

## Overview - International German Open

Demoted from a Masters Series event pre-French Open to a World Tour 500 tournament some time after Wimbledon, this wasn't quite the spectacle which the Hamburg tennis fans were used to seeing. Just a couple of top ten players on show and a field of 48 which was competitive, for sure, but lacked the spark of a few really big names.

A clear sign that many of the top players were now preparing for the big events soon to be staged on the North American circuit on the build-up to the US Open in last August.

The top 16 seeds all received a bye into R2 leaving a rather threadbare feel to the opening matches. What quality action that took place centred around the win of Juan Monaco over Mikhail Youzhny, Julien Benneteau's dismissal of Juan Ignacio Chela and fine wins for any number of German players in the draw - Simon Greul, Daniel Brands, Florian Mayer, Philipp Petzschner and Andreas Beck all making it into the last 32.

Once the main draw commenced in R2 several seeds probably wished they had the benefit of an earlier match as most struggled and, more to the point, a number were knocked out. Getting byes at the start of tournaments isn't always the best way of beginning an event - players can be 'caught cold' by others who have already played, won and acclimatised to the conditions.

Gilles Simon (No.1) started the rot as he fell to *wild-card* Daniel Brands, a loss made all the worse by the fact the Frenchman won the first set, then Tommy Robredo (No.4) was on the wrong end of a narrow 7-6 7-5 defeat to fellow Spaniard, Ivan Navarro, and finally Stanislas Wawrinka (No.5) lost to Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, also in straight sets.

Others who failed to make good use of their R1 byes were Igor Andreev, Jurgen Melzer, Jose Acasuso and Mischa Zverev who all departed as they lost their first matches.

Andreev fell tamely to Benneteau, Melzer was seen off by the Uruguayan, Pablo Cuevas, Zverev lost to Simon Greul and Acasuso was forced to retire with a neck injury whilst trailing Juan Monaco 1-6 1-1.

At least Nikolay Davydenko (No.2) looked good in beating Philipp Petzschner and David Ferrer (No.6) brushed aside Florian Mayer but the remaining top seeds, Robin Soderling (No.3) and Philipp Kohlschreiber (No.8), both made rather heavy work of making R3 as they struggled to get past a pair of Italians, Fabio Fognini and Potito Starace respectively.

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The unsettled nature of this tournament was further illustrated as the play entered the latter stages. Two further seeds were defeated as Soderling was taken out by Nicolas Almagro in 82 minutes, the Spaniard always holding the upper hand, and Kohlschreiber was upset by the improving Pablo Cuevas in a 1'54" match that the South American, again, deserved to win.

Davydenko, however, was impressive in seeing off Jeremy Chardy for the loss of just six games and David Ferrer dug deep to eventually see off the challenge of Juan Monaco 6-2 in the third set.

The QF line-up was completed by Paul-Henri Mathieu, Viktor Troicki and Victor Hanescu who all came through three set matches and Simon Greul, the lone German left in the draw, who gave Ivan Navarro a dose of his own medicine in downing the Spaniard 7-6 7-5.

It was a mixed bag in these QF's as Mathieu was the first to get through to the last four but only after a foot injury ended Viktor Troicki's effort just three games into their match. An unlucky loss for the Serbian player. David Ferrer then proved way too strong for Greul, who regardless of this loss fully justified his *wild card* into this event.

Cuevas then upset the form as he comprehensively beat Nicolas Almagro in 75 minutes and finally Nikolay Davydenko had to endure a 2'20" battle with the Romanian, Victor Hanescu, before he completed the SF line-up.

Two good quality SF's saw Mathieu and Davydenko book their places in the final. Cuevas certainly didn't give up with a fight and pushed the Frenchman, Mathieu, all the way in securing a win in just shy of three hours (down 0-4 and 2-5 in the final set Cuevas levelled at 5-5 before running out of steam).

Davydenko was also on court for over two hours before closing out a fine margin victory over Ferrer - the Spaniard actually served for both sets in the match but each time faltered, allowing the No.2 seed to sneak through.

A first win in over a year for Davydenko was secured with a totally dominant 88 minute win over Mathieu. With it he moved to 15:5 in ATP finals - *'It's a very good week for me ... I'm very happy because I've won 15 ATP World Tour titles'* he stated. As for Mathieu, he played well in edging a couple of close matches, got lucky possibly when Troicki retired but overall didn't quite have enough class to trouble his Russian opponent. Defeat here left him with an overall record in championship matches of 4:4 and without a tour title since back in 2007.



