the season ranked No. 31 in the ITA rankings, their highest ranking coming in during the first week of match competition at No. 23 and they held that spot for three weeks. The team also made history on April 11 in Tucson when they topped then-No. 10 UCLA 4-3 for the first time in 75 attempts.

This season the Wildcats will swing into their season ranked No. 32 in the ITA rankings. Head

Coach Tad Berkowitz enters his sixth season as head coach along with source returners. The Wildcate also add five highly touted

with seven returners. The Wildcats also add five highly-touted freshmen to their roster and will look for them to make a mark in the challenging Pac-10 conference which holds 50 NCAA Men's Team Titles.

"We return a big nucleus of guys who all played in the lineup last year," Berkowitz said. "Jay Goldman, Geoff Embry, Borja Malo and Andres Carrasco all played a huge part of our team success last year. We will look to them for leadership and guidance to help us carry through to reach our goals."

The team will depend heavily on their four seniors: Andres Carrasco who received a No. 16 spot in the Southwest Regional rankings, Geoff Embry, Jay Goldman and Borja Malo, along with junior Jason Zafiros who was the lone Wildcat ranked in the top 100 of the

ITA Preseason Rankings at 107. Zafiros finished the 2009-10 season with a 22-15 singles record and an impressive 22-4 record as a freshman. "Jason is a fierce competitor and our entire team feeds off his energy," Berkowitz said. This season, the Wildcats will all be competing

to fill in the top of the lineup. Most notably, the Wildcats will need to fill the void left by Andres

Arango who played in the top two spots 17 out of the Wildcats' 24 matches. The team will also be without First Team Pac-10 All-Academic recipient Ravid Hazi, who finished with a 13-10 singles record and was a consistent doubles player.

The team also brings in five freshmen, including top 20 junior's player Giacomo Miccini (Recanati, Italy). "We are really excited about our freshmen class," Berkowitz said. "These guys are all tremendous players."



8 111th 'The Ojai'

California Golden Bears

Berkeley, California Head Coach: Peter Wright

2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 11-5 Overall; 2-1 Pac-10



The California men's tennis team turns to its seniors as the spring dual season comes around. A veteran core of Golden Bears leads a group of up-and-coming tennis stars into one of the toughest schedules in men's collegiate tennis.

Senior Pedro Zerbini will have a target on his back after posting a remarkable 14-4 singles record with a 4-1 mark in Pac-10 duals last spring. He earned the No. 21 ranking in the final ITA polls and was No. 34 in doubles with partner Jonathan Dahan. Dahan will also look to make an impact this season from both singles and doubles courts.

Down the lineup, the Bears boast consistent talent, highlighted by the successful play of junior Nick Andrews. His 26 singles wins from a year ago led the team. He was 5-1 in Pac-10 duals and posted 14 doubles wins with partner Christoffer Konigsfeldt.



Cueto

Konigsfeldt and fellow sophomore Riki McLachlan each registered impressive freshmen campaigns and accounted for 40 singles wins a year ago. Senior Bozhidar Katsarov had over 20 wins a year ago and returns to the lineup with the most career victories of any Bear.

Cal will welcome the talents of Ben McLachlan and sophomore transfer Carlos Cueto when dual play begins. McLachlan is as



Zerbini

highly-touted as incoming players come, and Cueto proved his prowess as a top player in the SEC for Florida before making his move out west. Rounding out Cal's lineup are a nucleus of veterans that includes senior Zach Gilbert, and juniors Tommie Murphy, and Sky Lovill.

In his 17th year at the helm, head coach Peter Wright seeks to take his Bears back to the NCAA tournament for a school-record 12th consecutive

time. In fact, his squads have only missed postseason play once in his entire career.



Oregon Ducks

Eugene, Oregon Head Coach: Nils Schyllander

2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 10-5 Overall; 0-1 Pac-10

Oregon won nine of its first 13 duals and in the process posted a 55-23 dual singles record. The Ducks' lineup has featured a youth movement of sorts with two freshmen (Alex Rovello and Robin Cambier) and a junior transfer (Baptiste

Faynot) making up the top three players in Oregon's singles lineup. The trio has combined to go 46-21 (.687 winning percentage) in singles play.

Rovello has taken hold of the coveted No. 1 position in both the

singles and doubles lineups and was the catalyst of Oregon's hot start to the season. He began the season 9-3 in dual singles play for a .750 winning percentage, the highest among the Ducks' regulars. The Portland, Ore., freshman won his first six dual singles matches and spent time in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings, spending two weeks at No. 120 this season.



Favnot

Faynot has split time between the No. 2 and 3 spots, seeing most of his action at the second singles position. The Nantes, France, native has a 14-8 overall record in singles and is 8-4 in duals.

Cambier leads Oregon with 17 singles wins while playing primarily at the No. 3 position. He also competes at No. 1 doubles with Rovello, where the duo has gone 7-4 through UO's first 13 duals. Cambier has defeated one ranked opponent this season, Washington's No. 125 Martin Kildahl on Feb. 26.

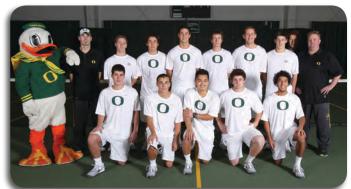
Jose Izquierdo has ably bridged the bottom half of the singles lineup at the No. 4 spot and is on pace for a career junior season. The Madrid, Spain, native has 11 singles wins, one shy of his career high set during his freshman campaign. Like Rovello, Izquierdo won his first six singles decisions during dual play, which helped Oregon open the season 6-0.



Rovello

UO's doubles lineup has amassed a 23-15 record in dual play. Its top two-teams of Rovello and Cambier (7-4) at No. 1 and Aaron Clissold and Doug Mayeda (6-3) at No. 2 are a combined 13-7 in dual play and have helped Oregon win the doubles point eight times.

Clissold and Duncan MacDonald-Korth round out the Ducks' singles lineup. After battling injury early in the season, MacDonald-Korth started 6-1 in dual singles play while Clissold posted a 7-4 dual singles mark in UO's first 13 duals.



Stanford Cardinal

Stanford, California Head Coach: John Whitlinger

2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 12-5 Overall; 2-1 Pac-10



Stanford has been a fixture in the ITA national rankings throughout the year, reaching its highest point in mid-February when the Cardinal climbed to No. 7. The Cardinal won its first seven matches to begin the year, equaling its most recent best start to a season with a 7-0 debut in 2002. As of Mar. 21, the Cardinal had posted

an 8-3 mark overall and had yet to play a Pac-10 counting match.

Stanford's 5-2 victory over Fresno State on Feb. 15 gave head coach John Whitlinger his 100th career victory. In seven seasons, Whitlinger has led Stanford to a 101-55 record. The Cardinal is aiming for its sixth NCAA Tournament appearance under Whitlinger's guidance.



Thacher

The Farm has fared well against nationally-ranked opponents this year, with its biggest victory coming in the form of a 4-3 upset of then-No. 2 USC on Feb. 19 at the National Team Indoor

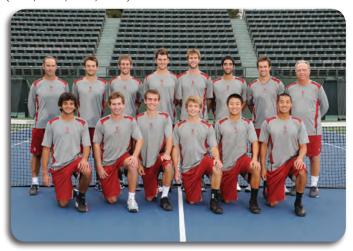


Klahn

Championships in Seattle. One day after suffering its first loss of the year, Stanford edged USC with Denis Lin's 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 victory at the No. 4 spot providing the clincher. Doubles play has once again proven to be a strength for Stanford this year, led by one of the nation's top pairings in Bradley Klahn and Ryan Thacher. A contender for this year's national title, Klahn and Thacher

defeated Fresno State's Remi Boutillier and Rikus de Villiers 6-1, 6-2 back on Mar. 6 to capture the title at the 122nd Pacific Coast Doubles tournament. Klahn and Thacher have now won six doubles titles together, most recently at this year's Sherwood Cup. The duo reached the semifinals of last year's NCAA Doubles Championship.

Stanford University and the Taube Family Tennis Center will serve as the host site for the 2011 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Championships from May 19-30. Recognized as perhaps the finest facility in collegiate tennis, The Taube Family Tennis Center played host to the first-ever combined men's and women's NCAA Tennis Championships in 2006. In addition, the facility has hosted the women's NCAA Championships four times (1991, 1992, 1997, 2002).



