

**YOUTH TENNIS FOUNDATION
OF FLORIDA INC.**

60th Anniversary

1962-2022

Yearbook

**PO Box 49057
St. Petersburg
FL, 33743**

ytf-fl.org

**To all the kids the YTF has helped learn how to play TENNIS over the years.
It is a game for a lifetime!**

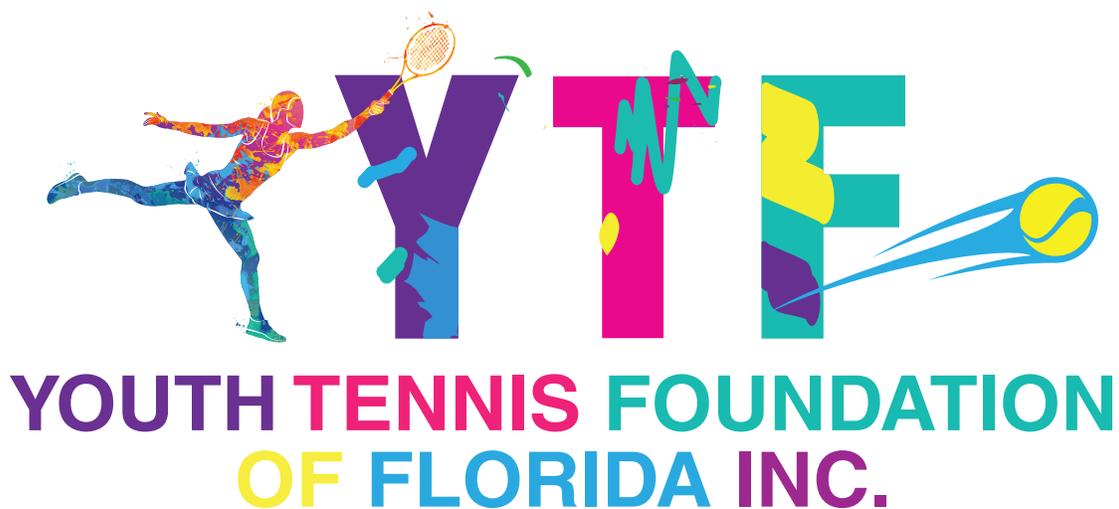


Our Mission

Established in 1962, the Youth Tennis Foundation of Florida Inc. is a nonprofit organization that offers support for the development of youth tennis in Florida. Our primary goal is to introduce children to the many benefits of tennis, and among other things, we provide scholarships, grants and awards to deserving junior players, their coaches and to the tennis facilities where they play.

The YTF is a qualified 501 (c) (3) organization and all donations are tax deductible. We strive to find ways to better the game of tennis in the state and welcome your suggestions and your requests. We are particularly interested in novel programs, such as rural initiative, to reach out and find those niches which are not currently being serviced by the USTA Florida sections.

The YTF is an independent organization which presently consists of a Board of Directors with diversified and varied backgrounds who come from all over the State of Florida to represent each of the 8 USTA Florida Regions. We are actively looking to add creative, dynamic and energetic people to our group.



Our History

The Youth Tennis Foundation (YTF) was created in 1962 by several tennis enthusiasts who wished to create a patron's organization. Jack Blair, a former president of the Florida Tennis Association and a member of the Florida Tennis Association's Hall of Fame, was the first president of the YTF and he remained the president for almost all of the ensuing 25 years. In 1987, Jack stepped down and Pierce Kelley took over the reins for the next 20 years. In 2007, the board named Ed Jagger as its president. During the early years, the YTF has provided moneys to junior players who were the best players in the State as an incentive and a reward for their accomplishments. The moneys were to be used only to help those players compete in national events. Many tennis players gave money to the YTF and were called "Friends of Tennis" for doing so. However, the YTF also pioneered several projects, most notably the Youth Team Tennis Program, begun in 1976, which started with a 12 and under program in Clearwater, Florida, under Pierce Kelley's leadership, and became the first ever team championship for unranked players in the State of Florida. The next year, with the assistance of Bobby Curtis, who later became the State Coordinator for the YTF, a 14 and under state championships were held in Miami, at Moore Park. The following years added the 16 and 18 and under categories and within a few short years thousands of children across the state were playing team tennis. In 1987, the Florida Tennis Association took over the administration of this worthy program and re-named it the Junior Team Tennis Program.



1981 Junior Team Tennis event sponsored by YTF

The YTF also started a College Scholarship Program. Created by Pierce and administered by Bobby, Florida's college-bound seniors were provided with information about hundreds of schools where they could attend and possibly receive scholarships. Colleges and Universities were also provided with information about Florida's graduating seniors. The NCAA rules and regulations were closely adhered to and many players benefitted from this service. After many years, the United States Tennis Association took over this program. The YTF also sponsored a State Team Tennis Championships for the best players in the state. The winning teams were then provided with moneys to attend the National City Team Championships. This program ended when the National Tournament was abandoned several years ago. The YTF has sponsored programs at parks, such as Moore Park in Miami, juvenile detention facilities, playgrounds and recreation centers across the state over the years. For many years, the YTF sponsored adult tournaments all over the State, which were called YTF tournaments, and a portion of the entry fee went to the YTF. Mike O'Neil, son of former FTA president Frank O'Neil, administered those tournaments, many of which were family-oriented tournaments. This program ceased in 1987 or thereabouts. Until recently, the YTF was the only state-wide patron's group in the State of Florida. Due to a recent bequest from John Van Ryn, the YTF looks forward to continuing its quest to promote and nourish youth tennis programs in the state of Florida.

Our Board of Directors



Ed Jagger--President

Ed has been a member of the YTF since 1987. Previously he served the YTF as Secretary/Treasurer for over 10 years. In 2007, he was named President of the organization. Ed attained state rankings as a junior player, played four years of college tennis at Western Carolina University, before entering law school, and has achieved many state rankings in the over 25, over 30 and over 35 age divisions, in addition to being a member and captain of the 5.5 USTA league championship team that has represented the State of Florida in national competitions for many years. Ed had also stayed involved with tennis as a USTA - Florida volunteer member, previously serving on the Grievance Committee, as well as the Region 3, Recreational Tennis Council. Ed and his wife, Melissa, live in Seminole, Florida, with their two children, Jacob and Blake.



Bob Jagger--Vice-President

Bob has been a member of the YTF Board of Directors for over fifteen years. He played his high school tennis at Seminole High School in Pinellas County, and played briefly on the Florida Southern team, before transferring to the University of Florida, from which he received not only his Bachelor's degree but also his Juris Doctorate.

Bob has achieved several state rankings over the years and continues to play and compete in league play in the Daytona Beach area, where he and his wife, Maureen, live and work, together with their two children, Jacqueline and Paige.



Pierce Kelley--Immediate Past President

Pierce first became involved with the YTF as a junior player in the mid to late sixties. He has remained active in the YTF ever since. Pierce was one of the better players in the state and country as a junior, which earned him national rankings and a full scholarship to Tulane University. He later coached the varsity men's tennis team at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. to help defray his law school education.

Pierce achieved a national ranking of number 46 in the United States in the men's category in 1971 and has achieved numerous national rankings in age-division play until recently when injuries have slowed his play.

