



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**WASHINGTON KASTLES WIN 2009 ADVANTA WTT CHAMPIONSHIP**  
*Defeat Springfield Lasers 23-20 in Front of Elated Crowd at Kastles Stadium*

WASHINGTON, DC – July 27, 2009 – In front of a breathless crowd, Olga Puchkova, the least likely hero in Kastles Stadium, saved three match points before winning a tiebreaker against the league's female MVP Vania King to win the 2009 Advanta WTT Championship. The hometown crowd went wild as the Washington Kastles took home their first title, 23-20 over the Springfield Lasers.

The Kastles led through the first three events before giving up the lead 5-3 in women's doubles. Behind chants of "Olga, Olga," Puchkova rallied to bring home the franchise's first King Trophy.

"Our success in this match and during our season was all about the team, and none of it would have been possible without Coach Murphy Jensen's leadership and the players pulling together to help get the most out of each other," said owner Mark Ein. "We were thrilled to win the King Trophy and WTT Championship in front of the best fans in the league who lifted the team's play last night and so many times during the season.. It was an incredible match that everyone will remember and that embodies all that is great about World TeamTennis."

It took the efforts of the entire Kastles team to bring home the King Trophy. Scott "Boom Boom" Oudsema was in commanding form, kicking off the match with a 5-3 victory over Raven Klaasen. After the match, Oudsema was named the Championship Finals MVP by virtue of his games won percentage in the match.

Paes and Stubbs, who together formed the best mixed doubles team in WTT this season, faced Martin Damm and world No. 1 women's doubles player, Liezel Huber, in the second event. After Paes' serve was broken in the first game, the Kastles immediately broke back on Martin Damm's serve in the second game. After trading the next several games, the Kastles captured the set in the tiebreaker and the 5-4 event win provided a three-game lead for the Kastles entering the third set.

In the last event before halftime, the Kastles' men's doubles team of Paes and Oudsema faced off against Klaasen and Damm. As they have done so many times this year, Paes and Oudsema took the event and extended the Kastles lead to 13-9 at halftime by virtue of another 5-4 win in a tiebreaker.

With all the pressure on them, Stubbs and Puchkova quickly seized the momentum against Vania King, 2009 WTT Female MVP and Huber, the world's top-ranked doubles player, and jumped out to a 3-1 lead. However, the Lasers won the next four straight games to take the set 5-3. By

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cutting the Kastles' lead to two games at 16-14, the Lasers found themselves back into the match.

The stage was set for a dramatic fifth event. On one end of the court was Vania King who had sparked the Lasers to victories so many times during the season with dramatic come-from-behind victories. On the other end was Olga Puchkova, the young, extremely talented, but sometimes nervous Russian who was faced with the seemingly impossible task of closing out the match with momentum in the Lasers' favor. Down 4-2 in the set and 3-1 in the game, Puchkova clawed back from a three-championship point deficit by winning the next three points all on long rallies to win the game and get her and the Kastles back in the match. In the next game, Puchkova held her serve for the first time in the match to tie the score at 4-4. In the deciding fifth set tiebreaker, Puchkova got off to a fast start and went on to win 5-2 to secure the set at 5-4 and earn the Kastles the championship.

"This whole season has been about one thing, bringing a championship trophy to Washington," said head coach Murphy Jensen. "Our team really came together and we could not have done it without the amazing Washington fans supporting us along the way."

In front of their hometown crowd, the Kastles took to the court following a presentation of the League championship banners and the League MVP awards to the Kastles' Leander Paes and the Lasers' Vania King. At halftime, DJ Kool, best known for his 1996 hit "Let Me Clear My Throat" performed. Urban Nation also entertained the crowd and DC mascots, Teddy Roosevelt, from the Washington Nationals and the Washington Bayhawk stopped by to cheer on the Kastles.

Sunday's Championship was preceded by the first annual Washington Celebrity TeamTennis Challenge. The match featured some of DC's most well-known politicians and media stars, including ABC News correspondent Jonathan Karl and WTTG anchor Dave Feldman. The teams were coached by the legendary league co-founder Billie Jean King.

#### **About the Washington Kastles**

The Washington Kastles began their second season of Advanta World TeamTennis (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 34<sup>th</sup> season of World TeamTennis, 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](http://www.washingtonkastles.com) or call 202-4TENNIS (483-6647). Become a Kastles fan on Facebook and follow us at [twitter.com/WashKastles](https://twitter.com/WashKastles).

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