



International Student Guide

High Performance Tennis Training & Academic Centers
College Park, MD & Jacksonville, FL



26+

YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE

TRUST YOUR TRAINING



THE HISTORY OF THE JUNIOR TENNIS CHAMPIONS CENTER

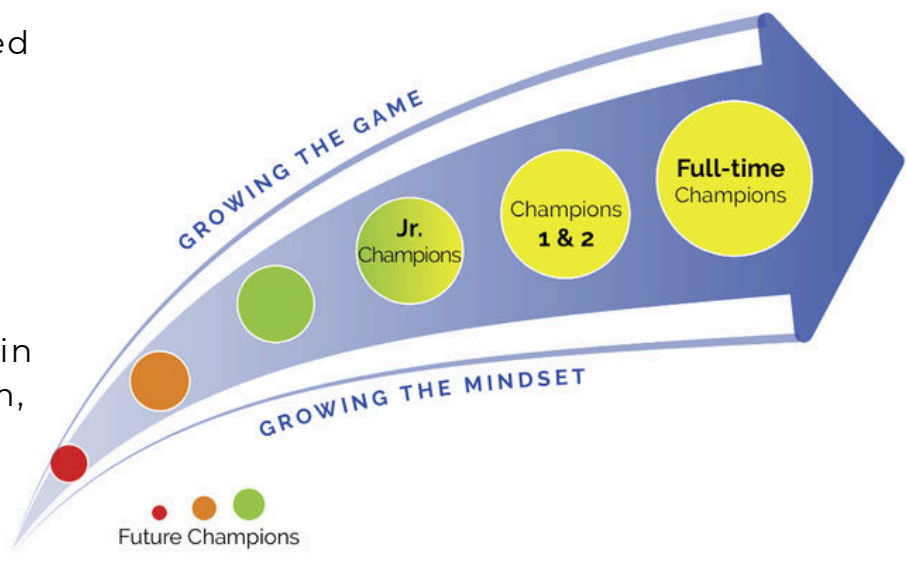
Revolutionizing Tennis: In the mid 1990s, Ken Brody envisioned creating the best tennis training facility in the United States. Drawing from his experiences as a player and parent, he sought to revolutionize tennis promotion by introducing innovative ideas to attract more talent to the sport. After years of planning and championing support from the community, Mr. Brody founded the Junior Tennis Champions Center in the summer of 1999 as a non-profit organization dedicated to offering premiere tennis instruction and membership. Mr. Brody chose College Park, Maryland, where he attended the University of Maryland as an undergraduate student, to serve as the facility's home.

Early Years: JTCC began operations with approximately 40 recruited junior tennis players from the Mid- Atlantic region led by a small, diverse coaching staff. Over the past 20 years, JTCC's growth, success and presence in the tennis community has been unmatched. JTCC has proudly produced world-class players, such as Denis Kudla, Frances Tiafoe, Hailey Baptiste, Usue Arconada and Robin Montgomery, from early childhood through their adolescent years. Moreover, JTCC has sent more than 350 junior tennis players to college tennis programs throughout the United States, amassing over 26 million dollars in scholarships.

Continuing The Legacy: Since its founding in 1999, JTCC has also celebrated numerous junior Grand Slam titles, 9 Orange Bowl Champions, 8 top-ten ITF players, multiple NCAA Champions and a presence in both the 2016 and 2020 Summer Olympics. Today, JTCC remains steadfast in its original mission to provide the highest quality of tennis training to everyone, and looks forward to many more years of prosperity.

Player Pathway

The JTCC Player Pathway, established by JTCC's founders, serves as the principle method for developing tennis players of any level. The pathway provides a structured plan, incorporating various teaching methods and devices to support a player's progress. This model works in unison with a player's assigned team, led by a mentor, and has been instrumental in JTCC's successful development of players, from childhood through the adolescent and adult years.



