

Legg Mason Tennis Classic - Overview

Players continued to filter into North America as the build up to the US Open began to gather pace. As a result, this week's action was much stronger than last week - more so as the status of '500' tournament brought with it extra ranking points and prize-money.

A field of 48 meant that the top 16 players enjoyed the benefit of a bye in R1 but that didn't stop several matches producing noteworthy performances - with two former Grand Slam winners, Lleyton Hewitt and Juan Carlos Ferrero, catching the eye.

Hewitt had little trouble in defeating his American opponent, Donald Young, in straight sets whilst Ferrero had to work a little harder before eventually seeing off Nicolas Lapentti impressively 6-0 in the third set. Elsewhere there were good wins for Benjamin Becker over Robby Ginepri, winning the odd tie-break in three, Mikhail Youzhny and Rainer Schuettler also overcame awkward opposition in deciding sets as they got the better of Robert Kendrick and Leonardo Mayer respectively.

R2 began with Andy Roddick (No.1), a three time former winner here, putting down a solid marker with a comfortable win over Becker. There was also success for the defending champion, Juan Martin Del Potro (No.2), but only after something of a struggle with Yen-Hsun Lu. The Argentine finally closing out a three set win in just short of two hours.

These two were joined in R3 by Fernando Gonzalez (No.4), who edged out the Columbian, Alejandro Falla, in two close sets and Robin Soderling (No.5), who had less trouble in seeing off Mikhail Youzhny for the loss of just four games. Tomas Berdych (No.8) also won well against Ernests Gulbis.

However, several notable defeats were inflicted on the top players as the Frenchman, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (No.3), lost by the narrowest of margins to John Isner (6-4 6-7 6-7) but both Marin Cilic (No.6) and Tommy Robredo (No.7) were beaten fair and square. Cilic losing to the improving Indian player, Somdev Devvarman, a former US collegiate champion, and Robredo getting spanked by fellow countryman, Juan Carlos Ferrero.

This round also saw solid wins for Sam Querrey and Ivo Karlovic, both in straight sets, whilst Tommy Haas and Lleyton Hewitt but progressed after mid-match lapses.

R3 saw a milestone for Roddick as his win over compatriot, Sam Querrey, was the 500th of his career - of the other active players on tour only Federer,

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Hewitt and Moya can boast a higher number of successes. With this win the top seed also moved into the QF's.

He was joined there by Juan Martin Del Potro who had to dig deep before seeing off Hewitt in a hard-fought 2'26" match which went the way of the South American after a deciding set tie-break. Robin Soderling was another three set winner, as was Tomas Berdych, whilst easier wins were recorded by Fernando Gonzalez, John Isner and Ivo Karlovic.

Into the last eight and the first player to progress into the SF's was the Fernando Gonzalez who saw off Tommy Haas in what turned out to be a close encounter - the Chilean winning 7-5 6-4. He would next face Del Potro for a place in the final after the 2008 champion enjoyed a walkover victory over Robin Soderling as the Swede withdrew from the tournament with a right elbow injury.

In one of the more predictable scorelines of the week, Andy Roddick out-served Ivo Karlovic to record a 7-6 7-6 win which saw the American make the SF's once again and he would next face another US opponent as John Isner got the better of Tomas Berdych - after blowing four match points in the second set, the giant 6'10" Isner kept his cool and ran out an easy 6-2 winner in the decider.

Both SF's were competitive affairs. Del Potro made his second straight final in the capital after coming back from a break down in the first set, and being pegged back from 5-0 to 5-3 in the second, to beat Gonzalez in just over two hours.

Andy Roddick was made to work even harder by Isner as the tournament favourite had to come back from losing the first set to make his fourth DC championship match. The No.1 seed breezed through the second set but only broke Isner at 5-5 in the third before serving out for the win.

Del Potro retained his title in a great match. Roddick won the first set, Del Potro levelled, Roddick broke early in the third but the champion fought back to win here for the second time in succession. The win moved him to 6:1 in career finals - *'I'm very happy to win another title and defend this championship'* he said after collecting the trophy.

