

# THE DTP CONNECTION

THE DENVER TENNIS PARK NEWSLETTER

## THE DTP IS A LEARNING COMMUNITY



[facebook.com/thedenvertennispark](https://facebook.com/thedenvertennispark)  
[Instagram: @thedenvertennispark](https://www.instagram.com/thedenvertennispark)

Last August, the Denver Tennis Park (DTP) approved a new three-year strategic plan focused on a variety of ways by which we will focus our efforts on the advancement of youth development through equitable access to quality tennis programming. One area of emphasis was a strategy toward improving opportunities for learning in a collaborative environment. We call it the Learning Community. There are two primary goals of the Learning Community:

- Bring the Denver-area coaching community together, provide continuing education to existing coaches, and recruit and train new coaches, high school coaches, educators, and volunteers. The DTP collaborates with USTA CO, USPTA, CHSAA, and others to host guest speakers and learning opportunities 5 to 6 times a year that strengthen and unify tennis coaching as it pertains to youth and youth development.
- Bring together Denver community leaders across a wide spectrum of youth development organizations and sectors to identify ways in which we can equitably advance youth and community development.

Our approach is to bring multiple perspectives together, share and learn from one another, foster collaboration across various people and experiences and identify ways we can break down barriers that make tennis inaccessible to many communities.

To-date we have been pleased to have co-hosted events including speakers such as Greg Patton (USA National Collegiate Tennis Coach), Paul Wardlaw and Drew Eberle (University of Denver women's & men's tennis head coaches, respectively), supported CHSAA in a coaching seminar for area high school tennis coaches, and just very recently Emma Doyle (former professional player, tennis coach, and author).

Moving forward, we will continue to partner with various organizations like the Positive Coaching Alliance as well as community-based organizations, like Colorado Lions Youth Organization, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado, and Struggle of Love Foundation, to continue to keep the dialogue and learning open as we navigate these complicated times for youth and our communities.



**TO LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE DTP LEARNING COMMUNITY, CONTACT MIKE PHILLIPS**

**[MPHILLIPS@DEVERTENNISPARK.ORG](mailto:MPHILLIPS@DEVERTENNISPARK.ORG)**



## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT PROSPERITY CHEESEBORO

Prosperity Cheeseboro is a spunky 8 year old who lights up a room like no other. Tennis is still a new sport to Prosperity; her family attended a community event last spring where the Denver Tennis Park (DTP) had a booth. She didn't want to play tennis at first, but after some pushing from her mom, Carol, she picked up a racquet and discovered she liked swinging at the tennis ball - a lot. Carol noticed the spark in her daughter and that same summer Prosperity began taking tennis classes at DTP's Colorado SERVES community programs in Southwest Denver and at Northfield High School for Montbello community members. She was enjoying tennis so much, she continued into the fall and began weekly classes in our Elementary Instructional program, where she continues to grow as an individual and improve as a tennis player. A social butterfly at heart, Prosperity enjoys the social aspect of tennis and getting to make new friends on and off the court. Her afterschool activities don't stop at tennis; she is actively involved in Girl Scouts (she ranked 2nd in her troop for most boxes of cookies sold this year!) and she participates in the Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA) program where she enjoys pottery and painting. Carol is grateful for the DTP's role in providing opportunities for Prosperity and her family to become engaged with the tennis and Denver communities. We love having the Cheeseboro family at the DTP, and we can't wait to see Prosperity grow as a player and kid!

**SCHOOL:** Sixth Avenue Elementary (Aurora)

**FAVORITE SUBJECTS:** Math, Art, P.E. (loves playing soccer!)

**TENNIS GOALS FOR 2023:**

Graduate to orange ball and begin playing full court tennis

**HOBBIES OUTSIDE OF TENNIS:**

Art (especially painting), Girl Scouts, Minecraft, Legos (LOVES LEGOS!)

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT MIKE PHILLIPS

Mike Phillips first joined the Denver Tennis Park (DTP) in 2019, but he has been well known and loved in the tennis industry long before that; as Senior Youth Programs Manager, "Coach Mike" brings 30 plus years of coaching and high-level energy to the DTP's programs and community. He learned tennis at an early age thanks to his dad; together, the two would spend hours on the court not only learning and playing tennis, but bonding and enjoying each other's company. Mike would go on to play college tennis at Colorado Mesa and, after working numerous coaching and office positions at various clubs, he became a college coach himself for 17 years. His most successful tenure was at Montana State University, where he coached the men's teams to 9 Big Sky semi-final appearances and 3 championship titles in his 12 years with the program. Through it all, Mike found himself still actively engaged with tennis at the local youth level. In between college coaching jobs, he served as USTA Intermountain coach and co-leader of USTA Team Colorado, consisting of competitively ranked youth players from the state. At the DTP, he serves in the mixed role of coaching youth players, creating and implementing coaching curriculum for our youth programs, and serving as a resource and leader in the recruitment and continuing education of tennis teaching professionals in the Denver-area. A true kid at heart with the incredible ability to share his passion for tennis and life with others, the DTP is honored and grateful to have Mike on our team!



