



UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION

## PRESS RELEASE

### RIDGELAND MEN'S TENNIS TEAM FINISH SECOND AT USTA LEAGUE ADULT 18 & OVER 3.0 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**SURPRISE, ARIZ., OCTOBER 22, 2017** – The men's tennis team from Ridgeland, Miss., representing the USTA Southern Section, finished second at the USTA League Adult 18 & Over 3.0 National Championships held at the Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex in Surprise, Ariz.

The Ridgeland team lost to a team from Mayaguez, P.R., 3-2 in the Championship match. Earlier in the day, the Ridgeland team defeated a team from Plano, Texas, 3-2 in the semifinals. They advanced this far by winning their round-robin flight contested Friday and Saturday.

The team is captained by Christopher Shaw and features Chris Forsyth, James Whatley, Melvin McNair, Ryan Barnes, Parker Smith, Jay Mooney, Philipp Schroeder, Andrew Lohrisch, Thomas Payne, Zach Myrick, William Dottley and plays at The Club at Township.

Established in 1980, USTA League has grown from 13,000 participants in a few parts of the country in its first year, to over 915,000 players across the nation today, making it the world's largest recreational tennis league.

USTA League was established to provide adult recreational tennis players throughout the country with the opportunity to compete against players of similar ability levels. Players participate on teams in a league format, which is administered by the USTA through its 17 Sections. The league groups players by using six National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) levels, ranging from 2.5 (entry) to 5.0 (advanced). USTA League is open to any USTA member 18 years of age or older.

The 2017 USTA League season will be the fifth season with the updated structure and format which offers four age categories (Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over and Adult 55 & Over and Mixed 18 & Over) to better align participants with players their own age. The Mixed 40 & Over division also celebrated its fourth anniversary. The restructuring guarantees more frequency of play opportunities at more appropriate age groups.

Head Penn Racquet Sports is in its 30th year as official ball of USTA League.

For more information about USTA League or the USTA, visit [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com).

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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 715,000 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 US Open Series, linking seven summer WTA and ATP World Tour tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns approximately 90 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S. and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games. The USTA's philanthropic entity, the USTA Foundation, provides grants and scholarships in addition to supporting tennis and education programs nationwide to benefit under-resourced youth through the National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) network. For more information about the USTA, go to USTA.com or follow the official accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat.

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