

Overview - BCR Open

After the drama of the US Open back to slightly more mundane fare as the tour headed East to Bucharest. A modest tournament and, by and large, a modest line-up of players came to contest this clay court event.

With the helping hand of the *Seeding Committee*, Victor Hanescu somehow managed to bag the No.1 seeding ... and the home favourite promptly blew his big chance by losing to the Spaniard, Oscar Hernandez, in R1. Soon to be followed by Igor Andreev (No.4) and Andreas Seppi (No.7) who also went out to Spanish opponents, Santiago Ventura and Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo.

Not a great start but there were good R1 wins for Nicolas Almagro (No.2), Juan Monaco (No.3), Albert Montanes (No.5) and Pablo Cuevas (No.8) who beat another home favourite, Andrei Pavel, in what was to be the Romanian's last professional match.

R2 saw two more seeds exit early as Almagro and Daniel Koellerer (No.6) fell by the wayside - Almagro to the Italian, Fabio Fognini, Koellerer to the German, Simon Greul. Better performances came from Monaco, Montanes and Cuevas - all won in straight sets for the second round running. In the other matches Maximo Gonzalez and Ramirez Hidalgo won through testing three set matches and Ventura progressed when Alberto Martin retired from their match late on in the first set.

The result was a mixed bag in the QF line-up. Albert Montanes though wasted no time in trouncing Fognini, 57 minutes in fact, to reach the last four and the Spaniard was joined there by compatriot Santiago Ventura. He won an all-Spanish affair with Ramirez Hidalgo almost as convincingly, 6-2 6-3.

Simon Greul made his first tour SF, also recording an easy win in the process. The unseeded German dropped just four games in beating the Argentine, Maximo Gonzalez. Next up was another Argentine, Juan Monaco, who won a see-saw 1'54" battle with Pablo Cuevas.

Montanes got the better of Ventura in the SF's, starting slowly before winning with something to spare in the end, whilst Monaco also showed his greater class and ability, always in control against Gruel he won just as easily.

A close final. Montanes won it on two tie-breaks but Monaco had plenty of chances to level the match at one set all but didn't take them and the Spaniard won on merit. *'I'm very happy with the week and I'm very happy as well to win the title'* - said Montanes later. The win moved him to 3:4 in ATP finals whilst Monaco's loss dropped him to 3:6 (he'd now lost 5 straight finals on tour).



BCR Open

September 21-27, 2009

Outdoor, Clay - ATP World Tour 250

R32	Victor Hanescu [1]	64	R16	Oscar Hernandez	561
R32	Oscar Hernandez	76	R16	Maximo Gonzalez	736
R32	Olivier Rochus	714	R16	Simon Greul	66
R32	Maximo Gonzalez	666	R16	Daniel Koellerer	14
R32	Simon Greul	76	R16	Juan Monaco	66
R32	Steve Darcis	53	R16	Pere Riba	42
R32	q-Filippo Volandri	653	R16	Peter Luczak	54
R32	Daniel Koellerer [6]	276	R16	Pablo Cuevas	76
R32	Juan Monaco [3]	66	R16	Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo	666
R32	q-Julio Silva	24	R16	Marius Copil	374
R32	Frederico Gil	572	R16	Alberto Martin	retd. 5
R32	q-Pere Riba	756	R16	Santiago Ventura	4
R32	Peter Luczak	77	R16	Albert Montanes	66
R32	Karol Beck	56	R16	Marcel Granollers	13
R32	wc-Andrei Pavel	36	R16	Fabio Fognini	67
R32	Pablo Cuevas [8]	67	R16	Nicolas Almagro	46
R32	Andreas Seppi [7]	44	QF	Maximo Gonzalez	22
R32	Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo	66	QF	Simon Greul	66
R32	wc-Marius Copil	66	QF	Juan Monaco	626
R32	Victor Crivoi	32	QF	Pablo Cuevas	361
R32	Alberto Martin	466	QF	Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo	23
R32	Florent Serra	604	QF	Santiago Ventura	66
R32	q-Santiago Ventura	66	QF	Albert Montanes	66
R32	Igor Andreev [4]	41	QF	Fabio Fognini	11
R32	Albert Montanes [5]	66			
R32	Potito Starace	42	SF	Simon Greul	43
R32	wc-Petru-Alexandru Luncanu	271	SF	Juan Monaco	66
R32	Marcel Granollers	666	SF	Santiago Ventura	641
R32	Daniel Gimeno-Traver	643	SF	Albert Montanes	466
R32	Fabio Fognini	166			
R32	Simone Bolelli	43	RU	Juan Monaco	66
R32	Nicolas Almagro [2]	66	W	Albert Montanes	77

