

2023 BILL BESLEY OPEN PLAYERS



Greg Artz (Downey)



April 20, 2001 – Cornell graduate
Artz was instrumental in the success of Cornell tennis. He occupied the No. 2 slot for much of his career at Cornell.

Ryan Auger (Habbock)



it to states multiple times.

Ryan is a 4.5 tennis player that played for Clemson's Club Tennis team. Ryan works full time as a software consultant for Capgemini. He has played USTA league for 8 years and made

Gabe Avram (Mangiapane)



Gabe Avram signed on to play with the University of South Carolina. He impressed once again on the courts of Indian Wells, etching a spot in the Boys' 18U Round of 16. Placed 3rd in doubles at the 2023 Easter Bowl Boys' 18U.

Thomas Brown (Koch)



2020-2023 At South Carolina: Finished his career, compiling 54 victories in singles and 13 in doubles play. Over his four year career in Columbia he became a bigger part of USC's singles lineup, finishing with a 17-8 mark at the No. 6 position, going 5-2 in the SEC and clinching match point to send the Gamecocks to the Sweet 16 for the first time since 2005 as they punished NC State, 4-0. Was also a 4x ITA Scholar Athlete during his time at South Carolina. He played his senior year (the COVID pandemic hit and the season was cancelled. In result, he was granted another year of eligibility) at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He pursued and graduated with a graduate certificate in Workplace Competencies.

Tournament Refreshments

There will be a Grilling Station* will open at the pool from 11am-5pm serving hamburgers and hotdogs along with chips. The Pool Snack Bar Clubhouse Pub offers additional food and beverage options. Please know that The WildeWood Club is now cashless – payment can be made with your Member Number or a credit card.

*In the event of rain, the Grill Station will move under the tent closest to the Tennis Center. You will order and pay for these meals in the Tennis Center.

Match Times

Saturday match play begins at 9:30 with subsequent matches beginning no earlier than 11:30am, and 3:30pm.

Sunday Semi-Finals start at 11:00am with the Finals beginning no earlier than 2:30pm.

All matches will take place on the outdoor clay courts. In the event of inclement weather, matches will be moved indoors.

Thomas Bryan (Cronin)



2016 graduate of Lexington HS

John Carpenter



Currently Head Pro, Tyrone GA Parks and Rec. Author of tennis instructional book - "Modern Tennis Instruction - A Historical Guide to Play Your Best Tennis"

Patrick Cronin (Bryan)

Anderson University – graduate 2021

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Justin Downey (Artz)



Top 6 in Queensland in Juniors. Played at the University of South Carolina Upstate 1994 and 1995. Competed on Australian Satellite circuit 1995 and 1996. Trained and worked at the John Newcombe's Tennis Ranch in Texas 1997 and 1997.

Graduated from the University of North Alabama in 2000 where he played #1 and #2 singles along with #1 doubles. He was All Conference and played in the 1999 NCAA Championships. Justin moved to Columbia after graduating and is now the Director of Rackets at The WildeWood Club in Columbia, SC.

Oliver Elston (Hinson, L.)

Head professional at Riverside Tennis Club. Former tennis director at Green Valley Country Club.

Scott Fortson (Gaffos)



Played tennis at College of Charleston. He and Bill Besley had many battles on the court at The WildeWood Club. Currently President and COO of Terminix Service, INC in Columbia, SC. In his free time, he enjoys adding to his achievements on the

tennis court here in SC.

Will Fullett (Rasheed)



Senior at Wofford College.

2021-22: Named All-Southern Conference second team doubles with Mark Endler

• Was 10-9 in singles matches and 11-8 in doubles play and in doubles had a 10-5 record paired with Mark Endler

- Named to the Spring Southern Conference All-Academic Team and the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll
- Earned ITA Scholar-Athlete honors.

2020-21: Played in all 17 matches Posted a 9-8 record in singles and a 7-10 mark in doubles

- Named to the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll.

Nick Gaffos (Fortson)



Nick Gaffos was Born in Columbia. As a junior he was ranked in the top 10 in SC, top 50 in the South. Scholarship player all 4 years at UNC-Charlotte. Played #2 singles , #2 doubles. Graduated with degree

in Spanish. Currently, director of tennis program/boys/girls varsity coach at Heathwood.

Restrooms

- the Pool House
- the Tennis Center

Brian Glassman (Hinson, J.)



Played in South Carolina as junior, reaching top 5 in the state in 18s. Played at the College of Charleston, mostly doubles and occasionally singles as high as number 3. Coached White Knoll

High School Varsity Tennis for 6 years.

Johnathan Habbick (Auger)



Jonathan Habbick grew up in Fort Mill, South Carolina playing for Nation Ford High School and competing in junior state tournaments where he landed in the top 15. Although he did not play tennis after high school, he founded the Liberty University Club Tennis Team while

studying Computer Engineering. There he led his team to three tournament wins in the Mid-Atlantic conference. He is currently relearning the sport after a pickle-ball hiatus and works as a software engineer for a consulting firm.

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Jim Hinson (Glassman)



- Jim Hinson is a graduate of and played tennis at Georgia Southern University and Miami Dade Junior College.
- Jim was the Director of Tennis at WildeWood Country Club in Columbia, South Carolina for 32 years and prior

to that worked as a Teaching Professional at Harry Hopman's International Tennis Camp at Bardmoor and as the Tennis Director at Royal Racket Club in Largo, Florida. Jim is currently the Tennis Coach at Cardinal Newman School in Columbia.

- Jim was honored to previously receive the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Southern Professional of the Year and the South Carolina Tennis Association (SCTA) Professional and Player of the Year Awards. He is the 54th inductee to the South Carolina Tennis Patrons Foundation Tennis Hall of Fame.
- Jim appreciates the opportunity to play in an event in memory of Bill Besley who was a true ambassador of the game, a great tennis player and genuinely a great person!

Lane Hinson (Elston)



Born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina. Learned to play tennis at The Members Club of WildeWood and Woodcreek. Current Director of Tennis at the Country Club of Lexington, President of the Lexington Area Tennis association, and current board member for the South Carolina USTA. South Carolina and Southern Pro of the year 2020.

Steven Junis



Recreational player who simply loves the game!

Andrew Kiser (Rice)



Doctor of Physical Therapy/Clinic Director at Carolina Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine. Part-time tennis pro at Spring Valley Country Club. Former scholarship collegiate tennis player, still playing competitively in Mens' Open tournaments.

Kyle Koch (Brown)



Played as high as #1 Singles and #1 Doubles player at the University of South Carolina. 2015 SEC Scholar Athlete of the Year and All-SEC. 2018 5.0+ National Mens' Team Champion.

Nicholas Mangiapane (Avram)

Plays for UNC – Davidson North Carolina. Trains at Robinson Tennis Academy, expected graduating class of 2024.

Ian Rasheed (Fullett)



Sophomore at Wofford College. A four-star recruit who is ranked third in South Carolina and 27th in the Southeast by tennisrecruiting.net. Has played in numerous tournaments, including reaching the round of 32 at the 2021 USTA U18 National Championships. Trains at the Randy Pate /LTP Tennis Academy where he has a team of coaches including his father, Charly Rasheed. Received South Carolina's Rex Maynard Award for being South Carolina's top junior tennis player in December of 2021.

Emerson Rice (Kisser)