

## RBC PRO CHALLENGE TYLER, TEXAS • OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 4



### TOURNAMENT INFO

**Site:** Tyler Athletic and Swim Club

**Website:** [www.rbcprochallenge.com](http://www.rbcprochallenge.com)  
[www.procircuit.usta.com](http://www.procircuit.usta.com)

**Twitter:** @PROCHALLENGETX

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ProChallengeTyler](http://www.facebook.com/ProChallengeTyler)

**Qualifying Draw Begins:** Sunday, Oct. 28

**Main Draw Begins:** Tuesday, Oct. 30

**Main Draw:** 32 Singles / 16 Doubles

**Surface:** Hard / Outdoor

**Prize Money:** \$80,000

#### Tournament Director:

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#### USTA Communications Contact:

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### PRIZE MONEY / POINTS

SINGLES:	Prize Money	Ranking Points
Winner	\$12,161	115
Runner-up	\$6,487	70
Semifinalist	\$3,548	42
Quarterfinalist	\$2,027	21
Round of 16	\$1,216	10
Round of 32	\$709	1

#### DOUBLES: Prize Money (per team)

Winner	\$4,460
Runner-up	\$2,230
Semifinalist	\$1,115
Quarterfinalist	\$608
Round of 16	\$405

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### Tuesday, Oct. 30

Net Generation Kids' Day, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 1 – Ladies Day, 8:30-10 a.m.

Friday, Nov. 2 – Stroke of the Day Clinic, 8:30-10 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 3 – Stroke of the Day Clinic, 9:30-11 a.m.

## USTA PRO CIRCUIT WOMEN'S TENNIS RETURNS TO TYLER, CONTINUES AUSTRALIAN OPEN WILD CARD CHALLENGE

The **RBC Pro Challenge** brings USTA Pro Circuit women's tennis back to Tyler for the second straight year. Proceeds from this tournament and its events benefit ACEing Autism, a world-renowned organization providing therapeutic and educational tennis programs for local kids on the Autism spectrum. The tournament also continues the women's side of the USTA's Australian Open Wild Card Challenge, which kicked off in Macon, Ga., last week.

Tyler is the second of four consecutive women's hard-court tournaments that make up the women's side of the Challenge, which will award an American woman a main draw wild card into the 2019 Australian Open. The USTA and Tennis Australia have a reciprocal agreement in which wild cards into the 2019 US Open and Australian Opens are exchanged. The Challenge also includes an \$80,000 event in Las Vegas (week of Nov. 5), as well as the WTA \$125,000 Series event in Houston (week of Nov. 12).

In addition to the four women's tournaments, the Australian Open Wild Card Challenge also includes numerous men's USTA Pro Circuit tournaments and U.S. and international ATP World Tour events at the ATP Challenger-level and above played on a hard-court surface this fall. The men's challenge begins the week of Oct. 29 and concludes the week of Nov. 12.

The women's wild card will be awarded to the American with the highest cumulative total of WTA singles ranking points earned from their best three results during those



Andrew Ong/USTA

*Madison Brengle won her 12th career USTA Pro Circuit singles title at the \$60,000 event in Landisville, Pa., before the US Open*

four weeks. Only Americans who do not earn direct entry into the Australian Open are eligible. In the event of a tie, the player with the best ATP or best WTA singles ranking on Nov. 19 will be awarded the wild card.

This tournament will be streamed live on [www.procircuit.usta.com](http://www.procircuit.usta.com).

Notable players competing in Tyler include:

#### **Belinda Bencic, 21, Switzerland**

- Career-high world No. 7 (2016); Owner of two WTA titles (Eastbourne, Toronto in 2017) and four additional final appearances.
- Reached the fourth round at Wimbledon this summer, then reached the quarterfinals in New Haven.
- Worked way back on tour after wrist surgery in 2017.
- 2014 US Open singles quarterfinalist.
- Former world junior champion and world junior No. 1.

#### **Madison Brengle, 28, Dover, Del.**

- In 2018: Made the US Open main draw as a 'lucky loser,' and fell to fellow American



Pete Staples/USTA

*Nicole Gibbs was one of the most decorated collegiate tennis players ever at Stanford, winning back-to-back NCAA singles titles in 2012-13.*

Sofia Kenin in the first round in a third-set tiebreak; Also competed in the Australian Open main draw and won her 11th and 12th career USTA Pro Circuit singles title at the \$100,000 event in Midland, Mich., in February, and the \$60,000 event in Landisville, Pa., in August. Also reached the finals of the \$80,000 event in Charleston, S.C., and won her first-round match at Wimbledon.

