

Overview - Stockholm Open

Falling the week after a Masters Series event, played on a different continent, the assembled field was about as good as could be expected. However, four seeds still went out in R1.

Juan Carlos Ferrero (No.3), to be fair, had a tough assignment against Marcos Baghdatis but each of Andreas Beck (No.5), Benjamin Becker (No.6) and Albert Montanes (No.7) lost matches they really should have won.

No such problems, however, for the top two seeds as Robin Soderling (No.1) and Tommy Haas (No.2) eased through in straight sets, as did the Spaniard Feliciano Lopez (No.8), but Juan Monaco (No.4) was pushed to a decider by Jan Hernych - eventually seeing off the Czech player 7-5 in the third set.

Soderling was barely pushed in R2 as well. The tournament favourite making the QF's courtesy of a 63 minute, two set win over Andreas Seppi. Another Swede, Joachim Johansson, also progressed with comfort as he dispatched Monaco in straight sets and there were good performances by Baghdatis over Robert Kendrick and Guillermo Garcia-Lopez against Simon Greul.

The rest of the QF line-up was made up of Arnaud Clement, the Frenchman coming from behind to beat Micahel Berrer, Olivier Rochus, another one to lose the first set of his match but still win, and Thomaz Bellucci who battled through an all-South American clash with Leonardo Mayer. Jarkko Nieminen also made it through as Tommy Haas had to retire from the event with flu.

Four good contests in the QF's even though three were settled in straight sets. Robin Soderling edged past Garcia-Lopez via a tie-break and a single break of serve, Marcos Baghdatis also found it tough to see off Clement and Thomaz Bellucci played very well to keep Joachim Johansson at bay. The only match to go the distance saw the Belgian, Olivier Rochus, overcome a mid-match slump to rally strongly in the third set and see off Jarkko Nieminen.

That momentum was then used by Rochus to take out Bellucci in another three-setter which ebbed and flowed. The 2'24" match saw both players have chances and Rochus almost blew a 4-0 lead in the deciding set as the Brazilian brought it back to 3-4, on serve, only for Rochus break again to set up the win. By contrast, Baghdatis breezed through as Robin Soderling had to pull out of their match with an injury to his right elbow.

Baghdatis won the final comfortably, a first title in two injury-filled years. As he said later - *'It's been a tough couple of years'*. The win took him to 3:4 in career finals whilst the loss to Rochus left him on the same 3:4 mark as well.



Stockholm Open

October 19-25, 2009

Indoor, Hard - World Tour 250

R32 Robin Soderling [1]	66	R16 Robin Soderling	66
R32 LL-Giovanni Lapentti	30	R16 Andreas Seppi	13
R32 Victor Crivoi	41	R16 Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	67
R32 Andreas Seppi	66	R16 Simon Greul	35
R32 Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	66	R16 Marcos Baghdatis	66
R32 Alberto Martin	32	R16 Robert Kendrick	22
R32 Simon Greul	267	R16 Michael Berrer	661
R32 Benjamin Becker [6]	635	R16 Arnaud Clement	376
R32 Juan Carlos Ferrero [3]	42	R16 Leonardo Mayer	563
R32 Marcos Baghdatis	66	R16 Thomaz Bellucci	736
R32 Robert Kendrick	66	R16 Joachim Johansson	66
R32 Oscar Hernandez	34	R16 Juan Monaco	44
R32 q-Michael Berrer	77	R16 Feliciano Lopez	641
R32 q-Henri Kontinen	56	R16 Olivier Rochus	466
R32 q-Arnaud Clement	66	R16 Jarkko Nieminen	w/o
R32 Andreas Beck [5]	42	R16 Tommy Haas	
R32 Albert Montanes [7]	43	QF Robin Soderling	76
R32 Leonardo Mayer	66	QF Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	64
R32 q-Frederik Nielsen	63	QF Marcos Baghdatis	66
R32 Thomaz Bellucci	76	QF Arnaud Clement	44
R32 wc-Joachim Johansson	76	QF Thomaz Bellucci	76
R32 Peter Luczak	52	QF Joachim Johansson	63
R32 Jan Hernych	275	QF Olivier Rochus	626
R32 Juan Monaco [4]	657	QF Jarkko Nieminen	361
R32 Feliciano Lopez [8]	66		
R32 Ernests Gulbis	24	SF Robin Soderling	
R32 wc-Andreas Vinciguerra	32	SF Marcos Baghdatis	w/o
R32 Olivier Rochus	66	SF Thomaz Bellucci	663
R32 wc-Grigor Dimitrov	02	SF Olivier Rochus	746
R32 Jarkko Nieminen	66		
R32 Florent Serra	34	RU Olivier Rochus	15
R32 Tommy Haas [2]	66	W Marcos Baghdatis	67

