

FAN-TASTIC!

CREDIT ONE CHARLESTON OPEN ENTERTAINS, WOWS PATRONS



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Hometown heroine Rogers eliminated from play early

PHILIP M. BOWMAN
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It was a script that was almost too good to be true.

The Credit One Charleston Open, formerly known as the Family Circle Cup and then the Volvo Car Open, returned in style to celebrate the historic tournament's 50 years of play Monday. For the first time since 2019, fans were in attendance as competition in the main draw began. The tournament was canceled in 2020 because of COVID-19 and last year the event was played without fans in attendance.

And if you were a fan on Monday, you had to be impressed with the \$50 million renovation of Credit One Stadium, which went from something reminiscent of a giant erector set into a tennis Taj Mahal.

The weather was so delightful Monday that you wondered if the tennis gods bribed Mother Nature, or at least the local weatherman. The play was top-notch as well, highlighted by victories from Ukrainians Anhelina Kalinina and Katarina Zavatska.

But the script was to save the best for last. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new

"It's not how many times you fall, it's how many times you get back up." - Shelby Rogers

surroundings kicked off the night session, which featured hometown heroine Shelby Rogers, who faced Kaia Kanepi in the first Monday night session in the new stadium's history.

Rogers labored early, finally cashing in on one of eight set-point opportunities to claim the first set. She led 5-4 in the second set, but almost went down for the count when she fell hard on the green clay on an attempted return shot.

Rogers took a medical timeout, went to the locker room and returned to rousing applause. But the energy Rogers worked so hard to create didn't return and the 36-year-old Kanepi grinded out a 6-7(2), 7-5, 6-2 victory in a match that lasted three hours.

"Definitely not the outcome I wanted tonight," said the 28-year-old Rogers, who entered the tournament at World No. 44. "I guess I have to say a cliché: 'It's not how many times you fall, it's how many times

you get back up.'"

It was good to be home with fans, said Rogers, who was first connected to the tournament 21 years ago when she was an 8-year-old ball girl.

"When you walk out on court and hear fans (chanting) my name, it's really special," Rogers added. "You can always learn from your losses, even ones like tonight."

The effervescent Rogers displayed a whole range of emotions during the late-night post-match interview. She smiled, laughed and even talked about her cuts, and bumps and bruises she suffered in her third career meeting against Kanepi.

Rogers wiped away tears when she recounted past tournament experiences in Charleston, whether they were stunning victories or double-bagel losses. She even looked to the future, including one last stop in the U.S. before heading to Europe for the clay-court season, which concludes with The French Open and the red clay of Roland Garros.

Rogers will play for Team USA in the Billie Jean King Cup, which will be contested against Ukraine, April 15-16 in Asheville, N.C.



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Shelby Rogers led 5-4 in the second set, but ended up losing to Estonia's Kaia Kanepi in the match that lasted three hours Monday night.

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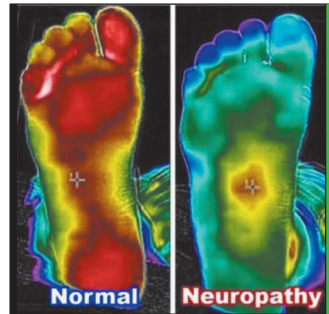
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Giant Jenga is taller than DI resident, Bear!



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Fans jump into action.



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Griffin Blake of Mt. Pleasant rolls a good ball.



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AJ Tyler of Mt. Pleasant is happy with his new Spiderman look.



DOUG PINKERTON

Blake and Mimi Yarborough of Charleston enjoy table tennis.



PETER FINGER PHOTOGRAPHY

The Graffiti Wall brought out the artist side of tennis fans of all ages.



DOUG PINKERTON

DI resident Roddy MacBride plays Connect Four, one of several oversized games that were a hit with families.



SUZANNE DETAR

Spiderman casts his web over Lora and Lia Dennis.

CREDIT ONE CHARLESTON OPEN FAMILY WEEKEND



SUZANNE DETAR

Wando River path access - fans can park their bikes and enter the tournament from the trail behind the tennis facility.



SUZANNE DETAR

I spy with my little eye - John, playing Connect Four!



DOUG PINKERTON

Loopit, a new health and wellness social network recently launched by Daniel Island resident Dr. Dennis Schimpf, had an informational tent at the tournament. Sharing Loopit information are: Abbie Lafond, Aubrie Waters, and Kayla Dadisman.



DOUG PINKERTON

The Charleston Collective, located on the Grand Lawn, offered a variety of food from local Charleston-based vendors, including salads from Verde, poke bowls from Beech and Orlando's Pizza, as well as Baskin-Robbins and T&T Kettle Korn and Nuts.



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The Ball Kids worked hard on Family Weekend but also found time to explore the grounds.



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Hudson and Nicole Sassand take to the court for some competitive foosball!!



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Lily Logan adds her unique style to the Credit One Charleston Open logo.



ALTHEA GIBSON CLUB COURT REDEDICATED IN NAMESAKE'S HONOR



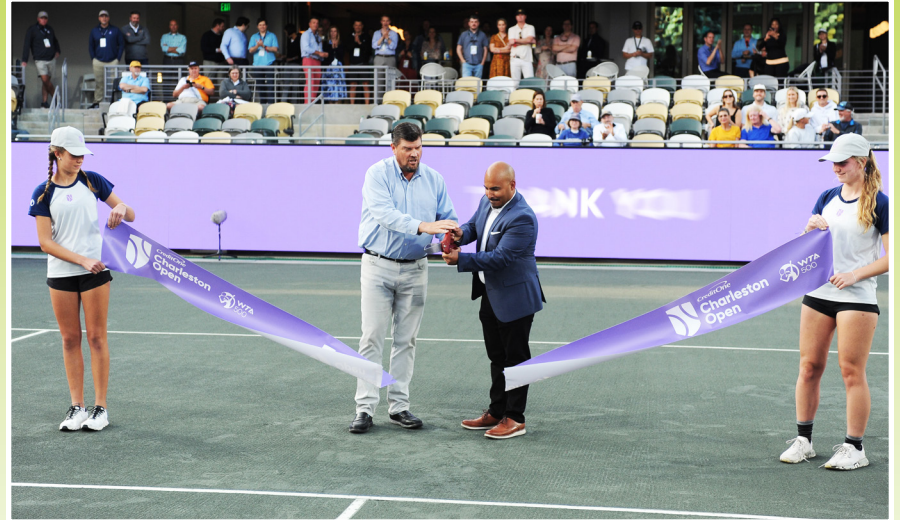
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DOUG PINKERTON

On Saturday, April 2, the Credit One Charleston Open personnel rededicated the Althea Gibson Club Court to its late namesake. Gibson, born in Clarendon County, was the first Black tennis player to win a Grand Slam and was the first Black player to compete in Wimbledon. In total, Gibson won 11 Grand Slam titles and was a consistently ranked top-10 player. The rededication, in the form of a new South Carolina State House Resolution, was presented to Gibson's family by Rep. Wendell Gilliard and Charleston Tennis President and Tournament Director Bob Moran.

