

HANK PFISTER SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Each year KCTA recognizes a high school senior boy for the character they show and contributions they make both on and off the tennis court. Selection for this award is not based simply on achieving the best win-loss record. Rather, the top candidates will have exhibited:

- 🎾 Outstanding sportsmanship on the court
- 🎾 Genuine enthusiasm for and commitment to the sport
- 🎾 Leadership through both his words and actions
- 🎾 Active support and encouragement of his teammates
- 🎾 Strong performance in the classroom
- 🎾 Engagement in his school beyond the tennis team
- 🎾 Involvement and service in our community

Eligible candidates must graduate in 2022, be active members of their tennis team, and have played at least two years of high school tennis. Nominations should be submitted via email to KCTA Executive Director, Beth Kuney, at bkuney@kerntennis.org by April 29.



This award, named in honor of Hank Pfister, includes a \$300 scholarship. Hank, a lifelong Bakersfield resident, was known as a fierce competitor on the court. He played for Bakersfield High School before attending Bakersfield College, where he was coached by his father. He completed his degree at San Jose State University, where he earned All American honors. Hank played professionally for 13 years and was ranked as high as #19 in the world. He won two French Open doubles titles, reached the singles semifinals three times at the Australian Open, and was named to the 1977 U.S. Davis Cup Team. His court accomplishments have been recognized with inductions into the Halls of Fame for Ojai Tennis, San Jose State University, Bob Elias, and Bakersfield College.

Hank was equally fierce in his contributions to the sport after his playing career. He served our community for 28 years as the Director of Tennis and Fitness at Stockdale Country Club. During that time he coached hundreds ranging from local juniors to professionals on both the Men's and Women's Tours. He was recognized as USPTA's 1993 National Coach of the Year. Hank gave back to the sport on the national, regional, and local levels. He served for many years on the USTA Junior Competition Committee and the Boards of Directors for the Southern California Tennis Association and KCTA.

Hank offered this perspective. "To succeed in tennis or any endeavor, one should focus on what it takes to improve. The winning will naturally follow. Furthermore, if you do not look forward to the training and practicing, and have fun doing it; you should find something else to do." Hank has helped many become tennis champions, but his guidance applies to all areas of life.