TOURNAMENT NOTES

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Site: Rock Hill Tennis Center – Rock Hill, S.C.
Websites: www.cityofrockhill.com
procircuit.usta.com
Facebook: Rock Hill Rocks Open
Qualifying Draw Begins: Sunday, Oct. 13
Main Draw Begins: Tuesday, Oct. 15
Main Draw: 32 Singles / 16 Doubles
Surface: Hard / Outdoors
Prize Money: $25,000
Tournament Director: Kim Ozmon, (803) 326-3842
rhtc10s@cityofrockhill.com
Tournament Press Contact: Tim Hartis, (803) 230-1967
timhartis@live.com
USTA Public Relations Contact: Amanda Korba, (914) 697-2219
korba@usta.com

PRIZE MONEY / POINTS

SINGLES: Prize Money Ranking Points
Winner $3,919 50
Runner-Up $2,901 34
Semifinalist $1,114 24
Quarterfinalist $654 14
Round 16 $392 8
Round 32 $228 1

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sunday, October 13
Rockin’ Junior Kickoff clinic, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Monday, October 14
Adult Pro-Am, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

USTA PRO CIRCUIT WOMEN’S TENNIS IN ROCK HILL FOR FIFTH YEAR

The Rock Hill Rocks Open returns to the USTA Pro Circuit for the fifth straight year. It is the second to last $25,000 USTA Pro Circuit women’s tournament of 2013 and precedes another USTA Pro Circuit event in South Carolina, in Florence, which takes place next week.

Players competing in the main draw include:

Melanie Oudin, who arrives in Rock Hill after winning her first title of the year last month at the Party Rock Open, a $50,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Las Vegas sponsored by music sensation Redfoo. Oudin burst onto the tennis scene in 2009, defeating former world No. 1 Jelena Jankovic to reach the fourth round at Wimbledon and beating four-time Grand Slam tournament champion Maria Sharapova en route to the US Open quarterfinals. She reached No. 31 in the world in singles in April 2010, but struggled with injuries and inconsistency in the year that followed. Oudin started her comeback last year, capturing her first WTA title at the Wimbledon tune-up event in Birmingham, England, where she won eight matches (including qualifying) and upset No. 5 seed Jankovic in the final. Oudin then competed at Wimbledon as a wild card. She also earned a 2012 French Open wild card based on her results on the USTA Pro Circuit, which included a title at the Rock Hill Rocks Open.

CoCo Vandeweghe reached her first WTA title at the Wimbledon tune-up event in Birmingham, England, in 2012.

event in Charlottesville, Va. (She reached the second round at Roland Garros.) This year, in addition to her title in Las Vegas, Oudin reached the second round at the French Open and qualified for the clay-court WTA events in Rome and Brussels. In addition, she noted one of the biggest victories of her career at the 2011 US Open, claiming the mixed doubles title with countryman Jack Sock, and she has been a consistent performer for the U.S. Fed Cup team. Oudin, who has a twin sister, Katherine, trains at the USTA Training Center-East, the home of the US Open, in Flushing, N.Y.

CoCo Vandeweghe, who lost to Melanie Oudin in the Party Rock Open final in Las Vegas last month and who had a strong summer playing in the Emirates Airline US Open Series. Vandeweghe qualified for the Series events in Stanford, Calif., and Carlsbad, Calif., reaching the second round of both. She also
qualified for and reached the second round of the 2013 US Open. In April, she defeated 2013 Wimbledon champion and recent retiree Marion Bartoli in the opening round of the WTA event in Monterrey, Mexico. Vandeweghe reached her first tour final in 2012 at the Series event in Stanford as a qualifier, losing to Serena Williams. She broke into the Top 100 for the first time in her career in early 2011 after qualifying for the Australian Open and reaching the quarterfinals of the WTA event in Memphis, Tenn. She also reached the second round of the 2011 US Open and competed in the French Open and Wimbledon that year. Also, Vandeweghe was named to the U.S. Fed Cup team for the 2010 final vs. Italy. As a junior, she won the 2008 US Open girls’ singles title. Vandeweghe’s mother, Tauna, was a member of the U.S. national team in both swimming and volleyball, and her uncle is former NBA star Kiki Vandeweghe.

Madison Brengle, who has excelled this year on the USTA Pro Circuit. She won the $25,000 event in Landisville, Pa., in August, as well as the $25,000 event in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., in February, both without losing a set. Brengle also reached the final in July at the $50,000 event in Sacramento, Calif. As a junior player, she reached a career-high ranking of No. 4 in the world in 2007 and advanced to the girls’ singles final at Wimbledon that year. Brengle has won four singles titles and four doubles titles in her career, all of them on the USTA Pro Circuit.

