



A's & Aces



2023: Year in Review

2023 by numbers:

- year-round programming: 52 weeks of activities
- summer camps for 92 children, before/after care, free breakfast and lunch, enrichment
- Field trips, special events and activities
- 12 USTA-sanctioned tournaments (yellow, green, orange ball formats)
- 12 Team Challenges
- trips to ATA National Championship in Orlando and STA NJTL Leadership Camp in S. Carolina
- Awards: 2023 LTA and STA NJTL Chapter of the Year and LTA Nehemiah Atkinson Diversity Champion Award winner



Year-round programming:

- after-school program
- Saturday clinics
- summer & holiday camps
- tournaments & special events



- 352 participants

- **children ages 5-18**, from Orleans Parish and the greater New Orleans area
- **1000+ tennis programming hours**
- **300+ academic hours**



14 instructors: lead tennis coaches (USPTA certified, former division I university coaches/players, high performance coach) and certified teachers in the classroom supported by AmeriCorps members/fellows

84 volunteers: 1,710 hours served



Career Development & Leadership Program: WaveCorps members, Dr. James Ewers Fellows, Tennis Interns

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING AND SATURDAY CLINICS

5 SESSIONS A WEEK DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR, AT JOE BROWN TENNIS CENTER (NORDC)



A pathway from beginner level to high performance: from red ball to orange, green, and yellow ball level competition

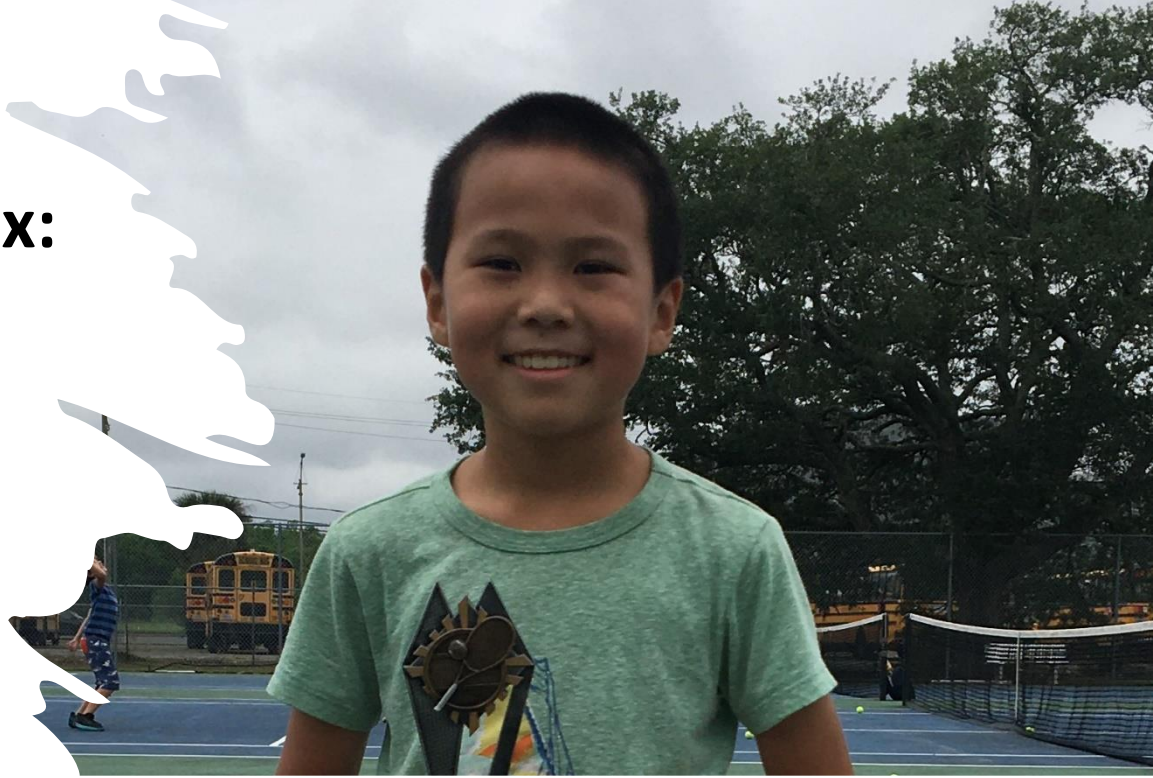
Spring competition for
yellow ball: two USTA-
sanctioned (level 6)
tournaments
(March and April)

All tournaments are hosted at Joe Brown
Tennis Center in partnership with NORDC



USTA Junior Grand Prix:

Hosted sanctioned
orange and green ball
10&U tournaments
in the spring



Winter Classic
(Orange Ball) and
(Green) Easter Bowl



ALL GIRLS CLINIC PRESENTED BY **A'S & ACES**

Several players joined us in April for a **high-performance training session** designed for high-school age **female tennis players**.



