



John Eagleton (left) and Johan Kriek fulfill long-time dream with academy.

### KRIEK IS HANDS-ON AT NEW ACADEMY

This fall the Kriek Eagleton Tennis Academy opened its doors in Sarasota at the Longboat Key Club and Resort. The Academy is a partnership between two-time Australian Open champion Johan Kriek and fellow South African tour player John Eagleton. Kriek and Eagleton held an open house after Labor Day and they are already working with more than a dozen players onsite.

Kriek, who was ranked in the Top 10 in the world, won the Australian Open in 1981 and 1982 and has 14 singles titles and eight doubles titles. Eagleton, formerly ranked No. 1 at the University of Miami for both singles and doubles, is an ATP tour-certified professional who has established himself as a highly respected coach. Eagleton's students have clinched state, national and NCAA championships, and many others attained scholarships to top universities.

For the two lifelong friends, the Academy is a dream some years in the making. They were looking for the right opportunity and the right spot. They both felt it was essential to link the Academy to a resort and The Longboat Key Club and Resort was the perfect spot. The Long Boat Key Club is AAA Four-Diamond resort located on a barrier island just off the coast of Sarasota.

The Academy's focus is on teaching players of all levels to achieve their personal best, or as they call it, "unlocking their inner tennis." Kriek says, "It may be you want to beat your high school buddies on the court or get to college on a scholarship. If we find the next Wimbledon star, that's great too. I have been there and I know what it takes to get there." These two coaches want to teach kids about more than tennis. As Kriek says, "Think about being people first and tennis players next."

Kriek and Eagleton are determined to be very hands-on with their players, and they want to emphasize learning tennis in all its aspects. They are also planning to travel with their players to competition. As many as 40 players ages 8 to 18 will have access to the courts at the Longboat Key Club. "We are a boutique academy. We don't want to recruit too many players to make sure we can focus on quality," Kriek emphasizes. The Academy offers a full-day program or half-day program, with a third option for students coming from out of town. Daga Sellers, a former top player from Poland and a Division 1 player from Virginia Tech, and John Belsito, an expert physical trainer, have also joined the Academy staff.

For more information, please visit their website at [www.kriekeagleton.com](http://www.kriekeagleton.com).

### CRANDON TENNIS CENTER HIRES PARDON

Crandon Park Tennis Center in Key Biscayne has a new Facility Manager, Rick Pardon, former USTA Florida Regional Director and Board Member. In March 2007, Pardon took over the reins of the Crandon Park Tennis Center, one of the nation's outstanding tennis centers, which is home to the Sony Ericsson Open Championships. The tennis center features 26 courts — 18 hard courts, including the main stadium, four green-clay courts, two red-clay courts, and two grass courts.

While associated with USTA Florida, Pardon served in several capacities, including Regional Director for Florida, District Director and member of the Chair Diversity Committee and Volunteer Council. In addition, Pardon served as a Board member of USTA Florida for 10 years.

He has received numerous awards including the 2006 USTA Florida Male Merit Award and the 2000 Tennis Family of the Year Award. He is currently a USTA Chair Umpire, Referee, Umpire and Professional Lines. Pardon has parlayed his tennis background into what he calls "the best job in tennis."

The Crandon Park Tennis Center is at 7300 Crandon Boulevard, just minutes from downtown Miami. Courts are available for use, including the stadium, seven days a week, except during the Sony Ericsson Open, calling 305-365-2300 for reservations, fees and information on professional tennis services.

### ONE-ON-ONE DOUBLES AT ITA CONVENTION

One-on-One Doubles, the half-court serve and volley singles game played on the doubles court, will be the featured prize money tournament format for the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) National Convention on Dec. 16, from 6-9 pm, at Naples Grande Resort, Naples. Ed Krass, the tournament director, is bringing the new game's rockin' blues band, The Marcel Anton Band, to entertain the convention's coaches, players and fans when the tournament is being played.

This will be the fourth year in which One-on-One Doubles has been the preferred format of competition at the ITA Coaches Convention.

For more information about One-on-One Doubles, visit [www.oneonedoubles.com](http://www.oneonedoubles.com). or e-mail [oneonedoubles@yahoo.com](mailto:oneonedoubles@yahoo.com).

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