

KNOXVILLE 2014 CHALLENGER

KNOXVILLE, TN • NOV. 2-9

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Site: University of Tennessee,
Goodfriend Indoor Tennis Center, Knoxville, Tenn.

Websites: www.knoxchallenger.com
procircuit.usta.com

Facebook: The Knoxville Challenger

Twitter: @KnoxChallenger

Qualifying Draw Begins: Sunday, Nov. 2

Main Draw Begins: Tuesday, Nov. 4

Main Draw: 32 Singles / 16 Doubles

Surface: Hard / Indoor

Prize Money: \$50,000

Tournament Director:
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PRIZE MONEY / POINTS

SINGLES:	Prize Money	Ranking Points
Winner	\$7,200	80
Runner-up	\$4,240	48
Semifinalist	\$2,510	29
Quarterfinalist	\$460	15
Round of 16	\$860	7
Round of 32	\$520	-

DOUBLES:	Prize Money (per team)
Winner	\$3,100
Runner-up	\$1,800
Semifinalist	\$1,080
Quarterfinalist	\$640
Round of 16	\$360

USTA PRO CIRCUIT RETURNS TO KNOXVILLE AS THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN WILD CARD CHALLENGE CONTINUES

The **Knoxville 2014 Challenger** is taking place in Knoxville for the eighth consecutive year and the 11th year overall. (The tournament was not held from 2003 through 2006.) It is the only USTA Pro Circuit event held in the state of Tennessee.

Knoxville is the second of three consecutive men's hard-court tournaments that make up the **USTA Pro Circuit Australian Open Wild Card Challenge**, which will award a men's and a women's wild card into the 2015 Australian Open. The USTA and Tennis Australia have a reciprocal agreement in which wild cards into the 2014 US Open and 2015 Australian Open are exchanged. The other tournaments in the men's portion of the wild card challenge are the \$50,000 events in Charlottesville, Va., the week of Oct. 27, and in Champaign, Ill., the week of Nov. 10.

The three men's tournaments join three women's tournaments—the Tennis Classic of Macon in Macon, Ga., held the week of Oct. 20; the John Newcombe Women's Pro Challenge in New Braunfels, Texas, held the week of Oct. 27; and the South Seas Island Resort Women's Pro Classic in Captiva Island, Fla., held the week of Nov. 3.

The American man who earns the most ATP ranking points at two of the three USTA Pro Circuit hard-court events will receive a USTA wild card to compete in the main draw of the



Larry James

Former world No. 15 Robby Ginepri, the only active U.S. man to have advanced to a Grand Slam singles semifinal, returned to the French Open this year for the first time since 2010, after winning the Har-Tru USTA Pro Circuit Wild Card Challenge to earn a wild card into the main draw.

2015 Australian Open, which will be held Monday, Jan. 19, through Sunday, Feb. 1. Only players who did not receive direct entry into the Australian Open are eligible for the wild cards.

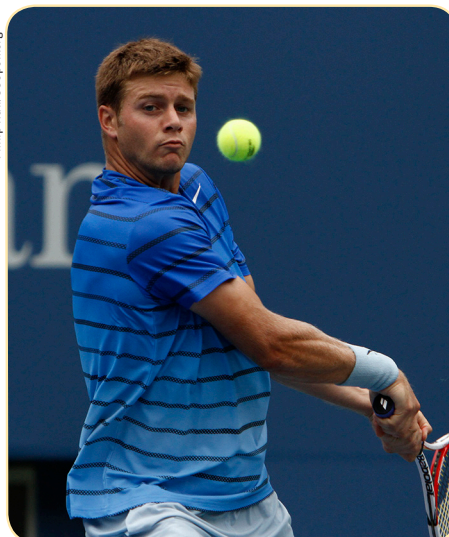
This tournament will be streamed live on www.procircuit.usta.com.

Notable players competing in the main draw include:

Robby Ginepri, who earlier this year returned to the French Open for the first time since 2010 after winning the 2014 Har-Tru USTA Pro Circuit Wild Card Challenge to earn a wild card into the Roland Garros main draw. He won the \$50,000 Challenger in Tallahassee,

Ryan Harrison earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic team for the 2012 Games in London and has been a member of the U.S. Davis Cup team. He peaked at No. 43 in the world in 2012.

