

Arthur Ashe Essay

Winning the 1968 U.S. Open was one of Arthur Ashe's greatest accomplishments but I think his greatest achievement was being the person that he was. Tennis helped Arthur Ashe to be the person that he was because it gave him the fame to create foundations like the National Junior Tennis and Learning Program, and to spread the word on everything he believed in.

When Mr. Ashe was growing up, tennis was a rich and white persons sport and he wanted kids of all cultures to be able to play. One of the programs that Mr. Ashe created was the National Junior Tennis League. He created the NJTL because he wanted inner-city kids to learn how to play tennis. The NJTL later changed their name to the National Junior Tennis and Learning program to show that Arthur Ashe also valued education and wanted kids to learn life skills in addition to tennis. I play in the St. Paul Urban Tennis program which is part of the NJTL.

Tennis allowed Arthur Ashe to spread the word on the things that he believed in. Because he was a tennis star, he was more believable and had a platform from which he spread his word. One thing that Mr. Ashe wanted was for everyone, regardless of race or wealth, to be able to play tennis. He also wanted to tell everyone that all people should be treated equally and with kindness. Mr. Ashe worked hard to help bring equality to the world.

Arthur Ashe helped raise awareness about racism in South Africa. Since South Africa would not let Mr. Ashe play in the South African Open he helped exclude South Africa from the tennis tour and Davis Cup. This helped raise awareness of racism in South Africa all around the world. This is a perfect example of how Mr. Ashe affected the world off the court.

In addition to being a great tennis player, Mr. Ashe was very intelligent. He graduated number one in his class and earned honorary degrees. Arthur Ashe wanted to be remembered for his achievements off of the court, which is a goal he most certainly achieved. It is because of the lessons he taught us regarding generosity, fairness and equality that I believe Mr. Ashe's achievements off the court exceed those that he earned on it.