

# BASELINES



The Newsletter of the San Diego Tennis Federation

January 2005

## Down the Line

**Friday Night Doubles**  
6pm-6:45pm Sign Up  
7pm Play Begins  
Balboa Tennis Club @ Morley Field

**Jerry Tennis Clinics**  
**Saturdays**  
8:30am-10:30am  
San Diego High School Courts  
Free tennis instruction. All levels.  
**See Page 3**

**Tuesday, Jan 11**  
6:30 pm  
SDTF Board Meeting held at  
President Brian Wood's estate.

**Saturday, Jan 29**  
Team Tennis 2005  
Entry Deadline  
Entry Form on page 7.  
**Story Page 2**

**Tuesday, Feb 1**  
Singles Ladder Begins  
**See page 6**

**Friday, Feb 4**  
7:30pm  
Team Tennis Draw Party  
Balboa Tennis Clubhouse

**Sunday, Feb 6**  
9:00am & 11:00am  
Team Tennis Play Begins  
SD High School & City College Courts

MEMBER OF



Gay & Lesbian Tennis Alliance

## The Prez Sez...

### The SDTF Shall Thrive In '05!!!



That's going to be my motto for the upcoming year. Hi everyone. It's your newly-elected President, Brian Wood, speaking to you live (sort of) from the excitingly re-issued 'Baselines' newsletter!! The darn thing had kind of gone by the way-side, but thanks to new board member Derek Floyd, it has been re-vamped, re-organized, re-vitalized, and probably a few other "re" words that I can't even think of!!

This issue here is just a "teaser" (ain't we naughty??) of things to come. Each issue will be full of club information, GLTA tour schedules, helpful tennis tips, a marketplace area for members to post their stuff (such as that Anne White spandex Wimbledon jumpsuit that you have, 'cuz you just KNEW that it was gonna come back in style.... Well it hasn't, and Ding Dizon wants to wear it on court to whoop your tail in a match!!) , and maybe even a recipe swapping corner, who knows?? The possibilities are endless.

"So who is this Brian Wood?" you may be asking yourself. And if you did ask yourself, I'm very interested to hear what you said back to yourself in reply, because nobody talks smack about Brian Wood, unless it's Alfonso Santana,

cuz he talks smack about everyone, you can't stop him. But I digress... I'm just a guy that loves him some SDTF, and will try incredibly hard to make this year one of the best ever for the club. I have a wonderful board of directors to work with, and an even wonderfuller gang of club members to get to know, one at a time. OK, maybe two, depends on if I have to work the next day... What was I talking about?? Oh yes-The Presidency!! I would tell

**...let me know what's on your mind. I've already heard some GREAT ideas...and it's only the first week of January!!"**

you that I have an Open Door Policy, but since I don't have an office, that's really not true. But I do have an Open E-MAIL Policy. Or if you see me around town just let me know what's on your mind. I've already heard some GREAT ideas so far, and it's only the first week of January!!

Here's what I would like for you to do: (1) Read this newsletter thoroughly (2) Think about how we can make, I mean, KEEP the SDTF as the best tennis club in the Western Hemisphere (3) Let me know what you come up with. I can be reached quite easily via the internet at [president@sdtf.org](mailto:president@sdtf.org) and I know all y'all got a computer, since they stopped letting you look at the dirty stuff while at work.

Seriously, let me know what I can do to make your club-life better. Here's to a terrific year together!! 🟡

San Diego Tennis Federation | P.O. Box 3547 | San Diego, CA 92103 | [www.sdtf.org](http://www.sdtf.org)

A non-profit organization established 1983, devoted to promoting tennis and related social activities among the gay and lesbian community of San Diego.

## SDTF Board Members

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webmaster@sdtf.org

## Articles & Submissions

If you have any pictures or articles you would like to submit to the newsletter, please send to **Derek Floyd** at [newsletter@sdtf.org](mailto:newsletter@sdtf.org) or contact any board member.

All submissions must be made by the 15th of the month.

### Golden Racquet Award

Would you like to acknowledge someone in the Federation? Send in your entry by the 15th. Must be 500 words or less.

