

ATP Masters Series Montreal - Overview

If the 'North American swing' has hosted a few moderate events thus far in the schedule, this tournament signals the time when the world's players really get down to business in their quest for ranking points, prize-money and the ultimate goal of the US Open.

Played alternately in Montreal and Toronto this Masters Series event always attracts the full complement of players (even more so than Cincinnati the following week) and this year was no exception.

Byes in R1 for the top eight seeds but, given the high quality of this field, there were plenty of good matches to start the proceedings - Cilic/Youzhny, Monfils/Safin, Ferrero/Hewitt, Karlovic/Haas, Berdych/Kohlschreiber and Verdasco/Lopez were matches one could easily see in the QF's and SF's of lesser events. Here they were played right from the get-go and produced good wins for Mikhail Youzhny over Marin Cilic and Philipp Kohlschreiber over Tomas Berdych (No.17) - the Czech seeded after Robin Soderling (No.12) withdrew due to an elbow injury incurred the previous week in DC.

The big guns entered the fray in R2 and all won their first matches - with very little fuss, by and large.

Roger Federer (No.1) was pushed by Frederic Niemeyer but still beat the Canadian in straight sets, Andy Murray (No.3) and Novak Djokovic (No.4) had similar results - neither were ever under much threat during their matches - and Rafael Nadal (No.2) won through in just 36 minutes when Davdi Ferrer retired from their all-Spanish encounter with a knee injury.

Good wins were also recorded by Andy Roddick (No.5) against Igor Andreev and Juan Martin Del Potro (No.6) over Jan Hernych whilst the Frenchman, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (No.7), and Nikolay Davydenko (No.8) were made to work harder. Tsonga took over two hours to see off Rainer Schuettler and it was no easier for Davydenko as his two sets, both tie-breaks, also lasted much longer than anticipated.

Elsewhere, Juan Carlos Ferrero scored a good win over Gael Monfils, Fernando Gonzalez, after fighting off a match point in R1 to the Canadian qualifier, Milos Raonic, had an easier time when Tommy Haas retired from their match with hand blisters and Stanislas Wawrinka built on an opening round win over Nicolas Kiefer with a second straight sets victory, this time against Andrey Golubev.

Into R3 and it proved to be a productive time for the leading players as all

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eight top seeds won through to the QF's.

Andy Roddick was pushed the hardest by Fernando Verdasco, finally seeing off the Spaniard after their 2'37" battle was settled via a third set tie-break, and Juan Martin Del Potro also had to go the distance against the obstinate Victor Hanesco.

Federer, Tsonga and Davydenko also faced something of a fight from their opponents before prevailing but Djokovic dropped seven games in beating Youzhny, Nadal a mere five in defeating Petzschner and Murray just four as he saw off Ferrero.

And so for the first time in over 30 years, since the ATP Rankings started in fact, we saw seeds No.1 to No.8 fill the QF line-up of a Masters Series event.

Not the top four in the last four though as Federer and Nadal bowed out - both in shock defeats. Nadal, maybe not at full fitness and match practice after injury might be excused against Del Potro but Federer somehow managed to lose to Tsonga after leading 5-1 in the third set! More amazing after he'd won the second set 6-1 as Tsonga appeared to lose his way completely ...

Andy Murray played a solid match to see off Davydenko in straight sets and then Andy Roddick finalised the SF's with a narrow win over Novak Djokovic.

The week before in DC, Del Potro lost the first set only to bounce back and beat Roddick in three sets - and the South American did exactly the same thing here in Montreal, saving a match point in the process as he made his second final in consecutive weeks. There he would play Andy Murray who overcame Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, saving a couple of set points in the second set, before closing out the match 6-4 7-6.

Murray it was who took the title, and in doing so knocked Rafael Nadal off the No.2 spot in the world rankings - albeit temporarily. The two players traded tie-breaks before the Scot raced through the deciding set 6-1 to record his fifth win of 2009 (13:6 overall in career ATP finals) - *'It feels great [to win] but the No. 2 - maybe because it's something different - that means maybe a little bit more, but winning a tournament here is still great'* he said afterwards.