IT'S OFFICIAL! CENTER COURT RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY MARKS A NEW ERA



PETER FINGER PHOTOGRAPHY

On Monday, April 4, as a prelude to the first night matches of the Main Draw, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Stadium Court. Tournament emcee and host Andrew Krasny gave an introduction, followed by remarks from Tournament Director Bob Moran and Credit One Bank's Senior Manager for Marketing and Sponsorships, Michael Norris. Moran and Norris were assisted with the ribbon cutting by ball girls Kaia Reiter and Lila Small, who held the ribbon. The \$50 million plus renovations include a 60,000-square-foot stadium with an 11,500 seating capacity, fully conditioned permanent hospitality suites with access to private patios, kitchens, bathrooms and a Stage House which hosts player wellness facilities, media and back-of-house operations, as well as a VIP Club. To see the stadium unveiling, visit youtube.com/watch?v=PmQ1Wk6PKF4.

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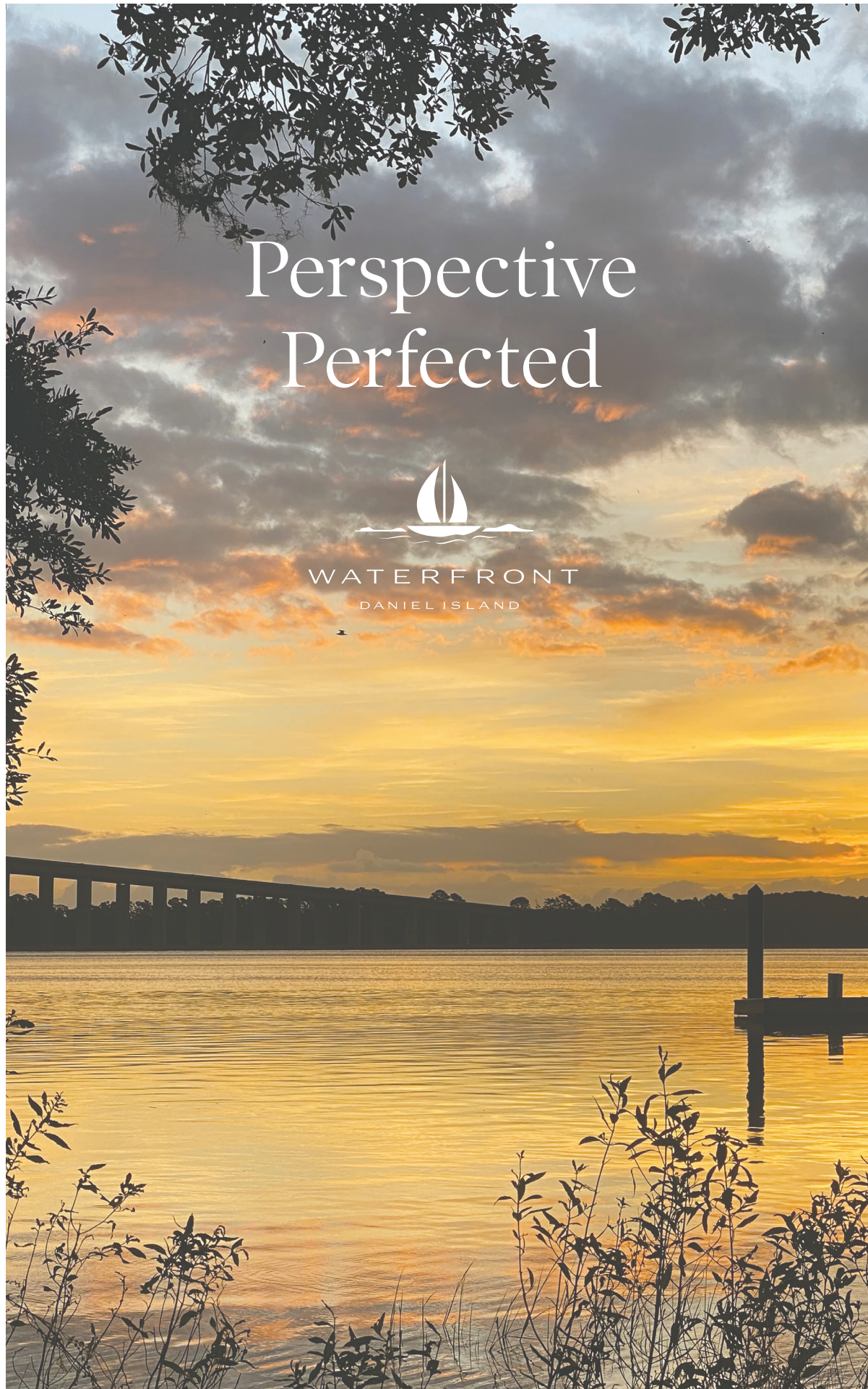
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Charity pro-am raises \$100K for Ukraine relief efforts

MARIE ROCHA-TYGH
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On a beautiful, bright Sunday morning, Ukrainian flags were proudly on display around the practice courts at the Credit One Charleston Open. Players from the tournament, local tennis enthusiasts, along with Tennis Hall of Famers teamed up on April 3, to raise money for relief efforts in Ukraine.

In under two hours, \$100,000 was raised for “Tennis Plays for Peace.” The Women’s Tennis Association-sponsored charity is an initiative that brings the tennis community and fans together to support humanitarian relief efforts for the war in Ukraine. Everyone was a winner.

