

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**MEDIA CONTACTS:**  
Audrey D'Onofrio ... 202.721.7257  
SFX Sports Group  
Kerry Lynn Bohlen ... 703.534.4600 x203  
B•W•F Communications

## **LEGG MASON TENNIS CLASSIC ADDS WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT** *USTA Pro Circuit Women's Event Combines with ATP Summer Classic in Groundbreaking Move*

WASHINGTON, DC - The Legg Mason Tennis Classic presented by GEICO returns to the William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Center (16<sup>th</sup> & Kennedy Streets, NW) July 30-August 7 with unprecedented added value - the inclusion of a USTA Pro Circuit \$75,000 Women's Tournament, combining the men's and women's tours for the first-time ever in the nation's capital.

"Throughout the years, we have prided ourselves on meeting consumer demand and enhancing the overall tournament experience," said Tournament Chairman & Co-Founder Donald Dell. "Adding a women's tournament to a top-flight men's tournament that has existed for 37 years is in direct response to demand from spectators, sponsors and media for a women's event in D.C. It should be a very exciting competition for our Washington tennis fans."

The women's tournament is the highest level of play on the USTA Pro Circuit. Women's events on the USTA Pro Circuit consist of \$10,000, \$25,000, \$50,000 and \$75,000 tournaments. Each event has 32 players in the main singles draw and 16 teams competing in doubles. The caliber of play at the premium-level events, the \$50,000 and \$75,000 tournaments, is close to that of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Tour, as it features women who are ranked as high as No. 40. Visit [www.usta.com/protennis](http://www.usta.com/protennis) for more information.

The Legg Mason Tennis Classic is incorporating the women's event that was previously operated by the Thai Tennis Organization in America (TTOA) in October 2004 in Ashburn, VA, with the support of Singha Beer. Singha continues its support as the presenting sponsor for the women's event and the Official Beer of the Legg Mason Tennis Classic. Meantime, Legg Mason - with a proven track record of extraordinary support for professional and regional tennis - is the title sponsor. The TTOA will continue to manage the qualifying competition at the Lake Newport Tennis Courts in Reston, Va. on July 30 & 31.

Best of all for fans, there will not be a separate ticket for the women's event, the **Legg Mason Women's Pro Circuit presented by Singha Beer**. A ticket to the Legg Mason Tennis Classic presented by GEICO will provide access to both the men's and women's tournaments providing the aforementioned "added value" for all in attendance.

The men's tournament is a 48-player singles draw, and players already committed include **Andre Agassi, Andy Roddick, James Blake** and the **Bryan Brothers**. To order ticket packages, or for more information on the Legg Mason Tennis Classic, please call 202.721.9500, or visit the tournament website at [www.leggmasontennisclassic.com](http://www.leggmasontennisclassic.com). Single session tickets are available through TicketMaster, 202.397.SEAT (7328).

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A portion of the proceeds from the Legg Mason Tennis Classic presented by GEICO benefits the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation (WTEF). WTEF, celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005, seeks to improve the life prospects for D.C. area youth.

Legg Mason, Inc., headquartered in Baltimore, provides asset management, securities brokerage, investment banking and related financial services through its subsidiaries. With over \$370 billion in assets under management and clients in more than 75 countries, Legg Mason is among the top asset management firms in the world.

The USTA, the national governing body for tennis in the United States, is one of more than 200 national federations that are members of the International Tennis Federation (ITF). Through the USTA Pro Circuit, which it owns and operates, the USTA stages the largest number of ITF Circuit events in the world. This year, players from more than 50 countries will be competing in 96 USTA Pro Circuit events for \$3 million in prize money.

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