



## **Harold “Hal” Burrows Sportsmanship Award Presented at Thalhimer Challenge**

Thalhimer Challenge is Richmond’s most anticipated tennis event of the year. Nearly 1,000 rostered players from 12 clubs come together and compete for its coveted trophy. Competition and camaraderie have always been pillars of the event.

The Richmond Tennis Association is presenting the inaugural Harold “Hal” Burrows Sportsmanship Award to doubles partners who exhibit outstanding integrity, respect and positive energy for themselves and others. Good sportsmanship is expected from all players, and is now being celebrated with the presentation of this award.

Hal was no doubt one of the greatest players from Virginia, but more importantly, he was an even better person. In addition to his superb tennis playing skills, everyone who had the pleasure of meeting Hal Burrows said the same thing about him...he epitomized sportsmanship.

Burrows is one of the most celebrated members of the tennis community in Richmond and Virginia. He won the Virginia State Boys Championship in 1938 and 1939 and the Junior title in 1941 and 1942. Hal won the Virginia State Championship in 1946, 1947, and 1948 during his collegiate playing career at UVA. During the 1948 season, he reached the round of 16 at the NCAA Tournament, the equivalent of achieving All-American status.

Burrows was also one of the top players on the men’s tennis tour. Over the course of his playing career, Burrows recorded victories over 33 different Davis Cup players and was ranked as high as No. 10 in the world in singles. He teamed with Straight Clark in doubles and the duo was ranked as high as No. 3 in the world, reaching the finals of the National Clay Courts, quarterfinals and semifinals of the Italian Championships, the French Championships and at Wimbledon. He and Arthur Ashe are the only natives of Virginia to represent the United States in Davis Cup competition. Hal was inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame in 1990 and the Richmond Tennis Hall of Fame in 1995.

Hal was a beloved leader in the Richmond tennis community and the Director of Tennis at The Country Club of Virginia from 1975 until 1995 when he retired with the title Tennis Director Emeritus. Hal helped many players develop skill, sportsmanship and character. Hal was a true legend and role model for camaraderie on the court.