

ST. JOSEPH'S/CANDLER SAVANNAH CHALLENGER SAVANNAH, GA • APRIL 18-26



TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

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

Websites: www.savannahchallenger.com
procircuit.usta.com

Facebook: Savannah Challenger

Twitter: @Sav_Challenger

Wild Card Challenge Twitter: #HarTruWildCard

Qualifying Draw Begins: Saturday, April 18

Main Draw Begins: Monday, April 20

Main Draw: 32 Singles / 16 Doubles

Surface: Clay / Outdoors

Prize Money: \$50,000

Tournament Director:

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Tournament Press Contact:

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USTA Communications Contact:

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korba@usta.com

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 22

SATA Ladies Day & Clinics, 10:00 a.m.-noon

Saturday, April 25

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

USTA PRO CIRCUIT RETURNS TO SAVANNAH

The **St. Joseph's/Candler Savannah Challenger** is taking place for the seventh 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 Challenger in Sarasota, Fla., and a \$50,000 Challenger in Tallahassee, Fla.) that are part of the **Har-Tru USTA Pro Circuit Wild Card Challenge**, which will award a men's and women's wild card into the 2015 French Open. Along with these three men's tournaments, the women's tournaments in the challenge are the Hardee's Pro Classic in Dothan, Ala., the week of April 20; the Boyd Tinsley Clay Court Classic in Charlottesville, Va., the week of April 27; and the Revolution Technologies Pro Tennis Classic in Indian Harbour Beach, Fla., the week of May 4.

The American man and American woman who earn the most ATP and WTA ranking points at two of the three USTA Pro Circuit clay-court events will receive USTA wild cards to compete in the main draws of the French Open, which runs Sunday, May 24, to Sunday, June 7. Only players who did not receive direct entry into the French Open are



Tim Smyczek is ranked a career-high No. 68 in the world. He qualified for the main draw of the 2015 Australian Open and won his fifth USTA Pro Circuit singles title at the \$100,000 Challenger in Dallas following Australia.

eligible for the wild cards. The USTA and the French Tennis Federation have a reciprocal agreement in which wild cards into the 2015 French Open and 2015 US Open are exchanged.

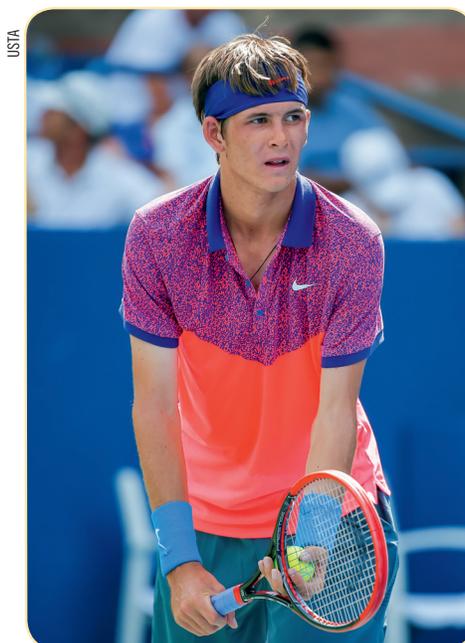
The Savannah Challenger will be streamed live on www.procircuit.usta.com.

To follow the tournament, download the USTA Pro Circuit's new phone app by searching "procircuit" in the app store.

Notable players competing in the main draw include:

Tim Smyczek, who is ranked a career-high No. 68 in the world. Smyczek qualified for the main draw of the 2015 Australian Open and won his first-round match. In the second round, he became a top storyline after facing Rafael Nadal and almost pulling off an upset, falling to the Spaniard in a five-set

Jared Donaldson made his Grand Slam tournament debut as a wild card at the 2014 US Open. This year, he won his first USTA Pro Circuit Challenger titles at the \$50,000 event in Maui, Hawaii, sweeping singles and doubles.



thriller, 6-2, 3-6, 6-7(2), 6-3, 7-5. During the match, Smyczek was heralded for his sportsmanship after giving Nadal a first serve when a fan yelled out during Nadal's service toss in the final game of the fifth set. Following the Australian Open, Smyczek won his fifth USTA Pro Circuit singles title at the \$100,000 Challenger in Dallas, and in March, he reached the final of a Challenger in Irving, Texas. Smyczek has played in three of the four Grand Slam tournaments in his career (all but Wimbledon), advancing to the second round or better at the US Open each of the last three years, highlighted by a third-round showing in 2013. He also has finished in the year-end Top 150 each of the last three years, including at No. 89 in 2013. Smyczek regularly trains at Saddlebrook Resort in Tampa, Fla., and once lived with fellow American Mardy Fish for a year while training there.

