

## Roggenburk, Laurie

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**From:** Idcomm  
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**Cc:** Linda Dozoretz  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VENUS AND SERENA WILLIAMS SIGN WITH IMG

CLEVELAND, September 27, 1999 -- It was announced today that Richard Williams Tennis & Associates has hired IMG on an exclusive basis to represent Venus and Serena Williams, currently the number #3 and #4-ranked women tennis players in the world. Most recently, at 17 years old, Serena won the U.S. Open, while Venus, 19, reached the semifinals. Stephanie Tolleson, senior international vice president of IMG, will direct IMG's activities.

"We took our time in order to make the right decision, and the girls are very excited about our choice," Richard Williams says. "Venus and Serena are not only great tennis players, but they are global personalities. It will take the worldwide resources and experience of IMG to deliver all that awaits my daughters. We have seen their work with other international personalities, including Tiger Woods, Muhammad Ali, and Wayne Gretzky. That, plus their dedication to tennis meant our choice was made."

"I knew that there would be a lot of time devoted to my tennis, but I had no idea of the demands that winning would actually bring. I'm happy to have a team at IMG to work with us," adds Venus Williams.

"I plan to make history, and IMG has been involved with most of the history-making accomplishments in tennis for many years," Serena Williams says. "I'm glad they will be working with us."

(MORE)

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IMG, the Mark McCormack Group of Companies, founded by Mark H. McCormack in the early 1960s, has an international staff of more than 2,000 in more than 78 offices in 38 countries. The company is the world's premier sports management and marketing agency. Its Trans World International (TWI), the largest independent distributor of televised sports, annually produces and distributes 4,000 hours of original programming in over 240 sports to more than 200 countries. Every day of the year, IMG is commercially involved in an average of eight major events around the world. IMG promotes, owns and organizes hundreds of sports and cultural events around the world, represents the interests of major corporations, is a literary agency and book packager, manager and presenter of world-renowned classical music artists through its IMG Artists, and its IMG Models is an international modeling agency.

IMG's clients include Arnold Palmer, Woods, David Duval, the United States Olympic Committee, Itzhak Perlman, Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras, Wimbledon, Nancy Lopez, Annika Sorenstam, Derek Jeter, Major League Baseball, Tyra Banks, Rebecca Romijn-Stamos, Heidi Klum, Kristi Yamaguchi, Ali, Evander Holyfield, Gretzky, Jaromir Jagr, the NHL, Lindsay Davenport, Monica Seles,