

YOUNG AMERICANS MAKE THEIR MARK ON THE USTA PRO CIRCUIT



Young Americans Samantha Crawford (left) and Taylor Fritz won their first USTA Pro Circuit titles in 2015. Crawford won the championship in Scottsdale, Ariz., and reached three other finals while Fritz captured the events in Fairfield, Calif., and Sacramento, Calif.

INSIDE:

PRO CIRCUIT EVENTS ENGAGE HISPANIC MARKETS

USTA Pro Circuit events are proving to be great avenues to engage the Hispanic market and help develop a new fan and player base.

WEBSITE FOR PRO CIRCUIT TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

The inaugural USTA Pro Circuit Online Tournament Director Manual is now available online on a website for Pro Circuit tournament directors.

NOTABLE RECORDS AND RESULTS ON THE USTA PRO CIRCUIT

There were many noteworthy accomplishments on the 2015 USTA Pro Circuit among U.S. men and women.

U.S. players enjoyed a banner year on the USTA Pro Circuit, winning close to half of the singles titles in the 88 Pro Circuit tournaments staged across the country in 2015. Young Americans fared especially well. U.S. women—all under the age of 25—captured 20 Pro Circuit singles titles, while American men won 21 Pro Circuit singles titles, with only two of the men above the age of 25.

Samantha Crawford and Jared Donaldson amassed the most 2015 ranking points among the U.S. contingent, with several young players enjoying breakthrough performances in the second half of the year. Chief among them were Taylor Fritz, the world's top-ranked junior and 2015

US Open boys' singles champion, who won back-to-back Pro Circuit titles in October, and Crawford, the 2012 US Open girls' singles champion, who captured the first Pro Circuit title of her career in the final Pro Circuit event of the year. That title clinched for her the USTA Pro Circuit Australian Open Wild Card Challenge and a 2016 Australian Open main draw berth, and was her second consecutive wild card challenge win—she also captured the USTA Pro Circuit US Open Wild Card Challenge during the summer. Earning Grand Slam wild cards on the men's side in the second half of 2015 were young Americans Bjorn Fratangelo (for the 2015 US Open) and Noah Rubin (for the 2016 Australian Open).

FIRST SERVES



The USTA Pro Circuit staff poses in the USTA's White Plains office in December 2015. Seated, left to right: Billie Lipp, Brian Earley, Danielle Gooding. Standing, left to right: Idelle Pierre-Louis, Keith Crossland, Kelly Kressler, Mike Loo, Dessie Samuels, Luke Rassow-Kanter, Missy Malool, Bunny Williams, David Littlefield, Peter Kasavage, Louise Maher.

Pro Circuit Staff Holds Year-End Meetings

The USTA Pro Circuit ended another successful year with a series of staff meetings, which took place from November 30 through December 4. Pro Circuit staff in the White Plains, N.Y. office, as well as Pro Circuit Supervisors, met to review all tournaments on the Pro Circuit calendar in addition to catching up on Pro Circuit and USTA business.

In personnel news, Kelly Kressler joined the USTA Pro Circuit staff as an administrative assistant. She replaced Erin Maher, who left the Pro Circuit staff to work at the Bronx Zoo in New York City.



The USTA Pro Circuit staff, joined by Skip Gilbert, Managing Director, Professional Tennis Operations (top left), meets in the White Plains Board Room.

The USTA Pro Circuit, with approximately 90 tournaments hosted annually throughout the country and prize money ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000, is the pathway to the US Open and tour-level competition for aspiring professional tennis players and a frequent battleground for established professionals. The USTA launched its Pro Circuit in 1979 to provide players with the opportunity to gain professional ranking points, and it has since grown to become the largest developmental tennis circuit in the world, offering nearly \$3 million in prize money. Last year, more than 1,000 men and women from over 70 countries competed in Pro Circuit events in cities nationwide. Victoria Azarenka, Eugenie Bouchard, Grigor Dimitrov, John Isner, Angelique Kerber, Madison Keys, Garbiñe Muguruza, Andy Murray, Kei Nishikori, Milos Raonic, Maria Sharapova and Caroline Wozniacki are among today's top players who began their careers on the USTA Pro Circuit.



FIRST SERVES

Pro Circuit Tournament Director Site

It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to put on a successful USTA Pro Circuit event, and the inaugural USTA Pro Circuit Online Tournament Director Manual, which is now available online on a website for tournament directors, can help make the job a bit easier. The new format makes for a dynamic, living document that can be improved and updated whenever the Pro Circuit team or tournament partners come up with even more creative ways to make Pro Circuit tournaments more successful.

The website offers an abundance of information in the following categories: Introduction & Recent Updates, Live Stream & Live Scoring, Logos & Branding, Marketing, Newsletters, Photo Gallery, Tournament Operations, Sponsorship Packages, Statistics and Vendors.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR TESTIMONIALS

Here is some feedback on the website:

"Love the TD website! I have gleaned so much useful information that prompted some last minute additions to our event, like a sign on the exit gate saying: 'Have you returned your towel?'"

"The media information was really helpful, along with the samples of program inserts. I hadn't thought about the title sponsor adding a letter. Social media page was excellent."

"The website helped with the small details too, like ordering the trophies. It's a really, really great website."

USTA PRO CIRCUIT TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR SITE

HOME PHOTOS LOGOUT

INTRODUCTION & RECENT UPDATES

TOURNAMENT OPERATIONS

MARKETING

PHOTO GALLERY

LIVE STREAMING & LIVE SCORING

LOGOS & BRANDING

STATISTICS, NEWSLETTERS, RECAP, VENDORS

Note to tournament directors: The site is password accessible only. If you need a username and password to access the site, please contact your assigned Pro Circuit Coordinator.

