



ONLY AT ASU:

A TENNIS EPICENTER

**“The moment of enlightenment is
when a person’s dreams of possibilities
become images of probability.”**

**– Vic Braden, International Tennis Hall of Fame inductee; USTA Faculty
Emeritus Award winner; International Tennis Educational Merit Award winner**

ONLY AT ASU

U.S. News & World Report ranks Arizona State University as No. 1 in the country for innovation. Only at ASU do risk taking and boldness lead to discovery that leads to solutions. ASU is where award-winning, internationally recognized research and entrepreneurship drive meaningful societal impact. This is a nimble knowledge enterprise like no other, embracing the fundamental responsibilities for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.

This university and its storied athletics program are at the very heart of an emerging live-work-play district of more than 300 acres. ASU and

Sun Devil Athletics are **changing the face of one of the country’s largest and fastest-growing metropolitan regions**. This burgeoning landscape provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a **sporting hub energized most recently by the celebrated return of men’s tennis** to the robust roster of Sun Devil Athletics varsity sports.

Only at ASU can such a transformation take root and change the way people think about community.



Andy Columbo
Sun Devil men's tennis, 2003–2004

“The reinstatement of the ASU men’s tennis program is not only an opportunity to impact the game of collegiate tennis, but also to expand opportunities within the sport and impact a diverse community of athletes.”

– Mark King, President, adidas Group, North America



WHERE FORETHOUGHT MEETS FOLLOW-THROUGH

The door is now opened wide to spectacular promise. Vision becomes reality, placing the epicenter of the sport – from tournament competitions and collegiate championships to training centers, manufacturers' laboratories and amenities-rich facilities – in the Valley of the Sun.

The **Valley's big-event, big-thinking history** is now bolstered by the return of men's tennis to ASU. It is enhanced and complemented by a unique new alliance between the country's most innovative university and the governing body of college tennis. The timing is perfect: the realization of a 330-acre mixed-use urban campus that features new and reinvented NCAA sporting venues; a one-of-a-kind

place for tennis growth and development; and the advancement of equipment and game technologies. This is **a tennis epicenter** able to attract big-time tournaments; amateur, collegiate and even professional championships; the best and the brightest on the courts and in the sport's research settings.

This is a **tennis hub for all**. From ages eight to 80, it's a community asset available to the public with state-of-the-art, high-tech facilities that place an emphasis on the **advancement of the sport and the expansion of community outreach** and accessibility.

“Aligning the forward-thinking vision of one of America’s leading institutions of higher education with that of an innovative leader in the world of intercollegiate athletics holds unimaginable potential.”

– Timothy Russell, CEO, Intercollegiate Tennis Association

AN ALLIANCE FOCUSED ON IMPACT

A precursor to the return of men’s tennis at ASU and the realization of a hub for the sport – its players, fans, teachers, manufacturers and signature events – is a **three-decades long relationship between ASU and the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA)**.

In 2016, that relationship evolved into an alliance designed to increase tennis participation through community outreach, provide a place for elite players to train after college in preparation for a professional career and position the Valley as a hub for tennis tech and research. The Arizona Republic calls the new partnership “yet another progressive move aimed at **making ASU into a national leader in major college sports.**”

The relocation of ITA’s headquarters to the Valley creates a new ecosystem for growing American tennis. It includes a multipurpose complex designed to accommodate all the sport can serve; a setting where equipment manufacturers test, measure and invent the future of the game; the ability to attract amateur and professional competitions on a scale never before realized; and more.

The ASU–ITA alliance is built to deliver.

TENNIS IS IN OUR DNA

Competitive tennis in the Valley of the Sun began on ASU's Tempe campus. It took its first steps here and ingrained itself in the local mindset. This venerable game was **one of ASU's first athletic competitions**, evolving from a club sport in 1902 at what was then Tempe Normal School.

Along the way, the men and women student-athletes of ASU tennis produced **national and conference championships**, competed regularly in NCAA tournaments, nurtured All-American and all-academic players, and created lifetime memories across the net and in the stands.

