

Young Tennis Ace Performing Well on the National Stage

By Marissa Brooks

Nationally ranked sixth-grade tennis player Daniel Belovs, 11, got a "late start," according to his father, Ivan Belovs, a former professional Russian hockey player. Daniel started playing tennis at 8.

"Most successful players in all sports start training hand-eye coordination from probably age 3," said Daniel's coach, Greg

O'Connor, assistant director of tennis for the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center. Because Daniel is "very naturally athletic, he was able to develop and improve quickly."

It was evident early that Daniel, who lives in south Charlotte, had talent.

"After four months (of training just a few times a week), he played

his first tournament and competed equally with kids who have been playing for a couple of years," said Belovs.

Along with tennis, Daniel also was playing hockey, but in 2009 he decided to stop to devote more time to tennis.

"After that, he qualified to play some national tournaments and started competing on a national

level," said Ivan Belovs.

Daniel is now making up for lost time. In the Boys 12-and-under division, he was ranked earlier this year at No. 230 nationally, No. 17 in North Carolina and No. 49 in the United States Tennis Association's Southern Section.

"The Southern Section is biggest section in the country," said Belovs. "It includes North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky and Arkansas."

Daniel is "quickly moving up all categories," said O'Connor. "During winter break, Daniel competed in the Junior Orange Bowl in Miami," said O'Connor. "This tournament hosts the best juniors from every continent of the globe. All the greats - including Andre Agassi, Jim Courier - have all competed in this tournament."

After the Junior Orange Bowl, Daniel traveled to Tucson, AZ, to compete in the USTA National Winter Championships. He defeated Ben Goldberg 7-5, 6-4 to win the Boys 12 Singles Consolation Southeast Draw.

Daniel was scheduled to play the USTA National Open Championships in Columbus, GA, on February 26-28 and plans to participate in the USTA BG 12 National Spring Championships at Delray Beach, FL, in April.

This is Daniel's first year being home-schooled. He has lessons



Daniel Belovs, pictured with his Levine JCC coach, Greg O'Connor, Assistant Director of Tennis. Greg was formerly ranked #2, US Juniors Doubles/Division I collegiate tennis at University of Maryland.

online from 7 AM to 12 noon daily, which gives him more time for training.

As a first-generation American, Daniel is fluent in Russian (his parents' native language) and English. He is also in the Duke University Talent Identification Program.

"At his age we are focused on technique so that he can be consistent with power and eventually start to develop some weapons that will serve him well as he gets older and starts competing for a college scholarship, or potentially a playing career," said O'Connor. ☆

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Levine JCC Announces Expanded Tennis Facility

In our continuing efforts to provide the best possible services and facilities to our members, the Levine JCC will begin construction of three additional lighted tennis courts. These courts will be located up on the current southern soccer field. The courts are designed with an above ground watering system to minimize winter freezing and to provide year-round play to our membership.



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Funds are needed to help sustain and improve the work of Shalom Bayit-NC, the volunteer group that helps the women, men and children of our Jewish community who are suffering from domestic abuse.

These are the volunteers who accompany Jewish victims to lawyers' offices and sit with them in court; who produce and distribute flyers and brochures; who put up notes in restrooms with numbers

to call to get help. They answer the phones when someone needs help; run support groups for Jewish women; do programs on healthy relationships and dating abuse for teenagers; and offer training for clergy and workshops for friends who want to help friends in trou-

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For three years the volunteers of Shalom Bayit-NC have been donating their own time and money, but to continue their work, they need additional funds and are asking help each of you. Because this is an all volunteer group, every dollar donated is used for advocacy or programs. To find out how you can donate, please visit the Shalom Bayit-NC web site at www.shalombayit-nc.org and look under "Donate."

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