

# TennisPro®



The International Magazine for PTR Tennis Teachers and Coaches

March/April 2021

## PTR MEMBERS *Inducted into the* **BLACK TENNIS HALL OF FAME**



**FRANK ADAMS**



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Starting on Page 22



**LIZ ODERA**



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*Cover: Black Tennis Hall of Fame Inductees, Frank Adams & Liz Odera*



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*Dan Santorum*

Dan Santorum  
CEO/Executive Director

They say, “all good things come in threes. So, my For the Record is going to focus on three significant events highlighted in February and March.

The first item to mention is the fantastic news that for the third consecutive year, two PTR members were selected to the Black Tennis Hall of Fame, Dr. Liz Odera and Frank Adams. Liz and Frank will be inducted this July along with two other PTR members, Joe Goldthreate and Tina McCall Waters, who were inductees for 2020. They join an impressive list of current and former PTR members who have been inducted into the Black Tennis Hall of Fame since its inception in 2008:

2008 Arthur Ashe *	2015 Art Carrington
2010 Rodney Harmon	2016 Bryan Shelton
2010 Ann Koger	2016 Martin Blackman
2011 Lori McNeil	2017 Richard Williams
2012 Katrina Adams	2018 DA Abrams
2012 David Dinkins*	2019 Arvelia Myers *
2012 Mark Manning *	2019 Richard Russell
2014 Bob Davis	2020 Joe Goldthreate
2015 Angela Buxton *	2020 Tina McCall Waters
2015 Dale Caldwell	2021 Liz Odera
2015 Nick Bollettieri	2021 Frank Adams

The second noteworthy event was the inaugural International PTR Virtual Tennis Symposium and PPR Virtual Pickleball Conference. The two virtual events shattered our expectations as well as our previous attendance marks. More than 1,400 people attended both events - almost doubling the last attendance record! Here are some other all-time highs for the 3-day PTR Virtual Symposium:

- 70+ speakers presented
- Most female presenters at any tennis conference
- Most first-time presenters keeping the program fresh and exciting
- Countries in attendance - 50
- Record number of Continuing Education hours earned

Both educational events received rave reviews, and next year’s Symposium will be Feb. 8 – 10th on Hilton Head Island with the Pickleball Conference the 10 & 11th. The February events are slated to be virtual or in-person. So, you have the opportunity to choose which format best fits your schedule, budget, and time.



INTERNATIONAL  
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• EAST COAST •  
PICKLEBALL  
CONFERENCE

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Finally, they also say that all good things are worth waiting for.” Thankfully, the inevitable has occurred as PTR Founder and long-time President Dennis Van der Meer will be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame on July 17th. No one in the history of tennis had more of an impact on coaches who have taught tennis throughout the world. Dennis Van der Meer’s “coaching tree” is simply remarkable.

Dennis’s ability to educate and inspire coaches/players is legendary. His incredible talent to remember names always kept his students amazed and engaged. His teaching skills were amazing. Finally, Dennis’s passion for teaching was second to none. He took a half-day off each week from teaching – Sunday afternoon. In true Dennis style, he played the Pro exhibition at 5 pm every Sunday afternoon.

For more than 30 years, Dennis conducted his legendary TennisUniversity -- 15 times a year worldwide. In most of those years, Dennis averaged 750 graduates per year, translating into more than 20,000 tennis coaches trained! Congratulations to Dennis and his wife, Pat, on this momentous occasion!

We hope you will join Pat and all PTR members around the world for the Induction of Dennis and the others (the Original 9, Goran, Conchita and Lleyton) in Newport! The Hall of Fame offers many Induction Ceremony packages. For our members around the world, they even offer a Virtual Package so you can be there too! See the info on page 10.

As you get ready for a busy and exciting summer, we are here for you as you continue Making a World of Difference.

## Your Serve

Dear PTR,

I honestly really want to say without the PTR I wouldn't have been half as successful, the experiences and opportunities they have given me have made my Career much more successful and so much more enjoyable. The things I've learnt and the people they have connected me with has added years of experience in the books. Before I found the PTR I was pretty much ready to throw in the towel with tennis coaching all together and they relit a flame in me. Not only do I feel as though I'm a better coach than I ever was, from what I do as a Tennis Director and now a business owner there is no way I could have done this, so quickly without the help of all of the PTR team. From its online education to its in person education. Both on and off the court basis. Setting me up with a mentor(Nigel Pugh), who has helped me a ton.

So for that I want to thank all of the PTR team for everything they have done for me and many many others. I look forward to continuing on with PTR for a life time!

**Jack Busby, USA**

Dear PTR,

My most productive takeaway from the 2021 Symposium was meeting Tim and Ashley and implementing Court Reserve at Princeton Racquet Club this past year. Total Game Changer for our members, staff and pros. Awesome platform with 24/7 support.

**Colleen Cosgrove, Princeton Indoor Tennis**

Dear PTR,

Very much enjoyed the symposium this year. Amazing that the virtual event was able to get such a great turnout! So glad to tune the Team HEAD meeting and hear about continued growth in the industry. Hope to keep that momentum going this year.

**Colin Fehr, USA**

Dear PTR,

Congratulations on a very successful virtual symposium. I enjoyed the presentations, learned a lot, and was very impressed with your execution. Thanks to each of you and your team for the hard work, great job. I look forward to attending in person hopefully next year.

**Harry Gilbert, USA**

Dear PTR,

I want to tell you that I'm still buzzing over the last virtual symposium. I thought it was well put together, great speakers, trade shows and activities. I know mentally that I am so ready to sign up for the next one. Do hope it will also be a virtual format.

**Huntley McNab, USA**

Dear PTR,

I would like to THANK YOU & congratulate the entire PTR Team on making the 2021 Symposium virtual event such a great success.

The PTR Team's hard work, efforts, dedication, commitment, enthusiasm and passion to make the Tennis spirit reach to every corner of the globe is remarkable and undisputed. The symposium didn't only reach to our eyes virtually, but also reached in our hearts with Love for the game as Teaching Pros, great presentations from all speakers, well organized and conducted like a maestro.

Despite the world current pandemic and uncertainty in the world. PTR has provided warm family feelings of security & support during tough times. Simply and truly believe that nothing is impossible for the PTR Team to do.

