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## A Pro Profile: Andy Schechter

Andy Schechter began his teaching career back in high school, working with young kids at the Darcie Trapasso Tennis Camp. As the years passed, he gained teaching experience at Tri-City Fitness in Albany, as well as teaching clinics for adults at Prospect Park in Troy. Upon graduating from RPI with a BS in Computer Science, Andy decided that the call of tennis was too strong to turn down. He has been working at Tri-City Fitness full time for six years now, working with kids and adults of all levels.



In addition to teaching, Andy is in charge of junior player development at the club, directing a program that is comprised of almost 400 players. He is also the tournament director at Tri-City; he is always in his element directing tournaments of all levels, both adult and junior tournaments, including two separate Junior National Opens during the year. Outside the club, Andy can be found as the ball person coordinator for the New York Buzz, the 2008 World Team Tennis champions.

Andy's teaching philosophy is the same as many others; when the players have fun on the court, they'll be more adept at learning new strategies and tweaking mechanics. His primary goal is assuring that his students enjoy themselves; he knows that tennis is a lifetime sport, and he does what he can to make sure people want to keep playing. One of Andy's strengths on the court is explaining why he teaches certain things, rather than asking his students to go on blind faith. "Most players need to understand techniques instead of just hearing them. That's what makes them strong players mentally." Andy looks forward to working with all his players on court; his enthusiasm and dedication truly shines at Tri-City Fitness. •

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