

Overview - Delray Beach International

This tournament has always suffered in terms of quality and whilst this year wasn't too bad in this respect the seeding committee had done several of the big names (Hewitt, Baghdatis, Canas, Haas) no favours by overlooking their obvious claims to top billing.

As it was, we still lost each of Ernests Gulbis (No.3), Igor Kunitsyn (No.4) and Steve Darcis (No.5) in R1 - although both Gulbis and Kunitsyn lost to decent players in Marcos Baghdatis and Evgeny Korolev.

We also saw Lleyton Hewitt upset by the Taipei player, Yen-Hsun Lu (No.8), Guillermo Canas was defeated in straight sets by Sam Querrey (No.2) and Jeremy Chardy (No.7) beat the '06 champion, Tommy Haas, also in two sets.

Two more seeds fell in R2 as Sam Querrey suffered at the hands of the Belgian, Christophe Rochus, and Yen-Hsun Lu was comfortably dispatched by Stefan Koubek. Mardy Fish (No.1) did record a second successive win and was joined in the QF's by Florent Serra (No.6), who followed up a R1 win over Jarkko Nieminen by seeing off Mischa Zverev, and Jeremy Chardy - as the Frenchman edged to a narrow win over Andrey Golubev.

Fish continued his hot streak as he defeated Florent Serra in the QF's and lined up a SF against Chardy as the No.7 seed recorded a hard fought win over Baghdatis courtesy of two tie-breaks. The other two matches saw Korolev beat Guillermo Garcia Lopez with consummate ease and he would next play Christophe Rochus who ousted the '00 champion, Stefan Koubek, to make the last four.

In the SF's, Korolev made his first career final with an 80 minute victory over Rochus. The Russian, a qualifier here, would play in his first ATP final. Fish made it four straight sets wins with a 77 minute defeat of Chardy - *'I thought I played one of the better matches of the year for sure and that kid could play, there's no doubt about that'* said the American afterwards.

In 17 years, no No.1 seed had ever won this event but Fish deserved his success after showing very good form all week. Korolev led 5-3 in the first set but Fish then won seven straight games and at 7-5 3-0 the game was all but over. The champion's overall career record now stands at 3:10 in finals whereas Korolev - who this week showed some of the potential he clearly has - was far from disgraced in his first championship match.

'It's well-chronicled that I've had a lot of losses in finals', said Fish. *'I certainly would like to feel like I'm a better player than three titles'*.



Delray Beach International

February 23-28, 2009

Outdoor, Hard - ATP Tour World 250

R32 Mardy Fish [1]	76	R16 Mardy Fish	66
R32 q-Frank Dancevic	63	R16 Vincent Spadea	41
R32 Vincent Spadea	276	R16 Mischa Zverev	364
R32 Denis Gremelmayr	651	R16 Florent Serra	646
R32 q-Taylor Dent	43	R16 Marcos Baghdatis	76
R32 Mischa Zverev	66	R16 Dudi Sela	63
R32 Jarkko Nieminen	36	R16 Andrey Golubev	65
R32 Florent Serra [6]	67	R16 Jeremy Chardy	77
R32 Ernests Gulbis [3]	52	R16 Guillermo Garcia Lopez	566
R32 Marcos Baghdatis	76	R16 Gilles Muller	733
R32 Philipp Petzschner retd.	31	R16 Robert Kendrick	635
R32 se-Dudi Sela	64	R16 Evgeny Korolev	367
R32 Andrey Golubev	66	R16 Yen-Hsun Lu	43
R32 wc-Evan King	24	R16 Stefan Koubek	66
R32 Tommy Haas	63	R16 Christophe Rochus	66
R32 Jeremy Chardy [7]	76	R16 Sam Querrey	41
R32 Steve Darcis [5]	33	QF Mardy Fish	77
R32 Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	66	QF Florent Serra	66
R32 q-Ryan Sweeting	62	QF Marcos Baghdatis	66
R32 Gilles Muller	76	QF Jeremy Chardy	77
R32 Paul Capdeville	621	QF Guillermo Garcia Lopez	22
R32 Robert Kendrick	466	QF Evgeny Korolev	66
R32 q-Evgeny Korolev	67	QF Stefan Koubek	36
R32 Igor Kunitsyn [4]	46	QF Christophe Rochus	67
R32 Yen-Hsun Lu [8]	726		
R32 wc-Lleyton Hewitt	562	SF Mardy Fish	66
R32 Stefan Koubek	66	SF Jeremy Chardy	41
R32 Bobby Reynolds	43	SF Evgeny Korolev	67
R32 Roko Karanusic	34	SF Christophe Rochus	15
R32 Christophe Rochus	66		
R32 Guillermo Canas	64	RU Evgeny Korolev	53
R32 Sam Querrey [2]	76	W Mardy Fish	76

