

USTA Southern Wheelchair Tennis Newsletter

JUNE 2025

Welcome to the newsletter for USTA Southern Wheelchair Tennis, providing you with information about upcoming tournaments, wheelchair tennis programs, tips on how to take your game to the next level, and all things wheelchair tennis. Also, keep an eye out on USTA Southern's Facebook page for Wheelchair Wednesday twice a month when wheelchair tennis will be the featured post for the day!

Tournament Recaps

Dream Court's 5th annual **Montgomery Open** was held on April 10th – 12th at Lagoon Park Tennis Center. Thirty-eight wheelchair tennis players from 7 different states competed in this USTA Sanctioned tournament. Because of the generosity of our Dream Court sponsors, we were able to award \$4,500 in scholarships to cover lodging and transportation, prioritizing juniors, first time participants, and special requests. They were also able to offer prize money, \$200 for each champion and \$100 for each finalist in all coed singles and doubles divisions. The most memorable aspect from the tournament was the strong support from the local community. Volunteers of all ages dedicate their time and energy to make the event run smoothly. Local businesses sponsored the event through food, refreshments, snacks, and entertainment, keeping the players and guests fueled and comfortable. Jessica Weyreuter, Executive Director of Dream Court, Inc. says, "Our tournament isn't just about tennis; it's about belonging. Our goal is to create an atmosphere where everyone involved feels welcome, needed, and irreplaceable."

Congratulations to the winners and finalists from each division!

Coed D Singles

Winner: Ken Moore

Finalist: Tim Little

Coed C Singles

Scott Therrel- Winner

Finalist: Ethan Itansen

Coed B Singles

Winner: Noah Schepman

Finalist: Allen Champagne

Coed A Singles

Winner: Zane GoodWin

Finalist: Michales Johnston

Coed A Doubles

Winner: Brunieds/Sullivan

Finalist: Popelka/ Goode

Coed B Doubles

Winner: Reid / Lachman

Finalist: Broadway/Dibujes



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Coed C Doubles

Winner: Speer/ La Rotonda
Finalist: Slight/ Dupree

Coed D Doubles

Winner: Moore/Piscopo
Finalist: Anderson/Little

Coed A 18 & Under singles

Winner: Noah Schepman



The Augusta Garden City Wheelchair Tennis Tournament was held May 2nd-5th in Augusta, GA. Tournament Director, Margaret Faughnan, says that each year, of course the tennis is great, but that her favorite part of the tournament each year is that the players get to swap stories and laughs during the dinners, as well as seeing the players respect and sportsmanship towards one another on the court.

Congratulations to the winners from each division!

A Singles

1st place	Robert Polpelka
2nd place	Jody Lawhead
3rd place	Tim Hartman

B Singles

1st place	Sean Chang
2nd place	Jennifer Speer
3rd place	Lynn Seidemann

A Doubles

1st place	Robert Polpelka/Jennifer Speer
2nd place	Tim Hartman/Mark Schreiber
3rd place	Cole Wooten/Sean Chang



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Nashville All-Comers Camp

May 17th and 18th, ABLE Youth in Nashville, TN hosted a Youth Wheelchair Tennis All Comers Camp in conjunction with the USTA. All-Comers Camps are tennis camps for players who want to learn more about and grow in the sport of wheelchair tennis. Youth camps are designed to provide instruction and play opportunities for youth of any skill and experience level and is a social and semi-competitive environment for kids to have fun playing wheelchair tennis. The hope is that kids who aren't yet skilled enough to play traditional wheelchair tennis matches will get a stepping stone into playing competitively in the future as a result of the camp.



Nashville's camp featured two guest coaches from Alabama, one who has been a head coach of camps in the past and a 3-time Collegiate National Champion wheelchair tennis player for the University of Alabama. Participants spent the first day learning and practicing the four shots in wheelchair tennis, chair mobility, and tactics for playing a point, and then they got to learn how to keep score and compete in the second day. A film crew was on hand from [NECAT Network](#) to both put together footage to air at a later time and also to make history as part of the camp aired on TV live, making it the first time ever in Tennessee that adaptive sports has aired live on television. Athletes had a blast and learned a lot in the process. We can't wait to see where these athletes take their skills from here!

