



PRO CIRCUIT

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# TOURNAMENT NOTES

as of April 15, 2014

## \$50,000 SAVANNAH CHALLENGER SAVANNAH, GA • APRIL 19-27



### TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

**Site:** Franklin Creek Tennis Center at the Landings Club  
Savannah, Ga.

**Websites:** [www.savannahchallenger.com](http://www.savannahchallenger.com)  
[procircuit.usta.com](http://procircuit.usta.com)

**Facebook:** Savannah Challenger

**Twitter:** @Sav\_Challenger

**Wild Card Challenge Twitter:** #USTAHarTruWC

**Qualifying Draw Begins:** Saturday, April 19

**Main Draw Begins:** Monday, April 21

**Main Draw:** 32 Singles / 16 Doubles

**Surface:** Clay / Outdoors

**Prize Money:** \$50,000

#### Tournament Director:

Scott Mitchell, (912) 598-3501  
[scott.mitchell@landingsclub.com](mailto:scott.mitchell@landingsclub.com)

#### Tournament Press Contact:

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#### USTA Public Relations Contacts:

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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	\$1,460	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

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Wednesday, April 23**

Ladies Day, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Saturday, April 26**

Kids' Day, 10:00 a.m.-noon

## USTA PRO CIRCUIT RETURNS TO SAVANNAH WITH CONTINUATION OF HAR-TRU USTA PRO CIRCUIT WILD CARD CHALLENGE

The **\$50,000 Savannah Challenger** is taking place for the sixth consecutive year. This is the only USTA Pro Circuit men's event to take place in the state of Georgia; a \$50,000 women's event will be held in Macon this fall.

Savannah is also one of three consecutive men's clay-court tournaments (joining a \$100,000 event in Sarasota, Fla., the week of April 14, and a \$50,000 event in Tallahassee, Fla., next week) that are part of the **Har-Tru USTA Pro Circuit Wild Card Challenge**, which will award one men's and one women's wild card into the 2014 French Open. Along with these three men's events, the women's tournaments that are part of the challenge are the Dothan Pro Classic in Dothan, Ala., the week of April 14; the Boyd Tinsley Clay Court Classic in Charlottesville, Va., the week of April 21; and the Audi Melbourne Pro Tennis Classic in Indian Harbour Beach, Fla., the week of April 28.

The American man and American woman who earn the most ATP and WTA ranking points at two of these three USTA Pro Circuit clay-court events will receive USTA wild cards to compete in their respective singles main draws at the French Open, which runs Sunday, May 25, through Sunday, June 8. Players who did not receive direct entry into the French Open are eligible for the wild cards. The USTA and the French Tennis Federation have a reciprocal agreement in which wild cards into the 2014

Getty Images for USTA



*Jack Sock, the 2010 US Open junior champion, broke into the Top 100 last July and reached the third round of the US Open for a second consecutive year. In 2011, he teamed with fellow American Melanie Oudin to win the US Open mixed doubles title.*

French Open and US Open are exchanged.

This tournament will be streamed live on [www.procircuit.usta.com](http://www.procircuit.usta.com).

Notable players competing in the main draw include:

**Jack Sock**, one of the top young players in the game, who advanced to the quarterfinals of the ATP events in Memphis, Tenn., and Houston this year, and also reached two ATP doubles semifinals with fellow young American Ryan Harrison. Sock broke into the Top 100 last year after winning in Winnetka, Ill., for the fourth USTA Pro Circuit singles crown of his career. He later reached the third round of the US Open for a second consecutive year. Also in 2013, Sock

Anthony Behar



*Once the world's No. 1 junior, Donald Young has ranked in the ATP World Tour Top 40 and has represented the United States both in the Olympics and in Davis Cup.*

\*Player field subject to change

qualified for the 2013 French Open and reached the quarterfinals of the ATP event in Memphis. In doubles, he teamed with James Blake to claim his first ATP World Tour title, taking the championship at Delray Beach. Sock also won the US Open mixed doubles title with Melanie Oudin in 2011. In 2012, he teamed with Steve Johnson to knock off the top-seeded team of Max Mirnyi and Daniel Nestor in the first round of US Open men's doubles. As a junior, Sock won the 2010 US Open boys' singles title (defeating Denis Kudla in an all-American final), won back-to-back USTA Boys' 18 National Championships in 2010 and 2011 to earn wild cards into the US Open, and graduated from Blue Valley North High School in Kansas in 2011 with an 80-0 record for his high school career, winning four consecutive state championships. Sock trains with the USTA Player Development program at the USTA Training Center – West in Carson, Calif.

