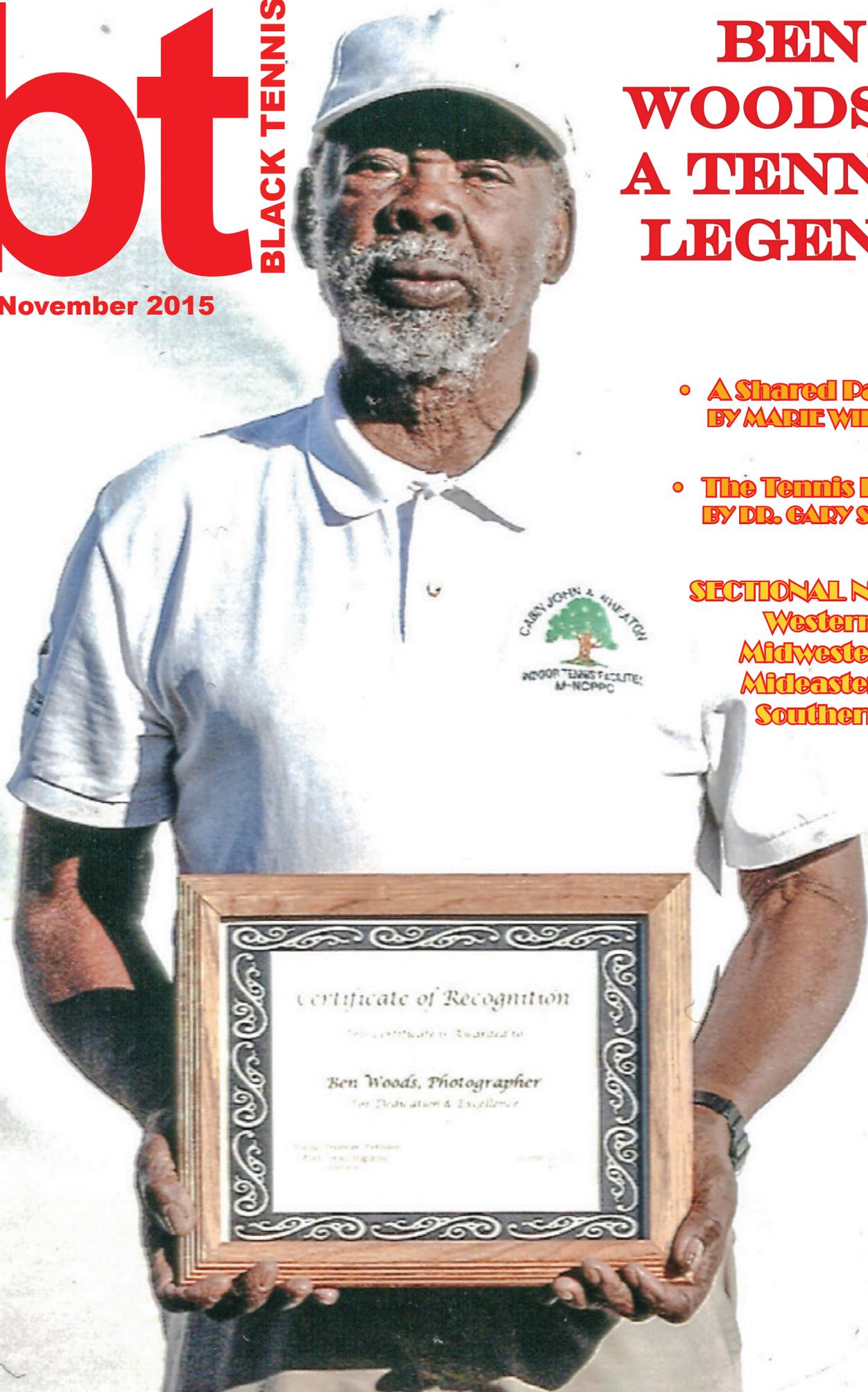


BEN WOODS... A TENNIS LEGEND

- **A Shared Passion**
BY MARIE WILLIAMS
- **The Tennis Parent**
BY DR. GARY SAILES

SECTIONAL NEWS...
Western
Midwestern
Mid-eastern
Southern



Handmade footwear, apparel and accessories



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bt
BLACK TENNIS

**November 2015
Volume 01
Issue 11**



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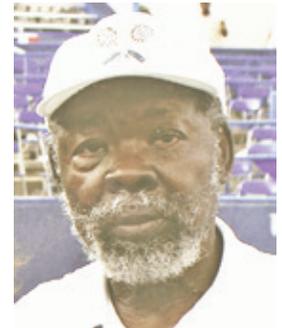
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Staff

Publisher
Marcus A. Freeman, Jr.,
Editor-In-Chief
Ed Freeman (Posthumously)
Ass't. Editor/Photo Editor
Benjamin H. Woods
Ass't. Editor/Photo Editor
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Marie Williams
Special Features
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Contributing Writers

Southern
Horace Rice
Eastern
Boukan Collins
Western
Delores Simmons
Midwestern
Margaret Dorsey
Southeastern
Jerrell Lowery
Social Media
Marcus Freeman, III,

Marcus A. Freeman, Jr., Publisher P.O. Box 210767 Dallas,
TX 75211 214-339-7370 or 214-662-2352
marcus.freeman.tennis@airmail.net

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A Special Tribute To Benjamin Woods...

Tennis Legends are very easy to identify: they always appear in front of the camera, television, on the front cover of magazines and newspapers, and all other media everyone uses today to get the news. This coverage makes it impossible for anyone to not know the legends, and know of their heritage, contributions, and achievements.

Our Legend, Benjamin Woods, is known for his outstanding contributions and achievements by not standing in front of the camera, but behind the camera as a photojournalist who has covered more than 100 tennis Grand Slams and many other professional tennis events around the world for more than 35 years. He has photographed every African-American tennis player of note since 1953. Serving 30 years in the military as a special agent provided many opportunities for him to travel to all parts of the world to serve his country and enjoy his passion for photography and tennis.

The military service provide him an opportunity to get directly involved in tennis when he met Arthur Ashe who was serving military duty at West Point Military Academy. Ben was asked by Ashe to hit some balls with him when they met on the courts at West Point. These hitting sessions became a routine that helped Ben improve on his game, and give tennis instructions to many kids in the local community.

Ben covered the US Open in 1970, the year of his first Grand Slam. Later, in 1982, he made his first trip to England to cover Wimbledon. Covering these events behind the camera has given him experiences and a photo archive equal to none.

4 BTMag.com

Immediately after the disaster of 911, Ben joined the staff of Black Tennis Magazine, replacing Al Holston, the photojournalist at the time who retired after his direct experiences during the disaster.

The photojournalism of Ben since that date has brought nothing but applause and high accolades to the publication. Black Tennis Magazine, Publisher and Staff, want to take this opportunity to award Ben for his work and dedication to the sport of tennis. To get the complete story and interview of Ben, google, ***Tennis Legend Ben Woods talks about photographing the top tennis players in the world.***

In this issue, a complete story is told about the legacy of Ben Woods, including a pictorial of his recognition ceremony by Cheryl Sloan and Ralph Harris.

The formal dedication ceremony in honor of Margaret Peters and Roumania Peters Walker is featured as one of the main highlights of this issue, including photos taken by Ben.Woods at Rose Park in Washington, DC.

Also included is a special report on the 16th Annual Heart to Heart Affair sponsored by the Recreation Wish List Committee of the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center in Washington, DC. The report, with photos of the event, is another major tennis event covered by Ben in this issue.



