

Moselle Open - Overview

Just 28 in the field this week in Metz but still there were 13 French players amongst them - showing the great strength in depth of the game in France.

Sadly one of the country's favourite sons, Fabrice Santoro (No.5) went out in R1 to Christophe Rochus and he was followed by Benjamin Becker (No.6) who fell to Evgeny Korolev. Andreas Beck (No.7) and Ivan Ljubicic (No.8) did progress - Ljubicic after a 2'21" battle with qualifier Sebastien De Chaunac - and they would be joined in R2 by the top four seeds who all received a bye in their first match.

Notable wins did come for Sebastien Grosjean over Nicolas Mahut in a close all-French affair, plus Richard Gasquet and Michael Llodra who both needed three sets to see off Michael Berrer and Mischa Zverev respectively.

Monfils (No.1) started his campaign in impressive form, Grosjean won just two games and lasted all of 67 minutes. Mathieu (No.3) won yet another all French encounter with Marc Gicquel Philipp, also in straight sets, and then Philipp Petzschner (No.4) dispatched Llodra 7-6 6-3 to make the QF's.

Philipp Kohlschreiber (No.2) had more of a struggle seeing off fellow German, Bjorn Phau, in a 1'49" three-setter and there were also deciding set victories for Richard Gasquet and Evgeny Korolev. The QF line-up was completed by Janko Tipsarevic, with a good win over Ljubicic, and Andreas Beck who swept aside Thierry Ascione for the loss of just six games.

The top seeds won their QF's in convincing fashion. Monfils was already well on top when Tipsarevic retired at 1-6 2-4 down with an ankle injury and Kohlschreiber nailed Korolev in 53 minutes losing just four games.

Gasquet produced a fine display to come back from losing the first set of his match with Petzschner to take it 6-3 in the third and Paul-Henri Mathieu made the SF's for the second straight year, beating Beck in a see-saw match.

Two more impressive performances by Monfils and Kohlschreiber saw them reach the final with dominant wins over Gasquet and Mathieu. Neither was overly tested and both won fully deserved their places in the final.

Monfils it was who won the title as he overcame a second set blip to win comfortably in the end - *'I am very happy about winning this second title, I've been waiting for it for a long time'* said the new champion later. No kidding either, Monfils last won back in 2005 and now had a 2:6 record in finals whilst Kohlschreiber's loss dropped him to 2:2 in ATP title deciders.



Moselle Open

September 21-27, 2009

Indoor, Hard - ATP World Tour 250

| | | | | | |
|------------|----------------------------------|-----|------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| R32 | Gael Monfils [1] | | R16 | Gael Monfils | 66 |
| R32 | Bye | | R16 | Sebastien Grosjean | 11 |
| R32 | wc-Sebastien Grosjean | 77 | R16 | Janko Tipsarevic | 67 |
| R32 | LL-Nicolas Mahut | 65 | R16 | Ivan Ljubicic | 46 |
| R32 | Janko Tipsarevic | 66 | R16 | Philipp Petzschner | 76 |
| R32 | LL-Arnuaud Clement | 44 | R16 | Michael Llodra | 63 |
| R32 | q-Sebastien De Chaunac | 616 | R16 | Richard Gasquet | 746 |
| R32 | Ivan Ljubicic [8] | 467 | R16 | Christophe Rochus | 562 |
| R32 | Philipp Petzschner [4] | | R16 | Andreas Beck | 66 |
| R32 | Bye | | R16 | Thierry Ascione | 24 |
| R32 | Mischa Zverev | 633 | R16 | Marc Gicquel | 64 |
| R32 | wc-Michael Llodra | 466 | R16 | Paul-Henri Mathieu | 76 |
| R32 | Richard Gasquet | 627 | R16 | Evgeny Korolev | 377 |
| R32 | q-Michael Berrer | 366 | R16 | Denis Istomin | 656 |
| R32 | Christophe Rochus | 067 | R16 | Bjorn Phau | 632 |
| R32 | Fabrice Santoro [5] | 646 | R16 | Philipp Kohlschreiber | 466 |
| R32 | Andreas Beck [7] | 66 | QF | Gael Monfils | 64 |
| R32 | Yen-Hsun Lu | 42 | QF | Janko Tipsarevic | ret'd. 12 |
| R32 | Adrian Mannarino | 64 | QF | Philipp Petzschner | 713 |
| R32 | q-Thierry Ascione | 76 | QF | Richard Gasquet | 666 |
| R32 | Marc Gicquel | 66 | QF | Andreas Beck | 263 |
| R32 | q-Roman Valent | 31 | QF | Paul-Henri Mathieu | 636 |
| R32 | Bye | | QF | Evgeny Korolev | 13 |
| R32 | Paul-Henri Mathieu [3] | | QF | Philipp Kohlschreiber | 66 |
| R32 | Benjamin Becker [6] | 23 | | | |
| R32 | Evgeny Korolev | 66 | SF | Gael Monfils | 66 |
| R32 | Denis Istomin | 66 | SF | Richard Gasquet | 43 |
| R32 | Andrey Golubev | 24 | SF | Paul-Henri Mathieu | 64 |
| R32 | Bjorn Phau | 77 | SF | Philipp Kohlschreiber | 76 |
| R32 | Rainer Schuettler | 66 | | | |
| R32 | Bye | | RU | Philipp Kohlschreiber | 662 |
| R32 | Philipp Kohlschreiber [2] | | W | Gael Monfils | 736 |

