



Wednesday, August 10

Nordic Naturals Challenger Presented by Santa Cruz County Bank

A USTA Pro Circuit Event
Seascape Sports Club
Aptos, CA

Purse: \$100,000

Surface: Hard- Outdoor

For more information, please contact:

Hannah Stone, Tournament Press-Aide

Cell phone: 951 760 0923

Email: hstone93@hotmail.com

- *Live Streaming:* <http://www.procircuit.usta.com>
- *Facebook:* <https://www.facebook.com/seascapesportsclubofficial/>
- *Youtube:* <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXAQG1Arf7vw9JR8vMMcPyg>
- *Twitter:* @USTAProCircuit

Stakes rise at Aptos Challenger with U.S. Open Wildcard up for Grabs

Today at the \$100,000 Nordic Naturals presented by Santa Cruz County Bank, the No. 6 seed and current leader of the U.S. Open Wildcard Challenge, Ernesto Escobedo was defeated by USC alumni and fellow Los Angeles-native, Raymond Sarmiento. If one of the six remaining Americans clinches the singles Title this week, including Sarmiento, they will automatically be named the winner of the Challenge and receive a direct entry into the main draw of the U.S. Open.

Sarmiento, 24, successfully made it through the qualifying rounds last weekend, deeming the Nordic Naturals Challenger the first Challenger main draw and quarterfinal appearance of his career. Ernesto's powerful game was offset by Sarmiento's ability to manage his own game and execute point-by-point, resulting in a 6-2, 6-2 victory. In a first time matchup, American wildcard Mackenzie McDonald also fell to American qualifier Eric Quigly in an epic three-set battle.

Reaching his second quarterfinal in two weeks, James McGee, 29, from Ireland, also used the pressure to his advantage today to dominate No. 9 seed American Mitchell Krueger 6-3, 6-1. Aptos was a chance for 22-year-old Krueger to capitalize on his second place standing in the U.S. Open Wildcard Challenge. Dripping with confidence after posting a thrilling comeback to win his opening round on Monday night, McGee won nine straight games at one point in the match, ultimately cutting off Krueger's journey.

No. 1 seed Daniel Evans beat Emilio Gomez in a tight three-setter. With multiple break chances from both sides, Evans was able to hold his ground and string points together, ousting Gomez during the critical points of the match. Evans rose to the challenge after losing an extremely close second set and quickly captured the third set.

Ending in a third set tiebreak, the No. 3 seed team, featuring young American Stefan Koslov and Australian Matt Reid, clinched the last doubles match at Seascope Sports Club on Wednesday evening. The team paired up to defeat American-duo Mitchell Krueger and Alex Kuznetsov after splitting sets and closing out the tiebreak 12-10.

Tomorrow's quarterfinal competition resumes at 11 a.m. highlighted by an American matchup between No. 3 seed Bjorn Fratangelo and former UCLA Bruin, wildcard Clay Thompson.

ABOUT THE USTA PRO CIRCUIT:

With approximately 90 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 37 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 nearly \$3 million in prize money. Last year, more than 1,000 men and women from more than 70 countries competed in cities nationwide. **John Isner, Maria Sharapova, Sam Querrey, Sloane Stephens, Kei Nishikori, Victoria Azarenka** and **Andy Murray** are among today's top stars who began their careers on the USTA Pro Circuit.

NORDIC NATURALS CHALLENGER PRESENTED BY SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BANK - APTOS, CA, USA \$100,000 8 - 14 AUGUST 2016

RESULTS - AUGUST 10, 2016

Men's Singles - Second Round

[1] D. Evans (GBR) d E. Gomez (ECU) 64 67(5) 61

[Q] R. Sarmiento (USA) d [6] E. Escobedo (USA) 62 62

J. McGee (IRL) d [9] M. Krueger (USA) 63 61

[Q] E. Quigley (USA) d [WC] M. McDonald (USA) 57 64 62

Men's Doubles - Quarterfinals

Y. Nishioka (JPN) / Y. Uchiyama (JPN) d C. Norrie (GBR) / C. Thompson (USA) 64 63

First Round

[3] S. Kozlov (USA) / M. Reid (AUS) d M. Krueger (USA) / A. Kuznetsov (USA) 57 63 12-10

N. Scholtz (RSA) / T. Vorster (RSA) d [WC] E. Crepaldi (ITA) / J. Pompan (USA) 62 61

L. Broady (GBR) / R. Ramanathan (IND) d J. Lambie (USA) / B. Saraiva (POR) 64 62

ORDER OF PLAY - THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2016**CENTER COURT start 11:00 am**

E. Crepaldi (ITA) vs E. King (USA)

[Q] C. Norrie (GBR) vs S. Bangoura (USA)

Not Before 3:30 pm

B. Mitchell (AUS) vs M. Matosevic (AUS)

Not Before 6:00 pm

[3] B. Fratangelo (USA) vs [WC] C. Thompson (USA)

COURT 5 start 1:00 pm

L. Broady (GBR) / R. Ramanathan (IND) vs [3] S. Kozlov (USA) / M. Reid (AUS)

M. McDonald (USA) / B. McLachlan (NZL) vs D. Evans (GBR) / L. Glasspool (GBR)

Not Before 4:00 pm

[1] D. O'Brien (RSA) / R. Roelofse (RSA) vs N. Scholtz (RSA) / T. Vorster (RSA)

M. McDonald (USA) / B. McLachlan (NZL) or D. Evans (GBR) / L. Glasspool (GBR) vs A. Halebian (USA) / R. Sarmiento (USA)