



A French Affair at the \$25,000 WTA Event



■ **April 10-17, 2011 • 2011 USTA Women's \$25,000 Pro Circuit Event • The Oaks Country Club** • On Sunday, April 17th, after a week of grinding, amazing ground strokes, the Final pitted the 24-year-old **Claire DeGubernatis** from Nice against the very talented 17-year old **Caroline Garcia** from Lyon.

The powerful Garcia started strong winning the first seven points, but it wouldn't last against the consistency of De Gubernatis who wore down her young opponent with great placement, spin and change of pace, disrupting the rhythm of Garcia, winning 6-4, 6-4. A standing ovation followed the match. **Tom Whitten**, Tennis Director, said: "Claire's experience and variety of shots kept Caroline off balance." The doubles final was a nice change of pace from the long backcourt rallies we saw every day in the singles. **Stephanie Foretz Gacon**, who lives and trains in Paris, teamed with **Alexa Glatch** of Newport Beach, CA to defeat Tokyo's **Erika Sema** and **Maria Irigoyen** of Argentina 4-6, 7-5, 10-7, also to a standing ovation after a great final.

The players thanked Tom Whitten for the sensational job he did all week. And thanks to **Diedre Herman** who strung 100 rackets. We're looking forward to next year's event and hope that spectators will enjoy the matches, plus the beautiful surroundings The Oaks has to offer.



Tom Whitten, Tennis Director at The Oaks



"She (Caroline) hates my game, the left-hand forehand."

"The goal today was to fight so I would not regret anything."



Caroline Garcia, Singles Finalist



Claire De Gubernatis, Singles Champion



Caroline Garcia and Claire De Gubernatis



Doubles Champions Stephanie Gacon and Alexa Glatch



Doubles Finalists Maria Irogoyen and Erika Sema

PHOTOS BY CARMEN, JOHN KELLEY, AND DANIEL PERALES



Erika Sema, Maria Irogoyen, Alexa Glatch, and Stephanie Gacon



Claire De Gubernatis, Tom Whitten, and major sponsor Rich Chojnacki of Morgan Stanley/Smith Barney



Finalists, Viktoria Lavretzeva (left), Caroline Dailey (center), and Tom Whitten prior to the final wild card match in March. Caroline Dailey, 16, a student at Out-Of-Door Academy in Lakewood Ranch won the match 6-1, 2-6, 6-4. The win gave Dailey a main draw wild card into The Oaks tournament.