



L to R: Steve Avoyer, Lee Galloway (accepting for his dad Bob Galloway), Louis Holladay (accepting for his deceased grandfather Les Stoeffen), Raquel Giscafne, Jane Stratton and Larry Belinsky (accepting for Roland Brock, deceased).

Stephen Avoyer *Junior Stand-out, College Great*

Roland Brock *Community Service*

Robert "Bob" Galloway *Community Service, Senior Success*

Raquel Giscafne
Jane Stratton *Community Service*

Lester Stoeffen, Sr. *Teaching Pro, World Class*



Stephen E. Avoyer (1948-)

Steve Avoyer was born and raised in Point Loma, and he began playing tennis at nine years of age at the nearby Kona Kai Club, first under Bob Alverson and then Ben Press. He went from winning club tournaments to triumphing in local ones before tackling Southern California sanctioned events. Steve's breakout year was 1964 when, as a sixteen year old, he won every singles event in the S.C.T.A. He captured singles titles at the Southern California Sectionals in Los Angeles and the National Hard Courts in Burlingame, California, and he was finalist in both singles and doubles at the National Junior Championships in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Steve was ranked number one in the 16 and under singles in the S.C.T.A. and was number 2 in the US. The following year, in the 18 and under singles, he was finalist to Bob Lutz at both the Sectionals and at Kalamazoo, but he prevailed at Burlingame. He was ranked 2 sectional and 3 nationally. 1966 proved to be a banner year for Avoyer as he swept the Sectionals, Burlingame, Kalamazoo as well as the National Grass Court Doubles with Jim Rombeau. Steve finished the year ranked number one in both Southern California and the US. He was the captain of the US Junior Davis Cup team and he won the doubles at the Junior Davis Cup International Sunshine Cup in Miami. Avoyer accepted a full scholarship from USC where he joined Lutz, Stan Smith, Joaquin Loyo Mayo, Erik Van Dillen and Tom Leonard. In 1967, Steve represented the US on the Reserve Davis Cup Team, played the Men's East Coast grass and clay court circuits and competed at Wimbledon in singles and doubles. He played both singles and doubles on the 1968 and 1969 teams that won the NCAA Team Championships. Avoyer swept singles and doubles at the Texas Open in 1968. He received NCAA All American accolades in 1968 and 1969. In 1970 he was voted captain of the varsity team at USC. Subsequent to his tennis retirement, he went into commercial real estate at Coldwell Banker. In 1985, Steve and Jim Flocke formed Flocke & Avoyer Commercial Real Estate. Now, as president and sole owner, Steve represents over 100 properties. He currently resides in La Jolla with his wife Pam.



Roland H. Brock (1890 - 1985)

Roland Brock is note-worthy in San Diego tennis because of all the years he enthusiastically supported junior tennis. Brock and his future wife Mildred lived in Massachusetts; he attended Amherst while she went to Smith College. They later married and their first son, David was born in 1918. Because the cold winters were not to their liking, they moved to San Diego in 1923, and their second son John was born a year later. A life-long love affair with tennis began for the Brocks in the 1930s when Roland decided that tennis would be the game at which their sons would have the most opportunity at excelling. So he bought the book "How to Play Tennis" and a pair of rackets for \$2 apiece and they played at nearby Roosevelt Jr. High School. Both boys later became proficient. Eight courts existed at what is now a parking lot for the San Diego Zoo on Park Boulevard. Brock was among a group of players who made a deal with the City to form the original Balboa Tennis Club, insisting that non-members could also use it for a small fee. When the zoo expanded, the club moved to its current location. After retiring from SDG&E, Brock was able to spend his time at the club, either playing in long whites, encouraging all junior players or helping with the upkeep of the courts. If he traveled anywhere, it was to watch his kids play tournaments. Brock was one of the founders of the San Diego Tennis Patrons in 1953. In 1978, he and Mildred were awarded the Oliver R. Pierce award by Youth Tennis San Diego, presented to an adult who contributes to the development and welfare of tennis in San Diego. Youth Tennis San Diego also awards the Roland Brock Sportsmanship Award annually to a 16 or 18 year old boy. Brock himself was honored with life-time memberships in the San Diego Tennis Patrons and the Balboa Tennis Club. The gentleman in the grey suit and hat with a pipe was a great influence in San Diego junior tennis.



Robert L. "Bob" Galloway (1918- 1987)

