



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

# PILOT PEN TENNIS FAMILY CLASSIC ENTERS SIXTH YEAR

## Popular Parent/Child Tournament Encompasses Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts

### New Husband/Wife Division Added in 2006

**NEW HAVEN, Conn., April 24, 2006** – The **Pilot Pen Tennis Family Classic** returns for its sixth year and will again offer parents and children – and now husbands and wives – in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts a chance to win the unique opportunity to play alongside the pros. Winning Parent/Child and Husband/Wife duos will play on the same courts as the top ATP Tour and Sony Ericsson WTA Tour pros during the Pilot Pen, being held August 18-26, 2006, at the Connecticut Tennis Center at Yale. The Pilot Pen Tennis Family Classic is being organized by Pilot Pen Tennis and USTA New England to promote family tennis in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

“The Pilot Pen Tennis Family Classic has been very successful over the past five years and it continues to gain momentum,” said **Jeff Waters**, USTA New England Executive Director. “We’re very excited to expand the event this year to include a husband and wife division, which will allow even more families to participate in this truly unique tournament. The continued growth of this event further reflects the recent increase in tennis participation in New England.”

“The Pilot Pen Tennis Family Classic is a key element in our strategy to maximize the excitement of professional tennis to increase participation in the grassroots game,” said **Anne Worcester**, Pilot Pen Tennis Tournament Director.

Tennis facilities throughout the participating states will conduct their respective local tournaments at various dates, beginning now through July. Parent/Child teams will compete at local clubs in **11 & Under**, **14 & Under** and **17 & Under** age divisions. Winning teams will come together to compete in the Regional Tournament at the Connecticut Tennis Center at Yale University in late July, just prior to the Pilot Pen. The finals of the Regional Tournament will take place during the Pilot Pen (August 18-26) and the winners will be honored in an on-court trophy ceremony. As the Family Classic promotes play at the recreational level, children ranked in the top 30 of the USTA New England Championship Standings may not participate.

Last year, more than 1,100 players from more than 40 tennis clubs and recreation departments participated in the 2005 Pilot Pen Tennis Family Classic. Winners in each age division included:

- 11 & Under Father/Child – Charlie & Tyler Adams (Buxton, Maine)
- 11 & Under Mother/Child – Judith & Shawn Hadavi (Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.)
- 14 & Under Father/Child – Takao & Tommy Inouye (Danbury)
- 14 & Under Mother/Child – Joanne & Sarah Kelly (New Preston)
- 17 & Under Father/Child – Larry & Charlie Sherman (Amston)
- 17 & Under Mother/Child – Sue & Charles Feldman (Easton, N.Y.)

- more -

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The following clubs have already scheduled their tournaments for 2006, and many more are in the scheduling process:

**Shippan Racquet Club (Stamford) – April 29**  
**Trumbull Racquet Club (Trumbull) – April 29**  
**Simsbury Tennis House (Simsbury) – April 29-30**  
**Manchester Racquet Club (Manchester) – May 6**  
**Tennis Club of Trumbull (Trumbull) – May 7**  
**Glastonbury Tennis Club (Glastonbury) – May 7, 14**  
**Westport Tennis Club (Westport) – May 13**  
**Beaver Brook Tennis Club (Danbury) – May 20**  
**Four Seasons Racquet Club (Wilton) – July 8**  
**Madison Racquet & Swim Club (Madison) – July 23**

Those interested in participating should contact their local club or recreation department for more information.

### **About USTA New England**

USTA New England, one of 17 regional sections across the country that comprise the United States Tennis Association (USTA), is a not-for-profit organization committed to promoting and developing the growth of tennis and increasing participation in the sport in New England by offering quality recreational and competitive programs for people of all ages and abilities. Founded in 1927 as the New England Lawn Tennis Association, USTA New England boasts nearly 30,000 individual members, 350 organizational members, 500 volunteers, and a professional staff of 20. For more information, log on to [www.ustanewengland.com](http://www.ustanewengland.com).

### **About Pilot Pen Tennis presented by Michelob ULTRA**

The 2006 Pilot Pen presented by Michelob ULTRA ([www.pilotpentennis.com](http://www.pilotpentennis.com)), a US Open Series event on the ATP Tour and Sony Ericsson WTA Tour, will be held August 18-26 at the Connecticut Tennis Center at Yale.

The Pilot Pen is the first ever combined men's and women's summer tournament leading into the US Open. Some of the biggest names in men's and women's tennis played in the 2005 Pilot Pen such as ATP Tour players James Blake (Pilot Pen Tennis men's champion), Feliciano Lopez, Tommy Haas and David Ferrer and Sony Ericsson WTA Tour players Lindsay Davenport (Pilot Pen Tennis women's champion), Amelie Mauresmo, Elena Dementieva and Daniela Hantuchova. The 2005 Pilot Pen drew 100,000 spectators and was televised nationally on 20 hours of ESPN2 and CBS Sports. For information on tickets, travel packages, sponsorships or on how to become a volunteer at the 2006 Pilot Pen, call the Pilot Pen Tennis office at (203) 776-7331 or (888) 99-PILOT.

### **About the US Open Series**

The US Open Series, launched in 2004, is the cohesive, six-week summer tennis season of 10 North American tournaments linked to the US Open. The Series has produced record attendance, TV viewership and live broadcast hours for the sport. In total, the US Open Series events -- including the US Open -- generated a record 1.6 million attendees, 128 million TV viewers and over 28 million website visits making it the strongest summertime property in sports. Kim Clijsters and Andy Roddick are the defending US Open Series champions. By winning the US Open and the US Open Series, Clijsters doubled her prize money to earn \$2.2 million - - the largest purse in women's sports history.

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