

# GIGI FERNANDEZ

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Gigi Fernandez was first introduced to tennis on her seventh birthday with tennis lessons as a gift from her parents. After a year at Clemson University, where she reached the NCAA finals as a freshman, she turned professional in 1983, becoming Puerto Rico's first female professional athlete, in any sport.

After an illustrious career, Gigi retired at the Chase Championships in 1997, ranked #1 in the world in doubles. She had been consistently ranked #1 or #2 since April, 1991. She holds seventeen Grand Slam doubles crowns and two Olympic Gold Medals! She was voted Puerto Rican female Athlete of the Century and is a member of International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Gigi was best known as a doubles specialist, although she surprised many fans by reaching the singles semi-finals of the 1994 Wimbledon Championships, and the singles quarter-finals twice at U.S. Open.

After retiring, Gigi continued her involvement in tennis by coaching the Puerto Rican Fed Cup team and mentoring several young Puerto Rican aspiring pros. She was the Head Women's Tennis Coach at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida for three years and coached top WTA doubles team Lisa Raymond and Sam Stosur. She also remains active in corporate hospitality events and participates in fundraising events throughout the country. She helped launch the Chelsea Piers Tennis Club as Director of Tennis for 3 years and now spend time teaching USTA adult competitive players of all levels.

Gigi has Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from the Crummer Rollins School of Business. She is currently an active REALTOR for the New Canaan office of Halstead, continuing a passion she has enjoying since retiring from tennis in 1997. She is the proud mother of five year old twins, Karson and Madison.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **SEVENTEEN GRAND SLAM TITLES**

**1997, 1995, 1994, 1993, 1992, 1991 FRENCH OPEN CHAMPION**

**1994 and 1993 AUSTRALIAN OPEN CHAMPION**

**1996, 1995, 1992, 1990, 1988 U.S. OPEN CHAMPION**

**1997, 1994, 1993 and 1992 WIMBLEDON CHAMPION**

### **OLYMPIC HIGHLIGHTS**

**1996 and 1992 OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALS - (with Mary Joe Fernandez)**

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame Class of 2010

Puerto Rican Female Athlete of the 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 - 1992-1996

Member United States Federation Cup Team – 1990-1991-1992-1994-1995-1996-1997

Member United States Wightman Cup Team - 1987-1992

WTA Doubles Team of the Year Award– 1991-1993,1994, 1995 & 1997

Named to Top 50 "All ACC Team"

Personal Best Award - Clair – 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  
Flag Bearer Pan American Games - 1983

