

SECOND

SERVE

THE STORY OF RON ROSAS

PROJECT OVERSIGHT

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**“It’s no accident, I think, that tennis uses the language of life.
Advantage, service, fault, break, love,
the basic elements of tennis are those of everyday existence,
because every match is a life in miniature.”**

-Andre Agassi

Discipline pays off for Rosas

El Paso tennis ace
Notre Dame-bound

By BILL KNIGHT
El Paso Times

Ronnie Rosas had his choice of 29 different colleges to continue his tennis career. The El Paso High standout chose Notre Dame because of its disciplined program — and its academic opportunities, too.

His father, Rene Rosas, laughed when he said, "I told Ronnie it was OK to go to Notre Dame as long as he stayed away from the football field. I don't want him going anywhere near there ... they might put a helmet on him."

Before signing a letter-of-intent last week to attend Notre Dame on a tennis scholarship, Rosas narrowed his choices to five: San Diego State, San Diego University, Arizona, Southern Methodist and, of course, Notre Dame.

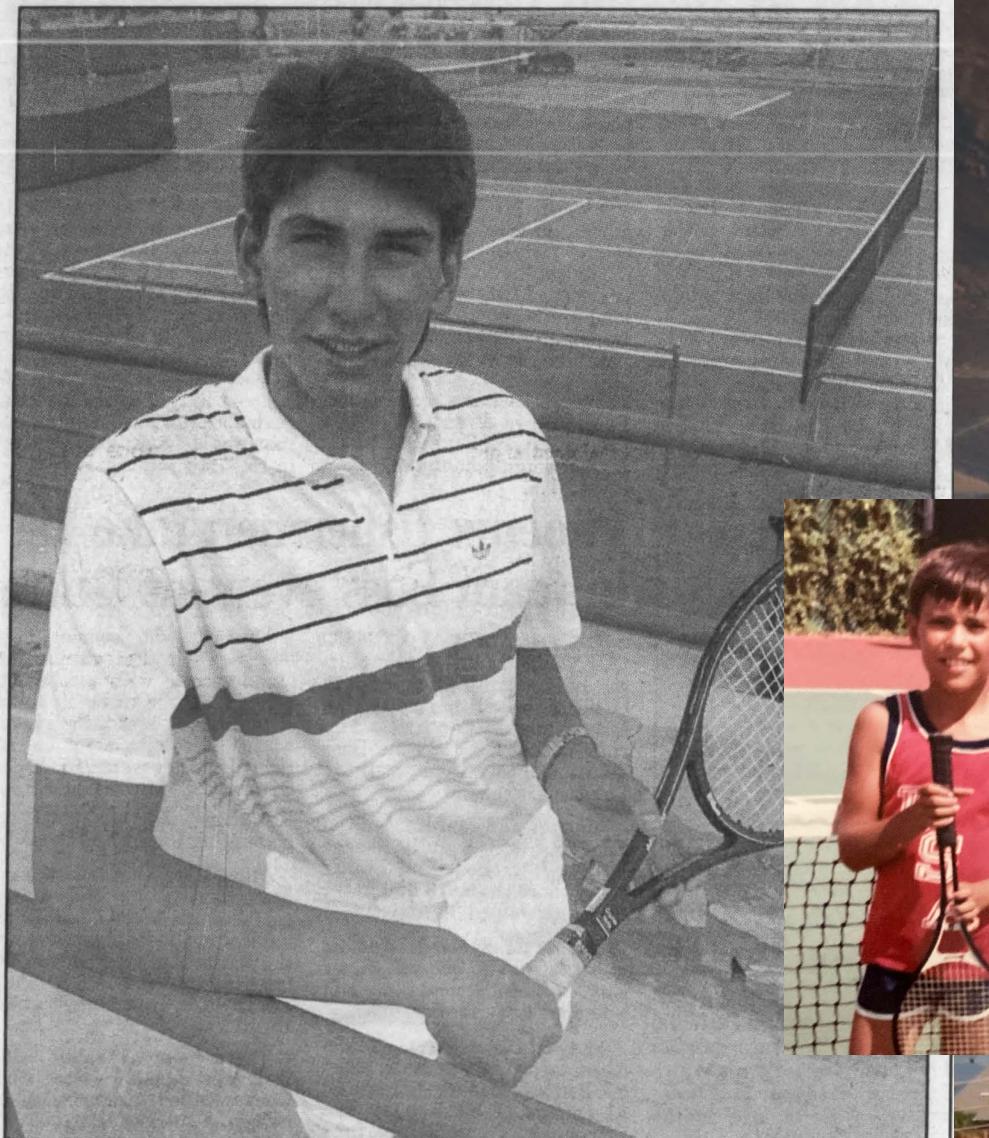
"I just liked the program and I felt like I could fit in right away there," said Rosas, who ranks in the top 10 percent of his senior class at El Paso High.

"It's a very disciplined program. Also, 100 percent of their athletes last year graduated in four years. That's my goal, too."

The 18-year-old Rosas has trained under Gene Stogner, a noted disciplinarian, at Santa Teresa Country Club for most of his tennis life.

"Ronnie is a good kid," Rene Rosas said. "But the framework of all this discipline was laid right here with Gene Stogner. Any kid who comes out of Gene's program is well-behaved, respectful and hard-working."

Stogner's guidance and Rosas' hard work paid off again Saturday when the two-time defending District 1-5A champion won the regional championship. In the finals, the second-seeded Rosas de-



Ronnie Rosas has a 34-1 record this season, winning district and regional titles. He's headed for the state meet in Austin to cap off his high school career.

Rosas' road to success

■ **High school:** He won District 1-5A as a freshman, runner-up as a sophomore and was training in Phoenix during the '88 season. This year, he won 1-5A and the Region I championships, compiling a 34-1 record with

■ **Age group:** Nationally ranked since he was 12. He was 13th in the nation in boys 14-under. Last year he was No. 2 in the nation in doubles with Frank Salazar. Two years ago Rosas and Salazar reached the 16-under national doubles finals.

■ **Rosas quote:** "It was a great experience, being able to play in nationals, to reach

himself when he was 14 — flying to nationals, handling everything. It's been good for him."

Rosas learned tennis from his mother, tagging along when he was only 5. He reached the finals of his first tournament at age 7 — playing against 10-year-olds.

