



International Tennis Hall of Fame Celebrates Trailblazers During Black History Month

Additions to the digital exhibit Breaking Boundaries, podcast episodes and content will highlight the legacies of Arthur Ashe, Althea Gibson and more pioneers

NEWPORT, RI, UNITED STATES, February 5, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The International Tennis Hall of Fame (ITHF) is proud to celebrate Black History Month in the United States through a variety of content initiatives that honor the contributions of Black tennis players and contributors to the sport.

As part of this celebration, the ITHF has announced six new additions to its digital exhibit, [Breaking Boundaries in Black Tennis](#). Launched in February 2022, Breaking Boundaries is a unique living exhibit that spotlights the breakthroughs, evolution, and impact of Black tennis players and contributors globally. Fans can browse the interactive globe online to explore these individuals' on-court achievements and lasting impacts.

Since its initial launch, Breaking Boundaries has expanded to 101 trailblazers representing various cultures and identities. The ITHF invites fans to submit suggestions for noteworthy additions through the exhibit's questionnaire. Following a thorough review by the ITHF's Black History Committee, several fan submissions have been incorporated.

The additions for February include:

Dr. Dale G. Caldwell, the first Black president and CEO of the USTA Eastern Section, founder of the Black Tennis Hall of Fame and current President of Centenary University.

Art Carrington, a former ATA champion, historian and coach who competed in the first televised match between two Black players.

Marcus Freeman, Jr., the founder and editor of Black Tennis Magazine, which documented the stories of the most prominent people in Black tennis throughout the United States for nearly 50 years.

Irwin R. Holmes, one of the first four Black students to become students to enroll as first year students at NC State, and first Black athlete to play a collegiate sport in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC).

Richard Hudlin, a collegiate player University of Chicago (1926-28) who became the first Black player to captain a Big Ten Conference team, and later desegregated the public tennis courts of St. Louis.

Lucy Diggs Slowe, a founding member of the ATA, the organization's first women's national champion and founder of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Breaking Boundaries was created as a global extension to the digital exhibit Breaking the Barriers: The ATA and Black Tennis Pioneers, which features an interactive timeline of Black tennis history and its pioneers in the United States. Alongside a concurrent timeline of African American history in the U.S., Breaking the Barriers chronicles the struggles and evolution of Black tennis, and the lives and careers of Black tennis champions from the early 1900s through today.

In addition to the digital exhibits, the ITHF is excited to announce new episodes of the [TennisWorthy Podcast](#), which will highlight the legacies of Hall of Famers Arthur Ashe, Althea Gibson, and Dr. Robert Johnson. Coming Feb. 11, a special compilation episode will feature all three legends, showcasing their remarkable contributions to tennis. Furthermore, host Patrick McEnroe will host a roundtable episode with Hall of Famers discussing Arthur Ashe's historic 1975 Wimbledon victory, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Fans are encouraged to follow along during February on the ITHF's social media channels for additional TennisWorthy content, focused on the month's theme of [Boldness](#) and how trailblazers in Black tennis boldly challenged the status quo and paved the way for equality on and off the courts.

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