UCLA Bruins

Los Angeles, California Head Coach: Billy Martin

2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 14-5 Overall; 3-2 Pac-10



With three freshmen in the starting lineup, head coach Billy Martin has seen somewhat of a youth movement sweep through Westwood in 2011. The veteran coach, who takes a 383-79 (.829) overall record into his 18th season at UCLA, was dealt a blow early on this

year when it was learned that senior Nick Meister, the team's top player in 2010, would be unavailable for the season due to injury. Although the Bruins still had two very experience seniors in Amit Inbar and Holden Seguso, it was apparent that the team's success this season would hinge on how well the fresh-

man adjusted to the college game.

Daniel Kosakowski, Clay Thompson and Adrien Puget make up the team's talented trio of newcomers. Kosakowski, from Downey, Calif., comes to UCLA as the top recruit in America, as he was listed No. 1 overall in the class of 2010 according to TennisRecruiting.net. In January, he became the first freshman to play at the No. 1

singles position for UCLA since Jean-Noel Grinda did it in 1998. Thompson, from Venice Beach, was also one of the top recruits heading into college this year, as he was ranked No. 3 nationally by TennisRecruiting.net. He has already posted some big results this year, clinching 4-3 wins over No. 9 Baylor and No. 10 Florida.



Kosakowski

Puget, from Le Haillan, France, was ranked as high as No. 11 in the ITF Junior World Rankings. He reached the semifinals in singles at the 2009 Australian Open Junior Championships. While the three newcomers bring an abundance of talent to this year's team, Inbar and Seguso provide the much-needed experience, as both players have helped the team to deep runs in

the NCAA Tournament the last several years. Inbar teamed with Meister to earn All-America honors in doubles last year. He has also been a major contributor in singles, leading the team in wins in 2010 with 26. He will anchor the No. 1 doubles and No. 2 singles positions this season.



USC Trojans

Los Angeles, California **Head Coach: Peter Smith**

2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 18-2 Overall; 4-0 Pac-10



On the tennis map right now, the compass needle points to USC. The sheen of back-to-back national championships has the Trojans still glowing as the team to beat. But it won't be easy.

The depth on the USC roster last season was scary. And a glance at this year's lineup is sure to keep plenty of goosebumps on the skin of USC's

opponents. Half the ladder knows what it takes to win two NCAA Championships. Five players return from the 2010 title-winning team. And the new guys are primed to step right into the mix to get USC on a path back to the top.

Senior Jaak Poldma and juniors Steve Johnson and Daniel Nguyen each hold a pair of national championship rings. Senior Peter Lucassen and sophomore JT Sundling picked up their first last year, when USC finished as champs with a 25-3 overall record after taking second in

the Pac-10 at 5-1. Altogether, it's a pool of experience that USC head coach and 2010 ITA National Coach of the Year, Peter Smith, is eager to dip into for a run at defending the Trojans' back-to-back titles. "We've been lucky to have the depth necessary to go far, and it looks like we have it again this year," Smith said.



Poldma

USC's top loss from last season is the fiery Robert Farah, who tagteamed the No. 1 singles slot with

Steve Johnson and also teamed up with Johnson as the top double pair. With Farah's eligibility exhausted, USC's ladder takes on a different, yet-still-daunting look. Johnson is an easy fit back into No. 1, with Poldma and Nguyen already proven winners and Lucassen and Sundling having gleaned plenty of winning experience after a year as Trojans.

Added to the formula for this season are three new freshmen — Michael Grant, Ray Sarmiento and Corey Smith. Grant and Sarmiento



Johnson

had strong fall seasons, with Sarmiento factoring in quickly as a doubles gun as well. Newcomer Emilio Gomez also enters the picture this season in coming to Troy from Ecuador this spring.

The ITA national rankings already reflect a Trojan dominance in 2011. USC opens the spring ranked No. 2 in the nation as a team, just behind top-ranked Virginia. The Cavaliers were the top-

seeded team in both the 2009 and 2010 NCAA tournaments, and USC served up an upset win over UVA both years en route to claiming its consecutive crowns.



Washington Huskies

Seattle, Washington **Head Coach: Matt Anger**

2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 14-7 Overall; 1-2 Pac-10

The 2011 season promises to be very significant for the Husky men's tennis team. Washington has lined up a fantastic home schedule, centered around the ITA National Team Indoor Championships, which UW will host for the

sixth time in program history. But most importantly are the expectations for this senior-laden roster.

Head Coach Matt Anger knows how consistently good the Huskies have been. After all, Washington has reached the NCAA tournament in every one of his previous 16 years at the helm, but the past two years the Huskies haven't been able to get over the hump against the very top teams.



Looking to lead the way for the Huskies are a trio of seniors who have been mainstays in the singles lineup for the past three years. Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, Martin Kildahl, and Tobi Obenaus have combined for 102 dual singles wins since 2008, and hope to extend their careers past the NCAA

Regional round for the first time this spring.

Nedunchezhiyan, an All-Pac-10 selection the past two years, has been ranked in the Top-40 and will look to climb back up the rankings to that level, which would mean a second trip to the NCAA Singles Championships. "Jeevan will definitely be one of our top guys, there's no doubt about it," says Anger. "He's a guy who plays those bigger matches with a lot of fire and emotion."

Kildahl, the Oslo, Norway, heavy hitter, coming back from foot surgery, ended the spring impressively and, after a solid fall season

this year, picked up his first career ITA singles

ranking, at 83rd.



Nedunchezhiyan

The biggest leap of any Husky last season may have come from Obenaus, who was a consistent force in the lower half of the lineup, setting career bests in wins across the board and going 16-5 overall in dual singles play.

For Washington to take the next step in the rank-

ings and in the NCAA tournament, they will likely need a big season from sophomore Kyle McMorrow, the Pac-10's top freshman one year ago. McMorrow heads into the dual season ranked 81st in singles, but with a huge amount of what basketball pundits love to call 'upside.'

"When I look at Kyle," says Anger, "he is definitely one of the guys playing his best tennis. He is hitting the ball better, he's understanding the game better, he's understanding how to work on his game."



Pac-10 Women match up on Thursday and Friday

Arizona Wildcats

Tucson, Arizona **Head Coach: Vicky Maes**

2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 15-6 Overall; 2-3 Pac-10



Vicky Maes returns for her tenth year as head coach and Ryan Stotland returns for his third year as assistant coach. Volunteer assistant coach Jim Rosborough, who also has a long history of coaching Wildcats, joins the already successful

coaching team.

The team faces a tough schedule in the spring but Maes feels that they have an opportunity to succeed this season."I'm looking forward to the entire season," Maes said. "We have a really good line-up of matches and we will be challenged every time we step on the court."

"This team has great chemistry," Maes said. "We all know we're talented and that we can do well this year. If we play hard and consistent throughout the line-up, we will be able to compete with all the great teams we are scheduled to play. Our goal is to make Nationals but it will be important to maintain focus and to not look ahead too much and take it one match at a time."



Stotland is also optimistic about the season, he feels that the team has improved as a whole and has a lot to look forward to.

"I am looking forward to the progress we have made," Stotland said. "Watching the hard work the girls have put in and seeing it translate to matches is what any coach desires."

In addition to the return of the key junior duo of Natasha Marks and Sarah Landsman, the team has added three strong recruits.

"Our strength lies in our depth this year," said Maes. "We have



added three excellent freshmen who have made a very smooth transition into college. All three had consistent results in the fall which has given everyone else on the team more confidence in the group

The final returning pieces of the puzzle include junior Deborah Castany, sophomore Elizabeth Hammond, and lone senior Jane Huh.

"The biggest strength the girls have is their bond with each other," said Stotland. "The coaches and the players get along so well that it feels more like a family environment than a team environment. All of the girls not only work hard for themselves, but make sure they are the best they can be for others."



Arizona State Sun Devils

Tempe, Arizona **Head Coach: Sheila McInerney**

2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 13-3 Overall; 3-0 Pac-10



The Arizona State women's tennis team's success might have surprised some Pac-10 opponents, with the Sun Devils upsetting California in Tempe and defeating USC in Los Angeles, but the success comes as no surprise to the ASU team themselves.

"You have to hand it to them," said head coach Sheila McInerney. "I'm really proud of our kids.

