

ST. JOSEPH'S/CANDLER SAVANNAH CHALLENGER SAVANNAH, GA • APRIL 29-MAY 7



TOURNAMENT INFO

Site: Franklin Creek Tennis Center – Savannah, Ga.

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

Facebook: Savannah Challenger

Twitter: @Sav_Challenger

Qualifying Draw Begins: Saturday, April 29

Main Draw Begins: Monday, May 1

Main Draw: 32 Singles / 16 Doubles

Surface: Clay / Outdoor

Prize Money: \$75,000

Tournament Director:

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PRIZE MONEY / POINTS

SINGLES:	Prize Money	Ranking Points
Winner	\$10,800	80
Runner-up	\$6,360	48
Semifinalist	\$3,765	29
Quarterfinalist	\$2,190	15
Round of 16	\$1,290	7
Round of 32	\$780	--

DOUBLES: Prize Money (per team)

Winner	\$4,650
Runner-up	\$2,700
Semifinalist	\$1,620
Quarterfinalist	\$960
Round of 16	\$540

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saturday, April 29

Lovin' Spoons & USTA Georgia Kids' Day

Wednesday, May 3 – Ladies Day

USTA PRO CIRCUIT MEN'S TENNIS RETURNS TO SAVANNAH, CONCLUDES ROLAND GARROS WILD CARD CHALLENGE

The St. Joseph's/Candler Savannah Challenger is taking place for the ninth consecutive year. This is the only USTA Pro Circuit men's event to take place in the state of Georgia; an \$80,000 women's event will be hosted in Macon in the fall.

Savannah is taking part in the Roland Garros Wild Card Challenge, which will award a men's and women's wild card into the 2017 French Open. The challenge began the week of April 10 and concludes the week of May 1. In the men's wild card challenge, USTA Player Development considers all American results worldwide. Therefore, both USTA Pro Circuit tournaments (including Savannah) and international ATP World Tour and Challenger tournaments on any professional outdoor clay surface (Har-Tru or red) at prize money of \$50,000 and above are included.

The American man and American woman who earn the most ATP and WTA ranking points over the four weeks of the challenge will receive USTA wild cards to compete in the main draws of the French Open, which will be held Sunday, May 28, to Sunday, June 11. Only U.S. players who do not receive direct entry into the French Open are eligible for the wild cards. The USTA and the French Tennis Federation have a reciprocal agreement in which wild cards into the 2017 French Open and 2017 US Open are exchanged.

Notable players competing in Savannah include:

Michael Mmoh, 19, Bradenton, Fla.



Darren Carroll/USTA



USTA

Former University of Tennessee standout Tennys Sandgren holds 13 singles and 16 doubles titles on the USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Circuit.

- Competed in the 2017 Australian Open main draw as a wild card after winning the USTA Pro Circuit Australian Open Wild Card Challenge. Also qualified for the ATP event in Auckland, New Zealand, in 2017.
- In 2016, made his Grand Slam main-draw debut at the US Open as a wild card as the USTA Boys' 18s national champion. Also qualified for the ATP's Memphis Open and competed in the main draw of the Masters 1000 event in Miami.
- Won his first USTA Pro Circuit Challenger title in fall 2016 at the \$50,000 Challenger in Knoxville, Tenn. Holds four additional Futures titles.
- Reached the quarterfinals or better at four USTA Pro Circuit Challengers following the 2016 US Open.
- Peaked at No. 2 in the world junior rankings in 2015 after reaching the singles

Former world No. 2 junior Michael Mmoh competed in the 2016 US Open and 2017 Australian Open as a wild card.

semifinals at the junior French Open and the quarterfinals at the junior US Open; also competed in the junior Australian Open and Wimbledon that year, reaching the doubles semifinals at both tournaments.

- In 2014, went 5-0 in singles to help lead the U.S. to the Junior Davis Cup title.
- Was born in Saudi Arabia and is the son of former ATP professional and Nigerian Olympian Tony Mmoh.

Tennys Sandgren, 25, Gallatin, Tenn.