Jared Donaldson, who made his Grand Slam tournament debut as a wild card at the 2014 US Open, where he faced eventual quarterfinalist Gael Monfils in the first round. This year, the 18-year-old won his first USTA Pro Circuit Challenger titles at the \$50,000 event in Maui, Hawaii, claiming the singles and doubles crowns (doubles with Stefan Kozlov) to break into the Top 200. Last summer, Donaldson won back-to-back USTA Pro Circuit singles titles at \$15,000 Futures events in Tulsa, Okla., and Oklahoma City for the first USTA Pro Circuit singles titles of his career. For the first half of 2014, he competed overseas in ITF Circuit events in Turkey, where he won his first singles title and reached one additional final and two additional semifinals. As a junior player, Donaldson competed in the US Open Junior Championships and represented the United States in Junior Davis Cup (16 and under). He is coached by former Top 30 player Taylor Dent and has trained with Roger Federer in Dubai.

2010 Savannah singles runner-up and former world No. 64 **Ryan Sweeting**, who has played in just four tournaments since March 2013 because of injuries. Sweeting, who is married to *Big Bang Theory* actress Kaley Cuoco, won the ATP's U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship in Houston in 2011, when he peaked at a career-high No. 64 in the world. The 2005 US Open boys' singles champion, Sweeting also holds three singles titles and three doubles titles on the USTA Pro Circuit.

Bjorn Fratangelo, who in 2011 became the first American since John McEnroe in 1977 to win the French Open boys' singles title. Fratangelo has won nine USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Circuit singles titles across the last three years, including a Challenger title in Australia earlier this year. He has also won titles on the USTA Pro Circuit and in Canada, Italy and the Netherlands. As a junior player, he ranked as high as No. 2 in the ITF World Junior Rankings and competed on the U.S. Junior Davis Cup team.

Jarmere Jenkins, who completed his college tennis career in 2013 at the University of Virginia, where he nearly claimed the NCAA "triple crown" as a senior. Jenkins led the Cavaliers to the NCAA team title—Virginia's first—won the NCAA doubles championship with teammate Mac Styslinger and reached the NCAA singles final. Jenkins was named the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's National Player of the Year for 2013 and ended the season as college tennis' No. 1-ranked singles player. Also in 2013, he reached the final round of qualifying at the US Open and won his first USTA Pro Circuit title at the \$10,000 Futures in Rochester, N.Y. In September 2014, Jenkins won his second USTA Pro Circuit singles title at the \$10,000 Futures in Costa Mesa, Calif. He then competed in Australia for the remainder of the year, where he won three ITF Circuit singles crowns and two doubles titles to break into the Top 200 for the first time. Jenkins

is one of nine children, several of whom are adopted from various backgrounds. His family was even featured once on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Several of Jenkins' siblings have played tennis competitively, and two of his brothers, Jackie Jr. (Northwestern) and Jarmaine (Clemson), played NCAA Division I college tennis. Jarmaine did his off-season training at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla.

