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**Yasmine Osborn
Joins USTA
Diversity/Inclusion...**

*Timeless Memories
My College Playing
Days...*
By: Coach Marie Williams

*Serena Named
Sportsperson of the Year*

**Sectional
News...**

- Western...
- Mid-Western...
- Eastern...
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Love Newark Renaissance Foundation LLC

Salutes

The American Tennis Association for its promotion of urban cities tennis as a lifetime sport and the development of positive attitudes and action in our future leaders of tomorrow; and for recognizing that tennis is a game called **LOVE!**

The LNRF challenges us to remember the words of John Henry Newman who wrote, *“I sought to hear the voice of God and climbed the topmost steeple, But God declared: go down again - for I dwell among the people.”* Thus let it also be said, “I too play tennis!”

Happy Holidays and with sincere and best wishes to all...

Love Newark Renaissance Foundation LLC

Sharpe James, Founder, President, ATA Member

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Newark, New Jersey 07112

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bt
BLACK TENNIS

**Decembe 2015
Volume 01
Issue 12**



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December 2015

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TENNIS LEADERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY

Art Carrington Is Our New Member Of The Registry



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Lloyd Dillon - LA



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Van King - IL



William Washington - MI

*It Takes
Strong,
Dedicated,
and Quali-
fied Lead-
ers To Help
Us Reach
A Higher
Level...*

Art Carrington Established Tennis Professional...



Art was introduced to tennis by his mother when he was ten years old. She was a member of the North End Tennis Club in Elizabeth, New Jersey, one of the first Black owned tennis clubs in the country. In high school, Art was recognized as the All Century Tennis New Jersey 1900 player.

In 1965, Art was invited to attend Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) as the first student athlete to receive a full scholarship. In 1966, his freshman year, he was a finalist in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, and though he lost that year he went on to win the CIAA tournament the next three years.

After graduating from Hampton in 1969, Art became the first head tennis pro hired to teach tennis at the Westfield Indoor Tennis Club which opened in 1968. Over the years, he has played exhibitions with many of the world's top players, including Arthur Ashe, Vitas Gerulaitis, Björn Borg, Rod Laver, and many others. Since 1980, Art has run the Arthur Carrington Tennis Academy based at Hampshire College in Amherst,

Massachusetts. Over two thousand players of all ages have come through the academy.

With his son Lex, in 1990 Art coached Vera Zvonareva, the Russian professional tennis player who in 2010 became the #2 women's tennis player in the world.

Art has spent years recording the history of Black tennis. He co-curated the 2007 Exhibit, "Breaking the Barriers: Honoring the ATA and Black Tennis Pioneers," featured at the International Tennis Hall of Fame Gallery in Newport RI, and in 2009 published *Black Tennis, An Archival Collection: 1890 -1962*. The book is an historical look at African American tennis pioneers, tennis clubs, and the American Tennis Association and its national championships.

Art has been the recipient of Coach of the Year and Community Service Awards, and is currently President of the New England Tennis Association founded in 1925, one of the oldest black tennis organizations in the country.

As a teacher and coach, Art specializes in unlocking the physics of human movement to achieve beautiful, powerful strokes. He trains his students in whole-body integration using a variety of tools and techniques, some drawn from martial and flow arts. Courtside action with the bo staff, spinning poi, Indian clubs, rhythmic ribbon sticks, Filipono escrima, hula hoops, nunchaku, graduated medicine balls, and other items of Art's own design yield beautiful tennis, as well as players with the whole-body integration, strength, and fluidity that refine peak performance and support long, injury-free careers.



Letters to the Editor...

As we enter the year, 2016, our goal is to reach out to all tennis players, provide them with accurate and up-to-date information designed to help them enjoy the game, get involved, and become real tennis activists....

From: Delores Simmons <deloressimmons@sbcglobal.net>
To: "marcus.freeman.tennis@airmail.net" <marcus.freeman.tennis@airmail.net>
Subject: Thanks for the online issue of B.T.
Date: Thu, 26 Nov 2015 23:27:47 +0000 (UTC)

The articles are informative and let us understand the depth of the contributions made by so many individuals. We are reminded that so many contributed to the game of tennis in the country for so many years. We need reminders of the great contributions made to further the game of tennis across the U.S. We need to know about the trailblazers in the game and to honor their stories. Our young and old alike learn from these articles that inform us.

B.T. does a wonderful job telling these stories.

Thanks

Delores J Simmons

• • • • •
Hi Marcus,

My name is Gavin Mkandla, I'm based in London, UK originally from Southern Africa.

Can I just state for the record that I am appalled that a sportswoman of Serena William's calibre and integrity was so mistreated by a largely British crowd during the Heather Watson match and the final against Muguruza at this years Championships. Sadly that appears to be the way the world is going - partisanship taking over from appreciation of ability. I am very disappointed, both personally and as a black sports representative. May I also state that this is not the first time it's happened? I also remember the Sabine Lisicki match a year or two ago.

