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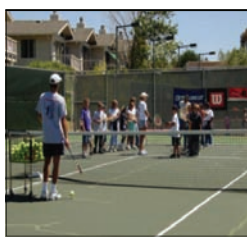
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Players to Watch

By Hannah Stone

The Pro Circuit provides an arena like no other in the tennis world. For hopeful, hardworking players the circuit is an opportunity to break through and make a name for oneself. Whereas, the other half of the entry list identifies seasoned professionals that strive to continue to earn points and most importantly, play the game they love. As a fan, a sponsor or a member of the community it is a thrilling experience to witness world-class tennis on a local level. We invite you to let in the emotions, the talent and the buzzing atmosphere. However, don't get too caught up and forget to keep tabs on some standout contenders.

Of course, defending champion Bradley Klahn and the 2013 final four including Daniel Evans, Evgendy Donskoy and Farrukh Dustov are back and hungry for a title. Nevertheless, there may be a dark horse among three very spirited and determined players. Marcos Baghdatis, Mikhail Kukushkin and Luke Saville are coming to Seascap with some agendas of their own.

Marcos Baghdatis

In the last decade, Marcos Baghdatis has showcased his competitive spirit

around the world, classifying him as one of the most compelling players on the ATP Tour. The Cyprus native boasts a career high ranking of No. 8, four career singles titles and standout wins in 2010 over No. 1 players Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Baghdatis is known for his run to the finals of the 2006 Australian Open where he fell to Federer in four sets. Over the years, Baghdatis has defeated notable Top 10 players including David Nalbandian, Andy



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Roddick, Ivan Ljubicic, Lleyton Hewitt, Juan Monaco and Andy Murray.

Among these achievements, Baghdatis received the honor of being named the Cyprus Male Athlete of the Year back in 2006. He also represented his country in the London 2012 Olympic games.

Baghdatis' career focus has always been to both give and take pleasure from the game. At the beginning of 2014, he spent three months away from the tour recovering from injuries and spending time with his family. Upon return, Baghdatis feels fresh and is happy to be competing again.

Mikhail Kukushkin

Mikhail Kukushkin, comes to Aptos this year currently ranked No. 48 in the world. He is the second man from Kazakhstan to ever win an ATP title and is now exclusively known as the top player from Kazakhstan.



Mikhail Kukushkin

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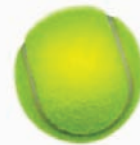


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He secured his first ATP singles title at St. Petersburg in 2010. After an excellent year in 2012 Kukushkin suffered from a hip injury, undergoing two surgeries. Kukushkin returned to the tour ranked at No. 430 and proved his resilience by reaching the third round of the 2013 US Open. This past year Kukushkin is competing stronger than ever, winning two Challenger tournaments in Turkey and defeating No. 22 ranked, Andreas Seppi in the Kremlin Cup in Moscow. Most recently in 2014, he reached the 3rd round of Wimbledon, taking a set off No. 1 ranked, Rafael Nadal.

Kukushkin's strength is his imposing baseline game, complimented by his flat hitting style. Kukushkin has been coached by his wife, Anastasia Ulikhina since 2011, making him one of the few male players to have a female coach.



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John-Patrick Smith

For the last three years, 25-year-old Aussie, John-Patrick Smith, has been a staple in the challenger circuit after his record breaking career at the University of Tennessee. Aside from dominating the ITA rankings during all four years as a Vol and winning multiple ITA All-American titles, Smith was voted SEC Athlete of the Year by the conference athletic directors in 2011.

Currently, Smith is ranked at an all time high, No. 172, and made it to the second round of the Australian

Open this year where he lost to fellow 2014 Comerica Challenger competitor, Denis Kudla. Soon after, Smith lost in the finals of the Taipei Challenger and qualified for Wimbledon where he lost first round to 2013 Comerica Challenger semifinalist, Farrukh Dustov.