In 1991, Pierce authored a book, *Introducing Children to the Game of Tennis*, (Betterway Publications, 1991; F & W Publications, 1995; Hammerhead Publications, 2001; and iUniverse, 2006), which has been called THE perfect introduction and primer for parents of beginning players by the United States Tennis Association and Tennis Magazine.

In 1995, WLRN, a PBS affiliate in Miami, produced and aired a twelve week series, which Pierce hosted and directed. The series was sponsored, in part, by Prince Sporting Goods Company. Stan Smith, Nick Bollettieri, Gary Kessel, Blaine Willenborg, Kim Sands, Paul Roettert, Bobby Curtis, Donna Fales and many other celebrities from Florida tennis circles appeared on the various shows. The program was about introducing children to the game of tennis.

Pierce is a lawyer who recently retired from the practice of law. He is also an author and has currently published over a dozen novels, a collection of short stories, a legal text book, and several works of non-fiction.



Christopher Kelley--Treasurer

Chris has been a member of the YTF Board for more than 20 years. He was a highly ranked junior player and received a scholarship to play tennis at Georgia Tech, which he did for four years together with Larry Turville, Chris Baxter, Bill Cantrell and many other Floridians. Chris is a lawyer who specializes in tax and real estate matters. He lives in Miami Shores with his wife, Stephanie, and their daughter, Sarah.



Linda Williams--Secretary

Linda has been a board member of Lake City Columbia Community Tennis Association (LCCCTA) for the last four years and has served in the office of secretary for the past three years. She was born in England and traveled most of her childhood, being raised in an Air Force family. Linda came from a family who loved and excelled in sports: cross county track, basketball, baseball, golf and tennis. She spent most summers playing tennis as a young girl and went on to play in top positions on her high school tennis team. She also participated in intramural tennis in college and played in local single and mixed doubles tournaments, as well as adult league tennis events.

The assets Linda brings to the position of Youth Tennis Foundation (YTF) Secretary include networking/communicating, coordinating, planning, organizing, and implementing administrative duties and special events for youth.

Linda retired as a director from Florida Gateway College in 2015 to spend time with her grandchildren. She is always looking to play singles, teach youth to play tennis, and she loves photography and travel.



Allan Kelley--Parliamentarian

Allan has been a member of the YTF for more than twenty years. Allan played tennis in high school and played briefly on the Satellite Circuit but he was and is a long distance runner. In fact, he was one of the best runners in the State in high school and had ambitions to compete in the Olympics while at Duke, but injuries sidelined him. He has run several marathons, most notably "The" Boston Marathon on several occasions. Allan is a lawyer, specializing in Maritime Law, and is a partner with the Miami law firm of Fowler, White. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Maritime Law Association and a past president of the Florida Admiralty Committee of the Florida Bar Association. Allan and his wife, Kathleen, have six children and they live in Miami Shores. He remains an excellent tennis player and continues to play in league competitions when time permits.



Sue Parsons Zipay--Member, Board of Directors

Sue has been actively involved in all aspects of tennis for over 40 years, from teaching, to organizing leagues and tournaments, to retail, to tennis club owner. She has been a member of the YTF for over ten years.

Born and raised in Hingham, Massachusetts, Sue played professional baseball after high school for the "Rockford Peaches", part of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, and, had an appearance in the 1992 Penny Marshall movie "A League of Their Own". She was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2007. She remains active in providing baseball for women across the country.

A Florida resident since 1987, Sue presently lives in Englewood, where she and her son, Bob, have co-owned the Englewood Tennis Club since 1989. She has been a tennis enthusiast her entire life.



Brant Bailey--Member, Board of Directors

Brant has been a member of the YTF Board for over ten years. He played his junior tennis in Largo and then at the University of Georgia for four years. He also competed overseas and on the Satellite Circuit and achieved a number 52 national ranking in 1970 and a world ranking in 1974. Brant is a lawyer who lives in St. Petersburg with his wife and four children.



Michael Kelley--Member, Board of Directors

Michael Kelley is the son of Board Member Allan Kelley. He lives in Vero Beach and is the owner of a Chick-Fil-A franchise there. He is married and has three young boys. He graduated from Wheaton College, Illinois in 2006 with a degree in Business Administration. He is an avid tennis player and golfer. Also, he participates in a ministry wherein he and others play basketball against inmates at various prisons across the state on a regular basis. He has been a much-welcomed member of the YTF Board since 2017.



Brent Todd--Member, Board of Directors

Brent Todd started playing tennis in Philadelphia at the age of fifteen as part of the National Junior Tennis League (NJTL). Within two years he climbed to the number one singles position on his high school tennis team. He spent several years coaching tennis at the Julian Krinsky School of Tennis in the suburbs of Philly. He also played in various tennis leagues. Brent fondly remembers the introduction to a lifetime of tennis that the NJTL gave him. He sees the Youth Tennis Foundation of Florida as a vehicle to provide that same opportunity to youth in the Jacksonville, Florida community that he now calls home. He is the author of "Rafiki the Chameleon": a Children's book about discovering one's hidden potential.



Jeff Chambers--Member, Board of Directors

Jeff returns to the YTF in 2021 to head the YTF's Bobby Curtis Elite Performance Program. Jeff was a top ranked junior player in Florida, an NCAA all-American and a 3-time all-ACC player at UNC-Chapel Hill, and former tour player having reached an ATP ranking of 325. Following his stint on the professional tour, Jeff attended law school and has been practicing law for the past 30 years in St. Petersburg as a Board-Certified civil litigator. Jeff continues to play competitive tennis in USTA national events and in ITF events. Jeff has previously served on the Development Counsel for All Children's Hospital and been involved with Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Jeff and his wife Kristin reside in Treasure Island, Florida.



J. Webb Horton--Member, Board of Directors

J. Webb Horton is the former as head coach of the Florida Gulf Coast University men's tennis program. Horton, who also served as head women's tennis coach and as assistant athletic director, was named the second men's coach in school history in August, 2001. He assumed the duties of overseeing the women's tennis program in June, 2005.

Under his direction, FGCU hosted the 2004 Intercollegiate Tennis Association national singles championships for men and women in Division II, Division III, NAIA and junior college divisions.

In addition to his coaching duties, Horton also coordinates the community relations effort of the FGCU athletic department. Through partnerships with area schools, the Eagles Math Program and Elementary Reading Program have touched the lives of over 10,000 elementary school children in the last three years.

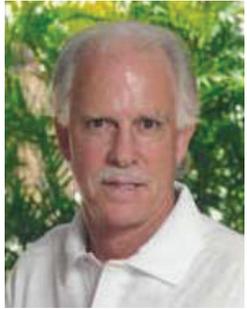
Horton, who resides in Fort Myers, serves on the Board of Directors for the Lee County Community Tennis Association and is a member of the USA Tennis Florida Diversity Task Force. J.Webb also serves as the current chairperson of the YTF Collegiate Bedford Cups.



Tug Miller--Ex-Officio Member

Tug was a member of the YTF from 1987 until 2018. He has been a tennis player since a young teenager. He and Pierce Kelley met each other as young teens and the two of them have competed with and against each other ever since. Tug achieved high rankings as a junior player and played collegiately at Principia College in St. Louis, MO.

