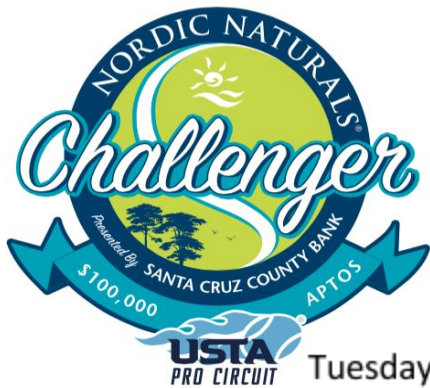




Tuesday, August 2



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/UCXAQG1Arf7vw9JR8vMMMePyg>
- *Twitter:* @USTAProCircuit

20-year-old American Ernesto Escobedo Looks to Clinch U.S. Open Wildcard

20-year-old Ernesto Escobedo now ranked No. 205 in the world travels to Aptos, Calif. in less than a week with an agenda. Last week the American stormed through competition at the Lexington Challenger to secure his first Challenger title and take the lead in the 2016 U.S. Open Wildcard Challenge.

The \$100,000 Nordic Naturals Challenger presented by Santa Cruz County Bank is the final chance for American participants to earn points with each round won. The player with the most points following Aptos will receive direct entry into the main draw of the U.S. Open. Therefore, Ernesto's performance at Seascape could very well propel him into his first ever Grand Slam main draw before 2016 comes to a close.

After turning professional in 2014, Ernesto, from West Covina, Calif., posted promising results on the ITF Futures Circuit. Just one year ago, Ernesto fell in the qualifying rounds of the Aptos Challenger. However, the young-gun has undoubtedly made a breakthrough and hit his stride

in 2016 with four months of the year still remaining. Earlier this year Ernesto achieved main draw appearances in multiple ATP events including the Aegon Nottingham Open and Citi Open. He clinched his first Challenger title, broke into the top 300 and even secured victories over top 100 competition.

Escobedo's success in Lexington was well earned after defeating his American counter-part No. 157 Frances Tiafoe, 18, in the finals. However, No. 212 American Mitchell Krueger, 22, trails less than 20 points behind Escobedo in the Wildcard Challenge. Between Escobedo and Kruger, the stage is set at Seascap. Both young competitors head into Aptos hungry to capitalize on the priceless opportunity to earn direct entry into the main draw of the U.S. Open.

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.