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Tennis Pro Irwin Hoffman inducted into Staenberg-Loup Jewish Community Center's 2017 Sports Hall of Fame

Induction Ceremony followed by a conversation with Rod Smith and Steve Atwater, moderated by Les Shapiro, at Hall of Fame event on Dec. 11

DENVER, Colo., November 29, 2017 – The [Staenberg-Loup Jewish Community Center](#) (JCC Denver) is inducting Colorado's preeminent tennis professional, Dr. Irwin Hoffman, into the Staenberg-Loup Jewish Community Center's Sports Hall of Fame on Monday, December 11 at the JCC Denver's 3rd Annual Sports Hall of Fame event. As part of the induction, the JCC Denver brings in local athletes for an on stage Q&A. This year, sports talk radio host Les Shapiro will interview Broncos Ring of Famers Rod Smith and Steve Atwater. Additionally, two JCC Maccabi Games™ student athletes will be honored for their outstanding sportsmanship, inclusivity and respect during the competition, 15-year-old Fiona Harris and 16-year-old Nathan Kingdom.

A Denver native, Dr. Hoffman played collegiately at the University of Denver, was the JCC Denver's first teaching tennis professional in the 1960s and went on to a unique and distinguished 50-plus year career teaching tennis at Denver's Green Gables Country Club. At the height of the tennis boom in the 70s, Irwin and his staff managed over 17 clubs and programs. He developed the first interclub competition in Denver helping to fuel the growth of tennis in all of Colorado. Besides the thousands of young and older students Irwin taught, he also created and ran the most successful family and mixed doubles tournament the state has known. He was recognized by the Colorado Tennis Association for his commitment to Colorado youth in 2000 and, in 2003, was inducted into the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame.

"We selected Irwin as the honoree this year because of his unparalleled dedication to the sport of tennis in Colorado," said Jim Swiggart, JCC interim chief operating officer and tennis director. "Irwin has created a legacy in Colorado tennis and

education that is, frankly, unparalleled. We are excited to have the opportunity to honor him by inducting him into the JCC Denver Sports Hall of Fame.”

Also being inducted into the JCC Denver Sports Hall of Fame is 15-year-old Fiona Harris, who plays soccer, and 16-year-old Nathan Kingdom, who is the resident games photographer. Both students are Maccabi athletes who have participated in the Maccabi Games for two years.

The JCC Denver Sports Hall of Fame is being held at the Elaine Wolf Theatre at the MACC from 5-7 p.m. on Monday, December 11. Tickets and sponsorships are currently available for purchase at www.jccdenver.org/hof.

Inaugurated in 2015, the JCC Denver Sports Hall of Fame is dedicated to honoring Jewish individuals that have distinguished themselves in the field of sports with the objective to foster Jewish identity through athletics. Inductees and Maccabi athlete honorees are recognized at the annual JCC Sports Hall of Fame Induction event, proceeds from which support JCC Denver youth sports and enrichment programs. The JCC Denver Sports Wall of Fame is permanently located in the JCC Denver Fitness & Wellness Center.

Past inductees to the Sports Hall of Fame include Irv Brown, an NCAA official, in 2015 and, in 2016, Leonard Alterman, a professional basketball player. Past athletes who have participated in the on-stage Q&A include Broncos players John Elway in 2015 and Shane Ray in 2016.

The Staenberg-Loup Jewish Community Center is located at 350 S. Dahlia St. in Denver, Colo. For more information, visit www.jccdenver.org or call (303) 399-2660.

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ABOUT STAENBERG-LOUP JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

The [Staenberg-Loup Jewish Community Center](http://www.jccdenver.org) (JCC Denver) serves the metro-Denver area through educational, social, cultural, fitness, sports and other programs that are rooted in Jewish values. The JCC Denver’s mission is to create a vibrant and inclusive family and social gathering place, guided by these timeless Jewish values. The J’s four program areas focus on connection, community and well-being and include: a robust fitness, sports, tennis and aquatic center; Early Childhood Engagement, including an Early Learning School and a variety of programs for families; the Mizel Arts and Culture Center (MACC) which offers Denver Children’s Theatre, JAAMM Fest (Jewish Arts, Authors, Movies & Music), Denver Jewish Film Festival, Wolf Summer Theater Academy, Art Academy and adult art classes; summer camps including Ranch Camp and Camp Shai; intergenerational and older adult programming like the Grandparent Connect Group and Jewish Aging Mastery Program (JAMP). The JCC Denver is located at 350 S. Dahlia St. in Denver. For more information, visit www.jccdenver.org or call (303) 399-2660.