



54th Annual
**Bring-A-Ringer
Tournament**

July 25-26, 2026



A Salt Creek Club Tradition Since 1973

Welcome to the 54th Annual Salt Creek Club Bring-A-Ringer

For more than five decades, the Bring-A-Ringer has been a highlight of the summer at Salt Creek Club, bringing together members, guests, and tennis enthusiasts for a weekend filled with competition, camaraderie, and fun. As we celebrate the 54th Ringer, 41 teams will take to the courts for two days of exciting matches and memorable moments.

From the opening serve to Sunday’s championship match, the weekend promises outstanding tennis, great sportsmanship, and plenty of opportunities to connect with friends old and new. Whether you’re competing, volunteering, or cheering from the sidelines, thank you for being part of this special Salt Creek Club tradition. We hope you enjoy every moment of the 2026 Bring-A-Ringer Tournament.

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SPECIAL THANKS

To Our Ringers:

Thank you for returning year after year and bringing the energy, talent, and fun that make this a unique Salt Creek event.

To Our Members:

Your ongoing support and spirit bring this tournament to life every summer.

To Our Team Behind the Scenes:

- Paul Garvin – Director of Tennis
- Mark Schaefer – Head Tennis Professional
- Chuck Genoar – Director of Operations
- Al Stradal – Director of Grounds
- Morgan Gallo – Event Coordination
- Julie Boruff – Program
- Dean Stermer and Mike Gartlan – Photography
- Salt Creek Club Staff

Event Support:

- Jarod Petrovic – No Gimmies Flexibility & Fitness
 - Racquet Stringing – Will Dannacher
-

Schedule of Events

SATURDAY

8:00 AM
Check-in and Breakfast on the SCC Patio. Players and Ringers invited.

8:30 AM & 9:30 AM
First Round Matches Begin

Following First Round Play
Matches will continue as courts become available.

Approximately 3:30 PM
Quarterfinal Matches Begin

7:00 PM
Dinner and Drinks
Creek Club Room

Member Players and Ringers, each with a guest, are invited to join us for dinner, drinks, and camaraderie.

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SUNDAY

8:30 AM
Back Draw and Consolation Matches Begin

10:30 AM
Championship Semifinals

1:30 PM
Championship Final
3rd, 5th, and 7th Place Matches

Please note: All match times are approximate and subject to change.

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A photograph of Wendy Garber, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a bright red sleeveless dress and black heels. She is standing in a modern, brightly lit interior space with light-colored wood floors and white walls. In the background, there is a large window and some art pieces on the wall.

LUCCA
— OSTERIA & BAR —

The Teams

MEMBER	RINGER
Todd Schaefer	Thomas "Frosty" Nelson
Chris Boruff	Greyson Casey
Jack Brennan	Daniel Labrador
Mike Brennan	Bruno Abdelnour
George Bull	Paul Garvin
Tarak Chokshi	Owen Megargee
Sung Chung	David Robare
Michael Clayborne	Aadarsh Tripathi
Sean Conroy	Reece Acree
Joe Condon	Chris Wallace
Joe Daw	Tim Kopinski
Joseph Daw	Alex Brown
Dino DeVita	Michael Lorenzini
Alex Geier	Bryce Ranchero
James Goldman	Hans Lin
David Henry	Ryan Cahill
Alex Hershman	Ryan Keefe
Zack Issleib	Luca Lipari
Rob Hopkins	Lucas Horve
Braden LeBaron	Vadym Kalyuzhnyy
Mike LeBaron	David Warren
Jim Leto	Artem Kapshuk
Ray Leonard	Lucas Andersen
Tony Leto	Sam Plys
Zoe Limparis	Gabe Guzauskas
Kyle McCain	Nick Marringa
Danny McGuigan	Joseph Cunningham
Pat McGuigan	Dean Kamenev
Mike Ross	Mujtaba "Moose" Ali-Khan
Wes Novatney	Barry Zhu
Jim Condon	Mark Schaefer
Chris Schuleit	Oliver Okonkwo
Jack Singer	Will Bush
Sam Stapleton	Trevor Hamilton
Charlie Usher	Ian Tesmond
Chaz Usher	Marcus Zeilstra
Pat Usher	Kevin Kruzel
Rob Weber	Chris Casati
Rob Young	Chema Carranza
Rachel Young	Gavin Young
Jeff Holland	Collin Beduhn

The Defending Champs

Photo courtesy of Dean Sterner



IF IT AIN'T BROKE

Back-to-back champions Todd Schaefer and Thomas "Frosty" Nelson return for their third year together, hoping to make Ringer history with a threepeat. After two consecutive championships, they enter the weekend with plenty of confidence, a very large target and a simple message for the draw: "We're back!"

TODD SCHAEFER

Todd returns for his 10th Ringer, although he now lists his official total as "too many." His tennis résumé includes one year at Grand Valley State University and a playing style he describes as inconsistent, erratic and concerning. His signature shot is the volley lob. His greatest strength as a doubles partner is allowing Frosty to hit most of the balls. His greatest liability is occasionally forgetting that arrangement and trying to take them himself.

Todd's title defense has been fueled by golf, carb loading, stretching and plenty of naps. When he is not on the court, he can often be found stretching at home, visiting his physical therapist or demonstrating his superpower: the ability to fall asleep anywhere at any time. His wife and mom remain his biggest fans, currently ranked 1A and 1B.

FROSTY NELSON

Frosty returns for his third year alongside Todd after two seasons at Old Dominion. He began his college career at Marquette, where he was team MVP in 2022–2023, before transferring to ODU. With the Monarchs, he compiled a 16–13 singles record and a 26–23 doubles record. This fall, he will play at Michigan State while pursuing his master's degree.

Frosty earned First Team All Conference honors in doubles and was twice named Sun Belt Doubles Team of the Week with Adam Majchrzak. He primarily played at the No. 1 doubles slot and No. 6 singles position, helping ODU secure victories against teams like VCU and Georgia Southern.

Frosty is the nephew of Marc Veverka, who coached him from a young age and helped shape the player he is today.



Todd, Chriss & Mark Schaefer

Todd & Melissa Schaefer

Frosty & Marc Veverka

Frosty

Meet the Teams

THESE CATS: MILD OR WILD?



CHRIS
BORUFF

Chris Boruff returns for his 10th Ringer, this time with Northwestern standout Greyson Casey. A Northwestern alum himself, Chris has made a habit of partnering with Wildcat players over the years and seems determined to work his way through the entire roster. Chris brings fresh confidence to this year's Ringer after he and his USTA team mounted a successful championship run at the Men's 55+ 8.0 League National Championships last fall.

He describes his aggressive playing style as IN CON SISTENT and lists the overcooked forehand down the line, the too short lob, and the dipper that doesn't quite dip among his signature shots. His greatest strength as a doubles partner is his speed, ensuring he can quickly get out of his partner's way.



GREYSON
CASEY

Greyson is a rising senior at NU and a former five-star recruit who reached No. 19 nationally in USTA Boys' 18s. He has since become a serious doubles threat for the Wildcats, reaching as high as No. 18 in the ITA doubles rankings. He recently qualified for the American Collegiate US Open Wildcard Playoff after a 21–1 doubles record during the 2025–26 season. Despite these impressive credentials, Greyson describes his playing style as "sometimes goes in" and lists the two handed forehand as his signature shot.

Greyson claims he's been preparing for this year's Ringer by exploring Chicago's bars. With the support and admiration of his biggest fan, fellow 'Cat Owen Megargee (making his own Ringer debut alongside Tarak Chokshi), Greyson says he's hoping for a chance to "mop the floor" with NU Assistant Coach Chema Carranza (partnering with Rob Young). We're thinking Greyson may have "over-prepared" at those Chicago bars.

LADIES TAKE NOTE: GREYSON IS CURRENTLY SINGLE AND IS APPARENTLY KNOWN AROUND THE NU CAMPUS FOR BEING "SUPER COOL."

BELT AND SUSPENDERS



JACK
BRENNAN



Jack Brennan returns for his 12th Ringer, teaming up with Daniel Labrador for the first time. Jack's tennis résumé is anchored by his ongoing battle with Paul Garvin for the SCC World Champion title, contested three or four mornings a week before most members have finished their first cup of coffee. The winner takes home the actual championship belt, then spends the rest of the day sending photographic evidence to the loser until the next rematch. These high-stakes sessions have sharpened Jack's signature down-the-line winner while doubling as a serious lower-body workout. Similar results are available through the JB Leg Workout at QuadsByJack.com. No refunds. Pants may fit differently.

Away from tennis, Jack spends most of his time doing whatever his daughter demands, and with a second child on the way, management is about to expand. He is especially hoping to face his dad, Mike Brennan and Bruno Abdelnour.



DANIEL
LABRADOR

Daniel returns for his second Ringer. A former five-star recruit ranked as high as No. 37 nationally, he played Division I tennis at Clemson and Purdue, competing primarily at No. 1 singles and doubles for the Boilermakers while earning Academic All-Big Ten and ITA Scholar-Athlete honors. He describes his game as "exciting, rollercoaster and fun." His signature shot is the serve, while his greatest strengths as a doubles partner are his volleys and ability to elevate his teammate to new heights. Daniel admits he has not played a competitive match since last year's Ringer, but with the reigning SCC World Champion beside him, there is clearly no reason for concern.

