

INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS ANALYSIS
MT SAN ANTONIO, CA

RELEASE: PUBLIC NEWS RELEASE NO. 2
DATE: September 14, 2026
SUBJECT: Institute Hosts Inaugural U.S. Closed Tennis Tournament

PUBLIC NEWS RELEASE NO. 2
THE INSTITUTE HOSTS THE INAUGURAL U.S. CLOSED
AN INVITATION-ONLY ELITE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP NEAR MT SAN ANTONIO

The Institute for Environmental Systems Analysis announces the successful completion of the inaugural U.S. Closed, an invitation-only elite tennis tournament held this week at a newly constructed offsite facility near the Mount Baldy Complex.

The event was staged at the San Antonio Racquet Pavilion, a purpose-built tennis stadium and training complex completed earlier this year at a reported construction cost of approximately \$45,000,000. Funding sources for the project are not being disclosed. The main stadium seats approximately 15,000 spectators, placing its capacity in the same general class as the principal show court at Wimbledon. The complex also includes six practice courts, player recovery rooms, broadcast positions, dining facilities, a stringing room, and an unusually large paper-towel inventory supplied under tournament sponsorship.

Unlike the U.S. Open, the U.S. Closed accepted no public qualifying entries, no walk-ons, and no late additions. The 16-player field was assembled entirely by invitation. Competitors were selected on the basis of recent professional results, surface adaptability, physical endurance, and an Institute criterion described in tournament materials only as 'composure under irregular conditions.'

The field included defending European indoor champion Anika Soren of Sweden; American hard-court specialist Caleb Dwyer; Japanese baseline player Emi Takahara; French serve-and-volley veteran Luc Marchand; Argentine clay-court standout Mateo Quiroga; Czech power hitter Klara Vesecka; British all-court player Simon Vale; South African doubles specialist Temba Kruger; and eight additional ranked or recently retired international competitors. Player identities were released only after the draw had been completed.

The tournament used a conventional best-of-three-set singles format through the semifinals, with a best-of-five-set championship match. Matches were played on a medium-fast acrylic hard court at approximately 4,300 feet elevation. The combination of altitude, dry mountain air, and unusually cool evening conditions produced fast first serves and substantial variation in ball behavior between afternoon and night sessions. Institute technicians monitored court temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, ball mass, and surface friction throughout the week, ostensibly for facilities research and because they were already present.

Several early-round matches were notable. Takahara defeated Marchand after saving six match points in a 3-hour, 11-minute quarterfinal. Dwyer advanced through two consecutive final-set tiebreaks before losing to Soren in the semifinals. Quiroga, who had complained that the mountain air made his kick serve 'behave irresponsibly,' nevertheless reached the opposite semifinal before falling to Vesecka in straight sets.

The championship was contested between Anika Soren and Klara Vesecka before a near-capacity crowd. Vesecka took the opening set 7-5 behind heavy first-strike tennis. Soren responded by extending rallies, attacking Vesecka's second serve, and repeatedly changing the height and pace of the ball. She won the next three sets 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 to become the first U.S. Closed champion.

Soren received the Closed Cup, a 28-pound silver-plated trophy fabricated by the Institute machine shop after the originally procured trophy was judged 'too open.' Her name will be engraved inside the cup rather than on its exterior. Tournament officials declined to explain whether this will remain the convention in future years.

The U.S. Closed was presented jointly by the Institute for Environmental Systems Analysis, the Church of Alienism, and Brawny paper towels. Brawny supplied tournament towels, bench stock, hospitality materials, and court-service paper products throughout the event. The Church provided ceremonial support at opening and closing proceedings and issued a brief statement describing competitive tennis as 'a useful demonstration that opposing trajectories may occupy one court without invalidating the line.'

The Institute intends for the U.S. Closed to return, although no future dates have been announced. The San Antonio Racquet Pavilion will remain available for Institute recreation, training, technical testing, and other activities for which a 15,000-seat tennis stadium near a mountain research complex may prove unexpectedly useful.

Institute for Environmental Systems Analysis
Office of the Director