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**ATP WORLD TOUR TOP-10 PLAYER FERNANDO VERDASCO ACCEPTS
WILD CARD BERTH INTO LEGG MASON TENNIS CLASSIC, JULY 31-AUGUST 8**
Spaniard Adds to list of Players Making First-Ever Appearance in Washington, DC

WASHINGTON, DC (12 July 2010) – **Fernando Verdasco**, ranked No. 10 on the South African Airways ATP World Tour Singles Rankings, has received the second (of four available) Wild Card berths for the **2010 Legg Mason Tennis Classic presented by GEICO**, an ATP World Tour 500 and Olympus US Open Series event. He joins a growing list of players who are making their Legg Mason Tennis Classic debut this year – and brings the number of Top 10 players to four. The Legg Mason Tennis Classic takes place **July 31 through August 8** at the William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Center (16th & Kennedy Streets, NW).

Verdasco has steadily climbed the rankings since turning pro, but he first garnered wider international attention at the start of the 2009 season, when he reached the final at Brisbane, then the semifinals at the Australian Open, falling in a five-set epic against Rafael Nadal, a match that has achieved “classic” status and a finish that moved him into the Top 10 for the first time in his career. In fact, the Madrid native compiled his best career season by finishing in the Top 10 for 2009 and qualifying for his first year-end championship at Barclays ATP World Tour Finals in London.

He has earned five career ATP singles titles, including two this year – at Barcelona and San Jose. His eight career runner-up finishes include Nice and the ATP World Tour 1000 in Monte Carlo this year. He has also been a Davis Cup stalwart for Spain.

Verdasco has probably drawn as much attention off the court as on – from his underwear ads for Calvin Klein to posing nude for Cosmopolitan, to raise awareness of male cancer for the Everyman Campaign.

This year’s Legg Mason Tennis Classic field is led by two-time French Open finalist **Robin Soderling** (No. 5 on the South African Airways ATP Singles Rankings); Wimbledon finalist **Tomas Berdych** (No. 8); three-time (2001, 2005 and 2007) Legg Mason Tennis Classic Champion **Andy Roddick** (No. 9); **Marin Cilic** (No. 13); marathon man **John Isner** (No. 18), and **Sam Querrey** (No. 19).

“Fernando Verdasco is one of the world’s most exciting players, with international fan clubs and a strong following everywhere he plays,” according to Jeff Newman, Tournament Director. “Adding Verdasco to our Legg Mason Tennis Classic player list enables us to showcase four of the World’s Top 10 players. We are thrilled to welcome Verdasco to the nation’s capital, and have no doubt he’ll be warmly greeted by enthusiastic fans!”

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, follow the Legg Mason Tennis Classic on Facebook at facebook.com/leggmasontennisclassic, or call 202.721.9500.

An integral part of the sports and entertainment fabric of Washington, DC for 42 years, the Legg Mason Tennis Classic, a Lagardère Unlimited production, is owned by and benefits the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation, which seeks to improve the life prospects for DC area youth.

The Legg Mason Tennis Classic is part of the Olympus US Open Series which links ten summer tournaments to the US Open, the largest annually attended sporting event in the world. The Olympus US Open Series brings together these ten tournaments in North America, three television networks, tennis' sanctioning bodies and top corporate sponsors during the summer tennis season. Since its launch in 2004, The Olympus US Open Series has doubled television viewership of tennis, increased total event attendance and contributed to the growing popularity of the sport.

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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

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

About Lagardère Unlimited

Lagardère Unlimited (formerly known as Lagardère Sports) is a specialist in the sports economy comprised of six universes: representation of prominent artists and athletes, management of sports academies, events planning and logistics, management of medias, and marketing and consulting. Lagardère Unlimited has quickly become a major player worldwide through the integration of a portfolio of world-class companies, including the recently acquired BEST (*Blue Entertainment Sports Television*), Sportfive, IEC in Sports, Upsolut, PrEvent and World Sport Group. Current clients include Super Bowl MVP Santonio Holmes, Reggie Bush, 2009 AP Offensive Player of the Year Chris Johnson and 2009 AP Offensive Rookie of the Year Percy Harvin; NBA All-Star Shawn Marion, 2010 NBA Draft pick John Wall, 2009 NBA Lottery pick Ricky Rubio and 2009 NBA Sixth-Man of the Year Jason Terry; legendary ATP doubles team Bob and Mike Bryan, rising star Melanie Oudin, WTA #3 Caroline Wozniacki, seven-time Grand Slam Champion Justine Henin and 2003 US Open Champion and ATP #7 Andy Roddick; 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 Showcase college basketball event, the Men's and Women's Fifth Third Bank Tennis Championships and experiential grassroots properties Hoop It Up, Kick It, Let It Fly and Rock The Box. www.lagardere-unlimited.com