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SAN ANTONIO RODDICK LAVALLE ACADEMY'S GAJIC ADVANCES IN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL EVENT

Juliana Gajic, 17, Into the Semifinals at USTA International
Spring Championships in Southern California

CARSON, Calif., (Friday, April 8, 2010) – San Antonio's **Juliana Gajic** has advanced to the semifinals of one of the top junior tennis tournaments in the nation, beating unseeded Sarah Lee of Los Angeles on Friday at the **USTA International Spring Championships**.

Gajic, who trains at the **Roddick Lavalley Academy** in San Antonio, broke Lee's serve at 3-1 to take control of the first set on her way to the 6-1, 6-3 win at the ITF Grade 1 tournament.

"It's pretty exciting to be all the way into the semifinals," said Gajic, 17, who is ranked No. 319 in the junior ITF world rankings. "I just tried to put pressure on her from the start. I knew I could do it. Everything about my game is clicking right now and coming together at the right time."

Gajic will play No. 8 seeded Sachia Vickery in Saturday's semifinals. Vickery is just 14 years old and has been coached in the past by Richard Williams, Serena and Venus Williams' father. Vickery, of Miramar, Fla., has also trained at Nick Bollettieri's Academy and is currently training at the USTA National Training Center in Boca Raton, Fla.

"She's very good and it's going to be a very tough match," said Gajic.

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.

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 Lavallo, Trace Fielding, AlexGajic** and **Michael Castillo**, who formed a partnership about a year ago and have turned heads with the results the juniors have had recently.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Roddick Lavallo 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 Lavallo Academy

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

--www.roddicklavalloacademy.com--