We had some tough losses but they're really resilient. We're a really good team. For our kids it's really nice to validate that with [great

McInerney is rounding out the 27th season of her coach career at Arizona State, the second-longest tenured coach on staff. The

veteran coach is on pace to notch one of the most successful seasons in her run as head coach for the Sun Devils. Following ASU's victory at Wash ington, the Sun Devils compiled a five-match winning streak.

One of the main elements of Arizona State's success is the leadership of veteran upper classmen on the court. The Sun Devils have three seniors and a junior in the line-up with Ashlee Brown, Micaela Hein, Kelcy McKenna and Michelle Brycki.

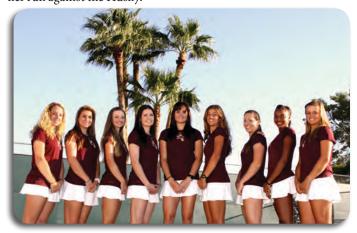
With her stellar tournament play this fall, McKenna has been the go-to player for the top spot in the ASU line-up. McKenna won



the Cal Nike Invitational and became the first Sun Devil to win the ASU Thunderbird Invitational this fall all while completing a rigorous student-teaching schedule.

With McKenna, Hein makes up the other half of Arizona State's top doubles team. The senior duo has competed as doubles partners for the majority of the past three seasons.

Making an immediate impact in her freshman season, Jacqueline Cako had an 18-match singles winning streak before dropping her first match of the dual season in late March. Cako went into three sets with Washington's No. 23 Venise Chan before snapping her run against the Husky.



California Golden Bears

Berkeley, California **Head Coach: Amanda Augustus**

2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 13-5 Overall; 3-2 Pac-10



The California women's tennis team will feature a balanced attack when the Golden Bears take the court for the 2011 dual season. A squad that posted a 20-6 overall record and finished third in the Pac-10 with a 5-2 mark will return a pair of

seniors, a trio of juniors, a pair of sophomores, and welcome a pair of freshmen.

Up and down the lineup, Cal is set to compete in the toughest conference for women's collegiate tennis—the Pac-10. Seniors Mari Andersson and Marina Cossou will lead a talented group of Bears through one of the most challenging schedules in the nation. Both seniors are coming off 30-plus win seasons.

Cossou ended last season as the No. 17-ranked player in the nation and was selected as an ITA All-American. Andersson was second on the team with 33 singles wins and received the No. 26 ranking at season's end.

a strong doubles lineup for the Bears.



The gem of the Cal roster is junior Jana Juricova. The 2009 ITA National Indoor singles champion and the 2010 NCAA singles runner-up is back with a vengeance after securing the No. 2 ranking in the final ITA poll. She earned her second All-America selection after leading the Bears with an unprecedented 44 victories. Juricova and Andersson—2009 NCAA doubles champions—will also bolster

Cal's balanced lineup continues with a pair of strong sophomores in



the mix. Tayler Davis and Annie Goransson entered the ITA's singles rankings at No. 35 and No. 46 respectively and are ready to make some noise coming off freshman campaigns in which they each reached more than 20 singles victories. The Bears can pair the sophomore crew with strong junior leadership from Stephany Chang and Catalina Visico, but the roster is rounded out by a duo of highly-touted

incoming freshmen in Alice Duranteau and Anett Schutting. Cal's veteran leadership will be steadied by an injection of vibrant youth.

Head coach Amanda Augustus enters her fourth dual season with her sights set on returning the Bears to the NCAA championship matches they played in her first two seasons in Berkeley. She has produced two national runner-up trophies and seeks the Pac-10 and NCAA crowns as the spring gets under way.



Oregon Ducks

Eugene, Oregon **Head Coach: Paul Reber**

2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 7-11 Overall; 1-6 Pac-10

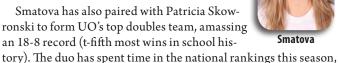


Skowronski

An upset victory over Pac-10 rival Washington raised the bar for Oregon's young squad this season. The Ducks went 7-6 in the season's first 13 duals, but notched their first Pac-10 win (1-4) of the year on March 11 when they downed the 20th-ranked Huskies, 4-3, and moved into

the Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings for the first time this season at No. 54.

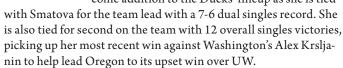
The Ducks are led by Pavlina Smatova, who has shot up the singles rankings in the early portion of the season. After opening dual play unranked, Smatova has moved to No. 79 in the ITA rankings and is 15-11 overall this season while sporting a 7-6 dual record.





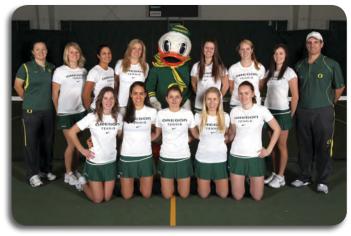
peaking as high as No. 45 as they won their first seven dual matches.

Skowronski has seen most of her matches at No. 2 singles and she is tied for third on the squad with six dual victories. The sophomore from Germany won six of her first seven decisions in dual play. Freshman Rabea Stuckemann has been a welcome addition to the Ducks' lineup as she is tied



Fellow freshman Pascale Neubert has also made in instant splash as she is 6-5 since joining the Ducks in January. Neubert also paired with Stuckemann for a crucial doubles victory in the dual against Washington, with the duo's win helping to secure the doubles point in the win.

With the No. 54 ranking, Oregon has cracked the national rankings in each season under head coach Paul Reber. UO cracked the top-60 for the first time since the 2009 season when it peaked at No. 46.



Stanford Cardinal

Stanford, California **Head Coach: Lele Forood**

Barte

2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 18-0 Overall; 5-0 Pac-10

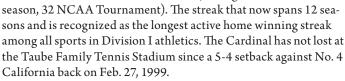


Stanford has picked up right where it left off after winning last year's NCAA Championship. The Cardinal won its first 13 matches to open the year, holding down the No. 1 spot in the ITA national rankings until the first week of March. Included among Stanford's first 13 wins of the year was a 9-0 mark against nationally-ranked opponents.

Stanford defeated then-No. 2 Florida 4-2 in the championship

match of the ITA National Team Indoor Championships on Feb. 21. The Cardinal captured its first indoor tournament title since 2006, when the Cardinal blanked Texas 4-0 in Madison, Wis.

Picking up its fifth win over a top-10 opponent this year, No. 2 Stanford rolled to a 5-2 victory over No. 6 California on Mar. 5 and extended its NCAA-record home winning streak to an unthinkable 173 consecutive matches (141 regular



Hilary Barte and Mallory Burdette have earned their reputations as big-time players at the top of the lineup, but freshmen Kristie Ahn and Nicole Gibbs have combined to go 18-0 so far while alternating at the Nos. 3 and 4 spots of the lineup. Both have spent time in the national rankings. As of Mar. 20, Gibbs had posted a



team-high 25-4 record and was riding a 13-match winning streak while Ahn had registered a 23-3 mark and owned an 11-match winning streak. Stanford University and the Taube Family Tennis Center will serve as the host site for the 2011 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Championships from May 19-30. Recognized as perhaps the finest facility in collegiate tennis, The

Taube Family Tennis Center played host to the first-ever combined men's and women's NCAA Tennis Championships in 2006. In addition, the facility has hosted the women's NCAA Championships four times (1991, 1992, 1997, 2002).



UCLA Bruins

Los Angeles, California **Head Coach: Stella Sampras Webster**

2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 14-5 Overall; 4-1 Pac-10



After losing just one player to graduation in 2010, the UCLA women's tennis team is loaded with talent and looking to make a serious run at another NCAA title in 2011. The Bruins are led by head coach Stella Sampras Webster, who

helped UCLA to the school's first NCAA Championship in 2008. She takes an overall coaching record of 250-117 (.681) into her 15th season at UCLA.

Although the Bruins lost Pac-10 Player of the Year, Yasmin Schnack, to graduation, UCLA still returns six players who saw significant playing time a year ago. Add newcomers McCall Jones and Courtney Dolehide to the mix and the Bruins have one of the deepest lineups in the country. Jones, who is a junior, joins the team after transferring from BYU, where she dominated the Mountain West Confer-



ence in her two seasons in Provo. Dolehide, a freshman, was one of the top recruits in the nation last year.