I am delighted that she had the grit, determina-

tion and, not least, the skills to overcome the noise and win through. I made my opinions clear on Reuters (attached link)<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/07/11/tennis-wimbledon-crowd-idUK-L8N0ZR0NB20150711>

After speaking to your photographer, Benjamin H. Woods at Wimbledon I learnt about your magazine and the great work you do. I also run Tennis charity Foundations in South Africa and Zimbabwe. I would like to make a contribution on either the Serena incident or any tennis related issue.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Gavin Mkandla

• • • • •
From: "Dallas Business Recognition" <info@presidies.org>
SpamShield Pro Actions...Report spam & move to: Trash Approve senders

To: marcus.freeman.tennis@airmail.net
Subject: Black Tennis Magazine
Date: Thu 07/09/15 02:09 AM

Black Tennis Magazine has been selected for the 2015 Dallas Awards for Periodical Printing & Publishing.

For details and more information please view our website: 2015 Dallas Awards - Periodical Printing & Publishing

If you are unable to view the link above, please copy and paste the following into your web browser:

http://dallastx.presidies.org/sd7k2ah7_BLACK-TENNIS-MAGAZINE

Best Regards,

Dallas Business Recognition

A Special Tribute To Our Tennis Elite...

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

It is indeed with complete gratitude and respect that I wish each of you this blessing and many more for years to come. Your support as a subscriber, advertiser, contributor, sectional leader, staff member, or just a casual reader has meant so much to our efforts to “Keep The Dream Alive” during 2015.

As this year ends with this last issue of the online and print issues, it is appropriate to recognize those persons who are doing outstanding things for the game, more off the court than on the court.

The work of these individuals is to be applauded and recognized because they get very little compensation or any at all. Their satisfaction comes from knowing that what they do help others grow the game, one way or the other.

Art Carrington, the teaching professional who has joined the Black Tennis Pro Registry for this issue, brings a background of experiences in all areas of the game. As a college player, Art won the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association for three years after losing in the finals his freshman year. After college, Art became a teaching professional, in 1980 he formed the Arthur Carrington Tennis Academy, coached playing professionals on the circuit, and became a curator of Black Tennis history. He has received numerous awards and is currently President of the New England Tennis Association.

Wallace Douglas (Doug) Smith, a native Dallasite, is featured in the Southwestern Section as a tribute to his outstanding contributions to tennis in the community and various states in

the U.S. Doug got involved in the game when African-Americans were moving to the Oak Cliff section of Dallas, a neighborhood that had several public parks loaded with tennis courts. His personal efforts to make everyone comfortable and enjoy the game, enticed many others to join him on the courts after work and on the weekends. The group became organized and formed the Oak Cliff 40-Love Club, the first and only African-American club in the area. Today, the club has over 300 members and sponsors one of the top tournaments in the Southwestern section.

Benjamin Woods, photojournalist, tennis teaching professional, and director of junior development, is on the scene with his camera and tennis racquet during professional events around the world, and does the same in the U.S. and his local community. Ben’s experiences in these areas date back to his years in the military, when Arthur Ashe picked him out to become his hitting partner at West Point. This experience got him involved in tennis more than ever which is one main reason he has traveled all over the world to cover a total of 100 Grand Slam events to this date.

The photos taken by Ben and published in the magazine continue to get rave reviews, another special reason we are able to keep the faith, and “Keep The Dream Alive.”



Marcus A. Freeman, Jr.,
Publisher

Timeless Memories

My College Playing Days...

By: Coach
Marie Williams



It has been 10 years since I played competitively, representing Howard Payne University. My collegiate tennis playing experience brought out my competitive nature, kept me in shape via weight and strength training workouts in the HPU Wellness Center, exposed me to all levels of tennis and taught me how to become a sharper thinker, both on and off the court. I was able to travel, enjoying each road trip and make long-lasting friendships beyond the court. I also won many accolades throughout my four-year stint. Playing college tennis allowed me to develop my own unique style of play with two hands, in which I still use on the court as a tennis teaching professional today.

HPU was the last school I applied to, but the first and only one I received acceptance to. I remember how happy I was to get a letter in the mail from Head Coach, Shane Williford. Even though I did not earn a tennis scholarship, I would have the opportunity to play for a Division III school. Prior to this, I had sent him a videotape of myself, in which I was playing a practice match at Brookhaven Country Club against one of their juniors. Years later, he told me that I had some of the oddest strokes he had ever seen, yet I was consistent and diverse in my shot selection, motivating him to invite me down to visit the school. One of the fondest memories I distinctly remember is arriving at

HPU for the first time with my mom. The coach told me to come to the tennis courts, before touring the campus with him. Little did I know that I would have to play one of the toughest girls I had faced in a long time: the school's no.1 player. She was a graduating senior, but did not make the match easy for me. In two very long and difficult sets, I emerged the victor 7-5, 6-4. I went on to hold the top spot all four years. The year was 2001 and the scene was Brownwood, Texas, a small, quiet and dumpy little town, where everything closed around 4 p.m., except the store and the hotels. My wild and crazy tennis journey had only just begun.

