



Western & Southern
Financial Group®
WOMEN'S OPEN

MEDIA INFORMATION

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Amelie Mauresmo Headlines List for W&SFG Women's Open

MASON – July 14, 2008 – Two-time Grand Slam champion and former world No. 1 **Amelie Mauresmo** leads an impressive list of 23 players who've made early commitments to the 2008 Western & Southern Financial Group Women's Open, which will be played August 9-17 at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in the Cincinnati suburb of Mason.

Mauresmo, who reached the world No. 1 ranking in 2004, owns 24 Sony Ericsson WTA Tour singles titles including the Australian Open and Wimbledon. She won both in 2006.

Also on the list are 2007 Wimbledon finalist **Marion Bartoli**, former world No. 3 and current top-20 player **Nadia Petrova**, rising Russian star **Maria Kirilenko**, American **Ashley Harkleroad**, 2007 Wimbledon finalist **Marion Bartoli**, 2008 Wimbledon quarterfinalist **Tamarine Tanasugarn**, 2006 W&SFG Women's Open finalist **Katarina Srebotnik**, and 2007 W&SFG Women's Open doubles champion **Bethanie Mattek**.

"Amelie Mauresmo is just a few years removed from being the No. 1 player in the world, and while injuries last year have caused her ranking to dip a little, she's still a force on the women's tour," said tournament director Bruce Flory. "I think our fans are really going to be excited to watch her play here, along with Petrova and Kirilenko and Bartoli, and so many others."

The 23 players directly accepted into the main draw, their countries and their rankings as of July 8 (the date of the cut-off):

	<u>Player</u>	<u>Nat</u>	<u>Rank</u>		<u>Player</u>	<u>Nat</u>	<u>Rank</u>
1	Bartoli, Marion	FRA	10	13	Kvitova, Petra	CZE	73
2	Petrova, Nadia	RUS	18	14	Harkleroad, Ashley	USA	74
3	Kirilenko, Maria	RUS	19	15	Pin, Camille	FRA	76
4	Srebotnik, Katarina	SLO	24	16	Craybas, Jill	USA	78
5	Mauresmo, Amelie	FRA	33	17	Lisicki, Sabine	GER	79
6	Makarova, Ekaterina	RUS	48	18	Garbin, Tathiana	ITA	80
7	Cetkovska, Petra	CZE	52	19	Nakamura, Aiko	JPN	82
8	Parmentier, Pauline	FRA	59	20	Vakulenko, Julia	UKR	83
9	Tanasugarn, Tamarine	THA	60	21	Gallovits, Edina	ROU	84
10	Wickmayer, Yanina	BEL	68	22	Loit, Emilie	FRA	86
11	Mattek, Bethanie	USA	69	23	Niculescu, Monica	ROU	87
12	Bardina, Vasilisa	RUS	70				

Bartoli, who reached the Wimbledon final last year before falling to Venus Williams, has three Sony Ericsson WTA Tour titles and three doubles titles. She is 5-3 in Cincinnati, having reached the semifinals here in 2004.

Petrova, who held the world No. 3 spot in 2006, was a semifinalist at the French Open in 2003 and 2005, and has reached the quarterfinals at all four Grand Slams, including Wimbledon last month. She owns seven WTA Tour titles (including Tier I events in Charleston & Berlin), and has reached nine other singles finals. She also owns 12 doubles titles.



August 9-17, 2008

Tournament played at the Lindner Family Tennis Center, Mason, Ohio, and operated by Tennis for Charity, Inc.
Played for the benefit of the Charles M. Barrett Cancer Center.

Kirilenko is having a career year, having won two Tour singles titles already and reaching the Round of 16 at the Australian Open. She defeated Anna Chakvetadze en route to that fourth-place finish at the Australian, and also posted two wins this year over Petrova. Those efforts have helped her break into the Top 20 for the first time in her career. In 2004, she was in the first main draw point of women's tennis played in Cincinnati since 1988; she lost it, and the match, to Bartoli.

This year, Mattek has reached the Round of 16 at Wimbledon and the semifinals at Birmingham. She has a 5-3 singles record in Cincinnati and reached the first semifinal of her career here in 2005. Last year, she paired with Sania Mirza to win the W&SFG Women's Open doubles title.

In addition to reaching the quarterfinals at Wimbledon last month, Tanasugarn won the singles title at 's-Hertogenbosch. She was ranked No. 19 in 2002.

Harkleroad, who at age 23 is a veteran of the Tour, is having a solid year. She was a semifinalist at Hobart and has posted wins over top-20 players Dinara Safina and Francesca Schiavone.

The tournament will bestow its three wild cards sometime before the draw ceremony, which will be open to anyone with a ticket to the qualifying matches on August 9. It will be held at noon in the Food Court, and adult tickets to the qualifying are only \$5, free for kids 14-and-under.

Four spots will be determined by a qualifying tournament held on August 9 & 10.

In addition, two spots in the draw will be reserved for the winner of two ITF events. **Anna Tatishvili**, a native of the country of Georgia and a current resident of Florida, has claimed one of those spots by winning the ITF event in Boston, Mass., played in June. **Milagros Sequera** of Venezuela, the winner of the event in Allentown, Penn., which was concluded July 13, gets the other slot in the draw.

Here's how the 32-woman main draw is comprised:

Direct Acceptance	23	Announced today.
Wild Cards	3	These are three spots in the main draw filled at the tournament's discretion. These spots will be determined between now and the draw ceremony (noon on Saturday, August 9).
Qualifiers	4	Four players who win two matches in the 32-draw qualifier on Aug 9 & 10 are placed into the main draw.
Exemptions	2	Two spots are left open for players who win ITF Circuit events in June and July.
Total	32	

The main draw of the 2008 Western & Southern Financial Group Women's Open will be held August 11-17 at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason, Ohio, about 25 miles from downtown Cincinnati.

The men's Western & Southern Financial Group Masters is July 25-August 3 in Mason.

For tickets or information visit www.cincytennis.com, or call 513-651-0303. Tickets also are available via TicketMaster at 513-562-4949 or www.ticketmaster.com.