

*What is the most important lesson you have learned thus far through NJTL,  
and how does that lesson help you in your life  
as a student, a tennis player, and an individual?*

By: Nigel Billings

- Age: 11
- James Lewis Tennis Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

The most important lesson that I have learned from the James Lewis Tennis Scholarship Foundation, Inc. (JLTSFI) is that I must have a good work ethic. Work ethics is not just about getting a job and doing what you are paid to do; but it applies to any sport. And, I try to have a good work ethic with playing tennis. People see that--my parents, other parents, my coaches, other coaches, and even my teammates see my work ethic; whether it's good or bad. For example, I don't show a good work ethic when I don't hustle after the ball during practice or when I have an attitude with my teammates. But, I am proud to say that I really try hard the majority of the time to follow thru on my tennis exercises and play fair with my friends and even say "good job" for the great points that my opponents play. I have also learned that in tennis you **have** to want it. That means that you have to want to go out on the court and listen and do your best. You have to want to get better physically and mentally in the game of tennis. That's part of a good work ethic. To sum it up, with tennis you have to be serious about doing what it takes. Sometimes it's hard work and sometimes it's not. But, no matter what, give it all you have when you are on the court.