



Templeton Tennis Ranch  
345 Championship Lane  
Templeton CA 93465  
(805) 434-9605  
[www.ttrtennis.com](http://www.ttrtennis.com)



## **Locals Whittle, Dunkle and Former Wimbledon Semifinalist Stevenson Awarded Wild Cards Into Main Draw At Central Coast Pro Tennis Open**

### ***Other Top Area Players Will Vie For Coveted Spots Into Tournament During Special Wild-Card Event Sept. 8-9 At Templeton Tennis Ranch***

TEMPLETON, CA- Aug. 22, 2018 — Former Arroyo Grande High star Sophie Whittle turned heads last year during the inaugural Central Coast Pro Tennis Open when she upset the tournament's No. 3-seeded player in the first round after being granted a main-draw singles wild card by tournament officials.

Whittle will look to better that result this year as organizers of the second annual USTA Pro Circuit Women's \$60,000 tournament have granted the current Gonzaga University senior Whittle a wild card once again for this year's event, which runs Sept. 23-30 at the Templeton Tennis Ranch located just south of Paso Robles.

After her upset last year, the Nipomo resident Whittle lost in the second round to former Wimbledon Junior Girls' winner Laura Robson. This year, she will be joined in the main draw by Cal Poly freshman Delanie Dunkle, who like Whittle starred at nearby Arroyo Grande. Dunkle is a Tennis Recruiting.net 5-star recruit and is the daughter of San Luis Obispo Country Club Director of Tennis Bill Dunkle.

Dunkle will play doubles with Alexandra Stevenson, the 38-year-old former world No. 17 who advanced to the 1999 Wimbledon semifinals. She is the daughter of NBA Hall of Famer "Dr. J" Julius Erving.

"We are thrilled to have named our singles and doubles main-draw wild cards and really looking forward to having two local standouts like Sophie and Delanie return, as well as a former Wimbledon semifinalist and longtime veteran of the Pro Circuit in Alexandra Stevenson," said Ralph Goehring, tournament chairman and host and TTR owner.

Goehring and Templeton Tennis Ranch Director of Tennis Scott Cleere have announced that two more wild cards spots will be up for grabs on Sept. 8-9 as the winners of the singles and doubles Wild Card Tournament will receive direct entry into the main draw.

The Central Coast Pro Tennis Open will attract more than 80 WTA players who are ranked from No. 100 to No. 350 in the world, along with their support teams and families.

Local tennis enthusiasts and the general public are invited to enjoy eight days of professional tennis. The tournament will include a free Kid's Day; social events; public clinics and a pro-am event.

Sponsors include: ***Tennis Warehouse, KJons Jewelers, Tiebreaker Brewing Company, Vacasa, Medina Light Show Designs, ESPN Radio, Maserati Alfa Romeo of Bakersfield, Tolusa Wines, So Cal Tennis Association*** and ***Simply Clear Marketing & Media***.

If you would like to become a sponsor or volunteer for the tournament, call the Templeton Tennis Ranch at 805.434.9605.

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*Set amid a tranquil wooded property, Templeton Tennis Ranch's stunning clubhouse, versatile fitness center, infrared sauna and state-of-the-art tennis and pickleball courts are renowned in San Luis Obispo County. Come see why visitors and locals alike enjoy the Central Coast's beautiful wooded family fitness hub and event center. Templeton Tennis Ranch is located at 345 Championship Lane in Templeton off the Main Street Exit on the west side of Highway 101. It is open Mondays through Fridays, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays 7 a.m. to 5.p.m.;Sundays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and can be contacted at (805) 434-9605, [www.ttrtennis.com](http://www.ttrtennis.com). Information about the tournament: [www.ttrprotennis.com](http://www.ttrprotennis.com)*

*For further information please contact:*

*Ralph Goehring TTR – 805-434-9605*

*Steve Pratt TTR Pro Circuit Media Contact – 310-408-4555; [stevep@bzapr.com](mailto:stevep@bzapr.com)*