#### CALGARY NATIONAL BANK CHALLENGER

NOVEMBER 5 - 12, 2023 • OFFICIAL PROGRAM













# Let's rally behind Canadian tennis

We keep our eyes on the ball to ensure Canadian tennis is accessible and equitable for all.

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We would also like to thank our organizing committee, volunteers, ball crew and staff for their support and hard work! Our tournament would not be possible without your dedication and invaluable time spent making this event a success.

#### Thank You!



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Dear Tennis Fans.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Calgary National Bank Challenger, an ATP Challenger event.

The ATP Challenger Tour plays an essential role in the overall landscape of men's professional tennis, providing valuable playing opportunities and a platform for the future stars of the ATP Tour to progress up the FedEx ATP Rankings. Today, the Challenger Tour comprises more than 195 events across 45 countries and offers more than US\$ 20 million in prize money.

Many of the world's greatest players, including the likes of Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal have used the Challenger Tour as a springboard in the early stages of their careers. The Tour continues to provide fans with unique opportunities to see the stars of tomorrow in the early stages of their careers.

Featuring a combination of up-and-coming players as well as established ATP players, the ATP Challenger Tour offers intense, high-quality action for fans worldwide.

My thanks go to the entire tournament staff and sponsors who have made this event possible, and we hope you enjoy all the action throughout the week.

The men's game is enjoying one of the most successful periods in its history, showcasing a mix of established superstars at the top of the game as well as an incredibly exciting group of younger players who are making huge strides up the rankings in the early stages of their careers

We thank you for your support and invite you to follow us all season long at www.ATPTour.com

Best wishes

Andrea Gaudenzi ATP Chairman









Scan to find out more about the World Tennis Tour





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Dear Tennis Enthusiast

On behalf of the volunteer embers of the Board of Directors for the OSTEN & VICTOR Alberta Tennis Centre, I am thrilled to welcome an incredible array of tennis talent from so many nations throughout the world, who have come to participate in our combined men's and women's Calgary National Bank Challenger event.

I also welcome the many tennis enthusiasts who will be with us during this week of world class tennis involving the future stars of the ATP World Tour.

I wish to thank Tennis Canada, National Bank, the City of Calgary, Tourism Calgary and the Province of Alberta and all our donors for helping us in making this event a reality.

I would further like to extend my appreciation on behalf of our volunteer Boards to our devoted and hardworking, CEO and Tournament Director Danny Da Costa, his dedicated and wonderful staff, our tennis professionals and our hundreds of volunteers and ball crew.

It is an honor for our Tennis Centre to be selected to host such a prestigious event.

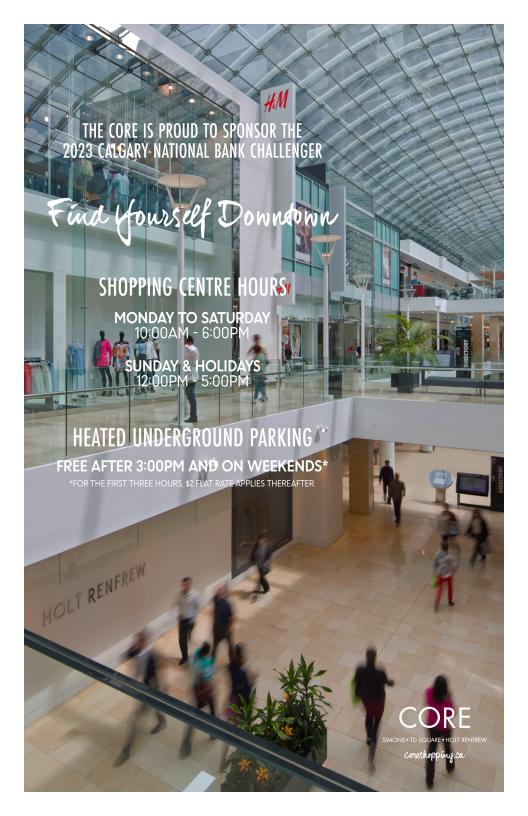
We can assure you that the calibre of tennis that will be on display this week in our city will be exceptional.

Regards,

Ron Ghitter C.M

Chair, Board of Directors

OSTEN & VICTOR Alberta Tennis Centre



# VISION FOR THE FUTURE



The OSTEN & VICTOR Alberta Tennis Centre has developed a Facility Master Plan which will create the best-community based tennis facility in the world.



