



**For Immediate Release  
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**JIMMY ARIAS, PARTICIPANT IN THE TENTH ANNUAL SWINGTIME -- A PRO-CELEBRITY, PRO-AM TENNIS & GOLF TOURNAMENT -- BENEFITING THE TIM & TOM GULLIKSON FOUNDATION TALKS TENNIS**  
**Former Tennis Phenom and Current Broadcaster Jimmy Arias Talks Tennis**

NAPLES, Fla. -- Former tennis phenom and current broadcaster Jimmy Arias reflects on the sport he loves, the differences between playing and talking about it and his participation in this year's 10th annual **Swingtime -- A Pro-Celebrity Pro-Am Tennis & Golf Tournament -- Benefiting the Tim & Tom Gullikson Foundation**, returning to Naples, Florida on November 22-23, 2008.

Swingtime's Tennis Pro-Am, Exhibition and Dinner Gala will take place at The Players Club & Spa at Lely Resort with the Golf Pro-Am Tournament returning to Olde Cypress.

Arias is one of many who give of their time to Swingtime -- Benefiting the Tim & Tom Gullikson Foundation.

In 1980 Arias became the youngest player (16) to make the main draw of the U.S. Open. By age 19, Arias had made the semis of the U.S. Open and he peaked with a world ranking of fifth in 1984. Since retiring in 1994, Arias has become a top tennis broadcaster.

**Q1:** When you were 15 you were the youngest player to earn a world ranking. Looking back do you remember that as a very big deal in the sport? Your thoughts on this achievement from a perspective of being in your 40s?

**Arias:** I don't know if it was a big deal. For some people it was, but not for me. I had bigger dreams then. At that age I did not think about it, but now looking back at it I guess it was a big deal. It goes back to what my dad said, I peaked at 12 years old.

**Q2:** Can you talk about your current broadcasting career as opposed to your playing career?

**Arias:** (It's) definitely tougher to be a player than a broadcaster. As a player you feel a lot more pressure. If I could choose anything outside of playing tennis, commentating would be what I want to do so I feel blessed. It is almost second nature for me in some ways. The hardest part for me is that I only know how to speak honestly ... of what is going on in the match and so with some players that may make them unhappy with me. But that is the only way I know how to do it. I may not be making a lot of friends but what can I do?

**Q3:** What do you see are the big differences in the game since you played and the game today?

**Arias:** Speed. Not just of the ball but with the players' foot speed. There are unbelievable players now. In my time every player had some weakness that you could point out. The first player that did not have a real weakness was (Andre) Agassi. Now there is not really a glaring weakness for any player.

**Q4:** Talk about participating in worthwhile charity events such as Swingtime and why you like to take part in this type of event?

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**Arias:** Obviously you have got to give back in some way if you can. Swingtime is about brain cancer and my brother had a brain tumor. My mother died of cancer and it metastasized to her brain so this cause definitely has significant meaning to me. Also when I was 15 years old, Tim and Tom were two of the nicest guys to me on Tour.

**Q5:** Are you still good friends with the players you played with during your career? When you see some of your friends from your playing days at events such as Swingtime is it like one big reunion?

**Arias:** Yes I am still friends with the players, but I am not the greatest in staying in touch. So it is like a reunion because you have a lot of respect for these guys that we were playing against and it is nice to see them. I did not go to college so this is my reunion, which is nice.

This year's **Swingtime** celebrity guest list includes host **Tom Gullikson**, current and former tennis stars **Mardy Fish, Sebastian Grosjean, Xavier Malisse, MaliVai Washington, Lori McNeil, Kathy Rinaldi, Corina Morariu, Wendy Turnbull, Johan Kriek, Harold Solomon, Brian Gottfried, Ricardo Acuna, and Jay Berger**. Other celebrities planning to make the scene are actors **Robin Givens** and **Michael Lombardi** from FX's *Rescue Me*, TV announcer **Brett Haber**, baseball's **Mike Cuellar, Rennie Stennett** and **Bill Gullickson**, and football's **Jim "Crash" Jensen, Marvin Jones** and **Troy Drayton**.

Swingtime opens with a **Tennis Pro-Am**, Saturday, November 22 at 10:00 a.m. at **The Players Club & Spa at Lely Resort**. The Pro-Am is a unique round-robin format where participants get to play with and against many tennis professionals in a casual, intimate setting.

Later that afternoon, Swingtime hosts a **Tennis Exhibition** featuring **Grosjean** and **Gullikson** versus **Arias** and **Washington**, followed by top ATP stars **Fish** and **Malisse** in a competitive singles match.

