

Overview - Campbell's Tennis Championships

A weak event was left even weaker as the No.1 seed, Mardy Fish, pulled out on the eve of the tournament to replace an injured Andy Roddick in the US Davis Cup team. His withdrawal made way for a lucky loser, Rajeev Ram, to take his place - how lucky Ram proved to be!

Fish wasn't the only seed to go out early as both Benjamin Becker (No.4) and Arnaud Clement (No.5) were R1 casualties. Neither had much excuse either against their modest opponents - Brendan Evans and Alex Bogomolov Jnr. Better starts came for Sam Querrey (No.3) who beat Ruben Ramirez-Hidalgo in 59 minutes along with Fabrice Santoro (No.2), Nicolas Mahut and Taylor Dent who all similarly progressed in straight sets.

The poor weather in Rhode Island, which had delayed most of the R1 ties, then made several players play back-to-back matches in R2 and the QF's.

Having won in R1 both Sam Querrey and Fabrice Santoro set up their SF meeting by virtue of two wins apiece on the Friday. Querrey struggled past last year's runner-up, Prakash Amritraj, before easily dispatching Kevin Kim. Meanwhile, the evergreen Santoro proved his undoubted class with clear-cut wins over both Dent and Mahut - the win over his fellow-countryman Mahut being especially noteworthy.

The other SF featured the Belgian, Olivier Rochus, who recorded a good win over Sergiy Stakhovsky in R2, after rallying from losing the first set, before seeing off Brendan Evans on the QF's. He would there meet Rajeev Ram.

The American, who had lost in the final qualifying round to Ricardo Mello, made the most of his opportunity. Having played well to beat Alejandro Falla in his first match, Ram went on to record wins over Samuel Groth and then Jesse Levine - possibly not the most fearsome of opponents but it was Ram, none the less, who came out the winner.

Querrey was first into the final with a 69 minute defeat of the two-time winner, and double defending champion, Santoro. A good win for the American. He would there play Ram who yet again defied the odds to defeat Rochus - but he did so on merit and fully deserved his win on the day.

Ram then became the first *lucky loser* to win on tour in 2009, beating Querrey in their 2'01" final with a fine effort - *'this is the biggest moment of my career'* said the new champion. A first title in his first ATP final for the world No.181 whilst the defeated Querrey fell to 1:2 in career deciders after losing a match he had chances to win but, to be fair, Ram played much the better on the day.



Campbell's Hall Of Fame Tennis Championships

July 06-12, 2009

Outdoor, Grass - ATP World Tour 250

R32	LL-Rajeev Ram	67	R16	Rajeev Ram	66
R32	Q-Alejandro Falla	45	R16	Samuel Groth	42
R32	Q-Ricardo Mello	563	R16	Jesse Levine	76
R32	Q-Samuel Groth	736	R16	Philipp Petzschner	62
R32	Chris Guccione	66	R16	Brendan Evans	66
R32	Jesse Levine	77	R16	Robby Ginepri	34
R32	Horacio Zeballos	472	R16	Olivier Rochus	576
R32	Philipp Petzschner [6]	666	R16	Sergiy Stakhovsky	763
R32	Benjamin Becker [4]	665	R16	Kevin Kim	476
R32	Brendan Evans	737	R16	Daniel Brands	664
R32	Robby Ginepri	616	R16	Prakash Amritraj	732
R32	Santiago Ventura	264	R16	Sam Querrey	666
R32	Olivier Rochus	646	R16	Alex Bogomolov Jnr.	22
R32	Q-Alexander Peya	264	R16	Nicolas Mahut	66
R32	Frank Dancevic	665	R16	Taylor Dent	64
R32	Sergiy Stakhovsky [8]	727	R16	Fabrice Santoro	76
R32	Kevin Kim [7]	46	QF	Rajeev Ram	567
R32	wc-Sebastien Grosjean <i>retd.</i>	63	QF	Jesse Levine	726
R32	Vincent Spadea	04	QF	Brendan Evans	44
R32	Daniel Brands	66	QF	Olivier Rochus	66
R32	wc-Prakash Amritraj	66	QF	Kevin Kim	34
R32	Danai Udomchoke	14	QF	Sam Querrey	66
R32	Ruben Ramirez-Hidalgo	32	QF	Nicolas Mahut	44
R32	Sam Querrey [3]	66	QF	Fabrice Santoro	66
R32	Arnaud Clement [5]	634			
R32	Alex Bogomolov Jnr.	166	SF	Rajeev Ram	66
R32	Amer Delic	44	SF	Olivier Rochus	34
R32	Nicolas Mahut	66	SF	Sam Querrey	67
R32	Marcos Daniel	21	SF	Fabrice Santoro	36
R32	wc-Taylor Dent	66			
R32	Flavio Cipolla	35	RU	Sam Querrey	753
R32	Fabrice Santoro [2]	67	W	Rajeev Ram	676

