



PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES, GREAT BRITAIN TO COMPETE IN 2014 MAUREEN CONNOLLY CHALLENGE TROPHY

FLUSHING, N.Y., August 20, 2014 – The USTA and The Lawn Tennis Association of Great Britain today announced the up-and-coming junior girls competing in the 38th Maureen Connolly Challenge Trophy – a yearly competition between top female tennis players age 18 and younger from the United States and Great Britain – held August 21-22 at the Connecticut Tennis Center at Yale in New Haven, Conn. The tournament is being played in conjunction with the Connecticut Open, an Emirates Airline US Open Series women's event.

Representing the U.S. is 2014 USTA Girls' 18s National Clay Court quarterfinalist **Francesca Di Lorenzo** (17, New Albany, Ohio); **Caroline Dolehide** (15, Hinsdale, Ill.), a doubles semifinalist at this year's USTA Girls' 18s National Championships; **Ellie Halbauer** (17, Boca Raton, Fla.), who won her first pro title last October at a USTA Pro Circuit \$10,000 event in Hilton Head, S.C.; and **Kayla Day** (14, Santa Barbara, Calif.), the 2014 USTA Girls' 16s National Championships runner-up. The United States will be coached by USTA National Coaches **Kathy Rinaldi** and **Jamea Jackson**.

Competing for Great Britain are **Freya Christie** (16, Nottingham), a 2014 European junior doubles champion; **Maia Lumsden** (16, Glasgow), who reached the third round of girls' singles at Wimbledon this summer; **Katie Swan** (15, Bristol), a 2014 Easter Bowl singles finalist; and **Gabi Taylor** (16, Southampton), who also advanced to the third round of girls' singles at Wimbledon this summer. The British team will be coached by **Judy Murray**, the mother of Olympic gold-medalist Andy Murray and Great Britain Fed Cup Captain, and **Iain Bates**.

The teams will play a total of 12 matches – eight singles and four doubles – over Thursday and Friday. All singles matches will be best of three sets with a tie-break in the final set. Doubles matches will be two sets and a match tiebreak.

The Maureen Connolly Challenge Trophy, held last year in Eastbourne, England, was started in 1973 by the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation and Mrs. Frank Jeffett 20 years after Connolly won all four Grand Slam events and four years after her death. In its history, the competition has included American players such as **Sloane Stephens**, **Taylor Townsend**, **Pam Shriver**, **Kathy Jordan**, **Zina Garrison**, **Amy Frazier** and **Lisa Raymond** and British players **Laura Robson**, **Jo Durie** and **Sue Barker**. The United States currently leads the all-time series, 25-12.

"We are very excited to bring this historic event back to New Haven," said Elizabeth Jeffett, event chair and trustee, MCB Tennis Foundation. "It is a wonderful opportunity for our players to represent their countries while competing right alongside some of the top pros in the world."

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The USTA is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the U.S. and the leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis at every level -- from local communities to the highest level of the professional game. A not-for-profit organization with more than 750,000 members, it invests 100% of its proceeds in growing the game. It owns and operates the US Open, the highest attended annual sporting event in the world, and launched the Emirates Airline US Open Series linking eight summer tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns the 90-plus Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S. and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games. The USTA philanthropic entity, USTA Serves, provides grants and scholarships and helps underserved youth and people with disabilities. For more information on the USTA, log on to usta.com, "like" the official Facebook page [facebook.com/usta](https://www.facebook.com/usta) or follow [@usta](https://twitter.com/usta) on Twitter.

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