

Michael Chang
International Tennis Star

Coming from the juniors as a 15-year-old, Michael Chang charged onto the international tennis scene setting numerous “youngest player records,” including becoming the youngest player in history to win a Grand Slam Event.

Standing at mere 5-feet 7-inches, Chang was born in Hoboken, New Jersey on February 22, 1972 to Chinese-American parents Joe and Betty Change, both research chemists. They soon moved to Southern California where Michael developed as a tennis player. As a youngster, Michael won the USTA Boys 18s Hardcourts and the Boys 18s Nationals in 1987. At age 12, Michael won the USTA Junior Hard Court singles, and the Fiesta Bowl 16s at age 13.

Turning pro in 1988, Chang won the French Grand Slam title on red clay at just 17 years old. He still holds the record as the youngest male singles champion to win in France.

In 1989, Chang won the singles title at Roland Garros, a title that hadn’t been claimed by an American male in 34 years (since Tony Trabert in 1955). His two week run was highlighted by defeating the No. 1 seed, Ivan Lendl in five sets (4th round), a come-from-behind victory that lasted well over four hours. He went on to defeat Stefan Edberg in the final, the No. 3 seed, in another five-set championship battle.

In a career spanning 16 years, Chang reached a career high world ranking of No. 2 and was ranked in the World Top 10 for seven years. He captured 34 singles titles, while also reaching an additional 24 tournament finals. He was victorious in seven ATP Masters Series events (Indian Wells-1992, 1996-1997; Miami-1992; Canada/Toronto-1990; and Cincinnati-1993-1994).

He was a finalist at the 1996 Australian Open and a semifinalist in 1995 and 1997. In addition to his Roland Garros win in 1989, he also reached the French final in 1995 and the quarterfinals in 1990-1991. In 1994, he reached the quarterfinals. He also experienced success at the US Open, reaching the final in 1996, the semifinals in 1992 and 1997, and the quarterfinals in 1993 and 1995.

Chang served the United States in the Davis Cup competition (1989-1990, 1996-1997), winning the Cup in 1990, and posting an overall 8-4 record.

Known for his quick footwork, tireless two-handed backhand and abundant energy, Chang became a determined unwavering and courageous competitor – and a champion of the sport.

In 1999, Michael established the Chang Family Foundation, an organization focused on his commitment to Christian values. Through the foundation he coordinates the family’s community service programs that include youth programs, national and international outreach events. He supports grass roots tennis development in Asia through his “Stars of the Future Program” in Hong Kong.

Michael became a published author in 2002 with *Holding Serve: Persevering On and Off the Court*. In 2011, Chang hosted the Michael Change Tennis Classic to benefit the American Red Cross for Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief.