



PRESS RELEASE

September 4, 2008

SERENA WILLIAMS AND DINARA SAFINA QUALIFY FOR SONY ERICSSON CHAMPIONSHIPS - DOHA 2008

US Open semifinalists join singles line-up for \$4.45 million season-ending event

NEW YORK, NY, USA – Serena Williams and Dinara Safina, two of four remaining players in contention for the 2008 US Open singles title, have clinched their spots for the season-ending Sony Ericsson Championships, set to take place at the Khalifa International Tennis Complex in Doha, Qatar, November 4-9, 2008. The world's top eight singles players and top four doubles teams from the 2008 Sony Ericsson WTA Tour season will compete for the Championships title and a share of the record prize money of \$4.45 million.

Sony Ericsson Championships debutante Safina and 2001 champion Williams join previously qualified Serbs Jelena Jankovic and Ana Ivanovic in the singles line-up. Williams earned 3,130 points and Safina earned 3,123 points in the Race to the Sony Ericsson Championships standings.

"I am delighted to have qualified again for the Sony Ericsson Championships," said Serena Williams, who will make her eighth career Championships appearance. "It's always an honor to play at the year-end Championships, and I'm looking forward to playing in Doha where I can hopefully show my best tennis."

This season, the 26-year-old American claimed three singles titles at the Canara Bank Bangalore Open in Bangalore, the Sony Ericsson Open in Miami and the Family Circle Cup in Charleston. She was runner-up at Wimbledon, where she fell to sister Venus in her 11th career Grand Slam singles final. Her other season highlights included reaching the semifinals at the Bank of West Classic at Stanford and the quarterfinals at the Australian Open, the Qatar Telecom German Open in Berlin, Internazionali BNL d'Italia in Rome and the Beijing Olympics.

"I am really happy about qualifying for the Sony Ericsson Championships," Safina said. "I think this is the goal for every player to reach the Championships at the end of the year and finally my dream has come true."

Safina has played her best season to date, winning Tour singles titles at the Qatar Telecom German Open in Berlin, where she defeated World No. 1 Justine Henin, the East West Bank Classic presented by Herbalife in Los Angeles and at the Rogers Cup presented by National Bank in Montreal for her sixth, seventh and eighth career titles. She reached her first Grand Slam singles final at Roland Garros, finished runner-up at the Ordina Open at 's-Hertogenbosch and was the singles silver medalist at the Beijing Olympics. During the last four months, she improved her singles ranking from No.14 in May to a career-high of No.6 prior to the Olympics. Heading into the US Open, she had an impressive win-streak of 32 wins in 36 matches.

"I'm delighted that Serena and Dinara have both qualified for this year's Sony Ericsson Championships in Doha," said Larry Scott, CEO of the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour. "Dinara has had a fantastic run this year and absolutely deserves a spot in her first Sony Ericsson Championships. Serena is without doubt a true global icon and displaying wonderful tennis this season. Having both players showcase their talent in Doha will be great for tennis fans around the world."

"We're very pleased to see that Dinara and Serena have both qualified for the 2008 Sony Ericsson Championships in Doha", said Aldo Liguori, Corporate Vice President and Head of Global Communications & PR at Sony Ericsson. "They are both top seeds in the game and their considerable talent makes them fantastic ambassadors for women's tennis. We're sure they will make the season finale to the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour one of the most exciting yet."

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.



**Sony Ericsson
WTA TOUR**

PRESS RELEASE

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 notable venues such 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, Justine Henin, Martina Hingis, Martina Navratilova, Gabriela Sabatini and Serena Williams.

RACE TO THE SONY ERICSSON CHAMPIONSHIPS - DOHA 2008

(as of September 4, 2008)

SINGLES			DOUBLES		
PLAYER	POINTS	RACE STANDING (as of 9/4)	TEAM	POINTS	RACE STANDING (as of 9/4)
Jelena Jankovic**	3,420	1	Cara Black & Liezel Huber**	4,843	1
Serena Williams**	3,130	2	Anabel Medina Garrigues & Virginia Ruano Pascual	2,733	2
Dinara Safina**	3,123	3	Alona Bondarenko & Kateryna Bondarenko	2,346	3
Ana Ivanovic**	2,881	4	Chuang Chia-Jung & Chan Yung-Jan	2,196	4
Elena Dementieva	2,855	5	Kveta Peschke & Rennae Stubbs	2,163	5
Maria Sharapova	2,515	6	Ai Sugiyama & Katarina Srebotnik	2,071	6
Venus Williams	2,106	7	Yan Zi & Zheng Jie	2,023	7
Svetlana Kuznetsova	2,022	8	Lisa Raymond & Samantha Stosur	1,796	8
Agnieszka Radwanska	1,945	9			
Vera Zvonareva	1,795	10			
Caroline Wozniacki	1,438	11			
Patty Schnyder	1,389	12			
Flavia Pennetta	1,343	13			
Alice Cornet	1,331	14			

** Denotes player/team has already qualified

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