

lifestyle: COURT REPORT

HIT on the Rise

Young players making their mark

The 2004 HHI Junior Tennis Championships will already be under way when we roll into August, beginning July 30-Aug. 1 in novice and championship age divisions of 12, 14, 16 and 18 years. Sponsored by the *Island Recreation Association*, matches will be at Hilton Head High School and the Community Tennis Center at Chaplin Park.

The entry fee is \$20, with a format that will include consolation matches for first-round losers. All players will receive tournament T-shirts. For entry information, contact Tournament Director Cameron Everett at the Rec Center at 681-7273 or email cameroneverett@islandreccenter.org.

The tournament will barely be over before HHI juniors quickly shift into back-to-school gear. It'll still be mid-summer, but fall school season practices will begin with a new kid on the block: Bluffton High School. The first Lady Bobcat team opens with tryouts the first week under Coach Bob Brown and teaching volunteer Denise Agee. Girls grade 7 and above will be eligible to try out. Interested players should contact Brown at 290-2833.

One thing this means to HHI area players is four new lighted, "soft"



PHOTO BY TED BERNIER

(l-r): Gavin Cox, president of Public Tennis, Inc., Robert Brown, varsity tennis coach at Bluffton High School and Tim Albert, Banana Open Men's 4.5 Division winner

hard courts that, in addition to school play, will be offered to the community for additional programs. Coaches also calling for tryouts at the same time include: Nancy Crouse (Hilton Head High), Brian Kiggans (Hilton Head Prep) and Royce Silvan (Hilton Head Christian). Prep and Christian are already on the Bobcats' schedule.

The first week will also get adults into the second segment of **The Banana Open**. While *USA League Mixed Doubles Team Tennis* is winding down, the *Banana Mixed Doubles* will be played Aug. 5-8 at Port Royal Racquet Club. Unlike the combo levels in league play (6.0, 7.0, etc.), the Banana continues its unique format in six divisions: 2.5 Man/3.0 Woman, 3.0 Man/3.5 Woman, 3.5 Man/4.0 Woman, 4.0 Man/4.5 Woman, 4.5 Man/5.0 Woman and, new this year, 5.0 Man/5.0 Woman.

Men's and women's doubles, in even rating levels of 3.0, 4.0, and 5.0,

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