I am proud and honored being a PTR Professional team member for 21 years. Through the journey of success & development with PTR, it has been remarkable great improvements & innovation and creativity to all aspects of the services provided and coaches education development. Education has improved by far above and beyond expectations with no limits and still more to learn from PTR opportunities.

Thank you for making me who I am today.

**Sherif "Coach Shico" Salam, Thailand**

## Industry News

**HEAD has signed a multi-year agreement with the Laver Cup as an official sponsor.** The Laver Cup will take place September 24-26th 2021 at the TD Garden in Boston.

HEAD will be the official racquet, string, stringer and bag and Penn will represent the official ball for the event.



**Vans, the original action sports footwear and apparel brand is an icon in its own right, but the brand always seeks to collaborate with like-minded innovators—and leading tennis ball manufacturer Penn perfectly fits the bill.**

The Vans x Penn collection combines Penn's country club credibility with Vans' legendary style, for a timeless and sophisticated collection that seamlessly transitions from street to court. The three-shoe collection features classic Vans silhouettes with modernized comfort. Vans and Penn also have developed a limited apparel collection that mirrors the shoe line.

# *A Look at the Numbers*

**2021 PTR Virtual Tennis Symposium & Pickleball Conference**



**93**  
**SPEAKERS**



**129**  
**PRESENTATIONS**



**1,500** **TICKETS**  
**PURCHASED**



**50** **COUNTRIES**  
**REPRESENTED**

**14,000**  
VIDEO VIEWS

**TOTAL TIME WATCHED**

**109 DAYS  
15 HOURS  
12 MINUTES  
8 SECONDS**

“ Absolute best online conference to date and has set the standard. ”  
*-Andy Dowsett*

“ That was an exceptional job to pull off a totally virtual and highly informative and fun event! Very organized! ”  
*-Jim Harp*

“ THIS HAS BEEN INCREDIBLE !!! Dennis would be Sooooo Proud ! ”  
*-Ernie Quarles*

# *PTR Award Winners*

## 2021 PTR Virtual Tennis Symposium



**Jim Harp**  
*Developmental Coach  
of the Year*



**Darryl Lewis**  
*PTR Service Award*



**Tomas Catar**  
*Alabama*



**Kelli Holmes**  
*Arkansas*



**Nigel Pugh**  
*California*



**Emma Doyle**  
*Colorado*



**Carole Waite**  
*Connecticut*



**David Ensignia**  
*Florida*



**Marley Woods**  
*Georgia*



**Juan Cuadrado**  
*Illinois*



**Timothy McCollum**  
*Kentucky*



**Elliott Datlow**  
*Maryland*



**Lance Andersen**  
*Massachusetts*



**Brandon Day**  
*Michigan*



**Marc Stingley**  
*Minnesota*



**Justin Schelver**  
*Mississippi*



**Jim Jensen**  
*Nebraska*



**Jack Busby**  
*Nevada*



**Ben Adam**  
*New Jersey*



**Michael DiRaimondo**  
*New York*



**Scott Handback**  
*North Carolina*



**Don Johnson**  
*Oregon*



**Brian Fox**  
*Pennsylvania*



**Rita Marsella**  
*Rhode Island*



**Pat Van der Meer**  
*South Carolina*



**Daryl Paluch**  
*South Dakota*



**Margot Carter**  
*Tennessee*



**Aruna Bernier**  
*Texas*



**Wayne Bullock**  
*Utah*



**Rob Tucker**  
*Virginia*

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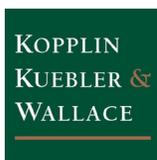
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# HIRE FOR SUCCESS

by Tim Bustle

In the December issue of TennisPro magazine, Martin Blackman wrote an article titled 'The Pathway of a Performance Coach.' To me, his four bullet points spoke about the culture of a program and the coaches who operate within that culture. In my experience in the tennis industry, particularly in the hiring of tennis coaches, there are four key skills or characteristics that the people we interview should have if they are to contribute to the success of a program!

#### **The first is that coaches should be 'Relationship Builders'**

This is because coaches who understand athletes as people first are more likely to be successful. Before any coaching take place and regardless of coach knowledge or the ability to give information that is impactful to an athlete, there **MUST** be buy-in from the athletes. A high level of trust and a sound relationship must exist before effective coaching can take place. Once a relationship is built and trust is established, the collaborative nature of the coach/athlete interaction will know no bounds!

#### **The second is that coaches should be 'Open Mindsetters'**

Carol Dweck's book 'Mindset' has made an incredible impact on my life! The idea that we have either 'growth' or a 'fixed' mindsets has greatly influenced how I approach each day and make decisions that enable me to learn and grow, both personally and professionally. The 'Mindset' concept must be used when evaluating and hiring tennis coaches. It is much better to hire a coach whose mindset is open to learning (regardless of age), rather than appoint a coach who has a fixed mindset, and believes that he or she understand all there is to know about tennis and in particular, all there is to know about dealing with people. Every effective coach we hire **MUST** be a lifelong learner.

#### **The third is that coaches should be 'Humblers'**

That said, it's difficult to be an 'Open Mindster' if you aren't a 'Humbler'! Coaches (regardless of age or experience) who are humble enough to understand that they will never understand everything about our sport are well on the way to being the most effective coaches. This is because they know that every athlete is different, in terms of mental, physical and motivational capacities. As a result, coaches who are Humblers, understand every athlete's desire is to move from where they currently are to where they want to eventually be.

#### **The fourth is that coaches should be 'Contributors'**

Racquet Sports Managers or Tennis Directors always want to find the proverbial 'diamond in the rough' - coaches who come with behaviors that not only contribute to the betterment of the athlete/member experience, but who are also able to contribute to the culture of the department and the club. When hiring coaches, I look for a positivity, energy and attitude that can and will percolate into the rest of the coaching team AND club atmosphere. If a coach is a rockstar, they are also a future leader in the department/club/company. To quote the theme from Spider-Man, 'With great power comes great responsibility.'

In reality, the behaviors of any coach should **ALWAYS** trump prior playing or coaching experience. When a Racquet Sports Manager, Tennis Director and club contribute to the growth of a coach in terms of training, culture integration and growth opportunities, not only will the coach stay longer, but he or she will also contribute to fantastic member experiences and lead from the front.