My freshman year was my "breakout year" at HPU. During this period, I had many great victories against such schools as Texas Lutheran University, Sul Ross State University, McMurry University and the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor. I won four conference awards within the American Southwest Conference: Freshman of the Year, Player of the Year, Women's All-Conference Team and All-West Division First Team. I quickly became known to everyone throughout the conference as "the girl who uses two hands for everything." My serve gave opponents fits on the court, while puzzling all the coaches who witnessed me using it to serve and volley against bigger and harder-hitting girls.

My sophomore year was spent learning how to play doubles correctly, with careful attention to being positioned in the proper spot to make a good play at net. I feel like I never really learned how to play good doubles until I started playing collegiate tennis. I played no.3 doubles with two different partners over the course of my stay at HPU.

I remember the day I got my letterman jacket junior

Sophomore year playing for Howard Payne University. Head Coach Shane Williford is standing to the side left.





Playing one of many tournaments on the road my junior year representing Howard Payne.

year. Practice was intense that day, with drills and match play, things I had come to expect as a part of my daily training regime. Our head coach called all of the upperclassmen into his office to try on the new jackets after practice. My eyes grew big when I saw them wrapped in plastic as I rushed to try on a jacket, first. It was one of many things I treasured as an athlete, but it was a nice, early present to wear around the campus during the colder months. It was navy blue, with gold sleeves and the letters “HP” stitched on the front with crossed tennis racquets. It hangs in my closet now, but back then, it was a wonderful reminder to all of my family and friends of how hard I had worked to both earn and wear that jacket, showcasing the utmost pride for the school.

An athlete’s senior year is always special because it is that individual’s chance to leave a legacy behind and make a lasting impression on the rest of the team. Mine was no different. In my last year, I did as much as possible for the women’s team. I made sure that I was always on time to practices and maintained a positive attitude. I would encourage the girls to do their best, whether they won or lost matches, often supporting them by cheering them on while I watched them play. And I gave them motivational talks to get them amped up for big weekend tournaments. I do recall being asked to take on the role as team captain, but I politely declined the position and let one of the girls playing the no. 6 spot have it instead. My rationale behind this decision was that I had already accepted the responsibility of serving as a leader at the no. 1 spot and did not need to be greedy when I had already accomplished so much over four years.

I finished my senior year strong, earning two conference awards, one being All-West Division First Team, the only honor I managed to get each year. Before that, I had earned the Sportsmanship Award

my junior year. A major accomplishment that highlights my time at HPU is taking the Women’s Team to the 2005 ASC Conference Championships, played at Hardin-Simmons University, held in Abilene, TX. We represented the West Division of the ASC by winning our first round matches against the University of Texas at Tyler, but lost to the eventual champions, Hardin-Simmons. The women’s team had never made it to a regional tournament, let alone advanced past the first round. It was an honor to be the first female tennis player to participate and share in such a grand event and milestone of HPU Tennis.

The last and finest moment for me was receiving the Yellow Jacket Award from then Assistant Coach, Sally Brown, now retired from coaching. She assumed the role of our head coach after Shane left midway through my junior year. Sally was a positive influence on our team and made a huge impact on the girls, reminding them to play tough, but to have fun, too. I remember her calling me into her office and then surprising me with a plaque engraved with my name and my playing years. It was truly an endearing moment I have never forgotten to this day.

I graduated with my Bachelors in Communication Studies with a minor in Public Relations. I only lost three singles matches my senior year. I racked up 10 conference awards over a four-year period. And I made history at HPU by being the first and only African-American female tennis player to hold the no. 1 spot all four years, while taking the Women’s Team to Regionals. Legacies are great, but eventually fade. Memories are better because they stay with the individual for a lifetime.

Some of my most prized possessions I have kept from HPU over the years: the tennis racquets I played with throughout college, my letterman jacket, the Yellow Jacket Award plaque, a towel given to me by a teammate and my framed degree.



Serena Named Sportsperson of the Year

Serena Williams has been named the 2015 SI Sportsperson of the Year, becoming the first active tennis player since Chris Evert in 1976 to earn the distinction. The annual award honors the athlete, team coach, or individual who, by virtue of performance and character on and off the field, transcended the year in sports.

Serena is the first active female athlete to win the award since the World Cup-winning US Women's National Team in 1999. She is the fourth tennis player to win the award. Billie Jean King was the first female winner in 1972, followed by Evert in 1976. Arthur Ashe was named Sportsman of the Year in 1994 for his post-career humanitarian efforts.

Read the full tribute by the esteemed S.L. Price here.



