



Cincinnati's Caty McNally, Four Major Champions Added to 2020 Western & Southern Open Field *Clijsters, Osaka, Stephens and Venus Williams Also Awarded Wild Cards*

CINCINNATI (July 30, 2020) – Eighteen-year-old Cincinnati native **Caty McNally** and four Major champions - **Kim Clijsters**, **Naomi Osaka**, **Sloane Stephens** and **Venus Williams** - have been awarded wild cards for the 2020 Western & Southern Open.

These five have joined the previously announced 39 players on the entry list for the WTA Premier 5 tournament that will be held Aug. 20-28 at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York.

Clijsters brings the total of past Western & Southern Open champions in the field to six. The 2010 winner joins past champions **Madison Keys** (2019), **Kiki Bertens** (2018), **Garbiñe Muguruza** (2017), **Karolina Pliskova** (2016) and **Serena Williams** (2014-15) in the 2020 field.

A mother of three, Clijsters has returned to the WTA this season after having retired in 2012. This marks her second comeback, having previously retired in 2007 before returning to the tour with a quarterfinal run at the 2009 Western & Southern Open. This will be her third tournament of 2020.

A 2017 inductee into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, Clijsters owns 41 singles titles. Three of her four Major wins came at the US Open, including in her third event after her 2009 comeback. She would go on to defend that title one year later just weeks after picking up the title in Cincinnati. The 37-year-old Belgian has spent 20 weeks as the WTA's No. 1 player.

McNally, a native of Madeira, Ohio, will be making her second appearance at the Western & Southern Open. Last summer, McNally reached the semifinals at the WTA event in Washington, D.C., before pushing Serena Williams to three sets during the US Open second round. In January, McNally was two-for-two in qualifying attempts, joining the field at the WTA event in Auckland and at the Australian Open, where she defeated Australian and former US Open Champion Sam Stosur in the first round. McNally owns two professional titles on the ITF Circuit.

At 18, McNally is the second-youngest player in the 2020 Western & Southern Open field, behind 16-year-old **Coco Gauff**. McNally and Gauff have teamed up in doubles to form "McCoco." In 2019, the teenage duo won a pair of WTA titles – in Washington, D.C. and Luxembourg – and reached the US Open Round of 16. McNally's best result in juniors singles play was a runner-up finish at the 2018 French Open, where she lost to Gauff in the final.

Western & Southern Open

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Lindner Family Tennis Center, Mason, Ohio
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Osaka has two Major wins among her five career titles, having won the 2018 US Open then following that up with a title at the 2019 Australian Open. The No. 10-ranked Osaka has finished the last two seasons in the Top 5 and has held the WTA's No. 1 ranking for 25 weeks.

In May, Forbes listed the 22-year-old Osaka as the highest-earning female athlete in the world, citing her "endorsement stardom." The Japanese native will be making her third Western & Southern Open appearance after reaching the quarterfinals in 2019.

Stephens won the 2017 US Open just months after seeing her ranking fall to No. 957 following an 11-month absence due to a right foot injury. The season following her first Major win, Stephens was runner-up at the French Open and the 2018 WTA Finals in Singapore.

A 27-year-old Florida native, Stephens owns six career titles. She owns a 14-8 record at the Western & Southern Open, with her best result coming from a run to the semifinals in 2017.

Venus Williams is a seven-time Major champion who owns 49 career titles. In 2019, she earned her 800th career match win, becoming the sixth woman to reach that milestone. The 40-year-old has spent 11 weeks as the WTA's No. 1 ranked player and has finished 14 seasons ranked in the Top 10.

A semifinalist in 2012 and quarterfinalist last year, Williams is 11-7 all-time at the Western & Southern Open. During her career, she has teamed up with her younger sister, Serena, to win 22 career doubles titles, including 14 Majors and three Olympic Gold Medals.

The awarding of wild cards to these four Major champions brings the total number of women who have won a Grand Slam event in the 2020 Western & Southern Open field to nine. Clijsters, Osaka, Stephens and Venus Williams join Major champions **Sofia Kenin**, **Petra Kvitova**, **Svetlana Kuznetsova**, Muguruza and Serena Williams as entries into the 2020 tournament. The complete initial entry list can be found [here](#).

The Western & Southern Open men's field includes five former champions: **Daniil Medvedev** (2019), **Novak Djokovic** (2018), **Grigor Dimitrov** (2017), **Marin Cilic** (2016) and **Rafael Nadal** (2011). Four men will receive wild cards to join the field for the ATP Masters 1000 tournament. The initial entry list can be found [here](#).

The top eight seeds in both draws will receive first round byes. Twelve players will be added to each field through a two-round qualifying event that will be held Aug. 20-21. The deadline for players to enter the qualifying event is Aug. 3.

Main draw play for the Western & Southern Open will begin on Aug. 22. Both singles finals will be held on Friday, Aug. 28, with the WTA final taking place at 2 p.m., and the ATP Tour's at 4 p.m.

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MEDIA NOTE: At this time, all media access to the tournament will be remote. Further information on the virtual media operations will follow in due course.

About the Western & Southern Open

The Western & Southern Open takes place at the Lindner Family Tennis Center, 20 miles north of Cincinnati in Mason, Ohio. The tournament is one of the prestigious ATP Masters 1000 events on the men's tour and a Premier 5 event for the Women's Tennis Association (WTA). The W&S Open is the largest annual summer sporting event in the US Midwest, hosting fans from all 50 states and more than 35 countries with more than 50 million global viewers in more than 160 countries. The tournament is also one of the last stops on the US Open Series before the US Open in New York. Since 1974, the tournament has contributed more than \$11 million to various beneficiaries including Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, the Barrett Cancer Center and Tennis for City Youth. For more information, visit www.wsopen.com.

About the US Open Series

The US Open Series serves as a true "regular season" of summer tennis in North America, linking nine summer WTA and ATP Tour tournaments to the US Open. Featuring a cohesive weekly schedule, the Series centralizes the way tennis is viewed in North America, across multiple television and digital platforms. Fans will see today's top champions go head-to-head with tomorrow's emerging stars, as storylines develop throughout the summer season. Each tournament also engages its local community with a variety of outreach initiatives, including grass-roots youth tennis clinics and activities.

About the WTA

Founded by Billie Jean King in 1973 on the principle of equal opportunity for women in sports, the WTA is the global leader in women's professional sport with more than 1,650 players representing 84 nations competing for a record \$180 million in prize money. In 2019, the WTA was watched by a record breaking global audience of 700 million. The 2019 WTA competitive season includes 53 events and four Grand Slams in 28 countries and regions. The season culminates with the Shiseido WTA Finals Shenzhen, offering a \$14 million total prize purse and honoring the season's top singles and doubles players. Further information on the WTA can be found at www.wtatennis.com.

About the ATP

The ATP is the governing body of the men's professional tennis circuits - the ATP Tour, the ATP Challenger Tour and the ATP Champions Tour. With 64 tournaments in 30 countries, the ATP Tour showcases the finest male athletes competing in the world's most exciting venues. From Australia to Europe and the Americas to Asia, the stars of the 2020 ATP Tour will battle for prestigious titles and FedEx ATP Rankings points at ATP Masters 1000, 500 and 250 events, as well as Grand Slams (non ATP events). The 2020 season launched with the inaugural ATP Cup in Australia and will culminate with only the world's top 8 qualified singles players and doubles teams competing for the last title of the season at the Nitto ATP Finals in November. Held at The O2 in London, the event will officially crown the 2020 ATP Tour No. 1. For more information, please visit www.ATPTour.com.

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