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USTA's Grand Slam Futures Tampa Bay 2008 World Class Tennis Tournament moves to Pasco County Jan. 8-13, 2008

TAMPA, Florida – July 23, 2007 – For the past four years, world class professional tennis athletes from more than 50 different countries have competed in the Grand Slam Futures Tampa Bay at the City of Tampa Tennis Complex, Hillsborough Community College. With the closing of the HCC tennis complex, those athletes will soon be serving up their tennis talents in Pasco County.

The USTA Grand Slam Futures Tampa Bay will be held Jan. 8-13 at two locations in Pasco County. The women will play at Saint Leo University's tennis complex and the men will play at Saddlebrook Resort. The combined men and women's event features a total of \$35,000 in prize money: **\$25,000** for women, and **\$10,000** prize money for men.

"We bring in athletes from all around the world. The economic impact of more than 500 room nights and the high quality of this tennis tournament have made it a great success for both the athletes and the Tampa Bay area. We are looking forward to working with the professional management and great facilities of both Saint Leo University and Saddlebrook Resort to make the 2008 USTA Grand Slam Futures an outstanding event," said Gregg Gruhl, tournament director and COO of GL Sports Entertainment. GL Sports Entertainment is a Tampa, Florida-based full service development, marketing and management company, specializing in public sports event development throughout Central Florida.

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A USTA-sanctioned tournament, the Grand Slam Futures men's qualifying begins Jan. 4. Women's qualifying starts Jan. 6. Men's and women's main draw matches start on Jan. 8. There is no admission charge for spectators.

"We feel Pasco County is going to be the next big market in developing the professional and amateur sports in the Tampa Bay area. Bringing tournaments such as the USTA events will bring additional business opportunities that are important to the growth of Pasco County," said GL Sports Entertainment CEO Curt Lutz.

The USTA Pro Circuit has been instrumental in advancing the careers of many current players and of well-known names such as Andre Agassi, James Blake, Mardy Fish, Lindsay Davenport, Mary Pierce, Andy Roddick and Maria Sharapova.

For tournament information email: gregg@glspportsentertainment.com or call 813-961-4448.

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