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Beach Tennis USA Returns To New York

*America's Hottest New Sport To Be Played On Long Island This Summer,
Championship Tournament Will Again Be Held In Long Beach*

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New York, NY (July 10, 2006) – Beach Tennis USA, the Manhattan-based organization responsible for launching the sport of beach tennis in North America last year, will conclude its 10-city, 2006 National Tour with three events on Long Island, culminating with the U.S. Beach Tennis Open championship tournament, which will take place Labor Day weekend in Long Beach.

Beach tennis combines tennis, beach volleyball, and badminton into one fast-paced and exciting game. 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.

The remainder of the 2006 Beach Tennis USA National Tour schedule is:

July 15-16	Jones Beach Open, Jones Beach, NY
August 12-13	2006 Northeast Regional Qualifier, Long Beach, NY
September 2-3	2006 U.S. Beach Tennis Open Championship, Long Beach, NY

A total purse of \$18,000 in cash and prizes will be up for grabs at this year's championship tournament.

The 2006 tour, which has culled talent from local tennis clubs as well as pro players from last year's tour, has produced some heated rivalries. Southern California sand slammers Craig Cignarelli and Lester Cook, who won the Beach Tennis USA West Coast tournaments in Santa Monica and Long Beach in April,

will look to upset the defending champions, Chris Henderson and Phil Whitesell of Charleston, South Carolina, who currently are the top-ranked team in the Beach Tennis USA national player rankings.

Also looking to dethrone Henderson and Whitesell will be Rush Cole and Darryl Cummings of Norfolk, Virginia. Cole and Cummings won the last two Beach Tennis USA tournaments – in Virginia Beach and Ocean City, Maryland – to move into the number three spot in the national rankings.

“We couldn’t be happier with the rate at which the sport has developed,” said Beach Tennis USA founder and commissioner, Marc Altheim. “In less than two years, hundreds of thousands of people have either played or been exposed to beach tennis and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.”

In addition to pro and amateur-level tournaments, Beach Tennis USA holds free instructional clinics and “open play” at each of its events. Equipment is provided courtesy of Head and Penn, official equipment suppliers of Beach Tennis USA.

Players wishing to compete in any of the remaining events on Beach Tennis USA’s 2006 National Tour can register online at www.beachtennisusa.net.

About Beach Tennis USA

Based in New York City, Beach Tennis USA is committed to introducing Americans of all ages to the competitive excitement and recreational benefits of beach tennis. Company founders Marc Altheim and Fredric Finkelstein also established a governing body, the National Beach Tennis Association, in anticipation of the sport being played competitively throughout the U.S. To learn more, visit www.beachtennisusa.net.

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