- Current leader in the 2017 Roland Garros Wild Card Challenge after reaching the final at the \$100,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Sarasota, Fla., and qualifying for the ATP clay-court event in Houston.
- Former University of Tennessee standout who reached the semifinals of the 2011 NCAA Championships.
- Captured three USTA Pro Circuit singles titles in 2016. Won one singles title in 2017 in Tempe, Ariz.
- Holds 13 singles and 16 doubles titles on the USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Circuit.
- In 2013, served as a practice partner for the U.S. Davis Cup team as it prepared to face Serbia in Boise, Idaho.
- In 2014, had hip surgery that sidelined him from February until after that year's US Open.

Stefan Kozlov, 19, Pembroke Pines, Fla.

- Competed in Australian Open qualifying in 2017.
- Won the first three USTA Pro Circuit singles titles of his career in 2016 (\$25,000 Futures events in Los Angeles and Little Rock, Ark., \$75,000 Challenger in Columbus, Ohio).
- In June 2016, earned a wild card into the ATP event in 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, and reached the third round.
- In late 2014, reached the final of the \$100,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger in Sacramento, Calif., losing to former Top 20 player Sam Querrey; In advancing to the Sacramento final at age 16, became the youngest American to reach a Challenger final since Andre Agassi in 1986.
- A junior standout, peaked at No. 2 in the world junior rankings in 2014, when he reached the junior boys' finals at both Wimbledon and the Australian Open, as well as the quarterfinals of the junior US Open and French Open; At the All England Club, fell to 2014 USTA Boys' 18s national champion Noah Rubin in the first all-American Wimbledon boys' final since 1977.
- In 2015, served as a practice partner for the U.S. Davis Cup team in Glasgow, Scotland.

Mitchell Krueger, 23, Boca Raton, Fla.

- Won his first USTA Pro Circuit event in 2015 at the \$15,000 Futures in Los Angeles; also holds ITF Circuit titles in the Netherlands (2013) and China (2016).
- In 2014, won the doubles title at an ITF Circuit event in Australia and reached the singles quarterfinals or better at six events around the world.
- Was the top-ranked American junior boy in 2012, peaking at No. 5 in the world junior rankings.
- Advanced to the boys' singles semifinals at the French Open and Wimbledon in 2012 and turned pro that July.
- Father played college tennis at Texas A&M. Mother is a tennis coach and played at Louisiana Tech.

- Currently training at the USTA National Campus at Lake Nona in Orlando, Fla.

Tommy Paul, 19, Boca Raton, Fla.

- Tournament wild card.
- Won the 2015 French Open junior singles title, becoming the sixth American ever to win the boys' championship in Paris; defeated fellow American Taylor Fritz in the first-ever all-U.S. boys' singles final at Roland Garros, dating back to 1947.
- Reached the final of the junior US Open in 2015, losing to Fritz, and the quarterfinals of junior Wimbledon.
- Peaked at a career-high No. 3 in the ITF World Junior Rankings in fall 2015.
- As a pro, won the \$15,000 Futures in Palm Coast, Fla., in February 2017, and reached the final of the \$15,000 Futures in Orlando, Fla., this March.
- Captured the first USTA Pro Circuit singles titles of his career in 2016 at the \$10,000 Futures events in Plantation, Fla., and Sunrise, Fla.; also holds two ITF Circuit singles titles, in Spain and Italy, both won in 2015.
- Also in 2016, upset No. 8 seed and world No. 53 Paolo Lorenzi to advance to the second round of the ATP's U.S. Clay Court Championship in Houston.
- Served as a practice partner for the U.S. Davis Cup team in the quarterfinal tie against Croatia in Portland, Ore., in July 2016.

Christian Harrison, 22, Bradenton, Fla.

- Tournament wild card.
- Has played in just a handful of tournaments since July 2013 after suffering a series of injuries.
- On the comeback trail after qualifying for the 2016 US Open—his first-ever Grand Slam main draw.
- Won his first USTA Pro Circuit singles title in summer 2016 at the \$25,000 Futures in Champaign, Ill. Also holds one ITF-level singles title, in Great Britain in 2013.
- Advanced to the doubles quarterfinals at the 2012 US Open with older brother and Top 50 player Ryan Harrison.