FIRST SERVES

Official Pro Circuit Mobile App Now Available

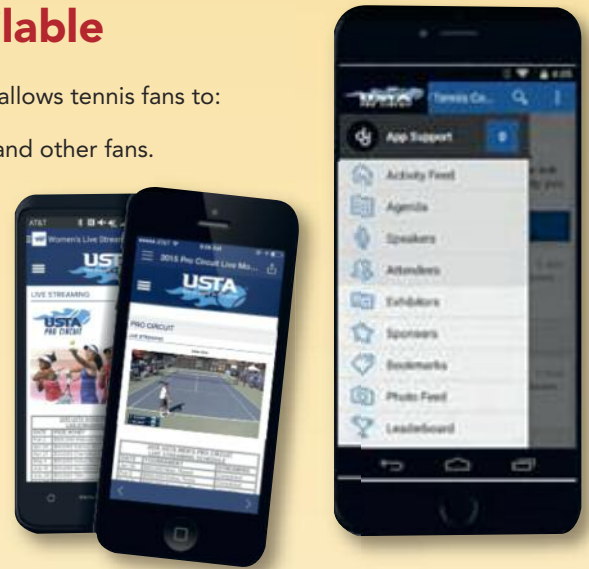
The official mobile app for the USTA Pro Circuit is now available. The mobile app allows tennis fans to:

- Connect with a worldwide network of Official Pro Circuit tournaments, players and other fans.
- Watch live streaming of men's Challengers and select women's tournaments.
- Get the latest scores, draws and tournament schedules.
- Interact with a real-time feed of all event activity, which showcases exclusive photos, along with popular discussion topics.
- Earn points, badges and prizes for being active on the app.
- Expand your knowledge of the Pro Circuit, and have fun!

The USTA Pro Circuit App includes such features such as:

- Updates. A quick way to see where Pro Circuit tournaments are being played, share photos and make comments.
- Surveys. Pro Circuit community members are invited to provide feedback concerning the pertinent issues of the day.
- Photo Galleries. Post photos from tournaments you attend and view photos of players competing on the Pro Circuit.
- Spotlights. Meet and learn more about tournaments within our community.
- User Connections. See who is playing on the Pro Circuit and connect with other fans who follow and attend Circuit events.

The app is available only to individuals age 13 and older. It was created by DoubleDutch, the leading provider of branded mobile applications for events, conferences and trade shows worldwide. Through 2015, more than 2,795 tennis fans downloaded the Pro Circuit App. You can download the app by searching "procircuit" in the iTunes App Store or Google Play.



FIRST SERVES

Pro Circuit Events Engage Hispanic Markets

USTA Pro Circuit events are proving to be great avenues to engage the Hispanic market and help develop a new fan and player base. The \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit men's tournament in Little Rock, Ark.—the Pro Circuit's longest-running event—has been translating the Pro Circuit's PSA into Spanish for more than five years in an effort to help grow the game. The USTA/Ursula Beck Pro Tennis Classic at the Fairview Park Tennis Complex in Decatur, Ill., and the \$10,000 Shipyard Cup at the Van Der Meer Shipyard Racquet Club in Hilton Head Island, S.C., have also been incorporating Spanish-language materials to promote community events during their tournaments.

More efforts to engage Hispanic markets are coming. At the start of 2015, USTA Chairman, CEO and President Katrina Adams developed the USTA's first Hispanic Engagement Advisory Group, with a mission to promote and develop the growth of tennis among U.S. Hispanics. Led by USTA Board Member Fabrizio Alcobé-Fierro, senior vice president of Univision Networks at Univision Communications Inc., the group has been tasked with growing the number of U.S. Hispanic players, particularly among youth and families, by expanding the USTA's Hispanic outreach in communities around the country.

Off the court, the USTA created its first-ever Spanish-language television commercials and first-ever stand-alone Spanish-language website in 2015. The Spanish-language commercials feature former tennis pro and current U.S. Fed Cup Captain Mary Joe Fernandez and Hall of Famer Gigi Fernandez. Each spot directs viewers to visit www.TenisParaTodos.com for information on how adults and children can get involved and begin playing in their communities.

To learn more, visit http://assets.usta.com/assets/1/15/8688_USTA-HISPANIC_toolkit.pdf



A Tenis Para Todos clinic was held at the Copperwynd Pro Women's Challenge in Scottsdale, Ariz., in November 2015.



Únete a nosotros para

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¿QUÉ ES?
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CUANDO Y DONDE
Jueves, 6 de agosto, 10:00 - 11:30 am
Fairview Tennis Complex

Para contratarse o para más información, por favor póngase en contacto con:
Fairview Tennis Complex
217-421-7432

Former Decatur Press Aide Receives Wilson Award

Patrick Kuhle, former Press Aide of the \$15,000 USTA/Ursula Beck Pro Tennis Classic in Decatur, Ill., was awarded the 2015 Wilson/ITA National Promoter of the Year Award earlier this year. The son of Decatur Tournament Director Chuck Kuhle, he received a paid summer internship in the Grassroots Marketing department at Wilson's global headquarters in Chicago, Ill. Kuhle is currently a senior at Quincy University in Quincy, Ill., studying Public Relations, Marketing and Graphic Design. He is also captain of the Quincy tennis team and writes press releases for the team, manages the program's Twitter account and serves as president of Quincy's Student Athlete Activities Committee.

The Wilson/ITA National Promoter of the Year Award recognizes student-athletes who advance the game of tennis by devoting consistent time and effort to promotional activities, and by supporting and bringing awareness to their school program and to college tennis in general.

