



MORRIS KNOLLS



***The Coaching Career
Of
Coach Dan Benz***



KNOLLS



Very Special People



1981 - First Boys Tennis Team



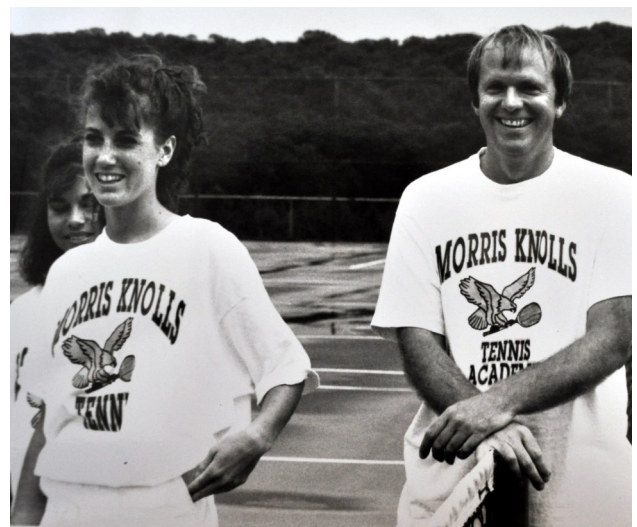
1982 - First Girls Tennis Team



Cook, Rao, Benz, Chamberlain, Benfatti, Harrison



Weldon, Benz, Hade





John Brennan - 1000 Points



Melissa Gialanella - 1000 Points



Brett Deixler - 100 Victories



Susan Weldon - Scholar Athlete



1988 Conference and State Champions





MORRIS KNOLLS



1993 Morris County Champions



1993 Conference Champions



400 Tennis Victories



1994 State Champions



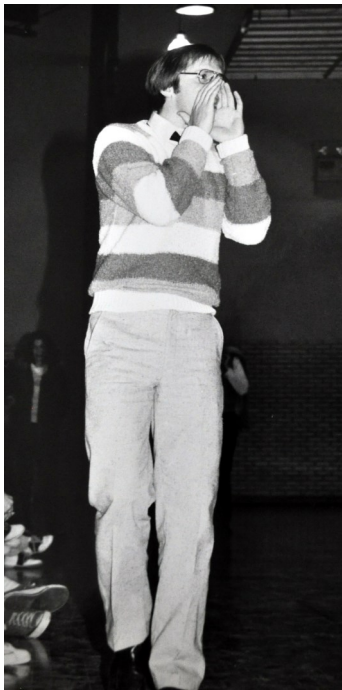
500 Tennis Victories



Coaching 1000 Tennis Match



Girls Basketball 1992-93





2010 Boys Tennis

2002 Girls Tennis



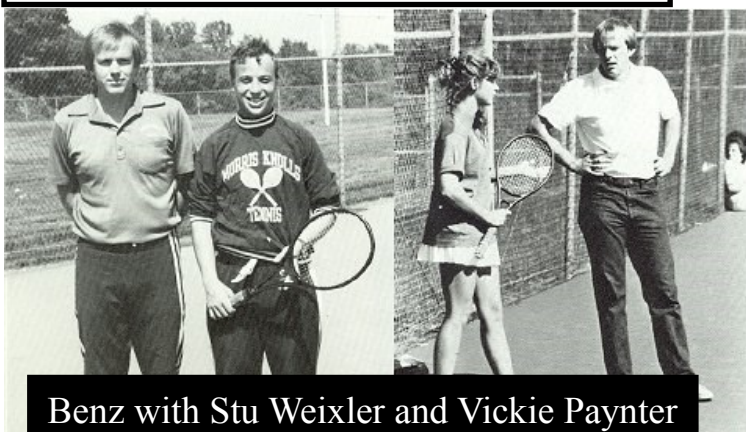
1994 Girls Basketball Upsets No. 1 Team in NJ



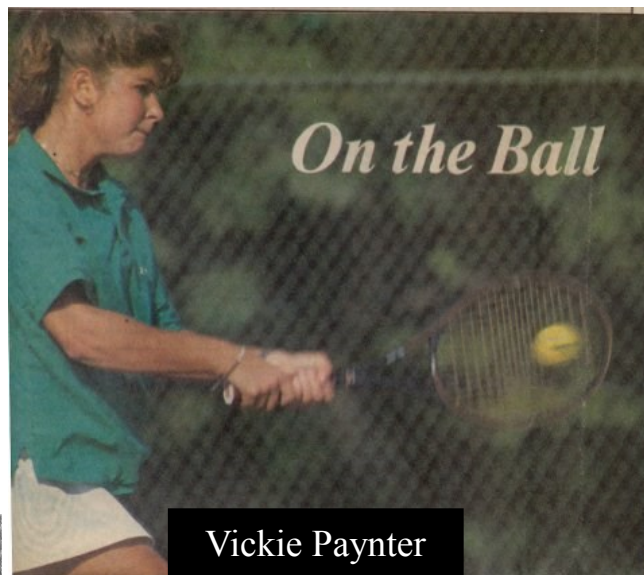
Losing Group III State Championship



Coach Dave DeNure & Benz



Benz with Stu Weixler and Vickie Paynter



Vickie Paynter



Benz with Sue Wierzbicki "The Raging Bull"



500 Wins - Kevin, Zach, Adam, & Neill Thanks





Brett Dexler signs a full Tennis scholarship to Kutztown University. Coach Dan Benz looks on.