Dennis Novikov, 23, San Jose, Calif.

- Qualified for and advanced to the second round of Wimbledon in 2016. Also advanced to the mixed doubles quarterfinals at the 2016 US Open.
- In 2016, won three \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger doubles titles, while also qualifying for the ATP events in Miami and Delray Beach.
- Represented the U.S. at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, where he won the bronze medal in men's singles. Also in 2015, won Challenger singles titles in Cary, N.C., and Columbus, Ohio.
- Was the 2012 USTA Boys' 18s national champion in singles and doubles, which earned him wild-card entries into each main draw at the 2012 US Open. There, 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; defeated 2013 Wimbledon semifinalist Jerzy Janowicz in the first round.
- Completed his sophomore year at UCLA in 2013 and turned pro that summer.
- Holds eight singles and 10 doubles titles on the USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Circuit.

- Born in Moscow and moved with his family to the U.S. as a 1-year-old.

Mackenzie McDonald, 22, Los Angeles

- Three-time singles All-American who turned pro in 2016 after his junior year at UCLA.
- Made college tennis history by sweeping both the 2016 NCAA singles and doubles titles, the first men's player in 15 years to do so. Also finished his final season ranked No. 1 in singles and doubles in the ITA collegiate rankings.
- In 2016, made his debut at the US Open as a wild card.
- Also last year, won the first USTA Pro Circuit singles title of his career at the \$10,000 Futures in Irvine, Calif.
- Won his second career USTA Pro Circuit singles title in 2017 at the \$25,000 Futures in Los Angeles.
- Holds six USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles.
- In 2015, won the American Collegiate Invitational, a tournament held at the US Open for college players.

Sekou Bangoura, 25, Bradenton, Fla.

- 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.
- 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.

Notable players competing in qualifying include:

Evan King, 25, Chicago

- Graduated from the University of Michigan in 2013 as a three-time All-American (2011-13) and the Big Ten Athlete of the Year in 2012 and 2013.
- Owns the program record for most combined career singles and doubles wins (196), and ranks third all-time on Michigan's singles wins list with 117 victories.

- Holds 20 USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Circuit doubles titles, including three titles in 2017 in Orange Park, Fla., Australia, and Indonesia.
- Holds six USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Circuit singles titles, including three in 2016.
- In 2014, served as a practice partner for the U.S. Davis Cup team during its World Group Playoff against Slovakia in Chicago.

Marcos Giron, 23, Thousand Oaks, Calif.

- Won the 2014 NCAA singles title as a junior at UCLA, becoming the 11th Bruin to win the NCAA men's singles crown and the first to do so in eight years.
- Finished the 2013-14 season as the No. 1 college tennis player.
- On the strength of his NCAA title, received a wild card into the 2014 US Open, where he lost to fellow American John Isner in the first round.
- Claimed the men's title at the inaugural US Open American Collegiate Invitational, a tournament held at the US Open for U.S. college players, in 2014.
- Turned pro in 2014.
- Holds five USTA Pro Circuit singles titles, including the \$25,000 Futures in Long Beach, Calif., in 2017. Has also won three doubles titles.
- Had hip surgery in December 2015 and returned to competition in September 2016, reaching the quarterfinals or better at four events and winning one USTA Pro Circuit title. While recovering from surgery, he served as UCLA's men's tennis volunteer assistant coach.
- Served as a Davis Cup practice partner for the team's World Group Playoff in Chicago in 2014.

Wil Spencer, 27, 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 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.

*Player field subject to change

SAVANNAH PAST WINNERS

Singles			Doubles	
Year	Winner	Runner-Up	Year	Winner
2016	Bjorn Fratangelo (USA)	Jared Donaldson (USA)	2016	Brian Baker (USA) / Ryan Harrison (USA)
2015	Hyeon Chung (KOR)	James McGee (IRL)	2015	Guillermo Duran (ARG) / Horacio Zeballos (ARG)
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)