

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 27, 2012

For More Information & Contacts Call:
Swan Lake Visitors Center/Swan Lake-Iris Gardens
(800) 688-4748 or (803) 436-2640
Email: tourism@sumter-sc.com
Web Address: www.sumtersc.gov



SLATER CLENCHES 2ND PRO OPEN DOUBLES TITLE / QUALIFIER CHIRICO TAKES SINGLES

The Palmetto Tennis Center Hosts \$10,000 USTA Pro Circuit Event thru May 27

Doubles started off today's finals matches at the Palmetto Pro Open in Sumter, SC. The Palmetto Pro Open is a Ladies' \$10,000 USTA Pro Circuit Event.

The doubles team of Jan Abaza (USA) and Nicola Slater (GBR) took a quick lead over Elizabeth Ferris (USA) and partner Mayo Hibi (JPN). Ferris and Hibi fought back to take the ladies to a first set tiebreaker of which Abaza/Slater dominated. Second set began as a battle but eventually was secured by the team of Abaza/Slater; 7-6(1), 6-3. The Championship title is the first USTA Pro Circuit title for Abaza whereas Slater was the 2011 Palmetto Pro Open defending doubles champion.

Immediately following the completion of doubles, Louisa Chirico (USA) and Victoria Duval (USA) began warming up for their finals match. Both ladies, at the age of 16 enter this match as their first ever USTA Pro Circuit final. Chirico took off in the first set to take an early 5-0 lead but Duval proved that she was in for a fight and battled to win four straight games before losing the set 6-4. During the second set, Duval held her own until Chirico took off and won three straight games. Chirico won the match in 2 sets; 6-4, 6-3.

ABOUT THE USTA PRO CIRCUIT:

With more than 90 tournaments 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. Last year, more than 1,000 men and women from more than 70 countries competed on the USTA Pro Circuit for approximately \$3.2 million in prize money and valuable ATP World Tour and Sony Ericsson WTA Tour ranking points. **Maria Sharapova, Andy Roddick, James Blake, John Isner, Andy Murray, Jelena Jankovic, Melanie Oudin and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga** are among today's top stars that began their careers on the USTA Pro Circuit. The USTA Pro Circuit is world class tennis administered on the local level and played on local tennis courts as part of the fabric of communities nationwide -- an opportunity for current and new fans to experience the excitement and intensity of the professional game in their neighborhood.

Palmetto Tennis Center

Phone: 803-774-3969

Fax: 803-774-3970

palmettotennis@sumter-sc.com