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SDTHOF

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SAN DIEGO TENNIS HALL OF FAME

San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame

Class of 2024
Induction Ceremony and Reception

Saturday, August 24, 2024
4:30 PM

Balboa Tennis Club
2221 Morley Field Dr.
San Diego, CA 92104

Master of Ceremonies, Jim Lackritz

SAN DIEGO TENNIS HALL OF FAME
CLASS OF 2024

UNA DAVIS
Philanthropy

JACK MCGRORY
Community Service

CAROLYN NICHOLS
Senior Success

SKIP REDONDO
Coaching

ABIGAIL SPEARS
World Class, Junior Stand-Out

Alexandra Stevenson
World Class, Junior Stand-Out

Elected to Enshrinement

Class of 2006
Bill Bond
Maureen Connolly Brinker
Michael Chang
Dodo Cheney
Wilbur Folsom
Jeanne Doyle Garrett
William Scripps Kellogg
Fred Kinne
Ben Press
Karen Hantze Susman

Class of 2007
Alex Gordon
Pancho Segura
William Stack
Suella Steel
Katherine Chabot Willette

Class of 2008
Franklin Johnson
William J. Kellogg
Jean Kremm
James "Jim" Perley
Brian Teacher

Class of 2009
George Barnes
Robert D. Carrothers, Jr.
Ed Collins
Kelly Jones
Dr. Homer Peabody

Class of 2010
Robert "Bob" Bacon
Virginia M. Glass
Robert "Bob" Perry
Patricia Canning Todd
Larry Willens

Class of 2011
Harper Ink, Sr.
Angel Lopez
Gretchen Magers
Robert "Bobby" Riggs
Valerie Ziegenfuss

Class of 2012
Roy Barth
Terry Holladay
Jerry Magee
Marita Redondo
Dick Roberson

Class of 2014
Stephen Avoyer
Roland H. Brock
Robert L. "Bob" Galloway
Raquel Giscafre and
Jane Stratton
Lester Rollo Stofen

Class of 2016
James "Chico" Hagey
Leland Housman
Kathy May
Janet Newberry
Walter Redondo

Class of 2018
Richard "Dick" Doss
Eugene "Gene" Garrett
Kristien Kemmer
Rosalyn "Ros" Fairbank Nideffer
David Sanderlin

Class of 2020
Cathie Anderson
Arnold and Esther Belinsky
Larry Belinsky
Geoff Griffin
Roz King

Class of 2022
Allison Bradshaw DeNike
Dick Enberg
Lornie Kuhle
Amber Liu
Jon Martin
Todd Nelson



In November of 2005, the idea of having San Diego's own tennis Hall of Fame was presented at a San Diego District Board Meeting. The idea

was well received and subsequently, an exploratory committee was formed. After several meetings, the concept was officially outlined to the District Board, motioned, and then enthusiastically accepted. Bylaws were formed and a Selection Committee (SC) was appointed. There are six members of the Selection Committee (three serving two-year terms and three serving one-year terms).

Beginning with the San Diego Yearbook, published and issued in January 2006, nominations for potential inductees were opened to the general public. Additional posts were published in the San Diego Union-Tribune, the San Diego Tennis Reporter and the Southern California edition of Inside Tennis. Sixty-five (65) nominations later, while establishing a methodology in which to determine ten inductees for the Class of 2006, the Selection Committee agreed on ten individuals who left an indelible mark in San Diego's rich and abundant tennis history. The inductees were recognized in at least one or more of the following categories:

- World Class
- College Greats and Junior Stand-Outs
- Coaches, Teaching Pros, Teaching Instructor and Mentors
- Community Service, Philanthropy, Officiating and Media
- Senior Success

It was decided that the venue to present those selected to the SDTHOF would take place at an Induction Ceremony, to be held in conjunction with the annual San Diego District Tennis Championships. It was the hope that this would become an ongoing tradition.

