

THE SUCCESS OF THE ITALIAN SYSTEM

BY LUIGI BERTINO

The important results that our athletes have been obtaining in recent seasons, not referring only to the Berrettini, Sinner and Musetti now top 20, but above all to all the 10 “Next Gen” 21 & under players who occupy the first 200 positions of the ATP ranking, have brought to the fore Italian tennis in general and in particular a lot of interest abroad is arousing the technical-organizational system that the Italian Tennis and Padel Federation has been carrying out for about 10 years now.

In this regard, the Italian System was the subject of the presentation conducted by the professors of the “Roberto Lombardi” Higher Education Institute, as well as PTR International Master Pro Luigi Bertino and Donato Campagnoli during the Hilton Head Island PTR International Symposium held last February.

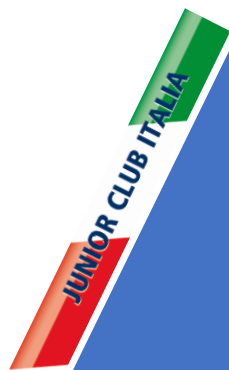
There are many reasons for this great success that were analyzed during the presentation. The Italian System has developed in recent years in an increasingly complete way. Starting from the base, Michelangelo Dell’Edera had the merit, supported by the Federal Council and by Filippo Volandri first of all, of unifying the Coach Education Institute with that of Player Development Department. After designing a training plan for tennis teachers based on approximately 5,000 hours of education training which allowed for continuous professional



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ITALIAN FEDERATION PROJECT 2022 -2024



National Technical Centres FORMIA/TIRRENIA

High Specialization and over 18 College
Specialization and High Level

Possible re-opening of CTP - 2022/2024

U16 Peripheral Training Centres - CPA

C.A.P. Provincial Centres for Aggregation

Sistema Italia – Tennis Schools programs

growth of Italian teachers in general, we then moved on to create a 360° monitoring network of the entire youth sector in starting from the 10 & under category.

First of all, by developing promotional projects for tennis and other racket sports such as “Rackets in the classroom” in schools, combining them with tennis schools recognized by the FITP. This project today has almost 200,000 children throughout Italy and this number is constantly growing.

In Italy today we have about 136 Provincial Aggregation Centers (CAP) directed by as many FITP provincial

coaches and to these are added 16 Peripheral Training Centers (CPA) intended to support the best kids aged 11 to 16 years. In this phase the role of the Federation, through the FITP national coaches and all its consultants, is to support the private coaches of the individual boys, providing them with technical, organizational, medical, psychological assistance and in all the other areas involved through technical meetings, stages of training, evaluation tests and important economic contributions.

This process has meant that private coaches can now continue to follow their best students without having to abandon them in adolescence and above all are increasingly motivated in their professional growth. The level of competence of Italian coaches has in fact grown considerably in recent years thanks to this synergy between the Coach Education Institute and the Player Development Department.

The 18 & under and 18 & over sectors then represent the

link with high-level tennis. In this transition phase, the role of the Federation is precisely to continue to encourage the growth process of the best by supporting professional figures of great experience and competence with the most talented male and female athletes.

In recent years, the Federal Summer Centers have had great importance as they have become a real educational laboratory where new educational proposals based on scientific research that the Coach Education Institute has been carrying out for years are carried out and tested.

Another factor that facilitated the growth of Italian tennis was undoubtedly that of the organization of major events such as the ATP Next Gen Finals in Milan, the Nitto ATP Finals in Turin and the Davis Cup qualifying phase in Bologna, as well as the “BNL Internazionali d’Italia” which from 2023 will become a Super Master 1000, the dozens of youth Challenger, Futures and ITF tournaments.

There are many reasons why we are experiencing such a favorable period in Italy but we must not forget the role that the Super Tennis TV channel has had and continues to have in the promotion and dissemination of our sport and the organization of as many as 5 International Symposia in Rome during the Italian Open.

One last important aspect that has undoubtedly influenced the development of Italian tennis has been the great work done in the last 30 years by the PTR Italy.

In Italy we have about 1400 PTR active members; we have been publishing a lot of books, handouts, and publications from Italian authors and many have been translated from different countries and languages.



Our educational program consists of:

- ▷ Certification Workshops: Tennis 10 & Under, Performance, 11-17 and Adult
- ▷ Refresher Courses: In different specific areas
- ▷ PTR Italian Symposium

In 2013 PTR Italy also made a strong agreement with the Italian Federation sharing Educational Programs and creating a sort of equalization of the international certifications and being part of the organization of the International Symposium in Rome.

The 6th International Symposium will be organized on 6-7 May, which, as in 2015, will start from the Vatican with the presence of His Holiness Pope Francis and continue on the fields of the Foro Italico. It will be another opportunity for a very high-level update and comparison for all tennis and padel coaches and managers.

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