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	16 matches	14-2	2.12	19.93
R16	7 matches	4-3	2.42	22.71
QF	4 matches	3-1	2.25	22.25
SF	1 match	0-1	3.00	32.00
F	1 match	1-0	2.00	19.00

Stockholm Open - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Robin Soderling [1]	6/4
Tommy Haas [2]	6/1
Juan Monaco [4]	16/1
Juan Carlos Ferrero [3]	16/1
Marcos Baghdatis	20/1
Ernests Gulbis	25/1
Joachim Johansson	25/1
Feliciano Lopez [8]	25/1
Andreas Beck [5]	33/1
Andreas Seppi	33/1
Jarkko Nieminen	33/1
Thomaz Bellucci	50/1
Olivier Rochus	50/1
Albert Montanes [7]	66/1
Benjamin Becker [6]	66/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Marcos Baghdatis (20/1)	Olivier Rochus (50/1)	Soderling-Bellucci
2008	David Nalbandian (5/2)	Robin Soderling (4/1)	Nieminen-Nishikori
2007	Ivo Karlovic (12/1)	Thomas Johansson (40/1)	Haas-Blake
2006	James Blake (4/1)	Jarkko Nieminen (20/1)	Soderling-J.Johansson
2005	James Blake (11/2)	Paradorn Srichaphan (22/1)	O.Rochus-Sanguinetti
2004	Thomas Johansson (25/1)	Andre Agassi (9/4)	Ryderstedt-Haas

Betting - Stockholm Open

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Soderling (6/4) offered strong credentials. In good current form, with past form in the tournament, playing at home and with a decent draw. He was the obvious starting point in the top half of the draw.

Ferrero (16/1) had finally won in 2009 after six barren years but he had a tough R1 match against Baghdatis (20/1) who was one other player in the section with real ability but his form since returning to the main tour hadn't been that convincing.

The bottom section was much more open. Haas (6/1) had played well in the Summer and had to be respected. Lopez (25/1) and Gulbis (25/1) were also noteworthy - if a little unreliable - in a tournament not chock full of quality. And with both Monaco (16/1) and Montanes (66/1) not 'indoor types' there was a case to be made for Johansson (25/1) doing well at home.

Overall, the best play looked a strong play on Soderling or an each-way bet in the bottom half with a possible saver on the top seed.

Post-Tournament Review :-

The withdrawal of Soderling in the SF's quite possibly robbed the event of a strong form-based winner. That said, Baghdatis couldn't be blamed for his good fortune and the Cypriot was certainly a good player before his injury problems forced him out of the top twenty in the world rankings. He won his four matches all in straight sets so that deserves credit.

Rochus fought hard to make a first final in two years and in doing so arrested something of a decline in his fortunes of late. He showed what a fighter he is even if he lacked the class to make a real impact at the top of the game.

Bellucci showed off his growing reputation, Johansson reminded us of his previous top ten status and Jarkko Nieminen also reappeared on the radar whilst Lopez, Ferrero, Gulbis and Becker were the biggest disappointments.

Pointers for 2010 :-

Coming the week after the Shanghai event this tournament will struggle to pull in the big names. However, it has a good enough reputation to draw in quality - as shown by the list of recent finalists. No need to go overboard with the seedings here but with a strong patriotic support of this event Soderling and Johansson (if fit) must be considered. Guys like Mario Ancic, Ivo Karlovic and Jarkko Nieminen also fit the bill - top 30, European, past tour winners.