

ADVANTAGE

the magazine for men and women tennis-teaching professionals



April 2006



USPTA pays tribute
to Gene Scott

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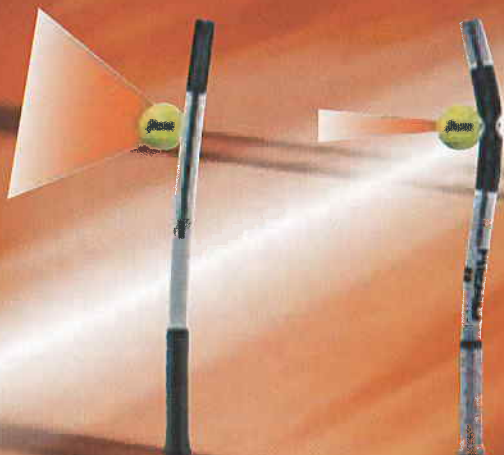
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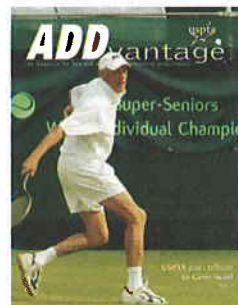


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On the cover ... Eugene L. Scott, 1937-2006, was a tennis champion at every level of the game. The Tennis Week founder and publisher died March 20.

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ADDvantage magazine editorial offices
 USPTA World Headquarters
 3535 Briarpark Drive, Suite One
 Houston, TX 77042
 Phone - (713) 978-7782
 (800) USPTA-4U
 Fax - (713) 978-7780
 e-mail - magazine@uspta.org

Editor Shawna Riley
 Managing editor Kimberly Forrester
 Circulation Kathy Buchanan
 Advertising John Dettor

Office hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Central time

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CEO's message

Tennis Week publisher leaves both a void and a viable legacy

"My heart is in public parks tennis. I began playing at age 10 in St. James Park on Long Island. I learned on courts that had chain link fences for nets. But there was nobody around to teach you."

— Eugene L. Scott, 1937-2006

When Gene Scott died suddenly on March 20, tennis professionals – and many other industry allies – were the ones left wondering who will be around to guide us with words of wisdom.

The founder and publisher of *Tennis Week* magazine, who succumbed to heart disease at the age of 68, was the most forthright and knowledgeable person I knew in our game. I was lucky enough to compete against Gene and I came to know him as a sincere friend of tennis.

The USPTA members, Board of Directors, Executive Committee and I extend our sincere condolences to Gene's wife, Polly, his daughter, Lucy, who is 11, his son, Sam, 9, and other family members and friends.

Four or five years ago, I remember how much fun Gene had when he came to the World Conference and brought Lucy. She went to all the Executive Committee meetings with him and sat proudly by his side.

The Scott family is now without its devoted husband and father, and the tennis industry has lost an irreplaceable champion of our sport.

Gene, who so eloquently touted tennis as the sport of a lifetime, was involved in various aspects of the game for more than 40 years. During the 1960s, the Yale University alum was a proud member of the U.S. Davis Cup team (1963-1965) and world-class player (No. 11 in 1965).

In 1967, after graduating from law school, he was working as a Wall Street attorney and competing part time when he advanced to the semifinals of the U.S. National Championships in Forest Hills, N.Y.

Gene continued to play in later years – even after undergoing a double hip replacement about a decade ago – and won more than 40 senior championships. His titles included the ITF Super-Seniors World Championships in men's 65s in 2004. He also won

the U.S. National Public Parks Championships in 2005.

During Gene's recent memorial service at a Manhattan church, attended by more than 1,000 celebrants of his life, Polly Scott spoke of how her husband put his family at the center of his life. His brother, Tim, and even the Scott children shared both poignant and lighthearted memories of their loved one.



Tim Heckler

Billie Jean King quipped that she had forgiven Gene for betting on Bobby Riggs in their famed "Battle of the Sexes" match, when he served as a commentator. On a more serious note, she described her former opponent as a man of character who believed tennis should be all-inclusive. She praised his commitment to promoting public-parks tennis and putting a racquet in the hands of

everyone interested in playing.

John McEnroe, Gene's friend and former doubles partner, said the pair had been discussing a *Tennis Week* publishing partnership. "I am saddened by the reality that (the) partnership will never come to fruition and wondering what might have been," McEnroe said.

Gene nurtured a small tennis news magazine, which he founded in 1974, into something that was held in the highest esteem by teaching professionals and all of his readers. The main reason was a refreshing frankness found in the pages of *Tennis Week*.

In his last "Vantage Point" column, this pointed pundit accused the industry of giving the Davis Cup competition short shrift in terms of rankings rules and schedules. His column began with the advice: "If only we would listen to the tiny voices within, the problems facing tennis would dissolve in an instant."

Gene was someone whom I greatly admired for his writing – his ability to really tell it like it is in tennis.

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Shortly after Gene's death, I was discussing his extraordinary qualities with Kurt Kamperman, USPTA Master Professional and chief executive of community tennis for the USTA. Kurt said that "Gene was a person who always told you what you needed to hear, rather than what you wanted to hear."

"Gene was that rare kind of person, whom once you met, you realize that he influenced your whole life, in an incredibly positive way."

