



Richard "Dick" Doss Junior Stand-out, College Great, Senior Success

Eugene "Gene" Garrett Junior Stand-out, College Great, World Class, Teaching Pro

Kristien Kemmer Junior Stand-out, World Class

Rosalyn "Ros" Fairbank Nideffer Senior Success, World Class

David Sanderlin Junior Stand-out, College Great, World Class, Teaching Pro



RICHARD W. DOSS (1933 -)

Richard W. Doss was born in San Diego in 1933. At the age of 12, Richard (sometimes known as "Dick"), began taking tennis lessons at Morley Field from legendary coach, Wilbur Folsom. Being an excellent athlete, Richard soon began dominating his peers. In 1950, Richard won the prestigious Harper Ink Tournament. That win proved to be a turning point in young Richard's tennis career. It was then that Harper Ink, himself, decided to aid in the development of Richard's tennis potential by sponsoring tennis lessons with renowned La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club pro, Lester Stoefen.

Harper Ink's belief in Richard's abilities were realized when Richard won the National Junior Public Parks Championship in 1951. UCLA's tennis coach, J.D. Morgan, knew a good thing when he saw it and invited Richard to attend UCLA and play for the Bruins. Richard accepted and proceeded to lead the Bruins to three Intercollegiate (NCAA) team championships. In his senior year, Richard played No. 1 singles and was chosen as co-captain.

Upon graduation from UCLA, Richard served in the U.S. Navy. He was assigned as Operations/Communications Officer aboard the U.S.S. La Moure County (a Tank Landing Ship) based in Coronado, California.

After two years of active duty in the Navy, Richard followed his calling and enrolled at the Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. During his studies, Richard was the Assistant Tennis Pro at the Valley Hunt Club in Pasadena. Richard completed his ministerial training at the American Baptist Seminary of the West, there he received his Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree. Richard then took his first ministerial position in Boston and used that time to earn his Ph.D. in the Philosophy of Religion at Boston University in 1968.

With his advanced degrees and extensive training, Dr. Doss has not only taught at such institutions as Boston University, the American Baptist Seminary of the West, the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, and finally, Orange Coast College; Richard has authored two books: "The Last Enemy: A Theological Interpretation of Death," and "The Business of Ethics."

At Orange Coast College, Richard reconnected with his tennis roots. And, he picked up where he left off -- winning. He and Bob Perry, a UCLA teammate, won two National 45 Hard Court titles in La Jolla. Richard also won national doubles titles with Jim Perley of Coronado and John Powless of Madison, Wisconsin. Those were mere appetizers. In 2004, Richard won a "gold slam" by winning all four national championships (with three different partners). Richard has been a member of four World Team Championships and has won three World Doubles Championships. Additionally, Richard and his wife, Kathy Bennett Doss, have won 10 national championships in the 120 and 140 Husband/Wife divisions, including two "gold slams."

Richard just keeps going. Although slowed by two bad knees in his seventies, did that stop him? Not Richard. In 2006, he became "bionic" with two knee replacement surgeries. Then, in 2014, he won yet another "gold slam" in the Men's 80's doubles. In total, Richard has won a remarkable 41 National Senior Doubles Championships. Even after open heart surgery in 2016, Richard is still going for the gold (balls).

With their outstanding records, both Richard and Kathy have been inducted into the Southern California Senior Hall of Fame. They make their home in Laguna Woods, California.



EUGENE "GENE" GARRETT, Ph.D. (1925 - 1993)

Gene Garrett was a relentless tennis player; yet a bit shy off the court. He was well known for his even temper, his quick sense of humor, and just being "a pleasure to be around."

Gene was born in Las Vegas, New Mexico in 1925 and moved to San Diego when he was four or five. Gene began playing tennis in San Diego at the University Heights courts at age of 12, under the watchful eye of Wilbur Folsom. Gene was a quick study and soon rose to dominate the junior tournaments in Southern California, such as the Clay Court Championships and Interscholastic Championships. While at San Diego High School, Gene won the prestigious Dudley Cup. He also won the Eastern Sectional tournament and was the fourth ranked junior in the nation. Also, Maureen Connelly credited Gene with being her inspiration to take up tennis after witnessing his remarkable tennis skills.

