



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Sandra Rios
The Resort at Longboat Key Club
Sandra.rios@longboatkeyclub.com
941.387.9151**

**Sarasota Open 2013 -
Ivo Karlovic Confirmed for the Men's 100K Invitational Tournament**

Dasha Sharapova, Brook and Brianna Lashway and Yulia Shupenia Join the Field for the Ladies' Event

[Longboat Key, FL – March 15, 2013] The field of confirmed players is starting to stream in for the Sarasota Open, the most recent one being Ivo Karlovic for the Men's 100K Invitational Tournament. The 6' 10" Croatian player owns four ATP Singles titles – three from 2007 and one in 2008. The tallest player on the ATP Tour, he holds the record for the fastest serve recorded in professional tennis, clocked at 156 mph. He is considered one of the best servers given his height advantage, allowing him speed and a unique trajectory and accuracy.

He joins Paolo Lorenzi (49) and a field of players including Leonardo Mayer (64), Tim Smyczek (104), Frank Dancevic (141), Mischa Zverev (144) Ze Zhang (157) and Denis Kudla (160).

The Nick Bollettieri Sarasota Women's Open has confirmed returning crowd favorite Dasha Sharapova, Belarus' Yulia Shupenia, and sisters Brook and Brianna Lashway from the United States.

Sharapova, an IMG Bollettieri Academy student, began playing at the age of five and moved to America from Russia when she was nine years old. Her well-known older cousin, Maria Sharapova, has served as a role model as she begins to establish her own name in women's tennis.

The Nick Bollettieri Pro-Am tournament scheduled for April 14th has confirmed Jimmy Arias, Robert Seguso, and Betsy Nagelson McCormack, as 16 adventurous players compete against eight of the top players from the Sarasota Open and eight of Nick Bollettieri's top stars in a once in a lifetime competition.

Tickets for all Sarasota Open 2013 events can be purchased at www.SarasotaOpen.org, or by calling (941) 809-8996. Tickets can also be purchased at the Tennis Gardens at Longboat Key Club starting March 15th.

About the Sarasota Open

The Sarasota Open is the largest USTA sanctioned tennis event in the Sarasota area attracting over 30,000 patrons annually. Now in its 6th year, the tournament has evolved into the most prestigious clay court event prior to the French Open. Previous winners include Sam Querrey, James Blake and Kei Nishikori. The week long events include qualifying rounds for both men's and ladies' tournaments, finals rounds and the final championship tournament on center court accompanied by sponsored hospitality offerings. Tickets to the Sarasota Open are available at www.SarasotaOpen.org and range from \$10 for Qualifying Round general admission tickets to \$100 Finals Round Box Seats. Finals will be held on April 21, 2013.

About The Resort at Longboat Key Club

The Resort at Longboat Key Club is Sarasota's premier AAA Four-Diamond beachfront resort and private club renowned for its distinctive guest service and unparalleled amenities. Easily accessible from two international airports, the resort's on-site amenities include: championship golf; the award winning Tennis Gardens; Fitness Center; Island House Spa; six distinctive restaurants; a 291 slip deep-water marina; and a pristine white sand beach. Located at 220 Sands Pointe Road, Longboat Key, Florida, reservations can be made by calling (800) 237-8821 or by contacting us online at www.LongboatKeyClub.com.

About the Tennis Gardens at Longboat Key Club

Home of the Sarasota Open, the 4.5 million dollar facility was named the #1 Tennis Resort on the Gulf Coast of Florida by *Tennis Magazine*, a Gold Medal Tennis Resort Worldwide by *Tennis Resorts Online* and is the recipient of the 2009 USTA Outstanding Facility Award. Featuring 20 Har-Tru courts, professional instruction, a tennis concierge, clubhouse pro-shop, locker rooms, meeting room and equipped for nighttime play, the facility also offers excellent, casual dining at Court 21 Café and Lounge overlooking the tournament court action. Director of Tennis is John Woods. For more information please call (941) 383-8821.

####