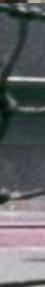
Rosas also picked up athletic ability from his father. Rene Rosas, a dentist, was

Synopsis

Born in El Paso, Texas, Ron Rosas first picked up a tennis racket at the age of five. By his early teens, he was rising in the ranks as one of the top junior tennis players in the Southwest. Although he was recruited heavily by many schools nearby, he was determined to get a scholarship from his dream school, the University of Notre Dame. He wrote a letter to their head coach, Bobby Bayliss, and was able to get a chance to play in front of him at a national tournament. From there, Ron was able to secure a visit, and later a scholarship to play for Notre Dame.



El Paso Times



He was a standout player at Notre Dame during one of collegiate tennis's greatest underdog runs in the 1992 NCAA National Tennis Tournament. Beginning the tournament as the 10-seed, Ron, alongside notable teammates, such as David Dilucia, made a run all the way to the National Title Game. The run was not only historical for Notre Dame, but in the tennis world as a whole, as the Notre Dame squad was the first "Northern" school to reach the finals in Men's Tennis.

When his career at Notre Dame concluded, Ron went on to play in several professional events in an effort to pursue tennis as a career. After an injury, Ron moved on to coaching and started his business career in Dallas, Texas.

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Sports

Men's tennis hopes to move closer to NCAA bid

By JENNIFER MARTEN
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame men's tennis team will travel to Ball State this weekend hoping to move another step closer to an invitation to the NCAA tournament. The Irish will use the same line-up that was successful against Michigan earlier this week. Junior Dave Dilucia will start at number-one singles. He will face Dan Kronauge who is ranked sixth in the Midwest this year.

Notre Dame coach Bob Bayliss described Kronauge as a "very strong and aggressive kid who can really hit."

At number-two singles, sophomore Chuck Coleman will meet Curt Josselyn, a big player with solid groundstrokes.

Ball State's Scott Campbell will challenge Will Forsyth at third singles with his powerful serve.

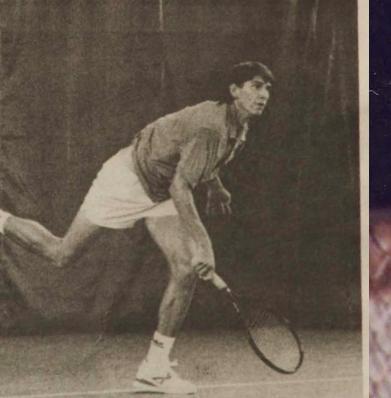
street-smart player. Causing trouble for sophomore Andy Zurcher will be Doug Campbell. Campbell, a transfer from Ohio University, won the Mid-Atlantic Conference singles championships while he was there.

Completing the singles matchups, sophomore Ron Rosas will face Paul Kruse, a transfer from Navy. Kruse has an aggressive serve and volley style that could be hard to handle.

Doubles competition could prove key to the final score. Ball State has a great doubles tandem in Kronauge and Scott Campbell and could give Dilucia and Coleman a run for their money.

Last year, the teams fought it out down to number-three doubles with the Irish victorious in the end by a score of 5-4.

Coach Bayliss has high regard for the Cardinals. "Ball State



El Pasoan playing in NCAA tennis finals

By Derry Eads
El Paso Herald-Post sportswriter

Three years ago, Notre Dame tennis coach Bobby Bayliss promised El Pasoan Ronnie Rosas and his other recruits a national-caliber team.

Today, the Irish could become only the fourth non-West Coast team to win the NCAA men's tennis title in the last 33 years. The tournament is being held at the University of Georgia in Athens.

Rosas has won all three of his No. 5 singles matches to help the No. 10-seeded Irish reach the finals of the team tournament against Stanford.

On Monday, Notre Dame upset No.



Rosas

1 ranked USC 5-1. Rosas beat the Trojans' Phil Whitesell 6-1, 6-1. Rosas is a 1989 graduate of El Paso

High. Rosas has a 16-3 record this spring. His biggest win of the season may have come on Sunday in a 5-4 quarterfinal win over Georgia.

Georgia had beaten Notre Dame twice by 6-3 scores.

Against Georgia's Jack Frierson, Rosas pulled out a 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 win that gave the Irish a 4-2 singles lead.

"Our first game went 19 minutes and the first set lasted an hour and 18 minutes," said Rosas. "I knew that we were up 3-2 as my match went into the third set."

Next Monday, Rosas leaves for Europe to attend a three-week business seminar for class credit. Then he plans to compete in a tennis tour in Spain.

5-19-92

"I couldn't imagine a day where I didn't play tennis"



It was in Dallas where Ron also became a father. Valuing faith and family most in life, Ron devoted his life to his family and sharing his love for tennis with them. With his wife Victoria, they created a beautiful life for their family.

Suddenly, everything changed. He was diagnosed with Pneumonia on December 29, 2022. Things took a turn for the worst quickly, and he was intubated and in a coma within 24 hours of feeling his first symptoms. The doctors didn't think Ron would make it. He was given his last rites early the next morning.

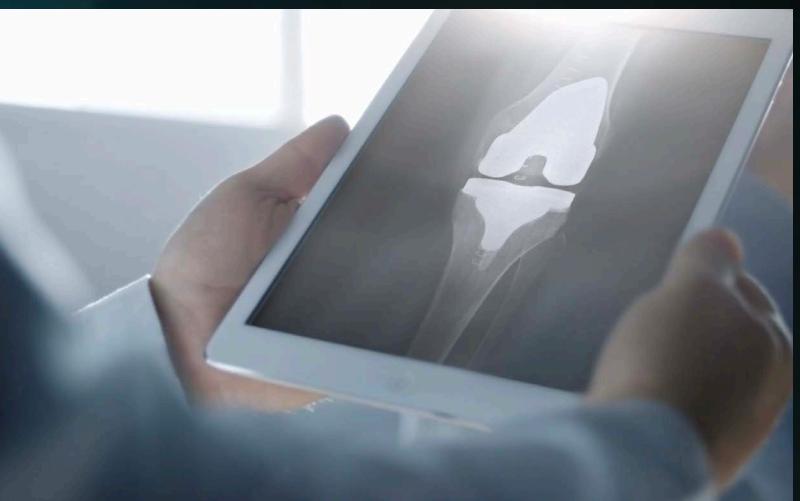
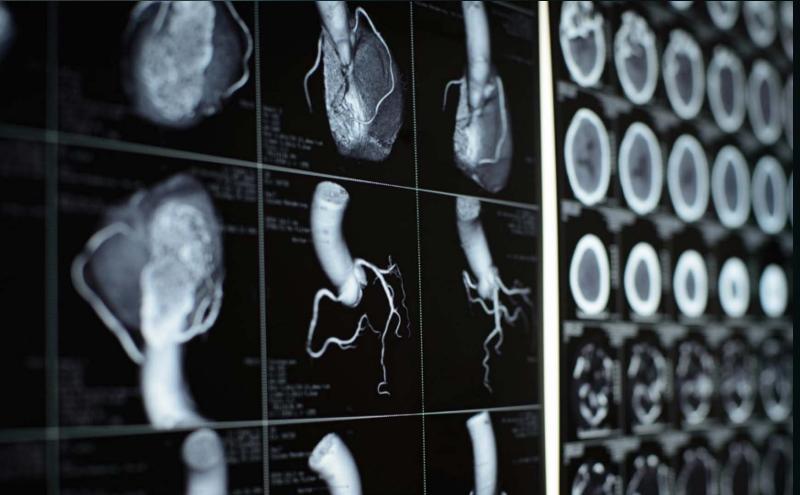


