

Overview - Swiss Indoor Championships

As in Valencia, a decent event the week before a Masters Series tournament - and arguably stronger than its Spanish rival being a more established fixture.

That strength in depth illustrated by the demise of Fernando Gonzalez (No.3) to John Isner in R1 and the subsequent losses of James Blake (No.7) to Jeremy Chardy and Philipp Kohlschreiber (No.8) to the native Swiss player, Marco Chiudinelli. Better showings, as expected from Federer (No.1) and Djokovic (No.2) as they met little resistance in making R2.

That aside, the best performances came from Florent Serra, knocking out the giant Croat, Ivo Karlovic, in straight sets plus Jarkko Nieminen, who beat Julien Benneteau, and Richard Gasquet, who accounted for the recent RU in St. Petersburg, Horacio Zeballos, also in two sets.

Gasquet then took that form into R2 where he posted a battling win over Isner, saving two match points in the process, only to be outdone by Marin Cilic (No.4) who saved three match points in defeating Viktor Troicki. There were also keenly contested three set wins for Radek Stepanek (No.5) over Serra, Stanislas Wawrinka (No.6) who got the better of Nieminen but, again, only after going to a deciding set and Chiudinelli against Michael Lammer.

By contrast, Djokovic double-bageled Jan Hernych in 52 minutes, Federer saw off the Italian, Andreas Seppi, in clear-cut fashion and Evgeny Korolev posted an easier than expected success over Jeremy Chardy.

The QF's started with two Swiss players setting up a hugely popular SF meeting as both Federer and Chiudinelli won their matches. Federer's easy win over Korolev was maybe to be expected but few could have foreseen the way in which Chiudinelli trounced Gasquet for the loss of just four games in barely 60 minutes. The other two ties were quite the opposite. Stepanek took 2'02" to end the hopes of Marin Cilic whilst Novak Djokovic stopped a third Swiss player making the semis, beating Wawrinka in another three set match which lasted 2'18" in total.

The top two seeds then cemented their place in the final. Federer overcame early resistance from Chiudinelli to prevail whilst Djokovic had to save three match points at 4-5 (0-40) in the second set before seeing off Stepanek.

Good final, great win for Djokovic. *'It is definitely a big achievement to beat Roger in his home city and country'* - said the champion after his hard fought three set win. A fourth title of the year (15:11 overall) whilst Federer's first loss in Basel since 2003 dropped his career tally to 61:24 in finals.



Swiss Indoor Championships

November 02-08, 2009

Indoor, Hard - World Tour 500

R32 Roger Federer [1]	66	R16 Roger Federer	66
R32 q-Olivier Rochus	34	R16 Andreas Seppi	33
R32 Andreas Seppi	467	R16 Evgeny Korolev	67
R32 wc-Stephane Bohli	615	R16 Jeremy Chardy	46
R32 Simone Bolelli	662	R16 John Isner	662
R32 q-Evgeny Korolev	376	R16 Richard Gasquet	476
R32 Jeremy Chardy	766	R16 Michael Lammer	633
R32 James Blake [7]	674	R16 Marco Chiudinelli	266
R32 Fernando Gonzalez [3]	664	R16 Radek Stepanek	377
R32 John Isner	746	R16 Florent Serra	666
R32 Horacio Zeballos	64	R16 Viktor Troicki	676
R32 Richard Gasquet	76	R16 Marin Cilic	767
R32 Daniel Koellner	625	R16 Stanislas Wawrinka	726
R32 q-Michael Lammer	367	R16 Jarkko Nieminen	561
R32 wc-Marco Chiudinelli	737	R16 Jan Hernych	00
R32 Philipp Kohlschreiber [8]	665	R16 Novak Djokovic	66
R32 Radek Stepanek [5]	66	QF Roger Federer	66
R32 Rainer Schuettler	20	QF Evgeny Korolev	32
R32 Ivo Karlovic	64	QF Richard Gasquet	13
R32 LL-Florent Serra	76	QF Marco Chiudinelli	66
R32 Viktor Troicki	67	QF Radek Stepanek	466
R32 Benjamin Becker	26	QF Marin Cilic	633
R32 Philipp Petzschner	44	QF Stanislas Wawrinka	662
R32 wc-Marin Cilic [4]	66	QF Novak Djokovic	376
R32 Stanislas Wawrinka [6]	666		
R32 Ivan Ljubicic	734	SF Roger Federer	76
R32 Jarkko Nieminen	76	SF Marco Chiudinelli	63
R32 Julien Benneteau	52	SF Radek Stepanek	752
R32 q-Peter Luczak	34	SF Novak Djokovic	676
R32 Jan Hernych	66		
R32 Andreas Beck	35	RU Roger Federer	462
R32 Novak Djokovic [2]	67	W Novak Djokovic	646