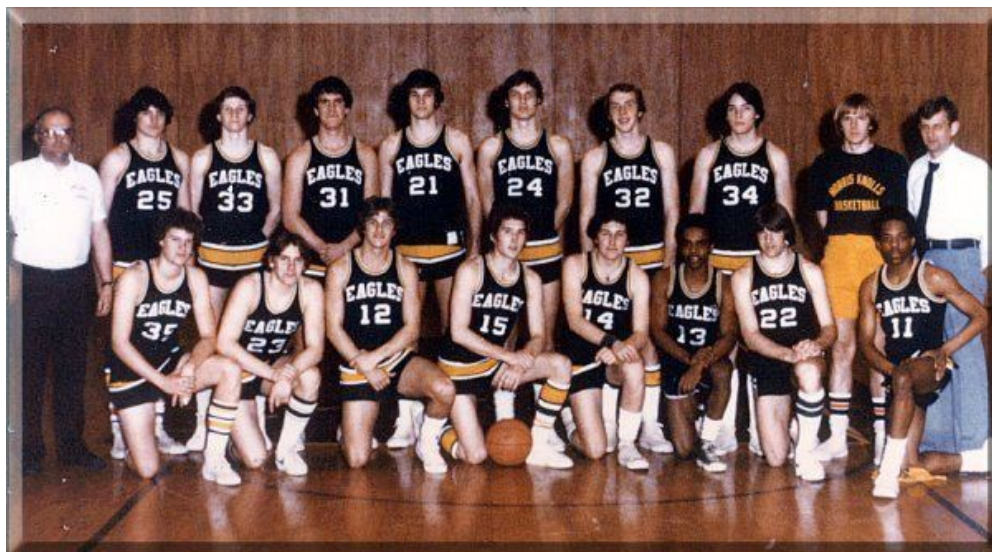


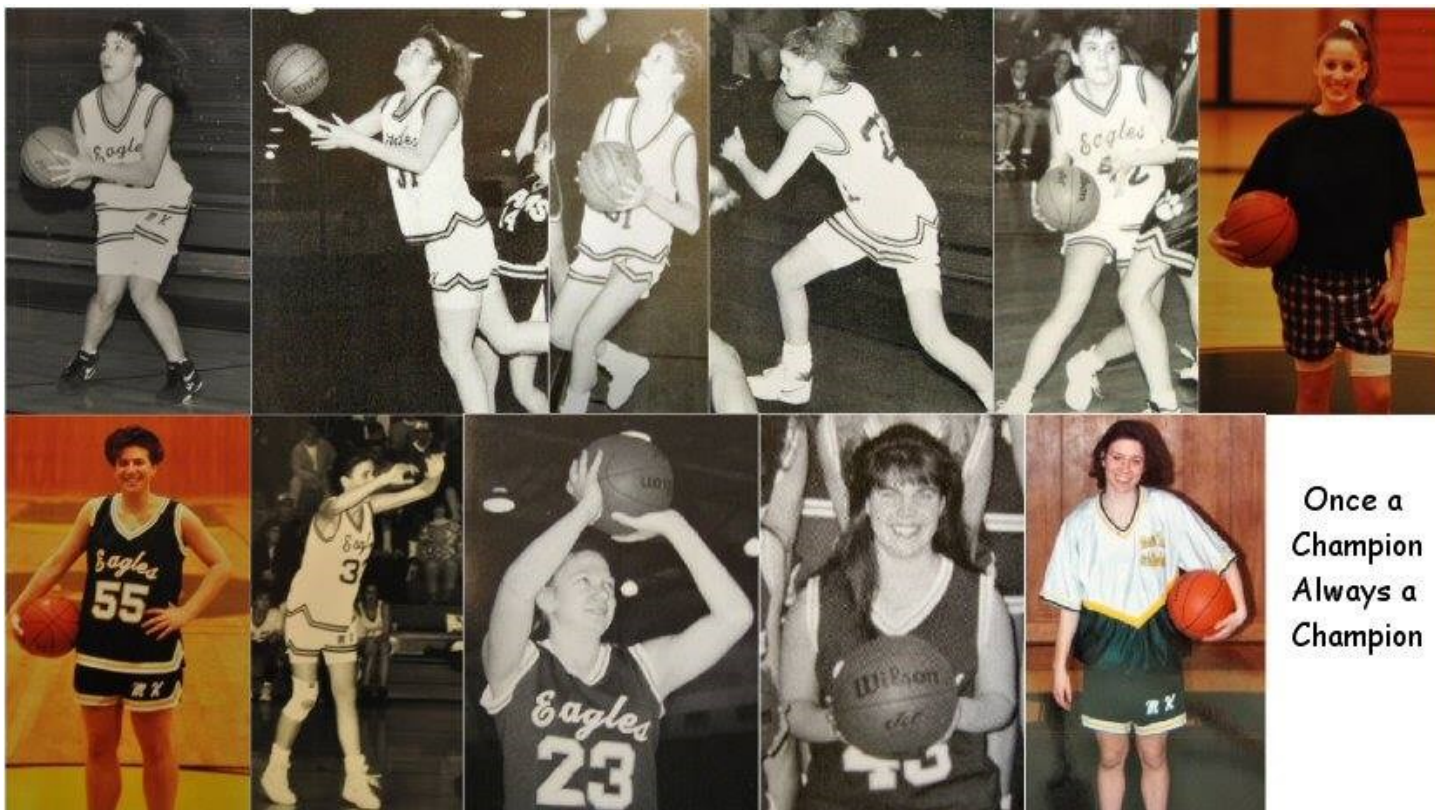
Melissa Gialanella signs a full Basketball Scholarship to St. Francis (NY). Coach Dan Benz, AD Jack Francis, Mrs. Gialanella and Principal Kurt Weinheimer look on.



The 1994 Girls Basketball Team Celebrates winning the first ever State Sectional Championship. The team went on to win the North Jersey Championship but lost in the Group III finals. The team ended with a 23 - 4 record.

1978 Boys
Basketball
Conference
Champions



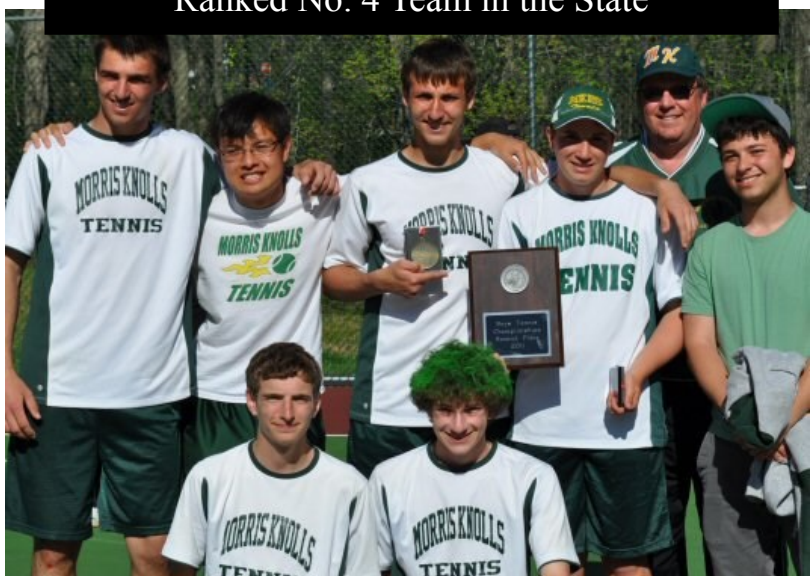


Once a
Champion
Always a
Champion

Benz with former player and Morris
Hills Boys & Girls Tennis Coach
Meaghan Barger