And, finally, a permanent display located at the BTC Clubhouse was chosen to showcase memorabilia of the current year of inductees for the San Diego tennis community to enjoy and appreciate. San Diego has always been one of the greatest hot beds for tennis in the U.S. It is time to honor our champions of the game and preserve San Diego's tennis history for generations to come!

SAN DIEGO TENNIS HALL OF FAME SELECTION COMMITTEE

Dave Jaehnig (Chair)

James "Chico" Hagey

Angel Lopez

Ryan Redondo

Sue Sprague

Valerie Ziegenfuss

Bios provided by:

David Whitehead

Carolyn Nichols

Alexandra Stevemson



Una Davis (1954 -) Philanthropy

Una Davis has been playing tennis since she replaced her sister (who was ill that day) in a tennis lesson. She grew up in the Boston area where she played in tournaments hosted by the legendary Hazel Wightman at the venerable Longwood Cricket Club. She was the top ranked junior in New England (winning a gold ball) and played college tennis at the University of Florida. When she returned to New England she played some futures and one season of World Team Tennis (which team included Martina Navratilova).

After a move to California and a break and children, she started playing senior events at 39 and never stopped. She won a doubles gold ball at the Hard Courts in 2015. In 2024 Una won the world 70+ doubles title at the ITF Masters Individual World Championships. She was selected by the USTA to her first "Cup" team and played #1 on the USA silver medalist Althea Gibson Cup Team at the ITF Masters World Team Championships. Her wish for the future is to continue to improve her game and above all to be healthy!

Una has had an even bigger impact on tennis with her philanthropy on and off the court. She always wanted to give back to tennis. She said when she started playing tennis she entered a community and tennis has given so much to her. Her first goal was to help the National Women's Tennis Association which advocates for women's masters tennis, particularly masters tennis team and individual tournaments.

Her next donation was to the Balboa Tennis Club (BTC) where she donated funds to replace/add state of the art led lights on most of the 25 courts there. The BTC is a public facility which is one of the busiest clubs you will every find with 1700 members and 800 on the waiting list. She also made donations to the USTA SoCal Foundation and donated funds necessary to bring the WTA 500 and ATP 250 professional tournaments to San Diego.

Una is also on the advisory committee for the USTA National Girls 16/18 Hard Courts. Off the court she is involved in philanthropy at the San Diego Symphony, University of California San Diego, and the Rady Children's Hospital but tennis remains at the core of her philanthropy.

Una is married to Jack McGrory. She has a daughter and a son and two grandchildren, to whom she hopes to pass along her love for tennis, the sport of a lifetime.



Alexandra Stevenson (1980 -) World Class, Junior Stand-Out

"Using slice and power, with an old-school one-handed backhand, serving with sheer power and pinpoint accuracy, and hitting huge forehands, Stevenson overpower her opponent." Charleston Post, April 2011.

Alexandra Stevenson is a San Diego native. She was born on December 15, 1980, in La Jolla, California. Her parents are both legendary in their own right. Samantha Stevenson, a noted sports journalist - and Julius Erving, iconic NBA Hall of Fame basketball player.

Alexandra began playing tennis at three years old under the tutelage of Angel Lopez (SDTHOF). Angel consulted and remained in Alexandra's tennis life through high school and her professional years on the WTA Tour. Other legendary coaches including Pete Fischer, Pete Sampras's coach, led the way as her primary coach for her serve and strategy in her junior career. Robert Lansdorp added "20 at the baseline" for groundstrokes. Del Little worked on her footwork - Larry Easley designed her volleys. (SDTHOF) Skip Redondo taught drills and lessons with Alexandra and son, Ryan.

Alexandra met forever friends, Venus and Serena Williams at Morley Field, 1989 - jump roping. Along the way, there were cameos with great minds, including Ellsworth Vines and Don Budge. Budge came to La Jolla Country Day School in 1996 to work on Alexandra's backhand, Ellsworth regaled her with his backhand and his trophies at his home in La Quinta. Bobby Riggs worked with Alexandra on his tennis court, placing 100 dollar bills under cones.