#### PHASE 1 COVERED COURT PROJECT

The initial development will see the 5 outdoor courts covered; transforming the structure into a 13-court year-round facility.

#### **COMPLETED**



#### PHASE 2 COMMUNITY PARK

Once completed, we will create a Community Park (subject to negotiations, confirmation and approval from the City of Calgary) with 6 clay courts, 4 pickleball courts, a walking trail, greenspace, play structure and meeting and gathering space. Our park vision will further enhance Calgary's livability, and the health and wellness of our residents by providing affordable recreational access.

For more information visit: albertatenniscentre.ca





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#### Message from the Honourable Joseph Schow Minister of Tourism and Sport

As Minister of Tourism and Sport, I warmly welcome everyone to the 2023 Calgary National Bank Challenger.

Alberta's government is proud to welcome athletes and supporters for this memorable competition. As the biggest event hosting professional men's and women's indoor tennis competitions in Canada, attendees will be fortunate to have front-row seats for many of the best up-and-coming and established tennis athletes.

Calgary has extensive experience hosting world-class events, and Alberta's government is proud to support this event. I wish all the best to the athletes, coaches, officials and everyone in attendance enjoying the city's warm hospitality and exploring its exciting sights and activities. I hope your experiences outside of competition are just as fulfilling as those you have while competing.

Thank you to the Osten and Victor Alberta Tennis Centre for your hard work in bringing the National Bank Challenger to Calgary and nurturing the sport of tennis.

Best of luck to all the athletes competing throughout the week.

Joseph Schow Minister





See Elton John's Piano.
Skydive indoors. Zip down a ski hill without skis.

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On behalf of Calgary City Council and all Calgarians, I would like to wish all participants of The Calgary National Bank Challenger Men's and Women's Pro Event a heartfelt welcome.

It is an exciting time in combined indoor tennis as this event is the largest professional men's and women's combined indoor tennis tournament in Canada. We are honoured that you have chosen Calgary as the host city and hope you take the opportunity to experience all that our amazing city has to offer.



Calgary is a young, diverse, and dynamic city. While we know there will be much to see and do at the event, you will want to explore our many world-class attractions, parks, extensive pathway systems, restaurants, entertainment venues, or shops. Calgary has a thriving arts and culture scene so if time permits be sure to take in a show or exhibit at one of our theatres or galleries. Don't worry, it's easy to navigate and get around the city regardless of your mode of transportation.

My Council colleagues and I wish you a successful event and an unforgettable stay here in Calgary. Our sincere thanks to you for visiting and we invite you to come back again when you can stay longer!

Sincerely,

Mayor of Calgary









# BEST SEATS BEST PRICE



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On behalf of Tennis Canada, we would like to welcome you to the 2023 Calgary National Bank Challenger. Thank you for attending what promises to be a very special week for tennis, with incredibly strong player fields in both the women's and men's draws.

This year marks the second time that the tournament will be held as a combined women's and men's professional event at the Osten & Victor Alberta Tennis Centre, After last year's success, the club has invested to upgrade the women's event to offer paid hospitality to its female players, making it the first ITF W60 event in Canada to do so. This is a great example of the strides the event is making in the gender equity space, which closely aligns with Tennis Canada and National Bank's objectives as part of the Game. Set. Equity. Commitment.

As the largest combined women's and men's indoor event in Canada, the impact this tournament makes is astounding. Last year, over 10,000 spectators attended throughout the week, with a marked 20% increase from the prior year. This tournament also garners significant local media coverage. Events like this help extend the reach of tennis throughout the country and in turn inspires people of all ages and abilities to pick up a racquet!

Finally, we would like to congratulate and thank the Calgary National Bank Challenger organizing committee, led by Danny da Costa, who have put in countless hours to bring first class tennis to Calgary and to treat fans and players to a world-class event. Enjoy the tournament!



Michael Downey CEO Tennis Canada

Mem



Peter Kruyt Chair & President Tennis Canada

Peterny



# **Global News Hour at 6**

with Linda Olsen & Joel Senick

We are **CALGARY** 



Globalnews.ca

#### **NICK COUTTS**

Tennis Director at the Osten and Victor Alberta Tennis Centre

#### Serving Success: How Vision and Passion Transformed a Tennis Centre



Since our inception in 2016, our junior and adult programs have witnessed an extraordinary evolution, surging from 4,000 annual participants in 2016 to an impressive 10,000 participants in 2023. This remarkable growth can be attributed to several pivotal factors that have significantly contributed to our success. At the core of our achievement lies a steadfast commitment to our vision, mission, and values here at the Osten & Victor Alberta Tennis Centre.