## “Reality” Celebrity Team Tennis! Captains sign up now for early draft picks.

Well it’s that time of the year again...or am I old and just repeating myself???? Well, for those who may have never heard me say it...IT’S HEREEEE - “Celebrity Team Tennis!!!” Or as some of you will come to know as...”Reality Celebrity Team Tennis!!!”

Either way, it’s going to be an action packed season of fun, competition and excitement (hopefully a little more excitement than fun and competition!) Not to mention all the hotties that will be coming out to play for the first time (we hope!!!).

So I hope that all of you will join in on the fun. There will be limited space and only those who get their entries in on time, will be able to play!

So who is it going to be this year...”The Rich Bitches?” “The Lord of the Rings?” “Sex & the City?” “The Song Birds?” or “The Dizney Dozen?” Well, if that is any indication of what we are in for...this year will definitely be FUN!!!

So make sure your membership is cur-



Waiting for the rest of their team to close out their matches.

## Team Tennis 2005

**Commissioners:**

Kenn Baniqued  
Arthur Pugeda

**Entry Deadline:** Sat, Jan 29

**Entry Fee:** \$20

**Draw Party:** Fri, Feb 4, 8:30pm

**Play begins:** Sun , Feb 6, 9am

rent, fill out the entry form on **page 7**, (or download from our web site) and turn it in before the DEADLINE and you will be in for “one” of the most memorable events that our organization puts on during the year!!!

What are you waiting for??? If you wait any longer...you could get “Fired!!!”

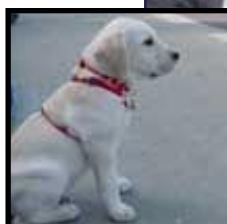
See you all out there!!!

Kenn Baniqued

SDTF Social Chair 2005



Team picture: 2004's Sex & the City (above)  
Team mascot Morley watches on (left)



# Spring Singles & Doubles League

## We are currently seeking a League Coordinator

The SDTF is in need of a Spring League Coordinator. We would like to warmly thank Greg Anthes for all of his hard work organizing these leagues over the past few years and we are sorry to see him step down.

For anyone who may not know, the Singles and Doubles leagues are open to SDTF members of all levels of play. The Spring Leagues would begin after Team Tennis season in April.

The great thing about accepting the role of League Coordinator, is that you

can make it into whatever you want. For example, if you want the league to run a shorter span of weeks, you determine that schedule. You could just organize one singles and one doubles if you prefer. You can determine the format. It can really be whatever you want it to be.

If you are interested or know someone who would be interested in volunteering for this position, please contact Brian Wood at [president@sdtf.org](mailto:president@sdtf.org), or let any board member know. We need your help to continue to make these leagues happen! 🟡

## Circuit Scoop

**GLTA Champions Race**  
Miami, FL  
Jan 13 - 16

Contact: Mark Reiter/Nabil Najjar  
(917) 596-5699

**Miami Art Deco Open X**  
Miami, FL  
Jan 14 - 17

Contact: Dennis Loleng  
(305) 893-9897

**Clay Court Classic 2005**  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Feb 18 - 21

Contact: Craig Dorsey  
(954) 535-0616

**Aloha Tennis Open**  
Honolulu, HI  
Feb 25 - 27

Contact: Herbie Rivera  
(808) 689-7610

**Palm Springs Doubles**  
Palm Springs, CA  
Mar 12 - 13

Contact: Shawn Snook/Nabil Najjar  
(760) 898-1123

**Heart of Texas Classic**  
Austin, TX  
Mar 12 - 14

Contact: Roger Mills  
(512) 990-8844

Visit [www.gлта.net](http://www.gлта.net) for more info.

## In next month's issue

### Stump the Ump!

Get the "official" ruling to your tennis dilemmas from Chris Clarke.

### Getting to Know You

Each month Rancy will feature a random SDTF member.

### Shopping, anyone?

Sell your wares, advertise apts., etc. Listings free to all SDTF members.

### Dish!

No, not gossip. Restaurant reviews and/or recipes. Calling Ruth Reichel...



