



PRO CIRCUIT

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TOURNAMENT NOTES

as of January 2, 2014

VERO BEACH INTERNATIONAL TENNIS OPEN

VERO BEACH, FL • JANUARY 5-12

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Site: Vero Beach Tennis & Fitness
Vero Beach, Fla.

Websites: www.verobeachinternationaltennisopen.com
procircuit.usta.com

Facebook: Lozano & Osorio Tennis Academy

Twitter: @VeroBeachOpen

Qualifying Draw Begins: Sunday, Jan. 5

Main Draw Begins: Tuesday, Jan. 7

Main Draw: 32 Singles / 16 Doubles

Surface: Clay / Outdoors

Prize Money: \$25,000

Tournament Director:
Marco Osorio, (561) 479-8015
marco.osorio@verobeachtennis.com

Tournament Press Contact:
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USTA Public Relations Contacts:
Amanda Korba, (914) 697-2219
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PRIZE MONEY / POINTS

SINGLES:	Prize Money	Ranking Points
Winner	\$3,919	50
Runner-up	\$2,091	30
Semifinalist	\$1,114	18
Quarterfinalist	\$ 654	9
Round of 16	\$ 392	5
Round of 32	\$ 228	1

DOUBLES:	Prize Money (per team)
Winner	\$1,437
Runner-up	\$ 719
Semifinalist	\$ 359
Quarterfinalist	\$ 196
Round of 16	\$ 131

USTA PRO CIRCUIT WOMEN'S TENNIS MAKES DEBUT IN VERO BEACH TO KICK OFF 2014 SEASON

The **Vero Beach International Tennis Open** makes its debut on the USTA Pro Circuit this year. Vero Beach has hosted a men's USTA Pro Circuit event since 1995 and also hosted men's events from 1979 to 1981 and in 1983. This is the first women's event of the 2014 season and one of 17 clay-court women's events taking place on the USTA Pro Circuit this year. In conjunction with USTA Player Development, the USTA Pro Circuit continues to emphasize the importance of increased training for younger players on clay.

Players competing in the main draw include:

Allie Kiick, who turned pro in 2013, when she saw her ranking climb nearly 100 spots after producing impressive results on the USTA Pro Circuit. She won the second USTA Pro Circuit singles title of her career at the \$10,000 event in Gainesville, Fla., and also reached the final of the \$50,000 event in Charlottesville, Va. In the junior ranks, Kiick was a finalist in the 2013 USTA Girls' 18 National Championships singles event and won the doubles title with Sachia Vickery, allowing her to make her Grand Slam main draw debut in the women's doubles event at the 2013 US Open. Kiick is the daughter of Jim Kiick, who was a running back on the undefeated 1972 Miami Dolphins. Her mother is Mary Johnson, a former professional softball player. Allie has spent time training at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla., and with former Grand Slam finalist Harold Solomon.



Mauricio Paiz

Allie Kiick, the daughter of Jim Kiick, a running back on the famous undefeated 1972 Miami Dolphins, was a finalist in the 2013 USTA Girls' 18 National Championships singles event and won the doubles title, allowing her to make her Grand Slam main draw debut in the women's doubles event at the 2013 US Open.

Standout junior **Louisa Chirico**, who outperformed every other American junior at the 2013 French Open, reaching the girls' singles semifinals before falling to eventual champion Belinda Bencic in three sets. Chirico then reached the semifinals of the Wimbledon juniors, again losing to Bencic, and the quarterfinals of the junior US Open. In turn, Chirico ended the 2013 junior season ranked in the Top 10 of the ITF World Junior Rankings. In the pro ranks, Chirico reached the final of the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Surprise, Ariz., in February as a qualifier. In 2012, she teamed with Taylor Townsend to lead the United States to the Junior Fed Cup title in Barcelona, Spain, and she also joined Townsend as the only two American 16-year-olds to rank in the WTA Top 500 in March 2012. Chirico won her first



David Kenas

Top 10 junior Louisa Chirico reached the semifinals of the 2013 junior French Open and junior Wimbledon and also advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2013 junior US Open.

*Player field subject to change

USTA Pro Circuit singles title in 2012 at the \$10,000 event in Sumter, S.C., and won her first doubles title at the \$50,000 event in Indian Harbour Beach, Fla., in 2013. She trains at the USTA Training Center-East at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y., home of the US Open.

