



SERENA WILLIAMS TOPS ALL-STAR LIST IN ADVANTA WORLD TEAMTENNIS PRO LEAGUE MARQUEE PLAYER DRAFT

*Venus Williams, John McEnroe, Anna Kournikova, Michael Chang
Bob and Mike Bryan, and Martina Navratilova will also play WTT in 2009*

NEW YORK, N.Y. (Feb. 3, 2009) – Just days after winning her 10th Grand Slam singles title at the Australian Open and regaining the world No. 1 ranking, Serena Williams is on top again as the first pick in the Advanta WTT Pro League Marquee Player Draft. Williams will return for her fourth WTT season and her second with the Washington Kastles.

The Advanta WTT Pro League, co-founded by Billie Jean King, is a professional co-ed sports league featuring three generations of tennis stars playing in a team format in 10 U.S. markets. The 2009 Advanta WTT Pro League season runs July 2-26, concluding with the Advanta WTT Championship Weekend.

With more than 760 professional tour singles and doubles titles among them, including 115 Grand Slam championships, the field for the 2009 Advanta WTT Pro League is an all-star lineup.

Four players who captured 2009 Australian Open Championships last weekend are returning to the League. Her convincing 6-0, 6-3 win over Dinara Safina in the finals gave Serena Williams her fourth Australian Open and her 20th overall Grand Slam title, including 10 singles, eight doubles and two mixed doubles championships. Serena Williams will play a total of four matches this July, one at home in Washington, D.C., and three road matches in Philadelphia, Boston and at the new home of the New York Sportimes in Randall's Island, N.Y.

In addition to the women's singles champion, the WTT lineup will also include 2009 Australian Open doubles champion Venus Williams who will be back on the court for the Philadelphia Freedoms. The Williams sisters captured their eighth Grand Slam doubles title at the 2009 Australian Open. Venus Williams, the 2008 Wimbledon Champion, has played WTT for six seasons, including four with the Freedoms. She will play one home match in Philadelphia and road matches in Washington, D.C. and also at the University of Albany in Albany, N.Y., the new home of the New York Buzz.

Bob and Mike Bryan were protected by the Kansas City Explorers. The world's top-ranked doubles team won their seventh Grand Slam title last week, rolling past Mahesh Bhupathi and Mark Knowles in the Australian Open finals. The win vaulted the American duo back to the top spot in the ATP Tour doubles rankings. It was the 51st career title for the Bryans as a team. This is the seventh WTT season for the Bryans who will play one home match in Kansas City and road matches at St. Louis, Sacramento and New York Sportimes.

Anna Kournikova will be wearing a St. Louis Aces uniform again this summer when she returns for her seventh consecutive season, her second in St. Louis. Kournikova won 16 doubles titles including two Grand Slam titles during her pro career, and was ranked as high as No. 8 in singles. Kournikova will play a total of six WTT matches, one home match in St. Louis and five on the road against Sacramento, Philadelphia, Washington, New York Sportimes and Springfield.

John McEnroe returns to the New York Sportimes for his ninth WTT season and his sixth with the Sportimes. McEnroe won seven Grand Slam singles titles including three Wimbledon Championships and four US Opens, and 10 Grand Slam doubles titles. During his long career on the ATP Tour, the Hall of Famer also won 77 singles and 71 doubles titles. McEnroe currently plays senior events and is a popular television commentator. McEnroe will play two home matches and three road matches at Newport Beach, Washington, and Philadelphia.

Martina Navratilova returns for a League record 20th season, playing once again for the Boston Lobsters. Navratilova, the winningest player in tennis history with 167 singles titles and 177 doubles, has played WTT in four decades. She played for the Lobsters in 1978, 2005, 2006 and 2008. Navratilova will play one home match in Boston and road matches against the New York Buzz and the New York Sportimes.

Michael Chang, who was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2008, will be making his WTT debut this summer for the Sacramento Capitals. Chang built a reputation throughout his 16-year pro career as one of the quickest players on tour. One year after turning pro in 1988, he became the youngest male French Open champion by winning the 1989 title at the age of 17 years, 3 months. Chang reached a career high world ranking of No. 2, was ranked in the world top 10 for seven years and won 34 singles titles. Chang will play one home match in Sacramento and one on the road in Newport Beach.

Dates for the Marquee Player appearances will be announced when the League schedule is released later this month. Team lineups will be finalized at the WTT Roster Draft on March 31 in Miami. Marquee players typically play a limited schedule while roster players play the full 3-week season. Additional marquee players could be added prior to the start of the season.

Advanta WTT Pro League Marquee Player Draft Selections:

WASHINGTON KASTLES: Serena Williams

PHILADELPHIA FREEDOMS: Venus Williams

BOSTON LOBSTERS: Martina Navratilova

SACRAMENTO CAPITALS: Michael Chang

NEW YORK SPORTIMES: John McEnroe

KANSAS CITY EXPLORERS: Bob and Mike Bryan

ST. LOUIS ACES: Anna Kournikova

NOTE: Springfield Lasers, Newport Beach Breakers and New York Buzz did not draft marquee players on their team.

Marquee Player Matches (dates TBD):

BOSTON LOBSTERS: Martina Navratilova (1 home match); Serena Williams

KANSAS CITY EXPLORERS: Bob and Mike Bryan (1 home match)

NEW YORK BUZZ: Venus Williams, Martina Navratilova

NEW YORK SPORTIMES: John McEnroe (2 home matches); Serena Williams, Bob and Mike Bryan, Martina Navratilova, Anna Kournikova

NEWPORT BEACH BREAKERS: John McEnroe, Michael Chang

PHILADELPHIA FREEDOMS: Venus Williams (1 home match); Serena Williams, John McEnroe, Anna Kournikova

SACRAMENTO CAPITALS: Michael Chang (1 home match), Anna Kournikova, Bob and Mike Bryan

SPRINGFIELD LASERS: Anna Kournikova

ST. LOUIS ACES: Anna Kournikova (1 home match); Bob and Mike Bryan

WASHINGTON KASTLES: Serena Williams (1 home match); Venus Williams, John McEnroe, Anna Kournikova

About Advanta WTT Pro League:

The 34th season of the Advanta WTT Pro League runs July 2-26, concluding with the Advanta WTT Championship Weekend where teams battle for the coveted King Trophy.

WTT is well known for introducing innovative elements to tennis including instant replay, co-ed format, multi-colored courts, cumulative and no-ad scoring, on-court coaching, Supertiebreakers and player names on back of their shirts.

Team matches consist of five events, with one set each of men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles. The first team to reach five games wins each set. A nine-point tiebreaker is played if a set reaches four-all. One point is awarded for each game won. If necessary, Overtime and a Supertiebreaker are played to determine the winner of the match.

Advanta is the title sponsor of the Advanta WTT Pro League and the official business credit card of World TeamTennis. Official Advanta WTT Pro League sponsors for the 2009 season include FirmGreen Energy, GEICO and Wilson Racquet Sports. For more information on the Advanta WTT Pro League, visit www.WTT.com.

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