



**TWO-TIME GRAND SLAM PARTICIPANT SALLY PEERS HEADLINES MAIN DRAW FIELD  
The Palmetto Tennis Center to host USTA Pro Circuit \$10,000 Women's Tournament, May 18-26**

**SUMTER, May 13, 2013** – The United States Tennis Association announced that Sally Peers of Australia headlines the competitors for the Palmetto Pro Open, a \$10,000 USTA Pro Circuit Event, at the Palmetto Tennis Center.

The tournament is the 4<sup>th</sup> \$10,000 pro circuit event in the country this year. It is the first of two pro tournaments in the Palmetto State.

Currently No. 409 in the world, Peers is the highest ranked player of the 18 women who received direct acceptance into the 32-player Main Draw, which begins Monday, May 20. The qualifying draw begins Saturday with 128 players vying for the 14 remaining spots in the Main Draw.

Peers is a two-time singles winner on the Pro Circuit – capturing both the 2011 and 2010 \$25,000 title in Ipswich, Australia. She has also won seven doubles titles on the circuit.

2011 champion and 2010 PPO runner-up Alexis King, who is one of four players in the Main Draw returning to the PPO. Joining King back in Sumter are Sanaz Marand (2012 2<sup>nd</sup> Round), Alexandra Mueller (2010 quarterfinalist) and Piia Suomalainen (2010 & 2012 semifinalist).

For the second year in a row, Zina Graves earned a spot in the PPO qualifying rounds by winning the Iris Jr. Championships last weekend at the PTC.

Admission is free to spectators.

**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 34 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. **Mardy Fish, Maria Sharapova, John Isner, Caroline Wozniacki, Sam Querrey, Li Na and Andy Murray** are among today's top stars who began their careers on the USTA Pro Circuit.

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