The tennis pro-am gave 24 local club-level players the opportunity to compete with WTA players in a charity doubles tournament. The participants pledged \$50,000 for charity. The tournament matched the funds raised from the event with another \$50,000.

Tournament Director Bob Moran opened the tournament by talking about the significance of the event for the tennis community. “This is really important to us as a tournament and



DOUG PINKERTON

“Tennis Plays for Peace” charity pro-am raised \$100,000 for Ukraine relief efforts.

it’s really important to the players,” he said, then giving a special shoutout to Ben Navarro. “You’ve seen the facilities and the investment Ben and the family are making in this event. As soon as I said, ‘Hey I want to do something for Ukraine relief,’ it was a real easy ask. Ben was 100 percent supportive.”

The club level players were thrilled to be

playing alongside the women and helping support the Ukrainian people. Lowcountry local Pam Marino had a great time competing in the WTA event.

“In tennis, we have fun amongst our rivals,” Marino said. “Today, we all came together for the benefit of Ukraine.”

LTP Daniel Island and LTP Mount Pleasant



DOUG PINKERTON

Ukraine’s Anhelina Kalinina.

tennis pro, Louis Skpowski, was excited to come out to support a worthy cause and have some fun as well. His wife, Toni, and daughter, Soleil, came to the event to cheer him on as he made a difference doing what he loves. Louis credited the community as an important part of making the pro-am happen.

“This is what makes the Lowcountry, Daniel Island, and Charleston happy, I love it,” Louis

See **CHARITY** on **PAGE 25**

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\$100,000 raised at “Tennis Plays for Peace”

From CHARITY on PAGE 24

said. “The event speaks for itself – \$100,000 overnight. Bada bing!”

Madison Keys, the 2019 tournament champion, and the Lowcountry’s own Shelby Rogers rallied alongside their fellow players to show their support of Ukraine and cement solidarity with the players. Ukrainian players Nadiia Kichenok, Lyudmyla Kichenok, and Anhelina Kalinina and Katarina Zavatska are all competing in the tournament.

The 25-year-old Kalinina took part in the pro-am that benefitted her homeland. The list of players who came together to support war-torn Ukraine and show their support included Jessica Pegula, Desirae Krawczyk, Bethanie Mattek-Sands, Demi Schuurs, Erin Routliffe, Alexa Guarachi, and Alicja Rosolska.

Even though Poland’s Rosolska is far from home she is still eager to help anyway she can.

“Honestly I’m not helping like the people at home who are taking in people and refugees because I’m here playing tennis,” Rosolska said. “But we try to help. There are some tennis players from Ukraine, and we asked them, ‘What do you need?’”

One player reached out about getting help for her aunt finding a job after relocating. Rosolska said the population has grown so

quickly, making the process of finding employment hard for many refugees.

“Suddenly the population raised about 50 percent, so it’s really difficult, but I’m hopeful because they’re more organized,” Rosolska said. “At the beginning, they just opened the borders and people were just coming and coming. We didn’t know how to organize everything. So, it was people going to IKEA buying beds, food, and opening their homes to the people they could handle.”

Rosolska remains cautiously hopeful as things in Poland become more organized.

“I think now it’s better, but the war is going on and people are still coming,” she said. “Until the war is over it’s going to be very difficult.”

Rosolska’s husband, Dan Champion, and their young son, Charlie Hugo, proudly watched from the sidelines as she played. Dan said the pro-am fundraiser was an important event at this year’s tournament. He was proud that his wife was taking part in the event and was impressed with the community’s support.

“First of all, I’m enjoying it because my wife is taking part and I see how excited everyone in Charleston is about tennis,” Champion said. “But that can’t be overshadowed



DOUG PINKERTON

Participants pledged \$50,000 and the tournament matched the donation.

owed by how important what’s happening in Ukraine is. It’s unbelievable. We actually live in Poland, so we have all of the refugees coming straight across the border. You could really feel it because you’re so close. But to come all the way out to Charleston and still see how many people care about it is impressive. It’s really nice to see.”

Former World No. 1 Tracy Austin and former World No. 3 Pam Shriver gave their time and support to the charity. Both Austin and Shriver serve on the board of the WTA charities.

“This tournament does so much for the women of the WTA tour but also does so much for charity as well,” Austin said. “The \$100,000 that was raised – that’s a lot of money – was raised in one hour and a half... It’s

really important there’s a number of Ukraine players that play on the tour. If you follow Elina Svitolina you know for the last month and a half she has struggled with it. She has decided to take herself off the tour for a while because she is so overwhelmed by the situation her family has to deal with in Ukraine.”

Austin added that it’s hard to know what kind of pressure the players could be under.

“Sometimes we forget the players are human too,” she added. “We see them out there hitting forehands and backhands but there’s a lot of backstories... There’s a lot they have to contend with, whether it’s media or expectations from the outside or expectations from the inside.”

To help with the Ukrainian relief effort, visit tennisplaysforpeace.com.

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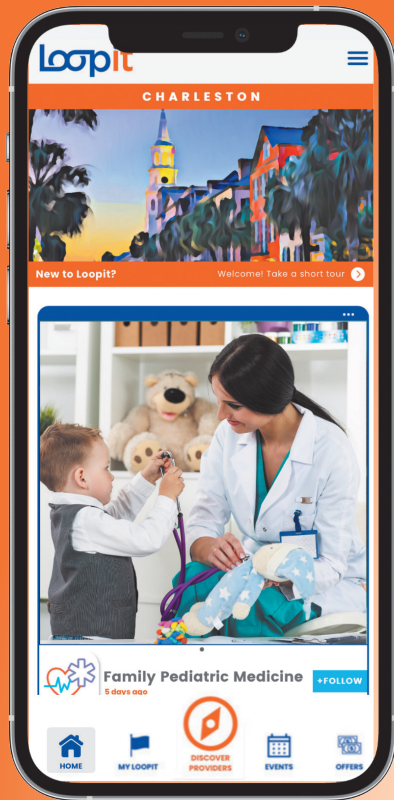
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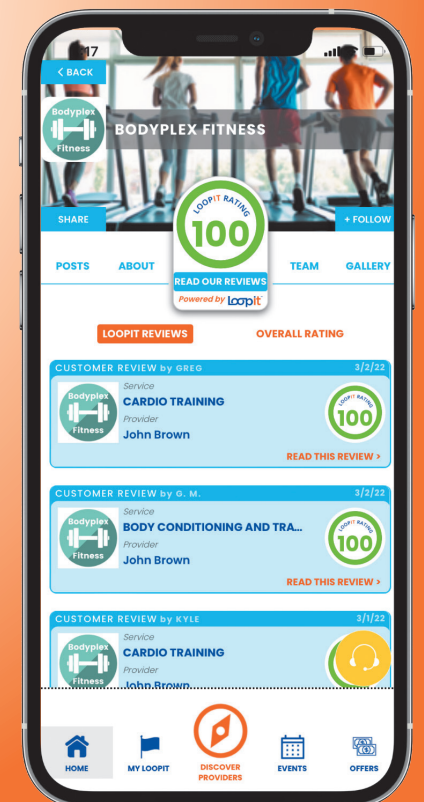
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KEEPING THIER HEADS IN THE GAME

