

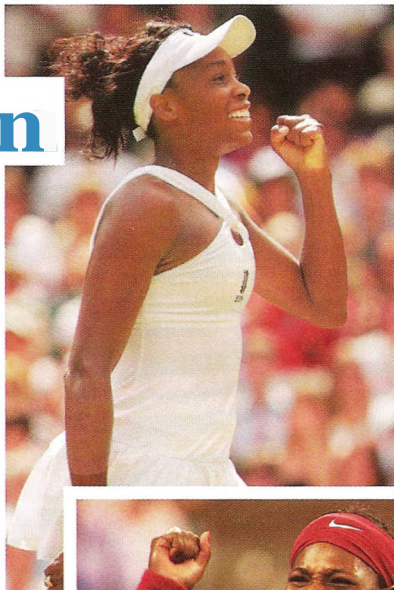
SHOWDOWN at the Garden

IS THIS THE NEW MARCH MADNESS? FOLLOWING last year's smash sellout at Madison Square Garden between Pete Sampras and Roger Federer, tennis is back in the world's most famous sports arena on the first Monday of March. This time, it brings together four of the world's top women for the Billie Jean Cup: Venus and Serena Williams, Jelena Jankovic and Ana Ivanovic face off in one set semifinals, with the winners going on to a three-set final. When working on plans for 2009, promoter Jerry Solomon, the president and CEO of StarGames, predicted in *TennisWeek* last spring that he would be back with another spectacular series. "Our ambition is to get something that can go on a similar date and kick off the tennis season in the U.S." French bank BNP Paribas has joined as title sponsor and HBO has the TV rights. The series will also team up with the USTA, who will make the Garden

showdown part of their "Tennis Night in America" promotion to encourage young players to take up the sport.



The pride of Serbia: Ana Ivanovic and Jelena Jankovic head for New York.



Serena and Venus go for bragging rights at the Garden in March.