At La Jolla Country Day School, Alexandra was California high school (CIF) girls' champion three consecutive years (1995-1997). She was named CIF Most Valuable Player (1995-1997). Alexandra was ranked number five in the Girls 18s in 1997. She was also ranked number one in Girls' 18s Doubles with Marissa Irvin. Alexandra and Irvin won the United States Open Junior Doubles Championship in 1997, defeating the number one team in the world.

Alexandra skipped 1999 French Open Main draw to go to LJCD graduation, where she held an honors degree - and starred in the LJCD stage play, Grease - as Patty Simcox. Alexandra was seeded number one in the 1999 Wimbledon qualifying draw - the only female qualifier -ever- to go to the semifinals. She lost to finals winner, Lindsay Davenport. Also in 1999, Alexandra was named Rookie of the Year by Tennis Magazine - Most Fascinating by People Magazine - and featured on the Barbara Walters Special. San Diego Key to the city, Padres first pitch, Bronze Medal Pan American Games, Mixed Doubles Semifinals US Open.

Alexandra reached 18 in the world in 2002. She won a doubles title with Serena Williams in Leipzig, Germany, beating world number one doubles team - to the Championship. In 2007, Alexandra graduated on the Dean's List at the University of Colorado with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts, Sociology degree. In 2009, La Jolla Country Day School inducted Alexandra into their Hall of Fame. In 2019-2023, tennis analyst for ESPN at Wimbledon and US Open.

Alexandra reminds us of Don Budge's comment to her that day on her school tennis court: "You are strong," Budge told her. "You are talented. Every day is a training day from now on. It's the only way you will become a champion in life."



Abigail Spears (1981 -) World Class, Junior Stand-Out

Abigail 'Abi' Spears was born in San Diego, but not into a tennis-playing family. In fact, as Abi tells it, she "stumbled upon tennis." Once, as her parents experimented with playing tennis at nearby courts, young Abi occupied herself by taking a wooden racquet and hitting a ball into the back fence.

A teaching pro took notice of Abi's athletic motion and excellent contact skill. He approached her parents and informed them that Abi had "potential." Interested, her parents provided Abi lessons and practice programs. They even helped run programs to lessen some of the costs.

Abi played both tennis and soccer for two years. Then her parents asked her to choose one. Abi chose tennis; largely because she got a kick out of making her opponents chase down her shots.

Her parents were her biggest fans. As Abi's skills developed, they drove her all-over Southern California to tournaments and practices. Abi remembers playing Serena Williams in the 10 and under finals of her first sanctioned tournament.

Abi's dedication to tennis, and her work ethic paid off. As a junior player, she was ranked in the top 10 nationally. And, for three consecutive years Abi was ranked #1 in the nation in doubles.

Colleges began to recruit Abi. Feeling a bond with UCLA players, and especially with coaches, Stella Sampras and Rance Brown, Abi accepted a full scholarship to UCLA.

After her first year playing for UCLA, Abi entered two summer ITF tournaments, winning one and a finalist in the other. She demonstrated she was ready for the next level. Abi turned pro in 2000, thus beginning a run of 20 years playing on the WTA tour.

Abigail Spears' record tells her Hall of Fame tale:

- Winner: Australian Open Mixed Doubles—2017 (w/ Cabal)
- Finalist: U.S. Open Mixed Doubles—2013, 2014 (w/ Gonzalez)
- Semifinalist: Wimbledon Women's Doubles—2015, 2016, 2018 (w/ Atawo)
- Semifinalist: Australian Open Women's Doubles—2014 (w/ Atawo)
- Quarterfinals: French Open Mixed Doubles—2018 (w/ Cabal)
- Quarterfinalist: U.S. Open Women's Doubles—2008 (w/ Atawo)
- Highest Rankings: Ranked #10 as a doubles player in 2015.
- Ranked #5 as a doubles team in 2014.
- Won 21 Doubles Tournaments around the world including: Doha, Carlsbad, Seoul, Québec City, Cincinnati, Osaka, Stanford, and Nottingham.

