



Anguilla Tennis Academy

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ATA Monthly

The Anguilla Tennis Academy facility is moving forward!

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It is with great pleasure that I am writing to all of the ATA supporters to inform you of the progress of the state of the art tennis facility in Blowing Point. In this fourth edition of the ATA Monthly, you will find current photos on page 4 illustrating the advancement being made by the team of contractors. This is indeed an exciting time for all involved with this project as phase I is complete. Phase II (construction of the courts) has already begun as the land has been cleared for the asphalt company to come and begin work. By the end of February, the courts will actually start taking shape and once that begins, after 60 days, the ATA will have seven pristine courts with the same specifications of the US Open facility in Flushing Meadows, NY. Along with the construction of the courts, the whole property is currently being fenced in as well.

The facility itself will house two full locker rooms, offices, a pro shop, and a state of the art multimedia room for conferences and meetings. The stadium court will be able to seat 2,000 people and also house a gym, locker room for players, and eating area.

The possibilities are limitless for a facility of this magnitude. Besides being built primarily for the people and more specifically the children of Anguilla, the general public will be able to play as well. Moreover, there will be tournaments monthly ranging from local junior and adult categories, ITF sanctioned junior tournaments, professional, pro-am, celebrity, and fundraising tournaments.

Hopefully, this year's summer tennis camp will be conducted on the new courts. In the past the ATA has consistently had around 200 children enroll in the summer tennis camp. Each camp has always been run on two courts which has been quite difficult.

The progress being made at the facility is making Mitch's dream more tangible for him and all of those that are responsible for contributing in some way. As we venture into the year 2006, let us not lose focus on the "power of a dream." Thank you for helping us to build the Anguilla Tennis Academy!

Jason Allen

The Anguilla Tennis Academy – "Shaping Lives and Building a Future"



Above: Vallan Hodge hangs out with the kids

Below: Vallan Hodge receives new tennis bag from Jason Allen after winning a local tournament



ATA program fund receives USD\$5,000 donation from Ari Storch

December is always a busy month here in Anguilla for it is the peak of the tourist season. Consequently, it is just as busy for the Anguilla Tennis Academy as we had to spread ourselves very thin over the holiday season by sending our limited number of tennis pros to private villas to give tennis lessons. Sending Vallan Hodge to the Beachcourt Villa to give lessons to the Storch family seemed like a usual assignment for the Tennis Director, but the end result was not usual at all. Jason Allen has been training Denny Derrick, Marvin Hazell, and Vallan for a short period of time since his arrival in July of 2005 and in this case, his work has paid off – literally. Ari was so impressed with Vallan's coaching abilities and his dedication to the program that he decided to donate USD \$5,000 to the program fund. On the check made out to the Anguilla Tennis Academy, it was inscribed with this message, "In honor of Vallan."

This particular donation could not have come at a better time as the program fund is always low because of many bills generated from last years program and with the new addition of so many coaches. Also, this is the perfect example of the ATA fulfilling its mission and philosophy. One of the main goals of the ATA is to create citizens who are willing to give back to their community. Vallan Hodge, until January 2006, has been working for the ATA as a volunteer and has received little or no pay. Yet he is dedicated to the program because he is a former member. He has seen and experienced the benefits of working hard, setting goals and accomplishing them, giving back to the community, and working to help his fellow man. All of us at the ATA are proud of him for his recent accomplishments. The ATA Board would like to extend a special thanks to the Storch family for giving so generously.

Although the ATA receives a great deal of money, it all goes to the facility fund. The kids program, summer camp, concerts, coaches' salary, bills, etc... are all taken care of by the program fund. This particular fund is always strapped financially and this donation has helped us get our heads above water. All of the kids say,

“Thank you very much!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Jason Allen to travel to the PTR International Tennis Symposium

On February 17, ATA Director Jason Allen will travel to Hilton Head, South Carolina to attend a conference conducted by the Professional Tennis Registry. On top of that, he will also compete in the \$25,000 tournament in both singles in doubles. This is an excellent professional development opportunity for Jason as he will hopefully learn some of the new trends in the tennis industry and become recharged to continue his work with the ATA. All of the ATA coaches are either certified by, or members of the USPTR. The PTR is one of the two major organizations in the world that certify people to become tennis professionals. The organization was founded by world renowned tennis coach and player Dennis Van der Meer.