The COCO top seeds react to 'whirlwind' two years of turbulent times off the court

The past two years have been full of distractions – a global pandemic, continued rising social media scrutiny, and now the wartime conflict in Ukraine. How hard is it to keep your head in the game, when the world around you is experiencing such turbulent times?

PHOTOS BY PETER FINGER PHOTOGRAPHY



Karolina Pliskova



Leylah Fernandez



Madison Keys



Ons Jabeur



Jessica Pegula



Belinda Bencic



Paula Badosa



Sloane Stephens

ELIZABETH BUSH
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When it's all on the line for the competitors in the Credit One Charleston Open (COCO), sometimes the players on the other side of the net aren't the only opponents they have to battle.

The past two years have been full of distractions – a global pandemic, continued rising social media scrutiny, and now the wartime conflict in Ukraine. How hard is it to keep your head in the game, when the world around you is experiencing such turbulent times? On Monday, The Daniel Island News sat down with each of the top-8 seeds in the tournament to talk about some of those outside pressures and how they cope when they hit the courts.

"I think last year I really struggled with it and it was very hard," said World No. 24 Madison Keys of the United States, the tournament's 2019 champion. "...Tennis felt so insignificant and I feel like, even now, they're

still waves of that...At the end of the day, we're also here to be entertainment for fans, and that's a really important part of life. So it's just kind of remembering that."

For Keys, the new season has brought "a breath of fresh air and relief."

"It is still my job and I can't put that on pause, just because there's things going on," Keys said. "So I've definitely had to be very conscious of where I'm at, mentally, emotionally... But just knowing how bad everything felt last year and how overwhelmed I got and just really committing to not letting that happen again...Just seeing it, addressing it and then trying to get back on track."

For Tunisia native Ons Jabeur, the tournament's No. 4 seed, a little happiness can go a long way.

"I think I learned that there will always be something (going on) in this world, so whatever is happening...I try to stay as focused as I can," she said. "I try to do my part. I try to be as nice as possible. But it's a tough moment everywhere... I hope there will be peace in the world. That's what we all hope for."

"I've been lucky that a lot of Tunisians are kind of looking up to me," added Jabeur. "They call me the 'minister of happiness'...I don't know how they came up with that, but it's inspiring and I love coming back home...I'm not saying they follow every match, but they know who I am and they know that I am trying to do a good job."

Tennis has been an important outlet for Canadian player Leylah Fernandez, who, at 19, holds two career WTA singles titles and is ranked 19 in the world.

"Growing up I always thought of the tennis court as a way to escape from all the noise happening outside the court, so that's how I take it, day by day," said Fernandez. "I just try to get on the court and enjoy my time...That's where I feel more comfortable. That's where I am able to breathe, and express myself a lot easier than in other professions, other sports, or even in school."

Having a base to recharge and giving back to those in need has made all the difference for COCO player Jessica Pegula of the United States.

"I think everyone's different, but I think you just have

to have some sort of good base or something that you can come back to, to kind of reset," noted Pegula, who just reached a career high world ranking of No. 13. "...I love playing tennis. Going on court, to me, is a great way to forget about things...I genuinely just love to play and even practice. It's a good distraction...But there's still so much good you can accomplish, whether it's locally at tournaments or at home...I think it helps so much mentally to kind of feel like you're doing your part."

American player Sloane Stephens, ranked World No. 36, described the last two years as a "never-ending whirlwind."

"I feel like every week, we're trying to figure out and navigate through something else and I think at some point it just gets exhausting," said the 2016 COCO champion. "A lot of people have lost time off their careers and playing, and kind of refocused and felt like they wanted to do other things, because it's just a lot. It's overwhelming."

But Stephens is thankful to be able to get "out of the house" now that the pandemic has subsided and return to

some sense of normalcy.

"We've got to live our lives," she said. "...It's good to get out. I'm just happy to be out of that 'downer' phase."

Belinda Bencic of Switzerland, who won a gold medal in tennis at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, has also felt the impact of world events and is working to keep things in perspective.

"I think when these kinds of things happen you just realize that tennis is not that important," said Bencic, who is ranked No. 21 in the world. "And I feel like when you go to the court and you're complaining about not being able to hit a serve inside the court or a backhand inside the court and there is a war going on in Ukraine and people are getting killed...it's not the same. Of course you know these things and you realize them, but every one of us has a job and we have to keep going and living our life and doing our job, so we try the best we can. But I cannot imagine right now for the players of Ukraine how they can actually play and focus. It's simply terrible."

The situation in Ukraine has hit a bit close to home for

World No. 7 Karolina Pliskova, who has a personal connection to the war-torn country.

"My good friend and coach, Olga, she is from there," said Pliskova, a native of the Czech Republic. "So I know a lot of what is going on there, and it is brutal. It is tough. But still I think because it's not my country I am able to somehow block it...I never take my personal problems or the things which I'm dealing with off court on the court, and that's how I do it."

The fans make the difference for Paula Badosa of Spain, whose world ranking recently bumped up to No. 3.

"(Sunday) was amazing, the kids, everything," said the COCO's top seeded player, describing the tournament's family weekend activities. "It was even emotional for players to see all of this, because it's been very tough, for all of us. This is very nice to have people back and slowly getting back to normal...I think the key is to have good team by your side and (to be) surrounded by good people. Because alone, it's impossible."