Philip Hall/USOpen.org



Fla., to clinch the berth. This summer, Ginepri competed in the Emirates Airline US Open Series, where he won his first-round match at three consecutive tournaments. Ginepri is the only active U.S. man to have advanced to a Grand Slam tournament singles semifinal—at the 2005 US Open, where he lost to Andre Agassi in five sets. He was one of the top Americans in the world in the mid-2000s, winning three ATP singles titles. Ginepri has reached the fourth round or better at all four Grand Slam tournaments and peaked at No. 15 in the world in 2005. He has also competed for the United States in Davis Cup (2004) and the Olympics (2008). He has struggled with injuries in recent years.

Ryan Harrison, who earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic team for the 2012 Games in London and has been a member of the U.S. Davis Cup team. He also has enjoyed success on the ATP World Tour, reaching three semifinals in 2012 to peak at No. 43 in the world. (At the time, he and Bernard Tomic of Australia were the only players aged 20 or younger in the Top 100.) In 2013, Harrison reached the semifinals of the Emirates Airline US Open Series event in Atlanta, advanced to the quarterfinals of the Australian Open tune-up event in Sydney and reached the second round of the Australian Open and the French Open (losing to John Isner in five sets in Paris). Harrison also won the \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Savannah, Ga. This year, he reached the second round at the ATP Master Series events in Indian Wells and Miami, and he competed in the main draw at three of the four Grand Slam tournaments (the US Open, the Australian Open and, as a qualifier, Wimbledon). He has played in the US Open main draw each of the last five years. In 2010, he qualified and upset No. 15 seed Ivan Ljubicic in the opening round, and in 2012, he also advanced to the second round, losing to former US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro.

Denis Kudla, who broke into the Top 100 in 2013 after advancing to the second round of Wimbledon. He qualified for the 2013 French Open and reached the quarterfinals of the ATP Wimbledon warm-up event at Queens Club—his best ATP result. This year, Kudla qualified for the Australian Open and won his opening-round match at Wimbledon. In addition, he won his sixth USTA Pro Circuit singles title (and fourth Challenger title) at the \$50,000 Challenger in Winnetka, Ill., this July, also taking the doubles title. Kudla competed in the 2012 US Open as a wild card and finished the 2012 USTA Pro Circuit season as the top ATP points earner among Americans and the leader in prize money. Kudla was ranked No. 3 in the world junior rankings and reached the boys' singles final at the 2010 US Open, where he lost to Jack Sock in three sets. Kudla has served as a Davis Cup practice partner. He was born in the Ukraine and came to the United States with his parents on his first birthday. Kudla trains with the USTA Player Development program at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla., and is playing in his fourth tournament since July after being diagnosed with mononucleosis.

Michael Russell, who is the men's all-time leader in USTA Pro Circuit singles titles, with 24. With his victory at the \$75,000 Challenger in Charlottesville in 2013, he became the oldest USTA Pro Circuit singles champion (35 years, 6 months, 2 days). Russell upset then-No. 9 Mardy Fish en route to the semifinals of the ATP World Tour event in Houston in April 2012 and, in summer 2013, reached the semifinals of the ATP grass-court event in Newport, R.I.—his career-best ATP results. He also reached the semifinals of the ATP event in Memphis in 2014 as a qualifier and has regularly competed in all four Grand Slam tournaments, playing in his 33rd major this year at Wimbledon. He made his Grand Slam tournament debut in 1998 at the US Open. In 2001, Russell achieved his best Grand Slam

tournament result by reaching the fourth round of the French Open, where he held match point against defending and eventual champion Gustavo Kuerten.

Tim Smyczek, who broke into the Top 100 in 2013 after advancing to the third round of the US Open, where he lost a tight five-setter to then-No. 43 Marcel Granollers. The 2013 US Open highlighted the strongest summer of Smyczek's career; he also advanced to the second round of the Emirates Airline US Open Series events in Washington, D.C., and Winston-Salem, N.C., and qualified for Atlanta. Also in 2013, the 5-foot-9 Smyczek advanced to the second round of the Australian Open, defeating 6-foot-11 Ivo Karlovic in the opening round. This summer, Smyczek reached the second round of the US Open and advanced to the third round of the Emirates Airline US Open Series event in Washington D.C. Smyczek owns three USTA Pro Circuit Challenger titles, and this year he reached the semifinals of the \$50,000 Challenger in Maui, Hawaii, and the final of last month's \$50,000 Challenger in Napa, Calif., where he lost to Sam Querrey. Smyczek regularly trains at Saddlebrook Resort in Tampa, Fla., and once lived with fellow American Mardy Fish for a year while training there.