- Advanced to the third round of Wimbledon in 2017 and the quarterfinals at the WTA event in Auckland, defeating Serena Williams in the second round.
- In 2016, advanced to the third round of the Australian Open, falling to eventual champion Angelique Kerber, and reached the semifinals of the WTA event in s'Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, and the quarterfinals in Dubai.
- Reached her first-ever WTA final in Hobart in 2015 and then advanced to the fourth round of the 2015 Australian Open—her career-best Grand Slam result—upsetting Top 10 player Andrea Petkovic in the first round. Rose to a career-high No. 35 that year.
- Won USTA wild card playoffs to earn entry into the Australian Open (2007-08) and the French Open (2008).
- Climbed to No. 4 in the ITF World Junior Rankings in 2007 after advancing to the girls' singles finals at the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

#### **Eugenie Bouchard, 24, Canada**

- Former world No. 5 and 2014 Wimbledon finalist.
- Ranked No. 123 heading into Lexington.
- Qualified and reached the second rounds at Wimbledon and the US Open this summer.

#### **Nicole Gibbs, 25, Santa Monica, Calif.**

- Reached a career-high No. 68 world ranking in July 2016.
- Reached the singles final and won the doubles title at the \$60,000 USTA Pro circuit event in Berkeley, Calif., this summer.
- Qualified for the 2018 US Open; Recently competed in several WTA tournaments in Asia.
- One of the most decorated college tennis players in history at Stanford University: Won consecutive NCAA singles titles in 2012-13, becoming the fifth player in history—and the fourth from Stanford—to win back-to-back NCAA Division I women's singles championships; Also helped lead the Cardinal to their 17th NCAA team title in 2013.
- Won her sixth USTA Pro Circuit title and first of 2018 at the \$25,000 clay-court event in Naples, Fla., in May.
- Has advanced to the third round of both the US Open, in 2014 after winning the Pro Circuit's Wild Card Challenge that year, and the Australian Open, in 2017.
- In October 2017, reached the quarterfinals of the WTA event in Hong Kong.
- In 2016, advanced to the fourth round in Indian Wells and reached the quarterfinals in Monterrey, Mexico.
- Holds six career USTA/ITF Pro Circuit singles titles and four doubles titles.

#### **Jessica Pegula, 24, Buffalo, N.Y.**

- Recently qualified and reached her first WTA final at the WTA International indoor event in Quebec the week following the US Open.

- Had the Week 1 lead in the 2018 US Open Wild Card Challenge after reaching the finals of the \$60,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Honolulu, where she also won the doubles title.
- Has reached the singles quarterfinals or better at six USTA Pro Circuit events this year, and has made the doubles final at three \$60,000-plus events in 2018.
- Did not compete from January 2017 to August 2017 due to injury.
- Qualified for the 2016 US Open main draw and competed in US Open qualifying in 2017.
- Advanced to her first career WTA semifinal in summer 2016 in Washington, D.C.
- Played in just one tournament in 2014 after having knee surgery. Returned to competition in 2015 and, in her comeback, qualified for the 2015 US Open and won her first-round match in her first-ever Grand Slam main draw.
- Career-high rankings of No. 123 in singles and No. 92 in doubles. Holds five USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Pro Circuit doubles titles, including two titles in 2017.

#### **Sofiya Zhuk, 18, Russia**

- Former Wimbledon junior champion (2015) and world junior No. 4.

#### **Beatriz Haddad-Maia, 22 Brazil**

- Former world No. 58 who reached her first WTA singles final in Seoul in 2017 (l. to that year's French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko)