A dark, blurry image showing a person in a space suit floating in a dark environment, possibly a ship or a space station. The person is wearing a white space suit with a helmet and is positioned in the center of the frame. The background is dark and indistinct.

When Ron woke up, it was January 14, 2023.



While in a coma, Ron went into septic shock and had to undergo the use of Vasopressors, a drug that raises your blood pressure in order to help pump blood to your vital organs. This led to severe necrosis in his arms and legs. The unfortunate news that followed his awakening was something no athlete could ever imagine: amputation of all four limbs. Despite the life-altering news, Ron held strong. He immediately started preparing for the surgeries through rehab and research. But one thing prevented him from rushing into the operation - his need to play tennis again.





This is what led Ron to Ohio State University and his primary surgeon, Dr. Jason Souza. While local doctors in Dallas all told him they could operate and complete the amputations within the week of learning his fate, none had answers on what Ron's next steps would be post-surgery. That was until he met Dr. Souza on a Zoom call. While on the call, Dr. Souza did something no local doctor had done before - he asked Ron what he wanted and how he wanted to move forward. Ron had two answers to the question. First, he wanted to live a quality life without a lot of pain. Second, he wanted to be able to hold a racquet and play tennis again. Dr. Souza said he would do everything that he could to make those a reality. From there, Ron was all in, he was off to Ohio State.





Dr. Souza and his team completed Ron's surgery and were able to save his arms below the elbow and his legs below his knees, allowing for joint movement. Ron got his wish. If everything went right, he could play tennis again.



*But Ron doesn't just want to play tennis again.
He wants to compete for a Grand Slam Title.*



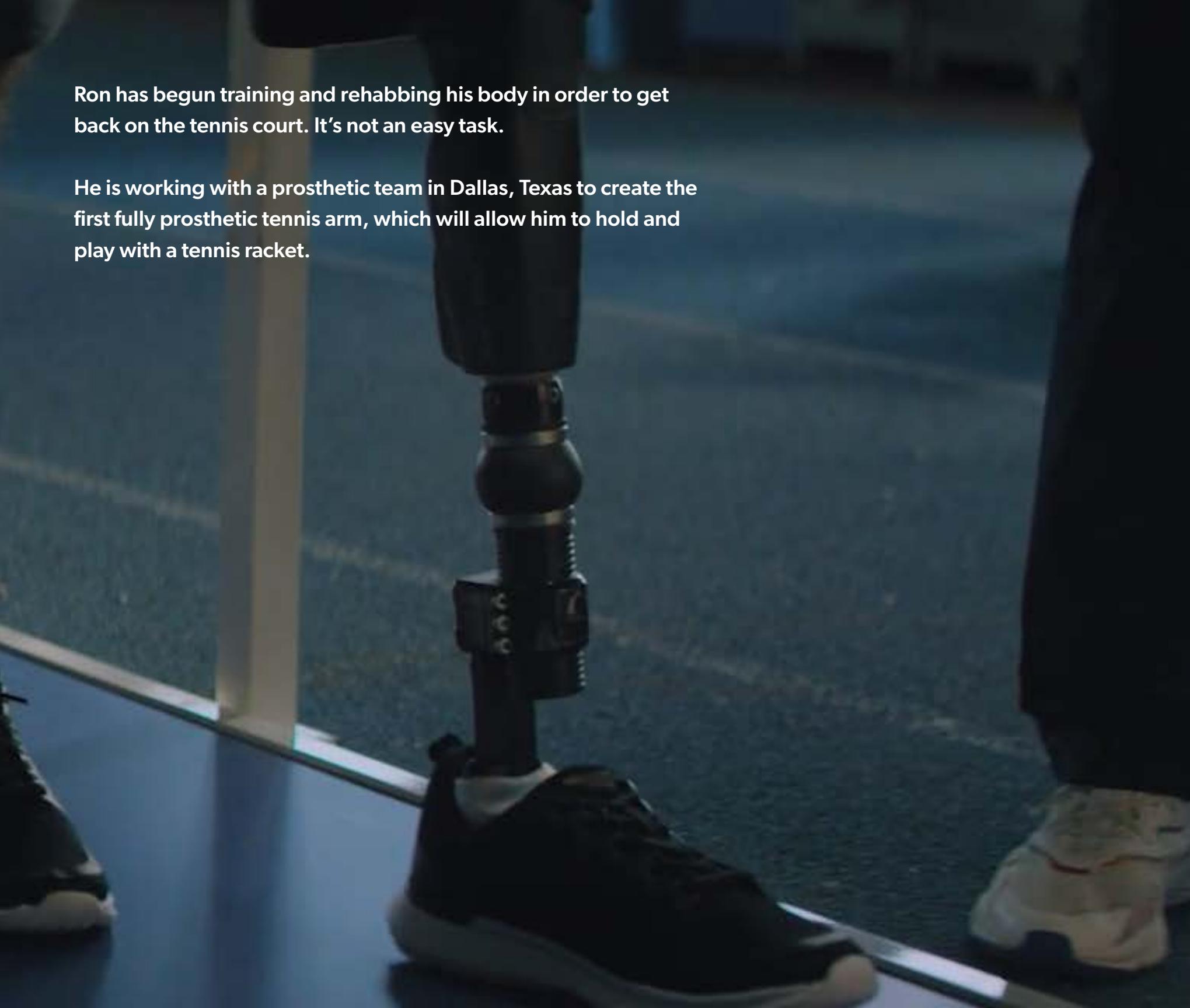
His first stop: The 2026 US Open.