In partnership with Friends of Joe W. Brown Memorial Park and NORDC, we watched '*King Richard*' as part of Movies in the Park series.



 **MOVIES IN THE PARK** 

Hosted by Friends of Joe W. Brown Park
in partnership with
New Orleans East Matters, A's & Aces, and New Orleans Business & Professional Women's Club

COMING SOON
FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023

6:30 P.M. *TENNIS COURT AREA*
(PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES) (*In case of rain, movie will be shown in the Joe W. Brown Park Gym *)

7:00 P.M.
(MOVIE BEGINS)

**Attendance Registration and
More Information Contact:**

Tangee Wall - 504-427-2596
fojwbpark@aol.com

Concessions will be Sold! Bring Blankets, Chairs, & Bug Spray!

May: National Tennis Month

A's & Aces hosted several family-oriented events as part of the National Tennis Month activities



Tennis Cardio Sessions

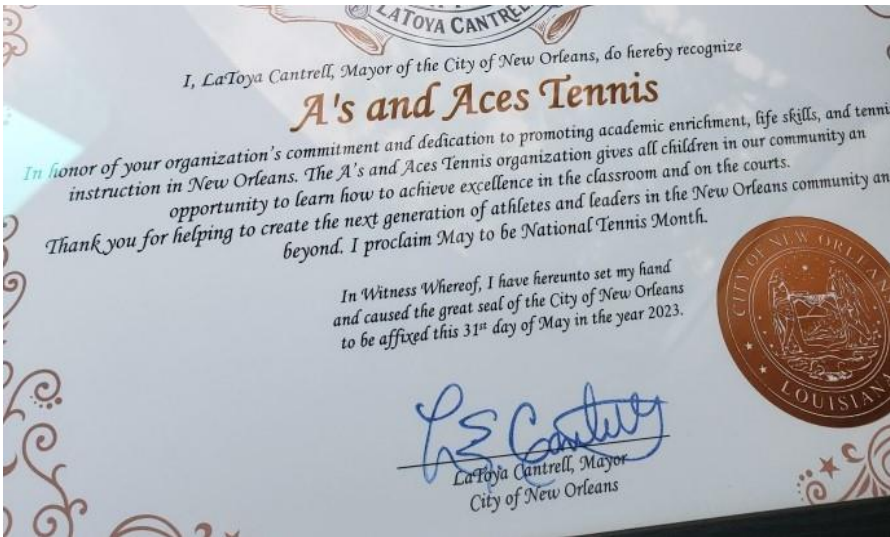


National Tennis Month:

**Family Play Day - bringing the
whole family to the courts**



Mayor Cantrell proclaimed May to be National Tennis Month



Dr. Ewers, A's & Aces Vice-President, accepted the Proclamation from the Mayor

Tournament Training Academy, at Joe Brown Tennis Center (yellow ball format)

Children ages 8-17 participated in an academy-style training during the summer and the school year to prepare for competitive play.



2023 A's & Aces – NORDC Tennis & Literacy Summer Camps

- Two campsites for ages 6-10:
Joe Brown Tennis Center and
Atkinson-Stern Tennis Center
- red and orange ball formats
- total of 71 children
- free breakfast and lunch
- before and after care options
- field trips





Summer means participating in literacy activities:

- Writing & essay composition
- Reading comprehension
- Story telling
- Literacy games
- Book distributions



