The Pensacola Futures Championships returns to Pensacola, Fla., for the third consecutive year and the sixth overall. It is the second of four $10,000 Futures events held on clay courts that conclude the 2012 season. The state of Florida will host 12 clay-court Futures events for men in 2012—the most of any state.

On Saturday, Nov. 3, the tournament will host a 10 and Under Tennis Play Day and Exhibition. 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, slower-moving and lower-bouncing balls, and smaller 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 kids will stick with tennis for a lifetime.

Among those competing this week is Chase Buchanan, the 2012 NCAA men’s doubles champion for Ohio State, who captured the Futures title in Indian Harbour Beach, Fla., in June. Buchanan also reached the boys’ singles final of the 2009 US Open as a junior player.

Also in the main draw is Bjorn Fratangelo, who in 2011 became the first American since John McEnroe in 1977 to win the boys’ singles title at the French Open. Fratangelo reached his first USTA Pro Circuit Challenger quarterfinal this summer at the $50,000 event in Lexington, Ky., and he was a finalist at the $10,000 Futures in Tampa, Fla., in May.

Current and former college standouts in the main draw are: Sekou Bangoura, who was named a doubles All-American during his sophomore year at the University of Florida after reaching the semifinals of the 2011 NCAA Tournament; Dennis Nevolo, Chase Buchanan was the 2012 NCAA men’s doubles champion for Ohio State and, as a junior player, reached the boys’ singles final of the 2009 US Open.
a standout at the University of Illinois, where he finished his collegiate career in May; former University of Michigan standout Jason Jung, who won his first professional singles title at the USTA Pro Circuit Futures event in Godfrey, Ill., this summer; and Daniel Nguyen, a former All-American at USC, where he helped the Trojans to four consecutive NCAA team championships, 2009-12, and clinched the titles for the team in 2010 and 2011. Nguyen won his first USTA Pro Circuit singles title this fall at the $10,000 Futures in Irvine, Calif.

Eighteen-year-old Liam Broady of Great Britain is also competing in the main draw. Broady is ranked No. 6 in the ITF World Junior Rankings and reached the boys’ singles final of the 2012 US Open. He also won the doubles title at the 2012 Australian Open Junior Championships.

Competing in qualifying is Mitchell Krueger, the top-ranked American junior, who reached a career-high No. 5 junior world ranking in January. Krueger advanced to the semifinals of the boys’ singles at the French Open and Wimbledon earlier this year. He turned pro in late July.

Also in qualifying is 16-year-old Noah Rubin of Long Island, N.Y., who reached a career-high No. 14 in the world junior rankings in June following his run to the quarterfinals of the 2012 junior French Open. He trains at the John McEnroe Tennis Academy on Randall’s Island, N.Y.

Many ATP World Tour standouts have found success in Pensacola. 2002 singles champion and former world No. 14 Ivo Karlovic reached the quarterfinals of Wimbledon in 2009 and has captured four career ATP World Tour singles titles. He also competes for the Croatian Davis Cup team. Up-and-coming American Jack Sock, the 2010 Pensacola doubles champion, achieved the best pro result of his career this summer, reaching the third round of the 2012 US Open as a wild card. Sock also won the 2010 US Open junior singles title and also qualified for the main draw of US Open in 2010 and 2011 by winning the USTA Boys’ 18 National Championships. In addition, Sock won the 2011 US Open mixed doubles title with fellow young American Melanie Oudin.

*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. The USTA launched its Pro Circuit 33 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, Andy Roddick, Caroline Wozniacki, James Blake, Li Na 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—Christina McHale and Ryan Harrison. McHale reached the quarterfinals or better at five USTA Pro Circuit events in 2010 and climbed more than 100 spots in the WTA rankings that year. Buoyed by those results, she began to compete regularly on the WTA tour in 2011 and became the youngest player in the world’s Top 50 after defeating No. 8 seed Marion Bartoli en route to the third round of the US Open. Three weeks prior, she upset world No. 1 Wozniacki at the US Open Series event in Cincinnati. McHale also was named to the U.S. Fed Cup team for the World Group Playoff in April 2011. Harrison began 2011 by winning the singles and doubles titles at the $50,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Honolulu and subsequently reached the round of 16 in Indian Wells, where he upset three players ranked in the Top 50. Harrison cracked the Top 100 for the first time in summer 2011—becoming one of just two teenage males in the Top 100—after reaching back-to-back semifinals at the US Open Series events in Atlanta and Los Angeles. He also played in the main draw of all four Grand Slam events last year, pushing world No. 5 David Ferrer to five sets in the second round at Wimbledon.

10 AND UNDER TENNIS

On January 1, the USTA announced that the rules of tennis have officially changed and require that 10 and Under Tennis tournaments be played utilizing smaller, lighter racquets and lower-bouncing balls on smaller courts. This rule change signifies the emergence of 10 and Under Tennis as an integral part of the development of young players. The scaled-down equipment and smaller courts better allow kids to rally and play the game earlier in their development, and increase the likelihood they will return to the court and continue to improve while having fun doing so. For more information, visit www.10andundertennis.com.

NJTL

Cities across the country participate in the USTA/National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) network, a nationwide network of community tennis organizations seeking to develop the character of young people through both tennis and education. Founded by Arthur Ashe in 1969, more than 650 registered chapters/programs exist throughout the nation with more than 250,000 participants ages 6-18, making NJTL one of the USTA’s largest community-based initiatives.

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, 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 Alexandre 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.

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.