Pathway Success

Since 1999, JTCC has trained thousands of junior players. JTCC's Player Pathway success has attracted players from around the country and world. Each year, players transition through JTCC's training programs to maximize their potential.

2

Olympians

Denis Kudla represented the US in the 2016 Summer Olympics, and Frances Tiafoe represented the US in the 2020 Summer Olympics

8

World Top Ten

8 Players ranked in the Top 10 ITF Junior World Rankings

\$26 Million

JTCC players collectively achieve over \$26 million in college scholarships

150+ Titles

150+ National and ITF Titles, Including 9 Junior Orange Bowl Champions

JTCC Champions Program

High Performance Tennis Training

The JTCC Champions program provides young people with a challenging pathway that leads them to top tier collegiate and potentially professional competition. JTCC develops champions on the court and in life through the philosophy of "Person First, Player Second".

The Full Time Champions program is year-round and designed for USTA, ITF, UTR, and WTN tournament level players, and players who are enrolled in distance learning.

Full Time Champs players participate in up to four hours of rigorous tennis training and 90-120 minutes of fitness training daily. In addition, the comprehensive program includes customized fitness training, mental training, college counseling for juniors and seniors, and after-school tutoring.

Sample Schedule

Monday – Friday

School 7:30 – 9:30 am
Tennis & Fitness 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Lunch 12:00 – 12:30 pm
School 12:30 – 2:00 pm
Tennis 2:00 – 4:00 pm
School 4:00 – 5:00 pm
Fitness 5:00 – 6:00 pm

Saturday - Sunday

- Active Rest / Recovery
- Matchplay Training
- Tournament Competition



Pillars of Training

On-Court Tennis

During training, sessions will include a mix of dead ball drilling, live ball hitting, situational point play, and match play, tailored to the specific training period. These elements are adjusted based on individual needs, with the coach-mentor ensuring each player maximizes their training time.



Fitness & Athletic Development

Our fitness program encompasses speed, agility, strength, and endurance training, along with tennis-specific footwork and balance exercises. We also include dynamic and static stretching for flexibility and injury prevention. Like tennis training, the intensity, focus, and duration of physical training vary based on the players' tournament cycles.

The goal is to connect gym and track efforts to on-court results. Players undergo three annual tests in speed, strength, and agility to monitor their progress. Biomechanics assessments are provided by JTCC's physical therapy team.



Mental Development

Peter Lee, ED.M., is a Mental Skills Trainer and former competitive tennis player. He specializes in empowering elite athletes, including juniors, NCAA players, professionals, and Olympians, to achieve peak performance through mental skills training. Peter uses performance psychology tools to enhance athletes' confidence, competence, optimism, and enthusiasm for optimal performance both on and off the court.

Mentorship

Coach-mentors at JTCC establish strong relationships with players, developing a comprehensive Player Development Plan to set and track goals in training, tournaments, academics, and character development. They meet with parents and players to report on progress. These mentoring relationships at JTCC foster a value-based community and inspire players to become mentors in their own communities.

Flexible Education

The JTCC Private School

Founded in 2002, The JTCC School is a blended-learning private school accredited by the State of Maryland. With a 20+ year track record of success, the school has developed an individualized learning environment where students are supervised and monitored by teachers to supplement an online curriculum.

JTCC School Director Mark Santangelo is a graduate of Yale University (B.A. History) and George Washington University (M. Phil., ABD, American History). Prior to joining JTCC in 2006, he taught locally at both private schools and at the college level.



JTCC has utilized the Laurel Springs School online curriculum for 18 years. Laurel Springs' collegiate track is accredited by the NCAA. The JTCC School provides students with the flexibility required to train and compete at the highest levels of junior tennis while ensuring that everyone who graduates is fully prepared for college.

JTCC students are in class with a teacher for two-hour sessions in the morning and the afternoon. While students are on tournament travel, coaches oversee study time to ensure that students do not fall behind in their studies. Virtual support is offered in one-on-one sessions via Facetime, Zoom, or Google Meet, scheduled to coordinate with the students' training and fitness schedules.