Del Potro, after a great effort in Washington the week before, maybe just ran out of steam. Regardless, he put some good performances all week and despite this loss dropping his record in finals to 6:2 the Argentine re-affirmed his standing as one of the game's leading players.



Rogers Cup

August 10-16, 2009

Outdoor, Hard - ATP World Tour 1000

R48 Roger Federer [1]		R48 Andy Roddick [5]	
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
R48 Igor Kunitsyn	5 1	R48 Dmitry Tursunov	retd. 5
R48 wc-Frederic Niemeyer	7 6	R48 Igor Andreev	5
R48 Stanislas Wawrinka	6 6	R48 Leonardo Mayer	7 6
R48 Nicolas Kiefer	4 1	R48 Mischa Zverev	6 3
R48 LL-Andrey Golubev	6 6	R48 Feliciano Lopez	1 7 1
R48 Radek Stepanek [16]	3 4	R48 Fernando Verdasco [10]	6 6 6
R48 Gilles Simon [9]	6 6	R48 Marin Cilic [14]	6 6 1
R48 wc-Frank Dancevic	1 2	R48 Mikhail Youzhny	4 7 6
R48 Dudi Sela	4 6 3	R48 q-Jesse Levine	3 4
R48 q-Alejandro Falla	6 3 6	R48 se-John Isner	6 6
R48 Rainer Schuettler	6 6	R48 wc-Bruno Agostinelli	3 6
R48 Florent Serra	4 0	R48 wc-Peter Polansky	6 7
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
R48 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [7]		R48 Novak Djokovic [4]	
R48 Andy Murray [3]		R48 Juan Martin Del Potro [6]	
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
R48 Yen-Hsun Lu	7 3 4	R48 q-Jan Hernych	6 6
R48 Jeremy Chardy	6 6 6	R48 q-Julien Benneteau	2 3
R48 Lleyton Hewitt	1 4	R48 Victor Hanescu	6 6
R48 q-Juan Carlos Ferrero	6 6	R48 Jurgen Melzer	4 3
R48 Marat Safin	2 6 2	R48 Philipp Kohlschreiber	7 6 6
R48 Gael Monfils [13]	6 3 6	R48 Tomas Berdych [17]	6 7 4
R48 Fernando Gonzalez [11]	4 7 6	R48 Tommy Robredo [15]	6 6
R48 q-Milos Raonic	6 6 4	R48 q-Alex Bogomolov Jnr.	4 2
R48 Tommy Haas	4 7 6	R48 Philipp Petzschner	7 6
R48 Ivo Karlovic	6 6 4	R48 Sam Querrey	5 3
R48 Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	5 6 1	R48 Viktor Troicki	3 0
R48 Paul-Henri Mathieu	7 0 6	R48 David Ferrer	6 6
R48 Bye		R48 Bye	
R48 Nikolay Davydenko [8]		R48 Rafael Nadal [2]	

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R64	24 matches	15-9	2.37	22.16
R32	16 matches	12-4	2.25	21.81
R16	8 matches	6-2	2.25	22.62

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R32 Roger Federer	76	R16 Roger Federer	67
R32 Frederic Niemeyer	64	R16 Stanislas Wawrinka	36
R32 Stanislas Wawrinka	76	R16 Gilles Simon	33
R32 Andrey Golubev	54	R16 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	66
R32 Gilles Simon	466	R16 Andy Murray	66
R32 Alejandro Falla	622	R16 Juan Carlos Ferrero	13
R32 Rainer Schuettler	634	R16 Fernando Gonzalez	65
R32 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	466	R16 Nikolay Davydenko	77
R32 Andy Murray	66	R16 Andy Roddick	747
R32 Jeremy Chardy	42	R16 Fernando Verdasco	666
R32 Juan Carlos Ferrero	67	R16 Mikhail Youzhny	34
R32 Gael Monfils	36	R16 Novak Djokovic	66
R32 Fernando Gonzalez	7	R16 Juan Martin Del Potro	366
R32 Tommy Haas	retd. 6	R16 Victor Hanescu	634
R32 Paul-Henri Mathieu	66	R16 Philipp Petzschner	32
R32 Nikolay Davydenko	77	R16 Rafael Nadal	66
R32 Andy Roddick	67	QF Roger Federer	666
R32 Igor Andreev	16	QF Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	717
R32 Leonardo Mayer	11	QF Andy Murray	66
R32 Fernando Verdasco	66	QF Nikolay Davydenko	24
R32 Mikhail Youzhny	666	QF Andy Roddick	67
R32 John Isner	713	QF Novak Djokovic	46
R32 Peter Polansky	46	QF Juan Martin Del Potro	76
R32 Novak Djokovic	67	QF Rafael Nadal	61
R32 Juan Martin Del Potro	67		
R32 Jan Hernych	25	SF Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	46
R32 Victor Hanescu	647	SF Andy Murray	67
R32 Philipp Kohlschreiber	365	SF Andy Roddick	625
R32 Tommy Robredo	66	SF Juan Martin Del Potro	467
R32 Philipp Petzschner	77		
R32 David Ferrer	retd. 3	RU Juan Martin Del Potro	761
R32 Rafael Nadal	4	W Andy Murray	676

