



WASHINGTON KASTLES SIGN SERENA WILLIAMS AS MARQUEE PLAYER

First Professional Appearance for Williams in DC will be with World TeamTennis' Newest Franchise

Washington, D.C. (February 19, 2008) – The Washington Kastles announced today that eight-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams will play for the newly formed team during the 2008 World TeamTennis Pro League season.

This will be the first time Serena has ever played professionally in D.C. She will play one home match and three away matches for the Washington Kastles and is expected to play both singles and doubles. Each team will play 14 matches during the WTT's 2008 season, which runs July 3-23 with the WTT Championship Weekend set for July 24-27 in Roseville, Calif.

The Washington Kastles, owned by a group led by venture capitalist, entrepreneur and Washington native Mark Ein, will play their home matches at a Washington, D.C. location soon to be announced.

“WTT is all about the fans having a great time and cheering their team to victory. Drafting Serena Williams is our commitment to Washington tennis fans that we’re going to have a great first season – not only great fun to watch, but also our commitment to showcase great tennis and to win!” said Ein, owner of the Washington Kastles. “With her ties to the Washington area, we look forward to welcoming Serena to our community and are really energized about the quality of tennis and entertainment that we’re bringing to Washington this summer.”

During the three-week season, the Kastles will play in the Eastern Conference along with the Boston Lobsters (Boston, Mass.), New York Buzz (Schenectady, N.Y.), New York Sportimes (Mamaroneck, N.Y.), Philadelphia Freedoms (Philadelphia, Pa.), and Delaware Smash (Wilmington, Del.). The Kastles will fill out their four-player lineup when they draft sixth out of 11 teams at the WTT Roster Player Draft on April 1 in Miami.

World TeamTennis, co-founded in 1974 by tennis legend Billie Jean King, features several generations of tennis pros competing in a co-ed pro league in communities throughout the U.S. each summer. This is the first Washington, D.C.-based team in the league's 33-year history.

Washington-area tennis enthusiasts can get more information at www.washingtonkastles.com or 202-4TENNIS (202-483-6647). Tickets are scheduled to go on sale in early March.

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Background on Serena Williams:

Only 26, Serena Williams has overcome insurmountable odds to win eight career Grand Slams, and become one of the game's greatest all-time players. Her remarkable tennis skills have skyrocketed her to fame, but only her unique charm and drive could explain her successful endeavors outside of tennis in film, television, fashion and philanthropy. Her tennis ability combined with her off-court activity makes her one of the most recognizable names and faces in the world.

Serena was born September 26, 1981 in Saginaw, Michigan, to Richard Williams and Oracene Price. While still an infant, the family moved to Compton, California where she began playing tennis at the age of four. At nine, Serena and her family moved to West Palm Beach, Florida. Since that time, she has become one of the most dominant figures in tennis.

Serena has won a title in all four Grand Slam tournaments, including two US Open titles, three Australian Opens, two Wimbledon Championships, and a French Open title. She has won a total of 28 singles championships, 11 doubles championships, and was a Gold-Medalist at the 2000 Olympics. In 2002, Serena won the Italian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open.

Serena, who has a sister who lives in the Washington, D.C. area, is a passionate supporter of the city's Southeast Tennis and Learning Center founded by former DC First Lady Cora Masters Barry in 2001.

About WTT:

The 2008 season will be the 33rd year of the World TeamTennis action. WTT is well known for introducing innovative elements to tennis including instant replay, 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. Eleven teams throughout the U.S. compete in the WTT Pro League presented by Advanta during July.

Advanta is the presenting sponsor of the WTT Pro League and the official business credit card of World TeamTennis. Official WTT Pro League sponsors for the 2008 season are Bälle de Match, FirmGreen Energy, Gatorade, GEICO and Wilson Racquet Sports.

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