

Press Release & Tournament Report



8th Annual Glendale "Ararat" **Tennis Tournament** **May 1-3 & May 8-10 2009**

Community's largest tennis event
Open to everyone who loves tennis
All levels - all ages.

www.Ararat.org

Homenetmen Glendale "Ararat" Chapter continues to be a magnificent leader in arranging and holding community activities anyway possible. This annual tennis tournament's objective is to promote friendship and camaraderie amongst many groups of athletes in the community, while providing a healthy competitive forum for the sport lovers.

Every year, Ararat Tennis committee and its dedicated group of volunteers organize a large scale tennis tournament and try to reach every athlete in the community.

This year, yet once again we celebrated a wonderful community experience that has proved to be a great asset to the progress of Glendale tennis.

We had more than 220 registered players from age 5 to 65! Participants competed in 26 categories that include absolute beginners to advanced level players. The tournament took place in Glendale's Glorietta Park during weekends of May 1-3 and May 8-10, 2009.

The tournament closing ceremony was held at Ararat Center. City officials, reporters and media representatives, community organizations and many others, all involved in sport of tennis is invited to participate.

We had the pleasure to have USTA – Southern California - Executive Director, Mr. Henry Talbert who in his speech recognized the significance of organizations like Homenetmen Glendale "Ararat" Chapter and their roll in developing the future generation of this city and surrounding communities.

Mr. Talbert personally awarded most of the finalists and encouraged them to continue to enrich their activity in sport of tennis which they so avidly love. As the main speaker "Derick Hovsepien" expressed in his opening statement -

"The focus of Homenetmen Glendale "Ararat" Chapter's Tennis Program and this annual tournament is to expand, encourage and involve children and young people in sport of tennis, providing them with the opportunity to exhibit their discipline, commitment, fitness, and personal and social development".
He continued saying that -

"what this event tries to converse is that sport provide us a great metaphor for life, in that they teach us how to work towards goals, individually and with others, and how to pick ourselves up after trying circumstances. You didn't have to win the tournament to be considered a winner. This event is about what type of an athlete you are. How much respect as an athlete you have, for each other. No matter how many jersey colors we saw at the end of the day, we all wear the same uniforms and we accept and cheer everyone".

This event was made possible by close cooperation of local and surrounding court managers and coaches, including:

Coach Vigen Khanlarian (Tournament Court Director) from Glorietta Park;
Coach Bob Mackay from Glendale College
Coach Julie Hoppe from Hoover High school;
Coach Bob Davidson from Glendale High school;
Coach Gagik Rostomyan from Central Park;
Coach Robert Hakobyan and Coach Armen Mendelyan from Fremont Park; and
Coach Michael Khanlarian and Coach Eric Khanlarian from Glorietta Park.

They took it upon themselves to make sure that players as well as spectators are well entertained all 2 weekends long so that they have more than one reason to come back, next year.

For their participation in promoting this great community event, special thanks went out to:

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| Mr. Greg Kirkorian | Glendale Board of Education |
| Dr. Deb Rinder | Principle of Glendale High School |
| Mr. Kevin Welsh | Principle of Hoover High School |
| Mrs. Linda Evans | Principle of CV High School |
| Dr. Vahe Peroomian | President of GCC Board of Trustees |

We Hope they will continue the effort for 9th Annual Glendale "Ararat" Community Tennis Tournament that will take place during the first weekend of May 2010.