Kuhle has been very involved with the promotion of the Quincy program in the community by teaching tennis at local schools, and by linking together the university tennis program with the Quincy Tennis Association and Quincy Park District. He also writes stories for *The Falcon*, the university newspaper, and works as a cameraman during volleyball and basketball events.

When his father traveled to this year's US Open and attended to USTA Pro Circuit committee business, Kuhle helped staff the Wilson store at the US Open. The template for managing a demanding schedule while promoting the sport comes from his father.

"My dad's a role model for me in that category," Kuhle said. "He just loves the game and he does as much as he can to promote it, both where we live and on a national scale. I really love tennis, and it definitely needs people to promote the game."



FIRST SERVES

Pro Circuit Staff Pitches in at US Open

Members of the USTA Pro Circuit staff once again supported the operation of the US Open by taking on a variety of assignments at the 2015 event.

Staff Member

Brian Earley
Keith Crossland
Missy Malool
Bunny Williams
David Littlefield
Mike Loo
Dessie Samuels
Peter Kasavage
Billie Lipp
Danielle Gooding
Idelle Pierre-Louis
Louise Maher
Luke Rassow-Kantor

Assignment

Tournament Referee
Assistant Referee, Scheduling
Lead Review Official, Hawkeye
Deputy Referee, Louis Armstrong and Grandstand
Referee, US Open Juniors
Deputy Referee, Tournament Operations
Deputy Referee Team Leader, Command Center
Deputy Referee, Command Center
Deputy Referee, Command Center
Player Registration Supervisor
Player Registration
Player Registration
Player Registration



Bunny Williams in the Grandstand



Left to right:
Danielle Gooding, Idelle
Pierre-Louis, Louise Maher,
Luke Rassow-Kantor in the
Player Registration at the
US Open.

FIRST SERVES

Pro Circuit Tournament Directors Visit US Open

Nearly a dozen USTA Pro Circuit Tournament Directors from across the country took time from their busy schedules to attend the 2015 US Open. In addition to watching great tennis, they were able to observe Tournament Operations at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, take notes and get ideas that could help them run their own tournaments.



Skip Vogelsang (left)



Wilson Pipkin (right) with Ons Jabeur



Ismale Rosales (left) with son, Fabian



Erin Childress (left) with Missy Lewis



Chuck Kuhle (left) with son, Patrick, and wife, Terri



Gabe Norona (right) with Dominic Thiem



Michael Burchett



Karen Vogter (left)



Thomas Johnston (left) with daughter, Celine



Andy Carter (left) with Nick Bollettieri

USTA PRO CIRCUIT TOURNAMENT NEWS

COMMUNITY EVENTS HIGHLIGHT PRO CIRCUIT TOURNAMENTS

Once again, USTA Pro Circuit Tournaments offered fans and local residents a wide variety of community events to introduce them to professional tennis and make them part of the event.

The Edwardsville Futures in Edwardsville, Ill., held two noteworthy community events. The men's \$15,000 tournament staged a USTA Pro Circuit Event Family Day at the Edwardsville High School Tennis Courts. The event offered families free admission, face painting, a bounce house, lunch specials, mini tennis with the pros, frozen custard and lots of other fun activities. The annual Mitch n' Friends Clinic provided children with mental or physical disabilities the opportunity to take to the courts at Edwardsville High School and hit some tennis balls. It was an incredible night as 16 participants enjoyed tennis, pizza and a dance party. There were more than 30 volunteers, including the EHS girls tennis team, the University of Illinois men's tennis team, Mitch n' Friends board members, and friends of Mitch and the Futures.

Among the other community events that took place during USTA Pro Circuit events during the second half of 2015 were:

Location

Albuquerque, N.M.

Aptos, Calif.

Baton Rouge, La.

Bethany Beach, Del.

Binghamton, N.Y.

Charlotte, N.C.

Charlottesville, Va.

Decatur, Ill.

Fairfield, Calif.

Lexington, Ky.

Redding, Calif.

Rochester, N.Y.

Rock Hill, S.C.

Sacramento, Calif.

Scottsdale, Ariz.

Stockton, Calif.

Tiburon, Calif.

Waco, Texas

Winnetka, Ill.

Event

Nickelodeon Worldwide Day of Play,

Nickelodeon 10 and Under Play Time,

Wheelchair Tennis Clinic, Senior Clinic

Wheelchair Tennis Clinic

Beginner Adult Clinic

Junior Play Day

Dog Adopt-A-Thon

Celebrity Pro-Am

Pro-Am to Benefit Special Olympics Virginia

Kids' Day

Ladies Day Clinic

University of Kentucky Hall of Fame Induction

Ascension Wine Tasting Fundraiser,

Road to College Workshop,

Special Olympics Clinic

Kids' Carnival

Rockin' Junior Kickoff

Breast Cancer Awareness Day

Veteran Appreciation Day, Veteran's Day Clinic

Wheelchair Tennis Day, Exhibition

USTA Kids' Play Day

"Cub Club" Kids' Clinic

Pro-Am



Sacramento, Calif.



Edwardsville, Ill.



Wichita, Kan.

USTA PRO CIRCUIT TOURNAMENT NEWS

SELFIES BECOME POPULAR WITH PLAYERS

It's no secret that "Selfies" have become very popular on Social Media, and now the "Selfie" has found its way to the USTA Pro Circuit as players at the Ascension Project Women's \$25,000 Challenger in Redding, Calif., and the \$50,000 Kirkland Tennis Pro Circuit Event in Kirkland, Wash., took time to take a Selfie with tournament ballkids.



