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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame to induct Allen Farfour, John Isner and Brian Kalbas

Allen Farfour to be Honored for Storied Career in North Carolina Tennis

Allen Farfour, a dominant force in North Carolina tennis for over three decades, is set to be honored for his remarkable career as both a player and a coach. Farfour's journey began in the junior ranks, where he amassed an impressive collection of titles, including eight North Carolina State Doubles Championships and a State Singles Championship by age 14. His talent extended beyond state lines, capturing the 10 & Under Southern Open Singles and Doubles titles in 1969, making him the first North Carolina native to win the singles title. By 1971, his national standing was undeniable, reaching the semi-finals of the Boy's 12 Nationals and earning a National ranking of #8 in singles.

Allen Farfour was a proud Demon Deacon. He played four years at Wake Forest University under legendary NC Tennis Hall of Fame Coach Jim Leighton from 1977 - 1981. The teams he competed on were successful and he was the leader in singles wins his senior year, thus he was named Most Valuable Player for his incredible team leadership and winning ways.

Farfour's success continued into his adult career, where he consistently competed against and defeated many of the state's top players, including multiple North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame members such as Tim Wilkison and Pender Murphy. His 1982 victory over Wilkison, then ranked #87 on the ATP tour, at the Penn Pro Circuit Tournament in Greensboro, stands as a career highlight. It was Wilkison's only loss to a North Carolina player during his professional career. Allen Farfour's prowess wasn't limited to singles, as he captured six North Carolina Men's Open Doubles Championships and two Mixed Doubles Open Championships between 1976 and 1986, including a victory in the Men's Singles Open Championship in 1983.

Following his competitive playing days, Farfour transitioned seamlessly into a distinguished coaching and teaching career, sharing his expertise and passion for the sport. As the Head Coach for the University of North Carolina-Wilmington Men's Team from 1996 to 2005, he coached four players to All-Conference honors in the Colonial Athletic Association. Farfour has also held prominent roles as a teaching professional and tennis director at various clubs, including his position at Porter's Neck Country Club in

Wilmington where he worked and served the Greater Wilmington area for over 30 years. Throughout his career, he has mentored and developed numerous talented players, including several who went on to play at the collegiate level. Farfour's legacy is defined not just by his wins, but by his enduring impact on the sport and its future players across North Carolina.

Allen joins his father, John Allen, as one of only two fathers and son's to be in the NC Tennis Hall of Fame. They join Don and Cliff Skakle to extend the family affair of deep tennis roots in NC.

John Isner: A Collegiate and Professional Legacy

After a standout junior career in North Carolina, John Isner established himself as a dominant force in collegiate tennis at the University of Georgia. A top national prospect, he quickly made his mark by winning the 2005 NCAA doubles title alongside partner Antonio Ruiz-Rosales. His leadership was instrumental in guiding Georgia to the 2007 NCAA team championship, the program's fifth. Isner's collegiate career was capped by reaching the 2007 NCAA singles final and setting school records for most career doubles wins and tying Al Parker for most singles wins, finishing with an impressive 276 combined victories.

As a professional, Isner's career was defined by power, consistency, and historic moments. The North Carolina native reached a career-high ATP world ranking of No. 8 and secured 16 ATP titles, including the prestigious 2018 Miami Open, an ATP Masters 1000 event. His professional journey is perhaps most famously remembered for his part in the longest Grand Slam match in history, a grueling 11-hour, 5-minute marathon at Wimbledon in 2010. This was one of many highlights at the All England Lawn and Tennis Club, where he also reached his first major semi-final in 2018, a run that helped propel him into the year-end ATP Finals for the first time.

Isner's legacy is marked by his consistent excellence and record-breaking achievements. He was ranked as the No. 1 American in the year-end Pepperstone ATP Rankings for eight of nine years and remained in the year-end Top 20 for the entire decade of the 2010s. His success extended to his home country, where 14 of his 16 tour-level titles were won on U.S. soil, including a record six titles in Atlanta and four in Newport. The American never missed his home Grand Slam after making his major debut there and reaching the third round in 2007. In 17 appearances from 2007-23, Isner finished with a 32-17 record in New York, his wins total and 65 percent win rate at the hard-court major both standing up as his best at the Slams.

Isner also excelled in doubles, winning another eight ATP Tour titles, with five of those coming at the ATP Masters 1000 level. He concludes his career with 489 singles wins, placing him among the top 60 in ATP Tour history.

Brian Kalbas: A Legacy of Excellence in Collegiate Tennis

Brian Kalbas, the legendary head coach of the North Carolina women's tennis program, has established himself as a dominant force in collegiate athletics. With a career record of 797-196 (.803) and a remarkable 583-111 (.840) record at UNC, he holds the highest winning percentage in ACC history. Kalbas has guided his teams to seven ITA National Team Indoor Championships and eight ACC Championship titles, including five consecutive from 2016-2019 and 2021. A two-time National Coach of the Year and an eight-time ITA Regional Coach of the Year, Kalbas has consistently positioned the Tar Heels among the nation's elite, with his teams making 13 NCAA Team Championship Quarterfinals appearances and seven semifinal appearances. Kalbas led the Tar Heels to their first NCAA Women's Tennis Team title over neighbor and fellow ACC member, NC State in 2023.

Kalbas's impact extends beyond team success to the development of individual athletes. Under his guidance, 26 UNC players have earned a total of 73 All-America honors. His coaching has also led to a trio of national titles: an NCAA Singles Championship for Jamie Loeb in 2015, and NCAA Doubles Championships for Sara Anundsen and Jenna Long in 2007, and Makenna Jones and Elizabeth Scotty in 2021. Prior to his tenure at North Carolina, Kalbas built a formidable program at William & Mary, where he won nine CAA Championships and was named CAA Coach of the Year four times. Perhaps most impressively, every single student-athlete who has completed four years in his UNC program has graduated.

As one of only four Division I women's coaches to achieve 700 career victories, Kalbas has proven his ability to build and sustain a championship-caliber program. His teams have defeated 81 top-10 ranked opponents, demonstrating their resilience and skill on the biggest stages. A testament to his leadership, Kalbas also served as the head coach for Team USA at the 2007 Pan American Games. With his unparalleled success and dedication to student-athlete well-being, Brian Kalbas's legacy as a cornerstone of collegiate tennis is secure, and his influence continues to be felt across the sport.

The North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame now includes 122 members with the addition of Allen Farfour, John Isner and Brian Kalbas. 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 31, 2026, at the Pinehurst Resort and Country Club. 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>