

February 10, 2009

SONY ERICSSON WTA TOUR STARS GRACE PAGES OF 2009 *SPORTS ILLUSTRATED SWIMSUIT* ISSUE

- Daniela Hantuchova, Maria Kirilenko and Tatiana Golovin featured in renowned annual Sports Illustrated Swimsuit issue, continuing tradition of Tour stars appearing in one of world's most popular magazines

ST PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, USA –*Sports Illustrated* has unveiled the 46th edition of the *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit* issue, which this year features three of the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour's stars – Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova, Russia's Maria Kirilenko and France's Tatiana Golovin – as they join the world's top supermodels in picturesque settings from exotic locations around the globe. The *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit* Issue is one of the best selling magazines in the world each year and is a global multi-media extravaganza, with the annual issue last year being read by more than 66 million people and generating 364 million page views.

During the five day photo shoot on the secluded beaches of the Dominican Republic, Hantuchova, Kirilenko and Golovin enjoyed a once in a lifetime opportunity to showcase a rare and powerful combination of beauty and athleticism and a unique side of their personalities as they posed for visually dynamic photo spreads. While these three athletes made their *SI Swimsuit* debut in this issue, several other Tour players have previously been featured in the prestigious publication, including Maria Sharapova, Serena Williams, Venus Williams, Anna Kournikova, and Steffi Graf.

The stunning and unique photos of all three athletes were shot by Walter looss, Jr., considered by many to be the leading sports photographer of his generation and best known for the nearly 300 photographs he's produced for *Sports Illustrated* including portraits of famous athletes such as Michael Jordan, Cal Ripken, Jr. and Ken Griffey, Jr.

The unique pictorial essays of the tennis players will be featured on http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2009_swimsuit, along with 1,500 exclusive photos of other models featured in this year's issue and cover galleries, digital downloads and archives of the past issues. The tennis stars' exclusive behind-the-scenes footage and player diaries will also be featured on www.sonyericssonwtatour.com.

"Being a part of the *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit* issue was a unique experience that gave me a rare and fun opportunity to let the people see me in a different light, away from the tennis court," said Daniela Hantuchova.

Maria Kirilenko added: "I have incredible memories of the *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit* shoot that will stay with me forever. Walter looss is so far the best photographer that I've had an opportunity to work with and the shoot and the time spent with the fellow players and the *Sports Illustrated* crew is very memorable."

"It is such an honor to be a part of the Swimsuit issue and while I have done lots of photo shoots in my career, none of them can compare to the fantastic atmosphere of this shoot and the positive energy of the crew," said Tatiana Golovin. "It was a fantastic experience that will stay with me for a long time."

"One of the unique strengths of women's professional tennis is that our players are not only amazing athletes on the court, but also interesting and glamorous personalities off the court," said Larry Scott, CEO of the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour. "It's exciting to see the stars of the Tour again featured in Sports Illustrated's Swimsuit issue, continuing a great tradition for our athletes."

The *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit* franchise engages tens of millions of consumers through the magazine, SI.com, VOD, mobile and many other multimedia channels. One in three adults aged 18 and over in the United States is expected to read the 2009 Sports Illustrated Swimsuit issue.

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



PRESS RELEASE

###

MEDIA CONTACT:

Amy Binder, Sony Ericsson WTA Tour, +1.727.502.1234, abinder@wtatour.com

Andrew Walker, Sony Ericsson WTA Tour, +1.727.871.5666, awalker@wtatour.com

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