Abi operates an online tennis instruction site and currently splits her time teaching in San Diego and Australia.



Jack McGrory (1949 -) Community Service

Jack McGrory was instrumental in founding and building the Barnes Family Tennis Center (BFTC) while City Manager of San Diego, and now is in his first term of Board President of Youth Tennis San Diego (YTSD). As City manager, he met with the then President of YTSD (Homer Peabody), who needed land to build what became the BFTC. He found the 14 acre site, which was not buildable by the City, being unstable sand, and executed a 35-year lease for \$35. He facilitated the necessary building permits to create this unique public tennis center the mission of which is to allow children to thrive

by "providing physical, mental, emotional, educational, and social platforms through tennis for children to thrive."

Through Barnes and YTSD Jack says that San Diego is now the premier tennis city of the West Coast. YTSD is the only tennis center of its kind in Southern California. Barnes has contributed to resurfacing of tennis courts all around the city and provided youth tennis programming particularly in disadvantaged areas. The USTA was so impressed by this program that they contributed significantly to resurfacing the BYTC courts, host of the National Girls 16/18 championships.

Jack (with Bill Kellogg) successfully bid to bring the Davis Cup to San Diego in 2015 at Petco Stadium, raising the funds to support the bid. The tie was a success for San Diego and tennis. He was an owner of the San Diego Aviators Team Tennis franchise, bringing World Team Tennis (WTT) back to San Diego, where the Aviators won the WTT Championships final (the only professional sports team title won by a San Diego team). Jack was tournament co-chair for the ATP & WTA events hosted in San Diego the past four years, which involves finding many sponsors.

Jack served for four years as a US Marine, was CEO of the San Diego Padres, and worked for Sol Price who founded the Price Club (the precursor to Costco). He is still involved in multiple business ventures. He earned his MBA at San Diego State and a law degree at University of San Diego while working as City Manager.

Jack started playing tennis (after tiring of baseball, lucky for tennis!) on two public courts with potholes and metal nets in the South Boston area. He was a ballboy at the US National Doubles Championship for players such as Rod Laver and Arthur Ashe. He did well in New England tournaments and played in the national championships at Kalamazoo. Jack played varsity tennis and basketball (he is 6'6") at Colgate University (in NY). He is most proud of his team winning the tennis championships at Quantico when a US Marine.

Jack has five children and 10 grandchildren many of whom play tennis. He is married to Una Davis.



Carolyn A. Nichols (1955 -) Senior Success

Carolyn was born and raised in California's Central Valley, between Fresno and Bakersfield, and miles from tennis courts. Nonetheless, she eventually found her way onto a tennis court at the nearest tennis club 50 miles from home. Her parents, Graydon & Virginia Nichols, themselves tennis late-bloomers and nationally competitive, encouraged Carolyn.

Because tennis courts were an hour away, Carolyn had to wait until she could drive to fully apply her natural, hard-work ethic to tennis. In her four years of high school, Carolyn went from being on the junior varsity, to the #1 player for her final two years. That was just the beginning.

After high school, Carolyn attended Stanford University. She graduated with a B.S. degree in Chemistry in 1977. In 1980, Carolyn earned a law degree from McGeorge School of Law. Through it all, she never stopped developing her tennis game with the aid of varied notable pros, such as Mary Hill, Simon Shen, and eventually Derek Miller and Ken Waltz.