Rhyn Williams, who qualified for the main draw of the 2014 Australian Open and then took the first set off of 2009 US Open champion and No. 5 seed Juan Martin del Potro in the opening round. This year, Williams qualified for and reached the quarterfinals of the ATP event in Delray Beach, Fla., losing to John Isner. Williams won three matches to qualify for the main draw of the 2012 US Open for his first Grand Slam appearance and, in the process, became one of 13 qualifying wild cards in US Open recorded history to reach the main draw. At the US Open, he faced Andy Roddick prior to Roddick's retirement announcement. In addition, Williams earned a wild card into the 2013 Australian Open main draw by winning the USTA Australian Open Wild Card Playoffs, and he qualified for the 2013 French Open. Also last year, he reached the semifinals at the ATP clay-court event in Houston for his best ATP result. Williams turned pro in 2011 following his sophomore year at the University of Tennessee, where he reached the singles final at the 2011 NCAA Championships. He comes from a tennis family: His grandfather is Mike DePalmer Sr., a co-founder of the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy, and his mother, Michelle DePalmer-Williams, is a former pro and Orange Bowl 16s champion. Williams trains at the USTA Player Development Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla., and is coached by his cousin, Christopher Williams.

Alex Kuznetsov, who earned a main draw wild card into the 2013 French Open by winning the Har-Tru USTA Pro Circuit Wild Card Challenge via his results on the USTA Pro Circuit. Following the French Open, Kuznetsov qualified for Wimbledon and won the \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Binghamton, N.Y. Those results drove Kuznetsov's ranking up to a career-high No. 120 in the world. This year, Kuznetsov qualified for and reached the quarterfinals of the ATP event in Memphis, qualified for the main draw at Wimbledon and reached two USTA Pro Circuit Challenger quarterfinals. In 2012, he qualified for the Australian Open, making his first appearance in a Grand Slam main draw since 2007 before losing to Rafael Nadal in the first round. In 2007, Kuznetsov claimed his first Grand Slam tournament match victory, in Melbourne, and reached the round of 16 in doubles at the US Open. He was the 2004 junior French Open runner-up (to Gael Monfilis). Kuznetsov suffered a severe leg injury in a 2005 car accident and needed a titanium rod and screw placed in his right leg. He came back to play in his first US Open main draw in 2006. He is a native of Kiev, Ukraine, where

his grandfather was a handball champion.

Chase Buchanan, who competed overseas this summer and fall, reaching the singles semifinals or better at three events in Uzbekistan, Ecuador and Romania. Buchanan also spent August and September of last year competing overseas and won three ITF Circuit events, one in Ecuador and two in Bolivia. As a college player for Ohio State University, Buchanan won the NCAA doubles championship in 2012 with Blaz Rola, earning a wild card into the main draw of the US Open men's doubles event that year. In singles, Buchanan reached the final of the 2009 junior US Open. He also earned a wild card into the men's singles main draw of that year's US Open as the USTA Boys' 18s champion, losing in the opening round to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga. Buchanan has won three USTA Pro Circuit singles titles in his career.

Wayne Odesnik, who this year earned a wild card into the 2014 US Open by winning the US Open USTA Pro Circuit Wild Card Challenge, which awarded a US Open wild card based on USTA Pro Circuit results. Odesnik, a 10-year veteran of the pro tour, returned to competition in January 2011 following a year-long suspension as dictated by the Tennis Anti-Doping Program, which is administered by the ITF. He got his career back on track by rejoining the USTA Pro Circuit, climbing more than 1,200 spots in the ATP rankings to finish 2011 just outside the Top 100. Odesnik continued to build on that success in 2012, qualifying for Wimbledon and competing on the USTA Pro Circuit and overseas. In 2013, he again qualified for Wimbledon and reached the final of the \$100,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Sarasota, Fla. This year, Odesnik qualified for the Australian Open and won an ITF Circuit event in Panama. He also reached the final of the \$50,000 Challenger in Binghamton, N.Y., in early July and advanced to the semifinals at the \$50,000 Challenger in Lexington, Ky., en route to earning the 2014 US Open wild card. Odesnik has won 10 USTA Pro Circuit singles titles. Prior to his suspension, he reached the third round at the 2008 French Open and was a finalist at the ATP event in Houston in 2009. He also has competed in the US Open main draw on five occasions, reaching the second round in 2007 and 2008.

