

## Justin Gimelstob

"Tom Fontana is an incredible tennis coach. I believe he is one of the best and most knowledgeable in the world. However, he is so much more than a tennis coach to me.

He is one of the most important people in not only my tennis life, but my life overall. He is family.

I met and started working with Tom when I was a young junior. Tom helped develop and shape my game while also impacting every other aspect of my life. His understanding of the sport, friendship, guidance, and support were vital to everything I achieved at every level of junior, college, and professional tennis.

When I think back at many of the most enjoyable, important, and proudest moments of my career; from winning Kalamazoo, becoming the #1 player in collegiate tennis at UCLA, battling through dramatic 5 set matches into the late nights of the US OPEN, competing against all the greats like Federer, Nadal, Sampras, Agassi, Rafter, Chang, Courier, Hewitt, Kuerten, all the way through retiring on Arthur Ashe Stadium after a loss to Andy Roddick, Tom was always there for me, in every way.

One of my most cherished pictures is of an emotional embrace with Tom and my father minutes after winning my first main draw match at the US OPEN when I was 18 years old in a brutal 5 set win. Tom pushed me to my limits to be the best I could be. He challenged me to compete and give everything I had in order to accomplish my dreams.

The love, respect, gratitude, appreciation, and all the sacrifices were captured in that moment. There is no doubt that Tom Fontana is an amazing and talented tennis coach, but he is way more than that, he is truly a special person."