

# Tennis court tribute to city's great champions

By L.A. Parker, The Trentonian ~ December 4, 2013

Dan Haggerty, Jr. would have loved the moment.

Not necessarily yesterday's announcement about a Cadwalader pavilion that will bear his name. Instead, Haggerty would have celebrated a continued come-back of this hallowed tennis ground, once barren and weed-covered but now a United States landmark where local children learn about life, tennis, education, and understand that love gets volleyed from a variety of hands.

The National Junior Tennis & Learning of Trenton organization held a groundbreaking for The Dan Haggerty, Jr. Pavilion, named after the father of current United States Tennis Association CEO, Chairman and President Dave Haggerty.

Haggerty, Jr. would have loved the fact that the NJTTL joined with Friends of Cadwalader Park Tennis, which includes wonderful people like his son, Dan Haggerty, Albert Stark, and Amy Smith, gleaned money from the private sector not only to produce the first phase of tennis redevelopment, but also to build this special pavilion to honor one of Trenton's great champions.

The first phase refurbished six hard courts and turned six clay courts into fourteen 10&under courts and a stadium court.

Haggerty, Jr. served as director of tennis at Cadwalader Park during the city's hayday, before weeds overran Trenton's famous clay courts, before nets shredded and courts were abandoned.

Walt Whitman may have referenced Camden when he "dreamed of a city invincible" but the famous author must have had Trenton in mind because despite numerous mentions of a city near death, this place offers a nationally renowned tennis facility and Academic Creative Engagement (ACE) program which connects tennis with learning.

The USTA purchased the rights to ACE which includes classroom instruction in math, literacy and nutrition. Dave Haggerty underscored fatherhood with a recollection of a dad who combined tennis instruction with life lessons.

Dave Haggerty called "humbling" a special project that will feature an unparalleled view of the tennis facility from the second story deck which can accommodate up to 40 people, along with a first-floor storage facility, drinking fountain and commemorative paver area with "learning tables" where NJTTL's education programs can be delivered park side.

"What a place. It's going to be unbelievable," Dave Haggerty continued. "It's really appropriate because our dad, Dan Haggerty Jr., stood really for three things that are cornerstones for NJTL Trenton: tennis, education and sportsmanship."

Haggerty said his father's instructions connect with teachings dispensed to hundreds of NJTTL tennis players who match tennis volleys with strokes of life. Haggerty said, his dad, a former Trenton High teacher, delivered important insights to students, life lessons that "helped many people in their lives as they grew older."

Haggerty, Jr. would have smiled about two sons who learned a valuable lesson about offering a helping hand to others. They embody what's needed to return this city to glory days when that "Trenton Makes The World Takes" bridge sign underscored the undying power and potency of this capital city.



*Dan Haggerty, Attorney Stark & Stark (Poster - Dan Haggerty Jr - Pavilion Named after him), Dave Haggerty - President, CEO & Chairman - United States Tennis Association*

Remarkably, once completed, The Dan Haggerty, Jr. Pavilion will be gifted to the City of Trenton. This wonderful gesture coincides with another heartfelt offer made by community leader John Hatch, principal of Trenton-based architectural firm Clark Caton Hintz.

Hatch donated the design of the pavilion, That's time, vision, and energy for a city that he, his family and company breathe life into. The plot seemed almost perfect that as Trenton fractures in numerous areas, an architect puts this city back together again.

Doubters will scoff at this assessment but Trenton still owns a special grit that matches the texture of clay dust that once accumulated in the shoes of Dan Haggerty, Jr. as he taught his children and others this wonderful game of tennis.

While Haggerty, Jr. has moved on, others have stepped forward with a passion not only for tennis but for rescue, men and women who know that resiliency and resolve matter, that stick-to-itiveness works, especially when one considers that this tennis revitalization had all but died before Stark, the Haggertys, Smith and others resurrected it.

NJTTL Executive Director Rob Howland noted that his organization touches the lives of 2,500 children, His acknowledgments included special remarks for Board President Beth Deitchman, the support of the City, private individuals and local businesses.

Without these entities, Howland said "NJTTL would not be able to have this level of impact on Trenton's youth and their future."

Stand anywhere, on any baseline or near any net, or wait for completion of The Dan Haggerty, Jr. Pavilion, and use that view. No matter the court angle, Trenton's future is undoubtedly improved by a tennis group that understands the meaning of service.



*Ginny Mason - NJTTL Board Member & Fundraising Chair, Phyllis Holy-Ward - Trenton City Council President, Rob Howland - NJTTL Executive Director, Trenton Mayor Tony Mack, Beth Deitchman - NJTTL Board President, Dave Haggerty President - CEO & Chairman USTA, Amy Smith - Immediate Past President NJTTL Board, Sam Frisby - Mercer County Freeholder, John Hatch - Principal, Clark Caton Hintz, Pat Colavita - Mercer County Freeholder, Dan Haggerty - Attorney Stark & Stark.*