



## News Release

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# VICTORIA AZARENKA NAMED WINNER OF WTA DIAMOND ACES AWARD

- *World No.1 honored for contribution to promoting the sport during the 2012 season*

ISTANBUL, TURKEY - The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) announced today that World No.1 Victoria Azarenka has been named the winner of the Diamond ACES Award for the 2012 season. The Award is presented to the player who consistently goes above and beyond in promoting the sport of women's tennis to fans, media, and local communities by performing off-court promotional and charitable activities.

"It is definitely really exciting to win this award and be recognized by the WTA," said Victoria Azarenka. "I am actually surprised to receive this great honor but really happy that I could contribute and share my time off the court to make people happy and give back to the sport."

"Victoria has not only achieved outstanding results on the court this season, including her maiden Grand Slam title and WTA World No.1 ranking, but she has also been one of our busiest players off the court too, taking part in an array of activities to help promote women's tennis to the world," said Stacey Allaster, Chairman and CEO of the WTA.

The Diamond ACES Award was first introduced in 1995, in memory of former WTA CEO Jerry Diamond. Since then, a total of 13 players have won the award: Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Gabriela Sabatini, Amanda Coetzer, Lindsay Davenport, Martina Hingis, Anastasia Myskina, Svetlana Kuznetsova, Jelena Jankovic, Ana Ivanovic, Elena Dementieva, Samantha Stosur, Caroline Wozniacki, and Victoria Azarenka.

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The WTA is the global leader in women's professional sport with more than 2,500 players representing 92 nations competing for a record \$96 million in prize money at the WTA's 52 events and four Grand Slams in 32 countries. More than 5.2 million people attended women's tennis events in 2011 with millions more watching on television and digital channels around the world. The 2012 WTA competitive season concludes with the TEB BNP Paribas WTA Championships in Istanbul, Turkey, October 23-28, and the Tournament of Champions in Sofia, Bulgaria, October 30-November 3. Further information on the WTA can be found on [www.wtatennis.com](http://www.wtatennis.com).

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