

# NET/GAME

*The official magazine of USTA Southern California*

SPRING 2022  
ISSUE NO. 1

## SOARING INTO SUMMER

*After two years on and off the court,  
SoCal is finally back in action*



**DESIRAE  
KRAWCZYK**

*comes home to Indian Wells*

**THE 2022 ALL-SOCAL  
COLLEGE TEAM**

*celebrate the scholar-athletes  
who represent SoCal Tennis*

See tomorrow's champions today as they compete in  
Mens and Womens ITF \$15k Pro Circuit events across  
Southern California!

**RANCHO SANTA FE**  
MAY 30 - JUNE 5

**LOS ANGELES**  
JUNE 27 - JULY 3

**SAN DIEGO/USD**  
JUNE 6-12

**LAKWOOD**  
JULY 11-17

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY**  
JULY 4-10

**SAN DIEGO/BTC**  
JUNE 13-19

# SOCAL PRO CIRCUIT

**The Future of Tennis**

[ustasocal.com/procircuit](http://ustasocal.com/procircuit)



@socialproccircuit

USTA

Wilson

ITF WorldTennisTour



# Will You Double Down?

A Message from the Executive Director



All around us, there are countless examples of both positive and negative Sportsmanship - in the news, on social media, and on athletic fields and courts across America. We cringe when we see examples of bad sportsmanship, and celebrate (perhaps not often enough) displays of honesty and integrity from a good sport.

In both instances, for better or worse, there are lasting effects.

In 2022, we will launch a widespread Sportsmanship campaign, recognition of Junior and Adult achievement on digital channels, team recognition, and parent and spectator acknowledgements. We are asking for your cooperation to make our tennis community a better place to have fun, to compete in fairness, and to increase the popularity of our sport.

Those who benefit from the wisdom of time understand that the remembrance of victories fade, but acts of kindness and generosity endure throughout our lives. Conversely, if we win through gamesmanship, bad behavior or negative sportsmanship, those around us do not forget, and the label of 'cheater' and 'bad sport' become synonymous both personally and professionally.

At USTA Southern California, we are doubling down. Are you?

Please join us in our efforts to make USTA Southern California a successful, zero tolerance section in regards to sportsmanship. Help us focus more on our ongoing mission - to get and keep Southern Californians engaged in tennis.

*Trevor Fromeman*



Paradise Found!  
Taylor hoists the trophy at the 2022 BNP Paribas Open

## In This Issue:

Steve Pratt reports on Aliso Viejo's ALEX MICHELSEN after his huge premiere at the Australian Open

Texas' CHARLOTTE CHAVATIPON and HALEY GIAVARA of Cal highlight the 2022 All-SoCal College Team

DESIRAE KRAWCZYK comes home to SoCal after dominating doubles Slams in '21

## ON THE COVER

Masato Perera takes flight for the overhead smash at Barnes Tennis Center in San Diego. Photo by Andy Bao @manlycow

**USTA**

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Marketing & Communications  
Darryl Nash, Director  
Lexie Wanninger, Manager  
Anish Vishwakoti, Coordinator

# FIRST SERVE

## FUTURES

### SOCAL PRO CIRCUIT TO LAUNCH THIS SPRING

**THE SOCAL PRO CIRCUIT** launches its inaugural schedule in May as a platform for aspiring college and high-level juniors to compete before embarking on a professional tennis career. Both male and female players who live in SoCal or who compete on a college team within the region are encouraged to register for pre-qualifiers and main draws to earn valuable WTA and ATP ranking points.

These six-day, \$15k ITF events feature equal prize money for both men's and women's draws and will kick off



at Rancho Santa Fe Tennis Center on May 30, followed by two stops in San Diego, then Los Angeles, Fountain Valley, and Lakewood.

"These players represent the future of tennis," says Tour Supervisor Cathy Jacobson-Guzy. "This is the final stepping stone before they take on the world. Our goal is to make sure they are ready when it's time for the next step."

Wilson and Crabel Capital Management are among official sponsors of the 2022 SoCal Pro Circuit.



### MEETING A HERO

**THE WORLD'S BEST** arrived in Indian Wells earlier this year for the BNP Paribas Open, among them fan favorite and former World #6 Gael Monfils. Gardena's Ethan Henderson, the eldest member of Inglewood NJTL 40-Love Foundation, was provided a unique opportunity to meet his tennis idol, along with the Bryan Bros and Frances Tiafoe, as part of Cliff Drysdale Tennis With the Stars at Rancho Las Palmas Country Club!



