



Reading Between the Lines



A's & Aces Newsletter - 2018 Summer in Review

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Greetings!

As you will see, our summer has been very busy!

Over 130 student-athletes attended one of our 4 two-month camps: three 10 & U Literacy & Tennis camps (at Dillard University, Atkinson-Stern and Joe Brown Tennis Center), and our Tournament Training Camp at UNO. Campers experienced multiple field trips (to public libraries, to swim, and for team matches and campus tours at Dillard and UNO), learned to play chess, entered their compositions in the **National Junior Tennis & Learning Essay Contest**, 6 players competed in the NJTL 10 & U Excellence Teams Cup in College Park, MD, and 3 boys traveled to the NJTL Leadership Camp in Birmingham. A's & Aces hosted USTA sanctioned tournaments in both June and July. Meanwhile, "Coach Josh" is off to Tulane Med School after a year of service with A's & Aces, and 2 new staff are beginning their year of service with us before joining Josh next year.

Can you Return and Serve?

Are unused tennis items cluttering a closet or do you have gently used tennis clothes that are no longer worn?

Any trophies (any sport) in the attic?

A's & Aces welcomes hand-me-down rackets, trophies, shoes, clothes, bags, etc. Please consider an in kind donation to the A's & Aces recycle program, "Return and Serve".



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2018 USTA Excellence Teams Cup

The A's & Aces 10 & Under Excellence Team ("Team McNulty") traveled to College Park, MD in July to compete and learn with 11 other USTA National Junior Tennis & Learning teams selected from across the country. Competitions featured matches, a Relay Race, and academic activities (essay contest, spelling bees and a monuments quiz). In tennis A's & Aces defeated Chicago and Dallas, while losing closely to two NYC teams (#4 Harlem & #5 Bronx) and #3 Boston. The A's & Aces Team placed 2nd in Sportsmanship while Teah was recognized for the top Essay submission. Our team finished 8th overall!

Activities for coaches and parents included Coaching Education and Parent Sessions presented by USTA coaches and other experts (including Navigating the Junior Tennis Pathway, Compete like a Champion Parent), sightseeing/monuments tour, and attending a Professional Team Tennis match (Philadelphia Freedoms at Washington Kastles).

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Quick Links

This is the third consecutive year that A's & Aces has participated in this USTA Foundation sponsored event. The other 2018 teams are from: Las Vegas, NV, Laurel, MD, Minneapolis, MN, Atlanta, GA, College Park, MD, Dorchester, MA, and Philadelphia, PA.

A's & Aces at the 2018 Regional NJTL Tennis & Leadership Camp



Bryce, Chris & James at Samford University

The 2018 Regional NJTL Tennis & Leadership Camp was held in Birmingham, AL (July 19-22). Eight Southern section NJTL chapters with 3 student-athletes spent 4 days at Samford University. The experience included tennis (drills and shootouts), team-building activities, a guided field trip to Sloss Furnace (the only blast furnace in the U.S. to be designated a National Historic Landmark), Community Service Leadership Exercises, a Civil Rights Museum/16th Street Baptist Church Guided Tour, and a UAB field trip that included swimming and other activities. **Special thanks to the STA for making this event possible!**

Two A's & Aces-NORD USTA-Sanctioned Summer Tournaments

This summer we hosted two USTA tournaments to provide many of our younger campers with competitive opportunities. Both events were dominated by our players, earning ranking points and gaining valuable experience. Over 40 players competed in each tournament, in divisions 8's-12's. June 25th event featured a total of 46 competitors in just 3 age groups (12s, 10s and 8 & Under boys and girls). Other than 5 players, all were A's & Aces participants.