| | No. Matches | 2 sets-3 sets | Ave. Sets/Match | Ave. Games/Match |
|------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| R32 | 12 matches | 8-4 | 2.33 | 23.33 |
| R16 | 8 matches | 5-3 | 2.37 | 23.87 |
| QF | 4 matches | 2-2 | 2.50 | 21.00 |
| SF | 2 matches | 2-0 | 2.00 | 21.00 |
| F | 1 match | 0-1 | 3.00 | 30.00 |

Moselle Open - Facts & Figures

| Market Leaders | Odds |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Gael Monfils [1] | 3/1 |
| Philipp Kohlschreiber [2] | 7/2 |
| Paul-Henri Mathieu [3] | 8/1 |
| Richard Gasquet | 12/1 |
| Ivan Ljubicic [8] | 12/1 |
| Philipp Petzschner [4] | 20/1 |
| Janko Tipsarevic | 20/1 |
| Marc Gicquel | 20/1 |
| Benjamin Becker [6] | 33/1 |
| Michael Llodra | 40/1 |
| Jarkko Nieminen | 40/1 |
| Mischa Zverev | 40/1 |
| Evgeny Korolev | 40/1 |
| Andreas Beck [7] | 40/1 |
| Fabrice Santoro [5] | 66/1 |

Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

| | Winner | Runner-Up | Losing SF's |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 2009 | Gael Monfils (3/1) | Philipp Kohlschreiber (7/2) | Gasquet-Mathieu |
| 2008 | Dmitry Tursunov (12/1) | Paul-Henri Mathieu (20/1) | Stepanek-Mannarino |
| 2007 | Tommy Robredo (11/2) | Andy Murray (6/1) | Mahut-Canas |
| 2006 | Novak Djokovic (12/1) | Jurgen Melzer (40/1) | Grosjean-Gicquel |
| 2005 | Ivan Ljubicic (7/1) | Gael Monfils (16/1) | Davydenko-Hrbaty |
| 2004 | Jerome Haehnel (80/1) | Richard Gasquet (33/1) | Mathieu-Morrison |

Betting - Moselle Open

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Monfils (3/1) is a notorious under-achiever but with a R1 bye, previous form in the event, scraps of recent form on tour and a reasonable draw he did represent a fair bet. Ljubicic (12/1), a good indoor player, was a clear danger though and each of Gasquet (12/1), Petzschner (20/1) and even Llodra (40/1) couldn't be dismissed out of hand.

Monfils was the best player in the half ... but with no win since Sopot 2005 a bet on the favourite was a tough one to argue on the grounds of value.

The bottom half was similar. Kohlschreiber (7/2) had the best ranking but was by no means bombproof. Mathieu (8/1) had form indoors and in this event making him a plausible alternative, Becker (33/1) had won this year, Korolev (40/1) and Beck (40/1) were improving players.

It looked a case where the best two players '*should*' meet in the final but both had shown enough past failings to question their value at 3/1 and 7/2 - or was it better to take a risk on less in-form, but more successful players, like Ljubicic and Mathieu at each-way prices.

Post-Tournament Review :-

Hindsight, of course, proved the former to be the best policy. Monfils finally started to show some maturity and consistency and was the worthy winner. He dropped one set in four matches and landed another win on home soil for a French player. Kohlschreiber, to be fair, played his part and had chances to win the final, the German lost little in defeat.

They played the best tennis all week but Mathieu and Gasquet upheld home expectations with solid showings, Beck and Korolev confirmed their potential as well in what was, frankly, a pretty poor event in terms of quality. So much so, few players really had the chance to disappoint.

Pointers for 2010 :-

For events played in France, look to French players. Monfils, Mathieu, Gicquel, Gasquet etc they all need a close check as time and again they play very well on home soil. Given the likely turnout a couple are almost certain to be seeded as well, which helps, as seeds generally do well here. This event won't draw in the very best players (Djokovic won here when just 19) but recent winners have all been of a fair standard, Haehnel apart, and if not a French winner then look for players who have solid indoor form such as Dmitry Tursunov, Ivan Ljubicic or Marcos Baghdatis.