

Booming First Serve Trains in Palo Alto

Chapter representatives from the growing and far-flung First Service tennis program for youth—a relatively new approach to tennis, communication and life skills—will converge at Stanford's Taube Stadium for the second annual training.

Hosting the April 21-23 training is the East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring Program of Youth Tennis Advantage. It is one of 16 chapters situated in cities such as Miami, Houston and Minneapolis. Florida has eight chapters. Northern California has Future Stars 2000s in Manteca, and three in addition to East Palo Alto that are YTA affili-

ated: Mission Playground in San Francisco, Bear Tracks in Berkeley and Hunters Point in San Francisco.

Four new chapters-in-development will attend, according to **Trey Buchholz**, First Serve executive director. The training is interactive and amounts to "coaching the coaches" who train kids, he said. The curriculum has three levels: Game, Set and Match. Participants in the new programs in New York, Chicago, Long Island and Ft. Collins, Colo., will be trained at the first level.

"There are currently 30 cities that have been wait-listed to join the First

Serve Network," Buchholz said in an e-mail. "There is a very thorough process to becoming a First Serve Chapter. As such, any local tennis and education program that has made it to the point of being trained is among the best in the country."

The curriculum was designed by the same Stanford Research Institute people who designed the First Tee golf program's Life Skills curriculum nearly eight years ago. Buchholz said that program has been a huge success.

"First Serve hopes to follow this model and have a similar effect on the lives of children," he said.