

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Court Dedication Ceremony for the “Ben Press Tennis Center at Roosevelt Middle School”

San Diego, CA - May 31, 2013 - The Greater San Diego City Tennis Council (GSDCTC) proudly announces the grand re-opening of the eight tennis court and four basketball court athletic facility at Roosevelt Middle School (RMS), San Diego, CA. This momentous event involved a court dedication ceremony where the facility was named, the “Ben Press Tennis Center at Roosevelt Middle School”. Ben Press, founder and President of the GSDCTC is a proud 1939 graduate of Roosevelt Junior High School.

The courts were renovated in two separate phases during which eight standard basketball posts and goals at the west courts were removed creating four tennis-only courts; the same removal process took place at the east courts where the new high performance basketball posts and goals were reinstalled. The newly renovated tennis and basketball courts were resurfaced from asphalt to a state-of-the-art hard court surface. The tennis courts were also lined for USTA “10 and under tennis” to enhance the enjoyment and development of younger children.

The courts were professionally renovated and resurfaced by CH Court Tech. The project was financed by a combination of the following capital sources: Bill Walton, Farrell Family Foundation, Junior Seau Foundation, Neighbors of RMS, RMS Parent, Teacher & Student Association, San Diego District Tennis Association, City of San Diego, and GSDCTC via foundations and private donors.

Dr. Arturo Cabello, principal of Roosevelt stated, “To have worked on this collaboration with a partner like the Tennis Council who shares my vision and value of providing the best for our students and the community has been a high point in my career.”

Ben Press stated, “This day was full of surprises for me. When it sunk in that the tennis center was named after me I was deeply touched. To have family members come from out of town to share this special day with me was super. I am very proud that the tennis and basketball courts turned out to be one of the nicest facilities in town.”

David Gill, VP Finance of the GSDCTC, commented, “A broad team of contributors collaborated to upgrade the RMS athletic facility. The result is an outstanding recreational asset for the students of RMS and the City of San Diego. We hope that the community will enjoy these renovated courts for many years to come. All the members of the Tennis Council are proud that the San Diego Unified School District chose to honor Ben Press by naming the tennis facility after him at his alma mater.”

Bill Walton, NBA Hall of Famer and neighbor to RMS, states, “My wife Lori and I are very pleased that the upgraded basketball and tennis courts at Roosevelt turned out so well. Children deserve quality athletic facilities to enjoy the great outdoors in park like settings. This outstanding facility will serve our community well and provide healthy and positive activities for community members.”

In-kind donations and/or services were provided by the following organizations: 4Point4, 8twenty8 Studios, Joe Park Films and Metromedia Technologies, Inc.

The Greater San Diego City Tennis Council is a 501-C3 charitable organization whose mission is to repair and resurface public tennis courts within San Diego County. We rely on the generosity of private donors, foundations, corporations and other entities to support our endeavors.

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Back Row (left to right): Bill Walton, Franklin Johnson, Ben Press, David Gill & Matt Harvey
Front Row (left to right): Richard Barrera, Arturo Cabello & Lillian Shallow