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### **Field Announced for 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual USTA Women's 50K Tennis Classic in Lawrenceville**

LAWRENCEVILLE, GEORGIA, October 2, 2008 – Over 60 professional women tennis players will converge on Collins Hill Athletic Club, October 12-19 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women's 50K Classic, a United States Tennis Association (USTA) Women's Pro Circuit event. Presented by the Gwinnett Sports Commission, this eight-day event will feature 32 women competing in the qualifying event with the top four players moving on to compete in the main draw of 32. A doubles qualifying event with 16 teams will also take place, with the top two teams making the main draw.

This year's field is a stellar one with all entries within the top 200 in the world. The field also contains several players who participated in last year's 50K Tennis Classic, including the 2007 singles event winner, Julie Ditty who is currently ranked in the top 100 in the world. Ditty now owns the most career USTA Pro Circuit titles (32) by recently winning the singles and doubles titles in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ditty has also competed in the first two Women's 50K Classics at Collins Hill Athletic Club with much success, placing 1<sup>st</sup> in singles and 2<sup>nd</sup> in doubles in 2007. In 2006, she was runner-up in singles and claimed the doubles title.

Local Melanie Oudin will be competing in the event for the third straight year. Oudin is one of the top young players in the world. She recently won a singles title at the USTA Pro Circuit \$50,000 event in Lexington, Kentucky and competed in the US Open.

Participants will be competing for part of the \$50,000 prize purse, and at the same time a local charity will benefit from the week long activities, the Gwinnett Tennis Foundation. The newly formed Gwinnett Tennis Foundation is a gateway for junior tennis players to compete and train for tennis at any level. Their mission is to provide opportunities in tennis for Gwinnett's top-ranked players, disabled and physically challenged juniors.

Family fun and community activities will be front and center all week. Activities will include a pro-am tournament, ladies clinics, kids clinics, media challenge, players party, raffles, prizes and featuring a "Community Tennis Festival Day" on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. These eight days of professional tennis are FREE to spectators.

For a complete schedule of events and more information visit the event website at [www.gcvb.org/tennis](http://www.gcvb.org/tennis) or contact Pete Sherrard at 770-814-6052 or via email at [psherrard@gcvb.org](mailto:psherrard@gcvb.org). Collins Hill Athletic Club is located at 100 Countryside Place, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30043.

#### About the USTA:

The USTA launched its Pro Circuit more than 25 years ago to provide players with the opportunity to gain the professional ranking points needed to compete on the major pro tours. It has since grown to become the most comprehensive development tennis circuit in the world, consisting of 94 tournaments and more than \$3 million in prize money. The expanded schedule gives American players more competitive opportunities in the United States, thus making it easier and more affordable to earn a pro ranking.

*The Gwinnett Sports Commission's mission is to foster economic development through coordinating and developing Gwinnett's role as a leading site for sports events involving youth, collegiate, amateur and professional organizations.*

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