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Who's Hot
Hot 100 List - April 2024
by James Hill, 17 April 2024

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TheLotto Elite Hot 100 lists are published each month, and the April Hot 100 lists feature the 100 boys and girls who most improved their rankings during the month of March. You can find out more about the Lotto Elite Hot 100 - and how the lists are calculated - by [reading here](#).

The latest lists, published today, are available here:

- Boys' Hot 100
- Girls' Hot 100



We talked to some of the top performers:

Samuel Pohl (Las Vegas, Nevada)

Samuel Pohl (WTN: 20.0) now stands at No. 209 in the Tennis Recruiting Network Boys Rankings, rising from the 239th position.

The 5-foot-9 right-handed three-star posted a recent singles record of 6-3. Pohl showed his mettle in the Boys 16s L3 Las Vegas Muterspaw National Championships consolation semifinals with a hard-fought 3-6, 6-4, (10-4) victory over Harsha Karakala Reddy (Fremont, California).

"The match tested my mental strength and capabilities," Pohl said. "I was down for most of the match and unable to convert when I was up on many of my service and return games. I pulled out the second set, and after we split, I received coaching from my dad. It calmed me down a bit, and I ended up playing one of the best 10-point tiebreakers I could play, winning most of my points while executing at the net."

His dad, Geoffrey Pohl, had a "second family" through tennis members and staff at West Hills Racquet and Fitness Club in Portland, Oregon. He took his son to the club when Pohl was young. Pohl loved the sport and became part of the club environment. Geoffrey Pohl and his wife, Emily, moved the family to Las Vegas from Oregon so their son could be part of a full-time tennis academy.

Currently, Pohl has a team of coaches who all work at No Quit Tennis Academy in Las Vegas: Tim Blenkiron, Andre "Nico" Mercado, Dave Macpherson, Jake Lysgaard, James McGee, James Johnson, Mark Saperstein, Claudia Scarlot, Makeilah Turner, Keith McMullin, and George Wong.

That large group works with Pohl on his mental game and on-court rituals, along with his serve and explosiveness. Pohl added his coaches are keeping him on an "even keel."



Three-Star Sophomore Samuel Pohl
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"I feel my strengths on the court include being a consistent baseliner that has a strong forehand who doesn't get tired, and loves to finish at the net," Pohl said. "You will never see me give up, tank, or throw a racquet, as that is not in my DNA."

"After I am done practicing at the academy, I'll look to someone else to do a second practice. I am also disciplined about getting to bed and waking up early. My diet is improving and I'm cognizant of what I am eating and drinking to fuel my body and help me recover."

Pohl is a sophomore at the Odyssey Charter School in Las Vegas, which offers a blend of online learning and personal instruction. That combination gives Pohl the opportunity to develop his tennis goals.

However, he also takes his academics seriously. Pohl is a straight-A student and is enrolled in honors classes.

"If possible and God willing, I would love to use college as a stepping stone to gain the experience I need to become a tennis professional," Pohl said. "My first choice for a college and coach would be to find someone who understands my goal and would have the resources, players, facilities, and equipment to give me the opportunities for improving my game and taking it far beyond the college level."

Pohl's parents said their son is totally dedicated to the sport of tennis, and not just on the court.

"I think Sam has zeroed in on tennis because it's more than playing a sport," they said. "He loves the fellowship with other players and coaches, and enjoys the process. He has an extended family with No Quit players and coaches. He strings racquets for the academy and teaches kids twice per week. He's a lover of the game. He is always practicing some new, fun shot and loves watching friends and pros do trick shots."

"His dream is to be a professional tennis player and is usually the hardest working kid around. Students he teaches consistently say how Sam is their favorite teacher and how nice of a kid he is. There is nothing better to hear as a parent than you have raised a great kid."

Sage Bergeson (Bountiful, Utah)

Sage Bergeson (WTN: 17.6) has cracked the Top 100 of the Tennis Recruiting Network Girls Rankings at No. 99, moving up from the 133rd slot.