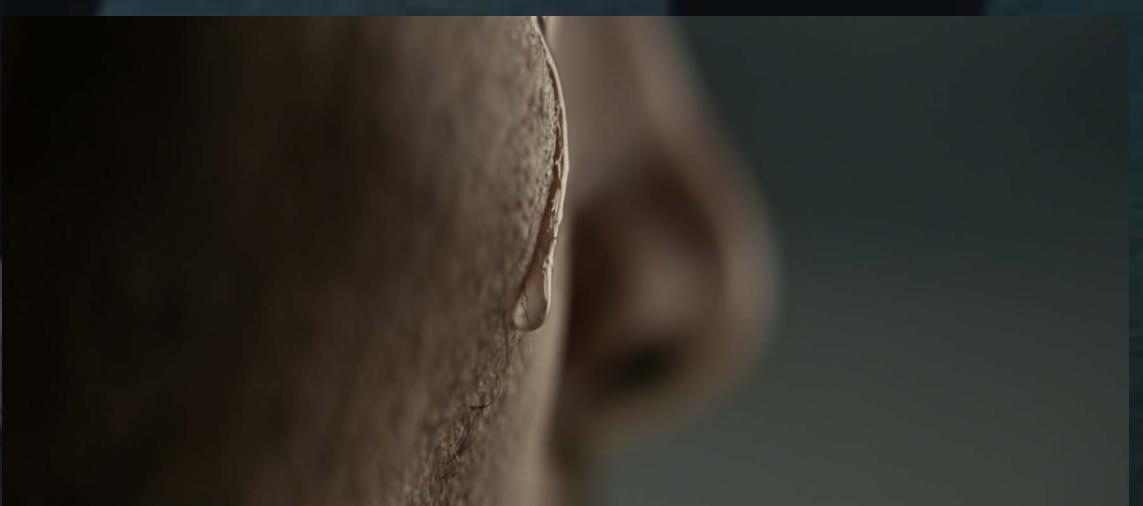
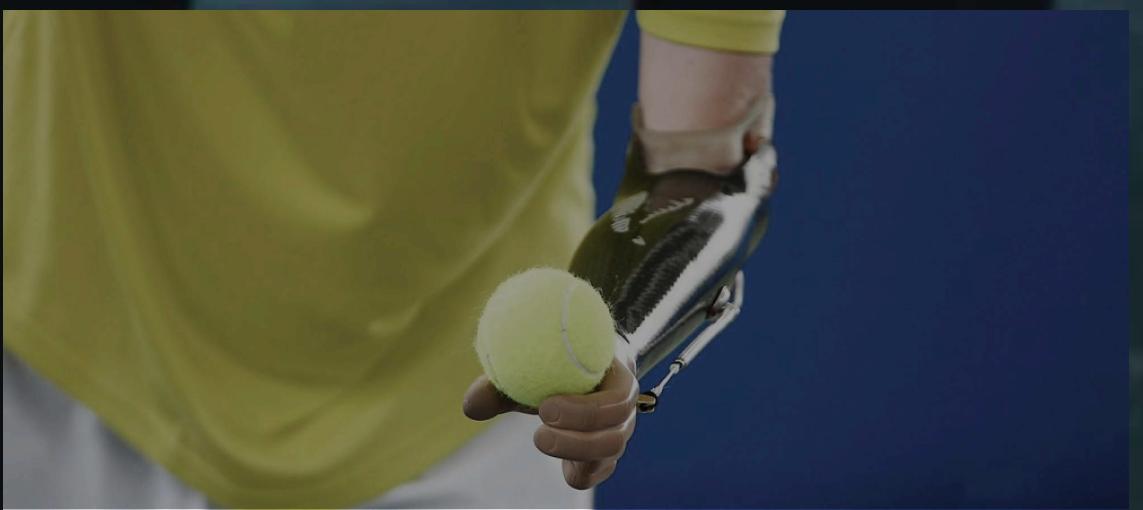
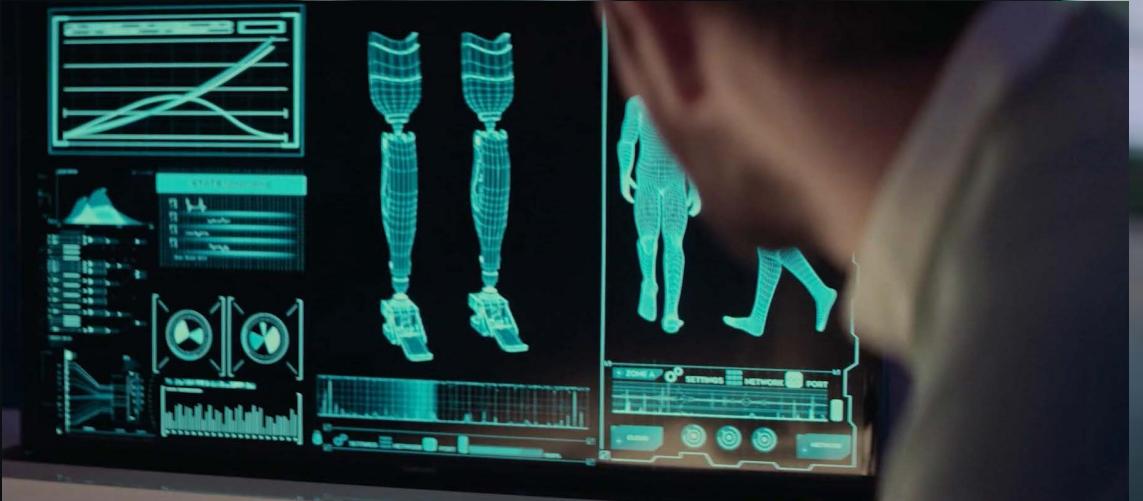
Ron plans to compete in all four tennis majors in their "Quadriplegic Division". In this division, players who have lost 25% or more of their limbs are eligible to compete. Today, no athletes in the Quadriplegic Division have lost 100% of their limbs.

Ron is training to become the first.



Ron has begun training and rehabbing his body in order to get back on the tennis court. It's not an easy task.

He is working with a prosthetic team in Dallas, Texas to create the first fully prosthetic tennis arm, which will allow him to hold and play with a tennis racket.