Our vision, "to be the best community-based club in Canada," and our mission, "to serve as a vibrant community hub that inspires players to revel in tennis and cultivate their skills across all levels, promoting it as a lifelong, healthy sport," serve as the guiding principles behind every program we offer at the OSTEN & VICTOR Alberta Tennis Centre.

Key Factors Driving Our Success:
Development of comprehensive program
pathways for both juniors and adults,
meticulously designed to guide players from
novice to advanced levels.

A simple yet effective programming approach that encourages active participation, fostering skill improvement within the sport.

A primary coaching objective: ensuring that individuals, from their very first tennis lesson, grasp the fundamental skills of SERVING, RALLYING, and SCORING. This approach ignites a passion for tennis that endures well into retirement. The continuous expansion of our program portfolio, allowing participants to engage with players of compatible skill levels. A commitment to enhancing the social dimension of tennis through the addition of more social events and doubles clinics in our annual programming.

The journey of the Osten & Victor Alberta Tennis Centre represents a testament to the power of commitment, vision, and community. With an unwavering dedication to our mission and values, we've not only seen exponential growth in program participation but also witnessed the transformation of tennis into a lifelong passion for many. As we continue to evolve and embrace the future, our commitment remains steadfast—to inspire, nurture, and celebrate the sport of tennis in Alberta. With world-class coaches, an ever-expanding membership, and a vibrant tennis community, the Osten & Victor Alberta Tennis Centre stands as a shining example of how a shared love for a sport can bring people together and drive positive change.

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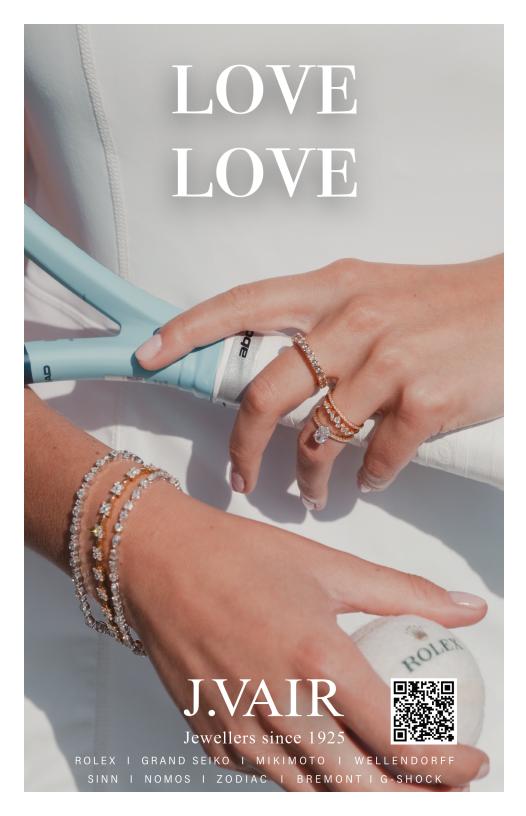
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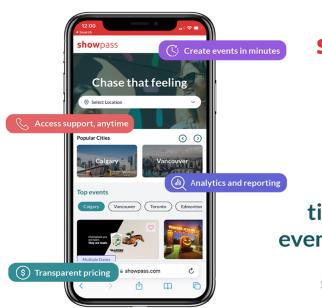
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#### **BUDDY VICTOR**

#### "There's a time a for joy, A time for tears, A time we'll treasure through the years. We'll remember always."



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved founding donor and naming partner, Buddy Victor, who peacefully departed at the age of 92, just days before his 93rd birthday. He is survived by his longtime partner, Al Osten, who stood by his side throughout their remarkable journey.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Buddy Victor was a distinguished graduate of Boys High School, where he earned the title of valedictorian. He ventured into a successful solo singing career and later joined the renowned doo-wop group, the Rover Boys, in 1957. The Rover Boys achieved chart-topping success with their hit song, "Graduation Day," and went on to captivate audiences on prestigious stages. They performed on the Tonight Show at Radio City Music Hall, opening for Tony Bennett in Atlantic City, and appeared on Dick Clark's American Bandstand. Their talent even graced the Las Vegas strip, and they played a pivotal role in discovering the legendary Canadian singer, Paul Anka.

