



Left to right: Bob Perry, Larry Willens, Pat Canning Todd, Virginia Glass, Bob Bacon

**Bob Perry** | *World Class, College Great, Teaching Pro, Senior Success, Community Service*

**Larry Willens** | *Community Service, Philanthropy, Coach*

**Patricia "Pat" Canning Todd** | *World Class, Teaching Pro*

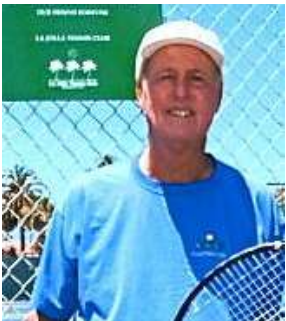
**Virginia Glass** | *Community Service, Senior Success, Officiating*

**Robert "Bob" Bacon** | *Community Service, Teaching Pro, Coach, Mentor, Senior Success*



**Robert "Bob" Bacon (1932– 2017)**

Bob Bacon's earliest tennis recollection in 1939 is of receiving a 49 cent tennis racket from his father: strung. Two years later, he became the number three open player in Bishop, California while his father was number one, his brother number two. Bob played all sports in high school in Ventura County, but it soon became evident that he and tennis would become inseparable. His influence on tennis in San Diego has encompassed competing, coaching and community service. Bacon and his long-time doubles partner Jack Movido won eight USPTA National Championships, the American Tennis Association National 35 Championships in 1969 and three Western US Championships. In their twenty-five year partnership, they won nearly every San Diego tournament available. As far as coaching is concerned, his San Diego City College teams hold the existing record of nine consecutive conference titles (1969-1977), as well as five All Southern California Team Championships. In 1973, Coach Bacon was the first college coach to field a female on the men's team, Robin Harris, and City College collected men's singles, doubles and women's singles titles at Ojai. He has been a USPTA professional since 1955 and taught at the Vacation Village Tennis Club for ten years. It is in the area of community service that his presence has been most felt. Bob and the late William Stack co-founded the San Diego District Tennis Association in 1973, an undertaking that took three years. Bacon and Doug Fitzgerald co-founded the San Diego County Umpires Association, and Bob was a part of a group that kept San Diego USPTA division separate from Los Angeles. He is still active in tournaments and continues to help the district "Grow the Game". The San Diego Professional Tennis Association awarded him the Lifetime Achievement in 2009.



**Bob Perry (1933- 2023)**

A native of Omaha, Nebraska, Bob Perry started playing tennis in Los Angeles in 1944. For his eleventh birthday, his father gave him a racket and ten tennis lessons. It didn't take Bob long to flourish in his new sport as he won the National 15 and under in singles and doubles, and was later finalist in singles and doubles in the 18 and under. Perry went on to lead his team to three NCAA championships as their number one. After graduating in 1955, Bob played in Europe and at Wimbledon and Forest Hills. Subsequently, he was selected by the State Department to participate in a Goodwill Tennis tour of Southeast Asia with Althea Gibson, Ham Richardson and Carol Fageros. Perry and first-time partner Don Candy won the French Open doubles in 1956 over singles winner Lew Hoad and Ashley Cooper. Bob reached the round of sixteen at Wimbledon, the Australian and French Opens, results that earned him rankings of eighteen in the world and six in the United States in 1956. From 1960 to 1970, tennis played less of a role in Perry's life as he worked in the brokerage field. That all changed when he moved to La Jolla in 1971 and began giving lessons at the La Jolla Recreation Center and becoming the tennis director of the La Jolla Tennis Club. In between lessons, his senior success included singles and doubles triumphs in the National 55 Hard courts in the late eighties. He and Eileen, his wife of forty years, ran the La Jolla Championships, from 1972 to 1999, no small feat with player lists of 1200. For all his accomplishments on court, it is the community service which most makes Bob Perry a welcome addition to the hall.



