

## **Venus Williams Joins All-Star U.S. Fed Cup Team**

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**- U.S. TAKES ON BELGIUM IN DELRAY BEACH APRIL 23-24 --**

**Venus Williams joins World No. 1 Lindsay Davenport, World No. 4 Serena Williams and 2005 Australian Open Doubles Finalist Corina Morariu**

**U.S. Team Features Three Top 10 Players with a Total of 35 Grand Slam Titles**

**Tickets Available by calling (888) 334-8782**

**WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., March 31, 2005** – The USTA and U.S. Fed Cup team captain Zina Garrison today announced that 12-time Grand Slam Champion Venus Williams has joined the U.S. Fed Cup team that faces Belgium in a Fed Cup quarterfinal April 23-24 at the Delray Beach Tennis Center in Delray Beach, Fla. World No. 9 Venus Williams joins forces with world No. 1 Lindsay Davenport, Australian Open singles champion and world No. 4 Serena Williams and Australian Open doubles finalist Corina Morariu giving the U.S. team three of the top 10 singles players in the world. Tickets for the two-day series can be purchased by calling (888) 334-8782 (USTA).

Serena Williams, Lindsay Davenport and Venus Williams will be teammates for the first time since 1999, when the team defeated Russia for the Fed Cup title. The U.S. team has a total of 35 Grand Slam titles.

"This is the strongest Fed Cup team we've fielded in years with Lindsay, Serena and Venus, three of the top ten players in the world, as well as top 20 doubles player Corina Morariu," said U.S. Fed Cup Captain Zina Garrison. "I could not have hoped for a better squad to represent the U.S. and I look forward to a successful quarterfinal against Belgium in route to a Fed Cup title."

"I am extremely excited to return to the U.S. Fed Cup team," said Venus Williams. "I'm looking forward to playing in front of the South Florida home crowd and helping the team advance to the semifinals."

**Venus Williams**, 24, the first African-American to achieve a No. 1 ranking, is the winner of 12 Grand Slam titles including four singles, six doubles and two mixed doubles titles. Williams made her Fed Cup debut in 1999 in the semifinal round match against Italy and helped the U.S. to a Fed Cup title against Russia that year. Her overall combined singles and doubles Fed Cup record is 10-1.

**Morariu**, 27, half of the world No. 2 doubles team (with Davenport), will be making her second appearance on the U.S. Fed Cup team. She is ranked the No. 20 doubles player in the world. Morariu reached the 2005 Australian Open finals with Davenport. In 2001, she won the Australian Open mixed doubles title with Ellis Ferreira and reached the women's doubles final with Davenport. In 1999 she won the Wimbledon doubles title with Davenport.

**Davenport**, 28, made her Fed Cup debut in 1993 and helped the U.S. win the Fed Cup title in 1996, 1999 and 2000. She owns a 28-2 Fed Cup record (23-2 singles, 5-0 doubles) and has played in 18 ties in her nine years representing the U.S. At the U.S. vs. Belgium tie in Delray Beach, Davenport will break the U.S. Fed Cup Team record for the most years played (10), surpassing Billie Jean King and Chris Evert. Davenport is a six-time Grand Slam winner (three singles, three doubles) and in 2004 was the very first US Open Series Bonus Challenge winner.

Davenport's only Fed Cup appearance against Belgium came in 2000, she defeated Kim Clijsters 7-6(4), 4-6, 6-3.

**Serena Williams**, 23, made her Fed Cup debut in 1999 and helped the U.S. team win the Fed Cup title that year. She is undefeated in Fed Cup play with a 6-0 record and has yet to surrender a set when competing for the U.S. in Fed Cup. Williams has captured 15 Grand Slam titles (seven singles, six doubles, two mixed doubles) and was a member of the 2000 United States Olympic team, capturing the gold medal in doubles with sister Venus Williams. She last played Fed Cup in a 2003 quarterfinal vs. the Czech Republic.

The Belgian Fed Cup team will include **Leslie Butkiewicz, Ells Callens, Kirsten Flipkens** and **Evelyn Van Hyfte. Carl Maes** will captain the team. The United States and Belgium have met on three previous occasions in Fed Cup play, with the U.S. leading the series 3-0. In the last meeting between the two nations, the United States defeated Belgium 4-1 in the 2003 Fed Cup World Group Semifinal in Moscow.

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The USTA is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the U.S. It owns and operates the US Open, the largest annually attended sporting event in the world and, in 2004, launched the US Open Series which links 11 summer tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns the 96 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S., and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games. A not-for-profit organization with more than 665,000 members, it invests 100% of its proceeds to promote and develop the growth of tennis, from the grassroots to the professional levels. For more information on the USTA, log on to [usta.com](http://usta.com).

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