Roddick did little wrong all week but just found an opponent too good on the day. The American dropped to 27:17 in championship deciders but will surely return in a bid to win a fourth title in Washington.



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August 03-09, 2009

Outdoor, Hard - ATP World Tour 500

R48 Andy Roddick [1]		R48 Tommy Robredo [7]	
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
R48 Robby Ginepri	6 7 6	R48 Juan Carlos Ferrero	6 6 6
R48 Benjamin Becker	7 6 7	R48 LL-Nicolas Lapentti	4 7 0
R48 Igor Kunitsyn	7 6	R48 q-Santiago Giraldo	4 3
R48 Frederico Gil	6 4	R48 Frank Dancevic	6 6
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
R48 Sam Querrey [16]		R48 Tommy Haas [10]	
R48 Ivo Karlovic [11]		R48 Igor Andreev [13]	
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
R48 Leonardo Mayer	1 6 6	R48 Paul Capdeville	6 2 4
R48 Rainer Schuettler	6 3 7	R48 Wayne Odesnik	4 6 6
R48 q-Yuichi Sugita	0 6	R48 q-Alejandro Falla	6 6
R48 q-Somdev Devvarman	6 7	R48 q-Jesse Witten	1 4
R48 Bye		R48 By	
R48 Marin Cilic [6]		R48 Fernando Gonzalez [4]	
R48 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [3]		R48 Robin Soderling [5]	
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
R48 Andrey Golubev	6 3	R48 Mikhail Youzhny	7 3 6
R48 John Isner	7 6	R48 Robert Kendrick	5 6 1
R48 q-Sebastien De Chaunac	6 7	R48 wc-Jerzy Janowicz	5 6 4
R48 Denis Istomin	3 6	R48 Marc Gicquel	7 2 6
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
R48 Dmitry Tursunov [14]		R48 Viktor Troicki [12]	
R48 Mardy Fish [9]		R48 Dudi Sela [15]	
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
R48 Philipp Petzschner	4 6 6	R48 Lleyton Hewitt	7 6
R48 Teimuraz Gabashvili	6 3 4	R48 wc-Donald Young	5 2
R48 Kevin Kim	5 6 3	R48 Yen-Hsun Lu	4 6 7
R48 Ernests Gulbis	7 3 6	R48 wc-Michael Russell	6 1 5
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
R48 Tomas Berdych [8]		R48 Juan Martin Del Potro [2]	

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R64	16 matches	7-9	2.56	25.81
R32	16 matches	9-7	2.43	22.75
R16	8 matches	4-4	2.50	24.75

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R32 Andy Roddick	66	R16 Andy Roddick	76
R32 Benjamin Becker	32	R16 Sam Querrey	64
R32 Igor Kunitsyn	34	R16 Ivo Karlovic	76
R32 Sam Querrey	66	R16 Somdev Devvarman	51
R32 Ivo Karlovic	67	R16 John Isner	66
R32 Rainer Schuettler	45	R16 Sebastian De Chaunac	24
R32 Somdev Devvarman	76	R16 Philipp Petzschner	633
R32 Marin Cilic	54	R16 Tomas Berdych	466
R32 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	666	R16 Juan Carlos Ferrero	561
R32 John Isner	477	R16 Tommy Haas	726
R32 Sebastien De Chaunac	377	R16 Wayne Odesnik	24
R32 Dmitry Tursunov	665	R16 Fernando Gonzalez	66
R32 Mardy Fish	641	R16 Robin Soderling	756
R32 Philipp Petzschner	166	R16 Marc Gicquel	573
R32 Ernests Gulbis	26	R16 Lleyton Hewitt	636
R32 Tomas Berdych	67	R16 Juan Martin Del Potro	467
R32 Tommy Robredo	32	QF Andy Roddick	77
R32 Juan Carlos Ferrero	66	QF Ivo Karlovic	66
R32 Frank Dancevic	164	QF John Isner	666
R32 Tommy Haas	646	QF Tomas Berdych	372
R32 Igor Andreev	654	QF Tommy Haas	54
R32 Wayne Odesnik	276	QF Fernando Gonzalez	76
R32 Alejandro Falla	55	QF Robin Soderling	
R32 Fernando Gonzalez	77	QF Juan Martin Del Potro	w/o
R32 Robin Soderling	66		
R32 Mikhail Youzhny	31	SF Andy Roddick	667
R32 Marc Gicquel	3	SF John Isner	725
R32 Viktor Troicki	ret'd. 0	SF Fernando Gonzalez	63
R32 Dudi Sela	362	SF Juan Martin Del Potro	76
R32 Lleyton Hewitt	626		
R32 Yen-Hsun Lu	632	RU Andy Roddick	656
R32 Juan Martin Del Potro	466	W Juan Martin Del Potro	377

