

Arthur Ashe Essay

That statement is true, some do say that winning the 1968 US Open as the first African American was Arthur Ashe's greatest accomplishment. I wonder if it is because they only knew Arthur Ashe as a tennis player. I wonder if they knew anything about his accomplishment off the courts. I wonder if they knew him as a thinker. I wonder if they knew him as a studious man who loved learning. I wonder if they knew of the humiliation and frustration he was made to endure in order to be the first African American male to win the US Open.

Arthur Ashe considered winning the US Open the biggest winning tournament of his career, but I believe that his greatest and most noble accomplishment was the establishment of the National Junior Tennis League. This league was set up as training ground not only for young tennis players, but to help economically disadvantage kids build character, develop sportsmanship, physical, mental, learning and social skills. This program is appreciated by so many that sometimes I wonder what my life, my sister's life, and the over 400,000 children in the National Junior tennis League lives would be like if Arthur Ashe did not give us hope by using his fame, and money for the good of millions of children. The positive effect that the 900 program has on the over 400,000 children nationwide is really amazing. The program has help keep children off the streets. It has given many children hopes and dreams. Children of all nationalities have learned to and socialize and accept each other. The parents show pride and joy and many lasting friendships have developed through these programs.

Tennis stars, James Blake, Serena Williams, and Venus Williams all benefited from the National Junior Tennis League, and many uprising tennis stars will benefit from the program. "Tennis is a metaphor for life. Many aspects of the game can be translated into life experiences," so said Arthur Ashe. He used that experience of being the first African American male to win the 1968 US Open to win and contribute to a part of all our lives. I truly believe that even Arthur thinks that the establishment of the National Junior Tennis League was his greatest accomplishment.