#### **Claire Liu, 18, Thousand Oaks, Calif.**

- Qualified for Wimbledon this summer and pushed eventual champion Angelique Kerber to three sets in a second-round defeat. Reached the second round of singles in the US Open main draw later this summer, and recently has competed in several WTA tournaments in Asia.
- Became the No. 1-ranked junior in July 2017 after winning the junior Wimbledon title—the first American girls' singles champion at Wimbledon since Chanda Rubin in 1992.
- Defeated Ann Li at Wimbledon in the second-ever all-American girls' final at Wimbledon, dating back to 1947.
- Also reached the junior French Open final in 2017 in the second-ever all-American Roland Garros girls' final and won the junior doubles title in 2016.
- Won the 2015 and 2017 Easter Bowl, a prestigious junior event.
- Also qualified for the 2017 US Open—her first-ever Grand Slam main draw appearance.
- This year, won matches at the WTA events in Miami and Charleston.
- In March 2015, won first USTA Pro Circuit singles title, at the \$10,000 event in Orlando, Fla. In doing so, at age 14 years, 9 months and 25 days old, became the youngest woman to win a USTA Pro Circuit tournament since Anna Kournikova in 1996 and the sixth-youngest ever.
- Captured two USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Pro Circuit singles titles in 2017 (\$25,000 Naples, Fla., and \$25,000 Caserta, Italy).
- In February 2016, was with the U.S. Fed Cup team in Hawaii as part of a junior Fed Cup camp run by USTA Player Development.

**Kristie Ahn, 26, Upper Saddle River, N.J./Orlando, Fla.**

- Graduated from Stanford in 2014 as a four-time All-American; Went 97-17 in four seasons with the Cardinal and was named the 2014 ITA National Senior Player of the Year.
- Competed as a wild card at this year's Australian Open after winning the USTA Pro Circuit Australian Open Wild Card Challenge – was her first appearance in a Grand Slam main draw since the 2008 US Open.
- Qualified for the 2018 WTA Australian Open tune-up event in Sydney and beat Samantha Stosur in the first round of Charleston this year.
- Has won seven USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Pro Circuit singles titles overall, as well as two doubles titles.
- Reached the final at the \$60,000 event in Landisville, Pa., this year, losing to Brengle.
- Qualified for the 2008 US Open, where she lost to former world No. 1 Dinara Safina in the first round.
- Has trained at the USTA National Campus in Orlando, Fla.

**Allie Kiick, 23, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.**

- Won her first singles title in three years this summer at a \$25,000 event in Bastad, Sweden, then went on to qualify and reach the quarterfinals at the Citi Open in Washington, D.C.
- Competed in doubles at the 2018 US Open.
- Made Grand Slam debut at the 2017 US Open after winning three matches to qualify for the main draw. Also reached the quarterfinals or better at three USTA Pro Circuit events last summer.
- Was out of competition from July 2015 through June 2017 due to four knee surgeries and being diagnosed with a rare form of skin cancer.
- Won her first \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in 2015 in Charlottesville, Va. Also holds three additional USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Pro Circuit singles titles, as well as an ITF doubles title she won in Canada in 2013.
- Peaked at No. 136 in the world in 2014.
- This year, reached the final of the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Pelham, Ala.
- As a junior player, was a singles finalist at the 2013 USTA Girls' 18s National Championships. Also, won the Girls' 18s doubles title with Sachia Vickery, allowing her to make her Grand Slam main-draw debut in the 2013 US Open women's doubles event.
- Is the daughter of Jim Kiick, a running back on the undefeated 1972 Miami Dolphins. Mother, Mary Johnson, is a former professional softball player.

**Asia Muhammad, 27, Las Vegas**

- Current Top 100 doubles player; Won her third WTA doubles title at the WTA International indoor event in Quebec the week after the US Open. The others: s'Hertogenbosch 2015; Guangzhou 2016; Reached the doubles quarterfinals of the 2016 US Open; 29 career USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Pro Circuit doubles titles.
- Won the singles title at the \$60,000 event in Lexington, Ky., this summer to help her win the 2018 US Open Wild Card Challenge and earn a singles main draw wild card into the US Open; lost in the first round.
- Broke into the singles Top 125 in 2017 after winning her fourth USTA Pro Circuit/ITF Pro Circuit singles title at a \$60,000 event in Australia and also qualifying for the WTA event in Charleston, S.C.

Also qualified for the WTA grass-court event in s'Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, in June.

- Only Grand Slam main draw singles appearance came in 2008 when she earned a wild card into the US Open.
- Learned to play tennis at the Andre Agassi Boys and Girls Club in Las Vegas.

**Ashley Kratzer, 19, Newport Beach, Calif.**

- Reached the semifinals at the \$60,000 USTA Pro Circuit tournament in Berkeley, Calif.
- Won the 2017 USTA Girls' National Championships singles title in San Diego last August to earn a wild card into the US Open.
- This year, reached the semifinals of the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Osprey, Fla., in May.
- Last summer, reached back-to-back quarterfinals at \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit events in Sumter, S.C., and Baton Rouge, La., and then reached the final at the \$60,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Stockton, Calif.