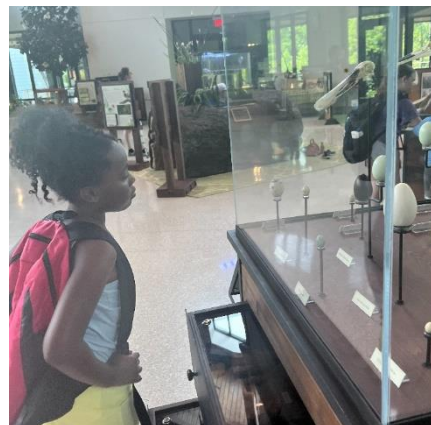
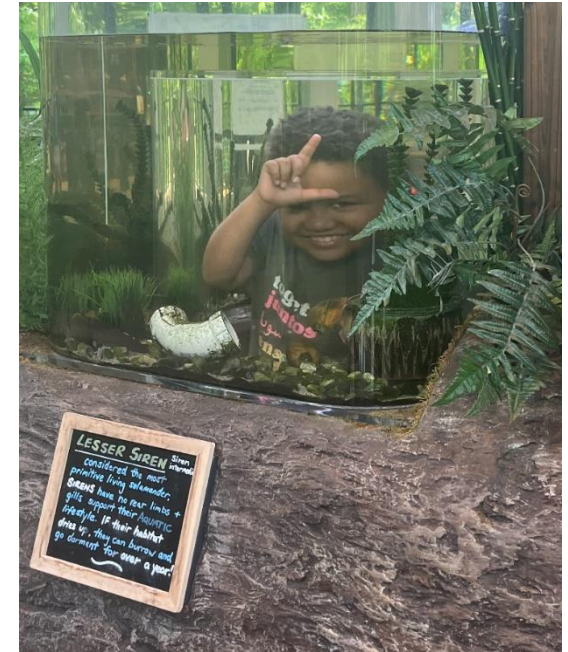
Special enrichment activities during the summer months:

- emotional intelligence with CADA
- financial literacy with Junior Achievement curricula
- dance workouts with LYFE of Dance, and Passion Dance
- chess sessions
- nutrition sessions with LSU Ag Center



Field Trips

ZOO, Library,
Audubon
Nature Center



More summer
fun in Storyland
(City Park)
and Children's
Museum





More outdoor explorations:
Canoeing with NORDC Outdoors

True Sport Day in June

A's & Aces TrueSport Day in partnership with U.S. Anti-Doping Agency and their TrueSport Program: we spent an amazing day with a TrueSport Ambassador, Amobi Okugo, professional soccer player, who visited our programs. We engaged in teamwork and leadership activities while working on our agility and footwork.



2023 Southern Tennis Association NJTL Leadership Camp in Columbia, South Carolina

Two A's & Aces scholars, Prateek and Matison, participated in the camp, that included a tour of the SC State house, visit to Benedict College, Columbia Fireflies Baseball Game, tennis drills and competition, a PTR assistant coach training, and much more.



3rd Annual NJTL Juneteenth Heritage Quiz Bowl presented by the Southern Tennis Association



In 2023 the quiz bowl was hosted in-person during the NJTL Leadership Camp. Matison of A's & Aces represented a team that placed second.

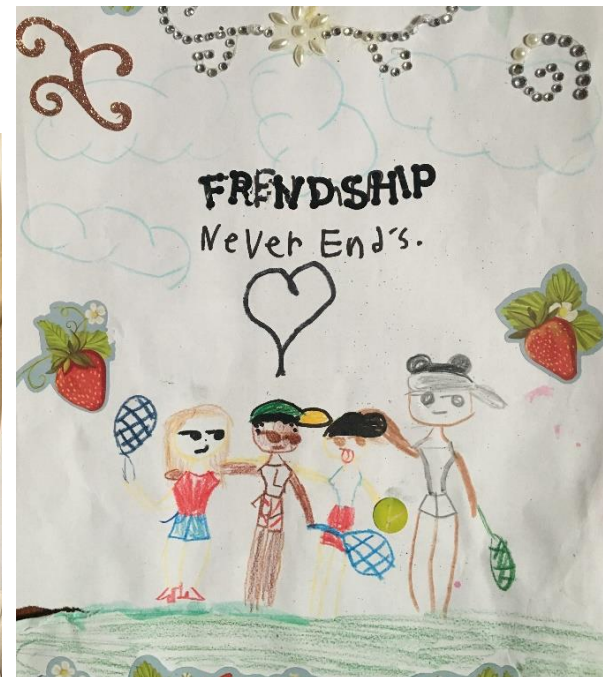
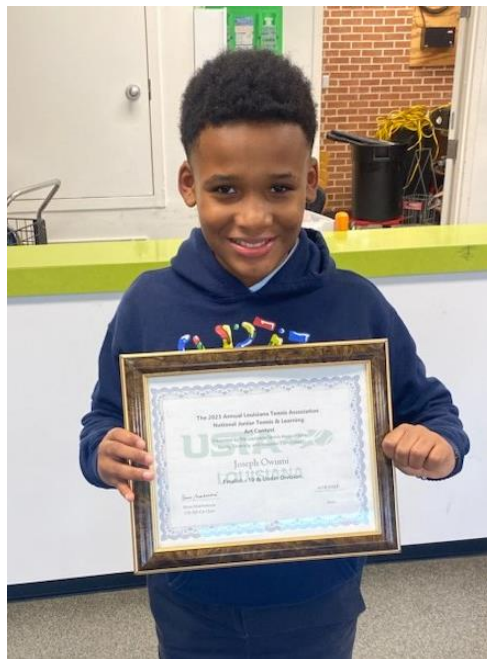


2023 ATA National Championship

Quinn, one of top A's & Aces scholar-athletes, participated in the ATA National Championship in Orlando, at the USTA National Campus, in July. He finished second in the boys 10 & Under division.

