

Overview - PBZ Zagreb Indoors

Given the quality of the national players in Croatia, added to a strong sense of support for their home event, this event had a very competitive line-up even despite lacking any of the world's top players.

That quality was shown in R1 as four seeds went out - Igor Andreev (No.1), Jurgen Melzer (No.5), Andreas Seppi (No.6) and Simone Bolelli (No.8) - as well as a couple of others, Paul-Henri Mathieu (No.4) and Mario Ancic (No.7), being pushed all the way to a third set tie-break before advancing.

Easier passage was secured by the market leaders as Marin Cilic (No.2) and Ivo Karlovic (No.3) both won in straight sets.

More surprises in R2 as the Croatian qualifier, Ivan Dodig, followed up his earlier win over Andreev by seeing off Ernests Gulbis. Jan Hernych then accounted for Mathieu and Sergiy Stakhovsky, the defending champion, beat Karlovic - for the second straight year in this event.

Viktor Troicki also recorded a good win over Ivan Ljubicic in three sets and local wild card entrant, Antonio Veic, saw off the Russian, Evgeny Korolev.

Elsewhere, just two seeds now remained as Ancic and Cilic, both Croats, defeated Gabashvili and Serra respectively with no great alarm.

The QF's produced little in terms of drama. Mario Ancic ended the fine run of the world No.425, Dodig, in straight sets, Mischa Zverev was forced out of his match with Jan Hernych due to bronchitis and Marin Cilic eased through in 97 minutes against Veic. The only match which looked close on paper was Troicki against Stakhovsky but the Serb saw off the previous year's winner in a little over an hour.

An all-Croatian final came about as Cilic ended Troicki's fine run to the SF's with a comfortable win. However, it was not so easy for Ancic. In a tight match, Hernych got a crucial break in the decider to lead 5-3 and serve for the match, only for Ancic to break back. It went to a tie-break when Hernych had two match points at 6-4, and one at 7-6, before Ancic won it 10-9! he had saved three match points in the 3'17" marathon.

Cilic landed the trophy with a straight sets win (he didn't drop a set all week) in 91 minutes. This took his record in finals to 3:0 and was his second win of the year (won Chennai) in his home town - *'it really helped that I played at home'* he said afterwards - as for Ancic a good showing but another final loss made his career tally a rather disappointing 3:8 overall.



PBZ Zagreb Indoors

February 2-8, 2009

Outdoor, Hard - ATP Tour World 250

R32	Igor Andreev [1]	14	R16	Ivan Dodig	76
R32	q-Ivan Dodig	66	R16	Ernesto Gulbis	64
R32	q-Dmitry Tursunov	644	R16	Teimuraz Gabashvili	11
R32	Ernesto Gulbis	466	R16	Mario Ancic	66
R32	Teimuraz Gabashvili	66	R16	Paul-Henri Mathieu	742
R32	Mikhail Youzhny	34	R16	Jan Hernych	666
R32	q-Lukas Lacko	476	R16	Victor Hanesescu	476
R32	Mario Ancic [7]	667	R16	Mischa Zverev	657
R32	Paul-Henri Mathieu [4]	667	R16	Viktor Troicki	656
R32	Roko Karanusic	716	R16	Ivan Ljubicic	474
R32	wc-Nikola Mektic	35	R16	Sergiy Stakhovsky	636
R32	Jan Hernych	67	R16	Ivo Karlovic	463
R32	wc-Lovro Zovko	35	R16	Evgeny Korolev	664
R32	Victor Hanesescu	67	R16	Antonio Veic	376
R32	Mischa Zverev	736	R16	Florent Serra	25
R32	Andreas Seppi [6]	662	R16	Marin Cilic	67
R32	Simone Bolelli [8]	34	QF	Ivan Dodig	13
R32	Viktor Troicki	66	QF	Mario Ancic	66
R32	Ivan Ljubicic	66	QF	Jan Hernych	5
R32	Christophe Rochus	41	QF	Mischa Zverev	ret'd. 4
R32	q-Dominik Hrbaty	261	QF	Viktor Troicki	66
R32	Sergiy Stakhovsky	646	QF	Sergiy Stakhovsky	32
R32	Philipp Petzschner	34	QF	Antonio Veic	26
R32	Ivo Karlovic [3]	66	QF	Marin Cilic	67
R32	Jurgen Melzer [5]	40			
R32	Evgeny Korolev	66	SF	Mario Ancic	667
R32	Guillermo Canas	642	SF	Jan Hernych	736
R32	wc-Antonio Veic	466	SF	Viktor Troicki	25
R32	Marc Gicquel	266	SF	Marin Cilic	67
R32	Florent Serra	647			
R32	Arnaud Clement	43	RU	Mario Ancic	34
R32	Marin Cilic [2]	66	W	Marin Cilic	66