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
QF	3 matches	2-1	2.33	26.00
SF	2 matches	1-1	2.50	27.50
F	1 match	0-1	3.00	34.00

Legg Mason Tennis Classic - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Andy Roddick [1]	3/1
Juan Martin Del Potro [2]	9/2
Robin Soderling [5]	10/1
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [3]	11/1
Fernando Gonzalez [4]	12/1
Tommy Haas	14/1
Tomas Berdych [8]	14/1
Marin Cilic [6]	16/1
Ivo Karlovic	16/1
Lleyton Hewitt	33/1
Mardy Fish	33/1
Sam Querrey	40/1
Dmitry Tursunov	40/1
Juan Carlos Ferrero	66/1
Tommy Robredo [7]	66/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Juan Martin Del Potro (8/1)	Andy Roddick (250/1)	Gonzalez-Isner
2008	Juan Martin Del Potro (4/1)	Viktor Troicki (50/1)	Haas-Kunitsyn
2007	Andy Roddick (5/2)	John Isner (500/1)	Karlovic-Monfils
2006	Arnaud Clement (80/1)	Andy Murray (25/1)	Safin-Tursunov
2005	Andy Roddick (6/4)	James Blake (66/1)	Srichaphan-Berdych
2004	Lleyton Hewitt (11/10)	Gilles Muller (250/1)	Ginepri-Agassi

Betting - Legg Mason Tennis Classic

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Andy Roddick (3/1) had been off for a while through injury but brought with him exceptional tournament form and general winning form in North America - the top seed had to be respected.

He did face any number of rivals in the top half. Cilic (16/1), Karlovic (16/1) and Querrey (40/1) in the first quarter all had the ability to cause problems and even a match with Tsonga (11/1) or Berydch (14/1) in the SF's would be no easy task.

Del Potro (9/2) had an easier passage with Soderling (10/1) the main danger in his quarter and Gonzalez (12/1) the other main rival in the bottom half.

Overall, both Roddick and Del Potro provided strong cause for support but there were enough alternatives, like Tsonga and Gonzalez, to tempt wach-way backers.

The choice was proven class, but a short price, over more erratic talents at bigger odds - the perennial debate!

Post-Tournament Review :-

Del Potro gutsed it out to win, no question, but maybe got a slice of luck when Soderling withdrew. Roddick also suffered from a week of night matches followed by a Sunday final in the blazing sun.

Irrespective, Roddick had chances in the final but didn't take them whilst Del Potro never gave up - credit for that.

Gonzalez and Soderling displayed their top 20 credentials here, Haas proved his affinity for US events and John Isner hinted at better things in the future but several fancied players - Cilic, Tsonga, Berdych - all let themselves down.

Pointers for 2010 :-

Given its place in the schedule, players do make a point of playing here year after year. What's more, the quality is pretty high and the tournament form is well established - top seeds do well here. Being in the States you must consider the home crowd (Roddick, Querrey, Isner) but hard courts make for an open event so don't discount any player who has past winning form on the surface at a decent level. Marin Cilic and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga are recent visitors who should improve here with time whilst Juan Martin Del Potro and Fernando Gonzalez already have some decent form in the book.