



TOP U.S. JUNIOR TENNIS PLAYERS COMPETE IN USTA NATIONAL EVENT *Action-Packed Junior Tennis at Sea Pines Racquet Club, September 21-23*

Hilton Head Island, SC (September 16, 2019) - The best junior tennis players in the country will compete in the Stan Smith Junior Championship hosted by the Smith Stearns Tennis Academy, September 21-23, at the Sea Pines Racquet Club at The Sea Pines Resort on Hilton Head Island.

This United States Tennis Association (USTA) National Level 3 event has attracted 256 boys and girls, ages 12 to 18, for a week of competition on the Resort's 20 Har-Tru clay courts. Matches will be contested starting at 8 am each day, with the finals to be played on Monday, September 23.

This is that first time that Smith, a former U.S. Open and Wimbledon Champion, has placed his name on a tournament. Smith says he looks forward to welcoming junior tennis players from

around the country to them to The Sea Pines Resort and Hilton Head Island, both of which he has served as touring professional since 1971.

“I have been fortunate to raise my family on Hilton Head Island, be the touring pro at the Sea Pines Resort for over 45 years and be the co-owner of the Smith Stearns Tennis Academy for junior players since 2002. I’m very proud to be a part of such a prestigious resort on our great island,” Smith remarked.

The Sea Pines Resort has a storied tennis history and their courts have been welcomed many tennis greats including Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert, Steffi Graf, Martina Hingis, Rod Laver, Bjorn Borg, and Jimmy Connors. The CBS Tournament of Tennis Champions, the first nationally-televised tennis tournament from a resort location, was broadcast from The Sea Pines Resort in 1971 and 1972, while the first nationally televised women-only professional tennis tournament, the Family Circle Magazine Women’s Tennis Cup, was held at the Resort from 1973 until 2000. The Sea Pines Resort enjoys premier status in the region as the #1 resort for programs devoted to the sport, as rated by TENNIS Magazine.

Spectators are welcome to all USTA matches and admission is free.

For additional information, call Smith Stearns Academy at 843/363-4789.

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About The Sea Pines Resort

Situated on the southernmost tip of Hilton Head Island, the legendary Lowcountry destination features five miles of unspoiled beaches, 20 clay tennis courts, 14 miles of bike and walking trails, horseback riding, Eco-Adventures, water sports, and the 605-acre Sea Pines Forest Preserve filled with wildflowers, wetlands, and more than 130 species of birds. As the first eco-planned destination in the U.S., The Sea Pines Resort has become the blueprint for numerous beach developments around the country. Guests can choose from an array of accommodations, including 300 villas, 100 rental homes, and the luxurious 60-room Inn & Club at Harbour Town, a Forbes Four-Star boutique hotel and Preferred Hotel Group member. The resort’s best-in-class collection of golf courses, amenities, meeting facilities, and accommodations makes Sea Pines one of the most sought-after leisure and group destinations in America.

About Smith Stearns Tennis Academy

Led by Stan Smith, former number-one player in the world, and B.J. Stearns, former top nationally and internationally ranked player and Academy Director, the Smith Stearns Tennis Academy is uniquely designed for individual junior player development. The academy was founded in 2002 to help prepare junior athletes for the highest level of competition possible in both collegiate and professional tennis. The Smith Stearns approach speaks for itself as numerous state, sectional, national, and international champions have been students over the years. Smith Stearns Tennis Academy has one of the strongest college placement programs in the country. Under Stan and BJ’s leadership, a staff of highly qualified coaches specifically trained in the Smith Stearns approach work one-on-one with committed young people to help them reach their full potential as players. Supervised housing and an excellent college preparatory school curriculum help the students develop further – as scholars, as citizens and as young adults.

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