ENHANCING THE EVENT EXPERIENCE

Throughout the year, many "cool ideas" at USTA Pro Circuit events help make the tennis experience a memorable one for fans, players, sponsors, volunteers and everyone else associated with the tournament. Here are a few of them.

NBC affiliate WAND Channel 17, which serves Central Illinois, used a digital tennis scoreboard as the backdrop in its weather segment during the USTA/Ursula Beck Pro Tennis Classic, which is played at the Fairview Park Tennis Complex in Decatur, Ill.

The Wichita Tennis Open at the Sheldon Coleman Tennis Complex at Wichita State University provided tournament patrons with a bright, colorful "VIP Area," which featured seating and hospitality.

The University of the Pacific \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Stockton, Calif., incorporated large banners with sponsor logos to display the tournament's singles and doubles draws.

The \$50,000 FSP Gold River Women's Challenger, which returned to Sacramento for the fourth consecutive year, presented attendees at the tournament's Player/Sponsor Party with a beautiful sponsor gift bag containing a tournament shirt, hat and tickets for the event.



USTA PRO CIRCUIT TOURNAMENT NEWS

PRO CIRCUIT EVENTS PRESENT UNIQUE TROPHIES

A tournament trophy is a special memento that tennis champions cherish for a lifetime. Through the years, USTA Pro Circuit events have created distinctive and unique trophies—and 2015 was no exception. Here are just a few of the unique trophies that tournaments presented to their champions and finalists.

The Kentucky Bank Tennis Championships, which are played at the Hilary J. Boone Tennis Complex at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Ky., introduced perpetual winner trophies which were awarded to the men's and women's tournament champions. Both trophies are made of sterling silver.

The 2015 Coleman Vision Tennis Championships in Albuquerque, N.M., and Bush's \$50,000 Waco Showdown in Waco, Texas, had trophies made from wood in distinctive styles, which were proudly presented to the champions and finalists.

At the 2015 Coleman Vision Tennis Championships, Dr. Stephen Coleman (far left) and Tournament Director Sue Jollensten (far right) were on hand to present women's singles champion Michaella Krajicek (second from left) and finalist Naomi Broady with specially made wood trophies. Also pictured are unique trophies for the Kentucky Bank Tennis Championships and Bush's \$50,000 Eco Showdown.



New in 2015 —PERPETUAL TROPHIES—



Mary McDowell Boone
Women's Championship



Hilary J. Boone
Men's Championship

TIBURON, ROCK HILL AND WACO EVENTS SPORT NEW SPONSORS

A trio of USTA Pro Circuit events in the second half of 2015 welcomed new tournament sponsors.

Wells Fargo is now the Title Sponsor for the Wells Fargo Tiburon Challenger, a men's \$100,000 Challenger in Tiburon, Calif. The tournament was played in late September through early October at the Tiburon Peninsula Club.

Wells Fargo Advisors is the new Presenting Sponsor for the \$25,000 Rock Hill Rocks Open, which was played in October at the Rock Hill Tennis Center in Rock Hill, S.C.

Bush's Chicken, a Texas-based community-friendly, family-oriented quick-service restaurant, is the Title Sponsor for the USTA Pro Circuit women's event in Waco, now known as the Bush's \$50,000 Waco Showdown. The tournament was played in early November at the Hurd Tennis Center at Baylor University.



USTA PRO CIRCUIT TOURNAMENT NEWS

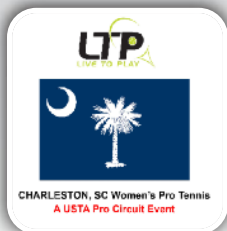
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

While forming the largest developmental tennis circuit in the world, USTA Pro Circuit events often use signage to help promote their brand. Here are some examples.



NEW LOGOS MAKE THEIR DEBUT ON THE PRO CIRCUIT

It was a great second half of the year on the USTA Pro Circuit as new and existing events developed bright, colorful and innovative tournament logos to help market their brand. In addition to the individual tournament logos, an "Illinois Swing" logo was created to promote four men's summer hard court tournaments in Illinois.



USTA PRO CIRCUIT TOURNAMENT NEWS



"RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY!"

Weather can sometimes present a challenge for outdoor tournaments on the USTA Pro Circuit. Unfortunately, during the second half of 2015, nearly a dozen events were affected by the dreaded four-letter word that makes tournament directors cringe: R-A-I-N.

For the first time in USTA Pro Circuit history, an event could not be finished due to inclement weather. In early October, Hurricane Joaquin slammed into South Carolina and prevented the women's \$10,000 Charleston Futures tournament from completing its singles and doubles draws. Meanwhile, several outdoor events, such as the women's \$75,000 Challenger in Kirkland, Wash., had to move indoors to complete their tournaments.

One tournament came up with a unique solution. The Southern Lifestyle Development Tennis Classic, which made its debut in late June at the W.T. "Dub" Robinson Tennis Complex at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La., borrowed a page from the US Open and employed a "Slamboni" machine to help dry the court during a rain delay.



LIVE

WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK

CAP/DEL	0	0
NGU/SAR	0	2

RAIN DELAY



USTA PRO CIRCUIT TOURNAMENT NEWS

LANDISVILLE TENNIS FANS GET THE PICTURE

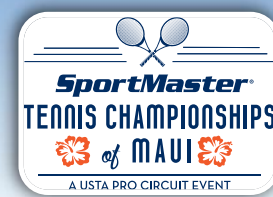
Fans attending the \$25,000 Koser Jewelers Tennis Challenge at the Hempfield Recreation Center in Landisville, Pa., in August, got to take home a nice tournament souvenir. Tournament Director Wilson Pipkin teamed with title sponsor Koser Jewelers to bring a photo booth to the tournament venue on the day of the finals. Fans received a free souvenir photo with "2015 Koser Jewelers \$25,000 Tennis Challenge" printed on the photo. The tournament and title sponsor split the cost of the photo booth, which made the successful promotion very affordable for both parties.

