



**REIGNING DOUBLES CHAMP ALEXANDRA MUELLER HEADLINES MAIN DRAW FIELD
The Palmetto Tennis Center to host USTA Pro Circuit \$10,000 Women's Tournament, May 17-25**

SUMTER, May 7, 2013 – The United States Tennis Association announced that American **Alexandra Mueller** headlines the competitors for the Palmetto Pro Open, a \$10,000 USTA Pro Circuit Event, at the Palmetto Tennis Center.

The tournament is the 3rd \$10,000 pro circuit event in the country this year. It is the first of two pro tournaments in the Palmetto State.

Currently No. 417 in the world, Mueller is the highest ranked player of the 20 women who received direct acceptance into the 32-player Main Draw, which begins Monday, May 19. The qualifying draw begins Saturday, May 17 with 128 players vying for the 12 remaining spots in the Main Draw.

Also in the main draw field is two-time singles runner-up **Brooke Austin** – who finished runner-up to **Jamie Loeb** last year and to **Alexis King** in 2011. Austin is currently ranked No. 591 in the world.

Mueller is a seven-time singles winner on the Pro Circuit – capturing one title in five of the last six years. She has also won 11 doubles titles on the circuit – including two at the Palmetto Pro Open.

Joining Mueller and Austin back in the Main Draw are **Denise Muresan** (2013 1st Round), **Anamika Bhargava** (2012 1st round), **Jessica Lawrence** (2013 1st round) and **Piia Suomalainen** (2010 & 2012 semifinalist, 2013 quarterfinalist).

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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