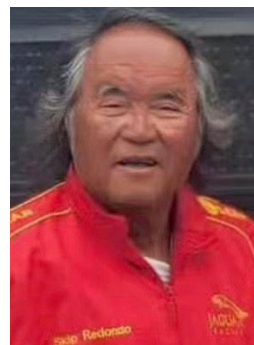
While working for her family's business, Carolyn continued to train for tennis. When she moved to San Diego in 2010, her game exploded with all the excellent tennis San Diego offers. Her competitive ranking rocketed. Carolyn's achievements are remarkable. Here are highlights:

- 45 National Championships (Gold balls) including 11 singles titles & 9 father/daughter titles.
- 2015 & 2024 ITF World Singles Champion (60 & 65 respectively) and 2007, 2010, 2014, 2015 & 2024 ITF World Doubles Champion
- Multiple time European Champion including 2019, W60
- Member of 23 USA Cup teams, 17 of which won the Cup (plus 4 finalists; 2 third place finishes).
- Ranked #1 by ITF in 2021, 2015-6 & 2013 in singles and #1 in doubles in 2014, 2015.

Carolyn promotes tennis in off-the-court ways. *"I have such a passion for tennis. I love it,"* declares Carolyn. Indeed, since 1991, she has served on over a dozen United States Tennis Association (USTA) committees. Accordingly, Carolyn has been honored with the USTA Service Bowl and USTA Senior Service Award. Additionally, she has garnered sectional honors for Sportsmanship, Player, Service and Volunteer work.

Carolyn has never forgotten her roots. She is a partner in Victoria Island Farms, and a board member of both Nichols Farms and Nichols Pistachio.

Carolyn makes her home in Rancho Santa Fe. Along with her love of tennis, she also enjoys writing, photography, and travel.



Skip Redondo (1949 -) Coaching

Skip Redondo's induction into the SDTHOF almost amounts to a rite of passage. As the oldest of nine children, Skip is the elder statesman of one of San Diego's most renowned tennis families, the Redondo family. His enshrinement into the Hall follows two of his siblings, Marita's and Walter's inductions.

While his siblings honed their tennis games for professional-level, tournament competitions, Skip was a star pitcher for the St. Augustine High baseball team, then for Southwestern Community College. Ultimately, Skip was awarded a scholarship to pitch for UC Irvine. However, Skip's true talent lay in tennis. Being an outstanding athlete, he took to tennis like a singer to a song. Skip was not only able to develop an Open-level tennis game, he also understood the sport's other necessities such as conditioning and tactics.

Skip's coaching career caught fire when Bob Ray hired him as a pro at the Morley Field facility. With his keen insight, Skip developed valuable tennis-coaching skills that would ultimately allow him to coach world-class players. His reputation as a coach began to grow. When San Diego State University needed a new men's tennis coach, its Athletic Director brought in the highly-regarded Skip Redondo. For 11 years, Skip served as Men's Tennis Head Coach. He proved to be the university's all-time winningest men's tennis coach. Word of Skip's coaching mastery spread throughout California. His skills were in demand.

Skip's other coaching venues:

- Director of Tennis and Head Coach at Weil Tennis Academy, Ojai, CA.
- Head Coach for Junior Development at La Costa Resort & Spa, La Costa, CA.
- Head Coach of Men's Tennis at Oakland Hills Tennis Club, Oakland, CA.
- Owner/Director of ISA Tennis Academy, Rancho Santa Fe, CA.
- Skip has coached some of the finest players in the world:
- Hungarian pro, Andrea Tamasvari, Italian Open winner; world ranking of #7.
- Alexandra Stevenson, WTA pro and Wimbledon semifinalist; world ranking #18.
- Kelly Jones, ATP pro.
- Joshua Olivas, ATP pro.
- Amber Liu, Twice NCAA Champion, WTA pro.
- Sister, Marita Redondo, WTA pro (Top 20 world ranking).
- Brother, Walter Redondo, national junior standout and ATP pro.
- Son, Ryan Redondo, American and World Junior Champion, 3x NCAA All-American.
- Skip continues to develop young tennis stars at his International Scholar Athlete (ISA) Tennis Academy in Rancho Santa Fe.