Tug lives in the Ft. Myers area with his wife. He continues to play in the senior tournaments and in USTA league tournaments. He and Pierce were ranked number 1 in the state in the over 50 category not long ago and they represented the State of Florida at the national team championships in California on an over 50 league team.



Von Beebe--Ex-Officio Member

Von was a member of the YTF Board of Directors from 1987 until 2018. As a younger man, he played football and rugby and didn't take up the game of tennis until his late twenties. While at Dartmouth College, where he was captain of the Rugby team, his team was the first US team to tour Ireland and play Rugby against the Irish. Von is a retired educator. For years, he was the principal of the Coconut Grove Elementary School. He authored a book, Bilingual Education and the Miami Experience, which assisted other educators across the country in dealing with a situation where many students did not speak English as a native language. He currently serves as an academic counsellor at the Carrollton School in South Miami.



Jeff Horn--Ex Officio Member

Jeff was a member from 1980 until 2018. He was born in Miami, FL and raised in Altamonte Springs, FL. He attended Lyman High School (Longwood, FL), Valencia Community College (Orlando, FL, AA Degree, Athletic Scholarship), and the University of Central Florida (Orlando, FL, Psychology).

He has been a member of the USPTA since 1982 and awarded USPTA District V Volunteer of the Year (1996 & 1998-99), Spectrum Award for Recreation / Individual (1996 & 1997), 15 Years of Volunteer Service Award " USTA Florida Section (2003), USTA National Eve Kraft Community Service Award (2003). He has coached NCAA Div. II (Barry University, Miami Shores, FL), FHSAA (Fr. Lopez, Daytona Beach, FL), and serves as Director of the Genesis Community Program for high-risk youth (Orlando, FL).



Nancy Morgan--Ex Officio Member

Nancy joined the YTF Board of Directors in 2006 and retired in 2016. The native West Virginian came to Florida in 1973 after she earned her BS degree from WVU and her Masters from University of Maryland. Married to David since 1968, the couple has three adult children and their spouses, seven granddaughters and two grandsons.

Nancy was a tennis instructor 19 years, PTR certified; a lifetime USTA member; USTA Florida volunteer since 1983, including serving as president 2001-2002 and inducted to its Hall of Fame in 2006; recipient of various state awards and the national Community Service Award in 1995; involved at the USTA national level 1994-2008; president of local CTA (Suncoast Tennis Foundation) three 2-year terms. In addition, Nancy has been a freelance writer since 1983 and often appears in Florida Tennis statewide magazine.



Scott Harrison--Ex Officio Member

Scott joined the YTF Board in 2005. He is an active member and has participated in several of the Board's most significant accomplishments across the Northern portion of Florida.

Scott is an avid player, though he took the game up a little later in life than most. He was raised in New Mexico and Alabama and it wasn't until he attended the University of Alabama on a Band scholarship that he learned how to play in his senior year in college. He has been extremely active ever since as a player and organizer. He was a 1993 USTA Florida Merit Award winner and a 1993 USTA Community Service Award winner. He currently referees and umpires at ten to twelve USTA sanctioned tournaments a year including the 4 time Florida Adult Tournament of the Year Helen Drake Invitational. His business of supplying tennis court products to clubs and facilities around the South and Florida keeps him in tune with today's players both junior and adult.

Our Projects

The "Kelley Family" Awards

John Van Ryn Awards

Bobby Curtis Junior Elite Program

Wheelchair Awards

Jack Blair/Evert Academy Awards

YTF Florida Junior Championships

Florida Men's Bedford Cup

Florida Women's Bedford Cup Event

YTF Florida Small School Collegiate Championships

Battle of the Breeze Tournament

Blue Angel Southern Invitational High School Tennis Tournament

Inaugural High School All Star Tennis Tournament

Pensacola Racquet Round-Up

ZIPSTART

Lake City Columbia Community Tennis Association (LCCCTA)

City of Madison Project

PAL Tennis Program

Tennis 4 Everyone

Youth Tennis Foundation to sponsor first ever Division I Men's Tournament

Youth tennis court a reality in White Springs

FLYTF Board Member Bobby Curtis Honored (2009) Clearwater

Youth Village Project (2007) Fort Walton Beach

Pine Forest High Project (2007) Pensacola

Jacksonville Riverside Project (2006) Jacksonville

Jacksonville CT Brown Tennis Center Sessions

Genesis Community Project (2006), Orlando

Cedar Key Project (2005), Cedar Key



Men's Bedford Cup

The Bedford Cup was created to feature the top collegiate men's tennis players from all NCAA Division I tennis programs in the state of the Florida. The Youth Tennis Foundation (YTF) of Florida sponsors and runs the event with funds donated by the Edward T. Bedford Foundation. All the teams have to do is get to the event. YTF takes care of all lodging, food and tournament needs for the players. Seven of Florida's D I Men's teams competed in the inaugural tournament in 2011, including several players from the University of Florida's 2011 National Championship team.



Ron Fick (left) Bedford Foundation Trustee and J. Webb Horton Tournament Director



USF Director of Tennis Don Barr (left) presents Sportsmanship Award to Julien Belair (UNF) while TYF Board Member J. Webb Horton looks on.



2012 Bedford Cup winner Watson (UF) (left) RU Buerchner (UNF)

Women's Bedford Cup

The Bedford Cup was created to feature the top collegiate women's tennis players from all NCAA Division I tennis programs in the state of the Florida. The Youth Tennis Foundation (YTF) of Florida sponsors and runs the event with funds donated by the Edward T. Bedford Foundation. All the teams have to do is get to the event. YTF takes care of all lodging, food and tournament needs for the players. Seven of Florida's D I Women's teams competed in the inaugural tournament in 2012.



A Flight Singles winner Dudney (UF) (left), YTF President, Ed Jagger, and runner-up Shelton (UF).

Men's and Women's Small College Championships

After the success of the Men's and Women's Bedford Cup Events, the Youth Tennis Foundation of Florida (YTF) decided in 2018 to host and fund a YTF Small College Championship featuring men and women from the state's Division II, NAIA and Junior College teams. This event would provide a unique opportunity for these three divisions of college tennis to compete against one another in the same tournament. The first five years of the event have been played at the Beerman Family Tennis Center in Lakeland.



2019 Small College Players

Youth Tennis Foundation of Florida Junior Championships

On July 30, 2011, the YTF held its second annual sanctioned youth tennis tournament in Treasure Island, Florida. The tournament had 33 entries and fielded 8 divisions with a first match consolation draw. Each participant received a YTF tournament t-shirt and winners and runner-ups took home a nice trophy to remember the event. The YTF gives special thanks to its tournament director Jeff Chambers and head referee Scott Harrison for their time, dedication and hard work to make the tournament a great success. The YTF wishes to further acknowledge the generous donations of its corporate sponsors, Premier Worldwide Express, Craig Broome DMD, P.A., Chambers Law Group and Brant A. Bailey, P.A., as well as The Club at Treasure Island for hosting the tournament at its beautiful clay court facility overlooking Boca Ciega Bay. All proceeds from the tournament went directly to benefit the Foundation in furtherance of its efforts to promote youth tennis throughout the State of Florida.