In addition to the newcomers, UCLA returns one of the most experienced senior classes in the country in Andrea Remynse, Noelle Hickey and Maya Johansson. Remynse, a two-time All-American, teamed with Schnack to claim last year's Pac-10 Doubles Championship, defeating Stanford's Hilary Barte and Lindsay Burdette, 6-1, 6-0 in the final. She and Schnack were named the Pac-10 Doubles Team of the Year following the tournament. Hickey, who transferred from Georgia Tech following her sophomore season in 2009, earned All-America honors in her first season in Westwood, reaching the round



of 16 in singles at last year's NCAA Championships. Johansson, who is also a Georgia Tech transfer, is coming off a season in which she posted a remarkable 20-1 record in dual matches. She ended 2010 with a 23-7 overall record, becoming one of just four Bruin players to reach the 20-win mark. Juniors Carling Seguso and Nina Pantic, along with sophomore Pamela Montez, are also expected to

produce big results for the team in 2011. Pantic and Seguso met in the final of last year's Pac-10 Invitational Draw, with Pantic taking a 6-2, 6-0 victory over her teammate. Montez played 14 matches as a freshman in 2010, ending the season with an 18-10 singles record.

Led by Remynse at No. 17, UCLA had four players listed in the Preseason ITA Singles Rankings.



USC Women of Troy

Los Angeles, California Head Coach: Richard Gallien

2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 13-5 Overall; 3-2 Pac-10



This time last year, USC was a top-10 team, but the Women of Troy would later slip to No. 20 by season's end.

This year, there will be no slipping.
Ranked No. 18 to start its 2011 campaign, the USC women's tennis team has its climbing ropes anchored and ready for a rise to power. Whereas

last year's Trojans were a largely young squad, the Trojans of 2011 have made the transition to an experienced, talented group headlined

by USTA/ITA National Indoor champion Maria Sanchez. Now a senior, Sanchez opens the year as the nation's No. 3 ranked singles player, and she has a pair of teammates also in the rankings: Sophomore Danielle Lao – ITA Southwest Regional Champion in the fall – at No. 10 in the nation, and freshman Kaitlyn Christian at No. 114.



Sanchez

Head coach Richard Gallien is confident in his

Women of Troy and their ability to put forth a successful season.

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USC comes off a 2010 season in which the Trojans reached the NCAA Tournament once again, and finished the year at 14-10 overall after a 5-3 mark in Pac-10 play. All but one player returns from that roster, and with the addition of the talented Christian and fellow freshman, Hayley Miller, Gallien has high hopes for his streamlined 2011 roster.

"When things get hairy, and it's a nasty, tough match and the balance is still out there, I've always thought the person with the highest level of character has a greater chance to win," Gallien said.

Sanchez clearly enters her senior season as USC's top gun as a 2010 ITA All-American and All-Pac-10 First Team selection. She's had a pair of unrelenting classmates for the past three seasons in Cristala Andrews and Lyndsay Kinstler, who have snagged many a win in singles and doubles. Now a junior, Alison Ramos has proven herself a tough competitor with a knack for winning, and sophomores Danielle Lao and Valeria Pulido have their first year under their belts and are also regarded as talented winners.

"I think we're pretty balanced. The trick is to contest each position ferociously and not give anything up."



Washington Huskies

Seattle, Washington Head Coach: Jill Hultquist

2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 12-8 Overall; 2-4 Pac-10

For the first time in two years, change is at hand for the Husky women's tennis team. After returning her 2009 NCAA Sweet 16 lineup completely intact for 2010, head coach Jill Hultquist now has to at least organize some new

team photos. But despite a bit of change, Washington hopes its winning ways will stay the same, as the Huskies will continue to roll out one of the best one-two combos in the nation for one more year at the top of its singles lineup.

Venise Chan and Denise Dy each turned in remarkable 2009-10 campaigns, capped off by ITA All-America honors for each, a first for a Husky player since 2004. Both started the fall of 2010 ranked in the

Top-10 nationally, and Dy heads into the seasonopener this weekend ranked No. 6 in the country.

Chan joined the program after a two-year run that saw the Huskies win a combined eight matches, and since she arrived, Washington has returned to the NCAA Championships every season, and Chan herself has made the NCAA Singles Championships every season, reaching the Round of 16 last year.



Dy

Washington lost veteran starters Joyce Ardies and Aleksandra Malovic from its 2010 doubles squad. Ardies had played No. 1 doubles with Dy for the past two years, and now the onus is on Chan to move up and raise her doubles game to play with Dy in that top spot.

Dy's game skyrocketed during her sophomore year, and heading into her junior season, "She continues to amaze us,"



Chan

says Hultquist. Dy turned in another stellar fall campaign, reaching the semifinals of the ITA All-American Championships, and the quarterfinals of the ITA National Indoor Championships. "I don't really think I have a definite number one right now, which is nice," Hultquist says. "I'm going to try to swap them around more than I did last year." Following Chan and Dy in the lineup will likely be a

combination of three different players. Senior Lina Xu has a lot of experience at the No. 3 and No. 4 singles spots over the past two years, and will be in the mix, along with junior Samantha Smith, who ended the fall with an upset win over the 65th-ranked player. Newcomer Andjela Nemcevic will also definitely factor into the mix for a mid-lineup spot. The freshman from Belgrade, Serbia has a powerful ground game, and the coaches have liked her spirit and willingness to learn.



Washington State Cougars

Pullman, Washington Head Coach: Lisa Hart

2010-11 Record (as of Apr 8): 11-9 Overall; 0-7 Pac-10



After a challenging 2009-10 season, the women's tennis team is looking to grow while taking their play to the next level. Last season the Cougars faced 12 ranked teams, seven of which were members of the Pac-10, while posting a 12-14 record and an eighth place finish in

the Pac-10 with a 1-7 record.

Entering her eighth year as WSU's head coach, Lisa Hart is looking to continue the success the Cougars had this fall.

"Our goal this season is to win every match and ultimately be selected to the NCAA Team Championships. This team was all together last year, with the exception of Olga, and we are looking to build off of last years' progress."

WSU returns all top seven players from the 2010 season, including Elisabeth Fournier and Liudmila Vasilieva, both of whom qualified for the NCAA Singles Championships. With six of nine athletes being underclassmen, the young team will continue to establish itself in the Pac-10 conference and build on past success. The Cougars will



also look for leadership from seniors Jessica Gomez and Marina Nicolas.

This fall, eight of WSU's returning players finished with a winning record. Vasilieva led the field with a singles record of 9-2.



Vasiliev

Fournier advanced to the quarterfinal round at ITA Regionals. Additionally, Marina Nicolas won the Crimson Singles bracket at the Cougar Classic, her fourth consecutive year. Ksenia Googe finished second in the Gray Singles bracket. The Cougars also brought home a doubles championship from Andjela Kankaras and Ksenia Googe in the Crimson Doubles bracket.

This year's roster includes two seniors, one junior, five sophomores, and one freshman, Olga Musilovich from Moscow, Russia. Musilovich had a successful fall season, going 6-4 in singles competition as well as advancing to the round of 32 at the ITA Regionals.

"Olga has jumped right in and we have big expectations for her," said Hart.

The 2010-11 Cougar squad will compete against some of the top teams in the nation, with 15 opponents ranked at the beginning of the season. Six of WSU's Pac-10 opponents were ranked in the top 75 at the beginning of this season, which will present the Cougars with a challenging conference schedule.





Greta Davis - In Memoriam

A tribute by Vivian Perrett

Known for her marvelous sense of humor, her reliability, and her can-do efficiency, former tournament secretary and board member, Greta Davis, will be greatly missed at The Ojai's 111th.

Greta died Dec. 30, 2010 at age 69, leaving behind a legacy of years of hard work for the town's tennis tournament. She performed whatever task was necessary — be it registering players, settling draws, directing court assignments, making policy decisions, and oh, yes — pouring tea.

Greta graced the tea table for nearly 20 years, enjoying the camaraderie and conversation with all who came for tea and tennis.

Please visit the Tea Tent on Sunday, May 1, at 2 p.m., to share stories and celebrate Greta's 25 years of contributions to the tournament and to our wonderful community that is "The Ojai."

A few words about this year's hats and t-shirts

Once again, Heather Farley's graphic design class at Nordhoff High School delivers.

Earlier this year,
Ms. Farley assigned
the designing of The



Ojai Tournament's official t-shirt and hat logos as a project to her advanced class. So many great designs were presented for consideration that it was difficult to choose just two. The final choice for the 2011 T-shirt logo was designed by Tanner Klassen, and the choice for the hat logo was designed by Christina Murill.

