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ADDITIONAL WILD CARDS TO BE AWARDED AT UPCOMING USTA GIRLS' 16s & 18s NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SAN DIEGO

National Tennis Tournament to be Played at Barnes Tennis Center, August 6-14, 2016

San Diego, Calif. – (July 1, 2016) – Additional wild cards will be awarded at the upcoming United States Tennis Association Girls' 16s & 18s National Championships, tournament officials announced today.

The national tennis tournament is scheduled to be played August 6-14, 2016 at the Barnes Tennis Center, 4490 W. Point Loma Blvd., San Diego, CA, 92107. Nearly 400 girls aged 16 and 18 and under will compete for the title of National Champion.

In addition to the US Open wild cards that are traditionally awarded, 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.

The following wild cards will be awarded at the 2016 USTA Girls' 16s & 18s National Championships:

Girls' 18 Singles Champion – US Open: Singles Main Draw & US Open Juniors: Singles Main Draw

Girls' 18 Doubles Champions – US Open: Doubles Main Draw & US Open Juniors: Doubles Main Draw
(Same partner only)

Girls' 18 Singles Finalist – US Open: Singles Qualifying & US Open Juniors: Singles Main Draw *

Girls' 18 Singles 3rd Place – US Open Juniors: Singles Main Draw & USTA Women's 50K Pro Circuit Event:
Singles Main Draw

Girls' 18 Singles 4th Place – US Open Juniors: Singles Qualifying & USTA Women's 10k or 25K Pro Circuit
Event: Singles Main Draw (2)

Girls' 18 Singles 5th Place – US Open Juniors: Singles Qualifying & USTA Women's 10k or 25K Pro Circuit
Event: Singles Main Draw

Girls' 16 Singles Champion – US Open Juniors: Singles Main Draw

Girls' 16 Singles Finalist – USTA Women's 10k or 25K Pro Circuit Event: Singles Main Draw

Girls' 16 Singles 3rd Place – USTA Women's 10k or 25K Pro Circuit Event: Singles Main Draw

Girls' 16 Singles 4th Place – USTA Women's 10k or 25K Pro Circuit Event: Singles Qualifying

Girls' 16 Singles 5th Place – USTA Women's 10k or 25K Pro Circuit Event: Singles Qualifying
(USTA Player Development will determine Pro Circuit event for each wild card awarded)

"Players receiving these wild cards will have an opportunity to gain valuable experience not only at the US Open, but on the USTA Pro Circuit, where they can compete and earn professional ranking points without having to travel abroad." said Co-Tournament Director Ellen Ehlers.

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 on Sunday, Aug. 7 and conclude with the 18s singles championship on Sunday, Aug. 14. Both divisions will feature 192-player singles draws and doubles draws with 96 teams.

(More)

PAGE TWO – USTA NATIONAL GIRLS’ 16S & 18S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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 Gigi Fernandez, who won 17 Grand Slam doubles titles and was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2010.

Early-round matches will also be played at secondary sites at San Diego State University’s Aztec Tennis Center, 5375 Remington Rd., San Diego, CA, 92115, from Saturday, Aug. 6 through Tuesday, Aug. 9 and University of San Diego’s Skip and Cindy Hogan Tennis Center, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, CA 92110, from Sunday, Aug. 7 through Wednesday, Aug. 10.

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

A complete player list will be available in mid-July. To view the official tournament website, please go to: <http://www.ustagirlsnationals.com/>.

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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