*By Linda Paulding
Tennis Professional/
Los Angeles, California*

All year Williams kept coming, on a path more arduous than anyone knew, and she put together the best season by a woman in a quarter century. "I do want to be known as the greatest ever," she says. To many she already is. But that's not the sole reason why we arrive, now, at this honor. It's also because Williams kept pushing herself to grow, to be better, and tennis was the least of it. The trying is what's impressive. The trying is why we are here.

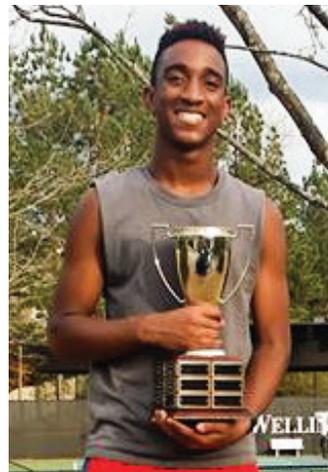
Sports Illustrated's Managing Editor Chris Stone sums it up here:

Sports Illustrated honors her dominance in 2015, when she won 53 of her 56 matches, three of the four Grand Slam events and built the most yawning ranking points gap between her and her closest competitor in tennis history. We honor her, too, for a career of excellence, her stranglehold on the game's No.1 ranking and her 21 Grand Slam titles, a total that has her on the brink of Steffi Graf's Open Era Slam record, which Williams will likely eclipse by mid-summer.

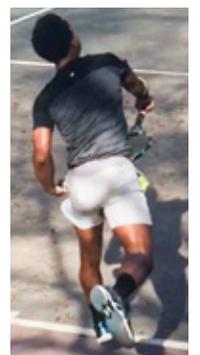
But we are honoring Serena Williams too for reasons that hang in the grayer, less comfortable ether, where issues such as race and femininity collide with the games. Race was used as a cudgel against Williams at Indian Wells in 2001, and she returned the blow with a 14-year self-exile from the tournament. She returned to Indian Wells in '15, a conciliator seeking to raise the level of discourse about hard questions, the hardest ones, really. Williams, S.L. Price writes in his cover story in the Dec. 21 issue, "proffered an open hand. Far past the time that anyone expected it, she demonstrated a capacity for change - innovation if you will. She's groping for answers and realizing she has much to learn.

A Timed Tournament

By Coach D...aka Desmond



L-r: Kimaya, Suchi 2, Franklin, and Gabe. Below left: Fall 2015 Champions; right: Jason's Serves 1, 2, and 3...



Serena Williams Honored at Star Studded Sports Illustrated Sportsperson of the Year Ceremony in NYC

Jack Nicklaus, Will Smith, Lonnie Ali, Venus Williams, Eddie George Among Attendees

New York, NY, December 15, 2015 – Sports Illustrated honored Serena Williams, presenting her with the Sportsperson of the Year Award at a ceremony in NYC. Williams accepted the award after emotional tributes from her mother and three sisters.

Touched, she talked about battling adversity from an early age and fighting through some of the most challenging physical obstacles of her career for a record year. She also spoke in depth about inspiring other women by winning this award even managed to respond to the American Pharoah fans, saying, “I’ve lived through tragedies and controversies and horses.”

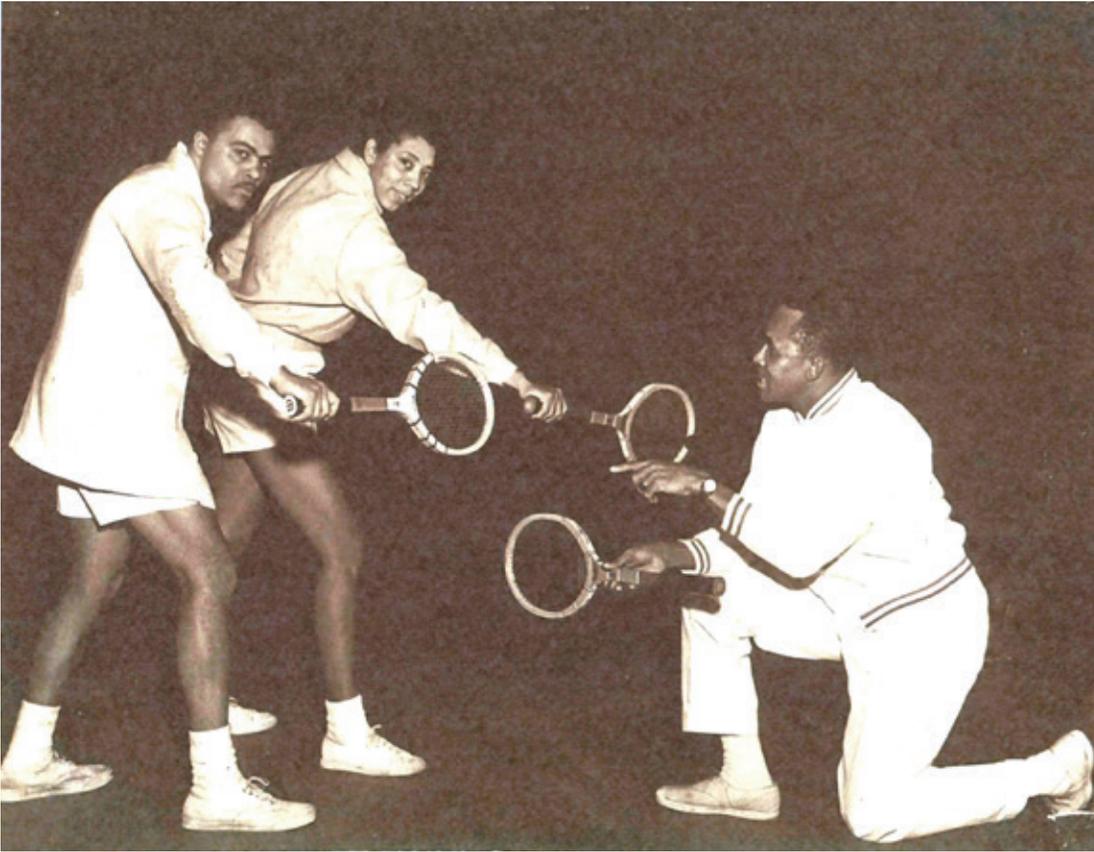
Select video from the evening for broadcast coverage of the SI Sportsperson of the Year Ceremony only (courtesy: Sports Illustrated), can be found at: <https://www.wavepost.net/eHKV/k>