Marcus A. Freeman, Jr.,
Publisher

A Shared Passion: Head Teaching Professional Opens Up About Past and Present Tennis Experiences

By: Coach Marie Williams



Tennis is a sport that provides competitive exposure through tournaments, historical knowledge, coupled with state-wide and international travel, and the opportunity to network with various individuals on both business

and social levels. Recently, I spoke with someone who has enjoyed great success doing these things. This is his story.

Eric Jackson was born August 16, 1979 in Los Angeles, California. He started playing tennis at age four and was introduced to the sport by his parents, who at the time, had been playing over 15 years. Eric says he started competing in tennis tournaments when he was eight years old, playing at Rancho Cienega Park. His earliest childhood memory was winning his first tourna-



ment at this tender age. Four years later, Eric and his family would move to Atlanta, Georgia.

Eric is no stranger to the ATA Nationals. He has competed in this tournament several times, his first experience taking place in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1989. He competed in the Boy's 12-and-under age division, finishing in the top five. As he continued to mature in both age and skill level, Eric quickly established himself as a serious junior player who had many notable achievements, contributing to his on-court success. He finished as the no.1 player in Boy's 12's and 14's in the state of Georgia. At the Boy's 14's National Clay Court Championships, he was a finalist. In the Boy's 16's USTA National Indoors Championship, he won third place. However, his finest accomplishment was being selected to the U.S. National Team in Key Biscayne, Florida at Crandon Park in 1994. Eric talked about having the opportunity to represent the USTA in an ITF tournament in Japan. He stated that at the time, he was one of the top 14-and-under division players, selected by the USTA National Team Committee to participate in such an event and train with the rest of the national team at the training facility. An avid and fierce competitor by nature, there was no doubt that collegiate tennis would become a dominant factor, paving the way for a bright future ahead.

Many junior players have a tough time

transitioning from a regimented schedule to having more freedom to adjust their schedules to accommodate team practices, weekend tournaments and extra-curricular activities in between. Eric quickly adapted to college life and the responsibilities of representing the tennis team on a full scholarship at North Carolina State, a Division I school located in Raleigh, North Carolina. He immediately made his presence known on the team, playing no.3 singles as a freshman, but eventually earning the no.1 spot his junior and senior years. He played no.1 doubles as well from 1997-2001. During this time, Eric received impressive rankings that included a top 16 finish nationally in doubles and a top 75 singles ranking in the NCAA. In 1999, NC State would make their first appearance at the NCAA Team Competition Event in 20 years.

Eric always thrived on playing better competition. He describes a difficult playing situation he had to overcome in his junior year. He could not sleep the night before because he was anxious about the match the next morning. After the match began, as it progressed, Eric battled many ups and downs, along with intense shot making at both ends of the court. He pulled out a victory, winning the match 6-4, 6-4, but unfortunately, was the only player on his team to win a singles match against their opponents, Duke University. Following this win, Eric said his coach let him do as he pleased, even if that consisted of having a specific pre-match meal of a sausage biscuit and a Coke before each morning match.

Eric mentions his relationship with his coach being open because this man let Eric be himself. Eric says he never felt pressured to play because he was a team player. His coach helped instill discipline in him by taking the entire team through what Eric calls "morning madness," which consisted of having the team get up at 5:30 a.m. to run a mile under 5.40.

Setbacks are inevitable in collegiate tennis because of the physical strain athletes are putting their bodies through to compete. Eric is no exception, having suffered tendonitis in his right wrist and a high right ankle sprain, which left him unable to compete for a month. To treat the injuries, he used ice baths and ultrasound through a stem machine. He feels that because a physical trainer was appointed to the team, he received some of

the best treatment possible.

Looking back over his illustrious college playing career, Eric briefly drops a few top wins over ACC schools such as Clemson, Georgia Tech and Maryland. He also managed to finish in the top eight in regionals in both singles and doubles his sophomore year.

The fastest match he

played was against University of Virginia, in which he won his singles match 6-0, 6-0 in 30 minutes. His list of accolades include: earning the Student Scholar Athlete Award his sophomore year, being selected to All-ACC sophomore through junior years and being named MVP senior year. He also mentioned that he received his Bachelors degree in Agricultural Business, with a minor in Business Management.

When I asked Eric what he liked most about playing for NC State, he simply said this: "I went to NC State because I knew I was going to have a spot on the team to play, while playing some of the best teams in the country."

Eventually, Eric became burnt out from playing so much and decided to take a year hiatus from the game. He managed to acquire his tennis teaching certification through the USPTA while in Atlanta, becoming a Level 2 Certified Professional in 2007. Eric says that at one point, he moved to Memphis, Tennessee to help a friend run his academy. While there, he took everything he learned and used that knowledge to come back to Georgia and coach a series of teams through the Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association. In the beginning, Eric started out with only a few teams, along with giving private lessons. His continuation of those lessons eventually led him to create programs for adults and kids throughout the community. Enjoying his professional work and teaching his clientele helped him obtain his



Eric and his 5 year-old daughter, London during a red ball private lesson.



Eric Jackson at Royal Oaks right before a Men's Workout Clinic.

first coaching job at Collins Hill Athletic Club in Lawrenceville, GA. He served as an assistant hitting coach, whose primary focus was directed towards helping the high-performance juniors.

Surprisingly, Eric ended up making his way to Dallas, Texas by way of a friend he had known over 15 years from Collins Hill who has previously visited. He reached out to Eric by informing him of a position opening at Royal Oaks Country Club. After making the transition nearly a year ago, Eric has settled into suburban life nicely, while continuing to enjoy the sights and sounds of the city.

Eric is the Assistant Director of Tennis at Royal Oaks. His job responsibilities include on-court teaching of both adults and juniors and assisting in development and execution of special events. He is also in charge of administration and maintenance of staff and all tennis operations.

Eric feels his trip to Japan as a junior player helped advance his tennis teaching career later on as adult. "The trip made me see how other teaching pros do things to get more people engaged in the sport, but it allowed me to take those one or two things I saw being done and implement them into my coaching style," he stated.

The ATA Nationals continued to be a highlight in Eric's playing career, even as an adult. He played the Nationals in Birmingham, Alabama in 2000 in the Men's Open Singles, but his last time to play was in 2011, when the tournament was held in Atlanta. He participated in two events: Men's Open Doubles, in which he lost in the finals with his partner, but managed to win the

Mixed Open Doubles Championship with then partner Jewel Peterson. Eric feels having the Nationals in Atlanta brought people out, serving as a reunion for black tennis.

Interestingly enough, Eric still finds time to compete in USTA tournaments when he is not busy working at the club. He plays Men's Open Doubles at the 5.0 Level, as well as local prize money tournaments. His most recent win was back in August when he and his partner won a tournament in Las Colinas, receiving

\$400.00 in prize money. He states his favorite things about competing are meeting new people from the city, while forming a solid network base for events at Royals Oaks.

Eric provides many examples of how his tennis playing experiences helped shape his present perspectives on life. By learning how to compete, facing and dealing with adversity, developing discipline and acquiring helpful social skills, he was able to better handle losses, learning from them, but enjoying the wins, too. The losses provided a chance for him to work on weaker areas in his game so that he would be a stronger player moving forward.

Following college tennis, Eric knew he would choose the pathway to teach professionally. As he got older and matured, he understood it was important for him to be able to critically think through certain situations, rather than just react. He felt it necessary to give proper credit to those individuals who had contributed to his personal success over the years.