2023 LTA NJTL Art Contest presented by the LTA's EDI Committee

The inaugural LTA NJTL Art contest had 53 submissions from A's & Aces summer camp participants. We had winners in the 8&Under, 10&Under, and 12&Under divisions, as well as finalists.



A's & Aces'
After-School
Program
launched at
Atkinson-
Stern Tennis
Center in the
fall of 2023



Tennis FUNdamentals at Fannie C. Williams Charter School



Individualized tutoring

Students have the option to participate in either in-person or virtual one-on-one tutoring with Tulane student volunteers





Dr. James W. Ewers Jr. Fellowship Program:
Our 'Junior' inaugural cohort started in summer 2023



USTA Junior Circuit: Green Ball Tournaments

Fall Classic in September and Halloween Bowl in October

Fall Tennis Event: Czech-American Tennis Day



USTA Junior Circuit: Orange Ball Tournament Fall Classic in October



Coach Kenny has been donating his time for years as a USTA certified referee

Lights on Afterschool

In October we celebrated Lights on Afterschool with a special cardio tennis session.





**We hosted 12 USTA Team Challenges
for younger participants**



Fall Tennis Event: Balls for the Paws

Our Dr. Ewers Junior Fellow lead a session on animal welfare and animal shelters. We also donated our used balls, collected towels and some doggy toys, and brought them to a local shelter Zeus' Place.





Fall Tennis Event: Halloween Clinic

3rd Henry Friedler Memorial Open



In November we
hosted our 3rd Henry
Friedler Memorial
Open honoring Coach
Henry: green and
orange ball divisions.





ITF World Tennis Number Tournament

In December we hosted an ITF World Tennis Number tournament for both yellow and green ball players

