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Contact: Amy Houle
Communications Specialist
Office: (817) 531-7521
ahoule@txwes.edu

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TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY SIGNS INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS STAR, HOSTS SITE INSPECTION FOR NATIONAL COLLEGIATE TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

Jasna Reed, Olympic medalist and two-time U.S. national champion, has signed with the Texas Wesleyan University table tennis program. Reed will be the anchor of the women's team as the defending national champions enter the 2006 National Collegiate Table Tennis Championships in April. The tournament, which will be held April 8-10, will be hosted by Texas Wesleyan University for the second consecutive year.

Reed, who holds dual U.S. and Croatian citizenship, is returning to Texas Wesleyan to pursue a graduate degree in education after three semesters here in 2001-2002. She has competed in four Olympic Games, winning a bronze medal at the 1988 Games in Seoul in Women's Doubles. She is the current U.S. National Champion in women's singles. Other titles include: 2003 U.S. National Women's Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles Champion; 2003 Pan Am Games Women's Doubles Gold Medalist; 1992 European Women's Doubles Champion and 1988 European Mixed Doubles Champion; and 15-time National Champion.

"Jasna brings a lot of experience to the team," says Christian Lillieroos, head table tennis coach at Texas Wesleyan. "She's a great team player, supporting the other players, especially the women's team."

Reed will wear jersey No. 1 – she was the first player enrolled in the Texas Wesleyan table tennis program back in 2001. The championship in April is something of a climax for the table tennis program at Texas Wesleyan. Senior Eric Owens, who will be graduating this year, led Texas Wesleyan to third place finishes at the 2002 and 2004 North American Open Team Championships and NCTTA collegiate titles in 2004 and 2005. He is the three-time defending college men's singles champion (2003-2005).

Prior to returning to Texas Wesleyan, Reed played professionally in Germany. "That was great, but I wanted to work on more important things," Reed says. "I came back to Texas Wesleyan so I could play table tennis and work on my degree at the same time."

On Friday, delegates from the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) were on campus to complete a site inspection for the championship tournament. The site inspection covered all aspects of the tournament, including layout of field of play, coordination of training facilities, format of play, and housing and transportation of athletes. NCTTA president Willy Leparulo and competition manager Richard McAfee were among the guests to visit Texas Wesleyan last week. McAfee has managed the table tennis competition for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and is a full-time international coach.