



October 4, 2017

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

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SECOND SEED SANDGREN FIGHTS OFF AUSTRALIAN IN MAIN DRAW OPENER AT STOCKTON MEN'S CHALLENGER

Stockton, Calif. – Second-seeded Tennys Sandgren fought off a spirited challenge from Australian Christopher O'Connell, 7-5, 7-5, in a main-draw first round match at the second Stockton Men's Challenger, a USTA Pro Circuit event, Tuesday afternoon at the Eve Zimmerman Tennis Center on the University of the Pacific campus.

Sandgren has had a good run of late, making the singles final of the \$100,000 Tiburon Challenger, in which he lost to Great Britain's Cameron Norrie, the eighth seed in Stockton. In 2017, Sandgren has made the main draws of the French Open and U.S. Opens, and saw his ranking soar to a career-high 98th.

Sandgren pulled out the victory in Stockton despite fatigue and some adjustment to the wind and the glare.

"Conditions were good a little breezy, the temperature was nice, so it was better than it raining. It was decent tennis but it was a tough match for sure," said Sandgren. "I was a little more patient, which bordered on playing passively, but he made some unforced errors on some mid-court balls, I was OK giving him some shots he could go after, so I could run down some of his bigger shots. I think I made him press in some bigger moments, and that was kind of my game plan."

Sandgren avoided the fate of top seed Ruben Bemelmans, who was upset by Sweden's Elias Ymer 7-5, 6-3. Bemelmans, ranked 92nd on the ATP World Tour, made this year's main draw at Wimbledon, where he lost in the third round to South Africa's Kevin Anderson, and the main draw of the U.S. Open. Ymer has won three Challenger titles this year and is ranked 200th on the ATP Tour.

"Ruben is a Top 100 player, and it is always going to be difficult to beat those guys," Ymer said. "That's why he's ranked 92nd in the world, because he fights all the time. It's a very big win for me, and I needed this one. I played last week in Tiburon and lost in the first round. I was serving well and don't think I was broken once."

Bemelmans has been busy of late, not only playing at the U.S. Open but also playing doubles on the Belgian Davis Cup team, which advanced to the World Group finals by beating Australia 3-2 in the semifinals in Brussels. Belgium will play France in the final in November.

"It was a little bit of confidence, and I hadn't won too many matches this month, but I feel I'm getting back slowly," Bemelmans said. "I just have to keep working and play my game on big points. ... The goal is to make the main draw of the Australian Open. Everybody here (in Stockton) has played a long year."

Up-and-coming young American Michael Mmoh breezed to a 6-2, 6-1 win over Tobias Kamke of Germany. Norrie defeated wild card Deiton Baughman of the United States 6-3, 6-1, and American Christian Harrison upset No. 5 seed Ramkumar Ramanathan of India 6-1, 6-2.



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"Going in I knew he was a good player," Harrison said of Ramanathan. "He has an all court game where he could come to the net and also grind (from the baseline) and he can hit with slice, so I was ready for everything. The first set was longer than what the score says, we had a very long set. We had one game where it had eight or nine deuces."

Qualifier Dmitry Tursunov, once ranked 20th on the ATP World Tour, rolled to an easy 6-2, 6-2 victory over No. 7 seed Felix Auger-Aliassime. Tim Smyczek of the United States defeated qualifier Frederik Nielsen of Denmark 6-3, 7-5, and John-Patrick Smith of Australia beat Filip Peliwo of Canada 6-2, 6-3.

in the final singles match of the day, former three-time UCLA All-American MacKenzie McDonald beat Anders Goranssen of Sweden 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

In the only doubles match scheduled Tuesday, Pacific teammates Akram El Sallaly and Bernardo Oliveira gave British fourth seeds Brydan Klein and Joe Salisbury all they could handle, but Klein and Salisbury triumphed 7-5, 6-4.

The main draw continues at 10 a.m. today at the Eve Zimmerman Tennis Center. Featured players in action include Sandgren against Liam Broady of Great Britain, fourth seed Stefan Kozlov vs. fellow American Denis Kudla, sixth seed Darian King of Barbados against 2016 Stockton Men's Challenger finalist Noah Rubin, and Norrie against Klein.

Tickets are available at the door or at evezimmermantenniscenter.com.

For more information on the tournament, visit evezimmermantenniscenter.com, ustaproccircuit.com and atpworldtour.com.

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\$100,000 Stockton Men's Challenger
A USTA Pro Circuit Event
Tuesday, October 3, 2017
Eve Zimmerman Tennis Center
Stockton, Calif.
Purse: \$100,000
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles -- Main draw

Elias Ymer, Sweden, d. (1) Ruben Bemelmans, Belgium, 7-5, 6-3
WC-Denis Kudla, United States, d. Q-Jan Choinski, Germany, 6-0, 6-3
Christian Harrison, United States, d. Ramkumar Ramanathan, India, 6-1, 6-2
(8) Cameron Norrie, Great Britain, d. WC-Deiton Baughman, United States, 6-3, 6-1



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(2) Tennys Sandgren, United States, d. Christopher O'Connell, Australia, 7-5, 7-5
PR-Frank Dancevic, Canada, d. Sekou Bangoura, United States, 6-4, 6-0
Tim Smyczek, United States, d. Q-Frederik Nielsen, Denmark, 6-3, 7-5
(3) Michael Mmoh, United States, d. Tobias Kamke, Germany, 6-2, 6-1
John-Patrick Smith, Australia, d. Filip Peliwo, Canada, 6-2, 6-3
Q-Dmitry Tursunov, Russia, d. Felix Auger-Aliassime, Canada, 6-2, 6-2
Mackenzie McDonald, United States, d. WC-Andre Goransson, Sweden, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2

Doubles-Main draw

(4) Brydan Klein, Great Britain-Joe Salisbury, Great Britain, d. WC-Akram El Sallaly, Egypt-Bernardo Oliveira, Brazil, 7-5, 6-4

Wednesday, October 4 - SCHEDULE

Stadium Court - starting at 10 a.m.

4 (Alt)-Stefan Kozlov, United States, vs. WC-Denis Kudla, United States, followed by

Not before 11:30 a.m.

Noah Rubin, United States, vs. (8) Darian King, Barbados, followed by

(8) Cameron Norrie, Great Britain, vs. Brydan Klein, Great Britain, followed by

Not before 2:30 p.m.

Q-Denis Kudla-Mikelis Libietis, Latvia, vs. Tennys Sandgren-Tim Smyczek, followed by
WC-Deiton Baughman-Alexios Halebian, United States, vs. (3) Luke Bambridge, Great Britain-David O'Hare, Ireland

Court 2 - starting at 10 a.m.

Liam Broady, Great Britain, vs. Tennys Sandgren

Not before 11:30 a.m.

Mitchell Krueger, United States-Mackenzie McDonald vs. Ruben Bemelmans-Frank Dancevic, followed by
(1) Neal Skupski, Great Britain-John Patrick Smith vs. Sekou Bangoura-Darian King, followed by
Felix Auger-Aliassime-Brayden Schnur, Canada vs. Stefan Kozlov-Frederik Nielsen