## Workout at Jerry's Clinic!

### Free tennis instruction and drills

Having trouble with your backhand? Volleys going into the net? Unsure when to, or simply terrified to even approach the net? Well, we've got the answer for you.

Weather permitting, come out Saturday mornings to the San Diego High School courts at 8:30am and participate in one of the SDTF's true treasures - Jerry's Clinic.

Jerry Sabio and other of our Open players, including Romeo Matias and Karl Pongyingpis, provide this weekly group lesson where you can work on stroke

technique, do drills, and get tips from our pros. Its free to all SDTF members and open to all levels of play, not just beginners. Even the top players' strokes can go awry and can use a few tips to get them back on track.

If you haven't already, definitely check out the clinics, they're fun, informal, a great way to make friends, and a valuable resource to improve your game! 🟡



Romeo helps Chris with his forehand

**BASELINES** is a monthly publication of the San Diego Tennis Federation.

Editor in Chief: Derek Floyd  
Contributors: Kenn Baniqued, Rancy Breece, Polly Gut, Chris Clarke, Romeo Matias, Brian Wood, and of course, Agnes

Submit newsletter articles and photos to [newsletter@sdtf.org](mailto:newsletter@sdtf.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup>.

The SDTF is a non-profit organization devoted to promoting tennis and related social activities among the gay and lesbian community of San Diego. To learn more about the SDTF or for membership information, please visit our web site at [www.sdtf.org](http://www.sdtf.org).



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# Playing with Polly Gut

*Follow Polly's tips from the pros and watch your game improve!*



**S**o you want to improve your game? What's that, you say?? You're just in it to meet the mate of your dreams? Well, dear, have no fear, Polly's here.

No, not to date...but to improve your tennis game in areas such as: stroke mechanics, strategy, physical fitness, and mental strength. Just consider how much more attention you'll get when someone sees you hitting that awesome forehand, or that 120 mph serve!

If you're still having trouble finding that mate of your dreams...you better check out Astro Agnes' column on *page 5*. Auntie Agnes' crystal ball sees all and she'll find you a *match* made in heaven.

Each month I'll track down some of our SDTF Open players and have them share their insights and advice in areas of improvement such as: stroke mechanics, strategy, physical fitness, and mental strength.

By the way, Polly does have one piece of fashion advice of her own: although these knee-high black leather boots seemed like a good idea at the time, damn, they hurt my feet...and child, they just don't breathe.

OK...on to tennis...

**Stroke Mechanics:** Although this sounds like the title of a porn movie, it actually refers to the techniques used to hit ground strokes, volleys, overheads, serves, etc.

**Strategy:** Just as some of you plot your next conquest, planning is necessary to put a sound game plan together.

**Physical Fitness:** As Polly sat with Romeo, today's guest instructor, discussing

this month's lesson over a Big Mac, fries, and diet coke (super-sized, of course), it occurred to her perhaps we'll find someone who knows what they're talking about when we cover this topic.

**Mental Strength:** Although many believe that you are born with this talent, it can actually be learned. You will learn techniques that successful players use not to choke. Let's be clear. We're not referring to techniques to lose that gag reflex. If we're lucky, perhaps Polly might be able to talk Vince Riveroll, 8-time San Diego Open Champion into sharing his insight on winning.

**T**o start the year off right, however, Polly thought it would be great to have Romeo Matias share his views on "unforced errors." Here's what he had to say...

## ONE MORE BALL BACK

You've heard it time and time again, "Most matches are lost by the player who makes the most unforced errors." But what is an unforced error? An unforced error is a shot that a player should reasonably be able to keep in play, but didn't.

Notice I said, "Keep in play." That's just another way of saying, "One more ball back." Unless your opponent hits a winner by you or hits the ball in such a way that it isn't reasonably returnable, then you should do everything you can to get that ball back over. The term, "Winning Ugly," has become very popular in the last few years. Winning ugly usually means getting the ball back by any means possible and making sure that your opponent has to earn the point.

How do we increase our odds of getting the ball back one more time? 5 feet! I say this to remind players that they don't get

bonus points for hitting a shot an inch over the net. By hitting 5 feet over the net you will increase the odds that the ball will land on the other side of the net. Whenever you hit the ball into the net, say "5 feet."

