

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009

## **SVETLANA KUZNETSOVA AND DOUBLES TEAM OF NURIA LLAGOSTERA VIVES & MARIA JOSÉ MARTÍNEZ SÁNCHEZ QUALIFY FOR SONY ERICSSON CHAMPIONSHIPS – DOHA 2009**

- **Roland Garros champion headed to year-end Championships for the fifth time in her career while the doubles team from Spain make their debut**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, USA** – Russia’s Svetlana Kuznetsova and the Spanish doubles team of Nuria Llagostera Vives and Maria José Martínez Sánchez have secured a spot at the year-end 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 fifth singles player to qualify, Kuznetsova will make her fifth career appearance at the prestigious Championships while the team of Llagostera Vives and Martínez Sánchez will make their debut, joining the doubles teams of Cara Black/Liesel Huber and Venus Williams/Serena Williams 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.

“I am really excited to have qualified for the Sony Ericsson Championships,” said Kuznetsova. “In the last year I’ve worked really hard on my game and fitness and I am proud of the season I’ve had. I look forward to competing with the best tennis players in the world in Doha.”

Kuznetsova had one of her best seasons on Tour this year, capturing the trophy at Roland Garros, her second Grand Slam title, as well as winning Porsche Tennis Grand Prix (Stuttgart), defeating World No.1 Dinara Safina in both finals. To date, Kuznetsova has defeated a reigning World No.1 player six times. She was also a runner-up at the Internazionali BNL d’Italia (Rome) and a semifinalist at the Sony Ericsson Open in Miami. Kuznetsova has been ranked inside the Top 10 of the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour Rankings since April 3, 2006 (183-consecutive weeks), longer than any player currently ranked inside the Top 10. Additionally, Kuznetsova won her 14<sup>th</sup> career doubles title at the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells with Amelie Mauresmo.

“It’s been a great season for us,” said Llagostera Vives. “We are very proud of the level of tennis we’ve played as a team all season and are thrilled to be going to the Sony Ericsson Championships for the first time in our career.”

Added Martínez Sánchez: “It’s an unbelievable feeling to qualify for the Sony Ericsson Championships and celebrate the great year Nuria and I have had as a team. We look forward to challenging the best doubles teams in the world for the Championships title.”

Llagostera Vives and Martínez Sánchez have won more doubles titles than any other team on the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour this year, clinching six: Copa Sony Ericsson Colsanitas (Bogota), Abierto Mexicano TELCEL presentado por HSBC (Acapulco), Barcelona Ladies Open (Barcelona), Internazionali femminili di tennis di Palermo (Palermo), Rogers Cup (Toronto) and Pilot Pen Tennis presented by Schick (New Haven). They both have 11 career Tour doubles titles; Martínez Sánchez has seven with Llagostera Vives and four with Anabel Medina Garrigues; Llagostera Vives’ four others are with four different partners. The Spaniards started playing together periodically as far back as 2002, but didn’t play extensively until 2008, and finally exclusively this year. They also both played for Spain in the 2008 Olympics.

“Svetlana has had a fantastic season and has earned her place at the Sony Ericsson Championships, having won some of the biggest event on Tour this year,” said Stacey Allaster, Chairman and CEO of the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour. “Nuria and Maria José’s doubles results speak for themselves and I am delighted that they will be headed to Doha and congratulate them on all

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](http://www.sonyericssonwtatour.com)

of their success this season. I wish Svetlana, Nuria and Maria Jose a lot of luck at the year-end Sony Ericsson Championships.”

“We congratulate Svetlana, Nuria and Maria José on qualifying for the Sony Ericsson Championships,” said Aldo Liguori, Corporate Vice President and Head of Global Communications & PR for Sony Ericsson. “Nuria and Maria José had a breakthrough season, winning more titles than any other team on Tour, and Svetlana has once again had a consistent and successful season. Having all three of these players in Doha will add a lot of excitement to what promises to be a great finale to the 2009 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 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.

**For high resolution image of Svetlana Kuznetsova, please click:**  
<https://rcpt.yousendit.com/747271593/644a7a4c1680678641429c5ceab9de4d>

**For high resolution image of Nuria Llagostera Vives and Maria José Martínez Sánchez, please click:**  
<https://rcpt.yousendit.com/747271823/83d1658e7fde1f60396eb826ad7a65b4>

**RACE TO THE SONY ERICSSON CHAMPIONSHIPS - DOHA 2009**  
 (as of the week of October 6, 2009)

SINGLES			DOUBLES		
PLAYER	POINTS	RACE STANDING (as of October 6, 2009)	TEAM	POINTS	RACE STANDING (as of October 6, 2009)
Dinara Safina	7652	1**	Cara Black & Liezel Huber	8850	1**
Serena Williams	7437	2**	Venus Williams & Serena Williams	6750	2**
Caroline Wozniacki	5570	3**	Nuria Llagostera Vives & Maria José Martínez Sánchez	6146	3**
Elena Dementieva	5365	4**	Rennae Stubbs & Samantha Stosur	5043	4
Svetlana Kuznetsova	4773	5**	Daniela Hantuchova & Ai Sugiyama	4192	5
Victoria Azarenka	4371	6	Anabel Medina Garrigues & Virginia Ruano Pascual	4123	6
Venus Williams	4317	7	Shuai Peng & Su-wei Hsieh	3286	7
Jelena Jankovic	3660	8	Kveta Peschke & Lisa Raymond	3206	8
Vera Zvonareva	3301	9			
Flavia Pennetta	3060	10			
Marion Bartoli	2715	11			

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# PRESS RELEASE

Samantha Stosur	2691	12		
Agnieszka Radwanska	2690	13		
Maria Sharapova	2680	14		
Na Li	2402	15		

\*\* Denotes player/team has already qualified

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