Nicole Gibbs, who won a second consecutive NCAA singles title in 2013 for Stanford University to become the fifth player in history—and the fourth from Stanford—to win back-to-back NCAA Division I women’s singles championships. Gibbs joins Amber Liu (Stanford, 2004-05), Laura Granville (Stanford, 2000-01), Lisa Raymond (Florida, 1992-93) and Patty Fendick (Stanford, 1986-87) as back-to-back NCAA singles champions. Gibbs also helped lead Stanford to its 17th NCAA team title in 2013. As a sophomore in 2012, she defeated teammate Mallory Burdette in the NCAA singles title match and teamed with Burdette to win the NCAA doubles title, as well. Following the collegiate season this year, Gibbs won the $50,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Yakima, Wash., and competed in Wimbledon qualifying. Gibbs received wild cards into the singles main draw of the US Open in 2012 and 2013. As a junior, she advanced to the final of the USTA Girls’ 18 National Championships in 2010 and 2011 and reached the semifinals of the 2011 US Open Junior Championships as a qualifier.

Sachia Vickery, who won the USTA National Girls’ 18s singles and doubles titles this summer, earning wild cards into the women’s main draw of singles and doubles at this year’s US Open. At the US Open, she won her first-round match in her Grand Slam debut, defeating Mirjana Lucic-Baroni in straight sets. Vickery has climbed 150 spots in the rankings so far in 2013, thanks to her US Open win, in addition to reaching the semifinals of two USTA Pro Circuit events. As a junior, she was ranked as high as No. 6 in the ITF World Junior Rankings, competing in all four junior Grand Slam tournaments and reaching the doubles finals of junior Wimbledon in 2012.

Allie Kiick, who turned pro earlier this year. So far in 2013, the 18-year-old has seen 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 this year in the USTA Girls’ 18 National Championships singles event and won the doubles title with Sachia Vickery, allowing her to make her Grand Slam women’s main draw debut in the doubles event at the 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. Kiick has spent time training at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla., and with former Grand Slam finalist Harold Solomon.

Julia Cohen, who broke into the WTA Top 100 in late July 2012, reaching a career-high No. 97 after advancing to her first WTA final, in Baku, Azerbaijan, prior to playing in her first US Open main draw in August. At this year’s US Open, she reached the final round of qualifying and then played in ITF Pro Circuit events in Bulgaria, the country of Georgia, Mexico and the Netherlands. Cohen is a veteran of all levels of competitive tennis, excelling as a junior and collegiate player, and competing in USTA adult events, as well as on the USTA Pro Circuit. As a collegian, Cohen earned All-America honors as a sophomore at the University of Miami (Fla.), after taking home Intercollegiate Tennis Association Rookie of the Year honors as a freshman for the University of Florida. In 2008, she won three USTA adult national championships and added another in 2009, all in doubles events with her parents. Cohen peaked at No. 4 in the ITF World Junior Rankings in 2007, when she reached the Australian Open girls’ doubles final.

Players receiving main draw wild cards include:

Alexandra Mueller, who enjoyed the best summer of her career in 2013. In July, she qualified for the WTA event in Washington, D.C., where she also reached the doubles quarterfinals. In June, she won the $10,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Buffalo, N.Y. Mueller is a two-time winner of the US Open National Playoffs, earning wild cards into the US Open Qualifying Tournament in 2010 and 2012. She holds four career USTA Pro Circuit singles titles and 10 doubles titles—five of which have come this year.

Seventeen-year-old Brooke Austin, who won the 2012 USTA Girls’ 18 Spring National Championships and helped lead the United States to back-to-back World Junior Tennis titles in 2009 and 2010. In 2012, Austin reached the final of the Easter Bowl, losing to 2012 year-end junior world No. 1 Taylor Townsend in the final. This year, Austin reached the singles quarterfinals and doubles semifinals at the Easter Bowl, having cracked the Top 100 in the ITF World Junior Rankings in 2011. On the USTA Pro Circuit in 2013, Austin has reached two finals at $10,000 events.

Notable players competing in qualifying are:

Samantha Crawford, who won the 2012 US Open girls’ singles title. Crawford also qualified for the women’s singles 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. This year, she reached the semifinals at the $25,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Raleigh, N.C., and won the second USTA Pro Circuit doubles title of her career, taking the $25,000 event in Surprise, Ariz., with Sachia Vickery. Crawford, whose mother is from China, speaks Chinese. She trains with the USTA Player Development program.

World No. 6 junior Louisa Chirico, who outperformed every other American junior at the 2013 French Open, reaching the girls’ singles semifinals before falling to the eventual champion, Belinda Bencic, in three sets. Her showing at Roland Garros vaulted her into the Top 20
of the world junior rankings. She then reached the semifinals of the Wimbledon juniors, again losing to Bencic, and advanced to the quarterfinals of the junior US Open. Chirico holds a 27-7 record in ITF junior play in 2013. She also qualified and reached the final of the $25,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Surprise, Ariz., in February. Last year, she teamed with Taylor Townsend to lead the United States to the Junior Fed Cup title in Barcelona, Spain, and she stood alongside Townsend as the only two American 16-year-olds ranked in the WTA Top 500 in March 2012. Also last year, Chirico won her first USTA Pro Circuit singles title at the $10,000 event in Sumter, S.C. 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.