"As good as tennis has been to me, in my success, I would be doing a disservice to others by not giving back my time, insight and valuable information," he said.

Eric leaves excellent advice for junior players just starting out on their tennis playing journey. "Junior players need to be open to new things and new challenges, while being mindful that there will always be peaks and valleys. They cannot get discouraged if they do not accomplish a specific goal or task, but need to refresh their goals every now and then."

THE ROLE OF TENNIS PARENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR CHILD ATHLETE!

Two years ago, the NBA Player's Association commissioned me to conduct research on the role of the parent in the development and transition of their elite basketball sons. The invited participants in their annual Top 100 Camp were those high school basketball players with the best chances of making it to the NBA one day. I read the corresponding research literature as well as interviewed other sport psychologists, the athletes themselves, parents and coaches to gather my data. What follows are my recommendations based on my findings.

There are three primary individuals involved in the development of the elite tennis player. They are the coaches (experts), athlete and parents. I call this core group the Development Team. The coaches are responsible for physical training, skill development, tactics, strategy, mental toughness and nutrition (sport science). The athlete's role is to learn, develop, train and compete. The parent's role is to be a parent, period! That is to serve as a nurturer, mentor, financier, chauffeur, chef and sometimes assistant coach following the lead of the head coaches. The parent's role is critical to the success of the athlete because as an assistant coach (sort of), they must enforce the training recommendations imparted by the expert coaches. Additionally, the parent should increase their tennis sport science knowledge base. For example, the parent may not be able to afford to retain a sports nutritionist, so it would be a good idea to read about tennis nutrition and implement a program on their own (general nutrition, pre and post-game meals). Tennis sport science information can be found at the USTA Player Development website: (<https://www.usta.com/About-USTA/Player-Development/SportScience/>).

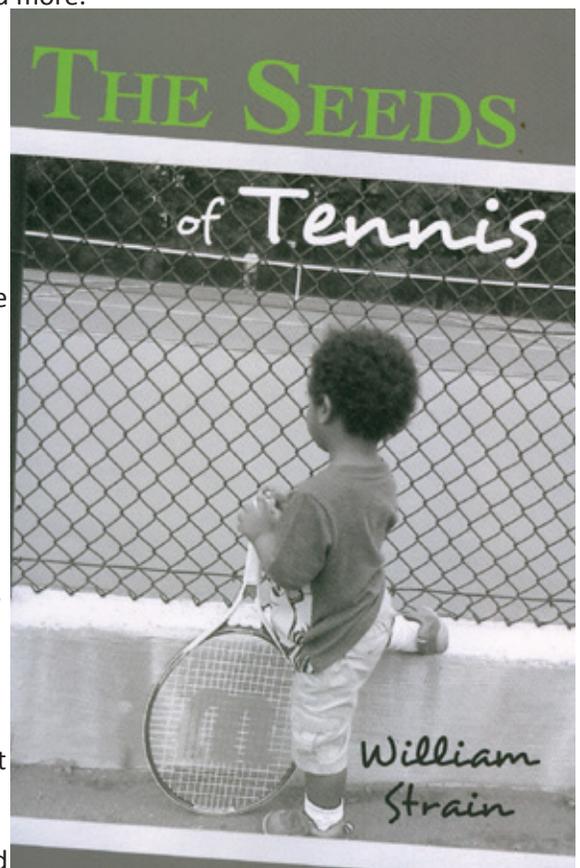
Specifically, the role of the parent is as follows: 1. follow the lead of the primary coach(es) and encourage the child to follow the coach's instructions. 2, provide the financial backing to support the athlete's development. One parent told me, "I can pay \$125,000 for college later or invest in my child's development now to earn a college scholarship later! My husband and I are the chauffeur, chef, banker, mentor, motivator, supporter and disciplinarian!" In other words, they are simply parents. Problems arise when parents step outside their role and openly criticize the coaches, instruct their child in a methodology contrary to the coach's directions, focus too much on winning and not on development/performance, pushing too hard, not pushing hard enough, being too busy to be involved in the athlete's development, training and competition (presence), negative body language, negative criticism and more. When the athlete observes these things from their parents, it can lead to confusion, increased stress, loss of confidence, loss of focus, fear, low energy level, disinterest, under performance and the desire to quit tennis altogether. Trust me when I tell you, your athlete child notices everything and will internalize what they see. Parents need to be supportive, positive, progressive and learners themselves.

In summary, your biggest job as a parent is to just be a parent. Support, love, encourage and respect your child. Pay for their training and competition, support the coaches, learn tennis sport science and accept the fact that you will not agree with everything that is said and done regarding your child's training and



Dr. Gary Sailes

development. When that time comes, private conversations are the key to achieving understanding, respect and acceptance. Remember, the primary focus is the development and success of your athlete child. So, just be a parent; it's the best job in the world and has its own rewards, the success of our children.





at wellington tennis courts



By Linda Paulding
Tennis Professional/
Los Angeles, California

Winter Camp 2016

ALL PROGRAMS 21-28 DECEMBER 2015

Shining Stars (Grassroots)

4-6 years

ONE WEEK: FIRST PARTICIPANT \$ 40 SIBLINGS (EACH) \$ 35

TWO WEEKS: FIRST PARTICIPANT \$ 75 SIBLINGS (EACH) \$ 65 **12 noon - 1pm**

Quick Start (10 and under)

7-10 years

ONE WEEK: FIRST PARTICIPANT \$115 SIBLINGS (EACH) \$ 95

TWO WEEKS: FIRST PARTICIPANT \$220 SIBLINGS (EACH) \$180 **1pm - 4pm**

Beginner / Intermediate / High Performance

9+ years

ONE WEEK: FIRST PARTICIPANT \$115 SIBLINGS (EACH) \$ 95

TWO WEEKS: FIRST PARTICIPANT \$220 SIBLINGS (EACH) \$180 **1pm - 4pm**

DECEMBER

21 M 28

22 T 29

23 W 30

24 T 31

Registration, Contact, Address

Registration form on reverse.

Non-Wellington members welcome (\$10 SURCHARGE).

Contact:

Desmond McLennon ('Coach D')

Author, Strings and Grips - www.stringsngrips.com

Finalist - AYTEF Coach of the Year 2014

Email desmond@tennisprosofatlanta.com

Telephone 678 760 6479

Wellington Pool and Tennis Complex
11415 Crossington Road, Johns Creek





at wellington tennis courts

Registration Form

ALL PROGRAMS 21-28 DECEMBER 2015

Participants

Name	Age	Program			Weeks	
		Stars	Quick	B/I/H	21-24	27-30
1		<input type="checkbox"/>				
2		<input type="checkbox"/>				
3		<input type="checkbox"/>				
4		<input type="checkbox"/>				

Total Participants

\$ 40 \$115 \$115 ONE WEEK
\$ 75 \$220 \$220 TWO WEEKS

First Participant A

\$ 35 \$ 95 \$ 95 ONE WEEK
\$ 65 \$180 \$180 TWO WEEKS

Siblings B

EACH \$ 10 \$ 10 \$ 10

Non-Wellington Member C

EACH

Totals +

A+B+C

Payment Due

Contact Details

Name Relationship

M

Email Telephone

HOME CELL WORK

Registration, Payment

Please make all checks payable to
Desmond McLennon
and return this form with payment.

