



## **Tennis Ambassador , Chairman - Tim & Tom Gullikson Foundation**

### **Tom Gullikson In Brief**

- Tim and Tom Gullikson Foundation Chairman
- Wilson Player/Coach
- Nike Player/Coach

### **The Player**

Tom Gullikson played professional tennis on the ATP Tour from 1976 to 1986. He gained valuable knowledge from his experiences on the tour where he competed against some of the greatest champions in the history of the game including: Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, Ivan Lendl, Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker. The skills learned as a player proved to be valuable assets that carried over into his coaching career.

### **The Coach**

In 1988 Gullikson was named National Coach for the newly developed USTA Player Development Program. In that role, he worked hand-in-hand with Director of Coaching, Stan Smith. There he also managed the Touring Pro Program for which helped the top tennis amateur prospects make smooth transitions into the pro game. Gullikson strived to create an extremely competitive environment for the players to train and compete at the highest level. Benefactors of the program included: Jim Courier, Michael Chang, Todd Martin and MaliVai Washington.

In 1990 the family of Jennifer Capriati approached him to work with the young phenom-to-be. As part of the USTA program, Gullikson served as Capriati's personal coach and worked with her during training weeks. In 1991 she won two singles tournaments, reached the semifinals of Wimbledon and the US Open and achieved a year-end WTA ranking of No. 6 in the world — all as a 15-year-old.

### **The Captain**

In October of 1993 Gullikson was selected as the 36th United States Davis Cup Captain where he worked with the team for six years (1994-1999). His Davis Cup tenure included the challenge of managing many of the games most talented and high profile professionals of the 1990s including: Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Jim Courier, Chang, Martin, and Washington. The U.S. won the Cup in 1995 by beating Russia in the finals in Moscow at the Olympic Stadium. Sampras won both singles matches and teamed with Todd Martin to win the doubles match. He counts one of his most memorable coaching moments as Sampras' performance in Moscow, which proved to be one of the finest individual efforts in the history of Davis Cup finals.

Another highlight of Gullikson's career came in 1996 when he was chosen to serve as the U.S. Men's Olympic Coach for Tennis. The team included Richie Reneberg, Washington and Andre Agassi, who fulfilled his Olympic dream by

### **The Philanthropist**

In 1995, Gullikson's twin brother Tim was diagnosed with brain tumors during the Australian Open. Tim Gullikson used the same fighting spirit he developed as a professional tennis player for his courageous battle against brain cancer. During his illness, he was profoundly moved by the toll a serious disease could take on both a patient and his or her family. As a well-respected coach in the tennis world, Tim recognized the critical need for coaching brain tumor patients and their families in managing the physical, emotional and social challenges of the illness. In order to fulfill that need, Tom and Tim Gullikson, along with their families, founded the Tim & Tom Gullikson Foundation in 1995.

Tom Gullikson serves as Chairman of the foundation from which he draws upon his leadership skills along with the strong support of the tennis world to keep Tim's vision on course. Through these efforts, the Tim & Tom Gullikson Foundation has raised more than \$4 million to support brain tumor patients and their families.

### **Other Professional**

Known as an astute technician as well as motivator, Gullikson retains his roots as a player, competing since 1986 on the senior tennis tour where he has won three U.S. Open Master's singles titles and six Masters double titles (with Dick Stockton) as well as two senior Wimbledon doubles crowns (with twin Tim in 1987 and Brian Gottfried in 1999).

Gullikson has written instructional articles for TENNIS Magazine, Tennis USTA and various teaching manuals published by the USTA. He has also worked as a television commentator for ESPN and CBS.

### **Personal**

Tom Gullikson along with brother Tim, were inducted into the Northern Illinois University Athletics Hall of Fame in 1984, and in 1997, were the first and only recipients of the NIU Gullikson Distinguished Athletic Alumni Award (Tim posthumously). In 1999, the Gulliksons were inducted into the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Hall of Fame.

Tom, an avid golfer, and his wife Julie, live in Palm Coast, Fla., and have two daughters, Petra and Christy.