



Anguilla Tennis Academy

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# Ace Monthly

## Feature Articles

- Tennis facility set to be finished in 2006 page 5
- Welcome the new ATA team page 2
- After school tennis program commences page 6

## Other Articles

Anguilla National tennis tournament page 3

ATA kids compete in St. Martin page 4

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## 2005 Summer Tennis Camp a Huge Success



The 2005 summer tennis camp ended on July 29 after three straight weeks of intense tennis instruction. This year marked the ten year anniversary of the Anguilla Tennis Academy and there was much to celebrate. The first two weeks of the camp were held at the Viceroy tennis courts in West End and were conducted by Jason Allen and Jonathan Collazo, both originally from Florida. Jason and Jonathan brought a combined 25 years of tennis teaching experience to the Anguillian children. The third and final week saw the arrival of 15 more international coaches which provided the children with more personalized instruction. There were coaches from the United States, Australia, England, South Africa, and Anguilla. Along with the coaches came 40 international participants from the USA, St. Maarten, and St. Kitts. It was indeed a spectacular week for the children and all those involved. To celebrate the ten year anniversary, country music stars came from Nashville, Tennessee and teamed up with local artists such as Bankie Banks, the Shiloh Band, and Evan Webster to put on a benefit concert on July 26. The main goal of this exciting night of music was to promote awareness in the community of the ATA's plight. Moreover, a production crew spearheaded by Greg Travis, owner of Travis Television, was in attendance documenting the concert and tennis camp to produce a one hour special on the Anguilla Tennis Academy. This special will be seen in 40.5 million homes across the world. The state of the art facility is well on its way to being completed. The projected completion date is March 2006. Phase one of the project, the completion of the building, will hopefully be done by December with phase two, court construction, commencing in January. Mitchell Lake commented, "I was happy to see that the children had a wonderful time, but most importantly, they learned a great deal. The numbers keep growing and the interest in tennis is abundantly apparent which warrants the construction of this facility. We are very close and will continue to move forward. I would personally like to thank all the sponsors for their continued support, without them there is no program."

### Thanks to our Summer Tennis Camp sponsors!!!

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## The ATA has new faces



With the beginning of the After School program and the continuation of great tennis instruction, Mitchell Lake has brought in Jason Allen to lead the way as the new director of tennis. Jason Allen, a USPTR certified tennis professional, is a native of Florida where he grew up playing the world-renowned junior circuit. It was his lifelong dream to be a collegiate athlete, a goal which he accomplished in 1996 when he was offered a scholarship to play at Gardner-Webb University, NC. Jason had an illustrious career at Gardner-Webb where he played number one singles and doubles for the

Running Bulldogs. Besides posting one of the all time highest winning percentages in the history of the university, he was also named to the South Atlantic Conference All Academic Sports Team his Junior and Senior year.

Jason's first coaching job was at the age of 15 as an assistant tennis pro at Magnolia Point Golf and Country Club, Green Cove Springs, Florida. He worked for 8 years under the tutelage of USPTA Professional Jim Huber, an icon in north Florida tennis. Jason was promoted to Head Pro at the age of 17 and took control of the

junior program where he coached many young players to obtain state, national, and international rankings. He also coached players who went to college on scholarships. In summer of 2000, Jason became the tennis director at Danville Country Club, Danville Kentucky. He worked there for one season before going to graduate school at the University of Kentucky as a Ph.D. candidate in philosophy of Hispanic literature. In 2003 and 2004 he became the tennis coach at Tates Creek High School, Lexington, Kentucky. At Tates Creek he turned a team who finished last in their conference to second in the conference in one season.

## Marvin Hazell named ATA Head Pro and three assistants sign on

*Mitchelle Lake  
Founder and President  
Anguilla Tennis  
Academy*



Marvin Hazell is a success story and the ATA is proud to announce that he is the Head Professional. Marvin being one of the first students in the ATA summer camp in 1996 makes him special indeed. His dedication and motivation to not only bettering himself but helping others makes him a fine candidate. He recently finished his USPTR certification and next year will attend college and embark on a career as a collegiate athlete as well. Under the supervision of Jason Allen, Marvin will be responsible for the everyday activities of the after school program as well as be in charge of three assistant coaches. Welcome Marvin!!!!!!



