



ST. VINCENT AUXILIARY MEN'S PROFESSIONAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS * APRIL 4 – APRIL 12, 2009

Preview Notes as of March 26, 2009 (rankings updated as of March 23)

TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

Site: Pleasant Valley Country Club
Little Rock, Ark.

Surface: Hard / Outdoor

Web site: newoutlooktennis.com

Tournament Director: Breda Turner, (501) 552-3552, bturner@stvincenthealth.com

Tournament Press Contact: same as above

USTA Public Relations Contacts: Eric Schuster, (914) 696-7260, schuster@usta.com
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Singles Qualifying: Begins Saturday, April 4

Main Draw: Begins Monday, April 6 (32 Singles/16 Doubles)

Prize Money: \$15,000

NATHAN THOMPSON, JESSE WITTEN AND MICHAEL MCCLUNE LEAD AMERICAN CONTINGENT INTO HISTORIC LITTLE ROCK

American teenager Ty Trombetta featured in qualifying play

The **St. Vincent Auxiliary Men's Professional Tennis Tournament** in Little Rock, Ark., enters its 28th year on the USTA Pro Circuit, the longest running event for either men or women. It is the only men's event in Arkansas. St. Vincent has been title sponsor of the Little Rock event for a record 24 years. In 2007, **Donald Young** defeated **Kei Nishikori** in the singles final, while both teamed up to win the doubles title that same year. Other notable performances in Little Rock's history includes: **James Blake** capturing the '99 Little Rock doubles title; 1996 Wimbledon singles finalist **MaliVai Washington** advancing to the '88 Little Rock singles final; and 1993 French Open doubles champion **Luke Jensen** reaching the '85 Little Rock singles final. The USTA Pro Circuit is the largest developmental professional tennis circuit in the world, consisting of more than 90 events and more than \$3 million in prize money.

Among the players expected to compete are:

Nathan Thompson, 26, of Baltimore, enters Little Rock as the highest-ranked player at No. 355. Thompson is playing in his first USTA Pro Circuit event since June 2007 where he played at \$10,000 Rochester, N.Y., and \$10,000 Pittsburgh. The previous year, he reached the semifinals of \$15,000 Harlingen, Texas, losing to Jesse Witten, and advanced to the doubles semifinals of \$15,000 Brownsville, Texas, with American Calvin Kemp. Thompson has found much success overseas, winning his first Futures singles title in Thailand in 2007, defeating American Michael Venus, and then winning back-to-back titles in India in March 2008. Thompson has made seven circuit-level singles final appearances. The Clemson alum was a doubles All-American in 2003-04.

Jesse Witten, 26, of Naples, Fla., is ranked No. 393. He is off to an impressive start this season, winning a USTA Pro Circuit singles title at \$10,000 Plantation, Fla., in January, followed by another title at \$15,000 Harlingen, Tex., in February. In 2008, he reached the main draw of tour-level San Jose (through qualifying) before losing to fellow American Robby Ginepri. Witten won his fifth career USTA Pro Circuit singles title at \$50,000 Tulsa, Okla., in 2007, defeating Donald Young in the final. He finished his career at the University of Kentucky as the school's first five-time men's tennis All-American and one of only 11 four-time men's singles All-Americans in the history of college tennis. He reached the NCAA singles final as a freshman, losing to defending champion Matias Boeker.

Michael McClune, 19, of Irvine, Calif., is ranked No. 459. McClune had a breakout season in 2007, winning the USTA Boys' 18s to earn a wild card into the main draw of the US Open and also winning the first two singles titles of his career on the USTA Pro Circuit -- at \$15,000 Mansfield, Texas, and \$10,000 Claremont, Calif. McClune also won the doubles title at Claremont with partner Nikita Kryvonos. In 2008, he again won the title at \$15,000 Mansfield and reached the final of \$10,000 Costa Mesa, Calif., (while winning the doubles title), along with the quarterfinals at \$50,000 Carson, Calif. Last April, he served a practice partner for the U.S. Davis Cup team that defeated France. He also trained with Roger Federer in Dubai last spring.

Uladzimir Ignatik, 18, of Belarus, is ranked No. 478. Last month, Ignatik advanced to the final at \$15,000 Harlingen, Texas, in February, losing to Jesse Witten. In 2008, Ignatik's win at the \$10,000 Extreme Tennis Academy USTA Futures (Fla.) on hard courts was his first professional singles title, and he followed that up with a doubles title at \$10,000 Boca Raton, Fla. He also reached the singles semifinals of \$15,000 events at Kohala Coast, Hawaii, Hammond, La., and Harlingen, Texas. He finished 2007 as the No. 2 player in the ITF World Junior Rankings. That year, he won the boys' singles title at the French Open and advanced to the boys' singles final at Wimbledon (losing to Donald Young).

Todd Paul, 23, of Stamford, Conn., is ranked No. 521. Last November, he won the doubles title with partner Chris Wettengel at \$15,000 Kohala Coast, Hawaii. Paul had a solid first-half of the season in 2008, advancing to the quarterfinals at \$10,000 Wesley Chapel, Fla., the final at the \$10,000 Extreme Tennis Academy USTA Futures, and the quarterfinals of the Yuba City, Calif., Challenger. He played four years at Wake Forest University and was named the ITA Senior Player of the Year for the Mideast Region in 2007. Ranked No. 1 during the collegiate season, Paul ended the year at No. 14 and, in the process, became the first Wake Forest player ever named All-ACC four straight years. He also represented the U.S. at the 2007 Pan American Games.

