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## D.C. entrepreneur Mark Ein serves up pro tennis team

Washington Business Journal - by [Neil Adler](#) Staff Reporter

The World TeamTennis Pro League, co-founded in 1974 by tennis legend Billie Jean King, has added a franchise in D.C.

The new team, called the Washington Kastles, is owned by a group led by venture capitalist and entrepreneur Mark Ein, who is the founder and chief executive of D.C.-based **Venturehouse Group LLC**, a holding company that creates, invests in and builds technology and telecommunications companies.

Venturehouse was an early-stage investor in D.C.-based **XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc.** (NASDAQ: XMSR).

The Washington Kastles will play their home matches at a location in D.C. soon to be announced. The league's 2008 regular season runs from July 3 to July 23, with the World TeamTennis' championship weekend set for July 24-27 in Roseville, Calif.

The Washington Kastles will play in the league's eastern conference, along with five other teams including the Delaware Smash and Boston Lobsters. The western conference has five teams such as the defending champions, Sacramento Capitals.

The league, whose sponsors for the 2008 season include D.C.-based auto insurance firm Geico Corp., features several generations of tennis pros, both men and women, competing in communities throughout the United States each summer. The Washington Kastles represents the first D.C.-based team in the league's history.

Ilana Kloss, the league's chief executive and commissioner, said World TeamTennis officials have looked at the D.C. market for several years as a possible expansion location.

"Thanks to the leadership and vision of Mark Ein, everything came together for it to happen this year," Kloss said in a statement.

The Washington Kastles will select their lineup when they draft players on April 1 in Miami. The new D.C. franchise will play seven home matches and seven matches on the road.

Ein said the World TeamTennis Pro League "is great entertainment emphasizing fan interaction, and it is the only major sport with men and women playing together on the same team."

Ein, a native of Washington and seasoned local entrepreneur and investor, is also the founder and chief executive of **Capital Acquisition Corp.**, which completed a \$262.5 million IPO in November of last year.

Through Leland Investment Co., another investment holding firm, Ein is the majority owner and managing member of **Kastle Systems LLC**, a D.C.-based provider of building and office security systems.

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