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RODDICK LAVALLE ACADEMY'S TOP JUNIORS PLAYING IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL EVENT

**Juliana Gajic, 17, Pulls Off Huge Upset Against No. 7 Seed at USTA
International Spring Championships in Southern California**

CARSON, Calif., (Thursday, April 8, 2010) – **Roddick Lavalley Academy's Juliana Gajic** shocked the No. 7 seeded player in the second round and has advanced to the quarterfinals of the prestigious **USTA International Spring Championships**, one of the most important junior tennis tournaments of the year.



Gajic, 17 (at left), beat Kerrie Cartwright from the Bahamas, 6-4, 6-1, on Wednesday and Lynda Xepoleas, 6-3, 6-1, on Thursday to move into the quarterfinals in the girls' 18-and-under division at the ITF Grade 1 event being played at the Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif. Gajic, from Toronto, Canada, has lived and trained full-time at the Roddick Lavalley Academy for the past two years and is ranked No. 319 in the world in the ITF juniors.

"It was a great win," Gajic said of her win over No. 7 seeded Cartwright. "The biggest I've ever had. I just tried to put the pressure on her and come to the net." Both players had trouble holding serve in the first set. After a break at 4-4 in the first set, Gajic stepped on the gas and rolled to the victory.



Competing against the world's best is always the top goal for the tennis directors at Roddick Lavalley, a full-time tennis boarding school located on the north side of **San Antonio**. And that's exactly what Gajic and **J.R. Leonik** are doing this week and next in Southern California.

Leonik lost his first-round match in Carson but next week travels two hours east to take part in the 44th annual Easter Bowl Spring National Championships in the Palm Springs area.

"The Spring Internationals and the Easter Bowl are two of the bigger junior events on the calendar during the year, especially for American players," said one of five RLA co-directors **Trace Fielding**, who is traveling and coaching Gajic and Leonik during the two weeks. "Each day at the Roddick Lavalley Academy we stress the importance of the big events and trying to get all our players ready to play tournaments like these."

Fielding added that the Roddick Lavalley Academy has produced three International Tennis Federation (ITF) Top-10 world-ranked juniors during the past three years, including **Vladimir Ignatik**, formerly No. 1 in ITF in the world and currently ranked in the Top 200 in the ATP world professional rankings.

"I really like training at the Academy because of its small size and the personal attention we get from all the coaches," said Gajic, whose father Alex is one of five coaches and directors at RLA.

Gajic's sister, Katarina, is currently a sophomore on scholarship at Boston College.

"It's always been my dream to play with my sister in college and they're recruiting me now," Gajic said. "I just have to do well on my SATs June 5."

Gajic is taking part in the Bridgeway home-schooling program currently offered to the RLA students and under the guidance of academic advisor **Kevin Heinze**.

Leonik is also 17 and from Fort Walton Beach, Fla. He is currently No. 350 in the world in the ITF junior rankings. "Ever since I came to Roddick Lavalley my game has just jumped to a whole different level," he said. "The coaches are always there and always on court. They're just like parents really and they care for all the players the same."

Leonik will play next week in the 44th annual Easter Bowl Spring Nationals, the first time he's been able to take part in one of the most famous junior tournament in the world. "I'm really excited about it," he said. "I've been injured the past two years so I could play it."

Leonik is on his way to earning a full-ride tennis scholarship and said he would like to try to play a year or two on the pro tennis tour after his schooling. He is interested in attending Air Force or Embry Riddle in Daytona Beach. "My real dream is to be pilot," he said. "I've always loved aviation. The skills and disciplines I'm learning now in my tennis and at RLA can only help me achieve that goal someday."

The original Roddick Total Tennis Academy was founded at the current San Antonio site on Judson Road in 2001 by **John Roddick**, ATP World Top 5 player **Andy Roddick's** older brother and his former coach. John Roddick is currently the head men's tennis coach at the University of Oklahoma and currently resides in Norman, Okla.

Now running the academy are co-directors **Myron Grunberg**, **Leo Lavalley**, Fielding, Gajic and **Michael Castillo**, who formed a partnership about a year ago and have turned heads with the results the juniors have had recently.

Gajic and Leonik have the potential to go far, according to Fielding. "They're great kids and they've worked so hard," said Fielding, a former Texas Christian University All-American. "We're really expecting great things from them in the future."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Roddick Lavalley Tennis Academy will be taking part in USTA Tennis Month during the month of May. On May 22, the academy (located at 12615 Judson Road) will be opening its doors to the public and holding a Tennis Block Party from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All Texas junior tennis players are welcome to attend the day-long clinics. There will be a super tie-breaker tournament, food and other on-court games and drills and prizes given away.

About The Roddick Lavalley Academy

The Roddick Lavalley Tennis Academy is located in San Antonio, Texas. RLA strives to emphasize the development of life skills and educate its players to understand that the ideas and concepts learned on the tennis court apply to their lives outside tennis. At RLA, the instructors take a global approach by addressing the physiological, psychological, tactical and technical skills each player needs to reach his full potential. RLA programs include fulltime and single semester boarding, an after-school program, summer camp, and private lessons. Through individualized attention and consistent reinforcement, we maintain high quality standards for student education and enrichment. Multiple options are available with schedules flexible enough to meet training and tournament demands.

The Roddick Lavalley Academy is managed by five business partners and co-directors, all with extensive coaching and playing tennis resumes. They include Myron Grunberg, Leonardo Lavalley, Trace Fielding, Michael Castillo and Alexander Gajic.

--www.roddicklavalleyacademy.com--