



SOUTHERN

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PRESS RELEASE

Mississippi Leads 2016 USTA League Adult 18 & Over Southern Sectional Championships

MOBILE, ALABAMA – JULY 25, 2016 – Twelve teams from USTA Southern have advanced to the national championship round of the largest adult recreational tennis league in the world by winning the 2016 USTA League Adult 18 & Over Southern Sectional Championships played here July 22-25.

Mississippi followed up with a strong showing in 2015 by taking three championships and having two finalists this year. In this year’s competition Arkansas and North Carolina each had two champions and two finalists. Charlotte, North Carolina, and Hattiesburg, Mississippi, each scored with a champion and a finalist.

Matches were contested at the Copeland-Cox Mobile Tennis Center and the Cottage Hill/Medal of Honor Park. An estimated 1,063 players from 109 teams participated.

Champions and finalists were:

Level	Champions Hometown/Captain	Finalists Hometown/Captain
Men’s 2.5	Lake Charles, Louisiana Captain: Justin Kingsley	No finalist because champion won in round-robin
Men’s 3.0	Atlanta Captain: Chris Rauber	Jackson, Mississippi Captain: Kellon Lawrence
Men’s 3.5	Jackson, Mississippi Captain: Conway Craig	North Little Rock, Arkansas Captain: Mike Terrell
Men’s 4.0	Greenwood, Mississippi Captain: Jeff Hardin	Columbia, South Carolina Captain: David Edwards
Men’s 4.5	Norcross, Georgia Captain: Matt DeWolf	Hattiesburg, Mississippi Captain: Michael Haddox
Men’s 5.0+	Lake Norman, North Carolina (A) Co-captains: Greg May & Michael Ferrero	Charlotte, North Carolina (B) Captain: Tommy Beecher
Women’s 2.5	Knoxville, Tennessee (A) Captain: Lisa Huffman	Daniel Island, South Carolina Co-Captains: Heidi Strenck & Ann Harrah
Women’s 3.0	Fayetteville, Arkansas Captain: Judith Boen	Birmingham, Alabama (B) Co-captains: Megan Jones & Maggie Hobson

Women's 3.5	Pelham, Alabama Co-captains: Ashley Raggio & Michelle Morris	Brentwood, Tennessee Co-Captains: Hillary Cooper & Kimberly Morrison
Women's 4.0	Fort Smith, Arkansas Co-captains: Lucy Coleman & Kimberly Simon	Durham, North Carolina (A) Captain: Sandra Corpora
Women's 4.5	Hattiesburg, Mississippi Captain: Christi Foli	Little Rock, Arkansas Captain: Marcie Palecek
Women's 5.0+	Charlotte, North Carolina Captain: Tisha Vandemore	No finalist because champion won in round-robin

The championships drew teams from throughout Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Southern Carolina and Tennessee. The teams, which represent various clubs, parks, recreational departments and organizations, have finished at the top of their state tournaments and are now vying for a chance to represent USTA Southern at the USTA League National Championships this fall in most levels. The Mobile center, along with four other facilities in Arizona and California, will host the competitions.

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[Click here for the tournament's website.](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) #USTASouthern

For more information about USTA League, visit www.usta.com/adult-tennis/USTA-League.

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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. It owns and operates the US Open, the largest annually attended sporting event in the world, and launched the **Emirates Airline US Open Series** linking seven summer tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns about 90 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S., and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic games. A not-for-profit organization with more than 661,000 members, it invests 100 percent of its proceeds in growing the game. It is divided into 17 sections, of which **USTA Southern** is the largest. The 162,000+ USTA members living in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee make up USTA Southern, and account for nearly 25 percent of the total USTA membership. A professional staff housed in Peachtree Corners, Ga., carries out USTA Southern's daily operations, but policy is formed and much of the organization's work is executed via a board and committee structure of more than 200 volunteers. For more information about the types of programs and services offered by USTA Southern, visit www.southerntennis.com.

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