



35th Annual
2026 Cajun Classic Wheelchair
Tennis Tournament

presented by



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2026 Cajun Classic Attracts Grand Slam Champions and More

At least 75 of the world's top-ranked professionals, including the winners of the recent Australian Open and other Grand Slam tournaments, will compete in the 35th annual Cajun Classic Wheelchair Tennis Tournament, March 17-22, in Baton Rouge, at the Paula G. Manship YMCA.

This year's field is comprised of 150 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 eight 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, East Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sid Edwards, and City of St. George Mayor Dustin Yates will join in "Louisiana Day at the Cajun Classic," March 21, 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 17, and continues through the finals on Sunday, March 22, 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 2026 Cajun Classic will feature 26 top International Tennis Federation (ITF) stars, including:

- **Ten of the top-10 men:** ITF World #1 Tokito Oda of Japan; #2 Alfie Hewett of Great Britain; #3 Martin de la Puente of Spain; #4 Gustavo Fernandez of Argentina; #5 Gordon Reid of Great Britain; #6 Stephane Houdet of France; #7 Takuya Miki of Japan; #8 Ruden Spaargen of the Netherlands; #9 Casey Ratzlaff of the USA; and #10 Daniel Caverzaschi of Spain.

(more)

At a Glance

Who

The 2026 Cajun Classic will host 150 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 17-22, 2026. Play begins at 9 am each day and lasts into the evenings.

Where

Paula G. Manship YMCA,
Lamar Tennis Center.

- **Six of the top-10 women:** ITF World #4 Aniek van Koot of the Netherlands; #6 Kgothatso Montjane of the Republic of South Africa; #7 Ksenia Chasteau of France; #8 Lizzy de Greef of the Netherlands; #9 Zhenzhen Zhu of the People's Republic of China and #10 Angelica Bernal of Colombia.
- **Ten 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 Ahmet Kaplan of Turkey; #5 Jin Woodman of Australia; #6 Andy Lapthorne of Great Britain; #7 Gonzalo Lazarte of Argentina; #8 Francisco Cayulef of Chile; #9 Gregory Slade of Great Britain; and #10 Heath Davidson of Australia.

“The Cajun Classic continues to attract the world’s best wheelchair tennis players, and we expect another competitive tournament this year. We are also pleased to continue our tradition of introducing tomorrow’s champions through our juniors’ competition,” 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, St. George Mayor Dustin Yates, 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, PER4MAX and the Edward Jones Investments / Tex Morris “Hallowheel” charity tennis and pickleball tournament, held every October in Baton Rouge.

The 2025 Hallowheel tournament raised \$60,730 for this year’s Cajun Classic. Since 2015, the Hallowheel tournament has raised \$360,845 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.

“The Greater Baton Rouge Community Tennis Association is proud to be the Presenting Sponsor of the Cajun Classic, and we look forward to another great year of world-class competition,” said GBRCTA President Jennifer Tolbert. “The Cajun Classic gives our local tennis enthusiasts the opportunity to volunteer and to serve some of the world’s most amazing athletes.”

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 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>