The evening saw surprise guest Will Smith tribute the legacy of Muhammad Ali, with a raucous speech that included an impersonation of Ali and a heartfelt dedication to “The Greatest.” Smith was on hand as part of the first ever Muhammad Ali Legacy Award presentation to legendary golfer, Jack Nicklaus. Lonnie Ali presented the award to Nicklaus who spoke glowingly about Muhammad Ali and his own wife and family, the inspiration behind his philanthropic devotion to children. Nicklaus and Serena also appeared on stage together, with the celebrated golfer praising her work ethic and competitive drive.



Also honored was the 2015 SI Kids SportsKid of the Year and Olympic hopeful swimmer, Reece Whitley. During the ceremony, Whitley was called out by fellow Philadelphian Will Smith, who left the stage to give him a hug and said, “It’s me and him, and Rocky.”

Stealing the show was Hunter Gandlee, the SI High School Athlete of the Year Award who carried his younger brother to the stage and held him during his acceptance speech. His brother Braden suffers from Cerebral Palsy and Hunter was chosen by Sports Illustrated as a result of his dedication to raising awareness and bettering the lives of those suffering from the condition.



Billy Davis, left, with Althea Gibson, and her coach and spouse, Sydney Llewellyn.

Billy Davis Continues His Support Of Tennis...



American Tennis Association

Incorporated

WILBERT "BILL" DAVIS, President

2186 FIFTH AVENUE Apt. 10T NEW YORK, N. Y. 10037

October 24, 1977

Marcus Freeman, Jr.
Black Tennis
3548 Rio Grande
Dallas, Texas

Dear Mr. Freeman,

I've seen several issues of your tennis newsmagazine, and would like to compliment you on a fine publication. Your articles have much human interest and excitement, and the material quality is superb.

The A. T. A. as a national organization has restructured its development activities by coordinating our local club programs, and establishing the National Training Center in Houston, Texas. Our plans also call for having several prize money tournaments on our circuit, as well as a college scholarship program.

With these and many more programs for the future it is imperative that the A. T. A. improve our communications to our friends and members across the country. This of course, requires a communication vehicle to assemble local and national articles, consolidate and edit it, and finally to print and distribute it.

As I read your newsmagazine the thought occurred to me to contact you to explore any mutual interest in an involvement with the A. T. A. along these lines. Please contact me if you should have any interest in pursuing this further.

Respectfully Yours,
Bill Davis
Bill Davis, President

Billy Davis won 11 ATA National Titles spanning a period of more than 30 years. He was Althea Gibson's training partner and the road manager for her exhibition tour during the 1950's. Billy was a ballboy for the historic match between world champion Don Budge and Black champion Jimmie McDaniel.

Billy Davis had the privilege of not only watching Ashe, but of playing and beating him when he was 16. "But I never beat him again," says Davis. "I think in his final year of winning the ATA title, he only lost four games."

His connection with Black Tennis Magazine occurred when he was president of the American Tennis Association in 1977 as noted in the letter on the right.

By Romeo Stockett - drstockett@earthlink.net

Yasmine Osborn Manages USTA D and I Department...

Yasmine oversees all D&I department activities as it relates to diverse coaches and player identification & engagement, Excellence Program Grants, and Individual Player Grants. She will also serve as staff liaison to D&I tennis-related partners, including the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance, American Tennis Association, North American Indian Tennis Association, and Historically Black Colleges & Universities Tennis Championships.