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July 20-26, 2009

Outdoor, Clay - ATP World Tour 500

<b>R64 Gilles Simon [1]</b>		<b>R64 David Ferrer [6]</b>	
<b>R64 Bye</b>		<b>R64 Bye</b>	
<b>R64</b> q-Victor Crivoi	6 4 1	<b>R64</b> wc-Florian Mayer	6 6 6
<b>R64</b> wc-Daniel Brands	4 6 6	<b>R64</b> Rainer Schuettler	7 3 3
<b>R64</b> q-Evgeny Korolev	6 2	<b>R64</b> Juan Monaco	7 6
<b>R64</b> q-Pere Riba	7 6	<b>R64</b> Mikhail Youzhny	6 3
<b>R64 Bye</b>		<b>R64 Bye</b>	
<b>R64 Paul-Henri Mathieu [13]</b>		<b>R64 Jose Acasuso [12]</b>	
<b>R64 Viktor Troicki [10]</b>		<b>R64 Mischa Zverev [16]</b>	
<b>R64 Bye</b>		<b>R64 Bye</b>	
<b>R64</b> Teimuraz Gabashvili	6 6	<b>R64</b> Janko Tipsarevic	6 3 3
<b>R64</b> Andreas Seppi	3 1	<b>R64</b> wc-Simon Greul	2 6 6
<b>R64</b> Christophe Rochus	4 2	<b>R64</b> Steve Darcis	4 4
<b>R64</b> Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	6 6	<b>R64</b> Ivan Navarro	6 6
<b>R64 Bye</b>		<b>R64 Bye</b>	
<b>R64 Stanislas Wawrinka [5]</b>		<b>R64 Tommy Robredo [4]</b>	
<b>R64 Robin Soderling [3]</b>		<b>R64 Igor Andreev [7]</b>	
<b>R64 Bye</b>		<b>R64 Bye</b>	
<b>R64</b> Fabio Fognini	6 6	<b>R64</b> Julien Benneteau	6 1 6
<b>R64</b> Ivo Minar	4 2	<b>R64</b> Juan Ignacio Chela	4 6 1
<b>R64</b> Martin Vassallo Arguello	4 4	<b>R64</b> wc-Kevin Krawietz	0 6 3
<b>R64</b> q-Marcel Granollers	6 6	<b>R64</b> Jan Hernych	6 4 6
<b>R64 Bye</b>		<b>R64 Bye</b>	
<b>R64 Nicolas Almagro [14]</b>		<b>R64 Victor Hanescu [11]</b>	
<b>R64 Jurgen Melzer [9]</b>		<b>R64 Jeremy Chardy [15]</b>	
<b>R64 Bye</b>		<b>R64 Bye</b>	
<b>R64</b> q-Pablo Cuevas	7 6	<b>R64</b> Oscar Hernandez	7 4 4
<b>R64</b> Bjorn Phau	6 4	<b>R64</b> Andreas Beck	6 6 6
<b>R64</b> q-Potito Starace	5 6 6	<b>R64</b> Philipp Petzschner	7 6
<b>R64</b> Maximo Gonzalez	7 4 3	<b>R64</b> Florent Serra	6 2
<b>R64 Bye</b>		<b>R64 Bye</b>	
<b>R64 Philipp Kohlschreiber [8]</b>		<b>R64 Nikolay Davydenko [2]</b>	

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
<b>R64</b>	16 matches	9-7	2.43	23.50
<b>R32</b>	16 matches	9-7	2.43	22.87
<b>R16</b>	8 matches	5-3	2.37	25.50

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<b>R32</b> Gilles Simon	6 4 3	<b>R16</b> Daniel Brands	5 5
<b>R32</b> Daniel Brands	3 6 6	<b>R16</b> Paul-Henri Mathieu	7 7
<b>R32</b> Pere Riba	1 6 6	<b>R16</b> Viktor Troicki	6 6 7
<b>R32</b> Paul-Henri Mathieu	6 2 7	<b>R16</b> Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	7 4 6
<b>R32</b> Viktor Troicki	3 6 6	<b>R16</b> Robin Soderling	5 3
<b>R32</b> Teimuraz Gabashvili	6 2 4	<b>R16</b> Nicolas Almagro	7 6
<b>R32</b> Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	6 6	<b>R16</b> Pablo Cuevas	6 7
<b>R32</b> Stanislas Wawrinka	2 4	<b>R16</b> Philipp Kohlschreiber	4 6
<b>R32</b> Robin Soderling	6 6 6	<b>R16</b> David Ferrer	4 7 6
<b>R32</b> Fabio Fognini	3 7 3	<b>R16</b> Juan Monaco	6 5 2
<b>R32</b> Marcel Granollers	6 3 4	<b>R16</b> Simon Greul	7 7
<b>R32</b> Nicolas Almagro	4 6 6	<b>R16</b> Ivan Navarro	5 6
<b>R32</b> Jurgen Melzer	6 3	<b>R16</b> Julien Benneteau	6 3 3
<b>R32</b> Pablo Cuevas	7 6	<b>R16</b> Victor Hanescu	3 6 6
<b>R32</b> Potito Starace	2 6 4	<b>R16</b> Jeremy Chardy	3 3
<b>R32</b> Philipp Kohlschreiber	6 4 6	<b>R16</b> Nikolay Davydenko	6 6
<b>R32</b> David Ferrer	6 6	<b>QF</b> Paul-Henri Mathieu	3
<b>R32</b> Florian Mayer	3 2	<b>QF</b> Viktor Troicki	retd. 0
<b>R32</b> Juan Monaco	6 1	<b>QF</b> Nicolas Almagro	2 4
<b>R32</b> Jose Acasuso	retd. 1 1	<b>QF</b> Pablo Cuevas	6 6
<b>R32</b> Mischa Zverev	6 5 1	<b>QF</b> David Ferrer	6 6
<b>R32</b> Simon Greul	0 7 6	<b>QF</b> Simon Greul	2 3
<b>R32</b> Ivan Navarro	7 7	<b>QF</b> Victor Hanescu	3 6 3
<b>R32</b> Tommy Robredo	5 6	<b>QF</b> Nikolay Davydenko	6 4 6
<b>R32</b> Igor Andreev	4 3		
<b>R32</b> Julien Benneteau	6 6	<b>SF</b> Paul-Henri Mathieu	4 6 7
<b>R32</b> Jan Hernych	2 3	<b>SF</b> Pablo Cuevas	6 3 5
<b>R32</b> Victor Hanescu	6 6	<b>SF</b> David Ferrer	5 6
<b>R32</b> Jeremy Chardy	7 7	<b>SF</b> Nikolay Davydenko	7 7
<b>R32</b> Andreas Beck	6 6		
<b>R32</b> Philipp Petzschner	3 2	<b>RU</b> Paul-Henri Mathieu	4 2
<b>R32</b> Nikolay Davydenko	6 6	<b>W</b> Nikolay Davydenko	6 6

