

**LINDSAY DAVENPORT FACES TOUGH DRAW
AT WISMILAK INTERNATIONAL**

Bali, September 11, 2005... Top seed and world number one Lindsay Davenport faces a tough draw as she bids to win the Wismilak International at the Grand Hyatt Resort in Bali.

The 29-year old American, who has travelled from the US Open with husband Jon Leach, recently won her 48th career singles title at New Haven, and is playing in South East Asia for the first time in her long and distinguished career.

Although Davenport has won the Australian Open, US Open and Wimbledon titles, as well as a gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics, she will face a strong challenge as she attempts to add to a bulging portfolio of tournament triumphs.

After receiving a bye into the second round she will play either Japan's Rika Fujiwara or Natalie Grandin of South Africa, and she then could face Indian star Sania Mirza in the quarter-finals.

The 18-year old sensation has enjoyed the fastest rise of any player on the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour this year, beating world number 6 and 2004 US Open and Wismilak champion Svetlana Kuznetsova in Dubai, winning a title in her home city of Hyderabad and recently reaching the final of a tournament in New York as well as the fourth round of the US Open.

If Davenport overcomes that hurdle, she is likely to run into Australia's Alicia Molik, who is recovering from a lengthy break caused a virus that affected her balance.

Before her career was interrupted, third seeded Molik enjoyed a sensational run that saw her earn a bronze medal at the Athens Olympics, beat 2004 Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova to win the Zurich title, follow that up with another title in Luxembourg, and then in January yet another tournament victory in Sydney and a march to the quarter-finals of the Australian Open.

Second seed Patty Schnyder of Switzerland also receives a first round bye, and she will then take on a qualifier or wild card entry Virginia Ruano Pascual of Spain.

Schnyder, a dangerous left-hander who has career victories over Serena Williams, Jennifer Capriati, Lindsay Davenport, Anastasia Myskina and Amelie Mauresmo, can expect to play fifth seed Anna-Lena Groenefeld of Germany in the quarter-finals and fourth seeded Italian Francesca Schiavone in the semis.

In a disappointment to the tournament, reigning champion Svetlana Kuznetsova was forced to withdraw after suffering an injury last month while playing in Toronto. The injury led to her slumping to a first round defeat at the US Open, and she has decided that she has no alternative but to take a break in order to rest and recover.

Wild cards into the main draw were awarded to Indonesia's Wynne Prakusya, who has been in tremendous form this year with a total of 59 wins in singles and doubles, and to Spain's Virginia Ruano Pascual, one of the best doubles players in the history of the game and a dangerous singles opponent who defeated top seed Martina Hingis in the first round at Wimbledon in 2001.

Editor's Notes :

Since its debut in 1994, the Wismilak International, part of the worldwide Sony Ericsson WTA Tour,



www.WismilakInternational.com

has been held in Surabaya, Kuala Lumpur, and now Bali. Initially the event was named the "Wismilak Open", before changing it's name to the "Wismilak International" in 1996 as a reflection of the organiser's corporate expansion into the international market. The Wismilak International is still the largest tournament in the WTA's calendar in South East Asia. For more information please visit www.wismilakinternational.com

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