

USTA PRO CIRCUIT EMBRACES ADOPT-A-UNIT EFFORT

The USTA has made a commitment to supporting the armed forces through "Joining Forces," the White House's national initiative to support and honor America's service members, with its own Adopt-a-Unit effort—and the USTA Pro Circuit was at the forefront of those efforts.

Two of the first tournaments to embrace the initiative were the Tallahassee Challenger in Tallahassee, Fla., which set up a booth on-site and encouraged anyone and everyone to stop by and show their support, and the RBC Bank Women's Challenger in Raleigh, N.C., which served as host for a packing party for North Carolina-based military units heading to Afghanistan.

The USTA's Adopt-a-Unit effort is designed to guide tennis organizations and players to "adopt" a military unit of anywhere between 25 and 100 service members deployed from a nearby military installation to Iraq or Afghanistan by sending care packages of necessities.

To draw items, Tallahassee set up two boxes, one for equipment and one for cash donations, and also assembled a poster detailing what items could be accepted. In addition, an on-court ceremony honoring veterans was held between matches during the tournament. The Challenger reached out to a number of local groups to invite veterans to the matches—including two groups of 60-and-over tennis players called the Golden Boys and the Silver Belles—and subsequently invited veterans from the crowd to join the ceremony as well.

By the tournament's completion, the Tallahassee Challenger had enough donations to adopt three troops of 100 soldiers each, and the event set aside \$600 to mail the nine boxes it collected. The boxes were shipped with the help of a local shipping company led by a veteran who contacted Tallahassee through the Challenger's Facebook page.



James Blake

Larry James

INSIDE:

JOPLIN POSTPONES TOURNAMENT

Because of the devastating tornado that swept through the city, Joplin, Mo., has postponed its men's Futures until 2012.

BOYD TINSLEY CLASSIC TURNS 10

The Boyd Tinsley Classic, the \$50,000 women's event in Charlottesville, Va., celebrated its 10th year on the USTA Pro Circuit in April.

LOOK WHO'S BACK

USTA Pro Circuit fan favorites James Blake and Melanie Oudin have been back on the Pro Circuit this year, honing their games for the summer season.

Raleigh, meanwhile, packed more than 300 care kits at the North Hills Club, host site of the event.

To join the effort, go to USTA.com/About-USTA/Community-Tennis-Associations/adoptaunit or contact the USTA Pro Circuit national office at 914-696-7000.



Reid Compton



FIRST SERVES

Joplin Postpones Tournament Following Tornado

The USTA 2011 Millennium Tennis Club \$10,000 Men's Futures in Joplin, Mo., will be postponed to 2012 so the members of the Millennium Tennis & Fitness Club can instead devote their energy and resources to rebuilding the community. The University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Okla., has agreed to act as a replacement site and host for the tournament in 2011.

The tornado left a swath of devastation in its wake across the city of 50,000 people but spared the tennis complex, according to Brad Bigando, the general manager of the Millennium Tennis and Fitness Club.

"I can look out the front of the club and it looks normal," Bigando said the day after the tornado. "We didn't get any damage here, but a half mile away or less it looks like you're in a totally different place. Trees are gone; houses are gone. It's just flattened."



One victim of the tornado was Joplin High School, a USTA member organization, which was essentially razed during the storm. The Joplin Schools Tornado Fund has been established to help the school rebuild.

The USTA has donated \$50,000 to assist with disaster relief efforts and will also assist with consulting time in terms of rebuilding the facilities. In addition, the USTA Mobile SmashZone tour appeared in Joplin over the 4th of July weekend, and there was a relief concert held in Austin during the United States' Davis Cup tie against Spain. Moreover, Dave Humphreys, owner of the Millennium Tennis Club and promoter of the men's Futures in Joplin, is matching donations to the school as well as providing additional financing to rebuild the community.

To post a message of support for the Joplin tennis community on its Facebookpage, go to www.facebook.com/ustamovalley.

—Quotes and information for this story by Manon Eilts, USTA Missouri Valley

Dirk Drops By Dallas Challenger

2011 NBA Finals MVP Dirk Nowitzki took time out from his busy NBA schedule with the Dallas Mavericks to visit Rainer Schuettler at the Dallas Challenger in February—and to hit a few balls in the process. Afterward, Nowitzki, an avowed tennis fan and a fellow German, stayed to watch Schuettler's match.

