



Comerica Bank Challenger

A USTA Pro Circuit Event

Wednesday, August 5

Seascape Sports Club

Aptos, CA

Purse: \$100,000

Surface: Hard-outdoor

UNEXPECTED WILD CARD ANNOUNCED FOR \$100,000 COMERICA BANK CHALLENGER

News of an unanticipated wild card to be put in the main draw of the \$100,000 Comerica Bank Challenger will put any tennis fan on the edge of their seat.

When the list of wild cards starts with **former world No. 2, Tommy Haas**, owner of one of the smoothest one-handed backhands on the ATP tour, there is no telling what's in store.

Haas turned pro in 1996 and holds 15 career ATP titles. Haas is from Germany, but received a dual citizenship to the U.S. in 2010. He has made it to the final eight in each of the four Grand Slams, reaching a total of eight Grand Slam semifinals and quarterfinals. Earlier in his career, Haas defeated elite players: Roger Federer, Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras, Novak Djokovic, Andy Roddick, Lleyton Hewitt, and Andy Murray.

At age 37, he continues to impress after coming back from a shoulder operation in 2014. The veteran has struggled with multiple injuries over the years, but each time he returns to the tour, Haas does not seem to let up. In June, at Stuttgart, Haas beat 2014 Comerica Challenger No. 1 Seed and finalist, No. 59 Mikhail Kukushkin in straight sets.

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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.