According to Pipkin, the promotion was a big hit with fans, who also received a coupon for a free watch battery that could be redeemed at the jewelry store.



MAUI TO HOST COMBINED PRO CIRCUIT EVENT IN 2016

The men's \$50,000 Challenger in Maui, Hawaii, is adding a \$50,000 women's tournament in 2016. Formerly known as the Royal Lahaina Challenger, the USTA Pro Circuit men's and women's combined event is now called the Tennis Championships of Maui and is being hosted by the Royal Lahaina Tennis Ranch and Royal Lahaina Resort on outdoor hard courts from January 23–31.



USTA PRO CIRCUIT TOURNAMENT NEWS

MACON TOURNAMENT PLAYERS MAKE MULTIPLE SCHOOL VISITS

The Tennis Classic of Macon has truly become a community event in Macon, Ga. Players competing in the 2015 tournament at the Leroy Peddy Tennis Center at Mercer University made not one but two visits to local schools. During his tenure as Tournament Director of the Tennis Classic of Macon, Eric Hayes has made school visits and inviting schools to the tournament a priority. It is a practice which dates back to when he operated the women's USTA Pro Circuit event in Troy, Ala.

On October 27, seven players competing in the Tennis Classic of Macon took time to visit the Academy for Classical Education, a local Macon elementary school. Students were treated to a clinic and took part in a "meet and greet" with the players, who talked about where they are from and what it's like to travel the world and play tennis. Later in the week, students from the Academy for Classical Education came to the tournament and spent the day watching matches and listening to what coaches, players and media members at the event had to say. The kids were given our- nament programs and enjoyed pizza during their visit.

On October 28, a group of players went to the Stratford Academy for a visit with the students. The school had been the site of the tournament in the two previous years, and many of the kids recognized the players and have followed their careers. In addition, many of the families of the Stratford Academy continue to host tournament players in their homes during the event. During the visit to the Stratford Academy, players conducted a clinic and spoke to students about tennis and life as a touring tennis professional.

Former WTA player Jaime Kaplan, who now serves as the Stratford Academy tennis coach, says each year she enjoys seeing the faces of her students hitting balls with the professional players during the visit.

"It's always great to have some of the best players in the world at Stratford Academy," said Kaplan. "This is a treat for everyone involved."



Players competing in the Tennis Classic of Macon spend time with local students at the Academy for Classical Education and at the Stratford Academy.

UOP AND VISIT STOCKTON WELCOME CHALLENGER

The University of the Pacific and Visit Stockton were excellent hosts as they welcomed the inaugural University of the Pacific \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger to Stockton, Calif.

The tournament, which made its debut at UOP in mid-July, was one of four USTA Pro Circuit women's events that took place in California in 2015. It was also the first of three consecutive women's hard-court tournaments (joining \$50,000 events in Sacramento, Calif., and Lexington, Ky.) that were part of the US Open Wild Card Challenge.



Visit Stockton (the Stockton Convention & Visitors Bureau) promotes and markets the City of Stockton as a meetings, events and travel destination. The bureau promotes Stockton by increasing the awareness and enhancing the image of the city's diverse cultural, historical and recreational assets.



USTA PRO CIRCUIT TOURNAMENT NEWS



Left to right Claremont USTA Pro Classic Assistant Tournament Director Lionel Rival, Deiton Baughman, Mackenzie McDonald and USTA Pro Circuit Director Brian Earley. Baughman defeated McDonald to win the \$10,000 Claremont USTA Pro Classic, which celebrated its 20th anniversary on the USTA Pro Circuit.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Several USTA Pro Circuit events celebrated noteworthy anniversaries during the second-half of 2015.

The \$50,000 Kentucky Bank Tennis Championships in Lexington, Ky., along with the \$10,000 Claremont USTA Pro Classic in Claremont, Calif., and the \$50,000 JSM Challenger of Champaign-Urbana in Champaign, Ill., all celebrated their 20th year on the USTA Pro Circuit. In addition, the \$15,000 Futures of Mansfield in Mansfield, Texas celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

Congratulations to each tournament. We wish them many more years on the USTA Pro Circuit.



Left: Tournament committee members for the Futures of Mansfield in Mansfield, Texas, celebrate the event's 10th anniversary.



Right: Pro Circuit Supervisor Keith Crossland helps the \$50,000 JSM Challenger of Champaign-Urbana in Champaign, Ill., celebrate its 20th anniversary.

COMMENTATORS HIGHLIGHT LIVE STREAMING AT WOMEN'S EVENTS

Ken Thomas, CEO of RadioTennis.com, and noted sportswriters Paul Wachter and Cindy Shmerler, provided colorful commentary during live web streaming of women's events on the 2015 USTA Pro Circuit. Tournaments continue to play sponsor commercials during changeovers.

The \$25,000 Koser Jewelers Tennis Challenge in Landisville, Pa., in August and the \$15,000 Texas Tamale Company Houston Cup in October became the Pro Circuit's first lower-level prize money events to be streamed live on the web.



Ken Thomas interviewed USTA Pro Circuit Senior Manager Danielle Gooding in the commentary booth during the live streaming broadcast at the FSP Gold River Women's Challenger in Sacramento, Calif.