New Tools Available from USTA Pro Circuit



The USTA Pro Circuit has unveiled new artwork for 2011—including cover design and more—as well as a new promotional DVD and public service announcement (PSA). Other tools available include a style guide, poster template, web/flyer template, newspaper ad template, post card template, credential template, power point sponsor presentation, a 30-second PSA and a six-minute promotional video.

Tournament directors can also go to procircuit.usta.com to catch up on all the latest articles and results, and find fact sheets, schedules and player tools as well as access the 2011 USTA Pro Circuit Record Book, men's and women's bios, past newsletters and more.



USTA PRO CIRCUIT ANNIVERSARIES / AWARDS

BOYD TINSLEY CLASSIC CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

The USTA Pro Circuit's most famous benefactor—Dave Mathews Band violinist Boyd Tinsley—rang in 10 years in April with the Boyd Tinsley 2011 Clay Court Classic at the Boar's Head Sports Club in Charlottesville, Va.

It was an eventful tournament, beginning with a fire in the men's locker room the morning of the qualifying sign-in, followed by tornado warnings throughout the week. Still, the event went down as an unqualified success. Tinsley enjoyed a week of tributes, beginning with the kickoff player party that included a video featuring friend Andy Roddick and a quartet of graduates from Tinsley's foundation providing a musical tribute. Following the finals, Tinsley was awarded the USTA Pro Circuit 10th Anniversary Commemorative plaque by USTA Pro Circuit Director Brian Earley, and he was also presented the Key to the city of Charlottesville by Mayor Dave Norris.

As part of the festivities, Tinsley invited local kids to play with the pros, drawing more than 100 area children. "The reason I set this up was to give kids the opportunity to play a sport that a lot of them wouldn't have the chance to play," Tinsley told newsplex.com. "Most of these kids down here are in a program that I sponsor in the middle schools here, and a lot of them have some talent. It's really cool to see."

The Boyd Tinsley Fund supports scholarships and transportation for local children participating in a Sunday afternoon program held at The Boar's Head.



Boyd Tinsley



Wilson
Pipkin

LANDISVILLE PRO CIRCUIT EVENT HONORED BY PENNSYLVANIA RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY

The Koser Jewelers USTA Pro Circuit Tennis Challenge in Landisville, Pa., was honored by the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society in March. Tournament Director Wilson Pipkin accepted the award for Excellence in Programming for Special Events on behalf of the staff and volunteers of the Hempfield Area Recreation Commission at the 64th Annual State Conference in King of Prussia, Pa.

SPORTSMEN'S CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Sportsmen's Tennis Club in Dorchester, Mass., host of the \$50,000 women's USTA Pro Circuit event, celebrated its 50th anniversary with a kick-off gala on January 7, 2011. Sportsmen's Tennis Club was founded in 1961 by a group of eight African-American friends, making it the oldest African-American owned and operated facility in the United States. Sportsmen's Tennis Club annually serves 3,000 youths, many of whom go on to receive full or partial college tennis scholarships.

Celebrity author and journalist Toure, a graduate of Sportsmen's program, served as emcee of the kick-off gala and received the first annual STC alumnae award. Among those attending the gala were USTA Chief Diversity Officer Kevin Clayton, Diversity Director Chris Michel and Diversity Manager Renee Tirado.



Toure
(left)



Sportsmen's Tennis Club, Dorchester, Mass., host of a women's \$50,000 event, celebrated its 50th Anniversary Year with a kick-off gala on January 7.

USTA PRO CIRCUIT ANNIVERSARIES / AWARDS

LITTLE ROCK CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY, RECEIVES AWARD

It has been a busy year for the St. Vincent Auxiliary Tour de Paul USTA Pro Circuit Futures tournament in Little Rock, Ark.

In 2010, the event became the first in USTA Pro Circuit tournament history to celebrate its 30th anniversary, and earlier this year, the Futures was named the 2010 USTA Southern Section Special Tennis Event of the Year. The event was honored with an Awards Breakfast & Ceremony during the USTA Southern Section Annual Meeting in Atlanta.

Other tournaments that celebrated milestone anniversaries in 2010 included the men's events in Costa Mesa, Calif.; Calabasas, Calif.; Joplin, Mo.; Peoria, Ill.; and Pittsburgh; as well as the women's event in Dothan, Ala.



Above: 2010 USTA President Lucy Garvin and USTA Pro Circuit Director Brian Earley in Little Rock; Left: Peter Banko (left), the president and CEO of the St. Vincent Health System, accepts the USTA Southern Section Special Event of the Year award from committee chair Mel Collazo.

