



33rd Annual
2024 Cajun Classic Wheelchair
Tennis Tournament

presented by



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2024 Cajun Classic Attracts Another World-Class Field of Champions

At least 90 of the world's top-ranked professionals, including several Grand Slam winners, will compete in the 33rd annual Cajun Classic Wheelchair Tennis Tournament, March 5-10, in Baton Rouge, at the Paula G. Manship YMCA.

This year's field is comprised of 135 professional and amateur players from 22 countries and 25 states (including Louisiana) and includes the winners and finalists of the world's four Grand Slams: the U.S. Open, the Australian Open, the French Open, and Wimbledon.

Also, the tournament will attract 18 junior players from across the United States who will compete for top honors among players under the age of 18.

The offices of Louisiana Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser and East Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome will join in "Louisiana Day at the Cajun Classic," March 9, at noon, to officially welcome the athletes.

The Cajun Classic, long recognized as one of the most popular wheelchair tournaments worldwide, is a "Super Series" level event, just one step below the Grand Slams. There are only four Super Series tournaments in the world, and only one in the United States.

Tournament play begins Tuesday, March 5, and continues through the finals on Sunday, March 10, at the Manship YMCA, Lamar Tennis Center. The Cajun Classic is part of the UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour, 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 9 a.m. each day and continues into the evenings until all matches are completed.

The 2024 Cajun Classic will feature 25 top International Tennis Federation (ITF) stars, including:

- **Eight of the top-10 men:** ITF World #1 Tokito Oda of Japan; #2 Alfie Hewett of Great Britain; #3 Gustavo Fernandez of Argentina; #4 Martin de la Puente of Spain; #5 Gordon Reid of Great Britain; #6 Joachim Gerard of Belgium; #7 Ruben Spaargaren of the Netherlands; and #8 Takashi Sanada of Japan.
- **Nine of the top-10 women:** ITF World #1 Diede de Groot of the Netherlands; #2 Yui Kamiji of Japan; #3 Jiske Griffioen of the Netherlands; #5 Zhenzhen Zhu of the People's Republic of China; #6 Aniek van Koot of the Netherlands; #7 Dana Mathewson of the United States; #8 Kgothatso Montjane of the Republic of South Africa; #9 Lizzy de Greef of the Netherlands and #10 Angelica Bernal of Colombia.

(more)

At a Glance

Who

The 2024 Cajun Classic will host 135 wheelchair athletes who hail from 22 countries, 25 states, and the Baton Rouge area.

What

The Cajun Classic is a Super Series-level tournament, just one step below the Grand Slams, which include the U.S. Open.

When

March 5-10, 2024. Play begins at 9 am each day and lasts into the evenings.

Where

Paula G. Manship YMCA,
Lamar Tennis Center.

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- **Eight of the top-10 quads:** ITF World #1 Niels Vink of the Netherlands; #2 Sam Schroder of the Netherlands; #3 Guy Sasson of Israel; #4 David Wagner of the United States; #7 Heath Davidson of Australia; #8 Andy Laphorne of Great Britain; #9 Rob Shaw of Canada; and #10 Ymanitu Silva of Brazil.

“The Cajun Classic continues to attract the world’s top athletes, and we are equally excited to host 18 players under the age of 18. These juniors will be future top professionals and amateurs, and we are proud that the Cajun Classic serves as a major part of their formative years,” said Tournament Director Jennifer Edmonson.

The Cajun Classic is sanctioned by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and the United States Tennis Association (USTA). The tournament is part of ITF 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 platinum sponsors: the United States Tennis Association (USTA), USTA-Southern Section, Louisiana Tennis Association (LTA), The Louisiana Office of Tourism, Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Baton Rouge Rehab Hospital, Sunrise Medical, Tiger Canopy, Gill’s Crane Service, and the Edward Jones Investments / Tex Morris “Hallowheel” charity tennis and pickleball tournament, held every October in Baton Rouge.

The 2023 Hallowheel tournament raised a record \$68,402 for the 2024 Cajun Classic. Since 2015, the Hallowheel tournament has raised \$243,402 to help offset expenses of the Cajun Classic.

GBRCTA President Forrest Brewer said Baton Rouge tennis league players help sponsor the Cajun Classic through a portion of the fees collected by GBRCTA’s City Championship league.

“GBRCTA is proud to present the Cajun Classic as our signature event. We especially appreciate the support of our City Championship League players whose league fees help fund our sponsorship. We encourage everyone to come out and watch these world-class athletes right here in Baton Rouge,” said Brewer.

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 prize money, 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 costs associated with the tournament. Persons or businesses interested in helping may contact Jennifer Edmonson through the Cajun Classic website at <https://brwta.org> or by calling 225-939-4086.

Related wheelchair tennis links

International Tennis Federation: <https://www.itftennis.com/en/itf-tours/uniqlo-wheelchair-tennis-tour/>

USTA Wheelchair Tennis: <https://www.usta.com/en/home/play/adult-tennis/programs/national/wheelchair-tennis-tournaments.html#tab=tournaments>