



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WASHINGTON KASTLES CLINCH FIRST PLAYOFF BERTH IN FRANCHISE HISTORY
Will Face New York Sportimes on Friday in Rematch Between World Team Tennis Rivals for Eastern Conference Crown

WASHINGTON, DC – July 23, 2009 – With a 21-14 victory over the Western Conference's top-seeded Springfield Lasers, the Washington Kastles clinched a spot in the Eastern Conference finals on Friday. The Kastles will host the New York Sportimes at Kastles Stadium at 7 p.m. in a rematch of last Thursday's thriller won by the Sportimes 20-19 in a Supertiebreaker.

That match featured a heated argument begun when Sportimes legend John McEnroe crossed onto the Kastles' side of the net to confront the Kastles' Leander Paes. Sportimes head coach Chuck Adams joined the near fracas and was fined and suspended one match for violating "the World Team Tennis Coaches' Code of Conduct." The match was later featured on ESPN's SportsCenter.

Last evening the Kastles, behind the powerful ground strokes of new addition Nadia Petrova and the deft net play of Paes, defeated the Lasers, who came in at 12-1, before a rowdy Kastles Stadium crowd.

"I couldn't be prouder of our team, our coach and our organization," said owner Mark Ein. "This is an important moment for our franchise and for our fans who are consistently recognized as the best in the league. On Friday, we hope to continue our run to the championship."

To reward the team's loyal fan base, all tickets, including front row box seats, for Friday night's match will be \$25. All seats will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis.

"Playing in front of our home crowd is always special for us," said Ein. "We are only one step away from playing for the championship at home and we need our fantastic fans more than ever."

The winner of Friday night's showdown in the nation's capital will return to Kastles Stadium on Sunday for the Advanta WTT Championship Finals at 5 p.m. which pits the winners of the Eastern and Western Conferences in a final match for the King Trophy, named for league co-founder Billie Jean King.

The match will be preceded by a celebrity match featuring some of Washington's best known names and faces. The teams will be coached by Kastles head coach Murphy Jensen and league co-founder Billie Jean King.

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“We’ve got one thing on our minds, the King Trophy,” said Jensen. “Tonight showed that we’re capable of beating anyone, and right now, our momentum is unstoppable.”

The Kastles clinched the playoff spot with a 7-7 regular season record, good for second place in the Eastern Conference. The Boston Lobsters also finished at 7-7, but Washington won the tiebreaker, having defeated Boston in the only regular season match-up between the squads.

The Lasers will face the Newport Beach Breakers for the Western Conference title in Springfield on Friday.

For more information on the Kastles or to purchase tickets for the final home matches and the 2009 Advanta WTT Championship Finals, visit www.washingtonkastles.com. The Washington Kastles play at Kastles Stadium located in CityCenterDC at the corner of 11th and H Streets, NW.

Washington Kastles Remaining 2009 Home Schedule

Friday, July 24th Eastern Conference Championship vs. New York Sportimes

Sunday, July 26th Advanta WTT Championship Finals

Note to media:

If you would like to request credentials, contact Katie Barr at 202-683-3141 or at kbarr@gorvis.com. Player interviews and match scores will be provided immediately following each match. A post-match results release can also be found after each match at www.washingtonkastles.com.

About the Washington Kastles

The Washington Kastles begin their second season of Advanta World Team Tennis (WTT) in July 2009. The Kastles, owned by local entrepreneur Mark Ein, will be led by ten-time Grand Slam singles champion Serena Williams. The 34th season of World Team Tennis, co-founded in 1974 by tennis legend Billie Jean King, runs from July 2-26 and concludes with the Advanta WTT Finals in Washington, D.C. Throughout the season, the Kastles will actively work with local charities and community organizations to share the mission of WTT and bring the game of tennis to the broader community. For more information about the Kastles or to purchase tickets, visit www.washingtonkastles.com or call 202-4TENNIS (483-6647). Become a Kastles fan on Facebook and follow us at twitter.com/WashKastles.

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