

## **Tenacity, tennis legends team up to help local at-risk youths**

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Yves Singletary of Mission Hill was an eighth-grader when he was accepted into the after-school program run by Tenacity Inc., a Boston-based tennis and education foundation for at-risk youths.

Now 19, Singletary said his year in the After-School Excellence Program and the five years since as a volunteer for the program have provided him with the discipline to pursue a degree in sports management at Newbury College. His tennis game has benefited with instruction from some of the professional athletes who mingle each year with Tenacity students and sponsors at a gala and pro-am associated with the Champions Cup Boston tennis tournament.

Produced by InsideOut Sports & Entertainment, the tournament will return to Boston University's Agganis Arena from April 30 to May 4. This year's participants include Jim Courier, John McEnroe, and Pete Sampras.

Last year, Singletary was selected to escort Sampras at the gala. Two years ago, Singletary teamed with Courier, InsideOut's cofounder, in a doubles clinic.

"Jim told me, 'Keep working hard and you can do anything,' " Singletary said. "That's what I've been doing."

Ned Eames, the founder and president of Tenacity, which supports more than 4,800 middle school students in after-school and summer programs throughout Boston, said that while the estimated high school drop-out rate is more than 30 percent in Boston, 95 percent of Tenacity participants graduate from high school and go on to college. The group recently launched a division to help program graduates prepare for college.

"We're super enthusiastic about this year's event, which is a wonderful opportunity to build awareness of what we're about," Eames said. "These kids love getting out on court and feeling connected with these legends of the game."

For tickets to the April 29 gala, call Lindsay Snyder at 617-562-0900, ext. 22, or visit [www.Tenacity.org](http://www.Tenacity.org).

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