



## **Wild Cards Awarded To Sloane Stephens, Venus Williams** ***Western & Southern Open Announces Women's Main Draw Wild Cards***

**CINCINNATI (July 29, 2021)** – Seven-time Major champion **Venus Williams** and 2017 US Open champion **Sloane Stephens** have been awarded wild cards for the 2021 Western & Southern Open.

Stephens and Williams join a field that includes the Top 20 players in the WTA Rankings. The full WTA field, which was announced July 21, includes five former Western & Southern Open winners and the addition of Williams and Stephens raises the number of Major champions in the field to 15.

A former No. 1 in both singles and doubles, the 41-year-old Williams owns 49 career singles titles. She extended her record as the all-time leader, male or female, in Majors played with 90 when she competed at the Wimbledon, where she is a five-time singles champion. Williams will be making her eighth appearance at the Western & Southern Open, having reached the 2012 semifinals.

Stephens won the US Open in 2017 just months after seeing her ranking fall to No. 957 following an 11-month absence due to a right foot injury. For her efforts, Stephens earned the WTA Comeback Player of the Year honors in that same season. Collecting six singles titles on the WTA Tour, Stephens has finished as a finalist at the French Open and the WTA Finals. Stephens owns a 14-9 record at the Western & Southern Open, with her best result coming from a run to the semifinals in 2017.

Both players join Cincinnati native **Caty McNally** as wild card entrants for the Western & Southern Open. The 19-year-old was awarded her wild card last week shortly after the initial entry list was released.

Tournament action will take place Aug. 14-22, where first serve will take 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*

#### **Western & Southern Open**

250 East Fifth Street - Suite 1310  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

VOICE 513.651.0303 FAX 513.651.3088  
[www.WSOpen.com](http://www.WSOpen.com)



**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



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](http://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](http://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](http://www.ATPTour.com).

#### **Western & Southern Open**

250 East Fifth Street - Suite 1310  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

VOICE 513.651.0303 FAX 513.651.3088  
[www.WSOpen.com](http://www.WSOpen.com)



#### **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