



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**GRAND SLAM CHAMPIONS AND FORMER WORLD TOP 10
PLAYERS HIGHLIGHT STRONGEST WOMEN'S FIELD EVER AT
ODLUM BROWN VANOPEN**

Vancouver, BC - Organizers of the Odlum Brown VanOpen are pleased to announce the strongest field of women in the tournament's 14 year history, all scheduled to compete in the \$200,000 USTA Pro Circuit event August 15 to 23 at the Hollyburn Country Club in West Vancouver.

The players on the list are in addition to former World No. 4 **Francesca Schiavone**, who last month confirmed her attendance at the Odlum Brown VanOpen. The Italian has career victories over several players who have been ranked No. 1 in the world, including Serena Williams, Dinara Safina, Amelie Mauresmo, Jelena Jankovic, Caroline Wozniacki, Justine Henin and Victoria Azarenka.

"We are truly excited about the strength of the women's field," said Tournament Chairman Floyd Hill. "When you have players like Francesca Schiavone backed by a cut off that's more 125 ranking spots better than last year, that's exciting."

The field includes six players ranked among the Top 100 in the world, and 15 who played in the Women's Singles Main Draw at Wimbledon earlier this summer.

Croatia's **Ajla Tomljanovic** highlights the women's field as she is currently ranked No. 70 in the world. **Kirsten Flipkens** of Belgium is ranked No. 86, Schiavone is No. 89, Russian **Vitalia Diatchenko** is ranked No. 92, Spain's **Lourdes Dominguez Lino** is No. 93, and **Yanina Wickmayer** of Belgium is ranked No. 95.

Tomljanovic's highest ranking is No. 47, which she reached this past February after making the final of the WTA Tour's Thailand Open. The 22-year-old also beat

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former World No. 1 Jelena Jankovic in the first round of this year's Brisbane International. Her best Grand Slam showing is reaching the third round of last year's French Open.

Flipkens is a former World No. 13. She reached the ranking in August 2013 after advancing to the semifinals of Wimbledon that year. The 29-year-old has one career WTA title win and 12 ITF title wins. Flipkens was also named ITF Junior World Champion in 2003.

Diatchenko, who just turned age 25, won the Aegon Surbiton Trophy tournament in England this past June. It was her tenth ITF circuit singles title in 14 appearances since November 2007. She is a six-time career Grand Slam main draw entrant.

A veteran of eight Top 100 seasons, **Dominguez Lino** reached her career high of No. 40 in September 2006. The 34-year-old has reached five career WTA Tour finals, winning twice. She is also a six-time WTA Tour doubles champion.

Wickmayer has been ranked as high as No. 12 in the world. She reached the semifinals of the US Open in 2009 and made the fourth round of a Grand Slam event three times. The 25-year-old has career victories over Kim Clijsters, Svetlana Kuznetsova, Li Na, Samantha Stosur, Francesca Schiavone, Dinara Safina, Ana Ivanovic and Agnieszka Radwańska.

Other notables include American **Bethanie Mattek-Sands**, currently ranked No. 5 in the world in doubles, Israel's **Shahar Peer**, a former World No. 11, and Japan's **Kimiko Date-Krumm**, who's a former World No. 4. Overall, the women attending this year's tournament gives the Odlum Brown VanOpen a terrific mix of international flavour and top women's tennis talent.

Mattek-Sands, dubbed by some as the 'Lady Gaga of the tennis world', has claimed 16 career WTA doubles titles. This year, she won the Australian Open and French Open women's doubles with Lucie Safarova, and the French Open mixed doubles with Mike Bryan. She also won the mixed doubles title at the 2012

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Australian Open with Horia Tecau. Mattek-Sands won the women's doubles at the Odlum Brown VanOpen in 2004. In singles, she's been ranked as high as No. 30 in the world.

Peer is a five-time winner on the WTA Tour and reached the quarterfinals of the Australian Open and US Open in 2007. She's made it to the fourth round of the French Open four times and Wimbledon once. The 28-year-old was also a finalist in doubles at the 2008 Australian Open.

Date-Krumm is a decorated competitor who at one time was ranked 4th in the world. She has 22 career singles titles and 13 career doubles championships and is a former semi-finalist at the Australian Open, the French Open and Wimbledon.

"To have this level of Grand Slam talent included makes for a strong buffet of matches for all fans," said Tournament Director Ryan Clark. "Every court will have exciting matches."

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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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