

Overview - Movistar Open

The first clay court event of the year, part of the four week South American swing, produced something of a mixed bag in terms of quality. The field didn't have much strength in depth, only 28 players were in the line-up (the top four seeds all got byes into R2) and only two or three 'big names' attended.

There were early, straight sets defeats for both Eduardo Schwank (No.6) and Oscar Hernandez (No.8) to further reduce the field but Juan Monaco (No.5) and Agustin Calleri (No.7) both started well. Two players for future both registered early wins as Thomaz Bellucci and Maximo Gonzalez both began their seasonal clay campaigns with comfortable wins.

The top four seeds entered the fray in R2 but none had it especially easy. Fernando Gonzalez (No.1) was pushed hard by his namesake, Maximo, whilst both Robredo (No.2) and Acasuso (No.4) were also given solid workouts before advancing to the QF's. Unfortunately, the same couldn't be said for Albert Montanes (No.3) who lost out to the Uruguayan qualifier, Pablo Cuevas, in another close two-setter.

Juan Ignacio Chela, on his comeback from a six month lay-off with back trouble, posted two good wins in R1 and R2 ... and almost repeated the feat in the QF's. He blitzed Tommy Robredo in the first set of their match before the Spaniard regrouped and eventually posted a three set win in just a minute over two hours.

Top seed, Gonzalez then annihilated Juan Monaco in a repeat of the 2008 final (which Monaco defaulted due to an ankle injury). The match lasted just 56 minutes as the defending champion won for the loss of just two games.

Pablo Cuevas then continued a stellar run by accounting for Paul Capdeville and Jose Acasuso completed the SF draw with a dominant performance against another surprise package, fellow Argentine, Sebastien Decoud.

Two contrasting matches in the SF's saw Fernando Gonzalez easily see off the challenge of Cuevas, however Jose Acasuso battled back from a set down to defeat Tommy Robredo in a three set battle lasting 2'12".

Gonzalez took his number of titles here to four with a clinical display to beat Acasuso in just 55 minutes. The native Chilean looked good all week and his closing remarks were ominous for 2010 - *'I am happy to have [won my home title] four times and I can only hope this wasn't the last time.'* With the win Gonzalez moved to 11:11 in career deciders whilst Acasuso's modest record in finals continued. This loss moved the Argentine to 3:8 during his career.



Movistar Open

February 2-8, 2009

Outdoor, Clay - ATP Tour World 250

R32	Fernando Gonzalez [1]		R16	Fernando Gonzalez	77
R32	Bye		R16	Maximo Gonzalez	56
R32	q-Maximo Gonzalez	66	R16	Potito Starace	33
R32	q-Boris Pashanski	32	R16	Juan Monaco	66
R32	Marcos Daniel	44	R16	Albert Montanes	64
R32	Potito Starace	66	R16	Pablo Cuevas	76
R32	Nicolas Devilder	24	R16	Daniel Gimeno-Traver	43
R32	Juan Monaco [5]	66	R16	Paul Capdeville	66
R32	Albert Montanes [3]		R16	Agustin Calleri	65
R32	Bye		R16	Sebastien Decoud	77
R32	q-Pablo Cuevas	637	R16	Thomaz Bellucci	63
R32	Nicolas Lapentti	365	R16	Jose Acasuso	76
R32	Daniel Gimeno-Traver	666	R16	Martin Vassallo Arguello	46
R32	Alberto Martin	retcd. 376	R16	Juan Ignacio Chela	67
R32	wc-Paul Capdeville	66	R16	Brian Dabul	36
R32	wc-Eduardo Schwank [6]	34	R16	Tommy Robredo	67
R32	Agustin Calleri [7]	76	QF	Fernando Gonzalez	66
R32	Nicolas Massu	61	QF	Juan Monaco	02
R32	Fabio Fognini	35	QF	Pablo Cuevas	77
R32	LL-Sebastien Decoud	67	QF	Paul Capdeville	55
R32	Thomaz Bellucci	66	QF	Sebastien Decoud	42
R32	q-Juan Pablo Brzezicki	23	QF	Jose Acasuso	66
R32	Bye		QF	Juan Ignacio Chela	634
R32	Jose Acasuso [4]		QF	Tommy Robredo	066
R32	Oscar Hernandez [8]	36	SF	Fernando Gonzalez	66
R32	Martin Vassallo Arguello	67	SF	Pablo Cuevas	32
R32	Pablo Andujar	061	SF	Jose Acasuso	566
R32	wc-Juan Ignacio Chela	636	SF	Tommy Robredo	724
R32	Diego Junqueira	271			
R32	Brian Dabul	666			
R32	Bye		RU	Jose Acasuso	13
R32	Tommy Robredo [2]		W	Fernando Gonzalez	66

