

Overview - SAP Open

This event has a tradition of attracting a reasonably high standard of field and this year was no different. Mind you, a couple of the seeds seemed strange choices as both Igor Kunitsyn (No.7) and Robby Ginepri (No.8) were ranked much lower than several others on show - however, both lost rather tamely in R1 to much lesser opponents.

All the other seeds made progress into R2 but Radek Stepanek (No.4) and Sam Querrey (No.6) were both taken to deciders - Querrey coming back from 0-4 down in his third set tie-break to edge out Marcos Baghdatis.

Several dangerous floaters also began well as Gulbis, Haas, Nishikori and Taylor Dent all won in straight sets.

Andy Roddick (No.1) eased into the QF's with a good over the young Latvian, Gulbis, and was followed ther by Juan Martin Del Potro (No.2) who posted a fine win over Kei Nishikori, dropping only four games in the process. In fact, all six remaing seeds won through with some ease except Mardy Fish (No.5) who fought hard to defeat fellow American John Isner in a 2'18" slog.

Other notable R2 matches saw Tommy Haas win comfortably and qualifier Todd Widom battle back to easily see off Taylor Dent in a three sets.

Three quality QF's were the result. James Blake (No.3) defeated another American, Sam Querrey, by virtue of just one service break. Andy Roddick then moved in sight of another San Jose title with a routine win over Haas, his third straight sets win of the week. Next up, Mardy Fish produced the shock of the tournament so far with a defeat of the well-fancied Del Potro - he fired down 19 aces and broke the Argentine once in each set.

Finally, Stepanek made the last four for the second year running. The Czech player overcome a sluggish start to eventually run out a very easy winner.

Two surprises in the SF's. Fish fired down 16 more aces to account for Blake and then Stepanek avenged last year's final loss by taking out Roddick in a very close match - Roddick won 103 points to Stepanek's 101 and the No.1 seed also took just 1 of 11 break points!

Stepanek made the most of that win by going on to claim the title with a narrow three set win. He improved to 4:5 in career finals, putting his win down to his good early season form - *'I started the season well ... so came here with a lot of confidence and it paid off.'* As for Fish, a creditable effort but another Sunday loss dropped his record to a worrying 2:10 in finals!



SAP Open

February 9-15, 2009

Indoor, Hard - ATP Tour World 250

R32	Andy Roddick [1]	67	R16	Andy Roddick	67
R32	q-Michael Ryderstedt	06	R16	Ernesto Gulbis	36
R32	Ernesto Gulbis	76	R16	Tommy Haas	67
R32	LL-Ricardo Mello	64	R16	Christophe Rochus	25
R32	Tommy Haas	67	R16	Radek Stepanek	67
R32	wc-Lars Poerschke	16	R16	Chris Guccione	26
R32	Christophe Rochus	67	R16	Taylor Dent	732
R32	Igor Kunitsyn [7]	26	R16	Todd Widom	666
R32	Radek Stepanek [4]	566	R16	Sam Querrey	66
R32	q-Dominik Meffert	731	R16	Denis Gremelmayr	32
R32	Guillermo Canas	65	R16	Florent Serra	43
R32	Chris Guccione	77	R16	James Blake	66
R32	Taylor Dent	66	R16	Mardy Fish	667
R32	Bobby Reynolds	34	R16	John Isner	275
R32	q-Todd Widom	376	R16	Kei Nishikori	22
R32	Robby Ginepri [8]	664	R16	Juan Martin Del Potro	66
R32	Sam Querrey [6]	657	QF	Andy Roddick	76
R32	wc-Marcos Baghdatis	376	QF	Tommy Haas	54
R32	Roko Karanusic	662	QF	Radek Stepanek	566
R32	Denis Gremelmayr	376	QF	Todd Widom	700
R32	Jarkko Nieminen	574	QF	Sam Querrey	63
R32	Florent Serra	766	QF	James Blake	76
R32	Vincent Spadea	34	QF	Mardy Fish	66
R32	James Blake [3]	66	QF	Juan Martin Del Potro	34
R32	Mardy Fish [5]	76			
R32	Lleyton Hewitt	63	SF	Andy Roddick	664
R32	wc-John Isner	76	SF	Radek Stepanek	376
R32	Ramon Delgado	64	SF	James Blake	32
R32	Kei Nishikori	76	SF	Mardy Fish	66
R32	Gilles Muller	52			
R32	q-Andrea Stoppini	66	RU	Mardy Fish	642
R32	Juan Martin Del Potro [2]	77	W	Radek Stepanek	366