Tennis Week set up a special Web site – www.eugenelscott.com – where industry leaders, personal friends, and readers who never met him have posted a host of testimonials in his honor. Again and again you see descriptors such as tennis icon, mentor, Renaissance man, straight talker, an inspiration.

The tributes have come from all over the world, including Russia, where Gene produced the celebrated Kremlin Cup. He also served as a New York correspondent for *The Moscow News*.

"Gene was that rare kind of person, whom once you met, you realize that he influenced your whole life, in an incredibly positive way," wrote Alexander Vainshteyn, former Moscow Kremlin Cup director and publisher of *The Moscow News*.

USPTA Master Professional Dave "Koz" Kozlowski offered a similar take from a different angle, writing that the *Tennis Week* publisher was respected, even feared: "Everyone knew that Gene wouldn't allow substandard work to go unaddressed." Yet, "Gene could take someone small and make him feel big."

Personally, I will always remember and admire his life. At the same time, I fear that we have lost the conscience of our game.

With a huge spot to fill in our friend's absence, I hope there's someone who can step up and be as straightforward and genuine in his love of the game as Gene was. ☞



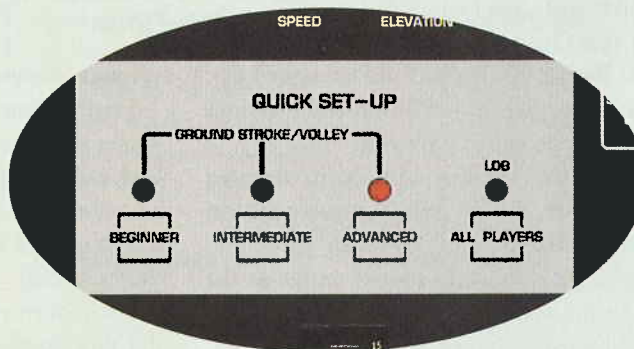
From left: Bud Collins, "Polly" Eastman Scott, Anita Collins and Gene Scott.

Gene Scott's family has asked that any gifts be made to The Lucy Foundation, a family foundation with 501 (c)3 tax-exempt status. The charity was established to aid organizations and projects devoted to education and recreation, with a specific focus on tennis. Donations may be sent to: The Lucy Foundation, c/o Tennis Week, 15 Elm Place, Rye, NY 10580.



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Vice president's message



Why did you join the USPTA?

What do you think of when you consider the process we all have in common – joining the USPTA? Do you recall the challenge of preparing for the test, the excitement of receiving your results, and realizing you had become a certified tennis professional?

I also remember my first divisional convention and the opportunity to meet and learn from so many experienced, successful pros. The chance to network and share information with fellow professionals has helped many USPTA members throughout their careers. USPTA membership is still one of the most valuable tools of our trade.

While the prestige of USPTA membership draws more than 1,200 people to USPTA exams each year, our Association also offers many other tools to enhance your position in the tennis industry. Our Web site alone gives you access to a virtual warehouse of information. Just one such tool is the searchable area of our site. Read the introduction to the section called "Tennis A-Z." It says,

"Need to know the dimensions of a tennis court? Want to read about Lessons for Life™ fund-raisers or just learn to play tennis? Whether you're looking for a USPTA-certified Professional or want to buy tickets to Wimbledon, all you need is 'Tennis A-Z.' It starts with 'Audio' seminars and ends with 'Zones' in System 5, and includes everything in between!"

Our sports marketing activities have been developed by and for our members to complement your tennis programs. From Little Tennis® to Tennis Across America™, USPTA programs benefit all levels of players and encourage our members to take ownership of their part of a national program. You'll find a logo for each of our sports marketing

programs just below "Tennis A-Z" and links to more details about each within the search component of the site.

Our presence on The Tennis Channel with our show, "On Court with USPTA™," and "Sweet Spot" tips has really showcased USPTA and its members for the tennis consumer. Our TV exposure, along with the resources members receive through our Player Development Program, online distance learning and the World Conference are unparalleled in our industry.

Even with all of the tennis resources and tools for our membership, our greatest asset remains you – the member. Our membership has made the USPTA what it is today. Think of all the professional people you have met and all the friendships you've made through this Association. This network of friends and professional peers is willing to share its knowledge on everything from how to start teaching a beginner player to how to host a Challenger event.

Our members are credited with organizing and hosting the most significant events in our industry

and continue to influence the direction of the future of tennis.

So, why did you join the USPTA? For many of us, it was perhaps because someone told us – maybe a boss or another teaching professional – that we needed to join to become better teachers, directors and administrators. I would venture to guess this is why many of us joined and remain members today.

So, why am I telling you something that is probably obvious to you? Because we need to continue to build our professional network and encourage non-certified peers to join USPTA. Tennis has recently experienced some exciting new growth, and new



Randy Mattingley

Tennis has recently experienced some exciting new growth ... It's our duty to ensure that the first tennis lesson these new players receive is from a knowledgeable and certified professional.

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For information, write the USPTA World Headquarters 3535 Briarpark Drive, Suite One Houston, TX 77042 Phone (713) 97-USPTA (800) USPTA-4U Fax (713) 978-7780 e-mail – uspta@uspta.org Internet – www.uspta.com

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