Samantha Crawford, who won the 2012 US Open girls' singles title. Crawford also qualified for the main draw of the 2012 US Open and pushed Great Britain's Laura Robson in the first round. At 6-foot-2, Crawford's big serve and aggressive baseline game helped her rise to No. 5 in the world junior rankings in 2012. In 2013, she reached the singles semifinals at the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Raleigh, N.C. She also owns two USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles. Crawford, who speaks Chinese, as a result of her mother being from China, trains with the USTA Player Development program.

Sanaz Marand, who played for the University of North Carolina, where she received All-America honors and, in 2010, helped lead the Tar Heels to their first NCAA team semifinals. In 2013, Marand won her first USTA Pro Circuit singles title at the \$25,000 event in El Paso, Texas. Overall, Marand has won five USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles, with three coming in 2012. As a junior player, she reached the doubles final at the 2006 Easter Bowl with Ashley Weinhold.

Asia Muhammad, who learned to play tennis at the Andre Agassi Boys and Girls Club in Las Vegas. In 2013, she won two USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles and captured her first singles title since 2007 at the \$25,000 event in Raleigh, N.C. Muhammad holds nine USTA Pro Circuit titles overall (seven in doubles).

Players competing in qualifying include:

Jamie Loeb, who is a freshman at the University of North Carolina, where she began her collegiate career by winning the Riviera/ITA Women's All-American Championships and the USTA/ITA National Indoor Intercollegiate Championships this past fall. Last summer, Loeb reached the quarterfinals of the Wimbledon juniors, losing to eventual champion Belinda Bencic, and advanced to the second round of girls' singles at the French Open, falling to the No. 1-ranked junior in the

world, Ana Konjuh. Loeb reached the singles final and won the doubles title at the 2013 USTA International Spring Championships in Carson, Calif. In summer 2012, she went a 17-match singles winning streak, capturing three junior titles—the USTA International Hard Courts in College Park, Md.; the USTA International Grass Court Championships in Philadelphia; and an ITF Junior Circuit event in Delray Beach, Fla. Loeb holds three USTA Pro Circuit singles titles and, before leaving for college, trained at John McEnroe's academy at Randalls Island, N.Y.

Allie Will, who jumped more than 150 spots in the rankings since turning pro in 2012 after completing her junior year at the University of Florida, where she rose to No. 1 in the collegiate singles rankings. In July 2013, she reached the semifinals of the \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Sacramento, Calif., and won her fifth USTA Pro Circuit doubles title of the year at the \$50,000 event in Captiva Island, Fla., to vault her to No. 100 in the WTA doubles rankings. Will has won eight doubles titles in her career, six on the USTA Pro Circuit.

Lauren Embree, who completed her outstanding college career at the University of Florida in 2013 by being named the ITA National College Player of the Year. Embree went 26-3 last year for the Gators at the No. 1 singles spot, and she compiled a staggering 117-16 singles record during her college career. After turning pro, she won her second USTA Pro Circuit singles title at the \$10,000 event in Fort Worth, Texas, in her first USTA Pro Circuit singles final since winning the title in Wichita, Kan., in 2008. She also won a USTA Pro Circuit doubles title in 2013 at the \$25,000 event in Redding, Calif., with fellow college standout Robin Anderson. In 2009, Embree won a USTA wild-card playoff to earn a berth into the main draw of the French Open, where she lost in the opening round to former world No. 3 Nadia Petrova.

Natalie Pluskota, who completed her stellar college career in 2012 at the University of Tennessee. Pluskota reached the final of the \$10,000 tournament in Landisville, Pa., in May 2013. She also has enjoyed tremendous success in doubles, peaking at No. 158 in the world in doubles last July after reaching eight doubles semifinals on the USTA Pro Circuit. On the WTA tour in summer 2013, Pluskota and fellow American Jacqueline Cako reached the doubles quarterfinals at the Emirates Airline US Open Series event in Stanford, Calif.

**Player field subject to change*

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.



Shelby Rogers

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. Last year, more than 1,000 players competed in 13 Sectional Qualifying Tournaments nationwide for a 2013 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. Mayo Hibi, a 17-year-old Japanese player living in Irvine, Calif., won the 2013 US Open National Playoffs women's title and USTA Pro Circuit regular Jeff Dadamo, 24, of Tampa, Fla., won the men's wild card. Yasmin Schnack and Eric Roberson won the mixed doubles tournament. The schedule for this year's US Open National Playoffs will be released in early 2014.

