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News Release

For Immediate Release

Paul Nahon Jr. named General Manager of Springfield Lasers

The Springfield Lasers Mylan World Team Tennis franchise has named Paul Nahon Jr. as General Manager.

Nahon, 53, was appointed General Manager March 31, after serving as Director of Sales and Marketing for the Lasers since April of 2013.

Nahon has had an extensive career in sales and management in the telecommunications industry. He and his family have been involved in the Missouri Valley Tennis Association and the Springfield Tennis Association since his Nahon's youth, and Nahon played and coached tennis throughout high school, college and adulthood. A native of Springfield, Nahon played collegiately at Missouri State University, holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from MSU, and is a graduate of Glendale High School.

"I'm excited to take the helm as General Manager," said Nahon. "I plan to examine the organization as a whole, continue to enhance the fan experience and build on the success we've had in the past, including the Lasers' 2013 Western Conference Championship title."

Nahon succeeds Larry Haugness, who served as Interim General Manager for the 2013 season, and founding General Manager Tom Adams, who retired in 2013 after 17 years of service.

"It is with great pleasure that we announce the hiring of Paul Nahon as the new General Manager of the Springfield Lasers," said Bob Belote, Lasers ownership representative. "Working with the whole Lasers team, Paul's efforts in 2013 helped lead to over 40 percent increases in both Lasers sponsorship sales and nightly match attendance. In his new role, we know that Paul will continue to take Lasers Tennis to new heights."

The Springfield Lasers enter their 19th season as defending Western Conference Champions. The home season runs July 6-23, with highlight of the season on Sunday, July 13, when Lasers marquee player James Blake faces longtime friend and rival Andy Roddick at Cooper Tennis Complex's Mediacom Tennis Stadium.

Blake, 34, was the No. 1 American and No. 4 world player in 2006, placing him just behind Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Nikolay Davydenko. Blake is known for his powerful forehand, his speed on the court and his incredible comeback after breaking his neck in May 2004. He has earned 10 singles titles and seven doubles titles. Blake returns to the court after less than six months of retirement, announced last August after the US Open. Now returning for his eighth season of WTT, his first with the Springfield Lasers, Blake will play two Springfield Lasers home matches: Saturday July 12 and Sunday, July 13.

Blake replaces former Lasers marquee player Andy Roddick, who left the Lasers in November to join the new Austin Aces WTT franchise in his hometown of Austin, Tx.

Blake's and Roddick's careers have been intertwined since the early 2000's. They were the top two American tennis players for most of the decade. Both were members of the Davis Cup USA team, including 2007, USA's most recent Davis Cup championship, when Blake, Roddick and Bob and Mike Bryan beat Russia in the World Group finals. Blake and Roddick partnered in doubles for several tournaments on the ATP tour. They remain friends and golfing buddies, playing together at AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in February.

San Diego marquee player and former No. 5 Daniela Hantuchova also makes an appearance in Springfield Thursday, July 17.

2013 Lasers team members Alisa Kleybanova and Jean-Julien Rojer return this season, after leading the Lasers to the 2013 Western Conference Championship. Kleybanova, 24, from Moscow, Russia, also was named 2013 WTT Female Rookie of the Year. Rojer, 32, from Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, earned the WTT Male MVP in 2013 and was also 2011 Male Rookie of the Year

WTT veterans Anna-Lena Groenefeld and Michael Russell, were added to the roster earlier this month. Three-time WTT Coach of the Year Coach John-Laffnie (JL) de Jager returns for his eighth season with the Lasers.

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The 2014 season three brings two new franchises to the seven-team Mylan WTT league: the Austin Aces, formerly the Orange County Breakers; and the San Diego Aviators, formerly New York Sportimes.

The 2014 Springfield Lasers schedule (home matches in bold):

- **Sun., July 6 Springfield Lasers vs. Philadelphia Freedoms**
- **Mon., July 7 Springfield Lasers vs. Texas Wild**
- Tues., July 8 Austin Aces vs. Springfield Lasers
- Thur., July 10 Boston Lobsters vs. Springfield Lasers
- **Sat., July 12 Springfield Lasers vs. Texas Wild (Featuring Blake-SPR)**
- **Sun., July 13 Springfield Lasers vs. Austin Aces (Featuring Blake-SPR and Roddick-AUS)**
- Tues., July 15 Texas Wild vs. Springfield Lasers
- Wed., July 16 Philadelphia vs. Springfield Lasers
- **Thu., July 17 Springfield Lasers vs. San Diego (Featuring D. Hantuchova- SD)**
- **Fri., July 18 Springfield Lasers vs. Washington Kastles**
- Sat., July 19 Texas Wild vs. Springfield Lasers
- Sun., July 20 San Diego Aviators vs. Springfield Lasers
- Tues., July 22 Washington Kastles vs. Springfield Lasers
- **Wed., July 23 Springfield Lasers vs. Boston Lobsters**

All Springfield Lasers home matches are held at 7 p.m. at Mediacom Tennis Stadium at Cooper Tennis Complex, 2331 E. Pythian, Springfield. Season tickets for the Lasers are available now at 417-837-5800, with individual tickets available in May.

For more information about the Springfield Lasers 2014 roster, click:

- www.parkboard.org/news14/laser_roster_draft14.htm
- www.parkboard.org/news14/lasers_draft_blake14.htm

For more information about Paul Nahon or the Springfield Lasers, call Cooper Tennis Complex at 417-837-5800, [visit springfieldlasers.com](http://springfieldlasers.com), or look for Springfield Lasers on Facebook or @SpringLasers on Twitter. For media inquiries, call Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-874-2176 or 417-224-5510.

For more information on Mylan WTT, [visit wtt.com](http://wtt.com).