

Tom LaPenna was an owner & an Executive Director of the Village Glen Tennis & Fitness Club for 25 years. He has promoted the sport of tennis both locally & nationally for over 40 years. He directed such tournaments as, the Buffalo MUNY City Tournament (largest tournament in WNY for many years), WNY Summer Challenge Tournament Series (running over 15 years), and the Super Sixteen Men's Round Robin Events, which were televised. He was also the commentator & host for these TV events. He hosted professional tennis exhibitions which included Roscoe Tanner, Wojak Fibak, Pat Cash, Illie Nastase & Jimmy Arias. He brought professional tennis to WNY in the form of USTA Professional Circuits Futures Tournament – **Buffalo Bills Tennis Futures** – which was held at the Village Glen for many years.

Some of his accomplishments as a player are:

- Winner of the NY State Hardcourt Open Doubles Championship with partner, Seth Bowen
- Three-time winner of the Buffalo Open MUNY Doubles & Mixed Doubles events
- Numerous 35, 45 & 55 & over, MUNYs singles & doubles championships

He continues to compete in the USTA Senior singles & doubles events, as well as International Tennis Federation tournaments.

As a coach, Tom has achieved the level of USPTA Certified Professional status. He has been coaching for 50 years starting with Head Coach of the UB Men's Varsity Tennis Team for seven years and Assistant Coach at Niagara University for the Women's Varsity team. He was the traveling coach for the USTA Eastern Jr. Boys & Girls teams and was also Head Coach of the Competitive Training Center of WNY. And presently, Tom is the Head Coach of the Boys Varsity Tennis Team at Nichols High School.

He continues to be on the Wilson Premier Advisory staff & still has an involvement in local tennis community.

For all of his contributions to tennis and accomplishments as a player, Tom was in the Inaugural Class inducted into the Buffalo, NY Tennis Hall of Fame in 2005.