YTF President Ed Jagger and Boys 12 winner Philip Chiritescu, Bradenton

Evert Academy Awards

In 2018, the YTF initiated a program to honor the Evert Family. Every year since, the YTF has awarded a deserving young male and female with week-long summer sessions at the Evert Tennis Academy in Boca Raton. The male award was named after Jimmy Evert and the female award was named after his wife, Collette Evert.



2021 Female winner, Elisa Viplav (right), with her sister and Chris Evert

Jack Blair Awards

2021
Gabby Goyins
Camrin Wilcoxson

2020
Maggie Eddins

2016
Hayden Essary
Jacob Baehr
Natdeilys DeArmas
Hailey Waguespack
Lenah Monosky

2015
Bella Winter
Carter Sebo
Isabella Winter
Sarah Lown
Hailey Waguespack

2014
Sydney Clark
2013
Linda Antonova
Shiv Krishnaswamy

2012
Sean Diegan
Amanda Keller

2011
Arrice Robinson
Cole Fiegel
Keegan Lowery
Kallie Erickson
2006
Justin Burns

In 2007, the YTF initiated its College Tennis Academy Award Program to assist high school varsity tennis players and USTA junior tournament level players, in obtaining college scholarships through attendance at the Ed Krass Tennis Camp.



2021 Winner, Camrin Wilcoxson (center) with Coach Tom Moore (left) and Camrin's step-father, Darnell Wormely (right)



2020 Winners: Josh Wagner, Jackson Korta, Ryan Rajakar, Margaret Eddins & Alyssa Perdomo



Jack Blair scholarship players with head college coaches December 3-4, 2011

KELLEY FAMILY AWARDS

\$250 awards are given to deserving youngsters who show a love for the game of tennis and a desire to become better players.

2021

Abby Marsee

2020

Logan Allen McGinty
Matthew Hutcherson
Hunter Andres
Sihara Padrino DiPietro

2019

Andrew Swan
Emily Garred
Noah Brown

2017

Zihan Zhao

2016

Efren Rojas
Abigail Radel
Mateo Quiroz
Rolando Torrellas
Simon Ayer
Tess Tchorbadjler

2015

Rory Renzy
Billy Rand
Kirill Sabitov
Ryan Grywczynski
Melodie Zuche

2014

Jeffrey Cummings
T.J. Searle
Franz Bagayas
Keonna Penny
Mason Pocklington
Natalie Sancho

2013

Gayatri Sai Babusuganya
Jaden Keaton
Gabriel Silvera
Zoe Radojcia
David Triscari
Maia Lontok
Marc Moreira

2012

Taylor Cook
Sabah Arenas
Julia Mjtenyi
William Kozel
Cade Gilchrist
Jefferson Lustre
Marc Moreira
Tatiyana Roberts
Danielle DuPuis
Jensyn Blovin
Rafaelle Leroy

2011

Jayla Thompson
Ezryel Thompson
Alexis Thompson
David Britt
Raven Novak
Claire Whitman
Cassi Johnson
Davina Sisoupharong
Britt Shortle
Ryan Solters

2010

Lydia Arflin
Jordan DeSanctis
Paulina Reitman
Adam Shugar
Caprice Thomas
Shawn Wilson
Chrissy Texidor
Andrea Lansdale

2009

Rafael Alvarez
Jake Cole
Brooke DeMorat
Tristan Mignogna
Heather Peele
Courtney Zeng

2008

Steve Allen
Andrew Smith
Aletha Smith
Dominic Salamone
Samantha Powell
Danielle Powell
Garrison Goodlandz

2007

Tyra Fairley
Kinga Gartner
Liz Renteria
Anna Marie Soltren
Yana Wolter
Zachary Yonker
Devin Baker
Kristen Howell
Austin Basque
Arrice Robinson

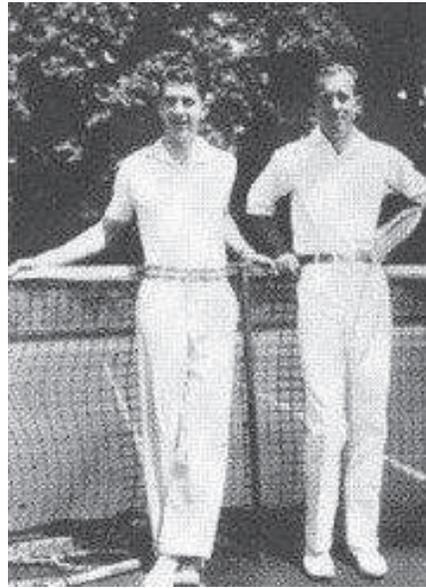
2006

James Edwards
Jade Smith
Jayla Smith
Jasmyne Smith

The "Kelley Family" Awards



John Van Ryn Scholarship



The YTF presents each year a scholarship to a deserving male & female player who demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to youth tennis in the State of Florida. The scholarship is named after one of the organization's most generous and significant benefactors, John Van Ryn.

Mr. Van Ryn, who passed away in 1999 in West Palm Beach, Florida, had a remarkable tennis career in the 1920's and 1930's. His 24 doubles matches and 22 wins are highs in U.S. Davis Cup history. He also won multiple U.S., French and Wimbledon doubles championships and was consistently ranked in the U.S. top ten for his singles play. In 1963, Mr. Van Ryn was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. We are most grateful for Mr. Van Ryn's dedication and enthusiasm for youth tennis and honored that he entrusted the YTF to continue his legacy.



YTF board member Sue Zipay presents the 2020 John Van Ryn Award to Ben Zipay.

JUNIOR TENNIS WHEELCHAIR AWARDS

In August 2008, the YTF, by unanimous agreement of the board, started a Junior Wheelchair Tennis Project. For this project, the YTF would seek ways to assist Florida wheelchair tennis players in their tennis endeavors.

The YTF's 2008 recipient of the Wheelchair Award is Brittany Barrett of Brooksville. The YTF provided Brittany with a \$500 award so that she could participate on her first wheelchair tennis tournament in Hilton Head South Carolina in September.



Brittany Barrett (2008)

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COURT CLIPS

YTF JOINS EFFORTS WITH JOHN JOHNSTON

The Youth Tennis Foundation of Florida is teaming with wheelchair athlete John Johnston of Gainesville to offer tennis training to young wheelchair athletes motivated to become competitive players.

NANCY MORGAN



"To kick off the project this spring, the YTF purchased two youth sport chairs for Johnston's tennis program - that generous action peaked Johnston's interest in helping the YTF coordinate a workshop for players this summer.

"Our goal is to identify about eight top players in Florida 25 years and younger," said Johnston. "We cover their expenses, bring them in for a weekend, put them through a series of drills and give them some ball-hitting time. We hopefully can build from that at a bigger scale next year.

"The YTF has taken the first steps by helping us get some chairs. Now, the key is to identify the players. There aren't many opportunities to play organized tennis - like USTA leagues - for wheelchair players, so we need to get some coaches to give the clinics to prepare more players for competition."