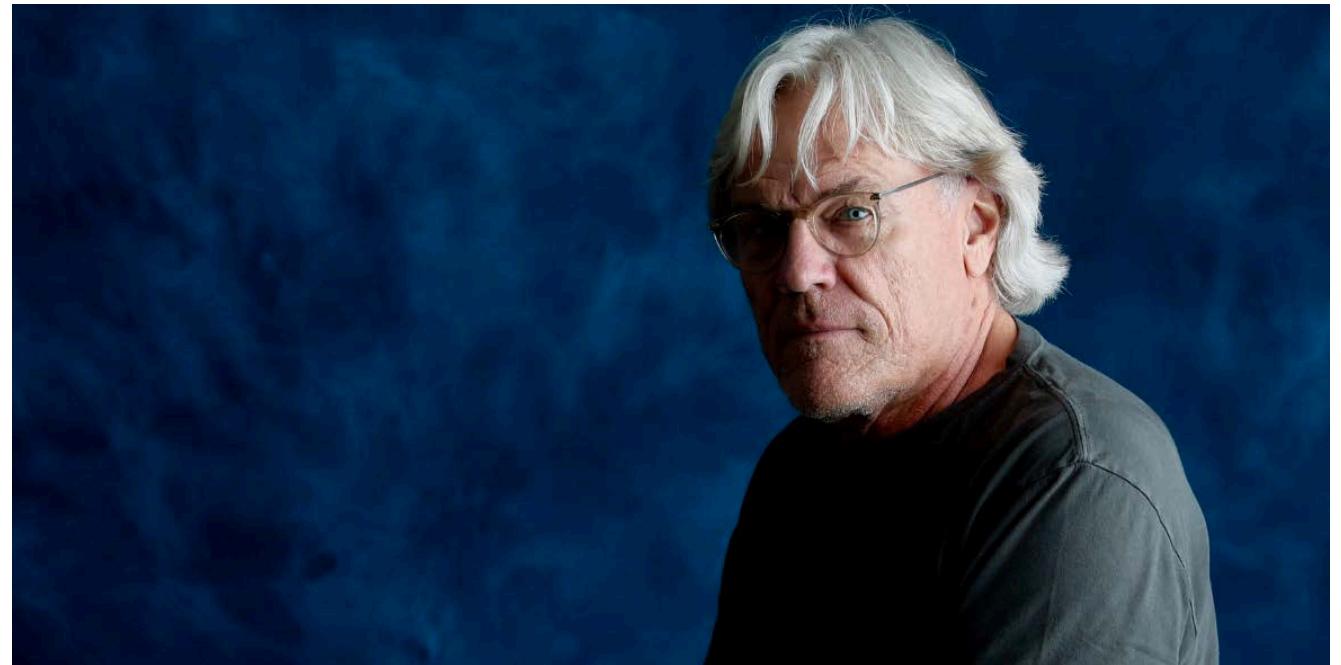


Director/Producers' Bios



Dillon Powell

Dillon Powell is a filmmaker based in Dallas, Texas. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin's film program, Dillon began his career by Executive Producing the feature film *Sew Torn*, which premiered at the South by Southwest (SXSW) Film Festival and went on to screen at leading international festivals including SITGES and Locarno. Following a global theatrical run, *Sew Torn* is now available on Apple TV+. In addition to his work in narrative film, Dillon has worked on a wide range of commercial projects, bringing a strong visual and storytelling sensibility to branded content. He continues to pursue character-driven stories across both fiction and nonfiction formats.



Rocky Powell

Rocky Powell has built a career directing live-action work with real people and celebrities for top brands such as Walmart, Southwest Airlines, Budweiser, Verizon, and many more. His easygoing style has led him to collaborate with stars including Julia Roberts, Meryl Streep, Matthew McConaughey, Morgan Freeman, and even Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. He specializes in real people, comedy, spokesperson work, and storytelling. That passion for storytelling culminated in his first theatrical film, *Language of a Broken Heart*. Rocky continues to bring authenticity and creativity to every project he takes on.



“I could be the first four limb amputee to compete in all four Majors”

Look & Feel

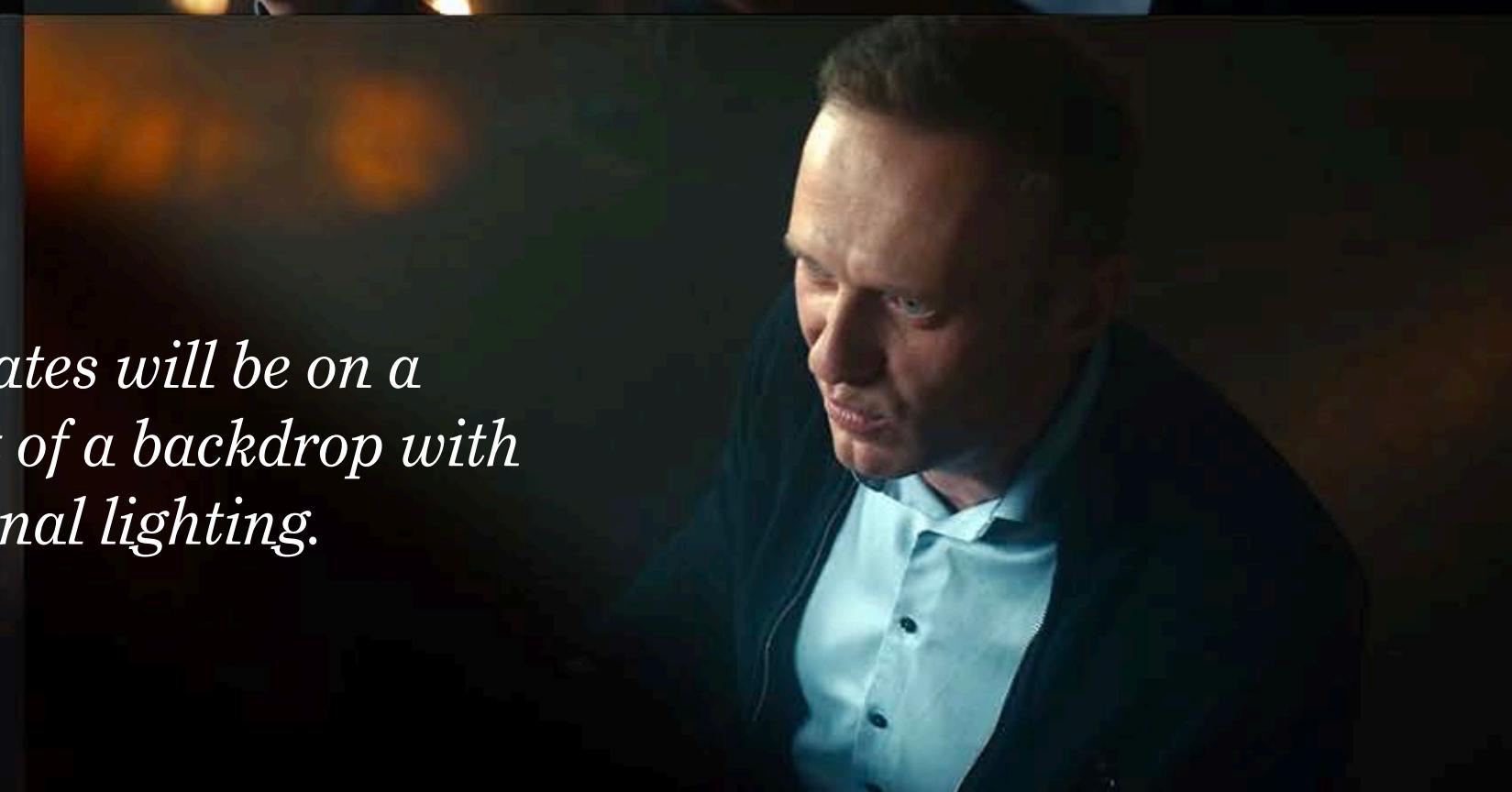
*The Ron Rosas story is filled with color...
colorful people, places, and moments.*





