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HARRY AND SARAH STOWERS

Harry and Sarah Stowers embodied a love that continues to leave lasting fingerprints on our community, including the McNabb Center.

In 1960, Harry and his two brothers founded Stowers Machinery Corporation, the Caterpillar equipment dealer in East Tennessee. After managing the company's Chattanooga operations, he and Sarah moved to Knoxville in 1982.

Together, they committed their time, talents, and resources to many worthy causes in our region. One of their most beloved passions was serving the McNabb Center. Harry was actively involved in every significant fundraising effort for the center from 1987 until his death. He served as executive chairman of the Helen Ross McNabb Foundation Board in 1994-95. The Center awarded Harry and Sarah with the prestigious McNabb Center Spirit Award in 2007.

Both Sarah and Harry dedicated themselves to the Center's programs, especially services for at-risk children.

Along with their community work, Sarah and Harry were sports enthusiasts. They were avid tennis players and fans. Among their greatest joys was watching family members play among the highest levels of the game. Harry also played basketball at Lehigh University.

Throughout their 55 years of marriage, Sarah and Harry exemplified kindness, generosity, integrity, love, and humility. Before Harry passed in 2007, he and Sarah worked tirelessly to help the McNabb Center provide essential services for people with the most needs and fewest resources in East Tennessee. Until her death in 2021, Sarah continued her beloved husband's legacy of philanthropy, inspiring countless others.

In honor of Sarah and Harry, the Stowers family serves as champions for the McNabb Center. Wes and Liz Stowers, Jenny Stowers and Adam Brock, and Stewart and Samantha Stowers, along with their eight grandchildren, continue Harry and Sarah's commitment to helping those in need.







MCNABB CENTER

Dear fans, sponsors and supporters,

Welcome to the 2024 Knoxville Challenger!



We are excited to once again host the Challenger tournament in Knoxville and celebrate with you and some of the world's top tennis players!

Proceeds from the tournament benefit services provided to our community's most vulnerable citizens through the McNabb Center. The McNabb Center is a premier, not-for-profit provider of mental health services across East Tennessee. Over the past 75 years, the Center has stayed true to its mission of "improving the lives of the people we serve" through high quality, compassionate care to those in need.

This event would not be possible without hundreds of sponsors, volunteers and spectators. Together we are improving lives, and we are thankful for our great community partners.

Please join me in thanking Scott Patrick, our tournament director, and the committee members who have worked all year to make the Knoxville Challenger a first-class tournament experience. I would also like to recognize the University of Tennessee for its contribution. The Goodfriend Indoor Tennis Center is a state-of-the-art facility and serves as an exciting location for the tournament.

We have found a winning combination of tennis, charity and community – thank you for supporting the Knoxville Challenger and the McNabb Center!



Mma Blanton-Kit

Mona Blanton-Kitts, CEO McNabb Center

2024 KNOXVILLE CHALLENGER COMMITTEE

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KNOKULLE CHALLENGER benefiting McNabb Center

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Alex Michelson

2023 Knoxville Challenger Winner Alex Michelsen is an emerging American tennis player recognized for his powerful serve, athleticism, and strategic approach on the court. Born on

August 25, 2004, Michelsen has rapidly ascended in the tennis world, drawing attention as a promising young talent. His breakthrough came in junior competitions, where he consistently impressed with his ability to compete against top-tier opponents, displaying both skill and composure under pressure.

Michelsen transitioned to the professional circuit with an aggressive playing style and has already made notable appearances on the ATP Challenger Tour. Known for his quick adaptability and baseline strength, he continues to refine his game, proving to be a formidable competitor even against more experienced players. His ambition and discipline have led to steady improvement, setting high expectations for his future in professional tennis.

As Michelsen gains experience and hones his skills, he is regarded as one of the up-and-coming players to watch, with the potential to make a significant impact in the tennis world. His commitment to growth and his energetic presence on the court have made him a fan favorite and an exciting prospect for the future of American tennis.



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Denis Kudla

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Denis Kudla is a Ukrainian-American professional tennis player known for his aggressive baseline play and solid performance on various court surfaces. Born on August 17, 1992, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Kudla moved to the United States at a young age and was raised in Arlington, Virginia, where he began training in tennis. He turned professional in 2010 and quickly gained attention for his resilience and tactical skill on the court.

Kudla has achieved a career-high ATP singles ranking within the top 100 and is known for his strong performances in Grand Slam tournaments, particularly on grass courts. He reached the fourth round of Wimbledon in 2015, his best Grand Slam result to date, showcasing his agility and comfort on the faster surface. Over the years, Kudla has been a consistent competitor on the ATP Challenger Tour, where he has claimed multiple titles, demonstrating his tenacity and skill in high-stakes matches.