ALL ABOUT THE SEASONING

MIKE
BRENNAN

Mike Brennan, a longtime SCC member, is pairing up again with veteran Ringer Bruno Abdelnour. Mike is also one of this year's generous Ringer sponsors, and the tournament sincerely thanks him for his support. But it's doubtful his generosity is going to earn him much on-court sympathy from the competition, which includes son Jack.

Bruno brings serious credentials to the partnership. He reached a career-high ATP singles ranking of No. 1086 in 2011 and played four years of Division I tennis at the University of Illinois. He finished his collegiate career with 60 singles victories and 31 doubles wins and became known for delivering under pressure, including match-clinching performances against Notre Dame and Tennessee.

Bruno was equally accomplished away from the court, balancing Big Ten tennis with engineering studies at the Grainger College of Engineering. He earned Second Team Academic All-American honors and twice received the Outstanding Scholar Athlete Award.

Together, Mike and Bruno's years of combined experience provide the seasoning that might just make them a team to watch.

FIRST CLASS, BABY

George Bull returns for his fifth Ringer, once again teaming with his father, SCC icon Paul Garvin. This marks their fourth Ringer together, while Paul estimates this is approximately his 30th overall.

GEORGE
BULL

George played high school and college club tennis. He describes his game as "clean backhands only." His signature shot is a Mach 6 forehand into the back fence, so AI may want to reinforce the fencing before play begins. George lists "Clear Eyes, Full Heart" as his greatest strength as a doubles partner.

Paul brings considerably more Ringer experience, although the résumé highlight he chose to share is a 27th place finish with David Henry a few years ago. David is also Paul's biggest fan and, conveniently, his most ridiculous excuse after a loss.

Paul describes his current playing style simply as "declining" and is preparing for the tournament by sleeping. His backhand remains his signature shot, his return of serve is his greatest strength and the coin toss decision is somehow his biggest liability. He lists "energy" as his superpower and is most looking forward to playing Jack Singer and Will Bush.

Paul, according to Marc: He is naturally left-handed but plays tennis right-handed, took five years to earn his communications degree from the University of Kansas and owns a moguls training machine that is currently collecting dust in his basement. He travels almost exclusively in first class, enjoys showering aboard Emirates flights and will not attend a sporting event unless he is seated within the first three rows. He once traveled to Dubai primarily to experience Emirates First Class. When asked what there was to do in Dubai, Paul replied, "Nothing."

PAUL
GARVINTARAK
CHOKSHI

Tarak Chokshi returns for his third Ringer, teaming with Owen Megargee for the first time. An All-Conference high school player, Tarak describes his current style as "pusher, return everything." He is known for his hustle, his ability to get to almost anything and a forehand cut slice that can extend points far longer than opponents would prefer. His message to the draw is simple: "It will be a grind."

Tarak is preparing for the weekend with rest and golf. His greatest strength as a doubles partner is getting out of the way quickly, while his biggest liability is, according to Tarak, "everything." He will consider any win a good one.

Owen arrives at Salt Creek with an impressive junior and collegiate résumé. A five-star recruit, he trained at the Junior Tennis Champions Center in Maryland, rose to No. 34 nationally in the class of 2023 and reached a career high ITF junior ranking of No. 307. He also won the Boys 16s USTA National Clay Court Doubles Championship and received the Wes Richards Sportsmanship Award at the Kalamazoo National Championships.

Owen joined Northwestern for the 2023–2024 season and has developed into a dependable contributor in both singles and doubles. He reached the doubles semifinals at the Milwaukee Tennis Classic and has delivered important dual match wins throughout his college career. Over his sophomore and junior seasons, Owen recorded key No. 3 doubles victories in close Big Ten matches against Nebraska and Penn State. He has also earned Academic All-Big Ten honors twice and enters his senior year as an experienced and reliable part of the Wildcats lineup.

OWEN
MEGARREE

ROLL THE DICE

Sung Chung returns for what he believes is his 19th Ringer. A former third doubles player for Hinsdale Central in 1988 and 1989, Sung now describes his playing style as "Ringer hits everything." In the language of the younger generation, he considers himself an NPC, or non-player character, whose job is to provide laughs, contribute commentary and allow his partner to handle most of the actual tennis. His signature shot is the "let's get the point started" serve feed. His greatest strength as a doubles partner is humor. His biggest liability is everything else.

Sung is equally well known for gambling, trash talk and presiding over the Saturday night dice games. His self-proclaimed superpower is making money off the other Ringers, which explains his simple message to the draw: **CASH ACCEPTED.** He is especially looking forward to facing Charlie Usher, otherwise known as "the smiling assassin." Sung has already made Charlie part of his training regimen, regularly teaming with Pat Usher against Charlie and John Lopez on Tuesdays with York Tavern pizza and adult beverages on the line. Away from tennis and dice, Sung continues to insist that he is a better hiker and camper than Mike Gartlan.

SUNG
CHUNGDAVID
ROBARE

Fortunately, first time partner David Robare appears more than qualified to handle the hitting. Returning for his 17th or 18th Ringer, David played Division I tennis at UIC, won a state doubles championship at LT and captured the 2018 Ringer title with James Goldman. He was also part of Salt Creek's 2019 Men's 5.0 USTA team that advanced to nationals in Las Vegas and now serves as Director of Racquets Instruction at the Country Club of Detroit. Despite all of that, David sums up his current game with two words: "could be better." David lists Jimmy "Bones" Bower as his biggest fan and arrived with one pressing question: "Does Cunningham still play in this?" No, David, Cunningham has been out for several years now.

TOP COURT ROOKIES

MICHAEL
CLAYBORNE

Welcome to new SCC member and Ringer rookie Michael Clayborne! A Texas native, Michael relocated to Hinsdale with his family three years ago. The USTA-rated 4.5 player describes his game as all-court and steady, with consistency serving as both his greatest strength and unofficial superpower. Determined to be ready for the Ringer, Michael has endured a grueling training regimen of hitting with his seven-year-old, which may still be tougher competition than the top court at the Tuesday night men's drill! Off the court, he works in Global Commercial Banking at Bank of America.

Joining Michael is fellow first-time Ringer Aadarsh Tripathi, fresh off a four-year Division I career at UCLA. A 2025 ITA doubles All-American and two-time NCAA doubles qualifier, Aadarsh reached career-high ITA rankings of No. 70 in singles and No. 10 in doubles. He also helped the Bruins capture a historic Big Ten title with a victory over Ohio State and has competed on the ITF Futures and UTR Pro tours. Aadarsh describes his playing style as fun, emotional, and charismatic. His signature shot is the tweener, communication is his greatest doubles strength, and speed is one of his not-so-secret weapons. His message to the draw: "Let's have fun!"

AADARSH
TRIPATHI

FIVE STAR RECRUIT(ER)

Sean Conroy returns for his eighth Ringer and his third consecutive year alongside Reece Acree. Sean considers reaching the top court at the Tuesday men's drill the highlight of his tennis résumé, and when he is not playing tennis, he is usually thinking about when he can play again.

Now 52, Sean is still wondering who this 52 year old guy in a 30-year-old body could possibly be. His Ringer preparation includes intense sessions on the ball machine, plenty of drills and doubles, and a few double bourbons to wash down the Advil. His signature shot is Patron, while his greatest strength as a doubles partner is loudly calling "YOURS" on almost every ball. His biggest liability is any ball hit in his general direction.

Sean is also leading a one-man campaign to welcome everyone at Salt Creek back to tennis. Paddle, pickleball and especially summer paddle players are all encouraged to join Tuesday drills and let Bones teach them the wrong way to hit a backhand. This year, Sean is particularly looking forward to facing defending champions Todd Schaefer and Frosty, whose back-to-back titles he considers suspiciously fluky. To reinforce that point, he parks in Todd's spot whenever possible and would like the opportunity to make the arrangement official.

Fortunately, Reece brings considerably more conventional tennis credentials. He played at the University of Central Florida from 2013 to 2017, served as team captain and later stayed with the program as both a volunteer and graduate assistant coach. He earned degrees in Radio and Television Broadcast, Business Administration and Sport Business Management through UCF's DeVos Sport Business Management Program. Reece now works at Wilson Sporting Goods as Global Product Line Manager for Racquet Sports, overseeing product strategy and development.

Sean's final message was reserved for David Henry, whom he felt he had neglected in his earlier responses. According to Sean, David is giving off a distinct "forgot deodorant and ran out of Axe Body Spray" vibe. David, can you take care of that?

SEAN
CONROYREECE
ACREE

COACH JIM'S FAVORITE

JOE
CONDON

Joe Condon makes his Ringer debut alongside Chris Wallace, who returns for his second appearance. Joe considers being named Tuesday night Men's Drill MVP the highlight of his tennis résumé (Editor's note: The number of members claiming to be champ of the Tues night drill is, let's just say, curious). His preparation consists of attending the drill once a week, where no one serves and every point begins with a cleanly fed ball. The Ringer may require some adjustment.

