

Inspired by her mother's love of the game, Lori McNeil (b. 1963) spent most of her formative years on the tennis court, growing into a champion. McNeil honed her skills at Houston's MacGregor Park alongside her close friend Zina Garrison, guided by former American Tennis Association champion John Wilkerson. An All-American at Oklahoma State University, McNeil went pro in 1984. Two years later she reached the USTA Top 10 in singles, and climbed as high as No. 9 in the world rankings. She also represented her country on the U.S. Fed Cup and Wightman Cup teams.

With her classic serve-and-volley game, McNeil captured 32 career doubles titles, including the mixed doubles championship at the French Open in 1988. She also scored a stunning first-round victory over defending champion Steffi Graf at Wimbledon in 1994, eventually reaching the semifinals. Retiring from the tour in 2002, McNeil was named a USTA high performance coach and was appointed assistant coach to the U.S. Olympic team in 2004, continuing to serve as a mentor and inspiration to a new generation of tennis players.

LORI McNEIL

TENNIS TORCHBEARER



"The unstoppable juggernaut of women's tennis has just been run over by a Lori," a British newspaper reported after McNeil's historic first-round upset, 7-5, 7-6, of 5-time champion Steffi Graf at Wimbledon in 1994.



The 1989 U.S. Wightman Cup team (l-r): Millie West, Jennifer Capriati, Coach Marty Riessen, McNeil, Mary Joe Fernandez, Patty Fendick, Betsy Nagelsen, Nancy Jeffett

Celebrating victory in the 1988 French Open mixed doubles championship with partner Jorge Lozano



McNeil captured the 1993 and '94 singles titles on Birmingham's grass courts in the lead-up to Wimbledon.



McNeil as a budding champion



CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- All-American in singles and doubles, Oklahoma State University 1982
- NCAA Big Eight Athletic Conference Singles Champion 1982
- 10 WTA tour singles titles; 32 doubles titles 1984-2002
- Career singles record 436-309
- Ranked in the USTA Top 10 1986 (No. 9), 1987 (No. 5), 1988 (No. 6), 1991 (No. 6), 1992 (No. 4), 1993 (No. 6), 1994 (No. 7), 1995 (No. 8)
- Ranked No. 4 in WTA world doubles rankings 1987; No. 9 in singles 1988
- Wimbledon Singles Quarterfinalist 1986
- Australian Open Singles Quarterfinalist 1987
- U.S. Open Singles Semifinalist 1987; defeated Chris Evert in quarterfinals
- Australian Open Doubles Finalist 1988 (with Zina Garrison)
- French Open Mixed Doubles Champion 1988
- Wimbledon Semifinalist in Singles 1994, defeated defending champion Steffi Graf in first round
- Japan Open Singles Champion 1989
- Eastbourne Singles Champion 1992
- Birmingham Singles Champion 1993, 1994; Doubles Champion 1993 (with Martina Navratilova)
- U.S. Indoor Doubles Champion 1986
- Rogers Cup Doubles Champion 1987, 1992
- U.S. Hardcourt Doubles Champion 1988
- U.S. Wightman Cup Team Member 1987-9
- U.S. Federation Cup Team Member 1988, 1992-3
- Coached Amanda Coetzer 2001-4; paired with Coetzer to win 2 WTA doubles titles 2001
- Senior Tennis Professional, USTA Junior Tennis Champions Center
- Chair, Lori McNeil Tennis Foundation
- Chair, Lori McNeil Celebrity Tennis Classic to support youth tennis programs in Bermuda
- Inducted into the Texas Tennis Hall of Fame 2000
- USTA High Performance Coach 2001-present
- Assistant Coach, U.S. Olympic Women's Tennis Team 2004
- Captain, Maureen Connolly Challenge Cup Team 2004
- U.S. Women's Tennis Coach, World University Games 2005
- WTA Mentor Appreciation Award for two-year mentorship of Vera Zvonareva 2006