Boys 12s: Elijah (2nd) & Gabriel (1st)



Girls 12s: Lea (3rd) & Eadan (1st)



Student-Athlete Dylan (10s 1st place)

June event singles Winners (all A's & Aces participants!):

Girls 8s Red Ball at Joe Brown - Ja'Ron Brown
Girls 8s Red Ball at Atkinson-Stern- Kandance Kent
Girls 10s Orange Ball (Level II) - Ella Perry
Girls 12s Green Ball - Eadan Waters
Girls 12s Yellow Ball - Ava Waller

Boys 8s Red Ball at Joe Brown - Quintis Triggs
Boys 8s Red Ball at Atkinson-Stern - Aidan Love
Boys 10s Orange Ball (Level I) - Dillan LaFrance
Boys 10s Orange Ball (Level II) - Dylan Cain
Boys 12s Yellow Ball - Gabriel Pizzolatto

Chase "Return the Serve" Day



On July 13th, A's & Aces campers across 3 sites came together at Joe Brown Park for a tennis "Fun Day" in celebration of \$15,000 allocated by USTA from Chase Bank.



A Nutrition Lesson



Red Ball Tennis Stations with Prize Court in Foreground

4 Camps Wrap Up: Special THANK you to all summer coaches & teachers



Coaches Jacoby, Yichi & Josh (top L to R) on court with players at our Literacy & Tennis Camp at Joe Brown Park



Coaches Bill, Chris, Kaylan & Brian (L to R) worked with 40+ Literacy & Tennis campers ages 6-10 on the courts at Dillard

"Coach Jacoby" & "Coach Chris" were introduced to tennis in the program and have participated since 2008. They are now members of our first 'Workforce Development' cohort.



Coaches Alicia and Eddie (L to R) were assisted by Tulane Wave Corp members at Atkinson-Stern Tennis Center



Mrs. Simmons in charge of the classroom at Dillard

Tulane Accelerated Physician Training Program: Coach Josh Heads to Med School, while Jenna & Yichi Begin their Year of Service

Through the Tulane Accelerated Physician Training Program (**TAP-TP**), Tulane's School of Medicine allows students earn a combined bachelor's degree and MD in 7 years. Students spend 2 years completing work toward their undergraduate degree, followed by a year working with a community organization before beginning medical school. The program emphasizes the art of medicine as well as a commitment to service for these future doctors. "We think we can teach people the science of medicine," says the senior associate Dean for admissions at Tulane University School of Medicine. "What's harder to teach is the humanity. It's hard to teach empathy."

Josh Pincus came from Florida to enter TAP-TP. Following two years of undergraduate studies, he began serving with A's & Aces in the summer of 2017 and has now completed the year. He brought experience tutoring high school and college students in Biology, Physics, Algebra, Calculus, World History, General Chemistry, Calculus, and a great attitude and the desire to help our kids wherever needed.



Josh Pincus (Tulane University School of Medicine Magazine, Spring 2018 photo)

Josh worked in public schools all over the parish, doing in-school tennis programming with our coaches in PE classes, after-school at Dillard, Saturday clinics, holiday camps, and coaching Red Ball tennis at our Joe Brown Park Camp this summer. "The kids I get to work with every day are inspiring and very bright," Josh says. "I am proud of them for the improvement they have made on the tennis court and in the classroom." The lessons Josh learned during his year of service will follow him into medical school.

As Josh now enters medical school, A's & Aces is fortunate to have **Jenna Ransom** and **Yichi Zhang** now come on board! We are honored that two of the three Tulane sophomores admitted to the seven-year accelerated physician program this year chose to serve with A's & Aces.



Jenna is a Californian with interests and experience in soccer (a Tulane Soccer Club member), nutrition and cooking healthy meals (a Tulane Veggie Club member), glassblowing, and tutoring.

Yichi learned to play tennis in his native China, and as a member of the Georgetown Prep Club team from 2012-16, he competed in US tournaments. He is a certified Emergency Medical Technician, and among many other interests (e.g., astronomy) and experiences, he has tutored HS students, taught environmental preservation, and traveled to China to teach Tibetan children English and Western culture.

Since 2013, 6 Tulane University School of Medicine students in TAP-TP have chosen to spend their service year working with A's & Aces in our office, classrooms, and on the courts.