



Sumter, SC – 6/15/22: Women's Palmetto Pro Open Main Draw Began Today With 22 American Women in the 32 Main Draw.

Sumter, SC: This is the 14th year for the City of Sumter and the Palmetto Tennis Center hosting the Palmetto Pro Open. The continued momentum and strength of American professional women's tennis has shown up this week to open the main draw matches with 22 of the 32 spots and top 8 seeds represented by American players.

Peyton Stearns returns to Sumter to defend her 2021 Palmetto Pro Open title. In the first round Peyton showed why she was the defending Palmetto Pro Open Champion coming in with barrage of big shots taking out fellow American Madison Sieg 6-2, 6-3 first round. Prior to her arrival this year Peyton added to her tennis career accolades by winning the NCAA Div I Women's singles championship for the Texas Longhorns. This was Peyton's second year for Texas at the #1 spot as a sophomore with her team also winning back-to-back NCAA Team Championships 2021 and 2022.

The #1 seed Hanna Chang had to battle but prevailed in the first round in a tough 3 setter against fellow American player Shaffer Kennedy 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-3. After losing the first set Hanna countered the power of Kennedy finding taking advantage of her own offensive opportunities in the second set breaker. In the 3rd set Hanna stayed in the driver's seat in a convincing 3rd set victory. American player and #2 seed Sophie Chang had a more routine win against Isabelle Boulais of Canada 6-3, 6-4. Sophie displayed an impressive power game in the backcourt taking advantage of her opportunities to move forward utilizing her finishing skills in the midcourt and net. All remaining seeds 3 through 8 also navigated their way to the second round with straight set victories including seed at #3 Katarina Scott, #4 Elizabeth Mandlik, #5 Elle Douglas, #6 Ashlyn Krueger, #7 Peyton Stearns, and at #8 Katerina Stewart.

Doubles also began today. Some fast-paced heated exchanges took place in a couple nailbiters. Former All American for University of South Carolina Mia Horvit and partner Sophia Graver (USA) lost in a close battle 3-6, 7-6(1), 10-6 in the matchbreaker first round to Himeno Sakatsume of Japan and partner Mia Yamakita (USA). Maria Kononova and Veronica Miroshnichenko also won a back-and-forth match against Aklah James (USA) and Carol Young Suh Lee (NMI) 6-3, 6-7(4), (10-1). Top seeded team of Hanna Chang and Elizabeth Mandlik, #2 seeds Allura Zamarripa and Maribella Zamarripa, #3 seeds Dalayna Hewitt and Rasheeda Mcadoo, and at #4 Kylie Collins and Peyton Stearns all had byes first round.

Please come out and watch these world class tennis professionals compete up close and personal as all matches are accessible by all spectators.

Admission to all matches are free.

ABOUT Palmetto Tennis Center:

Palmetto Tennis Center is a National Tennis Court in Palmetto Park in Sumter, South Carolina. It is one of the largest tennis centers in the state. They have 24 lit hard courts and 8 red clay courts. All play is free to the community and there is programming available for 3 yr. olds through adults. They host several tournaments every year both junior and adult.

ABOUT THE USTA PRO CIRCUIT:

With approximately 90 tournaments hosted annually throughout the country and prize money ranging from \$15,000 to \$125,000, 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 40 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 1000 men and women from more than 70 countries competed in cities nationwide.

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