

Thursday, June 5, 2008

## **ANA IVANOVIC TO BECOME SONY ERICSSON WTA TOUR WORLD NO. 1**

- **Serbian star to become 17<sup>th</sup> player to reach No. 1 spot in Tour history, following extraordinary battle between three Roland Garros semifinalists, all bidding to become No. 1 for the first time**
- **20-year-old Ivanovic is first player representing Serbia to top the rankings in professional tennis history**

**PARIS, FRANCE** – The Sony Ericsson WTA Tour will crown a new World No. 1 on Monday, June 9 when the latest rankings are published, following Ana Ivanovic's nail biting win over compatriot Jelena Jankovic in the semifinals of Roland Garros today. Ivanovic replaces Maria Sharapova at the top of Sony Ericsson WTA Tour rankings after a three week reign by the Russian and becomes the first player representing Serbia to hold the No. 1 ranking, adding yet another milestone to her already long list of remarkable accomplishments.

What started as an historic day in Paris, with three of the four semifinalists primed to become No. 1 in the world for the very first time in their careers (Ivanovic, Jankovic and Svetlana Kuznetsova), finished as a one woman race, with Ivanovic to face Dinara Safina in the final for the first Grand Slam singles title of their careers on Saturday. Regardless of the outcome of that match, Ivanovic will become world No. 1 on Monday.

At 20 years and seven months, Ivanovic becomes the seventh-youngest player to reach No. 1 since Tour rankings were created in 1975, behind Martina Hingis (1997), Monica Seles (1991), Tracy Austin (1980), Steffi Graf (1987), Maria Sharapova (2005) and Kim Clijsters (2003) who were all at least 20 years and three months or younger when they reached No. 1. The Serbian sensation also becomes the 17<sup>th</sup> top-ranked player in women's tennis history, joining a distinguished list that is comprised of Chris Evert, Evonne Goolagong Cawley, Martina Navratilova, Tracy Austin, Serena Williams, Venus Williams, Justine Henin, Kim Clijsters, Jennifer Capriati, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Amélie Mauresmo, Monica Seles, Steffi Graf, Martina Hingis, Lindsay Davenport and Maria Sharapova.

"Being No.1 is a dream come true for me," Ivanovic said. "It was a big surprise because I was so focused on the tournament. This is a great achievement and something that I'm very proud of. It hasn't exactly hit me yet because it won't be official until Monday. I'm sure we'll have a big celebration then."

"We have all witnessed the dramatic rise in Serbian tennis during the last few years and on Monday that will reach a new pinnacle when Ana Ivanovic is recognized as the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour's new No. 1 player," said Larry Scott, CEO of the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour. "Ana is both a remarkable player and person, and no doubt the best is still yet to come in her still young career. It is inspiring to see Ana's years of hard work and determination being rewarded."

Aldo Liguori, Sony Ericsson Corporate VP and Head of Global Communications & PR, said: "We at Sony Ericsson congratulate Ana Ivanovic on becoming the new Sony Ericsson WTA Tour World No. 1 and celebrate her success at Roland Garros. Ana is only the second new World No 1 since Sony Ericsson signed the landmark sponsorship deal with the Tour in 2005 and is one of only six players who have been World No. 1 in that time. Among Lindsay Davenport, Maria Sharapova, Kim Clijsters, Amelie Mauresmo and Justine Henin, Ana is in illustrious company. She is a worthy successor."

Ivanovic has had a remarkable 12 months posting particularly strong results at the major events, reaching the finals of the Australian Open and Roland Garros in 2008, while being a semifinalist at Wimbledon and the season-ending Sony Ericsson Championships in 2007, all told, she's reached the semifinals or better in nine of her 18 events in the last 52 weeks.

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



**Sony Ericsson  
WTA TOUR**

## PRESS RELEASE

This year alone, the 20 year-old Serb has won one title already at the prestigious Pacific Life Open in Indian Wells California, defeating Jankovic and Kuznetsova en route. She was runner-up to Sharapova at the Australian Open in January and a semifinalist at two other Sony Ericsson WTA Tour stops in Sydney and Berlin en route to compiling a 26-6 match win-loss record coming into the Roland Garros final.

Ivanovic first burst to prominence less than four years ago in the second round of Zurich, where as a 16-year old qualifier she pushed Venus Williams to two tiebreaks after holding set points in each set and has steadily risen up the rankings since then. Her season-ending ranking has improved from No. 705 (in 2003), to No. 97 (in 2004), to No. 16 (in 2005), to No. 14 (in 2006) and to No. 4 (in 2007).

PLAYER	DATE REACHED No.1	AGE			WEEKS*
		Years	Months	Days	
Steffi Graf (GER)	August 17, 1987	18	2	3	337
Martina Navratilova (TCH/USA)	July 10, 1978	21	8	22	332
Chris Evert (USA)	November 3, 1975	20	10	13	260
Martina Hingis (SUI)	March 31, 1997	16	6	1	209
Monica Seles (YUG/USA)	March 11, 1991	17	3	9	178
Justine Henin (BEL)	October 20, 2003	21	4	19	117
Lindsay Davenport (USA)	October 12, 1998	22	4	4	98
Serena Williams (USA)	July 8, 2002	20	9	12	57
Amélie Mauresmo (FRA)	September 13, 2004	25	2	8	39
Tracy Austin (USA)	April 7, 1980	17	3	26	21
Kim Clijsters (BEL)	August 11, 2003	20	2	3	19
Jennifer Capriati (USA)	October 15, 2001	25	6	16	17
Maria Sharapova (RUS)	August 22, 2005	18	4	3	17
Arantxa Sánchez-Vicario (ESP)	February 6, 1995	23	1	19	12
Venus Williams (USA)	February 25, 2002	21	8	8	11
Evonne Goolagong Cawley (AUS)	April 26, 1976	24	8	26	2
<b>Ana Ivanovic (SRB)</b>	<b>June 9, 2008</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1**</b>

\* Total weeks at No.1; can be non-consecutive | \*\* Denotes current week of June 9-15, 2008

###

**MEDIA CONTACT:** John Dolan, Sony Ericsson WTA Tour, +44.20.8392.4768, [jdolan@wtatour.com](mailto:jdolan@wtatour.com)  
Gina Clement, Sony Ericsson WTA Tour, +33 682 722182, [gclement@wtatour.com](mailto:gclement@wtatour.com)

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