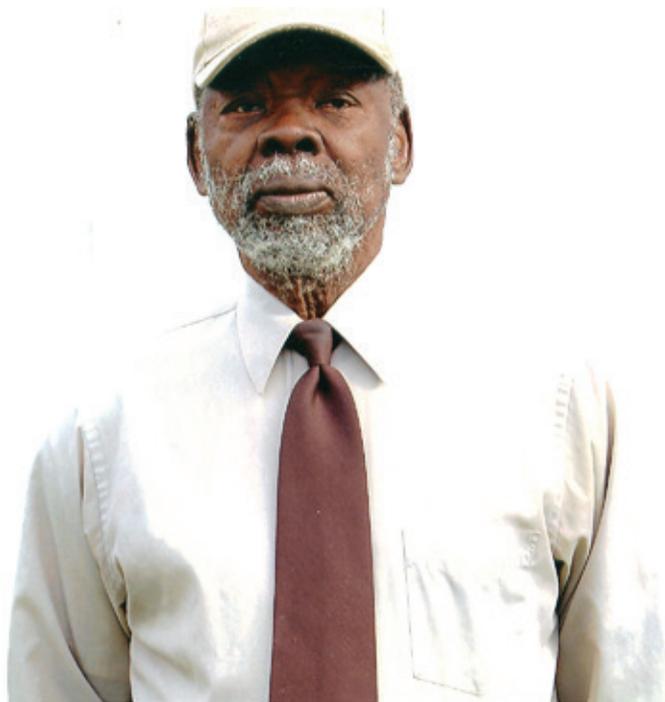
Questions?
Email desmond@tennispros atlanta.com
Telephone 678 760 6479

Important Notice

Thursday 24 and 31 December 2015 are designated as 'Make Up' days for any day between Monday 21 and Wednesday 30 December that may be washed out due to rain. In the event additional days are washed out or Thursday 24/31 December are also washed out, partial refunds will be issued at the sole discretion of 'Camp D' organizers.

BEN WOODS PHOTOGRAPHS HIS 100TH GRAND SLAM

By Cheryl Sloan, META President



On Saturday, November 7th during the 2015 Mid-Eastern Tennis Association (META) League Awards and Tennis Party, a pause was taken in the midst of the League and Team Challenge awards ceremony. That pause was to recognize one of Montgomery County Maryland's best—Ben Woods, world known photographer and tennis instructor. Back at the 2015 US Open, Ben made the accomplishment of photographing his 100th Grand Slam.

Attending 100 Grand Slams is no small task since there are only four each year, starting with the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and the ending with the US Open. The energy, dedication and professionalism required to accomplish the task is truly remarkable! Nearby on exhibit that evening was one of Ben's recent

outings in Georgetown to capture the story in pictures of the ceremony of the Dedication of Rose Park to the Peters Sisters, an American Tennis Association dynasty in women's doubles.

Cheryl Sloan, President of META, presented the certificate of recognition following the reading of congratulations from Marcus Freeman, Publisher of BT Magazine.

"Ben is one in a million. He is the only person I know who can appear with his camera at all of the major Grand Slams and professional tournaments around the world throughout the year, do the same for the ATA, USTA, and other tennis organizations and events in the US, and give tennis lessons to a group of kids in the community at the end of the day.

Later, he has the energy and time, believe it or not, to sit down with you at dinner or any other special event, to chat and have fun.

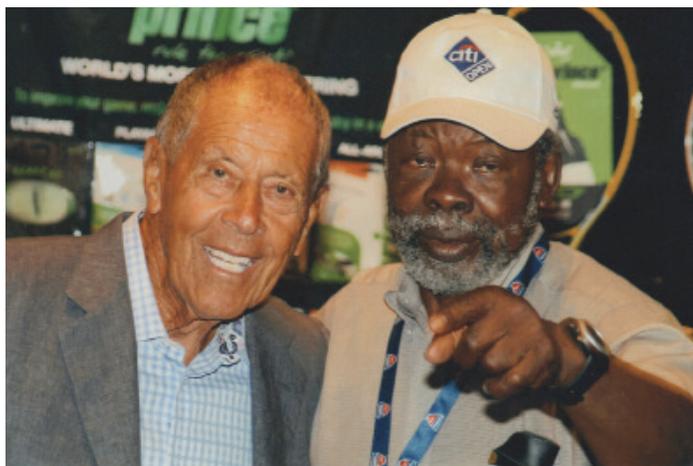
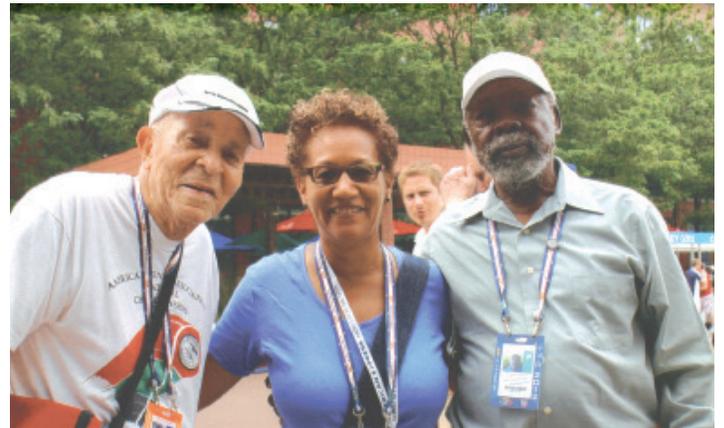
I owe it all to him. The magazine tells his story. His photos and coverage of events get rave reviews from all of our readers. This recognition is just the beginning. Our plans are to do more for him in the future.
Marcus Freeman, November 2, 2015"

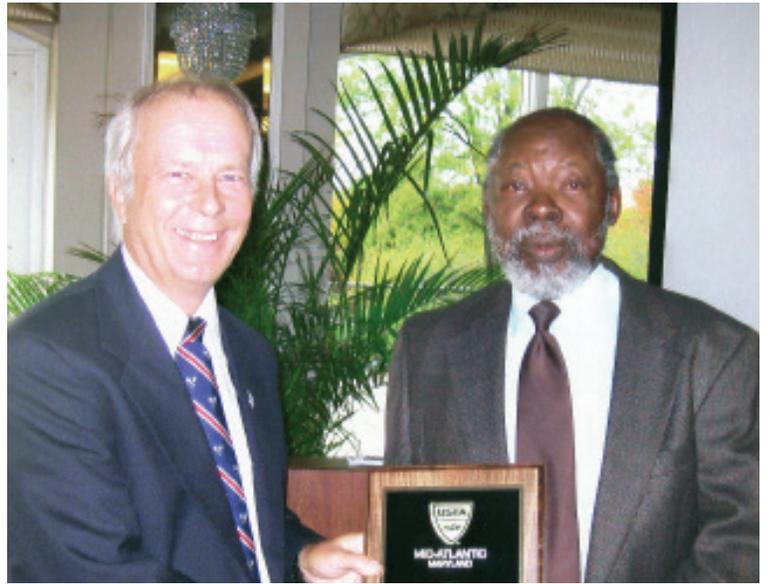
Debonair DJ Jamming Dave (David Merriwether) also commented that, "if you look at any major championships and check out the press box, you will see Ben taking photos."

Ben's words of encouragement to the nearly 90 participants were, "to keep moving forward, to keep on going." And as we have come to know Ben, he then, moved through the group to share copies of some of his favorite shots.

Photos Taken By Ben of Grand Slam Winners and Tennis Enthusiasts Provide Coverage Seldom Shown In Other Media

These are proofs...





The Complete Picture of a True Legend..





