

"50,000 BALLS" DOCUMENTARY ILLUMINATES BOTH THE TOUGH & THE TENDER MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF A COMPETITIVE JUNIOR TENNIS PLAYER

Film offers insights and tips for players, parents & coaches

Los Angeles—The documentary "50,000 Balls" tracks four junior tennis players on the road to the national championships, revealing the mental, emotional and physical demands and rewards of being a full-time junior high school student and top-ranked junior tennis player.

"This film was made to educate, motivate and inspire players, parents and coaches," says Sara Weinheimer, wife of the late Tom Pura, who created, produced and underwrote "50,000 Balls." "Tom wanted to capture this unique moment in the kids' lives when they have to be men on the court, but are boys off the court."

"50,000 Balls" showcases the tough and tender moments of competitive tennis by following the players and their parents and coaches through the 2006 summer tournament season, ultimately ending at the USTA Boys' 12s National Championships in North Little Rock, Ark. The boys are New York native T.J. Pura, who recently moved to Los Angeles; Mitchell Krueger of Aledo, Texas; Joseph DiGiulio of Newport Beach, Calif.; and Mitchell Polnet of Churchville, Penn. All boys are top-ranked national players.

Interviews with the players, parents and coaches are interspersed through hard-rocking on-court action and scenes from home and school. Bonus material includes coaches Tom Gullikson, Jay Berger, Gilad Bloom, Chris Lewis, Billy McQuaid, and Dave Licker discussing their coaching philosophies.

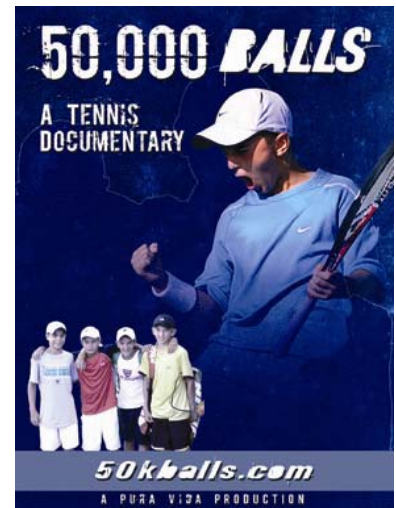
"It's a great depiction of what it takes to excel at tennis at the junior level," says Berger, USTA National Coach for High Performance. "It's also a great story about innocent kids striving to reach their goals and the hard work it takes."

Gullikson, the former U.S. Davis Cup captain, says, "This documentary is a tremendous educational tool for parents and coaches, and it should motivate and inspire kids. You see the kids battle on the court, then you see through the parents' eyes the agony and successes they experience."

The title, "50,000 Balls," refers to coach McQuaid's comment early in the film: "By the time you've hit your 50,000th tennis ball you've probably got an idea how to do it. It doesn't mean you're gonna win a match. It doesn't mean you can win a tournament. Some kids hit their 50,000th ball by the time they're 18; some—like these kids—have already hit it."

"50,000 Balls" recently swept the documentary category awards at the Northern California Film Festival by winning both the "Jury Award" and the "Audience Award" for "Feature Documentary." The film also achieved "Official Selection" honors at this summer's Newport (R.I.) International Film Festival and the Rome (Ga.) International Film Festival.

The DVD is available for sale on www.50kBalls.com.



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