The Tennis Channel commits to air a 30 second Public Service Announcement

Through the hard work and dedication of Greg Travis, the Tennis Channel has agreed to air a 30 second spot on the Anguilla Tennis Academy. The Tennis Channel is aired to all tennis enthusiasts and boasts having our exact target audience. The goal with this PSA is to create awareness in the world tennis community. Mitch set out in 1996 to put Anguilla on the map with his tennis aspirations. Now, in its tenth year, the ATA is truly global as many people from all around the world have come on board to support this worthwhile endeavor. It is the hope of all involved with the PSA that more potential donors will help the ATA make tennis in the Caribbean vibrant and alive. Tennis, ultimately, has not been a premier sport of the Caribbean although ironically it is a region that is conducive to playing tennis year round. The polemic facing this region is that the majority of economic prosperity comes from the tourism industry. Therefore, tennis is normally reserved for the more high end community of locals and visitors. Anywhere in the Lesser Antilles, one can pay from USD\$80 and up for a private lesson. The ATA currently has a program where children enrolled pay \$USD 75 per month for 12 one hour sessions. Moreover, children can get private lessons from USD \$20-30. It is important that this type of initiative be announced on the world forum to show that positive things are happening in the world of tennis. The Tennis Channel is now going to afford the ATA an opportunity to showcase itself and prove to the world community at large that they are dedicated to providing social solutions for the world youth and trying to engender a sense of community and civic duty.



Look for the ad on the Tennis Channel as it is forthcoming!!!!

December was a monumental month for the ATA

The ATA is now managing the tennis facility at Cuisinart which has proven to be helpful in our endeavors. The month of December is a busy month in terms of tennis and the ATA was in fine form during the holiday season. We sent tennis pros to Temenos, Carimar, Covecastles, and Rendezvous Bay Hotel. We received much exposure and the assistant pros were able to gain valuable professional development as well as the opportunity to meet new people. We are confident that the exposure gained in December will, in the long run, pay dividends.

2006 Australian Open



Roger Federer and Amelie Mauresmo are the 2006 Australian Open Champions!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

CHECK OUT RECENT PHOTOS OF THE FACILITY!!!!!!



WE ARE ALMOST THERE!!!!!!!!!!

Essential Office Supplies donates computer desk

For a program such as the Anguilla Tennis Academy to be successful, it is imperative to have the support of local businesses as well as the community. Recently, Heather Wallace, owner of Essential Office Supplies, graciously donated a brand new computer desk as well as an office chair to the ATA. The desk was specifically for the ATA Director's new office at Cuisinart Resort and Spa. The After School Program and the facility project require a great deal of work and when one has to work, it is important to have the proper equipment and supplies if one is to work well. Mia Hughes, Heather's daughter is also a participant in the After School Program. Heather mentioned, "I just love what the ATA is trying to achieve in Anguilla and I support you wholeheartedly. My daughter really enjoys the tennis lessons - it has really done a lot for her and her ability achieve and to do better!!!" The ATA is grateful for her donation!



Heather Wallace poses for a photo inside the store.
Photo from news.ai

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. This month, I will discuss an aspect that pertains to all athletes – Ever had a bad day????

Have you ever just had a bad day on the court? I thought this topic would be suitable as it happened to me the other day and it is fresh on my mind. Whatever the reason may be, sometimes you just don't feel good on the court. You are missing all your forehands, you are double faulting, or you just can't seem to pick your feet up and get to the ball. Well, there are many factors involved that affect your playing. I am going to break it down to two areas: Mental and Physical exhaustion.

1. Mental exhaustion: Tennis is indubitably a mental game. One has to be sharp on the court at all times and remain focused. Yet, unless all we do is play tennis, there are other factors involved that make us exhaust our mind during the day before we play tennis. Some people have careers, children, some study or have class all day, etc... In a nut shell, sometimes we play poorly because we are tired from using our brains too much. If you know you are going to have a big match, try to relax mentally before you play. Watch some TV, take a nap, or listen to music.

2. Physical exhaustion. This is a no brainer. If you have a big match, let your body rest the day before. Also, try to eat right – include many carbohydrates in your diet as tennis players use short bursts of energy when they play, therefore we exhaust our carbs.

If nothing works, and you are having a bad day – my advice is to push through and concentrate on the basics – and most importantly, **MOVE YOUR FEET!**

Anguilla Tennis Academy

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.tennis.ai

Buy a Brick!!!!



You Can Help: Buy a Brick

Help build this facility for Anguilla's children. All donations are tax-deductible in the USA if desired. The opening fund drive will be for the purchase of bricks for \$100 US each, with names of the donors inscribed. These bricks will be a walkway to the facility. (Each brick can have up to 3 lines of text, with a maximum of 14 characters per line; characters include space, period, dash, etc.) If you are interested, visit our web page at www.tennis.ai

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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