

# TOURNAMENT NOTES

as of January 3, 2013

### **INNISBROOK WOMEN'S OPEN**

INNISBROOK, FL • JANUARY 6-13

### **TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

Site: Innisbrook Golf Resort & Spa - Innisbrook, Fla.

**Websites:** www.visitinnisbrook.com procircuit.usta.com

Facebook: Innisbrook, a Salamander Golf & Spa Resort

Twitter: @Innisbrook

Qualifying Draw Begins: Sunday, January 6

Main Draw Begins: Tuesday, January 8

Main Draw: 32 Singles / 16 Doubles

Surface: Clay / Outdoor Prize Money: \$25,000

Tournament Director:

Rhett Rollyson, (813) 719-0158, tennisrhett@aol.com

**Tournament Press Contact:** 

Ramona Hurley, (727) 967-2487 hurleyramona@gmail.com

**USTA Public Relations Contact:** 

Amanda Korba, (914) 697-2219, korba@usta.com

### **PRIZE MONEY / POINTS**

SINGLES:	Prize Money	Ranking Point		
Winner	\$3,919	50		
Runner-Up	\$2,091	34		
Semifinalist	\$1,144	24		
Quarterfinalist	\$654	14		
Round 16	\$392	8		
Round 32	\$228	1		
		Prize Money (per team)		
DOUBLES:	Prize Money (p	er team)		
DOUBLES: Winner	Prize Money (p \$1,437	er team)		
		er team)		
Winner	\$1,437	er team)		
Winner Runner-Up	\$1,437 \$719	er team)		
Winner Runner-Up Semifinalist	\$1,437 \$719 \$359	er team)		

#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Monday, January 7

Pro-Am, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, January 8

Tennis Clinic with the Pros for USTA members, 6 p.m.

Friday, January 11

 $\label{eq:continuous} \mbox{Adopt-a-Unit tennis clinic, } 11 \mbox{ a.m.-2 p.m.}$ 

Saturday, January 12

Family Fun Festival featuring 10 and Under Tennis 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

### 2013 USTA PRO CIRCUIT WOMEN'S SEASON KICKS OFF IN INNISBROOK

The Innisbrook Women's Open returns to Innisbrook after making its debut on the USTA Pro Circuit last year. It is the first USTA Pro Circuit women's event of the 2013 season and the first of two consecutive women's events played in Florida on clay, joining Port St. Lucie next week. There are six USTA Pro Circuit women's events taking place in Florida this year—the most of any state.

On Friday, Jan. 11, the tournament will hold an **Adopt-a-Unit tennis clinic**. Admission to the clinic will be a one gallon bag with essentials for troops overseas.

Innisbrook Resort is partnering with the USTA to adopt the Army Reserve unit from Florida, 160th Military Police Battalion, with more than 100 soldiers stationed in Afghanistan. In addition to care packages, USTA Serves, the national charitable foundation of the USTA, will send portable tennis equipment to the adopted units with instructions and educational information on tennis.

On Saturday, Jan. 12, the tournament will host a Family Fun Festival featuring **10 and Under Tennis** clinics. 10 and Under Tennis is a nationwide USTA initiative that scales the game to size for younger players. 10 and Under Tennis uses smaller courts, slowermoving and lower-bouncing balls, and smaller





USTA Pro Circuit regular Lauren Albanese has ranked as high as No. 158 in the world. She competed in the 2006 US Open as a standout junior after winning the USTA Girls' 18s title that year.

and lighter racquets designed specifically for kids. As such, kids learn, rally, play and compete right from the start, making the game more accessible and more fun, and increasing the chance that they will stick with tennis for a lifetime.

Competing in qualifying is **Taylor Townsend**, the No. 1-ranked junior in the world. Townsend clinched the year-end ITF No. 1 junior ranking for 2012 in December, becoming the first American girl to hold that position since Gretchen Rush in 1982. In 2012, Townsend also won the Australian Open junior singles title, and the junior doubles titles at the Australian Open, Wimbledon and the US Open. She also led the 2012 United States to the Junior Fed Cup championship. Townsend trains at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla.