Rajeev Ram, who has established himself as a steady presence in the Top 50 of the world doubles rankings, reaching the quarterfinals or better at all four Grand Slam tournaments, including the semifinals of the 2014 US Open. Ram peaked at No. 33 in the world in doubles in 2010. Overall, he has won seven ATP World Tour doubles crowns. In 2009, Ram won his first ATP singles championship in Newport, R.I., where he also captured the doubles title. In 2012, he reached the singles semifinals of the Emirates Airline US Open Series event in Los Angeles, losing to Sam Querrey, two weeks after advancing to the semis in Newport. Ram advanced to the singles semifinals of the pre-Wimbledon ATP Challenger Tour event in Nottingham, Great Britain, this spring, while also winning the doubles title. An Indiana high school state champion, Ram played collegiately at the University of Illinois—then coached by current Australian Open Tournament Director Craig Tiley—for one semester in 2003 and helped the Illini win the school's first NCAA team title and record its first undefeated season.

Notable players competing in qualifying include:

Jared Donaldson, 18, who made his Grand Slam tournament debut this summer after receiving a wild card into the US Open, where he faced eventual quarterfinalist Gael Monfils in the first round. Donaldson won back-to-back USTA Pro Circuit singles titles at \$15,000 Futures events in Tulsa, Okla., and Oklahoma City this

June—the first USTA Pro Circuit singles titles of his career. For the first half of this year, Donaldson competed overseas in ITF Circuit events in Turkey, where he won his first singles title and reached one additional final and two semifinals. This fall, he reached the semifinals of the \$50,000 Challenger in Napa, Calif., and the quarterfinals of the \$100,000 Challenger in Sacramento, Calif. As a junior, Donaldson has competed in the US Open boys' event, and he represented the United States in Junior Davis Cup (16 and under). He is coached by former Top 30 player Taylor Dent and has trained with Roger Federer in Dubai.

Stefan Kozlov, 16, who is the No. 4-ranked junior in the world. Kozlov reached the junior boys' final at both Wimbledon and the Australian Open this year, as well as the junior quarterfinals at the US Open and the French Open. Kozlov lost to Alex Zverev in the Australian Open final, having beaten Zverev in their previous two encounters, and he lost to 2014 USTA Boys' 18s champion Noah Rubin in the Wimbledon final, which was the first all-American Wimbledon boys' final since 1977. Kozlov, who has since turned pro, made his ATP main draw debut last year at the Hall of Fame Tennis Championships in Newport, R.I. This fall, he reached the final of the \$100,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Sacramento, Calif., losing to Sam Querrey. By reaching the Sacramento final at age 16, Kozlov became the youngest American to reach a Challenger final since Andre Agassi in 1986. Kozlov trains both with his father, Andrei, at his tennis academy in Pembroke Pines, Fla., and at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla., with coach Nicolas Todero. Kozlov has also practiced, on occasion, with Novak Djokovic and other top pros while they prepared for the US Open.

Noah Rubin, 18, who is the reigning USTA Boys' 18s national champion and Wimbledon boys' singles champion, and who has been a protégé of John McEnroe's at his Randall's Island, N.Y., academy. Now a freshman at Wake Forest, Rubin won the first all-American Wimbledon boys' singles final since 1977 this summer, overcoming fellow American Stefan Kozlov, and then made his Grand Slam men's singles debut at the US Open after winning the USTA junior national title and claiming the accompanying wild card. Rubin is now the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's top-ranked freshman.

Tennys Sandgren, whose name is pronounced like the sport and who is competing in his sixth USTA Pro Circuit event since February because of injury. Sandgren turned pro following his sophomore season at the University of Tennessee, after reaching the semifinals of the 2011 NCAA tournament. Sandgren won three USTA Pro Circuit Futures titles (in four finals) in 2012 to climb nearly 300 spots in the ATP rankings. In 2013, he graduated to Challengers and won the year-end \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Champaign, Ill., to break into the Top 200 for the first time in his career. Also last year, he captured the doubles title at the \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Tallahassee, Fla., with Austin Krajicek, and he served as a Davis Cup practice partner for the U.S. team as it prepared to face Serbia in Boise, Idaho. Sandgren nearly qualified for the main draw at the 2014 Australian Open, falling to Steve Johnson in five sets in the final of the USTA Australian Open Wild Card Playoffs in Norcross, Ga. Sandgren's brother, Davey, was a two-time All-American for Tennessee, lettering from 2007 to 2010.

