

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Kerry Lynn Bohem ... 703.534.4600 x203  
Mobile 202.468.8300 - kbohen@bwfcom.com

**TOP PLAYERS COMMIT FOR 2010 LEGG MASON TENNIS CLASSIC**

*ATP World Tour 500 and Olympus US Open Series Tournament Returns July 31-August 8, 2010*

WASHINGTON, DC (13 May 2010) – **Legg Mason Tennis Classic** officials announced today that several of the game’s marquee players – **Sam Querrey** (United States), **Robin Soderling** (Sweden), **Marin Cilic** (Croatia), **Gilles Simon** (France), and **Stanislaw Wawrinka** (Switzerland) - have committed to play in the 2010 Legg Mason Tennis Classic presented by GEICO, joining previously announced top-ranked American **Andy Roddick**.

“We are thrilled that six Top 25 players have committed early to this year’s Legg Mason Tennis Classic,” said Jeff Newman, Tournament Director and Senior Vice President of Events for BEST. “To date, five of the six players have won an ATP World Tour tournament title in 2010, further highlighting the quality of players participating in our event.”

While Querrey, Soderling, and Cilic have played the Legg Mason Tennis Classic in past years, Wawrinka and Simon will each be making his inaugural appearance on the courts in Rock Creek Park. These early commitments are a result of the player requirements for ATP World Tour 500 events. The final tournament player entry list will be announced six weeks prior to the start of the tournament.

As the defending Olympus US Open Series Champion, Querrey will be a favorite to win wherever he plays this summer. In fact, the 2010 season has already been very strong for him, with two tournament titles this spring (Memphis, an ATP World Tour 500 event, and Belgrade), a career high ranking of No. 22 on the South African Airways ATP Rankings, and being selected as a member of the United States Davis Cup Team.

Soderling has also had a great start to 2010 with a win in Rotterdam, an ATP World Tour 500 event, and is currently ranked a career high No. 7. In 2009 he shocked tennis by defeating Rafael Nadal in the fourth round of the French Open. From there he won his fourth tour title in Bastaad and hit a stretch where he reached the quarterfinals or better in eight of the next ten tournaments, including the quarterfinals in the US Open and semifinals in the ATP World Tour Finals, where he defeated Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

Cilic – currently ranked No. 11 - has earned five career ATP World Tour Titles in his short time on the tour, including two so far this year. He became the first Croatian man to reach the Australian Open semifinals in January, defeating Roddick and Juan Martin del Potro each in five sets.

-more-

Simon's inspiration as a junior was American Michael Chang. While his backhand is considered his best shot, he has a powerful forehand that has helped him earn six ATP World Tour titles, and claim victories over the game's top three players, Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal. While surgery knocked him out for two months in late 2009, he has returned to the tour and stands at No. 25.

Ranked No. 23 in the world, Wawrinka has two tournament titles to his name, including Casablanca earlier this year (Umag in 2006). He fell to Cilic this year in the final at Chennai.

Ticket packages for the Legg Mason Tennis Classic are on sale now and can be purchased through the tournament hotline at 202-721-9500. Single session tickets, ranging in price from \$10-\$70 – based on location, session date and time – are also available through all TicketMaster outlets. For more information on the Legg Mason Tennis Classic presented by GEICO, please visit the tournament Website at [leggmasontennisclassic.com](http://leggmasontennisclassic.com), follow the Legg Mason Tennis Classic on Facebook at [facebook.com/leggmasontennisclassic](https://facebook.com/leggmasontennisclassic), or call 202.721.9500.

An integral part of the sports and entertainment fabric of Washington, DC for over 40 years, the Legg Mason Tennis Classic, a BEST production, is owned by and benefits the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation, which seeks to improve the life prospects for DC area youth. Furthermore, this marks the 17<sup>th</sup> straight year that Legg Mason, the Baltimore-based global asset management firm, has served as title sponsor. They have hosted the tournament since 1994, when hall of famer Stefan Edberg claimed the coveted title, won in 2009 (and 2008) by Juan Martin Del Potro. The firm is only the sixth title sponsor in tournament history and North America's longest-term sponsor on the ATP World Tour.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **About The WTEF**

The Washington Tennis & Education Foundation (WTEF) was founded in 1955 as an organization designed to help disadvantaged youth through tennis. Since then, it has evolved into an organization that provides academic help to at-risk children, by helping them to apply the lessons learned on the tennis court in the classroom and beyond. Today, WTEF is a leader in the best practice of providing academic enrichment, supplemented by tennis and life skills instruction, as a means for developing the skills necessary to achieve academic and personal success. WTEF seeks to improve the life prospects of DC area youth, particularly those from low-income communities, through tennis, educational, and community-building activities that teach discipline, build confidence, and improve academic performance. [www.wtef.org](http://www.wtef.org)

#### **About Legg Mason**

Legg Mason is a global asset management firm, with \$685 billion in assets under management at March 31, 2010. The Company provides active asset management in many major investment centers throughout the world. Legg Mason is headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, and its common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (symbol: LM). [www.leggmason.com](http://www.leggmason.com)

#### **About BEST**

BEST is a unified full-service sports and entertainment company. Current clients include legendary ATP doubles team Bob and Mike Bryan, rising star Melanie Oudin, WTA #2 Caroline Wozniacki and WTA #9 Victoria Azarenka; Super Bowl MVP Santonio Holmes, Reggie Bush, DeAngelo Hall, Darren Sharper, 2009 AP Offensive Player of the Year Chris Johnson, 2009 AP Offensive Rookie of the Year Percy Harvin and 2010 First Round Draft picks Brandon Graham, Maurkice Pouncey and Kyle Wilson; NBA All-Star Shawn Marion, 2009 NBA Lottery pick Ricky Rubio and 2009 NBA Sixth-Man of the Year Jason Terry; top MMA heavyweight Fedor Emelianenko; basketball legend Magic Johnson; boxing legend Floyd Mayweather, Jr.; entertainment personalities John Saunders, Jenn Brown and Matt Vasgersian. Media & Event properties include the US Open Tennis Championship, the French Open Tennis Championship, the Legg Mason Tennis Classic, numerous US-based ATP tournaments, Rock 'n Racquets, the Boston Marathon, the Superstars Competition, Ice Wars, The Hall of Fame Showcase, the Men's and Women's Fifth Third Bank Tennis Championships and experiential grassroots properties Hoop It Up, Kick It and Let It Fly. [www.experienceBEST.com](http://www.experienceBEST.com)

# # #