

## Madonia Keeps Hitting Winners

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THE LEDGER

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Stephen Madonia is steadily developing his game and climbing the rankings.

Madonia, 15, of Lakeland, returned home from the USTA Regional Tournament Summer Smash in Delray Beach as a double winner from the national event.

Madonia won the boys' age 16 singles and age 16 doubles titles. It's the same event he won last year when he took the age 14 division title.

Madonia was seeded third in singles in the 32-player draw, which featured an international field.

He out-last-ed fifth-seeded Mwendwa Mbithi in the semis 3-6, 6-4, 6-1. He defeated Jonathan Deautriell in the final 6-3, 6-2. Overall he was 5-0.

Madonia teamed with Zachary Bessette to win the doubles title. The two won four matches including an 8-6 win over Charlie Adams and Josiah Collins in the final.

Madonia has had quite the summer.

He competed in the boys' age 16 national championships in Kalamazoo, Mich., where he won four singles matches and competed in doubles in one of the country's most prestigious junior tournaments.

He reached the singles final and doubles semifinal in the Miami Dade Designated, where he succumbed to the heat.

Madonia also participated on the wining zonal team in the USTA championships with an 8-2 record and won the sportsmanship award.

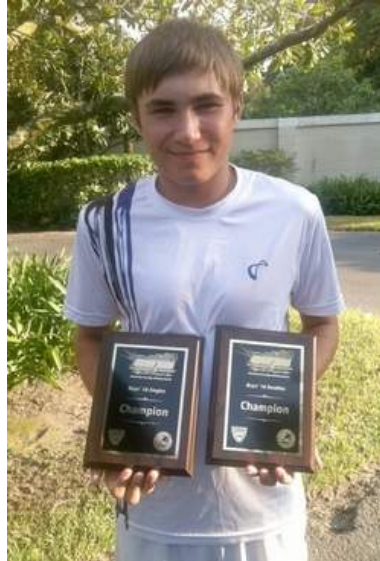
He went 2-2 in the national clay court championships.

He won all five of his matches in the intersectional championships.

He also won the USTA national open in May and the Weston Spring Sectional in March.

He is currently ranked No. 73 in the country in the boys' 16s and 28th in the state in his first year in the division.

**USTA Adult Championships**



Stephen , 15, won the boys' age 16 singles and doubles titles at the USTA Regional Summer Smash. (SPECIAL TO THE LEDGER)

A vertical advertisement for Regal Lakeland Automotive Group. At the top, it says "A Different Experience" in a script font. Below that is the "Regal LAKELAND" logo in a stylized font. Underneath is "AUTOMOTIVE GROUP" in a bold, sans-serif font. The main headline is "BLOW OUT SALE" in large, red, outlined letters. Below that, it says "over 650" in a large, red font, followed by "CARS TO CHOOSE FROM!" in yellow. The advertisement features logos for KIA, CHEVROLET, GMC, HONDA, and ACURA. At the bottom, there is a blue button with white text that says "CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR WEB SITE" and a yellow arrow pointing to the right.

Polk County's newest tennis event, the \$15,000 USTA Adult Championships scheduled for Sept. 29-30 at the Lake Region Yacht and Country Club has added another division — mixed doubles.

The inaugural event sponsored by the Harned Family and Indian River Transport and Polk County Sports Marketing is offering men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles.

The levels are open and 3.0 to 4.5 for men's and women's singles. It's 8.0 to 7.0 for men's doubles and 6.0 to 8.0 for women's doubles.

The fee is \$50 for open singles and \$40 for all other singles divisions. The fee is \$30 for open doubles and \$20 for all other doubles players.

Plus there's a kids camp on Sept. 28 at 10 a.m. It's \$20 and open to anyone younger than 12.

This new event also features a player party and dinner buffet to kick things off on Sept. 28 from 6 to 10 p.m. for those who register. Those who want to attend the dinner can participate for \$15.

Lake Region pro Alex Bose landed the event about a year ago after going through the testing process and getting it approved. The USTA-sanctioned event offers prize money and a chance to earn adult ratings points.

Bose is hoping the event will grow like a similar one in Virginia.

He's watched the USTA Mid Atlantic Section McDonald's Clay Court Championships in Virginia rise to a \$30,000, weeklong national event.

"This county needs it," he said of the new event. "They don't have many big events. I want to get it there and make it like a traditional event with VIP tents. I played in that event for several years. That's what I'm going after."

The local club has updated its six clay courts in the past year and added new wind screens to prepare for the tournament.

Bose has already received registrations from out-of-state players.

Don't forget, players as young as 13 can participate.

For more, visit [www.bosetennis.com](http://www.bosetennis.com).

#### Super Series

The Ledger Junior Super Series is Sept. 15-17 at the Beerman Family Tennis Center.

The event is for players ages 10 to 18. The entry deadline is Sept. 10.

For more call 863-834-2374.

#### Back To School

Auburndale is offering a Back To School Junior Tennis Bash on Sept. 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. for players 6 and older.

Players can compete in round robin matches, group games, Grips testing and enjoy pizza.

For more, call 863-965-5544 or email Carol Mahler at [cmahler@auburndalefl.com](mailto:cmahler@auburndalefl.com).