2009 Savannah singles runner-up **Alex Kuznetsov**, who won the 2013 Har-Tru USTA Pro Circuit Wild Card Challenge to earn a spot in the French Open main draw. Following Roland Garros, Kuznetsov qualified for Wimbledon and won the \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Binghamton, N.Y. Those results drove Kuznetsov's ranking up to a career-high No. 120 in the world. In 2014, he qualified for and reached the quarterfinals of the ATP event in Memphis, Tenn., qualified for the main draw at Wimbledon and reached the quarterfinals or better at three USTA Pro Circuit Challengers. This year, Kuznetsov has reached the quarterfinals of the \$100,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Dallas and competed in Australian Open qualifying. As a junior, he was the 2004 French Open boys' singles runner-up (to Gael Monfils). Kuznetsov is a native of Kiev, Ukraine, where his grandfather was a handball champion. In 2005, Alex was involved in a car accident that broke his right femur and required the insertion of a titanium rod and screw. Kuznetsov came back to play in his first US Open main draw in 2006. He has played in all four majors in his career, reaching the second round of the Australian Open in 2007.

Dennis Novikov, who was the 2012 USTA Boys' 18s national champion in singles and doubles. Those victories earned him wild-card entries into the men's singles and men's doubles main draws at the 2012 US Open, where he became just the second USTA Boys' 18s champ in 15 years (the other being Jack Sock) to advance to the second round in singles; he defeated 2013 Wimbledon semifinalist Jerzy Janowicz in the first round. Novikov completed his sophomore year at UCLA in 2013 and turned pro that summer. He won his first USTA Pro Circuit title soon afterward, at the \$10,000 Futures in Amelia Island, Fla., and had a strong 2014, winning three USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles (for five doubles titles overall) and claiming four ITF Circuit singles titles. This year, he won his second USTA Pro Circuit singles title at the \$15,000 Futures in Calabasas, Calif., and captured the doubles title at the \$15,000 Futures in Los Angeles. Born in Moscow, Novikov moved with his family to the United States as a 1-year-old and, from an active sports background, chose tennis over hockey, swimming and gymnastics.

Tennis Sandgren, the former Top 200 player who is back on the court after missing much of 2014 because of injury; he did not play from February through the US Open. This year, Sandgren, whose first name is pronounced like the sport, has played in ITF Circuit events in China, Australia and Canada while working his way back into form. He climbed to a career-high No. 183 in the world in 2013, when he won the USTA Pro Circuit season-ending Challenger in Champaign, Ill. Also in 2013, Sandgren served as a Davis Cup practice partner for the U.S. team as it prepared to face Serbia in Boise, Idaho, and he nearly qualified for the main draw at the 2014 Australian Open, falling to Steve Johnson in five sets in the final of the USTA Australian Open Wild Card Playoffs. Sandgren turned pro following his sophomore season at the University of Tennessee, after reaching the semifinals of the 2011 NCAA tournament. He won three USTA Pro Circuit Futures titles (in four finals) in 2012 to climb nearly 300 spots in the ATP rankings. His brother, Davey, was a two-time All-American for Tennessee, lettering from 2007 to 2010.

Notable players competing in qualifying include:

Robby Ginepri, who is the only active U.S. man to have advanced to a Grand Slam tournament singles semifinal—at the 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 and peaking at No. 15 in the world (in 2005). Ginepri has reached the fourth round or better at all four Grand Slam tournaments and has represented the United States in Davis Cup (2004) and the Olympics (2008). After struggling with injuries in recent years, Ginepri returned to the French Open last year for the first time in four years by winning the 2014 Har-Tru USTA Pro Circuit Wild Card Challenge. He won the \$50,000 Challenger in Tallahassee, Fla., to clinch the berth. Last summer, Ginepri competed in the Emirates Airline US Open Series, where he won his first-round match at three consecutive tournaments.

Stefan Kozlov, 17, who is the No. 5-ranked junior in the world. Kozlov reached the boys' singles final at both Wimbledon and the Australian Open in 2014, as well as the quarterfinals at the US Open and French Open juniors. In the Wimbledon final, he fell to 2014 USTA Boys' 18s champion Noah Rubin in the first all-American Wimbledon boys' final since 1977. Also last year, Kozlov won the prestigious Orange Bowl singles and doubles titles, and in the pro ranks, he reached the final of the \$100,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Sacramento, Calif., losing to current world No. 35 Sam Querrey. In reaching the Sacramento final at age 16, Kozlov became the youngest American to reach a Challenger final since Andre Agassi in 1986. So far in 2015, he has competed in the main draw of the ATP's Memphis Open, won his first USTA Pro Circuit Challenger doubles title (in Maui, Hawaii) and served as a practice partner for the U.S. Davis Cup team in Glasgow, Scotland. And earlier this month, he participated in the White House Easter Egg Roll, where he met President Obama. Kozlov trains both with his father, Andrei, at his dad's tennis academy in Pembroke Pines, Fla., and at the USTA Training Center Headquarters in Boca Raton, Fla., with coach Nicolas Toderó. Kozlov also has practiced, on occasion, with Novak Djokovic and other top pros while they prepared for the US Open.