Roumania Peters Walker (left), Margaret Peters (right)

Dedication

Margaret Peters and Roumania Peters Walker
Rose Park Tennis Courts

Saturday, October 24, 2015
3:00 p.m.

Rose Park
26th and O Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Thank you for joining Friends of Rose Park, family and friends of the Peters Sisters, and neighbors and friends of Rose Park, to honor these two remarkable women. Over the decades they advanced the sport of tennis and educated and mentored thousands of DC children, both on and off the courts.

Schedule of Speakers:

Master of Ceremonies:
David Dunning, President, Friends of Rose Park, Inc.

Invocation:
Reverend Adam Y. Park, Epiphany Catholic Church

Remarks:
Fannie Walker Weekes, daughter of Roumania Peters Walker
James Walker, son of Roumania Peters Walker
The Hon. Tom Birch, ANC2E Commissioner
The Hon. Monica Roache, ANC2E Commissioner
Keith Anderson, Director, DC Dept. of Parks & Recreation

Keynote Address:
The Hon. Jeh Johnson
Secretary, US Department of Homeland Security

www.roseparkdc.org

Rose Park Recreation Center

In Honor of Margaret Peters and Roumania Peters

Photos by Ben Woods



winning 14 doubles championships, a record that still stands today.

The Agenda:

Master of Ceremonies: David Dunning, top left, President, Friends of Rose Park



Roumania Peters Walker (left), Margaret Peters (right)

Invocation: Reverend Adam Y. Park, Epiphany Catholic Church

Remarks: The Hon. Muriel Bowser, Mayor, Washington, DC, (middle left)

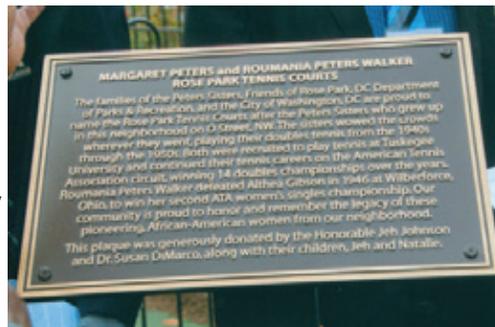
Keynote Address: Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, (middle right)

Remarks: Fannie Walker Weekes, Daughter of Roumania Peters Walker; James Walker, Son of Roumania Peters Walker; The Hon. Tom Birch, ANC2E Commissioner; The Hon. Monica Roache, ANC2E Commissioner who took lessons from the sisters; Keith Anderson, Director, DC Dept. of Parks & Recreation



The bronze memorial plaque and the three permanent photographic exhibit panels of Margaret Peters and Roumania Peters Walker (below)...

The formal dedication ceremony in honor of Margaret Peters and Roumania Peters Walker was held at Rose Park, 26th and O streets, Nw Washington, DC on Saturday, October 24, 2015, 3:00 p.m. Margaret and Roumania grew up in the 2700 block of O Street, NW in Georgetown in the first half of 20th century. They learned to play tennis at the Rose Park Tennis Courts and during the 1930s and 1940's, went on to become world-class players,





Photos - l-r, (top-bottom): Special remarks were made by the Hon. Monica Roache, Mrs. Walker Weeks, James Walker, and William Crutchfield. Ben Woods, photographer, Cheryl Sloan, Friend of Rose Park. James Ridgely with the Hon. Muriel Bowser, and the Georgetown Neighborhood Group Homeowners. Keith Anderson, Parks and Recreation Department with Jeri Ingram, Director of Tennis. Platform guests surround the memorial...



USTA held the 2015 Tennis Development Workshop in San Diego November 5-7, 2015

By Delores J. Simmons
Western Region

The USTA workshops provided attendees with current information and the planned changes to tennis. We recognize that tennis is changing as our society changes, and we have different lifestyles. The tennis changes are meant to make competition fun at all levels and to attract additional players. Also, an easier scoring format is being introduced. There are changes for our 10-and-under players. Not only will the changes help

players learn the game, but it will also help them to develop and be competitive players. Changes are all around us, and it will be interesting to see how these changes can help to keep all ages in the game.

Tennis needs to attract and keep more young people in the game. Once we have the young player interested, how do we keep that player?



Ulysses Cup with Mountain View

Not only are the 10-and-under players not staying and developing, we are also losing the high school players, who do not stay and continue to develop. In the pathways and ideas presented we should be able to report how these changes work.

There are new pathways being presented by the USTA at every level to get tennis players of all ages back in the game. There needs to be widespread discussions on the proposed changes. The early reports are positive, saying that the format fits time-wise and is a boost for the game. There were workshops on Marketing, Organization Development, leveraging USTA'S engagement guides to grow a diverse and inclusive local tennis community, 501c3 basics, Fiduciary Responsibilities, and more.

The informative workshop on Strategic Planning gave attendees information to take back to their organization and to put into practice. The daily early morning general session got everyone ready for the day. Friday's Luncheon Speaker, Katrina Adams, USTA Chair, addressed the audience about changing lives through our mission, also addressing the luncheon was Ron Marquez, Varsity Coach from Cathedral Catholic High School, Del Mar CA.

USTA Awards dinner Saturday evening was presided over by USTA Foundation Chairman, James Blake. Awards were presented to individuals across the country who had made exceptional contributions to the development of young tennis players. Also honored were organizations that built viable tennis programs that contributed to the community. The Wounded Warriors program was also given special recognition, and Mountain View Tennis club member Frances Simpson Lang was there to represent her Club for their involvement with the veterans.

Inter Club Tennis Match takes Place at Harvard Park in Los Angeles

November 14, 2015
By Delores J. Simmons

Harvard Park Tennis Club in Los Angeles hosted Mountain View Racquet Club from San Diego for the inter club social tennis match, to determine the winner of the Ulysses Cup for 2015. The Ulysses Cup was established over 25 years ago, and was named in honor of Harvard Park's beloved Tennis Coach Ulysses (Pete) Brown. Thus began the friendly rivalry between the two clubs.

Each year, the event switches sites between San Diego and Los Angeles, for posses-



Ulysses Cup with Frances Simpson-Lang Mountain View Racquet Club

sion of the Cup. San Diego has won the cup for a few years, and of course, Harvard Park looked forward to regaining possession of the cup (bringing it home).

This event brings together tennis players in friendly competition and the opportunity for a fun social event. The Tennis Community coming together is always good. Also, seeing the number of senior players still in the game, and enjoying competitive tennis is positive, especially for the younger players. The friends, weather (80 degrees) and the food served added in making the day.

The scoring of matches for this social inner club event is added up at the end of the matches. There were 25 matches played. The winning games in each division are added up for each team, and the team with the highest score is the winner. This year, San Diego won the most matches and the Ulysses Cup.

**Top photo:
Ulysses Cup Committee:
Delores Simmons,
Alyce Brown, Frances
Simpson-Lang, and
Glen Collins.**

**Bottom:
Harvard Cup Doubles
Teams Dee and
friends...**

20 BTMag.com



MID-TAC 6TH ANNUAL JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP HOLIDAY RAFFLE

By Margaret Dorsey, President

Not only is this MID-TAC's 6th Annual Junior Scholarship Holiday Raffle, it is for the junior players who will be playing at the MID-TAC 60th Annual Championships Tournament in Indianapolis, IN July 1-4, 2016.

MID-TAC has the support of Friends of MID-TAC Juniors who sell 50 or 100 raffle tickets at \$1.00 each from November 1st to December 31, 2015.

1st Prize – “MID-TAC Deluxe Tennis Player Packet” 3 nights stay at host hotel “Indianapolis Marriott North” with Tournament Fees for Two! (Option to transfer prize or convert for \$350.00 in cash).