Avoid losing points because you didn't give the ball a chance to drop on the other side of the net. If the ball goes long or wide, use the "T" near the center of the court as your target. If you're a little off target, your

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**"...the next time you get out there, don't give the match away. Make your opponent earn it."**

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ball will still have a better chance of landing somewhere in the court. Each time you hit the ball out, say "T."

There are a lot of funky strokes out there. Those are things that will improve over time. But the next time you get out there, don't give the match away. Make your opponent earn it. As you increase the number of balls you and your opponent have to hit during a point, you'll discover:

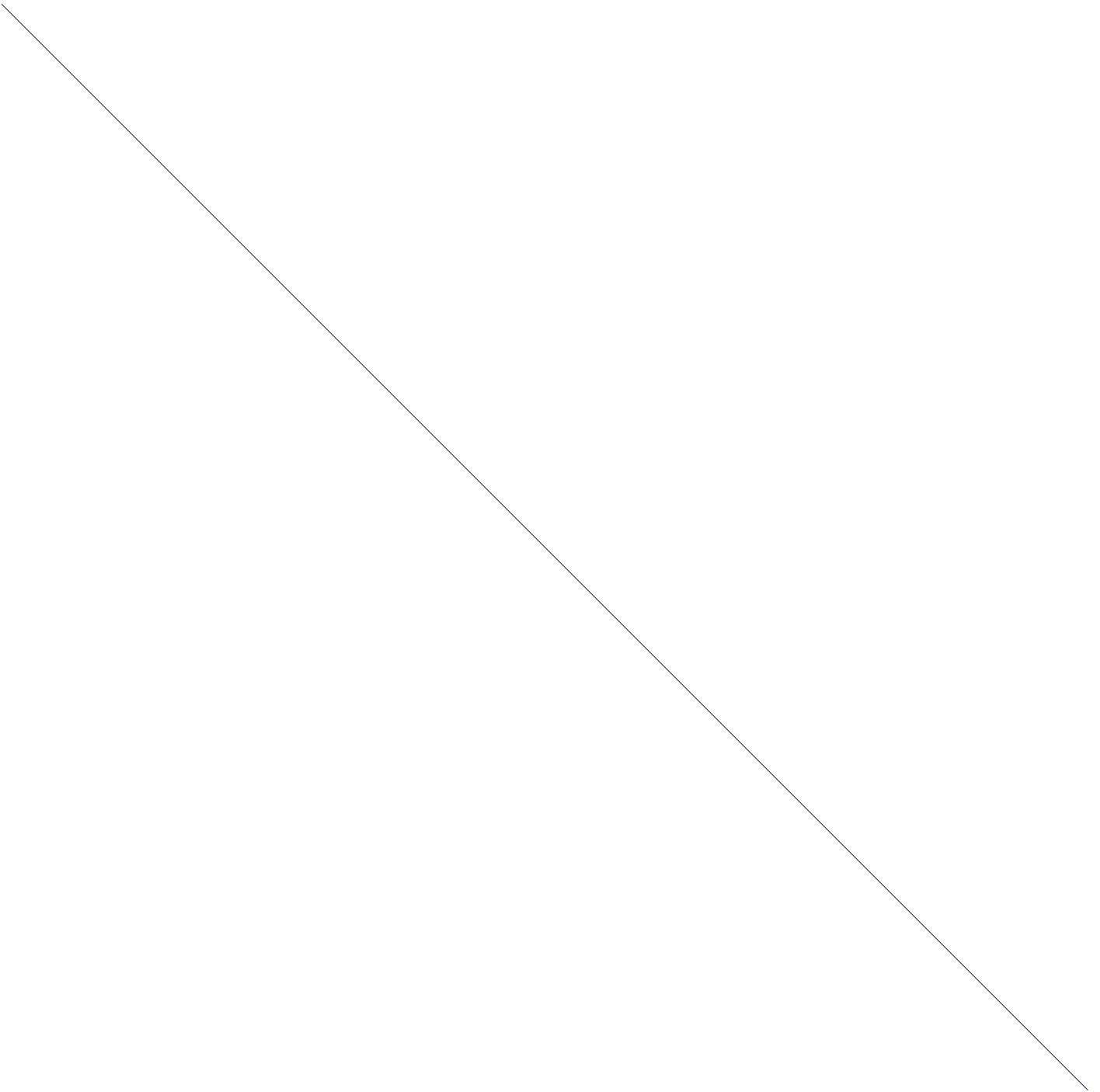
1. Your strokes improve because you're getting more opportunity to work out the kinks.
2. Your court sense and strategy improves because you're exposing yourself to more situations from which to learn.
3. Your physical fitness improves because you're spending more time playing points instead of retrieving balls at the back fence.
4. Your mental toughness improves because you'll learn to fight for points better. After all, if you invest more effort into each point, you'll really hate to lose them.

