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AMÉLIE MAURESMO, SERENA WILLIAMS WIN LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS AWARDS

Former No.1s receive World Breakthrough and Comeback of the Year respectively

BARCELONA, Spain – Former world No.1s Amélie Mauresmo and Serena Williams have received prestigious accolades from the elite sporting community by receiving World Breakthrough of the Year and World Comeback of the Year honors respectively at the annual Laureus World Sports Awards in Barcelona, Spain on Monday night.

Mauresmo, who waited seven years between reaching a Grand Slam singles final (1999 Australian Open) and finally winning one (2006 Australian Open), backed up an emotional victory in Melbourne last year with an equally stirring performance at Wimbledon. Aged 26 years, six months, Mauresmo became the third-oldest first-time female major singles champion in the Open Era. Her season was enhanced with consecutive indoor titles in Paris (Open Gaz de France) and Antwerp (Proximus Diamond Games) and runner-up finishes at Doha (Qatar Total Open), Beijing (China Open) and the season-ending Sony Ericsson Championships in Madrid.

"Last year provided some of the most wonderful moments, not only in my tennis career but in my life overall," said Mauresmo. "I was overwhelmed to win my first Grand Slam title in Melbourne, and winning in Wimbledon was like the cherry on top of my season. I'm very honored to receive this award from Laureus and I hope it shows to everyone that if you keep trying and believing in yourself, you can make your dreams a reality."

Just two days after her phenomenal victory at the Sony Ericsson Open in Miami, Williams was a deserving winner in the World Comeback of the Year category. In January, Williams became the lowest-ranked woman in 29 years (at No.81) to win the Australian Open title, defeating world No.2 Maria Sharapova 61 62 in the final.

Having started 2007 ranked No.95, the eight-time Grand Slam singles champion and winner of 28 Sony Ericsson WTA Tour singles titles overall, is now at No.11 – an 84-spot climb in just 13 weeks.

"I'm very excited to receive the Laureus Comeback of the Year Award," said Williams. "Only the world's greatest athletes are recognized by Laureus so I'm honored to win the award."

"Amélie and Serena have been outstanding ambassadors for women's tennis for the better part of a decade," said Sony Ericsson WTA Tour CEO, Larry Scott. "Amélie's breakthrough 2006 season and Serena's outstanding return to the winners' circle this year are two of the greatest performances in the history of the sport. It is exciting that the sport of professional tennis, on both the women's and men's side, has again produced such great champions that are recognized by the Laureus World Sports Awards. I congratulate Amélie, Serena and all of the other tennis players who won or were nominated for these prestigious awards."

Mauresmo was the only female tennis player vying for two Laureus World Sports Awards this year; she was also nominated for Sportswoman of the Year alongside fellow Tour stars Justine Henin and Maria Sharapova, who between them won all four Grand Slam titles in 2006. However, the award ultimately went to Russian pole-vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva.

ATP world No.1 Roger Federer created history by becoming the first-ever three-time Laureus winner, taking the Sportsman of the Year prize for the third consecutive year. The Laureus World Sports Awards is the only global sports awards that honor the greatest sportsmen and sportswomen across all sports each and every year. For more information, visit Laureus's official Web site, www.laureus.com.

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The Sony Ericsson WTA Tour is the world's largest premier professional sport for women with more than 1,300 players representing 75 nations competing for over \$62 million in prize money at the Tour's 62 events in 35 countries. More than 4.6 million people attended women's tennis events in 2006 with millions more watching events on television networks around the world. The Sony Ericsson WTA Tour season concludes with the Sony Ericsson Championships at the Madrid Arena in Madrid, Spain, November 6-11, 2007. Further information on the Tour can be found on the Internet at www.sonyericssonwtatour.com.