

Overview - Thailand Open

An arm injury to Sam Querrey (No.3) caused him to pull out of the event and his defection made a weak looking tournament seem even more flimsy - more so as only 28 players lined up here instead of a standard 32.

Best of the R1 action saw Marat Safin taking out Philipp Petzschner (No.5) in a three-setter which ebbed and flowed, Evgeny Korolev who won a war of attrition with Fabrice Santoro (No.7), saving three match points in their 2'49" clash, plus the hard fought win of John Isner (No.8) who eventually saw off the Thai player, Kittipong Wachiramanowong - also 7-6 in the third set.

Eye-catching wins also came for Jurgen Melzer (No.6) over Marcos Daniel, Ernests Gulbis against Somdev Devvarman and the young Turkish qualifier, Marsel Ilhan, who knocked out the 2007 runner-up, Benjamin Becker.

The top three seeds (minus Querrey) started out in R2 with easy wins for both Gilles Simon (No.2) and Viktor Troicki (No.4) but Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, the No.1 seed, endured a right struggle against Gulbis. The match settled by three tie-breaks which the Frenchman won 2-1.

Others into the QF's included Marco Chiudinelli, who defeated Marat Safin, along with Americans John Isner and Robby Ginepri, Jurgen Melzer and Andreas Beck who defeated Donald Young - Sam Querrey's replacement who, sadly, made little use of his good fortune.

Tsonga again laboured in his QF match, having to come from behind to beat the Swiss player, Chiudinelli, in a tough match. Same applied to Simon who also had to recover from losing the first set in order to oust Evgeny Korolev in another well-contested three set match. Viktor Troicki, however, had little trouble in beating Isner and Jurgen Melzer also dispatched his opponent, Andreas Beck, with the minimum of fuss.

After two unconvincing wins Tsonga met his match against the Serb, Troicki, in the SF's. The top seed won the first set 6-1 but promptly imploded and ended up well beaten by his opponent. Next up for Troicki would be Gilles Simon who edged out Jurgen Melzer in what proved a tight contest.

A first title of the season for Simon (now 6:2 in finals) after Troicki missed his chance - he served for the first set at 5-4 - and once ahead the No.2 seed was always in control. *'I had four good matches to play, I won it and I guess it's very nice because it's the first one of the season'* - he said afterwards. As for Viktor Troicki, he could look back on a good week, a first ATP final and another step forward in his career.



Thailand Open

September 28-04, 2009

Outdoor, Hard - ATP World Tour 250

R32 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [1]		R16 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	6 7 7
R32 Bye		R16 Ernests Gulbis	7 6 6
R32 wc-Somdev Devvarman	6 2	R16 Marco Chiudinelli	6 7
R32 Ernests Gulbis	7 6	R16 Marat Safin	3 6
R32 q-Marco Chiudinelli	6 6	R16 Viktor Troicki	6 7
R32 q-Florian Mayer	3 3	R16 Thomaz Bellucci	3 6
R32 Marat Safin	6 3 6	R16 Mischa Zverev	6 4
R32 Philipp Petzschner [5]	2 6 1	R16 John Isner	7 6
R32 Viktor Troicki [4]		R16 Jurgen Melzer	6 6
R32 Bye		R16 Marsel Ilhan	4 2
R32 Thomaz Bellucci	6 7	R16 Andreas Beck	6 6 6
R32 Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	4 6	R16 Donald Young	1 7 4
R32 Mischa Zverev	5 6 6	R16 Evgeny Korolev	6 6
R32 Leonardo Mayer	7 3 3	R16 Robby Ginepri	1 1
R32 WC-Kittipong Wachiramanowong	3 6 6	R16 Kevin Kim	2 2
R32 John Isner [8]	6 3 7	R16 Gilles Simon	6 6
R32 Jurgen Melzer [6]	6 6	QF Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	6 6 6
R32 Marcos Daniel	3 2	QF Marco Chiudinelli	7 3 4
R32 q-Marsel Ilhan	4 7 6	QF Viktor Troicki	7 6
R32 Benjamin Becker	6 6 3	QF John Isner	6 2
R32 Andreas Beck	7 7	QF Jurgen Melzer	6 6
R32 q-Edouard Roger-Vasselin	5 6	QF Andreas Beck	4 2
R32 Bye		QF Evgeny Korolev	6 3 4
R32 LL-Donald Young		QF Gilles Simon	4 6 6
R32 Fabrice Santoro [7]	6 6 6		
R32 Evgeny Korolev	4 7 7	SF Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	6 2 3
R32 Robby Ginepri	6 6	SF Viktor Troicki	1 6 6
R32 wc-Danai Udomchoke	4 3	SF Jurgen Melzer	4 6
R32 Kevin Kim	6 6	SF Gilles Simon	6 7
R32 Rainer Schuettler	4 4		
R32 Bye		RU Viktor Troicki	5 3
R32 Gilles Simon [2]		W Gilles Simon	7 6