PALM COAST TAKES HOME OUTSTANDING FACILITY AWARD

The Palm Coast Tennis Center in Palm Coast, Fla., which hosted the Palm Coast Men's Futures Championships in February, was honored last year with the prestigious USTA Outstanding Facility Award, making it just one of seven facilities recognized nationally.

"I am thrilled to be receiving this award," Ken Obermeier, tennis superintendent for the city of Palm Coast, said. "There are so many great tennis facilities out there; just to be nominated was a privilege. To win it, on the other hand, is an honor. We look forward to continuing to grow the game of tennis and to helping everyone who participates achieve their personal best."



Tennis Superintendent for the city of Palm Coast Ken Obermeier (center) receives the USTA Outstanding Facility Award from 2010 USTA President Lucy Garvin and Randy Futty, co-chair of the Facility Awards Subcommittee.

In addition, in June 2010, the Palm Coast Tennis Center received a \$1,000 USTA Florida "Share the Love" grant. It celebrated with area children by hosting a free QuickStart Tennis kick-off event for 10-and-under players and, in February of this year, hosted an outreach program for approximately 300 third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students at Butler Elementary School in Destin, Fla.



2011 TOURNAMENT ANNIVERSARIES

Men

- Vero Beach, Fla.20 years
- Winnetka, Ill.20 years
- Brownsville, Texas10 years
- Chico, Calif.10 years

Women

- Charlottesville, Va.10 years



Brownsville, Texas

USTA PRO CIRCUIT TOURNAMENT NEWS

HOST OF TOURNAMENTS UPGRADE PRIZE MONEY

In 2009, the USTA Pro Circuit featured a lone \$100,000 event, the Odium Brown Vancouver Open for the men. Last year, the Dow Corning Classic in Midland, Mich., became the first \$100,000 women's event.

Now the rush is on. The Odium Brown Vancouver Open will become the first \$200,000 joint event, with the women's tournament upgrading its prize money from \$75,000 to \$100,000. And three other tournaments are increasing their prize money as well: the Comerica Bank Challenger in Aptos, Calif.; the Natomas Men's Professional Tennis Tournament in Sacramento, Calif., sponsored by RelyAid; and the Tiburon Challenger in Tiburon, Calif., sponsored by First National Bank. Also, the Sarasota Open in Sarasota, Fla., increased its prize money to \$75,000 from \$50,000.

The larger purses—part of a push by USTA Player Development in collaboration with the USTA Pro Circuit—draw stronger fields to the event, thus increasing the level of competition, and the increased prize money brings with it an increase in ranking points, all of which helps the players as they work to transition to the ATP and WTA tours.



NEW EVENTS FOR 2011

WOMEN'S EVENTS

Date	City	Site	Surface	Purse	Tournament Director
Jan. 31	Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.	Morgan Run Resort & Club	Hard	\$25,000	Patrick Guion
June 13	Bethany Beach, Del.	Sea Colony Tennis	Clay	\$10,000	Thomas Johnston
June 27	Buffalo, N.Y.	Todd Miller Tennis Center	Clay	\$10,000	Todd Miller
Aug. 8	Bronx, N.Y.*	Crotona Park	Hard	\$50,000	Pam Glick

MEN'S EVENTS

Date	City	Site	Surface	Purse	Tournament Director
Jan. 24	Weston, Fla.	Midtown Athletic Club	Clay	\$10,000	Maury Bozman
March 28	Oklahoma City, Okla.	Oklahoma City Tennis Center	Hard	\$15,000	Brad Lund
June 20	Indian Harbour Beach, Fla.	Kiwi Tennis Club	Clay	\$10,000	Holly Baney
June 27	Innisbrook, Fla.	Innisbrook Resort and Tennis Club	Clay	\$10,000	Rhett Rollyson
July 18	Tulsa, Okla.	University of Tulsa	Hard	\$10,000	Ryan Harper
August 8	Edwardsville, Ill.	Edwardsville High School	Hard	\$10,000	David Lipe

* Indicates a past participating tournament that was not on the calendar in 2010

FOND FAREWELLS

The following mainstays of the USTA Pro Circuit will not be returning in 2011:

For the men, the exiting tournaments are the Futures events in Mobile, Ala.; Peoria, Ill.; and Hollywood, Fla.; and the Challengers in Calabasas, Calif.; Baton Rouge, La.; Carson, Calif.; and Ojai, Calif.

The departing women's events are Laguna Niguel, Calif.; Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and Mount Pleasant, S.C. Also on the women's calendar, Redding, Calif., (now held September 12) and Grapevine, Texas, (now held October 31) are moving to new dates in 2011.