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	16 matches	9-7	2.43	23.75
R16	8 matches	5-3	2.37	24.25
QF	4 matches	3-1	2.25	23.00
SF	2 matches	2-0	2.00	20.50
F	1 match	0-1	3.00	34.00

Campbell's Tennis Championships - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Mardy Fish [1]	5/2
Sam Querrey [3]	5/1
Benjamin Becker [4]	9/1
Nicolas Mahut	12/1
Fabrice Santoro	20/1
Taylor Dent	25/1
Robby Ginepri	25/1
Frank Dancevic	25/1
Olivier Rochus	25/1
Arnaud Clement [5]	28/1
Philipp Petzschner [6]	33/1
Sergiy Stakhovsky [8]	50/1
Vincent Spadea	50/1
Sebastien Grosjean	50/1
Prakash Amritraj	66/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Rajeev Ram (250/1)	Sam Querrey (5/1)	O.Rochus-Santoro
2008	Fabrice Santoro (12/1)	Prakash Amritraj (200/1)	Spadea-Dancevic
2007	Fabrice Santoro (12/1)	Nicolas Mahut (7/2)	Moodie-Norman
2006	Mark Philippoussis (10/1)	Justin Gimelstob (20/1)	Melzer-Murray
2005	Greg Rusedski (9/1)	Vincent Spadea (16/1)	Moodie-Goldstein
2004	Greg Rusedski (5/1)	Alexander Popp (7/1)	Dupuis-Saulnier

Betting - Campbell's Tennis Championships

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Mardy Fish (5/2) was an obvious choice in the top half - being the best player on show and having a good draw - but his withdrawal made the selection process much more difficult.

Each of the seeded Becker (9/1), Petzschner (33/1) and Stakhovsky (50/1) had claims but each were little better than several other players who could be named such as Dancevic (25/1), Rochus (28/1) or Chris Guccione (80/1).

Given such a tricky call it's usually better to aim higher in the betting and look for some small each-way interest ... however, even that policy didn't stretch as far as Ram, a player who had already lost in qualifying to Ricardo Mello.

The bottom half was more clear-cut. Sam Querrey (5/1) represented current form and ability, Fabrice Santoro (20/1) was an example of proven ability and past tournament form. These two stood clear of the rest and the choice between youth (Querrey) and experience (Santoro) might well have been settled by the big price available about the two-time defending champion.

Post-Tournament Review :-

Ram's victory was a surprise, even for this event! The American deserves credit for winning several matches he was expected to lose but even that is out-weighed by the fact that Querrey really should have won the final.

As such, the form of this event has to be classed as dubious - even if doubts still remained about Querrey as a 'finisher'. That point may prove true in time.

Few players can take much credit out of this tournament and more can be gleaned from players such as Becker, Mahut, Ginepri and Dancevic failing to make much of a mark in what was a very moderate event.

Pointers for 2010 :-

No.1 seeds have an appalling record here - no win in over 20 years! A pointer in itself but a general reflection of this tournament's curious form. It's a poor quality event which doesn't sit well in the schedule, attracting generally lower ranked players with little, or no, history of success. That said, those proven players who do attend have done well here. Look to the North American talent - Dent, Ginepri, Kendrick, Dancevic - or the Europeans (who don't come here unless in with a chance) such as Nicolas Mahut and Benjamin Becker or a guy like Chris Guccione, the tall Australian, who has a game well suited to the surface.