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	12 matches	7-5	2.41	24.66
R16	8 matches	6-2	2.25	23.00
QF	4 matches	2-2	2.50	25.00
SF	2 matches	1-1	2.50	23.50
F	1 match	1-0	2.00	21.00

Thailand Open - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [1]	7/4
Gilles Simon [2]	9/2
Sam Querrey	5/1
John Isner [8]	7/1
Jurgen Melzer [6]	16/1
Marat Safin	25/1
Philipp Petzschner [5]	25/1
Robby Ginepri	28/1
Viktor Troicki [4]	33/1
Andreas Beck	40/1
Benjamin Becker	40/1
Evgeny Korolev	50/1
Ernests Gulbis	66/1
Fabrice Santoro [7]	66/1
Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	80/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Gilles Simon (9/2)	Viktor Troicki (33/1)	Melzer-Tsonga
2008	Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (6/1)	Novak Djokovic (11/10)	Monfils-Berdych
2007	Dmitry Tursunov (20/1)	Benjamin Becker (100/1)	Verdasco-Berdych
2006	James Blake (11/2)	Ivan Ljubicic (4/1)	Safin-Srichaphan
2005	Roger Federer (1/5)	Andy Murray (66/1)	Nieminen-Srichaphan
2004	Roger Federer (4/5)	Andy Roddick (10/3)	Srichaphan-Safin

Betting - Thailand Open

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Tsonga (7/4) was a strong choice in the top half of the draw. He had form in the tournament, had recent good form in the States and was in with a moderate bunch, to say the least. Isner (7/1) had the tools to trouble the Frenchman should they meet in the SF's but the American had never won an event himself, same applied to Viktor Troicki (33/1).

Petzschner (25/1) wasn't in the same league as the No.1 seed and guys like Safin (25/1) and Gulbis (66/1) were just too inconsistent to merit serious interest. Tsonga was a short price but his only meaningful clash looked to be in the final - when an early price of 7/4 would look very big.

Simon (9/2) or Querrey (5/1). A potentially tough call made much easier by the American's no-show. That left the way clear for the No.2 seed with only Korolev (50/1) or Santoro (66/1) in his way at the QF stage and maybe Melzer (16/1) in the SF's.

That showdown would be pivotal to the call. Simon's undoubted ability but lack of success in 2009 and his comparatively short price when compared to the capable Austrian at over three times the price.

Post-Tournament Review :-

Tsonga never looked right in his first two matches and was duly taken out by Troicki. Time will tell just how good the Serb turns out to be but, for now, it still reads as something of a one-off performance.

That below par showing by Tsonga opened the door for Simon who, in all fairness, had been in better form all week - even if Troicki had chances in the final. Melzer played his part as well, playing to form and making the SF's.

However, all this hides the fact that this quartet aside, this was a poor event which produced a messy result. After all, Simon beat the combined line-up of Kim-Korolev-Melzer-Troicki to lift the title and that form looks weak at best - this field was 2 or 3 decent players short of being a worthwhile form guide.

Pointers for 2010 :-

Simon's win did continue a good run for the seeds in Bangkok - generally speaking, what talent shows up here tends to be rewarded. In this respect, should the champion return he must be considered, likewise any other seed from the world's top 20. Others like Dmitry Tursunov, Ivo Karlovic and Ivan Ljubicic have all done well here before.