

August 23, 2006

## Women Players to Get Approved Supplements

By REUTERS

Filed at 1:38 p.m. ET

LONDON (Reuters) - Players on the women's tour have been given the green light to take certain vitamins and health supplements without the fear of failing a drugs test, the WTA Tour said on Wednesday.

Tennis professionals have been wary of taking nutritional supplements ever since the men's tour was rocked over two years ago by a series of failed dope tests which were eventually blamed on contaminated supplies.

In order to ensure players on the women's circuit do not suffer a similar fate, the governing body WTA signed an agreement that will provide competitors with products that are guaranteed to be free of any substances prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Products from USANA Health Sciences Inc., a leading global vitamin and health supplement manufacturer, will help ensure that players who wish to take vitamins and supplements are able to maintain fitness required to compete at the professional level, without fear of violating the rigorous WADA standards.

“The physical demands on professional tennis players today are greater than ever,” French Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne said in a statement.

“Vitamins are very important for player health and fitness, and as a player I want to make sure that whatever I put in my body is free of any prohibited substances.

“Any assurances that players are able to receive from vitamin companies that their products are pure is really great.”

### REAL ISSUE

Each player who participates in the program will be eligible to sign an “athlete guarantee agreement” with USANA under which the manufacturer will pay the player twice her prize money earnings from the prior year, up to \$1,000,000, should the player test positive for a substance prohibited by WADA due to her use of an USANA product.

“Up until now, the inability of our players to take vitamins and health supplements without fear of accidentally ingesting a prohibited substance has been a real issue,” WTA Tour CEO Larry Scott said.

`` In USANA, the Tour has found a manufacturer that can not only meet the Tour's and WADA's rigorous anti-doping standards, but one that is willing to back it up with both athlete and Tour guarantees.

`` This is fantastic news for players, and a critically important step forward in ensuring player health while maintaining the strict anti-doping standards that are necessary to continue to ensure that women's tennis remains a clean sport."

Nutritional supplements tested by a WADA-accredited laboratory and approved by men's tennis body the ATP have been available to male professionals since the beginning of 2005.