



TENNIS STARS SLOANE STEPHENS & TAYLOR TOWNSEND TO PLAY IN SUNDAY SHOWDOWN AT 2024 ATLANTA OPEN



ATLANTA (July 12, 2024) - The Atlanta Open announced today that 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens will go head-to-head with Taylor Townsend in the Sunday Showdown delivered by UPS on July 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. ET to kick off the Main Draw. Stephens and Townsend will play a three-set singles match, with other fun surprises planned for the evening. The 2024 Atlanta Open is scheduled to be played July 20-28 at Atlantic Station in Atlanta.

Townsend, who is scheduled to compete in the Wimbledon doubles final on Saturday, takes the place of Grand Slam champion Venus Williams, who released the following statement:

"I regret to inform you that I will not be able to participate in this final installment of the Sunday Showdown during the Atlanta Open. During one of my practice sessions, I unfortunately aggravated my abdomen, which will require rest and treatment. I have enjoyed being able to play in Atlanta over the years and sincerely do hope to have the opportunity to return soon. I am nevertheless saddened that I will not be able to participate in this final edition of the Atlanta Open Sunday Showdown."

Stephens is a Sunday Showdown veteran, having played in the event in 2021 against Kim Clijsters. Stephens, former World No. 3, has won eight career singles titles, including the 2017 U.S. Open. She was also the 2018 runner-up at Roland Garros.

Townsend last appeared in the Sunday Showdown in 2022, playing against Coco Gauff. She is very familiar with playing in Atlanta. As a child, Townsend lived in The Peach State for a few years to train with esteemed tennis coach Donald Young Sr. Townsend is a five-time doubles champion, three-time doubles Grand Slam finalist, and has been ranked as high as No. 5 in the world in doubles.

“We are thrilled to welcome Taylor Townsend to the final Sunday Showdown delivered by UPS,” said Peter Lebedevs, Atlanta Open tournament director. “Sloane and Taylor are wonderful champions of our sport and fan-favorites in Atlanta. We anticipate a fun, competitive match for Atlanta tennis fans.”

Stephens and Townsend have played twice in their careers with Stephens winning both. The pair’s first meeting was in 2019 at the Australian Open; most recently, Stephens beat Townsend (6-3, 6-3) in Austin in 2023.

“I look forward to returning to Atlanta and sharing the court again with Taylor,” Stephens said. “I always enjoy the opportunity to play in front of Atlanta tennis fans and I am excited to be part of the final Sunday Showdown.”

Tickets for the Sunday Showdown are on sale now and available at atlantaopentennis.com.

About the Atlanta Open

The Atlanta Open is held each year in July at Atlantic Station and is one of the summer tournaments in the US Open Series. The tournament features men’s top world tennis players in singles and doubles competition. Approximately 40,000 fans attend the tournament and bring an estimated economic impact of \$10.3 million to Atlanta. Taylor Fritz is the defending champion from 2023. John Isner won the Atlanta Open six times (2013-15, 2017-18, 2021). More information at www.atlantaopentennis.com.

About GF Sports & Entertainment

GF Sports & Entertainment is a global events and operations company that elevates the experience of live sports, entertainment and interactive events. The company owns two of the ATP Tour’s longest running American tennis tournaments, the Dallas Open and the Atlanta Open, as well as the National Lacrosse League New York Riptide. GF Sports & Entertainment also incubates new and emerging sport concepts, this includes Wolf Pack Ninjas, which operates ninja-focused events globally and just completed the purchase of World Long Drive, an international long drive tour.

GF Sports & Entertainment was founded in July 2015 by New York-based private equity firm GF Capital. For additional information, please visit www.gfsportsandentertainment.com.

About The ATP

As the global governing body of men’s professional tennis, the ATP’s mission is to serve tennis. We entertain a billion global fans, showcase the world’s greatest players at the most prestigious tournaments, and inspire the next generation of fans and players. From the United Cup in Australia, to Europe, the Americas and Asia, the stars of the game battle for titles and PIF ATP Rankings points at ATP Masters 1000, 500 and 250 events, and Grand Slams. All roads lead towards the Nitto ATP Finals, the prestigious season finale held in Turin, Italy. Featuring only the world’s top 8 qualified singles players and doubles teams, the tournament also sees the official crowning of the year-end ATP World No. 1, presented by PIF, the ultimate achievement in tennis. For more information, please visit www.ATPTour.com.

Media Contact:

Angela Lang | Tony Fay PR | 214.548.0827 | angela@tonyfaypr.com
Jonathan Deutsch | Tony Fay PR | 469.534.8525 | jonathan@tonyfaypr.com



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