In 1967, Buddy and Al seized a promising business opportunity by investing in Weight Watchers. They acquired both the Alberta and Saskatchewan franchises, eventually selling the business in 2013. Their prosperity enabled them to support numerous charitable organizations, including Pilgrims Hospice, the Art Gallery of Alberta, the Victor-Osten Foundation, Alzheimer's Society in Edmonton, the OSTEN & VICTOR Alberta Tennis Centre, Theatre Calgary, and the Osten-Victor Foundation in Calgary.

Remarkably, despite having no prior connection to tennis, Al Osten and Buddy Victor made a transformative contribution to the OSTEN & VICTOR Alberta Tennis Centre in Calgary. Their generosity paved the way for its construction, transforming it into a crown jewel of Canadian Tennis. The centre services nearly 40,000 Albertans annually and hosts prestigious sporting events, including the Calgary National Bank Challenger. In 2017, the Centre received Tennis Canada's Facility Excellence Award, solidifying its status as Canada's premier year-round tennis facility.

We extend our deepest condolences to Al Osten, Buddy's friends, and family. Buddy Victor's legacy of philanthropy and dedication to Alberta will forever be remembered. We will dearly miss him, and his memory will be honored during the Calgary National Bank Challenger hosted by the OSTEN & VICTOR Alberta Tennis Centre.



Listen to "Graduation Day" on Spotify

#### **BUDDY VICTOR & The Rover Boys**



The Rover Boys were a pop group sensation in the 1950's. L-R: Larry Amato, Doug Wells, Buddy Victor, and Al Osten



Al Osten (with bandmates Doug Wells and Larry Amato) faced a lineup change in 1957 when guitarist Billy Albert departed The Rover Boys; new lead singer Buddy Victor became a lifelong friend and business partner.



"Graduation Day" was originally performed by Canadian pop group The Rover Boys and later made famous by The Beach Boys.



Scan to listen to more songs by **The Rover Boys** on Youtube.



### Future is an Attitude.



Vehicle for illustrative purposes only. Vehicle displayed is not a for sale model.



#### CALGARY CHALLENGER SCHEDULE OF PLAY

SAT NOV 4

**Pro's Practice** 

SUN NOV 5

**Qualifying - Round 1** 

MON NOV 6

Qualifying - Round 2 & Main Draw

TUES NOV 7 Main Draw Singles - Round 1 & 2 Main Draw Doubles - Round 1

WED NOV 8 Main Draw Singles - Round 1 & 2
Main Draw Doubles - Round 1 & 2

THURS NOV 9 Main Draw Singles - Round 2
Main Draw Doubles - Quarterfinals

FRI NOV 10 Main Draw Singles - Quarterfinals Main Draw Doubles - Semi-Finals

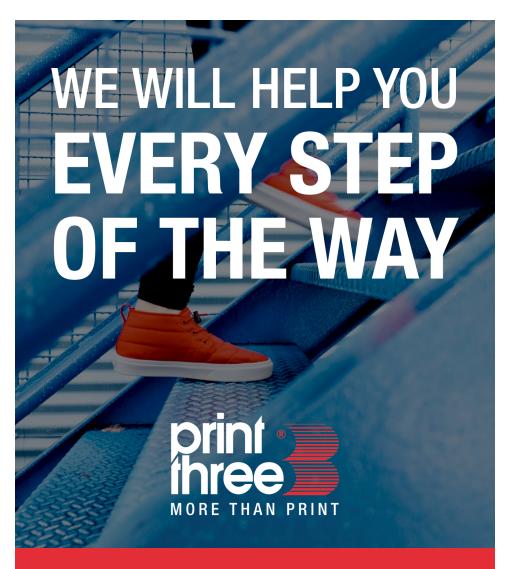
SAT NOV 11 Main Draw Singles - Semi Finals Main Draw Doubles - Finals

SUN NOV 12

Men's & Women's Singles Final

For more information including the order of play for each day please visit

www.calgary.nationalbankchallenger.com and/or www.atpworldtour.com (men) and www.itftennis.com (women)



