



Larry Belinsky (1954 -) Senior Success & Community Service

Native San Diegan, Larry Belinsky has a long and distinguished resume in San Diego tennis. He began his love of the sport as a child when his father, Arnold, would take him along on his Sunday trips to the old Balboa Tennis Club (located in the Zoo's parking lot). Larry would watch his father play. Often, San Diego tennis legend, Roland Brock took young Larry out on the court for a hit.

Larry's game developed under the tutelage of prominent area pros. First, was Bobby Ray. When Bobby left for the Navy, Larry continued studying under Ben Press. Later, Bill Bond sharpened Larry's all around game, and Bill Stack mentored him on tennis' very important mental side.

Larry's tennis game made steady progress throughout his junior years. Then at age 17, Larry's body and game fully matured and winning became commonplace. He won the San Diego Boys' 18 Junior Championships, and three of the four Pacific Northwest national level tournaments. He was also selected as the winner of the Bob Carrother's

Sportsmanship of the Year Award in 1972.

After starring at Patrick Henry High School, Larry played one year for Cal Berkeley. He finished that year with the team's best win/loss record. Larry, subsequently, transferred to San Diego State University and was to be their number one player. Unfortunately, on a trip to Acapulco with his family, Larry contracted spinal meningitis. Recuperating became his job.

After college and getting married, Larry entered into the family's retail furniture business. He began in its warehouse, and through his unwavering hard work, earned his way up to president of *Arnold's Furniture*. Even as he worked full time in the company, Larry was able to make a successful return to competitive tennis. His enthusiasm and his focused drive made up for his lack of court time.

- Larry was San Diego's #1 ranked player in his age group for 20 years, 1990-2010. Including "Male Player of the Year" in 1993.
- Represented the United States at the 2000 International Tennis Federation Potter Cup in Barcelona.
- Gold Ball winner in 2000 USTA National Men's 45 Doubles with partner, Bob Wright. Larry and Bob held the #1 ranking in USTA 45 doubles.
- Gold and Silver Ball winner 2004 USTA National Men's 50 Doubles, again with Bob Wright. Ranked #2 in USTA 50 Doubles with Bob.
- Bronze Ball winner in National Men's 55 Singles, 2009.
- Ranked #1 player in SoCal Men's 55 for two years.
- Silver medalist for Men's 60 Singles, Bronze medalist for 55/60 Mixed Doubles with wife, Judy, in the 2017 World Maccabiah Games in Israel.

After the family sold *Arnold's Furniture* in 1991, Larry and wife, Judy, opened *Country Furniture Faire* in 1993. After several more years in the business, Larry finally retired to be with family, expand his reading, and grow tennis in San Diego. Larry's contributions to San Diego tennis are impressive:

- After visiting the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, RI, in 2005, Larry lobbied for, and founded the San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame to honor our area's many tennis-related greats.
- Larry and family have been, and continue to be, generous patrons of Youth Tennis San Diego at the Barnes Tennis Center.
- Larry spent 9 years coaching and passing on life skills to student athletes at Canyon Crest Academy.

More than tennis, Larry's greatest love is his family. He has been married to Judy since 1976. They make their home in Rancho Santa Fe; and have two children: son, Jordan, granddaughter, Olivia (Jordan's daughter), and daughter, Daryn.