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	12 matches	8-4	2.33	22.33
R16	8 matches	8-0	2.00	22.12
QF	4 matches	3-1	2.25	20.25
SF	2 matches	1-1	2.50	23.50
F	1 match	1-0	2.00	20.00

Movistar Open - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Fernando Gonzalez [1]	11/4
Tommy Robredo [2]	5/1
Jose Acasuso [4]	12/1
Juan Monaco [5]	14/1
Eduardo Schwank [6]	14/1
Albert Montanes [3]	20/1
Potito Starace	20/1
Agustin Calleri [7]	25/1
Nicolas Massu	25/1
Juan Ignacio Chela	25/1
Oscar Hernandez [8]	28/1
Thomaz Bellucci	33/1
Nicolas Lapentti	40/1
Martin Vassallo Arguello	50/1
Paul Capdeville	50/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Fernando Gonzalez (11/4)	Jose Acasuso (12/1)	Cuevas-Robredo
2008	Fernando Gonzalez (4/1)	Juan Monaco (4/1)	Cuevas-Ventura
2007	Luis Horna (14/1)	Nicolas Massu (7/1)	V. Arguello-Montanes
2006	Jose Acasuso (12/1)	Nicolas Massu (16/1)	R. Hidalgo-Gonzalez
2005	Gaston Gaudio (4/1)	Fernando Gonzalez (3/1)	Ferrer-Volandri
2004	Fernando Gonzalez (11/21)	Gustavo Kuerten (7/2)	Saretta-Sanchez

Betting - Movistar Open

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

With a field sadly lacking in a great deal of quality the only sensible place to look for the winner was at the head of the market.

Gonzalez (11/4) was a three-time winner here, defending champion and had looked in decent form at the recent Australian Open. The only negative was a potential QF clash with Juan Monaco who, at a fair price (14/1) was the only main danger in the top section. That said, the Argentine, after three wins in '07, hadn't won a title in '08 and his form so far in '09 wasn't that impressive.

Both Schwank (14/1) and Montanes (20/1) were far too short for players with very little top level form and realistic chances of success.

Tommy Robredo (5/1) was a new face in South America. The Spaniard was making a rare trip to the continent for this event. His price (5/1) offered an each-way option even if his form in '08 had been distinctly patchy.

Acasuso (12/1) was coming back from injury but was a past winner here and despite a poor record in finals could also lay claim to making the frame. Of the rest both Chela (25/1) and Bellucci (33/1) caught the eye but this event might come too early for both players. Chela due to a lack of match practice after an injury lay-off and Bellucci just wanted for experience on tour.

Post-Tournament Review :-

Gonzalez was an obvious candidate to win and duly obliged with the minimum of fuss. He made mincemeat of both 'name' players he faced with easy wins over both Monaco and Acasuso.

Of the other three, each of Acasuso, Robredo and Monaco may well '*come on for the run*' but the rest of the field - apart from Chela and Cuevas - showed very little with just Maximo Gonzalez and thomaz Bellucci entering the notebook as ones to note in future clay court events.

Pointers for 2010 :-

Nine of the last ten finals here have been all-South American affairs. One of the top three seeds has made the final in each of the last ten years. In short, you're looking for a seeded, South American who, no doubt, will have lost early in Australia (and so had more time to prepare). As for the Spaniards, their record here is poor (last win '98). As such, Gonzalez must be a pick if he goes for another title in '10 but players like Monaco and Acasuso must be respected and maybe a newcomer, such as Thomaz Bellucci, could feature.