Smith is left-handed, his favorite shot is his serve and his preferred surface is a fast hard court. His idol growing up was former No. 1 player, Ivan Lendl. ■



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS AUGUST 1-10, 2014



Nordic Naturals Day

Nordic Naturals Wildcard Championship "Shootout"

Friday

5:00 pm

Opening Day of Qualifying

Comerica Bank Challenger Qualifying Matches

Saturday

9:00 am

Pro Am Day

Comerica Bank Challenger Qualifying Matches

Pro-Am Tennis Tournament

Comerica Bank Challenger Qualifying Matches

Pro-Am Dinner: *Seascope Foods / Bargetto Winery*

Sunday

9:00 am

1:30 pm

5:00 pm

5:00 pm

USTA Member Day and "Free Kids Day"

1st Round Matches

Invitation Only Party at Seascope Beach Resort

Monday

10:00 am

5:30 pm

USTA NorCal Adult League & Flex League Day

1st Round Matches

Special Sponsor Clinic

Hospitality: *The Fish House*

Tuesday

10:00 am

4:00 pm

5:00 pm

Har-Tru Clay Court Day

2nd Round Matches

Hospitality: *Hong Kong Gardens / Armitage Winery*

Wednesday

11:00 am

5:00 pm

Comerica Bank Day

2nd Round Matches

Hospitality: *The Haute Enchilada / Pelican Ranch Winery*

Thursday

11:00 am

5:00 pm

Aptos Chamber Day

Quarter Final Matches

Hospitality: *Seascope Foods / Bargetto Winery*

"Hula for History" Fund Raiser/Wine Tasting Event

Friday

11:00 am

5:00 pm

5:30 pm

Semi Finals Day

Semi-Final Matches

Hospitality: *Sid's BBQ / Copious Winery*

Saturday

11:00 am

12:30 pm

Finals Day

Wheelchair Tennis Clinic

Men's Finals Begin

Hospitality: *Sid's BBQ / Pat Paulsen Winery*

Monday through Friday "Feature Match"

Sunday

10:30 am

1:00 pm

1:30 pm

5:30 pm



Nordic Naturals Wildcard Championships



Seascape tennis pro, **Brad Weston**, was upset by junior phenom, **Victor Pham**, from San Jose. Pham, rated a blue chip by Tennis Recruiting, won the finals of the \$2,000 Nordic Naturals Wildcard Championship on July 4 this year.

Pham is ranked No. 66 in the nation in boy's 16 singles. He is also the No. 1 player at Menlo High School and played a flawless match against Weston to win a shot at the qualifying for the Comerica Bank Challenger Tennis Championships. ■



Tennis Pro, **Brad Weston**, was upset by junior phenom, **Victor Pham**, from San Jose

USTA "Kids Day"

Thanks to all the ATP Pros; Brian Cory, Seascape Sports Club Tennis Director; Kristen Ferlito, Outreach Chair; Adam Mash, TSR; the United States Tennis Association, USTA NorCal, Martinelli's Gold Medal, Granite Construction Company and Maxim Integrated for their continued support for Kid's Day.

Hundreds of young children from YMCA groups and local schools have received free tennis lessons over the many years. We look forward to more children enjoying the tennis in 2014! ■



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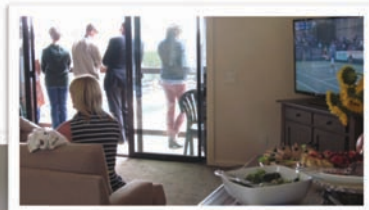
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Final Four Back For More

By Logan Finnell, Photo by Joyce Tarter Rideout

Seascape is the place to be: Klahn, Evans, Donskoy and Dustov, 2013's four semifinalists are back for this year's Comerica Bank Challenger

It was roughly a year ago that defending champ, **Bradley Klahn** was still dipping his feet into pro circuit waters. The 2012 Stanford Grad had nearly played one year professionally going into Aptos. The Comerica Bank Challenger was just another opportunity for Klahn to make his breakthrough; to clinch a title that can perhaps take him on the path of success; oh and possibly earn him a wildcard into the 2013 U.S. Open.