*Tim is the former National Adult Tennis Manager for Midtown Athletic Clubs. He currently is a USTA Coach Developer and also served as a Global Cardio Tennis Trainer. Tim is Master of Tennis – Adult Development and has recently begun coaching at the North Palm Beach Country Club.*



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*\*Must be a current PTR member*



## Certification Workshops

Partial List - For up to date information visit [www.pprpickleball.org](http://www.pprpickleball.org)

- April 6 Simi Valley, CA
- April 7 Newport Beach, CA
- April 8 Yucaipa, CA
- April 9 Macon, GA
- April 9 Orem, UT
- April 10 Indianapolis, IN
- April 17 Phoenix, AZ
- April 17 Naples, FL
- April 18 Naples, FL
- April 24 Asheville, NC
- May 3 Las Vegas, NV
- May 22 Baltimore, MD
- May 22 Ocean City, NJ
- May 28 Tinton Falls, NJ
- May 30 Bedminster, NJ
- June 5 Columbus, OH
- June 5 Jamison, PA
- June 26 Dallas, TX
- June 27 Falmouth, ME
- July 24 Dallas, TX

You'll receive a study guide, 3-hour online pre-course, & face-to-face 5-hour on-court workshop (includes testing)

*\*\*COVID policies - following state guidelines, limited class size, temperature testing\*\**

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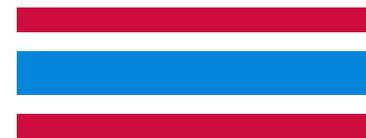
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# Member News



## NOTABLE

PTR Pro, **Jessica Weyreuter** had a dream. So she created Dream Court! Her 501(c)3 provides an adaptive tennis program for individuals with physical and intellectual special needs, striving for inclusion and acceptance. In February, Dream Court hosted a **Wheelchair Tennis Play Day** at the **Montgomery Country Club**.



Wheelchair Tennis Play was a fun, free event offering a group warm up, tennis drills, point games, single matches, doubles matches and a wheelchair tennis exhibition with Paralympic Athlete and PTR Wheelchair Player of the Year, **Shelby Baron**.

The goal of Jessica's DREAM COURT is to create enthusiasm for local wheelchair tennis players, promote awareness about adaptive sport in the community, create momentum for wheelchair tennis in the Region, and hopefully motivate those individuals who might want to give wheelchair tennis a try.

**Dream Court's Motto** is ... Serving Hope, Changing Lives.

**Thank you Jessica for Making A World of Difference!**



**Wayne Bullock** was one of the PTR Pros recognized at the Symposium as State Members of the Year. (see full list on page 8).

Wayne is at Little Valley Pickleball Complex and the Tennis Facility at the City of St. George in Utah. Little Valley has 24 outdoor courts and lights for night play. Check out this amazing video shot by Pickleball Channel during the World Senior Games. <https://www.pickleballchannel.com/Aerial-Little-Valley>



Wayne has his own personalized banner like the custom Banners offered by PTR and PPR.

## Pro Tennis Tournaments during pandemic - A New Experience



During the current pandemic, PTR Pro, Shirish Deshpande, had the opportunity to travel as a coach to several WTA/ITF tournaments in the US. This was a new experience as it came with extra precautions and responsibilities.

Shirish notes, "I saw players more to themselves and very focused on the goal of competing and staying healthy. The social component was reduced to minimum and it was all business. I admired the players for their discipline and patience."

Before the start of the tournament players and coaches had to have a negative Covid test. Everyone was again tested mid week during the tournament. Each Wednesday brought some anxiety. A positive test for a coach or family member meant the player could no longer participate.

New level of discipline is required on and off the court for players and coaches. Wearing masks, washing hands regularly, keeping sanitizer handy and avoiding crowded places during tournaments is the new norm. Hope my experience helps other coaches and players navigate through these unprecedented times.

*Shirish Deshpande, 25-year member who currently coaches at Kenmure Country Club, also makes time to travel with top players like Ankita Raina, India #1 Women's Tennis Player.*



Professional Pickleball Registry (PPR) is pleased to announce the formation of the inaugural PPR Advisory Board of Directors. These board members, who will serve three-year terms, are **Hemel Cosme** (Chairman), **Jarrett Chirico** (Vice Chairman), **Lee Whitwell** (Secretary), **Dan Regan** (Director at Large) and **Justin Maloof** (USA Pickleball representative).





Professional Platform Tennis Registry (PPTR) is pleased to announce the formation of the inaugural PPTR Advisory Board of Directors. These board members, who will serve a three-year term, are **Jack Waite** (Chair), **Marina Ohlmuller** (Vice-Chairman), **Brad Easterbrook** (Secretary), and **Tiernan Cavanna** (APTA Representative).



For his impact on the community, **Mark Haffner** of Pittsburgh will be honored in May by the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame of Western Pennsylvania. The organization is awarding Haffner with the Ziggy Kahn Award, which is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the children of the community.

"It's an honor to be recognized like this," Mark said. "So many times you're moving so fast, you don't think anyone notices what you're doing. I feel very fortunate to do what I do, and to be recognized for that is just a bonus."



PTR instructor and Albany State University tennis player, **Doylisha Copeland**, was on Hilton head Island with her team for PTR spring tennis fest. Doy and her siblings are PTR certified instructors in south Georgia. Shown here with ASU coach Joann Mathews and flanked by PTR's Dan Santorum and Julie Jilly, STF director. Albany State University, an HBCU, played 3 matches at Spring Tennis Fest this year.



Gary Benedict, and his Tigers from Benedict College (DII) were on Hilton Head Island for Spring TennisFest competition. Gary is pictured, here with Dan & Julie as well as one of his young players, Olivia Simms, daughter of Kevin Simms. Many PTR Pros know Kevin as he is the

resident pro at Couples Resort in Jamaica where we host our Visiting Pro benefit. Benedict College is a strong HBCU team and always a conference contender.

Julie Jilly, Spring TennisFest Director, Nikola Aleksic, originally from Serbia, plays for the Benedict College Tigers at #2 and enjoyed some spring competition against Augustana College. Nik is Level One Certified with PTR. This current online certification is perfect for college (and high school) students.



## NEW POSITIONS

PTR Professional, **Joanne Wallen** has been named Senior Director of the National Campus, a far-reaching job overseeing teaching, playing and spectator experience at the vast Orlando campus. Most recently she served as the Director of Adult Competition and has made tremendous strides with the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Program.