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
<b>QF</b>	4 matches	3-1	2.25	16.50
<b>SF</b>	2 matches	1-1	2.50	28.00
<b>F</b>	1 match	1-0	2.00	18.00

## International German Open - Bookmaker's Odds

Market Leaders	Odds
Nikolay Davydenko [2]	7/2
Robin Soderling [3]	11/2
Philipp Kohlschreiber [8]	10/1
David Ferrer [6]	12/1
Stanislas Wawrinka [5]	14/1
Tommy Robredo [4]	20/1
Gilles Simon [1]	20/1
Juan Monaco [5]	20/1
Nicolas Almagro	20/1
Jeremy Chardy	20/1
Igor Andreev [7]	28/1
Jurgen Melzer	33/1
Victor Hanescu	33/1
Paul-Henri Mathieu	33/1
Andreas Seppi	50/1

## Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

## Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
<b>2009</b>	Nikolay Davydenko (7/2)	Paul-Henri Mathieu (33/1)	Ferrer-Cuevas
<b>2008</b>	Rafael Nadal (4/7)	Roger Federer (4/1)	Djokovic-Seppi
<b>2007</b>	Roger Federer (7/2)	Rafael Nadal (1/2)	Moya-Hewitt
<b>2006</b>	Tommy Robredo (80/1)	Radek Stepanek (100/1)	Ancic-Acasuso
<b>2005</b>	Roger Federer (3/1)	Richard Gasquet (28/1)	Davydenko-C.Rochus
<b>2004</b>	Roger Federer (6/1)	Guillermo Coria (10/3)	Hewitt-Ljubicic

## **Betting - International German Open**

### **Pre-Tournament Briefing :-**

The fact that Gilles Simon, the No.1 seed, was as big as 20/1 for the title said much about his form in 2009. A more than capable player on his day but such was the Frenchman's recent level of play that even odds of this size didn't peg him as 'must bet' material.

Soderling (11/2) was flavour of the month after his Paris exploits were followed by a first title on clay in Sweden the week leading up to this event. His claims did seem stronger, albeit at a shorter price, than Simon with each of Kohlschreiber (10/1), Wawrinka (14/1) and Almagro (20/1) having claims in what looked a quite open top half of the draw.

Davydenko (7/2) was winless in 2009 but that was more down to a lengthy spell on the sidelines than his form. A proven clay performer and best ranked player in this section, the Russian was the place to start.

Leading alternatives had to be Ferrer (12/1) and Robredo (20/1). However, neither had been in stellar form leading up to this event and both were in the same quarter. A fully fit Davydenko would appear the man to beat.

### **Post-Tournament Review :-**

... and so it proved. Class will out and Davydenko duly obliged in some style despite being pushed by Hanesu and Ferrer. The best player in the field returned to winning ways - and at a fair price.

Mathieu rode his luck to make the final but his progression merely highlighted this tournament's untrustworthy form. This transition period from Europe to North America is a tricky time, added to a poor turnout and some tame defeats (Simon and Wawrinka, maybe Soderling and Robredo) the form of this event should be viewed with some scepticism. Cuevas, Hanesu and Greul all caught the eye but for most players this was an event best forgotten.

### **Pointers for 2010 :-**

Given the drop in status and the inevitable drop in quality this event's form will take time to settle down. However, as a '500' tournament, played in Germany, it will attract enough good players to ensure guys like Davydenko will be the ones to beat here in the future. The Russian has to be considered again and with the expected absence of most of the top ten players it's those ranked from 10 to 30 who should be studied closest - the likes of David Ferrer and Tommy Robredo fit the bill, plus Philipp Kohlschreiber, Tomas Berdych or maybe Stanislas Wawrinka.