In high school, Gene's formidable tennis skills got the UCLA coach's attention. The attention was mutual and Gene went to play for the Bruins. During his time at UCLA, Gene reached a US ranking of #13. In 1950, Gene was instrumental in securing UCLA's first national team championship in any sport, while going undefeated in dual matches. That same year, along with partner, Herbie Flam, Gene won the Intercollegiate (NCAA) Doubles title. Teammate Glenn Bassett recalls Gene as "a very gifted player," but whose studies came first because, at that time, tennis careers were tenuous. After graduating from UCLA in 1950, Gene traveled to Paris to study for his Masters degree in Philosophy at the Sorbonne (University of Paris). During his university years, 1950 to 1952, Gene traveled Europe playing the top tournaments including, Wimbledon, the French Open & Italian Open. Although his studies and tennis occupied most of his time in Paris, Gene was known to occasionally take music gigs at cafes in Paris. His guitar in hand, Gene would serenade cafe patrons with some of his favorites, such as *Blue Moon* and *Summertime*.

Before earning his doctorate at Columbia University and settling into a life as a professor, Gene competed not only at Wimbledon (1951, 52 and 54) and the French Open, but at the US National Championships at Forest Hills (1948 and 53). Gene achieved victories over several of the top players of his era including Vic Seixas, Barry McKay and Dick Savitt (all US #1), Pancho Gonzales, 1948; Wimbledon champ Bob Falkenburg, Baron Gottfried von Cramm, and Bobby Riggs.

Despite being diagnosed with diabetes in 1952, which in those days was difficult to treat, Gene kept playing, and in 1953 was ranked #25 nationally in singles.

In 1956 Gene began a transition from playing the game he loved so much, to teaching it. He was hired by Syracuse University to simultaneously teach philosophy and be its tennis coach. After 10 years, Gene moved to teach Philosophy at Hamilton College, and later, Central Connecticut State University.

Gene's passion for teaching led him to join and become a celebrated member of the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA). Over the decades he taught at some of the country's most prestigious tennis clubs, including Sedgwick Farms in Syracuse where Bill Tilden often played; Portland Country Club, The Piping Rock Club, The Concord Hotel, and, from 1970 to 1984, at that tennis landmark, the Seabright Lawn Tennis & Cricket Club.

Gene retired from Connecticut State University in 1989 and moved back to his hometown, San Diego in 1989. Here, he was reunited with, and subsequently married, his junior tennis female counterpart and fellow Dudley Cup champion, Jeanne Doyle. Jeanne would say, that in his latter days, though his diabetes made seeing the ball difficult, Gene would still go to Morley Field to play his beloved tennis with friends.

In 1991, Gene, was feted at a banquet in Palm Springs, CA to honor his contributions to the formation of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).

In October 1993, Gene succumbed to complications following leg surgery for diabetes. Gene was married three times. He had three children with his first wife, Liliane: Gerald, Helen & Daniel. Sandra Pirkey was his second wife; Michele his stepdaughter. With third wife, Jeanne Doyle-Garrett, he gained two more stepchildren, Vikki and Lance Lareau. Gene has four grandchildren: Ian Turley; Abigail, Connor, and Robert Garrett.



KRISTIEN KEMMER (1952 -)

"This hard-hitting lefty is known for her big forehand, which is one of the hardest shots in the women's game today." (Professional tournament press release about Kristien.)

Kristien Kemmer was born July 25, 1952 in San Diego, California. Kristien's parents would play tennis in Mission Valley while 7 year old Kristien just played around at the club. One day, her parents' friends took young Kristien out to hit. Bingo! Kristien took to tennis like a butterfly takes to nectar. By age 7 1/2, precocious Kristien was playing tournaments. Her parents decided that Kristien would benefit from professional guidance. Wilbur Folsom was the first in a long line of elite tennis professionals who helped Kristien along her tennis career. Others were: Carl Eltzholtz, Ben Press, Les Stoefen, Alex Gordon, George Toley, Nancy Chaffee Kiner, Pancho Gonzales, Pancho Segura, Darlene Hard, Nick Bolletieri, Vic Braden and Ken Walts. Kristien was even fortunate enough to spend two weeks training under the direction of the legend, Maureen "Little Mo" Connelly-Brinker.

With such top-notch coaching, it is no surprise the talented Kristien started winning local and Southern California tournaments by the bushel, including multiple Harper Ink Tournament victories in San Diego. At age 12, Kristien's strong forehand and fiery competitive spirit propelled her onto the national tennis scene. At the Girls 12 Nationals, the favored Kristien fell ill to pneumonia and had to retire. After that, from age groups 14's to 18's, Kristien won 10 National Junior Tennis titles in singles and doubles.

Locally, Kristien played for The Bishop's School in La Jolla along with stand-outs, Janet Newberry and Vicki Rodgers. Theirs was one of the two strongest teams in Southern California. Kristien's reputation as a skilled and fierce competitor led USC coach, George Toley, to offer her a full scholarship. However, Kristien had higher aspirations.

