



## **2010 World TeamTennis Finals awarded to Kansas City**

***Top teams to face off for King Trophy in downtown venue on July 25; tickets go on sale June 18***

NEW YORK, N.Y. (June 9, 2010) – For the first time in World TeamTennis’ 35-season history, the WTT Finals are headed to Missouri.

WTT officials announced today that the WTT Finals presented by GEICO and the City of Kansas City will be held at 6:35 p.m. on Sunday, July 25, at Explorers Stadium at Barney Allis Plaza in Kansas City, Mo., home of the WTT Pro League’s Kansas City Explorers.

The WTT Finals will be televised by Tennis Channel and will air on July 28 at 8 p.m. EDT.

The Explorers will be one of 10 co-ed professional tennis teams battling for a spot in the WTT Finals during the 2010 regular season which runs July 5-22. The top two teams from the regular season in both the Western and Eastern Conference will advance to the WTT Conference Championships on Friday, July 23, on the home court of the top-seeded team from each Conference. The Conference Champions face off for the King Trophy, named after League co-founder Billie Jean King, in the WTT Finals on Sunday, July 25. The Washington Kastles are the defending WTT Champions, defeating the Springfield Lasers in the 2009 Finals. Kansas City advanced to the Finals in 2008, losing to the New York Buzz, 21-18.

The WTT Finals is expected to draw fans from throughout the area, including the three Missouri markets that are home to WTT Pro League teams – Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield. “It’s the right time to bring our finals to Missouri,” said WTT CEO/Commissioner Ilana Kloss. “Tennis fans in the Midwest have been tremendously loyal to our World TeamTennis teams and we know they will support the Finals as well. The Explorers and the City have created an amazing venue at Barney Allis Plaza so this will be a great showcase for our season-ending event.”

“We’re thrilled a tennis event of this caliber is coming to Kansas City,” said Explorers General Manager Jeff Launius. “It’s a great opportunity to show off our city and venue to fans throughout the region as well as a national TV audience. This wouldn’t have been possible without the terrific support of our fans and the City of Kansas City. The Explorers’ commitment is to put together a team that is talented enough to make it to the Finals and I think we have done that.”

“Explorers Stadium at Barney Allis Plaza is one of the most unique sports venues in the area,” said Oscar McGaskey Jr., Executive Director of Kansas City Convention and Entertainment Facilities.

“We’re excited to host the WTT Finals for the first time in the Midwest. It will be a great event for fans throughout the entire region.”

Tickets for the Finals will go on sale on Friday, June 18 online at Ticketmaster.com, by phone at 800-745-3000 or at all Ticketmaster outlets. Tickets range from \$20-\$50. Explorers' season ticket holders get a special discount on Finals tickets by calling the Explorers office at 816-513-5630. For more information, contact the Explorers office or visit [www.KCExplorers.com](http://www.KCExplorers.com).

Each WTT team is comprised of a coach, two male and two female players who play five total sets of singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Eastern Conference teams are the Boston Lobsters, New York Buzz, New York Sportimes, Philadelphia Freedoms and the Washington Kastles. Western Conference teams are the Kansas City Explorers, Newport Beach Breakers, Sacramento Capitals, St. Louis Aces and the Springfield Lasers.

The 2010 WTT Finals are presented by GEICO and the City of Kansas City. Other official national League sponsors include Acura, DecoTurf, GEICO, Novo Nordisk, Solfire, Wilson Racquet Sports and the United States Tennis Association (USTA). Local sponsors include the City of Kansas City, Kansas City Convention & Visitors Association and the USTA Missouri Valley.

#### **About WTT Pro League**

The World Team Tennis (WTT) Pro League showcases the best in professional team tennis with the innovative coed team format co-founded by Billie Jean King in the 1970s. The WTT Pro League, which celebrates its 35<sup>th</sup> season in July 2010, is a showcase for three generations of tennis standouts, including legends, current tour players and future champions. Since the League's debut, virtually every major champion of the Open era has played World TeamTennis. WTT is well known for showcasing and introducing innovative elements to tennis including instant replay, coed format, cumulative and no-ad scoring, on-court coaching, Overtime and Supertiebreakers, multi-colored courts and player names on the back of shirts.

Official WTT Pro League sponsors for the 2010 season include Acura, DecoTurf, GEICO, Novo Nordisk, Solfire and Wilson Racquet Sports. The United States Tennis Association (USTA) is a minority owner and promotional partner of World TeamTennis. WTT and the USTA are teaming up on number of initiatives, including development of the youth market through junior team tennis programs.

For more information on the WTT Pro League, visit [www.WTT.com](http://www.WTT.com).

#### **Media Contacts:**

World TeamTennis: Rosie Crews ([rcrews@wtt.com](mailto:rcrews@wtt.com)) – PH: 817.684.0366

Kansas City Explorers: Shelley Ford ([Shelley@kcexplorers.com](mailto:Shelley@kcexplorers.com)) – PH: 816.513.5630