

Overview - ABN AMRO

The status of a '500' tournament, and a European-based event, made sure this was a strongly contested event - all the more so with Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray in the line-up. Even the withdrawal of Robin Soderling (No.8) did little to diminish the quality on show.

All the seven remaining seeds made it into R2, however both Nadal (No.1) and David Ferrer (No.6) were pushed to a third set. In other competitive R1 matches, Paul-Henri Mathieu edged out Richard Gasquet, Michael Llodra defeated Ivo Karlovic and Marc Gicquel beat Evgeny Korolev - each match going to three sets. There was also a fine win for the Grigor Dimitrov over Tomas Berdych. The Bulgarian was the defending Wimbledon and US Open junior champion.

In R2 we lost Nikolay Davydenko (No.3), Gilles Simon (No.4) along with David Ferrer (No.6) and almost lost Nadal as Dimitrov pushed the world No.1 mighty close before losing out in their 2'25" match.

Elsewhere, Murray (No.2), Gael Monfils (No.5) and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (No.7) all made it to the QF's with straight sets victories.

Those QF's saw comfortable wins for both Monfils and Ancic as they easily brushed aside Julien Beneteau and Mikhail Youhny respectively. However, the top seeds didn't have it quite so easy.

Andy Murray progressed after Marc Gicquel retired with a groin injury which he sustained at the end of the second set. As for Nadal, he was pushed all the way by Jo-Wilfried Tsonga before closing out the 2'40" match 6-4 in the third set.

After that drama, neither SF lived up to much. The top seeds found their form as Murray blitzed Ancic in 61 minutes and Nadal also won in straight sets over the Frenchman, Monfils.

The final was the match everybody wanted to see and for two sets it lived up to expectations. Then, sadly, Nadal aggravated a knee injury and the match was over as a contest - Murray raced through the final set to land the 10th title of his career (10:5 in finals) whilst Rafa's loss dropped him to 32:9 in championship matches.

Murray was philosophical after the win - *'Obviously it's not the way you want to win as I could see Rafa had an injury'* - but the Scot had played much the better tennis of the two throughout the week and deserved the title.



ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament

February 9-15, 2009

Indoor, Hard - ATP Tour World 500

R32	Rafael Nadal [1]	4 6 7	R16	Rafael Nadal	7 3 6
R32	Simone Bolelli	6 2 5	R16	Grigo Dimitrov	5 6 2
R32	wc-Grigor Dimitrov	4 6 6	R16	Dmitry Tursunov	6 2
R32	Tomas Berdych	6 3 4	R16	Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	7 6
R32	q-Arnaud Clement	0 3	R16	Nikolay Davydenko	3 2
R32	Dmitry Tursunov	6 6	R16	Julien Benneteau	6 6
R32	wc-Jesse Huta Galung	6 6	R16	Michael Llodra	4 4
R32	Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [7]	7 7	R16	Gael Monfils	6 6
R32	Nikolay Davydenko [3]	6 6	R16	David Ferrer	2 6 2
R32	Igor Andrejev	3 2	R16	Mikhail Youzhny	6 3 6
R32	Julien Benneteau	6 5 6	R16	Mario Ancic	6 3 6
R32	Feliciano Lopez	4 7 2	R16	Gilles Simon	4 6 3
R32	Ivo Karlovic	6 3 4	R16	Marc Gicquel	6 6
R32	Michael Llodra	4 6 6	R16	Paul-Henri Mathieu	4 3
R32	q-Stephane Bohli	retd. 4 0	R16	Andreas Seppi	6 5
R32	Gael Monfils [5]	6 1	R16	Andy Murray	7 7
R32	David Ferrer [6]	3 7 7	QF	Rafael Nadal	6 6 6
R32	Jurgen Melzer	6 6 5	QF	Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	4 7 4
R32	q-Laurent Recouderc	4 4	QF	Julien Benneteau	6 1
R32	Mikhail Youzhny	6 6	QF	Gael Monfils	7 6
R32	Rainer Schuettler	5 2	QF	Mikhail Youzhny	4 2
R32	Mario Ancic	7 6	QF	Mario Ancic	6 6
R32	Philipp Kohlschreiber	5 6	QF	Marc Gicquel	retd. 6 6 0
R32	Gilles Simon [4]	7 7	QF	Andy Murray	7 4 3
R32	LL-Marc Gicquel	3 6 6	SF	Rafael Nadal	6 6
R32	q-Evgeny Korolev	6 3 2	SF	Gael Monfils	4 4
R32	Richard Gasquet	6 6 3	SF	Mario Ancic	1 2
R32	Paul-Henri Mathieu	3 7 6	SF	Andy Murray	6 6
R32	wc-Thiemo De Bakker	7 2 6	RU	Rafael Nadal	3 6 0
R32	Andreas Seppi	6 6 7	W	Andy Murray	6 4 6
R32	Ivan Ljubicic	3 2			
R32	Andy Murray [2]	6 6			