2008 Little Rock singles runner-up, **Matthew Roberts**, 26, is ranked No. 539. Roberts, who finished 2007 ranked No. 1,023 in the world, rose to a career-high ranking of No. 517 two months after winning his first Futures singles title in Mexico in October 2008. This year, Roberts won the doubles title in Chiapas, Mex., with Claudio Grassi. In 2007, he reached the quarterfinals at a Futures event in Guatemala as a qualifier, and also the semifinals at an event in Costa Rica. Prior to turning professional, Roberts played four years of collegiate tennis at the University of Arkansas.

Featured players expected to compete in the qualifying draw include:

Adam El Mihdawy, 19, of Long Island City, N.Y., is ranked No. 806. He advanced to the semifinals of \$10,000 Orange Park, Fla., last May before falling to eventual champion Greg Jones of Australia. In early 2008, he advanced to the quarterfinals of \$10,000 Boca Raton, Fla., after winning four matches in qualifying. He also reached the quarterfinals at \$15,000 Little Rock, Ark., and \$10,000 Tampa, Fla., that year. He was a quarterfinalist at the 2007 USTA International Spring Championships.

Ty Trombetta, 18, of Hallandale, Fla., is ranked No. 1174. Trombetta spent the vast majority of his time on the USTA Pro Circuit last year, but has yet to repeat the impact he made at the end of 2007. He finished that year by reaching the quarterfinals at \$15,000 Waikoloa, Hawaii, and the semifinals at \$15,000 Honolulu, Hawaii, both in November. Trombetta competed in a few junior circuit events in 2008, and reached the round of 16 in the boys' singles draws of both the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

Little Rock Past Champions (continued on next page)

Year	Singles Winner	Singles Runner-up	Doubles Champions
2008	Artem Sitak	Matthew Roberts	Haydn Lewis – Bjorn Munroe
2007	Donald Young	Kei Nishikori	Kei Nishikori – Donald Young
2006	Wayne Odesnik	Scott Oudsema	Michael Quintero – Wesley Whitehouse
2005	Zbynek Mlynarik	Fritz Wolmarans	Tres Davis – Scott Lipsky
2004	Emin Ageav	Rajeev Ram	Rajeev Ram – Ryan Sachire
2003	Ignacio Hirigoyen	Brian Baker	Jay Gooding – Jordan Kerr

2002	Florian Jeschonek	Alun Jones	Huntley Montgomery – Ryan Sachire
2001	Fredrik Jonsson	Martin Verkerk	Jeff Coetzee – Shuan Rudman
2000	Marcus Sarstrand	Damien Furmanski	Grant Doyle – Frederic Niemeyer
1999	Jimmy Szymanski	Jason Weir-Smith	James Blake – Thomas Schroerlucke
1998	Oren Motevassel	Louis Vosloo	Luke Bourgeois – Michael Hill
1997	Eyal Erlich	Noam Behr	Brian Eagle – Mark Quinney
1996	Doug Flach	Marcus Hilpert	Peter Kuhn – Paul Rosner
1995	Jamie Holmes	Chris Woodruff	Bill Barber – David DiLucia
1994	Neville Godwin	Donny Isaak	Keith Evans – Brian Gyetko
1992	Andrew Sznajder	D.J. Bosse	Johan DeBeer – John Sullivan
1991	Clinton Marsh	Grant Stafford	Mike Briggs – Trevor Kronemann
1990	Tommy Ho	Scott Melville	Jeff Brown – Scott Melville
1989	John Carras	Pat Galbraith	Eric Amend – Pat Galbraith
1988	Scott Melville	MaliVai Washington	Clinton Banducci – Earl Zinn
1987	Shelby Cannon	Scott Patridge	Joey Blake – Darren Yates
1986	Ricardo Acioly	Joey Blake	Ricardo Acioly – Richard Matuszewski
1985	Brett Dickinson	Luke Jensen	Nelson Aerts – Rick Rudeen
1984	James Grabb	Dan Cassidy	Dan Cassidy – Morris Strode
1983	Matt Anger	Kevin Kerns	Robert Seguso – Ken Flach
1982	Ken Flach	Jimmy Arias	Erik Van't Hof – Robert Van't Hof
1981	Chris Delaney	Mike Brunnberg	Mike Bauer – John Benson

Tournament Points and Prize Money for \$15,000 Level

	Winner	Runner-Up	Semifinalist	Quarterfinalist	Round 16	Round 32
Singles Prize Money	\$1,950	\$1,350	\$720	\$435	\$300	\$176.25
Singles ATP Ranking Points	25	14	7	3	1	--
Doubles Prize Money (total)	\$945	\$495	\$390	\$270	--	--

The USTA Pro Circuit

With more than 90 tournaments 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. Last year, more than 1,000 men and women from more than 70 countries competed on the USTA Pro Circuit for approximately \$3.2 million in prize money and valuable ATP and WTA Tour ranking points. **Maria Sharapova, Andy Roddick, James Blake, Andy Murray, Jelena Jankovic, David Nalbandian** and **Jo-Wilfried Tsonga** are among today's top stars that began their careers on the USTA Pro Circuit. The USTA Pro Circuit is world-class tennis administered on the local level and played on local tennis courts as part of the fabric of communities nationwide -- an opportunity for current and new fans to experience the excitement and intensity of the professional game in their neighborhood.