

Monday, September 28, 2009

DOUBLES TEAM OF VENUS AND SERENA WILLIAMS QUALIFY FOR SONY ERICSSON CHAMPIONSHIPS – DOHA 2009

- **Winners of four titles on the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour making doubles debut at prestigious year-end Championships in Doha, Qatar**

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, USA - Venus Williams and Serena Williams have qualified for doubles event at the Sony Ericsson Championships, set to take place for the second year in a row at the Khalifa International Tennis Complex in Doha, Qatar, from October 27-November 1, 2009. The team of Venus Williams/Serena Williams is the second to qualify for the Championships and will join Cara Black/Liezel Huber, along with singles competitors Dinara Safina, Serena Williams, Elena Dementieva, and Caroline Wozniacki, all of whom have previously qualified and are headed to Doha. The world's top eight singles players and top four doubles teams from the 2009 Sony Ericsson WTA Tour season will compete for the coveted Sony Ericsson Championships title and a share of the record Championships prize money of \$4.55 million.

"We are thrilled to be heading to Doha for the Sony Ericsson Championships," said Serena Williams. "I love playing doubles with Venus as we have so much fun on the court. This year, we actually decided to put more emphasis on our doubles careers and going to Doha has been on our mind all season. I am thrilled to have an opportunity to compete at the Sony Ericsson Championships in both singles and doubles."

"It's been extremely rewarding to win a number of big doubles titles with Serena this year," said Venus Williams. "While playing doubles with my sister is one of the best experiences for me, qualifying for the Sony Ericsson Championships as a team is a great accomplishment and we can't wait to get to Doha and take on the best doubles teams in the world."

Venus and Serena Williams' 2009 season includes victories at the Australian Open, Wimbledon and the US Open, in addition to winning a title at the Bank of the West Classic in Stanford. Venus and Serena Williams, along with Lisa Raymond, are the only active players to have completed the career doubles Grand Slam (2001/2003/2009 Australian Open, 1999 Roland Garros, 2000/2002/2008/2009 Wimbledon, 1999/2009 US Open). Overall, Venus and Serena have won 10 Grand Slam doubles titles and hold a perfect 10-0 record in Grand Slam finals. In the Open era, the Williams team is the third-most successful Grand Slam doubles partnership, trailing only the team of Martina Navratilova/Pam Shriver (21 Grand Slam titles) and the team of Gigi Fernandez/Natasha Zvereva (14 Grand Slam titles). The Williams sisters' only defeat this season came at the hands of Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Nadia Petrova in the quarterfinals of Roland Garros.

"Venus and Serena are incredible singles players in their own right, but having them compete in the doubles in Doha will add a new exciting dimension to the Sony Ericsson Championships," said Stacey Allaster, Chairman and CEO of the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour. "I wish Venus and Serena lots of luck at the year-end Sony Ericsson Championships."

"We congratulate Venus and Serena on qualifying for the Sony Ericsson Championships for the first time in their career as a doubles team," said Aldo Liguori, Corporate Vice President and Head of Global Communications & PR for Sony Ericsson. "Venus and Serena had a terrific season and are playing incredible tennis together, winning four tournaments. Having them in Doha will add a lot of excitement to what promises to be a great finale to the season."

Always at the forefront of innovation and style, Sony Ericsson, a global leader in communications entertainment and the title sponsor of the Tour, continues to awe tennis fans with its innovative marketing and trend-setting style, elevating the sport to unprecedented new heights. Sony Ericsson offers tennis fans around the world one-of-a-kind access to their favorite stars through innovative products that inspire fans to seek new experiences, enjoy immediate connection to their favorite players through social media networks, and make them believe that anything is possible. With the help of Sony Ericsson, this year's

The Sony Ericsson WTA Tour is the world's leading professional sport for women with more than 2,200 players representing 96 nations competing for more than \$86 million in prize money at the Tour's 51 events and four Grand Slams in 31 countries. More than 4.8 million people attended women's tennis events in 2008 with millions more watching events on television networks around the world. The Sony Ericsson WTA Tour season concludes with the Sony Ericsson Championships – Doha 2009 in Doha, Qatar, from October 27-November 1, and the inaugural Commonwealth Bank Tournament of Champions in Bali, Indonesia from November 4-8. Further information on the Tour can be found on the Internet at www.sonyericssonwtatour.com

Sony Ericsson Championships promise to further the sport to the next level and broaden the visibility and prestige of the event worldwide.

The Championships were first played in 1972 and since then the event has been held in such notable venues as Madison Square Garden, New York City; the Olympiahalle in Munich; Staples Center in Los Angeles; and the Recinto Ferial Casa de Campo in Madrid. Former singles champions include Tracy Austin, Kim Clijsters, Chris Evert, Evonne Goolagong, Steffi Graf, Martina Hingis, Martina Navratilova, Gabriela Sabatini, Serena Williams, Justine Henin and Venus Williams.

RACE TO THE SONY ERICSSON CHAMPIONSHIPS - DOHA 2009

(as of the week of September 28, 2009)

SINGLES			DOUBLES		
PLAYER	POINTS	RACE STANDING (as of September 28, 2009)	TEAM	POINTS	RACE STANDING (as of September 28, 2009)
Dinara Safina	7652	1**	Cara Black & Liezel Huber	8500	1 [™]
Serena Williams	7437	2**	Venus Williams & Serena Williams	6750	2**
Caroline Wozniacki	5570	3**	Nuria Llagostera Vives & Maria José Martínez Sánchez	6145	3
Elena Dementieva	5365	4**	Rennae Stubbs & Samantha Stosur	5042	4
Svetlana Kuznetsova	4773	5	Anabel Medina Garrigues & Virginia Ruano Pascual	3923	5
Venus Williams	4316	6	Daniela Hantuchova & Ai Sugiyama	3642	6
Victoria Azarenka	4171	7	Shuai Peng & Su-wei Hsieh	3286	7
Vera Zvonareva	3301	8	Kveta Peschke & Lisa Raymond	3206	8
Jelena Jankovic	3111	9			
Flavia Pennetta	3060	10			
Samantha Stosur	2632	11			
Marion Bartoli	2575	12			
Agnieszka Radwanska	2400	13			
Kim Clijsters	2310	14			
Virginie Razzano	2301	15			

** Denotes player/team has already qualified

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