

TOURNAMENT NOTES

as of October 25, 2017

PLAYER'S CHOICE OPEN

BIRMINGHAM, AL • OCT. 27-NOV. 5



TOURNAMENT INFO

Site: Highland Park Tennis Center – Birmingham, Ala.

Websites: www.academytennis.com www.procircuit.usta.com

Facebook: Highland Park Tennis

Twitter: @HighlandTennis

Qualifying Draw Begins: Friday, Oct. 27

Main Draw Begins: Tuesday, Oct. 31
Main Draw: 32 Singles / 16 Doubles

Surface: Clay / Outdoor
Prize Money: \$15,000

Tournament Director:

Jack Standifer, (205) 835-8657 jstennis@charter.net

Tournament Press Contact:

Jenny Walls Robb, (205) 902-1188 jennywrobb@mac.com

USTA Communications Contact:

Amanda Korba, (914) 697-2219, korba@usta.com

PRIZE MONEY / POINTS

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SINGLES:	Prize Money	Ranking Points
Winner	\$2,160	18
Runner-up	\$1,272	10
Semifinalist	\$753	6
Quarterfinalist	\$438	2
Round of 16	\$258	1
Round of 32	\$156	-
DOUBLES:	Prize Money (per team)	
Winner	\$930	
Runner-up	\$540	
Semifinalist	\$324	
Quarterfinalist	\$192	
Round of 16	\$108	

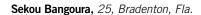
USTA PRO CIRCUIT MEN'S TENNIS RETURNS TO BIRMINGHAM

The Player's Choice Open returns to Birmingham for the ninth consecutive year. It is the first of three consecutive \$15,000 clay-court Futures tournaments to close out the 2017 USTA Pro Circuit season, preceding events in Niceville, Fla., and Pensacola, Fla.

Notable players competing in Birmingham include:



- Captured his first career ITF Pro Circuit singles title this summer in Canada.
- Was ranked as high as No. 2 in the ITF World Junior Rankings.
- Reached the Wimbledon junior semifinals in 2016.
- Was born in Puerto Rico and has lived in Seattle, China, Thailand, Argentina and India.



- Top seed in Birmingham.
- 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. Also competed in US Open qualifying and Australian Open qualifying in 2017.
- Reached two ITF Pro Circuit doubles finals, in Italy and Colombia, this year.
- 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.





Ulises Blanch, 19, was ranked as high as No. 2 in the ITF World Junior Rankings and reached the Wimbledon junior semifinals in 2016.

Wil Spencer, 28, 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 his 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
- Reached the semifinals of the USTA Pro Circuit Collegiate Series event in Winston-Salem, N.C., in June.

Alexios Halebian, 23

- Five-time doubles champion on the USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Pro Circuit, most recently winning the doubles title at an event in Canada this year.
- Former top junior who reached the singles quarterfinals at the 2011 junior US Open and climbed as high as No. 24 in the ITF World Junior Rankings.

Sekou Bangoura, the top seed in Birmingham, holds four USTA Pro Circuit singles titles and 14 doubles titles. He was a doubles All-American at the University of Florida.

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• Also reached the singles final and won the doubles title at the 2012 Easter Bowl, a prestigious junior event.

Raleigh Smith, 25, Miami

- Graduated in 2014 from Northwestern.
- Was selected First Team All-Big Ten his junior and senior years.
- Graduated with 130 singles and doubles wins.
- Holds five ITF Pro Circuit doubles titles, including two this year in Morocco and three in 2015 in Turkey, Israel and the Dominican Republic.

Nick Chappell, 25, Indianapolis

• Graduated from TCU in 2015, earning All-Big 12 honors throughout his collegiate career.

- Graduated with more than 150 combined singles and doubles wins.
- Played most of 2016 overseas in ITF Pro Circuit events in Israel, winning his first doubles title in March and reaching two singles finals. Also competed in Egypt and Italy.
- This year, won his second career ITF Pro Circuit doubles title, in Poland.

Harrison Adams, 23, New Braunfels, Texas

- Graduated in 2016 from Texas A&M, where he earned All-SEC honors
- Holds three USTA Pro Circuit and ITF Pro Circuit doubles titles, including two titles this year at the \$25,000 USTA Pro Circuit Futures in Champaign, III., as well as one title in Canada.

*Player field subject to change

BIRMINGHAM PAST WINNERS					
Singles			Doubles		
Year	Winner	Runner-Up	Year	Winner	
2016	Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN)	Juan Manuel Benitez Chavarriaga (COL)	2016	Hunter Johnson (USA) — Yates Johnson (USA)	
2015	Evan King (USA)	Bastian Trinker (AUT)	2015	Wil Spencer (USA) — Cameron Silverman (USA)	
2014	Julio Peralta (CHI)	Jean-Yves Aubone (USA)	2014	Julio Peralta (CHI) — Matt Seeberger (USA)	
2013	Romain Arneodo (FRA)	Hans Podlipnik-Castillo (CHI)	2013	Romain Arneodo (FRA) — Benjamin Balleret (MON)	
2012	Kyle Edmund (GBR)	Chase Buchanan (USA)	2012	Bjorn Fratangelo (USA) — Mitchell Krueger (USA)	
2011	Jason Kubler (AUS)	Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN)	2011	Andrei Daescu (ROU) — Milan Pokrajac (CAN)	
2010	Philip Bester (CAN)	James Lemke (AUS)	2010	Philip Bester (CAN) — Kamil Pajkowski (CAN)	
2009	James Lemke (AUS)	Conor Niland (IRL)	2009	Tigran Martirosyan (ARM) — Artem Sitak (RUS)	