In addition to the Laurel Springs curriculum, JTCC integrates field trips in the Washington, D.C. area as enhanced learning experiences and offers SAT preparation with supplemental instruction and tutoring in subject fields.

JTCC School graduates are well-prepared for the demands of playing top collegiate tennis while pursuing their education at a wide range of leading colleges and universities including Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Princeton, University of Virginia, and UCLA.

JTCC School Success Stories

Venkat Iyer | New Delhi, India

Venkat began training at JTCC at age twelve. A top junior player in India, he achieved a ranking within the top 100 in the International Tennis Federation (ITF) before going on to captain the Cornell men's tennis team from 2011-2013 and later competing professionally.



Venkat earned a B.S. in Applied Economics from Cornell University and a master's in Public Administration from Columbia University. After rejoining JTCC as an employee in 2020, Venkat assumed the role of director of Business Development, where he focused on expanding tennis opportunities and programs for underserved youth in Washington, DC's communities. Prior to joining JTCC in 2020, Venkat worked with the United Nations, where he contributed to sustainable development efforts in Africa and Asia. Venkat currently works as Senior Director of Climate Resilience at The Coca-Cola Company.



Scan to learn
more about
Venkat's
journey at
JTCC

Yichen Zhao | Beijing, China

Yichen (Cindy) has trained at JTCC since 2018. The former #1 ranked junior female tennis player in China, she is spending the year traveling and competing with the Chinese National Team while continuing her studies at the JTCC School. Cindy joined the Princeton University Women's Tennis Team in the fall of 2024.



"While she's traveling, our entire tutoring team is meeting with her regularly through Facetime to support her through her studies. Ultimately, her goal, as well as our goal, is to make sure that she's set up for success academically. She is now committed to Princeton University, where we believe she will succeed with the support we have given her."

- Mark Santangelo, Director of JTCC School

"JTCC is a big family to me. People here are helping and supporting each other all the time. Over the past six years, I've grown as a person and trust my training as a player, and I feel prepared for the next chapter of my life at Princeton." - Yichen Zhao



Scan to learn
more about
Cindy's journey
at JTCC

College Preparation Package

Pathway to University

1 Academic Preparedness

JTCC provides SAT/ACT tutoring for grades 10 and 11 who are preparing to take the test. Additionally, JTCC supports students who speak English as a second language through additional English lessons and tutoring.

2 Competitive Readiness

In order to increase the player's exposure and assist in recruiting process, the players must compete and improve their Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) and World Tennis Number (WTN). A JTCC coach will travel with players to six tournaments a year and provide coaching.

3 College Placement

JTCC College Advisor will work hand in hand to guide the player and family through the recruiting process, including identifying and applying to universities, coach recruitment and NCAA eligibility requirements, and scholarships and financial aid applications.

Legacy of Collegiate Success

JTCC Alumni Stories



Ammar Alhogbani | University of Virginia

Ammar Alhogbani is originally from Saudi Arabia, moving to the United States with his family when he was a young boy. As a junior tennis player, he represented Saudi Arabia in the Asian Olympic Games and in Davis Cup competition. He won singles titles in Dubai, Bahrain, and Kuwait. As a top-ranked college recruit, he assisted the University of Virginia team in securing the 2017 NCAA National Team Championship title in his freshman year.

Jessica Fatemi | Emory University

Jessica Fatemi trained at JTCC as a junior player, winning the Maryland High School State Championships in mixed doubles her junior year. In searching for a university with a great academic track record and a strong tennis program with a history of success, Jessica was recruited to Emory University. In her tenure there, she led her team to winning two NCAA Division III Championship titles her freshman and junior years. Now, Jessica works in New York City as a Financial Analyst for Deloitte.



Legacy of Collegiate Success

JTCC Alumni Stories



Tara Iyer | Duke University

Tara Iyer trained at JTCC for 11 years and was ranked #1 in India in Girls' 12s, 14s, 16s, and 18s achieving a #42 ITF Junior world ranking. At Duke University (Class of 2009), she was the 2009 ITA All-American Champion and 2009 NCAA Team Champion.

