

**** For Immediate Release ****

2010 USTA Comerica Bank Challenger

By Peter Kepler

Friday, June 25, 2010

At Seascapes Sports Club, Aptos, CA

Purse: \$75,000

Surface: Hard-Outdoor

International Challenger Event Comes to Seascapes Once Again—Entry List Announced

APTOS, CA – The two-dozen international flags perched high above Seascapes Sports Club are a year-round reminder of the stellar international tennis that explodes here on center court every summer. This year's 75K Comerica Bank Challenger professional tennis tournament runs from July 12 – July 18, offering day-long fun for families, tennis fans, and anyone who admires world-class athletes in action.

The Comerica Bank Challenger tournament at Seascapes is the longest running men's tennis challenger event in the United States, now heading into its 24th year. It is also one of the biggest challenger purses in the country, and is a place where world-class international players come to play, and play hard.

Last year, France's Arnaud Clement and Belgium's Xavier Malisse came to Aptos and fell in the first and second rounds, respectively. This year, Clement faced Federer and Malisse will play against Murray in the third round at Wimbledon. And Serbian player Ilija Bozoljac will come to the Challenger this year after laying down 102 winners against Federer in the second round at Wimbledon, 31 of them aces.

In 2007, John Isner lost in the first round of the Comerica Bank Challenger to Wildcard Brendan Evans. This week, he became tennis legend, by playing the longest match in history against Nicolas Mahut at Wimbledon—an incredible two-day epic that made Isner's ultimate win almost an anti-climax.

This year's highest-ranking player and #1 seed is 2005 Comerica Finalist Rajeev Ram (USA), currently ranked #93 in the world. Somdev Devvarman (IND) will be seeded #2, with a ranking of #103, followed by Brian Dabul (ARG) at the #3 seed.

Donald Young (USA), who took the Comerica title in 2007, is returning this year at the #4 seed, followed by Carsten Ball (AUS) at #5. Kevin Kim (USA), the #6 seed, is a two-time Comerica Champion, with a 2008 and a 2004 title; he was also a Finalist in 2000.

The 7th seed is Ilija Bozoljac (SRB); 8th is Michael Yani (USA), with a ranking of 166. Yani is closely followed by 2006 Comerica Champion Alex Kuznetsov (USA), who currently holds #167 in the ranks and is 9th seed in this year's Aptos Challenger.

For those of you who haven't made your way to Seascape in July over the last two decades, the great seating at Seascape Sports Club's Center Court makes watching these guys an up-close and personal experience, while the Club's family-owned, friendly atmosphere makes it a pleasant day for everyone.

The Aptos event has also raised over \$500,000 to local charities since its inception. Over the history of the tournament, proceeds from tickets and special events have helped raise money for local schools, Easter Seals, the local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, the Aptos Museum and several other local charities.

This year, a percentage of ticket proceeds will go to local schools, and there will be a special Kid's Day taking place on Monday, July 12. There will be free Tennis lesson for kids by the pros and an autograph signing session at 1:00 p.m. There will also be a silent auction and wine tasting on Friday night, July 16, to benefit the Aptos History Museum.

This year's qualifying tournament begins July 10. The final 4 of the qualifying event will gain entry to the main draw, which starts July 12. Matches take place throughout the day with feature matches beginning at 5:30 p.m. each week night. Barbecue lunch is available on the lawn. Kids age 6 – 12 are half price, age 5 and under free.

Ticket prices are \$16 Monday – Thursday, Friday \$20, Saturday 25, Sunday \$30. The Weekend pass (Fri – Sun) is \$60. Seascape Sports Club is located at 1505 Seascape Blvd. in Aptos. For ticket information call 831-688-1993 or visit www.seascapesportsclub.com.

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