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#### CALGARY CHALLENGER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SAT Community Day - Player Practice Free Entry NOV 4 SUN VIP Restaurant: Snacks Only NOV 5 Guest Singer Charley Kobelka and special MON **National Bank Opening Night** presentation from the Royal Canadian Legion. NOV 6 VIP Restaurant: Major Tom **TUES** Charity 50/50 with the U of C Dinos Tennis Team Well Canada Day NOV 7 VIP Restaurant: Lulu Bar **Honour ATC Club Champions** WED **Burwood Day** VIP Restaurant: Lonely Mouth NOV 8 **THURS** Sponsor Clinic with Daniel Nestor **National Bank Day** NOV 9 VIP Restaurant: Bridgette Bar FRI Women in Tennis Coaching Workshop Knix Women's Day VIP Restaurant: Barbarella **NOV 10** Daniel Nestor 3.0+ Doubles Clinics, Singles Semi-Finals, SAT The Cleaning Girl & Doubles Finals, and Girls.Set.Match - Girls Tennis Camp Pineda Real Estate Group Day **NOV 11** VIP Restaurant: Surfy Surfy Daniel Nestor 3.0+ Doubles Clinics. The Finals SUN Jazz Concert featuring Al Muirhead Presented by Holt Renfrew **NOV 12** VIP Restaurant: Pigeon Hole





#### ROBIN MONTGOMERY

2022 Calgary National Bank Challenger Champion A Rising Tennis Star



At just 19 years old, Robin Montgomery has already left an indelible mark on professional tennis. With a career-high WTA singles ranking of No. 121 and a best double ranking of No. 119 as of September 18, 2023, her journey is a testament to unwavering determination and a deep passion for the sport.

Robin Montgomery's tennis journey began at the Junior Tennis Champions Center (JTCC), where her talent was meticulously nurtured, setting the stage for her remarkable career.

In 2019, Montgomery made her presence known at the US Open, reaching the third round in Girls' Singles. She also contributed to a Junior Fed Cup victory for the United States, partnering with Connie Ma to secure the doubles match.

Montgomery's potential shone brightly as she clinched the "18 and under" title at the prestigious 2019 Orange Bowl, signalling her readiness for bigger challenges. In 2020, Montgomery secured her first ITF tournament victory in Las Vegas.

Montgomery's star continued to rise in 2021 with her WTA 1000 debut at the Miami Open as a wildcard. However, her defining moment came at the US Open, where she captured both the girls' singles and doubles titles, making her the first American to do so in several years.

In 2022, Montgomery added another illustrious chapter to her career by winning the Calgary National Bank Challenger, solidifying her status as a rising star in professional tennis.

Montgomery's journey continues into 2023, marked by her first WTA 1000-level win at the Miami Open. As she builds on her already impressive career.

Robin Montgomery's ascent in the world of professional tennis is nothing short of extraordinary. At just 19 years old, she has achieved remarkable success. With a bright future ahead and a relentless dedication to the sport, Montgomery is poised to continue making waves on the international tennis stage. Her journey serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes worldwide, a testament to the power of talent, hard work, and an unwavering passion for the game. As we follow her promising career, one thing is certain: Robin Montgomery is a rising star whose tennis brilliance will continue to shine brightly.

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### Featuring:

Women in Tennis Coaching Conference (Nov 10) and Girls.Set.Match Tennis Camp by Tennis Canada (Nov 11)

#### WHY IS THIS SUCH A BIG DEAL?

Historically, there has been a pay-gap between men's & women's tennis. Women often face a disadvantage when competing, whether it be lower prize money or lack of paid hospitality. The OSTEN & VICTOR Alberta Tennis Centre is fully committed to improving access for women's tennis in Canada. We have partnered with Tennis Canada, National Bank and the Province of Alberta to cover the \$50,000 hospitality costs for our women's event and thus lowering the pay-equity gap. With their support, The Calgary National Bank Challenger has become the first W60 event in Canada to offer paid hospitality for women.

Join us Nov 10th to celebrate women empowerment and check out a selection of Knix products!



SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS INITIATIVE















# GAME, SET, EQUITY A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TOWARDS GENDER EQUITY IN TENNIS

In the last few months, Tennis Canada, in partnership with National Bank, officially unveiled the Game. Set. Equity. commitment, an ambitious and holistic strategy that will advance gender equity at all levels of the tennis ecosystem in Canada, from playgrounds to the professional tours. Created by Tennis Canada, the Game. Set. Equity. commitment will be delivered through five key pillars that align with the International Tennis Federation's Advantage All strategy:

**Grow Participation:** In partnership with our Provincial and Territorial Tennis Associations and other industry partners, invest in bespoke opportunities that are proven to attract and retain women and girls as participants and leaders in tennis.

