

DALLAS OPEN UNVEILS LAMAR HUNT TROPHY TO BE AWARDED TO SINGLES DRAW CHAMPION

Hunt pioneered professional tennis from Dallas in the late 1960s

[Click Here](#) to view photos of the Lamar Hunt Trophy

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DALLAS (February 9, 2023) – The Dallas Open today unveiled the Lamar Hunt Trophy, which will go to the Singles Draw champion at the ATP 250 event. The Dallas Open is being played this week at the Styslinger/Altec Tennis Complex at SMU.

The trophy, named after tennis pioneer Lamar Hunt and his family, features an etched photo of the sports magnate on the front and Dallas' iconic Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge on the top. This becomes the third major trophy named after the man who is enshrined in the tennis, football, and soccer halls of fame. The three trophies are:

- The Lamar Hunt Trophy, awarded to the winner of the NFL's AFC Championship Game
- The Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, awarded to the winner of the oldest national soccer tournament in the United States - The U.S. Open Cup
- The Lamar Hunt Trophy, awarded to the winner of the Dallas Open – the only indoor ATP tennis tournament in the United States

“It's great to have professional tennis again in Dallas,” said FC Dallas President Dan Hunt. “My father was such a tennis fan. He took incredible pride in growing the sport and our family is honored that his legacy continues with the Dallas Open.”

Tennis aficionados will remember Hunt as the visionary who founded World Championship Tennis (WCT) in 1967, the precursor to modern men's professional tennis in Dallas.



FC Dallas President Dan Hunt and Dallas Open Tournament Director Peter Lebedevs

“We are extremely honored to unveil the Lamar Hunt Trophy, presented to the 2023 Dallas Open champion for the first time on Sunday,” said Dallas Open Tournament Director Peter Lebedevs. “Lamar’s impact on professional tennis cannot be overstated. He was a pioneer of the sport in this area and we’re honored to recognize his impact with this trophy.”

Hunt’s impact in tennis was creative, innovative, and radical. The WCT built a global following, bringing professionals into tournament tennis. Hunt actively recruited amateur players, and the inaugural group known as the “Handsome Eight” featured Dennis Ralston, John Newcombe, Tony Roche, Cliff Drysdale, Earl Buchholz, Niki Pilić, Roger Taylor, and Pierre Barthès.

Hunt instituted a tie-breaker system and outfitted players with colorful clothing, a radical change implemented to improve the product for its television coverage. Hunt wanted a lively atmosphere – the WCT strongly encouraged fans to cheer for players – giving matches more of a boxing atmosphere than the hushed courts of Wimbledon.

In the early 1980s, WCT ultimately yielded to the weight of a changing landscape. The WCT folded in 1989 and in 1990, and the ATP began its own tour. Now, the ATP’s Dallas Open will pay its respects to Hunt for paving the way for professional tennis to be successful in Dallas.

Lamar Hunt’s family legacy continues with wife Norma and children, Lamar Jr., Sharron, Clark, and Dan.

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About The Dallas Open

The Dallas Open is an ATP Tour 250 men’s tournament that made its debut in Dallas in February 2022 at the Styslinger/Altec Tennis Complex at SMU. It is the only ATP Tour indoor championship in the United States, and features men’s top world tennis players in singles and doubles competition. The tournament, previously held as the New York Open, is one of the longest-running American tournaments on the ATP Tour. Its rich history features some of the top names in tennis, including legends John McEnroe, Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, Andy Roddick, Michael Chang, and Andy Murray, and a current generation of stars like Kei Nishikori, Milos Raonic, and Reilly Opelka.

About GF Sports & Entertainment

GF Sports & Entertainment is a global events and operations company that elevates the experience of live sports, entertainment and interactive events. The company owns two of the ATP Tours longest running American tennis tournaments, the Dallas Open and the Atlanta Open, as well as the National Lacrosse League New York Riptide. GF Sports & Entertainment also incubates new and emerging sport concepts, this includes Wolf Pack Ninjas, which operates ninja-focused events globally.

GF Sports & Entertainment was founded in July 2015 by New York-based private equity firm GF Capital. For additional information, please visit www.gfsportsandentertainment.com.

About The ATP

As the global governing body of men's professional tennis, the ATP's mission is to serve tennis. We entertain a billion global fans, showcase the world's greatest players at the most prestigious tournaments, and inspire the next generation of fans and players. From the ATP Cup in Australia, to Europe, the Americas and Asia, the stars of the game battle for titles and FedEx ATP Rankings points at ATP Masters 1000, 500 and 250 events, and Grand Slams. All roads lead towards the Nitto ATP Finals, the prestigious season finale held in Turin, Italy. Featuring only the world's top 8 qualified singles players and doubles teams, the tournament also sees the official crowning of the year-end ATP World No. 1, the ultimate achievement in tennis. For more information, please visit www.ATPTour.com.

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