

2009 USTA Comerica Bank Challenger

By: Peter Kepler

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At Seascape Sports Club, Aptos, CA

Purse: \$75,000

Surface: Hard-Outdoor

International Challenger Event Comes to Seascape Once Again

APTOS, CA – The two-dozen international flags perched high above center court at Seascape Sports Club offer a prequel to what is bound to be another week of stellar international tennis at this year's 75K Comerica Challenger professional tennis tournament in Aptos, which will run from July 13th – July 19th, 2009.

For 23 years, some of the brightest future stars of tennis have come through Aptos and left their indelible mark, on what is now the longest-running Pro Circuit Tennis Tournament in United States history.

For those of you who haven't made your way to Seascape in July over the last two-decades to watch some of the greatest tennis players on earth grace center court,...you are missing something. Even if you are not a huge tennis fan, the athleticism, and sheer tennis artistry exhibited by these young players is a sight to behold; and Seascape Sports Club in Aptos makes watching these guys play and up-close and personal experience, with every seat in the house being... well...great

World renown players who have made the trek to Comerica Challenger in this century alone include; Patrick Rafter, James Blake, The Bryan Brothers, Andy Murray, Michael Chang, Sam Querrey, Mardy Fish, Dmitry Tursunov, Ivo Karlovic, and John Isner. Each year, the event draws professional players from over a dozen countries.

Last year's Comerica Bank Challenger Champion, Kevin Kim (A California native) has seen his world ranking move up to #94 in the world since winning in Seascape by defeating Adrea Stoppinni 7-5, 6-2.

2007 Champion, 18-year-old, Donald Young looks as though he is headed into the prestigious alumni list as well. Coming into the 207 event, Young (an Atlanta native) was ranked 296 in the world. Today, at only 18 years of age Young is now ranked #164 in the world.

On top of being a world class tennis event, the tournament has also raised over \$500,000 to local charities since it's inception. Supporting the Comerica Challenger *is* supporting your local community. Over the history of the tournament, proceeds from tickets, and special events have helped raise money

for local schools, Easter Seals, the local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, the Aptos Museum and several other local charities.

This year, a percentage of ticket proceeds will go to local schools and there will be a special Kid's day taking place on Monday, July 14th when all children get in for free. There will also be a silent auction and wine tasting on Friday night, July 18th, to benefit the Alzheimer's association and the Aptos Museum, and a very special wheelchair tennis exhibition clinic on Sunday, July 20th at 10:00 a.m.

The finals of the Granite Construction Wildcard Tournament (a lead up the Challenger) will be held July 10 at 5:30 p.m. The winner of this qualifying event will gain entry to the qualifying tournament which starts July 12th. The Main draw matches start July 13th and will take place throughout the week, with feature matches beginning at 5:30 p.m. each week night. Kids age 6 – 12 are half price, age 5 and under free. Ticket prices are \$16 Monday – Thursday, Friday \$20, Saturday 24, Sunday \$26. Weekend passes are (Fri – Sun) \$60. Seascope Sports Club is located at 1505 Seascope Blvd. in Aptos. For ticket information call 831-688-1993 or visit their website www.seascopesportsclub.com.

Media Contact

Peter Kepler

Manager

(831) 688 – 1993 ext. 12

www.SeascopeSportsClub.com