



34th Annual
2025 Cajun Classic Wheelchair
Tennis Tournament

presented by



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2025 Cajun Classic Attracts Australian Open Winners and More

At least 60 of the world's top-ranked professionals, including the winners of the recent Australian Open and other Grand Slam tournaments, will compete in the 34th annual Cajun Classic Wheelchair Tennis Tournament, March 11-16, in Baton Rouge, at the Paula G. Manship YMCA.

This year's field is comprised of 100 professional and amateur players from 20 countries and 22 states (including Louisiana) and includes the winners and finalists of the world's four Grand Slams: the U.S. Open, Australian Open, French Open, and Wimbledon.

The tournament also will attract 19 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 Sid Edwards will join in "Louisiana Day at the Cajun Classic," March 15, 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 11, and continues through the finals on Sunday, March 16, 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 2025 Cajun Classic will feature 21 top International Tennis Federation (ITF) stars, including:

- **Eight of the top-10 men:** ITF World #2 Alfie Hewett of Great Britain; #3 Martin de la Puente of Spain; #4 Gustavo Fernandez of Argentina; #5 Gordon Reid of Great Britain; #7 Ruben Spaargaren of the Netherlands; #8 Stephane Houdet of France; #9 Miki Takuya of Japan; and #10 Daniel Caverzaschi of Spain.
- **Five of the top-10 women:** ITF World #3 Aniek van Koot of the Netherlands; #7 Angelica Bernal of Colombia; #8 Zhenzhen Zhu of the People's Republic of China; #9 Lizzy de Greef of the Netherlands; and #10 Kgothatso Montjane of the Republic of South Africa.

(more)

At a Glance

Who

The 2025 Cajun Classic will host 100 wheelchair athletes who hail from 20 countries, 22 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 11-16, 2025. 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; #4 Ahmet Kaplan of Turkey; #5 Andy Laphorne of Great Britain; #6 Franciso Cayulef of Chile; #7 Rob Shaw of Canada; #8 Heath Davidson of Australia; and #10 Diego Perez of Chile.

“The Cajun Classic is one of the most popular and competitive wheelchair tennis tournaments in the world. We are excited to welcome another world-class field of players this year, including a solid roster of juniors who represent the future of this amazing sport,” 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, offering \$3 million in prize money through 160 tournaments across 40 countries in every region of 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, EBR Mayor-President Sid Edwards, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, Visit Baton Rouge, Superior Van & Mobility, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana, 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 2024 Hallowheel tournament raised \$57,718 for the 2025 Cajun Classic. Since 2015, the Hallowheel tournament has raised \$300,115 to help offset expenses of the Cajun Classic.

Hundreds of Baton Rouge area tennis players help sponsor the Cajun Classic through a portion of the fees they pay to participate in the GBRCTA City Championship league, which is held every fall.

“For more than a decade, GBRCTA has been proud to present the Cajun Classic as our signature event,” said GBRCTA President Jennifer Tolbert. “We deeply appreciate the support of our local City Championship league players who help fund the sponsorship and who generously volunteer during the tournament. We invite everyone to come watch these amazing athletes while they are in Baton Rouge.”

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 [BRWTA.org](https://www.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>