Joe describes his playing style as speed, luck and inconsistency. His signature shot is a framed backhand down the line, and his greatest strength is volleying, although he has also been known to volley balls that were already going out. Away from tennis, Joe plays hockey and padel and enjoys Oscar's quesadilla at SCC. His biggest fan is Coach Jim Condon, who also receives the blame whenever Joe loses. Joe already knows exactly who he wants to face: he is coming for Chaz's team.

Chris returns for his second Ringer with a Division III college tennis background and a candid assessment of his game: "Cliché American men's tennis circa 2003–2015. Like my forehand. Like my serve. Everything else is mediocre at best." He believes every shot can be a tweener if you are brave enough and admits his level can shift dramatically within a single point. When it shifts in the wrong direction, Taco Bell is usually to blame.

CHRIS
WALLACE

ILLINI ERAS TOUR

Joe Daw returns for his sixth Ringer, teaming with Tim Kopinski for the first time. A lifelong player, Joe won the 1978 IHSA state doubles championship, played varsity tennis for Illinois from 1980 to 1982 and later competed in USTA national tournaments.

Joe is preparing for the Ringer with match play, drilling and time on the ball machine. His greatest strength as a doubles partner is his volleys, while his biggest liability is "not sharing." His signature shot remains under wraps as "top secret." Joe will also have family in the draw, as his son, Joseph, is competing alongside former Illini Alex Brown.

Tim enters his third Ringer (although rumor has it that number would be considerably higher if he ever said yes to James Goldman) and currently serves as an assistant coach for the Illinois men's tennis program. During his Illini career, he earned All-American and First Team All-Big Ten honors, reached No. 2 nationally in doubles and finished as the runner-up at the 2015 ITA National Indoor Doubles Championship. He now coaches alongside fellow Ringer Lucas Horve.

Tim describes his playing style as "a slightly more athletic Pete Sampras." His preparation includes meditation, carb loading and an intense effort to dial in his ball toss. His backhand return is his signature shot, while his serve somehow ranks as both his greatest strength and his biggest liability.

Together, Joe and Tim connect Illinois tennis past and present, from Joe's varsity years in the early 1980s to Tim's current role coaching the program. We are excited to see the Orange and Blue take the court together!

JOE
DAWTIM
KOPINSKI

BROWN DAWGS

Joseph Daw returns for his fifth Ringer, teaming up with Alex Brown for the first time. The 2019 Illinois state doubles champion with the Hinsdale Central Red Devils later enjoyed what he modestly calls "one year of glory" playing Division I tennis at Tulane. He describes his playing style as "a bit impatient" and considers holding serve his greatest doubles strength. His Ringer preparation has consisted mostly of weekend tennis at Salt Creek.

His biggest fan is his mom, although his longtime girlfriend may challenge her for the title. They met while both working at Ruth Lake a few summers ago. Joseph's job performance is unclear, but the networking clearly paid off. This past Christmas, he bought himself a Porsche and, although he is a little young for membership, was admitted to the SCC Porsche Support Group, also known as the Midlife Crisis Club, alongside Rob Hopkins and James Goldman. Hopefully, Joseph's Porsche spends more time on the road than Goldman's, which spent six weeks in the shop and may still be there.

Joining Joseph is four-time Ringer Alex Brown, originally from Des Moines and now living in Chicago. A 2020 ITA Singles All American at Illinois and three-time First Team All-Big Ten selection, Alex reached collegiate rankings of No. 9 in singles and No. 14 in doubles. He later competed professionally, reaching approximately No. 650 in singles and No. 750 in doubles.

Alex describes his playing style simply: **CRASH. THE. NET.** Volleys around his ankles remain a potential complication, which feels like a fairly important detail for someone committed to crashing the net. His tennis light Ringer preparation has focused more on fitness than court time. Away from tennis, Alex plays poker, studies for the CFA, attends concerts and is surprisingly bad at volleyball.

Alex names former Illinois teammate Lucas Horve as his biggest fan, although he also says he dominates Lucas in all things tennis. Lucas is playing with Rob Hopkins this year, so that reunion could get interesting. Alex's warning to everyone else is brief: "Watch out."

GOOD VIBES

Dino DeVita enters his first Ringer with a refreshingly uncomplicated tennis résumé. He has built his game around hope, luck and serendipity rather than rankings, titles or recent match results. His training has been equally unconventional, consisting primarily of deep meditation as he prepares for the uncertainty of tournament weekend. His biggest fan is Dave Henry, who will presumably be on hand to support him throughout the weekend.

Michael brings considerably more competitive experience. A Clarendon Hills native and Hinsdale Central graduate, he won a state doubles title and finished third in singles before continuing his career at Northwestern from 2015 to 2019. During four seasons with the Wildcats, he contributed in both singles and doubles, playing primarily at No. 6 singles and in the No. 2 and No. 3 doubles positions.

Now living in Chicago, Michael spends some of his time playing pickleball and lists good vibes as his greatest strength as a doubles partner. Known for bringing the energy, he has advised the draw to "just have fun" and is ready to face whoever happens to be on the other side of the net.

JOSEPH
DAWALEX
BROWNDINO
DEVITAMICHAEL
LORENZINI

OLD SCHOOL

Alex Geier makes his Ringer debut this year alongside fellow first timer Bryce Ranchero. Originally from Cincinnati and now living in Hinsdale, Alex was a solid high school player, although, by his own admission, nowhere near good enough to play at his alma mater, Duke. His greatest tennis résumé highlight may actually be serving as a ball boy at what is now the Cincinnati Open.

Alex learned the game in the era of wooden rackets, serve and volley tennis and all court play. He has stubbornly resisted adapting to newer technology or an aging physique, producing what he accurately describes as a high risk, low reward game. Aggressive and impatient, Alex relies on quick hands at the net and a hard slice backhand, while an erratic forehand keeps everyone involved. His Ringer training has been "reasonably serious," which sounds reassuringly vague. Off the court, Alex works in investment banking and follows sports obsessively.

Joining Alex is Bryce Ranchero, who is from Manila and now lives in Romeoville. Bryce was a practice partner at Illinois and spent several months training at the Rafa Nadal Academy, where he met Nadal himself. Bryce describes his game as fast, physical and strategic. His signature shot is also the slice backhand, his superpower is speed and his greatest doubles asset is a positive mindset. Height may be a concern, but his Ringer preparation of three hours of tennis a day and lifting five days a week should help, if he can still move by Ringer time.

LOW PROFILE

James Goldman returns for his 16th Ringer as one half of what may be the shortest team in the draw. Sadly, he may also still be carrying the emotional scars of a men's trip to Florida in March, when he and Bones lost in straight sets to Hopkins and Veverka despite holding nine set points. James reportedly did not speak for the next hour. The match has never been spoken of again.

James played Division III tennis at Tufts and won two Super Senior father son Gold Balls with his dad (USTA national tournaments). Apparently deciding the Gold Balls were not sufficient evidence of success, James entered the Porsche market this year. Ever financially disciplined, he bypassed the showroom and selected a high mileage model with plenty of character. It promptly spent six weeks in the shop, making his carefully calculated entry into Porsche ownership a little more complicated than planned.

His signature shot is his infamous underhand serve, while his official war cry, "YOURS!", serves as encouragement, instruction and the immediate transfer of all responsibility. He is most looking forward to facing anyone older than he is, although that portion of the draw continues to shrink.

Fortunately, first time Ringer Hans Lin appears capable of handling anything James declares "yours." Originally from Taiwan and now living in Chicago, Hans played No. 1 singles and No. 3 doubles at the University of Washington and represented Taiwan in the 2020 Davis Cup. He describes his playing style as "fast, unpredictable and everywhere," with a running forehand as his signature shot.

When Hans is not covering every inch of the court, his favorite activity is sleeping. James and Hans may be short on height, but their strategy is already clear: James points, Hans runs, and both can comfortably fit in the Porsche whenever it happens to be out of the shop.

ALEX
GEIERBRYCE
RANCHEROJAMES
GOLDMANHANS
LIN

ON THE REBOUND

David Henry returns for what he considers only his second “real” Ringer, despite the official count being six. He is still grieving the end of his longtime partnership with Paul Garvin, but this year he is testing the waters with Ryan Cahill. Hopefully, Ryan is the rebound partner David needs to finally move on.

A former college swimmer, David freely admits that hand eye coordination has never been one of his strengths. Somehow, that has not stopped him from becoming a self-described tennis drill whore and essentially a pro at Tuesday night drills and Saturday cardio. When he is not on the court, he is usually taking Advil so he can get back on it.

David’s Ringer strategy is simple: hit the member and let Ryan handle the rest. His signature shot is appropriately named “Ryan’s got this,” his greatest strength is thriving in the heat, and his biggest liability is whatever is happening inside his own head. Ryan has also been given one special assignment: **PEG SEAN CONROY, WITH A \$50 BONUS** available to anyone else who does the same.