Yasmine brings eleven years of USTA Section staff experience to the D&I department, serving as Diversity and NJTL Coordinator for the USTA Midwest Section and as Managing Director of Diversity, Grants and Community Development for the USTA Southern Section. In her most recent role at USTA Southern, Yasmine worked with nine district offices to promote Diversity and Inclusion initiatives, oversee the development of CTAs and NJTLs, manage Wheelchair programming, support Special Populations events and leagues, and administer grants and scholarships for the Section.



Yasmine earned her Master's degree in Sports Management from the University of Georgia and holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology from Northwest Missouri State University.

Please join me in welcoming Yasmine to the Diversity and Inclusion department.

D. A. Abrams, CAE
Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer United States Tennis Association

Cee Jai Jones Named USTA Southern Director of Diversity, NJTL and Grants

FORMERLY WORKED FOR ATLANTA YOUTH TENNIS & EDUCATION FOUNDATION
ATLANTA – December 2, 2015 – USTA Southern has named Cee Jai Jones as the association’s Director of Diversity, NJTL (National Junior Tennis and Learning) and Grants, USTA Southern Executive Director & COO John Callen announced today.

Jones, of Atlanta, joins USTA Southern after five years as Director of Community Outreach & Programs for the Atlanta Youth Tennis & Education Foundation. In that role she oversaw the management and operation of the more than 20 afterschool and summer programs, including the supervision of coaches and volunteers. Additionally, she developed strategic alliances with community leaders and local officials. Also, she was in charge of hosting programs like Play Days, sanctioned tournaments and Tennis Night in America events. She also wrote articles for Inside Tennis magazine.

The winner of numerous tennis awards including 2011 USTA Southern Mickey McNulty Family of the Year and USTA Southern NJTL Chapter of the Year, Jones has worked as an Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Metro Atlanta and Associate Producer of the MBC Network/Black Family Channel. Other positions include working as a Project Recruiter for Youth Connections and as a Recreation Operations Assistant for the Atlanta Department of Parks & Recreation.

“We are very pleased to add Cee Jai as a vitally important member of our staff. We know she will make great strides in furthering our mission to grow tennis as she takes on our new post of Director of Diversity, NJTL and Grants,” Callen said. “Her notable experience as a professional and



a volunteer in the areas of NJTL and Community Development will be a great asset for USTA Southern.”

Jones holds a Bachelor’s of Arts in Communication from Mercer University. Other honors she or her organizations have received include USTA Georgia NJTL Chapter of the Year, USTA Georgia Special Event of the Year and USTA Atlanta Member Organization of the Year.

Besides being an active tennis player, Jones has also volunteered as USTA Southern NJTL Committee Chairman, a member of the USTA Georgia Diversity Committee and a tournament official. She has also served as a volunteer at the following events: the BB&T Atlanta Open and the USTA’s Arthur Ashe Kids Day.

She is originally from South Carolina, played collegiate basketball while at Mercer University, and is the proud mother of one daughter, Khali, a recent graduate of Tuskegee University.



MID-TAC is wishing all of our Member Clubs and Players a Happy Holiday Season.

It is not too late to support our 6th Annual Junior Scholarship Holiday Raffle. See details at www.midtactennis.org. Also send requests to midtactennis@gmail.com or make donations year round on our website under the Donate tab.

Visit our website often @ www.midtactennis.org for the latest updates on the 60th Annual Championship Tournament!

Happy Holidays Everyone!

See you 4th of July weekend 2016 @ our 60th Annual Championship.

MID-TAC Executive Board

Sectional News-Southern...

FROM THE BASELINE

THE OFFICIAL MALIVAI WASHINGTON YOUTH FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



MALIVAI WASHINGTON
YOUTH FOUNDATION
SERVING HOPE | CHANGING LIVES

'Tis the Season...

Hooray for Holiday Angels! Get in on the Holiday Fun!

Now that all of our wonderful Holiday Angels have started dropping off gifts for our students, we are preparing to personally deliver the gifts to the doorsteps of the families. This is a very rewarding experience that we need delivery drivers for.



It all starts on December 21, 2015 at 8:00 am.

If you would like to volunteer to deliver gifts for our Holiday Angels Program, email Jasmine Lewis at Jasmine@malwashington.



Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive Recap

The 2015 Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive was a complete success. The time, effort and donations from all who contributed helped to provide food to over 100 families!

Families received several sacks full of holiday fixings along with a turkey. Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers who helped to make a way for MYWF families to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

Let's do it again next year!

Giving has never been so simple...If you plan to shop on Amazon, be sure to think of our students and click this link for AmazonSmile. With your support, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Malivai Washington Youth Foundation whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.





Just Six Weeks Until We Honor AstraZeneca, Coach Jean Desdunes, and NACA's Bruce Marks!



The Sportsmen's Tennis Ball is The Hottest Night of Boston's Long, Cold Winter!

Seats are going fast! Claim Your Table Now!



