

Chapter News

Houston DOC Hosts 2nd Emphysema Slims

Houston had a new holiday to celebrate this year on April 13. Nobody got the day off, but Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire proclaimed April 13 Houston's first "Throw Tobacco Out of Sports Day" in honor of the Houston Emphysema Slims Celebrity Tennis Tournament. While Philip Morris brought its annual Virginia Slims Cigarette Tennis Tournament to Houston's Westside Tennis Club, the Baylor College of Medicine Chapter of DOC and the American Lung Association/San Jacinto Area held the Emphysema Slims Tournament at the Homer Ford Tennis Center in MacGregor Park

Houston player who has won several American Tennis Association national titles. David Latin, former star of the Golden State Warriors, Phoenix Suns, Harlem Globetrotters and Texas West-

assistant director for Houston's Department of Parks and Recreation.

Also making guest appearances were Martina Nismokanova, the Barboro Man, hacking wheezing Filipe Morris executives, Mr. Camel Cartoon and the Dakota DaCough DaCancer girls.

The idea for Emphysema Slims began in January 1978 when family physician Alan Blum, MD, led a group of 30 health professional members of DOC on a house call to the Virginia Slims tournament to call attention to the devastating health and economic toll caused by tobacco in America.

In 1983, the Medical College of Georgia chapter of DOC in Augusta created an annual Emphysema Slims Celebrity Tournament and teaching clinic with the slogan "You've Coughed Up Long Enough Baby."

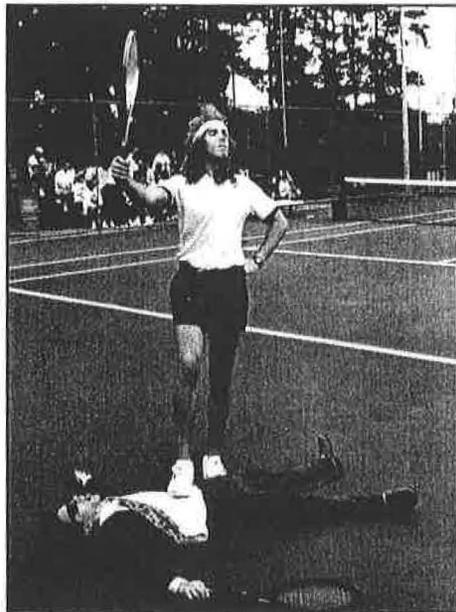
A National Emphysema Slims was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, for the past two years featuring Olympic gold medalists, Hollywood stars and tennis pro Andrea Jaeger, once the number 2 ranked player in the world. These celebrity figures continue to be outspoken in condemning tobacco-sponsored sports, particularly the Virginia Slims Tennis Tournament.

"The emperor is not wearing any clothes," said Dr. Blum. "It's time for the mass media to start condemning tobacco companies and their allies and stop glorifying a stale cigarette promotion disguised as a tennis tournament. Ironically, the *Houston Chronicle*, which claims to be committed to improving the health of our community and educating our children, was listed as the principal co-sponsor of the Virginia Slims event. What a shame for a leading newspaper to be a part of a cigarette company promotion. We're hoping they'll support our healthful event next year, which is dedicated to raising a smoke-free generation."

Lexus was also a sponsor of the Virginia Slims event. Houston DOC had among its sponsors the local Mercedes and BMW dealerships as well as National DOC.



(Above) Houston City Councilman Dale Gorczyński presents a proclamation from Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire declaring Houston's first "Throw Tobacco Out of Sports" Day. (Left) Martina Nismokanova celebrates victory over the Filipe Morris executive. (Below, L-R) Tennis pro Leonardo Johns and DOC Executive Director Eric Solberg speak to a group of kids before the tournament.



ern University (a member of the only NCAA championship team ever from Texas) came out to show his support for tobacco-free sports as did Elmo Wright, former professional football player for the Kansas City Chiefs, and Leonard Ganther,

on April 13 and 14.

"It's sickening to see a cigarette company calling the shots in women's tennis," said medical student Karen White, president of Baylor DOC. "Especially when lung cancer has now surpassed breast cancer as the leading cause of death from cancer among women."

Recent Baylor College of Medicine graduate and DOC member Kevin Reidy, MD, coordinated the Houston Emphysema Slims which featured local athletes committed to tobacco-free sports and to setting a better example for teenagers and children. Tennis pros included Leonardo Johns, tennis pro at Homer Ford Tennis Center, and Ann Eaton, a