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Credit One Stadium rolls out the red carpet for players, fans alike

MARIE ROCHA-TYGH
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Amazing! Awesome! Impressive! These are just some of the adjectives fans used to describe the newly renovated Credit One Stadium. From a variety of cocktail and food options to a new array of amenities, the remodeled stadium is a game changer for fans and players alike.

For the first time since April 7, 2019, fans were finally able to get back in the game after the tournament had been canceled due to the pandemic in 2020 and the following year it was held without fans. Spectators were not disappointed as they checked out the first event at the new state-of-the-art stadium during Credit One Charleston Open Family Weekend.

Tournament Director Bob Moran was excited to welcome the fans back. "We're gonna provide the best experience possible, as soon as they walk in the gates."

Susan and Gary Wright have been attending the tennis tournament every year since moving to Daniel Island in 2010. They were both blown away by the updated facility.

As soon as Susan entered the stadium grounds she was in awe. "From the moment you walk in the entrance it is just beautiful! It used to be brick and now it's very clean and light. The attention to detail from the flower window boxes to the gates and the new fountain is great."

Susan even took some time out to do a little shopping. She appreciated the expanded offerings of brand name clothing and the extensive inventory of tournament merchandise.

Gary was impressed at how the construction turned out. "It's amazing what they've accomplished. You can't even tell they've just finished; it looks like it's been done forever."

Bernie Bell has been a fan of the women's tournament for years. He started going to the event back when it was held on Hilton Head. Bell was thrilled to finally get back to normal and return to the tournament.

"After three years, it is great to be back here to see some of the best female tennis players in the world," Bell continued. "The



MARIE ROCHA-TYGH

Susan Wright enjoyed the expanded shopping options with her husband Gary Wright.

enhancements to the Credit One facilities are so amazing and everything is fresh! There's really something for everyone. To live here on the island and have this in my own backyard is unbelievable. I love being amongst all the fans and running into my tennis buddies."

A former F-16 pilot and FAA certified flight instructor, Mike Roller is only "impressed by the best... They made it bigger and more modern, but it's still intimate and hasn't lost that sense of community we like here on the island. This is the best venue of its size I've ever seen. I like the size - if it was bigger it would lose the intimacy and if it was smaller it couldn't draw the great stars we are already getting for the concerts this year."

Family Weekend lived up to its name with parents and children having a great time exploring the stadium's family-friendly options. Ashley and Allen Phelps were thrilled with all the choices available for families.

"We're very impressed with the food, the drinks, and everything they have for the kids," Allen said.

Ashley was especially happy with the expanded activities for children. "In 2019 they didn't have anything like this. There really weren't a lot of activities for the kids

It used to be brick and now it's very clean and light

From **STADIUM** on PAGE 30



MARIE ROCHA-TYGH

Gerry Schauer's son, Jameson, has a blast playing the games during the Credit One Charleston Open Family Weekend.

a huge improvement. It's been amazing, the kids haven't stopped moving since we got here. It's been a lot of fun."

Gerry Schauer brought his son and daughter to experience some family fun. He really appreciated the free admission for his children during the weekend events. "It's



PROVIDED

Andrew Krasny, WTA announcer

wonderful! Having the free tickets for the kids on the weekend was a really nice thing for them to do."

Michele Kraus helps coach her son Kyle's elementary school tennis program through the City of Charleston. She was thrilled when the city offered tickets to all the players. "That's what got us out here. I'm glad they're giving the tickets out for free, espe-

"Forget the green clay, let's install a red carpet for this blockbuster premiere! It's going to be like The Oscars!"

— Andrew Krasny, WTA announcer

cially since it will inspire the kids when they come out and watch the tennis.

Ten-year-old Kyle not only watched some matches, he also got a chance to practice his tennis skills. One of his favorite activities was testing the speed of his serve. "It's fun and cool. There's a lot of different things to do here."

Andrew Krasny has been the voice of the tournament since 2013. The WTA announcer's sense of humor and obvious love of the game has made him a fan favorite. Even before he stepped foot inside the stadium, Krasny knew this year would be special for the fans.

"After we followed all the protocols so responsibly last year, I think fans being back will be even sweeter," Krasny said. "Charleston tennis fans are the most passionate, respectable, energetic, and

hospitable fans I've ever seen."

Krasny said the renovation takes the event to the next level.

"Ben Navarro and Bob Moran's vision is exactly what tennis needs. State-of-the-art construction, court-side LEDs, booming sound system, bright lights combined with green clay and the biggest and most successful players in the world," Krasny added. "... I mean, what else could you ask for? When you look at the player field and the rich history of tennis in Charleston, you get the chills. That's what gets me most excited. Forget the green clay, let's install a red carpet for this blockbuster premiere! It's going to be like The Oscars! Mr. Navarro's commitment to present this world-class event in the way it deserves to be, leaves me almost speechless. And if you know me, that's pretty rare."

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"As I am getting ready to close this week on a lake home in Northern Georgia, I am extremely thankful for the support that I received from realtor Cara Schaafsma along the path. Although Cara is a licensed realtor in South Carolina and not in the state of Georgia, her referral contacts that she provided were exceptional. Because my search was very broad (looking at multiple lakes in both Georgia and South Carolina), I needed a quarterback agent to look out for my interests across many different markets. Cara was able to navigate this for me and put me in touch with the right people. Additionally, Cara provided perspective and advice as I weighed options. Additionally, Cara even read through my contract offer in preparation for my discussions with the local agent (questions I never would have thought to ask). I highly recommend Cara as your agent or her services as a referral agent (which was my experience)."



Eco-friendly fashion brings sustainability to the stadium

PAMELA BROWNSTEIN
news@thedanielislandnews.com

From the bleachers to the bathrooms, the new look of the Credit One Stadium will be on full display during the 2022 Credit One Charleston Open tennis tournament on Daniel Island. Even the staff will be getting a makeover.

While plenty of people are sure to notice the new performance gear donned by everyone from ball kids to volunteers, what may not be apparent to most attendees is the fact that the apparel is actually made from recycled plastic.

It's an eco-friendly approach made possible with a partnership between Vapor Elemental Wear — a Charleston-based clothing company that specializes in sustainably made outdoor wear — and RePower South, a state-of-the-art recycling facility located in Berkeley County.