**Jason Allen  
Director  
Anguilla Tennis Academy**



**Denny Derrick**



**Vallan Hodge**



**Keithroy Proctor**

The ATA would also like to welcome three special inclusions to our staff. Denny Derrick, Vallan Hodge, and Keithroy Proctor are the three best junior tennis players on the island and we expect a great deal from them. Keithroy Proctor recently received a tennis scholarship to play at Lambuth University in Tennessee. All three coaches just finished their USPTR certification and we are proud to have products of the program back to help future tennis stars. Welcome Denny, Vallan, and Keithroy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## Anguilla National Tournament Successful

This past weekend, many Anguillan children participated in the Anguilla National Tennis Tournament. The tournament was run by Jason Allen, Director of the Anguilla Tennis Academy and was located at Temenos Villas. The purpose of this tournament was to develop competition and camaraderie among the children in various age groups. The divisions were constructed to model the ITF format so that the children can prepare for future tournaments sanctioned by the ITF throughout the United States and the Caribbean. In the boys 18 and under division, the competition was tough. Keithroy Proctor defeated Denny Derrick 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, in a long three set match to reach the finals against Vallan Hodge. Vallan experienced a close semi-final match defeating Calyde Hughes 6-4, 7-5. The final match was exciting but in the end, Vallan Hodge took first place defeating Keithroy Proctor 7-6 (7-5), 6-4. Out of this division there will be a ladder ranking system in which the various children can challenge each other in order to move up in the rankings. The ladder now stands as follows:

1. Vallan Hodge
2. Keithroy Proctor
3. Denny Derrick
4. Calyde Hughes
5. Denvil Ruan
6. Devin Hodge
7. Jelani Banks
8. Ron Connor

Any children who did not participate can join the ladder at any time.

In the girls 16 and under division, Krystal Webster came out on top defeating Shinelle Proctor, Veneshaw, and Sangrena Harris. The format for this, and all subsequent divisions was a round robin where every player played each other once. In the girls 12 and under, first place went to Olivia Geyer. She defeated Nina Andrews, Janielle Proctor, Sharona Proctor, Aline Geyer, and Nzingha Banks. Finally in the boys 14 and under, Ojumiri Lake won first place defeating Daniel Andrews. If there is more response from the younger divisions, a ladder will be initiated for them as well.

The tournament was a success and the children had a wonderful time. Jason used the entry fees to provide water, drinks, and snacks for the children as well as a full lunch on Saturday. Jason Allen commented, "We have a great group of tennis players who are ready and willing to go to the next level. I see a great deal of potential and I feel proud to be involved with these world-class children. I enjoyed watching them all play, running the tournament, and preparing the sandwiches. I would like to personally thank Brian Schultz for permitting the ATA to utilize the best tennis facility on the island; it truly is beneficial for the children to play on top-notch courts."

On a different note, the ATA after school tennis program began on Monday, September 5 and the turnout has been wonderful. Michelle Lake, president of the ATA, commented, "I am happy to see that the children want to become involved with meaningful programs. It gives me joy and hope that our community is making a positive step forward." The ATA will still be accepting registration forms throughout September but there is a limit of 70 participants. For more information, contact Jason Allen at 476-0697 or Michelle Lake at 476-3234.



Vallan Hodge (winner) and Keithroy Proctor (finalist) show off their winnings. Vallan received a new Wilson tennis bag and Keithroy received a new Wilson tennis shirt.



Denvil Ruan, Vallan Hodge, Ron Connor, and Devin Hodge just 'hangin out chattin notin'.

## Tennis Tidbits



*"Roger Federer recently won the US Open defeating Andre Agassi in four sets to clench the title."*



*"Kim Clijsters defeated Mary Pierce to clench the US Open Women's Title."*

## ATA kids travel to St. Martin for the Diamond Creations Tournament

On August 27, twelve Anguillians traveled to St. Martin to play in the Diamond Invitational Tennis Tournament. The tournament was directed by Les Brown and was a success. The children who represented Anguilla and the Anguilla Tennis Academy were: Calyde Hughes, Keithroy Proctor, Vallan Hodge, Denny Derrick, Denvil Ruan, Jelani Banks, Ojumiri Lake, Melissa Mussington, Shinelle Proctor, Krystal Webster, Janielle Proctor, and Sharona Proctor. Jason Allen, Tennis Director of the ATA also travelled with the children to help supervise and coach. The tournament was a round robin style format therefore all the kids were able to play a great deal of matches. Keithroy Proctor placed 2nd losing only to Timothy Rosenblad in the 16-20 division. Keithroy had hoped to play him again in the finals and win but the tournament director decided to change the format midway through the tournament and cancelled any finals therefore letting the previous loss stand. Jason Allen said, "I was confident that Keithroy would have beaten him in the finals and taken the trophy back to Anguilla." Vallan Hodge made a good showing as well placing third. He fought hard against Keithroy proctor and was winning 5-2 before Keithroy made a charge and won in a tiebreaker. It was a magnificent match. In the girls divisions, everyone played well. Melissa Mussington placed 2nd amidst some controversy however. Melissa had previously beaten Emmy Frank 6-2 during round robin play. Yet the next day the score was reported that Melissa had lost the match 6-2. Both players maintained that they had won the match which made Melissa extremely upset. The decision was made that they would play in the final and it would be decided as such. Melissa ended up losing to Emmy Frank 6-4. Jason commented, "Melissa went into the final extremely upset about her opponent supposedly recording the score incorrectly. This in turn affected her match play greatly and I am sure that if she had a chance to play her again, Melissa would be victorious. Nevertheless, it was a great learning experience for all participants involved and a well run tournament. Anguilla will also host some upcoming tournament where we hope St. Martin and St. Kitts will get involved." Mith Lake, president of the ATA mentioned, "I am please with the efforts of the children and Jason, and the relationships we are building with the surrounding islands."