Her career high ranking on the WTA is #340 and she was a member of the India Fed Cup team. She earned a PhD in Economics from the University of Oxford and is currently an economist for the International Monetary Fund.



Mitchell Frank | University of Virginia

Mitchell Frank, who trained at JTCC for a decade from 2001-11, was ranked #5 in the ITF world rankings as a junior player. He led the University of Virginia (Class of 2015) to two NCAA National Team Championships in 2013 and 2015. He was the #1-ranked NCAA player as a freshman and won the 2011 ITA All-American and ITA National Indoor Championships becoming the first college freshman to win both titles. He followed up by capturing the ITA All-American title for the second time in 2013.



Hai-Li Kong | Harvard University

Hai-Li Kong shared the Jack Barnaby Most Valuable Player award as a freshman at Harvard University where she graduated with the Class of 2016. Hai-Li trained at JTCC for 10 years from 2002-12 achieving a USTA National Top 10 National ranking in Girls' 14s and 16s.



Taka Bertrand | Vanderbilt University

Taka Bertrand achieved Top 10 rankings in the USTA National Girls' 12s, 14s, 16s and 18s before attending Vanderbilt University (Class of 2008) where she won the most singles matches in Vanderbilt history, was named 2007 Second Team All-SEC, 2006 SEC Player of the Year and First Team All-SEC, 2006 Amateur Athlete of the Year, and 2005 SEC Freshman of the Year.



JTCC
COLLEGE TENNIS
 EXCELLENCE

NCAA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS WON
 WITH JTCC PLAYERS



ELITE COLLEGE TENNIS
 TOP UNIVERSITIES ATTENDED
 BY JTCC PLAYERS

Harvard University
 Yale University
 Stanford University
 Princeton University
 Duke University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 University of Virginia
 Georgetown University
 University of North Carolina
 University of Michigan
 Brown University
 Cornell University
 University of Texas
 Wake Forest University
 Rice University
 Vanderbilt University
 Georgia Tech
 Baylor University
 William and Mary
 University of Georgia



\$26 Million
 in Scholarship

**JTCC Players in Every
 College Division**

Our Home

JTCC | College Park, MD

AWARDS

3x USTA National Outstanding Facility

Voted by the USTA as the 2001, 2013, and 2022 Facility of the Year

USTA Mid-Atlantic Best Tennis Facility

Recipient of the USTA's Mid-Atlantic 'Best Facility of the Year Award'

15 Indoor Courts
15 Outdoor Courts
Hard Courts
Red & Green Clay
1 Stadium Court

2 Fitness Centers
Locker Rooms
Physical Therapy Services
Stringing Services
Work/Study Classroom Space

World-Class Coaching Staff

Asaf Yamin

Head of Boy's/Mens' Tennis



Asaf leads JTCC's international operations, dedicated to recruiting and supporting talented young athletes worldwide, ensuring a seamless transition to life and training in the United States.

Under his guidance, JTCC players have achieved remarkable success at national and international levels, excelling in ITF, NCAA, ATP, and WTA competitions.

With 20 years of coaching experience, Asaf has nurtured multiple top 10 ITF Juniors, coached a WTA player to grand-slam success, and mentored NCAA, Orange Bowl, and USTA champions. Additionally, he has coached at the Youth Olympics and the Billie Jean King Cup, and directs the JTCC ITF J300, among the world's most prestigious junior ITF tournaments. Asaf is a certified ITF level 2 PTR and USTA High-Performance coaching professional.



Our "Home Away From Home" Bolles School | Jacksonville, FL

In addition to the College Park location, we are proud of our JTCC Florida training center at Bolles School in Jacksonville. This "Home Away from Home" facility features eight new tennis courts with lights, fitness center, swimming pools and track. JTCC Bolles is a vital part of our JTCC family and overall operations.