The not-for-profit YTF, estab-



John Johnston with his Buchholz High School girls' team in Gainesville.

lished in 1962, has as its primary goal introducing youth to the benefits of tennis. Among its projects are awarding scholarships, grants and awards, as well as supporting efforts such as offered to the Youth Village in Fort Walton Beach, the Genesis Community in Orlando and the YTF Florida Junior Championships. YTF board members are volunteers.

"We're basically starting at ground level with this idea of the workshop for wheelchair players," said Pierce Kelley, past YTF president. "We're looking for a program to develop these players and for players that want to get better and want to compete."

Anyone searching for a competitive player need look no further than Johnston. Forty-four years ago this month, Johnston's life was changed forever when he was shot multiple times while serving in the Marine Corps in Vietnam.

The Philadelphian had been in service two years and eight months before he was injured.

John credits his younger brother Joseph with motivating him to pursue wheelchair sports, including basketball, track and field and, later, tennis.

"For a younger brother, he was really the big brother to me after I got hurt," said John, 62. "He had a basketball scholarship to St. Mary University in Texas, and that's when he started playing tennis. I wanted to do something with him and chose tennis. After he blasted me with some balls at the net, I really got the desire to be competitive."

"What I found the most challenging in tennis was that I had to learn how to hit strokes from a chair. Those that played tennis before their injury had to mostly deal with how to maneuver the chair since they knew the strokes already. I learned some awfully unorthodox techniques until I was taught."

Dan Dwyer - former coach of playing professionals Gene and Sandy Mayer - was responsible for cleaning up John's game when he

was in New York after being discharged from service, and later Andy Brandt in Gainesville when he was recruited there to play for the Renegades wheelchair basketball team in 1978.

The spirit of competition was innate with John and it wasn't long before he became top-ranked in Florida and No. 24 internationally!

In 1989, John became the first wheelchair teacher certified by the PTR. He began to coach some players, league teams and run some tournaments when he was asked to coach the girls' tennis team at Buchholz High School in Gainesville. That was in 1998, and he's being doing it ever since, and took on the boys' team three years ago.

"When I started coaching the high school teams, I fell in love with coaching and also began to coach Junior Team Tennis - took a team to nationals in 2009 - and am involved in adaptive tennis, too," said John. "In 2004, I was the first wheelchair player to play in a USTA League National Championship. I decided to stop competing much in wheelchair tennis and have been playing in able-bodied leagues, like the adult, senior and super senior USTA leagues."

Anyone interested in participating in the wheelchair workshop should contact either Pierce Kelley, piercekelley@yahoo.com, or 352-949-1722, or John Johnston, johnston106@cox.net or 352-331-4060.

(NOTE: Nancy Morgan is among 15 current board members of the Youth Tennis Foundation)

INAUGURAL ALL STAR TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The 2012 Florida high school senior tennis players were rewarded with an All Star Tennis Tournament, on May 6th & 7th. This was the first ever All Star Tennis Tournament for Florida High School tennis team players, thanks to the joint efforts of Youth Tennis Foundation of Florida and the Florida High School Tennis Coaches Association.

The Tennis All Star Tournament followed the Florida High School Athletic Association State high school tennis championship tournaments in April and honored sixty four high school tennis players, who were graduating seniors. Four boys & four girls were chosen from each of the eight regions of the FHSTCA sections of Florida. The eight sections compete against each other, using the WTT format of Team Tennis play, which is boys and girls doubles play, followed by boys' & girls' singles and the mixed doubles determining the team winner.

Play was at Embry-Riddle College, in Daytona Beach and players and coaches were provided pool-side dinner Saturday evening, lodging, breakfast, lunch, t-shirts and memories to take to college.

This was the first time tennis players were included in the FHSTCA & Florida Athletic Coaches Association, as "All Stars."

FIRST HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STAR EVENT A SUCCESS

DAYTONA BEACH There were mixed doubles matches, and substitutions were allowed in the middle of matches, even in singles.

This was not your typical high school tennis tournament. This was the inaugural Florida High School All-Star Tournament.

The World Team Tennis format was followed for the May 6-7 event that was held at Embry-Riddle College and was sponsored by the Youth Tennis Foundation of Florida.

Eight graduating seniors from each of the eight high school regions in Florida were invited to play. Seven regions sent teams but Region 8, representing Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe counties did not.

The championship came down to the final match, mixed doubles between Regions 6 (Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Palm Beach Counties) and 7 (Glades, Charlotte, Lee, Hendry and Collier) with the score tied 15-15.

Alex Sweet of Barron Collier High School and Linda Kornienko of Bishop Verot, representing Region 7, won the match 6-2 over Gaston Murray of Park Vista and Melany Frehafer of Martin County, representing Region 6.

"It was a great event," said Tony Kamen of Naples High School,



The All-Stars assembled for a photo shoot before starting matches. Photo by Tug Miller.

who along with Mary Gibson of Bishop Verot coached the Region 7 team. "It's a great sendoff to college or whatever their endeavors.

"There was great camaraderie, bonding and good memories. I look forward to this getting bigger and bigger."

Region 4 defeated Region 1 for third place, and Region 5 defeated Region 3 for fifth place.

The tournament was a joint effort of the YTF (which is supported by a financial contribution from the Edward T. Bedford Foundation) and the Florida Athletic Coaches Association. It attracted college coaches and provided another opportunity for players to make connections for

possible college scholarships.

"We're trying to make more colleges aware of Florida players," said Pierce Kelley, a member of the tournament committee and immediate past president of the YTF.

He noted that the YTF also is making a concerted effort to bring back men's tennis and increase women's tennis at community colleges in Florida. There are just three schools fielding women's teams in Florida: Broward, Hillsborough and a new program at Bradenton started by former WTA Tour player Betsy Nagelesen McCormack.

"Of the 56 players competing here, some stay home and go to

community colleges," said Kelley. "We're trying to find leaders to start building community college programs for 2012-2013 and have a tournament like this one. We'd like to get volunteer coaches."

The All-Star event has been a dream of John Danise, who is president and executive director of the Florida State High School Tennis Coaches Association.

"I'm happy after five years of trying to put this together," said Danise, who served as tournament committee chairman and head referee. "These are special young kids. We're sending them off to college in the right way."

JIM MARTZ

LAKE CITY COLUMBIA COMMUNITY TENNIS ASSOCIATION (LCCCTA)

The Lake City Columbia Community Tennis Association is a not-for-profit tennis organization made up of volunteers. They currently offer tennis spring and summer camps and tennis clinics for kids interested in learning the game of tennis. Their plan for the future is to see a 24-court tennis facility built to both grow the game of tennis in Lake City and Columbia County, FL and to serve as a tournament facility hosting local, regional, and national tennis tournaments. The YTF donated money to assist LCCCTA in their efforts.



DERBYSHIRE TENNIS PROJECT

The mission of the Derbyshire after school tennis program is to provide free tennis instruction and clinics to children in the midtown Daytona Beach area. This program focuses on encouraging grade school and middle school children to learn the game of tennis with an emphasis on creating opportunities for high school tennis and beyond. The Derbyshire tennis program provides a valuable service in which Youth Tennis Foundation of Florida is proud to support. It has done so for over ten years.



