

PLAYER'S CHOICE OPEN BIRMINGHAM, AL • OCT. 27-NOV. 5



TOURNAMENT INFO

Site: Highland Park Tennis Center – Birmingham, Ala.

Websites: www.academytennis.com
www.procircuit.usta.com

Facebook: Highland Park Tennis

Twitter: @HighlandTennis

Qualifying Draw Begins: Friday, Oct. 27

Main Draw Begins: Tuesday, Oct. 31

Main Draw: 32 Singles / 16 Doubles

Surface: Clay / Outdoor

Prize Money: \$15,000

Tournament Director:

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Tournament Press Contact:

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USTA Communications Contact:

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PRIZE MONEY / POINTS

| SINGLES: | Prize Money | Ranking Points |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Winner | \$2,160 | 18 |
| Runner-up | \$1,272 | 10 |
| Semifinalist | \$753 | 6 |
| Quarterfinalist | \$438 | 2 |
| Round of 16 | \$258 | 1 |
| Round of 32 | \$156 | - |

DOUBLES: Prize Money (per team)

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Winner | \$930 |
| Runner-up | \$540 |
| Semifinalist | \$324 |
| Quarterfinalist | \$192 |
| Round of 16 | \$108 |

USTA PRO CIRCUIT MEN'S TENNIS RETURNS TO BIRMINGHAM

The Player's Choice Open returns to Birmingham for the ninth consecutive year. It is the first of three consecutive \$15,000 clay-court Futures tournaments to close out the 2017 USTA Pro Circuit season, preceding events in Niceville, Fla., and Pensacola, Fla.

Notable players competing in Birmingham include:

Ulises Blanch, 19, Pompano Beach, Fla.

- Captured his first career ITF Pro Circuit singles title this summer in Canada.
- Was ranked as high as No. 2 in the ITF World Junior Rankings.
- Reached the Wimbledon junior semifinals in 2016.
- Was born in Puerto Rico and has lived in Seattle, China, Thailand, Argentina and India.

Sekou Bangoura, 25, Bradenton, Fla.

- Top seed in Birmingham.
- Regular competitor on the USTA Pro Circuit who holds four USTA Pro Circuit singles titles, one ITF Circuit singles title (in the Dominican Republic) and 14 doubles titles.
- Competed in 2016 US Open qualifying for his first Grand Slam appearance. Also competed in US Open qualifying and Australian Open qualifying in 2017.
- Reached two ITF Pro Circuit doubles finals, in Italy and Colombia, this year.
- Named a doubles All-American during his sophomore year at the University of Florida after reaching the doubles semifinals at the 2011 NCAA tournament; turned pro shortly thereafter.
- Coached by father Sekou Bangoura Sr.



Garrett Ellwood/USTA

Ulises Blanch, 19, was ranked as high as No. 2 in the ITF World Junior Rankings and reached the Wimbledon junior semifinals in 2016.

Wil Spencer, 28, Ponce de Leon, Fla.

- Graduated from the University of Georgia in 2012, playing two years for the Bulldogs after competing for Texas A&M as a freshman and sophomore.
- Went 104-49 in four years between the two schools and reached the round of 16 at the 2012 NCAA tournament.
- Final collegiate singles ranking was No. 11.
- Won his third career USTA Pro Circuit singles title in 2016 at the \$25,000 Futures in Houston. Also holds one doubles title, won at the \$10,000 Futures in Birmingham, Ala., in 2015.
- Reached the semifinals of the USTA Pro Circuit Collegiate Series event in Winston-Salem, N.C., in June.

Alexios Halebian, 23

- Five-time doubles champion on the USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Pro Circuit, most recently winning the doubles title at an event in Canada this year.
- Former top junior who reached the singles quarterfinals at the 2011 junior US Open and climbed as high as No. 24 in the ITF World Junior Rankings.



USOpen.org

Sekou Bangoura, the top seed in Birmingham, holds four USTA Pro Circuit singles titles and 14 doubles titles. He was a doubles All-American at the University of Florida.

- Also reached the singles final and won the doubles title at the 2012 Easter Bowl, a prestigious junior event.

Raleigh Smith, 25, Miami

- Graduated in 2014 from Northwestern.
- Was selected First Team All-Big Ten his junior and senior years.
- Graduated with 130 singles and doubles wins.
- Holds five ITF Pro Circuit doubles titles, including two this year in Morocco and three in 2015 in Turkey, Israel and the Dominican Republic.

Nick Chappell, 25, Indianapolis

- Graduated from TCU in 2015, earning All-Big 12 honors throughout his collegiate career.

- Graduated with more than 150 combined singles and doubles wins.
- Played most of 2016 overseas in ITF Pro Circuit events in Israel, winning his first doubles title in March and reaching two singles finals. Also competed in Egypt and Italy.
- This year, won his second career ITF Pro Circuit doubles title, in Poland.

Harrison Adams, 23, New Braunfels, Texas

- Graduated in 2016 from Texas A&M, where he earned All-SEC honors.
- Holds three USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Pro Circuit doubles titles, including two titles this year at the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit Futures in Champaign, Ill., as well as one title in Canada.

**Player field subject to change*

BIRMINGHAM PAST WINNERS

| Singles | | | Doubles | |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|---|
| Year | Winner | Runner-Up | Year | Winner |
| 2016 | Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN) | Juan Manuel Benitez Chavarriaga (COL) | 2016 | Hunter Johnson (USA) – Yates Johnson (USA) |
| 2015 | Evan King (USA) | Bastian Trinker (AUT) | 2015 | Wil Spencer (USA) – Cameron Silverman (USA) |
| 2014 | Julio Peralta (CHI) | Jean-Yves Aubone (USA) | 2014 | Julio Peralta (CHI) – Matt Seeberger (USA) |
| 2013 | Romain Arneodo (FRA) | Hans Podlipnik-Castillo (CHI) | 2013 | Romain Arneodo (FRA) – Benjamin Balleret (MON) |
| 2012 | Kyle Edmund (GBR) | Chase Buchanan (USA) | 2012 | Bjorn Fratangelo (USA) – Mitchell Krueger (USA) |
| 2011 | Jason Kubler (AUS) | Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN) | 2011 | Andrei Daescu (ROU) – Milan Pokrajac (CAN) |
| 2010 | Philip Bester (CAN) | James Lemke (AUS) | 2010 | Philip Bester (CAN) – Kamil Pajkowski (CAN) |
| 2009 | James Lemke (AUS) | Conor Niland (IRL) | 2009 | Tigran Martirosyan (ARM) – Artem Sitak (RUS) |