Lexie Wanninger | USTA

## TEAM SOCAL

### SOCAL'S TAYLOR FRITZ CLAIMS BNP TITLE AT INDIAN WELLS

**IT WAS A DAY** Taylor Fritz will never forget.

"My dad brought me here (to Indian Wells) as a kid," the SoCal native said ahead of the BNP Paribas Open final. "He told me that I was going to win this tournament one day," admitting that only recently did he come to believe it might actually happen.

With thousands watching in suspense, Fritz ultimately showed more resilience against one of the greatest and most resilient players ever. In utter disbelief of his triumph, Fritz threw

his hands in the air and fell to the ground in excitement.

"After the match, I kept saying 'no, no, no way it's real.' I signed the camera and just put question marks. I was stunned because I couldn't even believe it," Fritz said on the verge of tears.

"These moments are the reason why I wanted to be an athlete, wanted to play professional tennis.

"It's the best part of it all."



STEVE PRATT REPORTS

# MICHELSEN CLOSING JUNIOR CAREER IN STYLE

The reference to Alex Michelsen's "greatest win" quote is constantly changing.

The 17-year-old Aliso Viejo resident pulled off a huge upset over former USC No. 1 Brandon Holt to start 2022 on his way to winning his first professional tournament, a \$25,000 UTR event in Newport Beach. Michelsen told UTR's Nina Pantic in a follow-up article it was "probably my best win" ever.

Two weeks and a 16-hour flight later, Michelsen would need to revise his quote as he took out ITF No. 3 world-ranked junior Jakub Mensik of the Czech Republic dropping just four games at an Australian

Open ITF warm up event Down Under, where he went from qualifier to the quarterfinals winning four matches.

"Yeah, that became my biggest win," Michelsen said of beating Mensik. It was a three-set loss to another world Top 5-ranked junior Daniel Adolfo Vallejo at the Orange Bowl in December which led Paraguay's Vallejo to ask Michelsen to play doubles with him at the Australian Open, Michelsen's first-ever Grand Slam.

Although he fell in the second-round of singles qualifying in Melbourne, Michelsen and Vallejo made a run all the way to the Australian Open Junior Doubles final.

After two straight Junior Sectional 18s finals, Michelson will head next to University of Georgia

**"Making it to a Grand Slam final, I'd never thought I'd do that..."**



"I guess I gained his respect at the Orange Bowl and when he asked me to play with him, I just couldn't say no," Michelsen said. "Making it to a Grand Slam final, I'd never thought I'd do that."

Weeks later, trading Orange Bowl success for Easter Bowl dominance, Michelsen swept the 2022 version of the latter by winning both singles and doubles at the Indian Wells event. He was the first to sweep both competitions since Donald Young in 2006. A decade later, Young would peak at #38 on the ATP Tour rankings list.

As for Michelsen, the former Aliso Niguel High School player said quitting public school and instead going to the online independent study route full-time at Laurel Springs has made a huge difference. He's in the gym for fitness from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. six days a week, and on court from 9 a.m. to noon and then 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. five days a week for practice. "It's a grind, for sure but not so much on the weekends," Michelsen said. "It was definitely harder to focus on my schoolwork in Australia, but I was able to catch up when I got back."

Michelsen's coach Eric Diaz encouraged Michelsen to consider the University of Georgia where his father Manny Diaz coaches. A trip ensued to Athens, Ga., where Michelsen met the team and attended a football game between the future national champions against Arkansas. "I just want a new experience," said Michelsen of leaving SoCal in favor of an SEC school. "Everything is so different than here. But I immediately loved the school and verbally committed."

There will be other ITF-level junior and pro events to keep him busy, not to mention the remaining Junior Slams and potentially the SoCal Pro Circuit, which debuts in May. Never rule out a possible third straight trip to the finals of the SoCal Junior Sectionals at Los Cab in Fountain Valley could be in the mix.

"We'll see," Michelsen said. "I might try and spread the word and get the top players to play it. I always remember winning my first Sectionals in the 12s. I don't recall much about it, just winning it all."