**The Swingtime Gala presented by The Law Offices of Andy M. Custer** is Saturday evening, also at The Players Club & Spa at Lely Resort. The gala begins at 7:00 p.m. with a cocktail reception followed by a gourmet dinner. There will also be silent and live auctions featuring trips, artwork, sports memorabilia and once-in-a-lifetime opportunities such as a **"Behind the Scenes" tour of the U.S. Open, Celebrity-Style Trip to Los Angeles** for a taping of one of America's hottest shows, **Dancing with the Stars** and a **private hit with tennis star Martina Hingis** and one with **tennis legend Chris Evert**. All of this will be conducted within a fun luau-theme, and the evening will be highlighted with island music and performance. Invitations are \$250 per person.

Sunday, November 23, at 9:00 a.m., at Olde Cypress is your chance to hit the greens and be paired with celebrities for the **Golf Pro-Am Tournament**. Each foursome will play with a current or retired athlete/celebrity. Awards and prizes will be presented at a lunch reception immediately following the tournament. To inquire about details for Golf Pro-Am Tournament, the Tennis Pro-Am, or the Swingtime Gala presented by The Law Offices of Andy M. Custer, please phone (561) 394-9190 or visit the website [www.chevents.com](http://www.chevents.com).

Over the past ten years, **Swingtime** has raised more than \$1,000,000 for **The Tim & Tom Gullikson Foundation**. The Tim & Tom Gullikson Foundation was established in 1995 after Tim was diagnosed with malignant brain tumors. Tim Gullikson, who as a coach helped establish Pete Sampras as the top player in the world, died in 1996, at age 44, after losing his battle with the disease. The Foundation's mission is to fund care and support programs to assist brain-tumor patients and their families in managing the physical, emotional and social challenges presented by the illness. Among other things, the Foundation funds information and support phone lines for brain tumor patients and their families, sends children who are brain tumor survivors to camp, and gives college scholarships to students who have been affected by brain tumors. For information on the Tim & Tom Gullikson Foundation please visit their website at [www.gulliksonfoundation.org](http://www.gulliksonfoundation.org).

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**Lee Memorial Health System**, a seven hospital system with over 1,000 beds and numerous ambulatory systems throughout Lee County, is the local beneficiary of the 10th annual Swingtime. Lee Cancer Care is a service within the Lee Memorial Health System that provides programs and treatments for over 5,000 cancer patients each year. With the support of the Tim & Tom Gullikson Foundation, Lee Memorial Health System intends to establish a patient “Navigator” that will assist brain tumor patients throughout their journey.

Tickets for **Swingtime’s Tennis Exhibition** are \$70 for Box Seats and \$35 for General Admission seating. For tickets to the Tennis Exhibition, call (800) 927-7242. For more information or to purchase spots in the Tennis Pro-Am, Golf Pro-Am Tournament or invitations to the Swingtime Gala presented by The Law Offices of Andy M. Custer phone (561) 394-9190 or visit [www.chevents.com](http://www.chevents.com). Invitations to the Swingtime Gala presented by The Law Offices of Andy M. Custer cost \$250 per invitation. For information on the **Tim & Tom Gullikson Foundation** please visit their website at [gulliksonfoundation.org](http://gulliksonfoundation.org).

The official Swingtime host sponsor, **Stock Development**, is one of the most dynamic and fastest growing development companies in Southwest Florida, with properties from Naples to Punta Gorda. Specializing in the development of amenity rich communities, the company's craftsmanship and expertise are proudly displayed in five of the regions most celebrated communities: Lely Resort Golf & Country Club, Olde Cypress in Naples; Grandezza in Estero; Paseo in Ft. Myers and Vivante at Punta Gorda. For more information about Stock Development please visit [www.stockdevelopment.com](http://www.stockdevelopment.com).

**The Law Offices of Andy M. Custer**, which is located in Palm Beach County and dedicated to protecting your right to justice, is continuing its support of Swingtime by sponsoring this year’s Swingtime Gala, which is now titled the **Swingtime Gala presented by The Law Offices of Andy M. Custer**.

Official sponsors of Swingtime include **Allen Systems Group (ASG), CW6 TV, GreenLinks Golf Resort & Conference Center, JetBlue Airways, Naples Daily News, Naples Illustrated, Naples, Marco Island, Everglades – CVB, Nike, Tennis Week, and WINK News 1240 AM**.

**C & H Events, Inc.** is a full-service event management and marketing company based in Boca Raton, Fla. Among the tennis events C & H Events manages in addition to Swingtime are The Oliver Group Champions Cup - men’s senior tennis tournament, Mardy’s Tennis & Jake’s Music Fest to benefit the Mardy Fish Foundation, and Couples Resorts Tennis Fantasy Camp. Please visit [www.chevents.com](http://www.chevents.com) for further details about C & H Events.

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