



Anguilla Tennis Academy

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# ATA Monthly

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## Wimbledon champion and USA Fed Cup Captain Zina Garrison to visit the Anguilla Tennis Academy

**May 1-8, 2006** The Anguilla Tennis Academy was established in 2003 to offer the island's children an opportunity to strive for achievement both locally and internationally through sports. One of the Academy's mandates is to provide the best quality instruction to these children. To that end, they have invited Zina Garrison to visit Anguilla.

Ms. Garrison has agreed to come to Cuisinart Resort and Spa from May 1 to May 7 to run a series of tennis events. She was ranked number one in the world as a junior having won both the junior U.S. Open and junior Wimbledon. In the 1988 Seoul, Korea Olympics, representing the United States of America, she won a bronze medal in singles and a gold medal in doubles with partner Pam Shriver. In 1989 she won four singles titles on the WTA tour as well as four doubles titles including the most prestigious grand slam, Wimbledon. In her career she has won 14 singles titles and 20 doubles titles on the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour amassing \$4,590,816 in prize money alone. Zina Garrison is also only the 12<sup>th</sup> woman in history to win over 500 matches with her total wins at 587. She reached as high as number four in singles and number 5 in doubles during her tenure on the professional tour. The aforementioned accomplishments helped her to gain entry into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame and she is sure to win a bid into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. She also sits as a board member of the powerful United States Tennis Association. Moreover, Zina is currently the captain of the USA Fed Cup Team.



Recent photo of Zina Garrison



Zina Garrison not only stands out for being a great tennis champion, but she was also one of the pioneering African American athletes of her time. She undoubtedly set the stage for young athletes such as Venus and Serena Williams. She was also the first African American woman since Althea Gibson to reach a Grand Slam singles final in 1990. At Wimbledon, Garrison upset Monica Seles and Steffi Graf (arguably the best woman tennis player of all time) in back to back matches before losing the final to Martina Navratilova 6-4, 6-3.

The ATA is thrilled to have an athlete of her stature to visit the future tennis stars of Anguilla. The ATA looks forward to discussing plans for tennis in Anguilla with Ms Garrison. Her insight on how the ATA should move forward will be invaluable. The ATA also looks forward to her review on the current state of tennis in Anguilla. She also heads the Zina Garrison Foundation which provides funds and support for the homeless, youth organizations, anti-drug groups and other charitable organizations. She also founded the Zina Garrison All-Court Tennis program in 1992, providing inner city kids the opportunity to build self-esteem through tennis. Her expertise in the above areas will most certainly be beneficial not only because of her experience with non profit organizations such as the Anguilla Tennis Academy, but because of the exposure she can provide to the world and the awareness she can create in her travels.

During her one week stay in Anguilla, Ms Garrison has agreed to participate in many events: She will visit the children in the after-school program at the Ronald Webster Park on two separate occasions. A tour of the new ATA facility is planned. Ras B has invited her to speak on heartbeat radio. The top junior tennis players will be given a special clinic, and she will also hold a clinic for Cuisinart guests. A much anticipated event is the exhibition match planned between Ms Garrison against the ATA and Cuisinart tennis director Jason Allen.

Ms. Garrison has generously offered to donate her time free of charge to the whole program in Anguilla, as she is dedicated to worthwhile causes involving tennis and youth. Her trip would not be possible if not for key sponsors in the community such as Cuisinart Resort and Spa, American Eagle, and Viceroy. The ATA is currently seeking further sponsorship to accommodate Ms. Garrison

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*Did you know.....*

-- Since the ATA's inception, more than 1200 students have gone through the Academy's programs and benefited from top notch instruction.



*Above: A photo from the 2005 summer tennis camp at Temenos Villas*

## 2006 ATA Summer Tennis Camp set for July 10-28

Once again the Anguilla Tennis Academy will conduct its mega summer tennis camp during the last three weeks of July 2006. In the past few years the number of participants has risen exponentially and we are expecting numbers well above 200 this year including international participants. The location of the camp has not been decided yet as it is hopeful that the courts at the new ATA facility will be done by the time the summer camp commences.

The first two weeks of camp will be conducted by the Anguilla Tennis Academy crew led by Jason Allen. Yet, we are pleased to announce that Jonathan Collazo will return as the leading guest coach. Jonathan has been coming to Anguilla for the last five years and continues to be one of the leading names in tennis in Florida. He is the owner and operator of JC Tennis Elite in Tampa, Florida and he is a traveling tour coach for beginning and top ranked WTA tour players. He is certainly an asset to the academy and mainly the children on Anguilla.

During the final week of the camp, the ATA will host many international coaches and participants. This final week will prove most beneficial to the children as it is our hope to reduce the coach student ratio. Besides coaching the children, there will be clinics for the local adult community as well. Moreover, this year, the coaches that are coming are excellent tennis players and will put on various exhibition matches. Although it cannot be released right now, there is the possibility of a former ATP tour top ranked male visiting for the final week as a coach and player. The name of this male champion will be released at a later date upon confirmation.

The cost of the summer tennis camp will be USD \$40 for each child for the entire three weeks if registration is turned in on time. There will be a fee of USD \$60 for late registration. As usual, international participants will pay USD \$100 to attend the camp. Registration forms will be ready mid May and the last day for registration will be July 1. If you have any questions, contact Jason at 476-0697.

The ATA will also be asking for sponsors again for the acclaimed camp. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact either Jason or Mitch.

