



UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION

United States Tennis

Association - 2010

Multicultural Grants Program
Pancho González Scholar Athlete Grant

HONORING PANCHO GONZÁLEZ

PIONEER ~ CHAMPION ~ ICON

May 9, 1928 – July 3, 1995

Ricardo Alonso “Pancho” González

Pancho, who taught himself how to play tennis at the age of 12, was considered one of the most talented tennis players of his generation and was a fan favorite on the professional tour throughout the 1950's and 60's. González was given a 51-cent racquet by his mother when he was 12 years old and taught himself to play by watching other players on the public courts at nearby Exposition Park in Los Angeles. He was befriended by the owner of the tennis shop at Exposition Park.

González's parents, Manuel Antonio González and Carmen Alire, migrated from the Mexican state of Chihuahua to the U.S. in the early 1900's. González was born in Los Angeles, the eldest of seven children. Jack Kramer writes that "Gorgo was not the poor Mexican-American that people assumed. He didn't come from a wealthy family, but from a stable middle-class background, probably a lot like mine. He had a great mother and there was always a warm feeling of family loyalty. If anything, he might have been spoiled as a kid. It's a shame he suffered discrimination because of his Mexican heritage." González's father worked as a house-painter and he, along with his six siblings, were raised in a working class neighborhood. In his autobiography, González states, "We had few luxuries at our house. Food wasn't abundant but it was simple and filling, and we never went hungry. Our clothes were just clothes-inexpensive but clean."

González had a long scar across his left cheek that, according to his autobiography, some members of the mass media of the 1940's attributed to his being a Mexican-American pachuco and hence involved in knife fights. This was one more slur that embittered González towards the media in general. The scar was actually the result of a prosaic street accident in 1935 when he was 7 years old: pushing a scooter too fast, he ran into a passing car and had his cheek gashed open by its door handle. González was referred to as "Richard" by his friends and family. As the child of middle-class Hispanic parents, young Richard was well aware of the social prejudices of his day.

Early in his career, which spanned four decades, he won back-to-back titles at the U.S. Championships in Forest Hills, N.Y. at the ages of 20 and 21. He also won two matches to help the U.S. defeat Australia to capture the 1949 Davis Cup title. His passion and intensity led to an illustrious career as the world No. 1 for an unequaled eight years. As a 40-year-old in 1968, he reached the semifinals at Roland Garros and the quarterfinals of the inaugural US Open. The following year, González played Charlie Pasarell at Wimbledon in a five-hour match that spanned two days and led to the advent of the tie-break. González also became the oldest player to ever win a professional tournament when he won the Des Moines Open just shy of his 44th birthday. González was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame while still an active player in 1968.



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The objectives of the **Pancho González Scholar Athlete Grant** are to:

1. Honor the memory, life, and achievements of the 2-time Men's singles U.S. Champion whose dedication to the sport of tennis brought together fans from all walks of life.
2. Reward players who work to excel in leading others on and off the court.
3. Widen the net of opportunities to young players of Hispanic/Latino heritage who aspire to excellence in competitive tennis.
4. Assure the careful nurturing of young players who may be candidates for USTA Elite Player Development Programs, and may have the ability to achieve national or international rankings.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Pancho González Scholar Athlete Grant

Grant funding is based on a number of factors including the success level of the player in the previous year (e.g., end of the year USTA ranking list/performance) and recommendations/commentary about the individual's team spirit and leadership qualities. The grant funding is intended to be granted to junior player(s) aspiring to achieve national and/or international rankings. The recipient(s) should have a history of strong national tournament results. The recipient(s) must be actively training and competing in tournaments in the award year. The grant funding is for actual and necessary training expenses.*

GRANT REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicants must be of Hispanic/Latino origin as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.**
- Applicants must be currently enrolled in high school or home school with a curriculum equivalent to high school.
- Applicants must be ranked in the Top 200 at the USTA sectional Association or USTA National level, in his/her age category, or must have an ITF, ATP / WTA Ranking.
- The award recipient'(s) grade point average must be a 3.0 or higher. An official copy of the applicant'(s) high school transcript (or home school transcript) must be attached to the grant application.
- Two letters of recommendation must be attached to the grant application about the applicant'(s) leadership ability.
- A tentative 2010 tournament and training schedule for the applicant(s) must be attached to the grant application.
- A recent photograph of applicant must be attached to the grant application.
- A type written essay containing 750 words or less, written by the applicant stating how they embody the tenacity, courage, and leadership qualities demonstrated by Pancho González must be attached to the grant application.

Only TWO GRANTS ARE AWARDED per year in the amount of \$2,500 each (one male and one female) for actual and necessary training expenses.

