

November 14 - 21, 2009
Atkins Tennis Center - University of Illinois



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November 15, 2009

Singles Main Draw Announced for JSM Challenger Former Illini Rajeev Ram, Kevin Anderson awarded seeds

URBANA, Ill. –The JSM Challenger boasts a highly talented field in this year’s singles main draw, which will feature at least five current or former Illini, including defending singles champion, Kevin Anderson, and doubles champion, Rajeev Ram, who were both awarded seeds in the draw.

Ram, currently ranked a career-high 97th in the world, was awarded the No. 2 seed overall and will face Luka Gregorc in the first round, while Anderson earned the No. 7 seed and will take on Filip Prpic.

Current sophomore and wild-card recipient Dennis Nevolo drew top-seeded Kevin Kim, who played in all four Grand Slam events this year and checks in at No. 90 in the world this week, while former Illini Ruben Gonzales, who also received a wild card into the main draw, will battle seasoned ATP veteran, Ramon Delgado. Rounding out the list is former Illini All-American Ryler DeHeart, who will face a yet-to-be determined qualifier.

The list of seeded players also includes Michael Russell (No. 3), who is the USTA Pro Circuit men’s all-time leader in singles titles with 20; Taylor Dent (No. 4), who made his first Grand Slam appearance since 2006 this year; Jesse Levine (No. 5), who won the 2007 JSM Challenger singles title; Somdev Devvarman (No. 6), a two-time NCAA singles champion at the University of Virginia; and Robert Kendrick (No. 8), who competed at all four Grand Slam events this year and advanced to the second round at both the Roland Garros and US Open.

In conjunction with Monday night’s matches, 13 Illinois head coaches will be on hand from 6-6:30 p.m. to serve as ball runners for the tournament. Participating coaches include Tonja Buford-Bailey, women’s track and field; Michelle Dasso, women’s tennis; Brad Dancer, men’s tennis; Zach Guthrie, men’s golf; Kevin Hambly, volleyball; Dan Hartleb, baseball; Jim Heffernan, wrestling; Sue Novitsky, swimming and diving; Janet Rayfield, soccer; Justin Spring, men’s gymnastics; Bob Starkell, women’s gymnastics; Terri Sullivan, softball; and Stephanie Wagemann, women’s golf.

Additional information can be found at <http://illinoischallenger.com>.