2011 USTA PRO CIRCUIT TOURNAMENT NEWS—MEN

USTA PRO CIRCUIT TOURNAMENTS GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITIES

Tournaments throughout the USTA Pro Circuit have continued to give back to their local communities in 2011. Leading the way is the Harlingen Country Club \$15,000 Futures in Harlingen, Texas, which hosted the Miracle Kids of South Texas Wheelchair Clinic and Exhibition. The Miracle Kids of South Texas is the tournament charity; the event drew more than 40 participants and everyone in attendance received prizes and food.



Tallahassee, Fla.

In addition, the proceeds from the Tallahassee Challenger went to benefit three charities—the D. Mark Vogter, M.D. Memorial Endowment for Neuro-Intensive Care, the Sharon Ewing Walker Breast Health Center at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare and the Yealdhall Challenger Tennis Fund at Friends of Our Parks—and the tournament's fundraising events included a Pro-Am that raised \$7,750 for the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Breast Health Center. Also, the Challenger hosted a town tennis jamboree for kids as well as a mentoring clinic, two free USPTA clinics, a Special Olympics Carnival and a Boys & Girls Club community event featuring members of the Florida State and Florida A&M tennis teams.



Harlingen, Texas



MEN'S EVENTS GET NEW LOGOS FOR 2011

The following tournaments have new logos for 2011: the 2011 Tail Savannah Challenger in Savannah, Ga.; the Pensacola Futures Championships in Pensacola, Fla.; the Nielsen USTA Pro Tennis Championships in Winnetka, Ill.; and the USTA Ursula Beck Pro Tennis Classic in Decatur, Ill. The logos were updated to comply with the USTA Pro Circuit branding requirement.



The players weren't the only winners at the 2010 Royal Bank of Scotland Challenger in Tiburon, Calif. Immediately following the singles final, the Challenger donated \$10,000 to support the Foundation for Reed Schools, a nonprofit that underwrites art, music, physical education, foreign language and technology at schools in the Reed Union School District.

2011 USTA PRO CIRCUIT TOURNAMENT NEWS—WOMEN

MIDLAND HOSTS MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENT YET



The oldest—and first \$100,000—event on the women's USTA Pro Circuit, the Dow Corning Classic in Midland, Mich., posted another stellar showing in 2011. Ticket sales increased to \$88,000, up more than \$5,000 from the previous year, and 1,300 tickets were sold for Friday night's quarterfinal matches alone, a sell-out. Also, sponsorship peaked at \$219,000, which was up more than \$5,000. In addition, the tournament introduced a successful online ticketing system.

WEBCASTING EXPANDS AT WOMEN'S EVENTS

The Dow Corning Classic in Midland, Mich., added webcasting for the first time this year. In doing so, it joins the Dothan Pro Classic in Dothan, Ala., which has its streaming provided by sponsor WTVY-TV, and MIMA Foundation USTA Pro Tennis Classic in Indian Harbour Beach, Fla., which continued its webcast for the third consecutive year, provided by Space Coast Productions. In all, 13,000 people watched stadium court matches of the Dow Corning Classic via web streaming.

INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH GOES ALL OUT FOR COMMUNITY

There are many roads to success; the Mima Tennis Classic takes them all. Held at Kiwi Tennis Club in Indian Harbour Beach, Fla., a clay court venue and preceding the French Open, the event hosted a successful Kids' Day with more than 100 children in attendance, and the Mike Cherry High School Tennis Challenge featured eight high school teams, with the winning team receiving a check for \$250 for their tennis program.

Other highlights were a Pro-Am, the Spacecoast Ladies Day, Health Awareness Day and a beachside player party with 40 players in attendance. Through the event, Tournament Director Holly Baney expects to raise more than \$65,000 for the Mima Foundation, which provides support services to cancer patients and their families.

RANCHO MIRAGE RAISES \$100,000 FOR CHARITY

The Women's Childhelp Desert Classic in Rancho Mirage, Calif., held in February raised more than \$100,000 for Childhelp Merv Griffin Village, a residential home for abused children. Leading the fundraising efforts was a gala titled, "A Fireside Chat with Roy Emerson," which included the 12-time Grand Slam tournament singles champion as well as tennis luminary Pancho Segura. Other highlights included a highway billboard to raise awareness of the event and promote ticket sales.