2011 singles runner-up **Donald Young**, who made his Davis Cup debut this year in the World Group Quarterfinal against Great Britain in San Diego, advanced to the third round of the Australian Open and reached the quarterfinals earlier this month at the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships, an ATP World Tour event in Houston. Young broke into the world's Top 40 in February 2012 and qualified for the 2012 U.S. Olympic team. He competed in all four Grand Slam events that year, reaching the second round of the Australian Open. In 2011, he reached the round of 16 at the US Open, upsetting two Top 30 players en route, for his best Grand Slam result. He also reached the final of the ATP World Tour event in Bangkok and the semifinals of the Emirates Airline US Open Series event in Washington, D.C. In April 2013, Young won an ATP Challenger in Leon, Mexico, for his first title since 2011, and he qualified and reached the second round of the 2013 US Open. He then won the \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Napa, Calif., in September 2013, immediately followed by a title at the \$100,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Sacramento, Calif.—the sixth and seventh Challenger titles of his career on the USTA Pro Circuit. A star junior player, Young was a two-time Grand Slam tournament champion (2005 Australian Open, 2007 Wimbledon) and, at age 16 years, 5 months, became the youngest year-end world junior No. 1 in 2005.

**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 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., after qualifying into the main draw 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. In 2012, Smyczek reached the second round of the US Open and won two USTA Pro Circuit Challengers in Champaign, Ill., and Tallahassee, Fla. Smyczek regularly trains at Saddlebrook Resort in Tampa, Fla., and once lived with fellow American Mardy Fish for a year while training there.

2009 singles runner-up **Alex Kuznetsov**, the 2004 junior French Open runner-up (to Gael Monfils), 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—including the title in Sarasota. Following the French Open, Kuznetsov qualified for Wimbledon. Also in 2013, he won the \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Binghamton, N.Y., and qualified for and advanced to the second round of the Emirates Airline US Open Series event in Washington, D.C., where he lost to John Isner. Those results drove Kuznetsov's ranking up to a career-high No. 120 in the world. In 2012, he qualified for the Australian Open to make his first appearance in a Grand Slam tournament main draw since 2007; he lost to Rafael Nadal in the first round. A native of Kiev, Ukraine, where his grandfather was a handball champion, 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.

**Rhyn Williams**, who qualified for the main draw of the 2014 Australian Open and took the first set off of 2009 US Open champion and No. 5 seed Juan Martin del Potro in the opening round. Also 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 in his Grand Slam tournament debut and, in the process, became one of just 13 qualifying wild cards in US Open recorded history to reach the main draw. In that US Open, he faced Andy Roddick prior to Roddick's retirement announcement. Building upon his Grand Slam résumé, 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 after 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's Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla., and is coached by his cousin, Christopher Williams.

Notable players competing in qualifying include:

**Robby Ginepri**, who is the only active U.S. man to have advanced to a Grand Slam tournament semifinal (2005 US Open, where he lost to Andre Agassi in five sets). Ginepri was one of the top Americans in the world in the mid-2000s, winning three ATP singles titles. During his career, Ginepri has reached the fourth round or better at all four majors and peaked at No. 15 in 2006. He also has represented the United States in Davis Cup (2004) and the Olympics (2008). Ginepri is on the comeback trail following a broken elbow suffered in late 2010, when he fell off his bicycle trying to avoid a squirrel; the injury kept him sidelined through the middle of 2011. He won the \$10,000 USTA Pro Circuit Futures in Sunrise, Fla., in January 2013 for his most recent singles title. He has qualified into the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships in Houston each of the last two years, reaching the quarterfinals in 2013. Ginepri owns the Olde Towne Athletic Club in Marietta, Ga., with his longtime coach, Jerry Baskin.