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	16 matches	9-7	2.43	23.68
R16	8 matches	3-5	2.62	26.87
QF	4 matches	4-0	2.00	15.75
SF	2 matches	1-1	2.50	27.50
F	1 match	1-0	2.00	23.00

PBZ Zagreb Indoors - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Marin Cilic [2]	7/2
Ivo Karlovic [3]	7/1
Ernests Gulbis	7/1
Paul-Henri Mathieu [4]	12/1
Igor Andreev [1]	12/1
Mario Ancic [7]	16/1
Jurgen Melzer [5]	18/1
Ivan Ljubicic	20/1
Andreas Seppi [6]	25/1
Simone Bolelli [8]	25/1
Mikhail Youzhny	25/1
Victor Hanescu	40/1
Viktor Troicki	40/1
Evgeny Korolev	50/1
Marc Gicquel	50/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2009	R1	W	R2	R2	R1	R1	RU	R1
2008	RU	R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R1	QF
2007	RU	W	R2	SF	R1	R1	R1	QF
2006	W	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R1	R2
2005	No event held							
2004	No event held							

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Marin Cilic (7/2)	Mario Ancic (16/1)	Troicki-Hernych
2008	Sergiy Stakhovsky (200/1)	Ivan Ljubicic (6/1)	Bolelli-Ancic
2007	Marcos Baghdatis (6/1)	Ivan Ljubicic (7/4)	Peya-Youzhny
2006	Ivan Ljubicic (9/4)	Stefan Koubek (80/1)	Djokovic-Henman
2005	No event held		
2004	No event held		

Betting - PBZ Zagreb Indoors

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

This field had good quality and a number of potential winners.

The first quarter alone presented Gulbis (7/1), Andreev (12/1), Ancic (12/1) and Youzhny (25/1). But due to the first having no tour win, the second being hard to win with and the last two struggling for recent form, all came with their respective problems.

Mathieu (12/1) had better claims in a weak section and with winning indoor form already, Seppi (25/1) was another tour maiden and could be swerved.

Karlovic (7/1) stood out in the third quarter and Cilic (7/2) looked the best choice in the bottom section with two career wins, one of which had come just a few weeks earlier, and enough current form to give him a clear chance.

The final decision rested on the choice between the easier draws of both Mathieu and Karlovic or the improving talent of players such as Gulbis and Cilic, who both had the ability to through despite some tough matches.

Post-Tournament Review :-

Cilic franked the form and proved himself as one of the best new talents around. He didn't drop a set, won like a favourite should and has a real chance of making the top ten.

Ancic performed up to form, a player with far too few titles given his ability, but both Gulbis (not for the first time) failed to live up to his billing and both Mathieu, Karlovic and Andreev all lost to players they really should have beaten.

Of the rest, Viktor troicki showed clear signs of ability and was the only other player to do themselves justice during the week.

Pointers for 2010 :-

The role of honour is loaded with Croats, Serbs and Eastern Europeans. The top seed has featured strongly each year but that is offset by a rash of R1 and R2 defeats for the lower seeds. Taking '07 as an exception you have to consider 'local' players with previous winning form and not too many miles on the clock coming into this event. Strong national pride makes the Croats a logical starting point (Cilic, Ancic and Karlovic) but others with good indoor form include Mikhail Youzhny and possibly Ernests Gulbis.