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## **News Release**

*For Immediate Release*

The Springfield, Mo. Lasers professional tennis team will host a match this 2009 season with a special appearance by former world No. 1 in women's doubles and No. 8 in singles player Anna Kournikova this July.

One of the world's most recognized athletes, Kournikova won two Grand Slam doubles titles, the Australian Open in 1999 and 2002, both with Martina Hingis. She has won 16 doubles titles on the World Tennis Association (WTA) Tour and was the two-time winner of the WTA Championships doubles events with Hingis in 1999 and 2000. Kournikova became the second woman in the Open era to reach the semifinals of Wimbledon in her debut in 1997. She has played in the Advanta World Team Tennis Pro League for the St. Louis Aces, Sacramento Capitals and the Kansas City Explorers. She will play for the Aces again this season.

A resident of Moscow, Russia, Kournikova currently resides in Miami, Fla. In addition to playing in the Advanta WTT Pro League, she participates in a number of annual charity events. Her celebrity status and modeling career has put her in a number of magazines, including *Sports Illustrated's* Swimsuit Issue, *FHM* and *Maxim*. Kournikova was named several times as one of *People's* 50 Most Beautiful People.

The date of the July Kournikova match has not been set for Springfield at this time. Match information is expected to be announced later this month when schedules for all 10 Advanta WTT Pro League teams are announced. At that time, ticket pricing and other match information will be announced.

The Lasers will then announce its team on Tuesday, March 31, during the player roster draft held at the Sony Ericsson Open in Miami, Fla. All Lasers home

matches are played at the 2,500-seat outdoor Mediacom Stadium at Cooper Tennis Complex, 2331 E. Pythian St.

Seven-game season tickets can be purchased now online at [www.springfieldlasers.com](http://www.springfieldlasers.com). Season tickets are \$65 for grandstand; \$135 for box seats. Individual ticket information will be announced in the near future.

“We are very pleased that Springfield was able to secure Kournikova this season for a one-night-only marquee match, said Tom Adams, Lasers General Manager. “She is a player who we have received an incredible amount of interest in from the community over the past several years, asking when she might be able to make an appearance in our local market. We hope that her visit to Springfield will increase the amount of excitement for those who already enjoy the sport, along with introducing tennis to a new market of other live sporting event fans.”

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. The 34<sup>th</sup> 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.