

Tennis: Bose Wants to Make Winter Haven a Hot Spot

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You may have seen Lake Region tennis pro Alex Bose around Polk County over the past two months.

The 34-year-old newcomer recently played in the Tennis For Tumors and the Lakeland Junior League Pro-Am tournaments.

Bose not only plays whenever he can, he wants to build up the adult and junior programs as the pro at the private club in Winter Haven.

"I want to grow the tennis here in the county and make Winter Haven a tennis spot to be," he said. "I will bring some high-quality tennis and instruction to the area. We have a beautiful club."

Bose has quite a resume.

He was born in Germany and trained at the Nick Bollettieri/IMG Academy at age 14.

Bose reached the top 25 in the ITF World Juniors, playing in all four junior grand slams.

He played at Duke University, then turned pro, reaching a top 500 world ranking.

Following his playing career, Bose trained many of the world's top players such as Tommy Haas, Anna Kournikova, Martina Hingis, Andre Agassi, Bjorn Borg and Monica Seles. He developed his own company, Bose Tennis Inc. He's been ranked No. 1 in singles, doubles and mixed doubles in Florida in the open division.

Bose is starting a summer program for players ages 5 to 17 beginning June 6. It runs for nine weeks from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. He also wants to start a summer mixed doubles league. If you're interested in attending one of his camps or taking lessons, visit www.lakeregionycc.com.

Tennis For Tumors

Speaking of Bose, he was one of 240 players who participated in the annual Tennis For Tumors event Saturday at the Beerman Family Tennis Center.

Bose was part of a highly competitive men's A doubles final featuring Cypresswood pro Eymard Capinpin, former Davis Cup player Jonathan Medina and USPTA open player Eric Turnquist. Bose and Medina ended up winning with plenty of fans watching, 6-4.

The tournament grew by 20 players this year, and many were turned away. Plus, a C division was added for those beginning juniors so they could compete as well.

Cindy Truitt, mother of founder Brittany, who started this several years ago, thanked



the community for its heartfelt support as well as tournament director Jeff McCardle.

"I'm real proud of what we do," Truitt said. "I'm excited we're able to do it each year and provide money for research."

Truitt estimated the event raised \$35,000.

Results from the Tennis For Tumors event:

Men's A doubles: Alex Bose/Jonathan Medina def. Eymard Capinpin/Eric Turnquist.

Men's B doubles: Frank Portlock Sr./John Portlock def. John Scheck/Ahmish Shah.

Women's A doubles: Kim Cherry/Denise Maqueira def. Erin McCardle/Kari McCardle.

Women's B doubles: Roxanna Ford/Michelle Kilcher def. Jan Hyman/Beth Merritt.

Mixed A doubles: Becca Henderson/Alex Bose def. Erin McCardle/Matt Peterson.

Mixed B doubles: Angie Giovenco/Brett Truitt def. Tracy Scheck/John Scheck.

Junior mixed A: Erika Fox/Joe Sopko def. Christina Chan-Pong/Nelson Hughes.

Junior mixed B: Amy Whitehurst/Blade Woodham def. Brittany Truitt/Patrick Christy.

Junior mixed C: Anna Holt/Alexander Schulz def. Haley Rosa/Jake Myers.

Boys A doubles: Blake Dantzler/Frankie Portlock def. Jon Michael Wampler/Connor Watkins.

Boys B doubles: Max Lindsey/Alan Roberts def. Eric Moots/D.J. Santiago.

Boys C doubles: Tyler Lyons/Jake Myers def. Blake Lyons/Matthew Smith.

Girls A doubles: Abby Martinez/Anna Martinez def. Erika Fox/Shannon Griffin.

Girls B doubles: Jenna Volpe/Abby Woten def. Ashta Compton/Brooke Week.

Girls C doubles: Savannah Griffin/Brigetta Truitt def. Sarah Hughes/Allison White.

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