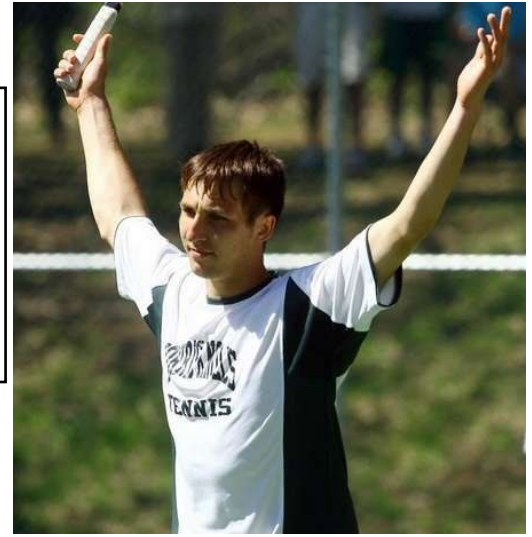
Ranked No. 4 Team in the State





Vickie Paynter (1986-87)
George Tioutine (2010-11)

Two time Morris County
Champions First Singles



Morris Knolls Tennis Alumni

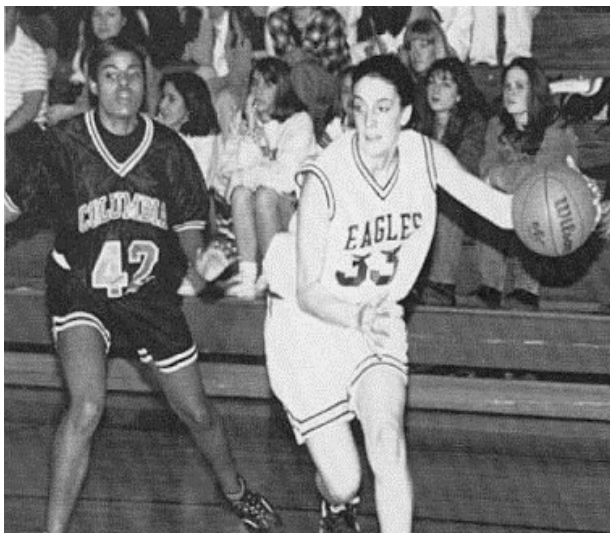




All State George Tioutine



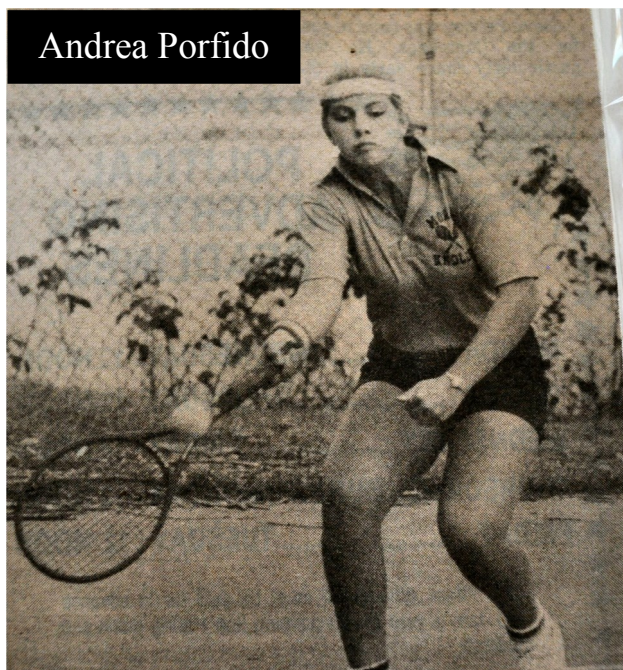
1993 Seniors - Conference Champions

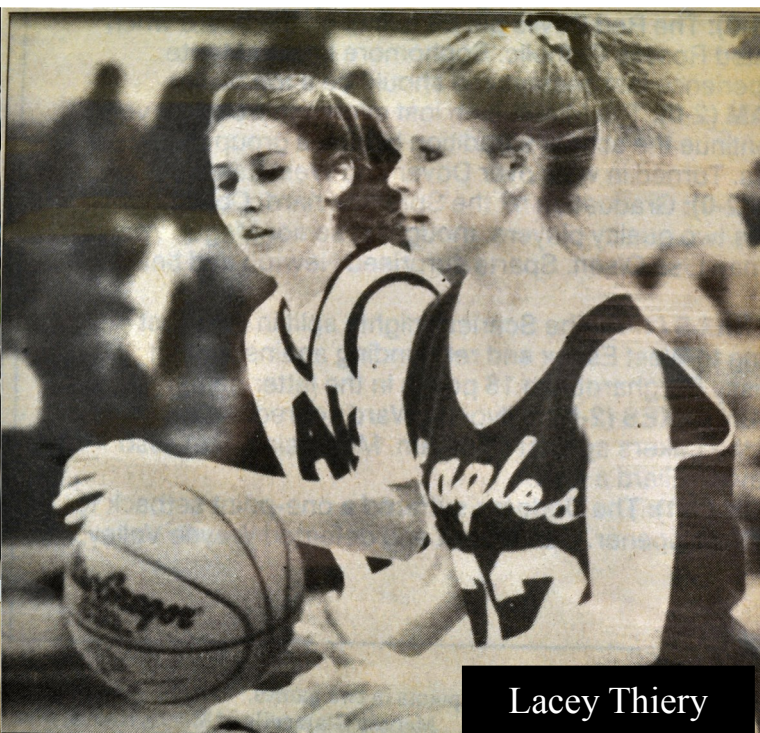


D1 Player - Jessica DiMaria



Melissa & Dana Gialanella

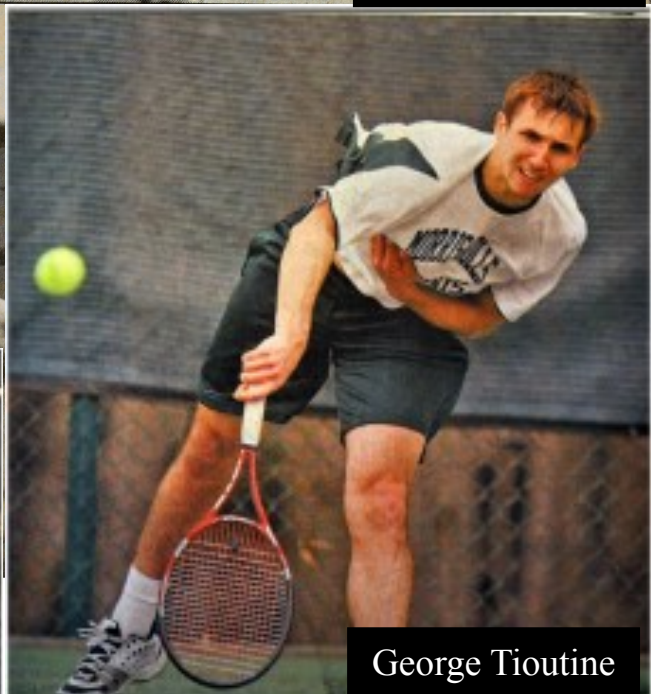




Lacey Thiery



Dana Gialanella



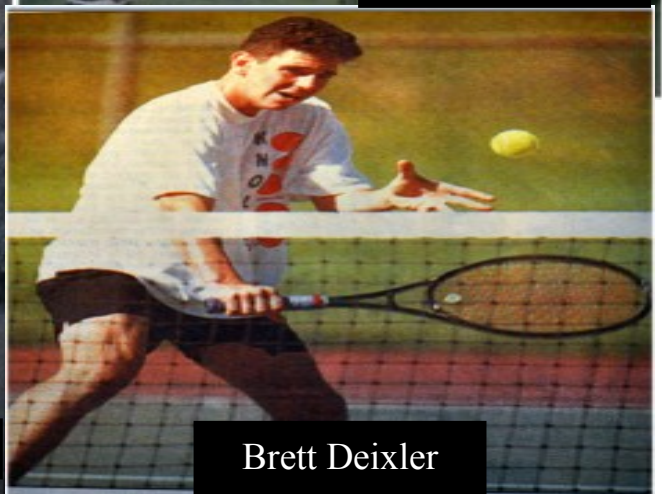
George Tioutine



George Tioutine



Laura Kettgen



Brett Deixler



Rao, Benz, Chamberlain



Harrison



Rao



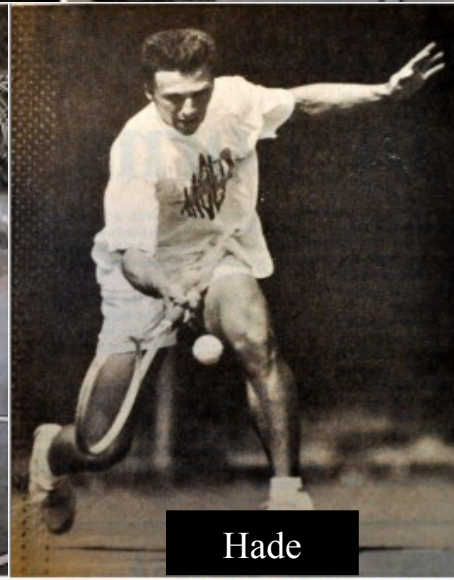
Le



Richardt



Trien



Hade



Trip to the State Championships

**Morris Knolls, Montville
share MCT tennis crown**



Rogoff



Manca



Madison: Christine Curtis and Kate Middle: Jennifer Brandt and Carolyn Brown: Alison Gotsman and Susan... Laura Fisher and Jenna Henrich... Roseberry and Holly Shubert and Patty Newman, Ridge, Susan

COACH OF THE YEAR

Benz ignited Morris Knolls renaissance

by STEVEN KINNEY
Daily Record Staff Writer

Just call Dan Benz "The Spark." Benz, coach of the Morris Knolls tennis team, helped the girls at an 81-match losing streak last year (they finished at 4-15) and took Golden Eagles to the state tournament and a 10-6 record this year. That success has earned Benz District Coach of the Year honors, although he claims he had little to do with the team's success. His it, he says, was just to be "the spark behind the girls. I guess they wanted someone to make them."



and Benz had no intention to stay...



