

Leslie Allen Foundation

"Tennis is more than just hitting a ball."

WIN4LIFE

CONTACTS:

Ira H. Silverman/ Dara Librett
Silverman Media&Marketing Group
516/495-5280
E-mail: smmgsports@aol.com

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LESLIE ALLEN FOUNDATION'S 'WIN4LIFE™ TENNIS & LIFESKILLS WEEKEND'

HONORING ALTHEA GIBSON SET FOR MAY 20-23, 2004, IN BOSTON AT SPORTSMEN'S TENNIS CLUB

BOSTON, April 6, 2004 - - As a way of commemorating the 25th Anniversary of tennis legend Althea Gibson training four promising African American female tennis players, the Leslie Allen Foundation will re-enact the event at its original Boston venue over the weekend of Thurs., May 20, to Sun., May 23, 2004.

Leslie Allen, founder and executive director of the not for profit (501c3) Leslie Allen Foundation, participated in the training program with Gibson in 1979 at Sportsmen's Tennis Club. The Foundation's *WIN4LIFE Tennis & Life Skills Weekend* will bring together a total of 20 urban teenage girls from Boston and the hometowns and programs of each of the original four players - - Allen, Andrea Buchanan, Zina Garrison and Kim Sands.

The weekend is designed to instill in the young women the importance of using WIN4LIFE's "4 D's" (*Desire, Dedication, Discipline, and Determination*) as a path to succeed in life, to develop strong life skills and to gain insights into the behind-the-scenes careers in pro tennis. The Foundation's motto is: *Tennis is more than just hitting a ball.*

Leslie Allen, an honor graduate of the University of Southern California, played on the WTA Tour from 1977-1987 and achieved her highest career ranking of #17 in the world in 1981. That was the year she made history in capturing the Avon Championships of Detroit, becoming the first African American woman to win a major pro tour tennis event since Althea Gibson's 1958 US Open title.

The girls, who will come from New York, Charleston (SC), Los Angeles, Houston and Miami, in addition to Boston, will be of diverse ethnic backgrounds and range in age between 14-16. They will be selected based on their tennis ability, how they employ the 4D's in their lives and their educational achievements. In Boston, they will participate in tennis training sessions, attend workshops designed to jump-start their preparation for college and life and enjoy a tour of historic Boston.

The supporters of the *Leslie Allen Foundation Win4Life Tennis and Life Skills Weekend* include Presenting Sponsors: JetBlue Airways, Sportsmen's Tennis Club, and the U.S. Tennis Association (National and Sections); as well as Corporate Sponsors: Outback Steakhouse, Family Circle Cup, Billie Jean King/WTT, Reebok, Nestle, Continental Airlines and the Women's Sports Foundation. According to Allen, event sponsorships are still available to businesses and individuals at various participation levels. All contributions will benefit the Leslie Allen Foundation.

"It is with great pleasure that we are able to re-create an event that was so meaningful to me and my three WTA Tour colleagues" Allen noted. "Among the many things we learned from Althea over that week-long period was the importance of believing in oneself, to work hard, strive for excellence and to make a difference in people's lives. The weekend's program is designed to help the next generation learn how to WIN4LIFE on and off the court."

About the Leslie Allen Foundation

Leslie Allen created her foundation and the WIN4LIFE program so young people would learn that *Tennis is more than just hitting a ball.* It's mission is to help kids (who do not ordinarily have the access) reap the positive benefits of participating in tennis, to provide them with insights into the 100+ behind the scenes careers in pro tennis, give them exposure to the world outside their neighborhoods, and help in their development of the life skills needed to be prepared for their futures on and off the court. Currently there are WIN4LIFE programs in New York City and Charleston SC. For more information, contact the Leslie Allen Foundation at 212 927-4646 or send an e-mail to events@leslieallen.net. Also, visit: www.leslieallen.net.

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