David’s pre-match routine includes a double espresso, two Advil and a daily BPC-157 injection, which should be perfectly fine as long as the Ringer does not introduce drug testing this year. He compares his tennis game to Elaine dancing, generally blames a loss on too much wine the night before, and still considers the old Coors Light kegs the best item ever served at SCC.

HIS MESSAGE TO THE DRAW: “WATCH OUT, BITCHES...EXCEPT ZOE AND RACHEL.”

Fortunately for David, Ryan appears capable of handling the assignment. The Western Springs native makes his Ringer debut after playing No. 1 singles and doubles at Xavier University, earning two All BIG EAST selections and reaching the ITA National Fall Championships. A former top 30 NCAA doubles player and three-year Xavier captain, Ryan now coaches at Hinsdale Racquet Club and has practiced with some of the world’s best players, including Nadal and Sinner.

Ryan describes his game as aggressive, clean and dynamic, lists the tweener as his signature shot and believes his greatest strength is his positivity. He claims to have no liabilities as a doubles partner, while his training philosophy is equally modest: “I am the routine.”

Photo courtesy of Mike Gartlan



DAVID
HENRY



RYAN
CAHILL



YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR

Salt Creek leadership returns to the court as President Alex Hershman once again teams up with Director of Racquets Sir Ryan Keefe. Both are playing in their sixth Ringer, and this marks their second appearance together. After an unexpected second round win last year, and a nail-biting fourth match that left Usher and Kruzel sweating bullets, they are back for another run.

Alex’s tennis résumé began with Salt Creek middle school interclub matches and may have peaked right here at the Ringer. He describes his playing style as “inconsistent, unreliable and frustrating.” His signature shot could be either a mishit off the frame or an improbable string of quick reflex volleys. His biggest liability is shanking the easy volley.

Known for wearing shorts throughout paddle season regardless of the temperature, Alex compares his tennis game to Kramer because no one ever knows when it is going to show up. His most legitimate excuse for a loss was splitting his head open, and Jim Condon reportedly has the video. Alex’s warning to the draw is simple: if you lose to this team, you will have to live with that shame for an entire year.

Ryan brings three career Ringer match victories and the confidence of a man who insists he beats Dave Henry every single time in singles. He describes his game as “errant, wild and fast,” three qualities every club member wants from its Director of Racquets. Ryan also believes in investing heavily in his Ringer partner and is reportedly paying Alex \$20 to play with him. After losing to Bones in paddle last year, he briefly contemplated quitting that sport altogether. His commitment as a doubles partner, however, is unquestioned. Ryan says he would die for Alex Hershman.

Together, Alex and Ryan bring plenty of enthusiasm, unwavering loyalty and just enough unpredictability to keep things interesting.

NOTHING TO SEE HERE

Zack Issleib returns for his second Ringer, 15 years after his first appearance as a ringer did not go particularly well. This time, he has wisely come back as an SCC member. A four-year Hinsdale Central varsity starter and senior captain, Zack helped lead the Red Devils to an Illinois team state championship. More recently, he captained winning teams in both the 2026 SCC Member/Member Tournament and Gator Cup, so the comeback tour already has momentum.

Zack claims he has spent the summer intentionally missing returns and overheads to lull opponents into a false sense of security. His signature shot is the backhand return shank lob, for which there is apparently no known defense. His net game is both his greatest strength and liability, and everyone should know early which version has shown up. He is not looking forward to playing anyone because “it’s going to be a bloodbath,” but promises they will not go quietly into the night. Past losses have also been blamed on the irresistible smell of the grill behind Court 3.

Joining Zack is Ringer rookie Luca Lipari, a Clarendon Hills native now living in Milwaukee. A former Emory player and 2022 Illinois state doubles runner-up, Luca describes his game as “not pretty, but gritty,” featuring a solid serve and a dirty backhand down the line. He admits his volleys are questionable and says his solid hand-eye coordination is offset by moving and playing “like a tree.” To get ready for the Ringer, Luca has been training with new players in Milwaukee while attempting to shave off some of the beer belly. He is especially eager to face Dean Kamenev, whose game he knows well and is ready to exploit. Together, Zack and Luca are embracing the underdog mentality and hoping to knock out a few favorites along the way.



ALEX
HERSHMAN



RYAN
KEEFE



ZACK
ISSEIB



LUCA
LIPARI

WHO'S OLLIE?

Rob "Hoppy" Hopkins returns for what feels like his 100th Ringer, although the actual count is closer to five as a ringer and roughly 25 as a member. This will be his second year with Lucas Horve, which means Lucas has officially advanced to year two of Hoppy's Ringer training program. During year one, the Ringer mistakenly believes the member will cover half the court. By year two, he understands that he is responsible for 75 percent of it and every overhead. Should Lucas ever advance to the Sung Chung level, that number increases to 95 percent, with additional coverage required behind the member's serve. According to Hoppy, Lucas is a smart guy and the training is progressing nicely. Lucas, however, admits he sometimes sits back and watches Hoppy take over the court, so there may still be some confusion about the curriculum.



**ROB
HOPKINS**



**LUCAS
HORVE**

A former Division I player at Eastern Illinois and three time Ringer champion, Hoppy also claims the distinction of being the best player on his block. When he is not playing tennis, he is usually working or scheduling more tennis. His wife remains somewhat understanding of the fixation, although he was forced to miss a league match for "some family wedding thing" last year.

Around SCC, Hoppy has developed a reputation as the resident grumpy grandpa. He has little patience for signs, formations, unsolicited poaching or underhand serves, the last of which he considers pure "bush league." Lucas keeps telling him that no matter what happens, they need to beat Ollie. Hoppy's only question is, "Who's Ollie?"

That would be Oliver Okonkwo, Lucas's former Illinois teammate and doubles partner. Lucas played for the Illini from 2018 to 2024, collected 60 doubles victories, climbed as high as No. 27 in the ITA doubles rankings and later reached No. 430 in the ATP doubles rankings. In a full circle moment, he has returned to Illinois as an assistant coach alongside fellow Ringer Tim Kopinski.

Lucas, meanwhile, is preparing for the tournament with a training routine inspired by Happy Gilmore, specifically the scene in which Happy stands in a batting cage and takes fastballs to the chest. His signature shot is the swinging reflex volley, also known as the lightsaber, and his biggest fan is Alex Brown, who Lucas claims has copied both his game and personality to an increasingly uncomfortable degree. He is especially looking forward to facing Okonkwo and attempting to return his 140 mph serve. Whatever percentage of the court Lucas is ultimately required to cover, the objective is clear: beat Ollie.

Photo courtesy of Mike Gartlan



Photo courtesy of Mike Gartlan

UNFINISHED BIZ

Braden LeBaron and Vadym Kalyuzhnyy return for their third Ringer together with some unfinished business after falling in last year's final, 6-4, 6-3. Braden, a current Hinsdale Central varsity bench superstar, has reached a 10 UTR and is ranked No. 8 in Illinois for his class. Despite those impressive credentials, he still considers earning that varsity bench spot his greatest accomplishment.

Braden describes himself as an inconsistent aggressive baseliner, highlighted by his signature whiff overhead. His Ringer training plan includes eating heavily, avoiding the sun to conserve energy and allowing his coach to fire balls directly at him, although Vadym occasionally seems to forget that Braden is supposed to return them.

Away from tennis, Braden enjoys losing pickleball wagers, adding to his impressive cologne collection, getting food with friends, preferably SCC chicken fingers, and drinking with his mom (left open to interpretation). Past losses have been blamed on Jimmy John's not settling well. If you know, you know. He is looking forward to facing Artem, Tony Leto's dad or even his own dad. His biggest fan is his dog, Echo, and he is eagerly anticipating the seafood boil. Sorry, Braden. It has been discontinued this year.

Vadym returns for his fourth Ringer and his third alongside both his partner and student. Originally from Ukraine and now living in Chicago, Vadym became Head Tennis Professional at Hinsdale Racquet Club in 2024 after five years as Director of the Academy. His résumé also includes Division I tennis at South Florida, a No. 12 national doubles ranking and an NCAA Sweet 16 appearance.

Vadym describes his style as chip and charge, with the ability to cover the entire net and dig low volleys off his shoelaces. Returning serve is another matter. This year, his Ringer preparation consists of partying in Miami the week before, because apparently that is how a head pro tapers. He admits he is "a little crazy," claims sarcasm as his superpower and insists that, despite his on-court personality, he is actually not a bad person. Anyone who knows Vadym would wholeheartedly agree. His biggest fan is Michael LeBaron, Braden's dad, proving that coaching the son has won over at least one member of the family.

THEIR MESSAGE TO THE DRAW: WATCH OUT FOR BRADEN, DO NOT HIT TO VADYM AT THE NET, AND GIVE THEM THE REMATCH.



**BRADEN
LEBARON**



**VADYM
KALYUZHNYI**



MERCY ME

MIKE
LEBARON

Mike LeBaron returns for his third Ringer and reunites with David Warren, who has apparently forgotten enough about their previous runs to agree to another one. Mike says his greatest tennis accomplishment is raising and financing Braden LeBaron's career while quietly forfeiting his own. He does, however, boast a 7-2 coaching record with Braden in third set tiebreaks, which he is happy to compare with Vadym's 0-2 record at any time.

