

May 27, 2007

Dear USPTA,

I was delighted to hear that Joe Arias is being considered for the USPTA National Industry Excellence Award. I highly recommend him. I am a parent of a child who would have never picked up a tennis racket again, had it not been for Joe's affordable and fun program, that was made available to our daughter at our local neighborhood high school.

After experiencing much disappointment at our local tennis club years ago when my now 14 year old daughter was 8. We found the tennis programs to be extremely expensive and more of a play group than a tennis experience. My husband and I decided not to continue our daughter's involvement at these clubs as she didn't enjoy it and it seemed to be for those who could throw money away to give their kids something to do for a few hours.

When my daughter entered 7th grade at a new school there were no sports for her to play at her age level and a wonderful coach at her school offered the SCJTL as something she could at least participate in during the summer months at the local high school. I expressed my feelings about tennis and said I really didn't want to waste my money or time again. He reassured me it would be both affordable and an excellent program to introduce my daughter to tennis again. He assured me it wasn't like other programs we had experienced. We took him up on this and have been following Joe Arias and his programs ever since.

That summer was an incredible experience for my daughter. She went to every session no matter how hot it was. She loved it!!!!!!!!!! We couldn't believe it. She learned the game and developed a passion for tennis. The people running the camp were encouraging, positive and made the time they shared lots of fun and lots of tennis.

When September rolled around and my daughter now going into the 8th grade was now asked to try out for the High Schools J.V. tennis team. However, after a few weeks the coach approached us and asked if we would allow my daughter to play on the Varsity Tennis Squad. This was the beginning of an incredible season. Our 12 year old daughter played 3rd singles on the Varsity Tennis Squad at McGann-Mercy High School in Riverhead that year and was undefeated in League play. The team won their League Championship and my daughter has received the MVP award two years in a row.

If it had not been for that affordable, local and non threatening atmosphere that was created, I am sure my daughter would never have known she had this talent or desire to play tennis.

My daughter was taken from the grassroots level and has become a year round tennis player who participates in USTA tournaments and her dream is to play college tennis.

Since this introduction we follow Joe Arias to what ever location he is offering programs, even though these trips are an hour from our home. The trip twice a week is a small price to pay for someone who is so dedicated , respectable towards the kids, fair, honest and offers a great opportunity to learn the game.

I would be delighted to see him man receive this award.

Joe continues to offer affordable programs that my daughter participates in year round. All thanks to a man who wished to share his own passion with kids who may other wise have never know they themselves possessed a passion and a talent for the game of tennis.

For any further questions or comments you may contact me at the number above.

Thank you,

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