The Ojai Valley Tennis Club applauds the efforts of all the young designers in Heather Farley's advanced graphic arts class.

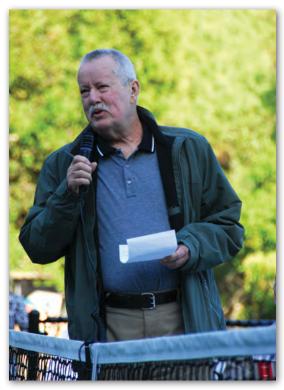
'The Ojai' Open lures top players, patrons

Story by Anne Williamson, Photo by Holly Roberts

ach year the Open Division level of tennis has improved largely due to one of our local tennis patrons, Mike Taggart, who has generously supported and increased the prize money for this event to a total of \$18,000. The other major sponsor for this event is the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa, which has donated three rooms to the top three-seeded Open players during the tournament week.

All matches other than the finals in The Open Division competition are held on the tennis courts at The Inn. Local fans look forward each year to returning champions, and the new ones on the horizon. Mike Taggart spends most of the tournament courtside, watching some former ATP players, and new stars playing on our courts as they make their way to the real Grand Slam.

The Men's Finals are often a showdown between a number of local players who have trained at Weil or played in the Pac-10 tournament as college players. Men's doubles are always fun to watch with blood, sweat and tears during some tight points but always exciting to watch as the fans have

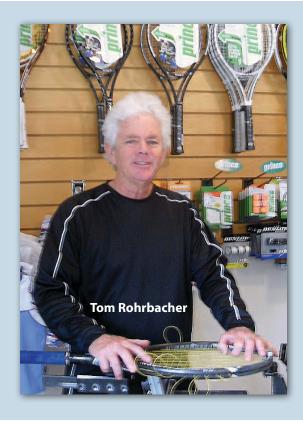


Mike Taggart, local tennis patron for 'The Ojai' Open Division

come to expect some great tennis. We continue to attract returning players such as Lester Cook and Brian Wilson – and former Pro Circuit player Jeff Tarango and Scoville Jenkins joined the battle last year.

The Women's Open had two very exciting players last year with Olga Poutchkova and Gail Brodsky. Olga Poutchkova was at one time #32 in the world and has competed in the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open with some great wins. Gail has already experienced her own personal Grand Slam at the Ojai by winning the G14's, G16's, G18s and the Women's Open in 2008. Gail blew through Olga in the finals and is one of the youngest players to ever win the Open division in continuous years. Gail, aged 16 when she won the Open, is only surpassed by Tracy Austin — the youngest female player to win the Open at the age of 14. Who will be the Champion this year?

Any way you look at it, and no matter who you are watching — the Open has exciting tennis.



Official Stringer on hand for 111th 'The Ojai' tournament

SOLINCO is proud to be the official stringer of the 111th Annual Ojai Valley Tennis Tournament. SOLINCO works closely with many of the top touring professionals and elite juniors in the U.S., as well as with many of the PAC-10 programs such as UCLA, Washington, Stanford and Arizona. SOLINCO is excited to be offering stringing services for this historical tournament, with an experienced team involved in other high profile tournaments such as the Fed Cup, Easter Bowl and Pacific Coast Doubles Tournament.

Please check out our website at WWW.SOLINCOSPORTS. COM and join our facebook page at WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SOLINCO for the latest update

At The Ojai Valley Inn & Spa , Tom Rohrbacher has been stringing racquets for 40 years and is a Certified Master Racquet Technician and Certification Tester for the USRSA. He operates Ojai's only full service Tennis Pro Shop. It is open to the public and conveniently located at the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa Tennis Center. Same day service is the norm for racquet restringing and customization. Call Tom at 805-640-2109 or stop by and see the antique racquet collection and memorabilia.



Tennis world great leaves mark on Ojai

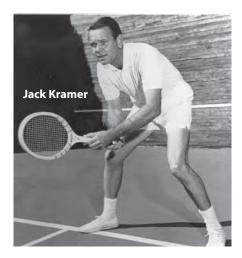
With one generous stroke, a towering figure in the tennis world has left a lasting mark in a place he returned to again and again.

Jack Kramer, considered the father of modern professional tennis, made possible the extensive renovation of the Libbey Park lower courts with a \$25,000 donation. Court no. 5 has been permanently dedicated to his memory.

All five of his sons attended the dedication ceremony in 2010. Son David called Kramer's donation, made just before he died in 2009, "Dad's last gesture."

Born in 1921, the son of a railroad worker, Kramer was a standout all-around athlete. He was introduced to tennis at an exhibition match by the legendary Ellsworth Vines, and was so impressed with the game's fluidity and possibility, that he made it a single-minded pursuit. He won the National Boy's Championship in 1936 and the National Juniors Interscholastics in 1938, as stepping stones to a long career as a No. 1 ranked player, proponent, announcer and role model on and off the court. He won Wimbledon championships as a singles player in 1947, and as a doubles players in 1946 and 1947. Kramer has three Grand Slam singles titles.

Among the modern innovations Kramer either invented or advocated was "Big Game" tennis of drop-and-volley, where the tall, coiled and powerful Kramer would come to the net behind each serve, even at the risk of double-



faulting. He was also known for "percentage tennis," which he learned from mentor Cliff Roche at the Los Angeles Tennis Club. Playing a strategic game, Kramer would maximize his efforts on key points to increase his winning percentage and take control of the match.

His name was made long before his legendary career was over, as the Jack Kramer Autograph racket from Wilson Sporting Goods became their most-popular selling title of all time.

Kramer believed the best players of the day should compete with each other regardless of their status as amateur or professionals. Open Tennis was finally adopted in 1968, coincidentally the same year in which Kramer was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Kramer was a frequent visitor to Ojai, first as a player, then as a fan.

"Dad taught us the tradition that we were to conduct ourselves in such a way that our relationships would last forever. When people come to Ojai and experience your hospitality and all that means, you feel you are standing in the best tennis town in America."

Tennis facility wins national recognition

An Outstanding Tennis Facility in America was awarded to Ojai by the USTA this year in category of 'small public parks'. This award was based upon the quality of the facilities, amenities, and active programs.

Living up to its reputation as the second Best Tennis Town in America awarded in 2009, the Ojai Valley Tennis Club renovated the Lower Libbey Courts last year at a cost of \$250,000. This project, located a few hundred yards down the hill from the Main Libbey Tennis Complex, was completed with no public funds. The all-volunteer Tennis Club, in addition to organizing and running "The Ojai" Tournament last year, raised the funds, designed and administered a private contract for the improvements; saving considerable money compared to what it would have cost the city.

The Lower Libbey project finished a program started in 2002 to replace all 8 of the 30-year or older asphalt courts with post-tension concrete and have lights on all courts. The new courts will last over 100 years with minimal maintenance and outstanding playability.

In addition to the new courts, a new halfsize QuickStart court was built for the little kids and a concrete practice wall was added. A new, raised viewing area was added for parents of kids taking lessons on the teaching court.

Although the area adjacent to the Main Libbey Park courts is torn up this year due to reconstruction of the adjacent Libbey Bowl, the historic wooden bleachers have been refurbished to extend their life. It is quite unusual to have this amount of spectator seating in a public park. It all adds up to an Outstanding Tennis Facility designation.







Featured: Persimmon Hill Property - Horses - Views - 4.4 Acres - 4 Bedrooms Plus \$1,249,000









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Tournament volunteers serve youth year-round

A major objective of the Ojai Tennis Tournament is to raise funds to conduct and support various programs that introduce tennis to elementary school students, and support the development of young tennis players in the Ojai Valley.

This goal is accomplished through the Ojai Valley Tennis Club's Youth Tennis Committee, which raises funds and manages the programs.

The all-volunteer committee works with the Ojai Unified School District, the City of Ojai Recreation Department, and several local teaching pros to introduce, develop, and popularize tennis for children of all ages.

Instruction begins in elementary schools by experienced volunteers, who introduce basic skills along with showing the kids how much fun they can have playing tennis.

This instruction is based on the QuickStart program developed by the USTA. Several of our volunteers have attended training sessions to allow for effective and fun instruction. The QuickStart program is led by Holly Roberts and Philippe Gache, and funding is provided mostly by the Ojai Recreation Department. Please see the QuickStart article on page 30 for further details.