**Danielle Lao, 26, Arcadia, Calif.**

- Qualified for the main draw of the 2018 US Open, then played in WTA tournaments in Tokyo and Hiroshima as part of the tour's Asian swing.
- Graduated from USC in 2013 after twice earning All-America honors in her college career. Led the Trojans to back-to-back Pac-12 team championships and was a team captain her senior year.
- In 2017, made Grand Slam debut after qualifying for the US Open, and shortly thereafter reached a career-high ranking of No. 193. Also reached singles finals at the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Surprise, Ariz., and an ITF Pro Circuit event in Korea that year.
- Won her first pro singles titles in 2015 – at the ITF event in Leon, Mexico, and at the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Baton Rouge, La.
- Won the 2016 US Open National Playoffs – Women's Doubles Championship with Jacqueline Cako to earn a wild card into the US Open doubles draw.
- Holds three USTA Pro Circuit/ITF Circuit doubles titles.
- After college, wrote a book, "Invaluable Experience," about playing college tennis.

**Marie Bouzkova, 20, Czech Republic**

- 2014 US Open junior champion

**Sesil Karatantcheva, 29, Bulgaria**

- Reached the quarterfinals of the 2005 French Open, as a 15-year old; Peaked at No. 35 in the world that fall, at 16.

**Grace Min, 24, Atlanta/Orlando, Fla.**

- Won her 10th USTA Pro Circuit singles title, and first of 2018, at the \$25,000 women's event in Bethany Beach, Del. Also reached the final at the \$25,000 event in Daytona Beach, Fla., the first tournament of the 2018 season.
- Qualified for the French Open this year and lost in the first round; Lost in qualifying for Wimbledon 2018.
- Peaked at a career-high No. 97 in the world in March 2015 after reaching the second round of the WTA's Rio Open and competing in Indian Wells.

- In 2014, reached the semifinals of the WTA event in Bad Gastein, Austria—her first-ever WTA semifinal—and competed in the US Open and French Open main draws and qualifying at Roland Garros.
- Was one of the top juniors in the world in 2011, when she won the US Open girls' singles title and the Wimbledon girls' doubles title, propelling her to No. 4 in the world junior rankings.
- Trains at the USTA National Campus in Orlando, Fla.

## **Lauren Davis, 24, Cleveland, Ohio**

- Advanced to the third round of the Australian Open this year, ending with an epic third-round loss to Simona Halep, 4-6, 6-4, 15-13, in a match that lasted for three hours and 45 minutes, tying the match between Chanda Rubin and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in 1996 for the most games at the Australian Open.
- In 2017, peaked at No. 26 in the world in May after reaching her third quarterfinal of the year at the WTA event in Rabat, Morocco. Also reached the quarterfinals in Qatar and Dubai in February and reached the fourth round in Indian Wells.
- Won first career WTA singles title in 2017 in Auckland, New Zealand, upsetting four seeds en route.
- In 2016, advanced to two WTA finals (Washington D.C. and Quebec City).
- Advanced to the third round of the 2016 Australian Open, losing to Maria Sharapova in three sets, as well as in 2014. Also reached the third round of Wimbledon in 2014.
- In 2014, made Fed Cup debut against Italy in the World Group Quarterfinals in Cleveland, where Davis grew up. Also competed for the U.S. Fed Cup team in the 2015 World Group Playoff tie in Italy and in 2017 in the semifinal in Tampa Bay, Fla. With her Fed Cup participation last year, she is a part of the 2017 championship-winning team and received a Fed Cup trophy.
- Coach: Mark Schanerman

## **Kayla Day, 18, Santa Barbara, Calif.**

- Peaked at a career-high No. 122 in the world in June 2017 after reaching the semifinals of the \$100,000 ITF Pro Circuit event in Marseille, the quarterfinals of the \$60,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Charleston, S.C., and the semifinals of the \$25,000 event in Naples, Fla.
- In summer 2017, competed in the US Open as a wild card and won a match at the US Open Series event in Stanford, Calif., where she also reached the doubles semifinals.
- Also in 2017, advanced to the third round of Indian Wells and reached the singles final and won the doubles title at the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.
- Competed in the Australian Open for the first time in 2017 after winning the USTA Pro Circuit Australian Open Wild Card Challenge in fall 2016.
- Won the 2016 US Open girls' singles title and shot to No. 1 in the world junior rankings. Also reached the semifinals of junior Wimbledon in 2016.
- Also at the 2016 US Open, earned a wild card into the main draw and won her first-round match over Madison Brengle in her Grand Slam debut.
- Won her first career USTA Pro Circuit singles title in 2016 at the \$50,000 event in Macon, Ga.
- Moved from No. 998 in the rankings at the end of 2015 to No. 195 at the end of 2016.

