



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 10, 2015**

**RECENT WORLD NO. 10 ERNESTS GULBIS AWARDED WILD
CARD INTO MEN'S DRAW AT ODLUM BROWN VANOPEN**

Vancouver, BC – Organizers of the Odlum Brown VanOpen are proud to announce that Ernests Gulbis of Latvia is awarded a wild card into the men's draw for this year's tournament, August 15 – 23 at the Hollyburn Country Club.

Gulbis, who was ranked No. 13 in the world as recently as this past February, has career wins over World No. 1 Novak Djokovic (2009 Brisbane International), World No. 2 Roger Federer (2014 French Open, 2010 Rome Masters), World No. 3 Andy Murray (2013 Rogers Cup) and World No. 6 Tomas Berdych (2014 French Open, 2012 Wimbledon). The Latvian posted sixteen career wins against players in the Top 10 of the ATP Rankings, with five coming in 2014.

"We are thrilled to have a Grand Slam talent like Ernests join our tournament this year," said Odlum Brown VanOpen Chairman Floyd Hill. "To have a player ranked among the top 13 in the world just six months ago along with other world class players like Janko Tipsarevic, Jurgen Melzer, and Matthew Ebden is outstanding. With the depth and strength of this year's field, fans should see closely fought battles in many matches."

The 26-year-old Gulbis has six career ATP singles titles to his name and advanced to at least the third round of Grand Slam events four times, including the French Open twice. He is the only Latvian player ever to be ranked inside the Top 10 in the ATP Singles Rankings.

"I am looking forward to being in Vancouver and playing there for the first time. I've heard some great things about the tournament," said Gulbis. "This should be a good

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opportunity for me to prepare for the US Open and hopefully experience this great city a bit as well."

Gulbis reached the quarterfinals or better in eleven tournaments in 2014 and won a career-high 41 matches. He struggled with a right shoulder injury in the second half of the season, but still finished the year ranked No. 13.

"Ernest's is a big hitter who has beaten the best in world," said Tournament Director Ryan Clark. "Fans will be impressed to see his firepower."

Tickets to the Odlum Brown VanOpen are on sale now, starting as low as \$17. Admission is free on Saturday, August 15 and Sunday, August 16.

<http://www.vanopen.com>

<https://twitter.com/VanOpen>

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*2015 marks the 14th year of the \$200,000 Odlum Brown VanOpen Presented By Miele and Trail Appliances, a dual sanctioned USTA Pro Circuit and Tennis Canada event. The event has an equal balance of prize money for both men and women and provides players with the opportunity to gain valuable world-ranking points on both the respective ATP and WTA Tours. Between the men's and women's events, it annually attracts 140 international and professional players to Vancouver from over 40 countries. **Maria Sharapova, Andy Murray, Marion Bartoli, Eugenie Bouchard, Jelena Dokic, Milos Raonic, Nicole Pietrangeli, and Vasek Pospisil** are among today's top stars who began their careers at the Odlum Brown VanOpen Presented By Miele and Trail Appliances, and on the USTA Pro Circuit.*

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