The look and location of the interviews will be consistent with who the person is.

We will create a set that separates the subject from the location.



Ron and his teammates will be on a tennis court in front of a backdrop with rich, warm, directional lighting.

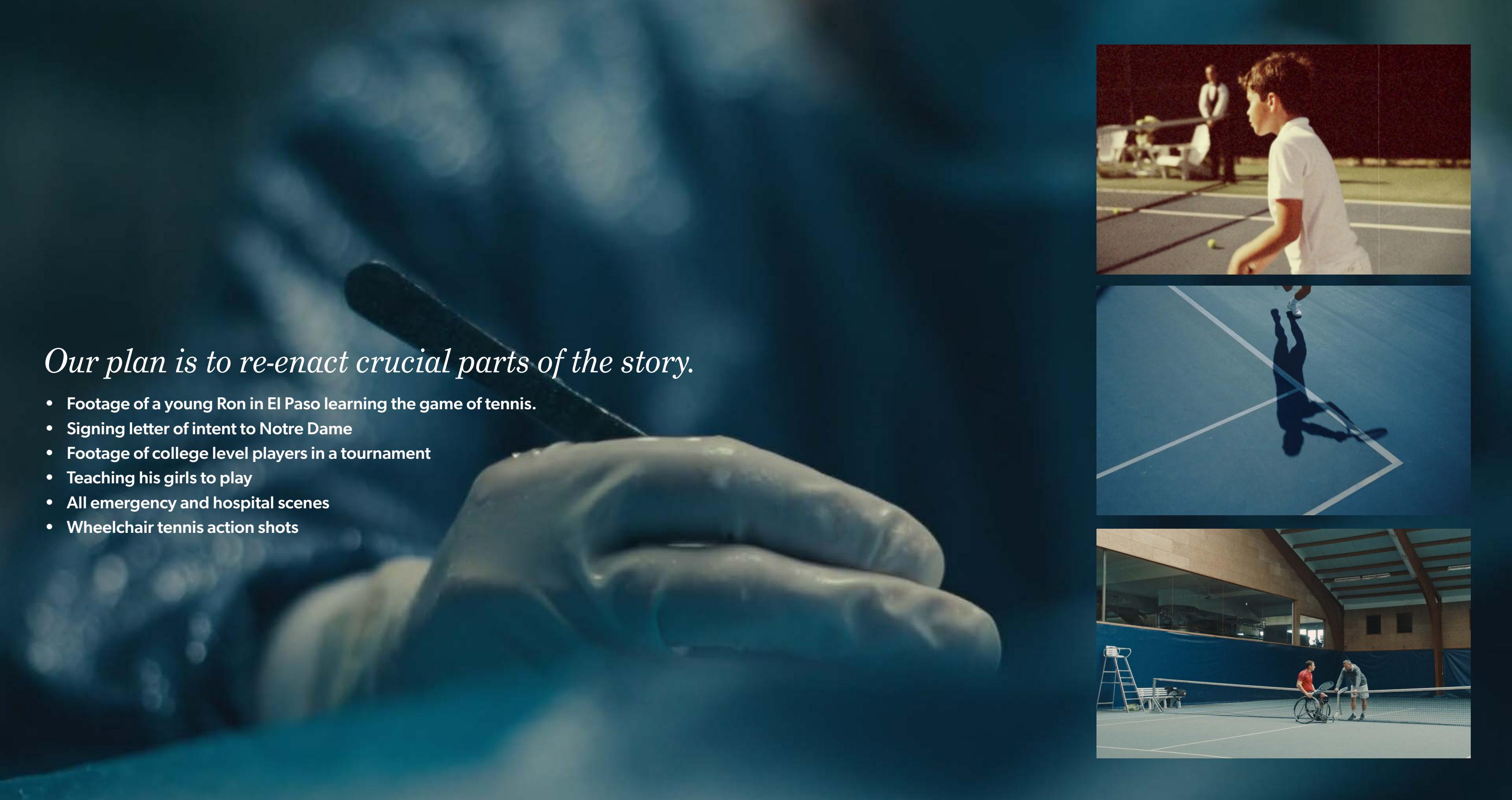


*The doctors will be at their hospitals
with the same feel to the visuals.*





Ron's family will be at home.



Our plan is to re-enact crucial parts of the story.

