

CAR-X FUTURES OF CHAMPAIGN CHAMPAIGN, IL • AUGUST 6-13

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Site: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Atkins Tennis Center – Champaign, Ill.

Websites: www.illinoisfutures.com
www.procircuit.usta.com

Facebook: Champaign Challenger & Futures
USTA Pro Circuit Events

Twitter: @ProTennisAtkins

Qualifying Draw Begins: Saturday, Aug. 6

Main Draw Begins: Tuesday, Aug. 9

Main Draw: 32 Singles / 16 Doubles

Surface: Hard / Outdoor

Prize Money: \$25,000

Tournament Director:
Christine Stromberg, (217) 244-3318
cstromb2@illinois.edu

Tournament Press Contact:
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USTA Communications Contact:
Amanda Korba, (914) 697-2219, korba@usta.com

PRIZE MONEY / POINTS

SINGLES:	Prize Money	Ranking Points
Winner	\$3,600	27
Runner-up	\$2,120	15
Semifinalist	\$1,255	8
Quarterfinalist	\$730	3
Round of 16	\$430	1
Round of 32	\$260	-

DOUBLES:	Prize Money (per team)
Winner	\$1,550
Runnerup	\$900
Semifinalist	\$540
Quarterfinalist	\$320
Round of 16	\$180

USTA PRO CIRCUIT MEN'S TENNIS RETURNS TO CHAMPAIGN

The **Car-X Futures of Champaign** comes to Illinois for the second consecutive year and the first as a \$25,000 event. The city also hosts a \$50,000 Challenger each November, an event that started in 1996. This is one of six USTA Pro Circuit men's events held in the state of Illinois this year—Godfrey, Edwardsville and Decatur were held over the past three weeks, and in addition to the \$50,000 Challenger in Champaign in November, Winnetka hosted a \$50,000 Challenger in July.

To follow the tournament, download the USTA Pro Circuit's phone app for smartphones and tablets by searching "procircuit" in the Apple and Google Play stores.

Notable players competing in Champaign include:

Tennys Sandgren, a former Top 200 player and a 2011 NCAA semifinalist who has captured three USTA Pro Circuit singles titles this year, including the Illinois events in Godfrey and Edwardsville. He peaked at 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 former NCAA champion and current world No. 25 Steve Johnson in five sets in the final of the USTA



David Kenas

Tennys Sandgren has won 11 USTA Pro Circuit/ITF Circuit singles titles and 15 doubles titles. He turned pro after reaching the 2011 NCAA semifinals for the University of Tennessee.

Australian Open Wild Card Playoffs. Sandgren's rise was disrupted by injury, however, in 2014, when hip surgery sidelined him from February until after that year's US Open. In 2015, he played on the USTA Pro Circuit and in ITF Circuit events in China, Australia and Canada, winning two singles titles. Sandgren, whose first name is pronounced like the sport, turned pro following his sophomore season at the University of Tennessee. He has won 11 career USTA Pro Circuit/ITF Circuit singles titles and 15 doubles titles. His brother, Davey, was a two-time All-American for Tennessee, lettering from 2007-10.

Defending Champaign doubles champion **Ryan Shane**, who graduated from the University of Virginia this year after a stellar collegiate career. In his junior season, Shane won the NCAA singles title and ended that season as the No. 2-ranked collegiate player in the country. Shane was also a part of three



USTA/Neel Dishman

Defending doubles champion Ryan Shane graduated from the University of Virginia this year after a stellar collegiate career, winning the NCAA singles title in his junior season and ending that season as the No. 2-ranked collegiate player in the country.

NCAA championship teams with Virginia, winning the team title in 2013, 2015 and 2016. He earned All-America honors during his junior and senior years, finishing his collegiate career with a 103-36 record in singles play.

Christian Harrison, the younger brother of former Top 50 player Ryan Harrison. Christian has played in just a handful of tournaments since July 2013 after suffering from a series of injuries. He has won one ITF-level singles title, in Great Britain in 2013, and advanced to the doubles quarterfinals at the 2012 US Open with Ryan.

Connor Smith, who graduated from Ohio State in 2013 after transferring from Florida State following his sophomore season. He went 36-7 in singles and 33-7 in doubles during his senior year. Smith had a breakthrough 2014 on the USTA Pro Circuit and in ITF-level events, winning two USTA Pro Circuit singles titles and a title in Ecuador. In addition, he holds nine career USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Circuit doubles titles. In 2015, Smith won an ITF-level event in Korea, and this year he competed in Australian Open qualifying for the first time.

Rhyn Williams, the former Top 120 player who was away from the game from June 2015 to June 2016 due to a back injury and is currently on the comeback trail on the USTA Pro Circuit. Williams turned pro in 2011 following his sophomore year at the University of Tennessee, where he reached the singles final at the NCAA Championships. In 2012, he won three matches to qualify for the main draw of the US Open, where he faced Andy Roddick prior to Roddick's retirement announcement. He made a second Grand Slam main draw at the 2013 Australian Open, earning a wild card by winning the USTA Australian Open Wild Card Playoffs, and he then 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. In 2014, Williams 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, he qualified for and reached the quarterfinals of the ATP event in Delray Beach, Fla. 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.

Dennis Nevolo, who graduated from the University of Illinois in 2012, where he received two All-America honors. He was also the second player in Illini program history to earn All-Big Ten honors all four seasons. Nevolo holds two USTA Pro Circuit singles titles, both won in 2014, as well as four USTA Pro Circuit/ITF Circuit doubles titles. Earlier this year, he reached the singles final of the USTA Pro Circuit Collegiate Series event in Charlottesville, Va., as well as the semifinals at the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit Futures in Memphis, Tenn., and Bakersfield, Calif.

