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2018 Irving Tennis Classic Announces ATP Tournament Player Acceptance List

Initial Acceptance Includes 5 Players Ranked in Top 60 and 24 Players in Top 100

IRVING, TX (FEBRUARY 21, 2018) -- The 2018 Irving Tennis Classic (ITC), an Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Challenger Level Tour event announced the initial player acceptance list for its seventh annual tournament, held in Irving at the Four Seasons Resort and Club Dallas at Las Colinas, March 12-18.

The current list of players is packed full of talent with an exciting mix of young up-coming Next Gen and more experienced players including 24 Top 100 ATP ranked players with additional positions for 4 Wild Card and 4 Qualifier players. Returning to the ITC is the 2017 ITC Singles Champion, Aljaz Bedene from Slovenia, ranked 43 in the world and rapidly climbing the ATP rankings including just coming off a well fought loss in the 2018 Argentina Open Finals to Dominic Thiem (6). First time ITC participant Gilles Simon from France, with 1 ATP Tour Title in 2018, currently ranked 66 and as high as 6 in the world, will grace the courts with his incredibly consistent two-handed backhand. Also, with ATP Tour Titles in 2018, are Daniil Medvedev from Russia, ranked 50 and the Singles title holder of the 2018 Sydney International; and Horacio Zeballos from Argentina, ranked 68 and the Doubles title holder of the 2018 Buenos Aires Open.

Other notable players include some of our returning Next Gen representatives from the US, Jared Donaldson (57) and Frances Tiafoe (91) to square off with the more senior players like fellow American Steve Johnson (51), Singles title holder of the 2017 Clay Court Championship who consistently plays with great heart and pride. Joining the more experienced players will be Denis Istomin (79) from Uzbekistan with a career high 33 ranking and a 5-set thriller and huge upset victory over Novak Djokovic in the second round at the 2017 Australian Open. Appearing at the ITC for the first time from Japan is Yuichi Sugita (41) following a great 2017 with a quarter-finals showing in Cincinnati, a victory at Wimbledon, and the Singles title holder at the Antalya Open in Turkey, Sugita is on a mission to make 2018 even better. All of these players will be demonstrating their skills and spirit as they compete with other similarly talented players in this impressive Top 100 field of players at the Irving Tennis Classic.

“We are extremely pleased with the depth and diversity of the initial player acceptance list; these players provide a super strong and competitive field and promise to make for an exciting and entertaining 2018 ITC event,” said Zoltan Papp, Irving Tennis Classic Tournament Director. Zoltan continues with enthusiasm, “now that we have such great players coming here, we look forward to our great fans coming out to the ITC for some fantastic tennis competition and fun.”

The City of Irving and our sponsors including 7-Eleven, Coca-Cola, and Central Market welcome tennis fans to join us at the 2018 ITC. Tickets are being sold through the ITC tournament website at www.irvingtennisclassic.com and at the front gate of the ITC event on the beautiful property of the Four Seasons Resort and Club Dallas at Las Colinas in Irving. Charitable proceeds go to the Dallas Tennis and Education Academy (<https://www.dta.org/our-charity>), the philanthropic arm of the Dallas Tennis Association (<https://www.dta.org/>). Additional sponsors may register through the ITC tournament website at www.irvingtennisclassic.com.

Player Acceptance List (As of February 21, 2018)

Player Country Ranking

Albot, Radu	MDA	87	Johnson, Steve	USA	51
Basic, Mirza	BIH	74	Kicker, Nicolas	ARG	86
Basilashvili, Nikoloz	GEO	77	Kukushkin, Mikhail	KAZ	89
Bedene, Aljaz	SLO	43	Marterer, Maximilian	GER	70
Copil, Marius	ROU	73	Medvedev, Daniil	RUS	50
Donaldson, Jared	USA	57	Simon, Gilles	FRA	66
Donskoy, Evgeny	RUS	76	Sugita, Yuichi	JPN	41
Ebden, Matthew	AUS	88	Tiafoe, Frances	USA	91
Fabbiano, Thomas	ITA	81	Troicki, Viktor	SRB	65
Fucsovics, Marton	HUN	62	Vesely, Jiri	CZE	61
Istomin, Denis	UZB	79	Youzhny, Mikhail	RUS	93
Jarry, Nicolas	CHI	94	Zeballos, Horacio	ARG	68

About Irving Tennis Classic

The Irving Tennis Classic (ITC) is an international Challenger Level event governed by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), with players competing to earn valuable ATP Ranking points and \$150,000.00 USD in prize money. The tournament features a 32-player singles draw and a 16-team doubles draw. Unlike other ATP Challenger Level events, top 50 ATP ranked players in the world can play in the Irving Tennis Classic without obtaining a wildcard. This extraordinary exception helps to attract high level players to the ITC as they move from the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, California and prepare for the Miami Open in Florida. For more information about the Irving Tennis Classic, go to the ITC website at IrvingTennisClassic.com or follow the ITC tournament on Twitter ([@irvingtennisclassic](https://twitter.com/irvingtennisclassic)) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/irvingtennisclassic/).