2nd Prize –Canon PowerShot SX400 Digital Camera with 30x Optical Zoom

3rd Prize - \$100.00 Cash

Junior players who win 1st or 2nd place in their category in the main draw of singles will have the opportunity to apply for a Junior Tennis Player Scholarship that will be available on-line via MID-TAC's website beginning February 15th.

MID-TAC awarded 15 Junior Player Scholarships during the 59th Annual Championships. Not only can players apply for tennis player scholarships, they can also apply for leadership and academic scholarships uniquely designed to celebrate past contributors to MID-TAC. We currently have the Richard Bradley Scholarship for leadership skills and the PJ





Meadors Scholarship for apprenticeship in running tournaments. The Academic Scholarship is also applied for on a regular basis. The Annual Holiday Raffle has been the vehicle to ensure that MID-TAC can award at least \$1,000 in scholarships to returning junior tennis players to help defray the cost to play in the tournament. Tickets are sold in Member Clubs as well as Friends of MID-TAC Juniors and other supporters. Anyone wishing to purchase tickets for the 6th Annual Holiday Raffle can contact MID-TAC via midtactennis@gmail.com or make a direct contribution year round on our website at www.midtactennis.org under the Donate tab.

Growing the game of tennis, especially through our juniors is a must and MID-TAC stands firm of supporting junior players, their parents and coaches in keeping them in the game!!

SAVE THE DATE - MID-TAC 60TH ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT - JULY 1-4, 2016

MID-TAC is preparing to celebrate our 60th Annual Championship Tournament July 1-4, 2016 in Indianapolis, IN. We have a lot of history in hosting MID-TAC in Indianapolis and are aggressively getting ready to host our 60th Annual event there. The combined Tournament and Celebration Committee is meeting regularly by conference call to plan and implement an entire weekend of great competition, fun and memories. Several new volunteers have stepped up to help out and are bringing new ideas to the table on each call. The host hotel is the Indianapolis Marriott North, room rate \$105.00 per night and tournament sites are North Central High School for juniors, adults and NTRP and Carmel Clay Courts for seniors. MID-TAC is inviting players from around the country to play in our 60th Annual and looking forward to welcoming past players and definitely reaching out to new players who have never played.

We had over 250 players ages 8 to 80 playing in 56 Divisions during our 59th Annual Championship in 2015. Each Championship begins with Check-In Night at the host Hotel with free refreshments, a goody bag and the chance for players to get reacquainted and/or meet other players for the first time. MID-TAC also conducts a "Parent/Junior Player Orientation" during Registration to inform junior players, their parents and coaches on how to get the most out of their tournament experience with us. Play begins 8:00 am the next morning at the

respective sites. MID-TAC sponsors "free" junior and adult parties on the second night of the tournament weekend with dj's for dancing, food for juniors, snacks for adults with a cash bar and a free raffle for juniors and \$1.00 raffle for adults. Finals are generally held the third day of the tournament and beautiful trophies are presented to the 1st and 2nd place winners. All juniors are guaranteed two rounds of play by having a 1st match elimination back draw for singles. MID-TAC has a core of supportive adult players and a growing junior development grouping who look forward to being a part of our Championship weekend annually.

So Save The Date!! Please visit our website on a regular basis for updates and registration information at www.midtactennis.org. Send emails to: midtactennis@gmail.com.

Below are some memorable moments from the 59th Annual Championship Tournament held in Indianapolis, Indiana in 2015. Make sure you plan to help us celebrate the 60th in 2016!!





The 16th Annual Heart to Heart Tennis Challenge

On Saturday, October 31, 2015, starting at 8:00 a.m., the Recreation Wish List Committee of the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center, presented its 16th Annual Heart to Heart Tennis to the tennis community in Washington, DC. The event included a silent auction, jazzercise, a tennis clinic, and a children's activities room.

In 1977, the Recreation Wish List Committee (RWLC) built two and refurbished four tennis courts next door to Hart Middle School. After the courts were built, children from the neighborhood came to play tennis everyday, but did not have support or structure for their activities.

Seeing this, the Recreation Wish List Committee invited adults and junior tennis clubs from across the city to join them in friendly competition. The event encouraged adults to bring their "hearts" to the neighborhood children, thus resulting in the Heart to Heart Tennis Experience.

With the intent of bringing together all the adult and junior clubs, RWLC invited organizations such as the Ward 8 Tennis Council, Totally Tennis, Tennis at Shiloh, Arthur Ashe Tennis Program, and SAFE. Back then, it was all volunteers who came together and had a family-style fish fry.

Now called the Heart to Heart Tennis Experience, the event has become a tradition of teaming junior players with adults in doubles tennis matches. Hosted by the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center (SETLC), this annual event brings together all the junior tennis clubs from across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. Juniors and adult tennis players get to showcase their skills, techniques, and share their love for the game of tennis through friendly competition.

The highlight of Heart to Heart are the celebrity matches which feature local media personalities, politicians, and other community leaders. In addition to tennis play, this event includes a silent auction, tennis clinics, group warm-up and stretching exercises, a Continental breakfast, a family-style fish fry for lunch, and concludes with a trophy presentation and awards ceremony.

Sponsored by the Recreation Wish List Committee of Washington, in partnership with the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, Heart to Heart is an annual fund-raiser that benefits the many unique educational and recreational programs offered at the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center.

The Tennis Experience Committee:

Cora Masters Barry - Event Director

Tournament Directors:
Damiisa Robinson and Anthony Lee

Tournament Coordinators:
Yvonne Ruffin, Alvin Fludd, Jennifer Asbury, Wilbur Callendar, and Marcus Dudley

Event Coordinators:
Tamika Holloway, Janice Rankins, Jeanine McKnight, Katrena Edwards, Michon Lartigue, Nakita West, and Tanisha Williams.

Cora Masters Barry is the CEO and Founder of the Recreation Wish List Committee.

SOUTHEAST TENNIS & LEARNING CENTER









DC DPR and META Tennis Challenge Is A Success

By Dr. Loyce B. Pailen, AASSTC

Early Fall this year, the DC DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION (DPR) and the MID-EASTERN TENNIS ASSOCIATION (META) - A Section of the American Tennis Association, formed its Second Annual Adult Team Challenge competition.

The competition ran from August 23, 2015 to October 18, 2015. The DPR / META Adult Team Challenge is an opportunity for men and women

Alice Lee, Coordinator for Team - Fort Lincoln; Bottom: Mr. & Mrs. Jackson, Clarice Chaney, Enoch Thompson, Coordinator Team -Turkey Thicket...

(ages 18 & up) to play tennis on a weekly basis as they represent the following recreation sites in Washington, D.C. - Banneker, Takoma, Fort Stevens, Fort Lincoln, and Turkey Thicket.

The Team Challenge is open to all individuals at all levels of play who wish to represent one of the listed recreation centers. Registrants are placed in categories based upon their National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) rating and are scheduled for a series of matches that will last approximately six to ten weeks depending on the participation. Every Saturday, teams from around the site locations, consisting of seven to 14 members, played three doubles matches with random pairings of men and women. The new format made for very interesting matches and turned out to be a lot of fun for all.



Local tennis clubs had the opportunity to sponsor a site location. Of note, the Tennis At Shiloh (TAS) Team hat sponsored the Banneker site location, was first in the NTRP 2.5 category; Larry Kinney, the team representing Ft. Stevens, placed first in the 3.0 category; and representing our area seniors, the Active Aces Super Senior Tennis Club (AASSTC) came in first place in the category of 3.5, an excellent showing for the 60+ tennis players.

