



Youth Tennis News

From the [Memphis Public Tennis Centers](#)

In this issue:

- Maya Smith goes to New York
- Kenya Jones has a winning summer
- Junior Team Tennis grows 300%
- Student-Athlete Competition results

NJTL/First Serve National Student-Athlete Competition results

Students from the MPTC's First Serve Memphis/NJTL Program competed in the First Serve National Student-Athlete Competition that ended August 10th. Report cards and tournament results determine points earned throughout the year. Winners earn over \$34,000 in college scholarship funds.

The girls' high school winner was Sanjana Chintalpudi from Norwalk, CT and the boys' high school winner was Truong Khang from Portland, OR. The girls' middle school winner was Goodman Charlee from Milwaukee, WI and the boys' middle school winner was Doddipalli Mou from Houston, TX. Here's how

Maya Smith goes to New York!

Maya Smith, a junior at White Station High School, sent us this photo from the [Billie Jean King National Tennis Center](#) as she gets ready to watch some matches at the [U.S. Open](#). Maya was



sent to New York as the USTA Tennessee winner of the [Arthur Ashe Essay & Art Contest](#). Maya is an honor student who participates in several academic clubs as well as playing on her school's tennis and basketball teams. For the last 2 years, the White Station tennis team has been the runner-up at the TSSAA State tournament. Maya also plays in USTA tournaments. With a tennis coach as a father (Kent Smith at the [Eldon Roark Tennis Center](#)) and a sister who plays tennis, it is no surprise that Maya says, "tennis has always been an important part of my family's life."

This is the fourth straight year the Memphis Public Tennis Centers has had at least one Arthur Ashe Essay Contest winner represent us in New York (last year, we had two!). Nice job, Maya. Oh, and can you bring back some of those U.S. Open towels?

Kenya Jones Has a Winning Summer! *Captures USTA National Clay Court Doubles title*



Kenya Jones started playing tennis when she was just 3 years old. She played her first tournament at age 7 and was ranked #1 by the USTA in the Girls 10s division for almost 2 years. In 2008, she won the singles and doubles at the Southern Region Closed Championship. Maybe such a

Houston, TX. Here's how our First Serve Memphis students fared:

Girls high school:

Binta Fall, 8th place

Boys high school:

Wilbert Chew, 11th place

Brandon Windless, 16th

Isaac Rogers, 18th

(nice job, guys!)

Girls middle school:

Maegan Windless, 10th

place

You can check the 2009–2010 final rankings on the [First Serve website](#).

Did you know?

The [Nike Junior Tour](#) that Kenya Jones plays in is a worldwide series of junior singles tournaments for boys and girls in the 12 and 14 age groups. Currently, there are over 60,000 players from 28 countries. Former participants include Rafael Nadal, Juan Martin Del Potro and Tomas Berdych. Nike provides transportation, food and lodging for the winners and their coach.

young start and quick success is expected when your dad and coach is Wolbrecht Head Pro Keita Jones. But, Kenya has not slowed down at all and had some great results this summer. Here are a few highlights:

In June at the [TN State Qualifying Tournament](#) in Murfreesboro, Kenya defeated the #1 seed (Danielle Vines) in the finals of the Girls 12s singles. She and her partner Gracie Donoghue of Memphis won the 14s doubles.

Her results at State Qualifying earned her entry into the [2010 Boys and Girls Southern Championships](#), a Nike Tour Qualifying Event in Cary, NC June 19th – 23rd. There, she beat Danielle Vines again in the semis and the #1 seed Helen Altick in the singles final, then teamed up with Helen to take the doubles title. Kenya will now represent the Southern region in the Nike Junior Tour USA National Masters at the [Evert Tennis Academy](#) in Boca Raton, FL September 17th – 19th.

Did you think Kenya only won titles on the hard courts? Think again. At the National Clay Court Championships (Girls 12s) in Boca Raton, FL, with the top 128 girls in the nation, Kenya won seven out of eight singles matches and she and her partner won a gold ball in the doubles.

Good luck to Kenya as she heads back to Florida in a couple of weeks to play in the Nike Junior Tour USA National Masters. We know she'll do great.

Junior Team Tennis grows 300%



Junior Team Tennis found its stride in Memphis this summer. Junior Team Tennis (JTT) is a USTA program that provides a competitive and fun league for boys and girls in a team format. It works well for beginner and intermediate players “who aren’t superstars,” said Tony Cherone, the

local JTT League Commissioner for Memphis. Girls and boys play on the same team and can even play against each other in a match. It gives kids who are just starting out or those who don’t play USTA tournaments a chance for match play, including the State competition at the end of the season. The 8 and 10 & under divisions use the [QuickStart format](#) and everyone gets a team shirt from Nike.

Participation this summer went from about 50 kids last year to 215 kids on 25 teams—an increase of more than 300%. Tony Cherone, the Tennis Director for Collierville Parks & Recreation and the tennis coach at St. George’s, has been involved with JTT for about 3 years with his group in Collierville and was recently tapped by USTA

Southern to be the local JTT League Commissioner for Memphis. He is also the Chairman of Junior Team Tennis for the State of Tennessee.

Tony said in the past, JTT didn't work in the Memphis area because it lacked structure. People were not signing up properly, scores were not reported and everything was "very unofficial." Sometimes, one team would show up for a match with 6 people while the other team had 20. "There were a lot of mismatches," he said. Now, says Tony, "it is run like it is supposed to be run," with specific registration dates and a fixed schedule. He said there still is the occasional mismatch, but overall the feedback has been positive. Parents and players now know what to expect. Registration for the Fall JTT League starts October 1st. Tony plans to have a "Jamboree" format, where multiple matches will be played over 3 weekends. The dates and times have not been finalized, but we expect another great Junior Team Tennis season. Good job, Tony, and thank you for all your hard work. For more information, contact Tony Cherone at 901-488-2985 or TBoneCherone@aol.com.

Tel: (901) 374-0603

Fax: (901) 680-5547

Email: tennisoffice@tennismemphis.org

www.tennismemphis.org

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

[Click here](#) to forward this email to a friend

Tennis Memphis
4145 Southern Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38117

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