World-Class Coaching Staff

Claudio Pistolessi Director of Tennis



Claudio Pistolessi was named Director of Tennis in July 2018, bringing with him a distinguished tennis career as both a player and coach. A World Champion ITF Junior, Pistolessi later reached 71st in the ATP World Rankings and represented Italy in the Davis Cup. His coaching achievements are equally impressive, having successfully coached former professional players like Monica Seles (career high #1 and 1996 Australian Open Winner), Robin Soderling (career high #4), Daniela Hantuchova (career high #5), and Simone Bolelli (career high singles #36, doubles #8).

In addition to his work with individual players, Pistolessi has also made significant contributions to the tennis community, serving as the Coaches Representative to the ATP Players Council, coaching the Japanese Davis Cup Team for 7 years, and being a member of the ATP Coach and ATP Alumni Committee. He is also a USPTA Elite Member and one of the founders of the GPTCA (Global Professional Tennis Coaches Association).

Currently, Pistolessi periodically coaches Emil Ruusuvuori (career high #37) on the ATP Tour, continuing his legacy of developing top-tier tennis talent worldwide.

JTCC Bolles & College Park Team



KOMI OLIVER AKLI
Head of Collegiate &
Professional Program
oakli@jtcc.org

Oliver has played a major role in the development of all of JTCC's high performance players over the past 22 years. Oliver is a PTR and USTA High Performance certified teaching professional and also oversees JTCC Coaches' Education.



Martin Blackman
Chief Executive Officer
mblackman@jtcc.org

Blackman brings more than two decades of leadership experience in high-performance tennis development, including a decade as General Manager of USTA Player Development, where he led initiatives that transformed American tennis. His team's efforts helped drive a resurgence in U.S. tennis, with the past three years reflecting more American players ranked in the Top 10, 20, and 50 than at any point since the mid-1990s.



Paula Coyos
Head of Girls'/Women's
Tennis
pcoyos@jtcc.org

Paula has been instrumental in the success of Junior girls at JTCC, including having developed multiple players ranked in the Top 10 nationally. She is committed to coaching and mentoring players to reach their full potential on and off the court.



FRANCESCA FUSINATO
General Manager
ffusinato@jtcc.org

Francesca played Division I Collegiate Tennis at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA before coaching alongside former World #10, Brenda Schultz-McCarthy. She is currently the head coach for the Bolles High School Girls' Tennis Team. Fusinato is a PTR-certified teaching professional.



VESA PONKKA
JTCC President, Director of
Coaching
vponkka@jtcc.org

Vesa was honored as the 2011 US Olympic Committee National Developmental Coach of the Year and 2013 Junior Developmental Coach of the Year by Tennis Industry Magazine. Ponkka promotes JTCC's Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) and Long-Term Progressive Training (LPT) methods. He holds PTR, USPTA and USTA High Performance certifications.



Tiago Bastos
Senior High Performance
Coach
tbastos@jtcc.org

Tiago works with players in all programs within the JTCC High Performance program. Prior to joining JTCC, he was Director of Junior Tennis at the Country Club of Fairfax, VA. His certifications include (iTPA) Tennis Performance Training, (PTR) Performance Professional coaching, and (ITF) Level 2.



TC COSTELLO
Senior Director of Athlete
Development
tcostello@jtcc.org

TC is an NCSA certified strength and conditioning specialist who has worked with all levels of professional and collegiate athletes. At JTCC, he works with all high performance players.



ALBERTO DE MEO
Director of High Performance
ademeo@jtcc.org

Alberto played Division I tennis at the University of North Florida and Virginia Tech. De Meo has coached players at ATP, ITF Futures, and ITF Junior tournaments. De Meo is a USPTA and GTPCA certified coach.