Lead Equitable, Inclusive and Safe
Experiences at Tennis Canada: Working in
collaboration with all genders at Tennis Canada
on creating and promoting safe and inclusive
experiences for women to thrive while
maintaining education efforts.

**Women Leading:** Achieving and sustaining gender parity in leadership roles, both across the organization and the business of tennis in Canada.

Commercial Advancement of the Women's Game: Striving to be best-in-class by advancing commercial investment and partnerships that directly benefit women in tennis.

Equal Voice: Leading by example and achieving parity of voice for women and girls on our owned channels and properties, and in collaboration with our media/broadcast partners.

Specific targets for each pillar over the next five years have been set by Tennis Canada and are available on the organization's website. Some highlights include achieving minimum of 40% of

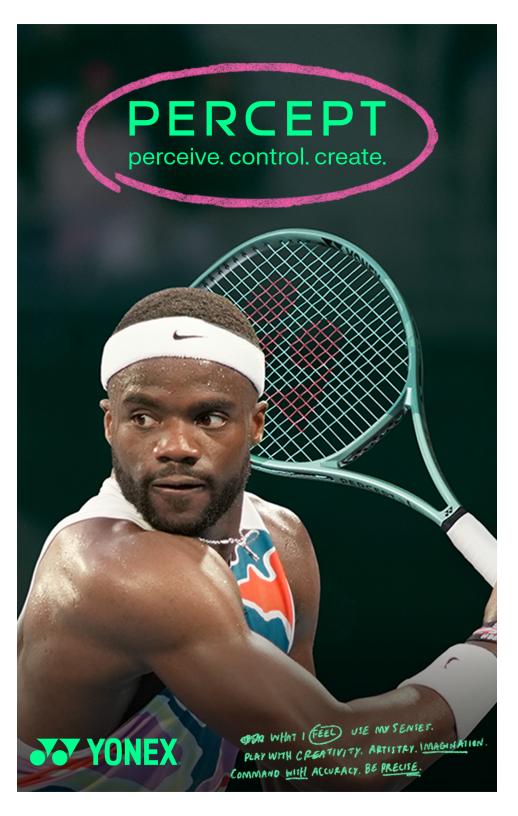
women at the board and senior management level at Tennis Canada and increasing the number of active women coaches and officials to 40%. Striving to offer equal prize money and visibility to both WTA and ATP players at the National Bank Open presented by Rogers was also an important objective of our commitment and it will soon become a reality: Tennis Canada announced over the summer that the NBO will officially start offering equal prize money to both women and men starting in 2027, a pathway that will additionally see a significant increase in earnings for the women's event in the coming years.

"Over the last few years, Tennis Canada was able to realize important milestones towards gender equity in tennis, most notably by securing a 10-year partnership with National Bank in 2021 with a proportionate amount of the investment earmarked for advancing the participation and retention of women and girls in tennis," said Michael Downey, CEO of Tennis Canada. "However, the launch of Game. Set. Equity. marks the beginning of a new era for Canadian tennis. It will be the first time in our history that our sport has a clear long-term road map for creating sustainable change for women and girls in all areas of tennis, from high-performance and coaching to leadership and beyond. We are really excited to see how things will unfold in the years to come."

Michael Downey CEO of Tennis Canada

To learn more about our commitment towards gender equity in tennis, visit the "Game. Set. Equity." section on our official website: www.tenniscanada.com







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## **DOMINIK KOEPFER**

2022 Calgary National Bank Challenger Champion

## A Tennis Journey of Resilience



Dominik Koepfer, born on April 29, 1994, is a talented German professional tennis player whose journey in the sport has been marked by remarkable achievements and relentless determination. He reached a career-high ATP singles ranking of world No. 50 on May 10, 2021, and showcased his prowess in doubles by achieving a ranking of No. 92 on February 14, 2022. Notably, his tennis career was significantly shaped during his college years at Tulane University, where he honed his skills and set the stage for a promising professional career.

Dominik Koepfer made his ATP main draw debut at the Winston-Salem Open in 2017. He went on to secure his first ATP Challenger Tour title in doubles at the Columbus Challenger, partnering with Denis Kudla. In 2018, Koepfer achieved his first ATP win, triumphing over Tennys Sandgren at the Winston-Salem Open.

