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# World TeamTennis hits the nation's capital

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## From staff reports

Billie Jean King is finally bringing her baby — World TeamTennis — to the nation's capital. The pro tennis league will announce today the addition of the Washington Kastles, which will begin play this season in a location still to be determined.

"I am thrilled to be able to bring our co-ed team format to such a great market," says King, who co-founded the league in 1974. "Washington D.C. provides the perfect mix WTT is looking for — a strong local ownership group and a knowledgeable fan base with deep roots in community support."

The Kastles will be the league's 11th team and they will have the No. 6 pick in the WTT player draft April 1 in Miami.

"Last summer there were more than 60 professional players from 18 countries competing in the WTT Pro League," said Ilana Kloss, WTT CEO/commissioner. "We're a league that showcases international diversity and Washington, D.C. has always embraced that."

World TeamTennis is a co-ed professional league that brings together male and female tennis stars — including Pete Sampras and Anna Kournikova — with other pros and encourages fan participation and innovation. Many of its ideas — instant replay, super-tiebreakers, on-court coaching, colored courts — have been adopted by the USTA and the pro tours.

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The season runs from July 3-23, and the finals will be July 24-27.

The Kastles, owned by a group led by venture capitalist Mark Ein, will play in the Eastern Conference along with the Boston Lobsters, New York Buzz (Schenectady, N.Y.), New York Sportimes (Mamaroneck, N.Y.), Philadelphia Freedoms and the Delaware Smash (Wilmington, Del.).

The defending champion Sacramento Capitals lead the Western Conference, along with the Newport Beach (Calif.) Breakers, Kansas City (Mo.) Explorers, Springfield (Mo.) Lasers and the St. Louis Aces.

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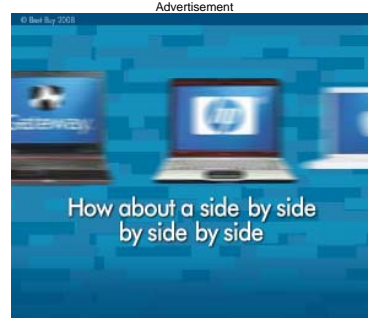
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