



JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.
MAYOR

City of Charleston
South Carolina

BARBARA W. VAUGHN
DIRECTOR
PUBLIC INFORMATION

For Release: August 1, 2013

CHARLESTON TENNIS PLAYER'S ARTHUR ASHE ESSAY SELECTED AS BEST IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston, SC—Jacoby Johnson, a member of the Courting Kids tennis program run by the City of Charleston Recreation Department, wrote and submitted an essay to the USTA/National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) Annual Arthur Ashe Essay Contest, and his essay was selected as the best essay in the state of South Carolina.

As a reward, the USTA Southern Section has offered an all-expense paid trip for him and one chaperone to attend the Winston-Salem Open in North Carolina August 17th – August 19th. The Winston-Salem Open is the final stop on the US Open Series Tour and offers a great opportunity to see some players up close and personal as they prepare for the US Open.

The NJTL network hosts the Arthur Ashe Essay Contest. Each contestant was asked to write an answer to the question, “If you could follow in Arthur Ashe’s footsteps and ‘give back’ to tennis, what would you do to give back to the game and how would it impact others?” in 350 words or less.

Arthur Ashe was an American hero fighting battles both on and off the court. He broke barriers in the tennis world, becoming a three time grand slam champion, and the first African American male to win a grand slam tournament. Off the court, he was a social activist taking on issues like racial prejudice, AIDS, apartheid, and education. One of his many legacies includes the NJTL, a network of youth serving organizations that provides tennis and education for all. His wish was for NJTL to be a resource for kids to develop skills for leadership and academic excellence.

Courting Kids, run by the City of Charleston Recreation Department, is an entry level children’s program that provides youth ages 5-17 with affordable quality tennis instruction on the Charleston peninsula, West Ashley, and Johns Island and is a chapter in the NJTL network.

FOR MORE INFO:

Cameron Pollard, Communications Coordinator
Media Relations/Public Information
Phone: (843) 724-3746 Fax: (843) 724-3734
Email: pollardc@charleston-sc.gov