In 2019, after securing his maiden Challenger title in singles at the Ilkley Trophy, Koepfer made a remarkable Grand Slam debut at Wimbledon. In the year 2020, Koepfer achieved a significant breakthrough by reaching the quarterfinals of an ATP Tour Masters 1000 event at the Italian Open.

The year 2021 witnessed Koepfer's ascent into the top 50 rankings. He displayed impressive performances, including reaching the third round in two Grand Slam events. He showcased exceptional skills at the US Open, reaching the second round and facing the eventual champion, Daniil Medvedev. Koepfer's resilience has made him a force to be reckoned with in the tennis world.

Despite facing challenges in 2022, including an arm injury that led to his withdrawal from the clay season, Koepfer's determination and perseverance remained unshaken. He made a triumphant return by clinching titles at Challenger events, including the Calgary National Bank Challenger, regaining his footing in the top 100 rankings.

In 2023, Koepfer continued to shine by securing his third and fourth Challenger titles, showcasing his talent and determination to climb back into the top 100 rankings.

he navigates the challenges and triumphs of professional tennis, Koepfer remains a promising and formidable presence in the tennis world, leaving an indelible mark on the court signifying a bright future in the world of professional tennis.





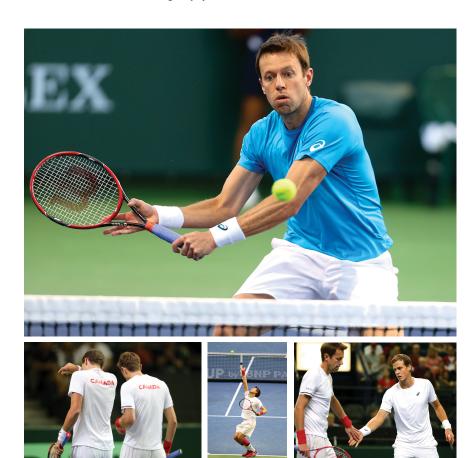
# DANIEL NESTOR HONORARY TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

For over twenty years, Daniel Nestor has been a fixture in Canadian sports. He has won more than any other Canadian Athlete in any sport, all time. Daniel was #1 in the world in doubles and reached a high of #58 in the world in singles.

The winner of 12 Grand Slam Titles, over 1000 match wins on the ATP Tour, Nestor holds 91 doubles titles on the ATP Tour. At the 2000 Summer Olympic Games, Nestor won the Gold Medal for Canada in men's doubles and in 2012, he received the Order of Canada.

Learn doubles from the best! Daniel Nestor is returning to the Calgary National Bank Challenger for 2023. Daniel will be hosting and leading doubles clinic sessions at ATC during the event. This is a once-and-a lifetime opportunity to get on court with the greatest doubles player in the history of tennis.

For more information or to sign up, please call (587) 393 1600.

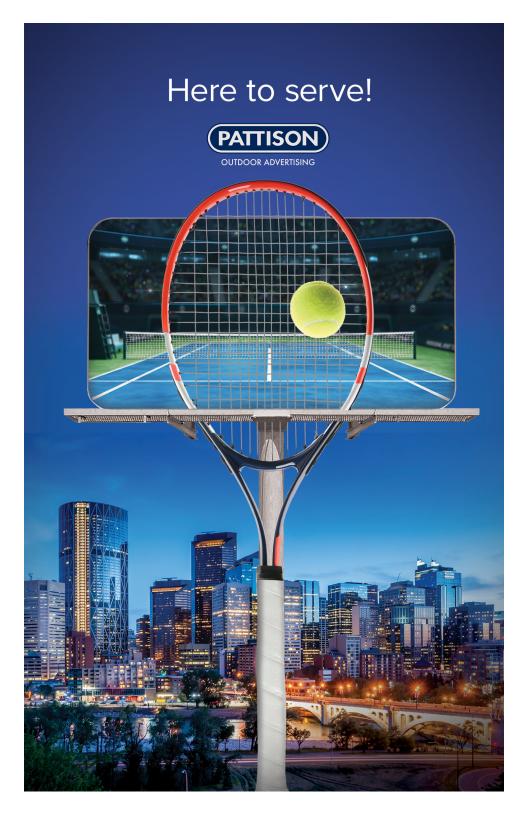




WEEKDAYS 6-9



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# RADIO HOME OF THE CALGARY FLAMES

LISTEN LIVE TO SN960 EVERY GAME





Photo by Jeff McIntosh/For The Globe and Mail

Ron Ghitter, serves as the Chairman of the Osten & Victor Alberta Tennis Centre and is a driving force behind the Friends of Ron Ghitter Fund. With an unwavering passion for the sport and a commitment to its growth, Ron Ghitter has dedicated his time, energy, and resources to propel tennis to new heights in Alberta.