Allie Will, who jumped more than 150 spots in the rankings since turning pro last summer after completing her junior year at the University of Florida, where she rose to No. 1 in the collegiate singles rankings. In July, she reached the semifinals of the $50,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Sacramento, Calif., and won her fourth USTA Pro Circuit doubles title of the year the following week at the $50,000 event in Yakima, Wash. Will holds seven doubles titles in her career, five on the USTA Pro Circuit.

Sanaz Marand, who played for the University of North Carolina, where she received All-America honors and helped lead UNC to the NCAA team semifinals for the first time in school history in 2010. This year, she won her first USTA Pro Circuit singles title at the $25,000 event in El Paso, Texas. She also holds five USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles, with three coming in 2012. As a junior player, Marand 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. She won two USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles last year, one in Sacramento, Calif., with Yasmin Schnack, and one at the $75,000 event in Albuquerque, N.M. This year, Muhammad won both the singles and doubles titles at the $25,000 event in Raleigh, N.C. She holds nine USTA Pro Circuit titles overall (seven in doubles).

Lauren Embree, who completed her outstanding college career earlier this year at the University of Florida as the ITA National College Player of the Year. Embree went 26-3 this year for the Gators at the No. 1 singles spot, and she compiled a staggering 117-16 singles record during her college career. Since turning pro this summer, she has won her second USTA Pro Circuit singles title at the $10,000 event in Fort Worth, Texas, and reached the second round at the $50,000 event in Lexington, Ky. In 2009, she 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.

Defending doubles champion Natalie Pluskota, who completed her stellar college career last year at the University of Tennessee. Pluskota reached the final of the $10,000 tournament in Landisville, Pa., in May. She has also enjoyed tremendous success in doubles, currently ranking a career-high No. 158 in the world in doubles after reaching seven doubles semifinals on the USTA Pro Circuit this year. In WTA play this summer, Pluskota and fellow American and Rock Hill qualifying entrant Jacqueline Cako reached the doubles quarterfinals at the Emirates Airline US Open Series event in Stanford, Calif. Last year, the pair won two USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles, at the $25,000 event in Rock Hill, S.C., and the $75,000 tournament in Phoenix, as well as advanced to the final of the $100,000 event in Vancouver, B.C.

Alexandra Stevenson, who first made waves in pro tennis in 1999, when she became the first female qualifier in Wimbledon history to reach the semifinals. She was ranked in the year-end Top 100 each year from 1999 to 2003, peaking at No. 18 in 2002. Injuries drove her ranking into the 600s in 2005. Stevenson rebounded to climb back into the Top 200 in 2009, advancing to the final at the $50,000 event in Carson, Calif., for her best result on the USTA Pro Circuit since 1998. Stevenson is the daughter of basketball Hall of Famer Julius Erving.

*Player field subject to change*
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 34 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, 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—Jack Sock and Grace Min. Sock began 2012 by winning the singles title and reaching the doubles final at the $10,000 Futures in Plantation, Fla. He then reached the quarterfinals of the $50,000 Challenger in Honolulu. With his strong USTA Pro Circuit results, Sock received wild cards into numerous Emirates Airline US Open Series events in the summer, reaching the quarterfinals in Atlanta. Sock then achieved the best result of his pro career by reaching the third round of the 2012 US Open as a wild card. Sock followed up his US Open results by winning his first career USTA Pro Circuit Challenger title at the $100,000 event in Tiburon, Calif., in the fall and finished 2012 ranked a career-high No. 150 in the world. After winning the 2011 US Open girls’ singles title, Min moved to the USTA Pro Circuit to develop her game. She opened the year by winning the first women’s tournament of 2012 at the $25,000 event in Innisbrook, Fla. Later in the spring, she won back-to-back tournaments at the $50,000 event in Indian Harbour Beach, Fla., and the $25,000 tournament in Raleigh, N.C. She competed in qualifying in Emirates Airline US Open Series events throughout the summer and qualified in Stanford, Calif. Min, who trains at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla., entered the Top 200 for the first time in her career in 2012, climbing nearly 250 spots in the rankings by year’s end.

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.

Tennis is now scaled to a child’s age and size, using lower-bouncing and slower-moving balls, lighter and shorter racquets, and smaller courts. The modified equipment and smaller courts will allow kids to rally and play the game early on, increasing the likelihood that kids will return to the court and continue to improve all while having fun! For more information, visit www.10andundertennis.com

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 1,200 players competed in 13 Sectional Qualifying Tournaments nationwide for a 2012 US Open Qualifying Tournament wild card. A mixed doubles element was also 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 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 2013 US Open National Playoffs — Men’s, Women’s and Mixed Doubles Championships were held August 16-19 in New Haven, Conn.