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## **\$100,000 Stockton Men's Challenger, A USTA Pro Circuit Tour Event**

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### **QUALIFYING AT 2017 STOCKTON CHALLENGER BEGINS**

#### **Wild cards include players from University of the Pacific, Cal and Stanford**

Stockton, Calif. - Four tennis players from host University of the Pacific will give local fans someone to cheer for when the 2017 Stockton Men's Challenger begins with qualifying beginning at 10 a.m. today at the Eve Zimmerman Tennis Center.

Tigers sophomore Tadiwa Chinamo and freshman Daniel Orlita earned wildcards in the qualifying rounds, while teammate Akram El Sallaly, a sophomore, is a wild card in the main draw, which begins Monday. El Sallaly will also team up with senior Bernardo Oliviero in men's doubles.

Other local wildcards include Cal's Andre Gorrenson in the main draw, and Stanford's Thomas Fawcett in qualifying.

The United States Tennis Association awarded main draw wild cards to Denis Kudla and Deiton Baughman, and a qualifying wildcard to Sebastian Korda, the son of former world's No. 1 player Petr Korda.

Qualifying today and Sunday will fill the four remaining open spots in the 32-player singles field of the second annual tournament, hosted by the United States Tennis Association (USTA), the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP Tour) and the University of the Pacific. The eight-day event culminates with the men's singles final on October 8.

Other players to watch include Noah Rubin, a singles finalist in last year's inaugural Stockton Men's Challenger; Tennys Sandgren, who made the main draw of this year's French Open and U.S. Open and is ranked 98th in the world; Michael Mmoh, a Stockton singles semifinalist; and former three-time UCLA All-American MacKenzie MacDonald, who was also in the Stockton semis in 2016.

international players include world No. 92 Ruben Bemelmans of Belgium, who reached the third round of Wimbledon this year, and Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada (ranked 168th), who won his first ATP Challenger event in Seville, Spain, at the age of 16 years, 10 months, and had a career-high junior world



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ranking of No. 2 before turning pro.

For the qualifying draw and today's order of play, go to [evezimmermantenniscenter.com](http://evezimmermantenniscenter.com), [ustaproircuit.com](http://ustaproircuit.com) or [atpworldtour.com](http://atpworldtour.com).

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