



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**US OPEN NATIONAL PLAYOFFS RETURN FOR THIRD SEASON  
OFFERING SINGLES AND MIXED DOUBLES PLAYERS AGE 14 AND OLDER  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN A BERTH INTO 2012 US OPEN**

**ENTRIES OPEN MARCH 15 FOR ALL 13 SECTIONAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS**

**Men's, Women's Singles Champion Earn Wild Card into US Open Qualifying Tournament;  
Mixed Doubles Winners Earn Wild Card into the US Open Mixed Doubles Championship;**

**US Open National Playoffs Championships to be Played  
During the New Haven Open at Yale presented by First Niagara, a US Open Series Event**

**WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., January 26, 2012** – The USTA announced today the return of the US Open National Playoffs for the third year. The US Open National Playoffs will again include both men's and women's singles and mixed doubles in 2012. The USTA created the US Open National Playoffs to expand the footprint of the US Open to cities nationwide by providing the opportunity for all players 14 years of age and older to earn a berth into the US Open.

The US Open National Playoffs men's and women's singles champions earn a wild card into the US Open Qualifying Tournament, held the week prior to the US Open. The US Open National Playoffs mixed doubles champions receive a main draw wild card into the 2012 US Open.

The US Open National Playoffs begin as a series of sectional qualifying tournaments and will be held in 13 USTA Sections throughout the country (see complete schedule on page 2). The 13 men's, women's and mixed doubles champions from each sectional qualifying tournament will advance to the US Open National Playoffs – Men's Singles, Women's Singles and Mixed Doubles Championship. All three tournaments will be held in conjunction with the New Haven Open at Yale presented by First Niagara, a US Open Series event. The US Open National Playoffs – Men's Singles and Women's Singles Championship will be held August 17-20. The US Open National Playoffs – Mixed Doubles Championship will be held August 22-25.

“The US Open National Playoffs is about giving players of all abilities the opportunity to dream big and be part of the US Open,” said Jon Vegosen, USTA Chairman of the Board and President. “With the option to play singles and mixed doubles, players can compete where they feel the most comfortable on court to have the maximum US Open experience. These tournaments are sanctioned by our committed USTA Sections, who will facilitate competition so that all players feel like they had a special connection with the US Open.”

Registration for each of the 13 sectional qualifying tournaments begins on March 15 at [www.usta.com/tennislink](http://www.usta.com/tennislink). The entry fee for each of the sectional qualifying tournaments is \$100 for singles and \$120 for each mixed doubles team (\$60 per player). All players competing must have a current USTA membership valid through August 27, 2012. Additional information can be found at [www.USOpen.org/NationalPlayoffs](http://www.USOpen.org/NationalPlayoffs).

“For the third year, we again expect strong singles and mixed doubles competition among top junior players, collegians, teaching professionals, ‘weekend warriors,’ and recreational players to earn their way into the US Open,” said Jeff Ryan, US Open National Playoffs Tournament Director. “The New Haven Open at Yale presented by First Niagara will also again serve as an ideal host for the championships, as it is a wonderful setting, never mind extremely convenient, for those winning players to travel to New York for the US Open.”

A player may only enter and compete in singles and/or mixed doubles at one sectional qualifying tournament during a calendar year. Players competing in men's singles or women's singles and mixed doubles may opt to compete at different sectional qualifying tournaments for each event (one for singles and one for mixed doubles). The draw size at each sectional qualifying tournament will be a maximum of 256 for each singles event and a maximum of 128 teams for mixed doubles.

Participants can be of any playing level, from aspiring novice to seasoned professional, giving everyone an equal opportunity to advance.

In all, 1,380 players (690 in men's singles, 306 in women's singles, and 384 in mixed doubles) competed in the 2011 US Open National Playoffs, ranging from experienced professionals (including former doubles world No. 2 and 2001 Australian Open mixed doubles champion **Ellis Ferreira**, two-time ATP singles champion **Jeff Tarango**, and former NCAA singles champions **Amanda McDowell** and **Bea Bielik**) to recreational players of all talents and walks of life (including *ESPN's* **Mike Greenberg**, who teamed with six-time US Open champion **Chris Evert** in mixed doubles, jewelry store owner and young-adult fiction writer **Shawn Cormier** of East Brookfield, Conn., 65-year-old senior USTA League player **Glenn Baxter**, of Granbury, Texas, and the teenage brother-sister team of **Samantha** and **Harrison Adams**, who won the USTA Texas Sectional Qualifying Tournament).

