Fall 2026

the tct tennis times

TENNIS CLUB OF TRUMBULL • EST. 1985

TCT'S 40+ YEAR LEGACY CONTINUES

Established in 1985 by Ed Pagano, the Tennis Club of Trumbull has always focused on helping its players grow and enjoy the game. Ed's work focused on just that, spanning from developing high-level juniors to working with countless adult players. He was later inducted into the New England Tennis Hall of Fame for his contributions to the game through player development and coaching.

A key part of the club's success has always been the continuity of its coaching staff, many of whom Ed taught as juniors, including Brian Barker. Brian was one of Ed's students and one of the top juniors through the late 1970s and early '80s.

Brian began his coaching career at TCT after his time on tour. He took over coaching James Blake from Ed in the early 1990s and later joined James on the ATP tour as his coach for over 9 years. Brian returned to the club in 2010 and has continued to focus on the development of our High Performance players.

Today, John Pagano, as owner, coach, and manager, continues to focus on preserving the culture while also strengthening our junior program and the overall player experience. That commitment was on display this past June 2026 when 16 players from TCT's Tournament Training program qualified for the New England Sectional Championships. Two players captured Sectional titles, with Thomas Sirichantho winning the 18U division and Colin Pental winning the 12U division.

Those accomplishments are the result of a program built around consistent coaching, high standards, and a culture that values both performance and character. John works with many of the players in the club's junior development program, including Colin, whom he began personally coaching in early 2023.

As owner, John's role extends beyond coaching individual players; he also oversees all of the club's programs and facility. He works closely with Brian, the Junior Director and Coordinator who manages the junior programs as well as the coaching staff, and helps ensure that every player experiences the same culture of excellence that



Above: Brian Barker plays Ivan Lendl at TCT in 1987

Below: John Pagano and James Blake holding a signed poster reading "Thank you, TCT family!"



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has defined TCT since its founding more than 40 years ago.

John brings decades of experience to TCT. He played D-I tennis at UConn and served as the USTA CT Adult League Committee Chair. He has an MBA/MS from Fairfield University and was the Alumni Association President.

Whether a player is picking up a racket for the first time or pursuing national competition, our objective remains the same: to challenge, encourage, and inspire players to reach their potential.

As the Tennis Club of Trumbull enters its fifth decade, John remains focused on building on the club's proud tradition while continuing to invest in its future.

Players will graduate, new families will join, coaches will evolve, but John's, and TCT's, commitment to developing outstanding players and young people remains at the heart of everything we do.



Above: Janet and Ed Pagano in the original TCT office, 1994



Above: John and Colin at Nationals in Lake Nona, Florida in July 2026

Below: Ed, James, and Brian at the 2022 Hall of Fame ceremony, when James and Brian were inducted. Ed was later inducted in 2025.



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