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DELRAY BEACH



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TOP AMERICAN JAMES BLAKE TO HEAD 2007 DELRAY BEACH DRAW



Photo By: Aleso/Mort Pechter
(Official Tournament Photographers)

Delray Beach, FL (July 28, James Blake, the No. 5-ranked tennis player in the world and currently the top American, has confirmed that he will head the 2007 Delray Beach International Tennis Championships. The annual ATP event is held Jan. 29 – Feb. 4 at the Delray Beach Tennis Center & Stadium.

Blake, who recently displaced **Andy Roddick** as the top American in the ATP rank, enjoyed the best season of his pro career in 2006. He has put together a 37-1 win-loss record while winning ATP titles in Sydney, Las Vegas and most recently Indianapolis. He defeated Roddick in the final at the Indianapolis event. He also was the runner-up at the Indianapolis and Queens events.

"It's (Delray Beach) going to have a good field from what I heard from James Blake, who makes his home in Tampa. "Delray Beach is like playing a home tournament since it's only a couple of hours away. It has been a fun experience for me in the past because it was one of my first ATP events and the first time where my brother and I played doubles together."

"We're naturally excited to have the top American committing to play in our event," said tournament director **Mark Baron**. "James is playing at a level with the best in the world and we will build our draw around him."

Blake's singles record is an impressive 56-21 since catching fire in late 2005. That run began with a ranking of No. 101 when he reached the final in Washington against Roddick. He followed with an ATP title in London, a semifinal appearance in the U.S. Open and another ATP title in Stockholm. That moved his ranking to No. 25 at the close of 2005.

The 26-year-old Blake has won six career ATP singles titles and five doubles titles since turning pro in 1999 after two seasons as a college player at Harvard. He is 11-6 in Davis Cup ties dating back to 2002. He has also played singles in both 2006 U.S. ties.

The 2006 Delray Beach ITC drew a record 51,247 fans, with the participation of **Andre Agassi** highlighting arguably the best draw in its 14-year history.

Ticket packages to the 2007 event are now on sale and can be purchased by calling 561-330-6000. The Reserved Series package for all three sessions is \$250 while the Weekender package—including the quarterfinals, semifinals and finals—is \$200. Box seat packages range from \$98 for two seats to \$2,200 for four seats.

For more information on the 15th annual tournament and its events, visit www.YellowTennisBall.com.

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About the Delray Beach International Tennis Championships: *The Delray Beach International Tennis Championships is a \$418,000 ATP Tour Event which takes place from January 29-February 4, 2007 at the Delray Beach Tennis Center & Stadium in Delray Beach, FL. Now in its 15th tournament year, the Delray Beach ITC is one of the most prestigious privately owned tournaments in the world and attracts thousands of visitors. It has a roster of some of the world's most talented tennis players to South Florida's first of 14 ATP tournaments scheduled in the United States for 2007. For more information on the Delray Beach ITC or to purchase tickets, call 561-330-6000 or visit www.YellowTennisBall.com.*

About ATP: *With 64 tournaments in 31 countries in 2006, the ATP Tour is the finest athletes competing in the world's most exciting venues. From Australia to Europe and the Americas to Asia, the season-long INDESIT ATP Race and ATP Doubles Race unites players, teams and tournaments in a quest for success. For more information, please visit www.ATPtennis.com*

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