In the end, former University of Arkansas All-American **Blake Strode**, who deferred Harvard Law School to pursue a pro tennis career, won the US Open National Playoffs men's title for a second straight year to earn a wild card into the US Open Qualifying Tournament, where he reached the second round (also for a second straight year). Teenager **Robin Anderson** won the US Open National Playoffs women's singles title, prevailing over a series of more experienced opponents. Anderson was a girls' singles quarterfinalist at the 2010 US Open and now plays for UCLA.

The winners of the inaugural mixed doubles title were **Christina Fusano** and **David Martin**, who between them have won 34 USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles. The duo faced No. 5 seeds Daniela Hantuchova and Mark Knowles in the first round of the 2011 US Open mixed doubles tournament.



## 2012 US OPEN NATIONAL PLAYOFFS

SECTIONAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS

Date	City, State	Venue	Entry Close	USTA Section
May 19 - 21	Scottsdale, AZ	Scottsdale Ranch Park	May 9	Southwest
May 26 - 30	Clearwater, FL	Henry L. McMullen Tennis Complex	May 16	Florida
June 2 - 5	College Park, MD	Tennis Center at College Park	May 23	Mid-Atlantic
June 8 - 12	West Windsor, NJ	Mercer County Tennis Facility	May 30	Middle States
June 11 - 15	Claremont, CA	The Claremont Club	June 1	Southern California
June 11 - 17	Flushing, NY	USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center	June 1	Eastern
June 14 - 17	West Haven, CT	Yale University Tennis Center	June 4	New England
June 18 - 23	Arlington, TX	Arlington Tennis Center	June 4	Texas
June 18 - 24	Salinas, CA	Chamisal Tennis Club	June 8	Northern California
June 21 - 25	Minneapolis, MN	Baseline Tennis Center	June 3	Northern
June 28 - July 1	Prairie Village, KS	Homestead Country Club	June 13	Missouri Valley
June 29 - July 2	Mason, OH	Lindner Family Tennis Center	June 20	Midwest
June 29 - July 3	Alpharetta, GA	Windward Lake Club	June 18	Southern

\* Player registration is open for all Sectional Qualifying Tournaments on March 15.



## 2012 US OPEN NATIONAL PLAYOFFS

CHAMPIONSHIPS

**US Open National Playoffs - Men's Singles Championship & Women's Singles Championship**  
 August 17 - 20 / New Haven, CT / Yale University  
 (staged during the New Haven Open at Yale presented by First Niagara (a WTA event / part of the US Open Series))

**US Open National Playoffs - Mixed Doubles Championship**  
 August 22 - 25 / New Haven, CT / Yale University  
 (staged during the New Haven Open at Yale presented by First Niagara (a WTA event / part of the US Open Series))

\* Schedule subject to change.

The US Open Qualifying Tournament will be held August 21-24 and the US Open Mixed Doubles Championship begins August 29 at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y. The 2012 US Open begins on August 27.

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The USTA is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the U.S. and the leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis at every level -- from local communities to the highest level of the professional game. A not-for-profit organization with more than 750,000 members, it invests 100% of its proceeds in growing the game. It owns and operates the US Open, the highest attended annual sporting event in the world, and launched the US Open Series linking 10 summer tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns the 90-plus Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S., and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games. The USTA philanthropic entity, USTA Serves, provides grants and scholarships and helps underserved youth and people with disabilities. For more information on the USTA, log on to [usta.com](http://usta.com), "like" the official Facebook page [facebook.com/usta](http://facebook.com/usta) or follow @usta on Twitter.

**For more information, contact:** Tim Curry, Director, Corporate Communications, USTA, (914) 696-7077; [curry@usta.com](mailto:curry@usta.com)