**Larry Holmes** was hired in January of 2021 to serve as the head coach for the Norfolk State University men's and women's tennis programs. He arrived at NSU after serving as a volunteer assistant with the Virginia Tech women's program.

Former Tour Player, **Gretchen Magers Rush**, is now a college coach at Hollins College. Gretchen made it to the Quarterfinals of the US OPEN in 82.

While out coaching last month, Gretchen made her first trip to Sweet Briar College in Lynchburg, VA. That's where many PTR Pros took their TennisUniversity course with Dennis – and even Coach Jim Verdieck in the early years.

Gretchen saw Dennis' plaque and snapped this shot of the "super cool courts" as she noted.





# THE PATHWAY OF A PERFORMANCE COACH

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## PART II

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by Martin Blackman



*Blackman has a diverse and extensive background as a coach and a player, beginning with his days as a junior, when he trained with legendary coach Nick Bollettieri. Blackman went on to become a member of two NCAA Championship teams at Stanford University. He continued his play at the ATP level from 1989 to 1995, reaching a career-high of No. 158.*

*Blackman started his coaching career in 1998, becoming the Head Men's Tennis Coach at American University at the age of twenty-eight. In 2004 Blackman became the Director of Tennis at the Junior Tennis Champions Center (JTCC) in College Park, MD. During his four years at JTCC, Blackman and his team grew the non-for-profit Tennis & Mentoring Program from 20 students to 80 and established JTCC as one of the best junior development programs in the country, subsequently leading to JTCC becoming the first-ever USTA Regional Training Center. Blackman joined the USTA in 2008, to serve as Senior Director of Talent Identification and Development. In that role, Blackman and his team established a network of Sectional and Regional Camps throughout the country in all 17 Sections, working in partnership with the USTA Sections and the private sector. Blackman left the USTA in late 2011 to found his own tennis academy, the Blackman Tennis Academy, in Boca Raton, FL. After only its second year of full-time programming, Blackman's Academy sent all eight of its graduating students to college on tennis scholarships.*

*In June of 2015, Blackman took over as General Manager, USTA Player Development. In this role, Blackman is responsible for partnering with the U.S. tennis community to identify and develop the next generation of world-class American players. He oversees both the USTA's Player Development staff and the Coaching Education team (USTA U).*

*He lives in Lake Nona, FL, with his wife and four children.*

Today, I will ask a few clarifying questions and give some guiding philosophical principles for young coaches embarking on the journey to become great performance coaches. This article is Part II (refer to the December issue of TennisPro for Part I)

## QUESTIONS FOR THE JOURNEY

So you want to be a great developmental or performance coach. Here are three guiding questions and potential answers (or more questions!) that I hope you find helpful as you navigate that journey.

### Why do you coach?

Define your identity as a coach and the reason you love coaching. If you want to be fulfilled and successful as a coach, it has to be who you are, not what you do. If it is about ambition and recognition, that's OK, but is your ambition manifest by your ability to guide and mentor your students, as people and players, or is it about you?

Great coaches receive recognition because of the role they play in developing players. Their skill and dedication is manifest in the players they work with. Make sure that you understand that the role of a great coach is to develop, not to become famous. The most rewarding aspect of coaching is the fulfillment of seeing your student achieve their goals and maximize their potential.

### What will define your success?

Very few of even the best performance coaches in the world will ever coach a professional player on the WTA or ATP Tour and sit in the Players' box on the Center Court at one of the four Grand Slam Championships. If you never get there, does that mean you are not successful?

If you are able to mentor, guide and coach a player to achieve their maximum potential as a person and player, you are successful. If you are able to do that with every player you work with, you are a GREAT coach.

### What is your Philosophy of coaching?

Most young coaches who are honest with themselves realize that they do not have a philosophy that defines them as a coach. They don't yet have non-negotiables and a paradigm for how they relate to, teach and train players. They do what they have experienced, seen and internalized. There is nothing wrong with that, at the beginning.

To progress and have sustainable and transferrable success with multiple players, and ultimately become a great coach, you have to have non-negotiables and a Coaching Philosophy.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In Player Development, we have six core principles that define our Philosophy. These principles were built on a framework that was introduced to us thirteen years ago by our Master Coach—in residence, Jose Higueras. Over the years, they were vetted and enhanced by our National Staff and by the best private sector coaches in the U.S., and have become a unifying foundational resource for everything we do with players. The Philosophy is a living framework and has evolved to keep pace with the changes reflected at the top of the modern game and with the changes in Sports Science and best practices for development.

1

**Character** first. Character is the primary driver of sustainable success. It informs all of the choices and sacrifices that a player has to make in order to achieve greatness. For it to be successfully cultivated, it must be modelled by the coach. Follow a player-centered approach for everything you do with your students and remember the critical role that relationship plays in successful coaching. It doesn't matter how much you know, unless your player knows how much you care.

2

Show **Patience** with understanding and respect for the process of development. Patience with your player and patience in respecting a long-term process of development. The American Development Model and the principles of high performance development (age and stage) provide a great blueprint for development that is holistic, age appropriate and which minimizes the risks of early specialization, burn out and injury.

3

Understand the **Parameters** of high performance for all aspects of the game: technical, movement, tactical and mental. There is no cookie-cutter formula for great strokes, movement or tactical competency, but there are ranges of acceptability that are reflected in what the best players in the world do. They are observable, and they meet two standards:

- They enable the player to execute with precision under pressure
- They mitigate the risk of injury

Teach and train your players according to these parameters, so they can develop all of the skills needed to be a versatile all-court player.

4

Use **Progressions** to facilitate learning. Great coaches create environments that accelerate the learning process. In Player Development, we ascribe to a balance of two approaches:

- Open – closed – open practices that use drills and live ball practice to control the environment so that the player can train skills (closed) and then apply (open) them within the course of a session. The great coaches do this seamlessly, with minimal talking, letting the drill do the talking and asking questions of the player to create awareness and problem-solving skills.
- Game-based training to free the player up to play the game, with rewards and incentives that are defined by the objectives of the game. Ultimately tennis is a game, and the best players in the world are able to understand patterns and play one or two shots ahead.