Coach Mary McCoy and tennis program students

WHITE SPRINGS YOUTH TENNIS PROGRAM

At the 2010 Annual Meeting of the USTA-Florida held in Orlando, YTF board member Scott Harrison was in the audience for a presentation by Tom Moore of White Springs, FL. Moore, who is a tennis pro and advocate for children, had rounded up resources for a tennis court in tiny White Springs, five miles North of I-10 on I-75. However, he still needed fencing, maybe some windscreen and a storage shed or mini-clubhouse for the court. On May 17, 2011 the court at White Springs was dedicated at a ceremony attended by the White Springs Mayor, Helen Miller, Tom Moore, Scott Harrison and USTA-FL representatives Doug Booth (Executive Director), Robert Hollis (Share the Love), Linda Curtis (Director of Community Tennis), Mary Harowski (Share the Love) and Andy McFarland (Associate Executive Director – Play Tennis Division), Rick Vach (Communications Coordinator) and local White Springs volunteers.



L to R, Doug Booth, Robert Hollis, Linda Curtis, Mary Harowski, Tom Moore, Helen Miller, Scott Harrison and Andy McFarland.

YOUTH VILLAGE PROGRAM

The Youth Village After School & Summer Program was formed in 1999 for the purpose of creating a safe place to provide various educational and recreational services to the children of the greater Ft. Walton Beach community.

The Summer Arts/Education Program consists of academics during the morning sessions and The Arts during the afternoon sessions. The afternoon session of the summer program consists of workshops including writing, acting, dancing and singing that inspire creativity, confidence, character building and leadership. This culminates in an end of summer production which is open to the public.



2007 YTF presentation of a tennis ball machine to Youth Village from the right side at the back, Scott Harrison (YTF Board Member), Nellie Bogar (Founder/Director of Youth Village), Anthony Roberts (Volunteer/Certified Tennis Coach), and fifth from the right Natalie Bogar (volunteer/certified tennis coach). The kids are all Youth Village after school participants.

PINE FOREST PROJECT

In 2006, the YTF, through Board Member Scott Harrison, awarded \$4080 to a junior program in Pensacola which will allow for the purchase of a permanent building to house a pro shop and help to facilitate junior tennis programs and activities. Greg Pack, tennis coach at Pine Forest High School, allows his courts to be open to the public year around. He also follows the "no-cut" policy for his tennis teams. Therefore, he has many players ready to try junior team tennis, novice tournaments and junior clinics. The new building is the hub of tennis activities at Pine Forest. Pine Forest has already hosted the Big Six Escambia County High School Tennis Tournament and a junior team tennis league. This fall middle school team tennis will be hosted at the Pine Forest facility.



Greg Pack accepting a check for \$4800 from Scott Harrison on behalf of YTF to build the club house and fund other smaller projects.



2007 Pine Forest Team Tennis

BATTLE AT THE BREEZE HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT

Coach Mitzi Schafer, came up with a terrific idea for an early season event for junior varsity tennis players called the Battle at the Breeze. Coach Schafer reasoned that with four teams of boys and girls playing five singles and two doubles per each team match, the young JV players would get real match time that they would not ordinarily get during the regular season, since many of the schools don't play JV schedules.

In addition to host Gulf Breeze, Niceville, Fort Walton Beach and Tallahassee Chiles players participated in the event.



YTF Board member, Scott Harrison, presents Gulf Breeze coach Mitzi Schafer with a \$500 check to help offset costs for the event. "This is a perfect type of event for the YTF's involvement," said Harrison.

The Gulf Breeze team captured the Girl's Title.

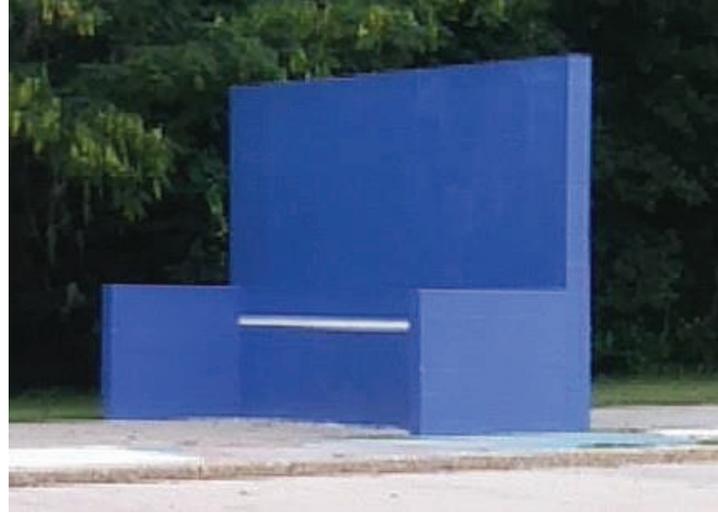
TENNIS-4-EVERYONE

Since Rita Dotson founded Tennis-4-Everyone in 2001, children attending summer camps at nine Pensacola area community centers have received free tennis instruction. Dotson, a USPTA Certified tennis professional, won an award at the USTA/FL Annual meeting in December 2013 for 10 and Under Tennis Programs in Florida. Tennis-4-Everyone volunteer tutors and mentors work throughout the school year with kids in community center after-care programs. Assistance with daily homework, studying and remedial practice is provided. Each year, Tennis-4-Everyone introduces over 200 children to the fun and healthy sport of tennis. Studies have shown that kids who participate in sports are less likely to turn to unhealthy and dangerous alternatives in their teen years, such as drugs, gangs and other criminal activities. The YTF has supported her program for over ten years.



CITY OF MADISON LANIER PARK TENNIS COURT IMPROVEMENTS

On August 8, 2017, the Youth Tennis Foundation of Florida (YTF) in the person of Board Member Scott Harrison from Pensacola, attended a City of Madison Commissioners meeting to present a check in the amount of \$2500 to Commissioners Rayne Cooks and Ina Thompson. These funds went to assist in upgrading the Lanier Field Recreation Area tennis facilities. Most of the YTF's funds went towards building the hitting wall.



PENSACOLA RACQUET ROUND-UP

The free of charge clinics include t-shirts, a goody bag and refreshments as well as lots of games, tennis and team fun with the age-appropriate balls. Parents, coaches and local high school players were among the volunteers helping on the courts. The Youth Tennis Foundation of Florida (YTF) has been a major sponsor of the event since 2013.



Roger Scott Tennis Center-- Pensacola Racquet Round-Up

CEDAR KEY PROJECT

The Youth Tennis Foundation spent over \$6,500 to re-surface the tennis courts within the city of Cedar Key. It also created a junior team tennis program for the community. Pierce Kelley and Scott Harrison, two board members, provided instruction to nearly two dozen children who attended the Grand Opening event on March 11, 2006. The youngsters were then divided into four teams and six weeks of league play followed. The YTF provided t-shirts, balls, free rackets, trophies and other services. Pierce directed the league. Scott provided the windscreens, benches and a water cooler at no charge.

The Beacon December 8, 2005 Page 7

Tennis courts to be renovated

Cedar Key P.E. teacher Aaron Haldeman, together with 2004 Cedar Key graduate Holly Jones, worked together on a proposal for a grant to renovate the local tennis courts. Jones was also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for her efforts in getting this project approved and for proposing to start a Youth Tennis Program in Cedar Key.



