

Overview - Sony Ericsson Open

With it being back-to-back Masters Series events, all the usual suspects lined up to do battle once again. Same format as the week before in Arizona - the top 32 players were all seeded and went straight into R2.

R1 saw a few casualties - Llodra, Ljubicic, Haas, Kohlschreiber, Canas - all went out but there was little early drama, even in R2 as the top eight seeds all made smooth progress. In fact, Andy Murray (No.4) was the only one of the top eight seeds to drop a set but elsewhere we did see a few shocks as Frederico Gil beat Karlovic, Viktor Troicki saw off Nalbandian and the American, Robert Kendrick, defeated an out-of-sorts Robin Soderling.

R3 saw some good match-ups with David Ferrer edging out Marin Cilic, Radek Stepanek seeing off Fernando Gonzalez, Tomas Berydch proving too good for James Blake and Gael Monfils just getting the better of Marat Safin - but, again, each of the top eight seeds won with relative ease.

Similar story in R4 as Federer (No.2), Djokovic (No.3), Murray (No.4), Roddick (No.5), Del Potro (No.6) and Verdasco (No.8) were all straight sets winners ... as too was Rafael Nadal (No.1) but it took him all of 2'43" to see off the stubborn challenge of Stanislas Wawrinka. We did lose one seed though as Gilles Simon (No.7) lost to fellow Frenchman, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Each of the QF's were high quality affairs. That said, both Murray and Djokovic made light work of their opponents with easy wins over Tsonga and Verdasco respectively. Next up, Federer was made to work hard against Andy Roddick before breaking at 4-5 in the deciding set to seal the win.

However, the best match was Nadal versus Del Potro. The Argentine rallied from a double-break down, 0-3 in the third set, as he hit back to win a thriller which lasted a minute shy of three hours.

Two cracking matches again in the SF's. Ultimately both Djokovic and Murray ran out clear winners but both had to play well, and did so, in order to see off their opponents as both matches were tough two hour plus, three setters.

Murray won his third Masters Series title (now 11:6 in finals) with a solid showing as Djokovic started the match slowly and then blew a chance to level when serving at 5-3 in the second set. Murray won the next four games to record *'a very satisfying win, one of my best to date ... just shows how my game is improving'*. Djokovic himself played well all week but this was now his third straight loss to the Scot (the Serb still leads 4:3) and his record in tournament deciders dropped to 12:7 overall.



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March 25-05, 2009

Outdoor, Hard - ATP Tour Masters 1000

First Quarter

R96	Simone Bolelli	4 6 4
R96	Teimuraz Gabashvili	6 4 6
R96	q-Frederico Gil	7 6
R96	Mischa Zverev	6 2
R96	Yen-Hsun Lu	6 6
R96	Eduardo Schwank	2 2
R96	Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	6 1
R96	Andreas Seppi	7 6
R96	Sergiy Stakhovsky	4 4
R96	q-John Isner	6 6
R96	q-Amer Delic	6 7
R96	Steve Darcis	4 6
R96	Jose Acasuso	4 6 3
R96	Janko Tipsarevic	6 4 6
R96	Potito Starace	6 4
R96	Martin Vassallo Arguello	7 6

Second Quarter

R96	LL-Dudi Sela	6 4 3
R96	wc-Lleyton Hewitt	3 6 6
R96	Jarkko Nieminen	6 6
R96	Ivan Navarro	3 3
R96	Arnaud Clement	3 6
R96	q-Robert Kendrick	6 7
R96	Agustin Calleri	6 3 6
R96	Christophe Rochus	4 6 3
R96	Julien Benneteau	3 6 6
R96	Florent Serra	6 3 4
R96	Mikhail Youzhny	6 3 6
R96	Jeremy Chardy	4 6 3
R96	Ernesto Gulbis	2 2
R96	Marcos Baghdatis	6 6
R96	Philipp Kohlschreiber	4 6
R96	q-Frank Dancevic	6 7

Third Quarter

R96	Marc Gicquel	0 4
R96	Juan Monaco	6 6
R96	wc-Ryan Sweeting	4 6
R96	Nicolas Massu	6 7
R96	Stefan Koubek	4 6
R96	Albert Montanes	6 7
R96	Viktor Troicki	6 6
R96	Nicolas Devilder	2 3
R96	Igor Kunitsyn	7 5 6
R96	Guillermo Canas	6 7 3
R96	Juan Ignacio Chela	6 5 4
R96	Bobby Reynolds	0 7 6
R96	Gilles Muller	4 3
R96	Sam Querrey	6 6
R96	q-Benjamin Becker	6 6
R96	wc-Jesse Levine	4 3

