



CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR GAYLORD ESCALONA

Congratulations to **Gaylord Escalona**, our 2022 USTA PNW Male Captain of the Year!

If you have ever been a USTA team captain, then you know that it can be a challenging adventure of juggling line ups, getting matches rescheduled, and keeping a smile on your face during the most difficult situations. So, what does it take to be a successful team captain?

Let's learn a bit more about Gaylord and find out.

Where are you from?

I was born and raised in the Seattle area and play at the Columbia Pine Lake Club in Sammamish.

How long have you been playing tennis?

I've been playing tennis for about 10 years.

What do you love most about tennis?

I love that tennis builds a community of life-long friends aligned in a common pursuit for wonderful and healthy competition.

What is a tennis-related accomplishment you're most proud of?

I'm most proud of the opportunities to play at Nationals; which included an opportunity to play at One Doubles Nationals in Indian Wells while the pros were playing in the PNB Paribas Open.

What are your tennis goals for the future?

My tennis goals for the future are to continue growing our tennis community while building and/or contributing to competitive tennis teams.

Why do you love being a USTA Captain?

What I love about being a USTA captain is the organizing & strategizing involved in bringing a group of friends together for fun, competitive, supportive and memorable moments. I also love seeing our teammates come together to support each other in matches (whether they're playing in the match or not). Of course, win or lose, having post-match whiskey shots always helps in bringing the team together!

What do USTA PNW players have to say about Gaylord?

Gaylord is such a positive and inclusive captain. He is incredibly organized, thorough and diligent in his line ups. His teams are always competitive. This year has been extremely difficult to fill and roster due to increased travel, but his enthusiasm and eagerness to captain never waivers. He also send out the best match recap emails with themes like 80's music that are super fun

Positive. Caring. Competitive. He's the total package!

Gaylord has served as the glue for the most competitive 3.5 & 7.0 Pine Lake teams for at least the 5 years that I have been a member. He is genuinely one of the nicest people I have ever met and is so compassionate towards others.