All were honored at the Annual Mid-Eastern Ten-

nis Association Awards and Tennis party on Saturday November 7, 2015 at the Fairland Tennis Bubble in Laurel, MD. Jeri Ingram of the DC DPR presented each player a medal and an Emirates Airlines cushion. Below is a full list of the 2015 DC DPR/META Team Challenge winners.

2.5 Level

Winner - Banneker
 Finalist - Turkey Thicket

3.0 Level

Winner - Fort Stevens
 Finalist - Turkey Thicket

3.5 Level

Winner - Fort Lincoln
 Finalist - Turkey Thicket

The following is the list of recreation sites and coordinators (also referred to as coaches by the players):

Banneker - Maurice A. Patterson
 Fort Lincoln - Alice Lee
 Fort Stevens - Larry Kinney
 Takoma Park - Shelly Delon
 Turkey Thicket - Enoch Thompson

Maurice Patterson and Jeri Ingram, the Team Challenge organizers and coordinators, thank everyone who committed to the end of the challenge. Without their dedication, the challenge could not have been possible. Congratulations to the winners for participating in the Team Challenge. The Team Challenge coordinators hope for even more participation next year and asks everyone to invite a friend.



Top left: Bob Malone and Coach Enoch, Team Turkey Thicket; Larry Kinney, Coordinator of Team Fort Stevens (second to left) and Team Members: and Judi Jones & James Elie 3.5 Finalist Team Turkey Thicket. Top right: Coordinator Enoch and Jan Graves, Finalist 3.5 Team Turkey Thicket; and Coordinator Enoch and Jan Graves, Finalist 3.5 Team Turkey Thicket and Aileen Cook, Team Takoma.

Venom Foundation Hosts Third Annual Pink Out Day

By Jerrell Lowery

For the last three years, Venom Foundation, Inc. (VFI) has held its annual “Pink Out Day” (POD), where local breast cancer survivors are recognized and honored. This year’s event was held at the Carroll Recreational Field House located on the campus of Florida A&M University (FAMU). Six survivors were celebrated as they embarked on an evening of entertainment, exercise demonstrations and great food.

The evening started with a brief survivor ceremony, which included an inspirational solo by Nakia Daniels. The solo was dedicated to the survivors and was followed by survivor testimonies. Presenters stressed breast cancer awareness. Guests were reminded of the importance of healthy food choices and exercise. Also stressed were the importance of breast self-exams and mammograms on a regular basis. Each survivor was presented with a breast cancer awareness t-shirt and a custom gift basket. A large, personalized cake was presented to survivors with each name included.

The entertainment of the event was the “So You Think You Can Dance” competition. Three local youth dance groups competed for first, second, and third place trophies. The dance competition started with a Solo hip-hop performance by Nevaeh Lawson. Then the team competition began with Beehive Elite, making a grand entrance to their very own explosive theme music. The dance groups performed well, but there could only be one first place winner. First, second and third place winners are as follows: Inspiration Dancers, Beehive Elite, and Simmons Elite All-stars, respectively.

Once the dance competition concluded, graduate students of the FAMU School of Physical Therapy, led by Dr. Kischa S. Reed, began exercise demonstrations. Participants learned proper stretching techniques and ways to get the body muscles warmed up and prepared for a more strenuous work out. Natasha Miller, local Zumba

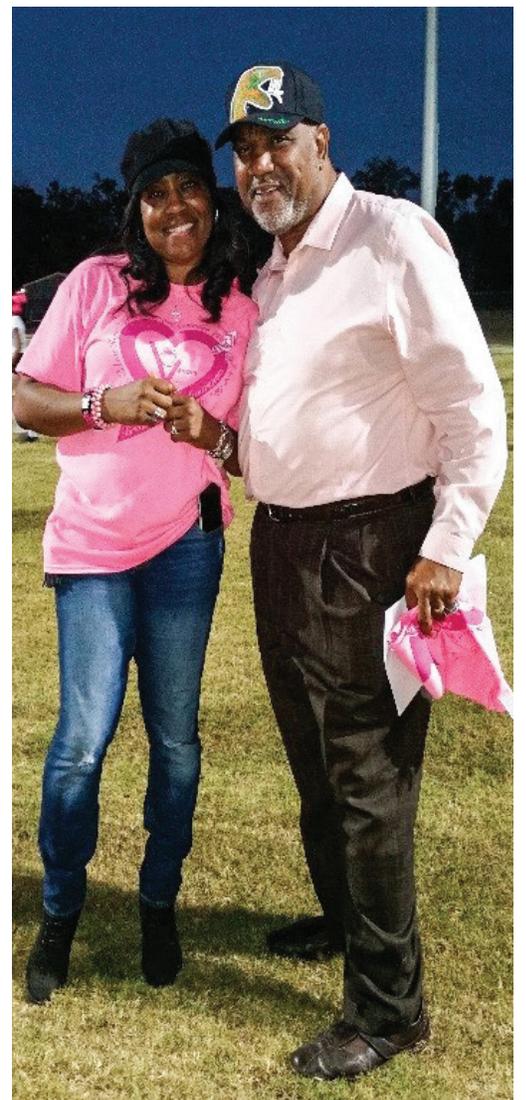


Instructor, enhanced the exercise portion of the evening’s event by teaching a Zumba routine.

The MC of this year’s event was Joe Bullard, a local and nationally renowned radio personality (DJ), for 96.1 JAMZ, and announcer for the infamous FAMU Marching 100 Band.

Each year, Venom Foundation, Inc, extends an open invitation to the FAMU Athletic Department and its various teams to attend and help celebrate the Annual Pink Out Day Celebration. We are thankful for Coach Rochelle Goldthreate, Ladies Tennis Team, and Coach Veronica Wiggins, Ladies Softball Team, for their continued support and participation as volunteers over the last 3 years. They made sure that all were entertained and meals were served in a fun filled environment.

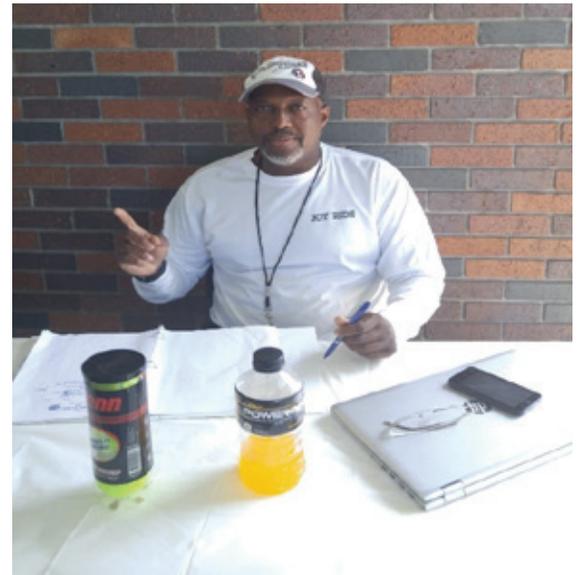
This year’s event was coordinated by Cheryl Morgan, Co-Captain of the Queens of the Courts. The Venom Foundation Ladies 5.5 League Team, Queens of the Court played a major role in the success of this event. They served as facility decorators, dance competition judges, servers and clean-up crew.