Teacher Aaron Haldeman is shown with Holly Jones.

She will begin working with Matt Graham, a U.S. Tennis Association community coordinator, who will help get the new program under way. As anyone who has tried to play tennis in town lately can attest, the local courts are in desperate need of renovation. There are weeds pecking through the cracks in the surface. "It's so bad, it looks as though high tide came in and left all it's debris," commented Jones. The chain link fence is hardly visible in places for the overgrowth of plant life taking over.

But all that is about to change. Pierce Kelly, President of the Youth Tennis Foundation of Florida, based out of St. Petersburg, notified Haldeman and Jones last Saturday of the approval for \$6,300 to go toward renovations including the resurfacing

and painting of the courts, new nets, wind screens and spectator benches. Anyone interested in participating in a Youth Tennis Program should stop by Cactus Rose Coffee House on S.R. 24 in Cedar Key or call 543-0600.



There was a great turnout at last Saturday's opening gala for the Cedar Key Youth Tennis Program as kids from 6-18 got some professional tips from former nationally ranked players. Tennis rackets, tennis bags, t-shirts and other gifts were given away from the U.S. Tennis Association and the Florida Youth Tennis Association. After some instruction and practice, the kids all enjoyed some hot dogs and lemonade. The league will meet at the Cedar Key tennis courts at the school each Saturday at 9:00am. It's not too late to join!



YTF Board member Pierce Kelley helped lead tennis instruction for the children who attended.

Due to her work on the Cedar Key Project, the Youth Tennis Foundation awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship to Holly Jones of Cedar Key.

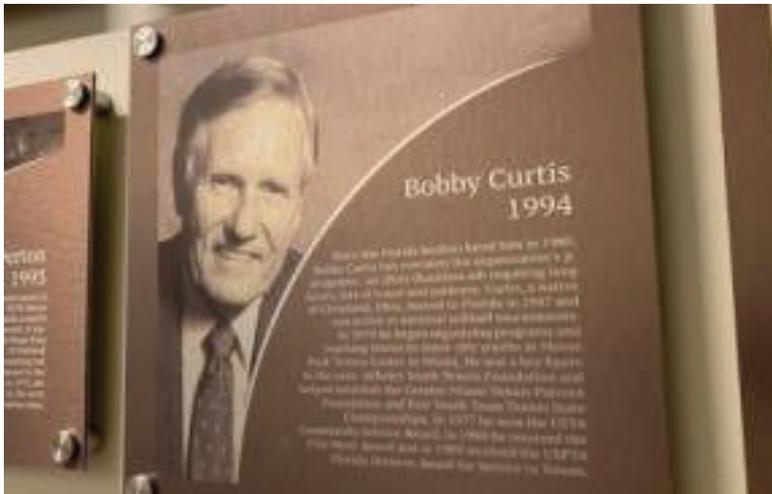
YTF AT JACKSONVILLE CT BROWN TENNIS CENTER

The Youth Tennis Foundation of Florida has been sponsoring tennis clinics for youth in Jacksonville for several years. These YTF events in Jacksonville are held at the C.T. Brown Tennis Center. In 2021, the sessions ran on Friday evenings from 6:00- 7:30 PM. Our peak turnout was 16. We averaged 12 kids per session. Coach Dave (David Graves) and Coach Bishop (G.D. Jefferson) worked on fundamentals while Coach Todd (Brent Todd) worked with the youngest group on hand-eye coordination skills.



BOBBY CURTIS ELITE PROGRAM

In honor of Bobby Curtis' long time affiliation with the Youth Tennis Foundation of Florida, Inc., the organization is pleased to announce the addition of a new program, the "YTF/Bobby Curtis Junior Elite Program". Consistent with the YTF mission to support and develop youth tennis at the various levels in Florida, the aim of this program will be to identify highly ranked Florida junior players and offer monetary help to supplement the costs and expenses related to training and tournament play at this level.



The chairperson of this program is ex-officio board member Jeff Chambers, a former top ranked national junior player and college all-American. For further information, please contact: jeffchambers@chamberspilon.com

YTF BOARD MEMBER BOBBY CURTIS HONORED

The USA-Florida honored YTF Board member Bobby Curtis at its 60th Annual USA-FL Celebration held December 4-6 at the Clearwater Beach Hilton. Curtis was honored for his 30 years of service to the USA-FL as its first paid employee. Curtis is retiring as a full-time paid employee of the USA-FL but will continue to work as a contract employee doing his usual duties with major Florida junior tennis tournaments. Curtis has been an integral part of the Youth Tennis Foundation for almost 40 years. He first became involved with the YTF in the early 70s while he was the director of tennis at Moore Park in Miami. He hosted the first 14 and under State Youth Team Tennis Tournament in 1977. The USA-FL took over operation of the Youth Team Tennis program (re-naming it Junior Team Tennis) in the late 80's. Although Curtis has retired as a full-time employee of the USA-FL, he will be working with both organizations as needed.



The chairperson of this program is ex-officio board member Jeff Chambers, a former top ranked national junior player and college all-American. For further information, please contact: jeffchambers@chamberspilon.com

BOBBY CURTIS AND THE YOUTH TENNIS FOUNDATION: THE EARLY YEARS

Bobby left us a month ago, but the tributes continue to pour in. The USTA-Florida personnel held a "Celebration of Life" in Hollywood, on Saturday, August 7, and a group of nearly a hundred people attended in person, with many others attending by zoom or Facebook. Hundreds more would have been there, but for the pandemic. Bobby was loved by many and will be missed by all who knew him. I first met Bobby in the early '70s, when he was in his early forties and I was in my early twenties. We became friends then and remained so for the remainder of his life. He was, without a doubt, one of the most important people in my life and I write to provide some information about his life and times that many people might not be aware of.

I never met anyone who knew Bobby back in his high school or college days, or anyone who knew him when he was in the military, so I can't help with any of that, but I can relate some details about what he was like just before he became involved with the game of tennis. He was a fast-pitch softball player.

Anyone who ever hit a tennis ball with him knows that he wasn't a player, but he certainly did leave his mark on the game, as all can attest. He was, however, by all accounts, an excellent athlete and, I heard, but can't confirm, that he was inducted into the National Softball Hall of Fame. As we all know, he wasn't a big man, but he played first base, which is normally a position for the boys who can hit the ball a long way. That wasn't Bobby.

I never saw him play, but he told me a bunch of stories about those days and he knew all the best players of his day, including Eddie Feigner, the "King" of fast-pitch softball, who traveled all over the country with three other men, a catcher, a first-baseman and a shortstop, and won nearly ten thousand games over a twenty-year career. Bobby told me that he could run like the wind and if he put the ball in play, he could beat it out for a hit. He also told me that he used to wear his hat sideways on his head during games and became quite a celebrity with the fans in doing so. In fact, they made a rule to require him to wear his hat correctly or get thrown out of the game.

Back in the '50s and '60s, fast-pitch softball was much more popular than it is today, although it is still played at the professional level. Back then, teams from all across the country would play against each other and compete for a national title. Those teams would recruit players and find them jobs, but not, usually, pay them any salary, or not much of one. It wasn't like the major leagues. Bobby was one of those guys.

