

SUGAR MOUNTAIN TENNIS

A COMMUNITY LIKE NO OTHER

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR THE LEES MCRAE TENNIS TEAMS GETS BIGGER AND BETTER

The 2021 fundraiser to benefit the Lees McRae tennis program has some new and exciting features which we hope will generate not only increased financial support but added enthusiasm for the event. This year will see a major change from silent auction to a live format called the "Pick Your Pro" Auction.

THE "PICK YOUR PRO" AUCTION

will be held at the clubhouse on Friday, August 13 starting at 5:00 PM.

Traditional Caddy Shack Hamburger plates will be available at a cost of \$12. Beer and wine can be purchased as well. The actual auction is slated to begin at 5:45.



All prospective bidders must register and pledge a starting bid of \$100 for eligibility to compete. The auction will be viable with a minimum number of four bidders.

What are they bidding for?

This year we will have four local tennis professionals participating. The four highest bidders will get to choose a playing partner among the four pros, with the highest bidder going first.

Four teams of one pro and one amateur will then vie for the Bobcat Cup on August 18 at 4:00 PM at the stadium court of Sugar Mountain.

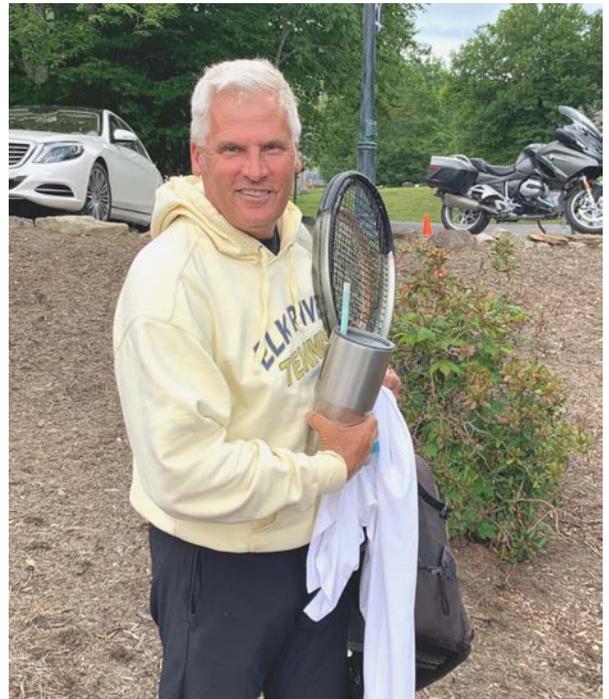
(COMPLETE RULES FOR BIDDING, THE FORMAT FOR THE TENNIS MATCHES, AND ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO RAISE MONEY WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON, BUT WE WANTED YOU TO GET THESE IMPORTANT DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR.)

THE FOUR PROS WHO HAVE GRACIOUSLY AGREED TO PARTICIPATE INCLUDE:

ELK RIVER'S DIRECTOR OF TENNIS

Harold Wetzel (affectionately known simply as “H”) who played #1 singles and #1 doubles all four years at Upsala College in East Orange, NJ. It was there that his career in teaching tennis also began.

He had the privilege of working with inspiring projects like Charles Lundgren’s “Camp Racquet” and Project Jersey, a tennis program for elite tournament players. “H” has a very successful track record of building tennis programs because of his passion for the game, positive attitude, great enthusiasm and genuine interest in the people he is working with.



SUGAR MOUNTAIN'S DIRECTOR OF TENNIS

Gene Highfield who has over 25 years tennis teaching experience. Gene was a scholarship athlete and Big 8 Champion at The University of Oklahoma. After graduating college, Gene played 10 years of Davis Cup for The Virgin Islands (having been born on St. Croix) competing against top tennis players in the world.

He also represented The Virgin Islands in The Pan American Games, Caribbean and Central Games and The World University Games. While participating in Davis Cup, he compiled 5 doubles USTA gold balls in The USTA Men's Open National Championships earning the number 1 ranking in men's open doubles in the United States.

BEECH MOUNTAIN CLUB'S DIRECTOR OF TENNIS
Tim Smith who played his college tennis first at Lees McRae when it was a junior college and then at Appalachian State University in Boone. He graduated from App State with a degree in Business and Commercial Recreation Management.

For over 33 years, Tim has directed one of the premier tennis programs in the high country at Beech Mountain Club, developing competitive teams with winning reputations for all local interclub competitions.



ELK RIVER'S HEAD PROFESSIONAL

Garrett Lakey from Wilkesboro and youngest of our pros, who played his collegiate tennis at Lees McRae College after it became a four-year institution. During his senior season, Lakey saved his best for last as he matched his career-best with five singles victories and posted a career-high with six wins in doubles action.

In his final season as a Bobcat, Lakey played exclusively out of the No. 2 singles position and No. 1 spot in doubles action. In addition to his work on the court, Lakey was also successful off it as he was named to the conference's Presidential Honor Roll four years in a row and the Academic All-Conference squad for two.