Please Mail all Application No Later Than December 31, 2009 to:

**The USTA Office of Diversity
70 West Red Oak Lane; White Plains, NY 10604**

Please include a fax number and/or an email address to assist us in the application process. Email addresses shall not be used for any other purpose unless we receive consent from the applicant or from his/her legal guardian.

Decisions will be announced in March of 2010 via official letter and posted on the USTA web site:
www.usta.com/USTA/Home/AboutUs/AwardsandGrants.aspx

*Actual and necessary training expenses include, but are not limited to, developmental training, coaching, facility usage, equipment, apparel, supplies, comprehensive health insurance, travel, room and board.

** The U.S. Census Bureau defines Hispanic or Latino as "a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race."



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USTA 2010 PANCHE GONZÁLEZ SCHOLAR ATHLETE GRANT

CONFIDENTIAL (To be completed by parents if under 18)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Total Dollar Amount Spent on Tennis in 2009: \$ _____

*Email Address: _____ Number of USTA National Tournaments Played in 2009 _____

Date of Birth: _____ (MM/DD/YY) USTA Sectional Association: _____

Current Grade Point Average: _____ Male/Female
(Circle One) Race/Ethnicity: _____
(Please fill in the blank)

Jr. Singles Ranking: 2009 Final National Ranking/Standing: _____ Age Group: _____
2009 Final ITF Ranking/Standing: _____ Age Group: _____

Jr. Doubles Ranking: 2009 Final National Ranking/Standing: _____ Age Group: _____
2009 Final ITF Ranking/Standing: _____ Age Group: _____

ATP/ WTA: 2009 Current Ranking: _____ (as of what date?) _____

Parent/Legal Guardian: _____ Home Phone: _____

Home Address: _____ Work Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian #2: _____ Home Phone: _____

Home Address: _____ Work Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Personal Coach (if any): _____ Academy: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____ Other: (____) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Do you presently receive financial assistance for tennis from any other source, other than parents?
____ Yes (if yes, please explain) _____ No

Parent/Legal Guardian'(s) Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Player's Signature: _____ Date: _____

* Email address(s) shall only be used for Pancho González Grant application processing.



**USTA 2010 PANCHO GONZÁLEZ
SCHOLAR ATHLETE GRANT**
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I. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED:

1. Please provide name(s) of coach (es) and/or tennis program and/or Program Director with whom you are currently working. (Attach additional pages if necessary)

2. Please have your coach or Program Director describe the progress you have made since beginning your tennis participation with him or her. (Attach a separate document if necessary)

3. Please describe your training regimen, including: hours of practice, drill, competitive play, hours and methods for conditioning, etc. (Attach additional pages if necessary)

4. Please attach a tentative tournament and training schedule for 2010.

5. In a one page typed essay containing 750 words or less, please tell the USTA in your own words why you feel you embody the ideals, determination, and other qualities of Pancho González.



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USTA 2010 PANCHO GONZÁLEZ SCHOLAR ATHLETE GRANT

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For students attending public or private high school

II. ATTACHMENTS REQUIRED*:

1. Attach two (2) letters of recommendation commenting on your leadership ability and team spirit from any combination of the following:
 - a. High school principal;
 - b. High school guidance counselor;
 - c. Part-time job employer;
 - d. City, county, or state elected official;
 - e. Religious leader;
 - f. High school teacher of a core academic class (gym and art/music teachers are not included);
 - g. A non-relative over the age of 18 who has known you for 4 years or more (please specify relationship); and/or
 - h. Tennis instructor (no more than one letter accepted from instructors/coaches, so you must choose at least one more from this list)

2. Attach a copy of your high school transcript. Transcript copies must include: school name, address, phone number, official letterhead or emblem of the school and information key defining school's grading system.

For students who are home schooled:

II. ATTACHMENTS REQUIRED*:

1. Attach two (2) letters of recommendation commenting on your leadership ability and team spirit from any combination of the following:
 - a. Part-time job employer;
 - b. City, county, or state elected official;
 - c. Religious leader;
 - d. Community leader (non-relative);
 - e. A non-relative over the age of 18 who has known you for 4 years or more (please specify relationship); and/or
 - f. Tennis instructor (no more than one letter accepted from instructors/ coaches, so you must choose at least one more from this list)

2. Attach a copy of your home school transcript, including documentation of classes taken, certification of home school instructor, and any year-end evaluations of student performance.

***APPLICATIONS WITHOUT ANY OF THE REQUIRED ATTACHEMENTS SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY DISQUALIFIED AND WILL NOT BE REVIEWED**