

HOT OFF THE PRESS (RELEASE)

7th Annual Gootter Grand Slam Weekend Set for March 24-25

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The 7th Annual Gootter Grand Slam weekend will take place on Saturday, March 24 and Sunday, March 25, 2012 in Tucson. The two-day event includes a gala dinner, live and silent auctions and a tennis tournament and pro-exhibition. All proceeds raised support research for sudden cardiac death (SCD).

“The money used from the Gootter Grand Slam is going towards an endowed Steven M. Gootter research Chair for the Prevention and Treatment of Sudden Cardiac Death at the University of Arizona Sarver Heart Center,” said Claudine Messing of The Gootter Foundation. “This annual two-day event allows us to educate the public and most importantly raise money for scientific research. Our partnership with the UA Sarver Heart Center is incredible and we’re really excited about the research being done. SCD affects people worldwide and the work we’re doing may impact people on a global level.”

The gala on Saturday evening begins at 6:30 p.m. at Skyline Country Club. Dr. Gulshan and Neelam Sethi, one of Tucson’s most philanthropic couples, will receive the Foundation’s Philanthropic Award. Tickets are \$150 per person and can be purchased online at <http://www.gootter.org> or by calling 520-615-6430.

The Gootter Grand Slam tennis event will be held at the Reffkin Tennis Center at Sunday. The event begins at 8:30 a.m. with a health and wellness fair, followed by the doubles tournament featuring local players at 9 a.m. At noon, the focus shifts to center court for an exciting pro-celebrity challenge match featuring tennis great **Murphy Jensen, Mikael Pernfors** and **UA Head football coach Rich Rodriguez**.

Former top 10 ranked **Mikael Pernfors** returns to the Gootter Grand Slam with his crowd-pleasing game and array of trick serves and volleys. After winning the 1993 French Open with his brother Luke, the Jensen brothers became the most popular doubles team in the history of the game. **Murphy Jensen** has most recently been the host of two Tennis Channel favorites, “Open Access” and “Murphy’s Guide”. Murphy dedicates much time and effort participating in charity tennis tournaments and special events around the country. The pro-singles exhibition match rounds out the action at 1:00 p.m.

The day also includes food, drinks and live music and an awards presentation. Tickets to the tennis events are: \$25/adult; \$10/teen or \$50 for a family of four (two adults, two teens). Kids 12 and under are free. Entry includes admission to all tennis action, the Health and Wellness fair, food and drink and live entertainment. Tickets can be purchased at the Reffkin Tennis Center Pro Shop and the Racquet Shack or by calling 520-615-6430.

About The Steven M. Gootter Foundation

The Steven M. Gootter Foundation was formed by the friends and family of Steve Gootter, a vibrant, athletic 42-year-old father of two who lost his life to sudden cardiac death on Feb. 10, 2005. The Foundation's mission is to save lives by defeating sudden cardiac death through increased awareness, education and scientific research. They have partnered with the University of Arizona Sarver Heart Center to fund scientific research into the causes and prevention of sudden cardiac death. The Foundation has donated over 40 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to Arizona schools, churches and recreational centers. For more information on Sudden Cardiac Death and the Steven M. Gootter Foundation, visit the website at <http://www.gootter.org>.

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