The other three top performers in last year's Challenger were at somewhat different places in their careers. **Daniel Evans, Evgeny Donskoy and Farrukh Dustov** all had five-plus years of experience on the pro-circuit which understandably could have put them at a slight advantage over the newbie, Klahn. Those fierce three were competing in hopes to snag some more wins, maybe a championship and continue to climb up that brutal ladder that is the ATP rankings.

Prior to the Comerica Bank Challenger, the three time All-American from Stanford, **Klahn** (a Poway, CA native), had just come off a hot summer advancing to the finals in two challengers

and a semifinal in another, but not yet sealed a title. With a little home-court advantage, the 22-year-old at the time sailed through the competition with his hefty lefty spin. Poised in his play, Klahn survived a match point against the crafty Daniel Evans in the final battle and eventually reigned victorious for his first ever Challenger Title.


The Stanford alum continued to jump in the rankings and finished last year's season breaking the top 100. 2014 has also been good to Klahn. In March, he reached his career-high ranking of No. 63 in the world. Just like how Klahn's game is on the rise, so is his favorite



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football team, the Stanford Cardinal, whom he likes to cheer on when he's not on the court.

We can't forget about the feisty Brit, **Daniel Evans** who really knew how to liven up a crowd. The tatted-up 24-year-old with a sharp tongue often dealt with his frustrations by using comical antics on the court. Not to mention, he's got quite a scrappy game to boot.

Evans gave Klahn a real run for his money in the finals last year in which he surrendered a match point that would eventually cost him the championship. However, finishing runner-up did earn him the No. 2 ranking in Great Britain behind Andy Murray, (the 2005 Comerica Bank Challenger Champ). Shortly following his Aptos week, the charismatic Evans found himself cruising through all three qualifying rounds and scored two more wins in the main draw of the 2013 U.S. Open. One of which was a career highlight victory over the No. 11 seed, Kei Nishikori.



ACTION NEWS 8

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Earlier this year a controversy over Evans' position on the U.K. Davis Cup Team caused some friction with teammate, James Ward and coach, Leon Smith. The strained relationship with Evans' coach prompted Evans to dismiss himself from the competition altogether.

Farrukh Dustov, hailing from Uzbekistan competed as a qualifier last year at Seascapes. Just before his defeat against Evans in the semifinals, Dustov made a remarkable comeback down 1-5 in the third set against young American, Ryan Harrison to win the match 7-5. Since his run at Aptos, Dustov has made impressive moves in his game and the rankings. With his tough and all-business demeanor, the 6'4" giant, who is a big nature guy and

enjoys outdoor activities, did his country proud and won a challenger in his home nation earlier this year.

The Comerica Bank Challenger also welcomes the return of even-keeled Russian, **Evgeny Donskoy**.

PLAYER	AGE	2013 RANK *	WINS/LOSSES	2014 RANK *
BRADLEY KLAHN	23	161	39-20	92
DANIEL EVANS	24	194	24-20	146
FARRUKH DUSTOV	28	173	37-24	144
EVGENY DONSKOY	24	65	37-30	111

*Week of Challenger

Continued on page 15



The vineyard, sustainably farmed by Bret and Carol Sisney, is located in Santa Lucia Highlands, a premier region known for quality Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

Chardonnay Aromas of apple, melon, and citrus balance well with a satisfying butterscotch and vanilla finish.

