

Corey Reich CRTC Speech

I love Piedmont. To be connected publicly and permanently with this amazing city is such an honor. I want to thank everyone that made the CRTC possible. Starting with Neil Rothenberg, the godfather of tennis in Piedmont, who came up with this crazy idea. Everyone at the City and Recreation Department, especially Sara Lillevand and Chelle Putzer. The PRFO: president Steve Collins, my old neighbor, Chris Hart, and everyone else I'm failing to mention, for not only making this project possible, but also ensuring people have beautiful spaces in which to be active. The CRTC committee: Andy Filler, Leila Kasrovi, Betsy Lalli, Barbara Love, Melanie Marcus, Bernie Yu, and Jim Landes, more on Jim to follow. Most importantly, THE DONORS. Family, friends, the tennis community, the Piedmont sports community, PHS tennis team members past and present, and their incredible families, for not only funding this fantastic facility, but the continual, overwhelming support of me, it means more than I can put into words. And, of course, my fam, I love you.

When I returned home after graduation, diagnosed with ALS less than a year earlier, I had no idea what my future would hold. It was at the Celebration of Life of Buzz Redford, a titan of youth sports in Piedmont, that my dad asked my former high school tennis coach, Neil, if he'd be willing to take on an assistant coach for the first time. Luckily for me, Neil agreed. To continue to learn from and work with my favorite coach I'd ever had was a blessing. After 14 seasons together, Neil decided to retire, kinda sorta. I was apprehensive of being the assistant for someone new, but, again luckily for me, Jim was the new coach. I enjoy, and maybe understand, Jim's humor more than anyone and his love for and knowledge of tennis is unrivaled. Thank you to Neil and Jim for letting me be a part of the coaching staff and especially for doing all the tedious, thankless paper and administrative work. We've made quite a team!

Finally, I love coaching tennis at Piedmont High School. It's no surprise that the biggest reason is the players. I wish I had time to name all 150+ student athletes who I've had the pleasure to coach, but thank you to each and every one of you for making it so I look forward to Mondays so I can be with you. Coaching has given my life purpose and, even though I blame my gray hair on matches like last Thursday's, it is one of the reasons I think I'm still alive and progressing so slowly.