Top-ranked in the final 2012 listing, Taylor Townsend is the first American girl to hold the year-end ITF No. 1 junior ranking since Gretchen Rush in 1982. Townsend will compete in qualifying in Innisbrook.

## TOURNAMENT NOTES



Players competing in the main draw are:

Former world No. 158 **Lauren Albanese**, who reached at least one USTA Pro Circuit final each year from 2006 to 2009 and advanced to two semifinals in an injury-shortened 2011. Albanese played nine USTA Pro Circuit events in the second half of 2012. She won the USTA Girls' 18s title in 2006 to earn a wild card into the US Open, where she advanced to the second round of the women's singles main draw.

Chieh-Yu (Connie) Hsu, an American born in Taiwan and a former University of Pennsylvania standout. Hsu has won three ITF Circuit titles, with victories in Taiwan and Turkey in 2011. She won one USTA Pro Circuit doubles title last year at the \$10,000 event in Landisville, Pa., and has won four ITF singles titles worldwide, including victories in Taiwan and Turkey in 2011.

Julia Boserup, who won her first career professional title in 2011 at the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Redding, Calif., and added a second title early in 2012 at the \$25,000 event in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., before being sidelined with stress fractures in both feet. As a junior player, Boserup won the 2008 Orange Bowl, defeating young American Christina McHale, who is currently ranked inside the Top 50, in the final.

**Shuai Zhang**, of China, who is the top-ranked player in the field. Shuai competed for China in the 2012 Olympics in London and has played in the main draw of all four Grand Slam events. In doubles, she reached the quarterfinals of the 2012 US Open, defeating now-retired Kim Clijsters in the first round. Shuai peaked at a No. 73 in the world in 2011 and is currently ranked No. 34 in the WTA doubles rankings.

Receiving main draw wild cards are:

Seventeen-year-old **Sachia Vickery**, of Hollywood, Fla., who reached the doubles semifinals of the 2012 Wimbledon juniors and advanced to the third round of the 2012 US Open juniors. She is currently ranked No. 13 in the ITF World Junior Rankings and has worked with Richard Williams, Venus and Serena's father.

**Nicole Melichar**, who won the 2012 US Open National Playoffs mixed doubles title with Brian Battistone. Melichar also claimed two ITF singles titles in Turkey in 2012.

Players competing in qualifying are:

**Lauren Embree**, who helped lead the University of Florida to consecutive NCAA team titles in 2011 and 2012.

Three-time University of Florida All-American **Alexis King**, a mother of two. King reached two USTA Pro Circuit semifinals in summer 2012.

**Ashley Weinhold**, the 2007 USTA Girls' 18s national champion, who in turn received a wild card into the 2007 US Open. Weinhold holds eight USTA Pro Circuit singles and doubles titles, winning her sixth doubles title in 2012.

**Allie Will**, from Boca Raton, Fla., who was an All-American and the No. 1 singles player for the University of Florida. She advanced to the NCAA semifinals in 2012.

**Asia Muhammad**, who learned tennis at the Andre Agassi Boys and Girls Club in Las Vegas. Muhammad won two USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles last year at the \$50,000 event in Sacramento, Calif., and at the \$75,000 event in Albuquerque, N.M. She holds six USTA Pro Circuit titles overall (five in doubles).

**Alexandra Mueller**, who won the inaugural US Open National Playoffs in 2010 to earn a wild card into the 2010 US Open Qualifying Tournament. Mueller won the US Open National Playoffs title again in 2012.

**Louisa Chirico**, 16, who with Townsend led the U.S. Junior Fed Cup team to its second title in the last five years in the 16-and-under version of Fed Cup. Chirico trains at the USTA Training Center-East at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y., the home of the US Open.

Last year's Innisbrook champion **Grace Min** finished the 2012 USTA Pro Circuit season with three singles titles—the most of any women's player last year. In addition to Innisbrook, Min won back-to-back tournaments at the \$50,000 event in Indian Harbour Beach, Fla., and the \$25,000 tournament in Raleigh, N.C., to crack the Top 200 for the first time in her career. Min won the 2011 US Open girls' singles title and 2011 Wimbledon girls' doubles title before transitioning to the USTA Pro Circuit. She currently trains at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla.

