



Winner receives singles main draw entry into 2012 Honolulu Challenger

TOP SEEDS CONTINUE TO DOMINATE THE 2012 HONOLULU CHALLENGER WILD CARD TOURNAMENT

updated results

Kailua, Hawaii January 13, 2011 - Top seed, Dennis Lajola defeated Jan Axel Tribler, 6-3, 6-0 to advance to the semifinals of the Honolulu Challenger Wild Card tournament at Kailua Racquet Club, January 12 – 15.

"Every match that I win helps my confidence and that was my main goal this tournament," said Lajola of Aiea. "I'm trying all the right things I practiced in the off-season and I'm feeling really good about my game."

Lajola will take on No. 4 seed, Rong Ma in tomorrow's semifinal. Ma, a former BYUH player from China beat Hawaii Pacific University's head coach Hendrik Bode, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2.

"I've been waiting to play [Ma] for the last five years," said Bode. "I enjoyed it; no regrets." The epic battle was the first singles meeting between the two former No.1 singles collegiate players.

"He took charge and just played better all the way through the second and third set," said Bode who cramped in the middle of the third set. "It definitely shows you how good of a shape you have to be to play good tennis at a high level. That's how you win matches; you play better than your opponent."

On the other side of the draw, No. 2 seed, Roberto Cid of Florida defeated Hawaii Pacific University's Sari Alotaibi, 6-2, 6-2 to secure his semifinal berth. Cid, currently ranked No. 1010 is originally from the Dominican Republic and now lives in Boca Raton. A competitive junior in the ITF arena, Cid switched gears last spring and finished the year with six quarterfinals in a series of Future tournaments in Mexico.

Cid will take on HPU's top singles player, Petr Michnev in tomorrow's semifinal match. Mitchnev beat fellow HPU teammate, Ji Hoon Heo, 7-5, 6-2.

The winner of the 2012 Honolulu Challenger Wild Card tournament will receive a singles main draw wild card and the appropriate ATP points. That player will join

Mikael Maatta and Tribler who won a doubles main draw wild card entry to the 2012 Honolulu Challenger by winning the *Triple Crown of Tennis* men's doubles series last summer. Hawaii's Ikaika Jobe and Bode have secured a doubles main draw wild card and Leo Rosenberg from University of Hawaii Manoa earned a singles wild card by winning the Honolulu Master's tournament last fall.

Admission to the 2012 Honolulu Challenger Wild Card tournament is free. The tournament is held at the Kailua Racquet Club, 629 Oneawa Street, in Kailua, and runs January 12 – 15, 2012.

For more information, visit www.hawaii.usta.com

National Anthem Auditions

Tomorrow, January 14, at 2pm, the USTA Hawaii Pacific Section will be hosting auditions for kids to sing the National Anthem at the start of matches during the 2012 Honolulu Challenger.

2012 Honolulu Challenger Wild Card Tournament

Friday, January 13

Kailua Racquet Club

Kailua, Hawaii

Surface: Hard - Outdoor

Friday's January 13 – RESULTS

Singles – Quarterfinals

Dennis Lajola (1), def. Jan Axel Tribler, 6-3, 6-0,

Rong Ma (4), def. Hendrik Bode, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2

Petr Michnev (3), def. Ji Hoon Heo, 7-5, 6-2,

Roberto Cid (2), def. Sari Alotaibi, 6-2, 6-2.

Saturday's January 14 – SCHEDULE

COURT 5 starting at 12 noon

Dennis Lajola vs. Rong Ma, followed by

Petr Michnev vs. Roberto Cid

Sunday's January 15 - FINAL will take place at 11:30am

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