

To My Students and Customers:



It was 1971 and the world was a different place. Four local Yonkers businessmen, Joe and Mario Curto, Joseph Locascio, and Vin DiAngelo decided the time was right to build three indoor tennis clubs, one of them being Yonkers Tennis Center. It was at this time my career at the club began. I was two years out of college, teaching Spanish at Cardinal Spellman High School and working part-time at YTC. Fast forward 46 years. Yonkers Tennis Center is still going strong. During this time, many changes took place but the one constant was that ownership and management remained in the Curto family. When Joe Curto Jr (Peppe), Joe's son, and his cousins, Michael and Joe, bought the tennis center. Investing in the club with a sharp business sense brought about a new way of doing business. I value my relationship with the Curto family and they made these last 45 years epic.

Suffice to say I spent a lot of time on the tennis courts but I can assure you that every moment I spent on the court with all of you was exciting, memorable and very rewarding. Working with you gave me a great sense of joy and watching you learn and even, at times, struggle but most importantly have fun gave me the career few hope to have. As a result of our relationship on court many of you not only became clients but also became friends. Tennis has a way of making that happen. I would be remiss if I did not mention a few notables: Martin Noonan, Joseph Atkins, Mary Curto and Dr. Fenar Themistole. These people were and are great students of the game and they always worked hard on the court for me. Moving into tennis full time was not any easy decision but I knew it was the right one. Invariably when I look back a frequent question always popped up and asked of me: *What do you do for a living?* I would say a tennis pro. *What else do you do?* (Not an unusual reply.)

All I wanted in life was to be three things: husband, father and coach. No more, no less. Saying goodbye to all of you is not easy but saying good bye we must because those are the rules of the game. So, it is with a heavy heart that I officially announce my retirement from the place I called home for 46 years.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that has taken place here. It is a very special place, thanks to Joe Curto, and I hope you all keep it that way. I am going to miss this.

Love
Coach Pat Rogers

September 8, 2017

A note from Christine Rogers

Pat never wanted to retire completely. He always wanted to be part of the tennis family. Pat didn't get to make the retirement decision, though, it was made for him by illness. Our plans did not go as expected. Pat was going to retire in June 2017 and planned to just teach a few days a week until I was ready to retire with him. As many of you know, Pat was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in October 2016. He went through his treatments-- radiation and chemotherapy-- as it was decided this was the best approach followed by surgery in February 2017. Pat is fighting as hard as he can. He is continuing treatment and will as long as he can. Your cards, notes and your prayers are very much appreciated by him during this time. Thanks to all for a wonderful life,

Christine Rogers

