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# ST. JOSEPH'S/CANDLER SAVANNAH CHALLENGER ANNOUNCES 2015 WILD CARDS

**Savannah, Ga.** - The St. Joseph's/Candler Savannah Challenger & the USTA today announced that Frances Tiafoe and Stefan Kozlov have been awarded main draw wild cards for the 2015 tournament. This \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger event will take place April 18-26 at the Franklin Creek Tennis Center at The Landings Club on Skidaway Island.

Frances Tiafoe, widely considered to be the United States' next tennis star, turned pro on April 6, 2015 and is already making huge strides. In the past month he claimed his first title by winning the Bakersfield, CA futures tournament and advanced to the quarterfinals of the Sarasota Open just this week. In 2014, Tiafoe was granted wild cards into the qualifying draws of the BB&T Atlanta Open and U.S. Open and was also given a main draw wild card to his home tournament, the Citi Open.

"I have been following Tiafoe for several years now after he became the youngest ever to win the Orange Bowl in 2013. He turned pro just a few weeks ago and we are excited to have him make the St. Joseph's/Candler one of his first tournaments after the big announcement", said Scott Mitchell, tournament director of the St. Joseph's/Candler Savannah Challenger.

Another teenager on the rise, Stefan Kozlov, played in the qualifying draw of the Savannah Challenger last year, but the USTA has awarded him a main draw wild card into this year's tournament. Kozlov, 17, of Pembroke Pines, Fla., is currently ranked 411 in the world and reached the quarterfinals of the Maui Challenger earlier this year.

"To have both of these great young players coming to the St. Joseph's/Candler is very exciting for our event" said Mitchell.

With the USTA and St. Joseph's/Candler Savannah Challenger still holding one additional wild cards each to announce, this year's Savannah Challenger is already set to have some great tennis. Now in its seventh year, the St. Joseph's/Candler Savannah Challenger is one of the largest USTA Pro Circuit events in the Southeast and draws in some of this biggest names in U.S. men's tennis.

## ABOUT THE 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 36 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. **John Isner, Maria Sharapova, Sam Querrey, Sloane Stephens, Kei Nishikori, Victoria Azarenka** and **Andy Murray** are among today's top stars who began their careers on the USTA Pro Circuit.

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