

Open and Junior Preview

Ojai tennis fans have grown accustomed to seeing Ena Shibahara play on finals weekend at The Ojai the past few years in the Women's Open division. Shibahara won the Open singles title the past two years, and teamed with Jada Hart to win the doubles back-to-back in 2014 and 2015 before falling in last year's final.

This year both Shibahara and Hart will return to The Ojai, but this time as UCLA Bruins as the freshman will contest the first women's Pac-12 team championship. Shibahara and Hart captured the US Open Girls doubles title in New York in September and are considered one of the best teams in all of college tennis.

Like Shibahara and Hart, fellow teenager and college freshman Brandon Holt will also play his first Ojai for his school as he is currently playing for USC. Holt made a run all the way to the Men's Open singles final last year, losing to Deiton Baughman in a close final. Baughman is currently an assistant coach at USC, but will return to Ojai and try to defend his title.

In the Boys' CIF Interscholastic division, UCLA recruit Connor Hance of Peninsula High is back to try and defend his Ojai singles. Last year, the senior Hance beat current Cal player Bjorn Hoffmann of Corona del Mar in the final, 6-2, 6-2. Last year's doubles winners -- Connor Lee and Bryce Pereira of San Marcos -- also return competing for San Marino High.

Other top singles players include Ryan Seggerman (Coronado), Ivan Thamma (Point Loma), Kyle Pham (Corona del Mar) and Brandon Lam (Westlake). Watch out for Newport Harbor freshman Max McKennon, a finalist in the Boys' 14s last year at The Ojai.