

Overview - BNP Paribas Open

The first Masters Series event of the year saw all the top players line up, less Nikolay Davydenko as the No.5 seed withdrew with a recurring foot injury.

R1 passed with few major surprises as the top 16 seeds all received a bye into R2. In this second phase of matches we lost only Gael Monfils (No.9) of the seeded players, the Frenchman going down in three sets to John Isner - the top four, however, all won in straight sets with the minimum of fuss.

The matches became much more competitive in R3 - even if, again, Nadal, Federer, Djokovic and Murray all won easily. Upsets came as Isner carried on his from to beat Marat Safin, Igor Andrejev defeated Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and Gilles Simon (No.8) lost out to Ivan Ljubicic.

Big events like this usually come to life in the latter stages and this was no exception. Roger Federer (No.2) overcame Fernando Gonzalez in three sets and Andy Roddick (No.7) also went to a decider against David Ferrer. It was tie-breaks all the way for Djokovic (No.3) and Del Potro (No.6) as the two seeds battled past Stanislas Wawrinka and John Isner respectively.

Andy Murray (No.4) progressed as Tommy Robredo retired with a wrist injury but the match of the round, if not the tournament, saw Rafael Nadal save a total of 5 match points before seeing off David Nalbandian.

The QF's, by contrast, were all straightforward affairs. Nadal, Murray and Federer all won as expected but Djokovic played well below form as the defending champion was beaten, very comfortably, by Andy Roddick.

Both of the SF's went to form as well. Nadal led Roddick 4:2 in their past meetings and made it 5:2 in their 1'50" match, edging past the American by just 5 points (68 to 73). Murray also enjoyed the head-to-head advantage over Federer (5:2) and a 6:2 lead came after a see-saw three-setter which the Scot eventually took by a wide margin - *'he's a great counter puncher and reads the game really well ... he's got great feel'* said Federer afterwards.

Sadly, the final proved a total anti-climax. Windy conditions upset the rhythm of Murray whilst the Spaniard adapted far better. As such the 80 minute match wasn't much of a spectacle with Nadal winning for the loss of just three games (now 33:9 in finals).

Murray was philosophical afterwards - *'obviously today was not my best day, but I'll definitely get over it, because I'm not going to play in those conditions each week'*. This loss dropped his record in tournament deciders to 10:6.



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March 11-22, 2009

Outdoor, Hard - ATP Tour Masters 1000

First Quarter

R96	wc-Kevin Anderson	33
R96	q-Michael Berrer	66
R96	q-Michael Russell	76
R96	Guillermo Garcia Lopez	52
R96	Mikhail Youzhny	ret'd. 51
R96	Viktor Troicki	72
R96	q-Bjorn Phau	52
R96	q-Robert Kendrick	76
R96	wc-John Isner	66
R96	Christophe Rochus	14
R96	Nicolas Massu	766
R96	Eduardo Schwank	674
R96	wc-Taylor Dent	67
R96	Diego Junquiera	16
R96	wc-Wayne Odesnik	646
R96	wc-Ryan Sweeting	167

Second Quarter

R96	Martin Vassallo Arguello	77
R96	q-Rik De Voest	56
R96	Oscar Hernandez	33
R96	Tommy Haas	66
R96	Sam Querrey	76
R96	Guillermo Canas	62
R96	Juan Ignacio Chela	ret'd. 21
R96	Andreas Seppi	64
R96	q-Todd Widom	67
R96	Ivan Navarro	46
R96	Victor Hanescu	462
R96	Jeremy Chardy	636
R96	Bobby Reynolds	466
R96	Fabio Fognini	602
R96	q-Daniel Koellerer	276
R96	Mischa Zverev	652

Third Quarter

R96	Yen-Hsun Lu	76
R96	q-Michael Lammer	52
R96	Ivan Ljubicic	66
R96	Kei Nishikori	33
R96	q-Kevin Kim	34
R96	Ernesto Gulbis	66
R96	Teimuraz Gabashvili	646
R96	Jose Acasuso	263
R96	Vincent Spadea	34
R96	Igor Kunitsyn	66
R96	Steve Darcis	5
R96	Marcel Granollers	ret'd. 0
R96	Potito Starace	76
R96	Denis Gremelmayr	61
R96	Albert Montanes	66
R96	Florent Serra	30

