



Simona Halep Withdraws from Western & Southern Open

CINCINNATI (Aug. 18, 2021) – Simona Halep has withdrawn from the Western & Southern Open due to a right thigh injury she sustained in her opening round win over Magda Linette. Halep was due to play **Jessica Pegula** Wednesday. Pegula advances to the Round of 16 by walkover and awaits the winner of this evening's match between 2016 Western & Southern Open champion **Karolina Pliskova** and **Yulia Putintseva**.

"After feeling a sharp pain in my right adductor during the match yesterday, I called the physio and, with heavy taping, was able to carry on and win." Halep said. "Unfortunately, a scan this morning showed that I have a small tear in the adductor and therefore it would be too risky for me to play this evening. I will rest up and do everything I can to be ready for the US Open. To the fans in Cincy, it was beautiful to see you again."

About the Western & Southern Open

Founded in 1899, the Western & Southern Open is an ATP Masters 1000 and a WTA 1000 tournament. The Western & Southern Open annually welcomes nearly 200,000 fans who come from all 50 states and more than 35 countries and is seen by more than 50 million global viewers in over 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. The tournament is held at the Lindner Family Tennis Center, 20 miles north of Cincinnati in Mason, Ohio. 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 WTA and ATP Tour tournaments to the US Open. Featuring a cohesive weekly viewing schedule, as well as comprehensive outreach and grassroots engagement initiatives, the Series serves as a vital platform to promote and grow the game of tennis in person and at home. Fans can follow along all summer as today's top champions go head-to-head with tomorrow's emerging stars, while each tournament engages its local community with a variety of programs geared toward showcasing and promoting the game to new and existing fans.

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 2020 WTA season includes 55 events and four Grand Slams in 29 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

As the global governing body of men's professional tennis, the ATP's mission is to serve tennis. We entertain a billion global fans, showcase the world's greatest players at the most prestigious tournaments, and inspire the next generation of fans and players. From the ATP Cup in Australia, to Europe, the Americas and Asia, the stars of the game battle for titles and FedEx ATP Rankings points at ATP Masters 1000, 500 and 250 events, and Grand Slams. All roads lead towards the Nitto ATP Finals, the prestigious season finale held in Turin, Italy. Featuring only the world's top 8 qualified singles players and doubles teams, the tournament also sees the official crowning of the year-end ATP World No. 1, the ultimate achievement in tennis. For more information, please visit www.ATPTour.com.

Western & Southern Open

250 East Fifth Street - Suite 1310
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

VOICE 513.651.0303 FAX 513.651.3088
www.WSOpen.com



TOURNAMENT IS PLAYED AT:
Lindner Family Tennis Center, Mason, Ohio
TOURNAMENT CONTRIBUTES TO:
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
The Barrett Cancer Center
Tennis for City Youth