Sun Devil tennis teams have served up success from coast to coast, have rallied long and hard against top national rivals and brought **immeasurable recognition and respect to Sun Devil Athletics**.

Today, the opportunity to take this tradition of excellence to another level for generations to come is here for the taking. It combines a world-renowned university, a storied athletics tradition and an unparalleled chance to **build on more than 100 years of success**.



Chris Stewart
Sun Devil men's tennis, 2001–2003



“We attracted some of the top players in the world, had wins over the No. 1 teams in the country and created a special environment for student-athletes to become successful in their business careers.”

**– Miles Rogers, Sun Devil men’s tennis, 1996–2000;
four-time Maroon & Gold Scholar-Athlete; Chief Strategic Officer, Wheels Up**

A female tennis player, Desirae Krawczyk, is shown in profile, celebrating a point. She is wearing a black ASU tennis uniform with a visor and a red bow in her hair. Her mouth is open in a shout, and she is holding a tennis racket. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators.

Desirae Krawczyk
All-American, Sun Devil women's tennis

THE LADIES ARE THE CHAMPS

One of the **most successful programs in the history of collegiate tennis** is women's tennis at ASU. **Sheila McInerney**, who completed her 32nd season as head coach in 2016, has guided her teams to a remarkable 481 wins, appearances in 31 of 32 NCAA tournaments, and top-40 rankings nationally each year. Forty-two All-Americans and 79 All-Pac-12 academic selections have donned the Maroon and Gold for her teams. Coach McInerney is a **two-time Pac-12 Coach of the Year**.

Today, ASU women's tennis continues its championship tradition, a **highly respected**

entry in the hyper-competitive Pac-12 – one of the top three conferences in the U.S. With 30 straight NCAA tournament trips to its credit, the women's team in 2015–2016 earned the Pac-12 Tournament team title, landed top local and national recruits, and finished among the country's top 25 teams, remaining dominant on the home court at Whiteman Tennis Center.

This is a nationally ranked, **unshakable foundation of collegiate tennis excellence**.

“The return of men’s tennis elevates ASU, Sun Devil Athletics and our women’s tennis program. Reviving the men’s team will re-establish the amazing sense of camaraderie we previously experienced competing alongside each other for decades.”

– Sheila McInerney, Head Coach, ASU women’s tennis

A RETURN TO FORM ... AND MORE

For more than a century, from 1902 to 2008, men’s tennis was a **staple of the ASU sports lineup**. At the turn of the century, the major competitions at the university could be counted on three fingers: football, baseball, men’s tennis.

The return of men’s tennis to the competitive landscape of Sun Devil Athletics marks the continuation of a **championship tradition** that includes conference trophies; All-American, All-Pac-12 and all-academic selections; and an honored entry in “The Conference of Champions.” It opens wide the door to hosted tournaments, amateur and professional.

The best collegiate players from across the country will stamp their ticket to compete in the Valley of the Sun. The regeneration of recruiting opportunities targeting the best and brightest players is already underway – players who will serve as models of **athletic achievement and academic success** while vying for team and individual honors.

Like the successful return of wrestling and swimming/diving to Sun Devil Athletics, the return of men’s tennis heightens **the overall university experience** and gives greater voice to Maroon and Gold spirit throughout the globe.

“There are many great players who have competed at Arizona State in the past, and I am incredibly excited to get this program back where it was and to take it to new heights as well”

– Matt Hill, Head Coach, ASU men’s tennis

THE DEVIL IN THE DETAILS

Winning programs don’t just happen. They are **built on success, built on the excellence of those involved:** an innovative university, a visionary athletics philosophy, student-athletes with extraordinary skills, and credentialed, recognized leadership.

This is a **new day for men’s tennis at ASU.** Head Coach **Matt Hill** directs its return. Championship experience and a record of consistent success at the highest level of collegiate tennis defines his enviable reputation earned over a decade of collegiate coaching.

