

The tennis game in “1968” had one notable black tennis player “Arthur Ashe”. Not many young black children were dreaming of playing tennis professionally. Most of kids in the area where Charles grew up were most likely playing, what I call the “Playground Sports.”

The meaning of playground sports is simple these were sports you could play by simply going over to the play field. This definition only defines the neighborhoods in Evanston Illinois a small town that is located just outside Chicago at that time.

Charles and many of the other children played baseball, basketball and football. “Play Ground Sports” allowed you to play even if you did not have any equipment. It did not matter if you wanted to play baseball or basketball. Baseball it was simple the team that was at bat let the defensive team used their gloves.

To play basketball you just had to show up and wait to get picked, even if you were the worst player somebody would eventually Pick you!.

Charles once asked his Father for a tennis racquet. his Father invoked his famous “Five second rule”

The “Five second rule” meant “You have five seconds to get your ass outta of my face!”

In America we respect success and often idolize those that succeed. We have very little compassion or time for those that fail. Charles is a person that would accomplish more and better that what was expected of him. He was person that always maintained a positive image of himself although often there was not a lot to feel positive about at the time. He carries himself like man that has every tool to be successful. But constantly struggles to fill in the gaps that are missing from his inner spirit and self confidence.