

Joe Langner

Joe is a member of the Columbia High School graduating class of 1978. Joe is the 1978 UIL 3A Boys Singles Tennis State Champion. As a Sophomore in 1976, Joe placed second in the District Tennis tournament behind fellow Hall of Honor member Van Manning. As a Junior in 1977, Joe placed first at the District tournament and second at the Regional Tournament and earned a berth to the State Tournament. Joe finished second in the State that year. As a senior in 1978, Joe once again earned a berth to the State Tournament and finished as the 1978 UIL 3A Boys Singles Tennis State Champion.

After graduation, Joe received a scholarship to play Tennis at Lamar University. In 1982 Joe won the Southland Conference singles title.

After Lamar, Joe played the 1982 summer Pro Penn satellite circuit, the 1984 spring Viceroy Tennis Circuit in Mexico, and the 1985 UTSA satellite circuit in the southern United States.

Joe would like to add - to be standing here tonight and receiving this award alongside these Roughneck greats, is an unbelievable honor and privilege. And for those who thought me worthy enough to be chosen, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. They say tennis is an individual sport, and that tonight is an individual honor. But I have to say this is not true. I know that I could not have accomplished much in this sport of tennis without loyal friends and team mates such as Van Manning, Greg Hodges, and my brother Anthony. These are the guys who spent thousands of practice hours alongside me. They inspired me, and most of all they pushed me to become better. I was also fortunate to have two older brothers, Jerry and Houston, who took so much of their time and energy taking all of us to tournaments across the state and in some cases across the country. They kept us motivated and focused. And I have to thank God for my parents Ted and Oleta. I thank them not just for loving and supporting me and my obsession with this sport, but for the love and support they gave to my friends and team mates without question. Just as the Lee Manning and Cotton Hodges family gave to me.

But the one common thread we all had in common as tennis players was our coach, Charlie Brand. He took this so called individual sport and transformed it into a team sport - heart and soul. You wanted to play for Coach Brand and you wanted to win for Coach Brand. And because he was a true Roughneck, we became true Roughnecks. And so, coming from a kid who used to look at every old trophy, plaque, and team photo in the old high school trophy case, with dreams of being a roughneck one day; I Thank you Columbia High School for this honor.