In addition to QuickStart, the tennis club provides funding to the Ojai

Recreation Department to support the youth tennis programs, organized by Rick Thompson, the city tennis professional. He teaches tennis at the beginner and advanced levels, conducts a summer program, and an afterschool tennis league where youngsters can taste competition for the first time and to learn the values of teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Awards are presented to worthy youngsters so they can participate in a number of tennis clinics, camps, academies, and individual professional tennis instruction for further specialized training, development and competition. These awards are made to local youth, determined by the Youth Tennis Committee, based upon a variety of factors such as sportsmanship, motivation, demonstrated talent, potential to advance in competition, and financial need.

Several of the recipients of these awards in the past will be playing in "The Ojai" this year or have gone on to compete at the college level.

A number of these awards and summer tennis camp enrollments, which are all donated by Ojai tennis coaches, are presented at the traditional Friday evening barbeque during "The Ojai" tournament.

The Youth Tennis Committee also organizes and hosts the High Performance Tennis Clinic, using professional coaches to help the region's top-ranked junior players develop competitive strategies and skills. It



Jakob Vos at jhmvos@aol.com.

supports World Team Tennis, The Wilson youth tennis clinic, two local Ventura County Junior Tennis tournaments, local school tennis programs, the Tennis Marathon, organized by the Ojai Valley Youth Foundation, Ojai Day, and this year, for the first time, is planning a Parent/ Child tournament.

These programs for our youth are made possible by the generous contributions of sponsors and citizens of the community. Sponsors such as the Monroe Foundation and Mike Taggart (a local tennis fan) and "The Ojai" Tournament contribute about \$35,000 per year. The quality of the programs and success of reaching and influencing more kids is dependent, however, on private donations. Since this is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, every penny donated goes directly to benefit the youth.

If you would like to help develop character and enrich the lives of our youth to combat juvenile delinquency, you can make a tax-deductible contribution to support the Youth Tennis program. Please send your check payable to: OVTC Youth Tennis and send it to:

OVTC P.O.Box 482 Ojai, Ca. 93024

For further information, contact



20 111th 'The Ojai

The Refreshing **Traditions of 'The Ojai'**

Blending tea, tennis and talk since the tournament's inception in 1896

Story by Darcy Gamble, Vice-Chair, Tea Tent Committee

Tennis, tea, and talk are the activities that Mr. Thacher was summoning by posting the letter T in his window at the Thacher School in 1896. Mr. William L. Thacher, an Ojai resident and brother of The Thacher School founder, brought his love of tennis, Ojai founding "The Ojai" Tennis Tournament. Member of the Yale tennis team during his college days, he conceived the idea for a tennis tournament to be held in Ojai each spring. Mr. Thacher's love of tennis was accompanied by his love of tea, and he would place a sign showing the letter "T" in his window at Thacher School indicating he was ready for "tennis, tea and talk."

This history brings us to the 111th year of the oldest amateur tennis tournament in the country and one of its revered traditions: "The Ojai's" Tea Tent. Stop by during the tennis tournament to experience a genuine display of hospitality and complimentary organic fair trade tea and delicious cookies. More than 100 women, some of them involved with the tennis tournament for more than forty years, will take turns pouring tea for you, the tournament's guests. The women will be formally dressed as they were in the early years of the Tea Tent.

Many hands join together to make your Tea Tent experience. Women from the Ojai Valley Garden Club, Deborah Edwards, Vicki Kirby, B.J. Bianchi, and Judy Hooper will create exquisite floral arrangements for each day. Fair Trade Organic Tea is donated by Zhena's Gypsy Tea (gypsytea.com) which happens to be headquartered in Ojai. And cookies are provided at least in part from local favorites: 1) Shangri-La Sweets, (shangrilasweets. com); 2) Knead Baking Company (kneadbakingcompany.com); 3) Les Bles D'or; and 4) Starr Market in downtown Ojai. Last but not least, for years Mona Woolwine, a third generation tea tent kitchen manager, will work the makeshift galley washing cups and saucers each afternoon and brewing the ever important tea! All of this effort is done in the name of tradition and the best amateur tennis tournament around.

Bring your enthusiasm for tennis and appreciation of history to this year's new Tea Tent location. Because of the Libbey



Ruby Morrison and Lucy Lucking

Bowl construction the Tea Tent has moved to the center of Libbey Park just south of the playground. When you hear the call of umpires and sounds of tennis balls mingling with gentle breezes and conversations through the oak trees you'll know you have arrived. Come experience tea at America's oldest amateur tennis tournament. Tea is served from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Tournament Facts

(1/7 the number of athletes in the 2008 World Summer Olympics!)

• 112 Tennis Courts used

(Ojai Valley, Ventura, Oxnard, and Port Hueneme)

- 500 local volunteers conduct the Tournament (no paid staff or organizer)
 • 7,000 Wilson Heavy Duty tennis balls used.
- \$120,000 total Tournament expenses
- \$62,000 donations received from 5 major sponsors
- \$4,000 donations received from local small merchants
- Significant in-kind services donated from merchants and court owners
- \$17,000 net proceeds contributed to Youth Tennis
- \$35,000 net proceeds contributed to improving public tennis facilities
- 20 cases of Pixie tangerines served to those playing outside of Ojai Valley
- Over a ton of oranges used for the orange juice at Libbey

The Women's Community Colleges are on the hunt at the 111th Ojai Valley Tennis Tournament.

For the first time, the women's community colleges have been given the privilege to enter an additional Singles player, allowing 3 Singles and 2 Doubles

Northern California will be well represented with Kelsey Chrisco from Sierra College along with Reedley College's Nicole Simone and her Doubles partner, Alley McDonald. Lauren Shafer from American River College, Stephanie Quan from DeAnza and Namrata Sher of Chabot, add to the strength of Nor Cal's representation.

Southern California will show their strength in players like Jourdan Jefferson from Mt. San Antonio College, as well as Katerina Mozolyuk and Criss Rodriguez from Santa Monica College.

Irvine Valley's Tina Vuong and Natalie Loria are fine representatives along with Tiffany Shaik, Fullerton, Saddleback's Auriel Tomaiko and Mardee Littrell of Palomar.

Oiai is the favorite tournament to showcase the fine student athletes from California's community colleges.

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Helen Allen

An Ojai treasure on tennis, teaching and life in the sweet spot

Story & Photos by Holly Roberts

If you ask Helen Allen how long she's been in this Best Tennis town of Ojai, she'll quip "I'm a newcomer. I've only been here for 35 years. That's nothing compared to the 111 years of 'The Ojai."

For anyone in the Ojai tennis community who has worked alongside Helen on the courts, received tennis instruction, or has been on the

receiving end of her quirky jokes for any of those 35 years, most will agree that she is a unique character who sincerely deserves her Rotary Club of Ojai Living Treasure award.

Born and raised in the same puritan home her grandfather built in Boston, where girls did not 'play,' much less play sports, Helen came to tennis relatively late in life as an adult. Before tennis, Helen was a WSI (Water Safety Instructor) and taught swimming, sailing and canoeing at a Junior college in Florida. With ten years of competitive tennis under her belt, she started teaching others because she believes that if you can play something and enjoy it, you can teach it.

"I was raised in the puritan ethic. Nothing was to be fun. Everything was serious, proper. I am a person who likes to have fun, so, I got back at 'em"

Helen went to college at the University of Maine and received a degree in History and Government. She was recruited out of college to work for the U.S. Government in D.C. as an NSA cryptanalyst, where she made and broke code during the Vietnam War.

She married in her twenties and the first of her two sons was born in the Philippines, where her five year career with the Government, along with her husband's civilian based war time work with Westinghouse, took them.

"I've lived everywhere. I've lived in 'Misery,' I mean Missouri, several places in Florida and Maryland, D.C., Boston and New Mexico. I moved around a lot but I'm here (Ojai) forever now," Helen joked.

In 1976, her husband's job at Pt. Mugu brought the family of four to Ojai in a roundabout twist of fate. "I drove with 2 cars, 2 cats, 2 kids and a dog from the Atlantic ocean to the Pacific Ocean. The moving van was on its way and we didn't have a house. My husband heard of a little town with good public schools. So, we stayed at the Holiday Inn, and the next day I drove up to Ojai, parked in front of the Libbey Park fountain, saw the tennis courts and said, 'I could live here!'"

