



Local Stars Wolf, Stearns Awarded Western & Southern Open Wild Cards NCAA Champion Stearns, Former Buckeye Wolf Added to Qualifying Field

CINCINNATI (Aug. 6, 2021) – Mason, Ohio, native **Peyton Stearns** and Cincinnati native **J.J. Wolf** headlines the latest qualifying draw entries after being awarded wild cards for the 2021 Western & Southern Open.

Wolf will be competing in the Western & Southern Open qualifying draw for the fourth straight year while **Stearns** makes her first appearance in her hometown tournament.

At the University of Texas, the 19-year-old Stearns played an instrumental role in helping the Longhorns claim the 2021 NCAA Division I National Championship. Stearns won three out of four matches in the NCAA Team Championships, earning NCAA Women's Tournament Most Outstanding Player and a spot on the All-Tournament Team. With Stearns' play, Texas claimed its third NCAA team title in program history and first National Championship since 1995.

Her 18-8 singles record in her first collegiate season allowed Stearns to be named Big 12 Freshman of the Year while being listed on both the All-Big 12 First Team and Freshman Team. Stearns was also one of 30 women's collegiate players to be named the 2021 ITA All-American team.

Stearns also claimed the singles title at the International Tennis Federation (ITF) pro circuit 25k tournament this summer in Sumter, S.C. The UT freshman dropped just one set in five matches to clinch her first career ITF singles championship.

Battling back from injury, Wolf was awarded a wild card spot for the 2020 US Open shortly after qualifying for the Western & Southern Open last season. Upsetting 29th-seeded Guido Pella and defeating Roberto Carballés Baena in the first two rounds, Wolf became the third Ohio State alum to reach the third round in the US Open. Wolf has also claimed four career titles on the ATP Challenger Tour.

At The Ohio State University, Wolf became the ITA All American Singles Champion in 2018 on his way to earning Big Ten Player of the Year and All-American honors in 2019. The three-time First Team All-Big Ten honoree guided the Buckeyes to three Big Ten championships to go with three seasons of at least 32 wins.

Stearns and Wolf will be participating in the qualifying draw, which takes place Aug. 14-15. The main draw field includes 11 former tournament winners along with **Ashleigh Barty** and **Novak Djokovic**, the No. 1 ranked players in the world who are fresh off Wimbledon titles. 20-time Major champion **Rafael Nadal** is included in the men's field while the women's field has recent Major champions such as 2020 Western & Southern Open finalist **Naomi Osaka** (2020 US Open, 2021 Australian Open), **Barbora Krejčíková** (2021 French Open), **Sofia Kenin** (2020 Australian Open) and **Iga Świątek** (2020 French Open).



The Western & Southern Open will be held Aug. 14-22, with first serve taking place at 10 a.m. on Aug. 14 for the qualifying tournament. The men's and women's singles finals will take place on Sunday, Aug. 22. The schedule is available [here](#).

All tickets, including full series, mini-plans, single session and hospitality packages, are now on sale and information about available tickets can be found [here](#).

The Western & Southern Open, an ATP Masters 1000 and a WTA 1000, is part of the US Open Series and is held at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason, Ohio.

About the Western & Southern Open

Founded in 1899, the Western & Southern Open is an ATP Masters 1000 and a WTA 1000 tournament. The Western & Southern Open annually welcomes nearly 200,000 fans who come from all 50 states and more than 35 countries and is seen by more than 50 million global viewers in over 160 countries. The tournament is also one of the last stops on the US Open Series before the US Open in New York. Since 1974, the tournament has contributed more than \$11 million to various beneficiaries including Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, the Barrett Cancer Center and Tennis for City Youth. The tournament is held at the Lindner Family Tennis Center, 20 miles north of Cincinnati in Mason, Ohio. For more information, visit www.wsopen.com.

About the US Open Series

The US Open Series serves as a true "regular season" of summer tennis in North America, linking nine WTA and ATP Tour tournaments to the US Open. Featuring a cohesive weekly viewing schedule, as well as comprehensive outreach and grassroots engagement initiatives, the Series serves as a vital platform to promote and grow the game of tennis in person and at home. Fans can follow along all summer as today's top champions go head-to-head with tomorrow's emerging stars, while each tournament engages its local community with a variety of programs geared toward showcasing and promoting the game to new and existing fans.

About the WTA

Founded by Billie Jean King in 1973 on the principle of equal opportunity for women in sports, the WTA is the global leader in women's professional sport with more than 1,650 players representing 84 nations competing for a record \$180 million in prize money. In 2019, the WTA was watched by a record-breaking global audience of 700 million. The 2020 WTA season includes 55 events and four Grand Slams in 29 countries and regions. The season culminates with the Shiseido WTA Finals Shenzhen, offering a \$14 million total prize purse and honoring the season's top singles and doubles players. Further information on the WTA can be found at www.wtatennis.com.

About the ATP

As the global governing body of men's professional tennis, the ATP's mission is to serve tennis. We entertain a billion global fans, showcase the world's greatest players at the most prestigious tournaments, and inspire the next generation of fans and players. From the ATP Cup in Australia, to Europe, the Americas and Asia, the stars of the game battle for titles and FedEx ATP Rankings points at ATP Masters 1000, 500 and 250 events, and Grand Slams. All roads lead towards the Nitto ATP Finals, the prestigious season finale held in Turin, Italy. Featuring only the world's top 8 qualified singles players and doubles teams, the tournament also sees the official crowning of the year-end ATP World No. 1, the ultimate achievement in tennis. For more information, please visit www.ATPTour.com.

Western & Southern Open

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TOURNAMENT IS PLAYED AT:

Lindner Family Tennis Center, Mason, Ohio

TOURNAMENT CONTRIBUTES TO:

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
The Barrett Cancer Center
Tennis for City Youth