Denis Kudla
Senior High Performance
Coach
dkudla@jtcc.org

The first JTCC alumnus to compete on the worldwide ATP Tour, Kudla played professionally for 16 years. He achieved a career-high ATP singles ranking of No. 53 and captured nine ATP Challenger titles. His Grand Slam highlights include a Round of 16 run in the second week of Wimbledon in 2015, and he proudly represented the United States at both the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro and the Davis Cup in 2023.

**TRUST YOUR
TRAINING**



JTCC Alumni Achievements

Saud Alhaqbani

- USTA National Champion

Usue Arconada

- Wimbledon Junior Doubles Champion
- ITF World Junior #3
- WTA #130

Dylan Arnould

- Les Petits As Champion

Stiles Brockett

- USTA National Champion
- USTA Boys' 16s #1

Hailey Baptiste

- WTA #32
- ITF World Junior #38

Trice Capra

- USTA National Champion
- NCAA Champion
- ITF World Junior #8

Brian Cernoch

- USTA National Champion
- NCAA Champion

Ryan Colby

- USTA National Champion
- USTA Boys 18's #1

Luca Corintelli

- NCAA Champion
- USTA National Champion

Andrew Fenty

- ITF World Junior #9

Mitchell Frank

- NCAA Champion
- USTA National Champion
- ITF World Junior #5

Treat Huey

- ATP Doubles #8

Tara Iyer

- NCAA Champion

Denis Kudla

- US Olympian
- ATP #53
- Orange Bowl Champion
- USTA National Champion
- ITF World Junior #2

Lea Ma

- ITF World Junior #19

Robin Montgomery

- US Open Juniors Singles & Doubles Champion
- Orange Bowl Champion
- USTA National Champion
- WTA #95
- ITF World Junior #2

Alexa Noel

- USTA National Champion
- Orange Bowl Champion

Junior Ore

- USTA National Champion
- ITF World Junior #12

Olga Puchkova

- WTA #32

Philip Simmonds

- Australian Open Junior Doubles Champion
- USTA National Champion
- Orange Bowl Doubles Champion
- ITF World Junior #1 (Doubles), #2 (Singles)

Frances Tiafoe

- US Olympian
- ATP #10
- US Open Semifinalist
- Orange Bowl Champion
- Les Petits AS Champion
- USTA National Champion

Elise Wagle

- USTA National Champion
- Orange Bowl Doubles Champion

William Woodall

- USTA National Champion
- NCAA Champion
- Orange Bowl Doubles Champion

Evan Zhu

- USTA National Champion
- NCAA Champion

Julian Zlobinsky

- NCAA Champion

Vera Zvonareva

- WTA #3

*More
To
Come...*

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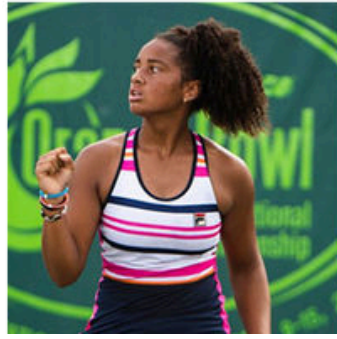


LEGACY OF SUCCESS



Frances Tiafoe

Career High #10 ATP singles ranking, youngest American man to win ATP Title since 2002, SF 2022 US Open, Olympian in 2020, Winner of 3 ATP Titles



Robin Montgomery

Career High #95 WTA singles ranking, 2021 US Open Juniors Singles and Doubles Champion, Winner of 3 ITF Women's Titles, 2019 Junior Orange Bowl Champion



Denis Kudla

Career High #53 ATP Singles, reached Wimbledon Round of 16 in 2015, QF 2022 Wimbledon Doubles, Olympian in 2016



Hailey Baptiste

Career High #32 WTA singles ranking, Winner of 4 ITF Women's Titles, played all four grand slams

2

Olympians

Denis Kudla represented the US in the 2016 Summer Olympics, and Frances Tiafoe represented the US in the 2020 Summer Olympics

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World Top Ten

8 Players ranked in the Top 10 ITF Junior World Rankings

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START YOUR JOURNEY AT JTCC

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