Soon afterward, an opening for a tennis instructor with the Ojai Recreation Department (ORD) started Helen on her

twenty-five year odyssey teaching tennis to local kids and adults. "I don't make anybody any good. It's the starting—getting them interested and thinking--'hey, I can do this'-- that counts." she said.



Helen Allen, above, ready to serve. Below. always of service, especially to young players like Max.



"I started Nancine Hayden (Haywood) who wanted to be a baseball pitcher. I never made her good, but she had some fun and won the 1988 Ojai Girls 16-and-Under Doubles with partner Kendra Karris." Today, Haywood works as a Tennis Pro at Ventura's Pierpont Racquet Club.

Tennis cohorts such as Bo Bruce, who has known Helen "forever," said

"I think it's unique that Helen doesn't care about any money whatsoever. She just loves working with the kids. It's really a gift."

Another long time tennis friend and retired teacher, Betty Earnest, used to sit and teach Helen's granddaughter to read while Helen taught Betty's grandson to play tennis. "She talks with the children in a way that makes it fun." Earnest said.

Local Summit School 6th grader, Rebecca Gorman, loved the free QuickStart Tennis program offered to area schools through the ORD and for which Helen volunteers as a coach twice per week. Gorman said that she loved learning the game with the coaches -- "especially Helen. She's unique! She's funny!" Gorman exclaimed.

Helen Allen has a way to work with children at the most basic level to create early success. Montessori School of Ojai Athletic Director, Stan Schneider, was impressed with Helen's patience and success working with the students at another recent QuickStart session:

"Because of her years of experience and skills coaching children, she was able to work with kids like Max who have special needs." Over the course of the four week session, Max progressed to be able to hit the ball in the sweet spot each time Helen tossed it to him.

For decades before there was an official QuickStart Tennis program, Helen took racquets and balls to teach local elementary students on her own. In addition to teaching tennis, Helen volunteers with the "Music Van" which brings free music interaction and instruction to area schools and often serves dinners at the local homeless shelter.

Although she hasn't taught professionally in years, Helen enjoys leading some casual clinics with old time tennis pals who *jones* for her forthright instruction and light hearted probes. "I tell them clearly that I have no insurance, so that if you break your leg, I'm very sorry."

Pinky Belshe continues to improve her skills more than twenty years after Helen introduced her to the basics because Helen will tell it like it is. "She's always been really honest with people. I wish everyone was like her. There's only one Helen!"

Belshe explained that Helen often reiterates what Billy Jean King told her students, including Helen,

years ago. "King told us to always want the ball! None of this 'Don't hit it to me....' You act like you really want that ball and then you'll be ready!"

In honor of Helen's legacy contribution to tennis in our community,

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TOURNAMENT COURT VENUES

City of Ojai - Libbey Park
Ojai Valley Athletic Club
Ojai Valley Inn & Spa
The Thacher School
Villanova Preparatory School
The Ojai Valley School
Nordhoff High School
City of Ventura - Camino Real Park
Oxnard Tennis Tennis Center (Tennis mAcademy)
Ventura College
Pierpont Racquet Club
Pacifica High School
Moranda Park (Tennis mAcademy)
Buena High School
(also numerous residential courts in the Ojai area)



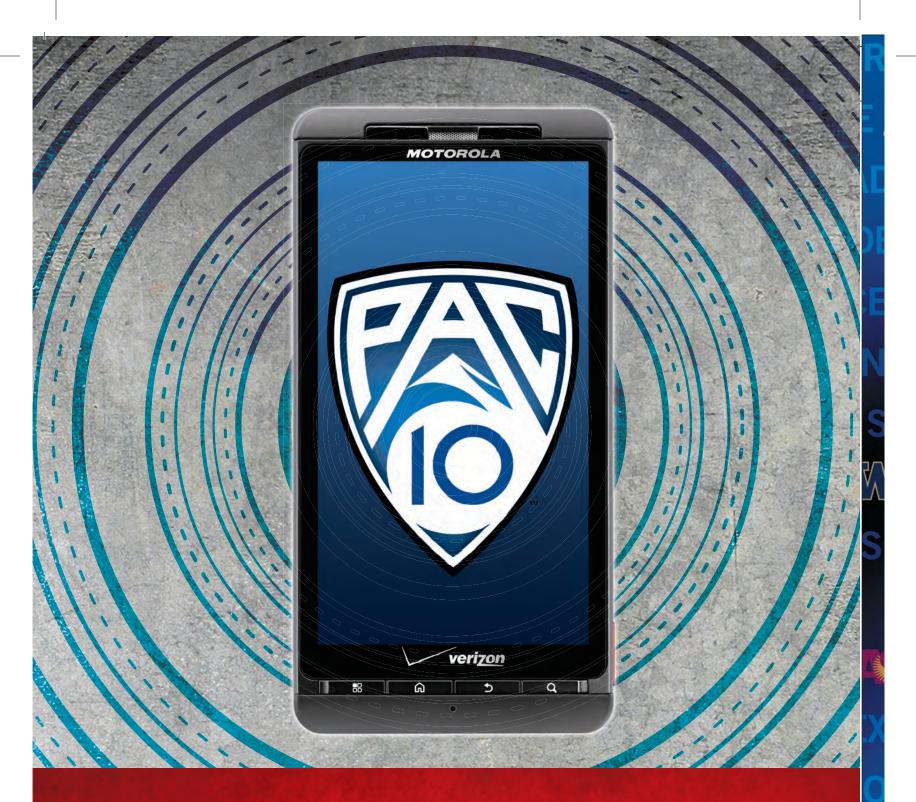
eight "Friends of Helen" donated \$600 toward the purchase of one of the two benches at the Lower Libbey Park tennis courts. "Knowing of her dedication to tennis and how much she has done to help so many enjoy the sport, a small group of her friends decided that Helen deserved recognition for her unselfish services." OVTC President Wayne Bruce explained.

So, perhaps the next time you perch on the bench atop the observation area near Lower Libbey Court 8 to watch kids learning from current pro

Rick Thompson or the exciting live "Ojai" action, you may notice a small plaque on the back honoring one of Ojai's treasured 'old' tennis friends.

Selfless nature aside, if Helen's attitude about tennis and life could be bottled and sold, she would certainly make a fortune.

"This isn't life or death. This is a game. 32 people played in a tournament today and 31 lost, but if the person who won didn't have fun, he is the loser. I really believe that about 'tennis and' life — you have to enjoy the process." - Helen Allen





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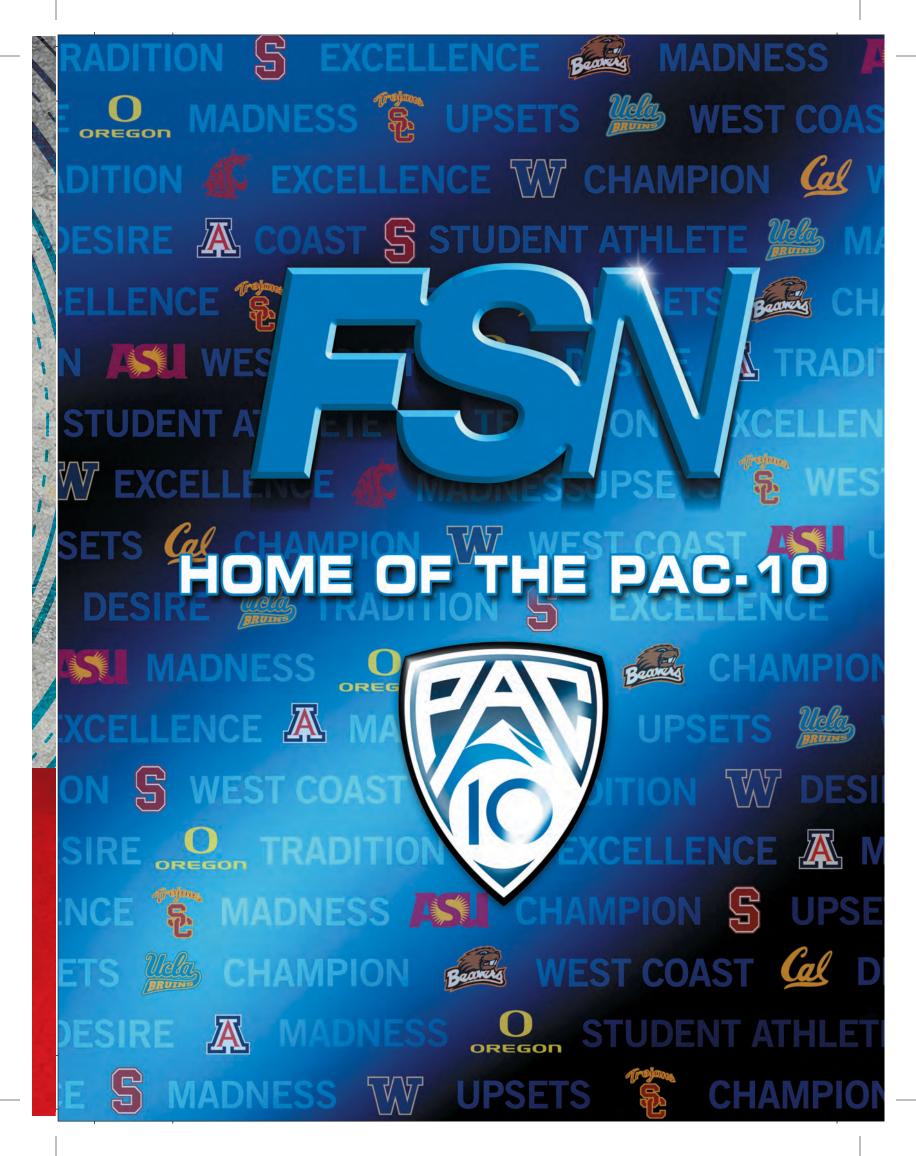
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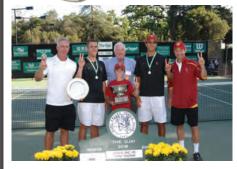
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2010 trophy-winner





