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Coach Jimmy McCormick

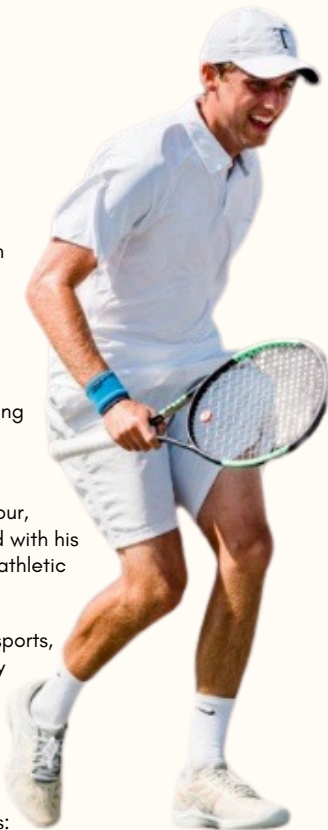
joined Caswell Tennis Center toward the end of August in whirlwind fashion. With just one day until the Junior Team Tennis roster submission deadline and two days until the launch of the Fall Junior After School Program, the club's new Junior Director had little time to settle in.

And despite what one would assume of a coach pioneering a love for the game in generations new and yet to come, **tennis was not his first love.**

Undeterred by a father who formerly played on the ATP Tour, Jimmy grew up preferring basketball, a passion he shared with his mother, who played professionally at that. Talk about an athletic gene pool...

Until about age 16, he divided his time between the two sports, gravitating toward the bigger ball despite being naturally stronger on the smaller court. Eventually, he recognized where his opportunities lay and pursued tennis at the collegiate level.

That's not to say he didn't fall in love with the game. In fact, he'd come to discover a special quality about tennis:



winning wasn't always reserved for those who looked the best.

"I was a hacker when I was in high school," he recalled. "I would just slice the ball, chop it and throw junk, and win points badly like that. So it's kind of fun, tennis is a sport that you don't have to be—**you don't have to look the best to win.**"



And apparently, you don't always have to win to play your best tennis, either. Jimmy considers three losses among the best matches of his career.

"They were just against people that were much better than me. And it brought out the best of me."

One such match came during a collegiate fall tournament against a player from Texas Tech. It was mid-afternoon, and players and coaches from several schools had gathered around the court, an audience of college athletes whose enthusiasm, one can imagine, hardly resembled the hushed etiquette of Wimbledon. And

with all eyes on them, the two battled through three sets.

"I was just playing really out of my mind that day. And it happened that we were the only match playing at that time."

The crowd wasn't the only unusual part of the afternoon.

"My coach at the time was very quiet," Jimmy explained. His opponent's coach, meanwhile, had been offering instruction between points.

Until Jimmy's coach finally reached his breaking point.

"And suddenly, he just starts yelling at the other coach, 'You're not allowed to coach during the match!'" Jimmy recalled, waving his arms over his head in reminiscence.

The outburst silenced the sidelines. Jimmy eventually lost the match, 7-6, 5-7, 4-6, but the experience remained one of his most memorable.

"I lost, but it was one of the best matches of my life."

For a coach who rarely raised his voice, the eruption was remarkable. Jimmy, on the other hand, says he's never had a similar moment himself, one of pent-up, pure emotion bursting at the seams. Anyone familiar with his relaxed, easygoing presence around Caswell probably won't find that surprising.

Perhaps even less surprising is his definition of success as a junior coach. It's not necessarily a tournament trophy or a textbook forehand, though those certainly are perks. It's a child who enjoys tennis enough to want to come back.

"I think the main thing for kids is to have fun," he said. "If a kid's not having fun, maybe if they're learning more, but it's not fun, they're not gonna want to come back. So I think if it's fun, you know, and they're playing tennis, they're gonna learn automatically."

And if you've watched Jimmy coach, you've probably seen that philosophy in action.

THE GAME GURU

"They always called me the game guru."

It's a nickname Jimmy earned at a previous club, and one that makes considerably more sense after spending an afternoon on court with him.

There are the familiar junior tennis staples: Jail, Around the World, Fireball... But what about Alligator Alley? The Hoop Game? Jimmy seems to have a game for just about everything.

Over years of working with junior players, he's built an extensive portfolio of activities that turn technical development into something that feels a lot more like play.

That approach isn't simply about keeping children entertained. It's an approach that reflects his own experience as a player: tennis doesn't always have to look perfect to be effective, and improvement doesn't have to come at the expense of enjoyment.

And perhaps the best way to learn tennis is to forget that you're learning at all.

So when asked to describe what juniors can expect from the upcoming winter session in just three words, Jimmy had a fitting answer:

"Learning through fun."

And if the Game Guru has anything to say about it, there will be plenty of both.



Now It's Time For Your Junior

To Get Involved in Our Winter Program

Registration is now open for our *Winter Junior After School Program*, which runs from November 30 through December 17. This three-week program will feature an updated class schedule with opportunities for players at different stages of development. We encourage families to register early to secure their preferred class via RacquetDesk.

Unsure which level is the right fit for your child?

Jimmy McCormick
jimmy@caswelltennisatx.com

210-789-7757

Registration questions?
proshop@caswelltennisatx.com

512-478-6268

Log into RacquetDesk and register your child today!



