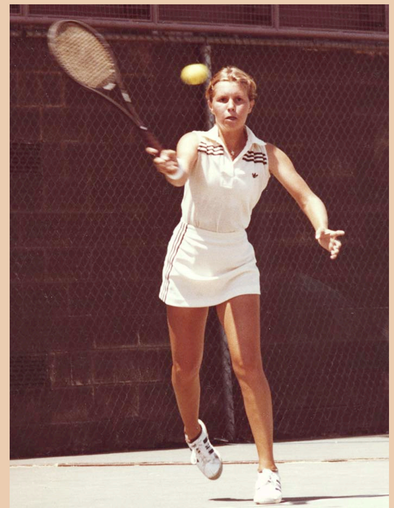
WENDY WHITE PRAUSA

WINNING SPIRIT

Joining the professional circuit in 1980 after capturing the national collegiate singles crown, Wendy White (b. 1960) remains the only woman to turn pro, continue to attend college and graduate on time. Introduced to tennis at summer camp as an 8-year-old, White became a dominant junior player in her native Georgia and on the sectional and national levels. Between 1977–78, she won or was a finalist in more than 30 national junior and amateur championships. In 1978, White received a full scholarship to Rollins College and in 1980 was named Collegiate Player of the Year by *Tennis Magazine*.

A versatile all-court player, White ranked as high as No. 22 in singles and No. 18 in doubles as a pro, competing in all four Grand Slams and scoring victories over some of the game's legends, including two wins against Billie Jean King. Continuing to play and coach after retiring in 1992, White has been active for many years in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The U.S. Professional Tennis Registry recognized her as the Player of the Decade in 2000, and the following year she was inducted into the USTA Southern Hall of Fame.

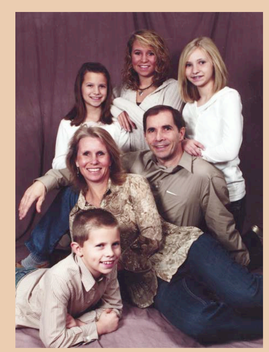
"I always want to win," White has said. "But winning is not my ultimate goal. My goal is to reach my fullest potential."



Playing No. 1 on the Rollins College team, White compiled a remarkable 35-1 record in her sophomore year leading up to her national collegiate title. (Her coach, ITA Hall of Famer Ginny Mack, stands at far right.)

White with the USTA Girls' 18 Sportsmanship Trophy in 1978. "She was self-motivated and self-reliant," said her juniors coach, the renowned Ruth Lay. "That was the key to her success."

White playing doubles at Wimbledon in 1981 with Mary Lou Piatek. She played Wimbledon singles 12 years straight without having to qualify.



The Prausas (clockwise from bottom): Matthew, Wendy, Cassie, Courtney, Kelsey, Scott. "Now it's my season to have my family," Wendy told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Ranked No. 1 in the USTA Southern Section Girls' 18 Singles 1977-78; Sectional Champion 1976-78
- Ranked No. 8 in National Girls' 18 Singles 1978
- USTA Girls' 18 Sportsmanship Trophy 1978
- Member, U.S. Junior Wightman Cup Team 1977-78; U.S. Junior Federation Cup Team 1980; U.S. Continental Cup Team 1980; U.S. Connolly Cup Team 1980
- Member, USTA International Junior Team at French Open 1978
- U.S. Amateur Clay Court Doubles Champion, Singles Finalist 1978
- U.S. Amateur Hard Court Singles and Doubles Champion 1979
- Highest USTA-ranked Amateur 1979-80 (No. 39)
- U.S. Collegiate Singles Champion 1980; Finalist 1979
- Winner of Broderick Award as National Female Collegiate Athlete of the Year in Tennis 1980; finalist for overall Female Athlete of the Year
- Named Collegiate Player of the Year by *Tennis Magazine* 1980
- B.A., Rollins College (with honors) 1982
- Professional Tour Player 1980-92; highest singles ranking No. 22, highest doubles ranking No. 18; competed in all four Grand Slams
- WTA Singles Championships: Winner, Wichita 1986; Finalist, Newport 1987; Doubles: Winner, Deerfield Beach 1981, 1983; Oklahoma City 1990; 8-time Finalist
- Winner, Wimbledon Plate 1989
- USTA Area Training Coach, Texas and Georgia 1990-96
- USPTR National Professional Singles Champion 1993-94
- Coach for ALTA/USTA adult and junior teams, individual juniors 1997-present
- Teacher and coach at Horizon Christian Academy 2000-present
- Inducted into the Westminster High School Sports Hall of Fame 1983
- Inducted into the Rollins College Sports Hall of Fame 1985
- Inducted into the Georgia Tennis Hall of Fame 1996
- USPTR Female Player of the Decade 2000
- Inducted into the USTA Southern Hall of Fame 2001

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