Fourth Quarter

R96	Diego Junqueira	6 6
R96	wc-Yuki Bhambri	4 3
R96	q-Mikhail Kukushkin	6 6
R96	Tommy Haas	4 4
R96	Ivan Ljubicic	4 4
R96	Oscar Hernandez	6 6
R96	Victor Hanescu	6 3
R96	q-Michael Russell	7 6
R96	wc-Brendan Evans	4 3
R96	Jan Hernych	6 6
R96	q-Taylor Dent	6 6
R96	q-Ricardo Mello	1 3
R96	q-Thomaz Bellucci	4 6 1
R96	Fabrice Santoro	6 4 6
R96	q-Kevin Kim	6
R96	Michael Llodra	ret'd. 3

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R64 Rafael Nadal [1]	66	R64 Gilles Simon [7]	66
R64 Teimuraz Gabashvili	22	R64 Lleyton Hewitt	12
R64 Frederico Gil	66	R64 Jarkko Nieminen	623
R64 Ivo Karlovic	44	R64 Rainer Schuettler	466
R64 Igor Andrejev	76	R64 Robin Soderling	42
R64 Yen-Hsun Lu	63	R64 Robert Kendrick	66
R64 Andreas Seppi	55	R64 Agustin Calleri	11
R64 Stanislas Wawrinka [16]	77	R64 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [10]	66
R64 David Ferrer [11]	636	R64 James Blake [13]	66
R64 John Isner	362	R64 Julien Benneteau	44
R64 Amer Delic	373	R64 Mikhail Youzhny	364
R64 Marin Cilic	666	R64 Tomas Berdych	636
R64 Jurgen Melzer	43	R64 Paul-Henri Mathieu	626
R64 Janko Tipsarevic	66	R64 Marcos Baghdatis	362
R64 Martin Vassallo Arguello	22	R64 Frank Dancevic	32
R64 Juan Martin Del Potro [6]	66	R64 Novak Djokovic [3]	66
R64 Andy Murray [4]	466	R64 Andy Roddick [5]	66
R64 Juan Monaco	632	R64 Diego Junqueira	11
R64 Nicolas Massu	576	R64 Mikhail Kukushkin	643
R64 Mardy Fish	762	R64 Dmitry Tursunov	376
R64 Bjorn Phau	62	R64 Marat Safin	626
R64 Albert Montanes	retd. 40	R64 Oscar Hernandez	461
R64 Viktor Troicki	66	R64 Michael Russell	273
R64 David Nalbandian [14]	13	R64 Gael Monfils [9]	666
R64 Fernando Gonzalez [12]	66	R64 Tommy Robredo [15]	66
R64 Igor Kunitsyn	44	R64 Jan Hernych	44
R64 Bobby Reynolds	572	R64 Taylor Dent	267
R64 Radek Stepanek	766	R64 Nicolas Almagro	626
R64 Feliciano Lopez	676	R64 Nicolas Kiefer	576
R64 Sam Querrey	752	R64 Fabrice Santoro	762
R64 Benjamin Becker	34	R64 Kevin Kim	32
R64 Fernando Verdasco [8]	66	R64 Roger Federer [2]	66

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R96	32 matches	23-9	2.28	22.00
R64	32 matches	17-15	2.46	22.75



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R32	Rafal Nadal	76	R16	Rafael Nadal	77
R32	Frederico Gil	53	R16	Stanislas Wawrinka	66
R32	Igor Andrejev	633	R16	David Ferrer	32
R32	Stanislas Wawrinka	466	R16	Juan Martin Del Potro	66
R32	David Ferrer	366	R16	Andy Murray	66
R32	Marin Cilic	634	R16	Viktor Troicki	10
R32	Janko Tipsarevic	41	R16	Radek Stepanek	22
R32	Juan Martin Del Potro	66	R16	Fernando Verdasco	66
R32	Andy Murray	66	R16	Gilles Simon	732
R32	Nicolas Massu	44	R16	Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	666
R32	Bjorn Phau	43	R16	Tomas Berdych	32
R32	Viktor Troicki	66	R16	Novak Djokovic	66
R32	Fernando Gonzalez	64	R16	Andy Roddick	76
R32	Radek Stepanek	76	R16	Gael Monfils	64
R32	Felciano Lopez	634	R16	Taylor Dent	32
R32	Fernando Verdasco	366	R16	Foger Federer	66
R32	Gilles Simon	366	QF	Rafael Nadal	466
R32	Rainer Schuettler	611	QF	Juan Martin Del Potro	637
R32	Robert Kendrick	54	QF	Andy Murray	66
R32	Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	76	QF	Fernando Verdasco	12
R32	James Blake	473	QF	Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	34
R32	Tomas Berdych	666	QF	Novak Djokovic	66
R32	Paul-Henri Mathieu	41	QF	Andy Roddick	364
R32	Novak Djokovic	66	QF	Roger Federer	646
R32	Andy Roddick	76			
R32	Dmitry Tursunov	62	SF	Juan Martin Del Potro	172
R32	Marat Safin	756	SF	Andy Murray	656
R32	Gael Monfils	577	SF	Novak Djokovic	366
R32	Tommy Robredo	53	SF	Roger Federer	623
R32	Taylor Dent	76			
R32	Nicolas Kiefer	41	RU	Novak Djokovic	25
R32	Roger Federer	66	W	Andy Murray	67

