

Reading Between the Lines **A's & Aces Newsletter - June 2018**

4 All-Summer Camps in Full Swing

Our 3 A's & Aces Literacy & Tennis Camps have nearly 100 campers ages 10 & under, most ages 6-8, hosted at Dillard University, the Joe Brown Tennis Center and the Atkinson-Stern Tennis Center.



The New Orleans Public Library stocks the mini-libraries at each of our Literacy & Tennis Camps

Our tennis coaches use Red Ball and Orange Ball formats, the official USTA 8/10 & U methods, to develop campers' skills. Most our 10 & under campers were introduced to A's & Aces through our daily in-school programs during PE classes and/or through our Saturday clinics that are held throughout the school-year. Many of these campers are now rallying, and will soon be playing their first USTA tournament - one of our five 2018 sanctioned events hosted in partnership with NORD.



Our JB coaches include, Jacoby Pettway (an A's & Aces participant since 2008), and two Tulane medical students (Yichi Zhang & Joshua Pincus) who are serving a year with us as part of a combined BS/MD degree program.

Young campers who demonstrate high interest in the curricula may receive invitations for a limited number of openings in our year-round Pathway to College program and summer Tournament Training Camp.

Three 10& U Literacy & Tennis Camps

The camps are staffed with teachers in the classrooms who are supported by Tulane Wave Corps and other college students. Our goals include preventing "summer learning loss" and helping students begin the school year reading at grade level.



Our Atkinson-Stern Tennis Center Classroom

Our focus is reading & writing in the classrooms . . .



Mrs. Simmons, a certified elementary school teacher, runs our **Dillard University** Classroom again this summer.

NORD camps also have weekly swimming, planned library field trips, and team tennis competitions at Dillard and UNO.



"Strategic Thoughts" is a chess program provided by NORD in our **Joe Brown Park TC** camp Classroom. Our Lake Forest Elementary School PE friend, Coach Colbert, is the Chess Coach.

.... and progressively learning on the courts.

Tennis is introduced to beginners through 7 "Toss Tennis" progressions, then through 17 "Racket" stages, all with the goal of learning to rally with consistency...



by first developing eye-hand skills, then progressively...



practicing COOPERATIVE tossing and catching (photo at **Dillard**)...



then, learning the court (lines, movement, scoring, etc.),
through COMPETITIVE Toss Tennis (photo at **Joe Brown**)...



and, by earning their rackets and learning to use them (photo at **ASTC**).

A major goal is for all campers to learn to rally consistently with a forehand. This is the stage when they can play matches, and many become year-round players.

Tournament Training Camp



Eighteen tournament training players attend the A's & Aces Tournament Training Camp at the University of New Orleans. The Camp is led by our Tennis Director, Coach A.J Varnado, who is assisted by Alan Miller (a student at the University of Notre Dame) and William Schumacher (a paramedic, Tulane University graduate student and former tennis team student-athlete at the University of San Francisco).

Several A's & Aces year-round Tournament Training players competed in the Louisiana State Qualifying Championships and, for some, their results earned entry into the Southern Closed Championships.

Southern Closed BG 10s Championship - West

Three of the five players from New Orleans who competed in the Southern Closed 10 & U Championship -West (**Zoe Dupaty**, **Eadan Waters** and **Cody Martinez**) are A's & Aces year-round participants. Zoe reached the quarterfinals of the singles and finished 6th, and the doubles team of Eadan and Zoe reached the semi-finals, finishing 4th.



Eadan & Zoe



Cody

Southern Closed BG 12s Championship

Southern Closed BG 12's Championship was played in Cary, North Carolina. Of the 293 participants, 6 were from New Orleans and two are year-round A's & Aces participants; **Teah Johnson** and **Jordan Mitchell**.



Teah Johnson



Jordan Mitchell

Teah won 3 of her 5 singles matches, and Jordan was victorious in 1 of his 3 matches.

Crockens Conquers Morgan City 16s

While winning the boys 16s division of the Morgan City Junior Open, a Level 5 tournament, Nick Crockens won 3 matches while losing only 2 games during the tournament.



Nickolas Crockens

A's & Aces-NORD Host One-Day USTA Tournaments in June and July

The A's & Aces and NORD are partnering to host two "one-day" USTA sanctioned tournaments this summer; the A's & Aces - NORD Crescent City Summer Jr. Open (Wednesday June 27) and the A's & Aces - NORD Summer Jr. Open will be held on Wednesday July 25. Both events will have 8, 10 & 12 & Under singles draws for boys and girls, and both reserve the next day for matches in case of rain. The tournaments will be based at the NORD's Joe Brown Park Tennis Center.

Click [here](#) to register for the June 27 Crescent City Summer Jr. Open tournament.

Click [here](#) to register for the July 25 New Orleans Summer Jr. Open tournament.

USTA Level 5 Divisions (WITH ranking points)-
12 & Under Boys' & Girls' Singles - Yellow Ball format
10 & U Green Level 1 Boys' & Girls' Singles
10 & U Orange Level 1 Boys' & Girls' Singles
10 & U Orange Level 2 Boys' & Girls' Singles



USTA Level 6 Divisions (WITHOUT ranking points)-
12 & U Boys' & Girls' Singles- Green Ball format
8 & U Boys' & Girls' Singles- Red Ball format

