



Tennis Anyone?

Cy-Fair Kids and Adults Love the Game

Written by Wayne Francisco Photos by Suzanne Box & Marisa Hugonnett

The first time Amy Lundquist took to the tennis court, she was only 11 years old and had just joined a starter league. Now a sophomore at Cy-Ranch High School, the veteran tennis player can't get enough of the sport, playing four or five days a week. "Tennis is a great sport that I enjoy and I know I can play for the rest of my life," she says. With the spring tennis season in full swing, Cy-Fairians of all ages are volleying for a spot in one of the area's many leagues and tournament play teams and loving the benefits of the game.

Matching Fitness with Fun

Tennis combines a great workout with competitive fun. Even though it requires dedication to improve in skill, Lundquist finds the challenge of the game rewarding. "You are out there on the court by yourself in singles," she says. "You have to make your own decisions, stay focused, and put everything that you have learned in practice together for that match." After she had her first taste of tennis, she set out to be the best player possible, signing up for drills at a local club. From there, she segued into competitive play with the U.S. Tennis Association and took private lessons. Now, with her sights set on playing in college, she competes in one to three tournaments a month and is ranked in the top 100 girls 16 singles super champs.

With so much success on the court, she has seen benefits in other areas of her life, too. Her mother, Jeannie, says, "It requires a lot of hard work, discipline, and organization, which definitely helps with other aspects of life. Tennis is great for Amy's confidence and self-esteem."

Finding the Right Set

Tennis enthusiasts can learn the game several ways, from playing with friends on a neighborhood court to taking lessons from professionals and playing regularly on sanctioned teams and leagues. Many opportunities exist in the Cy-Fair area for tennis fans of all ages to play and compete. Ladies can play in the HLTA, Houston Tennis Association, Jackrabbit league, and the USTA. Men can also play in the HTA and USTA, as well as the North Suburban league. Mixed teams play in the HTA and juniors of

all levels compete in the Northwest Youth Tennis Association (NWTA). Children ages 6-11 can experience tennis without the challenge of serving and keeping score through the Cy-Creek YMCA's youth tennis program. The Kluge Tennis Ranch offers lessons and league play, as well as a summer camp for children ages 7-16. Christine Dawson of Ravensway currently plays in the Jackrabbit league and began tennis at a young age. She has taken lessons from professionals and recommends that everyone should

There are a variety of tennis leagues for both adults and children in Cy-Fair





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learn the fundamentals correctly. “Surround yourself with players of the same caliber and ladies that you truly enjoy being around,” she suggests. She has many fond tennis memories to share, including the funniest, which happened when playing with her mother. “We got into a little dispute and the effect on my game was dramatic,” she recalls. “Let’s just say my serves got really hard and I hit a lot of balls out that day!”

Friendships that Follow Through

Dawson finds the friendships formed through the sport very rewarding. After returning to work full time, she had not played tennis for about two years and had fallen out of touch with her tennis group. Even so, after a scheduled surgery, her tennis friends swung into action, helping any way they could. “That same group of wonderful women made sure that [me] and my family had home-cooked meals for three weeks,” she says. “I am blessed to say that I have resumed my position on that same team and I’m as happy as can be.”

Netting a New Challenge

Tennis affords the chance to play with several different opponents, which for Martha Stevens is the most enjoyable part. The Cy-Fair resident has played for almost 20 years, beginning with the Ravensway Social Night league and later moving to the Jackrabbit league, where she currently plays with both the Friday and Monday morning groups. She enjoys learning from each opponent, remembering new moves and new strategies to use during her next match. “Enjoy your time getting to know the game with other friends and tennis partners,” she says. “Remember your sportsmanship – it’s a game. Play your best and enjoy yourself while on the court.”

For a challenging twist, Debra Kinsey switches from playing doubles, which she enjoys the most, to singles. After 12 years with the Houston Ladies Tennis League, the USTA, and the Jackrabbit league, she still enjoys the chance to meet new people and get outdoors. “It’s been a character-building experience,” she says. “I have learned a lot from the ladies who have been playing for many years. I respect them and love how they have helped me grow to my personal best.” CFM

WAYNE FRANCISCO enjoys life in Cy-Fair with his wife, Robin Rettie, and children, Lexa and Jordan.

“Enjoy your time getting to know the game with other friends and tennis partners.”

- Martha Stevens

Haley Darbonne, Gabrielle Yatauro, Alexa Yatauro, and Kendall Henry practice regularly



For an extra workout, switch up a doubles game with a challenging game of singles



Teens can get extra practice and prepare for college play by joining a tournament play group or league





Kids sharpen their tennis skills while having fun in the Pine Forest Junior Tennis Academy



Improve your tennis game by learning new strategies from your opponents



Success on the court can improve kids' and teens' self-esteem

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April has played with her current league for three years