USTA PRO CIRCUIT PLAYER NEWS

SAMANTHA CRAWFORD AND BJORN FRATANGELO EARN US OPEN WILD CARDS

In the 2015 US Open Wild Card Challenge, the American man and American woman who earned the most ATP World Tour and WTA ranking points at two of three select USTA Pro Circuit events were awarded US Open main draw wild cards. Only Americans who did not earn direct entry into the US Open were eligible. Parlaying their success on the USTA Pro Circuit in July and August into US Open main draw wild cards were Samantha Crawford and Bjorn Fratangelo.

Crawford, 20, of Tamarac, Fla., captured the US Open Wild Card Challenge after reaching the final of the \$50,000 Kentucky Bank Tennis Championships in Lexington, Ky., to finish the challenge with 49 points. The 2012 US Open girls' singles champion, she competed in the US Open main draw for the second time in her career, falling to fellow American Irina Falconi, 6-4, 6-2, in the first round of the 2015 US Open.

Former French Open boys' champion Bjorn Fratangelo, 22, of Pittsburgh, Pa., made his Grand Slam main draw debut at the 2015 US Open after winning the US Open Wild Card Challenge with 83 points. He reached the final of the \$50,000 Challenger in Binghamton, N.Y., and the semifinals of the \$100,000 Challenger in Aptos, Calif., and the \$50,000 Challenger in Lexington, Ky. At the US Open, he drew sixth-seeded Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic in the first round Open and was eliminated 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

The women's US Open Wild Card Challenge consisted of three \$50,000 events: the University of the Pacific USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Stockton, Calif., the FSP Gold River Women's Challenger in Sacramento, Calif., and the Kentucky Bank Tennis Championships in Lexington, Ky. The men's US Open Wild Card Challenge was made up of the Levene Gouldin & Thompson Tennis Challenger, a \$50,000 event in Binghamton, N.Y., the Kentucky Bank Tennis Championships, a \$50,000 event in Lexington, Ky., and the Comerica Bank Challenger, a \$100,000 event in Aptos, Calif.



Samantha Crawford



Bjorn Fratangelo

USTA PRO CIRCUIT PLAYER NEWS

NOAH RUBIN AND SAMANTHA CRAWFORD CAPTURE AUSTRALIAN OPEN WILD CARDS

Noah Rubin of Rockville Centre, N.Y., earned a spot in the main draw of the 2016 Australian Open after clinching the USTA Pro Circuit Australian Open Wild Card Challenge in November.



Rubin, 19, clinched the wild card when fellow young American Taylor Fritz, the only player who could surpass him in the wild card challenge standings, lost in the final of the \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Champaign, Ill. Rubin earned 80 points in the wild card challenge by winning the \$50,000 Challenger in Charlottesville, Va., in early November—his first career USTA Pro Circuit singles title. He earned a wild card into the 2014 US Open as the 2014 USTA Boys' 18s singles champion—his only other Grand Slam main draw appearance. This past summer, he reached the final of the \$15,000 USTA Pro Circuit Futures in Tulsa, Okla., received a main-draw wild card into the ATP's Hall of Fame Tennis Championships in Newport, R.I., and also competed in US Open qualifying.

Samantha Crawford earned the women's wild card earlier in November by winning the \$50,000 Copperwynd Pro Women's Challenge in Scottsdale, Ariz.—her first career singles professional title. It was her second Grand Slam wild card in a row: she also earned a wild card into the 2015 US Open by winning the USTA Pro Circuit's US Open Wild Card Challenge. In 2012, Crawford won the US Open girls' singles title and also qualified for the women's singles main draw as a qualifying wild card. This year, she advanced to four Pro Circuit singles finals (including Scottsdale) and won two Pro Circuit doubles titles.

In the USTA Pro Circuit's Australian Open Wild Card Challenge, the American man and American woman who earned the most ATP World Tour and WTA ranking points at two of three select USTA Pro Circuit events this past fall received wild cards into the 2016 Australian Open main draw. The Australian Open Wild Card Challenge consisted of \$50,000 events for the men in Charlottesville, Va., Knoxville, Tenn., and Champaign, Ill., and for the women in Macon, Ga., Waco, Texas, and Scottsdale, Ariz.

Samantha Crawford



Noah Rubin



USTA PRO CIRCUIT PLAYER NEWS

TEENAGER UPSETS NCAA CHAMP IN WACO QUALIFIER

Seventeen-year-old wild card entrant Kylie McKenzie of Anthem, Ariz., scored one of the biggest wins of her young career as she ousted reigning NCAA women's singles champion Jamie Loeb, 6-1, 6-3, in the first round of qualifying at Bush's \$50,000 Waco Showdown in early November.

"I think I played really well," McKenzie said after frustrating Loeb, who turned pro in August after spending two years at the University of North Carolina. "Just went out and competed the best that I could, and it turned out really well. I got a little nervous at the end trying to close it out. It's definitely one of my biggest wins so far."

As it turned out, McKenzie defeated Loeb at the Hawkins Indoor Tennis Center in Waco, Texas, just a few feet away from the court where Loeb won her NCAA singles crown last May.

"I didn't put too much pressure on myself to win," said McKenzie, who is ranked among the nation's top collegiate recruits for 2017 but is focused on a pro career. "The plan was just to go out and compete as hard as I could, and incorporate the things I'd been working on. When you do that, you kind of relax, and I think I played better because of that."

It wasn't the first time McKenzie upset a top college player in a USTA Pro Circuit event. She reached the second round of qualifying at the \$50,000 FSP Gold River Women's Challenger in Sacramento in July with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Julia Elbaba, an All-American at the University of Virginia, who was ranked No. 1 in the nation for several weeks last spring.