Mike describes his game as "painful to watch," "sorry, not sorry" and "I use frame." His signature shanking frame lob return has a habit of surprising elite athletes, mostly because no one can predict where it is going. His Ringer preparation is focused on not breaking, ripping or pulling anything, thanks to twice weekly sessions with Body by Jarod and a tennis routine consisting of roughly half of David Henry's weekly workload. To sharpen his return game, Braden stands at the service line and rips serves directly at him, presumably as repayment for years of tennis lessons and tournament fees.

DAVID
WARREN

Off the court, Mike spends most nights and weekends following his two Hinsdale Central athletes through volleyball, tennis and college visits. His favorite SCC meal is Oscar's burrito after Thursday doubles, and he believes his unofficial biggest fan is Ryan Reynolds, who has not yet confirmed this.

Joining Mike is David Warren, a former Wheaton College player who now serves as Director of Tennis for Adult Programming at Oak Brook Tennis Center. His strategy remains admirably simple: chase the ball. When he is not playing tennis, he is watching tennis, which suggests the job may have followed him home. David would love to develop a signature shot and is currently accepting suggestions.

Their message to the draw is simple. David asks only, "Have mercy!" Mike wishes most of the draw luck and a fun weekend, but one unnamed team should know that he still has the tape from last year's match. The hooking needs to stop, or both the players and their coach will be grounded.

WE CAN DO THIS ALL DAY

JIM
LETO

Jim Leto returns for his fifth Ringer, teaming up with Artem Kapshuk for the first time. A USTA-rated 4.5 and relentless counterpuncher, Jim has collected an impressive assortment of titles, including victories at the Midwest Indoor Open 55 and Midwest Clay Court Championships. His preparation for this year's Ringer has been straightforward: spend as much time as possible on the clay and continue making opponents hit one more ball than they ever wanted to.

Artem returns for his second Ringer. Originally from Ukraine and now living in Chicago, he competed at Texas Tech, reaching the collegiate top 100 in singles and top 20 in doubles. He was also a top three junior in Ukraine with a top 300 ITF ranking.

Now the Director of High Performance at HRC, Artem describes himself as a total baseline grinder and proposes that all four players remain at the baseline. It is an interesting doubles strategy, but at least everyone will know where to find them. His preparation consists of questioning every ball that lands anywhere near a line. When asked to reveal his signature shot, Artem declined to share any secrets. He was more forthcoming about his greatest strength, looking good on the court, and his greatest liability, being too tall.

ARTEM
KAPSHUK

UNDER THE RADAR

RAY
LEONARD

Ray Leonard returns for his third Ringer, but his first as an SCC member, reuniting with former Ball State teammate and college doubles partner Lucas Andersen. Ray played Division I tennis for Ball State from 2011 to 2015, helping lead the Cardinals to multiple titles and earning a win at No. 1 singles against Illinois. He was inducted into the Ball State Athletics Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2025, although lately he considers winning the 2026 Salt Creek Members Tournament an especially important achievement. Ringer success also runs in the family: Ray's father won the tournament in 1989 with Tom Lockhart.

Ray describes his game as fast, physical and relentless, with an inside-in forehand and a doubles demeanor that is smart, disciplined and poised. His greatest advantage may be that, as a newer SCC member, no one is fully clocking him yet. That window will likely close quickly. Ray prepares by watching Curt Cignetti's IU pregame interviews and credits his wife, Ashley, for all past and future tennis success. His biggest fan is his one-year-old son.

LUCAS
ANDERSEN

Away from tennis, Ray spends time with his family, considers himself a suede loafer and Tecovas boot enthusiast and remains firmly opposed to the use of Penn tennis balls.

Lucas makes his SCC Ringer debut after an accomplished Ball State career that included an NCAA appearance in 2014 and back-to-back MAC Player of the Year honors in 2016 and 2017. Now living in Phoenix, Lucas describes himself as an "aggressive baseliner/pusher." His signature shot is the slice backhand, while his greatest strength as a partner is accepting that everything is always his fault.

Lucas's semi-serious preparation has consisted mostly of singles, so doubles should be interesting. When he is not playing tennis, he enjoys sipping whiskey, receives unwavering support from his dog, Elie, and is known in his tennis circles simply as "the sweaty guy." His most creative excuse after a loss was that his arms were tired from playing Nintendo Wii the night before. This weekend, however, his biggest challenge may be surviving the poor air conditioning on the third floor of Ray's house.

Photo courtesy of Mike Gartlan



THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM

Tony Leto returns for his seventh Ringer and his third alongside Sam Plys. Their partnership began with a run to the semifinals in 2023, but the following year ended much sooner when they ran into the dangerous unseeded team of Joe Daw Jr. and Kevin Kruzel in the second round. Now back for year three, Tony and Sam are looking to recapture the form that carried them deep into the tournament the first time around.

Tony picked up a racquet at age three, began playing tournaments at six and trained at Hinsdale Racquet Club as a junior. He became nationally ranked and went on to play Division I tennis at both Iowa and Wisconsin Green Bay. His tennis career has since brought him full circle, as he now teaches at HRC. Fun fact: he also took a set off JJ Wolf in 2013.

Away from the court, Tony spends most of his time taking care of his son, Julian, and his dog, Archie. His biggest fan is none other than James Goldman, and despite seven Ringer appearances and an extensive tennis résumé of his own, Tony is still best known around the club as Joey's brother. This year, he is especially looking forward to facing Nelson and Schaefer.

While Tony brings the Ringer experience, Sam arrives in the middle of a successful college career at Hillsdale. The rising junior has become a regular near the top of the singles lineup and a steady presence in doubles. During his sophomore season, he earned Second Team All G-MAC honors, helped Hillsdale reach the conference tournament and received CSC Academic All District recognition.

Sam's success began at Downers Grove South, where he was a three-year team MVP and a multiple time conference champion. He earned All-State honors as both a junior and senior, finishing among the top 16 at the IHSA State Tournament each year.

WRAP IT UP, IT'S 5:00 SOMEWHERE

Zoe Limparis returns for her third Ringer, teaming up with Gabe Guzauskas for the first time. Zoe is a two-time state champion for Hinsdale Central who went on to play Division I tennis at Illinois State, where she competed at No. 3 doubles and won a conference championship as a freshman.

When Zoe is not playing tennis, she is working out, tanning with her sisters or enjoying an ice-cold dirty martini. She is also a serious foodie who becomes hangry, so opponents may want to keep snacks nearby for safety. Her preferred explanation after a loss is too many beers the night before. Zoe's superpower is being a human lie detector, particularly when someone claims her ball was out. Nice try. She knows.

Gabe also returns for his third Ringer after spending last year doing most of the work for Sung Chung. Some might call this a new partnership. Others might call it a substantial upgrade. Sung has declined to comment. Gabe played for the University of Illinois, and his summer preparation consists of playing ITF Futures events. He describes his game as a big serve, a big forehand and a strong preference not to move unless absolutely necessary. His signature shot and greatest doubles strength are both the serve, so the game plan should be fairly obvious. He is most looking forward to playing Bryce Ranchero and has one simple warning for the rest of the draw: don't get hit.

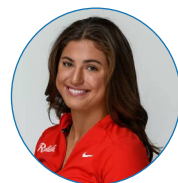
Together, Zoe and Gabe bring state championships, Division I experience, professional firepower and one person who will know immediately whether your line call is legit.



TONY
LETO



SAM
PLYS



ZOE
LIMPARIS



GABE
GUZAUSKAS



Photo courtesy of Mike Gartlan

RED DEVIL SQUAD, THE SEQUEL

Kyle McCain returns for his third Ringer alongside Nick Marringa, who is making his second appearance. This is their second Ringer together, and their partnership extends well beyond Salt Creek. The Hinsdale Central teammates finished as doubles runners-up at the IHSA State Tournament in both 2025 and 2026. In their Ringer debut last year, they earned the No. 7 seed in the Calcutta and finished sixth overall. Not bad for their first appearance!

Kyle describes himself as an "aggressive go-getter" whose greatest strength is holding serve every time. His biggest liability is losing focus when things get rough, although he is known within his tennis group for being "better than the rest." He is especially looking forward to playing Braden LeBaron.

In addition to his time at Hinsdale Central, Nick has also studied at the James Goldman School of Volleys, closing the net so aggressively that he is practically falling over it and playing on his opponents' side of the court. He does it legally and, by all accounts, faster, stronger and considerably better than Goldman. Nick's biggest fan is Marc Schaefer, and the player he most wanted to face was Bones, who unfortunately is not in the draw this year.

This fall, Nick will attend Purdue to study engineering, while Kyle will continue his tennis career at Oxford College of Emory University.