5

**Planning.** Great coaches plan and are obsessed (in a healthy way) with the details.

Much is said of the art of coaching and the ability of great coaches to make decisions based on feel and experience. The reason they are able to improvise is because they start with a vision (for how the player should play) and a plan for the objectives of every practice. It is easy to improvise when you begin with a plan.

6

**Problem-solving.** There is a perception that great coaches are constantly giving information to the player, directing and correcting throughout the course of every session. Young coaches in particular are vulnerable to the misconception that they are being paid by the word.

There are times when working on technique that the coach needs to be more directive and corrective to ensure that deliberate practice is occurring and good reps are being reinforced as a skill is being honed, but as players develop and mature, the coach must intentionally give the player more independence so that they learn how to adapt and problem-solve on their own.

Tennis is unique, in that at the highest level it still involves two or four players (doubles) who are engaged in a physical and mental battle of wills, tactics and strategic execution without the aid of coaching or timeouts. In order to win this battle, oftentimes in front of hundreds or thousands of spectators, the player must internalize their training and make decisions in real-time; adjusting tactics, managing momentum and evaluating their opponent.

The best competitors (all other factors being equal) are the best problem-solvers. As players get better, older and more mature, great coaches give them more ownership of their development, more of a voice and more independence, while never deviating from the non-negotiables and principles that they have established and agreed upon.

**Recommended reading:**

USTA American Model of Development (ADM)

USTA Teaching & Coaching Philosophy

Talent Code – Daniel Coyne

Talent is Overrated – Geoffrey Colvin

Pressure is a Privilege – Billie-Jean King

Maximum Tennis – Nick Saviano

Coaching For Life: A guide to Playing, Thinking and Being the best coach you can be – Paul Annacone

Sum it up: A thousand and ninety-eight victories, a couple of Irrelevant losses, and a Life in Perspective – Pat Head Summit and Sally Jenkins

They call me Coach – John Wooden

**Recommended watching:**

Dare to Dream: The Story of the U.S. Women's Football Team

In Search of Greatness

Dawn Staley: A coaches rules for life (Netflix)

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# USING GAMES TO KEEP PRACTICE *FRESH & FUN*

by Mitch Case



*Mitch is the Director of Tennis at Woodridge Lake in Goshen, CT. Mitch wears many hats as he is also a Staff Pro at Farmington Valley Racquet Club; Head Coach of the Northwestern Regional 7 High School Boys Tennis Team; a Coach Developer for the PTR; a certification tester for the USRSA; and a member of Tennis Magazine's Playtester Panel.*

*Mitch achieved his Master of Tennis in Junior Development from the PTR in 2020, and is a certified iTPA Tennis Performance Trainer and Kovacs Institute certified Tennis Serve Specialist.*

# Serve Jail

The serve and return are arguably the two most important shots in tennis. Unfortunately, serve/return practice can get pretty stale. Serve Jail combines serve and return practice with the general premise of the well-loved (but generally unproductive) "Jailbreak."

In this game, the returner is in jail and cannot score points. In a basic version of the game, a returner must hit 3 returns into the singles court in order to get out of jail and back to the serving side of the court. Returners are allowed to hit every serve that goes over the net - even serves that

miss the service box. When they make their third return, the server who served the ball goes to jail.

On the other side of the net, servers score points by hitting targets inside the service box. In a basic version of the game, the server scores a point for every ball hit into the service box. In a more advanced version, the server must hit a specific area, or a physical target in the box.

The player that scores the most points wins.

## Setup:

The game can be played by 2-6 players on either the 60ft or 78ft court, or 2-3 players on a 36ft court.

-In a game with 2 players, 1 player returns and the other serves

-In a game with 3 players, 1 player returns, and 2 players take turns serving

-In a game with 4 or more players, 2 players return (1 in the deuce court, the other in the ad), and 2-4 players take turns serving, making sure to alternate between the deuce and ad courts

Make sure to keep the players organized to maintain safety

## Return Modifiers:

Change the number of returns needed to get out of jail

Returns must be made consecutively (in a row)

Returns must be hit to a specific target area (deep cross court, down the line, etc)

Add a "Get Out of Jail" target (hit the target and get out of jail immediately)

## Serve Modifiers:

Target Size - Use larger targets/target areas for less precise servers

Target Value - Larger targets are worth less than smaller targets

Number of Targets - Use a couple of targets in each box to keep the returner off balance

Type of Serve - First or Second, Flat, Slice, Kick (and even underhand or drop-and-hit)



# PTR MEMBERS

## *Inducted into the*

# BLACK TENNIS HALL OF FAME

The Class of 2020 and Class of 2021 will both be inducted into the Black Tennis Hall of Fame honoring and celebrating their exemplary contributions and accomplishments.

### 2020 INDUCTEES

#### **TINA MCCALL WATERS**

Tina McCall-Waters wanted to give back to the tennis world that had opened so many doors for her. She worked three years with Arthur Ashe in his camps helping to develop young minority junior tennis players. Tina took her philanthropic endeavors to the next level in 2002 when she founded the Denton Johnson Tennis Corporation, a non-profit organization that continues the work of her mentor and coach, to develop young junior tennis players that would otherwise have no chance to play.

Tina has worked tirelessly and furnishes Eatonville youth with lighted courts, racquets, balls and top instruction.

She has envisioned a Tennis and Education Complex that will create a safe haven where kids can go after school and have access to computers, mentors, nutrition, and learn the game of tennis in team format. Now she is overseeing the construction of Eatonville's first dedicated Youth Tennis and Education complex, the Denton Johnson Tennis Corporation (DJTC). This new facility will allow DJTC to increase the number of youth served by providing dedicated facilities for administration, classrooms, tennis courts, with the ability to invite competitive play to the Town of Eatonville.

Tina has been able to complete Phase I of the project, building two tennis courts with lights.



#### **JOE GOLDTHREATE**

Joe Goldthreate was the Founder of the Hadley Park Junior Tennis Development Program in 1980 at Hadley Park Metro Parks and Recreation in Nashville, Tennessee.



In Joe's camp, he not only taught tennis, but developed a program that taught self-esteem, honesty, discipline and self-respect. In 1996, he joined forces with Metro Parks and were successful in providing tennis skills to 9 parks and later, this number grew to 14 park sites by 1998.