Fourth Quarter

R96	Julien Benneteau	32
R96	Philipp Kohlschreiber	66
R96	Nicolas Lapentti	467
R96	Santiago Giraldo	615
R96	Feliciano Lopez	43
R96	Michael Llodra	66
R96	Thomaz Bellucci	576
R96	Janko Tipsarevic	752
R96	Nicolas Devilder	61
R96	Jarkko Nieminen	76
R96	Lleyton Hewitt	76
R96	Jan Hernych	63
R96	Sergiy Stakhovsky	266
R96	q-Brendan Evans	630
R96	Marc Gicquel	76
R96	Simone Bolelli	53

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R64 Rafael Nadal [1]	66	R64 Gilles Simon [8]	566
R64 Michael Berrer	21	R64 Yen-Hsun Lu	744
R64 Michael Russell	663	R64 Ivan Ljubicic	ret'd. 3
R64 Dmitry Tursunov	746	R64 Mario Ancic	3
R64 Tomas Berdych	31	R64 Igor Andreev	66
R64 Viktor Troicki	66	R64 Ernests Gulbis	44
R64 Robert Kendrick	44	R64 Teimuraz Gabashvili	53
R64 David Nalbandian [14]	66	R64 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [11]	76
R64 Gael Monfils [9]	714	R64 Tommy Robredo [15]	66
R64 John Isner	666	R64 Igor Kunitsyn	14
R64 Nicolas Massu	36	R64 Steve Darcis	721
R64 Marat Safin	67	R64 Marin Cilic	666
R64 Jurgen Melzer	76	R64 Paul-Henri Mathieu	666
R64 Taylor Dent	52	R64 Potito Starace	474
R64 Ryan Sweeting	731	R64 Albert Montanes	53
R64 Juan Martin Del Potro [6]	666	R64 Andy Murray [4]	76
R64 Novak Djokovic [3]	76	R64 LL-Oliver Patience	733
R64 Martin Vassallo Arguello	64	R64 Philipp Kohlschreiber	666
R64 Tommy Haas	666	R64 Nicolas Lapentti	67
R64 Rainer Schuettler	724	R64 Robin Soderling	46
R64 Radek Stepanek	43	R64 Richard Gasquet	66
R64 Sam Querrey	66	R64 Michael LLodra	40
R64 Andreas Seppi	13	R64 Thomaz Bellucci	51
R64 Stanislas Wawrinka [16]	66	R64 Fernando Verdasco [10]	76
R64 David Ferrer [12]	67	R64 James Blake [13]	666
R64 Todd Widom	45	R64 Jarkko Nieminen	373
R64 Jeremy Chardy	77	R64 Lleyton Hewitt	623
R64 Mardy Fish	66	R64 Fernando Gonzalez	466
R64 Nicolas Kiefer	66	R64 Ivo Karlovic	66
R64 Bobby Reynolds	42	R64 Sergiy Stakhovsky	42
R64 Daniel Koellerer	16	R64 Marc Gicquel	64
R64 Andy Roddick [7]	67	R64 Roger Federer [2]	76

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R96	32 matches	23-9	2.28	21.28
R64	32 matches	22-10	2.31	22.65



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R32	Rafael Nadal	66	R16	Rafael Nadal	376
R32	Dmitry Tursunov	33	R16	David Nalbandian	660
R32	Viktor Troicki	42	R16	John Isner	66
R32	David Nalbandian	66	R16	Juan Martin Del Potro	77
R32	John Isner	66	R16	Novak Djokovic	77
R32	Marat Safin	44	R16	Stanislas Wawrinka	66
R32	Jurgen Melzer	266	R16	David Ferrer	663
R32	Juan Martin Del Potro	627	R16	Andy Roddick	736
R32	Novak Djokovic	67	R16	Ivan Ljubicic	477
R32	Tommy Haas	26	R16	Igor Andreev	666
R32	Sam Querrey	656	R16	Tommy Robredo	retd. 20
R32	Stanislas Wawrinka	277	R16	Andy Murray	63
R32	David Ferrer	366	R16	Philipp Kohlschreiber	461
R32	Jeremy Chardy	644	R16	Fernando Verdasco	636
R32	Nicolas Kiefer	46	R16	Fernando Gonzalez	372
R32	Andy Roddick	67	R16	Roger Federer	656
R32	Gilles Simon	36	QF	Rafael Nadal	66
R32	Ivan Ljubicic	67	QF	Juan Martin Del Potro	24
R32	Igor Andreev	76	QF	Novak Djokovic	32
R32	Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	54	QF	Andy Roddick	66
R32	Tommy Robredo	77	QF	Ivan Ljubicic	56
R32	Marin Cilic	56	QF	Andy Murray	77
R32	Paul-Henri Mathieu	32	QF	Fernando Verdasco	36
R32	Andy Murray	66	QF	Roger Federer	67
R32	Philipp Kohlschreiber	636	SF	Rafael Nadal	67
R32	Nicolas Lapentti	263	SF	Andy Roddick	46
R32	Richard Gasquet	32	SF	Andy Murray	646
R32	Fernando Verdasco	66	SF	Roger Federer	361
R32	James Blake	51	RU	Andy Murray	12
R32	Fernando Gonzalez	76	W	Rafael Nadal	66
R32	Ivo Karlovic	63			
R32	Roger Federer	76			