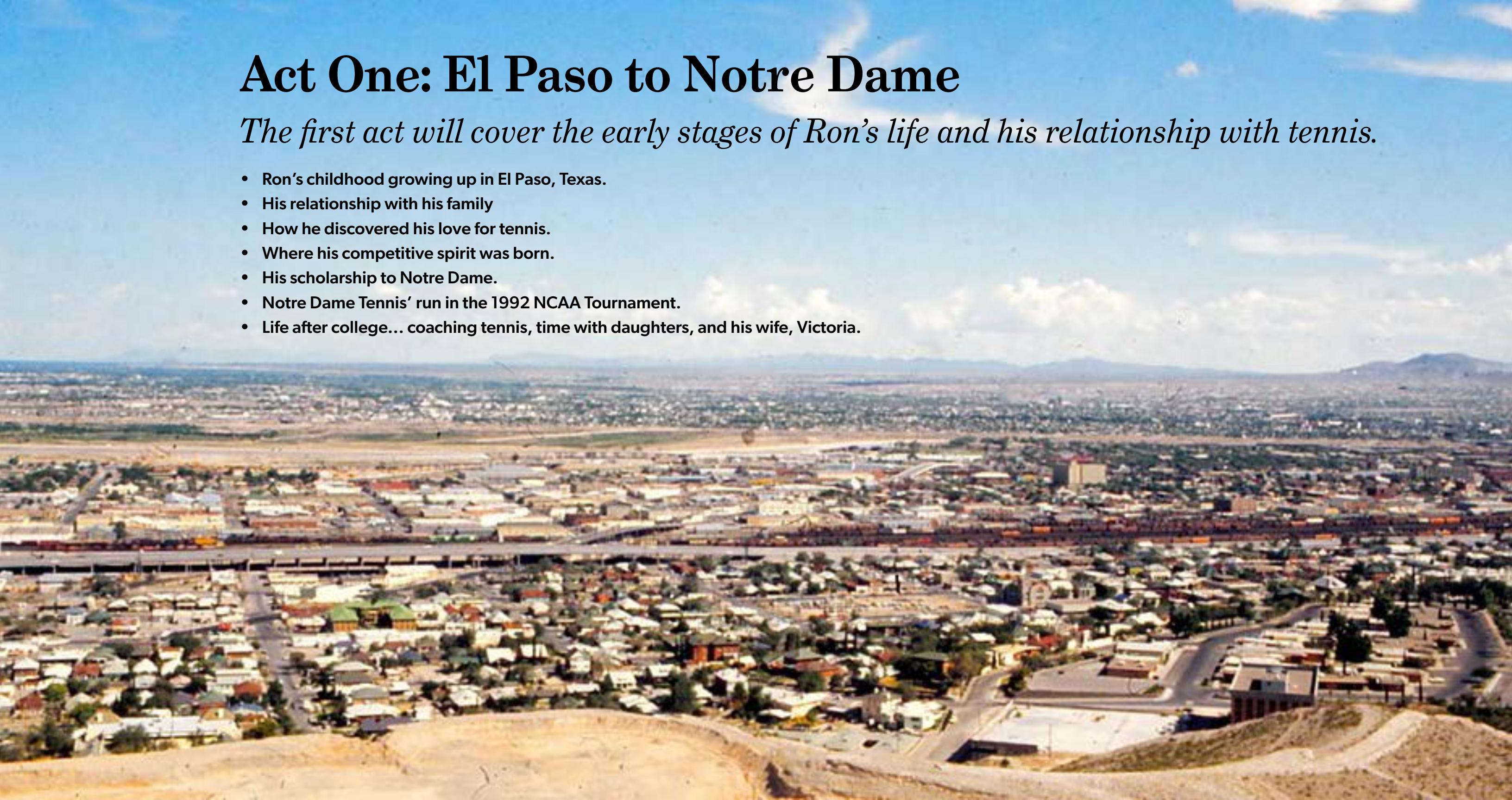
- Footage of a young Ron in El Paso learning the game of tennis.
- Signing letter of intent to Notre Dame
- Footage of college level players in a tournament
- Teaching his girls to play
- All emergency and hospital scenes
- Wheelchair tennis action shots

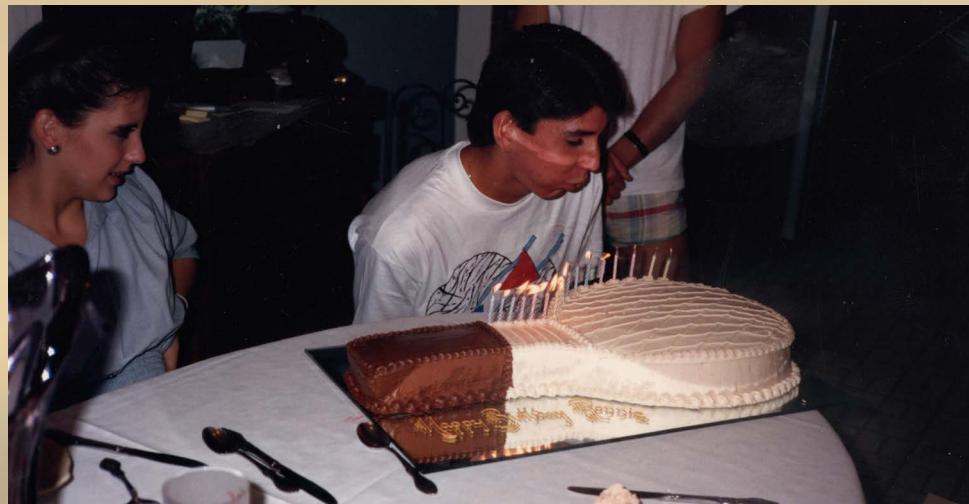
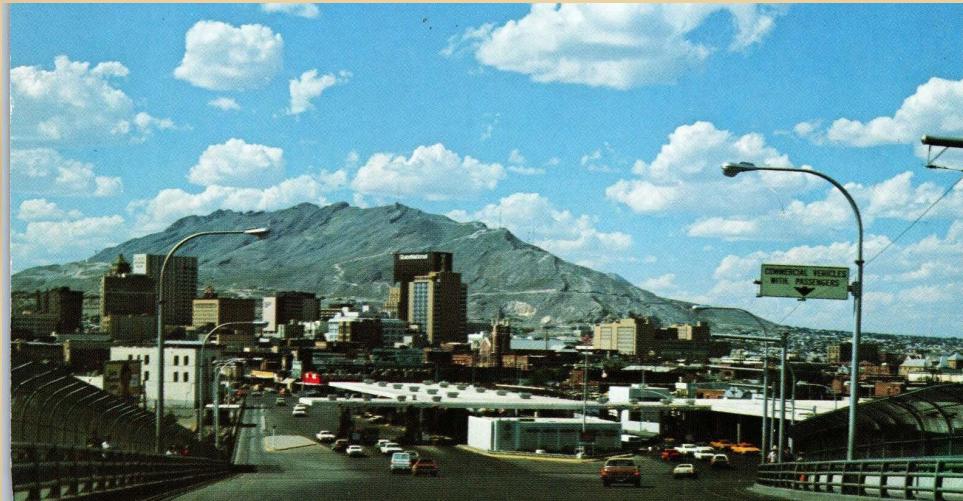


Act One: El Paso to Notre Dame

The first act will cover the early stages of Ron's life and his relationship with tennis.

