



FORMER CHAMPIONS AND RISING STARS RECIEVE WILD CARDS INTO 2006 PACIFIC LIFE OPEN

Local Stars Brittany Blalock, Pam Montez and Coco Vandeweghe To Compete In Pre- Qualifier

INDIAN WELLS, Calif., March 3, 2005 - Former Pacific Life Open Champions Martina Hingis and Mark Philippoussis, headline a strong group, that include No. 1 ranked ITF Junior Donald Young, 2000 Olympic silver medalist Mardy Fish, 2003 Junior Player of the Year Alexis Glatch among others, that will receive wildcards into the main draw of the 2006 Pacific Life Open, to be held March 6-19 at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden.

Also joining the players listed above with wildcards into the main draw are Sam Warburg, Sam Query, Brenda Shultz McCarthy, Alexandra Stevenson, Anna Tatishvili, Ashley Harkleroad, Vania King, Shenay Perry, and one other female player to be named later.

"We are thrilled that Martina Hingis is coming back to the Pacific Life Open," said Tournament Chairman Charlie Pasarell. "Her comeback has been impressive and she is quickly returning to her past form as the No. 1 player in the world. Our fans are in for a treat when they watch her play."

This year the Pacific Life Open will hold a pre-qualifier to determine a male and female qualifying draw wildcard. Three local female teenagers, Coco Vandeweghe (Rancho Santa Fe), Pam Montez (La Quinta) and Brittany Blalock (Palm Desert) will compete for a spot in the women's qualifying draw. Vandeweghe will play Montez today at 3:00 p.m. and the winner will face Blalock at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden. On the men's side, AJ Bartlett, Jeff Salzenstein, Wayne Odesnik and Sargis Sargisian will compete on Sunday at 12:00 p.m. and the finals will be held on Monday (time will be set on Sunday evening when the schedule of Play for Monday is completed) to determine who will receive the spot in the men's qualifying draw.

"We have so many kids looking to gain entry into our tournament," said Pacific Life Open Tournament Director Steve Simon. "The hardest part of my job is telling them they can't get in to the qualifier. This pre-qualifier is a great way to give each of them a chance to play their way onto the big stage."

The players that have already received wildcards into the qualifying draws are Ben Kohlloeffel, Scoville Jenkins, Phillip Simmonds, Diane Matias, Anne Yelsey, Casey Herzburg, Jessica Kirkland and Victoria Azaranka.

The Pacific Life Open officially begins on Monday, March 6 with the start of the women's qualifying draw. The women's main draw and men's qualifying draw begin on Wednesday, March 8 and the men's main draw begins on Friday, March 10. The tournament will run through Sunday, March 19.

About the Pacific Life Open

The first major combined tennis event of the season on U.S. soil, the Pacific Life Open will be held March 6-19, 2006, at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, Calif. In 2005 more than 280,000 fans attended

the tournament making it the most attended non-Grand Slam tournament in the world. This year's event will again feature over 250 of the top men's and women's players and will be broadcast for more than 44 hours of live and tape-delayed coverage on ESPN2. For tickets call the box office at (800) 999-1585 or visit www.PacificLifeOpen.com.