Frances Tiafoe, 17, who, won his first USTA Pro Circuit singles title earlier this year at \$15,000 Futures in Bakersfield, Calif. Tiafoe, who recently turned pro, also reached two additional USTA Pro Circuit singles finals and served as a practice partner for the U.S. Davis Cup team against Great Britain in Scotland last month. As a junior, he peaked at No. 2 in the ITF World Junior Rankings last year and reached the boys' singles semifinals at the 2014 US Open. He also won the prestigious Orange Bowl International Tennis Championships in December 2013 in Plantation, Fla., becoming the youngest boys' champion in the 67 years of the event. He took the title at the 2014 Easter Bowl junior tournament and reached the final of the 2014 USTA International Spring Championships. In 2012, Tiafoe won two significant 14-and-under tournaments (Les Petits As in Tarbes, France, and Teen Tennis in Bolton, England) and helped lead the United States to a gold medal in World Junior Tennis—the premier 14-and-under team competition. Tiafoe is a product of the Junior Tennis Champions Center in College Park, Md., a certified USTA Regional Training Center, where his father, an immigrant from Sierra Leone, worked as a custodian.

Mitchell Krueger, who was the top-ranked American 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. He captured his first

pro singles title in 2013 while competing overseas at a clay-court ITF Circuit event in the Netherlands, and this year he won his second title—and first USTA Pro Circuit crown—at the \$15,000 USTA Pro Circuit Futures in Los Angeles. Krueger spent the last quarter of 2014 competing in Canada and Australia, winning a doubles title in Australia and reaching the singles quarterfinals or better at six events.

Marcos Giron, who won the 2014 NCAA singles title as a junior at UCLA and finished the year as the No. 1 college tennis player, as ranked by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. Giron became the 11th Bruin to win the NCAA men's singles crown and the first to do so in eight years. On the strength of his NCAA title, Giron received a wild card into the 2014 US Open, where he lost to fellow American John Isner in the first round. Giron rebounded to claim the men's title at the inaugural US Open American Collegiate Invitational. Also in 2014, Giron won the third USTA Pro Circuit singles title of his career at the \$10,000 Futures in Calabasas, Calif., and served as a Davis Cup practice partner for the team's World Group Play-off in Chicago. Through his results, Giron climbed nearly 200 spots in the ATP World Tour rankings last year.

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 in 2014, Williams qualified for and reached the quarterfinals of the ATP event in Delray Beach, Fla. In 2012, Williams won three matches to qualify for the main draw of the US Open for his first Grand Slam tournament appearance and, in the process, became one of just 13 qualifying wild cards to reach the main draw in US Open recorded history. At the 2012 US Open, he faced Andy Roddick prior to Roddick's retirement announcement. In addition, 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 in 2013, he reached the semifinals at the ATP clay-court event in Houston for his best ATP result. Williams turned pro in 2011 following his sophomore year at the University of Tennessee, where he reached the singles final at the NCAA Championships. Williams comes from a tennis family: His grandfather is Mike DePalmer Sr., co-founder of the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy, and his mother, Michelle DePalmer-Williams, is a former pro and Orange Bowl 16s champion. Williams is coached by his cousin, Christopher Williams.

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

Last year's singles champion, **Nick Kyrgios** of Australia, is now ranked a career-high No. 34 in the world. Nine weeks after winning the Savannah Challenger, he reached the quarterfinals of Wimbledon, where he upset Rafael Nadal in the fourth round. Kyrgios also advanced to the third round at the US Open last season. And earlier this year, he advanced to the quarterfinals of the Australian Open, losing to Andy Murray.

