



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Showdown for America's Top Beach Tennis Pros**

*New Sport Caps Second Season  
With 2006 U.S. Beach Tennis Open Championship  
In Long Beach, NY on Labor Day Weekend*

New York, NY (Aug 14, 2006) – Beach Tennis USA™, the organization responsible for launching the sport of beach tennis in North America last year, will conclude its 10-city National Tour with the 2006 U.S. Beach Tennis Open Championship, Saturday, September 2, in Long Beach, New York. More than 45 teams from eight countries will compete for \$15,000 in cash and the right to call themselves the new sport's reigning U.S. champs.

Beach tennis combines tennis and beach volleyball into one fast-paced and exciting hybrid sport. Played on a standard beach volleyball court and using regulation tennis racquets, two players on each team try to hit a tennis ball back and forth, directly over the net, without letting it hit the sand.

Chris Henderson and Phil Whitesell of Charleston, South Carolina, will look to defend their 2005 title in the Men's Pro division. They must contend with a field of aggressive talent, including the number two-ranked Lester Cook and Craig Cignarelli, who dominated both of Beach Tennis USA's Southern California tournaments, and Rush Cole and Darryl Cummings of Norfolk, Virginia. Cole and Cummings won the Beach Tennis USA tournaments in Virginia Beach and Ocean City, Maryland, and currently occupy the number three spot in the national rankings.

Beach Tennis USA has chosen to create a festival-style event for this year's national finals. On Saturday afternoon, beachgoers can see "Best of the Beach," an exhibition of two-on-two men and women's beach volleyball, at the

center court, located at Riverside Blvd., in Long Beach. A free concert by The Mystic will precede the finals of the Men's Pro division on Saturday evening.

The Men's Pro tournament will get underway Saturday morning and continue throughout the day, with the finals scheduled to begin at 6:00p.m. The Women's Pro and Men and Women's Amateur divisions will begin Sunday morning and matches will be held throughout the day.

In addition to the pro and amateur tournaments, Beach Tennis USA will hold free instructional clinics and "open play" all weekend beginning at 9:00 a.m. both days. Equipment is provided courtesy of Head and Penn, official equipment suppliers of Beach Tennis USA.

### **About Beach Tennis USA**

Based in New York City, Beach Tennis USA is committed to introducing Americans of all ages to the competitive and recreational benefits of beach tennis. Company founders Marc Alheim and Fredric Finkelstein also established a governing body, the National Beach Tennis Association <sup>TM</sup>, in anticipation of the sport being played competitively throughout the U.S. To learn more, visit [www.beachtennisusa.net](http://www.beachtennisusa.net).

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