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	16 matches	10-6	2.37	23.37
R16	8 matches	7-1	2.12	19.87
QF	4 matches	2-2	2.50	23.75
SF	2 matches	0-2	3.00	26.50
F	1 match	1-0	2.00	20.00

Sony Ericsson Open - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Rafael Nadal [1]	7/4
Roger Federer [2]	3/1
Andy Murray [4]	9/2
Novak Djokovic [3]	12/1
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	20/1
Andy Roddick [5]	25/1
Fernando Verdasco [8]	28/1
David Nalbandian	40/1
Juan Martin Del Potro [6]	50/1
Gilles Simon [7]	80/1
Fernando Gonzalez	80/1
David Ferrer	80/1
Gael Monfils	80/1
Marin Cilic	100/1
Radek Stepanek	125/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2009	QF	SF	RU	W	QF	SF	QF	QF
2008	QF	RU	R2	W	R2	SF	R2	R2
2007	R4	QF	QF	R3	R3	QF	SF	R2
2006	W	R2	SF	QF	R4	RU	R3	R2
2005	W	R2	R3	R3	R3	QF	R4	R3
2004	R3	W	RU	R4	QF	R2	R2	-

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Andy Murray (9/2)	Novak Djokovic (12/1)	Del Potro-Federer
2008	Nikolay Davydenko (66/1)	Rafael Nadal (10/1)	Roddick-Berdych
2007	Novak Djokovic (33/1)	Guillermo Canas (250/1)	Ljubicic-Murray
2006	Roger Federer (8/11)	Ivan Ljubicic (25/1)	Ferrer-Nalbandian
2005	Roger Federer (4/6)	Rafael Nadal (100/1)	Agassi-Ferrer
2004	Andy Roddick (7/1)	Guillermo Coria (40/1)	Spadea-Gonzalez

Betting - Sony Ericsson Open

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Although Nadal (7/4) had won last time out in Indian Wells the view was still that the cards fell right pretty much in his favour. And even despite that win, and his earlier Australian Open success, the Spaniard remains one to take on at a short price ... at least away from his beloved clay!

In the same half of the draw, Andy Murray (9/2) looked a decent alternative as recovered from a virus some fortnight earlier, the Scot did little wrong in defeat in Arizona and might well 'come on for the run'. Should he meet Nadal in the SF's, given the surface, he would have a real chance.

Verdasco (28/1), Nalbandian (40/1) and Del Potro (50/1) were all possibilities but each lacked the consistency and/or the talent of either Nadal or Murray.

Federer (3/1) and Djokovic (12/1) were the clear pick in the bottom half - however, Federer hadn't won a Masters Series title since the Masters Cup '07 and Djokovic's form had been a little patchy so far in the year.

Still, they seemed better choices than the main danger, Roddick (25/1), or the less threatening Simon (80/1) and Monfils (80/1).

Post-Tournament Review :-

Nadal's vulnerability on hard courts was shown again as he only edged by Wawrinka before being beaten by Del Potro. Despite his great talent the pace and bounce of hard courts will always give his opponents a chance.

Murray played very well. He started slowly but ended by playing some great tennis and his win was well deserved. Djokovic showed some of his best form of the year to date but Federer, yet again, capitulated. Would he have done so 12 or 18 months beforehand? Certainly not.

Del Potro showed his top ten ability, Roddick was *'good but not that good'* as usual, whilst Verdasco and Tsonga performed well enough, but nothing more.

Pointers for 2010 :-

Big players tend to win here, simple as. You're looking at top ten in the world, previous Slam/Masters Series finalist or winner and a high seeding (Djokovic was No.10 in '07). Previous form in Indian Wells also counts as a good gauge as to current form. Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic, like in Arizona, are the pick of the top players with Davydenko and Roddick - also previous winners here - being considered along with David Ferrer (SF '05 & '06).