KYLE
MCCAIN



NICK
MARRINGA



DAN
MCGUIGAN



JOSEPH
CUNNINGHAM

GUARANTEED ROI

Dan McGuigan returns for his seventh Ringer with a new partner and a clear financial objective. Teaming up with Joseph Cunningham for the first time, Dan has already delivered his message to the draw: "We will make money." Originally from Burr Ridge and now living in Lincoln Park, Dan's tennis résumé dates back to high school. These days, he describes his game as "pretty darn smooth," although most of his preparation has involved competing for court time in Chicago. Once he gets on court, Dan promises efficiency. His greatest strength as a doubles partner is keeping matches short and limiting everyone's playing time. His biggest liability is that the quick finish may come courtesy of his own quick unforced errors.

Joseph should improve the team's odds. A Hinsdale native and 2020 graduate of Hinsdale Central, he served as varsity co-captain and competed in USTA junior tournaments throughout the Midwest. He was also part of Hinsdale Central's third-place finish at the 2017 IHSA State Tournament, partnering in doubles with Joseph Daw, who returns to this year's field alongside Alex Brown. Joseph later earned a finance degree from Miami University and now works as a credit analyst in Chicago.

ALREADY WON IN OUR HEADS

Pat McGuigan returns for his 10th Ringer, this time teaming up with Dean Kamenev for the first time. Originally from Burr Ridge and now living in Lincoln Park, Pat played college tennis at Denison and brings a dependable return, a strong backhand and a serve he is willing to identify as the problem before anyone else does.

His Ringer preparation has been intense, at least mentally. Pat power walks through Lincoln Park with motivational speaker David Goggins yelling in his ear, which should have him ready for the Ringer and well trained to block out the cheers from all his fans. When he is not on the court, Pat enjoys golfing with friends and generally having a good time. His biggest fan is his mom, who apparently likes him better than his brother Danny, the player Pat is most eager to face this year. Danny is teaming up with Joseph Cunningham. His best excuse after a loss dates back to age 12, when he forgot his rackets and had to borrow a junior sized one from the host club. Sometimes the excuse really is the equipment.

Joining Pat is Dean Kamenev, making his third Ringer appearance. Dean previously partnered twice with Jack Singer, who apparently decided to explore other options this year. As a senior at Emory this past year, Dean earned Division III All American honors in both singles and doubles, competed in the NCAA Division III Championships and finished as the ITA Cup Division III runner up in both events. He is now working at Emory as a medical researcher and plans to attend medical school next year.

Dean describes his greatest doubles strengths as his serve and competitiveness. His greatest liability? Combustibility. His favorite Salt Creek menu item is simply "the beer," suggesting he has found an efficient way to handle both hydration and emotional regulation. Dean also blames his most ridiculous loss on Jack Singer, which may explain why Jack decided to explore other options.

BACK IN THE GAME

Mike Ross makes his Ringer debut alongside Mujtaba "Moose" Ali-Khan, who returns for his second appearance. Mike played Division I tennis at IUPUI from 1999 to 2003, then stepped away from the game long enough to make this weekend feel like a comeback. After three years away from the court, he recently started playing again and has been working his way back into form during Tuesday and Thursday sessions at SCC. His message to the draw is fitting: "Don't underestimate an underdog."

Mike lists court awareness as his greatest strength, his serve as his biggest liability and the forehand as his signature shot. His daughter Ari is his biggest fan, and when he is not playing tennis, he is usually working or spending time with family.

Moose brings the more recent Big Ten résumé. A former five star recruit, he won the 2021 Illinois singles state championship and entered college ranked No. 1 in Illinois and as high as No. 32 nationally. He played at Purdue from 2022 to 2026, competing throughout the singles lineup, earning Academic All Big Ten recognition and developing the volleys he now considers his signature shot.

Moose describes his game as patient, aggressive and opportunistic. His greatest strength as a doubles partner is maintaining the same intensity whether his team is comfortably ahead or facing match point. He is especially looking forward to facing Kevin Kruzel, who is partnering with Pat Usher this year.



PAT
MCGUIGAN



DEAN
KAMENEV



MIKE
ROSS



MUJTABA
"MOOSE"
ALI-KHAN

STILL CIRCLING THE BOWL

Hinsdale Central seniors Wes Novatney and Barry Zhu return for their second Ringer together, carrying the confidence of a team that won the 2025 Toilet Bowl and has naturally decided the next logical step is the entire tournament. Wes considers his greatest tennis achievement beating his sister, Bridget, a three-time high school state champion who now plays college tennis. For the record, this alleged victory came in one set played this summer with no witnesses, and Bridget does not recognize it as a loss. Apparently, sibling bragging rights do not require independent verification.

Wes describes his playing style as tenacious, vehement and adversarial. His signature shot is the mysterious "Mbappé Special," and his preparation has consisted of free lessons from Barry, which may explain the sudden confidence. When he is not playing tennis, Wes is usually golfing or reluctantly being employed. His favorite SCC order is the spicy chicken wrap, his biggest fan is THE Joe Anderson, and his greatest liability as a doubles partner is that some would say he is simply too good. Wes also claims he has never lost, although last year's Toilet Bowl appearance and Bridget's version of events may require further explanation.

Joining Wes is Barry Zhu, a former four-star recruit who reached No. 1 in Illinois for his class and competed in national junior tournaments. He is considering Division I tennis, potentially at Boston College, but has more urgent business at Salt Creek. Barry spends every second of the day manifesting a Ringer victory. His signature shot is apparently every shot he hits, and he describes his doubles strength as being extremely good at playing tennis with two people. Barry also offers lessons to anyone hoping to take their game to the next level. Interested clients may reach him at 630-247-8318.

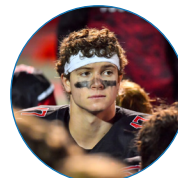
COACHES GONE WILD

Jim Condon returns for his 15th Ringer and his first alongside partner Mark Schaefer. Although competing together for Ringer glory is a new endeavor, the two are experienced coaching partners, working together to help members perfect their tennis and paddle skills. A former Division III player, Jim is a three-time Ringer champion, first lifting the "trophy" in 1998 before claiming consecutive titles in 2001 and 2002. He remains proud of defeating Paul Garvin in the Ringer 20 years ago, "when Paul was at his prime."

A former SCC president and current SCC Employee of the Month (yes, that exists), Jim now spends much of his free time leading drills and routinely dominating the women's drills. His current game is built around erratic play, inconsistency and an impressive collection of errors, with the mishit winner serving as his signature shot and "lefty garbage" as his greatest asset. His training consists of a strict daily hydration regimen featuring hops, barley and distilled corn, and he admits his greatest weakness as a doubles partner is that his game tends to drop off after a few beers. Fortunately, his favorite SCC spiked slushies should help bridge the gap. His message to the draw is refreshingly honest: "We may be older, but we are also slow." Jim is especially eager to face off against his son, Joe Condon.

Mark returns for what he believes may be his 10th Ringer. His résumé includes winning the 1998 IHSA doubles championship at Hinsdale Central, playing Division I tennis at Western Illinois, and claiming six Mother-Son National Championships with his mom, Chriss Schaefer, SCC's former Head Tennis Professional. Mark now holds that same position, although he remains equally well known as the younger brother of Todd Schaefer, the defending champion. Mark's feelings on that distinction can be summarized as "Boo."

Mark describes his current game as drop shot and lob, with the lob volley serving as his signature shot. His preparation includes hydrating, stretching and avoiding the heat for the entire week before the tournament. He is especially looking forward to facing Todd and Frosty.



WES
NOVATNEY



BARRY
ZHU



JIM
CONDON



MARK
SCHAEFER

CAN'T SEE IT? MUST BE OUT

Chris Schuleit returns for what he estimates is his 15th Ringer, teaming up with Ollie Okonkwo for the fourth time. A USTA-rated 4.5 player, Chris describes his style as “a singles player playing doubles.” He considers his height both his greatest strength and his greatest liability, depending on how the previous point ended. His signature shot is the backhand, and although he is known for consuming heroic amounts of coffee before a match, his preferred explanation after a loss remains the same: not enough coffee. His biggest fan is Boney, who adores him quietly from afar. Boney is shy. Chris also recently retired and plans to spend his newfound free time traveling. Congratulations, Chris! His advice to the draw is to drink heavily before playing them.



CHRIS
SCHULEIT

Ollie returns for his fourth Ringer, all of them with Chris. After spending an entire year competing on the ATP Tour, presumably as preparation for this weekend, Ollie arrives with career highs of No. 965 in singles and No. 455 in doubles. He recently qualified for the Ilkley 125 Challenger, has already won four doubles titles this year and went undefeated while helping Great Britain defeat the United States for gold at the Masters U World Championships. He also brings a very charming British accent, which feels a little unfair on top of everything else.

Ollie describes his game as “serve, speed and serve.” His signature shot is a 140 mph ace up the T, and he guarantees Chris at least one service game win out of every four. The downside comes when Ollie is returning, at which point no player, partner or spectator is completely safe. Protective gear is recommended.

When Ollie is not playing tennis, he is thinking about tennis or maintaining his ongoing rivalry with former University of Illinois teammate Lucas Horve, who is playing with Rob Hopkins this year. Ollie identifies Lucas as both his biggest fan and a deeply unreliable source when it comes to his alleged superpower: time management. One of Ollie’s most memorable losses was blamed on dehydration after driving four and a half hours the previous day in a car with no air conditioning. To prevent a repeat, Ollie would like everyone to know that his 2008 Honda Accord, complete with a built-in portable sauna, is currently available for trade. Any takers?