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	16 matches	12-4	2.25	22.68
R16	8 matches	3-5	2.62	26.62
QF	4 matches	4-0	2.00	20.05
SF	2 matches	1-1	2.50	24.50
F	1 match	0-0	2.00	15.00

BNP Paribas Open - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Rafael Nadal [1]	9/4
Roger Federer [2]	4/1
Andy Murray [4]	11/2
Novak Djokovic [3]	15/2
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	20/1
Fernando Verdasco	33/1
Juan Martin Del Potro [6]	33/1
Andy Roddick [7]	50/1
David Nalbandian	50/1
Gael Monfils	50/1
Radek Stepanek	66/1
David Ferrer	66/1
Nikolay Davydenko [5]	66/1
Marin Cilic	66/1
Gilles Simon [8]	80/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2009	W	SF	QF	RU	-	QF	SF	R3
2008	SF	SF	W	R3	R3	R2	QF	R4
2007	R1	W	SF	R4	R4	R3	R2	QF
2006	W	SF	R4	R4	R3	QF	R3	R3
2005	W	RU	SF	R3	R4	QF	QF	R3
2004	W	-	QF	QF	SF	R2	R2	R3

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Rafael Nadal (9/4)	Andy Murray (11/2)	Roddick-Federer
2008	Novak Djokovic (4/1)	Mardy Fish (300/1)	Nadal-Federer
2007	Rafael Nadal (14/1)	Novak Djokovic (80/1)	Roddick-Murray
2006	Roger Federer (4/5)	James Blake (40/1)	Srichaphan-Nadal
2005	Roger Federer (6/5)	Lleyton Hewitt (8/1)	Canas-Roddick
2004	Roger Federer (3/1)	Tim Henman (25/1)	Agassi-Labadze

Betting - BNP Paribas Open

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

The big four dominated the market. Nadal (9/4) had obvious claims on his win in Australia but North American hard-courts aren't his favourite surface and he'd won 22 of his previous 32 titles on clay. Still, his half of the draw with Djokovic (15/2) and Roddick (50/1) as his main rivals didn't look severe.

The Serb hadn't enjoyed the best of starts to 2009 and Roddick's best form, especially in the States, was certainly behind him. The likes of Del Potro (33/1) and David Ferrer (66/1) also had scraps of recent form but neither had a great record of getting the job done in the big tournaments.

Federer (4/1) and Murray (11/2) were the clear pick of the bottom half. There was a doubt concerning the Scot's fitness (withdrew from the Davis Cup due to a virus) but if fully fit he clearly had the beating of the Swiss player should they meet in the SF's.

Elsewhere, this section looked weak. Tsonga (20/1) was the next best with Fernando Verdasco (33/1) an option - if looking a bit short at the price - on the back of his form in the Davis Cup final and the Australian Open.

Post-Tournament Review :-

Lady luck did smile on Nadal somewhat. Nalbandian blew 5 match points, Djokovic went out to Roddick and Murray played a poor final. Sure, he still won but the form isn't something to get too carried away with.

Murray played well and confirmed the view that in the next 12 months he'll be in the running for No.2 in the world, let alone No.3, as both Federer and Djokovic played below their capabilities ... not for the first time either!

Outside of the big four it was a muddling affair. Roddick proved that he's still a threat when conditions suit (as did Nalbandian), Verdasco and Del Potro are good but not that good but a few players did disappoint such as Monfils, Tsonga and Simon.

Pointers for 2010 :-

A quality event which provides quality winners - 6 of the last 8 winners have been the No.1 seed. The most relevant form guide is the Australian Open, refer to that, as many will come here with few miles on the clock. Some big-priced finalists show that surprises do occur (it's still early season) so be ready to take a punt. Andy Murray goes well here but consider a fully fit and focused Djokovic and, of the younger crowd, both of Tsonga and Del Potro.