Sheila Rao



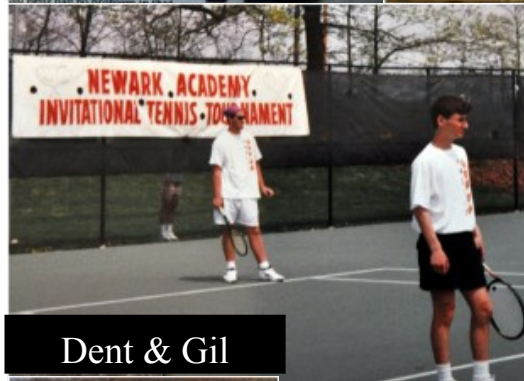
Patty Rasmussen



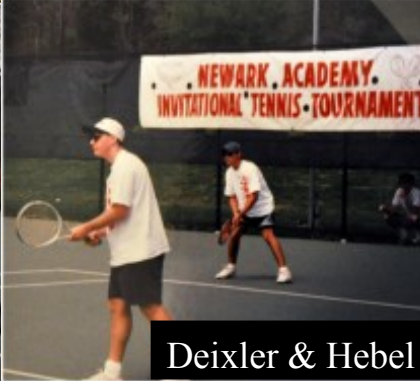
Chandana Rao



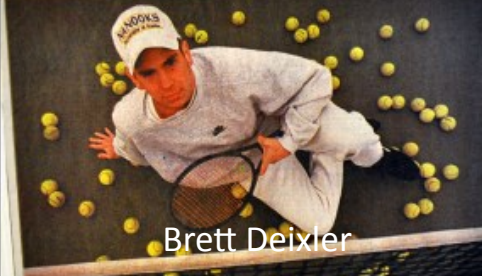
Ashok Rao



Dent & Gil



Deixler & Hebel



Brett Deixler

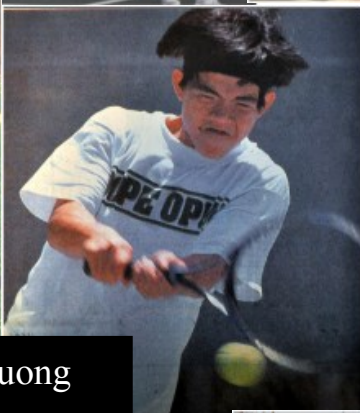
2 Time County Champion

Fast-rising Deixler eveing No. 1

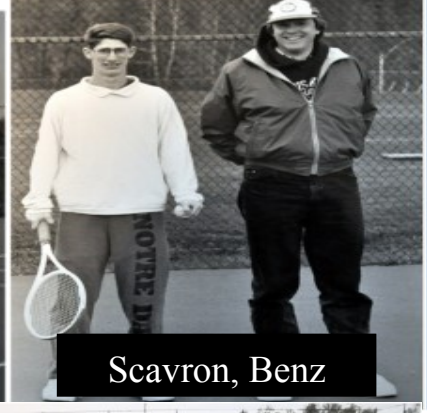
Golden Eagles tennis was Brett Deixler could be No. 1 in Morris County this year.



Tu Duong



Cook & Harrison



Scavron, Benz





Rao



Tanis



Duong



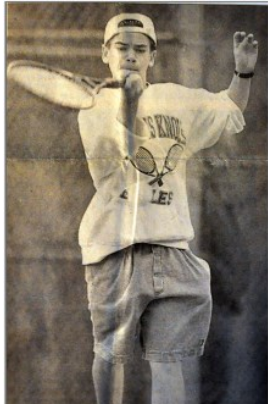
Hebel



Mattson



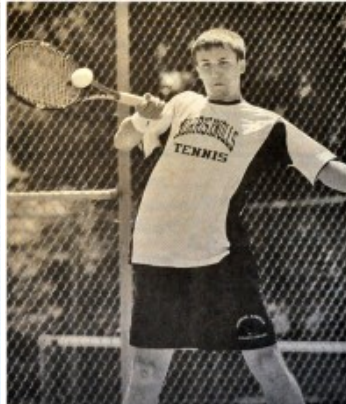
Barger



Miller



Mattson



George Tioutine



Gene Tioutine


Dan Benz
Morris Knolls, Coach of Year

After starting the 1992 season with an 0-3 record, the 13-year head coach of the Golden Eagles refused to give up on his team. The Denville school won 12 of its next 15 matches to finish the year at 12-4 and establish itself as a tennis power in Morris County.

Benz will return all three of his singles players — Jason Hade, Amund Rao and Tu Duong — next season. He got the most out of all three in addition to both of his overachieving doubles teams.

His shining moment came in the Morris County Tournament, when Morris Knolls finished second in the team standings behind champion Montville. It was the best-ever showing for Knolls in the MCT.

"The kids are really proud of what they accomplished this year,"



Dan Benz

said Benz. "We were a blue collar team that worked hard all season to get as far as we did. It's nice to be mentioned in the same breath as the Chatham's and Montville's."



Benz, Morris Knolls enjoyed a big turnaround in 2009

By DAN BREEMAN
 SENIOR TO THE DAILY RECORD

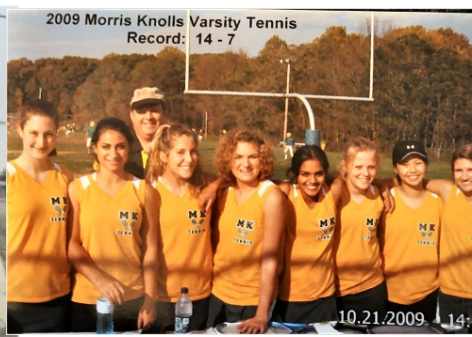
That added bonus came this fall when Benz led the Golden Eagles girls' tennis team to its

Coach of the Year

mark. Sophomore Natasha Kazakevich moved up from second doubles to third singles, where

dropping a hard-fought sion.

For Benz, his 28th



Vickie Paynter



Rae Ann DeBlock

The Rao Family



Ashok



Sheila



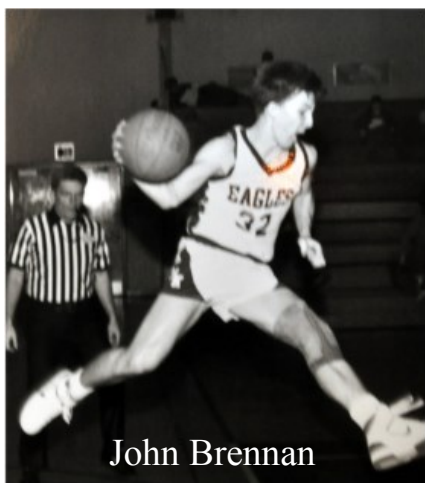
Chandani



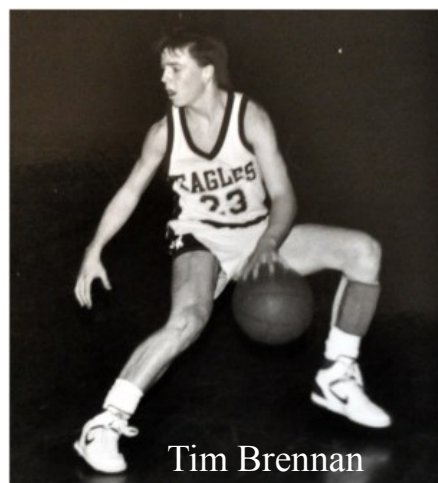
Anand



Coach Benz & Jon Rogoff "Afro Thunder"