Although Bob Galloway never had a formal tennis lesson, nevertheless he was able to dominate in his age group on all surfaces for many years. A native of Berkeley, California, he attended Alhambra High School and in 1940 he graduated from U.C.L.A. with a degree in business administration. Galloway had played tennis in high school and college, but upon obtaining his degree, he put the game on hold until 1947. After graduation, Bob joined Guaranty Insurance in Los Angeles in casualty insurance, and in 1945 he opened a branch office in San Diego which he managed. He married Jo Funk (now Jo Myers) and they would raise four sons, Lee, Philip, James and Steven. Galloway joined the Gordon Hesselbarth Agency in 1951, and two years later he formed his own company which would serve San Diego, La Jolla and Pacific Beach. In 1953, he served as president of the Balboa Tennis Club. The San Diego Tennis Patrons was established that same year, and Bob was not only one of the founding members, but he also served as its second president. He also was a director of the San Diego District Tennis Association. Galloway would be ranked third in the Junior Veterans division (35 and older) in the Pacific Southwest section by 1957. In 1966, he won the National Senior (45 and older) Indoor singles title and shared the doubles crown. Between 1964 and 1984 he accounted for 15 national titles as well as numerous sectional triumphs. He won on a variety of surfaces, with a variety of partners among them Robert Hagey, David Martin, Alan Cheesbro, Al Martini, Glen Hippenstiel and Charles Lass. Galloway is enshrined in the San Diego Hall of Champions and in 2012 he was inducted into the Southern California Tennis Association Senior Hall of Fame.



Raquel Giscafne, Jane Stratton

The face of women's professional tennis in San Diego actually belongs to two individuals: Raquel Giscafne and Jane Stratton. Both Giscafne, a native of Argentina, and Stratton, a native of Utah, achieved world-class status on the women's professional tour. Raquel was the top-ranked player in Argentina from 1973 to 1977, was French Open semifinalist in 1974 and competed in all the major grand slam events. Giscafne was also a founding member of the Women's Tennis Association. Jane also competed in all four grand slam events reaching the fourth round of the Wimbledon singles, the quarterfinals of the doubles and mixed doubles at Wimbledon and the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open doubles. After retiring from the professional tour, Raquel and Jane became tennis promoters by starting Promotion Sports, Inc. and organized their first event in Salt Lake City in 1983. They had to use their own savings, but because they broke even, the event was considered a success. 1984 was the inaugural year of the San Diego event, and the setting was Morley Field. In 1985, the WTA upgraded the tournament to a \$75,000.00 event, and the new venue was the Hilton Beach and Tennis Resort. Raquel and Jane realized that with international exposure came the need for a club with more courts, and in 1987 they moved to the San Diego Tennis and Racquet Club. Two years later, the WTA upgraded the tournament to a primary event which meant commitments from top ten players, an increase to a \$200,000 purse and additional computer points for players. The tournament also received a boost in the appearance of world number one Steffi Graf who would win the event multiple times. In 1991, the tournament moved for the final time to the La Costa Resort and Spa, and the tournament, which would become a WTA Tier I event with \$1.3 million in prize money, continued to attract the sport's biggest stars, including Monica Seles, Jennifer Capriati, Lindsay Davenport, Martina Hingis, Venus Williams, Kim Clijsters and Maria Sharapova. Between 1991 and 2007, the tournament was known as the Mazda, Toshiba and later Acura Tennis Classic. During the mid-90's, they brought Davis Cup---U.S. vs Mexico---to La Costa. Raquel Giscafne and Jane Stratton not only built Promotion Sports, Inc. into one of the world's most successful tennis promotion and marketing companies, but they also firmly established women's professional tennis in San Diego between 1984 and 2007. Both currently reside in north county San Diego.



Lester Rollo "Les" Stoeffen (1911-1970)

The classic serve motion which served as the model for many boys' tennis trophies, as well as the original logo for the Association of Tennis Professionals, was that of Lester Stoeffen. Born in Des Moines, Iowa, he first honed his tennis skills at Los Angeles High School. At six foot six with wavy blond hair, Stoeffen attracted a lot of attention with his powerful game and innate athleticism. In fact had he so chosen he could have excelled at either basketball or boxing. In 1931, he gained his first tennis title of prominence when he won the Pacific Coast doubles with Sidney Wood. Two years later, as a result of his performance at Forest Hills, he rose to his highest singles ranking in the U.S. at number three behind Francis X. Shields and Wilmer Allison. In 1934, Lester earned his first national title, the U.S. National Indoors in singles. Many of his best achievements were to come in doubles. The combination of the sizzling power of Stoeffen coupled with the finesse and guile of George Lott would prove to be lethal. They would not lose a match together between 1932 and 1934, and among their wins was Wimbledon in 1934, the U.S. Championships (U.S. Open) in 1933 and 1934 and the U.S. National Indoor in 1933. Lester won all six matches he played for the US Davis Cup team in 1934; he and Lott accounted for the only point in the final against Great Britain. Stoeffen and Elizabeth Ryan were runners-up in the mixed doubles of the U.S. Championships. He was ranked ninth in the world in singles in 1933 by Pierre Gillou, the president of the French Tennis Federation, and tenth by A. Wallis Myers of the Daily Telegraph. Stoeffen turned professional in 1935, and toured on that circuit with Lott, Bill Tilden and Ellsworth Vines. Upon his retirement from competitive tennis in 1942, he became the head professional at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club, a position he held until 1970. Beloved by his students for an easy-going demeanor blended with great analysis, he had numerous star pupils including Karen Hantze Susman, Roy Barth, Stan Smith, Bob Lutz, Valerie Ziegenfuss, Raul Ramirez, Chico Hagey, and Terry and John Holladay. Lester married former Hollywood actress Ruth Moody and they had two sons Lester Jr. and Gary.