- Ron's childhood growing up in El Paso, Texas.
- His relationship with his family
- How he discovered his love for tennis.
- Where his competitive spirit was born.
- His scholarship to Notre Dame.
- Notre Dame Tennis' run in the 1992 NCAA Tournament.
- Life after college... coaching tennis, time with daughters, and his wife, Victoria.





Herald-Post photo by Marthal Crockett

El Paso tennis family

Tuesday, August 18, 1981

El Paso Herald-Post

A family that sticks together on and off the court, the Rene Rosas family of El Paso gets ready to head for some tennis action. Ronnie and Rochelle (front, left to

right) and Irma, Ricky, Robbie, Rene and Rene Jr. (back, left to right) enjoy family doubles outings in the evenings.

Tennis brings Rosas family closer

By HARRY READEL

Herald-Post Sports Writer

Rene Rosas watches his 10-year-old son am a hard shot across the net, but his -year-old daughter returns it. "Way to o daughter," he yells, adding, "that'll ach that smart-aleck kid." The "smart-aleck" is a pretty good ten-

player. Brother Robbie had a good tennis career going until an injury fouled it up. And the biggest brother of them all, Rene Jr., doesn't play much tennis, but he's the only one in the family that's found other interests. His thing is music.

FOR THE FATHER, Rene, a dentist off

They don't make fun of his game though. Rene Rosas has become a prett fair tennis player. It seems to run in the family.

"It's a good game to play for fun. took some instruction and Joe Pennie taught me the right things to do. I foun that tennis is a skill game, a finesse gam-

Act Two: Sickness, Coma, Last Rights...Amputations

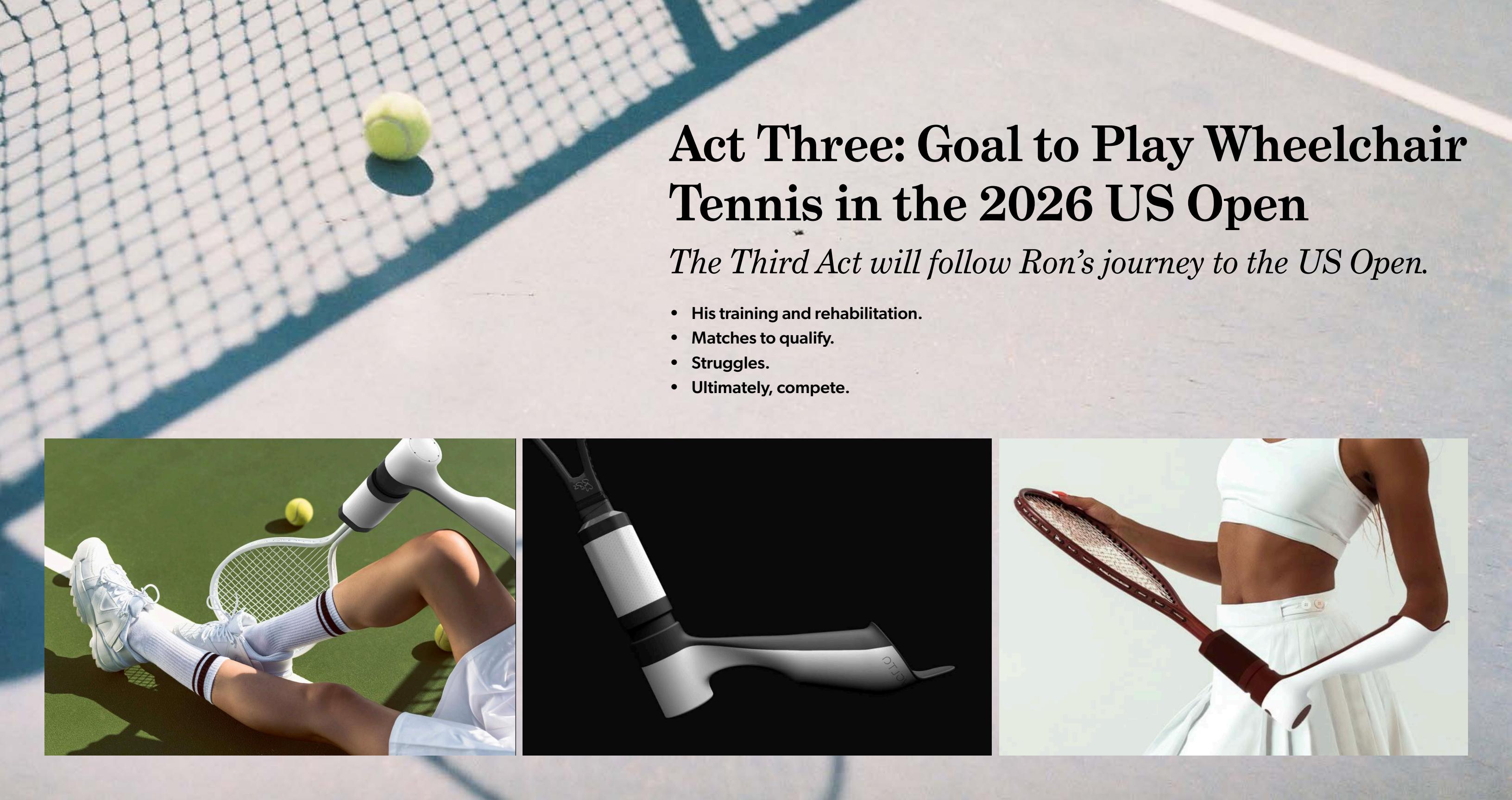
The second act will cover Ron's Diagnosis with Pneumonia and the aftermath that ensued.

- Ron's wonderful life with his family.
- Early hospitalization with Pneumonia.
- Intubated and put into a medically induced coma.
- Develops Sepsis & is put on Vasopressors.
- Effect on Victoria and the family.
- The decision to amputate all four of his limbs.
- Primary Surgeon Dr. Souza and the medical team at Ohio State University.
- Beginning of rehab and new daily routine.
- His goal to compete in the 2026 US Open.



“Theres a lot of people that would curl up and not want to get back to a certain level. But I still have a lot more life, so I want to live it all”





Act Three: Goal to Play Wheelchair Tennis in the 2026 US Open

The Third Act will follow Ron's journey to the US Open.

- His training and rehabilitation.
- Matches to qualify.
- Struggles.
- Ultimately, compete.





“From the mindset of an athlete, I took it one point at a time, one game at a time, one set at a time.”

Closing

We hope that our presentation shows our deep commitment to make this documentary a success both creatively and financially.

Please consider joining us and become a part of Ron's journey.

- Rocky and Dillon Powell





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