The 5-foot-6 right-handed four-star junior produced an excellent record of 9-1, winning an 18s tournament along the way. Bergeson captured the L4 Easter Circuit event in Las Vegas, Nevada, without dropping a set. Bergeson also reached the semifinals of the L3 Las Vegas Muterspaw National Championships, which included a quarterfinals victory over top-seeded Katiana Gonzalez (Austin, Texas).



Four-Star Junior Sage Bergeson
© Contributed Photo

"I have been working on many parts of my game for quite a while and have had a chance with recent tournaments to implement them," said Bergeson, a junior at Woods Cross High School in Bountiful. "I have felt less pressure lately for results and that has helped bring about my best results yet. I'm really enjoying being on the court, along with some positive results over the past quarter."

Bergeson's coach is her mom, Jocee Bergeson, who played collegiately at Utah State University. Mom and daughter are working on being more aggressive on the court and finishing points, and on strategy in shot selection.

"I try to have a well-balanced game that can handle a variety of play styles," Bergeson said. "I think I can adapt to many games I face because of the many tournaments I've played over the last decade. I have a good balance with other parts of my life that has helped me stick with it and actually enjoy it."

Bergeson has been quite successful as a member of the Woods Cross Wildcats girls tennis team. She has won the Utah state title all three years of competition: No. 1 singles as a freshman and sophomore, and top-line doubles as a junior.

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[Colette Lewis](#) has covered topflight junior events as a freelance journalist for over a decade. Read her [weekly column](#), follow her on [Twitter](#), and find more of her daily commentary at [ZooTennis](#).

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Academically, Bergeson is a 4.0 high honor roll student, and takes Advanced Placement classes.

"I definitely want to play college tennis and am looking forward to it," Bergeson said. "My mom loved playing college tennis and has been getting me excited about it since I was young. I am confident I will continue to progress through the awesome opportunity of college tennis, which is very exciting."

Obviously, Jocce Bergeson got her daughter started in the sport of tennis, along with her siblings: brother Drew (age 15), and sisters Lyla (age 13) and Ivy (age 10).

Jocce and Bergeson's dad, Brick, are impressed with their daughter's dedication and work ethic.

"Sage always works hard and puts in the time," her parents said. "She never slacks, and although she doesn't overdo her training, she's always working hard toward achieving specific goals. Sage is a very kind player and girl. She is a competitor, for sure, but she has great sportsmanship and is well liked. She has really enjoyed progressing in the sport and working to be the best she can be."

Seth Christian (Salt Lake City, Utah)

Seth Christian (WTN: 22.2) jumped 60 places in the latest Tennis Recruiting Network Boys Rankings, from 288th to No. 228.

The 5-foot-10 right-handed three-star player posted an 8-1 singles record and also won a 14s tournament along the way. Christian captured the L3 Las Vegas (Nevada) Muterspaw National Championships event in both singles and doubles.

"My improved ranking last month can be attributed to my dedication and hard work," Christian said. "I've been consistently going early to practice, focusing intensely during each session, and refining my skills with determination. By putting in the effort and maintaining a disciplined practice routine, I've seen significant improvements in my game, which has ultimately translated into better results on the court."

Christian has quite a team of coaches. He lives and trains at No Quit Tennis Academy in Las Vegas, and works with James McGee, Nico Mercado, Ricky Syper, Tim Blenkiron, Dave Macpherson, Jake Lysgaard, James Johnson, Mark Saperstein, Claudie Scariot, Makailah Turner, and George Wong.



Three-Star Freshman Seth Christian
© Contributed Photo

He is working on refining his forehand contact point and shoulder rotation on the backhand. Team Christian is strategizing on how to incorporate serve-and-volley tactics against opponents. He tailors his approach to an opponent's styles and strengths.

"I would describe my game as aggressive and versatile," Christian said. "My strengths lie in my powerful serve and strong volleying skills, allowing me to dominate serve-and-volley points consistently. I'm known for my aggressive playing style, often dictating the pace of the game and putting pressure on my opponents with my attacking approach."

