



MARIA SHARAPOVA, SERENA WILLIAMS TO PLAY WORLD TEAMTENNIS THIS SUMMER

Newport Beach, St. Louis add superstars to their lineups

April 11, 2007 (New York, N.Y.) – Two of the world’s most exciting players are returning to World TeamTennis action this summer. Maria Sharapova and Serena Williams have signed on to play in the WTT Pro League presented by Advanta which begins July 5.

Sharapova, currently ranked No. 2 in the world, will play for the Newport Beach Breakers on Monday, July 16, when they host the Kansas City Explorers. Sharapova previously played three seasons for the Breakers from 2003-2005. She made her WTT debut as a 15-year-old in 2002 for the Delaware Smash.

Former World No. 1 Serena Williams returns to World TeamTennis for the first time since her WTT debut in 2000. This summer Williams will play for the St. Louis Aces on Monday, July 23, when they host the New York Sportimes.

The League also announced that the world’s top-ranked doubles team of Bob and Mike Bryan have added another WTT match to their schedule. The Bryans, who play for the Kansas City Explorers, will make an appearance in Springfield on Sunday, July 15.

Sharapova and Williams join a star-studded list for 2007 WTT action including Venus Williams, Pete Sampras, Anna Kournikova, John McEnroe, and Mike and Bob Bryan. The regular season runs July 5 through July 25 with 77 matches in 11 markets. The top two teams in both the Eastern and Western Conferences will advance to the season-ending WTT Championship Weekend, set for July 27-29, in Roseville, Calif., home of the Sacramento Capitals.

Sharapova and Williams have been two of the most talked about and marketable names on the pro tennis scene in recent years. Sharapova’s big breakthrough came just prior to the 2004 WTT season when she captured her first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon that summer. Sharapova surprised top seed Serena Williams 6-1, 6-4, to become the second-youngest ladies Wimbledon singles champion in the Open Era and the first Russian Wimbledon champion. Sharapova took over the top spot in the world rankings in August 2005 and added another Grand Slam singles title at the 2006 US Open.

It’s been seven years since Serena Williams played in her first WTT match for the Delaware Smash. She returns to the League in July, this time for the St. Louis franchise. Williams recently captured her 4th career Sony Ericsson Open title with a three-set win over Justine Henin in Miami. Earlier this year she stunned with sports world by winning her 8th Grand Slam singles title at the Australian Open after an injury-plagued season in 2006. Williams has won a total of 28 singles titles and 11 doubles championships, including the Olympic Gold Medal in doubles at the 2000 Games. She has won the singles title at each of the Grand Slam events – Wimbledon (2002, 2003), US Open (1999, 2002), French Open (2002) and Australian Open (2003, 2005, 2007).

For more information on the 2007 WTT Pro League season, visit www.WTT.com.

About WTT:

Now in its 32nd year of play, World TeamTennis is well known for introducing innovative elements to tennis. Instant replay, which debuted at WTT matches in 2005 as the WTT Coaches Challenge, marked the first time the technology had been used in a professional tennis match, will return to select WTT matches in 2007. Other WTT firsts include co-ed format, cumulative and no-ad scoring, on-court coaching, Supertiebreakers, multi-colored courts and player names on back of their shirts.

The unique gender-balanced team concept for WTT was created in the early 70s by League co-founders Billie Jean King and Larry King. The format used for a WTT Pro League match features teams comprised of two men, two women and a coach. Each match consists of five sets, with one set each of men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles.

Advanta is the presenting sponsor of the WTT Pro League and the official business credit card of World TeamTennis. Official WTT Pro League sponsors also include Bälle de Mätch, FirmGreen, Gatorade, Geico and Wilson Racquet Sports. For more information on WTT including team rosters, visit www.WTT.com.