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**Comerica Bank Challenger**

**A USTA Pro Circuit Event**

**August 4-10 2014**

**Seascape Sports Club**

**Aptos, CA**

**Purse: \$100,000**

**Surface: Hard-outdoor**

## **FORMER ATP WORLD NO. 8 MARCOS BAGHDATIS DEBUTS AT \$100,000 COMERICA BANK CHALLENGER THIS AUGUST**

**The 2006 Australian Open runner-up, Marcos Baghdatis** hopes to bag a victory at Seascapes this year. After some solid success on the ATP World Tour with victories over Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and 2005 Seascapes Champion, Andy Murray, he has battled frequent injuries causing him to fluctuate in the rankings. Perhaps Seascapes is a stepping-stone for a Baghdatis comeback.

2013 defending champ and Stanford alum, **Bradley Klahn** returns and hopes to clinch a second title in addition to the other top three finishers from last year's competition just as thirsty for victory: feisty Brit, **Daniel Evans**, rock-solid Russian, **Evgeny Donskoy** and **Farrukh Dustov**.

26-year-old Russian, **Mikhail Kukushkin** stands as this year's highest singles seed with an overall ranking of **48** in the world. Kukushkin made a successful run at Wimbledon earlier this summer, advancing to the third round against Rafael Nadal where he won the first set. The entry list includes no players exceeding higher than No. 185, thus the battles should be fiercely fought all week long.

**ABOUT THE USTA PRO CIRCUIT:**

With 90-plus tournaments hosted annually 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. The USTA launched its Pro Circuit 32 years ago to provide players with the opportunity to gain professional ranking points, and it has since grown to become the largest developmental tennis circuit in the world, offering more than \$2.5 million in prize money. Last year, more than 1,000 men and women from more than 70 countries competed in cities nationwide. **Maria Sharapova, Andy Roddick, Caroline Wozniacki, James Blake, Justine Henin, Andy Murray and Sam Querrey** are among today's top stars who began their careers on the USTA Pro Circuit.