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Central Coast's Sophie Whittle Earns Way Into Local Women's USTA \$60,000 Pro Circuit Tournament At Templeton Tennis Ranch

TEMPLETON, Calif. – Sept. 24, 2019 — After graciously accepting a local wild card into the main draw of singles the past year two years, Sophie Whittle had to earn her way this year at the Central Coast Pro Tennis Open, a USTA Pro Circuit \$60,000 women's event taking place at the Templeton Tennis Ranch.

The No. 6-seeded Whittle, who grew up 45 miles south of Templeton in the small Central Coast town of Nipomo (population 16,174) and starred at Arroyo Grande High before a decorated collegiate career at Gonzaga University, went the distance in the final-round of qualifying outlasting Michaela Bayerlova of the Czech Republic, 6-4, 2-6, 10-7, to reach the main draw.

"I'm just really excited to get through," said Whittle, who played in the main draw in singles and doubles in her home-county event the past two years. "This time it was great to earn my way in. I was able to let my mistakes go and was just moving on to the next points. I was just fighting as hard as I could for every point and to stay out there as long as I needed to."
(*Sophie Whittle post-match video interview* [HERE](#))

After last year's CCPTO ended in a first-round loss to fellow American Ann Li, Whittle returned to her Spokane college and had a fall senior season to remember. Unseeded at the ITA/Riviera All-American Championships in Pacific Palisades, Calif., Whittle won eight straight matches in six days to win one of college tennis' grand slam events and eventually rose to No. 1 in the country. She ended the year as an ITA All-American, the WCC Player of the Year and was named the ITA Arthur Ashe Leadership and Sportsmanship Award winner.

In the first round of the first CCPTO in 2017, Whittle shocked everyone by capturing her first WTA point in her first USTA Pro Circuit tournament with a shocking 6-2, 6-3 upset over No. 3 seeded Francoise Abanda of Canada.

"I love being able to stay in my bed and just come out here and practice every day is so nice," Whittle said. "I get to have my family and friends watch me. Tennis-Warehouse has been sponsoring me and seeing all the TW shirts out here and having their support has been amazing."

In the late doubles match on Tuesday, a pair of recognizable American players on the comeback trail earned a first-round victory as Shelby Rogers and CoCo Vandeweghe worked overtime to down Hanna Chang and Sanaz Marand, 7-5, 6-7 (4), 10-3

On Wednesday, Whittle will open main-draw play against former USC All-American Giuliana Olmos of Mexico, who two years ago captured the Central Coast Pro Tennis Open doubles title with former Trojan teammate Kaitlyn Christian.

"I'm trying to focus more on singles, but decided at the last minute to play doubles here," said Olmos, who was asked by current USC senior Angela Kulikov to play doubles. The pair drew the top-seeded team of Quinn Gleason and Ingrid Neel in the first round Wednesday, not before 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday's schedule also includes singles matches featuring top-seeded Varvara Lepchenko facing former USTA Girls' National Junior champion Ashley Kratzer; No. 2 Usue Arconada playing the night match not before 6 p.m. against Vandeweghe and former Australian Open quarterfinalist Rogers meeting Russia's Anna Morgina. Rogers, who upset the No. 4 Simona Halep in 2017 at the 2017 Australian Open, is coming back from injury. She missed 13 months (March 2018-April 2019) due to a knee injury suffered at Indian Wells in 2018.

In addition, No. 3-seeded and former world Top 5 player and Wimbledon finalist Genie Bouchard will open up against unseeded Gabriela Talaba of Romania following Whittle-Olmos on Stadium Court.

Tuesday's Final Singles Qualifying Scores

Maria Mateas, U.S., def. Ingrid Gamarra Martins, Brazil, 6-2, 6-3
Anna Morgina (2), Russia, def. Shatoo Mohamad, U.S., 7-6 (4), 6-3
Ellie Douglas, U.S., def. Olivia Tjandramulia (5), Australia, 4-6, 6-3, 10-5
Sophie Whittle (6), U.S., def. Michaela Bayerlova (13), Czech Republic, 6-4, 2-6, 10-7
Elysia Bolton, U.S., def. Ingrid Neel, U.S., 6-1, 6-3
Pamela Montez (7), U.S., def. Lorraine Guillermo (16), U.S., 6-4, 6-2
Sanaz Marand (4), U.S., def. Tori Kinard (11), U.S., 6-1, 6-4
Tara Moore (8), Great Britain, def. Alycia Parks (9), U.S., 6-3, 6-2

Tuesday's Main-Draw Singles Scores

Hanna Chang, U.S., def. Danielle Lao (5), U.S., 7-5, retired
Jovana Jaksic (6), Serbia, def. Quinn Gleason, U.S., 7-5, 6-1
Grace Min, U.S., def. Kayla Day, U.S., 4-6, 6-3, 6-1
Hailey Baptiste (8), U.S., def. Marcela Zacarias, Mexico, 7-5, 6-7 (2), 6-2
Irina Falconi, U.S., def. Vicky Duval, U.S., 7-6 (4), 6-2

Tuesday's Main-Draw Singles Scores

Emina Bektas, U.S./Tara Moore (4), Great Britain, def. Hanyu Guo, China/Olivia Tjandramulia, Australia, 7-6 (6), 6-4
Shelby Rogers, U.S./CoCo Vandeweghe (2), U.S., def. Hanna Chang, U.S./Sanaz Marand, U.S., 7-5, 6-7 (4), 10-3
Vladica Babic, Montenegro/Caitlin Whoriskey (3), U.S., def. Jacqueline Cako, U.S./Jovana Jaksic (6), Serbia, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 10-6
Deniz Khazaniuk, Israel/Alycia Parks, U.S., def. Varvara Lepchenko, U.S./Maria Mateas, U.S., 3-6, 6-3, 10-6

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To follow all the action, go to the tournament website: www.ttrprotennis.com and on Facebook and search Central Coast Pro Tennis Open. And follow the USTA on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @USTA (#USTAProCircuit).

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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. Information about the tournament: www.ttrprotennis.com

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