



**Irwin Holmes, Jr.** broke the color barrier at NC State University as its first African-American athlete in 1955-57 and was the number two ranked African-American player in the country.



A prominent North Carolina native, **Dr. Hubert Eaton**, is known for his contribution to the game of tennis that came on a court he built in his backyard at 1406 Orange Street in Wilmington. Dr. Eaton (right) spent time mentoring many young tennis players, including Althea Gibson (left), and served as president of the American Tennis Association (ATA).



**Lenward "Lenny" Simpson** was a protégé of Arthur Ashe and was first introduced to tennis by his neighbor, Dr. Hubert Eaton. Simpson went on to become an ATA champion and was the youngest man ever to play at the US Open in Forest Hills.



**Bonnie Logan**, a Durham, North Carolina legend, broke the color barrier in the South African Open Tennis Championships. She was also the first African American on the Virginia Slims Tennis Tour, won numerous ATA titles, and was inducted into the North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame in 2012.



Coach **David Lash** sought to bring tennis to the black community by starting a summer tennis program in 1943. The program he created later became part of an American Tennis Association's training program. He was inducted into the North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame in 1997.



In 1969, **Beth Hopkins** was one of two African-American women to integrate the residence halls at Wake Forest University. Beth is an avid tennis player, longtime volunteer, and has chaired committees at all three USTA levels (state, section, and national). She currently serves on the USTA Southern Board of Directors.



Durham native, **John Lucas**, was a top junior tennis player who played collegiate tennis and basketball at the University of Maryland. He played on the pro tour before becoming a top player in the NBA.

\*Video resources can also be found on the [NCTF Hall of Fame YouTube Channel](#).

**Additional Resources from USTA.com about Black History:**

[2020 Black History Month: Greatest Moments in Tennis History](#)

[Black History Month Legend: Althea Gibson](#)

[Black History Month Legend: Arthur Ashe](#)

[Althea Gibson mini-documentary from The History Channel](#)