



Contact: Pete Sherrard
Gwinnett Sports Commission
770-814-6052 or 404-931-6018
psherrard@gcvb.org

United States Tennis Association Women's Pro Circuit Event back at Collins Hill Athletic Club for 3rd straight year

LAWRENCEVILLE, GEORGIA, September 22, 2008 – Over 60 professional women tennis players will compete at Collins Hill Athletic Club, October 12-19 for the 3rd 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 4 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 2 teams making the main draw.

"We are extremely excited to be a part of this event for the third year in a row," said Pete Sherrard, Sports Marketing Manager for the Gwinnett Sports Commission. "And hosting the event at such a beautiful location like Collins Hill Athletic Club, only enhances the experience for both the players and spectators."

Each participant will be competing for a portion of the \$50,000 prize purse and at the same time a local charity, the Gwinnett Tennis Foundation, will benefit from the week long activities. The Gwinnett Tennis Foundation is a gateway for junior tennis players to compete and train for tennis at any level with a mission to provide opportunities in tennis for the top ranked players, disabled and physically challenged juniors that reside in Gwinnett County.

Family fun and community activities will be front and center during this week long event which will include a pro-am tournament, ladies clinics, kids clinics, media challenge, players party, raffles, prizes and a "Community Tennis Festival Day" presented by the Tennis Channel on Saturday, October 18th. All 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 or contact Pete Sherrard at 770-814-6052 or via email at psherrard@gcvb.org.

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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