Graf and Sabatini to join Player's Challenge

by Josh Rubin

The York campus is going to get a Graf-ic illustration of the game of tennis this summer.

The indomitable Steffi Graf will be making her first Toronto appearance at this year's \$600,000 Player's Challenge, which runs from August 3-11 at the National Tennis Centre.

The 21-year-old West German sensation will be trying to defend the title which she won last year in Montreal, dumping Katerina Maleeva 6-1, 6-7, 6-3 in the tourney

For any puzzled readers, the tournament alternates between Montreal and Toronto each year as does the Player's Open, the men's side of the draw.

Graf is currently trying to recover what for her has been an off year.

Despite continuing her four year reign at the top of the computer rankings, she didn't win one grand slam tournament after being set back by the rumors surrounding her father's extra-marital activities.

Another likely, but as of vet unconfirmed participant in the Player's this year is Argentinean native and defending French Open champ Gabriella Sabatini.

Some observers would suggest, though, that a clay-court, baseline specialist like Sabatini would be wiser to stay away from the National Tennis Centre's quick hard-surface

The men's tournament also has at least two confirmations so far, as both Ivan Lendl and Michael Chang have agreed to take part.

Tickets for the women's tournament go on sale at Ticketron in May, but reservations can be made now by calling Tennis Canada's offices at 665-9777.



SMASH: A straining Ivan Lendl hammers his point home with his trademark blistering serve. He has confirmed he'll be coming to the Player's Open, in Montreal this time around. He'll be gunning for

defending champ Michael Chang, who will also be back. Steffi Graf has thrown her hat into the ring alongside (probably) defending French Open champion Gabriella Sabatini. The women will be playing at York.

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UQTR favored in **CIAU** tournament

by Josh Rubin

It seems that wildlife is endangered wherever you look these days, and CIAU hockey is no exception.

While Atlantic champion UPEI Panthers have drawn top-ranked UQTR in the semifinals on Friday, the Alberta Golden Bears also face a tough draw against the Waterloo Warriors in the other semi.

The UQTR Patriotes are heavily favored to win the tourney, but that's small consolation to coach Dany Dubé.

"Calgary was the favorite last year, and look what happened to them. Anything is possible," said Dubé, referring to the Dinosaurs heartbreaking semifinal loss to the eventual winners from Moncton. Dubé says the key to his team's success is their work behind the

blueline. "We have a very balanced defence," Dubé said. "We have to be good in our zone to win."

The Toronto Star's Mark Zwolinski agrees with Dubé.

"You know Trois Rivieres is going to put the puck in the net,"

And with the CIAU's top goaltender between the pipes, Zwolinski also adds he doesn't see anyone stopping the Patriotes.

"For them to lose, they'd have to have a really, really bad day," Zwolinski continued.

The Waterloo Warriors shouldn't be counted out too easily, however.

Led by offensive sparkplug Tony Crisp and backed by a rocksolid defence, the Warriors could give the Patriotes a run for their

But Dubé says that if his squad plays as a team, they will be

"We're going to work together. We're a team, not a group of superstars," Dubé said.

When asked which team he would rather face in the final, he claimed to have no preference.

'Right now, we have to concentrate on getting by UPEI," Dubé said. "Right now, we're confident, but we need luck and we need to be free of injuries."



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