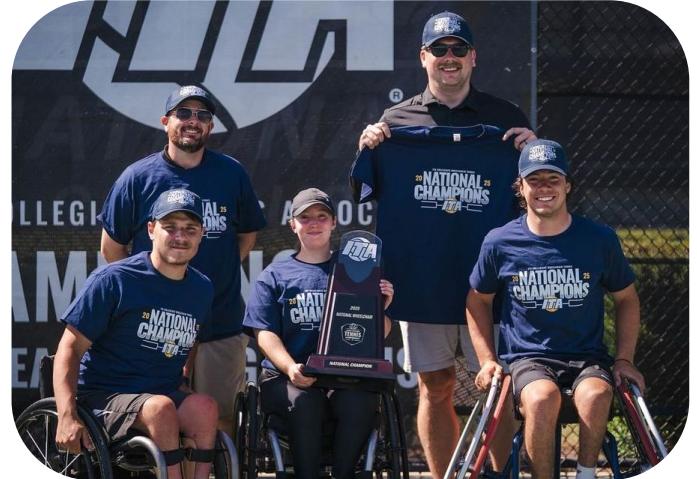
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Collegiate

The 2025 ITA National Wheelchair Tennis Championships took place in Lake Nona, FL at the USTA National Campus in April, and it came down to all-Southern final between the University of Alabama and Auburn University. After intense competition, Alabama took home the title. This is Alabama's eighth title in the past nine tournaments. Senior Max Barbier will graduate as a three-time national champion, and it was Coach Tyler McKay's first championship in just his second year as Alabama's coach. The finals were a culmination of four days of competition between 9 teams, including Cincinnati as a brand new program, and 30 athletes. The field of teams and athletes both in their number and their talent, as well as the crowd watching the matches, displayed how far collegiate wheelchair tennis has come over the years.

Congratulations to not just Alabama but to all of the teams who competed!



Grants

Two programs from USTA Southern were awarded USTA Wheelchair Tennis Grassroots grants! Congratulations to Lakeshore Foundation in Homewood, AL and Mobile Area Tennis Association in Mobile, AL! These grants will be used to help promote and develop the growth of wheelchair tennis and use the sport to help build stronger, healthier communities. Congratulations!

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Juniors

Congratulations to 15-year-old Lucy Heald from Lookout Mountain, TN. She's ranked No. 8 in the world among junior wheelchair tennis players and was selected to represent Team USA as a first-team member at the 2025 BNP Paribas World Team Cup in Antalya, Turkey. In her debut at the international event, Lucy helped lead the U.S. junior team to a silver medal finish, showcasing her talent in both singles and doubles play.

Wheelchair Tennis Skill Builder

This Skill Builder comes to us from Wheel Serve Wilmington and focus on serves. As players are learning and perfecting their serve, it's helpful to start from the service line so that players can focus on finding the perfect spot for their toss and toss consistency, snapping the wrist, and following through. Players move back as the serve progresses. At Wheel Serve NC, the focus is on fun and then fundamentals. Having an enjoyable experience on court is the goal and never getting too frustrated. You can use this method to work on your own serve, too!



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2025 Tournaments

Check out these upcoming tournaments within the Southern Section for players at all levels, and make plans to participate!

Name	Level	Date	City & State	Tournament Director	Contact	Registration Link
Mississippi Rock N Roll	USTA Level 3	October 3-5	Brandon, MS	Emillia Viljoen	Viljoen@sta.usta.com	Link
Doubles	Nonsanctioned	TBD		Mark LaRotonda	mlaro1858@gmail.com	
Music City Classic	USTA Level 4	TBD	Nashville, TN	Kelly Skelton-Weise	skeltonweise@hotmail.com	
Wheel Serve NC Open	USTA Level 5	TBD	Lake Norman, NC	Helen Leonard	hleonard@wheelervenc.com	
Lakeshore Wheelchair Tennis Classic	USTA Level 3	October 24-25	Birmingham, AL	Cliff Cook	cliffc@lakeshore.org	Link
Hallowheel	Nonsanctioned	October	Baton Rouge, LA	Jennifer Edmonson	jennedmonson@aol.com	
America Wheelchair Tennis Championships	USTA Level 1 - Adult & Junior National Championships	November 13-16	Locust Grove, GA	Harlon Matthews	hmatthews@co.henry.ga.us	Link