Marcos Giron, who won the 2014 NCAA singles title as a junior at UCLA and finished the year as the No. 1 college tennis player, as ranked by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. Giron became the 11th Bruin to win the NCAA men's singles crown and the first to do so in eight years. By winning the NCAA singles title, Giron earned a

wild card into the 2014 US Open, where he lost to fellow American John Isner in the first round. He rebounded to win the men's title at the inaugural US Open American Collegiate Invitational. Also this year, Giron won the third USTA Pro Circuit singles title of his career at the \$10,000 Futures in Calabasas, Calif., and served as a Davis Cup practice partner for the team's World Group Playoff in Chicago in mid-September. From July 2013 to July 2014, Giron has improved his ranking nearly 500 spots.

Sekou Bangoura, who was named a doubles All-American during his sophomore year at the University of Florida after reaching the doubles semifinals of the 2011 NCAA tournament. He turned pro thereafter. Bangoura won the second USTA Pro Circuit singles title of his career this January at the \$10,000 Futures in Plantation, Fla. He has also won two USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles this year. (He owns four USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles overall.)

Eric Quigley, the 2012 NCAA singles runner-up who played for the University of Kentucky. Quigley is one of the most decorated tennis players in Wildcats history, earning five All-America honors, between singles and doubles. In 2008, he became the first Kentucky player in 34 years to win four consecutive high school state singles titles. This year, he reached the singles final at the \$15,000 USTA Pro Circuit clay-court event in Boynton Beach, Fla., and won the first two USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles of his career.

Dennis Novikov, who was the 2012 USTA Boys' 18s national champion in singles and doubles. Those victories earned him wild-card entries into the men's singles and men's doubles main draws at the 2012 US Open, where he became just the second USTA Boys' 18s champ in 15 years to advance to the second round in singles after defeating Poland's Jerzy Janowicz in the first round. Novikov completed his sophomore year at UCLA in 2013. He turned pro that summer and won his first USTA Pro Circuit title in June, at the \$10,000 Futures in Amelia Island, Fla. Novikov has had a strong year in 2014, winning three USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles and claiming two ITF Circuit singles titles in Mexico and Canada. Born in Moscow, Novikov moved with his family to the United States as a 1-year-old

and, from a broad athletic background, chose tennis over hockey, swimming and gymnastics.

Many Top 10 players have found success in Knoxville.

2000 singles runner-up **Andy Roddick** finished the 2003 season ranked No. 1 in the world after winning the US Open that year. Roddick retired following the 2012 US Open and, in his career, won 32 singles titles, finished in the Top 10 nine consecutive years and advanced to five Grand Slam tournament finals. He was a longtime member of the U.S. Davis Cup team, leading the United States to the championship in 2007.

2001 singles champion **James Blake** peaked at No. 4 in the world in 2006 after reaching the final of the Tennis Masters Cup, the season-ending championships of the ATP World Tour. He won 10 singles titles and seven doubles titles during his 14-year career and also was a longtime member of the U.S. Davis Cup team, helping lead the United States to the Davis Cup title in 2007. Blake announced his retirement at the 2013 US Open.

2002 singles runner-up and 2001 doubles champion **Mardy Fish** peaked at No. 7 in the world in August 2011 after one of the strongest seasons of his career, which included reaching the quarterfinals of Wimbledon and the round of 16 at the US Open. He also won the 2011 Emirates Airline US Open Series event in Atlanta en route to winning his first overall Series crown. Fish has won six ATP World Tour singles titles, along with eight doubles titles, and holds an 11-8 overall record in Davis Cup.

2010 singles champion **Kei Nishikori** of Japan, is currently ranked No. 7 in the world. Nishikori made history as the first Asian man to reach a Grand Slam tournament singles final when he advanced to the final of the 2014 US Open, before losing to Marin Cilic. Nishikori also reached the quarterfinals of the 2012 Australian Open and has won seven ATP World Tour singles titles.

