

# BEEPER

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## Tournament scoffs at smoking

A grassroots movement of medical students and doctors is taking sponsorship of sporting events by tobacco companies to court — a tennis court.

The second annual Emphysema Slims, sponsored by the MCG Chapter of Doctors Ought to Care (DOC), will be held March 29 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Newman-Augusta Tennis Center.

The reason for this satirical punch at the Virginia Slims women's championship tennis series is simple. "It draws attention to the hypocrisy of associating athletic prowess with the No. 1 killer of people in America," said Dr. Rick Richards, national president of DOC, a non-profit group created in 1977 by young family medicine doctors.

"Almost every major professional sport, even amateur sports now, have tobacco company sponsorship. It's terrible. In fact, the Virginia Slims people say, 'Virginia Slims, shaping the future of women's tennis,'" says Richards, who also is an assistant professor of family medicine at MCG.

National Football League and Atlanta Falcon superstar Gerald Riggs will be on hand for the day of tennis. Bob Lutz, the 1985 U.S. Open Men's 35's Singles champion, author and professional instructor, will run morning and afternoon tennis clinics for players of all ages.

Round-robin tennis competition among Augusta's top players gets under way at 10:15 a.m.

Dr. Jesse L. Steinfeld, MCG president and a former U.S. Surgeon General who took his own tough stand against the tobacco industry, will participate in an 11:30 a.m. press conference. Augusta Mayor Charles Devaney and U.S. Rep. D. Douglas Barnard Jr. also will be present for the press event.

Also during that conference, awards will be given to the best and worst athlete role models.

The championship match begins at 3 p.m. Riggs and Lutz will pair up for a special exhibition match against the winning doubles teams.

Tickets for the Emphysema Slims match will be available at the door for \$3 and \$2. The price of a ticket includes a chance to win a video cassette recorder.

Registration for competition can be made by calling the Newman-Augusta Tennis Center.

Proceeds will be used by DOC to provide information to Augusta area students on the ills of substance abuse.

During the March 29 event, winners from the month-long, pro-health poster contest for students in Richmond County schools will be announced.