



15K LTP/CHARLESTON

CHARLESTON, SC * SEPTEMBER 24-OCTOBER 1, 2017

Preview Notes as of Sept. 21

TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

Site: LTP (Live to Play), Charleston, S.C.
Main Draw: Begins on Tuesday, Sept. 26
Qualifying Draw: Begins on Sunday, Sept. 24
Surface: Clay / Outdoor
Prize Money: \$15,000
Website: www.procircuit.usta.com, www.ltpennis.com
Facebook: ltpennis
Instagram: LTP_ProCircuit

Tournament Director: Patrick Hieber, 011-4917656946044, pathieber@web.de
Tournament Press Contact: Same as above
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USTA PRO CIRCUIT RETURNS TO CHARLESTON

The **15K LTP/Charleston** will be held in Charleston for the third consecutive year. In 2015, rain halted play the last few days of the tournament and the singles and doubles finals were not held. Charleston also hosted USTA Pro Circuit events from 1985 to 1987. The tournament is the first of two USTA Pro Circuit clay-court women's events taking place in South Carolina over the course of the next two weeks, joining Hilton Head Island.

Notable players competing in the main draw include:

Elizabeth Halbauer, 20, Daniel Island, S.C.

- Reached the final of the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Daytona Beach, Fla., in 2017.
- Also this year, advanced to the semifinals in both singles and doubles at the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit women's event in Orlando in January, held at the new USTA National Campus, and the semifinals of the \$25,000 event in Naples, Fla., in May.
- Cracked the Top 350 for the first time in 2016 after winning an ITF Circuit event in Argentina in April and reaching the final at another \$25,000 ITF Circuit event in Canada in August.
- Competed in US Open qualifying in 2016 as a wild card.
- Won her first USTA Pro Circuit singles title at the \$10,000 event in Hilton Head Island, S.C., in 2013.

Nicole Coopersmith, 18, Pine Bluff, Ark.

- Defending singles champion in Charleston after winning her first career USTA Pro Circuit singles title here last year. Also holds one ITF Pro Circuit singles title, in 2015 in Croatia, the country where her grandparents live.
- Played extensively on the USTA Pro Circuit in 2016, as well as overseas in ITF Pro Circuit events in Germany, Croatia, France, Poland, Portugal and Belgium.
- Mother played on the WTA tour and competed for Croatia in Fed Cup. Father is a seasoned tennis coach, working with pros Jelena Jankovic and Jamea Jackson.

Akilah James, 25, Brooklyn, N.Y.

- Played for SC State her freshman and sophomore years, then transferred to Arizona for her junior and senior seasons, graduating in 2014.
- At Arizona, earned the 2014 ITA Most Improved Senior of the Year Award.
- Has competed throughout the world in 2017, including Israel, Mexico, Australia and Egypt, as well as the USTA Pro Circuit.
- Is Grenadian-American.

Kennedy Shaffer, 20, Rossford, Ohio

- Holds one USTA Pro Circuit singles title, won in 2016 at the \$10,000 event in Evansville, Ind.
- Senior at the University of Georgia.
- Received All-America honors in doubles her junior season after reaching the quarterfinals of the NCAA Doubles Championships.
- Also received All-America honors in singles in her sophomore season after reaching the quarterfinals of the NCAA Singles Championships.
- In her freshman season, helped the Bulldogs reached the Final Four of the NCAA Team Championships.

Alexa Graham, 19, Garden City, N.Y.

- Currently a sophomore at the University of North Carolina.
- As a freshman, received All-ACC honors and was named to the All-ACC Academic Team.
- Holds two USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Pro Circuit singles titles (\$10,000 Hilton Head Island, S.C., in 2015, and \$15,000 Victoria, Canada, in 2017).

Andie Daniell, 20, Douglasville, Ga.

- Defending doubles champion in Charleston.
- Junior at the University of Alabama.
- Made an appearance in the NCAA Singles Tournament her freshman year—the first freshman to make the tournament since 2010.
- Earned second-team All-SEC and All-Freshman honors her freshman year.
- Registered a 4.0 GPA her sophomore year and was named to the President's List.
- Holds three USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles.

Amanda Rodgers, 24, Bradenton, Fla.

- Graduated from Syracuse in 2015, where she earned All-ACC honors three of her four years.
- Finished collegiate career with 81 singles wins.
- In her senior season, went 27-9 in singles and doubles, including a 18-2 singles record.
- Competed on the USTA Pro Circuit this year, as well as in ITF Pro Circuit events in Belgium, Ireland, and Great Britain.

Mara Schmidt, 25, Bradenton, Fla.

- Graduated from Purdue in 2014.
- At Purdue, was named to the All-Big Ten second team in 2013.
- Earned three Academic All-Big Ten honors from 2012-14.
- Won 78 singles matches at Purdue, as well as 82 doubles matches.

About the USTA Pro Circuit

With approximately 90 tournaments hosted annually throughout the country and prize money ranging from \$15,000 to \$125,000, 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 38 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 more than \$3 million in prize money.

Last year, more than 1,000 men and women from more than 70 countries competed in cities nationwide. **Andy Murray, Angelique Kerber, John Isner, Sloane Stephens, Kei Nishikori, Victoria Azarenka, and Sam Querrey** and are among today's top stars who began their careers on the USTA Pro Circuit. Follow the USTA Pro Circuit at #USTAProCircuit and www.procircuit.usta.com.

Prize Money/Points - \$15,000 Women

SINGLES:	Prize Money	Points
Winner	\$2,352	12
Runner-up	\$1,470	7
Semifinalist	\$734	4
Quarterfinalist	\$367	2
Round of 16	\$294	1
Round of 32	\$147	0

DOUBLES:	Prize Money (per team)
Winner	\$955
Runner-up	\$515
Semifinalist	\$294
Quarterfinalist	\$147
Round of 16	\$74

Charleston Past Champions

Singles

Year	Winner	Runner-Up
2016	Nicole Coopersmith (USA)	Ingrid Gamarra Martins (BRA)
2015	Finals not played due to rain	
1988-2014	Tournament not held	
1987	Ingelise Driehuis (NED)	Elizabeth Calphin (USA)
1986	Manon Bollegraf (NED)	Amy Schwartz (USA)
1985	Caroline Kuhlman (USA)	Tamaka Takagi (JPN)

Doubles

Year	Winner	
2016	Andie K. Daniell (USA) – Erin Routliffe (CAN)	
2015	Finals not played due to rain	
1988-2014	Tournament not held	
1987	Ingelise Driehuis (NED) – Lise Gregory (RSA)	
1986	Manon Bollegraf (NED) – Lise Gregory (RSA)	
1985	Caroline Kuhlman (USA) – Wendy Wood (USA)	