- Helped lead the U.S. to a second-place finish on clay in Madrid at the 2015 Junior Fed Cup final.

## **Gail Brodsky, 27, Brooklyn, N.Y.**

- 2008 USTA Girls' 18s National Champion – defeated Sloane Stephens and CoCo Vandeweghe en route to title to earn wild card into US Open that year
- Was ranked as high as No. 182 before taking a years-long break from competition in 2012.
- Returned to competitive play this year and came one win from clinching a main draw wild card into the US Open via the USTA Pro Circuit's US Open Wild Card Challenge; Won her first career \$60,000 singles title, in Ashland, Ky.; Received a wild card into US Open Qualifying, where she lost in the second round.
- Mother of two boys.

## **Ann Li, 18, Devon, Pa.**

- Ranked as high as No. 12 in the world in the junior rankings in January 2018.
- Reached the singles final at junior Wimbledon in 2017 in the second-ever all-American girls' final at the All England Club, dating back to 1947.
- Won the first USTA Pro Circuit singles title of her career last year at the \$15,000 event in Evansville, Ind.
- This year, qualified for the \$100,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Midland, Mich., and reached the semifinals of the \$25,000 event in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., as a qualifier.
- Competed in US Open qualifying in 2017 as a wild card.

## **Sophie Chang, 21, Havre de Grace, Md.**

- Captured first career USTA Pro Circuit singles title this March at the \$15,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Orlando, held at the USTA National Campus.
- Holds seven USTA Pro Circuit doubles titles, including the \$80,000 event in Charlottesville, Va., this year.
- Won the 2016 US Open National Playoffs – Women's Singles Championship to earn a wild card into the US Open Qualifying Tournament in her US Open debut.
- Committed to play at the University of Virginia before turning pro.
- Her great-grandfather, Joseph Carpenter, won the mixed doubles title at the 1910 U.S. National Championships.

## **Whitney Osuigwe, 16, Bradenton, Fla.**

- Held the No. 1 world junior ranking for nine months and was named the ITF's World Junior Champion for 2017.
- Won the 2017 French Open girls' singles title, beating Claire Liu in the second-ever all-American French Open girls' final. Became only the fourth American girls' singles champion at Roland Garros and the first since Jennifer Capriati in 1989.
- Also reached the singles quarterfinals at junior Wimbledon in 2017, as well as the girls' doubles final there in 2017 and 2018.
- Won the singles title at the 2017 Orange Bowl and the doubles title at the 2017 Easter Bowl, both prestigious junior events.
- Reached the final of the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Wesley Chapel, Fla., this January as a qualifier—her first career USTA Pro Circuit singles final.

- Captured her first career USTA Pro Circuit doubles title at the \$15,000 event in Orlando this March, held at the new USTA National Campus, and also won the doubles title at the \$25,000 event in Jackson, Miss., this April.

**Louisa Chirico**, 22, *Orlando, Fla.*

- In 2017, won a match in Indian Wells and competed in the French Open main draw. Also reached the final of an ITF Pro Circuit event in Mexico in September.
- Qualified for the 2016 French Open and won her first-round match over American Lauren Davis for her first Grand Slam win before falling to Venus Williams in the second round. Also in 2016, reached first WTA semifinal in Madrid and advanced to the third round in Miami.

- Peaked at a career-high No. 58 in the world in October 2016.
- Made Grand Slam singles main-draw debut at the 2015 French Open after winning the Har-Tru USTA Pro Circuit Wild Card Challenge.
- In July 2015, represented the U.S. in the Pan American Games in Toronto.
- Holds three USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Pro Circuit singles titles and two doubles titles.

*\*Player field subject to change*

## TYLER PAST WINNERS

### Singles

Year	Winner	Runner-Up
2017	Kristie Ahn (USA)	Danielle Collins (USA)

### Doubles

Year	Winner
2017	Jessica Pegula (USA) – Taylor Townsend (USA)