



USTA LAUNCHES COLLEGE MATCHDAY SERIES TO HIGHLIGHT COLLEGE TENNIS

Florida vs. Stanford Women to Kick Off Series on February 24 in Gainesville, Fla.

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., February 18, 2013 – The USTA today announced that it will spotlight men’s and women’s college tennis with its new “College MatchDay” series beginning this season. The first College MatchDay will feature the University of Florida women hosting Stanford University on Sunday, Feb. 24, in Gainesville, Fla.

The College MatchDay series will highlight a number of premier men’s and women’s college tennis team matches each season, organizing activities and local outreach surrounding the host team’s campus. Additionally, Ken Thomas will broadcast each College MatchDay on RadioTennis.com.

This season, College MatchDay will also come to Charlottesville, Va., when the University of Virginia men host Duke University on March 22. College MatchDay will feature a team match every week beginning in 2013.

“There is so much great competition in college tennis, and we’re thrilled to be able to spotlight some of the game’s finest teams, players and coaches with College MatchDay,” said Virgil Christian, USTA Director, Collegiate Tennis and Market Development. “We’ve got four of America’s finest college tennis programs launching College MatchDay this season, and we’re looking forward to growing the series in the years to come.”

Florida, the two-time defending NCAA women’s team champion, is currently the Intercollegiate Tennis Association’s No. 2-ranked women’s team and features two of the ITA’s top-ranked singles players: No. 4 **Lauren Embree** (Marco Island, Fla.) and No. 9 **Sofie Oyen**. Stanford, which won the NCAA title in 2010 with a 4-3 win against the Gators, is ranked No. 7 and features the reigning NCAA singles champion **Nicole Gibbs** (Santa Monica, Calif.) as well as the ITA’s No. 10-ranked player, **Krista Hardebeck** (Santa Ana, Calif.).

“Stanford at Florida is the ‘granddaddy’ of them all,” said Florida coach Roland Thornqvist. “It doesn’t matter who won what or where when we get together – both teams fight until the end, and it’s always so intense.”

The USTA has partnered with college tennis by serving as the title sponsor of the USTA/ITA National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships, held at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center’s indoor tennis center, the USTA/ITA National Small College Championships, the USTA/ITA National Collegiate Wheelchair Championships and more than 85 USTA/ITA Regional Tournaments. The USTA also names and funds its annual Collegiate Team, a high-level training program for top American collegiate tennis players designed to provide them with exposure to the USTA Pro Circuit in a team-oriented environment.

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The USTA is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the U.S. and the leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis at every level -- from local communities to the highest level of the professional game. A not-for-profit organization with more than 770,000 members, it invests 100% of its proceeds in growing the game. It owns and operates the US Open, the highest attended annual sporting event in the world, and launched the Emirates Airline US Open Series linking 10 summer tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns approximately 90 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S. and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games. The USTA philanthropic entity, USTA Serves, provides grants and scholarships and helps underserved youth and people with disabilities. For more information on the USTA, log on to usta.com, “like” the official Facebook page [facebook.com/usta](https://www.facebook.com/usta) or follow [@usta](https://twitter.com/usta) on Twitter.

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