2014 singles runner-up **Jack Sock** won his first ATP singles title last week at the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships in Houston, defeating fellow American Sam Querrey in the final and improving his ranking to a career-high No. 36. Also this year, Sock reached the fourth round in Indian Wells and the third round in Miami. Over the span of those three tournaments, Sock registered six victories

over Top 40 players, including one win over No. 15 Kevin Anderson and two over No. 16 Roberto Bautista Agut. Sock also has thrived in doubles since competing in Savannah last year. He captured the 2014 Wimbledon doubles title and the 2015 Indian Wells crown with Vasek Pospisil. Sock is currently ranked a career-high No. 9 in the individual doubles rankings.

2009 singles champion **Michael Russell** is the men's all-time leader in USTA Pro Circuit singles titles with 24. His most recent title came at the end of 2013 at the \$75,000 Challenger in Charlottesville, Va., as he became the oldest USTA Pro Circuit singles champion, at the age of 35 years, 6 months and 2 days. Russell has competed in the

main draw of 34 Grand Slam tournaments in his career, most recently as a qualifier at the 2015 Australian Open. He achieved his best result in a major by reaching the fourth round of the 2001 French Open, where he held a match point against defending and eventual champion Gustavo Kuerten before bowing in five sets. Among his other notable results, Russell upset then-No. 9 Mardy Fish en route to the semifinals of the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships in 2012 and, in the summer of 2013, reached the semifinals of the ATP grass-court event in Newport, R.I. Russell also reached the semifinals of the ATP event in Memphis in 2014 as a qualifier, losing to eventual champion Kei Nishikori.

**Player field subject to change*

SAVANNAH PAST WINNERS

Singles			Doubles	
Year	Winner	Runner-Up	Year	Winner
2014	Nick Kyrgios (AUS)	Jack Sock (USA)	2014	Ilija Bozoljac (SRB) / Michael Venus (NZL)
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)

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 in 1979 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. **Victoria Azarenka, Eugenie Bouchard, John Isner, Andy Murray, Kei Nishikori, Sam Querrey, Maria Sharapova** and **Caroline Wozniacki** are among today's top stars who began their careers on the USTA Pro Circuit.

More recently, the USTA Pro Circuit helped further the careers of two young Americans—**Stefan Kozlov** and **Nicole Gibbs**. Runner-up in 2014 at the junior championships of the Australian Open and Wimbledon, **Kozlov** reached the final of the Sacramento Challenger last October at age 16, becoming the youngest American to reach a Challenger final since Andre Agassi in 1986. That result vaulted Kozlov to No. 443 in the world, making him the youngest player in the ATP World Tour Top 500. He concluded 2014 by sweeping the singles and doubles titles at the prestigious Orange Bowl Junior Tennis Championships, locking down a No. 3 junior world ranking. **Gibbs**, in her first full season as a professional after capturing back-to-back NCAA singles championships in 2012 and 2013, won the women's USTA Pro Circuit US Open Wild Card Challenge in 2014. After claiming the title at the \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Carson, Calif., **Gibbs** clinched the US Open wild card by advancing to the final of the \$50,000 tournament in Lexington, Ky., her last USTA Pro Circuit event of the season. **Gibbs** went on to reach the third round at the US Open, scoring a pair of Top 50 victories along the way. Two weeks after the US Open, as a qualifier at Seoul, she reached her first WTA quarterfinal, which boosted her into the WTA Top 100 for the first time. **Gibbs** earned the second-most WTA ranking points of any American playing the USTA Pro Circuit in 2014.



Amber Alva

Stefan Kozlov

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.

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.

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 1,200 players competed in 13 Sectional Qualifying Tournaments nationwide for a 2014 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. This year, players can again compete in singles and mixed doubles, but also will have the chance to play in the new men's and women's doubles competition to earn main draw doubles wild cards. Registration for all divisions opens on March 15. For more information and the complete schedule, visit www.usopen.org/NationalPlayoffs.