

OCTOBER 6, 2009

SERENA WILLIAMS RECAPTURES SONY ERICSSON WTA TOUR WORLD NO.1 RANKING

- **28-year old American is set to become World No.1 for fourth time in her career**

BEIJING, China – When the new Sony Ericsson WTA Tour rankings are released on Monday, October 12, 2009, Serena Williams will emerge as the new World No.1, replacing Russia's Dinara Safina who held the position for 25 consecutive weeks since April 20, 2009. It will mark the fourth time in Serena's career that she will be World No.1 and 73rd week overall, having held the top ranking for 57 weeks from July 8, 2002 to August 10, 2003; 4 weeks from September 8, 2008 to October 6, 2008; and 11 weeks from February 2 to April 19, 2009. Safina's second round exit at the China Open gave Serena an opportunity to recapture the World No.1 ranking, which she secured by defeating Ekaterina Makarova in the second round.

"2009 has been a very good season for me during which I enjoyed some of the best wins of my career," said Serena Williams. "Attaining the World No.1 ranking makes me want to work even harder and is ultimately the icing on the cake."

"Serena has achieved great results this year, impressing everyone with her gritty performances, especially at the Grand Slams. Regaining World No.1 ranking has been a goal of Serena's and she's worked very hard all year. I congratulate her on achieving this feat for the fourth time in her career," said Stacey Allaster, Chairman and CEO of the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour.

The 28-year-old American has had a stellar 2009 season, winning two Grand Slam singles titles (Australian Open and Wimbledon) and posting solid results at the other two Slams, falling to eventual champions at both (to Svetlana Kuznetsova in the quarterfinals of Roland Garros and to Kim Clijsters in the semifinals of the US Open). She held the World No.1 ranking for 11 weeks earlier this year from February 2 to April 19 after capturing the singles title in Melbourne. A finalist at the Sony Ericsson Open in Miami, Williams has nine wins over Top 10 opponents this season and is the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour 2009 prize money leader with \$4,586,486 (through week of October 5, 2009).

Earlier this year in February, Williams became the first professional female athlete to eclipse the \$26-million mark in any professional sports league and surpassed Lindsay Davenport (\$22,144,735) as the all-time prize money leader on the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour. In addition to her success in singles, Williams has also won four doubles titles this year with sister Venus, including three Grand Slams (Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open) as well as the Bank of the West Classic in Stanford.

Serena Williams turned professional at the age of fourteen in November 1995 and played her first tournament in Quebec City, Canada. In her fourteen-year career she has won every major title at least once for a total of 11 Grand Slam singles titles, becoming only the fifth woman, other than Margaret Court, Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova, and Steffi Graf, to achieve such a feat. Of the current players, only Serena's older sister Venus Williams comes close to such an achievement, with seven Grand Slam singles titles to her name. Williams has won four titles at the Australian Open (2003, 2005, 2007, 2009), three at Wimbledon (2002, 2003, 2009), three at the US Open (1999, 2002, 2008), and one at Roland Garros (2002). In addition, Williams won two Olympic Gold medals, playing doubles with Venus in Sydney in 2000 and again at Beijing in 2008 and is the owner of 34 singles and 17 doubles titles.

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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



PLAYER	DATE REACHED NO.1	WEEKS*
Steffi Graf (GER)	August 17, 1987	337
Martina Navratilova (TCH/USA)	July 10, 1978	332
Chris Evert (USA)	November 3, 1975	260
Martina Hingis (SUI)	March 31, 1997	209
Monica Seles (YUG/USA)	March 11, 1991	178
Justine Henin (BEL)	October 20, 2003	117
Lindsay Davenport (USA)	October 12, 1998	98
Serena Williams (USA)	July 8, 2002	73**
Amélie Mauresmo (FRA)	September 13, 2004	39
Dinara Safina (RUS)	April 20, 2009	25
Tracy Austin (USA)	April 7, 1980	21
Kim Clijsters (BEL)	August 11, 2003	19
Jelena Jankovic (SRB)	August 11, 2008	18
Jennifer Capriati (USA)	October 15, 2001	17
Maria Sharapova (RUS)	August 22, 2005	17
Ana Ivanovic (SRB)	June 9, 2008	12
Arantxa Sánchez-Vicario (ESP)	February 6, 1995	12
Venus Williams (USA)	February 25, 2002	11
Evonne Goolagong Cawley (AUS)	April 26, 1976	2

* Total weeks at No.1; can be non-consecutive

** Includes the World No.1 ranking for the week of October 12, 2009

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