Jackson Burnett, president of Vapor, said that when the company started 18 years ago, it sold performance apparel made from “virgin” materials to wholesale markets. But about 12 years ago, the business started exploring other methods of making clothing from primarily recycled materials. They started working with Reprive, a company that makes yarn out of plastic water bottles.

In the past couple years, Vapor shifted from manufacturing and providing products for other wholesale clothing companies to promoting its own brand and selling sustainable apparel directly to customers.

Burnett estimates they've been able to keep 4 million wa-



DOUG PINKERSON

The apparel worn by volunteers at the tournament is made from recycled plastic.

ter bottles out of landfills and oceans. The gear created for the tennis tournament alone — nearly 2,500 items — reused 35,000 plastic water bottles.

Vapor first began working with the RePower South Recycling and Recovery Facility ahead of the 2020 Bridge Run. The plan, Burnett said, involved collecting all the water bottles from the Bridge Run, sending them to RePower South to be recycled, then selling them to Reprive to turn the plastic into yarn, and using that yarn to make shirts that

runners can wear.

“We wanted to show the consumer the supply chain: that when they recycle a water bottle, high performance gear can come from your recycling,” Burnett said.

Although COVID shut down the Bridge Run that year and hampered their initial collaboration, the working relationship between Vapor and RePower South remained in place and continued to grow.

These eco-friendly efforts caught the attention of Credit One Charleston Open Tournament Director Bob Moran, who reached out to Vapor about creating specific gear for the entire tennis tournament staff.

The team seized the opportunity to swing this sustainable fashion movement into the spotlight. “It’s so important to create this awareness that recycling does make a difference,” Burnett added.

Brian Gillhuly, founder and CEO of RePower South, is encouraged by the tournament’s support and sees the event as a chance to highlight the advancements being made in the field of recycled materials.

Gilhuly credits Berkeley County leaders for their foresight and commitment to recycling, and investing in one of the most sophisticated facilities in the country. RePower South takes all the waste from the county — regular garbage as well as recyclables — and then sorts it accordingly, allowing them to recover more material and send more items

See **ECO-FRIENDLY** on **PAGE 33**



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Volunteer apparel made from recycled plastic

From **ECO-FRIENDLY** on PAGE 32

on to be repurposed.

“We try to educate folks about what you can do with different materials,” Gilhuly said.

In recent years, companies have seen a growing demand from eco-conscious consumers for products made from recycled materials, and a realization that environmentally friendly practices can also be financially rewarding.

New technology allows for more cost-effective processes of taking used materials, such as plastic bottles, and creating plastic as if it were brand new — a recycled material that is as good or better than the original.

“This circular economy lets us re-use that plastic as efficiently as possible to create items from the recycled material,” Gilhuly said.

He remarked that having Vapor’s apparel at the tournament is a “tangible example of the importance of recycling and the local community; how we’re beginning to address one of the many factors of climate change.”



PROVIDED

An aerial view of Berkeley County’s RePower South Recycling and Recovery Facility located in Moncks Corner, South Carolina.

The sustainably made merch will also be available for purchase at the tournament so attendees can wear their commitment to eco-friendly fashion on their sleeve. To find out more, visit vaporapparel.com.

A video shows a closeup look of how material is recycled at the RePower South facility and can be viewed at youtu.be/taMsy5np3i4.

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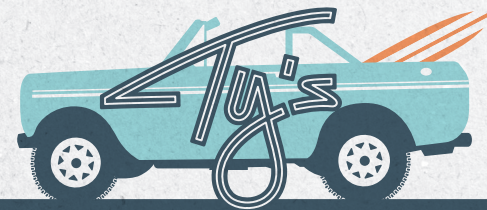


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Tournament chef a trailblazer in the culinary arena

ZACH GIROUX
zach@thedanielislandnews.com

Before cooking progressed from home economics to culinary arts, it was simply an act to feed mouths. Little did Kimberly Brock Brown know that her life would revolve around managing the kitchen and making delicious food for professional athletes, celebrities and the most sophisticated of palates.

Brown, who is this year's Executive Chef for the Credit One Charleston Open, comes from more humble beginnings than her fine dining resume shows. Before she gained more than 30 years of experience in the culinary industry, before she became the first Black female chef to be elected to and is and now president of the American Culinary Federation (ACF) - she was a young girl who needed to learn how to cook for her siblings. Then, she began to love what she cooked.

In a kitchen overlooking the Windy City of Chicago, Brown first honed her cooking skills. She credits her parents for subjecting her to delectable homemade meals.

"Mom could throw down in the kitchen



PROVIDED

Kimberly Brock Brown is this year's Executive Chef for the Credit One Charleston Open.

and dad wasn't bad either," Brown said with a smile.

After graduating high school with a fondness for home economics, Brown was poised to make a career out of cooking. She had college offers to culinary schools such as the

University of Tennessee, but Brown elected to take a path less traveled and that made all the difference.

After rejecting an acceptance letter to Tennessee, at just 18 years old, Brown moved to Dallas to live with her sister. Soon, she was waiting tables and making more cash than her college educated sister.

One day Brown picked up a newspaper and read about a person graduating from an ACF apprenticeship at Dallas College. She knew she didn't stumble across this by happenstance, it was fate, and she decided to pursue it.

Brown graduated from the program as a certified cook and never looked back. Later on, after several stints that took her all around the southeast, she ended up in Charleston as a pastry chef at The Omni Hotel, which is now The Belmont Hotel. That is, until the tennis tournament came calling.

Brown worked in the kitchen at last year's tournament under the hospitality's general manager Travis Maynard. This year, there's no "COVID-19 bubble" or strict no contact with players or an experience without fans - and Brown was promoted to executive chef

to oversee the entire operation.

From a logistical standpoint, Brown is tasked with feeding approximately 50 media personnel, 250 volunteers and employees and all the players breakfast, lunch and dinner on a daily basis. She summed up how much food she prepares for the tournament succinctly, "It's a lot."

As for the food, all of the dishes are labored from scratch. Brown oversees all of the shopping and ordering of ingredients. As for what's on the menu, honestly, a little bit of everything in order to satisfy everyone's appetite, especially players' taste buds on an international scale.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

As for the menu, which has both vegan and allergen-free options, for breakfast one can expect choices like quiche or frittatas alongside a myriad of berries. According to last year's inventory, Brown said that she went through six flats of strawberries per day. A flat contains 12 pints of strawberries. One pint weighs approximately three-quar-

See **CHEF** on **PAGE 35**



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All of the dishes are labored from scratch

From CHEF on PAGE 34

ters of a pound.