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	16 matches	11-5	2.31	24.75
R16	8 matches	6-2	2.25	22.25
QF	4 matches	3-1	2.25	21.75
SF	2 matches	1-1	2.50	24.50
F	1 match	0-1	3.00	27.00

SAP Open - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Andy Roddick [1]	5/2
Juan Martin Del Potro [2]	7/2
James Blake [3]	12/1
Radek Stepanek [4]	12/1
Tommy Haas	14/1
Marcos Baghdatis	14/1
Ernesto Gulbis	25/1
Sam Querrey [6]	28/1
Lleyton Hewitt	33/1
Robby Ginepri [8]	33/1
Mardy Fish [5]	40/1
Jarkko Nieminen	50/1
Kei Nishikori	50/1
John Isner	80/1
Igor Kunitsyn [7]	100/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Radek Stepanek (12/1)	Mardy Fish (40/1)	Roddick-Blake
2008	Andy Roddick (2/1)	Radek Stepanek (9/1)	Garcia-Lopez-Ginepri
2007	Andy Murray (4/1)	Ivo Karlovic (66/1)	Roddick-Becker
2006	Andy Murray (50/1)	Lleyton Hewitt (5/1)	Roddick-Spadea
2005	Andy Roddick (5/4)	Cyril Saulnier (66/1)	Haas-Melzer
2004	Andy Roddick (15/8)	Mardy Fish (16/1)	Kendrick-Agassi

Betting - SAP Open

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

With doubts about the match fitness of Tommy Haas (14/1) and the true winning ability of Gulbis (25/1), the way looked clear for Andy Roddick (5/2) to make the SF's with the minimum of fuss. And even there his 4:0 lifetime record against Stepanek (12/1) suggested that the American was a better bet to make the final.

Yes, Stepanek had already won a title earlier in the year, in Brisbane, but Roddick's form was good enough (allied to his great record in this event).

In the bottom half, Del Potro (7/2) was another player to have already won a title in '09 after his Auckland triumph. However, after an easy R1 match he could have faced Nishikori-Fish-Blake-Roddick en route to the title, all of which just brought the question of value into play.

It's always worth looking at the Americans when playing on home soil and each of James Blake (12/1), Sam Querrey (28/1) and even Fish (40/1) were worthy of close consideration. Blake arguably had the easier draw but, then again, he was the shortest price.

Other guys like Baghdatis (14/1), Hewitt (33/1) and Nieminen (50/1) were all past tour winners as well. In short, the bottom half was a tough one to call.

Post-Tournament Review :-

There was sense that this event was there for Roddick to win, only he blew it in the SF's. Mind you, that's being a little unfair on Stepanek who hung in there to win that match and also came from behind to beat Fish. Whichever way you take it, the top half of the draw was the place to look for the winner.

Fish played to his erratic best. A career record of two wins in 12 finals says it all - the guy has talent but mentally, we must presume, he hasn't quite got that killer-instinct when it matters. Hence beating Blake and Del Potro are seen as 'flashes of genius' for which both beaten opponents merit little rebuke and, of the two, Del Potro has most cause to bemoan his bad luck.

Pointers for 2010 :-

Look for Americans, seeds or previous tour winners. Roddick is all over the roll of honour and you could see Sam Querrey doing well here. Big priced finalists do appear as well so guys like John Isner and Robby Ginepri are worth a look. As for the Europeans (South Americans offer very little here) watch out for Radek Stepanek, Andy Murray or Jarkko Nieminen.