By Toni Wiley, Executive Director Sportsmen's Tennis & Enrichment Center

We Honor Sportsmen's Founding Principles...

As we celebrate, we honor organizations and individuals whose work mirrors the principles upon which Sportsmen's was founded.

AstraZeneca - Sportsmen's 2016 Community Builder Honoree

AstraZeneca will accept the 2016 Sportsmen's Community Builder Award. We will recognize their commitment to the health and wellness of Boston's inner city residents, as evidenced by the programs they offer at the Brigham and Women's Center for Community Wellness, Dorchester (CCW), housed at Sportsmen's. AstraZeneca's Population Health Manager is helping residents manage or avoid diabetes and hypertension, lose weight, stop smoking, eat well and live a healthier life.

Jean Desdunes - Sportsmen's 2016 Tennis Trailblazer Honoree

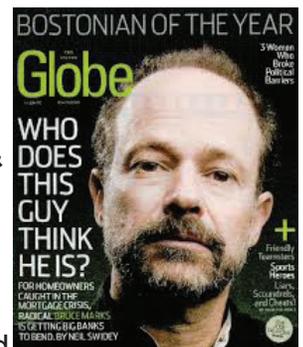
Coach Jean Desdunes, who was actually discovered by Arthur Ashe while playing tennis on a public court, will accept the 2016 Sportsmen's Tennis Trailblazer Award. He will share what it has meant to him to be able to use tennis as a vehicle to change lives as a USTA National Coach and through USTA Diversity & Inclusion initiatives.

Bruce Marks- Sportsmen's 2016 Distinguished Member Honoree

Bruce Marks, a long-time Sportsmen's member and founder of the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America, will accept the 2016 Sportsmen's Distinguished Member Award. We will join others around the country who recognize his commitment to fairness and equality in the mortgage industry. NACA offered the first of many home ownership workshops for 40 low-income prospective home-buyers in the CCW just this past weekend.

Contact Angela Johnson at ajohnson@sportsmenstennis.org, or Darlene Hayes at dhayes@sportsmenstennis.org to help us build an auction to remember!

Jean Desdunes - top; Bruce Marks - middle; and as always, the night will end with World Premier Band getting us all on the dance floor - adults and juniors alike!



Holiday Kids Tennis Event At The Park

Hello, Marcus!

My name is Anne Star and I am one of the organizers of the LaRhonda Amos Holiday Kids Tennis Event which was held last Saturday, December 5th at Harvard Tennis Park in the city of LA. We had a fantastic event with hundreds of kids attending along side with their parents, who enjoyed watching the fun!

Some of the best coaches from all over LA turned out to help the kids including Coach Marty Woods from Harvard Park, Mary Pat Faley from the Calabasas Tennis and Swim Center, and Coach Gerald Mathews from Team G.

The kids enjoyed a healthy lunch while listening to uplifting words from 4 time Olympic Gold medalist and recent Hall of Famer, Lisa Leslie-Lockwood, who encouraged them to work hard in school and play sports. Santa then showed up to play, "Hit for Prizes and Toys." Eight courts were strewn with hundreds of holiday wrapped gifts for the kids as they hit to win them. Lots of happy faces were all over the courts as each child won numerous gifts.

A very special thank you to Tennis Warehouse for their support to make the day great! All kids received a bright red Harvard Park Tennis t-shirt and many were given new sweatshirts, shoes and rackets because of their generosity.

Overall, it was a beautiful sunny day in LA with a lot of happy kids and families feeling the festive holiday vibe!

Marcus, I hope you can find room in Black Tennis Magazine to write about this event which grows every year. We continue to add sponsors. The more marketing we have out there, the better we can equip these inner-city kids.

Happy Holidays!

Anne Star



Lisa Leslie-Lockwood, 4X Olympic Champion and Hall of Famer with her daughter Lauren. Lisa gave the kids an uplifting talk during lunch. Jonathan Star and Gibson Parker, below, help young kids with their serves on the court!



A Special Tribute To Wallace “Doug” Smith

By Rod Steele

“They were captured, which proves that no matter who you are, there will be problems, but they used Faith, Praise, and Prayer to God to get them out of the situation.”

Rev. Clay and Doug met at Glendale Park, located in the Singing Hills section of Oak Cliff Dallas, where they lived, and would join 16 other players daily to play tennis. “Doug was a very caring person who opened up his home to everyone, provided food, and drinks. He is just an overall good person, and a workaholic.”

Doug was born May 11, 1942, in Sunny South Dallas, Texas. He attended H.S. Thompson Elementary School, and then went to Lincoln High School where he graduated in 1961. He was an outstanding baseball player in high school, married at 19, had four kids, and worked at Texas Instruments. His real tennis started when he was 21 years old at College Park in Oak Cliff Dallas where he met Charles Ross. They became hitting partners, later joined by Raymond Henderson, and with several other players moved to Lake Cliff Park where the 40-Love Club was founded.

