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News Release

For Immediate Release

Springfield Lasers schedule includes James Blake, Andy Roddick face-off

The Mylan World Team Tennis (WTT) Pro League has released the 2014 schedule for the defending Western Conference Champions, the Springfield Lasers.

The highlight of the Lasers home season comes 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, visit:

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

For more information about the Springfield Lasers, visit 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.