



The event brings many nationalities together to promote good relations.

Tennis action in the previous event.

## Joburg hosts global tennis tourney

## World tennis stars converge at Ellis Park

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The old Ellis Park Tennis Centre is gearing up for a thrilling tennis event in the ACSA Joburg Open which will include top ranked international players.

The country's premier wheelchair tennis tournament, organised by Wheelchair Tennis SA, will start from 21 April up until next week Wednesday.

The tournament is endorsed by the International Tennis Federation

(ITF), and forms part of the federation's World Wheelchair Tennis Tour, sponsored by Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA).

Wheelchair Tennis SA director Holger Losch says the tournament will give local players an opportunity to gain world ranking points. "This will also provide a chance for our players to qualify for the London Paralympics in August."

The country's top ranked men and women players such as Lucas Sithole, world ranked 11 in the Quads Division, and Kgothatso Montjane,

world ranked 10 in the Women's Division, will also participate.

"They will be joined by international stars representing European countries, Japan, Sri Lanka, China, Malaysia and Israel. Notable players that have entered include world number four, Marjolein Buis and world number nine, Sharon Walraven both from the Netherlands in the women's division," adds Losch.

In the men's division there will be three players ranked in the top 20 of the world tennis. "The play-

ers will include Scotland's Gordon Reid (12), Ben Weekes of Australia (15) and Japanese star, Yoshinobu Fujimoto (17)."

Losch says the tournament will be a memorable one. "Ellis Park is a truly historic venue and will be a fitting wheelchair friendly host for the tournament. We have been hard at work in making sure that Ellis Park will be a warm and hospitable host. The courts are in good shape and the facilities have been well adapted for the players."

The tournament will have both

men's and women's squads and junior divisions each comprising of a singles and doubles draw. "Round two is scheduled for Sunday, the quarter finals for Monday, semi-finals on Tuesday and the finals on Wednesday."

The stadium has hosted top international events before, such as Davis and Fed Cup.

"After successfully hosting the World Wheelchair Tennis Championships last year, we feel in tune to host a great week of tennis in the City of Gold," adds Losch.