#### PURPOSE BEHIND THE FUND

The Friends of Ron Ghitter Tennis Fund ("Fund") was established to provide financial support to underserved children in learning and participating in the game of tennis.

The Fund will augment traditional funding or payments streams to qualified participants/families when is not available or adequate.

The Fund will provide the following areas of support to qualified participants/families at reduced or no cost to the recipient, through two key funding programs:

#### 1. RON & MYRNA GHITTER COMMUNITY FUND

The Ron & Myrna Ghitter Community Fund supports diversity, inclusion, all gender and under-resourced youth through the participation in tennis. The fund is to be used in the local community as part of the Friends of Ron Ghitter Fund for Kids.

#### 2. RON GHITTER EXCELLENCE FUND

The Ron Ghitter Excellence Fund supports high performance development for junior players between the ages of 8 – 17 years of age who show national/international level potential in tennis. The fund may be used to offset training and travelling expenses for players at the Alberta Tennis Centre (ATC). The fund part of the Friends of Ron Ghitter Fund for Kids.

#### VISION

To ensure every Calgarian youth tennis player has the means to pursue and achieve their goals in the sport of tennis.

#### MISSION

To improve the lives and experience of Calgarian youth through the sport of tennis

#### PRIMARY GOAL OF THE FUND

Our overarching goal is to ensure that all Calgarian youth have an opportunity to play tennis regardless of their socioeconomic background.

For more information on the Friends of Ron Ghitter Fund for Kids, please contact: Danny Da Costa, CEO of the OSTEN & VICTOR Alberta Tennis Centre.



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# **UROS BUDDIMAC**

Head Tennis Professional, The Granite Club Author of MINE! – An Illustrated Guide to Women's Doubles

## STOP Trying to Hit Winners!

Doubles tennis is one of the most exciting team sports that requires you to be in sync with your partner, meanwhile fully present for your own next move. Before being hard on yourself for making any kind of mistake on the court – ask yourself, was I fully there, was I activated, and did I just attempt hitting the right shot?

We often see the error – the ball is in the net, wide or long... but we often have difficulty understanding where this error came from. And of course we blame our take back, grip or the lack of watching the ball. Playing great doubles comes down to SO much more than just technique. It is team spirit, decision making, movement... and ultimately the team that makes less errors wins!

Take a moment to think about your last doubles match.

- 1. Were you present?
- 2. Did you play your role?
- 3. How were points won & lost?

Performing starts with you. When you walk onto the tennis court, try to leave the world behind. In order to perform at your very best, you must be fully in the present moment, physically and mentally. One of the easiest ways to do so is to stay active on your toes - when the ball is bouncing, your feet also need to be bouncing. And while striking the ball, exhaling will keep your focus on the ball and your mind in the present.

There are many moving parts in doubles, and it is easy to lose track of what matters most – YOU. We often think more about our opponents, their strengths, and weaknesses; meanwhile we forget to play our own best game. Before each point begins, get focused on your role and intentions. Are you the server? Server's partner? Are you looking to poach? Every position comes with its own set of focus points.



The last time you lost a match, it was most likely due to more errors than your opponents. Not because you hit less winners than them. And that is how matches are generally decided... By "trying" to hit winning shots, you end up risking more than you can win. Enjoy making your opponents miss, and stop trying to hit winners! The outcome of your shot is not in your control, so play your best shot for the given situation, and recover for the next one. If they don't return it, or it ends up being a winner, let that be a bonus.

Visit www.minedoublesbook.com and use promo code **2books50** to purchase a copy of "MINE!" for yourself and your partner and get 30% off!



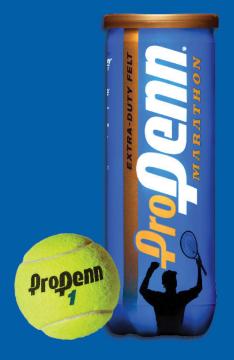
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Fee: \$50+tax per week (Combo \$90+tax)

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# Let's rally behind Canadian tennis

We keep our eyes on the ball to ensure Canadian tennis is accessible and equitable for all.

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