“A Pink Out Day I’ll Remember Always”



JGTA Revives Its Annual Tournament



The Julius Guinyard Tennis Association (JGTA) held its annual tournament fundraiser, the weekend of October 3-4, at the Clanzel T. Brown Tennis Complex, located in Jacksonville, FL. After going through three previous years of re-organizations and tournament cancellations, the JGTA was aroused with a revitalized mission and purpose for the organization and its members.

By sticking with their mission; of "Bringing together players, enthusiasts and supporters of tennis, promoting the health, recreational, academic and social benefits of the game of tennis and to providing a new sport venue to a community that currently has limited access to the game of tennis. and increasing the public awareness and providing access to people of all ages and backgrounds, while placing specific emphasis on youth development."

"We have taken the first step to increase the fundraising efforts for the youth programs

which is our primary objective." Also while focusing on the social, recreational, and health benefits of tennis, JGTA has developed six adult league teams with players coming from all of the Jacksonville communities, while still managing to increase the number of African-American players in the USTA Region," said current president, Deloris Milton.

Although JGTA was able to increase the number of local players, the out-of-town players participating in the tournament, outnumbered the local players. Tournament Director Lester Small stated that "the tournament was a success, being able to accommodate special scheduling for travelers, and having beautiful weather." Upon their

arrival, the organization handed out wonderful giftbags full of usable items, and topped off the day (Saturday) serving a French lunch by the Hot Dog Connoisseur, John Lamkin.

Next year's tournament is expected to have more players and a well-planned social event.

JGTA

2015 Results

Women's 3.0 Singles – Katie Deering def. Deloris Milton 6-0, 6-4

Women's 3.5 Singles – (R/R) 1st Katie Deering, 2nd Zharia Bowles 7-5, 6-2

Women's 3.0 Doubles – Linda Elmore/Niecy Young def. Velda Miller/Veria Bing 6-2, 6-4

Women's 4.0 Doubles – Faye Woods/Temeka Lee def. Pansey Aye/Shelia Jackson 6-1, 6-2

Men's 4.0 Singles – Ed Baldwin def. John Jackson 6-0, 4-6, 6-4

Men's 4.5 Singles – Rob Perry def. Dwayne Gordon 6-0, 6-3

Men's 50s Singles – (R/R) 1st Audley Cromwell, 2nd Pierre Dade 6-3, 6-0

Men's 4.0 Doubles – (R/R) 1st Dwayne Gordon/Robert Williams, 2nd James Johnson/Kendall Carter 1-6, 6-4, 6-4

Men's 4.5 Doubles – David Graves Jr/Rudy Jamison def. Rob Perry/ Kendall Carter 6-2, 6-1

Men's 50s Doubles – Tony Whitehurst/Jerrell Lowery def. Pierre Dade/Steve Greenaway 6-1, 4-6, 6-1

Mixed 8.0 Doubles – Shelia Jackson/Ted Patterson def. Shirley Carson/Stephen Jones 6-3, 5-7, 6-1

Mixed 9.0 Doubles – (R/R) 1st Eugene Holliday/Subrina Johnson 2nd Audley Cromwell/Pansey Aye 6-4, 6-7, 6-5 retired.



Book Review...

Expressway

By Justus L. Clark

A short poetic piece written by a very young poet who discovered his talent when he was only six years old. Justus was born July 14, 2002, to Dr. Tracy and Derrick Clark. A native of Dallas, Texas, he began writing poetry when he was a student in elementary school.

An example of his writing is below:

*I'mma buckle up for the bumpy ride.
Lock in tight, live for the fight, clamp down on life,
And just ride.*

*You will discover verses and rhymes as you take
an adventure through an
eleven-year-old's poetic mind.*

*Take a trip on this emotional ride, a book filled
with inner thoughts and feelings
you cannot hide.*

*Emotions about joy, sadness, hardship, family,
and pain; laughter, hopes, and
dreams with plenty to gain.*

*Buckle up and open your mind! You are about to
ride down my expressway.*

One of Justus' most impressive verses (there are 20) is his take on **Laugh**:

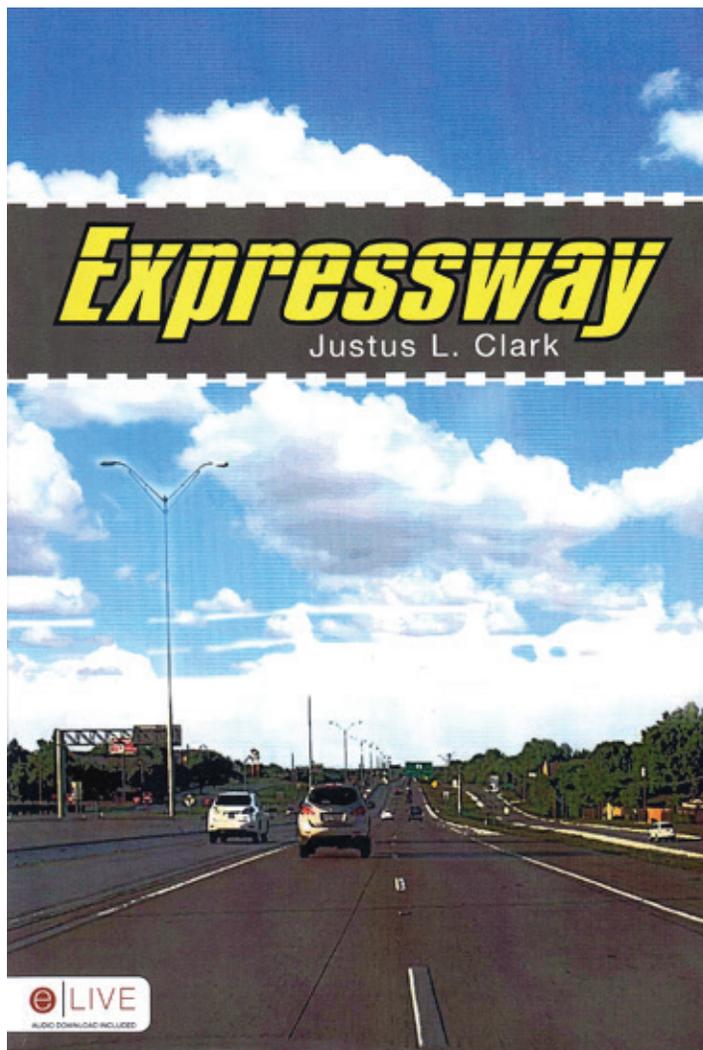
*A smile is a frown turned upside down
But a laugh is a smile that has enough
strength to become a sound.*

*It can be found where peace is bound.
Let it be known where laughter is found
There is a heart and even more parts.*

*There is a soul and a spirit. And a smile with
enough courage to tell.*

*I will become a laugh one day, and a bigger deal
as well.*

Today, 2015, as an honor student in the seventh-grade at A.W. Brown Leadership Academy, Justus believes that it is wonderful to use your



imagination. His favorite poets are Maya Angelou and Langston Hughes. Justus loves reading, writing, music, and swimming. His life experiences and rap music influence his writing. He desires to send a message to all young people. He believes that expressing your thoughts and feelings is good for your health and soul. Justus wants to one day become a marine biologist and a writer.

The Illustrator, Tomiki Waters, a native of Dallas, Texas, began her career in photography about six years ago. Tomiki loves art and enjoys capturing the realism of simple objects. She is best known for the concepts that she demonstrates in alter-ego portraits.

There is a free audio book download by going to: www.tatepublishing.com and clicking on the eLive logo on the home page. To get the code, you must contact Tate Publishing. Enjoy!



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