Kylie McKenzie

USTA/Robert Dujes

AMERICAN QUALIFIER REACHES SINGLES FINAL

In mid-August, Robin Anderson experienced a dream run to the singles final at the Koser Jewelers \$25,000 Tennis Challenge at the Hempfield Recreation Center in Landisville, Pa. A four-time All-American at UCLA, the 22-year-old Anderson entered the Landisville qualifying singles draw ranked No. 536 in the world. After a first-round bye, she won two matches in straight sets to advance to the main draw, where she strung together four straight victories, including a 6-2, 6-4 upset over top-seeded An-Sophie Mestach of Belgium.

Anderson enjoyed a strong fan following during her tournament run all the way to the championship match, where she took on unseeded Naomi Broady of Great Britain and was nearly victorious, dropping a dramatic 4-6, 6-4, 7-6(5) decision.

Anderson subsequently went on to win the American Collegiate Invitational, a showcase of some of the nation's best college players at the US Open, and posted solid results at USTA Pro Circuit events during the second half of 2015, including semifinal finishes in Scottsdale, Ariz., and Florence, S.C. Anderson ended the year ranked No. 281 in the world.



USTA PRO CIRCUIT PLAYER NEWS

TOMMY HAAS PLAYS APTOS CHALLENGER

Tommy Haas of Germany, who has been ranked as high No. 2 in the world, returned to the courts in June after missing more than a year of action because of an injury to his right shoulder. And to help him sharpen his game, he accepted a wild card into the \$100,000 Comerica Bank Challenger in Aptos, Calif., in August. The Comerica Bank Challenger, which was held at the Seascape Sports Club, returned to Aptos for the 28th consecutive year and is the second-longest running men's event on the USTA Pro Circuit.

The 37-year-old Haas defeated Russia's Andrey Rublev 6-4, 6-3 in their first-round match before falling to sixth-seeded Matthew Ebden of Australia 2-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4.



NOTABLE 2015 RECORDS AND RESULTS

Topping the 2015 men's prize money chart were seven American men, led by Tim Smyczek, with \$36,560 in earnings. Playing in nine events, he posted two singles wins (in Dallas, Texas, and Tiburon, Calif.). Smyczek was followed by Jared Donaldson (\$33,770), Taylor Fritz (\$30,127), Francis Tiafoe (\$27,214), Dennis Novikov (\$26,945), Mitchell Krueger (\$25,850) and Bjorn Fratangelo (\$25,700).

Samantha Crawford was the 2015 women's prize money leader, with \$31,488 in earnings, followed by Katerina Stewart (\$25,447). Four other American women also finished in the Top 10 in prize money: Louisa Chirico (\$23,678), Maria Sanchez (\$21,106), Sanaz Marand (\$20,246) and Sachia Vickery (\$17,977). Sanchez is the women's all-time prize money winner, with \$41,608 in career earnings on the USTA Pro Circuit.



Ryan Shane, with a ranking of No. 1,392, was the lowest-ranked man to win a USTA Pro Circuit title in 2015 (Costa Mesa, Calif.), while Claire Liu, at No. 1,221, was the women's lowest-ranked singles champion (Orlando, Fla.).

At 14 years, 9 months and 25 days, Liu was also the youngest woman to claim a USTA Pro Circuit title in 2015. Frances Tiafoe, at 17 years, 2 months and 2 days, captured the event in Bakersfield, Calif., to become the youngest man to win a Pro Circuit event in 2015.

Benjamin Balleret was the oldest singles champion among the men on the USTA Pro Circuit in 2015, winning the title at Weston Fla., at 32 years, 0 months and 10 days. Sofia Arvidsson, at 31 years, 0 months and 6 days, was the oldest women's champion in 2015, winning at Surprise, Ariz.



USTA PRO CIRCUIT PLAYER NEWS



Deiton Baughman



Jared Donaldson



Michael Mmoh



Sekou Bangoura



Taylor Fritz



Frances Tiafoe

MEN'S CIRCUIT HELPS BUILD A BRIGHT FUTURE

Young American men posted impressive results during the second half of 2015 on the USTA Pro Circuit. If their strong performance is any indication, the future of American tennis looks bright indeed.

One of the biggest stories on the USTA Pro Circuit was the emergence of Taylor Fritz, the world's top-ranked junior and 2015 US Open boys' singles champion. At age 17, he captured his first career Pro Circuit title when he got past 19-year-old Jared Donaldson 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 in the singles final of the \$100,000 Sacramento Pro Circuit Challenger. Fritz won his second title the following week, when he defeated Germany's Dustin Brown in the final of the \$50,000 Men's Pro Challenger in Fairfield, Calif. After reaching the singles final at the \$50,000 JSM Challenger of Champaign-Urbana in Champaign, Ill., in November, Fritz finished the year ranked No. 177.

Another American who won multiple USTA Pro Circuit singles titles in the second half of 2015 was Michael Mmoh, who attained a junior ranking of No. 2 in the world in August. In late July, the 17-year-old won the \$15,000 Lewis and Clark Community College Pro Tennis Classic in Godfrey, Ill., with a 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 victory over Jared Hiltzik, 21, in the singles final. Mmoh then captured the \$15,000 Texas Tamale Company Houston Cup in October with a 6-3, 6-2 over Mexico's Lucas Gomez in the singles championship. The victory marked Mmoh's third \$15,000 USTA Pro Circuit Futures title in 12 months.

Chicago's Evan King, 23, won a pair of Pro Circuit Futures titles as he defeated another 23-year-old, Clay Thompson, 6-4, 6-3 in the final of the \$15,000 Edwardsville Futures in August. In November, King, a three-time All-American at the University of Michigan, won the \$10,000 Player's Choice Open in Birmingham, Ala., as he overcame top-seeded Bastian Tinker of Austria 6-4, 6-4 in the singles final.