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Live Streaming for USTA Pro Circuit Men's Challengers Makes Transition

Article Reprinted with permission from Around the Circuit, July 2014

The rights to provide Live Streaming for USTA Pro Circuit Men's Challenger events was retained by the ATP World Tour in 2014. However, the ATP then sold the rights to IMG, the world's largest independent producer and distributor of sports programming. IMG Media, which features an extensive catalogue of programs spanning more than 100 sports as well as scripted and unscripted entertainment shows, purchased the right to stream live coverage of main draw matches on primary and secondary courts at USTA Pro Circuit Men's Challengers. All Live Streaming programming and production at USTA Pro Circuit Men's Challengers will remain the same throughout 2014. Several new features have been

introduced this year to enhance the Live Streaming viewing experience for tennis fans. • Viewers now have the ability to watch Live Streaming of two courts at the same time. • Fans will also be able to watch a split screen of one match. • Point replays are now available during Live Streaming as viewers can access a DVR function to rewind and replay during the stream. • Archived matches can easily be accessed by clicking on a link at the bottom of the live stream page. Live Streaming of USTA Pro Circuit Men's Challengers can be accessed at www.procircuit.usta.com. The Live Scoring feature for USTA Pro Circuit Men's Challenger events will continue to be provided by the ATP and International Tennis Federation (ITF). ■

Web Streaming at USTA Men's Pro Circuit Challengers

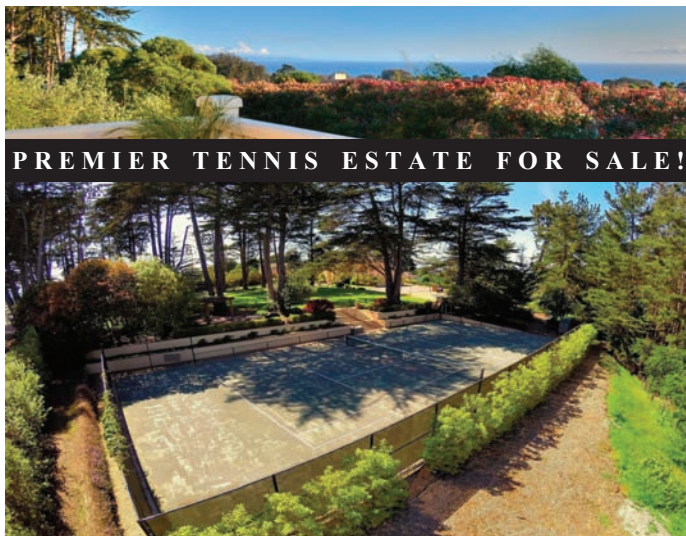


Final Four: *continued from page 13*

Ranked No. 65 in the world and seeded No. 2 in last year's Comerica Bank Challenger, the then 23-year-old Donskoy oddly faced all lefty competitors well into his fourth and final match when he lost to southpaw Bradley Klahn in the other semifinal face-off.

A couple months before Donskoy's run at Aptos, he pulled a big upset against the popular American and former Seascapes contender, John Isner in the Netherlands. Donskoy's reserved persona lets his racquet do the talking and it has certainly paid off with a little help from his mentor for the past couple years, former two-time Grand Slam champion, Marat Safin. Following Seascapes, Donskoy, like Evans, advanced to the third round of the U.S. Open. Most recently, the Russian lost to Aussie, Bernard Tomic in the first round of Wimbledon this past June.

Continued on page 17



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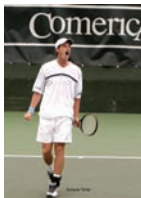
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Comerica Bank Stars on the Rise

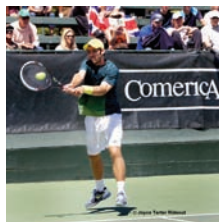


Comerica Bank Challenger 2005 Champion, Andy Murray, way just recently honored by being celebrated on Great Britain stamps. On July 7, Andy became the first British Male Titlist at Wimbledon since Fred Perry in 1936 with a 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 win over top seed and # 1 in the World, Novak Djokovic.

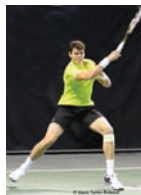


Comerica Bank Challenger 2013 finalist, Daniel Evans (in the black shirt next to Andy Murray) was part of the winning British Team that had a 4-1 victory over Croatia. Britain has not been part of the World Group since 2008 and are scheduled to play the US Team in 2014. Dan Evans won one of his singles matches which solidified the win against Croatia. He also reached the third round at the U.S. Open in singles with shocking wins over Kei Nishikori and Bernard Tomic.