John Brennan



Tim Brennan



Steve Kmetz



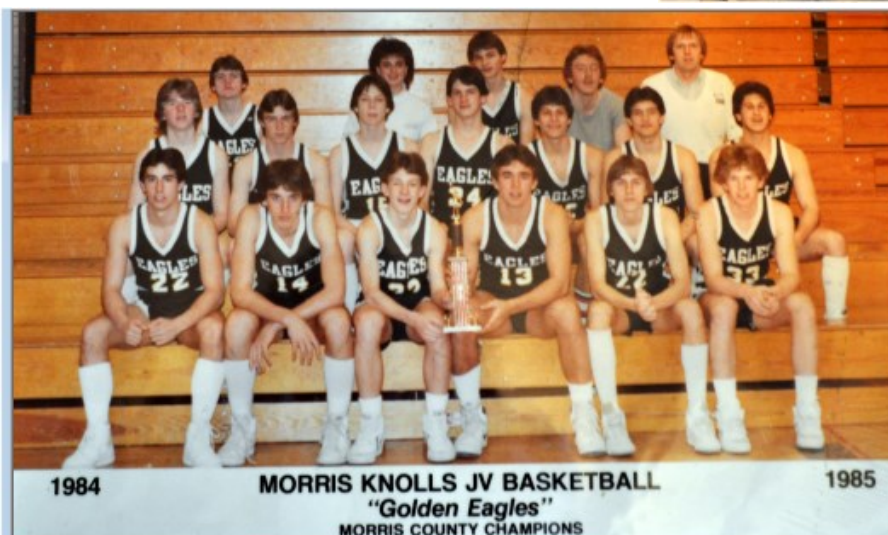
John Brennan



Steve P.



