



26th Annual
2015 Cajun Classic Wheelchair
Tennis Tournament

presented by



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Cajun Classic To Host Largest Field Of Players in 26-Year History

Professionals and Amateurs Are Expected From 18 Countries and 29 States

The Cajun Classic Wheelchair Tennis Tournament, March 25-29, in Baton Rouge, marks its 26th year with the largest field of players in its history: 125 players from 18 countries and 29 states, including 17 of the world's top-10 professionals and at least eight amateurs from the Baton Rouge area.

The tournament also will feature "Baton Rouge Day" on Saturday, March 28, at noon. That program will recognize the local amateurs and will feature a wheelchair tennis exhibition match with Mayor-President Melvin "Kip" Holden and national, regional and state tennis officials.

Tournament play begins on Wednesday, March 25, and continues through the finals on Sunday, March 29, at the Paula G. Manship YMCA Lamar Tennis Center. The international tournament is presented by the Greater Baton Rouge Community Tennis Association (GBRCTA) and is produced by the Baton Rouge Wheelchair Tennis Association (BRWTA).

Admission to the tournament is free for all days and all matches, including the finals. Tournament play begins at 8 a.m. each day and continues into the evenings until all matches are completed.

"As we celebrate the largest field of players in our history, we also welcome the world's top-ranked professionals with four of the top-10 men, six of the top-10 women, and seven of the top-10 quadriplegics competing here in Baton Rouge," said tournament director Jennifer Edmonson of Baton Rouge.

Edmonson said the Cajun Classic also will welcome at least eight Baton Rouge area amateurs who will compete. They are Rich Swanson, Glenn Singletary, Karin Johnson, Ryan Guillory, Kerry Ellis, Travis Carter, Paden Mouton, and Muhammad Khan.

At a Glance

Who

125 professional and amateurs from 18 countries and 29 states, including 17 of the world's top-10 professionals

What

Free admission every day to the Cajun Classic Wheelchair Tennis Tournament

When

March 25-29, 2015
Play begins at 8 am each day and lasts into the evenings

Where

Paula G. Manship YMCA,
Lamar Tennis Center

Why

Players earn world-ranking points and win cash prizes

New for 2015

The largest field of players in the tournament's 26-year history, including eight Baton Rouge amateurs.

On the professional side, the 2015 Cajun Classic will feature 23 top International Tennis Federation stars, including:

- **Six of the top-10 women:** ITF World #4 Sabine Ellerbrock of Germany; #5 Jordanne Whiley of the United Kingdom; #6 Marjolein Buis, of the Netherlands; #8 Katharina Kruger of Germany; #9 Kgothatso Montjane of South Africa; and #10 Lucy Shuker of the United Kingdom.
- **Four of the top-10 men:** ITF World #3 and defending Champion Gordon Reid of the United Kingdom; #5 Joachim Gerard of Belgium; #6 Nicolas Peifer of France; and #7 Maikel Scheffers of the Netherlands.
- **Seven of the top-10 quadriplegics:** ITF World #1 David Wagner of the United States; #2 Dylan Alcott of Australia; #3 Andy Lapthorne of the United Kingdom; #5 Jamie Burdekin of the United Kingdom; #6 Nick Taylor, #9 Greg Hasterok, and #10 Bryan Barten, all of the United States.

(more)

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Jerry Stovall, president of the Baton Rouge Area Sports Foundation, which has been a longtime supporter of the Cajun Classic, said BRASF is sponsoring the Baton Rouge players' entry fees.

"The Cajun Classic continues its commitment to Baton Rouge, attracting a terrific field of world-class wheelchair tennis players. We are especially proud to sponsor the Baton Rouge amateurs who will compete alongside these top athletes," said Stovall.

The Cajun Classic is sanctioned by the ITF and the United States Tennis Association. The tournament is part of ITF's UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour where players compete for more than \$1 million in prize money in tournaments throughout the world. The rules of wheelchair tennis are the same as regular tennis, except the ball is allowed to bounce twice.

Edmonson said the Cajun Classic is made possible by a host of donors and sponsors, including the presenting sponsor, GBRCTA, and premier sponsors: the United States Tennis Association, Louisiana Tennis Association, Mayor-President Holden, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Cox Communications, the Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Foundation, Baton Rouge Rehab Hospital, and Sunrise Medical.

GBRCTA President Kevin Cunningham said Baton Rouge tennis league players help sponsor the Cajun Classic through the City Championship league, which is promoted as "Play for a Purpose." He said part of the league fees are dedicated to help sponsor the Cajun Classic.

"GBRCTA is proud to present the Cajun Classic, and we are especially pleased that local professional Carlos Roldan teaches wheelchair tennis year-round as part of our mission of providing tennis to everyone in the area," said Cunningham.

Dan James, national manager of Wheelchair Tennis, USTA, will return to Baton Rouge again this year for the tournament.

"The Cajun Classic continues to demonstrate its many successes. Its popularity among the players, and the community support it receives combine to make it one of the best tournaments on the circuit. We are also very proud of Baton Rouge's commitment to year-round wheelchair tennis opportunities and instruction," said James.

The Cajun Classic is produced by the Baton Rouge Wheelchair Tennis Association, a non-profit, volunteer board that raises funds to pay for the required ITF-badged referee and umpire fees, meals, drinks, transportation, accommodations at the host hotel, player party, programs, and wheelchair repair station.

Financial support and donations are still being accepted to pay for additional costs associated with the larger tournament this year. Persons or businesses interested in helping may contact Jennifer Edmonson through the Cajun Classic website: www.cajunclassictennis.com or by calling 225-939-4086.

Related wheelchair tennis links

International Tennis Federation: <http://beta.itftennis.com/wheelchair/home.aspx>

USTA Wheelchair Tennis: <http://www.usta.com/Play-Tennis/Wheelchair-Tennis/Wheelchair>