In early August, Kevin King put together two strong back-to-back weeks at Pro Circuit stops in Illinois. The 24-year-old reached the singles final of the \$15,000 USTA/Ursula Beck Pro Tennis Classic in Decatur, Ill., and then won the singles title the next week at the \$15,000 Car-X Futures of Champaign, Ill.

Two Americans won titles in Southern California in September. Deiton Baughman, 19, won the \$10,000 Claremont USTA Pro Classic, while Ryan Shane, 21, captured the \$10,000 Costa Mesa Pro Classic.

Tim Smyczek, 27, took home the singles title in Northern California as he won the \$100,000 Wells Fargo Tiburon Challenger in September, and Henrik Wiersholm, 18, was the titlist at Florida's \$10,000 Pensacola Futures Championships in November. Also in November, Noah Rubin, 19, won his first career USTA Pro Circuit title, edging 18-year-old Tommy Paul 3-6, 7-6 (7), 6-3 in the singles final of the \$50,000 Charlottesville Men's Pro Challenge. The victory clinched the top spot in the USTA Pro Circuit Australian Open Wild Card Challenge for Rubin, earning the 2014 USTA Boys' 18s singles champion a spot in the main draw of the 2016 Australian Open.

American men who also reached USTA Pro Circuit singles finals in the second half of 2015 included Sekou Bangoura (Rochester, N.Y.), Ernesto Escobedo (Costa Mesa, Calif.), Bjorn Fratangelo (Binghamton, N.Y.), Alexios Halebian (Mansfield, Texas), Austin Krajceck (Aptos, Calif.), Denis Kudla (Tiburon, Calif.), Mackenzie McDonald (Claremont, Calif.), Daniel Nguyen (Winnetka, Ill.), Alex Rybakov (Niceville, Fla., and Pensacola, Fla.), Wil Spencer (Laguna Niguel, Calif.) and Frances Tiafoe (Knoxville, Tenn.).

USTA PRO CIRCUIT PLAYER NEWS



Lauren Herring

Jennifer Brady

Danielle Lao

Grace Min

Nicole Gibbs

Caroline Price

WOMEN'S CIRCUIT PROVIDES VALUABLE OPPORTUNITIES

It was an exciting second half of 2015 on the USTA Pro Circuit as nine different American women won singles titles.

Lauren Herring, 22, who graduated from the University of Georgia earlier in the year, reached three Pro Circuit singles finals with a six-month span. In June, the three-time All-American came through qualifying and advanced to the final of the \$10,000 Mr. Rogers Windows Charlotte Clay Classic, where she fell to 22-year-old Caroline Price, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. In July, Herring, a qualifier, won her first Pro Circuit title of the year when she defeated fellow 18-year-old Andie Daniell, 4-6, 6-2, 6-0, in the final of the \$10,000 Women's Hospital Classic in Evansville, Ind. The following week, Herring reached the final of the \$10,000 Women's Pro Tennis Open of Austin, Texas, where she dropped a 4-6, 7-6(2), 6-2 decision to 18-year-old Francesca Di Lorenzo.

All-American singles finals also took place in June and July as Danielle Lao, 24, defeated 19-year-old Brooke Austin, 7-5, 6-3, to win the \$25,000 Southern Lifestyle Development Tennis Classic, Baton Rouge, La., and Jamie Loeb, 20, scored a 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-2 win over Jennifer Brady, 20, in the final of the Hunt 2015 \$25k Women's Tennis Classic in El Paso, Texas.

American women dominated the USTA Pro Circuit in October, winning three straight singles titles. After finishing as runner-up at the \$10,000 Resortquest Pro Women's Open in Bethany Beach, Del., in June, Alexa Graham, 17, won her first career Pro Circuit singles championship in early October, defeating second-seeded Ulrikke Eikeri of Norway 6-4, 7-6 (5) in the final of the Shipyard Cup Women's \$10,000 Event in Hilton Head Island, S.C. The next week, Brady won the title at the \$25,000 Rock Hill Rocks Open in Rock Hill, S.C., as she defeated Andrea Gamiz of Venezuela 7-5, 6-4 in the final. Grace Min, 21, continued the American streak the following week when she captured the singles title at the \$25,000 Mcleod Health Florence Open in Florence, S.C., with a 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (2) victory over Paula Cristina Goncalves of Brazil in the final.

Twenty-year-old Samantha Crawford saved her best for last as she captured the final Pro Circuit event of the year, winning the \$50,000 Copperwynd Pro Women's Challenge in Scottsdale, Ariz., by defeating Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, in the final. The victory in the Arizona desert marked Crawford's first career Pro Circuit singles title and enabled her to clinch the USTA Pro Circuit Australian Open Wild Card Challenge and earn a berth in the main draw of the 2016 Australian Open. She finished the year ranked No. 141 in the WTA singles rankings.

American women who also reached USTA Pro Circuit singles finals in the second half of 2015 included Frances Altick (Forth Worth, Texas), Robin Anderson (Landisville, Pa.), Lauren Embree (Sumter, S.C.), Nicole Gibbs (Waco, Texas and Kirkland, Wash.), Shelby Rogers (Las Vegas, Nev.) and Anna Tatishvili (Macon, Ga.). In addition, Ashley Weinhold was one of the most consistent doubles players on the Pro Circuit during the second half of the year. The 26-year-old won doubles titles at the Palmetto Pro Open in Sumter, S.C., with Alexandra Mueller, and the FSP Gold River Women's Challenger in Sacramento, Calif., and the Ascension Project Women's \$25,000 Challenger in Redding, Calif., both with Caitlin Whoriskey.