Todd Tooley



DiMaria - Benz - D. Gialanella

JV Undefeated

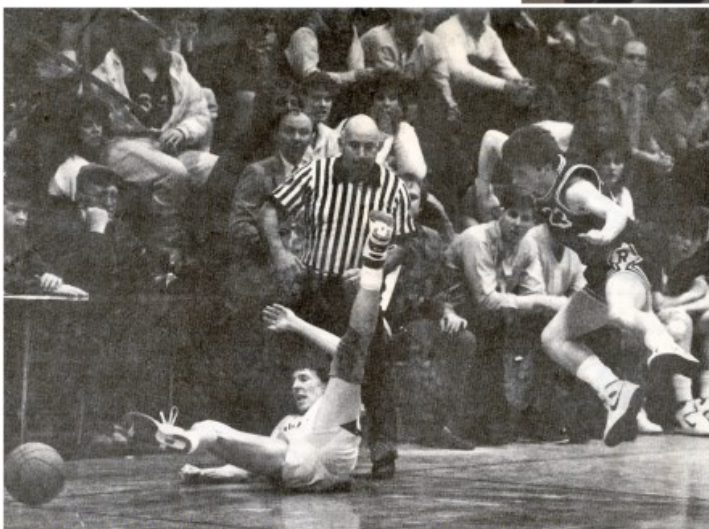
Team

20 - 0





JV Undefeated Team
20 - 0



2/25/1987 - John Brennan's 1000 pt. game



First Varsity Team

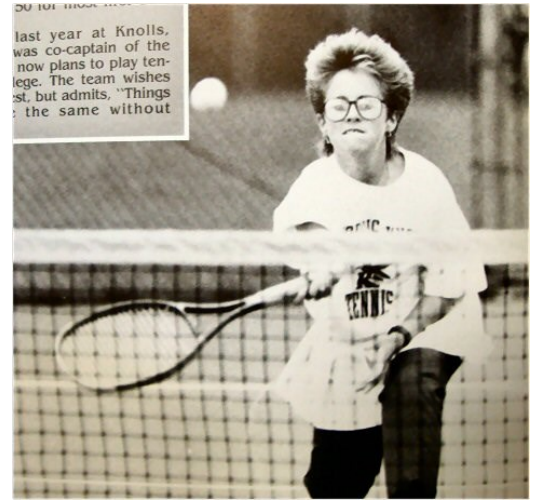




Lacey Thiery
Teacher & Coach



Mike Miller
Teacher & Coach



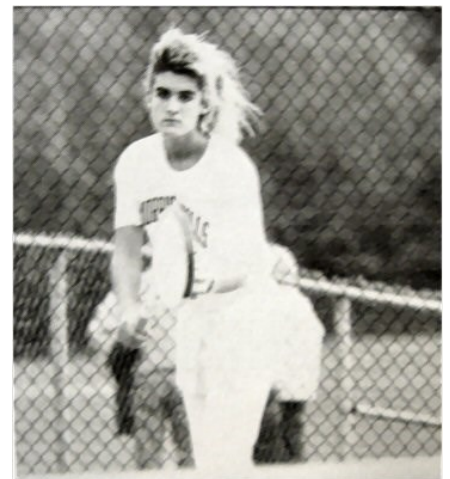
Meaghan Barger
Teacher & Coach



Jen Ondish



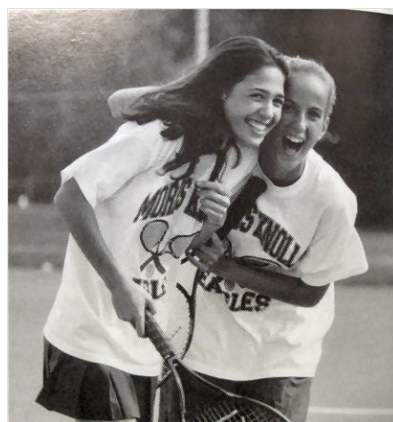
Rae Ann DeBlock



Kristen Johnson



Eric Balis



Baron & Traynor



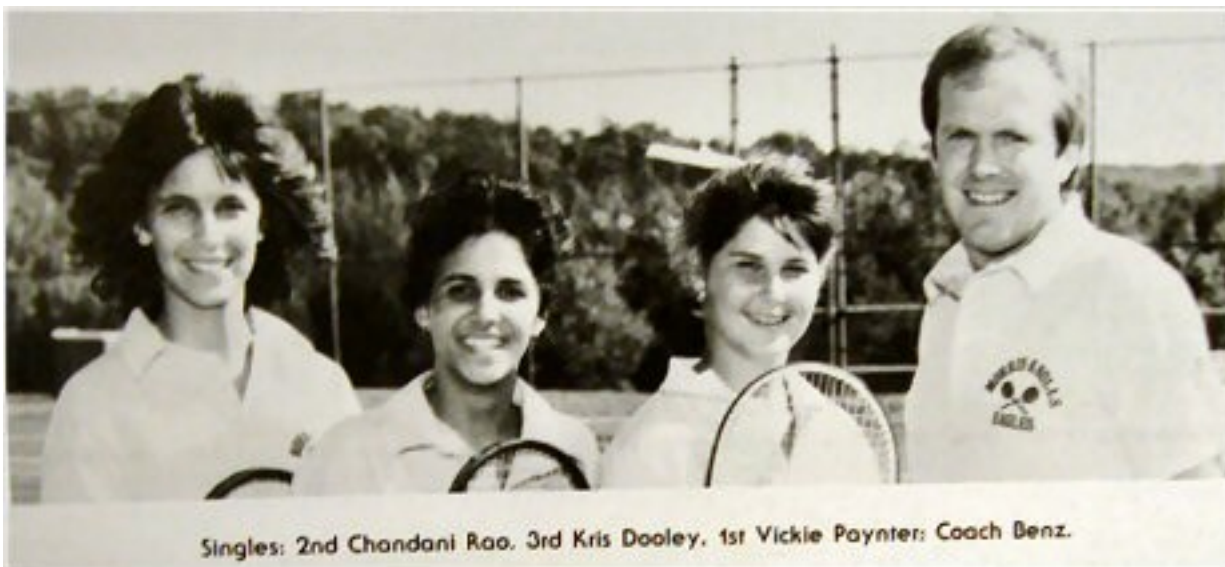
Keelie Hodge



Reichard
Le
Trien

Chamberlain
Benz
Coviello





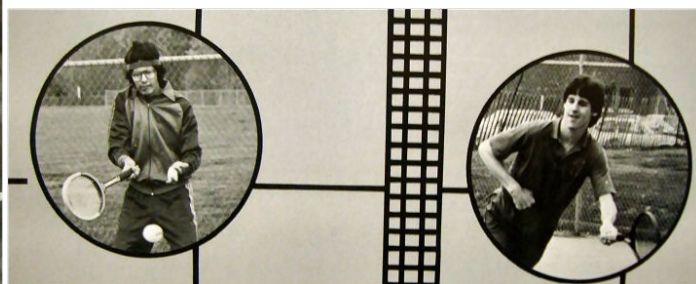
1988 Conference & Group IV State Sectional Champions



Nina Dudhale

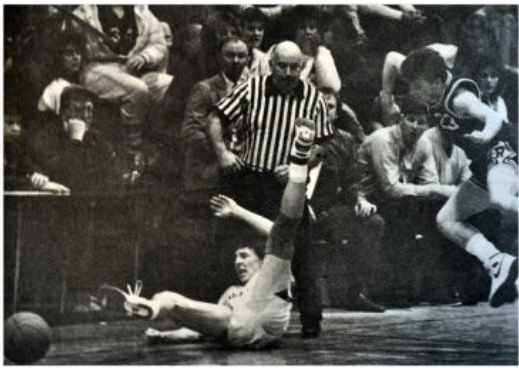


Rachel Manca



Ashok Rao & John Kovas





*Brennan nets
1,000th point*



Coaches Dan Benz and
Dirk Kelly

**Golden Eagles travel the yellow
brick road to win tennis crown**



Kristen Johnson &
Jason Hade



Kathy
Chamberlain

John Brennan
&
Todd Tooley
Morris County
Champions

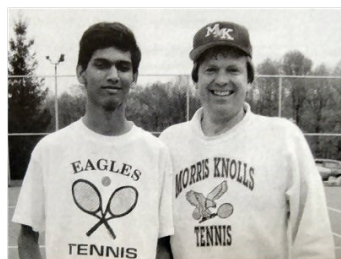


Susan Weldon



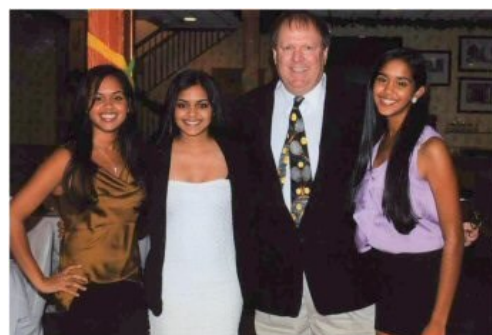
Jeff
Pariser
&
Billy
Barrick





SAT & Benz





Benz - Trien - Le - Reichard

The Sukha Sisters
Anita - Savita - Shivanni (Sticks)



Coach Amy Richter

Daryl Dawkins and Jeff Silverberg



**Rao keys upset
of Livingston**

**Morris Knolls
routs Randolph**
Cummings, Murphy step up

**Benz chasing dream of
MCT championship**
Morris Knolls girls coach has horses

Morris Knolls tennis team ends 81-match loss streak

Thiery lifts Morris Knolls

Gialanella's 25 key Morris K, 50-34

