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WTA STAR VICTORIA AZARENKA JOINS THE WASHINGTON KASTLES

WASHINGTON – July 15, 2010 – The Washington Kastles have signed Victoria "Vika" Azarenka, one of the top female tennis players in the world, to join the team for the rest of the season and the playoffs as they surge towards a defense of their 2009 World TeamTennis Championship. Azarenka reached career high rankings of #6 in the world in late 2009 and #7 in the world in mid 2008. She will make her Kastles debut Sunday night at Kastles Stadium, as the team takes on the Boston Lobsters before a crowd that is already nearly sold-out.

Azarenka has had a successful start to the 2010 season, reaching the finals in both the Barclays Dubai Tennis Championship (where she lost to Venus Williams) and the Eastbourne Tournament. At the Australian Open in January, she held a 6-4, 4-0 lead before eventual champion Serena Williams came back to win an epic Quarterfinal encounter. In 2009, she won titles at the Sony Ericsson Open in Miami (defeated Serena Williams), the Cellular South Cup in Memphis (defeated Caroline Wozniacki), and the Brisbane International (defeated Marion Bartoli) in Queensland, Australia. She currently holds a #18 WTA singles ranking.

She has won two Grand Slam Mixed Doubles Titles (2008 French Open and 2007 U.S. Open) and reached the finals of three other Grand Slam tournaments, including the 2009 French Open Women's Doubles, the 2008 Australian Open Women's Doubles and the 2007 Australian Open Mixed Doubles. With the addition of Azarenka, the Kastles now hold an unprecedented 68 Grand Slam titles in their trophy case.

"I am very excited about playing with the Washington Kastles this season," said Azarenka. "I love playing World TeamTennis and couldn't have found a better team to join and city to play in. I'm looking forward to playing alongside my teammates as we try to defend our title and bring the championship back to Washington, D.C."

Azarenka has earned her reputation as one of the most aggressive baseline players in professional tennis, and Owner Mark Ein has brought in the star with the hopes of locking up another title.

"I am thrilled that Vika is joining us for the rest of the season and through the playoffs as we do everything possible to keep the World TeamTennis Championship in Washington, D.C.," said team owner Mark Ein. "Her aggressive style and world-class singles and doubles play is a perfect addition to our team which already has the league's best record. Our fans have once again provided us with incredible crowds and unbelievable support all season long, which enables us to make these kinds of moves."

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Azarenka travelled to Beijing in 2008 as a member of the Belarus Olympic Team and was recently named one of FHM Magazines Top 100 Sexiest Women.

Azarenka will be with the team Sunday, July 18 vs. the Boston Lobsters, Tuesday, July 20 vs. the New York Sportimes (with John McEnroe), and Wednesday, July 21 vs. the St. Louis Aces (with Anna Kournikova). Should the Kastles qualify for the playoffs and the Championship, Azarenka will play for the team in the entire post-season as well.

A limited number of tickets are available for all three remaining home matches and are available via Ticketmaster or by calling 202-4-TENNIS.

About the Washington Kastles

The Washington Kastles enter their third season of World TeamTennis (WTT) in July 2010 as defending WTT Champions. The Kastles, owned by local entrepreneur Mark Ein, are led by 21-time Grand Slam Champion Venus Williams. The 35th season of World TeamTennis, founded in 1974 by tennis legend Billie Jean King, runs from July 5-25, concluding with the WTT Finals. Throughout the season, the Kastles bring world class tennis into the heart of Washington, D.C. and also actively work with local charities and community organizations to make the game of tennis accessible to everyone in the greater Washington community. Visit the website at www.washingtonkastles.com

Official sponsors of the 2010 Washington Kastles include Bloomberg, Geico, Fedex, Pepco, GWU Hospital, Inova, Rosetta Stone and Trex.

About World TeamTennis

World TeamTennis (WTT) presented by GEICO showcases the best in professional team tennis with the innovative coed team format co-founded by Billie Jean King in the 1970s. WTT, which celebrates its 35th season in July 2010, is a showcase for some of the best tennis players in the world. 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 WTT, visit www.WTT.com.

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