Consult Coach Jimmy before registering, as advancement between levels is not automatic.



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→ Wilson Blade
26"

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← Head Speed
MP, Tour, Pro

02 The Mini
→ Head Speed
19"

**WE WANT
YOU**
in the next issue...



Some of the best stories
happen off court.

**We'd love to feature
yours.**

Have a story worth
telling? Submit
anonymously for a
chance to be featured
right here in our next
issue!

Name (Optional) _____

Your Story _____

THE CUP IS HEATING UP

The road to finals weekend is getting interesting.

The inaugural Caswell Cup has introduced a new tradition to the club, one that is off to a rather compelling start. Matches are well underway across 16 draws, with some players already securing their places in finals weekend, others battling through the early rounds, and the rest facing the brutal reality of a single-elimination format.

On the bright side, following the action has never been easier, thanks to Caswell Cup participant Brandon Joldersma, who designed a dedicated website where players and spectators alike can view draws and track matches. It's an impressive addition to the tournament, and one that makes this newly born Caswell tradition feel all the more established.

Joldersma isn't just making waves off court, either. Alongside doubles partner Jules Briant, he advanced to the semifinals of the Men's 3.0 Doubles draw.

Tournament Director Coach Doug Stutsman has been hard at work coordinating matches, propelled by the enthusiasm of the field.

Take Ben Schuman, for example, who summed up his hard-fought second-round loss in the Men's 3.5 Singles division with a line that might just become the unofficial motto of the tournament:

“I was too jacked up for the Cup.”

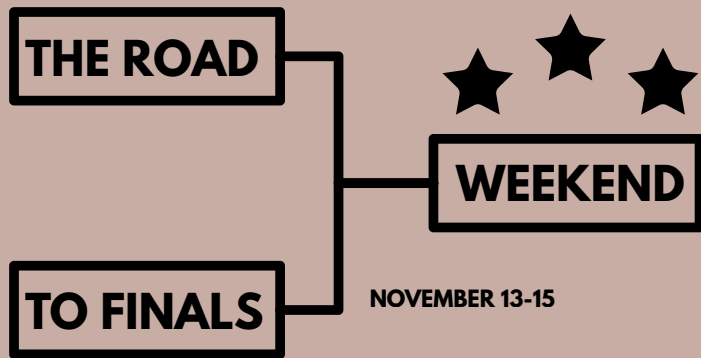
Schuman's match went the distance, culminating in a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a full third set, a testament to the level of competition unfolding on Caswell's courts. But his Cup campaign is far from over. Alongside partner Erik Tran, he has secured a place in the Men's 3.5 Doubles final. The two will face off against Robert Kim and Chris Kenny, whose impressive run shook up the bottom half of the draw.

Meanwhile, the Men's 3.0 and 3.5 Singles divisions have drawn particularly impressive fields, each boasting a full 32-player draw. With competitors progressing into the semifinals, these are two divisions worth keeping a close eye on.

Caswell's very own front desk team member Harper Smith, featured on the cover alongside our other pros, is through to the Women's 2.5 Singles semifinals despite being relatively new to the sport. Having only started playing tennis at the beginning of June, Harper has progressed at a remarkable pace, drawing on the athleticism she developed playing high school basketball and a family background in tennis.

Finals weekend is shaping up to be an exciting one, with several players already punching their tickets to the championship matches.





Scott Brutacao and Abdul Nimiri will face off against Scott Carpenter and Gregg Friedman in the Men's 3.0 Doubles final.

In the Women's 2.5 Doubles division, Uliana Savilo and Lana Bernberg are set to face the duo of Jane and Grace Randolph, while Annie Bonnot and Allison Underwood are the first tandem to advance to the Women's 3.0 Doubles final. Rounding out the doubles action, Riley Boyle and Sarah Garcia are the first to secure a place in the Women's 4.0 Doubles final.

On the singles side, Faith Lubeck and Kendall Fleisher have secured their places in the Women's 3.0 final, with Catherine Mas advancing to the Women's 4.0 final. Meanwhile, Melissa Sun and Stephanie Chau are already set to battle it out for the Women's 3.5 Singles title.

And by the time this issue reaches readers, there may well be more names to add to that list.

For those already through, just one final obstacle remains between them and a permanent place in Caswell history: a championship victory, and their names engraved on the plaque that will live in the Pro Shop for years to come.

MATCHPLAY

SUNDAY, NOV. 01

3.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY
4.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SATURDAY, NOV. 07

2.5 MATCH PLAY ROUND ROBIN

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SUNDAY, NOV. 08

3.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY
4.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SUNDAY, NOV. 15

3.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY
4.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SATURDAY, NOV. 21

3.0 - 3.5 MATCH PLAY ROUND ROBIN

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SUNDAY, NOV. 22

3.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY
4.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SUNDAY, NOV. 29

3.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY
4.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

UPCOMING...

SATURDAY, DEC. 5

2.5 MATCH PLAY ROUND ROBIN

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 06

3.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY
4.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 13

3.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY
4.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SATURDAY, DEC. 19

3.0 - 3.5 MATCH PLAY ROUND ROBIN

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 20

3.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY
4.0 SINGLES MATCH PLAY

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

