

Former JSM Challenger Competitor Stars – Where are they now?

Kei Nishikori - 2010



Current Ranking: 5
Highest World Ranking: #4
Best Grand Slam Finish: 2014 US Open Semi-Final
ATP Tour Titles: 11
Age: 26
Turned Pro: 2007
Career Record: 299-138

He won his first title in 2008, Delray Beach, as and an 18 years old. In 2010 Kei Nishikori was the #1 seed in the \$50,000 JSM Challenger at the Atkins Tennis Center coming in at #120 in the ATP Rankings, but had an early exit in the second round, losing to former Illini Amer Delic. Delic went on to win the tournament that year. Since his appearance in Champaign, Kei has become the highest ranked Asian in ATP history and became the first Asian in a Grand Slam men’s single final.

Bob and Mike Bryan (The Bryan Brothers) – 1999



	Bob Bryan	Mike Bryan
Current Rank (Doubles)	5	5
Highest Singles ATP Ranking	116	246
Highest Doubles ATP Ranking		1
Best Grand Slam Finish	Finish: Champions at all 4 Grand Slams and Olympic Gold Medalist	
ATP Tour Titles	112	114
Age		38
Turned Pro		1998
Career Record	1010-310	1016-314

Since turning pro in 1998, Bob and Mike Bryan have taken over the doubles stage in the open era. They have finished as the top ranked doubles team 10 times in the past 13 years. They are the winningest doubles team or singles player in the Open Era, capturing 112 titles in 166 finals. In addition, they are the winningest doubles team in U.S. Davis Cup history and were part of the Championship team in 2007. On the road to the number 1 ranking, Bob and Mike made a run through Champaign. In 1999, the duo lost in an epic three set battle to fellow Americans Paul Goldstein and Jim Thomas. Bob made a solo appearance in 2000 without Mike.

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Kevin Anderson- 2005-2009



Current Ranking: 70
Highest World Ranking: 20
Best Grand Slam Finish: 2015 US Open Quarterfinal
ATP Tour Titles: 3
Age: 30
Turned Pro: 2007
Career Record: 239-180

Through the years of 2005-2007 Kevin Anderson competed for the Fighting Illini Men's Tennis program where he helped lead the team to the NCAA Title match in 2007 and captured the NCAA Doubles title in 2006. Since departing Champaign and beginning his professional career, Kevin has made many stops at the JSM Challenger. In 2006 he reached the quarterfinals. The following year, in 2007 he lost to fellow Illini Rajeev Ram before taking home the title in 2008. Kevin currently sits at 70 in the world, and reached a career high ranking of #10 in 2015, the same year that he reached the quarterfinals of the US Open.

Amer Delic- 2004-2008,2010, 2011



Current Ranking: Retired
Highest World Ranking: 60
Best Grand Slam Finish: 2009 Australian Open- 3rd Round
Age: 34
Turned Pro: 2003

As part of the Fighting Illinois from 2001-2003, Amer Delic led the Illinois through some of the most historic seasons collegiate tennis has ever seen. Delic played #1 singles for the 2003 team that completed the "perfect season;" 32-0 record and claimed the program's first NCAA title. Delic continued on to claim the 2003 NCAA Singles title. Delic went on to compete professionally after the 2003 season. His professional career included many visits to the JSM Challenger. He reached the semifinals in 2004 and the quarterfinals in 2005 before he was crowned the 2006 JSM Challenger Champion. In 2010 he defeated the #1 seed Kei Nishikori en-route to the final where he lost to Alex Bogomolov Jr in three sets. Since retiring in 2012 Delic has served as the Bosnia & Herzegovina Davis Cup Team Captain.

Jared Hiltzik- 2016



Playing the majority of his career at the #1 singles position for the University of Illinois, Jared helped lead the team to a Big Ten Title in 2015, and finished as a three time singles All-American. Since graduating in May of 2016, Jared has exploded onto the ATP tour sitting at 542 in the rankings with only 5 months of professional competition under his belt. Watch for Jared in action during the 2016 JSM Challenger.