

# OLYMPIAN

THE OLYMPIC CLUB • SAN FRANCISCO

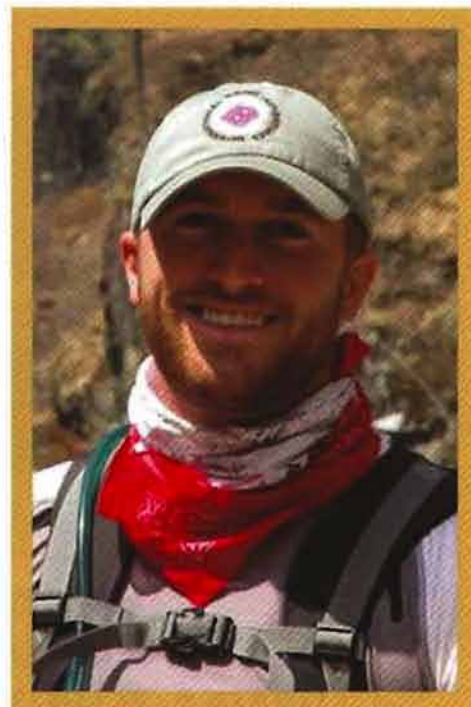


  
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## ONE ON ONE

*with tennis player guy kornblum*



The story of Guy Kornblum's tennis career at the Club is an instructional tale for all of us. Think it's too late to get started in a sport? Think you can't show up, cold turkey, at a Club sporting venue and wind up immersed? Think you don't have the motivation to get off your duff and get involved? Read all about Kornblum, a 28-year-old San Franciscan who works in real estate brokerage and investments, has hiked Kilimanjaro and Mount Everest base camp, but still wanted more out of his life -- and is now the highly-involved captain of the Club's 4.0 tennis teams:

**OLYMPIAN MAGAZINE:** *When did your love affair with tennis begin?*

Guy Kornblum: About a year and a half ago. Actually, I played my freshman year at The Branson School, but quit for soccer. And then I gave it up for the next 15 years, until one day I went out with a buddy to the Club to start hitting tennis balls again.

**OM:** *Did you even own a racket?*

GK: I dragged one out of the closet. I didn't even know if the strings were still good. (laughs) But I just had an amazing time, and it made me realize there had been an element missing in my life, and that was competition.

**OM:** *You'd always played sports, but had stopped?*

GK: I played intramurals at UC Davis, and I grew up playing sports. My father, Guy Kornblum, Sr., is an Olympian. He was recruited to play handball in the 1960s, and he loves the Club. He passed that on to me. He's fantastic. He stays active and is in amazing shape, even pushing 70. We go to spinning class twice a week, and he outspins me.

**OM:** *He got you attached to the Club at a young age?*

GK: The minute I could get in, at age 8, I was in a suit and tie, interviewing. I remember everything about the process. They asked me what sports I was interested in, things like that. It was a little bit of an intense process, sitting there with 8 to 12 guys quite older than you, asking you questions! And Pops used to drag me down and sit me in the basketball gym while he played. As a kid, my bar tab at the snack shop was ridiculous. (laughs)

**OM:** *So all these years later, you dive headfirst into tennis?*

GK: Basically, I just started showing up at the courts. I didn't know many members. I just showed up and started hitting with a ball machine. One day, this teenage kid, he played on the team at St. Ignatius, asked me: "Do you want to hit? I'll be better than the ball machine." We started hitting, and it was great. We hit once a week. And once you show your face out there, it's such an intimate setting; you're forced to meet other members. I started talking with Nigel, Sean and Brooke and told

them I wanted to get involved in the program. They started setting me up with other guys to hit with, and the next thing I know, I'm spending 3 to 4 days a week out there, on weekends and weeknights. It opened me up to a whole new world. I was definitely missing some sort of passion in my life, and tennis has become that.