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	16 matches	8-8	2.50	24.62
R16	8 matches	5-3	2.37	23.00
QF	4 matches	2-2	2.50	24.25
SF	2 matches	2-0	2.00	17.50
F	1 match	0-1	3.00	25.00

ABN AMRO - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Rafael Nadal [1]	9/4
Andy Murray [2]	11/4
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [7]	12/1
Nikolay Davydenko [3]	16/1
Gilles Simon [4]	18/1
Gael Monfils [5]	25/1
Tomas Berdych	25/1
Richard Gasquet	33/1
David Ferrer [6]	40/1
Mario Ancic	50/1
Ivo Karlovic	50/1
Philipp Kohlschreiber	80/1
Evgeny Korolev	80/1
Mikhail Youzhny	80/1
Paul-Henri Mathieu	80/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2009	RU	W	R2	R2	SF	R2	QF	-
2008	R2	R2	R2	R1	R2	R1	R1	R1
2007	SF	QF	RU	R1	SF	QF	-	R2
2006	-	R2	SF	QF	W	RU	R1	R2
2005	W	R2	QF	R1	R2	QF	R1	R1
2004	QF	RU	QF	R1	SF	W	R2	R1

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Andy Murray (11/4)	Rafael Nadal (9/4)	Ancic-Monfils
2008	Michael Llodra (150/1)	Robin Soderling (33/1)	Karlovic-Simon
2007	Mikhail Youzhny (20/1)	Ivan Ljubicic (25/1)	Djokovic-Davydenko
2006	Radek Stepanek (14/1)	Christophe Rochus (150/1)	Davydenko-Nieminen
2005	Roger Federer (4/7)	Ivan Ljubicic (25/1)	Ancic-T.Johansson
2004	Lleyton Hewitt (9/2)	Juan Carlos Ferrero (6/1)	Henman-Mirnyi

Betting - ABN AMRO

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Was the meeting of Nadal (9/4) and Murray (11/4) a formality? Not really.

After all, the Spaniard isn't a world-beater indoors (only 1 of 32 titles have undercover) and he faced a couple of decent challenges en route to the final - notably Tsonga (12/1) and Monfils (25/1) who had just beaten Nadal in Qatar prior to the Australian Open.

Add that to a potential 50/50 match with Murray in the final and 9/4 was a fair price but little more.

Murray had a tricky starter against Ljubicic but thereafter the loss of Soderling was a bonus. He could have met the likes of Simon (18/1), Gasquet (33/1) or Ferrer (40/1) - all of whom merited a look themselves but each had their own weaknesses - but the Scot had the beating of all three on the formbook.

No, Murray was a better call than Nadal .. but that was offset by Nadal's 5:1 lead in their previous meetings - should the Spaniard limp into the final ...

Post-Tournament Review :-

The formbook was upheld, more by Murray than Nadal. Well, to be fair, Nadal showed his usual fight to make the finale, if only to be let down by his knee.

As for Murray, his growing reputation was further enhanced with an easy passage to the final. Would he have beaten a fully fit Nadal? We'll never know but he did win that first ste when both players were 'at it'.

Others to note would be Tsonga and Monfils, both lost nothing in going out to Nadal, and Ancic continued his resurgence to form. As for Gasquet and Berdych, neither has much hope on this form but Davydenko was still on the comeback trail after a heel injury.

Pointers for 2010 :-

Despite a god field each year, there are enough big-priced players on the finals' board to merit a good look at all likely players. Look for some indoor form, preferably a previous tour win and, Hewitt '04 aside, a European. Not always a happy hunting ground for the No.1 seed, Federer being the only one to win in the last 10 years. Andy Murray must be on the list if returning, look also for Tsonga, Nikolay Davydenko and Mario Ancic as players who should do well here.