

## Overview - Copa Telmex

Although held in Buenos Aires, this is effectively the South American clay court championship being by far the best attended and most competitive tournaments of the early season clay action in this part of the world.

Perhaps this is best illustrated with the R1 defeats of Nicolas Almagro (No.2), Carlos Moya (No.4), Albert Montanes (No.6) and Eduardo Schwank (No.8) - there are no easy games in Argentina!

Best of the early wins came as Juan Monaco double-bageled of his fellow-countryman Sergio Roitman, Juan Carlos Ferrero defeated Agustin Calleri and Juan Ignacio Chela breezed past Alberto Martin.

The defending champion, David Nalbandian, made the QF's with a second straight sets win in R2 and was joined there by Jose Acasuso (No.5) who also enjoyed a comfortable win (over the Italian Fabio Fognini). However, Marcel Granollers (No.7) fell to Ferrero in a three-set battle lasting 2'27" before Tommy Robredo (No.3) made the last eight. The Spaniard had to come from behind to beat Potito Starace in R1 and here in R2 he had to fight his way past another clay-court veteran, Chela, by way of a deciding set.

The QF's were all settled in straight sets, each one going to the favourite in routine fashion. Nalbandian was aided by Juan Carlos Ferrero pulling out with a leg injury but each of Robredo, Monaco and Acasuso especially won their matches with something in hand.

Both SF's turned out to be close run matches. Nalbandian served for the match at 6-2 5-4 (and was even 30-0) before Monaco rallied to level the match and eventually sneak the contest on a tie-break - *'I had my opportunities to close out the match ... but the truth is Monaco played a good match and deserved to win'* said Nalbandian afterwards.

Robredo, playing Acasuso for the third straight week, made his second final in a fortnight with a narrow win. The No.3 seed trailed 1-4 in the first set but won five straight games to take the lead and then booked his place in the final courtesy of a second set tie-break.

Monaco could, maybe should, have won the final. He led 3-0 and 4-2 in the third set before Robredo showed great fighting spirit to come back and win the title in an epic 2'45" match. Monaco won 113 points to Robredo's 109 but it was the Spaniard who prevailed (now 9:7 in finals) whilst the Argentine, who won here in 2007, failed to win a second national crown and slipped to 3:4 in career deciders.



## Copa Telmex

February 16-22, 2009

Outdoor, Clay - ATP Tour World 250

<b>R32</b>	<b>David Nalbandian [1]</b>	6 6	<b>R16</b>	David Nalbandian	7 6
<b>R32</b>	Nicolas Lapentti	3 3	<b>R16</b>	Daniel Gimeno-Traver	5 2
<b>R32</b>	wc-Gaston Gaudio	2 6 2	<b>R16</b>	Juan Carlos Ferrero	6 6 6
<b>R32</b>	Daniel Gimeno-Traver	6 4 6	<b>R16</b>	Marcel Granollers	7 0 3
<b>R32</b>	Juan Carlos Ferrero	6 6	<b>R16</b>	Maximo Gonzalez	6 6
<b>R32</b>	Agustin Calleri	3 4	<b>R16</b>	Brian Dabul	3 1
<b>R32</b>	Thomaz Bellucci	5 5	<b>R16</b>	Juan Monaco	6 2 6
<b>R32</b>	<b>Marcel Granollers [7]</b>	7 7	<b>R16</b>	Martin Vassallo Arguello	4 6 2
<b>R32</b>	<b>Carlos Moya [4]</b>	4 4	<b>R16</b>	Pablo Cuevas	2 4
<b>R32</b>	q-Maximo Gonzalez	6 6	<b>R16</b>	Franco Ferreiro	6 6
<b>R32</b>	Brian Dabul	5 7 6	<b>R16</b>	Juan Ignacio Chela	2 6 4
<b>R32</b>	Nicolas Devilder	7 5 4	<b>R16</b>	Tommy Robredo	6 3 6
<b>R32</b>	wc-Sergio Roitman	0 0	<b>R16</b>	Jose Acasuso	6 6
<b>R32</b>	Juan Monaco	6 6	<b>R16</b>	Fabio Fognini	4 3
<b>R32</b>	Martin Vassallo Arguello	6 6	<b>R16</b>	Diego Junqueira	6 6 0
<b>R32</b>	<b>Albert Montanes [6]</b>	2 3	<b>R16</b>	Oscar Hernandez	3 7 6
<b>R32</b>	<b>Eduardo Schwank [8]</b>	3 7 0	<b>QF</b>	David Nalbandian	6 3
<b>R32</b>	q-Pablo Cuevas	6 6 6	<b>QF</b>	Juan Carlos Ferrero <small>ret'd.</small>	3 0
<b>R32</b>	q-Franco Ferreiro	1 6 6	<b>QF</b>	Maximo Gonzalez	2 3
<b>R32</b>	Ivan Navarro	6 4 2	<b>QF</b>	Juan Monaco	6 6
<b>R32</b>	Alberto Martin	3 2	<b>QF</b>	Franco Ferreiro	4 6
<b>R32</b>	wc-Juan Ignacio Chela	6 6	<b>QF</b>	Tommy Robredo	6 7
<b>R32</b>	Potito Starace	7 3 3	<b>QF</b>	Jose Acasuso	6 6
<b>R32</b>	<b>Tommy Robredo [3]</b>	6 6 6	<b>QF</b>	Oscar Hernandez	1 2
<b>R32</b>	<b>Jose Acasuso [5]</b>	6 7	<b>SF</b>	David Nalbandian	6 5 6
<b>R32</b>	q-Daniel Munoz-De La Nava	2 6	<b>SF</b>	Juan Monaco	2 7 7
<b>R32</b>	Fabio Fognini	6 6	<b>SF</b>	Tommy Robredo	6 7
<b>R32</b>	Pablo Andujar	3 2	<b>SF</b>	Jose Acasuso	4 6
<b>R32</b>	Nicolas Massu	6 4 4	<b>RU</b>	Juan Monaco	5 6 6
<b>R32</b>	Diego Junqueira	3 6 6	<b>W</b>	Tommy Robredo	7 2 7
<b>R32</b>	Oscar Hernandez	6 1 6			
<b>R32</b>	<b>Nicolas Almagro [2]</b>	2 6 3			

