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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame to induct Carlton M. Harris, Jr., Beth Norbrey Hopkins, Bobbi Michelle Guthrie and Kathy Kim

Carlton M. Harris, Jr., Greensboro (posthumously)

Carlton M. Harris Jr., a standout athlete and beloved figure in the North Carolina tennis community, has been posthumously nominated for induction into the North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame. A Greensboro native and 1976 graduate of Greensboro Day School, Harris was a celebrated figure in the sport before his life was tragically cut short by leukemia in 1983 at the age of 25. His nomination celebrates a lifetime of excellence that began in North Carolina's junior tournaments and extended to the highest levels of collegiate and professional tennis.

Harris' competitive record was nothing short of legendary. In his youth, he achieved #1 rankings in North Carolina across multiple age divisions and won the Southern Closed Championship in both singles and doubles. At the University of Notre Dame, he served as team captain in 1980, amassing an impressive 20-3 senior singles record and setting enduring school records for doubles victories. His talent eventually led him to the professional circuit, where he played for the Chicago Fyre of World Team Tennis as a teammate and close friend of tennis icon Billie Jean King. King later recalled Harris for his "fun and exuberance" and his signature winning backhand, which is now commemorated by an award in his name at Notre Dame.

Beyond his own accolades, Harris was a dedicated mentor and teaching professional at the Midtown Tennis Club in Chicago. He was known as **"**the Pro the Pros want**,"** serving as a practice partner for stars like Roscoe Tanner and Guillermo Vilas, yet he remained focused on giving back by developing programs for financially deserving youth, including his mentorship of Laotian refugee Blong Ly. Today, his legacy continues through the Harris Scholar Program and the Carlton M. Harris Jr. Athletic Field at Greensboro Day School, as well as the USTA North Carolina Carlton Harris Tennis Professional of the Year Award. Already a 2016 inductee of the Guilford County Sports Hall of Fame, this nomination further honors a man remembered as much for his sportsmanship and character as for his athletic prowess.

Beth Norbrey Hopkins, Winston-Salem

Beth Norbrey Hopkins, a retired Professor of Practice at the Wake Forest School of Law and a lifelong advocate for the sport, has been formally nominated for induction into the North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame. A resident of North Carolina for over 40 years, Hopkins is recognized as a trailblazer whose impact spans the legal and athletic communities. Her nomination highlights her extensive contributions as an ambassador of tennis most notably her receipt of the prestigious 2023 USTA Champion of Equality Award and her leadership as the USTA National Constitution and Rules Chairperson.

Hopkins' legacy is defined by her dedication to expanding access to tennis for underrepresented and youth populations. She was instrumental in establishing the tennis team at New Atkins High School, which went on to win a state championship, and she has been a tireless advocate for middle school tennis programs in Forsyth County. Her inclusive vision led her to spearhead outreach efforts within Native American communities in Pembroke, North Carolina, and to advocate for the construction of tennis courts at many of NC's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's). Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, she remained active by coordinating racquet donations from local colleges to HBCU tennis programs.

Beyond her work on the courts, Hopkins has served in significant leadership roles, including Vice President of the Southern Tennis Board, USTA North Carolina Board, NC Tennis Foundation Board and Liaison for North Carolina Tennis for Diversity and Inclusion. She has always stepped up and in where needed. Her volunteerism earned her the 2012 USTA Southern Tennis Volunteer of the Year award and the FIRST Winston-Salem Tennis Open Lash Southern Award. In recognition of her extraordinary contributions as a faculty member and leader, Wake Forest University honored her on October 25, 2025, by naming a residence hall in her and her husband's honor.

In her spare time, she and her husband Larry raised a nationally ranked (top 10) player, son David. He played #1 at their alma mater Wake Forest University! Beth continues to support the WFU Varsity Men's team even today!

Bobbi Michelle Guthrie, Raleigh NC

Bobbi Michelle Guthrie, a standout athlete and lifelong resident of North Carolina, has been officially nominated for induction into the North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame. A resident of the state since 1979, Guthrie has transitioned from a record-breaking athletic career to professional success, currently serving as a Senior Manager, Talent Acquisition at Socure. Her nomination highlights a legacy of excellence that began in junior tennis and reached the highest echelons of collegiate competition.

