

2010 Special Category Awards

MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Jonesville Tennis Center in Gainesville

(Accepting the award, David Porter)

"Overnight Sensation"

[WATCH THE VIDEO BIO INTRODUCTION](#)

Much like an actor or singer who vaults from obscurity to superstardom in a relatively short period of time, the Jonesville Tennis Center (JTC) exceeded all expectations since opening in April 2009 as a result of a multi-year community effort that resulted in over \$500,000 in donations and in-kind contributions.

An American Sports Builder Association award winner for Outstanding Facility in the Outdoor Tennis category, the JTC was built to alleviate the overuse of other facilities as well as to grow the game of tennis in the Alachua County area. During its brief existence, the facility has already hosted numerous USTA league teams and multiple USTA junior tournaments as well as helped promote and facilitate USTA Jr. Team Tennis and the USTA QuickStart program.

In terms of league play, the Jonesville Tennis Center has been a significant supporter, which is evidenced by the fact that in 2010 alone the facility hosted 17 adult league teams, 10 senior league teams, 5 super senior league teams, 12 adult mixed doubles teams, 5 senior mixed doubles teams, 16 combo adult teams, and 2 combo senior teams.



MEDIA EXCELLENCE AWARD

Robyn George of Fort Myers

"Around the Courts"

Tennis scribe Robyn George has made a career of scampering "around the courts" in Fort Myers to keep tennis aficionados apprised of what's happening on the local racquet scene. Robyn, who has been writing a weekly tennis column for the Fort Myers News-Press since 2001, covers a diverse range of topics that includes everything from local and national tournaments and player profiles to her not-so-triumphant return to the tennis courts after a seven-year absence.

During her prolific writing career, she has also written columns on an array of USTA-related topics such as her local community tennis association receiving a grant and national honor earlier in the year, as well as her odds of winning the Florida sectional qualifying tournament to earn a spot at potentially competing in the US Open in Flushing Meadows.

In 2010, Robyn also interviewed renowned sportscaster Mary Carillo to get her take on the French Open; provided coverage of local teams competing in the 6.0 Super Senior Nationals; and offered her own insight regarding the Australian Open and the Champions for Charity event at the Sony Ericsson Open in Key Biscayne.



OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Thomas Flaherty of Ormond Beach *"Keeping the Peace"*

According to Thomas Flaherty, his role as a tennis official revolves around one simple precept: "The greatest challenge for a tennis official is to keep the juniors from acting like adults, and to keep the adults from acting like juniors," he said.

It's obviously a goal he's been able to meet based on his selection as the 2010 USTA Florida Official of the Year Award. Over the years, Thomas' contributions to the officiating side of tennis have been copious. In addition to serving as a USTA sectional trainer/evaluator, he has spent time working as a line official at the US Open and as a certified national line official at many ATP/WTA professional tournaments.

In 2010 alone, he officiated at numerous ITA dual matches, ITA Division I and II tournaments, USTA sectional and national tournaments, and high school events.

In between his busy tournament agenda, Thomas, who has served as treasurer of the Fun Coast Professional Tennis Officials Association for the past eight years, also finds the time to mentor newer officials and share his experiences.

