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USTA GIRLS' 16s & 18s NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SET TO BEGIN AT 8 A.M. ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 6 AT SAN DIEGO'S BARNES TENNIS CENTER

Tennis Legend Pam Shriver to Speak at Opening Ceremony at 5 p.m.

San Diego, Calif. – (August 5, 2016) – The United States Tennis Association Girls' 16 & 18s National Championships will get underway at 8 a.m. (PDT) on Saturday, August 6 at the Barnes Tennis Center, 4490 W. Point Loma Blvd., San Diego, CA, 92107.

Nearly 400 girls aged 16 and 18 and under from across the United States and Puerto Rico will compete for the title of National Champion. The tournament features the top junior players from each of the 17 USTA Sections.

The top seed in the Girls' 18s singles division is Kayla Day. The 16-year-old from Santa Barbara, Calif., advanced to the Girls' Singles semifinals at Wimbledon in July.

Usue Arconada of Rio Piedras, P.R., is seeded second, followed by third-seeded Caroline Dolehide of Hinsdale, Ill. The fourth seed is Claire Liu of Thousand Oaks, Calif. Arconada and Liu won the Wimbledon Girls' Doubles title this year and Dolehide captured a \$10,000 USTA Pro Circuit tournament in Buffalo, N.Y., this past May as a qualifier.

Amanda Anisimova is seeded fifth in Girls' 18s singles. The 14-year-old from Freehold, N.J., reached the Girls' Singles final at Roland Garros in June and is ranked in the Top 5 in the ITF Junior Rankings.

Amber O'Dell of New Milford, N.J., is the No. 1 seed in the Girls' 16s singles division. Last month, O'Dell reached the singles final of the USTA Girls' 16s National Clay Court Championships in Virginia Beach, Va.

The complete list of seeded players and draws for each division can be viewed at:
<http://tennislink.usta.com/Tournaments/TournamentHome/Tournament.aspx?T=171037>

The starting time for each day of the tournament will be as follows:

8 a.m. – Saturday, Aug. 6 through Wednesday, Aug. 10

8:30 a.m. – Thursday, Aug. 11 and Friday, Aug. 12;

9:30 a.m. – Saturday, Aug. 13

10 a.m. – Sunday, Aug. 14

(All times are PDT)

The Girls' 16s event will begin on Saturday, Aug. 6 and conclude with the singles and doubles finals on Saturday Aug. 13. The Girls' 18s tournament will get underway Sunday, Aug. 7 and conclude with the 18s singles championship on Sunday, Aug. 14. Both divisions feature 192-player singles draws and doubles draws with 96 teams.

"It's going to be an incredible week of junior tennis and we invite tennis fans to come out to support the players and enjoy the matches." said Co-Tournament Director Liz Blum. "With this being a national tournament, the level of competition in both division is going to be very high."

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The tournament also features a strong contingent of San Diego-area players. Here is an updated list of local competitors entered in this year’s USTA Girls’ Nationals:

Julia Deming, Fallbrook, Calif. — Girl’s 16s
Emily Dush, Chula Vista, Calif. — Girl’s 16s
Paulina Ferrari, San Diego, Calif. — Girl’s 18s
Elizabeth Goldsmith, Chula Vista, Calif. — Girl’s 16s
Giulia Hayer, San Diego, Calif. — Girl’s 16s
Julia Haynes, San Diego, Calif. — Girl’s 16s
Amy Huang, San Diego, Calif. — Girl’s 16s
Cali Jankowski, Carlsbad, Calif. — Girl’s 16s

Jennifer Kerr, Carlsbad, Calif. — Girl’s 16s
Alexandra Kuo, La Jolla, Calif. — Girl’s 16s
Nicole Mossmer, La Jolla, Calif. — Girl’s 16s
Britt Pursell, Oceanside, Calif. — Girl’s 16s
Jennifer Richards, San Diego, Calif. — Girl’s 18s
Kathy Wang, San Diego, Calif. — Girl’s 16s
Hannah Zhao, San Diego, Calif. — Girl’s 18s

In addition to the US Open wild cards that are traditionally awarded to the 16s and 18s singles champions and 18s doubles champions, additional wild cards for the US Open Junior Championships and wild cards to various USTA Women’s Pro Circuit tournaments will also be awarded this year. For the complete list of wild cards to be awarded, go to: <http://www.ustagirlsnationals.com/about.html>.

The Opening Ceremony for the USTA National Girls’ 16s & 18s National Championships is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6 at the Barnes Tennis Center. The guest speaker will be former tennis professional Pam Shriver, who won 22 Grand Slam doubles titles and was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2002. She is currently a tennis commentator with ESPN.

Early-round matches will also be played at San Diego State University’s Aztec Tennis Center, 5375 Remington Rd., San Diego, CA, 92115, from Saturday, Aug. 6 through Tuesday, Aug. 9.

Admission and on-site parking at the Barnes Tennis Center is free each day of the tournament. For fans watching matches at SDSU, admission is free, but there is a nominal charge for on-campus parking. University parking regulations will be strictly enforced.

About USTA Girls’ 16s – 18s Nationals:

The USTA Girls’ 16 & 18s National Championships are the premiere hard court tennis tournaments for amateur and professional American girls aged 18 and 16 and under in the United States. In 2010, both age groups began playing their events concurrently at San Diego’s Barnes Tennis Center. Tournament participants, who represent nearly every state in the United States, have been endorsed by their respective USTA Section or have received USTA special exemptions based on their results in qualifying tournaments, junior rankings, or results on the WTA Tour or International Tennis Federation Junior Circuit. Past tournament champions include Chris Evert, Tracy Austin, Andrea Jaeger, Zina Garrison, Mary Jo Fernandez, Jennifer Capriati and Lindsay Davenport.

About George E. Barnes Family Junior Tennis Center:

The Center is owned and operated by Youth Tennis San Diego. It was built in 1995 and completed in 1997. The \$4.5 million junior tennis facility was made possible with generous public and private donations and is named after the lead donor family - the “George E. Barnes Family Junior Tennis Center.” The Center, which is dedicated to the youth of San Diego, offers children 18 and under court priority over adults with advanced reservations.

About Youth Tennis San Diego:

Youth Tennis San Diego is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization that has been in existence since 1952. Earlier this year, Youth Tennis San Diego was recognized with the USTA Organization Member of the Year Award. The award is given annually to an organization that provides outstanding service to its members and to the local community. YTSD was honored at the USTA Annual Meeting and Conference, March 11-14, at the Omni La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif.

The YTSD Mission is: “To promote the educational, physical, and social development of all youth through organized tennis and educational activities.” Their community programs encourage youth participation, personal integrity, leadership, and competitive spirit in a friendly environment that builds responsible citizens. YTSD provides thousands of youngsters each year the opportunity to play tennis after school at their neighborhood school. The After School Tennis program provides a safe haven for hundreds of youngsters who are not supervised after school. Through tennis, the children learn the success skills which will give them the confidence and self-esteem needed to confront the negative influences so often found on the streets where they live.

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