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PRESS RELEASE

2010 Combo Doubles Southern Section Championships Set for Mobile this Weekend

MORE THAN 1,800 PLAYERS TO COMPETE OVER THREE DAYS

Mobile, AL – March 2, 2011 – More than 1,800 adult tennis players are expected to compete in the 2010 Combo Doubles Southern Section Championships, scheduled for March 4-6 in Mobile, Ala. This tournament, along with the annual USTA League Southern Section Championships, are recognized as the largest tournaments in the world.

There are 185 teams signed up to play in the following number of divisions: nine men's Adults, 11 women's Adults, five men's and women's Seniors, three men's Super Seniors and five women's Super Seniors. The schedule calls for 389 team matches of three courts each, making for 1,167 doubles matches.

Matches will be played at Copeland-Cox Mobile Tennis Center (host site), Country Club of Mobile, Heron Lake Country Club, Medal of Honor/Cottage Hill Park, Mirror Lake Racquet Club and Oakwood Swim & Racquet Club.

"Combo doubles is a special league because players of different levels have the chance to compete together," explains Tournament Chairman Dodie Hanchett. "The Copeland-Cox Mobile Tennis Center is one of the premier facilities in the nation and we know we'll have an outstanding tournament."

This year's event will draw the top teams from throughout the section's nine states: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. The teams, which represent various clubs, parks, recreational departments and organizations, have finished at the top of their local leagues in matches played in 2010 and are now vying for a chance to be crowned the champion of USTA Southern. The section is the largest among the USTA's 17 sections, representing more than 25 percent of the national membership.

All players in the 2.5 level must have a National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) rating of 2.5. In the other levels, the two players on court must have a combined NTRP rating that does not exceed the level.

The leagues were established to provide adult recreational tennis players with the opportunity to compete against players of similar ability levels. Players participate on teams in a league format, which is administered by USTA Southern. The league groups players by using six NTRP levels, ranging from 2.5 (entry) to 5.5 (advanced). Combo Doubles is open to any USTA member 18 years of age or older. It features an Adult Division, as well as a Senior Division (age 50) and a Super Senior Division (age 60).

For more information, visit www.southerncombo.com.

The USTA is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the U.S. and the leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis at every level – from local communities to the highest level of the professional game. It owns and operates the US Open, the largest annually attended sporting event in the world, and launched the **Olympus US Open Series** linking 10 summer tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns the 94 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S., and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games. A not-for-profit organization with 720,000 members, it invests 100% of its proceeds in growing the game. It is divided into 17 sections, of which the USTA Southern is the largest. The 187,000+ USTA members living in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee make up the USTA Southern, and account for approximately 25% of the total USTA membership. A professional staff housed in Norcross, GA carries out the USTA Southern's daily operations, but policy is formed and much of the organization's work is executed via a Board and committee structure of over 200 volunteers. For more information about the types of programs and services offered by the USTA Southern, visit www.southerntennis.com.

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