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	16 matches	9-7	2.43	25.18
R16	8 matches	3-5	2.62	26.37
QF	4 matches	2-2	2.50	22.75
SF	2 matches	1-1	2.50	27.50
F	1 match	0-1	3.00	28.00

Swiss Indoor Championships - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Roger Federer [1]	10/11
Novak Djokovic [2]	11/4
Marin Cilic [4]	16/1
Fernando Gonzalez [3]	16/1
Stanislas Wawrinka [6]	25/1
Radek Stepanek [5]	33/1
Ivan Ljubicic	40/1
Philipp Kohlschreiber [8]	40/1
Ivo Karlovic	50/1
James Blake [7]	50/1
Jurgen Melzer	66/1
Richard Gasquet	66/1
John Isner	80/1
Jeremy Chardy	100/1
Julien Benneteau	125/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Novak Djokovic (11/4)	Roger Federer (10/11)	Stepanek-Chiudinelli
2008	Roger Federer (4/6)	David Nalbandian (6/1)	Lopez-Del Potro
2007	Roger Federer (1/2)	Jarkko Nieminen (1001/)	Karlovic-Baghdatis
2006	Roger Federer (2/9)	Fernando Gonzalez (12/1)	Srichaphan-Wawrinka
2005	Fernando Gonzalez (7/1)	Marcos Baghdatis (50/1)	Hrbaty-Nalbandiann
2004	Jiri Novak (28/1)	David Nalbandian (10/1)	Koubek-Massu

Betting - Swiss Indoor Championships

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Opposing Roger Federer in Grand Slams and Masters Series events is one thing, taking on the world No.1 in his own backyard in a run-of-the-mill event is quite another. Hence quotes of 10/11 were possibly seen as generous for the three time defending champion.

Who could beat him in the top half? Not James Blake (50/1) on current form and each of Gonzalez (16/1) nor Kohlschreiber (40/1) could draw much encouragement from previous meetings with the world No.1.

The interest was to be found in the bottom half. Wawrinka (25/1) was put in at short odds more on the grounds of nationality than achievement leaving each of Djokovic (11/4), Cilic (16/1) and Stepanek (33/1) as the three main options in this section. Given that Djokovic had the easier draw he would probably be the call but he still had to beat Federer in the final ...

Post-Tournament Review :-

... which of course he did. To be fair, his three three set wins on the spin showed a resilience and mental fortitude which the world No.3 isn't always noted for - maybe a sign he was ready to kick on with his career once again.

Federer looked imperious until the final and lost to the only man, probably, who could have beaten him. On another day he might have won - but any loss, of course, for the Swiss player would draw comment of his decline.

Stepanek put in a full shift, Gasquet, Korolev and Wawrinka showed more of their true form by making the QF's and Chiudinelli had a dream run to the SF's - yet another player playing above themselves when on home soil.

Main disappointments were Gonzalez (maybe done for the year), Blake (maybe done for good) and Kohlschreiber (just maybe had an off day).

Pointers for 2010 :-

Federer will be the hot favourite if he plays here again - and at a short price the Swiss player might just be worth opposing again, more so if his year has gone well to date (he does tend to take his foot off the gas). Players to note would be Novak Djokovic, Radek Stepanek, David Nalbandian and Marin Cilic as places for the World Tour Finals may still be up for grabs. They all fit the profile of past winners here anyway - proven tour winners, ranked inside the top 30 - and the chances of a tour maiden winning an event of this calibre looks pretty slim.