The program's primary mission was to expose youth to the sport of tennis and be an alternative after school program as well as get them excited about the sport of tennis. The community-based program was managed by PTR Certified Coaches. This program was incorporated in 1991 as Hadley Park Junior Tennis Development Program, Inc., 501c3 organization. This program has been an avenue for both young boys and girls to pursue tennis as a career as well as obtaining tennis scholarships.

Under this program, Joe has been instrumental in over 500 tennis students obtaining scholarships to major colleges and universities such as Fisk, Vanderbilt, Alabama A&T, Sanford, Florida A&M, Belmont, Austin Peavy, Tennessee State, University of Memphis, UT Chattanooga, just to name a few. Joe continued to impact the minority youth by assisting more minority tennis professionals to obtain their teaching certifications from PTR. For years, Joe conducted PTR ACE Workshops and had a hand in developing hundreds of minority coaches who would go on to impact thousands of minority tennis players!

# ALL OF FAME

plishments to the sport, future players, and their communities. The induction will be Sat. July 3rd at STEC (Sportsmen's Tennis & Enrichment Center) in Boston.

## 2021 INDUCTEES

### FRANK ADAMS

Frank is a 30-year PTR Professional. He currently serves as a PTR Coach Developer and Clinician/Tester. Frank was the first African American President of the Colorado Tennis Association, and Intermountain Tennis Association USTA Section. As chair of the Colorado and ITA Minority Participation Committee, he recruited and mentored African Americans to volunteer for the USTA Committees.

He is the head tennis pro at the Highlands Ranch Community Association in Highlands Ranch, CO. In addition, he has a tennis program titled "Star Search", which gives opportunities to minorities at a reduced cost in the Intermountain Zonal Team. Frank is also involved with PTR wheelchair tennis to help others enjoy the game that gave so much to him.



### LIZ ODERA

Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Odera, a PTR Professional who was a Clinician and Tester in Kenya. Liz was the 2004 PTR Humanitarian Award Winner for her outstanding work with underprivileged children in Africa.

Liz held the critical role as Director of award winning Sadili Oval Sports Academy, which had more than 6,000 girls and boys attend annually and has influenced more than seven million people in the East Africa community. She helped children reach their potential through tennis with 20 players getting college tennis scholarships. In 2011 Sadili Oval Sports Academy was made an honorary NJTL Chapter by the USTA in recognition of the successful grassroots work.

Most of our members know Liz from the many years she attended the PTR Intl. Tennis Symposium. Her passion is helping young people of African descent, especially those who are coming from some of the poorest communities in the world in Kenya, Uganda, Congo, Burundi and Tanzania. Liz makes a World of Difference.

**Previous Inductees:** Arthur Ashe (2008), Rodney Harmon (2010), Ann Koger (2010), Lori McNeil (2011), Katrina Adams (2012), David Dinkins (2012), Mark Manning (2012), Bob Davis (2014), Angela Buxton (2015), Dale Caldwell (2015), Nick Bollettieri (2015), Art Carrington (2015), Bryan Shelton (2016), Martin Blackman (2016), Richard Williams (2017), DA Abrams (2018), Arvelia Myers (2019), Richard Russell (2019), Joe Goldthreate (2020), Tina McCall Waters (2020), Liz Odera (2021), Frank Adams (2021)



# Special Olympics USA Games

## *PTR Members Nancy Hoekstra and Scott*

PTR members Nancy Hoekstra and Scott Mitchell have been selected to take the helm for Tennis Competition at the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games.

The 2022 Special Olympics USA Games will be hosted by Walt Disney Company and ESPN serves as the Global Presenting Sponsor of Special Olympics Unified Sports. Games will feature 4,000 athletes, 10,000 volunteers, and 125,000 fans, all of whom will unite in the Orlando area and participate in one of the country's most cherished sporting events. Athletes will compete in 16 Olympic-type team and individual sports.

USTA Training Center will be the Tennis venue for the 2022 USA Games. Over 100 athletes, Unified Partners, and coaches will gather July 5-12th to compete in Singles, Doubles and Unified Doubles. A Unified Doubles team is comprised of one athlete with intellectual disabilities (ID) and one athlete without ID, who have trained and competed together and have been selected by the state SO Program to compete at this event. Nancy Hoekstra will serve as Technical Delegate and Scott Mitchell will

serve as Competition Director (CD).

For Nancy, the role of Technical Delegate ensures Special Olympics and Unified protocol, rules and competition format are implemented in a safe, quality, and dignified environment, as well as overseeing divisioning, schedules and officials.



Nancy is a passionate advocate for adaptive tennis and co-developer of PTR Adaptive Tennis Curriculum. As a 30-year volunteer for Special Olympics, she continues to serve as Competition Director for the Special Olympics North America (SONA) Tennis Championships, a member of Special Olympics International Sport Resource Team (SOI SRT) for Tennis and SONA TD.



# Games Set for July 5-12, 2022 at Mitchell to Run the Tennis Competition

For Scott, the role of Competition Director entails overseeing all aspects of Competition, Field of Play, Volunteers, Volunteer training, Equipment, and Awards.

Scott Mitchell is considered an industry leader in first-class facility and professional tournament operations, junior and adult coaching, and program design and implementation. He has been an Executive Director of Tennis with 30 years' experience at private clubs, public facilities, and resorts. He has hosted several regional or state Special Olympics events as well as hosted and supported special needs programs throughout his career. In addition, Scott oversaw all operations as Tournament Director of several professional tennis tournaments, including the premier \$100k Dow Tennis Classic, and during his tenure the



DTC received 4 straight years of Gold Star Standard by the USTA and has become the benchmark of all Pro Circuit events. Annually serving over 15k fans and 4k youth through outreach programs during our event.

Besides Nancy and Scott, several other PTR members will be joining the Games Management Team, Jessica Weyreuter, Competition Administration Assistant and Jim Hamm, Tournament Desk Manager.

PTR and Special Olympics (SO) have a 20+ year partnership, that includes collaborating on adaptive tennis curriculum for coaches/tennis professionals and along with PTR Foundation presents the SONA Tennis Championships, held yearly at Van Der Meer Shipyard Tennis Center. Through this partnership, athletes with intellectual disabilities have gained improved sport/life/social skills and competitive drive, while coaches and pros gained a deep respect for the SO Athletes, their determination to achieve and above all their remarkable sportsmanship.