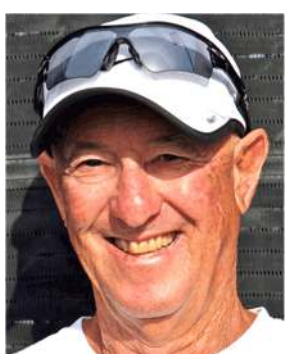
**Patricia "Pat" Canning Todd (1922- 2015)**

Pat Todd was born in San Francisco and her family lived next door to the local public tennis courts. When she was eight years old, she picked up her first racket. Within five years, she was travelling to tournaments around the country in the family's model A Ford. Pat won every division she entered in the juniors and women's Open in a Pacific Northwest tour of Portland, Tacoma, Seattle and Vancouver. She started travelling to play national tournaments on the East Coast when she was 16. In 1946, Pat and her family moved to La Jolla where her talent caught the eye of William Kellogg Sr., the owner of the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club. He sponsored her play locally and nationally and she became one of the country's top national players. However, World War II interrupted all competition in Europe through 1945. After the war, Pat went on the international tour. Her best results came at this time, as she won a total of four Grand Slam championships, singles at the French Championships in 1947, women's doubles at the French and Wimbledon in 1948 and the mixed in the 1948 French. Todd also reached the French final in 1950. She won the singles and mixed at the South American championships in 1947 and 1948. Pat captured the singles and doubles titles at the Asian Championships and the Championships of India. She was ranked in the world top ten from 1946 through 1952, with a career high of four, and ranked in the US top ten in 1942 and 1944 through 1952. Pat was a teaching pro at La Costa Resort & Spa from 1965 to 1985, teaching numerous celebrities. She continues to keep a keen interest in tennis at her daily spot at the Rancho Santa Fe Tennis Club.



**Virginia M. Glass (1926– 2020)**

Virginia Glass needs no introduction to followers of San Diego tennis. A native of the Philippines, she made her way to the United States in 1945 fleeing a war in which she endured three years of concentration camp as well as the loss of her father and two sisters. Glass's high marks on a national merit examination paved the way for her to attend and graduate from Columbia University. Virginia introduced her sons Sidney and Luis to tennis and they each received college tennis scholarships. Upon moving to San Diego in the early sixties, she became heavily involved in the sport, as a tournament player, director, volunteer, official, writer and administrator. Glass was among the founders of the Mountain View Tennis Club in 1968, which has emphasized junior development in a multicultural setting. Virginia was the first female president of the American Tennis Association, the oldest African American sports organization, a position she held for two terms. The ATA has produced stars Althea Gibson, Arthur Ashe and Zina Garrison among others. She is one of the original founders of the San Diego District Tennis Association and the San Diego Umpires Association. Glass was the west coast editor for Black Tennis Magazine. In 1989, she was the number one player in the world in the 60 division. Virginia represented the United States in the Friendship Cup in Mexico City and captained the Althea Gibson World Cup in the 70s. She has been past president of the SDDTA and was nominated for the USTA Executive Board. Currently, Virginia is on the boards of the SCTA and SDDTA and is the chair of the San Diego Multicultural Committee. For her work with the SCTA Community Tennis Development, she received the SCTA Lifetime Achievement award in 2008.



**Larry Willens (1938– 2021)**

Larry Willens brings years of coaching and philanthropy to San Diego tennis. A graduate of San Jose State University in 1962, he then entered the Navy, attending medical school at Balboa Naval Hospital. While he became a hospital corpsman, Larry also found time to compete for the Navy in basketball and tennis. In 1965, Willens was hired by San Diego State University to teach in the Health Science Department, a position he held for four years. After three years at the USC Physical Education Department, he returned to SDSU in 1972 where he taught Health and Physical Education until 2000. In 1976, Larry was hired as assistant coach for the San Diego Friars of World Team Tennis and he coached Kerry Reid, Cliff Drysdale and Rod Laver. During the off-season, he was the personal coach for Reid at a time when she won the Wimbledon doubles. When the WTT was re-established in 1981, Willens became head coach of the Friars, and the team claimed the championship in 1985. Larry also coached the Sacramento Capitals, as well as the women's and men's teams at SDSU. Other world-class players who have been under his tutelage include Robin White, Abigail Spears, Milagros Sequera and Stephen Huss. Willens has been an important supporter of the Barnes Tennis Center, serving on its board, being the tournament director of the Billie Jean King WTT tournament each August and donating courts. Former San Diego Charger Rolf Benirschke and Willens started the Athletic Council for Education foundation which raises money for medical research groups and scholarships at SDSU. Larry is on the Directors Cabinet at the university which helps the tennis facility remain one of the best in the country. Over the course of his career he has been awarded multiple Coach of the Year awards from the USPTA.