



A's & Aces "Reading Between the Lines"

September 2009

Welcome to the A's & Aces' E-Newsletter,

In its first year, A's & Aces made significant progress on many levels. During 2008-2009, about 350 children in four public schools were introduced to tennis and received academic support, and over 500 children attended our NORD summer camps. All of this has been made possible through the tremendous support of the community. A's & Aces would like to thank all staff, volunteers, sponsors, donors, and community partners who are helping to improve the lives of New Orleans public school children. Now, we have more exciting news that we would like to share with you.

USTA/First Serve Select A's & Aces

A's & Aces has been selected as a First Serve Chapter-In-Development. First Serve is a national organization and has 16 chapters throughout the U.S. It partners with the USTA and is supported by the WTA and ATP.

The First Serve Life Skills curriculum is widely recognized and now A's & Aces is combining this programming with academic support and QuickStart tennis at two sites. About 50 underserved 3rd and 4th grade children are participating and will create QuickStart school teams. During the first year, children will participate in the so-called "Game" level, graduating to the "Set" and finally "Match" levels. Each level introduces key life skills, such as being a team player, understanding rules, improving study skills, setting personal goals, among others.



A's & Aces First Serve QuickStart Player at Hynes School

As First Serve participants matriculate, they can earn college scholarships through a national competition with other chapters by scoring points in tournaments and, primarily, with high marks on their school report cards.

October 16-18, 2009

**One Weekend; Two Fun-raising Events
Join us at one or both and help a great cause!**

Combo Doubles Team Tournament

at University Tennis Center of New Orleans
6+ players per team
women's 5.5, 6.5, 7.5 & 8.5 team draws
men's 6.5, 7.5 & 8.5 team draws

**Beer & Food by Elio's Wine Warehouse,
Martin's Wine Cellar, Pigeon Caterers,
Papa John's & Langenstein's**

Friday: party, raffle & *Tennis Shop of Metairie* fashion show

Saturday: breakfast & lunch; **Sunday:** brunch

Entry Fee: \$75.00/person - Deadline: October 9, 2009

[Click here for more tournament info & entry form](#)

2nd Annual A's & Aces Charity Gala

**Saturday October 17th, 7:00PM-10:00PM
at Generations Hall**

Food, open bar, music, dancing and silent auction

Fine food by: Andrea's, Antoine's, Bacco, Atchafalaya, Drago's, 5 Fifty 5, Houston's, La Cote Brasserie, La Thai, N. O. Hamburger & Seafood & Vincent's Italian Cuisine

Silent auction items include: Gulf Coast vacation, art, tennis items, lessons & camps, golf passes, amusement park passes, sports tickets and autographed memorabilia, professional services, antiques, etc.

Admission \$100/person

(\$75 for Tournament participants)

[Click here for a reservation form](#)

Programs Resume at Four Schools

After providing seven weeks of QuickStart tennis instruction and life skills to over 500 NORD summer campers age 5-10 in small groups concurrently at two sites, A's & Aces has resumed programming at **Arthur Ashe Charter, Milestone SABIS Academy, Edward Hynes Charter, and Lafayette Academy.**

A staff of twelve site directors and instructors will be assisted by about 50 Tulane service-learners and others from Loyola and high schools. "The passion and commitment that these tennis coaches and educators bring to the children is what makes A's & Aces work ", says **David Schumacher**, who is responsible for the overall programming.



First Day at Arthur Ashe

A's & Aces Welcomes New Staff

A's & Aces is pleased to add new staff members to teach valuable life skills and tennis to children at the four sites. Xavier Men's & Women's Tennis Head Coach, **Alan Green**, is directing programming for 200 Lafayette Academy 2nd & 3rd graders with his two former student-athletes, **Matt Walker** and **Vusi Kempele**. Arthur Ashe Charter School 1st and 2nd graders will be taught by **Julianne LeBlanc, Mary Price Dunbar, Susan Neely, Kaya Koban, Matt** and **Vusi**.

Site Director **Steve Lindsley**, together with Matt, Vusi, **Lori Ochsner, Kathy Bernstein, Alexcia Plummer,** and **Brendan Gonzalez** are implementing the First Serve curriculum at Edward Hynes and Milestone SABIS schools.



A's & Aces' "First Serve" Staff

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