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	16 matches	10-6	2.37	23.18
R16	8 matches	6-2	2.25	20.62
QF	4 matches	3-1	2.25	17.75
SF	2 matches	1-1	2.50	23.00
F	1 match	1-0	2.00	26.00

BCR Open - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Nicolas Almagro [2]	9/2
Igor Andreev [4]	6/1
Victor Hanescu [1]	7/1
Juan Monaco [3]	12/1
Potito Starace	25/1
Andreas Seppi [7]	25/1
Pablo Cuevas [8]	28/1
Simone Bolelli	33/1
Florent Serra	33/1
Daniel Koellerer [6]	40/1
Olivier Rochus	50/1
Steve Darcis	50/1
Albert Montanes [5]	50/1
Victor Crivoi	50/1
Frederico Gil	50/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Albert Montanes (50/1)	Juan Monaco (12/1)	Ventura-Greul
2008	Gilles Simon (13/2)	Carlos Moya (16/1)	Acasuso-Gasquet
2007	Gilles Simon (16/1)	Victor Hanescu (50/1)	Berlocq-Monfils
2006	Jurgen Melzer (22/1)	Filippo Volandri (12/1)	Mathieu-Serra
2005	Florent Serra (80/1)	Igor Andreev (25/1)	Pavel-Hanescu
2004	Jose Acasuso (50/1)	Igor Andreev (9/1)	Volandri-Mayer

Betting - BCR Open

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Hanescu (7/1) was a strange choice as No.1 seed - only one career win - and despite home support and a decent enough game on clay he was no great price for a serial under-achiever.

Juan Monaco (12/1) had struggled to recapture the form which saw him win three times in 2007 but, on clay, he was head and shoulders above most of this field and looked a much better bet. And with both Cuevas (28/1) and Koellerer (40/1) looking weak there really was very little competition in the top half. The Argentine looked a belting e/w bet at the least.

The bottom half was tougher. Almagro (9/2) was a very capable clay-courter but whether he justified such a short price was debatable. Like Andreev (6/1) and hansecu he just doesn't win enough tournaments and always finds one player too good. That said, there was precious little else to get excited about and almost no winning form on offer making the price for Montanes (50/1) seem huge with hindsight bearing in mind he'd already won on clay in 2009.

Post-Tournament Review :-

Monaco could, and probably should, have won here. He played very well up to the final but failed to play to form on the day itself. Another missed chance.

That might be a tad unkind to Montanes but the Spaniard beat little en route to the title - although, to be fair, he beat all the players he could and he took his opportunity whilst the Argentine didn't.

After the US hard court season, and then the Davis Cup, several players looked uncooked here - notably Almagro and Andreev - but the whole event generally struggled for quality. Guys like Greul, Ventura and Cuevas caught the eye but overall this was a poor tournament and little was learned from its matches.

Pointers for 2010 :-

A cosmopolitan field, numerous surprises, seeds not dominating - this isn't an easy tournament to read - and without 'A List' talent as well the event is even more prone to surprises. The pattern has been winners from the top 30-50 in the rankings, with some clay experience (past finalists at least) and guys generally on the way up, rather than already at the top. Look to any number of 'B List' South Americans (Acasuso, Cuevas, Maximo Gonzalez) plus a few Spaniards (Navarro, Garcia-Lopez, Ramirez Hidalgo) and the French who have tended to do well here in the past with guys like Serra and Mathieu.