**Above**  
Michelson won Junior Sectionals 18s  
in 2020. then returned again to the  
final in 2021.

**"The biggest  
change in my game  
has definitely been  
the fitness. I don't  
gas out in matches  
and it's just  
because I'm hitting  
so much day to  
day."**

# POP

## newsletter PARENTS OF PLAYERS



### WELCOME TO TENNIS! JUNIOR CIRCUIT IS STARTING POINT FOR NEW TOURNEY PLAYERS

Entry-level tournament players sometimes feel the pressure to perform right from the beginning, especially under the watchful eyes of their peers and parents. That can make it tough to simply relax and continue to enjoy learning a new game or skill.

At USTA, we encourage new tournament players to try the Junior Circuit, our fun and low-pressure events that give players the opportunity to develop their skills through level-based play while

learning and demonstrating good sportsmanship.

These events are primarily half-day or single-day gatherings, aimed at providing a competitive environment and individual match play against players of similar skill level. Organizers can choose to use orange, green or yellow tennis balls.

Players are recommended to play in either a USTA Team Challenge or USTA Junior Team Tennis before a USTA Junior Circuit. Players are expected to be able to serve, maintain a rally and know how to keep score plus have some competitive tennis experience.

Players ages 10 and under will receive PlayTracker points for every USTA Junior Circuit they participate in. PlayTracker is an interactive digital platform maintained by USTA.com that helps guide young players through their developmental journey, creating a pathway that builds confidence and skill, and cultivates interest in the sport of tennis.

Learn more about the opportunities in junior tennis at [USTASoCal.com/junior/net-generation](http://USTASoCal.com/junior/net-generation).



PROGRESS

TEAM  
COMPETITIONS

JUNIOR  
TEAM TENNIS

JUNIOR  
TOURNAMENTS

### THE 5-to-1 RULE

Before criticizing your athlete about their weakness, acknowledge 5 of their strengths. Saying something good is positive psychology and is what every child deserves.

FRANK GIAMPAOLO

# ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT COLLEGE BEFORE YOU EMPTY THE NEST

There's a home for every tennis player at the college level, but finding the right fit can be a challenge. That's why we host College Knowledge sessions throughout the year, featuring college coaches and staff who offer first-hand advice and guidance for parents and players alike. Hear from some of SoCal's NCAA coaches, as well as Community college programs and Tennis On Campus club sports. Find out what coaches look for in players, how to navigate recruitment, and what priorities should guide the selection process.

Earlier this year, the first session included USD's Ryan Keckley, SDSU's Peter Mattera, and players competing in the Tennis on Campus Sectionals on site in San Diego, all offering valuable insight to an audience of parents and players of all ages. Sessions will continue throughout the calendar year in various Southern California regions, featuring different panels and speakers at each event.

# COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE



Prepare your champion for the next level

## COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE IN 2022

July 8 (Fri)  
College Knowledge: Templeton  
Gar Glenney Cup Weekend

July 29/30 (Fri or Sat)  
College Knowledge: Claremont  
USTA Girls Intersectionals

December 9 (Fri)  
JTT Fall Championships  
Palm Desert



LEARN MORE ABOUT SOCAL COLLEGIATE PROGRAMS AND COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE SESSIONS AT [USTASOCCAL.COM/COLLEGE](http://USTASOCCAL.COM/COLLEGE)

When college coaches are recruiting players, they start with the tangibles - statistics such as your rankings, ratings, and results - because they are the easiest bits of information to review and digest along with technical skills and physical abilities.

Tangibles are good because these help coaches identify and filter players. However, these things don't always guarantee a spot on the team. It's just one piece of the recruiting process coaches look at.

For example: If a coach is recruiting two players with similar rankings and ratings, both blue-chip or 5-star recruits, **how does the coach decide which one to offer the scholarship first?** That's where the intangibles come into play.

These are the things that can't be tracked by statistics. Intangibles are the attributes athletes possess or behaviors they exhibit that require no physical talent but are crucial to success.

**Does your personality mean more to a coach than your backhand? In a word... YES!**

## TANGIBLES & INTANGIBLES FOR THE COLLEGE-BOUND PLAYER

COMPETITIVENESS  
CHARACTER  
LEADERSHIP

COACHABILITY  
TEAM PLAYER  
SKILLS

DIANNE MATIAS



● ● ● **POP NEWSLETTER**

# YOU HEAR, BUT DO YOU LISTEN?



In his book "The Tennis Parent's Bible," Frank Giampaolo discusses how listening is just as important as speaking when it comes to communication between a parent and a young athlete. "The ability to listen," he writes, "is yet another crucial tennis parental skill. It's in the best interest of the tennis parent to create a positive, supportive and communicative environment to maintain healthy parent/child/coach relationships."

