

Kournikova and Rubin to compete at Charlotte event

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

InsideOut Sports & Entertainment recently announced that Anna Kournikova and Chanda Rubin will compete in special mixed doubles exhibition matches at The Championships at The Palisades, the fifth of eight events on the Outback Champions Series tennis circuit to be played Sept. 24-28 in Charlotte.

Kournikova and Rubin, both former top 10 players on the WTA Tour, will compete in mixed doubles exhibitions during both the day and night sessions on Sept. 27 with two players chosen from the field of eight men's players competing in the tournament field. Confirmed players for the event include former world No. 1 and 2006 tournament champion Jim Courier, two-time Charlotte finalist Todd Martin, 2003 Wimbledon finalist Mark Philippoussis and 1992 Olympic silver medalist Wayne Ferreira. The final four players in the field, as well as the schedule of play in the round-robin event, will be announced in the near future.

Tickets for the event are available now and can be purchased by calling 877-332-TIXX. Ticket prices start at \$12. Full ticket information can be found at www.championsseriestennis.com.

"We are excited to add Anna and Chanda to the roster of players in Charlotte as we continue to expand the entertainment options on the Outback Champions Series," said Jon Venison, co-founding partner of InsideOut Sports & Entertainment and the Outback Champions Series. "One of the most frequent comments we hear from our fans is the desire to see their favorite female players play at our events. We are delighted to be



Anna Kournikova will team with Chanda Rubin in doubles action in September.

able to provide this for our fans with the addition of these mixed doubles matches in Charlotte featuring Anna, Chanda and some of our Outback Champions Series players."

Kournikova, from Russia, was ranked as high as No. 8 in the world in singles in 2000 and ranked No. 1 in the world in doubles in 1999. She won 16 career WTA Tour doubles titles, including two Australian doubles titles with Martina Hingis in 1999 and 2002. Known as one of the most popular tennis players in the world, Kournikova reached the singles semifinals at Wimbledon in 1997.

Rubin, from Lafayette, La., was ranked as high as No. 6 in the world in singles and

won seven career WTA Tour singles titles and 10 career doubles titles, including the 1996 Australian Open with Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. Her best singles showing at a major tournament was also at the 1996 Australian Open, where she reached the semifinals, losing to eventual champion Monica Seles.

The Outback Champions Series features eight events on its 2008 schedule, with its next event being the International Tennis Hall of Fame Champions Cup in Newport, R.I., August 13-17.

More information can be obtained by visiting www.ChampionsSeriesTennis.com.



Rubin



Photo by Charles Watkins

N.C. A&T running back Michael Ferguson is 906 yards away from becoming the Aggies all-time leading rusher.

Four Aggies make preseason All-Conference

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

There are signs that the North Carolina A&T football talent that started out as inexperienced freshmen and sophomores are rounding into the kind of players that can resurrect the program.

Four Aggies were placed on the second-team preseason all-MEAC team that was announced at the recent MEAC press luncheon.

Senior Michael Ferguson (5-11, 195, Durham, N.C.) was the only offensive player to earn a spot, while three defensive players — junior linebacker Andre Thornton, senior safety Brandon Colbert and senior defensive end Tyre Glasper — earned recognition.

Ferguson will enter the season needing just 906 yards to

become the Aggies all-time leading rusher. Last season, he had the fourth best rushing season in Aggies history after compiling 1,169 yards and four touchdowns. Ferguson also had six games in which he rushed for 100 yards or more.

Thornton (6-3, 230, Charlotte, N.C.) led the Aggies in tackles for the second straight season. Last season, he recorded 83 tackles and 8 1/2 tackles behind the line of scrimmage.

Colbert (6-2, 185, Fayetteville, N.C.) had a career season for the Aggies. He was second to Thornton in tackles with 63 and he made eight of those tackles behind the line of scrimmage. Colbert also inter-

rupted two passes and earned a reputation for being a hard hitter.

Glasper (6-3, 270, Detroit, Mich.) led the team in quarterback hurries last season. He also made 5 1/2 half stops behind the line of scrimmage, blocked two kicks and had one sack. Glasper was second on the team among defensive linemen in tackles with 33.

"The thing I talked about when I got here was establishing a class," said Fobbs. "We wanted to establish classes and not bring in truck loads of transfers every year. We've taken our share of hard knocks, but this year we have 18 or 19 seniors. Next year we'll have even more than that. So we're excited about the foundation we're building here."

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