THEIR WARNING TO THE DRAW IS DIRECT: IF YOU SEE THEM WAITING IN THE SECOND ROUND ON SATURDAY, YOU HAD BETTER RUN.

Photo courtesy of Mike Gartlan



Photo courtesy of Dean Stermer

JACKED UP

Jack Singer returns for his 10th Ringer, teaming up with Will Bush for the first time. His accomplishments include reaching the 2018 Ringer quarterfinals, playing No. 4 doubles for Hinsdale Central in 2019 and, most recently, conquering the Park City Recreation Center ball machine. It has been a steady and deeply inspiring climb.



JACK
SINGER

Jack describes his game as hardworking, merciless and insatiable. His training program remains a closely guarded secret, although he and Will plan to release it behind a paywall shortly. Until then, the draw can only wonder how much of the regimen involves tennis and how much involves Will providing Jack with pre and post-match deep tissue massages. Jack identifies Will as his biggest fan, partner and muse, so clearly this relationship has already moved beyond ordinary doubles chemistry.

Jack’s preferred Salt Creek order is the CBA wrap, but he would like to use this platform to formally advocate for the return of the Oreo bars. That campaign may have found its ideal spokesman in Will, who once set the club record for Oreo bars consumed in a single summer. The exact total remains under review, but Paul is believed to have the official count.



WILL
BUSH

Will returns for what he believes is his fourth Ringer. A former Division I player at The Citadel, he also proudly lists being named the 2018 SCC Employee of the Month while working under George Bull and Jack Singer. It is unclear which honor required more discipline. His preparation for this year’s Ringer includes power vinyasa and becoming comfortable in stretched-out positions, all useful training for someone whose superpower is understanding Jack’s love language.

Away from tennis, Will spends his time talking to ChatGPT, wishing he were eating Ocadillas and receiving unwavering support from his biggest fan, Marc Veverka. He is especially looking forward to facing George and Paul. Will admits that he and Jack may not have much to offer in the front draw, but warns that they are the last team anyone wants to see across the net at 3:00 on Sunday with 17th place on the line.

THEIR MESSAGE TO THE DRAW COMES STRAIGHT FROM JACK: THEY WAKE UP EVERY MORNING AND PISS EXCELLENCE.

THE WEINER'S CIRCLE

Sam Stapleton makes his Ringer debut alongside Trevor Hamilton, who previously played with Sam's father, Van. Originally from Clarendon Hills and now living in Lincoln Park, Sam boasts a tennis résumé featuring a Super X appearance circa 2008, a credential that requires no further explanation. Sadly, his current training regimen has been less rigorous. After moving so little over the past few years that getting out of a chair now leaves him huffing and puffing, Sam is relying heavily on muscle memory and Trevor.



SAM
STAPLETON



TREVOR
HAMILTON

Away from tennis, Sam can usually be found grilling meat on his new Weber or spending time with the girlfriend whose very existence may be a surprise to some. His biggest fan is Sung Chung, and his favorite SCC food comes from a secret menu he isn't at liberty to discuss. His signature shot is the "baby draw," and his superpower is putting, which may explain why Sam's tennis game still looks suspiciously like golf. As a doubles partner, Sam is always happy to grab a beer after the match. Unfortunately, he is equally happy to grab one before it. His preferred excuse after a loss is that it was simply too nice out for tennis.

Fortunately, Trevor brings considerably more legitimate tennis experience. Now playing in his third Ringer, the Hinsdale native was a four-year varsity player at Hinsdale Central, a doubles state champion, a First Team All-State selection and a member of two team state championship squads. He also played three years of varsity basketball before continuing his tennis career at Loras College.

Trevor lists the baby fade as his signature shot, mozzarella sticks as his SCC fuel and "home run derby all-star" as his most important current athletic distinction. He is especially looking forward to facing Danny McGuigan and Joseph Cunningham. His most reliable excuse after a loss is simply that it was too hot.

Photo courtesy of Mike Gartlan



Photo courtesy of Mike Gartlan

THE DOUBLEGANGERS

Hinsdale lifer Charlie Usher returns for approximately his 20th Ringer, although after that many appearances, exact recordkeeping has apparently become optional. A member of Hinsdale Central's 1980 state championship team, Charlie's tennis career actually peaked even earlier, when he was ranked No. 3 in the CDTA at age 10. According to Charlie, it has been downhill ever since.

His current playing style is best described as "yours, yours and yours," complemented by his signature frying pan forehand volley. His biggest liability is height, although he insists he is still working on it. When he is not playing tennis, Charlie prioritizes napping, paddle and pickleball, in that order. His No. 1 fan is his wife, Beth, who has remained smiling through 38 years of all this. The player he is most looking forward to facing? Goldman, with absolutely anyone.



CHARLIE
USHER



IAN
TESMOND

Joining Charlie is Ian Tesmond, reunited with his longtime partner after they last played together in 2023. A wedding and two knee surgeries are admittedly pretty good excuses, but the interruptions are finally behind them, and the pair is back together for year 14 of what Ian describes as a "lifetime contract."

Ian's playing style is refreshingly uncomplicated: **HIT BALL HARD.** His signature shot? The overhead over the fence. Safe to say, that ball isn't coming back. His biggest fan? Goldman. His greatest Ringer memory? Watching Charlie square up to fight Slavko during a final about 10 years ago, setting a standard for sportsmanship that has yet to be matched. For this year's Ringer, Ian admits he could hustle a little more. The last time he let Charlie run for a ball, Charlie collided with Lopez and knocked out a tooth.

**THEIR STRATEGY IS SIMPLE. AS CHARLIE SAYS,
"IF IAN IS STANDING, WE ARE STILL A THREAT."**

SHANK YOU VERY MUCH

Chaz Usher returns for his seventh Ringer, teaming up with Marcus Zeilstra for the first time. His most recent claim to fame came away from the tennis court this past spring, when he became an APTA (platform tennis) Married Mixed National Champion. Please do not ask which draw.

CHAZ
USHERMARCUS
ZEILSTRA

On the tennis court, Chaz's signature shot is a backhand volley shanked perfectly off the frame for a drop shot winner. Skill, luck and equipment misuse all play equally important roles. His biggest fan is usually his opponent, because Chaz likes to keep everyone involved. His most legitimate excuse for a loss came when partner Alex Hershman hit himself in the head with his paddle hard enough to split open his forehead, forcing them to withdraw.

Chaz is especially looking forward to facing Kevin Kruzel, who announced that he needed to "upgrade Ushers" and is now playing with Chaz's uncle, Pat. Chaz intends to prove that the alleged upgrade was premature.

Joining Chaz is Marcus Zeilstra, back for an impressive 18th Ringer. A longtime SCC favorite, Marcus now lives in Grand Rapids, but the club is always happy to have him back, at least until he starts winning. Originally from Oak Brook, Marcus was an All-American at No. 1 for Calvin University and competed at the Division III national championships. His signature shot is the serve, his superpower is confidence and his greatest doubles contribution may be his impeccably timed let calls. His preferred explanation after a loss is simple: "The better team lost," a statement delivered with enough confidence to make you briefly wonder if he is right.

Marcus's Ringer preparation has been unusually committed. He had his appendix removed on July 7 because he did not want it holding him back, which feels aggressive even by Ringer standards. When he is not playing tennis, Marcus is golfing or teaching the game to his five children but he's definitely NOT doing the dishes. Together, the Zeilstras are tall, blond and photogenic enough to be mistaken for a high-end magazine photo shoot, while the rest of us are just hoping no one takes a candid.

Photo courtesy of Mike Gartlan



THE USHER UPGRADE

Pat Usher returns for his 11th Ringer, teaming with Kevin Kruzel for the first time. The partnership has already created some family tension. After playing with Chaz last year, Kevin announced that he needed to "upgrade Ushers" and selected Chaz's uncle Pat. Chaz has promised to prove that the alleged upgrade was premature. Pat's response to Chaz and the rest of the draw is simple: "Bring it on."

PAT
USHERKEVIN
KRUZEL

Pat's preferred shot, somewhat surprisingly, is the backhand, while his signature shot is the volley. This raises the possibility that he, too, may have studied at the James Goldman School of Volleys. His greatest strength as a doubles partner is unselfishly allowing his Ringer to take the ball. His biggest liability is wearing down his Ringers, although Kevin appears to have more than enough energy to survive the weekend. Pat lists his alter ego as his biggest fan and spends his time away from tennis playing paddle, pickleball and spending time with his family.

Kevin brings a strong competitive résumé to the partnership. He set the career wins record and earned All-State honors at Glenbard East before beginning his Division I career at UIC, where he recorded 16 singles victories over two seasons. He later transferred to Saint Francis University, finishing with an 18-9 doubles record, reaching the NEC Individual Championship finals and earning CSC Academic All-District honors.

Kevin has been a Salt Creek summer fixture since 2019, leading drills and clinics with nonstop energy and a smile. He makes every court more fun and has become a favorite with players of all ages.

