

Media release – future hope Ana Ivanovic

## Ana Ivanovic – the fastest mover in the world

**At the moment, 17-year-old Ana Ivanovic is 21 in the WTA rankings, having moved up ten places in the space of a week. At the end of 2003, she was still in place 705. This rapid improvement made her the fastest mover in the world for 2004. Thanks to her talent and her strength of will, there is every chance she will make it even further.**

At the French Open, she made it to the quarter-finals after disposing of home favourite and world number three, Amélie Mauresmo, in the fourth round. "It was one of the best matches I've ever played," said Ana, summing up her performance. Amélie Mauresmo was suitably impressed and gave Ana Ivanovic a good chance of making the Top 10. After her progress in Paris, she is now number 21.

### On her way to the Top 20

Ana Ivanovic embarked on her professional career in August 2003, and since then has been unstoppable. In 2004, she won five ITF tournaments and was a quarter-finalist at the WTA tournament in Luxembourg. Thanks to this successful series, she leapt up the rankings from 705 to 97th place in the space of just one year. She began the 2005 season with her first WTA tour title in Canberra. After another success at the Nasdaq 100 Open in Miami, where she made it to the quarter finals, she pushed her way up to 38th place in the world rankings. In May alone, she moved up another four places, after reaching her first semi-final in Warsaw. In just 19 months, she had advanced from not even figuring in the tennis players' charts to the Top 50. A fact that even surprised Ana Ivanovic. "It went unbelievably quickly, but I have been working very hard in the past few months, and I'm delighted that my progress is so obvious."

Since last October, Ana Ivanovic has been training with Zoltan Kuharszky, a former Hungarian tennis player who has also coached the Swiss Fed Cup team. Ana is now working with him to perfect her game and work on her service. At the moment, she does most of her training in Switzerland, where she also settled down. Her management team is likewise based in Switzerland.

### Her way to tennis

Ana Ivanovic was born on 6 November 1987 in Belgrade, Serbia. She developed a liking for tennis when she was five, although no one in the family played. "I loved watching tennis on television, particularly Monica Seles," she explains. She was impressed that Monica Seles was likewise from Yugoslavia and also that she could play so well. She pestered her parents non-stop until they finally gave in and registered her at a local club.

### Mum's always at her side

On her way to the top, Ana Ivanovic has had a great deal of support from her family. Her mother, Dragana, is a lawyer and accompanies her daughter throughout the season. Her father Miroslav, who is a self-employed businessman, occasionally attends tournaments, as does Miros, Ana's three year younger brother. She loves playing basketball with him. But school is likewise another major factor in her life. She is going to finish high school within the next two years.

### A goal within graspable reach

"The most important thing for me is to stay calm and not allow myself to be fazed by my opponent", she said after the tournament in Miami. This kind of conviction has taken her far, and it is only natural that Ana Ivanovic is now aiming for the Top 10. She makes no secret of the fact that she would love to be world number one. If she continues to progress at the present rate, this goal too cannot be that far away. As you would expect from "the fastest mover in the world".

**Ana Ivanovic: a thumbnail portrait**

- Born 6 November 1987 in Belgrade, Serbia
- Place of residence: Basel, Switzerland
- Height: 1.83 m
- Weight: 73 kg
- Status: professional (since August 2003)
- Right-handed with double-handed backhand
- WTA ranking: 21

**The people around her**

- Coach: Zoltan Kuharszky
- Manager: Dan Holzmann
- Personal advisor: Fabio De La Vida
- Fitness coach: Pierre Paganini
- Family: mother Dragana Ivanovic, father Miroslav Ivanovic, brother Miros Ivanovic

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