

# THE DTP CONNECTION

THE DENVER TENNIS PARK NEWSLETTER

## MANAGING GROWTH AT THE DTP

GABRIEL GUILLAUME



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If you are a parent who has participated in the youth programs registration process at the Denver Tennis Park (DTP), you are probably aware of the extensive waitlists that our youth classes generate. Registration for Session III (January-mid March) received 1030 requests for 740 spots. The previous session (Session II: mid October-mid December) had more than 900 requests for 680 spots. We know that Sessions II and III are our busiest due to weather, less variety of sports being offered, and out of season for high school boys and girls tennis. However, since the policy implications of COVID closures subsided and stronger implementation of programming and staffing, the DTP has seen a steady growth in demand across all of our sessions. We are humbled by the demand that has been exhibited, and yet what matters most to us is being able to support your player's interests in tennis and how tennis can contribute positively to their development and future.



Last summer, the DTP changed its court-use strategy and staffing to maximize youth programming options, increasing the number of youth-focused program hours by more than 30%. This was done largely because of growing demand and in alignment with our kids-first core principle. While that initially reduced our waitlists substantially, demand is still growing at a higher pace that we can address and we now have more kids on waitlists than ever before.

To manage demand, we use a class request and lottery system. For a week-long period, families are able to register for classes they are interested in. Registration during this week **does not mean players are enrolled in the program** - it means you have submitted your request for participation in a particular class/day. When demand exceeds space, we run a random lottery to determine roster and waitlist spots. We feel this is the most equitable way to manage demand while representing a core principle.

We are, however, aware that no system is perfect and that kids who may have been in our program for several consecutive sessions find themselves waitlisted while new families are able to get a spot. As a non-membership facility, we can't provide preferential treatment to previously participating youth without jeopardizing our capacity to remain accessible to all. The situation is complicated.

We wanted to share this with everyone because there remains confusion about our registration process and not everyone understands that these policies are not based on convenience, but rather values we hold dearly. I can assure you that we are committed to exploring additional methods to be kids-first, equitably accessible, and committed to positive experiences with everyone who we work with.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in and support of the Denver Tennis Park. You and your families are what make the DTP more than a tennis facility, but rather a community dedicated to youth development in the Denver Area!

**ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUEST WEEK FOR  
SPRING SESSION IV IS FEBRUARY 13-19  
AT [DTP.CLUBAUTOMATION.COM!](https://www.dtp.clubautomation.com)**

**\*SPRING SESSION IV: MARCH 12 - MAY 28\***

**[CLICK HERE TO VIEW CLASS FLYERS!](#)**



## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT ANDREW RETTIG

Andrew Rettig started playing tennis at the age of 4 through classes with Denver Parks and Recreation. His mom Migdalia played tennis herself and by the time Andrew was 8, the two were playing and improving their game together wherever they could find an open court. After spending time playing soccer and baseball, Andrew found his interested in tennis growing and he became serious about his game in 2020. He enjoys the challenges of competition and relishes any opportunity he has to be on the tennis court to improve as a player and grow as a person. Andrew had a big year on the court in 2022; among his achievements, he placed 2nd in the Boys 14 Singles division at the Level 3 ITA Great Pumpkin Junior Sectional Championships and he advanced to the quarterfinals of the Boys 4A 2 singles division in his first state tournament appearance as a freshman at George Washington High School. In the classroom, he is a straight A student who still finds time for IB classes. Tennis is still very much a family sport for Andrew and Migdalia, and the two are both happy to have found a community at the Denver Tennis Park (DTP). Andrew is a friendly face in the High School Advanced Development Program, and Migdalia has been a valuable parent partner in helping the DTP connect with families, especially with Spanish speaking families. We are grateful for the support from Andrew and his family, and we can't wait to see the great things Andrew will achieve this year and beyond!

### FAVORITE TENNIS PLAYER:

Rafael Nadal

### WARM-UP MUSIC VIBES:

Reggaetón

**GOALS FOR 2023:** Improve mentally and physically and have fun!

### HOBBIES OUTSIDE OF TENNIS:

Travelling, going to the beach, and managing his small business of yardwork and sidewalk maintenance for his neighbors (5 customers strong!)

