

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **WILSON SPORTING GOODS Announced as the “Official Ball” and “Official Racquet” of the “Little Mo” Internationals and Nationals**

Dallas, Texas – The Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation is proud to announce Wilson Sporting Goods Company as the “Official Ball” and “Official Racquet” of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual “Little Mo” Internationals in New York, the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual “Little Mo” Nationals, and the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual “Little Mo” Internationals in Florida.

“This is a special thrill for us to partner with the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation,” said Tim Buwick, U.S. Promotions Director for Wilson Racquet Sports. “‘Little Mo’ has left a wonderful legacy as one of the great champions of tennis...and one of our finest Wilson Advisory Staff members in our 102 year history. Our relationship will allow us to support the next generation of tennis champions through the ‘Little Mo’ National and International tournaments, while at the same time honoring the memory of Maureen.”

“Mom would be thrilled to have Wilson as the ‘Official Ball’ and ‘Official Racquet’ of her namesake foundation’s elite national and international junior tournaments,” said Cindy Brinker Simmons, daughter of “Little Mo” and president of the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation. “She was so honored to compete with Wilson racquets during her remarkable career and then later to serve on Wilson’s Advisory Board. Wilson and Mom both represent a standard of preeminence in the world of tennis.”

Named in memory of tennis champion Maureen “Little Mo” Connolly, the “Little Mo” circuit of tournaments is the premier challenge for juniors ages 8-12 to compete against others who are the same age at the sectional, regional, national, and international level. The mission of the “Little Mo” tournaments is to further the development of junior tennis worldwide by providing players with an opportunity to: a) progress in tennis - a healthy sport for a lifetime; b) build strong values and character; c) learn good sportsmanship; and d) meet new friends from across the country and world. The youngest and brightest stars in junior tennis compete in the “Little Mo” tournaments.

This year, MCB is celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its “Road to the Little Mo Nationals”. It is a yearlong circuit that begins in the spring with “Little Mo” sectional tournaments held in 18 different cities throughout the United States. The quarterfinalists (top 8) from the sectional tournaments will advance to the four “Little Mo” regionals held in the summer. The semifinalists (top 4) from the regional tournaments will advance to the prestigious ‘Little Mo’ Nationals, which features the top 160 boys and girls from across the United States competing at the Austin Tennis Academy in Austin, Texas from September 29-October 2.

The “Little Mo” Internationals were created in 2006 to allow young juniors to see different styles of play from around the world. The three international tournaments include the “Little Mo” Internationals in California to be hosted by the Tennis Club at Newport Beach Tennis Club (June 30-July 4), the “Little Mo” Internationals in New York to be held at the historic West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills (August 21-26) and the “Little Mo” Internationals in Florida to be held at the PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens (December 1-6), both of which are open to any player worldwide. Last year, 450 players from 50 different countries competed in the “Little Mo” Internationals in Florida. Wilson will have a presence at the “Little Mo” Internationals and Nationals where players and parents will be able to demo new Wilson racquets and products.

Maureen Connolly played with Wilson racquets throughout her career and was also on the Wilson Advisory Staff during the 50’s and 60’s. Many champions play with Wilson racquets like Roger Federer, Milos Raonic and Juan Martin del Potro and stars from the past such as Chris Evert, Pete Sampras and Jimmy Connors.

For more information about the “Little Mo” Internationals in New York, please visit [www.littlemoforesthills.com](http://www.littlemoforesthills.com).  
For more information about the “Little Mo” Nationals, please visit [www.getcourtside.com/tournaments/1105/](http://www.getcourtside.com/tournaments/1105/).  
For more information about the “Little Mo” Internationals in Florida, please visit [www.littlemoflorida.com](http://www.littlemoflorida.com).  
If you have any questions, please email [cartennis@aol.com](mailto:cartennis@aol.com).

### **ABOUT WILSON SPORTING GOODS**

Chicago-based Wilson Sporting Goods Co., a subsidiary of Amer Sports, is one of the world’s leading manufacturers of high performance sports equipment, apparel and accessories. Wilson is the global leader in performance tennis and uses player insights to develop products that push tennis equipment innovation into new territories. Through its dedication to creating products that enable athletes at every level to perform at their best, Wilson has earned its place as a leader in sporting goods for over a century.

### **ABOUT MCB**

In 1953, Maureen “Little Mo” Connolly was the first woman to capture the elusive Grand Slam by winning the Australian Championships, the French Championships, Wimbledon, and the U.S. Championships in one calendar year. She is still the only American woman and the youngest person at age 18 to have accomplished this magnificent feat. Maureen was known as the incomparable “Little Mo.” Her powerful strokes were compared to the USS *Missouri* battleship nicknamed “Big Mo.” She won Wimbledon three years in a row (1952-54) and was voted “Woman Athlete of the Year” by the Associated Press for three consecutive years (1951-53). In July 1954, “Little Mo’s” brilliant tennis career abruptly ended with a leg injury suffered from a horseback riding accident. Her competitive days now behind her, Maureen focused on promoting her beloved sport and, in 1968, she joined her dear friend Nancy Jeffett to establish the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation. She was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1968. Her untimely death to cancer occurred on the eve of Wimbledon in 1969. She was 34 years of age.

The “Little Mo” tournaments are sponsored by the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation in memory of its tennis champion namesake Maureen “Little Mo” Connolly. Known by her nickname “Little Mo”, she was the first woman to win the Grand Slam of tennis at only 18 years of age in 1953. Maureen Connolly is still the youngest and the only American woman to have accomplished this magnificent feat. Today, the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation continues to benefit talented boys and girls throughout the country and around the world. In its 49th year, the foundation is involved in a myriad of activities including, but not limited to, the “Little Mo” national and international tennis tournament circuit, the “Mini Mo,” (ages 5-8), the “Big Mo,” (ages 13 and 14), the National Junior Tennis League (inner-city youth program), wheelchair tennis, international team competitions, and distributing travel grants and sportsmanship awards to deserving players.