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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USTA WOMEN'S PRO CIRCUIT EVENT IN YAKIMA

Women's Professional Tennis Coming Back to the Yakima Tennis Club July 7th – 14th

The YTC Board and Senior Management are pleased to announce that we will be hosting the second annual USTA Women's Pro Circuit \$50,000 Event the week of July 7th to the 14th at the Yakima Tennis Club Outdoor Facility. The caliber of player at this premium event is close to that of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) tour, and it could feature women ranked as high as 40th in the world. The pro circuit has thrived and grown from a handful of regional events, to become the largest professional developmental tennis circuit in the world, now featuring over 90 Pro Circuit events with nine of those tournaments being \$50,000 Challenger events that are played all over the United States. The Yakima Tennis Club is proud to be one of only four other \$50,000 Challengers events on the West Coast. Female athletes competing in these events are all eager to prove that they have what it takes to succeed in the professional tennis world. The Pro Circuit has become the ultimate tennis proving ground and because of that it has become a big draw for audiences from all over the Northwest. We are especially excited to bring this event to Yakima to make our mark in the tennis community. This USTA Pro Circuit event is open and free to the public.

We were proud to receive incredible feedback from last year's event. Yakima opened its doors and showed its home town hospitality and it paid off. We were acknowledged by the National USTA Headquarters as having one of the best first year events. Players, officials, and USTA staff alike are looking forward to coming back to the valley at the peak of fruit season. So many enjoyed fresh cherries and other soft fruit, all donated by local farms.

Sponsors serve as the life blood of the USTA Pro Circuit and they are invited to showcase their business while connecting the tournament to the community and also supporting the next generation of tennis champions. A BIG thanks to our title sponsor Yakima Regional Hospital, as well as our supporting sponsors, Parsec Computer, White Pass Ski Area, Sporthaus, Tree Top, and Northwest Medical Clinics.

Whether you're a local business or an individual, sponsors are the life blood of the USTA Pro Circuit event while volunteers are the driving force behind these events. Whether volunteers are providing transportation, replenishing food or water, or serving as ball kids, trusted volunteers are an invaluable resource for any Tournament Director. If you are interested becoming a volunteer please contact AnnElise Anderson to be part of this incredible event.

The Yakima Tennis Club was founded in 1958 and remains the only year-round tennis facility in the Yakima area. The club today is considered the Premier Outdoor Tennis Club in the Pacific Northwest because of its facilities and setting. The club has two facilities, an indoor club with 8 courts on 2505 Fruitvale Boulevard and an outdoor club with 13 courts, pools, and a clubhouse at 516 North 35th Avenue Yakima, WA 98902. More information on the Yakima Regional Hospital Tennis Challenger and about what YTC has to offer can be found on our website, www.yakimatennis.com.

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USTA Women's Pro Circuit Challenger Tournament Facts

July 7th – July 14th, 2013

Annually there are 90 Pro Circuit events that the United States Tennis Association (USTA) puts on that range from Future level events with a purse of \$10,000 all the way up to Challenger level events at \$100,000.

- There are 14 other Challenger level events this year that offer prize money of \$50,000 to \$100,000.
 - o Yakima is 1 of 4 Pro Circuit tournaments on the West Coast.
 - o Our tournament is 1 of 3 \$50,000 Challengers that will help American woman qualifier for the main draw of the 2013 U.S Open in Flushing, NY.
- Players competing at local Pro Circuit events can move on to play at the Grand Slams; Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and the U.S. Open.
- There will be 64 women participating in this tournament from all over the world.
 - o 32 qualifiers and 32 main draw players.
 - o Last year we had up and coming Americans, Madison Keys, Sam Crawford, and Shelby Rogers competing on our home court.
 - *Madison Keys*, 2012 Yakima Regional Hospital Challenger Doubles Champion, has had distinguished wins at the Australian Open, BNP Paribas Open, and most recently a 1st round win at the 2013 Roland Garros French Open.
 - *Sam Crawford*, 2012 Yakima Regional Hospital Challenger Doubles Champion and Singles Finalist, went on to win the 2012 Junior US Open in Flushing, NY.
 - *Shelby Rogers*, 2012 Yakima Regional Hospital Challenger Singles Champion, has had multiple hard court wins and qualified for the Main Draw of the 2013 Roland Garros French Open.
- The qualifying rounds begin Sunday July 7th and run until Tuesday July 9th with the main draw beginning Wednesday July 10th. Doubles play will begin Tuesday July 9th. Player Party and ProAm will be played Monday evening. The Singles Semi Finals and Doubles Finals will be played on Saturday the 13th and Singles Final on Sunday the 14th.
- Over 1,000 visitors from all over the region attended the tournament last year.
- Tournament title sponsor is the Yakima Regional Hospital
 - o Supporting sponsors are
 - White Pass Ski Area
 - Northwest Medical Clinics
 - Sporthaus
 - Tree Top
 - Parsec Computers
 - USTA - PNW
- During the remainder of the year the YTC is used for open play, adult leagues, junior lessons and USTA Local and Regional tennis tournaments.