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
QF	4 matches	3-1	2.25	23.50
SF	2 matches	1-1	2.50	26.50
F	1 match	0-1	3.00	33.00

ATP Masters Series Montreal - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Roger Federer [1]	2/1
Andy Murray [3]	100/30
Rafael Nadal [2]	15/2
Juan Martin Del Potro [6]	10/1
Novak Djokovic [4]	10/1
Andy Roddick [5]	11/1
Nikolay Davydenko [8]	50/1
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [7]	50/1
Fernando Gonzalez	50/1
Fernando Verdasco	50/1
Lleyton Hewitt	66/1
Tommy Haas	125/1
Gael Monfils	125/1
Marin Cilic	125/1
Ivo Karlovic	150/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Andy Murray (10/3)	Juan Martin Del Potro (10/1)	Tsonga-Roddick
2008	Rafael Nadal (10/3)	Nicolas Kiefer (200/1)	Murray-Simon
2007	Novak Djokovic (12/1)	Roger Federer (5/6)	Nadal-Stepanek
2006	Roger Federer (8/13)	Richard Gasquet (150/1)	Gonzalez-Murray
2005	Rafael Nadal (3/1)	Andre Agassi (12/1)	Mathieu-Rusedski
2004	Roger Federer (7/4)	Andy Roddick (9/2)	T.Johansson-Kiefer

Betting - ATP Masters Series Montreal

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

The top half of the draw boiled down to a choice of Roger Federer (2/1) or Andy Murray (100/30) if you fancied a top player - at a short price - or the alternative of backing Tsonga (50/1) or Davydenko (50/1) should you prefer a more speculative approach.

Whatever choice was made, this quartet looked the best options in this section with Simon and Stepanek, Monfils and Gonzalez looking much less potent - the first three especially having no form in Masters Series events.

Nadal (15/2) was on the comeback trail and support for the Spaniard, more so on hard US courts, was hard to justify. Djokovic (10/1) was always a threat but he was in a tricky part of the draw with Roddick (11/1). Then there was Del Potro, another danger but possibly a little short in the betting at just 10/1.

The decision, ultimately, seemed to be between Federer and Murray in one half, Roddick, Djokovic and possibly Del Potro in the other. They all had the form and the pedigree to do well here.

Post-Tournament Review :-

Murray's path was cleared by the removal of both Federer and Nadal in the QF's but he beat everybody put in front of him - so what more could he do?

Del Potro might have been a bit fatigued as well in the final but the Scot has the beating of any player on his day. As for Del Potro himself, it was a top ten performance this week by a legitimate top ten talent.

Federer's loss to Tsonga was baffling, totally, Nadal still looked way short of top form and Djokovic maybe missed out against Roddick - whilst Tsonga showed his undoubted ability and vulnerability. He's another 'hot and cold' performer who needs to learn how to grind out wins.

The main disappointments were few and far between in that all eight seeds made the QF's - a very rare feat indeed.

Pointers for 2010 :-

Quality throughout the roll of honour, top seeds do well here, first time winners are almost non-existent (last time 1997). It has to be the usual suspects we go to - Murray and Del Potro, clearly, Djokovic has won here before and a couple more young guns to throw in would be Tsonga and Cilic - but as Kiefer (200/1) and Gasquet (150/1) have shown, surprises do happen here as well.