



USTA NORTH CAROLINA

RAMONA STATON

Black History Month Q&A

Ramona Staton, a North Carolina native, is the Head Men's & Women's Tennis Coach at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC.

"I was the first women's tennis scholarship recipient at Benedict College in 1999," Staton said. "I played #1 singles and #1 doubles the three years I spent at Benedict. I started head tennis coaching at 26-years-old at Queens University of Charlotte in 2005."

Q&A with Coach Staton:

How were you first introduced to tennis?

"I was first introduced to tennis by my older sisters. I have four sisters who all taught themselves how to play at a local middle school across the street from where we lived."

What is your favorite part about coaching?

"My favorite part about coaching is the connection that I have with each of my student-athletes."

What makes your institution and/or program special?

"What makes Johnson C. Smith special is the family atmosphere that we have here and the location."

What is your favorite tennis memory?

"My favorite tennis memory is a win that I had while playing at Benedict College. We were playing our first match of our inaugural season where we traveled to Aiken, SC to play an away match at the University of Aiken. We were all on the court and I noticed my teammates dropping their matches. I was the last one on the court and I thought that my match would get stopped but we continued playing. I ended up winning the second set 7-5 after losing the first set 6-4. We went into a third set tiebreaker and I ended up winning the tiebreaker 7-5. That match set the tone for what to expect in college tennis."

What life lessons have you learned from tennis?

"There are so many life lessons to learn from tennis such as dedication, hard work, and perseverance."