Guthrie's competitive journey was marked by early dominance in North Carolina's junior tournaments where she played in state, southern, and national divisions across all age

groups. Her high school career was equally distinguished; in 1993, she was named MVP at Hoggard High School after winning the Regional Individual Championship. Moving to Broughton High School, she became a two-time North Carolina state singles and dual team champion in 1995 and 1996, while also serving as a three-time team MVP during her tenure there.

At Georgia Tech, Guthrie established herself as one of the most formidable players in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). In 1998, she set a school record for singles wins with a 30-5 overall record and achieved a national individual ranking of #48. Over her four-year collegiate career, she was a ten-time winner of the ACC Player of the Week award and secured conference titles as the #3 Singles Champion and #2 Doubles Champion. She was also a pivotal member of the 2000 Georgia Tech squad that made the program’s first-ever appearance in the team NCAA tournament.

Beyond her on-court achievements, Guthrie was recognized for her academic commitment as a three-time ACC All-Academic selection, eventually graduating from Georgia Tech with honors. Her contributions to the sport were further solidified in 2002 when she was voted into the Top 50 ACC women’s tennis team for the conference's 50th Anniversary. This Hall of Fame nomination serves as a testament to her enduring impact on the North Carolina tennis community.

Kathy Kim, Hickory NC

Kathy Carroll Kim, a cornerstone of the Hickory tennis community for over four decades and current teaching professional for the City of Hickory, has been officially nominated for induction into the North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame. Kim, who famously learned the sport from encyclopedias and books in 1972, has spent the last 40 years transforming the local tennis landscape through her leadership at the Hickory Foundation Center and the Hickory Parks and Recreation Department. Her nomination recognizes a career defined by an unwavering commitment to youth development and the promotion of the sport at local, state, and national levels.

Kim’s coaching legacy is highlighted by her philosophy of building the "whole person," emphasizing sportsmanship alongside athletic skill. Her impact is evidenced by the success of her protégés, including coaching the Hickory High School boys' team to a state championship in 1989 and mentoring students who reached national acclaim, such as National Coach of the Year Chase Hodges. Her extraordinary contributions to tennis education earned her the NC and Southern Teacher of the Year awards in 2001, followed by the prestigious Eva Kraft National Teacher of the Year award in 2002. Kim was previously honored for her local impact with induction into the Catawba County Sports Hall of Fame in 2004. On September 15, 2026, the City of Hickory renamed the courts at Hickory City Park, the Kathy Kim Courts.

Beyond the instructional court, Kim served as the Chairman of the North Carolina Junior Council in the 1980s and was instrumental in developing middle school leagues and

family clinics. As a competitor, she achieved a #2 state ranking in doubles and a #5 ranking in singles for the 35-and-over division before an injury sidelined her for 25 years. In an inspiring display of longevity, Kim returned to competitive play until age 83, competing on multiple USTA league teams. Her nomination to the Hall of Fame celebrates a lifetime of service that has seen generations of players return to enroll their own children in her programs.

The North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame now includes 126 members with the addition of Carlton M. Harris, Jr., Beth Norbrey Hopkins, Bobbi Michelle Guthrie, and Kathy Kim. The inaugural class was inducted in 1975. The North Carolina Tennis Foundation selects new members each year to add to the Hall of Fame during Tennis Weekend. Currently, this class will be inducted on Saturday January 30, 2027, at The Ballantyne in Charlotte, NC. For up-to-date information, visit www.nctennisfoundation.com.

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About the North Carolina Tennis Foundation

The North Carolina Tennis Foundation was organized in 1961 for the purpose of promoting tennis and serves tennis players in North Carolina with its sister organization, the North Carolina Tennis Association. The Foundation provides financial support to many worthwhile tennis programs across the state. These programs include the National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) Network, the NC State High School Championships, Adaptive Tennis, and numerous grants. The NCTF is also responsible for maintaining the North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame.
https://www.nctennisfoundation.com/hall-of-fame