Want to improve? Do whatever it takes to get "ONE MORE BALL BACK." ●

## AND RETURNING NEXT MONTH...

### Stump The Ump!

*Get the "official" ruling to tennis questions that may arise on court from our own USTA Certified Umpire, Christopher Clarke*



# Golden Racquet Award

*For Outstanding Contribution to the Federation, Tennis, and our Community*

When Chris Clarke speaks, people listen.

People listen not just because he has a loud, booming voice that when used in his duties as a USTA certified umpire, it's heard sans microphone to the furthest reaches of the stadium. Players listen not just because when he calls "OUT!" so quickly and decisively that not even the most contrary, including John McEnroe, care to argue.

No, when Chris Clarke speaks people listen because he speaks with sureness and authority. He speaks with a mixture of logic and passion. When he speaks, his words command attention.

Such was the case several months ago when he spoke with the most persuasive of his voices - a pen (okay, it was a word processing program, but you get the idea). His voice, imbued with reason and caring persuaded district tennis authorities to issue a \$40,000 grant that refurbished the courts at San Diego City College. Chris' grant not only benefited the students of City College, it benefited the recreational players - including SDTF members - who use the courts.

When Chris Clarke speaks, even people given to vociferousness listen. Late one evening during last years SDO- early morning actually - Romeo was attempting to read game scores to Chris who was entering them into TMS. Romeo couldn't keep his eyes open and was too tired to be of help; Chris told him to go home and get rest. Romeo didn't argue and Chris finished the task on his own. The result was that on that evening as he has for years, Chris posted scores on the SDO web site so that even the earliest risers could log-in and get the latest scoop on the action.

Chris is a walking tennis rule book, citing chapter and verse regulations to cover any situation that should arise on court. It helps that he's an USTA-Certified ump. So Baselines readers listened when he addressed even the most unusual of situations in his column "Stump the Ump." Needless to say, no one stumped this ump!

All SDTF listens when Chris speaks about Federation and SDO issues. His years of board service and support to the

Open have proved invaluable. His experience and wisdom keep everything from Federation finances to tournament scheduling running smoothly.

Oh, and did we mention that Chris also speaks with his racquet? You'd better listen when he serves or you'll have a big yellow lump where your navel should be. And you'd also best listen when he reaches for a ball that looks like it will skip past him. With his height and long arms he reaches shots that mere tennis mortals would have to give up on.

We could go on and mention his generosity, his unflagging support, his bon homie. But we want you to know that in addition to receiving last year's MVP award at the holiday party, Chris also deserves the first Golden Racket award of 2005. And of course, if Chris were to point out that the thing one hits a tennis ball with is spelled racquet, we'd listen and wouldn't make a racket about it! ●

**Chris Clarke speaks with sureness and authority...with logic and passion...with reason and caring..."**



## Want To Get to the Top?

**Climb the Ladder!**

**W**ant to know one of the best ways to improve your game? Join the Gran Prix Singles Ladder and start climbing your way to the top!

This year the ladder will run from Feb 1 - Nov 30, and will be divided into three periods. Participation on the ladder is free to all members. As participation on the doubles ladder in 2004 was minimal, we have discontinued it. If this is something you'd like us to keep, contact ladder@sddf.org and we can reinstate it.