Kristien turned pro at age 17 and joined the Virginia Slims Circuit the year after its formation as its youngest member. That same year, because of her strong match results, Kristien was named the Virginia Slims "Max-Pax" Rookie of the Year. Kristien and partner, Valerie Ziegenfuss, were one of the top four doubles teams on the Virginia Slims Circuit.

During her 10 year career, Kristien reached the fourth round at Wimbledon twice, 1973 & 1974, and in Mixed Doubles, 1974. Her doubles prowess took her to the semi-finals of the French Open Mixed Doubles in 1973; the semi-finals of the US Open Mixed Doubles, 1977. Ultimately, Kristien's ranking rose to World No.7 in 1977. Her US rankings were top 10: No. 7 in 1973, and No. 8 in 1977. Many of Kristien's victories came over such notable world class players as: Rosie Casals, Francois Durr, Helen Gourlay, Nancy Gunter, Terry Holladay, Karen Krantzcke, Kathy Kuykendall, Janet Newberry, Marita Redondo, Mona Schallau, Betty Stove, Virginia Wade, and Val Ziegenfuss. Perhaps Kristien's favorite memory of her professional tour career is playing on Wimbledon's hallowed Centre Court in 1971 against eventual champion, Yvonne Goolagong, in front of a packed stadium crowd.

In 1974, Kristien signed to play for the Denver Racquets in World Team Tennis' inaugural season. The Racquets moved to Phoenix the next year, and it was there that Kristien would find her forever home. Kristien retired from the Racquets and from professional tennis in 1979 at the age of 27. With her vast knowledge of tennis and her local celebrity, Kristien became the Head Professional at the Mountain Shadows Resort in Phoenix. Finally, wanting to be closer to home and family, Kristien gave tennis lessons at her private court for 22 years. Kristien is self-employed and lives with her husband, Frank Ziska, in Phoenix, Arizona. They have two children, Kristien Cara and Zakrey.



ROSALYN "ROS" FAIRBANK NIDEFFER (1960 -)

Rosalyn Fairbank (everybody calls her "Ros") was born in Durban, South Africa in 1960. She was also born with a gift for athletics. Young Ros excelled in all sports: field hockey, swimming, track & field, and a basketball derivative called, "net ball." As a senior in high school, Ros won her state's Super Sports Competition for women. It required competing in 10 different sporting events. Ironically, tennis was not one of them.

Ros became enamored with tennis after watching her mother play. An inspired Ros began practicing on her own by hitting balls against the wall of her house for hours on end. At age 12, she began playing tournaments and collecting awards. By age 15, Ros' tennis skills had expanded to the point that she began to play at a national level. Soon after Ros reached the highest echelon of South Africa's junior players, she was invited to compete in junior tournaments around the globe, including: Junior Wimbledon, the Orange Bowl, and the Pepsi World Junior Championships. Ros became known as one of the world's top juniors.

With her junior successes under her belt and her parents blessing, Ros turned pro in 1979. In Australia, she won four of five satellite tournaments and reached the final of Sydney, the lead-up to the Australian Open. These, among other convincing results, propelled Ros' ranking into the top 55 of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) professional circuit. It also provided her the means to eventually purchase a condo in San Diego, the place she fell in love with after playing here in the 1980 Virginia Slims event. San Diego became her home base.

As a WTA professional, Ros' determined and unrelenting play resulted in a substantial record of achievements in both singles and doubles. Ros was: The Virginia Slims of Richmond Singles & Doubles Champion in 1983. The French Open Doubles Champion in 1981 & 1983. The US Open Doubles finalist, 1983. The French Open Mixed Doubles finalist, 1996. A Wimbledon Womens' Singles Quarterfinalist, 1986 & 1988.

Ros' considerable athletic skills enabled her to attain a world ranking of #15. Her competitive nature brought her wins against such all-time WTA stars as: Billie Jean King, Pam Shriver, Monica Seles, Gabriella Sabatini, Hana Mandlikova, Wendy Turnbull, Zina Garrison, and Jana Novatna. In all, Ros won 18 WTA titles and nearly 800 matches. Ros was a regular on the WTA tour until 1998. It was then that she retired and settled in to everyday life in her adopted hometown, San Diego.