D. Gialanella, Thiery spark Golden Eagles

Benz, Conway spark turnarounds

**Knolls' Paynter not so
shy on the tennis court**

**Paynter helping Morris Knolls
propel to new tennis heights**

Paynter paces Knolls netters

Rao upset spurs Knolls

Golden Eagles' Paynter is tennis star

Paynter in net final eight

**Rao, Hade help
Morris K defeat
Parsippany, 4-1**

**Deixler gets
100th win;**

**Tioutine brings
dominance to
Morris Knolls**

**Deixler brothers pace Morris K
by Parsippany; Sparta loses, 4-1**

**Deixler fires Morris K
past Mountain Lakes**

**Dexler, Hebel
pace Morris K;**

Paynter defeats Yin for title in three sets

Exceeding expectations

Morris Knolls' George Tioutine is Boys Tennis Player of the Year

Morris K edges Newark A, 3-2

Advances to semis as Albers, Tioutine each win in three sets

Morris Knolls impressive in Bennett debut

**Deixler brothers pace Morris K
by Parsippany; Sparta loses, 4-1**



Morris Knolls tennis team ends 81-match loss streak

DENVILLE TWP. — Dan Benz says he's been asked plenty of times why he'd want to take over a team that has run up an 81-match losing streak.

"As a challenge, I guess," is his response.

In case anyone laughed at Benz before, now they'd better hide those smirks. Yesterday, in Benz' first match as head coach of the Morris Knolls girls' tennis team, that 81-match skid ended with a 3-2 victory over Morris Catholic.

"Sure, the girls were nervous," Benz said. "So I told them nobody was going to bother us if we lost 82 in a row. But people would notice us if we could finally win."

The Golden Eagles won three of the five matches yesterday, recording all their wins in singles.

