



## **Gigi Fernandez**

Gigi Fernandez is a tennis Hall of Famer and well known tennis personality who has dedicated her entire life to the game she knows and loves. First, as a junior player followed by a very successful professional career and upon retiring, as a coach to players of all levels.

Gigi, a native of Puerto Rico, was a pioneer for female sports on the island. From a young age, her natural ability coupled with her instinct on the court, were signs that Gigi would reach levels that no one in the island had ever dreamed possible. Upon graduating from high school, Gigi accepted a scholarship to Clemson University where she reached the singles finals of the NCAA Championship as a freshman. The success of her first year in college prompted her to turn professional in 1983 becoming Puerto Rico's first female professional athlete, in any sport.

Her illustrious professional career included winning 2 Olympic Gold Medals in Doubles with Mary Joe Fernandez (no relation) and an astounding 71 titles on the WTA tour including 2 singles, 52 doubles and 17 Grand Slam doubles titles. Gigi is recognized as one of the best doubles players of all-time. In 2000, Gigi was honored as the Puerto Rican Athlete of the Century and was inducted in the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2010.

Since retiring, Gigi has dedicated her life to sharing her knowledge of doubles through various endeavors. It began with coaching the Puerto Rican National Team, the University of South Florida women's tennis team and Grand Slam champions Lisa Raymond & Sam Stosur. While coaching, Gigi completed her undergraduate studies and ultimately received her MBA from the Rollins College Crummer School of Business.

In 2011, Gigi moved to Connecticut where, as Director of Tennis at Chelsea Piers CT, she shared her expertise and passion for tennis with adults. It was during this time that Gigi gained a new perspective and a new love for the game - teaching recreational players. During her tenure with CPCT, Gigi created the highly successful "Gigi Method" an intensive doubles instructional program which is now available online at Doubles.TV. Gigi currently spends her time as an online coach on Doubles.TV and traveling the country conducting her Gigi Method camps and clinics.

Gigi's mission in life is simple...to share her knowledge of doubles with the world while helping players master the art & science of doubles!

She is the mother of eight year-old twins Karson and Madison and enjoys spending time pursuing outdoor activities.

## **CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

### **TENNIS CAREER HIGHLIGHTS - 17 Grand Slams Championship Titles**

- French Open Champion - 1997, 1995, 1994, 1993, 1992, 1991
- Wimbledon Champion - 1997, 1994, 1993, 1992
- U.S. Open Champion - 1996, 1995, 1992, 1990, 1988
- Australian Open Champion - 1994, 1993

### **OLYMPIC HIGHLIGHTS - 2 Olympic Gold Medals**

- 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain - Gold Medal in Doubles
- 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, USA - Gold Medal in Doubles

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

- Member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, Class of 2010
- Puerto Rican Female Athlete of the Century, 20th Century
- Member of the I.T.A. Intercollegiate Tennis Hall of Fame
- Member of the Puerto Rico Sports Hall of Fame
- Member of the Clemson University Athletic Hall of Fame
- Member of the US Olympic Team, 1992 and 1996
- Member United States Fed Cup Team – 1990-92 & 1994-97
- Member United States Wightman Cup Team - 1987-1992
- WTA Doubles Team of the Year Award - 1991-1993-95 & 1997
- Named to Top 50 “All ACC Team”
- Personal Best Award - Clairol, 1992 (Award given to the US Olympian who most exemplifies achievement beyond the field of sport)
- Colorado Sportswoman of the Year, 1992
- The Eagle Award for Excellence in Sports, 1992
- National Hispanic Heritage, Presidential Tribute, 1992
- Puerto Rico Most Influential Woman Nominee, 1991
- Comeback Player of the Year Nominee - WTA, 1987
- Most Improved Player Nominee- WTA, 1986
- Most Impressive Newcomer Nominee - WTA, 1985
- Tennis Magazine Player to Watch - Selection, 1985