He played for the team in Miami and other teams for nearly two decades and those clubs gave him a variety of jobs over the years. In fact, that is how Bobby became involved with the game of tennis. He told me that he was working at a hotel on Miami Beach, together with a couple of other players, doing exactly what I'm not exactly sure, but whatever it was, they got into some trouble and lost the job.

So, his buddies on the softball team found him a job with the City of Miami. He was to be the manager of Moore Park, located in the heart of Miami at Northwest 36th Street and 7th Avenue. It was, and still is, a beautiful park with a football stadium, a track and many other amenities, plus some tennis courts which, at the time, were in horrendous condition. This is what Bobby was given. What became of it, by the time he left, must be credited to Bobby. If asked, I would fully expect that he would tell you that he considered Moore Park to be his most precious accomplishment in life—he turned that facility into a gem.

So, it was in 1972, or thereabouts, that I went to Moore Park to meet Von Beebe, the principal of Coconut Grove Elementary School, and play. That's when I met Bobby and saw what he was trying to do. Even then, there were dozens of kids swarming around the office, which had no air-conditioning, who showed an interest in learning how to play. It was a welcoming place, beginning with Bobby. I do not exaggerate when I say that the courts were in horrendous condition. Most of the nets were metal. Broken glass littered most of the courts, which were either lightning fast or more like the surface of a road. The backstops were either torn or non-existent. Balls became either balloons or rockets very quickly. Still, I could see that Bobby earnestly wanted to make that place successful.

I had become involved with the Youth Tennis Foundation by that time, due to my friendship with Jack Blair, who was the president of the YTF and one of its founder members. He had been the president of the Florida Tennis Association and was, by then, in the Florida Tennis Hall of Fame. I told Jack about Bobby and Moore Park. He immediately gave me a check for \$1,000.00 and told me to give it to Bobby, which I did. Years later, Bobby told me that they didn't know what to do with all of that money. They never had any.

A friend of mine, Rick Fagel, who played at Columbia and won the Ivy League Championships that year, beating Vitas Gerulaitis in the finals, happened to be in town at the time and he and I went out to give an exhibition to the kids. We went back several more times giving lessons. By that time, Bobby and I were the best of friends.

A couple of years later, we, Jack Blair, Bobby and I, with the approval of our Board, embarked upon what would become one of the most successful adventures for the three of us, and that was the creation of the Youth Team Tennis program. Jack provided the muscle, but it was Bobby who did all of the leg work.

Over the next several years, he must have logged about a million miles crisscrossing the state pulling teams from all over Florida to what became a state championship event for un-ranked players. Kids with rankings weren't allowed to play back in the beginning. This was bringing tennis out of the country clubs and into the parks, and it was an enormous success.

The Youth Tennis Foundation bought a membership for each and every youngster who signed up and played in one of our leagues, making them a member of the United States Tennis Association from the state of Florida. The import of that was that the membership numbers for the Florida Tennis Association rose dramatically, by tens of thousands. The effect of that was that the FTA received much more money from the USTA resulting from television revenues and other sources.

Other sections of the USTA took notice and followed suit. What the Youth Tennis Foundation started became the format for what is now Junior Team Tennis in the United States. In fact, in 1987, the USTA took over our program and continues to run it to this day. The first event was in Clearwater in 1976 and it was a 12 and under event. The next year, we added a 14 and under event at Moore Park in Miami. The following year, we added the 10s, 16s and 18s. Dave Beerman and all of his fellow pros in the Lakeland/Bartow/Winter Haven area took over the entire tournament that year and continue to run it for years and years, with our support.

That wasn't all that the Youth Tennis Foundation did during the period of 1974 to 1980, when the Florida Tennis Association hired Bobby to become its first employee, after seeing all that he had done to make the Youth Tennis Foundation a success. We also sponsored a state city-team event and sent the winning teams to the national event; we started a college scholarship program to help juniors find scholarships; we started what we called "Class B" tournaments for players who weren't good enough to play against the more advanced players; we gave money to top juniors to help them pay for the expense of competing in national events, and much more.

So, before Bobby became a part of USTA-Florida and did all the things that made him such a beloved man, especially to the kids and their parents, he was an integral part of the Youth Tennis Foundation. He remained on our Board and attended our meetings right up to the end. He still is and will always be one of us.

In his honor, the YTF has created the "Bobby Curtis Elite Player Development Program" through which we will provide assistance to the very best of players in the state who need some financial assistance, and we have donated \$1,000.00 to the fund being established by the USTA-FL in his name.

When I last talked to him, which wasn't that long ago, he told me that he wanted to live as long as Gardner Mulloy, who died at the age of 100. Gardner was a magnificent physical specimen and was, arguably, the best player ever to come out of the state of Florida. Bobby's body didn't make it that long, but his legend will live on for years to come. Fare thee well, brother Bobby. We'll see you on the other side.

Written By YTF Board Member, Pierce Kelley, and published in the Sept/Oct 2021 issue of Florida Tennis Magazine

JACK BLAIR--YTF FOUNDER

Born in Scotland, Jack came to the United States as a young boy. He was raised in South Florida and became one of Florida's better junior players. During WW II, he piloted heavy bombers runs over Germany. After the war, he worked with a relative, James Donn, and was the general manager of Gulfstream Race Track for most of his adult life. In 1962, Jack and many other prominent members of the tennis community formed the Youth Tennis Foundation as a way to help promote and develop junior tennis in Florida. For virtually all of the next 25 years, Jack was the President of the YTF. Among the many accomplishments during his tenure were the Youth Team Tennis program, the Youth Scholarship program, sponsorship of the City-Team state event, funding for developing players to travel to national events, free clinics at tennis facilities across the state, racket and equipment promotions, YTF adult tournaments and much more. Jack is a former president of the FTA and a member of the Florida Tennis Hall of Fame.

He is survived by four children who continue to live in Florida and remain tennis enthusiasts.



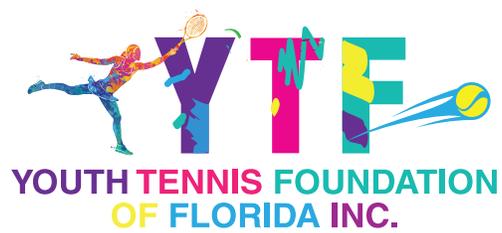
BOBBY CURTIS

Bobby was an integral part of the Youth Tennis Foundation for almost 40 years. He first became involved with the YTF in the early 70s while he was the director of tennis at Moore Park in Miami. He hosted the first 14 and under State Youth Team Tennis Tournament in 1977 and was one of the first Regional Directors of the YTF. In 1979 he became the state-wide coordinator of the YTF, which was a full-time position. The Florida Tennis Association (now USTA-FL) hired him to become the Director of Junior Tennis in the early 80s but Bobby remained active with the YTF until the late 80s, when the FTA took over operation of the Youth Team Tennis program (re-naming it Junior Team Tennis). Bobby regularly attended the YTF meetings and provided sage advice to our Board of Directors regarding our planned activities, as well as historical facts and anecdotes.





Youth Tennis Foundation of Florida Board of Directors



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