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	16 matches	13-3	2.18	21.25
R16	8 matches	5-3	2.37	23.62
QF	4 matches	4-0	2.00	22.50
SF	2 matches	2-0	2.00	18.00
F	1 match	1-0	2.00	21.00

Delray Beach International - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Sam Querrey [2]	4/1
Mardy Fish [1]	5/1
Lleyton Hewitt	5/1
Ernests Gulbis [3]	10/1
Tommy Haas	10/1
Marcos Baghdatis	14/1
Jeremy Chardy [7]	20/1
Jarkko Nieminen	25/1
Florent Serra [6]	40/1
Dudi Sela	40/1
Igor Kunitsyn [4]	50/1
Steve Darcis [5]	50/1
Guillermo Garcia Lopez	66/1
Vincent Spadea	80/1
Yen-Hsun Lu [8]	100/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Mardy Fish (5/1)	Evgeny Korolev (150/1)	Chardy-C.Rochus
2008	Kei Nishikori (150/1)	James Blake (2/1)	Querrey-Ginepri
2007	Xavier Malisse (5/1)	James Blake (15/8)	Spadea-Becker
2006	Tommy Haas (5/2)	Xavier Malisse (8/1)	Spadea-Garcia Lopez
2005	Xavier Malisse (13/2)	Jiri Novak (9/2)	Spadea-Moodie
2004	Ricardo Mello (40/1)	Vincent Spadea (9/1)	Ancic-Salzenstein

Betting - Delray Beach International

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Querrey (4/1) looked more than a little skinny in the betting. A capable player, a recent finalist in Auckland and an American playing on home soil (always noteworthy) but that sort of price is reserved for proven winners.

With a 2:10 record in finals, Fish (5/1) also looked an uneasy market leader. He had made the final in San Jose two weeks prior but he always seemed to find one player too good - however bad the tournament.

Gulbis (10/1) was a suicidal price given that he hadn't yet got a sniff at a title and as a youngster we just couldn't gauge his winning mentality (but we could guess it wasn't great). Hewitt (5/1) had appeal on experience but not recent form, Haas (10/1) had the same profile as did Baghdatis (14/1) and Nieminen (25/1) won as rarely as Fish.

It looked an event to take a risk on and Chardy (20/1), who was a finalist in Johannesburg, was one to consider. He clearly has talent and this event has a tradition of producing surprise winners.

Post-Tournament Review :-

Fish laid the No.1 seed hoodoo to rest in fine style. He played well all week and showed that, deep down, he can win titles. And, even if his record is 3:10 in deciders, how many players even make 13 career finals? Very few.

Korolev also displayed a talent which hitherto had only been seen in flashes - the Russian will win titles as he matures.

Chardy did little wrong, Baghdatis was solid and Koubek showed that aged 30 he could still perform. However, players like Haas, Hewitt and Canas did little to suggest that their best days are now firmly behind them as all three failed tamely in R1.

Pointers for 2010 :-

This event isn't usually blessed with great quality which, no doubt, helps to create the often surprising results. Fish is the first No.1 seed to win in 17 years and we've had qualifiers in the final the last two years. Winners tend to be moderate, top 50 performers, who aren't necessarily habitual tour champions. Look out for Taylor Dent along with both Fish and Querrey (who both play here regularly) and don't be surprised to see a first time winner here either, this is the perfect opportunity for guys to claim a maiden win amongst a weak field. Don't be afraid to look well down the list to find the winner!