Denis Kudla is widely respected for his work ethic and his commitment to continuous improvement. While his career has had its challenges, including occasional injuries and stiff competition, Kudla remains a formidable player admired by fans for his determination and ability to compete at a high level on the world stage.

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Adam Walton

Adam Walton is an Australian tennis player recognized for his skillful all-court play, tactical acumen, and competitive spirit. Born on April 17, 1999, Walton began his tennis journey in Home Hill, Queensland, Australia, where he quickly showed potential. He further developed his game at the University of Tennessee, where he was a standout athlete, earning multiple accolades and establishing himself as a leader on the college circuit. His success at the collegiate level, highlighted by an NCAA doubles championship and multiple All-American honors, prepared him well for the professional tour.

Walton turned professional with a reputation for his consistent groundstrokes, adaptability on different surfaces, and strong mental game. Known for his tenacity and strategic play, he has gained traction on the ATP Challenger Tour, earning titles and valuable experience against higher-ranked opponents. Walton's intelligent approach on the court and impressive work ethic have garnered respect from fans and peers alike, marking him as a rising star in Australian tennis.

As Walton continues his journey in professional tennis, his dedication and skill make him a promising player to watch, with the potential to make significant strides on the ATP Tour in the coming years.

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Christopher Eubanks

2021 Knoxville Challenger Winner

Christopher Eubanks is an American professional tennis player known for his towering height, powerful serve, and dynamic presence on the court. Born on May 5, 1996, in Atlanta, Georgia, Eubanks developed his tennis skills at an early age and honed them further during his college career at Georgia Tech, where he was a standout player and a two-time All-American. His college success laid the foundation for his transition to the professional circuit in 2017.

Eubanks is particularly known for his aggressive style, using his height and reach to dominate at the net and deliver impressive serves. His breakthrough on the ATP Tour came in 2023, highlighted by a quarterfinal run at Wimbledon, where his powerful game and athleticism shone on the grass courts. This performance solidified his reputation as a formidable player, especially on fast surfaces, and captured widespread fan attention for his charismatic and determined style.

With a career-high ranking within the top 30, Eubanks is celebrated for his perseverance, sportsmanship, and dedication to continuous improvement. He remains an inspiring figure in American tennis, known for his commitment to the sport and his enthusiastic connection with fans, who eagerly follow his journey as he continues to rise in the ranks of professional tennis.

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HARRY'S LUNCH BUNCH

Harry Stowers began a once-a-month lunch meeting of friends in 1998. He challenged the group with general knowledge contests and trivia questions and required every member to be responsible for inviting a different guest speaker each month. 'Harry's Lunch Bunch' still has a standing reservation on the first week of every month at Cherokee Country Club in the Old Grill Room.

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Learner Tien

Learner Tien is an American tennis player known for his agility, sharp groundstrokes, and mental toughness on the court. Born on December 2, 2005, Tien emerged as a standout talent early in his career, excelling in junior tournaments and earning recognition for his advanced skillset and mature approach to the game. His breakthrough came when he reached the finals of prestigious junior events and gained valuable experience representing the United States internationally.

Tien turned heads at the 2022 U.S. Open, where he qualified as a wildcard, showcasing his impressive ability to compete at the professional level despite his young age. He is praised for his disciplined baseline game and relentless energy, which allow him to go toe-to-toe with older, more experienced players. Known for his dedication and adaptability, Tien has quickly gained traction on the ITF and junior circuits, with a growing fanbase that appreciates his intensity and potential.

With his strong work ethic and promising skillset, Learner Tien is seen as one of the most exciting young players in American tennis, with a bright future as he continues to develop his game and gain experience on the pro tour.

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Mitchell Krueger

Mitchell Krueger is an American professional tennis player known for his consistency, tactical prowess, and strong baseline game. Born on January 12, 1994, in Fort Worth, Texas, Krueger grew up in a tennis-oriented family, which fueled his passion and development in the sport from a young age. Turning professional in 2012, Krueger has steadily built a reputation on the ATP Challenger Tour, where his patience and resilience have earned him multiple titles and success against top competitors.

1

Krueger's game is defined by his reliable groundstrokes, high tennis IQ, and mental toughness, making him a challenging opponent, particularly in long rallies and high-stakes points. His persistence paid off when he achieved a career-high ATP ranking within the top 150, and he has made several appearances in the main draws of Grand Slam tournaments, including the U.S. Open. His strong work ethic and methodical approach on the court have earned him respect from fans and peers alike.

As he continues to refine his game and compete on the ATP Tour, Mitchell Krueger's dedication and experience make him a formidable player with the potential to climb further in the ranks, representing American tennis with grit and determination. 20 20

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