COMING SOON

# PTR Career Services Center

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Kopplin Kuebler & Wallace (KK&W) is pleased to announce new, robust, and added benefits specifically related to career services – exclusive only to PTR members! Back in October of 2020, a new partnership was announced between the Professional Tennis Registry, the largest global organization of tennis coaches, and Kopplin Kuebler & Wallace, the leader in Senior Executive placement, education, and consulting in the club, resort and hospitality industry.

Over the next couple weeks, Len Simard, KK&W's search and consultant specializing in Racquet Sports, Fitness and Wellness, and Michelle Rikland, KK&W's expert in Human Resources, Employee Relations, and Career Strategy will be rolling out a brand new, "PTR Career Services Center". This new initiative will focus on education, career development, and mentorship, all cornerstones and differentiators of the Professional Tennis Registry and Kopplin Kuebler & Wallace.

Related to the new, "PTR Career Services Center" (CSC), Listed below are some of the new features and benefits that only PTR members will be able to take advantage of:

- ◆ New website features:
  - Revamped "job bulletin"
  - Information/videos on how to post-a-job, find-a-job, strategies for resume, LinkedIn profile, interviewing strategies for employees as well as employers, and cover letter improvement.
  - New resume portal for employees to post their resume and indicate what types of positions they are seeking.
  - New employer portal for employers to search key words from resumes to find "matches" for potential position candidates.
- ◆ Director of Tennis/Director of Racquets/Head Professional Search
  - KK&W will provide a free, 30-minute consultation for employers looking to hire a Director or Head Professional level position.
  - Discount pricing to Clubs looking for assistance from KK&W for all searches.
- ◆ Monthly podcasts and bi-monthly articles in "Tennis Pro" magazine on industry related topics such as:
  - Leadership
  - Staff Development
  - Self-Branding
  - Club Trends, including the need for a total racquets program at a club/resort
  - Creating Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)
  - Programming
  - Collaborative programming with other club/resort departments (F&B, Golf, Health & Wellness, Clubhouse Operations, etc.)
  - Compensation trends and assistance

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  - Leadership
  - Staff Development
  - Self-Branding
  - Club Trends, including the need for a total racquets program at a club/resort
  - Creating Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)
  - Programming
  - Collaborative programming with other club/resort departments (F&B, Golf, Health & Wellness, Clubhouse Operations, etc.)
  - Compensation trends and assistance
- ◆ Additional Complimentary services for PTR members provided by KK&W include:
  - Resume reviews
  - Program reviews
  - Hiring documents, such as employee contracts, job descriptions
  - Special Pricing on services like Program consultation, Committee retreats, Portfolio creation, Letters of Interest, compensation reviews and facility assessments.

If you haven't already, please check out Len Simard and Michelle Rikland's individual presentations from the 2021 PTR International Virtual Symposium!

**Len's Presentation**

**Michelle's Presentation**

Please stay tuned for more updates and information to come – 2021 is going to be another great year for the racquet sports industry! Thank you for all that you do to make our industry great!

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# SET-UP POINTS

## *and The Rule of Two*

by Alex Bancila



*Alex Bancila is the President and CEO of Viking Athletics and the Director of Racquet Sports at the Kirtland Country Club in Willoughby, OH. He has been ranked second in the nation with two different partners and has either won or been a finalist at all major tournaments on the APTA calendar, including the National Championships. He is a PTR and PPTR Professional. You can find him on Twitter at @TheAlexBancila.*

I think we can all agree that the most important point in tennis is game point. Many claim the first point of each game is the most important one but I respectfully disagree: if you and I play against each other and you win every single first point of each game and I win every single game point, I just won the match 6-0, 6-0. The same goes for every other point except game point. In the paragraphs below, I will further explore the flow of points and importance of score dynamics. I will first address the "set-up point" – the second most important point in a given game (after game point). Set-up point is the point that PRECEDES game point, i.e. any point where EITHER team reaches "30" on the scoreboard: "0-30", "30-0", "15-30", "30-15", "30-all". In other words, set-up points are those points where either player (or both players if the score is "30-all") is within one point of game point. The reason why "set-up points" are so important is because they set-up game point. Let's take the "0-30" score for example: the next point is a "set-up point" because one player already has "30" on the scoreboard. The next point will make a HUGE difference in the economy of that game, and, ultimately, in the economy of the whole match. After the set-up point is played, the score will be either "0-40", or

"15-30" – there is an enormous difference between those two scores. What is that difference exactly!? That's right, the set-up point! Whoever wins the set-up point will be in a much better position than the alternative (losing the set-up point). I doubt anyone will disagree with that. By the same logic, if the score is "30-15", the next point that will be played will also be a set-up point (again, because one team already has 30). If the player who is up "30-15" wins the set-up point then the score becomes "40-15", if he loses it, the score becomes "30-all". Again, huge difference between "40-15" and "30-all", agree!?! If the score becomes "30-all", the next point is also a set-up point because whoever wins it gets to game point – the single most important point of all! Obviously, it is preferable to find ourselves playing most of the "set-up" points from positive ("30-0", "30-15") instead of negative scores ("0-30", "15-30").

Now that we understand set-up points, let's get even more granular and talk about the Rule of Two (consecutive points) – this is where things are about to get really interesting:

There are 18 possible score situations/combinations that can happen in a given game:

0-0, 0-30, 0-40  
0-15, 30-0, 40-0  
15-0, 15-30, 15-40  
15-all 30-15, 40-15  
30-all, 30-40  
40-30  
40-all (deuce)  
Ad out  
Ad in

## Test What You've Learned

Take a couple of minutes (do not cheat by reading further below just yet!) and see if you can figure out under how many score situations IF YOU LOSE TWO CONSECUTIVE POINTS your opponent WILL NOT win that game outright OR get to game point!? Take two minutes and see if you can come up with the right answer.

## Correct Answer

The correct answer: there are only FIVE score situations under which if you lose two consecutive points your opponent will not win the game outright or get to game point:

0-0, if you lose two consecutive points, the score becomes 30-30,  
15-0, if you lose two consecutive points, the score becomes 15-30  
30-0, if you lose two consecutive points, the score becomes 30-30  
40-0, if you lose two consecutive points, the score becomes 40-30  
40-15, if you lose two consecutive points, the score becomes 40-40

The bottom line: under only 28% of all possible score situations (the five score combinations mentioned above) you can afford to lose two consecutive points without handing your opponent the game OR allowing them to get to game point. Under the remaining 72% of all possible score situations (the other thirteen score combinations), if you lose two consecutive points, your opponent will either win the game outright or get to game point. In either scenario, whichever player is able to win two consecutive points more often will be in much better shape to win games. Try to string together two consecutive points as often as possible and

that will not only win you games or put you in a position to win games by getting you to game point but it will also help you be more aware and understand the flow and dynamics of the score.