## World Class Tennis Facility set for 2006

The Jeremiah Gumbs Tennis Pavilion was just recently visited by architect Myron Goldfinger. He was pleased with the work so far and gave Mitch the go ahead to move forward to phase two of the project, the construction of the tennis courts. The projected date for the completion of the facility is 2006. This tennis complex will have six regular courts and one stadium court so that it can be host to more large scale tennis events. The inside of the building will maintain first class facilities including a multimedia conference room, locker rooms for men and women, public bathrooms, pro shop, offices, and meeting areas. So far, Mitch has been able to raise almost 2.5 million dollars of the needed 3 million to bring this project to completion. We are still in need!!!! If you would like to get involved with the fundraising efforts, there are many ways!

Buy a Brick Campaign [www.tennis.ai](http://www.tennis.ai)

Capital Campaign [www.tennis.ai](http://www.tennis.ai)

Donate in Kind



The facility is set to be finished in March 2006

## Tennis Tips from Jason Allen



You can always find some type of tennis tip to help you with a certain stroke, yet most times, the tip is very technical and it still takes away from the fact that tennis is a game that requires a great deal of focus and mental concentration. These mental aspects are my specialty and therefore will comprise the bulk of my tips. Today, I have two tips for you that deal with 1. sustaining energy and 2. being down 3-0 in a set.

**Have you ever wondered why you lost a close match?** Your answer might have been; Well, I just got nervous or, he/she picked it up a notch or, I just choked.....etc. Often times, when one is in a close match, it can go either way and this is where tennis becomes more technical as does every sport when played at a higher level. Tennis is a game of short bursts, these bursts can tire you out at 6-5 in the second or third set. You must conserve your energy!!!

- a. When you are done with a point, slow down and walk steadily to get prepared for the next point
- b. Hold the racket in your less dominant hand when not hitting to give your wrist a break
- c. Don't waste energy on outbursts and clenching your fists after the point, these actions make your muscles contract and it wastes both mental and physical energy.
- d. Relax mentally – after a tough point just take a deep breath and tell yourself 'one point at a time' – you must learn to be even keeled mentally throughout the match – both mental and physical ups and downs take a great deal of energy.

### Are you down 3-0?????

I can't tell you how many times I have been down 3-0 or been up 3-0 and either managed to come back or have my opponent make a charge on me. 3-0 is an odd score because tennis is a game about momentum. When a player gets up 3-0, he or she often softens up because mentally he or she thinks the set is already over. The same for you, if you are down 3-0, keep working hard and stay motivated because the momentum can shift back to you at any time. Now, once you get back to 3-3, you're on your own!

## After School Program Commences

### Anguilla Tennis Academy

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On Spetmeber 5, the Anguilla Tennis Academy After School program began. So far there are 35 children registered for the After School program. There is only room for 35 more as the limit is 70. Children ages 5-10 play on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Children ages 11-18 play on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Classes are held at Webster's Park on both courts. If any child wants to register, he or she may come to the courts and Jason can register them on the spot. Jason Allen commented on the program so far, "The children are enthusiastic and eager to learn. We have kids of all ages and some very good talent among the younger ranks. With talent like this, and coaches who are dedicated, we will soon see an Anguillan champion on the ATP tour." Mitchelle Lake also added, "I am delighted to have Jason on the ground here to help build a high quality programme. Also, Marvin and the assistants are proof that the program is working. The ATA is truly developing players who want to better themselves and give back to the community."

### ***About the Anguilla Tennis Academy..***

The Anguilla Tennis Academy is dedicated to providing the highest quality tennis instruction to Anguillan, Caribbean and International youth in a competitive environment while encouraging exemplary sportsmanship. The primary goal of the Anguilla Tennis Academy is to expose children to the joys, discipline and rigor of the life long sport of tennis where they can acquire technical skill, experience ideal sportsmanship and develop a strong sense of community.

### ANGUILLA TENNIS ACADEMY

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