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
<b>R32</b>	16 matches	9-7	2.43	22.62
<b>R16</b>	8 matches	4-4	2.50	22.75
<b>QF</b>	4 matches	4-0	2.50	16.75
<b>SF</b>	2 matches	1-1	2.00	28.00
<b>F</b>	1 match	0-1	3.00	33.00

## Copa Telmex - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
David Nalbandian [1]	5/2
Tommy Robredo [3]	9/2
Nicolas Almagro [2]	5/1
Carlos Moya [4]	10/1
Juan Monaco	12/1
Jose Acasuso [5]	12/1
Eduardo Schwank [8]	20/1
Thomaz Bellucci	25/1
Juan Carlos Ferrero	25/1
Potito Starace	50/1
Juan Ignacio Chela	50/1
Agustin Calleri	50/1
Marcel Granollers [7]	66/1
Albert Montanes [6]	66/1
Martin Vassallo Arguello	80/1

### Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

### Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
<b>2009</b>	Tommy Robredo (9/2)	Juan Monaco (12/1)	Acasuso-Nalbandian
<b>2008</b>	David Nalbandian (11/4)	Jose Acasuso (20/1)	Chela-Volandri
<b>2007</b>	Juan Monaco (40/1)	Alessio Di Mauro (125/1)	Almagro-Hartfield
<b>2006</b>	Carlos Moya (16/1)	Filippo Volandri (22/1)	Ferrero-Calleri
<b>2005</b>	Gaston Gaudio (9/2)	Mariano Puerta (100/1)	Martin-Acasuso
<b>2004</b>	Guillermo Coria (3/1)	Carlos Moya (11/2)	Gasquet-Acasuso

## Betting - Copa Telmex

### Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Such was the quality of this field, a case could be made out for anything up to a dozen different players.

Nalbandian (5/2) was an obvious choice as defending champion but even despite winning already this year in Sydney he's never been one to back with total confidence, more so at a short price. Also, at his current odds he had to be a straight 'win bet' and that looked risky in a tournament which had so many viable alternatives.

In his quarter alone Ferrero (25/1) and Bellucci (25/1) offered bigger priced alternatives and in the second quarter there were two players - Moya (10/1) and Monaco (12/1) who each had past winning form in Buenos Aires.

The bottom half was no easier. Robredo (9/2), Almagro (5/1), Acasuso (12/1) and Chela (50/1) all deserved consideration.

With Robredo and Acasuso being the form players from the previous week in Costa Do Sauipe - and with Almagro disappointing in Brazil the week before and Chela not having won since '07 - they would be the two most worthy of note but should they meet in the SF's it would be a tough call on who would win. So do you take Robredo at 9/2 or Acasuso at 12/1?

### Post-Tournament Review :-

This win may well signal Robredo's return to the 'big time'. Having won the week before he came through a very tough draw to win his second title in a fortnight. After a mediocre '08 this reminded us of his top 10 potential.

Nalbandian and Acasuso lost nothing in defeat - either could easily have won here - and Monaco showed glimpses of his form from '07 (won three titles).

Of the rest only Maximo Gonzalez caught the eye, whilst Montanes, Schwank and even Almagro did very little to justify their seeding positions.

### Pointers for 2010 :-

Good clay-courtiers need only apply with Spaniards/South Americans all over the roll of honour. However, a strong field makes backing a skinny favourite risky and there's plenty of evidence to recommend each-way bets on proven clay-court players. Pointers in the earlier form of Chile and Brazil could give some each-way value but it's the same old names that appear time and again - Monaco, Nalbandian and especially Acasuso (yet to win his national title).