30 DAYS TO GLORY

Rob Weber returns for his 17th Ringer and his third alongside Chris Casati. A former Division I player at the University of Portland, Rob describes his game as "old school" tennis and follows an equally traditional training schedule: no serious Ringer preparation before July 1. Fortunately, July training has officially begun!

ROB
WEBER

Off the court, Rob works in commercial real estate at CBRE and divides his remaining time among golf, running, travel and family. His biggest fans are his kids, at least on most days. Rob claims he has no excuses after a loss and would gladly welcome another matchup with Jack Gartlan, as their annual battles have always been a highlight for him.

Joining Rob is Chris Casati, back for his seventh Ringer. Chris played at DePaul, where he compiled 75 singles wins and 59 doubles wins and helped clinch the doubles point in the 2021 Big East championship match. Before that, he won the 2015 Illinois state doubles title at Deerfield High School and finished second the following year.

CHRIS
CASATI

Chris comes from a tennis family. His father played at Northwestern, his mother reached the professional top 20 and his sister played at Illinois. In a twist that makes this partnership feel slightly predetermined, Chris's father was also Rob's coach growing up. Chris now works as a senior auditor at KPMG, so at least one member of the team should be able to account for every winning shot!

¡VIVA ESPAÑA!

ROB
YOUNG

Rob Young returns for his seventh Ringer, reuniting with longtime partner Chema for their sixth together after Chema spent last year's Ringer on loan to Jack Brennan. Rob's tennis résumé and bragging rights include high school tennis and being instructed to lip sync during mandatory chorus class. He describes his game as moon balls, consistency and tweeners, while his signature shot is the no-look volley. His true superpower is making any easy volley look dramatically difficult, strictly for entertainment purposes. His greatest doubles strength is returning double faults, while soft forehands at chest height remain a reliable way to dismantle him.

Rob has prepared for the Ringer by visiting the batting cages in the tradition of Happy Gilmore, because nothing says tournament ready quite like training for a completely different sport. Away from the court, he works as an unpaid Uber driver and is known at SCC for his extensive wardrobe variety. His biggest fan is Miles the dog, with occasional support from his two daughters, depending on the day. Rob also remains deeply suspicious of swans after being bitten by one at age five.

CHEMA
CARRANZA

Chema returns to Rob's side after last year's temporary assignment. Originally from Spain and now living in Chicago, he reached approximately No. 1400 in ATP singles and was ranked as high as No. 2 nationally in collegiate doubles at Wisconsin, where he also earned degrees in mathematics and physics. Before joining Northwestern as an assistant coach, Chema helped guide DePaul to three Big East championships in four years, including the first conference title in program history. He also spent time in corporate sales before returning full time to tennis, his lifelong passion, proving that even a respectable office job could not keep him away.

Chema describes his game as serves, forehands and volleys, with the serve doing most of the heavy lifting. His greatest strength as a doubles partner is relentless positivity, which should pair nicely with Rob's dramatic volleys and lingering swan trauma. Away from tennis, Chema works out, plays golf, cooks and eats a lot.

Rob is especially looking forward to facing defending champions Todd Schaefer and Frosty Nelson. Their message to the draw is simple: "Easy to grin when you win."

YOUNG AND YOUNGER

RACHEL
YOUNG

Rachel Young returns for her fourth Ringer, teaming up with Gavin Young for the first time. Their connection goes back well before Salt Creek: Gavin's mother coached Rachel during her Division I career at the University of Denver. Now, years later, Rachel gets to take the court with her former coach's son.

Rachel describes her current game as "old and slow," a modest assessment from a former Division I player. She considers positivity and competitiveness her greatest strengths as a doubles partner and lists "most things" as her liabilities. Rachel is also part of a family that spends so much time at Salt Creek that members may reasonably assume one of the Youngs lives there. When she is not at the club, she is usually cheering for one of her daughters at a swim meet or tennis tournament, working in high yield and leveraged loan investing, cooking, golfing, playing paddle or drinking wine.

GAVIN
YOUNG

YOUNG AND YOUNGER (continued)

Gavin arrives with a résumé that is still growing. During four seasons at Michigan, he became a two time doubles All American, reached the 2024 NCAA doubles final and earned Big Ten Freshman of the Year, First Team All Big Ten and multiple Second Team All Big Ten honors. He climbed as high as No. 7 nationally in singles and No. 5 in doubles, finishing his Michigan career with 79 singles wins and 81 doubles victories. Since college, he has added two professional M25 titles to his résumé.

Gavin describes himself as an all court player, with the overhead smash as his signature shot and athleticism as his superpower. His height and reach are his greatest strengths as a partner, although anyone serving 130 miles per hour may still create problems.

Rachel is hoping for another familiar matchup with Rob Young and Chema Carranza. Gavin's message is directed at the entire draw: "We're coming for it all."

SPUD AND STUD

Jeff Holland returns for his fourth Ringer, teaming up with Collin Beduhn, who is making his Ringer debut. Jeff began playing as a young boy and competed in the Easter Bowl in the 1970s before stepping away from the game for a while. He picked it back up in his mid thirties and now describes his playing style as "lots of fun."

Jeff is preparing with a personal boot camp, presumably designed to perfect his signature crosscourt backhand overhead. His greatest strength as a doubles partner is getting out of the way so his Ringer can do the damage. His biggest liability is simply "me," so the strategy appears sound. His message to the draw is that tennis players keep getting taller, an observation that is especially relevant this year, since Collin stands 6 feet 8 inches tall.

Away from tennis, Jeff says he spends his time making people's lives better. Potatoes also play a surprisingly large role in his life. French fries are his favorite Salt Creek menu item, and "potatoes" are apparently what he is known for around the club. He also has a gift for locating the best chocolate chip cookies and ice cream, making the personal boot camp all the more necessary. Unlike most players, Jeff claims to own up to the truth after a loss rather than manufacture an excuse.

Collin is from Minnesota, where he starred at Wayzata High School and served as team captain all four years. He led Wayzata to the team state final twice, winning the championship during his senior year, and finished as the Class AA singles runner up after a three set final against close friend and training partner Matthew Fullerton, who later became his teammate at Wisconsin.

Now a rising senior with the Badgers, Collin has contributed in both singles and doubles, helping secure team victories and advancing to the round of 16 at the 2025 ITA Midwest Regional Championships. He has also earned Academic All Big Ten honors multiple times. Tennis runs in the family: his younger brothers, Aaron and Nolan, played alongside him at Wayzata, with Aaron later committing to the University of Denver.

JEFF
HOLLANDCOLLIN
BEDUHN

Past Champions

1973: H. Bronson & B. Wham
 1974: D. Strauch & W. Irwin
 1975: T. Girgis & D. Thorne
 1976: S. Hill & M. Latham
 1977: D. Strauch & W. Irwin
 1978: J. Elgin & Z. Geary
 1979: K. Beard & S. Issleib
 1980: K. Beard & S. Issleib
 1981: T. Girgis & T. Cushing
 1982: K. Beard & S. Issleib
 1983: B. Bingham & F. Ballantine
 1984: B. Bingham & F. Ballantine
 1985: K. Beard & S. Issleib
 1986: B. Wham & D. Arends
 1987: B. Wham & D. Arends
 1988: T. Lockhart & T. Wangelin
 1989: T. Lockhart & R. Leonard
 1990: T. Lockhart & D. Arends
 1991: T. Lockhart & D. Ortiz
 1992: K. Beard & E. Freider
 1993: S. Issleib & D. Arends
 1994: S. Issleib & B. Ballantine
 1995: J. White & G. Beers
 1996: T. Lockhart & J. Behnken
 1997: B. Dutton & S. Bondurant
 1998: J. Condon & C. Wright
 1999: H. Martin & P. Vizzone



2022 Champions:
 James Goldman & Ozan Baris



2016 Champions:
 Charlie Usher & Ian Tesmond
Defeated James Nevolo & Sung Chung

2000: R. Hopkins & P. Freischlag
 2001: J. Condon & D. Otten
 2002: J. Condon & D. Otten
 2003: T. Lockhart & G. Hanson
 2004: T. Lockhart & S. Issleib
 2005: R. Hopkins & J. Steenekamp
 2006: H. Martin & P. Garvin
 2007: R. Hopkins & T. Cushing
 2008: J. Anlauf & S. Radman
 2009: W. Bush & S. Radman
 2010: J. Martin & B. Cho
 2011: C. Usher & I. Tesmond
 2012: C. Usher & I. Tesmond
 2013: J. Goldman & P. Garvin
 2014: J. Martin & C. Roth
 2015: J. Martin & C. Roth
 2016: C. Usher & I. Tesmond
 2017: C. Usher & I. Tesmond
 2018: J. Goldman & D. Robare
 2019: J. Dean & J. Erasmus
 2020: C. Roth & J. Sonkin
 2021: P. McGuigan & J. Leto
 2022: J. Goldman & O. Baris
 2023: C. Roth & T. Pickins
 2024: T. Schaefer & T. Nelson
 2025: T. Schaefer & T. Nelson