The topic arises when a tennis parent receives a note from his child, stating that she has lost her desire to play tennis - it's simply no fun anymore - and while she tries to meet the expectations of her parents, she simply does not want to play and compete any longer. Frank's advice to the parent is simple - LISTEN!

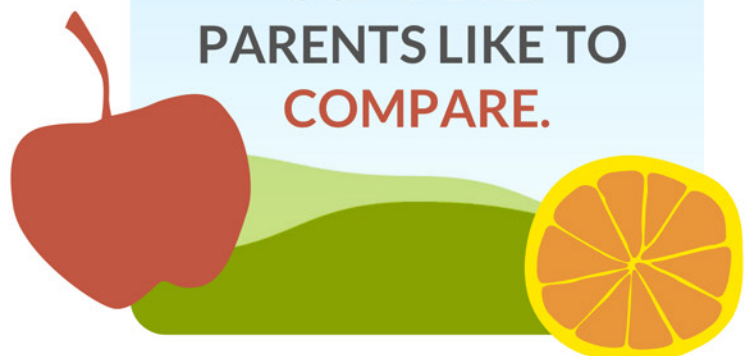
Frank writes, "I asked this question, 'Would it be alright to take a one month sabbatical?' Then, take her racquets away and hide them. Don't even mention the word tennis to her. If she never again brings up the subject, then she is done. That means you have a normal, healthy child. Go on vacations, enjoy weekends and appreciate your family. If the game begins to pull her back, then she'll be engaged for all the right reasons. It's about choices. She's a great kid. She's smart. Trust me, just let this play out."

Ultimately, after a healthy break from the game, the young player feels drawn to the court again, and returns to compete at a national level after the brief reset. Sometimes a kid just needs a little space and a little time, that's all!

WATCH FOR FRANK GIAMPAOLO'S  
NEXT PARENT ALLIANCE SEMINAR  
(APRIL) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
USTASOCAL JUNIOR TENNIS!

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

KIDS LIKE TO  
**COMPETE.**  
PARENTS LIKE TO  
**COMPARE.**



# THIS JUST IN

## Universal Tennis Partners with SoCal Final 8 Junior Masters Championships

Universal Tennis is announcing a co-branded partnership with the SoCal Final 8 Junior Masters Championships, a prestigious junior event taking place this November in San Diego, featuring the Top 8 players in boys' and girls' 18U, 16U, 14U, and 12U divisions.

"The Final 8 Junior Masters is the pinnacle of our competitive season," said Trevor Kronemann, Executive Director at USTA Southern California. "We are excited about the opportunity to add a new level of prestige to this Signature Series event, and providing new opportunities for our young players through strategic and innovative partnerships such as this."

The road to the Final 8 Junior Masters Championships features 10 SoCal Grand Prix events (Level 3 and Level 4s) running from January through October with event winners receiving points based on level and finish. The Top 4 points leaders will be awarded entry into the SoCal x Universal Tennis Final 8 Masters, along with the Top 4 players by Verified UTR Rating who have competed in a minimum of 1 So Cal Grand Prix event with at least 1 Grand Prix point earned.

"We are excited to announce this partnership with the Southern California region," said Mark Leschly, Chairman and CEO of Universal Tennis. "Universal Tennis is always happy to collaborate with tennis providers to bring the benefits of the UTR Rating and level-based play to players."

The Final 8 Masters Championships entries and draws will operate in a new Universal Tennis Digital Club called the Race to the SoCal x Universal Tennis Final 8 Master Championships. Matches will be live-streamed and college recruitment education talks will be held for players and parents.



COLLEGE

## TWICE AS NICE

Bruins defend national title;  
repeat at TOC Champions!





# DESIRAE COMES HOME

BY DARRYL NASH | USTA

As the world's greatest players descended upon Indian Wells for the 2022 BNP Paribas Open, their social media accounts were emblazoned with picturesque images of snow-peaked mountain tops and palm trees bending with the wind. For one player in particular, those images were not simply celebrating the latest stop on the WTA Tour. For Desirae Krawczyk, it was a very simple proclamation – I'm home.