2012 doubles champion **Bobby Reynolds**, an ATP World Tour veteran who holds the all-time record for total singles and doubles titles on the USTA Pro Circuit, capturing his 31st USTA Pro Circuit title by winning the doubles championship at the \$50,000 Challenger in Napa, Calif., in September 2013. Reynolds ascended to a career-best ranking of No. 63 in 2009 before suffering a wrist injury that sidelined him for seven months. He has reached the second round or better at all four Grand Slam events in his career. In 2008, Reynolds posted his best Grand Slam tournament result by reaching the third round at Wimbledon. In 2013, he qualified for Wimbledon and won his opening-round match for his first Grand Slam singles win since 2008. He claimed his only ATP doubles title in 2006 in Indianapolis with Andy Roddick. Reynolds played at Vanderbilt University for three seasons, 2000-03, under coach and former ATP doubles star Ken Flach, before turning pro after his junior year. He finished at No. 1 in the ITA collegiate rankings in 2003, the same year he led Vanderbilt to the NCAA final.

**Jarmere Jenkins**, who last year completed his college tennis career at the University of Virginia, where he nearly claimed the NCAA "triple crown," winning the NCAA team title—Virginia's first—and the NCAA doubles championship (with teammate Mac Styslinger), while also reaching the NCAA singles final. Jenkins was named the ITA's National Player of the Year for 2013 and ended the season as college tennis's

No. 1-ranked singles player. He reached the final round of qualifying at the 2013 US Open mere weeks after winning the first USTA Pro Circuit title of his career at the \$10,000 Futures in Rochester, N.Y. This year, he has won ITF Pro Circuit singles and doubles events in Australia. Jenkins is one of nine children, several of whom are adopted from varying backgrounds. His family was even featured once on "The Oprah Winfrey Show." Several of Jenkins' brothers have played tennis competitively, and two of his brothers, Jackie Jr. (Northwestern) and Jermaine (Clemson), played NCAA Division I college tennis.

**Daniel Kosakowski**, who competed for one season at UCLA, playing in the No. 1 singles position for the Bruins and earning 2011 Pac-10 Freshman of the Year honors. Kosakowski turned professional that same year and made a splash in his first full season as a pro in 2012, reaching the final round of qualifying at the US Open and winning back-to-back USTA Pro Circuit Futures events in California following the US Open. On the strength of those victories, he cracked the Top 250 for the first time after starting 2012 ranked outside the Top 400. Kosakowski spent the majority of 2013 competing overseas at ITF Pro Circuit tournaments in South America and Asia. This year, he advanced to the final round of qualifying at the Australian Open and won his fourth USTA Pro Circuit title at the \$15,000 tournament in Bakersfield, Calif. Kosakowski comes from a tennis-playing family; his brother and two sisters all played or are currently playing college tennis.

**Mitchell Krueger**, who was the top-ranked American junior boy in 2012, peaking at a career-high No. 5 in the world junior rankings. Krueger advanced to the boys' singles semifinals at the French Open and Wimbledon in 2012 and turned pro that July. Krueger captured his first pro singles title last year while competing overseas at a clay-court ITF Pro Circuit event in the Netherlands. He competed primarily in Australia for the first two months of 2014 and later reached the final of the \$15,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Bakersfield, Calif.

**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 had a strong season on the USTA Pro Circuit in 2013, winning \$10,000 Futures titles in Weston, Fla., and Orange Park, Fla., as well as reaching two additional Futures finals. He also competed in qualifying for the US Open.

**Eric Quigley**, the 2012 NCAA singles finalist from 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. He captured his first pro title last summer at the \$10,000 Futures in Decatur, Ill., and this year he reached the final of the \$15,000 USTA Pro Circuit clay-court event in Boynton Beach, Fla.

**Evan King**, a 2013 graduate of the University of Michigan, who was a three-time All-American (2011-13) and the Big Ten Athlete of the Year in 2012 and 2013. King holds the program record for total singles and doubles wins, combined (196), and he ranks third all-time on Michigan's singles wins list, with 117. In the pro ranks, King has captured eight doubles titles on the USTA Pro Circuit and in Canada.

He started the 2014 season strong, qualifying for and advancing to the singles quarterfinals at the \$100,000 Challenger in Dallas. He also has won four USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles this year, including three consecutive titles in March.