# THE DTP MEANS BUSINESS

GABRIEL GUILLAUME

When I joined the DTP in February 2021, I hadn't picked up a racquet in nearly 30 years - and it was obvious from the start that I was not hired for my tennis experience. However, to lead an organization so dependent on tennis to meet its mission, I knew I would have to get back on the court. It didn't take long for me to love it again and I give our amazing instructors a lot of credit for making it so fun and making me look a little better than I should. What struck me was how many other adults on the court were returning to tennis after a long hiatus as well, and how many of them saw tennis as an opportunity for networking and connecting socially. I began going to more and more drills not only for the tennis, but the relationships I was building. What became evident quickly, though, was that having conversations in-between breathtaking (literally) drills and coach instructions was difficult and that we all needed a time to connect off the court. This was what inspired our **DTP Means Business** events, of which we have now had two (January and March).

**DTP Means Business** brings together 20-25 people per event for an hour of networking and lunch plus an hour and half of tennis drills, all at the DTP. It has served as an opportunity for the DTP educate our constituents about our mission, share information about upcoming events and opportunities to get involved - such as our **Raise a Racquet DTP Charity Bash event featuring John McEnroe this coming October** - and most importantly, connect an amazing group of people as a community of shared interests and diverse careers. At both events, we have seen new business connections made, re-connections of old relationships, and some really competitive tennis. We have also been privileged to have sponsors of this event who make it possible for the DTP to offer nearly free tennis and lunch. It has been so successful that we now plan to have this event four to six times a year!



**THE DTP WOULD LIKE TO THANK THOSE WHO MADE DTP MEANS BUSINESS POSSIBLE:**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LEADS BUSINESS SCHOOL CLASS PROJECT**

**FESTA SPORTS**  
([CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#))

**WEEKS WELL**  
([CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#))

**MANDY STEHLE**  
([CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#))

**OUR AMAZING DTP INSTRUCTORS**

## DTP WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Denver Tennis Park (DTP) is pleased to announce the appointment of our newest Board Member, Richard Tagle. Mr. Tagle is the President and CEO of the Denver Public Schools Foundation and will represent Denver Public Schools (DPS) on the DTP Board. As part of the DTP's partnership with DPS, one board position is appointed by the superintendent. We very much value the collaborative style by which we work with DPS and value our collective effort to create opportunities for youth development in Denver.

Prior to joining the DPS Foundation in March 2022, Mr. Tagle was the CEO of the Andy Roddick Foundation in Austin, Texas, where he led its transformation from a family managed granting organization to an operating foundation advancing opportunities for youth after school. His familiarity with the role tennis can play in advancing youth development combined with his experience in fundraising, evaluation, and organizational leadership make him an extraordinary addition to our Board and an immediate contributor to the DTP's mission and sustainability.



# SUMMER AT THE DTP



## YOUTH

[Click here to view program brochures and register!](#)

### Weekly morning summer camps

*Ages 6-12, beginner-low intermediate*

### Afternoon Instructional Classes

*Offered at Elementary, Middle School, High School Levels, beginner-low intermediate*

### DTP Team Summer League

*Offered at Elementary, Middle School, High School Levels, intermediate-advanced*

### Advanced Training Camps and Tournament Team Camps

*Offered at MS/HS level, must meet player requirements*

### USTA Youth Tournaments

*Hosted throughout the summer, these tournaments are perfect for intermediate players new to competition. Must have USTA player number. [Click here to visit the USTA Play Tennis tournament website](#) and search for "Junior" tournaments near 80210.*

## ADULT

### Evening UTR Adult Drill Classes

Session I: June 5 - July 11 (No 07/03 or 07/04)

Session II: July 17 - August 18

**\*\*Class schedule to come, online registration for Session I opens Monday, May 22th\*\***

### General Court Reservations - Summer Pricing

May 16 - September 14

Indoor Courts: \$20/hr 8am - 5pm, all day Sat & Sun  
\$25/hr 5pm-Close Mon-Fri

Outdoor Courts: \$8/hr year-round

Reserve online at [dtp.clubautomation.com](http://dtp.clubautomation.com) up to one week in advance! 24hr cancellation policy.