






# For the Love of the Game

By Jennifer Jolly



In the April 6, 1985 edition of the SunSentinel a headline read, “Boca Grove Housing Styles Appealing to the Affluent.” In the article it boasts how LaBonte Diversified Development were masterful in their placement of both our single-family homes and multi-family residences “among (300 acres of) orange groves with scenic views of lakes and green fairways.”

At that time the only clubhouse we had was the tennis clubhouse. The same 11 Har Tru tennis courts we have today were with us then. However, Richard Centerbar, our RC, would tell you we had a 12th, added in 1999. This is the court that, today, we recently converted to a multipurpose court, housing both hard court tennis play and pickleball, increasing our pickle ball courts from two to four.

The article also references what they called our “main exhibition court”, which we know of as our imported Italian Red Clay Stadium court. The Grand Masters Tennis Tournament was held here in the spring of 1984 and 1985, as well as a World Team Tennis event in 1986. RC was with us for all of these tournaments but what he remembers most, when he fell in love at first sight with Boca Grove, was as a teenager.

RC played “Number 1” for Boca High. But even before that time, his parents would drive down

the turnpike, cross Glades when it was only a two-lane road, to buy oranges grown right here on property. Most of you know our original name was Boca Grove Plantation and that was because that’s where our land came from, as well as many happy memories.

RC has a few. Firstly, he likes to reminisce when the courts were surrounded by Honeybells, a tangelo-grapefruit hybrid. “We would get all sweated up after a tennis match, grab my orange picker and snap a few giant Honeybells off the trees.” I can just imagine Richard, sitting back, enjoying the fresh juice with one of the many greats that played these courts.

Ken Rosewell was an RC favorite. Ken travelled with the Pro Tournament and started practicing with RC because he was a lefty. Ken felt the time working with RC was instrumental in developing his skill set against his top competitor in those days, Rod Laver.

RC likens our relationship with Gary Player to that of Gardnar Mulloy. He was a very famous Tennis Professional in his day and served as “Professional Emeritus” at Boca Grove when Richard first started. RC states that he was always amazed as he watched Gardnar, in his 70s, doing wind sprints on the stadium court. Like Player, Mulloy was very health conscious and continues to be a top tournament winner. He lived to be 103, combination of Boca Grove Honeybell juice and Stadium wind sprints, don’t you think?

Bobby Riggs, who held the “World Number 1” player for three years, was a Boca Grove resident. Barbara Bosworth continues to live on property. Her son Jay coaches Kevin Anderson and can be seen on our stadium courts often before the Opens in Europe. Her husband Warren, affectionately known as “the Wizard of Boz,” started the family’s love of tennis. Warren custom designed rackets for some of the best-known players in the game such as Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras, Ivan Lendl and Andy Roddick, to name a few.

Did you know that Ivan Lendl trained Andy Murray right here at Boca Grove? Well, he did!