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## Pro Tennis Classic Returns to Sussex County

*Former World #1 and Seven-Time Grand Slam Champion Mats Wilander to Headline  
September Charity Event*

**SPARTA, NJ, June 30, 2011** – Following three highly successful events, the eyes of the tennis world will once again shift to the beautiful lakefront town of Sparta, NJ as picturesque Lake Mohawk Tennis Club hosts the 4th Annual Merrill Lynch Pro Tennis Classic Presented by Eastern Propane on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Wilander is a true legend in the sport of tennis capturing a total of 33 singles titles and 7 doubles titles during his career. He spent a total of 20 weeks as the World's #1 Ranked player and was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2002.

He won the U.S. Open, three French Opens and three Australian Open titles. In 1988, Wilander captured three of the four major singles titles and was indisputably No. 1 in the World. Wilander is one of only two men in tennis history to have won at least two Grand Slam singles titles on each of the three surfaces (along with Rafael Nadal), and one of only five men (along with Nadal, Jimmy Connors, Andre Agassi, and Roger Federer) to have won Grand Slam singles titles on grass courts, hard courts, and clay courts.

The interactive and exciting format of the event which benefits the Newton Medical Center Foundation begins at 1:00 PM and features Wilander and other professional players pitted against one another in sets of singles and doubles accompanied by music and an on court announcer.

Last year's sold out event provided local area residents with a truly a one of kind opportunity to witness world-class tennis in an intimate setting and this year is poised to build upon that success. The headliner from the 2010 event, Jim Courier, was named United States Davis Cup Captain only weeks after playing in Sparta.

Mark Macler, Event Director, commented, "We are thrilled to combine support for our local hospital with delivering high-level professional tennis to Northern New Jersey. With each year we continue to raise the bar. Mats is one of the all-time greats and we are truly fortunate to have him visit Sussex County."

Megan Sandow, Vice President of Development for Newton Medical Center Foundation noted "This is a wonderful annual community event and we are excited to have a player of Mats Wilander's caliber this year which will help us raise money for the Hospital's MRI project."



Wilander said, "The work of the Newton Medical Center Foundation is critical to maintaining a leading healthcare facility in Sussex County. I look forward to seeing everyone and experiencing the beautiful Northern New Jersey area."

Sunday's tennis action will cap off a full weekend of activities along the Sparta boardwalk. It all begins with event sponsor Sparta Athletic Club's junior tennis clinic on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. This clinic is open to any child between 10-18 years of age interested in learning about the sport of tennis and will feature many of the event's stars assisting club pros. Interested parents should contact Sparta Athletic Club at 973-729-9141 to complete required paperwork and confirm a position.

A ticket package may also be purchased for the Sunday Wilander on Wheels Clinics which offers a very limited number of lucky patrons the once-in-a-lifetime chance to play with and learn from Wilander and his partner Cameron Lickle, along with lunch, photo and autograph opportunities. This package offers one playing spot in the clinic, as well as admission to the main event that afternoon. The clinics have generated significant publicity recently in the Wall Street Journal and on CNN.

Sponsorship opportunities and Pro-Am slots are available on a limited basis. Interested parties may contact Mark Macler, Event Director, at 610-996-0280 (mobile).

Tickets for the event start at just \$25 and are available by phone, mail or online at the event's website at [www.SpartaTennis.com](http://www.SpartaTennis.com)

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#### **THE NEWTON MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION**

The Newton Medical Center Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Newton Medical Center, exists to serve the present and future health and wellness needs of our community and beyond, as defined by Newton Medical Center. Funds raised will be used on improvements to the Newton Medical Center MRI capabilities. Additional information may be found at [www.nmhj.org](http://www.nmhj.org)

#### **SKYLAND EVENTS**

Skyland Events, LLC is a full service sports marketing and production company based in Sparta, NJ. Skyland Events produces live events and also secures sponsors for major sports and entertainment events with focus markets of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Florida. Additional information may be found at [www.SkylandEvents.com](http://www.SkylandEvents.com)

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