USTA Junior Grand Prix: Winter Blast in December

green and orange
ball divisions

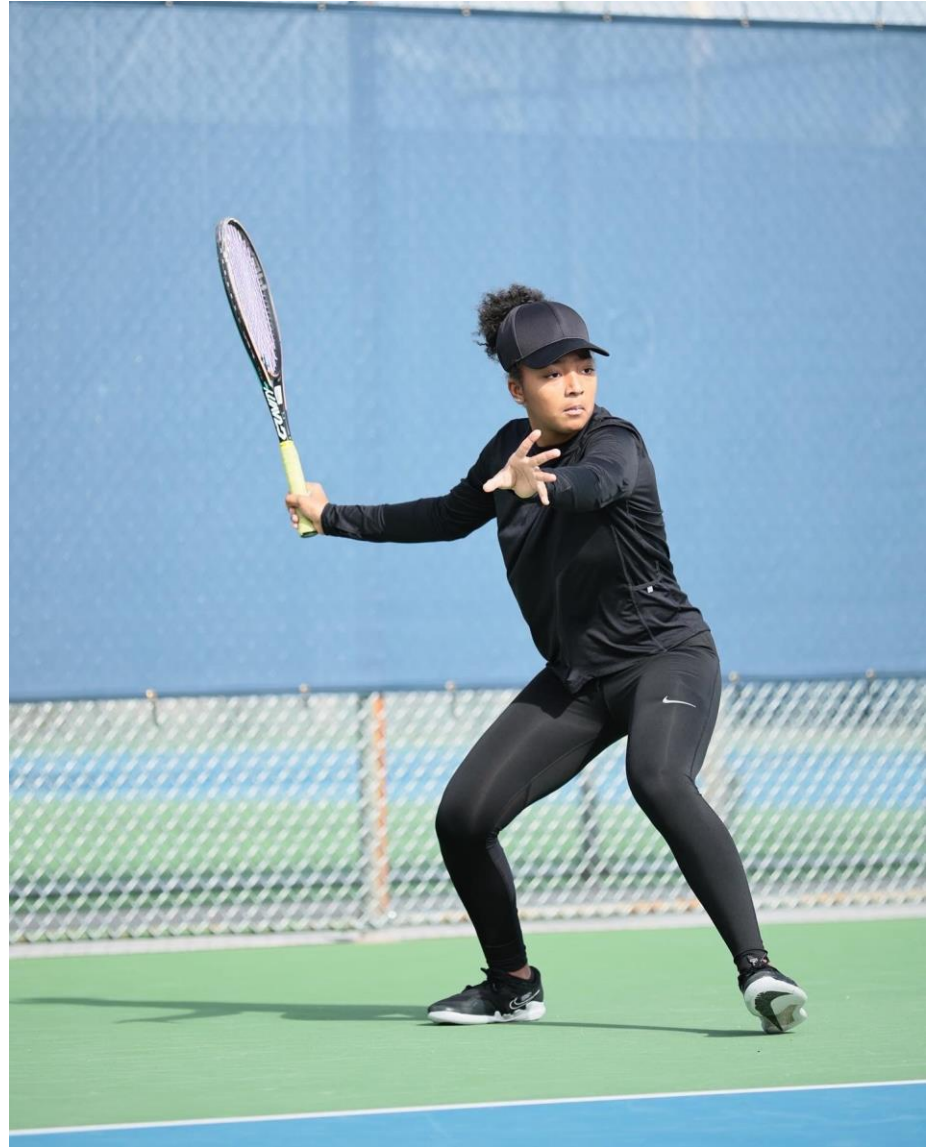




Youth Leadership Impact: New Orleans East Play Day

High School Project presented by our Dr. Ewers Junior Fellow, Matison

Louisiana Tennis Association Player of the Month: Eadan Waters



Special Holiday Mini- Camps

Mardi Gras camp
Thanksgiving camp
Winter camp



**Holiday gift cards
were donated by
Fore!Kids/Zurich
Classic**



Professional Staff: Certified Teachers and Coaches



Mrs. Simmons: decades of teaching experience in elementary school settings



Coach AJ Varnado: USPTA Elite Pro, PTR Professional, and a High-Performance certified coach

- 4 USPTA Certified Coaches, including a High-Performance certified coach and 3 'Elite pros'
- a certified elementary teacher to lead summer classroom
- former college and high school coaches, former and current college players



Jude (University of Houston) and Ethan (Posse Scholar at Notre Dame): former A's & Aces participants worked as AmeriCorps members in the summer



Coach Andrea, a PhD candidate at Tulane, led one of the classrooms this summer



Coach Myriam, aspiring young teacher, led our summer camp as well as after-school program at Atkinson-Stern Tennis Center

2023 Summer A's & Aces Career Development Program: Acquiring coaching skills via AmeriCorps positions

Leadership opportunities on and off the tennis court



2023 STA Apprentice Pilot Program

A's & Aces was part of a pilot apprentice program supported by the Southern Tennis Association: Coach Rick spent the fall training and coaching along Coach AJ



Laureus Sport for Good Global Summit 2023 in London

In June 2023, Coach AJ attended the largest gathering of Sport for Good stakeholders in the world, joining other sports-based youth development leaders and champions in London.



USTA Foundation Impact Conference

Coach AJ attends the
USTA Foundation's
Impact Conference in
Orlando two years in a
row (2022 and 2023)



Service to the USTA and the tennis industry



A's & Aces leadership serves the tennis community beyond the New Orleans area with the goal to make tennis more accessible, equitable, and inclusive. In 2023, we served on the following Boards and Committees:

- Louisiana Tennis Association (LTA) Board of Directors
- LTA's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee (Co-Chair)
- STA's NJTL Committee (Vice-Chair)
- USPTA Louisiana Board of Directors (Treasurer/Secretary)

LTA Awards

A's & Aces received the 2023 LTA **NJTL Chapter of the Year** award and Coach AJ was selected as the recipient of the 2023 **Nehemiah Atkinson Diversity Champion Award**





STA Awards

A's & Aces was awarded the 2023
Southern Tennis Association **NJTL**
Chapter of the Year

Two A's & Aces student-athletes received LTA Believer Grant



Matison and Baileigh were the 2023 recipients of the LTA's Believer Grant for their accomplishments on and off the tennis court.



Special thank you to our partners and foundation donors for their support in 2023!

NORDC & the City of New Orleans
Laureus Sport for Good Foundation USA
United Way of Southeast Louisiana
Sperling Family Charitable Foundation
Ethel K. Toor Foundation
USTA Foundation
Southern Tennis Association
Fore!Kids Foundation
Goldring Family Foundation
PeyBack Foundation
Tulane University
U.S. Anti-Doping Agency &
TrueSport