The most dominant player on the doubles circuit in 2021, Palm Desert's Krawczyk grew up in Southern California and excelled through the junior ranks before capping her amateur career at Arizona State University. In 2010 she broke through at the pro level in front of her hometown crowd at the ITF Rancho Mirage, where she reached the doubles semifinals with Coco Vandeweghe.

A decade later, Krawczyk began a monumental journey to

Grand Slam titles in Paris, London, and New York. This year as the top seed with Joe Salisbury in Melbourne, she fell just short of four consecutive mixed doubles Slam titles – at the hands of her good friend Giuliana Olmos and Marcelo Arevalo. They'd met previously in the US Open final, but with a decidedly different result.

"Going into Australia, obviously we were heavily favored," she said. "There was a little pressure, and you think about winning all four, but I think you have to go out there, do your best, and play some good tennis. It went to a (tie)breaker, and anything can happen in a breaker."

While the milestone passed unceremoniously, Krawczyk still appreciates a marvelous streak of championship tennis. In winning three straight mixed doubles Slams, she became only the seventh player to do so in the Open era.

"It just happened," she says with a chuckle. "You don't go

**“We played every weekend in Southern California. There were a lot of good players growing up...”**

in with too many expectations because so many things can happen. We just played really well in the key moments. It was a great year.”

Krawczyk joins a long list of champions – Sampras, Austin, Chang, and Davenport among them – who learned their craft here in Southern California, players who competed in Ojai and Junior Sectionals and so many others.

“We were very lucky and fortunate to have all these tournaments there in L.A. and Southern California every single weekend. We drove every weekend with my dad, stayed overnight, and then off to the next tournament the next weekend. There were a

lot of good players growing up.”

Now back in familiar territory, Krawczyk joined with Demi Schuurs to reach the quarterfinals at Indian Wells.

“It’s nice to be back home with friends and family,” she said. “I’m so familiar with the stomping grounds here. I was a ballkid here for so many years and grew up watching all these amazing players, dreaming of playing here one day.”

That dream now a reality, Krawczyk heads next to Paris. In 2020 she reached the women’s doubles final, and last year claimed the mixed doubles crown. Only time will tell what 2022 has in store for the desert’s favorite daughter.



## **WORDS OF WISDOM FOR DOUBLES PLAYERS**

Don't miss out on the team aspect of tennis. From Junior Team Tennis to collegiate play, doubles is a vital tool for the complete player.

### **START EARLY**

"As a junior, I loved playing doubles," Desirae recalls. "I love the team aspect of it. I loved playing with a friend and being competitive."

### **IMPROVE YOUR SINGLES GAME**

"You can be an all-court singles player (and) transition to the net. The top singles players in the world, it's helping their game."

### **GET THE EARLY LEAD AT COLLEGE**

"Doubles is key to learn because the doubles point in college is very important," Desirae advises.



**ADULT LEAGUES**

BY STEVE PRATT FOR USTASOCAL.COM

# OC's 'Rookies' of the Year

A former high school tennis player, Mathew Gonzales spent 10 years after high school not thinking much about the game he had picked up and grown to love during his teenage years. In fact, Gonzales thought he'd never play the sport again.

But then Covid hit, and the 30-year-old Carson resident came back to the sport as a way to get back into shape. The strokes slowly returned, as did memories of hitting with buddies at the local courts like Liberty Park, Independence Park and Cerritos Regional Park and playing on the varsity team for Norwalk High School.

"I totally quit tennis and didn't think I'd ever go back to it," said Gonzales, who received a Masters' of Science in Counseling at Cal State-Long Beach.

What started out as friends gathering for a social hit spread to more and more competitive matches as Gonzales' network of young players around the Cerritos, Downey and Buena Park area continued to grow.

That growth led to the formation of a USTA League 18-and-Over Adult 4.0 team that competed the first year in the Beach Cities League last spring.

A move to the Orange County League proved advantageous for the team named THE Rookies because of so many new players to USTA Leagues and the sport in general. Gonzales captained his team to a 9-1 first-place tie in the Fall Doubles League with THE Rookies advancing on to the Southern California Sectionals after counting sets, 51-49, won to break the first-place tie.