USTA PRO CIRCUIT SPONSORSHIP NEWS

HONOLULU AMONG THREE EVENTS ADDING TITLE SPONSORS

The Challengers in Honolulu and Dallas, and the Futures in Oklahoma City, have all added new major sponsors for their men's events.

Honolulu has American Savings Bank as a title sponsor and is now known as the Honolulu Challenger presented by American Savings Bank. "We are very happy to continue this partnership with American Savings Bank," said Ron Romano, Executive Director, USTA Hawaii Pacific Section, which hosts the Honolulu Challenger. "Their dedication to supporting the Honolulu Challenger demonstrates their commitment to our community and the growth of tennis."

Also, YP.com has come on board as the title sponsor for the Dallas Challenger, held annually in late February/early March as the second major Challenger of the season (following Honolulu). And Jackie Cooper BMW has come on board as the title sponsor of the newly minted Futures event in Oklahoma City. The tournament made its debut on the USTA Pro Circuit in March.



SARASOTA OPEN THRIVES IN 2011

Sponsors, charities, fans and athletes all noticed the growth and changes at the Sarasota Open this year. The 2011 edition of the tournament set new attendance records and attracted supporters lining up to be involved in 2012. Across the board, the event is evolving into a showpiece community-supported sporting experience.

"We are thrilled to once again sponsor the Sarasota Open," said Andy Kirkman, market manager for Sarasota/Manatee/Duval counties for IBERIABANK. "This year, a portion of the profits will be donated to the newly formed Sarasota Open Foundation, which will provide regional support for children and youth-centric charities. It's the perfect combination of demonstrating our commitment to the youth-based charities and supporting the overall community by sponsoring a world-class tennis event right here in our own backyard."

Added Greg Dinley, director of education of the Stem Cell Alliance: "This is the first year we have sponsored the Sarasota Open. We are absolutely thrilled to be here raising funds and awareness for those in need of adult stem cell therapy. Without venues and opportunities like the Open, it would take us much longer to educate folks that there is indeed hope for so many people with debilitating heart and lung conditions."

—story by Suzette Jones, press aide, Sarasota Open



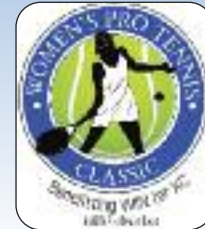
USTA PRO CIRCUIT SPONSORSHIP NEWS

KANSAS CITY PARTNERS WITH WIN FOR KC

The Women's Pro Tennis Classic in Kansas City, Mo., has formed a new partnership with the nonprofit group Women's Intersport Network (WIN) for KC. WIN for KC was established in 1994 with the mission to empower girls and women through advocating and promoting the lifetime value of sports and fitness while providing opportunities for participation and leadership development.

Polly Kramer, a spectator at the 2010 tournament, so enjoyed the event that she spoke to Tournament Director Elliott McDermed about keeping it in Kansas City and making it financially viable. Kramer suggested partnering with a nonprofit organization and, through her friendship with the vice chair of the WIN board, scheduled a presentation to the executive director. Soon after, WIN voted to join forces with the tournament. The Q Hotel & Spa returns as a presenting sponsor.

WIN for KC will act as a promoter of the event and will offer additional staffing and resources to publicize and market the event.



NEW SPONSORS ABOUND ON USTA PRO CIRCUIT

In other sponsorship news from around the USTA Pro Circuit:



- The women's event in Evansville, Ind., obtained a new title sponsor in 2011 in the "The Women's Hospital."
- TMX Financial and the Greater Savannah Sports Council joined as sponsors for the 2011 men's \$50,000 Savannah Challenger Tennis Tournament held in May. In addition to the professional matches, the tournament featured a Kids' Day and a Ladies' Day as well as a pro-am in which 100 percent of the proceeds were donated to Special Pops Tennis, an adaptive tennis program for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.
- And the event in Jackson, Miss., began a new affiliation with Catholic Charities.



Petra Rampre works with kids during a 10 and Under Tennis event at the 2010 Rock Hill Rocks Open in Rock Hill, S.C.

USTA PRO CIRCUIT FAMILY UPDATE

HAUSTHOR COMPETES FOR SHOT AT 2011 US OPEN

Scott Hausthor, a coordinator in the USTA Pro Circuit national office in White Plains, N.Y., played in the 2011 US Open National Playoffs Eastern Sectional Qualifying Tournament, held at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, April 16-22.

Hausthor competed in the mixed doubles event with Catalina Brockland, an administrative assistant in the USTA's youth play department. The USTA duo won their opening match, 6-4, 6-1, before falling in the round of 16 to eventual semifinalists Hannah Camhi and Brad Shafran.