Pac-10 Women's Champions: UCLA - Stanford (tie)









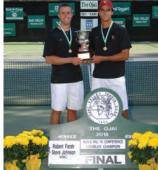








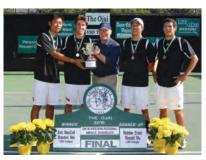


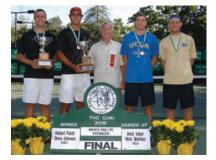












28 111th 'The Ojai'

iers-and-runners-up

























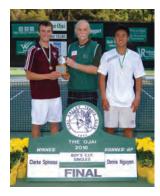






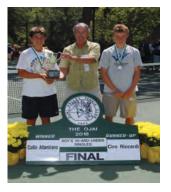












Best Tennis Town grant makes QuickStart program possible

Thanks to grant funds received from the USTA award for the Best Tennis Town in America contest in 2009, a cooperative venture between the Ojai Valley Tennis Club and the City of Ojai Recreation Department, launched its first official QuickStart Tennis Program in Ojai schools during the 2010/2011 school year.

Teachers, administrators and physical education directors agreed that the program succeeds on several levels. Stan Schneider, Athletic Director at the Montessori School of Ojai, discussed how QuickStart Tennis rewarded students with a sense of completion and helped them to be more cooperative and focused on team work. "I saw that within a short time, the students accumulated a lot of skills. Every time the 'coaches' came, 'the students' were excited and couldn't wait to start playing."

Summit Elementary School teacher, Heather Ramsey, agreed that the program has been incredibly well received. "I talked about it at our PTO meeting the other night and the parents were thrilled with the enthusiasm that the kids were bringing home."

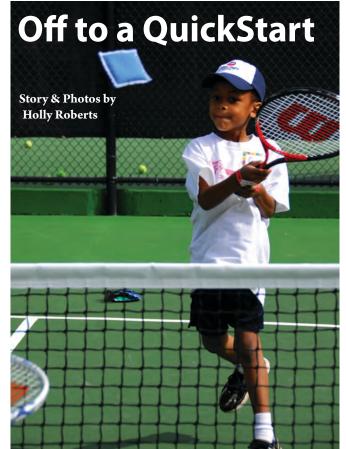
Ramsey was amazed at the high energy emanating from the students as well. "After one session of it, they just came bounding back with these joyful looks on their faces. I asked if they liked it and they said, 'It was amazing!'

QuickStart Tennis is designed to create early success for children under the age of 10 by using age-and-size appropriate racquets, balls, nets and scoring. Dedicated volunteers from the tennis community, along with parent volunteers, acted as coaches and mentors in this fun, age appropriate setting. Schneider explained that the students especially enjoyed the coaches. "They were all different in some way, either age-wise or personality so they could really mold with each of the kids."

Bump-ups, tap downs, ready position, fore-hands, backhands and rallies are just a few of the skills and techniques the kids worked on with coaches during the sessions. A court may be created on any paved surface using chalk-marked lines or targets and caution tape (nets) or can be adapted within a standard sized tennis court. It is an adaptable and flexible

tennis format with lots of room for fun in the mix. Joe Canchola, age 9, echoed his joy in the fun factor when it came to his recent experience at Summit School. "It's pretty cool. My favorite part is being the 'king of the court."

Working through four-week sessions of two classes per week, the free QuickStart Tennis program guided more than 300 2nd through 7th graders through a progression of tennis



Cole Everett hits a beanbag as part of a QuickStart drill.

basics and ended with a rousing set of team relays and live tennis game action. Volunteer coaches handed out program completion certificates to each class of students.

ORD's goal is to introduce the game of tennis to every school in the Ojai valley with the help of parent/teacher and tennis enthusiast volunteers. For more information, contact Program Coordinator, Philippe Gache, at ojai-quickstart@gmail.com.

Women's Independent Colleges represented at 'The Ojai'

The Women's Independent College Championships have been one of the longest-running events in the history of the Ojai Tennis Tournament. Starting in 1916 through today's event, women collegiate players representing California and other Western states have participated continually in this event. Until 1986, all four-year colleges, including the PAC-Ten schools, entered this event.

In the 1950s the community colleges were also well represented in the Independent College Championships and won many of the singles titles in that era. Great collegiate players competed in the Independent tournament and later became National Collegiate Champions or Finalists (either USTA, AIAW, or NCAA), and

even Grand Slam winners. Some of these well-known players were Darlene Hard (Pomona), Billie Jean Moffit King (Los Angeles State), Mimi Henreid (UCLA), Jane Albert (Stanford), Julie Anthony (Stanford), Pam Richmond (ASU), Barbara Halquist (USC), Jean DuVall (UCLA), Stacy Margolin (USC), Patricia Fendick (Stanford), and Lucie Ludvigova (Grand Canyon University and the University of Texas).

Since 1987, the Independent College event has been home to all four-year collegiate institutions that are not members of the PAC-10 Conference. Singles and doubles winners are both honored with the Florence H.R. Gorham Singles Trophy and the Garland Jenks Doubles Trophy.

In this year's Independent Women's singles draw look for such players as Christy Lau from CSU Los Angeles and Katharina Mittag from Grand Canyon University. NCAA Division III standouts should include Kristin Lim from Claremont-Mudd-Scripps and Jamie Solomon from Pomona-Pitzer Colleges.

The NAIA will be well represented with Kristin Strimple from Pt. Loma Nazarene, Gabriela Bergmanova from Vanguard University, and Sara Celma from Fresno Pacific University. Top doubles teams will include Pt. Loma Nazarene's Strimple-Litchfield, Bergmanova-Malakhova from Vanguard University, Lim-Lim from Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, and Lau-McShane from Cal State Los Angeles.

30 111th 'The Ojai'

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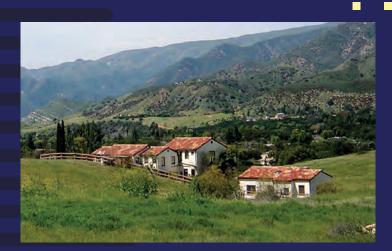




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DIRECTIONS

Slice avocado in half lengthwise. Remove pit and discard. Scoop out insides with large spoon and add to bowl. Roughly mash avocado with fork. Add Chobani and remaining ingredients. Mix until guecamiole has desired texture, whether chunky or smooth. Add salt to taste. Kick up the heat by adding extra jalapeños. Serve with pita chips or use as a tasty spread on sandwiches. Nutrition Information: Calories 47, Fat 3g, Sat Fat 0.5g, Protein 3g, Carbohydrate 3g, Fiber 1.5g, Sodium 200mg