THE Rookies ran the table at Sectionals, beating the San Fernando Valley wild-card team Sweet Spot Squad captained by Solomon Daud in the finale to capture the title. "From THE Rookies to the champions, and all because of Covid," said Gonzales.

THE Rookies are made up of mostly younger players in their 20s with Anthony Hean the oldest player at age 40. The team includes U.S. Marine

*continued next page*

## 2022 Spring/ Summer Adult League Sectionals

**MAY 13-15**  
ADULT 40+  
3.5 | 4.5  
SAN DIEGO

**MAY 20-22**  
ADULT 40+  
3.0 | 4.0 | OTHER  
SAN DIEGO

**JULY 22-24**  
ADULT 18+  
2.5 | 3.5 | 4.5 | OPEN  
ORANGE COUNTY

**JULY 29-31**  
ADULT 18+  
3.0 | 4.0 | 5.0  
ORANGE COUNTY

FIND UPDATES & MORE EVENTS AT  
[USTASOCAL.COM/ADULT/LEAGUES](https://ustasocal.com/adult/leagues)

Sergeant veteran James Agnes and even has its own chef in coach Hea Kim. Team members include Nicholas Ambrosio, a software engineer who plays tenor saxophone in his free time; Simon Ketema, a Biochemistry major at UCLA; James Lucero, a Cal Poly Pomona Computer Science major and Joshua Tesoro, the youngest member of the team at age 20 who is majoring in Bioengineering at UC-San Diego.

Other team members include: Jonathan Chen, Eli Alejo, Alder Gonzalez, Karl Agnes, Lucio Garibay, Ralph Martin Goco and Ron Borje.

"Others play to just play, but we are more than that," Gonzales said. "We hang out together and practice almost every day. Tennis is kind of our lives and we love to play."



## AAPI Heritage Month to launch cultural event calendar in May

The USTA SoCal Community Tennis Department is busy in preparation for a full slate of cultural events in 2022, highlighted this year by celebrations for Asian-American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and the Black History Month event now slated in tandem with Juneteenth.

The over-arching initiative is designed to encourage diversity and equity within the tennis community, as well as promote conversation and inclusion about today's issues and how they affect the tennis experience. It's also an opportunity acknowledge the trailblazers who've paved roads for today's athletes, from Arthur Ashe and Althea Gibson to Michael Chang and

Rosie Casals, among countless others.

Locally, these cultural events provide an opportunity to recognize community members who've impacted the diversity of the sport across Southern California.

As for the events themselves, Director of Community Tennis Esther Hendershott expects to promote conversation, celebrate diversity, and recognize the benefits of a truly diverse community here in Southern California.

"In tennis and beyond, our cultural diversity is so rich in SoCal," she said. "We continue to make strides, but there's a long way to go in really embracing the value of our differences. On the tennis court? That's not a bad place to start."

FOLLOW THE USTA SOCAL COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT ON OUR LINKEDIN PAGE!



### COMMUNITY

SINCE 2019, WE'VE BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT TO UPGRADE PUBLIC PARK TENNIS FACILITIES AND BRING HIGHLY SUBSIDIZED TENNIS PROGRAMMING TO THE CITY'S YOUTH. IN APRIL, WE KICKED OFF THE SPRING SEASON OF PLAY-LA TENNIS! THANK YOU TO MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI AND LA PARKS & REC FOR HELPING GROW THE GAME OF TENNIS!



PC: FAWAD ASSADULLAH/OFFICE OF MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI



# ALL SOCAL COLLEGE TEAM

*Charlotte Chavatipon*

Each year, USTASoCal celebrates some of the top collegiate players who call Southern California home. They are pillars of sportsmanship and talented scholar-athletes who excel both on and off the court. We are proud of their accomplishments and how they represent #TeamSoCal across the nation. Please join us in celebrating the All-SoCal Class of 2022, including Texas' **Charlotte Chavatipon** (pictured). From Fullerton, Charlotte posted 12 singles wins last season for the Longhorns. The Sophomore at UT Austin is an Exercise Science major, and was the top recruit in the state of California when she committed to Texas from the Class of 2020. In 2019 she played both the French and US Open Junior Championships.



Kelly Chen (Cerritos) is a four time ITA All-American and Second-Team All-ACC with the Duke Blue Devils. The ITA Scholar-Athlete posted 13 singles wins and nine doubles wins with two victories against top 10 opponents in singles competition.



