

Cody Stewart  
Slam Jammers II

### Arthur Ashe Essay

Arthur Ashe had many great achievements. Being the first African-American male to win a US Open was an amazing feat and will go down in the history of civil rights and tennis alike. But that doesn't affect me as much as his creation of the NJTL. This program gives kids and teens nationwide an opportunity to experience the game of tennis, open up new pathways to great things including college, and let them meet new and interesting people. The "offspring" of this program, Slam Jammers, gives me inexpensive lessons, easy access to equipment, and it pays for my tournaments, all because of Arthur Ashe and his love of the game. Without this, I wouldn't be able to further myself into a game that means so much to thousands of kids nationwide. Finding this program has helped many. There are countless times where a child joins NJTL, receives all that they can, and they get plucked, fresh from high school, and plopped into an amazing college. I want that to be me. This program will enable me to do that. I've learned so much, and still have much to learn. Arthur Ashe was one of the most amazing individuals of his time, and no one in the history of tennis has ever done as much as he has for his sport. Thanks to him, we get the opportunity to do great things as he did. Mr. Ashe wanted to give us as many opportunities and he never had. And he has held up his side of the bargain. All we have to do is use those opportunities. And with my closing, I hope you realize now why the creation of NJTL was Arthur Ashe's greatest achievement.