The US Open National Playoffs, the gateway to the US Open for anyone and everyone 14 and over, is in its second year. The winner of the men's and women's singles competitions earn a wild card into the 2011 US Open Qualifying Tournament, while the mixed doubles champions earn a wild card into the main draw of the 2011 US Open.



Scott Hausthor (right)

NEW MEMBERS NAMED TO USTA PRO CIRCUIT COMMITTEE

The USTA national committees turned over in 2011, with a number of new additions to the USTA Pro Circuit committee. John Embree takes over as vice chair from Robert Ingersole and new members include Eleanor Adams, Carlos Cruz-Aedo, Jeffrey J. Harrison, David J. Higdon and Wilson Pipkin.

Jack Waite remains the chair of the committee, with USTA Pro Circuit Director Brian Earley again serving as the staff committee member and USTA Pro Circuit Coordinator Scott Hausthor returning as the staff liaison. Ronald Romano is once again the section executive director liaison.



Stephen Hazlett

IN MEMORIAM

The USTA Pro Circuit regrets the passing of two of its great proponents, Stephen E. Hazlett and Darrell Beck.

Hazlett, who died on April 17, was the founder and tournament director of the Women's Hospital Classic, a \$10,000 event in Evansville, Ind., that began 12 years ago. In recent years Hazlett transferred responsibilities of running the event to the capable hands of his wife, Anna, while he pursued other business ventures. In addition to his role with the Evansville event, Hazlett was also president and a board member of the Evansville Community Tennis Center.

Beck, who passed away on April 22, and his wife, Ursula, were longtime sponsors of the Futures event in Decatur, Ill., and supporters of tennis in the Decatur community. Beck was the first to express interest in the USTA Pro Circuit event in Decatur and became its title sponsor in 1999. In fact, he named the tournament the USTA Ursula Beck Pro Tennis Classic in honor of his wife, who died in 2004, and made allowances to ensure that the event would remain financially supported after his death. Beck's generous contributions over the years helped to update the clubhouse and courts at the Fairview Park Tennis Complex. In 2008, the facility received a USTA Outstanding Tennis Facility Award.

The USTA Pro Circuit extends its sincere condolences to Anna, Stephen and Stephanie Hazlett, and honors the legacy left by Darrell and Ursula Beck on tennis in Decatur.

CROSSLAND, LOO HONORED BY USTA

The USTA national office officially recognized USTA Pro Circuit supervisors Keith Crossland and Mike Loo at the end of 2010 for their service to the USTA. Both Crossland and Loo were honored for having served the USTA for 20 years, a rare milestone.



Keith Crossland (left) with Gordon Smith

USTA PRO CIRCUIT PLAYER NEWS

LOOK WHO'S BACK

Two of the USTA Pro Circuit's success stories were back on the Circuit this spring, honing their games. James Blake entered a series of Challengers in the spring and early summer in his latest comeback attempt from injury, while Melanie Oudin prepped for her Fed Cup tie on clay against Germany by entering in the Pelham Racquet Club Women's 25K.

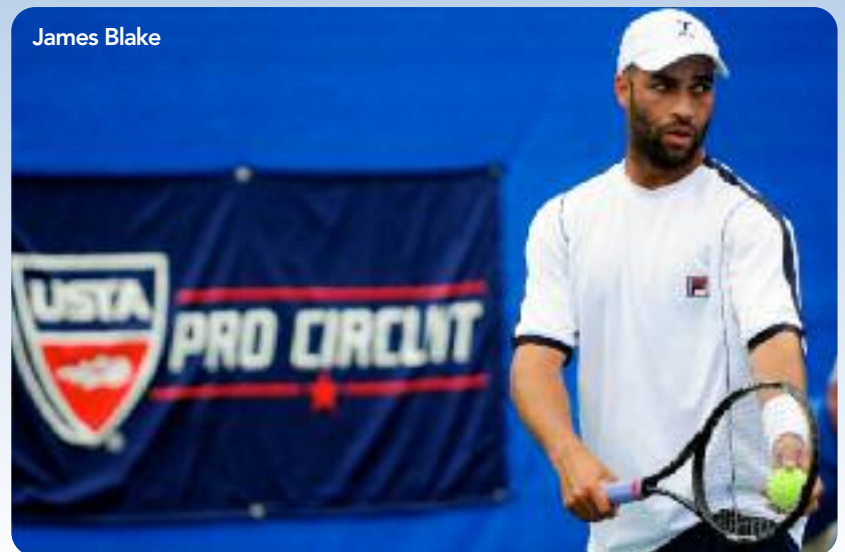
2011 marks Blake's third foray onto the USTA Pro Circuit. The 10-time USTA Pro Circuit singles champion—including the title at this year's \$75,000 Sarasota Challenger—won titles each year from 1999 to 2002 as he transitioned from college to the professional ranks, then returned to the Pro Circuit after injury and illness drove his ranking down in 2005. Blake won two events on the USTA Pro Circuit that year en route to a quarterfinal finish at the 2005 US Open and a career-best No. 4 ranking at the end of 2006.

