

MID-ATLANTIC MATCH POINT



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PREMIER TENNIS FACILITY OPENS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY



Vicki Datlow

Jack Schore

Anne Pallie

Kevin Dowdell



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in Four Years**



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Montgomery County Gets New Tennis Jewel

On September 15, 2012, Montgomery TennisPlex opened its 8 air-conditioned indoor and 4 outdoor-lighted courts to the public. The PLEX, headed by Jack Schore, Kevin Dowdell, and Vicki Datlow, is a beautiful new community tennis facility located near the entrance of the 695-acre South Germantown Recreational Park in Montgomery County. And it's the first new tennis center of its kind built in more than 30 years. Hall of Fame coach and longtime leader in the Montgomery County and Greater Washington tennis world, Jack Schore, exclaimed "Montgomery TennisPlex will be a 1st class facility with 1st class programs and staff while charging reasonable rates. In addition, there will be no membership fees or guest fees charged for court time or programs to any of our participants. We are truly a community tennis center."

Almost immediately, The PLEX became one of the premier tennis facilities in the Montgomery County's "UpCounty" region and they have the pedigree to be one of the top tennis centers in the country. Their grand opening attracted more than 400 people, including Ike Leggett (County Executive), Richey Reneberg (two-time Grand Slam doubles champion), and Dave Haggerty (President-elect of the USTA Board). More importantly, more than 300 juniors have enrolled in their programs, which range from tots all the way up to Jack Schore's group of high performance players. Many of Jack's players will undoubtedly spring board to top college teams around the country, as have hundreds of juniors under Schore's tutelage over the years. The PLEX also provides high quality programs, flights and leagues for adults from beginner to 5.0's as well as mixers, leagues and, we hear, Cardio Tennis will be rolled out soon as.



When one enters the indoor courts you are immediately taken by how bright they are.

"Jack Schore is not just one of the most successful tennis coaches in the Greater Washington area in recent times. He's arguably one the best coaches of any sport in the area - based on his 40 year record of coaching national championship high school teams, countless numbers of nationally ranked juniors and, of course, Grand Slam Champions like Richey Reneberg", says Kevin Dowdell, Jack's business partner and General Manager of the PLEX. "Interestingly, some of Jack's proudest achievements are not in his role as a tennis coach but as a humanitarian." And it's hard to argue that point when you look at the success of the countless num-

"It Just Feels Right"

In the 70's Ron New would watch from the sidelines as Jack Schore coached his son Andy to become captain of both the Churchill and Brown University varsity teams and attain a top 50 ranking in the U.S. before launching a successful career in commercial real estate. Fast forward to September 2012 when Ron recently watched from the sidelines as Jack coached his grandson Justin at the PLEX. When asked how it felt watching Jack start to shape his young grandson, he said with a knowing grin, "it just feels right."



The TennisPlex management team at the new facility: (l-r): Kevin Dowdell, Jack Schore and Vickie Datlow.

bers of youth he has mentored to become better people and the many young people he has provided full scholarships worth at least \$300,000 (through the Urban Leadership Group, which he launched based on inspiration from Arthur Ashe) for lower income students to the prestigious Bullis School in Potomac, MD. These students have gone on to success in schools such as Harvard and have become great successes off the court in the game of life. Jack's five-year vision for the PLEX is for it to become the best tennis center in America. Who can doubt that his vision will become a reality?

"Kevin Dowdell isn't just a great manager and leader, he's known by some as a disciple of Arthur Ashe. And his fair minded and altruistic approach makes an impact with people he meets across the country and across Montgomery County," says Schore. Kevin's tennis days can be traced back to Princeton where he made the varsity team as a walk-on and rose to become co-captain of the team. Later Dowdell had the good fortune to cross paths with Arthur Ashe who chose him to lead Ashe's Safe Passage Foundation (SPF), which ran city-wide tennis programs for thousands of kids in Newark, NJ, Kansas City, MO and Dowdell's home town of Albany-Schenectady, NY. SPF taught the game of life through the game of tennis and developed champions both on and off of the court. Dowdell, 1st Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic Tennis Association Board is also overseeing schools programs in the two largest elementary schools in Montgomery County, Spark Matsunaga and Rachel Carson. He's enthusiastic about bringing a holistic brand of tennis to a deserving community and helping to make tennis accessible for everyone.

"Vicki Datlow has been an instrumental part of my programs more than 15 years. She is credited with making my programs successful in the past and

her passion and dedication is critical to launch a new business like ours in Germantown", claims Schore. Vicki has been recognized by the USTA, USPTA and PTR and given numerous awards for her service in growing the game of tennis. She has developed many successful junior and adult programs and has worked with other top coaches, such as Nick Bollettieri, Harry Hopman and Dennis Ralston. "She brings her unique experience, knowledge and dedication to MTP with the drive to help make Jack Schore's dream of having the greatest tennis

See: TennisPlex, continued on page 3

TennisPlex

continued from page 4

center in the U.S. a reality. With Vicki involved, we should expect some great programs and tournaments!" said Dowdell.

But what about the coaches? Schore says his group of coaches ranks with the best of any he has worked with over the years. "Our coaches hail from a wide variety of countries and backgrounds as do our clientele and they're truly passionate about developing players and people," says Schore.

With the dream team in place, the question becomes: what about the location? "Well, anyone who has visited the shiny new facility in Germantown knows the location couldn't possibly be better. Children and their families abound in the Germantown area and, on some days, it looks like a veritable United Nations on the grounds of the PLEX as people from all backgrounds walk and talk and play tennis and compete", said Dowdell. And, further, the area was in dire need of a high quality tennis center because there just aren't a lot of options that were accessible. According to Datlow, "I've been coaching and running programs in Montgomery County for a long time and I've seen this Germantown area grow tremendously. But until now, the few tennis centers in the area required memberships and courts were always tight. And let's face



Incoming USTA Chairman of the Board and President David Haggerty addresses the crowd.

it: South Germantown Recreational Park is spacious and highly trafficked because of the Discovery Soccer Center, the swimming center and everything else going on here"

OK. Dream team and dream location. What about the price? This must cost a fortune, right? According to Schore, "providing a great value for customers is a cornerstone to the whole venture. We want everyone to play a lot of tennis here so we try to make our prices affordable for area players and the whole community."

"It's clear that the PLEX is here to stay. The Mid Atlantic region is all the better with the PLEX as part of it's landscape. Further, with American tennis lacking clear new super stars and Andy Roddick's recent retirement, we need places like the PLEX to launch a new generation of players to carry the mantle", says Schore. He believes they can make that happen and states "we have the knowledge, the passion and the resources to develop high quality players who can go on to college and play professionally at the highest levels". With a power packed team led by Schore, Dowdell, Datlow and their platoon of top coaches, the storied line "build it and they will come" says it all.



Montgomery County Executive, Ike Leggett prepares to cut the ribbon to officially open the new facility.

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Boyd's, MD 20841

For information or a brochure call Vicki Datlow

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Visit us on the Web at: MontgomeryTennisPlex.com