



USTA NORTH CAROLINA

# TENNIS MOM: KELLY PARKER

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Mother's Day Feature

MAY 8, 2020

Kelly Parker, of Greensboro, has achieved great success throughout her tennis career.

She held the #1 ranking in every level of junior tennis, which led to a spot on the Duke University women's tennis roster. As a student-athlete, she was ranked #1 in NCAA and named a two-time All-American.

After an outstanding college career at Duke, Kelly played in the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) and competed in all the majors. Her best win was against Flavia Pennetta (ranked #32 at the time).

Her success on the tennis court sets her apart but being a mother is one of her greatest accomplishments.

"I get a front row seat to the joy and experiences they have every day," Kelly said.

Whether playing tennis four-square with her daughters in the driveway or getting tennis tips from mom, Julia (6) and Ryann (4) seem to be following in their mother's footsteps. They also love picking up skills and technique from their grandfather, "Papa."

"They are not yet playing tournaments but I am looking forward to seeing how they both compete," Kelly said. "They have very different personalities so I'm sure watching them playing doubles together will be a sight!"

Kelly said Mother's Day is special for her because she has a wonderful mother and mother-in-law. She said sharing the day with them is what she enjoys most. She noted that tennis and motherhood can sometimes go hand-in-hand.

"My dad used to come up to me on the court when we were hitting and instead of telling me something, he would give me a hug if I was upset," Kelly said. "Sometimes a hug is the best medicine. As a parent, that's sometimes your best action."