"In our sport, you have to prove yourself every week to get that ranking back," Blake told the *Savannah Morning News*. "I love that about our sport. [The USTA Pro Circuit] gives you a sense of earning something. I don't want to take a million wild cards. I want to earn my way back there again."

Oudin won the \$50,000 USTA Pro Circuit event in Lexington, Ky., in 2008 and two \$50,000 Pro Circuit events (Indian Harbour Beach, Fla., and Raleigh, N.C.) in the spring of 2009 in the lead-up to her two breakthrough results—a fourth-round showing at Wimbledon that included an upset of Jelena Jankovic and a quarterfinal performance at the US Open that included wins over Elena Dementieva and Maria Sharapova. Oudin returned last year to compete in the \$10,000 doubles event held at her home club, Racquet Club of the South, located just miles from her hometown of Marietta, Ga., and she competed at the season-ending 2010 Goldwater Women's Tennis Classic in Phoenix, where she lost to Varvara Lepchenko in the final.



Melanie Oudin



James Blake

USTA PRO CIRCUIT VETERANS DITTY, DENT RETIRE



Taylor Dent

The USTA Pro Circuit's all-time title leader Julie Ditty and longtime supporter and standout Taylor Dent have both retired. Ditty leads all players, men and women, in total USTA Pro Circuit titles with 38 (nine singles, 29 doubles), including two doubles titles won earlier this year. In addition, she competed in doubles for the U.S. Fed Cup team, winning the deciding doubles match in the 2009 quarterfinal against Argentina, and peaked at No. 89 in singles in 2008 and No. 66 in doubles in 2009.

A four-time winner on the ATP World Tour and a member of the U.S. Davis Cup team, Dent got his professional start on the USTA Pro Circuit and then returned to launch his comeback on the Pro Circuit following a back injury that robbed more than two years from his career. Overall, Dent, who peaked at No. 21 in the world in 2005, won four singles titles on the USTA Pro Circuit in seven singles finals and added two doubles titles.



Julie Ditty

USTA PRO CIRCUIT PLAYER NEWS

USTA PRO CIRCUIT PROPELS YOUNG PLAYERS TOWARD TOP 100

A handful of young American hopefuls are bearing down on the world's Top 100 thanks to their results on the USTA Pro Circuit. Leading the way are Ryan Harrison and Christina McHale.

Harrison captured his first career professional singles title in January 2011, sweeping the singles and doubles titles at the Honolulu Challenger. He then went on to reach the quarterfinals at the Dallas Challenger and the round of 16 at the ATP Masters Series event in Indian Wells, improving to No. 126 in the world, and he entered Wimbledon as the youngest man in the Top 150.

McHale, meanwhile, became the youngest player in the Top 100 after reaching the quarterfinals at the Family Circle Cup in Charleston, S.C. Prior to that, she played in the \$100,000 Dow Corning Classic in Midland, Mich., and reached the quarterfinals of the Pelham Racquet Club Women's 25K.

Other USTA Pro Circuit stand-outs closing in on the Top 100 are Alex Bogomolov Jr., who won the 2010 season-ending JSM Challenger of Champaign; Donald Young, who knocked off two former Top 10 players in Rainer Schuettler and James Blake to win the Tallahassee Challenger; Midland runner-up Irina Falconi; Jamie Hampton, who reached eight singles finals on the USTA Pro Circuit in 2010 to raise her ranking from No. 726 to No. 136; and Coco Vandeweghe, a two-time USTA Pro Circuit champion in 2010 who broke into the Top 100 for the first time in March.



Christina
McHale



Ryan Harrison in Honolulu

McPHILLIPS WINS EASTER BOWL TITLE

One of the rising stars on the USTA Pro Circuit, Kyle McPhillips, broke through in the junior ranks in April, winning the girls' 18s title at the Easter Bowl. McPhillips had won the girls' 16s crown in 2010.