In August Milos Raonic reached his career high of # 10 in the World. He did this by reaching his first ATP World Tour Masters 1000 finals in Montreal before falling to # 1, Rafael Nadal. Currently No. 11 and only 22 years, he is also the first Canadian man in the Open Era to reach the 4th round of a Grand Slam.



Bradley Klahn, age 22, clinched the men's version of the US Open Wildcard Playoff by winning the Comerica Bank Challenger in Aptos. In August Klahn reached a career high of #123. He reached the second round at the US Open before losing to Feliciano Lopez (#23) in four close sets.



Comerica Bank Challenger Reviewed In 2013 Inside Tennis Yearbook

\$100,000 COMERICA BANK CHALLENGER

Steve Johnson

Comerica Today, The World Tomorrow

BY JORDAN FRONDEL

The victory of USC's two-time NCAA champion, Steve Johnson, at last summer's Seascapes Comerica Bank Challenger has provided a nice launching point for his bright future on the pro circuit. After capturing the NCAA singles title in his final season at the No. 1-ranked school in the country, Johnson earned a wildcard into the main draw of the "12 U.S. Open." There, he advanced to the third round before falling to No. 10, Richard Gasquet. Johnson reflects on his college years with the utmost appreciation for the incredible experience, the lifelong friendships made and the great coaches that surrounded him. He believes college tennis has served as a stepping stone for his pro career and says, "It's the reason why I'm here." More than even U.S. college recruits are foreign born. In fact, 34% of

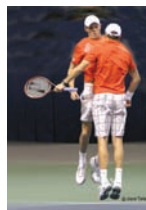
male tennis players on Top 10 college teams are international. "It's tough to recruit Americans," Johnson claims. "We're spoiled." A lot of foreign players are recruited to play in what Americans consider less desirable locations because Americans prefer to play in hot spots like California, Texas or Florida. Many of international players tell their friends back home that they can earn a great college education and play high quality tennis if they come to the states. So the numbers keep increasing. There are benefits towards international recruiting which create more competition and Johnson believes "more people are pushed to get better."

Most college players would agree that the transition from college tennis to the pro tour is not easy. Johnson admits that it was really tough at first and took a while to get used to. "Everyone is so mentally strong and prepared." Johnson is now training with the US-ITA at the Home Depot Center in Carson with other wannabes such as Stanford's Bradley Klahn and Denis Koldia. Johnson works with Dustin Taylor and others. "I



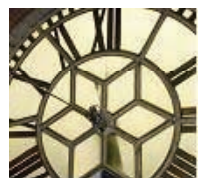
Steve Johnson

have been to Spain, Turkey and France so far, it was definitely difficult to get used to all the traveling, but I'm loving it." What's next for Steve Johnson? "I hope in the next year or so [to] crack the top 100." This talented Southern California native is well on his way to accomplishing these goals and more. Perhaps Johnson can help to regain hope for the future of American tennis players.



On August 2013, Bob and Mike Bryan, became the first team in tennis history to hold all four majors and the Olympic gold medal at the same time with their third title at Wimbledon. And, they clinched the year-end No. 1 Emirates ATP Doubles Team Ranking for a record ninth time and for the fifth consecutive season. Never before in history has a team clinched year-end ranking this early in the season.

Alumni, John Isner, reached a career high of # 9 in 2012. In 2013 he captured his first Clay Court Title and his 6th ATP World Tour trophy overall at Houston which moved him back up to No. 13. At that Event he fired a record 64 aces surpassing the previous record of 60 set by Pete Sampras.