At lunchtime, salmon, short ribs, crab cakes and chicken are popular options. Around dinnertime, a carved turkey drizzled with cranberry sauce or prime rib or stuffed pork roll with chorizo, goat cheese and spinach.

For the players, the most pivotal meal of the day is breakfast. The most consumed product is the fruit smoothie, bar none.

“They love the fruit because it satisfies the sweet tooth but it’s also the quick energy,” Brown said. “... If you put the almond butter or peanut butter into it, even more so.”

The most time-consuming creations are items that demand a slow roast or marinade process.

Brown describes her cooking philosophy as “good looking food, tastefully prepared.”

To Brown’s knowledge, a player has never suffered a food illness or allergy-related issue from her creations. However, Brown shares the credit because she’s not a one-woman show. There are 10 cooks in her kitchen at any given time.

Over the span of her 30-plus year career, Brown served the likes of George H. W.



ZACH GIROUX

At lunchtime, salmon, short ribs, crab cakes and chicken are popular options. Around dinnertime, a carved turkey drizzled with cranberry sauce or prime rib or stuffed pork roll with chorizo, goat cheese and spinach.

Bush, Prince, Anita Baker, Bill and Hillary Clinton. The list goes on, but Brown humbly avoided name dropping.

“It shouldn’t matter who’s who or what’s what, you take great pride in the food you put out,” Brown said.

After all the hustle and bustle of the food rush hours dies down, Brown finds time for herself and her own nutrition. However, when she’s preparing food, she’s not hungry



ZACH GIROUX

and she’s not eating.

Brown finds herself wearing many hats than just a white, pleated chef’s hat. Not only is she a certified executive pastry chef, she is also a self-published author. Her latest work is “Here I Am! Chef Kimberly’s answer to the question “Where are the Female and Minority Chefs.”

Above all, Brown’s biggest accomplishment is not a culinary accolade or a special

cookbook with a top secret recipe. It’s being a trailblazer for women, particularly of color, to break barriers in industries that have long had a history of a limited ceiling. The proof is in the pudding and Brown just so happens to be stirring the ladle of a creation that is a dream come true.

“I still have a hard time believing it,” Brown added. “... It’s kind of hard to imagine.”



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Volunteers – essential workers at the Credit One Charleston Open

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE DETAR



Debra Carroll and Gary Scott volunteer in the Media Center. This is Debra's 4th year and Gary's 6th year volunteering. Debra says she loves tennis and enjoys seeing how the tournament is run from behind the scenes and Gary notes that he is impressed with how the talented young players carry themselves and are "normal" people.



Karen Wigfall and Judy Townsend, a niece and aunt team from Summerville and N. Charleston, have volunteered as ushers for the last nine years. Both ladies say they volunteer because they love tennis.



Daniel Island resident Bill Booth is celebrating his 14th year as a volunteer. A former Peace Corps volunteer and Foreign Service employee, he is a natural as a Tournament Ambassador, greeting guests, answering questions, and giving directions.



Sisters Greta and Lola Hughey, 11 and 13, worked their first ever matches as ball girls during Saturday's qualifiers. The Daniel Island duo are home-schooled, which gives them flexibility to volunteer throughout the week.

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Tennis Trivia presented by Atlantic Properties continues this week with 25 more questions. Enter online at surveymonkey.com/r/JCRV5ZH to answer this week's tennis trivia for a chance to win two general admission tickets to the finals. To be eligible, you must enter by 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 9.

1. What is the size (number of players) for the singles draw?

- a. 32
- b. 64
- c. 48
- d. 128

2. Which player received a Wild Card entry into the Credit One Charleston Open this year?

- a. Venus Williams
- b. Shelby Rogers
- c. Emma Navarro
- d. Rosie Casals

3. This TV station airs the Credit One Charleston Open.

- a. ESPN
- b. Tennis Channel
- c. Fox Sports
- d. CNN

4. The father of what Bosnia born, German player played at University of South Carolina?

- a. Andrea Petkovic
- b. Angelique Kerber
- c. Anita Wagner
- d. Belinda Bencic

5. This top-30 player once trained on the grounds of the Family Circle Tennis Center?

- a. Danielle Collins
- b. Jessica Pegula
- c. Madison Keys
- d. Emma Navarro

6. The minimum amount of points a player needs to win a tiebreaker?

- a. 5
- b. 7
- c. 8
- d. 10

7. What player's father is a former Olympic rower who competed in the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul?

- a. Iga Swiatek
- b. Paula Badosa
- c. Ons Jabeur
- d. Karolina Pliskova

8. What type of material are tennis balls covered with?

- a. Linen
- b. Cotton
- c. Felt
- d. Spandex

9. What name is given to a 40-40 score during a match?

- a. Ace
- b. Deuce
- c. Advantage
- d. Tie

10. During a tennis match, what is the term used to describe a player returning the ball be-



fore it has a chance to bounce on the court?

- a. Slam
- b. Lob
- c. Volley
- d. Dig

11. What Grand Slam did Iga Swiatek win in 2020?

- a. Australian Open
- b. French Open
- c. Wimbledon
- d. U.S. Open

12. The longest singles match in recorded history lasted 11 hours and 5 minutes and stretched over three days. Which two players competed in this match?

- a. Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova
- b. John Isner and Nicolas Mahut
- c. Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer
- d. John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl

13. Who are the four past tournament champions in this year's Credit One

Charleston Open draw?

- a. Veronika Kudermetova, Madison Keys, Sloane Stephens, Andrea Petkovic
- b. Samantha Stosur, Madison Keys, Sloane Stephens, Andrea Petkovic
- c. Veronika Kudermetova, Jelena Jankovic, Sloane Stephens, Andrea Petkovic
- d. Samantha Stosur, Jelena Jankovic, Belinda Bencic, Andrea Petkovic

14. Which player has never won the tournament in the 50 years of the event?

- a. Samantha Stosur
- b. Venus Williams
- c. Martina Navratilova
- d. Lyndsay Davenport

15. What type of surface is the Credit One Charleston Open played on?

- a. Hardcourt
- b. Grass
- c. Clay
- d. Softcourt

16. Who was the first woman to win all four Grand Slam events

(Wimbledon, US/Australian/French Opens) in the same calendar year?

