



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 29, 2015**

**GRAND SLAM CHAMPIONS INCLUDED IN MEN'S FIELD FOR
ODLUM BROWN VANOPEN**

Vancouver, BC – The Odlum Brown VanOpen is pleased to announce the men's field which will compete in the \$200,000 USTA Pro Circuit Challenger event, August 15 to 23 at the Hollyburn Country Club in West Vancouver. The field is the strongest in the tournament's 14 year history.

The players on the list are in addition to former World No. 8 **Janko Tipsarevic**, who earlier this month was the first player confirmed to attend the Odlum Brown VanOpen. The Serb has two career victories over a World No. 1 player, having defeated compatriot Novak Djokovic twice.

"Our slogan for this year's tournament is 'The strongest field of play in our 14 year history', and the announcement of our men's field exemplifies that," said Tournament Chairman Floyd Hill. "We are very excited with the strength of our field this year and the move to our new date really helped. When you have players like Tipsarevic and **Jurgen Melzer**, along with **Ricardas Berankis** and five others who are ranked among the Top-100 players in the world, it makes for a very competitive field, and a very exciting tournament."

Overall, 13 of the men's participants competed in the main draw at Wimbledon this year.

The list also includes six players who are currently ranked within the World Top 100. Argentina's **Diego Schwartzman** is currently World No. 66, **Lucas Pouille** of France is ranked No. 85, Lithuanian Berankis is ranked No. 87, **Ruben Bemelmans** of Belgium is 89th overall, Bosnia and Herzegovina native **Damir Dzumhur** is at No. 93 and Aussie **John Millman** is ranked No. 96.

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Schwartzman's career high ranking is No. 57, which came this past May after he made it to the semifinals at the BNP Paribas Istanbul Open, where he fell to World No. 2 Roger Federer.

Pouille, at age 20, finished 2014 as the youngest Frenchman in the Top 150 rankings with a 28-17 match record in Challenger tournaments.

Berankis is the first and only Lithuanian player to enter the ATP Top 100 rankings. He's reached the third round of Australian Open twice, in 2011 and 2013 and was also the runner-up at the 2010 Odlum Brown VanOpen.

Bemelmans won the men's doubles title at the 2012 Odlum Brown VanOpen. Earlier this month, he helped Belgium reach the Davis Cup semifinals for the first time since 1999 with 5-0 win over Canada.

Dzumhur has twice reached the third round of the Australian Open both last year and this year. He's played in the main draw at five Grand Slams in his career.

Millman almost caused a major upset in the second round of this year's Brisbane International in January. The 26-year-old was leading world No.2 Roger Federer 6-4, 3-1 before falling 6-4, 4-6, 3-6.

Other notables include Melzer, who's a former World No. 8 out of Austria, Colombian **Alejandro Falla**, **Igor Sijsling** of the Netherlands, and Australian **Matthew Ebden**.

Melzer reached No. 8 in April 2011 and is the only player to ever defeat Novak Djokovic from two sets behind, which he did in the quarterfinals of the 2010 French Open. The 34-year-old's other notable career achievements include reaching the fourth round four times at Grand Slam tournaments. He is also a two-time Grand Slam doubles champion (Wimbledon - 2010, US Open - 2011) and the 2011 Wimbledon mixed doubles champion.

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Falla's highest ranking is No. 48, which he achieved in July 2012. His best result in a Grand Slam was in 2011 at the French Open, where he reached the fourth round. The 31-year-old almost caused a massive upset in the first round of Wimbledon in 2010, winning the first two sets against World No. 2 Roger Federer and serving for the match at 5–4 in the fourth set, before Federer eventually won.

Sijsling won the 2012 Odlum Brown VanOpen as a 25-year-old, but his best singles result is the third round of Wimbledon in 2013. He has career wins over former World No. 5 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, former World No. 8 Mikhail Youzhny, and current World No. 8 Milos Raonic. Sijsling was also a finalist in doubles at the 2013 Australian Open.

Ebden was the 2013 Australian Open mixed doubles champion with Jarmila Gajdosova, who won last year's Odlum Brown VanOpen women's title. Ebden has four career ATP doubles titles to his name.

"This year's draw is top to bottom Grand Slam experienced players, with multiple having been ranked in the world top 10," said Tournament Director Ryan Clark. "Every round will be a tough battle."

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*2015 marks the 14th year of the \$200,000 Odlum Brown VanOpen Presented By Miele and Trail Appliances, a dual sanctioned USTA Pro Circuit and Tennis Canada event. The event has an equal balance of prize money for both men and women and provides players with the opportunity to gain valuable world-ranking points on both the respective ATP and WTA Tours. Between the men's and women's events, it annually attracts 140 international and professional players to Vancouver from over 40 countries. **Maria Sharapova, Andy Murray, Marion Bartoli, Eugenie Bouchard, Jelena Dokic, Milos Raonic, Nicole Pietrangeli, and Vasek Pospisil***

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are among today's top stars who began their careers at the Odlum Brown VanOpen Presented By Miele and Trail Appliances, and on the USTA Pro Circuit.

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