**Player field subject to change*

KNOXVILLE PAST WINNERS

Singles			Doubles	
Year	Winner	Runner-Up	Year	Winner
2013	Tim Smyczek (USA)	Peter Polansky (CAN)	2013	Sam Groth (AUS) – John-Patrick Smith (AUS)
2012	Michael Russell (USA)	Bobby Reynolds (USA)	2012	Alex Kuznetsov (USA) – Mischa Zverev (GER)
2011	Jesse Levine (USA)	Brian Baker (USA)	2011	Steve Johnson (USA) – Austin Krajicek (USA)
2010	Kei Nishikori (JPN)	Robert Kendrick (USA)	2010	Rik De Voest (RSA) – Izak van der Merwe (RSA)
2009	Taylor Dent (USA)	Ilija Bozoljac (SRB)	2009	Martin Emmrich (GER) – Andreas Siljeström (SWE)
2008	Bobby Reynolds (USA)	Luka Gergorc (SLO)	2008	Kevin Anderson (RSA) – G.D. Jones (NZL)
2007	Robert Kendrick (USA)	Kevin Kim (USA)	2007	Harel Levy (ISR) – Sam Warburg (USA)
2003-06	Tournament not held	Tournament not held	2003-06	Tournament not held
2002	Martin Verkerk (NED)	Mardy Fish (USA)	2002	Dmitry Tursunov (RUS) – Martin Verkerk (NED)
2001	James Blake (USA)	Gabriel Trifu (ROU)	2001	Mardy Fish (USA) – Jeff Morrison (USA)
2000	Cristiano Caratti (ITA)	Andy Roddick (USA)	2000	Karsten Braasch (GER) – Michael Kohlmann (GER)

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. Celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2014, the USTA Pro Circuit provides players with the opportunity to gain professional ranking points, and it has 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—**Bradley Klahn** and **Shelby Rogers**. Former Stanford standout and 2010 NCAA champion **Klahn** was the 2013 USTA Pro Circuit Prize Money Leader with \$50,606 in earnings, reaching five USTA Pro Circuit singles finals and winning two singles titles: the \$15,000 Futures in Costa Mesa, Calif., in March, and the \$100,000 Challenger in Aptos, Calif., in August. The two singles titles were the first USTA Pro Circuit singles crowns of his career. Klahn also earned a USTA wild card into the 2013 US Open through a wild card challenge incorporating USTA Pro Circuit events. Klahn finished 2013 ranked in the Top 100 for the first time in his career after starting the year ranked outside the Top 250. Rogers was the 2013 women's USTA Pro Circuit Prize Money Leader with \$36,308 in earnings, winning three singles titles with prize money of \$50,000 or more (\$50,000 events in Charlottesville, Va., and Lexington, Ky., and the \$75,000 event in Albuquerque, N.M.). Rogers also earned a USTA wild card into both the French Open and the US Open by winning wild card challenges for the two Grand Slam tournaments utilizing a series of USTA Pro Circuit events. In her debut at the 2013 French Open, Rogers won her first round match. She peaked at No. 116 in the world in October 2013, rising more than 100 spots throughout the year. Both Klahn and Rogers train with the USTA Player Development program.



Joyce Tatar-Rideout

Bradley Klahn

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.

YOUTH TENNIS

The USTA is making it easier and more fun for kids to get into the game—and stay in the game. Kids are learning to play faster than ever before through the USTA's youth initiative, which is geared toward getting more kids to participate in tennis using modified equipment and courts tailored to a child's size. For more information, visit YouthTennis.com.

NJTL

Founded in 1969 by Arthur Ashe, along with Charlie Pasarell and Sheridan Snyder, the USTA/National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) network is a nationwide group of more than 625 non-profit youth development organizations that provide free or low-cost tennis, education and life skills programming to more than 350,000 children each year. Celebrating its 44th anniversary this year, NJTL is 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. This year, nearly 1,100 players competed in 13 Sectional Qualifying Tournaments nationwide for a 2014 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. A pair of former college All-Americans won the singles playoffs. Caitlin Whoriskey of East Sandwich, Mass., won the 2014 US Open National Playoffs women's title and Sanam Singh of Charlottesville, Va., won the men's wild card. Jacqueline Cako and Joel Kielbowicz won mixed doubles. The 13 sectional qualifying tournaments for the US Open National Playoffs began in May, with championships in August. For more information, visit www.usopen.org/NationalPlayoffs.w

