

August 20, 2008

BLACK & HUBER QUALIFY FOR SONY ERICSSON CHAMPIONSHIPS - DOHA 2008

Top ranked doubles team first to qualify for prestigious season-ending \$4.45 million event

ST. PETERSBURG, FL, USA – The outstanding doubles team of Cara Black and Liezel Huber are the first to qualify for the season-ending Sony Ericsson Championships, set to take place at the Khalifa International Tennis Complex in Doha, Qatar, from November 4-9, 2008. The world's top eight singles players and top four doubles teams from the 2008 Sony Ericsson WTA Tour season compete for the Championships title and a share of the record prize money of \$4.45 million.

The Zimbabwean-American pair are first in the doubles Race to the Sony Ericsson Championships with 4,392 points, a striking 2,109 points ahead of their nearest rivals, Anabel Medina Garrigues and Virginia Ruano Pascual of Spain. Thus far in the 2008 season, Black and Huber have won seven Sony Ericsson WTA Tour doubles titles - at the Proximus Diamond Games in Antwerp, Belgium; the Barclays Dubai Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; the Qatar Telecom German Open in Berlin, Germany; the DFS Classic in Birmingham, United Kingdom; the International Women's Open in Eastbourne, United Kingdom; the Bank of the West Classic at Stanford, United States; and most recently at the Rogers Cup presented by National Bank in Montreal, Canada. The successful duo have won 19 career titles as a team, including 2005 and 2007 Wimbledon, 2007 Australian Open, and the 2007 Sony Ericsson Championships.

"We are very excited to be the first doubles team to qualify for the Sony Ericsson Championships," said Cara Black. "We've had a great year so far and look forward to finishing the season in Doha and defending our Championships title."

Black, the current co-ranked No.1 on the Sony Ericsson WTA Doubles Ranking along with partner Huber, has won 43 career Sony Ericsson WTA Tour doubles titles, including four Grand Slam titles (three at Wimbledon and one at the Australian Open) and over \$4.75 million in career prize money. She became the world's top ranked doubles player in 2005, the year she and her doubles partner Liezel Huber teamed up for a striking run which included their first Wimbledon title.

Liezel Huber said: "We are of course very happy to be the first to qualify for the Sony Ericsson Championships. The Championships are a perfect ending to a hard fought season and we are excited to play this year in Doha."

Huber has won 31 career doubles titles and earned over \$2.8 million in prize money. Playing exclusively doubles since 2004, Huber celebrated her career-first Sony Ericsson WTA Tour doubles title at the Tokyo Princess Cup in 2001 with Black and her first Grand Slam title at 2005 Wimbledon, also with Black. The pair were awarded the Tour's "Doubles Team of the Year" (for 2007 achievements). In addition, Huber was awarded the Tour's "Player Service Award" in 2008 recognizing her charitable work helping victims of the Hurricane Katrina.

"Both Cara and Liezel have repeatedly demonstrated that they are on great form this season, so it came as no surprise that they are the first doubles team to qualify for the 2008 Sony Ericsson Championships in Doha," said Aldo Liguori, Corporate Vice President and Head of Global Communications & PR at Sony Ericsson. "We are delighted to have these top players compete at this end-of-season tournament and are sure that their considerable talent will mean that the audience are going to be treated to a truly exciting event."

The race for the three remaining doubles spots in the Sony Ericsson Championships is closer than ever. Roland Garros champions Anabel Medina Garrigues and Virginia Ruano Pascual are currently in second place with 2,283 points; the current third- and fourth-placed teams are the Ukrainian sisters and Australian Open Champions, Alona and Kateryna

The Sony Ericsson WTA Tour is the world's largest premier professional sport for women with more than 2,000 players representing 90 nations competing for \$70.8 million in prize money at the Tour's 60 events in 34 countries. More than 4.7 million people attended women's tennis events in 2007 with millions more watching events on television networks around the world. The Sony Ericsson WTA Tour season concludes with the Sony Ericsson Championships - Doha 2008 in Doha, Qatar, November 4-9, 2008. Further information on the Tour can be found on the Internet at www.sonyericssonwtatour.com.

Bondarenko with 2,206 points and Chuang Chia-Jung and Chan Yung-Jan of Chinese Taipei with 2,194 points – only 33 points ahead of the Czech-Australian team of Kveta Peschke and Rennea Stubbs with 2,161 points.

Sony Ericsson is committed to bringing entertainment, innovation and glamour to tennis by creating unique sporting events as the 2008 Sony Ericsson Championships in Doha. This tournament will bring the excitement of the game to a new audience, with the city of Doha set to benefit from the biggest tennis event ever to be held in the region. Sony Ericsson strives to energize the fan experience at the Championships, by bringing them closer to tennis through the integration of innovation and technology, to deliver the best possible sports experience.

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 and Justine Henin.

RACE TO THE SONY ERICSSON CHAMPIONSHIPS - DOHA 2008

(as of the week of August 18, 2008)

SINGLES			DOUBLES		
PLAYER	POINTS	RACE STANDING (as of 8/18)	TEAM	POINTS	RACE STANDING (as of 8/18)
Jelena Jankovic**	2,970	1	Cara Black & Liezel Huber**	4,392	1
Ana Ivanovic **	2,821	2	Anabel Medina Garrigues & Virginia Ruano Pascual	2,283	2
Serena Williams	2,680	3	Alona Bondarenko & Kateryna Bondarenko	2,206	3
Dinara Safina	2,673	4	Chuang Chia-Jung & Chan Yung-Jan	2,194	4
Maria Sharapova	2,515	5	Kveta Peschke & Rennea Stubbs	2,161	5
Elena Dementieva	2,405	6	Yan Zi & Zheng Jie	1,773	6
Svetlana Kuznetsova	1,932	7	Shahar Peer & Victoria Azarenka	1,655	7
Venus Williams	1,856	8	Ai Sugiyama & Katarina Srebotnik	1,621	8
Agnieszka Radwanska	1,805	9			
Vera Zvonareva	1,735	10			
Victoria Azarenka	1,196	11			
Anna Chakvetadze	1,120	12			
Alize Cornet	1,116	13			
Patty Schnyder	1,104	14			
Dominika Cibulkova	1,080	15			

** Denotes player/team has already qualified

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