

TIM BLENKIRON

Inspiration Is His Calling

Vegas is a magnet for transplants. Andre Agassi's dad Mike left a cramped Tehran apartment to come to town to weave his dreams. Here Aussie Darren Cahill kick-started his stellar coaching career.

Enter Tim Blenkiron, a 6' 6" Aussie who came to Vegas to play for UNLV and became an All-American, won an NCAA doubles championship and, in the 26 years since then, hasn't stopped giving. For him, excellence is a habit. "It's mind-boggling to think how many lives Tim has affected on the court," noted longtime tennis observer Trent

what really matters is the whole individual – her or his vitality, health and growth. Whether guiding a kid from an impoverished family, mentoring a teen coping with depression or helping an emerging pro battling crippling anxiety, Tim brings deep insights, compassion and his celebrated no quit mindset.

Over the years many have noted Tim's

spread across the country. Now, with the help of the USTA Foundation, the excellence team model that TEAM AGASSI and TEAM BRYAN created has blossomed in 16 cities. All the while, in Las Vegas, 160 students have graduated from Tim's program and have earned scholarships and admission to dozens of elite schools, from Stanford and USC to Harvard and Yale.

For Tim, noted Wolfington, "Money is not in his currency. I've never seen him turn anyone down. He's helped so many. His emphasis is on physical, emotional and mental health.



Alenik. What is not at all mind-boggling is that Blenkiron just won the USTA's prestigious Eve Kraft Community Service Award.

Tim's coaching odyssey first drew notice when Andre Agassi asked him to head his TEAM AGASSI program at his Boys and Girls Club. There, on just two gritty courts, Tim mentored inner-city kids. He gives credit to Agassi, who, don't forget, is a humanitarian like few others in sports history. "Andre," Tim asserts, "is one of the most giving people I know. He inspired the path I'm on today."

Blenkiron's philosophy is clear: "If you work on all aspects of your life then you find the motivation to be your best – magic happens. If you set the bar high, with energy, the kids are going to rise to it." Gaining fine tennis strokes and lofty rankings is fulfilling, but

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gifts. The tireless fellow teamed up with USTA Nevada Executive Director Ryan Wolfington to create the extraordinary Marty Hennessy Inspiring Children Foundation and the No Quit Academy. Then he worked with Bob and Mike Bryan to run the Foundation's elite TEAM BRYAN tennis, education and travel team.

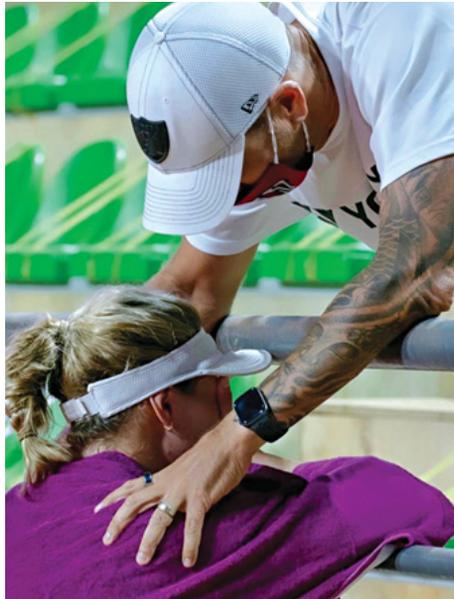
Blenkiron's dream was to have his work

From nutrition, fitness, and sleep science to meditation he's created a high performance community for families in need. And it's all built on meaningful connections." Tim mentors about 200 kids for three to six days a week, works with disabled players and those with autism, plus he conducts free clinics every Sunday. He tells his students, "Work as hard as you can, but be as relaxed as you can."

Not only is he one of the more generous pros in the land, he's also done plenty of the gritty, often tedious heavy lifting of governance in tennis. Known for his courage and integrity, for ten years he was president of the USTA Nevada and he was also president of the USTA Intermountain section. And, don't forget, this UNLV Hall of Famer is an elite-level coach who's developed eight No.

1 players and over 75 top-50 players in the US.

His prime WTA pupil, Asia Muhammad, says, "I can't see myself with anyone but him." More recently, as numerous analysts have noted, he's worked considerable magic with Genie Bouchard's career.



Tim cares.

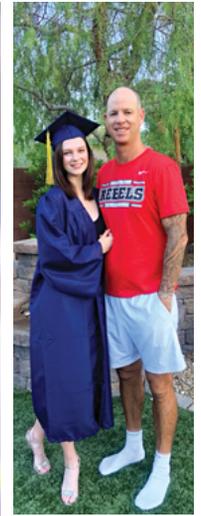
When the Las Vegas Rollers joined World Team Tennis in 2019, they chose Blenkiron to be their coach. Tim responded, "To represent my city on an international level is a dream come true." The Rollers' Mike Bryan expressed what many felt: "Bob and I want to thank you for what you've done at every level and

the energy and enthusiasm you bring every day to help so many. We are in awe."

Blenkiron's original inspiration, that Agassi guy, recently confided: "Tim, you are a champion for kids and an inspiration for me." Why not? Blenkiron is a mighty warrior for good – inspiration is his calling.



"It's mind boggling to think how many lives Tim has affected on court."



For Tim, seen here with his daughter, family has always been key.



Roll On Rollers: Blenkiron's leadership has been on full display in the heat of battle in World Team Tennis play.



Blenkiron, Courier, Mac, Andre, USTA Executive Director Ryan Wolfington and Sampras have 33 Slams between them.



Agassi to Tim: "You are a champion for kids and an inspiration for me."



Agassi whisperer Gil Reyes has long guided Blenkiron.



NCAA doubles champions from UNLV.



Each year Judge Valdez brings kids to the president's box at the US Open.



The big three, Wolfington, Blenkiron and Trent Alenik have done wonders for Vegas tennis.



The Team Agassi and Team Bryan annual snowball fight.