

Colorado State Open A Smash Hit With Fans, Players

Event At Gates Tennis Center

Draws 20,000; Monroe Wins Men's Singles

by Laura Lief

In its 117th year, the *Colorado State Open* — one of the oldest tennis tournaments in the country — drew more than 20,000 fans during the 10-day celebration of tennis. More than 950 people participated in the tournament at *Gates Tennis Center* in Cherry Creek, that, according to Director of Tennis Eric Rose, was a substantial increase from last year.

"This year's tournament was a stellar

hit," said Rose. "We really could not have asked for a better turnout including a large group of international players and a strong showing from the University of Denver and Metro State College."

Rose also says that though they expected the top players in the Rocky Mountain Region to participate, "it went way beyond our expectations." The Open attracted the best players from not only the Rocky Mountain Region but also from California,

Texas and Florida. There were also several players from Argentina and various places in Eastern Europe.

Male And Female Champions

The winner of the men's singles division was Nick Monroe, who came all the way from Texas to play in the Open and walked away with \$4,000 in prize money. Ranked 25th in the country, Monroe attracted the attention of a large number of fans. The second place winner was Roman Borvanov (from Eastern Europe) who lost to Monroe in a tough three set battle, taking home \$2,000.

The women's final came down to two University of Denver players with freshman sensation Sophia Bergner defeating number one seed and defending champion Ute Schnoy in straight sets. Neither woman was able to accept prize money due to their college player status.

"The DU women dominated women's tennis this year and we were really happy to have them," noted Rose. "Both the coaches and players participated which was great and they were also a big help with our Tennis For Kids Day."

Tennis For Kids

Kicking off the 10-day tournament, *Tennis For Kids Day* introduced more than 200 kids to the game of tennis by allowing them to learn, play and watch tennis and win



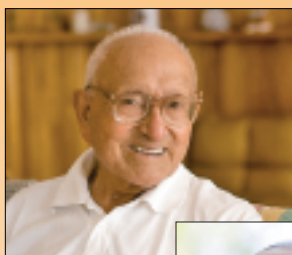
A Day For Kids: One of the hundreds of kids who participated in the Tennis For Kids Day had the opportunity to learn, play and watch tennis with the help of the Gates staff and members of the D.U. and Metro tennis teams.



Big Turnout: Over 20,000 Cherry Creek Valley fans gathered to watch the 117th Colorado State Open at Gates Tennis Center.



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Second Place Winner: Roman Borvanov was the second place winner in the men's singles division. He lost to Monroe in a tough three set battle, taking home \$2,000.

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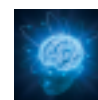
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D.U. Women Dominate: The women’s final came down to two University of Denver players with freshman Sophia Bergner defeating number one seed and defending champion Ute Schnoy in straight sets.

thrilled to see so many kids,” added Rose.
Big Winners

In addition to the men’s and women’s singles divisions, the other major tournament divisions were the men’s doubles, the women’s doubles and the mixed doubles. Nick Monroe (the men’s singles winner) and Jeremy Wurtzman (head coach for the DU women’s tennis team and a past Colorado State Open winner) won the men’s doubles division. The women’s doubles division winners were Julia Bauregger and Ute Schnoy (a past Colorado State Open winner) and the mixed doubles division winners were Jacqueline Carleton and Christopher Lam (who is the assistant coach for the DU men’s tennis team).

Rose said the biggest upset of the tournament was two-time defending champion Cory Ross losing to Javier Llanes, an Argentinean who traveled from Chicago to play in the Open. Rose explained that Llanes “kind of came out of nowhere but did very well in the tournament.” He ended up losing to Monroe in the semifinals.

In addition to many high-level competitors, Tony Trabert, who at one time was ranked the number one player in the world, made an appearance at the Open’s *Grand Champions Party*. “Having Trabert at this year’s Open definitely brought everything up a notch,” noted Rose. “He made the tournament even more special and definitely added to the already great atmosphere.” Trabert has been on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* and has won *Wimbledon*, the *U.S. Open* and the *Colorado State Open*.

Other notables in attendance were Jeff Salzenstein, Jeff Loehr, Chris Jenkins, Melvin McCurley, Carey Brading, Rich Hillway, Mark Moyle, Art Thomson, Sheila Ohlsson, and Joanie Birkland.

Tournament Wrap-Up

Looking back on the 2009 Colorado State Open, Rose believes that “it was without a doubt the best tournament ever.”

He also said that it was more than a tennis tournament because “there were so many people involved between the players, the spectators, the sponsors and the kids, and it was just an overwhelming success.”

He adds, “The Colorado State Open is one of the largest tournaments in the country in terms of participants and we hope that it just continues to grow. With all the different levels, age group events and family divisions, it attracts a wide variety of tennis players which makes it even more fun and exciting.”

The youngest player to participate was 11-years-old and the oldest players were those in the 80 years and over division.

“From intermediate players to some of the top players in the country, we had them

all,” Rose notes. “It’s a very accessible tournament and I think people really respond to that. We are looking forward to continuing to grow the game of tennis.”

For more information on *Gates Tennis Center* visit <http://www.gatetenniscenter.info/> or call 303-355-4461.



Monroe Triumphs: Ranked 25th in the country, Nick Monroe dominated the Open winning both the men’s singles division and the men’s doubles division, with the help of doubles partner Jeremy Wurtzman.

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Romanoff Speaks October 9

Andrew Romanoff, a former State Representative running for the U.S. Senate, is the Oct. 9 speaker at the *Downtown Democratic Forum Breakfast*. The breakfast is at *Baur’s Ristorante* on Curtis downtown, from 7-8 a.m. Information: 303-861-8050.

The Masterworks of Charles M. Russell: A Retrospective of Paintings and Sculpture is organized collaboratively by the Denver Art Museum and Gilcrease Museum. Wells Fargo is the local presenting sponsor, with significant support provided by the Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation. Additional support is provided by The Adolph Coors Foundation Exhibition Fund, Sotheby’s, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Petrie, Fine Arts Foundation, the citizens who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, and the generous donors to the Annual Fund Leadership Campaign. Promotional support is provided by The Denver Post, CBS4, and 5280 Magazine. When Shadows Hint Death, 1915, Charles Marion Russell. The Duquesne Club, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



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