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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## **Lasers World TeamTennis Draft Completed**

The Mylan World TeamTennis (WTT) Pro League, presented by GEICO, completed its 38th Season Players Draft today. The Springfield Lasers drafted the league's first overall pick, Alisa Kleybanova, as well as returning Lasers Vania King and Rik De Voest and former St. Louis Aces player Jean-Julien Rojer.

"The draft went exceptionally well for us," said Bob Belote, Springfield Lasers Ownership Representative. "It's very rare to go into a draft and get all four players you wanted."

The newly drafted roster joins former men's No. 1 Andy Roddick, named to the Springfield Lasers as a marquee player in February. Belote characterized this year's Springfield Lasers roster as having a series of compelling comeback stories.

"Andy Roddick's coming back from retirement," said Belote. "Vania King and Rik De Voest, both former Lasers stand-outs, are coming back to the team. Jean-Julien Rojer is coming back to the WTT League. Alisa Kleybanova is coming back from a major illness. And, of course, Coach JL de Jager is coming back for his seventh season coaching the Lasers."

Today's 2013 Springfield Lasers draft included:

### **Women**

**1st Round Pick (Exempt Draft): Vania King** – Played for the Springfield Lasers in 2009, helping the Lasers reach the Championship Final and named 2009 League MVP. Since then, this 24-year American has won doubles titles at Wimbledon and the US Open (2010), was a finalist at the US Open (2011), and, last year, reached the third round at the Australian Open in singles. A member of US Fed Cup team 2006-2011, this is her fourth season with WTT. Currently ranked No. 113 in singles and No. 29 in doubles.

**1st Round Pick (Roster Draft): Alisa Kleybanova** – Returning to pro tennis after a two-year battle with Hodgkin's lymphoma, the 23-year-old Russian makes her WTT debut with the Springfield Lasers. Kleybanova has reached the fourth rounds at the Australian Open (2009) and Wimbledon (2008) and captured two singles and five doubles titles. After sitting out of most of the last two years, Kleybanova is ready to reclaim her career-high doubles No. 20 and singles No. 10, both set in February 2011.

Men

**2nd Round Pick (Roster Draft): Jean-Julien Rojer** – Played WTT with the St. Louis Aces in 2011, helping take the team to the finals and named Male Rookie of the Year. Rojer, 31, from Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, was a doubles finalist in Marseille and reached the doubles round of 16 at the Australian Open earlier this year. In 2011, he won doubles titles at the Estoril Open and Malaysian Open, and advanced to doubles semifinals at the Australian Open and the doubles finals in Memphis. This is his first season with the Springfield Lasers. He is currently ranked No. 13 in doubles.

**3rd Round Pick (Roster Draft): Rik De Voest** – Returning for his fifth season of WTT and his fourth with the Springfield Lasers, where he was named Male Rookie of the Year in 2005. He was also named MVP at the WTT Championships weekend in 2007. De Voest has earned 37 doubles titles on the ATP Challenger Tour. He reached the San Jose doubles quarterfinals earlier this year. From Pretoria, South Africa, now living in Vancouver, Canada, De Voest plays for Coach JL de Jager's South African Davis Cup team. He is currently ranked No. 127 in doubles and No. 313 in singles.

Three special marquee player visits highlight the Springfield Lasers 2013 home season at Mediacom Tennis Stadium. **Andy Roddick** plays with the Springfield Lasers Friday, July 12. **Sloane Stephens**, currently ranked No. 17, appears with the Philadelphia Freedoms Saturday, July 20. **Sam Querrey**, currently ranked No. 20 in singles, appears with the Sacramento Capitals Tuesday, July 23. The Springfield Lasers complete season includes (home matches in bold):

- **Monday, July 8: Boston Lobsters at Springfield Lasers**
- Tuesday, July 9: Springfield Lasers at New York Sportimes
- Wednesday, July 10: Springfield Lasers at Philadelphia Freedoms
- Thursday, July 11: Springfield Lasers at Washington Kastles
- **Friday, July 12: Orange County Breakers at Springfield Lasers- featuring Andy Roddick**
- Saturday, July 13: Springfield Lasers at Orange County Breakers
- **Monday, July 15: Texas Wild at Springfield Lasers**
- Wednesday, July 17: Springfield Lasers at Washington Kastles
- **Thursday, July 18: Sacramento Capitals at Springfield Lasers**
- **Saturday, July 20: Philadelphia Freedoms at Springfield Lasers- featuring Sloane Stephens**
- **Sunday, July 21: New York Sportimes at Springfield Lasers**
- Monday, July 22: Springfield Lasers at Boston Lobsters
- **Tuesday, July 23: Sacramento Capitals at Springfield Lasers- featuring Sam Querrey**
- Wednesday, July 24: Springfield Lasers at Orange County Breakers

Season tickets will be available online at [springfieldlasers.com](http://springfieldlasers.com) beginning March 18, at \$75 for open grandstand seats and \$155 for box seats. Individual home match tickets go on sale May 6.

The Springfield Lasers play all home matches at Mediacom Tennis Stadium, in Cooper Tennis Complex, 2331 E. Pythian St. The home of the Springfield Lasers is, once again, the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Springfield, 2431 N. Glenstone Ave.

For more information and updates on the Springfield Lasers, visit [springfieldlasers.com](http://springfieldlasers.com). Complete results from today's draft are available at [wtt.com](http://wtt.com). 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; Bob Belote, Lasers Ownership Representative, 417-864-1339; or Larry Haugness, Community Tennis Coordinator for the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, at 417-837-5880.