



Sumter, SC – 6/19/22: Sophie Chang Captures the 2022 Palmetto Pro Open Women’s Singles Championship.

The finals lived up to the billing as Hanna Chang (1) (USA) and Sophie Chang (2) (USA) battled hard in an exciting hard fought 3 sets. Sophie started the match strong utilizing her powerful first serve and taking the ball early on nearly every shot placing Hanna behind in the rallies early. Sophie capitalized on her momentum and took the first set 6-2. Hanna relented to let the match slip away and implemented more slice to try and slow Sophie down then getting back to her own offense when she had the opportunity. Just that little bit of a lull in Sophies game near the end of the second set allowed Hanna to hang around and steal the set 6-4. Starting the third set Sophie reset her mindset and gameplan of big serves, first strike offense, and aggressive returning to control the points. She soon found herself up 5-2 serving for the match and the championship. Maybe looking ahead in the moment Sophie took her foot off the gas pedal just a bit and Hanna went into survival mode coming up with the crucial break now down 3-5. A quick hold of serve and a resurgence of confidence Hanna now had the match back to 4-5 in the third. Sophie a bit rattled but clawing to regain her form had another uncharacteristic tentative service game and was broken by Hanna to even the score 5 all. Hanna now having a fresh outlook on the match executed another solid service game to go ahead for the first time in the third set 6-5. With her back against the wall Sophie had to dig deep and regained her form to hold and take the match into a deciding set tiebreaker at 6 games all. The tiebreaker went back and forth but Sophie held her level and took the tiebreaker 7 points to 5 taking the match 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 and winning her first Palmetto Pro Open 25K Singles Championship.

The PTC Team congratulates both players on their phenomenal play and a fantastic tournament. We also wish them both success as they are traveling to England to play the Wimbledon Qualifier this Tuesday 6-21-2022.

Thank you to everyone who came out to watch as the players were very appreciative of the crowd’s support.

ABOUT Palmetto Tennis Center:

Palmetto Tennis Center is a National Tennis Court in Palmetto Park in Sumter, South Carolina. It is the largest tennis center in the state. They have 24 lit hard courts and 8 state of the art German red clay courts under construction; to open soon. All play is free to the community and there is programming available from ages 4 years old through adults. They host several tournaments every year from local, college, state, regional, national, and pro circuit events.

ABOUT THE USTA PRO CIRCUIT:

With approximately 90 tournaments hosted annually throughout the country and prize money ranging from \$15,000 to \$125,000, the USTA Pro Circuit is the pathway to the US Open and tour-level competition for aspiring tennis players and a frequent battleground for established professionals. The USTA launched its Pro Circuit 38 years ago to provide players with the opportunity to gain professional ranking points, and it has since grown to become the largest developmental tennis circuit in the world, offering nearly \$3 million in prize money. Last year, more than 1000 men and women from more than 70 countries competed in cities nationwide.

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