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PRESS RELEASE

**Atlanta Teams Take Three Titles at
 2017 USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis Section Championships**

LEXINGTON, KY. TAKES TITLE IN NEW 18 ADVANCED-LOW LEVEL

ATLANTA – Aug. 14, 2017 – With three champions and a finalist, Atlanta lead all cities in the 2017 USTA Southern Junior Team Section Championships.

USTA Atlanta is the largest local USTA community tennis association in the country.

Among the section’s nine states, Georgia was the only state to capture multiple titles. Athens had the other Peach State champion.

Raleigh, N.C. had one champion and one finalist while Camden, S.C., and Knoxville, Tenn., ended up with two finalists/second-place teams each.

The growing youth team program has added an 18 and under advanced-low level that is contributing to the growth of the championships. Four teams played at that level, with Lexington Ky., winning the round robin.

This year’s event drew the top coed 62 teams and about 520 players from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. More than 1,000 persons were expected to stay in Rome and Floyd County, including parents, coaches and siblings of the competitors. Last year’s championships had 57 teams with about 450 players.

Matches were played Aug. 11-13 at the Rome Tennis Center at Berry College in Rome, Ga. The 60-court facility was opened last year.

Champions in 14-and-under and 18 and under levels will have the opportunity to advance to the Junior Team Tennis National Championships at the USTA National Campus in Orlando, Fla. The 14 and under teams will play Sept. 21-24 and the 18 and under teams will play Sept. 28-Oct. 1.

USTA’s JTT program supports coed and single-gender teams in four age levels. Teams compete in 10 and under, 12 and under, 14 and under and 18 and under levels. Within each age level, teams also play in two different skill levels -- intermediate and advanced -- and the new 18 and under advanced-low level. A team match consists of boys’ and girls’ singles, boys’ and girls’ doubles, and mixed doubles. JTT teams represent various clubs, parks, recreational departments and organizations, that have finished at the top of their local leagues and advanced through state championships. All teams playing here are coed.

Here is the list of champions and finalists/second-place teams. Photos are available upon request.

Level	Champion (with captain/coach)	Finalist/ Second-Place Team (with captain/coach)	Score in final or *champion’s score in round robin
10 & Under Advanced	Birmingham, Ala. Milton Fleming	New Albany, Miss. Robert Garrett	145-80*
10 & Under Intermediate	Atlanta Alicia Shelton	Camden, S.C. Jill Sweat	30-22

12 & Under Advanced	Athens, Ga. Amy Byrnes	Cary, N.C. Reid Kinlaw	137-87*
12 & Under Intermediate	Jackson, Miss. Lynda Ratliff	Camden, S.C. Susan Grumbach	38-21
14 & Under Advanced	Atlanta Cindy Pietkiewicz	Mt. Pleasant, S.C. Heather Chatwick	299-97*
14 & Under Intermediate	Raleigh, N.C. Joshua Collins	Atlanta Christy Winters	60-23
18 & Under Advanced- High	Atlanta Kerri Magee	Knoxville, Tenn. Ezequiel Gils	58-21
18 & Under Advanced- Low	Lexington, Ky. Laurie Larkin	Knoxville, Tenn. Derek Stultz	216-95*
18 & Under Intermediate	Hendersonville, Tenn. Brannon Jones	Raleigh, N.C. Joshua Collins	45-39

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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 710,000 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 174,000+ 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.southern tennis.com.

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