Bert Milliner, a long-time friend of Doug, on and off-the-court, summarized it all, “He shows unity, camaraderie, and love for his fellow man, not just on the court, but at church, in the community, and in fellowship. He is very good on organizing tennis-related events. He is a quality person who shows a lot of love for everyone in his life and those connected to him, on and off-the-court.” These qualities have been displayed in the past several years since becoming the Director of the Annual 40-Love Tennis Classic. Today at age 73, he is still one of the best doubles players in his age group.



“It was really rewarding, and a surprise to some degree, to receive this recognition on Sunday morning, November 29, 2015, at the Church Services of Rev. W.J. Atkins with so many of my family, friends, and tennis buddies in the audience,” were Wallace Douglas (Doug) Smith’s comments after the ceremony.

Rev. James Clay, a long-time tennis acquaintance of Doug for 25 years, delivered an inspiring message, entitled, How To Handle A Midnight Situation, where he cited Acts 16-25, that talked about Paul and Silas.



Doug pays a special to Raymond - top; Raymond enjoys the moment with Doug - left; and Rod Steele with Doug as Doubles Champs...



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Arthur Ashe vs Jimmy Connors: The Attraction of Opposites

Forty years on, the 1975 Wimbledon men's final remains an iconic showdown: young v old, brat v gentleman, black v white. Paul Newman retells one of the most compelling stories in the history of tennis.

By
Paul Newman |@PaulN54 |
Saturday 20 June 2015

There have been greater Wimbledon finals, many of them less one-sided and with appreciably more twists and turns, but for those who witnessed it there has surely never been a more extraordinary and bewitching encounter than the 1975 showdown between Arthur Ashe and Jimmy Connors. Forty years on, their final remains a lesson in how sporting encounters can be won in the head just as much as on the field of play.

Ashe's brilliant tactical triumph over the outstanding player of the day would have been memorable just for the tennis that was played, but it was so much more than that. It was a victory for age over youth (at 22, Connors was nine years younger than Ashe) and a day when one of the great gentlemen of tennis finally got the better of one of its most outspoken brats.

The underdog's 6-1 6-1 5-7 6-4 win was also seen as a victory for Ashe's patriotism over Connors' pursuit of wealth, while on a political level it was viewed as a triumph for those seeking to build a unified structure that could benefit everyone in the new world of professional tennis over an individual who relished standing alone from the rest.

All of that was without the obvious matter of race.



Arthur Ashe and Jimmy Connors after the 1975 Wimbledon final...
Getty Images

Ashe, the first black player ever to represent the United States in the Davis Cup, remains to this day the only black man to have won Wimbledon.

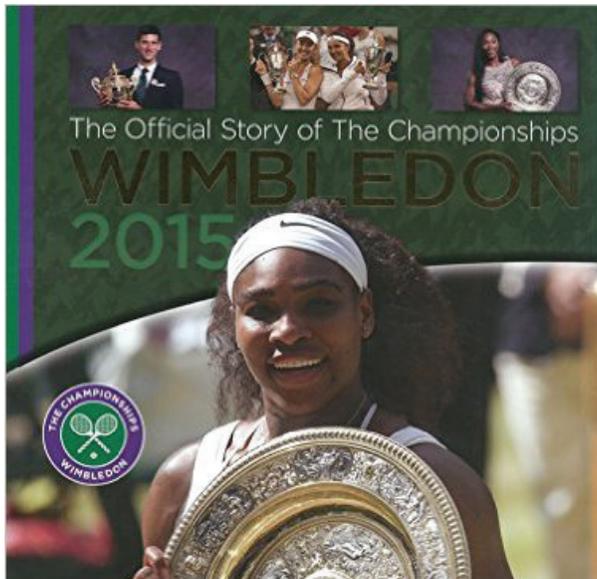
For all the differences between the two men, nevertheless, there were similarities in their life stories, as the respected American journalist Peter Bodo describes in an illuminating new book. While neither came from affluent backgrounds, their families were not poor. Both grew up under the strong influence of a single parent: Ashe's mother died when he was six, while Connors' mother, Gloria, dominated his early life.

Ashe was brought up in Richmond, Virginia. He was a sickly child but had an aptitude for sport, with skills particularly suited to tennis, although it was not a popular sport within the black community.

A summary of basic information regarding Arthur Ashe and Jimmy Connors.

Wimbledon 2015: THE OFFICIAL STORY OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Paul Newman (Author)



Wimbledon 2015: The Official Story of The Championships is the evocative and beautifully illustrated re-telling of another glorious fortnight of tennis at the All England Club.

Written by The Independent's tennis correspondent, Paul Newman, and put together by a team based at Wimbledon for the duration of The Championships, Wimbledon 2015 grants the reader exclusive insider access to the tournament with interviews and analysis, opinion and quotes from the stars of the show.

In addition, the book is packed with stunning photography taken by some of the world's best tennis photographers

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