# Become a Racquets Pro

by Jarrett Chirico

If there is one thing that is beyond question, it is that pickleball continues to grow at an astounding rate. It is a sport that connects the dots between all racquet sports better than any other to date because of the appeal to players of all levels and abilities. It holds the distinct advantage of people with very limited athletic ability being able to play and improve as soon as they pick up a paddle. In the last year alone, pickleball has been responsible for unprecedented numbers of new players entering into racquets. A million into tennis and thousands into paddle, simply by pickleball giving them the needed entry point. Pickleball has been responsible for saving struggling clubs and propelling successful ones to new heights. As the Director of Racquets at the Baltimore Country Club, I have seen a 204% growth in our racquets participation and programming in just the last nine months. These numbers are as astounding as they are exciting.

Now more than ever the industry requires qualified professionals that can successfully teach, program and promote all racquet sports. The opportunity for growth will always come down to participation and being able to use one racquet sport to grow all racquet sports.

I challenge everyone to become a Triple Threat today by getting certified with the PTR, PPR and PPTR. Your members will thank you for it!



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# International Memb



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## ROMANIA



Performance Workshop  
conducted by Stefan Nita  
Paulesti, Romania | February 12-14, 2021



Performance Workshop  
conducted by Stefan Nita  
Zalau, Romania | January 22-24, 2021



## ITALY



From the 18th – 21st of March Luigi Bertino, PTR Italy Director of Education and Carlo Alberto Massaro, PTR Italy Executive Director, conducted the PTR Tennis 10&Under Certification in Albavilla and Cittadella. The 32 participants were assisted by PTR Workshop Leaders, Giorgio Roccato, Herbert Schnaubelt and Pepe Rigamonti.



## CHINA



Junior Development Workshop  
conducted by Adams Zhao Ruifeng  
ShenZhen, China | Jan 2-4th, 2021



Junior Development Workshop  
conducted by Adams Zhao Ruifeng  
ZiGong, Sichuan Province, China | Jan 5-7th, 2021



Adult Development Workshop  
conducted by Adams Zhao Ruifeng  
Chengdu, China | Jan 10-12th, 2021



Adult Development Workshop  
conducted by Li Dong Wen  
Changzhou City, China | Jan 27-29th, 2021



Adult Development Workshop  
conducted by James Huang  
Fu Zhou City, China | Jan 27-29th, 2021



Junior Development Workshop  
conducted by Li Dong Wen  
Shi Jia Zhuang City, China | Feb 1-3rd, 2021



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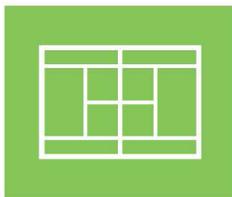


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# BALL MACHINE DRILL

**Skill Level** - beginner to advanced

**Objective** - improve high approach/low approach recognition and fitness

## Procedure

- Place ball machine in the center of the baseline.
- Set machine to throw a high approach (first bounce above the net) and low approach (first bounce below the net) to 2 lines and select random shots.
- Player A calls out "attack" (high approach) or "challenge" (low approach), hits forehand approach then moves forward to touch towel on court in front of them, sidesteps back to start position. Player B performs the same movements.
- Ball frequency should be timed so that when each players' ball passes the front of machine, it throws another ball.
- Players should hit high approach/attach to large target areas 1-2
- Players should hit low approach/challenge to depth target areas 3-4.
- Towels can be moved forward or backward to increase or decrease the fitness intensity of the drill.

4 players - Hit 4 balls each. Players in line perform cardio blasts while waiting. No ladders.

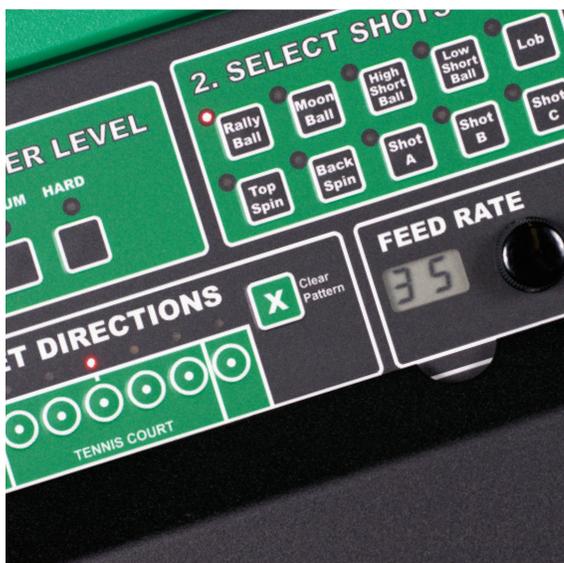
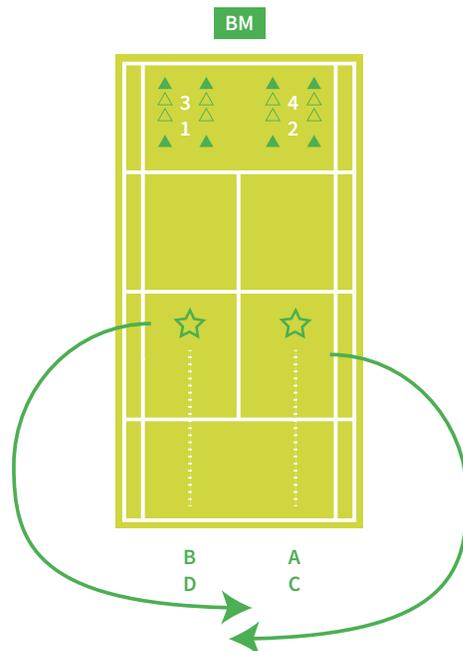
6 players - Hit 2 balls each. Players in line perform cardio blasts while waiting. 1 ladder.

8 players - Hit 2 balls each. Players in line perform cardio blasts while waiting. 2 ladders.

## Variation

Perform drill with backhands

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