**OM:** *Was the next step joining some leagues?*

GK: I joined the USTA leagues, and decided to captain one of the teams. You play other teams and other clubs around the Bay Area, and you get to represent the Club. It's awesome. To have a leadership role with the Club is very cool. It involves a lot of coordinating, setting up doubles and singles, picking the right guys to play matches. Tennis basically goes from a 2.5 to 5.5 or Open level, and the 4.0 team, which I captain, is right in the middle. It's very competitive, probably a step below a college players' level. Last year was the first time in about 5 years we fielded a 4.0 team. We're working to recruit new players, and strengthen that area of the Club, and get ready for the '09



## SOCIAL

### masters & rough water swimming Aquatic Awards Night

**WHEN:** Thursday, November 6th

**WHERE:** City Clubhouse

**DETAILS:** The Olympic Club Aquatics Awards Night honoring accomplishments of Masters Swimming and Rough Water Swimming. Cocktails in Hall of Fame Room 6pm, Buffet Dinner in Olympian Room 7pm

**COST:** \$56 per person, plus tax & service charge

**RSVP:** Please call Laureen Welting @ 415.345.5213 or email [lweltingolyclub.com](mailto:lweltingolyclub.com) by 5pm on November 3rd.

**DRESS CODE:** Business Casual.

# The Olympic Club Takes on "Hood to Coast"

by Eric Johnson

At the end of August, a team of 12 Olympians raced "Hood to Coast," the largest running relay in the world. The race stretches 197 miles from its start near the top of Mt. Hood to the finish at the Pacific Ocean in Seaside, Oregon. For a little local perspective, this is almost exactly the same distance and elevation change from Tahoe City to downtown San Francisco. Brutal hills, 1,000 teams, no sleep, and runs in complete darkness were no match for Team Olympic Club, which came through with shining colors – finishing 12th overall.

The squad was comprised of Chris Coble, Matthew Davie, John Hommeyer, Thomas Iseler, Eric Johnson, Mike McCarron, Drew Mickel, Tommy Mike, Paul Paradis, Jamie Saunders, Bradley Sloan and Matt Talbott. Their finishing time was just over 20 hours (20:02) for an average pace of 6:06 per mile.

The race officially started at 8am on Friday August 22nd and sent waves of teams off every 15 minutes. Two vans containing 6 OC runners each transported the relay runners. Almost 11 hours after the first team began running, Team Olympic Club got cranking down the hill as runners from the first of two vans began with a 4,000-foot drop over the first 11 miles. Rolling hills greeted the runners for the next 24 miles and Van 1 finished the first six legs at around 10:15pm. Van 2 set off for 35 miles in complete darkness along back country roads and bike paths, finishing under a bridge in Portland at 1:30 in the morning. Racing through the night, past train depots along the Willamette River, Van 1 tagged out just before sunrise. As the sun rose on Saturday morning, the team had crossed the halfway point and had managed to stay right on its target pace. Van 2, finished leg 24 just after 8 in the morning. The Coastal Mountain Range loomed and the mind starts playing nasty tricks brought on by too little sleep and quite a few hard miles. Everyone managed to convince themselves to get out of the van for their 3rd legs and make one last push. Despite the exhaustion, the team averaged a 6:13 pace on their final legs and was rewarded by the Pacific Ocean and some local beverages from Mr. Weinhard.

Everyone has vowed to be back next year to break 20 hours and shoot for a top ten finish.

season, which starts in the spring.

**OM:** *Would you call this a revival then?*

GK: Revival is a perfect word. It's a revival of younger guys coming out to the Club and enjoying tennis. A lot of Olympians would think the tennis section is low-key, with older members hitting the ball around the courts. But we're starting to pull younger guys. As an example, we do an event on Fridays called "Pinko". You play doubles, and the losing team has to come next week in pink headbands.

**OM:** *Who supplies the pink headbands?*

GK: There's no headband sharing. You have to get your own. (laughs)

**OM:** *With all the tennis, and the hiking of Kilimanjaro and the Everest base camp, sounds like you don't like to stay indoors?*

GK: I do not, true. I am so privileged to be a Club member. It's really a life-enhancing aspect of who I am. The Club has provided me with an excellent facility to enhance my life.

- Interview by Brian Murphy



Back Row: Talbott, Sloan, Davie, McCarron, Mickel, Saunders. Front Row: Mike, Hommeyer, Iseler, Johnson, Coble, Paradis. Photograph by Brian Penrose, [www.finishshots.com](http://www.finishshots.com)