Teenager **Noah Rubin**, who was America's top junior to begin 2013, having ascended as high as No. 6 in the world in January. A pupil of John McEnroe's academy in Randalls Island, N.Y., Rubin reached the quarterfinals at the 2012 French Open Junior Championships and has represented the United States in Junior Davis Cup (16-and-under international team competition). In 2013, Rubin advanced to the third round of the junior French Open and reached the semifinals at the Easter Bowl. On the USTA Pro Circuit in 2013, he advanced to the first final of his career at the \$10,000 Futures in Godfrey, Ill., and reached two additional semifinals.

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Current and past ATP World Tour standouts have found success in Savannah.

2012 singles champion **Brian Baker** began an incredible comeback following his win in Savannah. Baker, ranked No. 456 in the world at the start of 2012 after enduring a variety of injuries, was looking to rebuild his career on the USTA Pro Circuit. He eventually progressed to Challenger-level tournaments and accelerated his comeback by earning the USTA's wild card to the French Open as the American who earned the most ranking points at two USTA Pro Circuit clay-court Challengers—the \$100,000 event in Sarasota, Fla., and Savannah. He then headed to Europe and reached his first ATP final at the French Open tune-up event in Nice, France, advanced to the second round of the French Open and then reached the fourth round at Wimbledon. He also reached the second round of the US Open. At the 2013 Australian Open, Baker suffered a severe right knee injury in the second round against Sam Querrey. Baker played in just three tournaments following Australia in 2013. He has not yet competed in an event in 2014. Baker returned to pro tennis in 2011 after undergoing five surgeries for an assortment of ailments from 2005 to 2008, including Tommy John elbow ligament replacement surgery in February 2008.

2009 singles champion **Michael Russell** is the men's all-time leader in USTA Pro Circuit singles titles with 24, winning his most recent crown at the end of 2013 at the \$75,000 Challenger in Charlottesville, Va. With his victory in Charlottesville, Russell, at the age of 35 years, 6 months and 2 days, became the oldest USTA Pro Circuit singles champion. 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, he 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 consistently competed in all four Grand Slam tournaments. 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 champion Gustavo Kuerten before bowing in five sets, as Kuerten went on to his third Roland Garros crown.

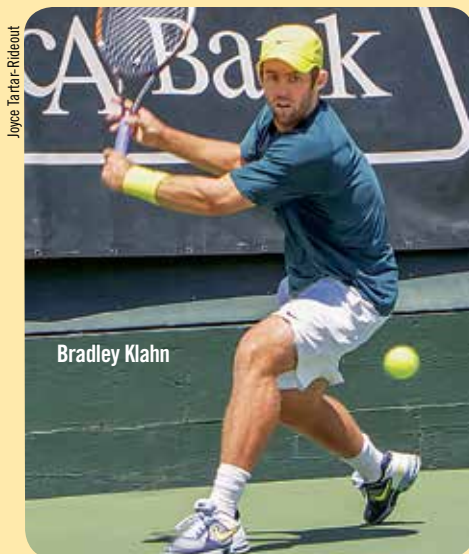
*\*Player field subject to change*



## 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.



Bradley Klahn

## 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](http://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 of Tampa, Fla., won the men's wild card. Yasmin Schnack and Eric Roberson won mixed doubles. The 13 sectional qualifying tournaments for this year's US Open National Playoffs are in May and June, with championships in August. For more information, visit [www.usopen.org/NationalPlayoffs](http://www.usopen.org/NationalPlayoffs).



## 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.

## SAVANNAH PAST WINNERS

Singles			Doubles	
Year	Winner	Runner-Up	Year	Winner
2013	Ryan Harrison (USA)	Facundo Arguello (ARG)	2013	Teymuraz Gabashvili (RUS) / Denys Molchanov (UKR)
2012	Brian Baker (USA)	Augustin Gensse (FRA)	2012	Carsten Ball (AUS) / Bobby Reynolds (USA)
2011	Wayne Odesnik (USA)	Donald Young (USA)	2011	Rik De Voest (RSA) / Izak Van Der Merwe (RSA)
2010	Kei Nishikori (JPN)	Ryan Sweeting (USA)	2010	Jamie Baker (GBR) / James Ward (GBR)
2009	Michael Russell (USA)	Alex Kuznetsov (USA)	2009	Carsten Ball (AUS) / Travis Rettenmaier (USA)