GIRLS TENNIS Morris Knolls (1-0) 3 Morris Catholic (1-1) 2

SINGLES
Sheila Rao (MK) def. Sue Floegal, 6-0, 6-0; Jennifer Sterling (MK) def. Li Yap, 7-5, 6-1; Michele Covello (MK) def. Colleen Dun, 6-3, 6-2.

DOUBLES
Jeanie Siegar and Nancy McKim (MK) def. Kris Chamberlain and Kath Chamberlain, 1-6, 6-1, 6-3; Michele Lepore and Regina Cammaras (MK) def. Barbara Harrison and Tiffany Cook, 6-4, 6-4.

Parsippany (1-0) 4 Madison (0-1) 1

SINGLES
Stacy Whitman (P) def. Jennifer Silverstein, 6-1, 6-1; Mary Kay Bray (P) def. Michele Vinci, 6-2, 6-0; Kim Brennan (P) def. Annika Sandberg, 7-5, 6-1.

DOUBLES
Janine Angelotti and Jill Simon (P) def. Tota Ballard and Anne-Laure Rocher, 6-4, 6-4; Michele Damphard and Gerry Goodman (P) def. Kasey Li and Sukh McChellam, 6-4, 6-0.

Tennis ace scores high at Morris Knolls



Morris Knolls: Climbing up from the bottom

It's Over For Knolls — Led by a singles sweep, Morris Knolls' girls' tennis team ended an 81-match losing streak, dating back to 1977, by edging Morris Catholic 3-2 in the season opener. Sheila Rao, a freshman was the number one winner, upending the Crusaders' Sue Floegal. "The girls have worked tremendously hard," said first-year girls' coach Dan Benz. "They deserved to win. I've got nine dedicated players who want to win badly. Needless to say, I'm just thrilled about it." Page 27.

Morris Knolls Keeps Winning Away

Knolls tennis hits milestone

Knolls' Paynter wins singles title

Rao upset spurs Knolls

'Dedicated' Knolls netters win

Morris Knolls (15-3) nets another tennis win at love

Red-hot Morris Knolls wallops Morristown

Knolls' Benz thrilled about varsity post

T. Brennan Shot Sinks Knights, 64-63

Knolls stuns East Orange

Half-court shot wins for Knolls

Brennan making MK's season a little better

Brennan clan always ready to hoop it up





3 State Sectional Championship Trophies

1994 Boys Tennis, 1988 Girls Tennis, 1994 Girls Basketball



**1988 Girls Tennis
Conference Champions**



**1993 Boys Tennis
Morris County Champions**



**1993 Girls Basketball
Conference Champions**



**1994 Girls Basketball
MCT 2nd Place**



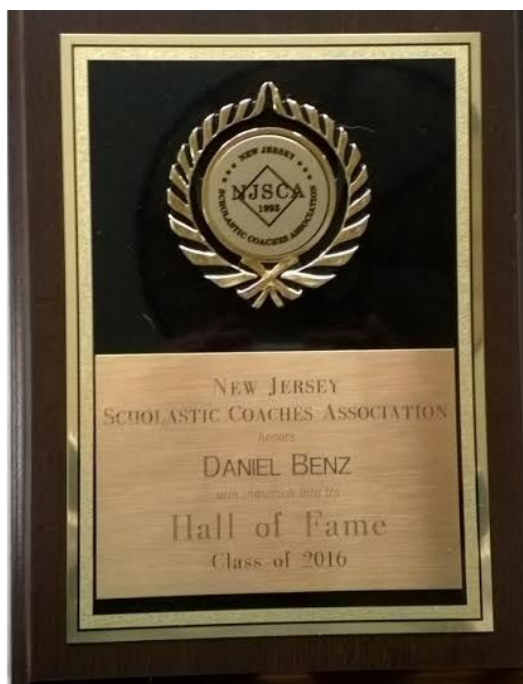
**1993, 2011 Boys Tennis
MCT Runnerup
1987 & 88 2nd Place Girls**



**Boys Tennis Delbarton
Tournament
2nd Place**

NJSIAA Coaches Hall of Fame

2016





MORRIS KNOLLS



Head Coaching Experience:

<u>Sport</u>	<u># of Years Coached</u>	<u>Record</u>
Boys Tennis	36	300 - 418
Girls Tennis	34	270 - 382
Boys Basketball	2	15 - 31
Girls Basketball	2	43 - 9

Championships

<u>Championships</u>	<u>Sport</u>	<u>Year</u>
IHC Conference	Girls Tennis	1988
Group IV Sec. 2 State	Girls Tennis	1988
IHC Conference, Holiday Tourn.	Girls Basketball	1993
Morris County Champs	Boys Tennis	1993
Group III Sec.2 State, Holiday Tourn.	Girls Basketball	1994
Group III Sec. 2 State	Boys Tennis	1994

7 Coach of the Year Awards

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sport</u>	<u>Paper</u>
1983	Girls Tennis	(2) Morris County Daily Record, The Star Ledger
1983	Girls Tennis	The Dover Advance
1993	Boys Tennis	Morris County Daily Record
1994	Girls Basketball	The Star Ledger
2009	Girls Tennis	Morris County Daily Record
2011	Boys Tennis	The Star Ledger



MORRIS KNOLLS



Team Awards:

1994 Girls Basketball Team of the Year - Morris County

2009 Boys Tennis Sportsmanship Award

2009 Girls Tennis Sportsmanship Award

2010 Girls Tennis Sportsmanship Award

2013 Girls Tennis Sportsmanship Award

Coaching:

42 Years Coaching

812 Victories - Coached **1742** Games & Matches

93 Seasons as a coach (Varsity, Asst. Varsity, JV - Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Varsity Boys Tennis, Girls Tennis).

8 Championships - **7** Coach of the Year Awards - **5** Sportsmanship Awards.

Been able to coach both boys and girls on all levels.

Athletic Career - Basketball

2003 Inducted into Quinnipiac Athletic Hall of Fame as a member of the 1972-73 Championship Team.

1970 - 74 Quinnipiac College Basketball - Varsity 3 years. Member of 2 New England Championship Teams.

1966 - 1970 Dover High School Basketball - MVP Jr. & Sr. Years, All Area First Team





Hall of Fame Dinner

Ken Mullen AD, Lacey Thiery, Ryan MacNaughton Principal, Maureen Benz, Kyle Benz, Dan Benz,
Sean Benz, Meaghan Barger, Shalynn Benz, Mike Miller