Here's how the singles ladder works:

1. If you were on the ladder last year, you begin this year in the same position. If you would like to join, you may challenge anyone from position 30 or below. If you win,

you take that player's position, if you lose, you go to the bottom of the ladder.

2. For each challenge you issue or accept, you receive Gran Prix points.

3. The top 3 players with the most Gran Prix points at the end of each period will earn CASH prizes, which will be awarded in December at the holiday party.

4. In addition, this year we'll offer random mystery prizes as well, perhaps for things like the highest win/loss ratio or the best tie-break record. So always give it your best effort, because you never know when a prize might come your way.

5. In order to stay on the ladder, you have to either issue or accept 1 challenge per period (that's only 3 for the year).

6. This year the last 6 spots on the Cal Cup & Pac Cup teams will be determined from the singles ladder.

But the two most important reasons to participate on the ladder are:

1. You'll get to play against every style of tennis imaginable, which only makes you a better player.

2. You'll get to meet lots of Federation members that you perhaps wouldn't have otherwise, and who knows, maybe you'll make a lasting friendship out of it. ●

**For more information, visit [www.sddf.org](http://www.sddf.org), or contact Derek Floyd, 2005 Ladder Chair, at [ladder@sddf.org](mailto:ladder@sddf.org).**



## 2005 Celebrity Team Tennis

**Team Tennis Commissioners**  
**Kenny Baniqued: 619-987-2739**  
**Arthur Pugeda: 619-299-7446**  
**teamtennis@sdtf.org**

Team Tennis is one of the San Diego Tennis Federation’s most popular events. It provides players with the opportunity to meet fellow SDTF members and to bond with teammates. It also exposes them to the varied playing styles of their many opponents.

In order to encourage team spirit, the SDTF created “Celebrity Team Tennis”, whereby each team comes up with a theme, and then players choose an alias, which incorporates that theme. What creative themes will be dreamt up this year?

- There will be 8 teams of 10 players each. Players will be assigned a ranking of 1 through 10.
- There are 7 Sunday mornings assigned for the teams to play each other once.
- Entries will be accepted on a first-paid, first-served basis. **SDTF membership dues must also be current before signing up for Team Tennis.**
- **The entry deadline is midnight on Saturday, January 29, 2005.**
- A Draw Party will be held on Friday, February 4, 2005 at 7:30PM in the Balboa Tennis Clubhouse to pick names out of a hat to determine teams.
- Matches are on Sundays, beginning February 6, 2005. There will be a few Sundays off.
- Matches will be played at the San Diego High School and the San Diego Community College.
- Only the top 4 teams will make the playoffs. The semis and final will be played at the Balboa Tennis Club on the same Sunday followed by a picnic.

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 Cut this portion off and mail it in along with your check.

**First Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have team tennis experience, please enter the level that fits your tennis experience. **1 (Open Level) to 10 (Just Learning)**. If you’re not sure, put “**NS**” in the box or your GLTA level (Open, A, B, C, D).

Please check this box if you would like to be a Team Captain. Captains get one free draft choice prior to the Draw Party. Captains choose in the order they signed up to be Captain.

**Please make a check for \$20.00 payable to the San Diego Tennis Federation.** Mail the check and this entry form to the address below. You may also give your entry and check to any SDTF board members.

**San Diego Tennis Federation**  
**P.O. Box 3547**  
**San Diego, CA 92103-1547**

# BASELINES

The Newsletter of the San Diego Tennis Federation

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

We are excited to bring back

## BASELINES

to keep you up to date  
on SDTF news.



### Beginning with the March issue,

in order to help us save money on postage, copy fees, and trees,

**BASELINES** will be e-mailed to you and will also be

available online at [www.sdtf.org](http://www.sdtf.org).

Hard-copies will be available at Friday Night Doubles, Jerry's Clinic, & Team Tennis.

If you are *still* interested in receiving **BASELINES** via postal mail,  
please e-mail [newsletter@sdtf.org](mailto:newsletter@sdtf.org) to let us know.

*Thank you!*



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