Jared Hiltzik, who graduated this year from the University of Illinois, where he earned three All-America honors—one of three players in program history to ever do so—and finished his collegiate career as the eighth-winningest singles player in program history, with 115 victories. He also reached the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament as a junior in 2014. Hiltzik won his first USTA Pro Circuit doubles title earlier this year at the Collegiate Series event in Winston-Salem, N.C., and reached his first USTA Pro Circuit singles final last year at the \$15,000 Futures in Godfrey, Ill. In July, he served as a practice partner with the U.S. Davis Cup team for its quarterfinal against Croatia in Portland, Ore.

Wil Spencer, who 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. Spencer went 104-49 in four years between the two schools and reached the round of 16 at the 2012 NCAA tournament. His final collegiate singles ranking was No. 11. Spencer holds two career USTA Pro Circuit singles titles, winning at the \$10,000 Futures in Vero Beach, Fla., in 2015, and the \$10,000 Futures in Niceville, Fla., in 2014. This year, he reached the singles semifinals at the \$10,000 Futures in Boca Raton, Fla., and the doubles final at the \$10,000 Futures in Palm Coast, Fla.

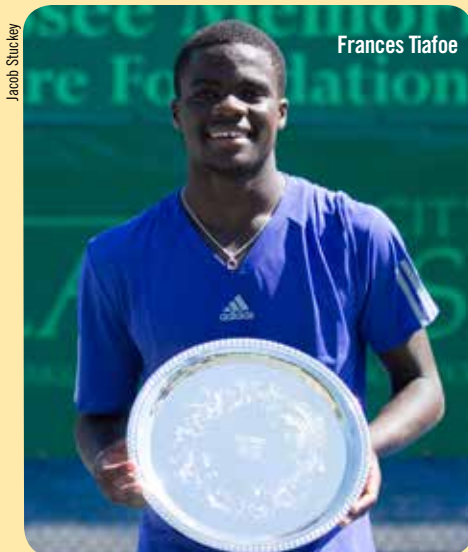
Gonzales Austin, who graduated from Vanderbilt in 2015 as the SEC Player of the Year. He also earned All-America honors in both singles and doubles during his junior and senior years. In his collegiate career, Austin earned 107 singles wins—the most of any player in Vanderbilt history. He holds one USTA Pro Circuit title, in doubles at the \$10,000 Futures in Claremont, Calif., in September 2015.

**Player field subject to change*

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

More recently, the USTA Pro Circuit was a pathway to success for two young Americans in 2015—**Frances Tiafoe** and **Samantha Crawford**. Tiafoe, a former world No. 2 junior who turned pro early in 2015, started last season ranked No. 1,143. His successes on the USTA Pro Circuit not only allowed Tiafoe to finish the year ranked No. 176, but also gave him experience on the Grand Slam stage. Tiafoe won the Har-Tru USTA Pro Circuit Wild Card Challenge (based on results in three USTA Pro Circuit Challengers) to earn a spot in the 2015 French Open, which marked his Grand Slam debut. He also won his first USTA Pro Circuit singles title in 2015 at the \$15,000 Futures in Bakersfield, Calif., and reached three additional finals. Tiafoe also competed in the 2015 US Open as a wild card and continues to climb in the rankings. Crawford, the 2012 US Open girls' singles champion, started the 2015 season ranked No. 293 and competed in 23 USTA Pro Circuit events throughout the year. She went on to win the first USTA Pro Circuit singles title of her career at the \$50,000 event in Scottsdale, Ariz., and also won two of the USTA Pro Circuit's wild card challenges to earn wild cards into the 2015 US Open and 2016 Australian Open. Crawford's hard work paid off, and in January 2016, she rose to No. 107 in the world after a strong start to the year in Australia, where she reached her first WTA semifinal in Brisbane as a qualifier.



Frances Tiafoe

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.

USTA FOUNDATION

USTA Foundation, the national charitable organization of the USTA, helps serve up dreams for under-resourced youth; individuals with disabilities; and wounded, ill and injured service members, veterans and their families. The foundation supports programs nationwide that leverage tennis and education to help those in need, primarily through the National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) network, and other efforts to assist military personnel, veterans and individuals with disabilities. To date, it has awarded more than \$19 million in grants and scholarships to hundreds of programs, benefitting thousands of children and adults through a tennis, education and health curricula. For more information, visit the website www.ustafoundation.com.

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 1,450 players competed in 13 Sectional Qualifying Tournaments nationwide for a 2015 US Open Qualifying Tournament wild card. A men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles element also was held, with the winning team earning a US Open main draw doubles wild card. Registration for all 2016 sectional events opens on March 15, with tournaments taking place in May and June. The US Open National Playoffs will take place in New Haven in August. For more information and the schedule, and to vie for a chance to compete in the US Open, visit www.usopen.org/NationalPlayoffs.



USTA PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

The USTA Player Development program, working with the American Tennis Family of players, coaches and families, helps to identify and develop the next generation of American champions by surrounding 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 utilizes National Training Centers in Carson, Calif., and Flushing, N.Y., as well as a network of Certified Regional Training Centers located throughout the United States.

CHAMPAIGN PAST WINNERS

Singles			Doubles	
Year	Winner	Runner-Up	Year	Winner
2015	Kevin King (USA)	Richard Gabb (GBR)	2015	Ryan Shane (USA) – Justin Shane (USA)