## Cuisinart Resort and Spa and Anguilla Tennis Academy partnership results in high level coaching performance.

Since Cuisinart opened its doors on October 31 2005, the Anguilla Tennis Academy has been managing its tennis facility. Jason Allen, director of the ATA was named tennis director and quickly upgraded the quality of the Cuisinart tennis program. The courts at the world renowned Cuisinart Resort and Spa have been extremely busy with hotel guests and members of the community. The success of the program has been in large part due to the hard work of Marvin Hazell, Denny Derrick, and Vallan Hodge. Marvin Hazell is the head pro of the ATA and Denny and Vallan are both assistant pros. All three grew up playing in the ATA's programs and since June of 2005 have been interning with Jason.

Cuisinart Resort and Spa partnered with the academy to begin work for the 2005-2006 season as it was a way for Cuisinart to support a program that is doing a great deal of work to help the youth of Anguilla as well as have a solid tennis program at the resort. This partnership has been monumental financially for the ATA as it helps to subsidize its year round programs. More importantly, however, Cuisinart has been serving as the perfect training venue for children in the program who have a desire to make tennis teaching and playing a career. There are three beautiful artificial lawn courts at Cuisinart surrounded by a wonderfully landscaped area. There are plans in the future to add a pro shop and bathrooms to the facility as the program continues to grow. Indeed there has been much action at the courts due to the obviously large amount of energy and enthusiasm displayed by the tennis staff. The approval of the Cuisinart and ATA staff has not only been recognized by management, but more so by the hotel patrons and guests. When guests leave, they fill out comment cards. These cards serve to assist management in providing a better, more personalized service. The guests' comments about the tennis service have been overwhelmingly positive. This has also given the ATA a way to create awareness of the new facility being constructed in Blowing Point. This new facility will make Anguilla distinct from the rest of the Caribbean as it will be the only one of its kind.

At Cuisinart, Marvin, Denny and Vallan have learned to do a variety of jobs inherent within the tennis industry. First and foremost, they get experience on a daily basis in proper coaching techniques and guest relations. All three assistant pros are certified PTR Tennis Professionals, a distinction not easily attainable. Yet, proper coaching requires much research and commitment in terms of staying current in the field. Jason commented, "my pros receive training on a daily basis. Training, in essence, comprises a great deal of our time whether it is actual hands on training or theoretical training. I feel as if we all learn so many things everyday. They learn how to become better coaches and players, maintain courts, learn about tennis equipment, re-string rackets, work interdepartmentally, interact with guests, as well as setting goals and accomplishing them which in turn builds self-confidence. I am extremely proud of the progress they have made and I truly thank Cuisinart for affording us the opportunity to accomplish the mission of the Anguilla Tennis Academy." Stephane Zaharia, General Manager of Cuisinart Resort and Spa has been supporting the ATA since his arrival in October. He also expressed his satisfaction with Marvin, Denny and Vallan, "I am delighted to see the tennis program and the guest's comments coming to light to underscore the customer satisfaction leadership training as we strive to be a guest centered resort committed to excellence"



Left to right – Vallan Hodge, Denny Derrick, Stephane Zaharia (GM Cuisinart), Marvin Hazell

### ATA Kids in Competition Over The Easter Vacation.

Every child looks forward to any vacation and Easter was no exception. The ATA After School Program proceeded to organize tournaments for each of its groups during the week of the 10<sup>th</sup> thru the 13<sup>th</sup>, where all students were given the opportunity to play and compete against each other. The turnout was excellent and the level of play from each group was noteworthy.

Group one, the pee wee group, saw José Pablo playing well to take the top spot over Xander Vasilis by one point. Group 2 produced some very well fought matches as well and the top honors went to Mikiah Lake who edged out Bernice Brooks by 3 points. Group 3 brought out some excellent matches with Daniel Andrews winning all of his games to take the top spot. Group 4, the advanced group, was separated into a boy's and girl's section. As expected, these matches were the top level matches and they were well fought. In the girls section, Melissa Mussington won over Krystal Webster by three points with Olivia Geyer taking the third spot. The boy's competition was intense and they all played well, but Ojumiri Lake edged out Calyde Hughes to win the section.

The parents that attended were pleased with their children's performance and were impressed with the turnout for each day of the week. The ATA will look forward to more tournaments in the future and even more intense play from our top players as the school year comes to an end.

## 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 have invited Marvin Hazell to provide some insight.

I'm pleased to be given the opportunity to provide the tip for this month's edition.

Every tennis player wants to add power to their game and try to hit more impressive shots to outplay their opponents. One thing that can improve this part of your game is accelerating the racket as you make contact with the ball. When your opponent returns your shot prepare your backswing early and make contact out in front of your body. As you make contact with the ball, speed up your racket into your follow through. The force from your backswing into the ball will give you added velocity and your shots will be much more impressive.

Go out there and give it a try.

Marvin Hazell

*Marvin Hazell is the Head Pro of the Anguilla Tennis Academy*

## This Month's Tennis Stand Outs!!!!

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We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.tennis.ai](http://www.tennis.ai)

The ATA After School Program has made notable progress since it's beginning. This month we're singling out the stand out players from each group.

In group one, José Pablo has shown much improvement and has also won the PeeWee tournament during the Easter break. He is an enthusiastic player and always shows a lot of energy on the court.

Group two highlights Mikiah Lake who is one of the top players among her peers. She performs well and has a willingness to learn and get better. She recently placed first in the group's tournament losing only one of her matches.

Tamisha Richardson of Group three is the stand out this month with her recent promotion to this section. She is the most active with her footwork and always puts her best play forward.

Group four places Olivia Geyer as the stand out with her excellent on court attitude and solid play. She loves tennis and her passion to play is always there on the court. A student who makes vast improvement each year.

### 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.

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