- a. Steffi Graff
- b. Maureen Connolly
- c. Margaret Court
- d. Serena Williams

17. Computerized rankings were introduced to the WTA on Nov. 3, 1975. Who was the first WTA World No. 1?

- a. Chris Evert
- b. Martina Navratilova
- c. Billie Jean King
- d. Evonne Goolagong

18. Who is the only player to achieve the Golden Slam in tennis (all four Grand Slam titles and Olympic gold in the same season)?

- a. Andre Agassi
- b. Margaret Court
- c. John McEnroe
- d. Steffi Graff

19. What actress played Billie Jean King in the 2017 film "Battle of the Sexes?"

- a. Emma Stone
- b. Emma Watson
- c. Stana Katic
- d. Scarlett Johansson

20. What actress played the adult Serena Williams in the film "King Richard?"

- a. Demi Singleton
- b. Saniyya Sidney
- c. Viola Davis
- d. Marsai Martin

21. What musician knighted by Queen Elizabeth is

playing at the Credit One Stadium in September?

- a. Mick Jagger
- b. Elton John
- c. Paul McCartney
- d. Bono

22. Who gifted the majority of the funds for the renovations to the Credit One Stadium?

- a. City of Charleston taxpayers
- b. Daniel Island Company
- c. Ben and Kelly Navarro
- d. The state of South Carolina taxpayers

23. What year was no champion crowned in what is now the Credit One Charleston Open?

- a. 1980
- b. 2001
- c. 2020
- d. 1973

24. Who did Venus Williams defeat in the 2004 finals to win what is now the Credit One Charleston Open?

- a. Serena Williams
- b. Conchita Martínez
- c. Justine Henin
- d. Maria Sharapova

25. What day and time is the doubles final scheduled to start for the 2022 Credit One Charleston Open?

- a. April 10 at 1:15 pm
- b. April 9 at 1:15 pm
- c. April 9 at 7:05 pm
- d. April 10 at 10:45 am



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Steve Reed wins week one TENNIS TRIVIA

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Last week's Tennis Trivia presented by Atlantic Properties yielded a tight competition. Steve Reed was one of two contestants to score 24 correct answers and won the tiebreaker drawing. For his efforts, he earns two tickets to Sunday's finals match at the Credit One Charleston Open. Below are last week's questions with the correct answers.

TENNIS TRIVIA ANSWERS FROM LAST WEEK

1. What have been the tournament named sponsors over the 50 years of the tournament? *Family Circle Cup/Volvo Car Open/Credit One Charleston Open*
2. Who won the first tournament event? *Rosie Casals*
3. What year was the first tournament? *1973*
4. Where was the tournament held before it moved to Daniel Island? *Hilton Head*
5. What color is clay court in the Credit One Stadium? *Green*
6. Who is the defending champion who won the 2021 Volvo Car Open? *Veronika Kudermetova*
7. What year did the tournament move to Daniel Island? *2001*
8. What two women players retired from tennis when they were ranked World No. 1? *Justine Henin & Ash Barty*
9. What weather event impacted the Family Circle Cup in 2006, causing play to be delayed? *Tornado*
10. Who won the first car ever awarded to a VCO champion? *Sloane Stephens*
11. Who owns the Credit One Stadium? *City of Charleston*
12. Tennis was an Olympic event from 1886 to 1924. What year did tennis officially rejoin the Olympics? *1988*
13. Which of these all-time greats won the tournament the most times? *Chris Evert*
14. The last five tournament champions are, in alphabetical order (by first name), Daria, Kiki, Madison, Sloane and Veronika. What's Kiki's last name? *Bertens. But give yourself a pat on the back for humor if you selected "Dee."*
15. How many seats are in Credit One Stadium? *11,500*
16. You'll enjoy watching these four top players next week. Which one hails from the Ukraine? *Anhelina Kalinina*
17. The Grand Slams of tennis are held each year in London, Melbourne, New York and Paris. Which tournament is the oldest, debuting in 1877? *Wimbledon*
18. How many times has Serena Williams won the tournament? *3*
19. Twelve years after Billie Jean King vanquished Bobby Riggs in the historic 1973 Battle of the Sexes, Martina Navratilova teamed with Pam Shriver in doubles to defeat Riggs and his partner. Who was Riggs' partner that day? *Vitas Gerulaitis*
20. Who won the tournament the first year it was played on Daniel Island? *Jennifer Capriati*
21. Who is the Tournament Director? *Bob Moran*
22. Name 2 Charleston area natives in this year's tournament. *Emma Navarro and Shelby Rogers*
23. Who is the top seeded player in this year's tournament? *Iga Swiatek*
24. What time do the gates open on the first day of Family Weekend, Saturday, April 2? *9 a.m.*
25. What two island business/school parking lots are being used for tournament parking? *Blackbaud and Benefittocus*

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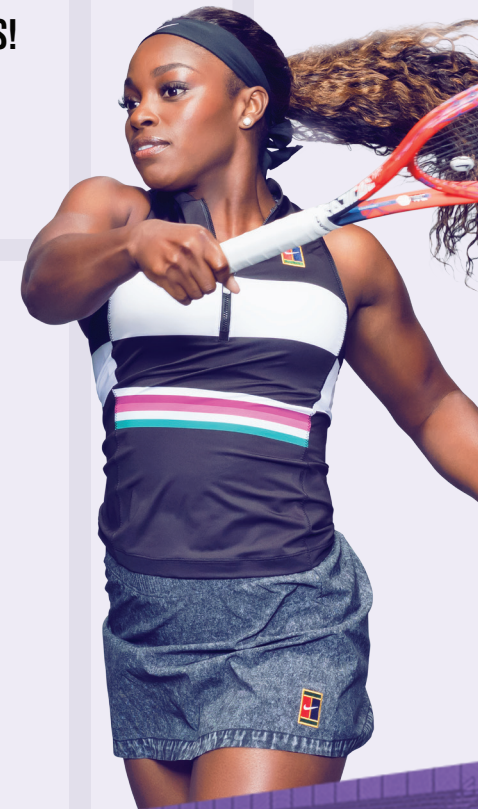
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