"What sets me apart from other players is my frequent use of the serve-and-volley strategy, which is somewhat rare in today's game. Additionally, I bring a unique combination of athleticism and power to the court, which can be advantageous in various aspects of the game. My practice regimens are pretty hardcore."

Christian is a freshman at Odyssey Charter School in Las Vegas, a "hybrid institution" with a combination of online studies and personal instruction. He is also a straight-A student.

"I've been considering colleges that have strong programs in engineering, economics, and business," Christian said. "My focus is on finding a school with a strong tennis program that can provide top-notch coaching, competitive opportunities and a supportive team environment. That will help me further develop my skills and ultimately strive toward my goal of becoming the No. 1 player in the world."

Christian also volunteers for the Inspiring Children Foundation, which "transforms lives through a whole human approach to physical, social, emotional, and mental health." A self-sufficient young man, Christian also is heavily involved in the planning of his fitness regimen, and even cooks his own meals.

His parents, Silas and Ebony Christian, lived in Greensboro, North Carolina, and moved to Utah in 2021. They took their son to a tennis clinic in Greensboro at the age of 5, and he fell in love with the sport after the first lesson.

"Seth has always gravitated to tennis, and has never put the racquet down," his parents said. "He is independent and has lived away from home for tennis since he was 12 years old. He's a great person. All people love to be around him. He is a motivator, risk-taker on the court and can keep calm during high-stress match play. He has a high moral IQ and integrity. Lastly, he treats everyone with respect."

Dylan Voeks (Charleston, South Carolina)

Dylan Voeks (WTN: 20.5) stands at No 192 in the Tennis Recruiting Network Girls Rankings, up from the 214th position.

Sporting a spotless 7-0 record, the 5-foot-5 three-star right-hander won the 18s singles title at the L4 ACA Huntsville (Alabama) Flighted tournament.



©Bill Kallenberg @capturedinaction.com
Three-Star Junior Dylan Voeks
© Bill Kallenberg

"I credit my recent play due to an increase in fitness and mental improvements," said Voeks, a junior at Wando High School in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. "I definitely used to run out of energy and steam on the court, which ended up costing me tight matches. I found by increasing my fitness levels, I am able to last throughout tournaments that include mostly three-set matches. I also worked on the mental aspect of my game. By staying calmer, I was able to better think through situations and problem-solve on the court."

Voeks is put through her training regimen by Chip Hand of Daniel Island Club, and at Rise

Academy with Mike Baker, Craig Cignarelli, and Johnathan Stokke. She is working on improving her first and second serve and placement. Voeks also works on strategies that allow her to finish more points at the net.

"My game is more aggressive," Voeks said. "I love to come to the net. I value both sides and tend to utilize both my forehand and backhand based on the circumstance. I go to a public school, meaning I am given less hours to practice than those who may be part of an online school. This means I really value the hours I am given and have learned to dial in and focus when I am on the court."

Voeks said academics are very important to her. She is a member of a number of academic and service clubs and is ranked in the top of her class. Voeks is interested in majoring in wildlife biology or a similar program when she enters college.

"I have started looking at colleges," Voeks said. "I am looking for a program that values both tennis and academics, and a team dynamic that is positive and encouraging. Overall, I am looking for a place where I can grow both on the court and off the court, and have fun while doing it."

Voeks got into tennis through the dynamics of her family. Her dad, Dale, played collegiately, while her sister, Logan, is a freshman on the Colorado State University women's team. Her mom is Jennifer Voeks, and both parents are proud of their daughter's perspective of the sport of tennis.

"Dylan has a great approach to the game," her parents said. "She works hard and finds a lot of joy in the whole process, from practice to tournaments. While tennis is her main focus, she is really well rounded and is involved in lots of school clubs and outside activities with friends."

"Her strength and fitness level have definitely helped her stay strong through tough matches. She is working on staying calm, even when things are not going her way. That has helped her pull through and win matches she might have lost in the past."

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James Hill is the Assistant Sports Information Director at Trinity University in San Antonio and a freelance writer. He has covered all levels of tennis competition.

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