

April 8, 2009

DINARA SAFINA TO BECOME SONY ERICSSON WTA TOUR NO. 1

- **22-year-old Russian to emerge as World No. 1 for first time in her career**
- **Safina to become 19th player to reach No. 1 spot in Tour history**

ST PETERSBURG, Florida - When the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour rankings are released on Monday, April 20, 2009, Dinara Safina will emerge as the new World No. 1, replacing American Serena Williams who will have held the title for 11 consecutive weeks (72 total). It will mark the first time in Safina's career that she will hold the World No. 1 ranking. She is only the second Russian woman, along with Maria Sharapova, to hold the World No. 1 title. Safina's brother Marat Safin reached the ATP World Tour No. 1 ranking on November 20, 2000. Dinara and Marat Safin are the first brother-sister duo in tennis history to reach the World No.1 ranking.

The Russian sensation from Moscow will become the 19th top-ranked player in women's tennis history, joining a distinguished list that includes 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, Maria Sharapova, Ana Ivanovic and Jelena Jankovic.

"It's a great honor to reach the No. 1 ranking and it is a dream that every girl who has ever wanted to play professional tennis shares. It is even extra special for me since my brother Marat was able to reach the No. 1 ranking and I am happy to share this achievement with him," said Dinara Safina. "There's no question that while I am very proud of my results over the past year, I would have liked to reach this achievement in a different manner. I hope to prove to everyone over the coming months that I merit the honor of being World No. 1."

"On the heels of her breakthrough 2008 season, it's great to see that Dinara's hard work, determination and strong results will be rewarded with the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour World No. 1 ranking," said Sony Ericsson WTA Tour Chairman & CEO Larry Scott. "Reaching No. 1 is an amazing accomplishment for Dinara and I am sure that we'll continue to witness many more great achievements by her."

Aldo Liguori, Sony Ericsson Corporate VP and Head of Global Communications & PR, said, "We congratulate Dinara Safina on soon becoming the new Sony Ericsson WTA Tour World No. 1 and look forward to following and celebrating all of her future successes."

Over the past 52 weeks (as of April 20), Safina has won four Sony Ericsson WTA Tour singles titles – Rogers Cup (Montreal), East West Bank Classic (Los Angeles), Qatar Telecom German Open (Berlin), and Toray Pan Pacific Open (Tokyo); and has been a runner-up five times, including the 2009 Australian Open (lost to Serena Williams) and 2008 Roland Garros (lost to Ana Ivanovic). In addition to winning the coveted US Open Series and a silver medal at the Beijing Olympics, Safina became the first player in Tour history to defeat three reigning No.1 ranked players in the same season (Justine Henin, Maria Sharapova, Jelena Jankovic). Safina won 44 of 54 matches to end the season and qualified for the year-end Sony Ericsson Championships in Doha, Qatar. Safina's ranking in 2008 vaulted from No.17 to No.2, which resulted in her winning the Tour's Most Improved Player of the Year award.

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



Sony Ericsson
WTA TOUR

PRESS RELEASE

PLAYER	DATE REACHED No.1	WEEKS*
Steffi Graf (GER)	August 17, 1987	337
Martina Navratilova (TCH/USA)	July 10, 1978	332
Chris Evert (USA)	November 3, 1975	260
Martina Hingis (SUI)	March 31, 1997	209
Monica Seles (YUG/USA)	March 11, 1991	178
Justine Henin (BEL)	October 20, 2003	117
Lindsay Davenport (USA)	October 12, 1998	98
Serena Williams (USA)	July 8, 2002	72
Amélie Mauresmo (FRA)	September 13, 2004	39
Tracy Austin (USA)	April 7, 1980	21
Kim Clijsters (BEL)	August 11, 2003	19
Jelena Jankovic (SRB)	August 11, 2008	18
Jennifer Capriati (USA)	October 15, 2001	17
Maria Sharapova (RUS)	August 22, 2005	17
Ana Ivanovic (SRB)	June 9, 2008	12
Arantxa Sánchez-Vicario (ESP)	February 6, 1995	12
Venus Williams (USA)	February 25, 2002	11
Evonne Goolagong Cawley (AUS)	April 26, 1976	2
Dinara Safina (RUS)	April 20, 2009	1

Chart as of April 20, 2009

* Total weeks at No.1; can be non-consecutive

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