McPhillips reached the final at the Ladies Cleveland Open as a 15-year-old in 2009 and also reached the final at the Koser Jewelers Pro Circuit Tennis Challenge in Landisville, Pa., in 2010, losing to US Open National Playoffs champion Alexandra Mueller.



Kyle McPhillips (left) and
Alexandra Mueller



USTA PRO CIRCUIT PLAYER NEWS

USTA PRO CIRCUIT PLAYERS CLAIM GRAND SLAM WILD CARDS

Two of the USTA Pro Circuit's hottest players at the end of 2010 prevailed in the Australian Open wild card playoffs, with Ryan Harrison (singles finalist at Tiburon and doubles champion at Calabasas, both \$50,000 events in California in the fall) and Lauren Davis (champion in Williamsburg, Va., and Bayamon, P.R., in October 2010) earning the main draw wild cards into the 2011 Australian Open.

Two USTA Pro Circuit players also advanced in the playoffs for the French Open. Six-time USTA Pro Circuit finalist Tim Smyczek knocked off 2011 Tallahassee Challenger champion Donald Young in four sets on the men's side and four-time USTA Pro Circuit singles winner Irina Falconi, the runner-up at the \$100,000 2011 Dow Corning Classic, claimed the women's wild card with a three-set victory over Julia Boserup, also a frequent competitor on the Pro Circuit.



Lauren Davis



Tim Smyczek

STEPHENS FEATURED DURING 2011 FRENCH OPEN

2010 girls' doubles champion Sloane Stephens was featured on the French Open website on its "Getting to Know You" page during the 2011 French Open. Stephens, who won her first professional title on the USTA Pro Circuit in 2008 with Christina McHale (in Wichita, Kan.), was playing in her first Grand Slam singles main draw after advancing through the qualifying at Roland Garros.

Also making a splash in Paris was Varvara Lepchenko. The three-time champion and second-leading money winner on the 2010 USTA Pro Circuit upset former Top 10 player Flavia Pennetta to advance to the second round for a second straight year.



Sloane Stephens

USTA PRO CIRCUIT ALUM CLAIMS FRENCH OPEN TITLE

Long before she became Asia's first-ever Grand Slam tournament singles champion, Li Na honed her game on the USTA Pro Circuit. She won the \$25,000 event in Boca Raton, Fla., in 2000 and the \$75,000 Dow Corning Classic in Midland, Mich., in 2002. Moreover, she reached the final at the \$25,000 event in Rockford, Ill., in 2002, and the semifinals at the \$25,000 event in Hallandale, Fla., in 2000 and the \$50,000 GHI Classic in the Bronx, N.Y., in 2004.



Li Na

USTA PRO CIRCUIT PLAYER NEWS

SWEETING CLAIMS FIRST TITLE IN HOUSTON

USTA Pro Circuit regular Ryan Sweeting won his first ATP World Tour title in April at the U.S. Clay Court Championships in Houston. Sweeting received a wild card into the main draw and used to it good effect, upsetting Sam Querrey and Ivo Karlovic before knocking off Kei Nishikori, himself a four-time singles champion on 2010 USTA Pro Circuit, in the final. The win boosted Sweeting to a career-best No. 65 in the world, earning him direct entry into most ATP events.



Ryan Sweeting

TOP NCAA CONTENDERS MAKE WAVES ON 2010 USTA PRO CIRCUIT

Two of the standout men from the 2010-11 NCAA season jump-started their collegiate campaigns with strong results on the USTA Pro Circuit at the end of 2010.

The University of Virginia's Michael Shabaz, the 2009 and 2010 NCAA doubles champion and the 2011 singles semifinalist, qualified for the \$50,000 Virginia National Bank Men's Tennis Championships and advanced to the final—defeating Ryan Harrison, Kei Nishikori and Chris Guccione en route—before falling to veteran Robert Kendrick.

Also, 2010 ITA National Indoors champion and 2011 NCAA Tournament runner-up Rhyne Williams got his season off to a strong start by reaching the final of the \$10,000 Alleghany Orthopaedic Associates Men's Futures of Pittsburgh in July 2010 as a wild card.



Michael Shabaz

YANI MAKES ESPN'S TOP 10

USTA Pro Circuit regular Michael Yani was featured on ESPN Sportscenter's Top 10 plays for his spectacular shot at the Dallas Challenger in February. In a replay featured as part of Dallas' webcasting—and with the USTA Pro Circuit logo featured in the lower right-hand corner—Yani serves and dives for a backhand volley that he places for a drop shot winner.

