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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Injury forces WTT player Sloane Stephens out for season**

Sloane Stephens, a member of the Philadelphia Freedoms, announced her withdrawal today from the 2013 Mylan World TeamTennis season. Stephens has been plagued by an abdominal tear that was further aggravated during Wimbledon. Stephens was scheduled to play three Mylan WTT matches in Philadelphia and road matches in Springfield and Albany, N.Y.

"I was really looking forward to playing Mylan World TeamTennis for the Philadelphia Freedoms this summer, so I am very disappointed that my injury won't allow me to play my scheduled matches in Philadelphia, Springfield and Albany," said Stephens. "This injury has been an ongoing problem and it got worse after Wimbledon, so my doctors have advised me to rest. Good luck this season to my Freedoms teammates and I hope to be back next summer."

Monday, July 8, is opening night for the Springfield Lasers home season at Mediacom Tennis Stadium, in Cooper Tennis Complex, 2231 E. Pythian. The Lasers play on the road tonight, July 7, against the Boston Lobsters. Former No. 1 Andy Roddick plays with the Lasers at home Fri., July 12, and marquee player Sam Querrey appears with the Sacramento Capitals in Springfield Tues., July 23.

Those who have already purchased tickets to the July 20 Sloane Stephens match in Springfield will be offered either free tickets to the July 21 or July 23 home matches, or a refund.

Bob Belote, Owner Representative for the Springfield Lasers, said he hopes to bring Stephens to Springfield in the future.

"Of course we're disappointed that Sloane Stephens' injury at Wimbledon that will cause her to miss the 2013 Mylan World TeamTennis season," said Belote. "We certainly wish her a speedy recovery so we can see her participate at the US Open later this summer. As she is one of the game's rising young stars, it would certainly be our hope to bring Sloane to Springfield at some point for an upcoming Lasers season."

For tickets and more information, visit [springfieldlasers.com](http://springfieldlasers.com) or call Cooper Tennis Complex at 417-837-5800.