



City of Sumter, South Carolina

**Palmetto
Pro Open**
A USTA Pro Circuit Event

**Round of 16 Set for Singles Main Draw; Doubles Quarterfinals start Thursday
Two seeds in Singles fall; Lucky Loser Loeb stays alive**

SUMTER, SC (June 17) – After her Singles Qualifying Finals match on Tuesday at the \$25,000 USTA Women’s Pro Circuit event at the Palmetto Tennis Center, **Jamie Loeb** (USA) was out of the Main Draw having lost to **Ellen Perez** (AUS).

Then, thankfully for the 2013 Palmetto Pro Open Champion, a spot opened up via the Lucky Loser. Loeb had her number pulled and found her way into the Main Draw again.

She took advantage of the opportunity on Wednesday with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over **Ingrid Neel** (USA) to advance to the second round.

“It feels pretty good – I don’t know the last time I ever lost the last round of (qualifying),” said Loeb. “It’s either been in the first or second round or I qualified.

“I’m really glad I got a second chance today,” she added. “I think I played pretty solid – much better than yesterday.”

In fact, Loeb was playing in the Doubles Main Draw at the time her number was drawn.

“I didn’t know until afterwards and I saw a text from my coach saying I got in,” said Loeb.

Outside of Loeb, the rest of the Singles Main Draw second round is filled out. Tuesday night saw No. 1 seed **Taylor Townsend** (USA) fall and Wednesday afternoon saw another top 5 seed go down as 2014 PPO finalist **Nadja Gilchrist** (USA) topped **[4] Samantha Crawford** (USA) 0-6, 6-1, 6-2.

2014 PPO Champion **Brooke Austin** (USA) overcame a slow start to knock out another seed in **[7] Caitlin Whoriskey** (USA) 0-6, 6-3, 6-3.

“I started hitting the ball in,” Austin said with a laugh on any changes she made after the first set. “I just wanted to make it a match. Once I made it a match, I kind of got the hang of what was going on.”

Seeded players **[2] Jennifer Brady** (USA), **[3] Mayo Hibi** (JPN), **[6] Chieh-Yu Hsu** (TPE) and **[8] Sanaz Marand** (USA) all advanced to the second round.

Brady survived **Kelly Chen** (USA) 4-6, 6-3, 1-1 ret. to move into the second round. Hibi took care of business against **Beatrice Gumulya** (INA) 6-3, 6-4.

Hsu earned a 7-6(1), 3-6, 6-2 victory over Perez to advance. Marand took down **Ana Paula Neffa de Los Rios** (PAR) 6-1, 6-3.

Six others moved on to the second round: **Carol Zhao** (CAN), **Jan Abaza** (USA), **Danielle Lao** (USA), **Michaela Gordon** (USA), **Mari Osaka** (JPN) and **Heidi El Tabakh** (CAN).

Zhao was a 6-1, 7-5 winner over **Alexa Guarachi** (CHI); Abaza defeated **Kayla Day** (USA) 6-1, 7-5; and Lao earned a 6-4, 6-4 victory over **Maria-Fernanda Alves** (BRA).

Gordon eliminated **Kourtney J. Keegan** 6-2, 6-4; Osaka took down **Julia Jones** 6-3, 6-1; and El Tabakh/Halbauer outlasted Daniel Island native **Ellie Halbauer** (USA) 6-2, 2-6, 7-6(5).

The Doubles Main Draw quarterfinals are set now as well.

The No. 1 Doubles seed **Abaza/Hsu** took on the 2010 Palmetto Pro Open Doubles Champions **Ashley Weinhold** (USA) and **Alexandra Mueller** (USA) and the former champions came out on top 1-6, 7-6(5) [10-8]; **Lauren Embree** (USA)/**Guarachi** defeated **[4] Alves/Whoriskey** 6-1, 7-5; And the top two singles seeds – **Brady/Taylor Townsend** (USA) – teamed up to beat **Beatrice Gumulya** (INA) and **Keri Wong** (USA) 6-3, 6-4.

The Round of 16 Singles Main Draw will open play on Thursday at the PTC with Doubles Main Draw Quarterfinals to follow. The Feature Match will pit the doubles team of **Townsend/Brady** against **Marand/Loeb** on Court 1 at 7 p.m.

For more information:

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