For starters: **three straight ACC championships** during a four-year run at the University of South

Florida; during that stretch – which included top-20 national rankings – he was chosen **ACC Coach of the Year three times.** He recorded successful stops at powerhouse SEC programs Mississippi State and Alabama, including ITA Southern Region Assistant Coach of the Year and SEC Assistant Coach of the Year honors. And he is a **top recruiter, a keen developer of nationally ranked players** and a mentor focused on the success of his student-athletes – his teams have won conference **academic recognition and are consistently placed among the sport’s top-performing scholars.**

Get ready: on all levels, Matt Hill, **quite simply, wins.**

HOME, SWEET HOME

The Whiteman Tennis Center hosts the best in college tennis. It brings the sport's newsmakers and provides the stage as the home of men's and women's tennis at ASU.

Now, the ground-breaking **partnership between ASU and the Intercollegiate Tennis Association** – and ITA's move to Tempe – has advanced the process of plotting a new and different home, a facility that serves all of the tennis community and provides endless opportunities and shining potential for use never before available.

Imagine a **fully modern, high-tech, amenities-rich, year-round Olympics Village-style complex** that is a beacon for student-athlete recruitment; a greater number of tournaments, clinics and teaching academies across all age and skill levels; and a dynamic engine for the further development of the game.





**“You just have to have the will to do it.
A lot of folks don’t want to do the work.
But if we can get the financing and put
together the business plan to support new
sports, then we’re going to keep doing it.”**

– Ray Anderson, Vice President, Sun Devil Athletics



THE ASU ATHLETIC FACILITIES DISTRICT

Welcome to an **evolving landscape on the edge of the university ranked by U.S. News & World Report as the country's most innovative, ahead of No. 2 Stanford and No. 3 MIT.** Its enviable profile includes a newly reinvented Sun Devil Stadium. It is being joined by high-profile and thought-provoking commercial, retail, residential, sporting and lifestyle spaces along the southern shore of Tempe Town lake. Welcome to a new and vibrant district at ASU.

This place – a vision that could only be realized at a university thinking like a startup, disruptively inventive on all levels – draws developers and planners from around the world to build tomorrow's

ideas today. This is **a thriving community and a sustainability-focused living laboratory** for high-quality lifestyles. Only at ASU will you find such an undertaking, one that combines bold ideas, impactful human connections and community good. The district seamlessly brings together opportunities for live, work and play activities while providing a **grand stage for the elevation and celebration of tennis** like few others in the country.

This is where tennis at ASU – men's and women's— **will stake its claim to the future.**



“Our partnership with this world-class research university and the proximity of the district to Tempe Town Lake make this an idea with unparalleled potential.”

– Mark Mitchell, Mayor, City of Tempe

BIG-EVENT CREDENTIALS, MORE TO COME

The Valley's big-event success indicates we've never been so ready for new opportunities. Consider **our big-event-staging credentials**: three Super Bowls, NBA and MLB All-Star games, Fiesta and Cactus Bowls, BCS National Championship games, PGA and LPGA golf tournaments. Professional baseball, basketball, football, hockey. College basketball's Final Four will be played here in 2017.

In addition to junior, collegiate and professional tournaments, tennis in the Grand Canyon State rivals – often surpasses – the development, participation and reputation of the sport's regional hotspots. Nearly 900 tennis courts dot the local landscape. USTA tournaments are staged at 16 different sites, and eight tennis programs

represent 20 teams on NCAA Division I and II and junior college levels.

At ASU, the future is already taking place. Wrestling has returned. Swimming/diving is again creating headlines. Four programs have been added over the last 18 months. In addition to men's tennis, ASU has elevated its national championship-winning club ice hockey team to NCAA status, and added women's lacrosse and women's triathlon, bringing the varsity sports count to 26.

With such explosive growth, the timing is right and history is on our side. We're **building a better future for ASU, Sun Devil Athletics and our community.**