Yet even after retirement and a growing family, Ros still found time to compete. And, like a good wine, her results improved with time. Ros added to her already impressive resume by winning the US Open 35 Singles (twice); Wimbledon 35s (three times); the Women's Open Hard Court Championships in 2008 & Doubles in 2009; the 40's National Hard Court Championships in 2009; the 50's World Singles Championships in 2012; the 50's National Hard Court Championships in 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017; the 45's National Doubles title, 2016; and the 50's National Doubles title, 2017. Ros lead the 50's USA team to the World Team Championships titles in 2013 & 2015. She also captained the team in 2017.

As a San Diegan, she works to better her community. Ros parleys her considerable tennis celebrity to the benefit of many charity events and pro/ams. Particularly dear to her heart, Ros volunteers a great deal of her time to GenerateHope, an organization that houses and rehabilitates women who have been sex trafficked. To aid in GenerateHope's all important funding, Ros, the mover and shaker, and four friends, sponsor a dinner/auction event every year called, the "Love Forty Challenge." So named because it costs \$40,000 a year to support a woman who comes in, metaphorically down love-40, but who hasn't lost yet -- and won't, as long as GenerateHope is there. Ros and husband, Bob, have two children and live in Rancho Bernardo.



DAVID SANDERLIN, Ph.D (1943 - 2020)

From the time he was 6 years old and found a backboard to hit against near his home in El Cajon, to playing Grandfather-Grandson doubles tournaments with his two grandsons, David has had a love affair with tennis. David's father gave him his initial stroke instruction, "from a book." After that, David took the bit in his teeth and developed his strong all court game on his own. David's determination made him a force to be reckoned with in Southern California, then nationally. David hit the national scene at age 15. William Talbot wrote in Sports Illustrated, that David was among the four most promising boys between the ages of 12 & 16. David won both the 15's and the 18's divisions in the Beverly Hills Tennis Club tournament (against competition featuring Bill Bond and Dennis Ralston.) David's intense drive lifted him to the #2 ranking in the nation in the 15's and later, #11 in the 16's. Eventually, Les Stoefen, of the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club, put the finishing touches on David's potent, self-taught game.

After winning the CIF singles crown and graduating from Granite Hills, Coach Morgan of UCLA offered David a scholarship to play alongside teammates Arthur Ashe, Charlie Pasarell, & David Reed. Together, they won the NCAA national title in 1965. Before and after graduating from UCLA, David played in major tournaments all across the country. In 1964, He reached the round of 16 at the US Open, tying a decades old record by winning three consecutive, five-set matches, and upsetting the #8 seed, Hamilton Richardson. David's match results elevated him to a national men's ranking of No. 20. David's victories came at the expense of some of the world's finest players: Rafael Osuna (a US Open winner & world #1), Hamilton Richardson (#1 US Mens), Stan Smith, Abe Segal (South African Davis Cupper), Tom Edlefsen, Bill Bond, Cliff Buchholz, David Reed, Richard Leach, Sergio Tachini (Italian Champion).

David enrolled at Notre Dame intent on earning his Ph.D., but also volunteered to instruct the Irish tennis team. Forced to lessen his tennis schedule to focus on his family and studies, David still found time to win the Indiana Open and the La Jolla Men's Open. Upon earning his doctorate in Medieval Studies, Dr. Sanderlin taught history for five years at California State University, Northridge. In a happy homecoming, Dr. Sanderlin accepted a teaching position and department chair at Miramar College. Dr. Sanderlin took the opportunity to expand his teaching subject matter into his other field of expertise: tennis. He initiated tennis classes at Miramar and developed advanced tennis concept courses such as strategy, court coverage, and doubles positioning. David continued to teach tennis at Miramar for 25 years.

Tennis has been in David's family for decades. His parents were both highly educated authors as well as tennis players. David's younger brother, Johnny, followed in his brother's footsteps. He was a top 11 year old in Southern California. Then, at the age of 11, Johnny was diagnosed with leukemia and given a year to live. Johnny beat those odds. With the love and support of his family and friends, he lived to nearly 16. In those years, Johnny, like his big brother, made an impact on the national tennis scene. Johnny and his partner, Roy Barth, won the 13 & under National Doubles Championship. Johnny and mother, Owenita, are memorialized by a novice junior tournament named for them at the Barnes Tennis Center. David's legacy of family first values has been manifest throughout the years. He has made it his mission to involve and enrich his entire family in the "sport of a lifetime." David has participated in, and frequently won titles: As the son in the Father-Son doubles, with father, George. The Mother-Son doubles with mother, Owenita. The Father-Daughter doubles with daughter, Michelle. As the father in the Father-Son doubles with sons, John and Kevin. And, as the Grandfather in the Grandfather-Grandson doubles with both Carson & Dylan. David and wife, Arnell, a non-competitive player, still enjoy their time playing tennis together.