\*Player field subject to change

## TOURNAMENT NOTES



### **USTA PRO CIRCUIT**

With approximately 90 tournaments hosted annually throughout the country and prize money ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000, the USTA Pro Circuit is the pathway to the US Open and tour-level competition for aspiring tennis players and a frequent battleground for established professionals. The USTA launched its Pro Circuit 34 years ago 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 more than 70 countries competed in cities nationwide. Mardy Fish, Maria Sharapova, John Isner, Caroline Wozniacki, Sam Querrey, Victoria Azarenka and Andy Murray are among today's top stars who began their careers on the USTA Pro Circuit.

More recently, the USTA Pro Circuit helped launch the careers of two young Americans—Jack Sock and Grace Min. Sock began 2012 by winning the singles title and reaching the doubles final at the \$10,000 Futures in Plantation, Fla. He then reached the quarterfinals of the \$50,000 Challenger in Honolulu. With his strong USTA Pro Circuit results, Sock received wild cards into numerous Emirates Airline US Open Series events in the summer, reaching the quarterfinals in Atlanta. Sock then achieved the best result of his pro career by reaching the third round of the 2012 US Open as a wild card. Sock followed up his US Open results by winning his first career USTA Pro Circuit Challenger title at the \$100,000 event in Tiburon, Calif., in the fall and finished 2012 ranked a career-high No. 150 in the world. After winning the 2011 US Open girls' singles title, Min moved to the USTA Pro Circuit to develop her game. She opened



the year by winning the first women's tournament of 2012 at the \$25,000 event in Innisbrook, Fla. Later in the spring, she won back-to-back tournaments at the \$50,000 event in Indian Harbour Beach, Fla., and the \$25,000 tournament in Raleigh, N.C. She competed in qualifying in Emirates Airline US Open Series events throughout the summer and qualified in Stanford, Calif. Min, who trains at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla., entered the Top 200 for the first time in her career in 2012, climbing nearly 250 spots in the rankings by year's end.

### PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

The USTA Player Development program identifies and develops the next generation of American champions by surrounding the top junior players and young pros with the resources, facilities and coaching they need to reach their maximum potential. The Player Development program is based at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla., and also utilizes Training Centers in Carson, Calif., and Flushing, N.Y., as well as a series of Certified Regional Training Centers located throughout the continental United States.

### 10 AND UNDER TENNIS

Tennis is now scaled to a child's age and size, using lower-bouncing and slower-moving balls, lighter and shorter racquets, and smaller courts. The modified equipment and smaller courts will allow kids to rally and play the game early on, increasing the likelihood that kids will return to the court and continue to improve all while having fun! For more information, visit www.10andundertennis.com

### NJTL

Founded in 1969 by Arthur Ashe, the USTA/National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) network is a nation-wide group of more than 660 non-profit youth development organizations that provide free or low cost tennis, education and life skills programming to more than 300,000 children each year, ages 6-18, making NJTL one of the USTA's largest community-based offerings.

### US OPEN NATIONAL PLAYOFFS

The USTA launched the US Open
National Playoffs in 2010, making
the US Open "open" to anyone age
14+ and of all skill levels. Last year,
more than 1,200 players competed in
13 Sectional Qualifying Tournaments
nationwide for a 2012 US Open
Qualifying Tournament wild card. A
mixed doubles element also was held,



with the winning team earning a main draw mixed doubles wild card. Clement Reix, a 28-year-old Frenchman living in Reno, Nev., won the US Open National Playoffs men's title and USTA Pro Circuit regular Alexandra Mueller, 24, of Abington, PA, won the women's wild card for the second time in three years. Nicole Melichar and Brian Battistone won the mixed doubles tournament. Information for the 2013 US Open National Playoffs will be released in the coming months.

### INNISBROOK PAST CHAMPIONS

Singles			Doubles		
Year	Winner	Runner-Up	Year	Winner	
2012	Grace Min (USA)	Gail Brodsky (USA)	2012	Darya Kustova (BLR) — Iona-Raluca Olaru (ROU)	