

Subject: Outside of the Box: A Look into Our Summer Adventures

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STREETSQUASH
HARLEM • NEWARK

A Week with Willstrop

World-renowned professional James Willstrop visits the S.L. Green StreetSquash Center for elite training sessions



StreetSquashers are thrilled to share our courts with James Willstrop (center) for a hit-around and discussion about squash training and mental toughness.

Upon completion of our 19th school year, with a whirlwind of activities and accomplishments behind us, StreetSquash is back in action with summer programming across Harlem and Newark. Inside the S.L. Green StreetSquash Center students are staying active and engaged on and off court. Most notable of our on-court activities? Last week, we got to train with English professional squash player, James Willstrop.

A role model of the game, James reached a World no.1 ranking in 2012 and holds the current no.17 spot. A majority of StreetSquashers recognized James from his participation in the local Tournament of Champions, and of course, SquashTV highlight reels. Our elite students were eager to "learn from a legend" as noted by Aye, '19, one of several students participating in the clinics with James.



Kelvin '22 prepares to volley a shot to James in a rotating feed drill, in which repetition and feedback are key.

Throughout the week, students were treated to small-group sessions with the

professional. Drills, strategy, and fitness training are familiar for our students, but became much more exciting with the advice of a world-renowned professional. Fatima '19 remarked "James is a really patient coach, even when I make a mistake he provides really helpful feedback. It makes a huge difference in my game."

Our younger scholars of the game, Matthew, Kelvin, Ty'East, Class of 2022, all agreed that having detailed attention from Willstrop was a game changer. "He was really analyzing all of our shots and helping us get better- whether by helping me with my swing or the choice of shot- it pushed me to do a lot better on court" explained Matthew '22.

The once-in-a-lifetime training opportunity inspired our newer players and motivated our more experienced athletes. Likewise, James expressed gratitude for his work with StreetSquash's students and local alumni, Terrance '12 and Floyd '13. "Working with Terrance and Floyd has made for some of the best sessions that I have coached, ever" James told us.

By the end of the week, our students and staff had so much to feel grateful for because of our special guest coach. After several lessons and wise advice, it was bittersweet to see him go. Thank you, James, for your incredible generosity to StreetSquash!

StreetSquash Scoreboard



Goldman Sachs volunteers making a racket with students after a fierce competition in Summer Discovery's annual Color Team Olympics.

71 middle school students participated in our annual six-week long **Summer Discovery** program.

38 high schoolers stayed active in **Summer Quest** programming, which focused on squash training and competition on court, paired with academic challenges off court.

6 StreetSquashers attended immersive academic summer programs at **Phillips Exeter Academy, The Taft School, and Salisbury School.**

8 rising seniors studied on college campuses at **Brown, Columbia, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yale** through partnerships with pre-college programs.

12 volunteers from **Goldman Sachs** spent time playing and learning in our Summer Discovery program.

3 Students traveled up to Maine to attend **Seeds of Peace**, an intensive summer program that focuses on building leaders to inspire change.

Not Your Typical Classroom

Summer adventures provide students with new experiences to grow and explore NYC and beyond!



Genesis '19 and her mom Shanell enjoy an orientation send-off event at the New York Times Summer Academy.

This summer, StreetSquash partnered with more programs than ever to send our students on new adventures during summer downtime. In continued partnerships with Columbia University and the New York Times Summer Academy, our rising seniors saw New York City in a new light. Tindakay, Aye, and Samantha, Class of 2019, attended a pre-college program at Columbia for three weeks, while Genesis '19 explored food and fashion with the New York Times Summer Academy.

"I expected fashion to be an easy topic, because I was already interested in it," Genesis said, "but it turned out to be really challenging and complex. There is so much to learn about money and business!" Genesis also noted that she loved the NYT Summer Academy because of the "hands-on" learning experience outside of the classroom.



Aye '19 tours a law office in midtown while on a field trip with the Columbia University Summer Immersion Pre-College Program.



Leslie '19 celebrates the completion of her capstone project during the two-week program with Yale Young Global Scholars.

Just across Morningside Park, Aye '19 explored the wide variety of topics related to the legal field at Columbia University. She was pleased to report back that "you don't have to study law in college to be a lawyer. There are a lot of topics you can study that relate to law, even before law school!"

Meanwhile, outside of the city, Leslie '19 found a new home in New Haven, CT for a two-week immersive experience with the Yale Young Global Scholars Program. "I learned new things about myself every day," Leslie noted. "The college seminars kept my mind flowing with different concepts, especially about Philosophy and the meaning of life."

At the same time, the Citizenship Tour made its regular visit to the NYC area with a star-studded squash event at the Harmonie Club. The annual 8-day Tour, hosted by the Squash + Education Alliance (SEA), seeks to inspire students to be civically engaged. SEA Intern and StreetSquash alumna Djeneba '16 helped orchestrate the Harmonie Club reception, which included an exhibition between professional squash players Todd Harrity and Ramy Ashour.

Leading along the way was Kyrell '16, StreetSquash alum and Newark coach, who chaperoned the trip down the East Coast. While in the nation's capital, StreetSquash Newark rising Seniors Quinlan and Ajani had the amazing opportunity to meet and speak with US Senator Cory Booker - a familiar face for our StreetSquashers as the former mayor of Newark.



(From left to right) Todd Harrity, World #50; Djeneba '16, Hobart and William Smith Colleges '20; Ramy Ashour, World #9 pose for a photo at SEA's squash exhibition at the Harmonie Club.



StreetSquash Newark rising Seniors Quinlan (left) and Ajani (right) with Senator Cory Booker at the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

Just off another stop on the Metro-North, several StreetSquashers participated in the first interactive squash summer camp in the nation at the MSquash Academy in Port Chester, NY. Founders Katline Cauwels and Shaun Moxham noted that our StreetSquashers pushed themselves to work hard each day on their courts. With interactive motion-sensing technology, it was clear that our students were tested like never before! "It reminded me how much of a mental game squash is," Mauricio '19 recalled, as he explained the intensive skills testing and tough competition.



(From left) Katline Cauwels, Mauricio '19, Zeinab '19, and Shaun Moxham at the interactive squash courts at MSquash Academy in Port Chester, NY.

Expanding on both squash and education, Ixayana '22 and Tindakay '19 trained and explored across the pond at the Universal Squash Camp in England. Led by CitySquash's Bryan Patterson, the annual trip included competitive squash training for a handful of SEA students who earned the opportunity through hard work during the school year. Although squash training was the main focus, the trip also incorporated cultural excursions, which Tindakay decided was her favorite part after touring London.



Ixayana '22 (far left) and Tindakay '19 (far right) explore Buckingham Palace with their new friends from the SEA network.



Get Involved

Volunteer: Are you interested in volunteering with our students in the classroom or on the courts? Please [fill out this form](#) to be notified for an orientation before our program year starts in September!

Serve: Are you a motivated young professional in the NYC area interested in StreetSquash? Would you like to network with a board of likeminded, dedicated young professionals? Please [fill out this form](#) to learn more about the StreetSquash Young Leadership Committee.

Support: Are you dedicated to the mission and students of StreetSquash? Consider [donating](#) to our organization.



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