Ian Freer (South Pasadena) reached the semifinals of the ITA West regionals in singles plus the QFs in doubles. At Claremont McKenna, he finished the fall season at No. 26 nationally as well as No. 9 in the West in singles and doubles. Freer was awarded ITA Rookie of the year as well as ITA All-American honors in doubles.



Ryan Nuno (Sylmar) had a standout season with Azusa Pacific, earning All-PacWest Second-Team honors in singles and First-Team doubles alongside teammate Sam Sippel. A Class of '22 Exercise Science major, Ryan finished the season 19-3 in doubles and posted a 14-3 singles record, including two straight victories over ranked opponents in the PacWest Tournament.



**STUDY FOR CLASS AT  
[USTASOCAL.COM/COLLEGE](http://USTASOCAL.COM/COLLEGE)**



Cal's Haley Giavara (San Diego) finished 2021 with a No. 27 ranking in singles and a No. 50 ranking in doubles alongside Valentina Ivanoc. Giavara had 12 singles wins and 15 doubles wins and is currently a Junior majoring in Legal Studies.



PC ROBERT EDWARDS | KLC FOTO



Winta Woldeab (La Mesa) is a winner of the USTA SoCal Evelyn Houseman Junior Sportsmanship Award. A member of the Class of '25 at Columbia, Woldeab formerly played on the U18 Southern California USA National Team and has also won first place at the USTA Carmel Valley Women's Open.



Noah Zamora (San Diego) is a recipient of the USTA SoCal Evelyn Houseman Lifetime Junior Sportsmanship Award. The Criminology major at UCI is a former two-time Western League Player of the Year and previously won the 2021 San Diego Section CIF Boys Singles title.

**SEE THE ENTIRE ROSTER AT [USTASOCAL.COM/NEWS](https://ustasocal.com/news), INCLUDING MIDDLEBURY'S STANLEY MORRIS, TRINITY'S CHRISTIAN SETTLES, AND JULIA DEMING OF KANSAS.**

## LET'S RALLY WITH

# DAMU BOBB

A member of the Section's DEI Committee, DAMU BOBB grew up on tennis courts, and now he's shifted his focus to shaping a sport that is all-inclusive - a stage for any and everyone to excel and succeed.

**“We can only be confident of another Serena if we are committed to a system that is fair and recognizes talent wherever it may be and whatever color body it comes in...”**

I can remember playing junior tournaments in the deep South and feeling the stares and sometimes overt racism, being called names and being subject to unsportsmanlike conduct. What bothered me most is that other players and families witnessed what was happening and didn't say anything. No one was being held to account. The communities and players at the club level have to hold each other accountable to stamp out the kind of behavior that comes from within their own communities.

Do we have a tennis system designed to produce the next Serena? Honestly, the era of American dominance in tennis is wavering. So we have a lot of work to do make sure that our system can continue to produce the world's best tennis players. Part of that commitment is making sure that we recognize and develop the talent of players of all races and ethnicities. The American talent pool runs deep, we just need to make sure everyone gets a chance.

**"There's no reason for you to talk if your racquet can."**

Frances Tiafoe

Pro athletes have about 4-5 years in which they are relevant, and they should take advantage of that. Young people that look like Frances want to hear from him, hear his story, know how he practices and how he thinks. Through social media, Frances is a real-life template for young people to follow and emulate. Frances Tiafoe is correct that your racquet can speak for you on the courts, but off the courts, as a high-profile athlete, they can also use their voice to stand up for the various social issues which I believe is a great opportunity.

READ THE FULL INTERVIEW AT  
[USTASOICAL.COM/COMMUNITY](https://ustasocal.com/community)





# PLAY INSPIRED

Play for everything. Play for nothing. Play to join. Play to  
escape. Play to win. Play to learn how to lose. Play to prove.  
Play to improve. Play to show them. Play to show yourself.  
Whatever you play for, however you play. Play inspired.

**Wilson**



You can have an immediate  
impact on the lives' of  
deserving young players in  
Southern California.  
Learn more about our  
AmazonSmile fundraising club!



The Amazon Smile logo is located in the top right corner. It consists of the word "amazon" in its signature font with a curved arrow underneath, followed by the word "smile" in a simple sans-serif font. Below the text is a square QR code that, when scanned, likely leads to the AmazonSmile fundraising club page.

# CHANGING LIVES AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH TENNIS