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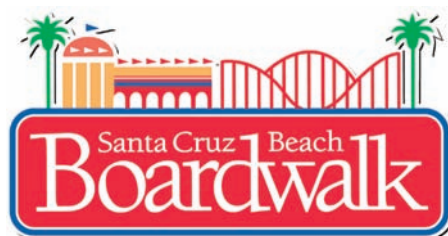
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Currently ranked No. 92 in the world, Klahn stands tall as the second seed for this year's event behind No. 48, Mikhail Kukushkin. With his humbled confidence, Klahn has a shot at becoming the third person in Seascap history—behind Jeff Salzenstein ('01,'03) and Kevin Kim ('04, '08)-- to have two Comerica Bank Challenger titles in his back pocket.

Flashback two years ago when it was USC alum Steve Johnson's year of victory. The 22-year old at the time also had an opportunity to claim victory No. 2 in 2013. However to Johnson's misfortune, he was eliminated in the first round. Can the clutch Klahn continue his reign here at Aptos? Or will Evans, Donskoy or Dustov execute their game plans and rise to the top this time around? Will any of them be able to resist the challenge from players like former No. 8, Marcos Baghdatis and Russian No. 48, Mikhail Kukushkin? All the more reason to attend this year's Comerica Bank Challenger and find out which one of these accomplished athletes will walk away with the coveted prize. ■



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Marilyn Rusk Volunteer of the Year Award

Leon Chaikin has been the Parking Chairperson for at least five years. He ran it so well that we were unaware if there were any problems. It's a tough job and while doing it you don't even get to take a peek at the tennis matches until you get that coveted break.

And, Leon did it with a smile on his face.

Although Leon has retired from his Chairmanship, he said it had been his pleasure to serve as the "Czar of the Parking Lot" for the past several years. But he added "I look forward to

continue watching the tournament as a 'civilian' for many more years. The Tournament really appreciates all that he did to make the Event better. Thanks so much, Leon. ■



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Free Wheelchair Tennis Clinic 2013

Last year's wheelchair tennis event was attended by 2 players, both of whom were introduced to the sport in the previous year's free clinic. Foster Anderson, the founder and president of Shared Adventures, a local non-profit organization that provides activities and events for people with disabilities, raved about the personal attention and instruction he received. Shakti Bell, a local yoga instructor, worked at developing her skills and speed on the court. ■



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Tournament Staff

Director:	Judy Welsh	USTA Supervisor:	Mike Loo
Managers:	Hannah Stone Haley Kepler	Trainer:	Adam Tyson
Players:	Brian Cory	Doctor:	Barbara MacFarlane
Media:	Logan Finnell	Photography:	Joyce Tarter Rideout
Chief Umpire:	Gabe Pace	NorCal TSR:	Adam Mash
		Stringer:	Star Stringing

Volunteer Committee Chairpersons

Central Desk:	Brooke Cohan	Charities:	Mary Russell Keith Rushing
Ballpersons:	Linda Hitchcock	Player Housing:	Mike Merion
Parking:	Doug Doering	Umpire Housing:	Tanya Shannon
Outreach:	Kristen Ferlito	Tickets:	Anita Ridpath
Pro-Am:	Dawn Iuliano	Announcers:	Chris Caputo Martin Sweet
Hospitality:	Josie Cowden Karen Primavera Allyson Weston		



Dawn Iuliano serving Ice Tea & Wine to Shandor Kovacs, Sponsor & Pro Am Player.

Jordan Kepler offered his time doing special photography and shared his DWIGHT R. tennis statue with the Challenger.



Over 250 Volunteers help The Comerica Bank Challenger



Allyson and Brad Weston made the Challenger a family affair.



Sponsor banners are hung on three separate courts



Leon Chaikin celebrates his Volunteer of the Year Award with friends and family.



Norbert Benecke accepts Leon's Award with a surprise "Song" since Leon could not make the Final's Presentation.



Tournament Ticket Sales & Tournament Desk require 50 volunteers daily.



Wheelchair Tennis Clinic and Exhibition



Linda Hitchcock did an incredible job organizing the ballpersons' training.



Comerica Bank personal volunteer daily.

Josie Cowden, Hospitality Chairperson, has some fun with Sponsor, Jill Andrews and Party Coordinator, Anna Lutz.