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT DENNIS SMITH

Dennis has been a welcoming presence at the DTP since the organization opened to the public in November 2018. Aside from being born in New York, the otherwise life-long Denver resident has ties to tennis, Denver Public Schools (DPS), and the University of Denver (DU). He learned how to play tennis from his dad, who was a self-taught player himself. He played 4 doubles at Regis High School and although he didn't play college tennis per say, he did meet his wife Ceci while playing tennis as a student at Colorado State University. Dennis has held a variety of jobs in his life, including serving as a head flight attendant and as a food and beverage manager on the Winter Park ski train. He was a school teacher in the Denver area for 20 years. His most meaningful work was done at the Newcomer Center at South High School, where he spent 5 years with students who were new to the country with limited understanding of the English language, teaching them English and helping them adapt to American culture. Dennis continues to share his love for tennis by teaching tennis to immigrant students at South and by serving as a volunteer coach for the boys and girls JV teams. When he's not at the DTP working, he's at the DTP cheering on the DU men's and women's teams at their home matches (and even their practices). A supporter of DU, he was recently selected to serve on the DU athletics fan advisory board. Dennis is a genuine and friendly soul who has an incredible ability to make you feel welcomed whenever you walk through the doors of the DTP. We are proud and thankful for the wonderful work he does for the DTP and his community!



# COLORADO CERTAINLY GIVES

GABRIEL GUILLAUME

On behalf of the Denver Tennis Park, I would like to thank all of you who gave to the DTP and to our collective nonprofit community. As you all know, the nonprofit sector provides critical services, advocacy, and awareness on a number of important issues and needs that go well beyond what our private and government sectors can address. For the DTP, your donations resulted in **more than \$30,000 towards our scholarship fund** providing access to tennis for **15 youth over the next 12 months**. Because our programs are focused on mental and physical health, academic achievement, and professional development your financial support allows for much more than playing tennis, it allows for better futures and opportunities among youth in the metro area.

While Colorado Gives Day is marketed during a specific time of the year, we accept donations to the site year round. We are still pursuing the **\$150,000 bench mark to increase our overall scholarship program to no less than 60** and any donation makes a big difference in helping us reach that goal. Thank you again for your support!



**BE AN ACE  
FOR DENVER-AREA  
YOUTH**



## DTP CERTIFIED AS A USTA PREMIER FACILITY

Last year, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) launched a pilot program designed to acknowledge and establish best practices around tennis facilities that exemplify excellence in six major categories: Participation, Certification & Continuing Coach Education, Programming, Facility Operations, Customer Service, and Community Partnerships.

Both USTA Intermountain and USTA Colorado identified the Denver Tennis Park as one of the "most outstanding" tennis operations in the region. With this in mind, we were invited to join a handful of nationally selected sites to participate in this pilot.

We are honored to have received this opportunity and for the recognition it represents. Full credit goes to staff, our community partners, the USTA (national, intermountain, and Colorado), and all our guests and contributors. As a relatively new organization (opened to the public in late 2018), we believe there is a lot more for us to accomplish and learn from the other participants, particularly in our capacity to build community partnerships and programs that authentically contribute to youth development and positive tennis experiences. We are excited to be included in this opportunity!

## DTP CALENDAR

**FEB. 17: DU M VS METRO STATE @ 11AM, DU M VS UTAH STATE @ 5PM**

**FEB. 19: DU M VS IDAHO @ 10:30AM, DU W VS BROWN @ 2PM**

**FEB. 24: DU W VS MONTANA STATE @ 1PM**

**FEB. 27: ONLINE ONLY REGISTRATION OPENS @ 1PM FOR ADULT DRILLS  
SESSION IV-A**

**MAR. 1: DU W VS WYOMING @ 12PM**

**MAR. 4: DU W VS OMAHA @ 1:30PM**

**MAR. 5: DU W VS ST. THOMAS @ 10AM**

**MAR. 12: DU M VS PURDUE @ 10:30AM**

**MAR. 13: YOUTH PROGRAMS SPRING SESSION IV BEGINS  
ADULT DRILLS SESSION IV-A BEGINS**

**FEBRUARY 13-19**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUEST WEEK FOR  
SESSION IV OF YOUTH PROGRAMS AT  
[DTP.CLUBAUTOMATION.COM](http://DTP.CLUBAUTOMATION.COM)**

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