

## Overview - US Clay Court Championships

The late withdrawal of Sam Querrey (No.5) made a weakish event start to look a little more threadbare - but there were still enough 'names' on show to ensure a decent, surprise-packed tournament.

Case in point as James Blake (No.1) fell to Guillermo Canas in R1 - no easy ask for the American first up even if Canas isn't quite the force he was - and then Bjorn Phau took out Mardy Fish (No.2) in the same round. Added to Querrey, that was three fancied US players gone inside the first day!

Maximo Gonzalez (No.8) also fell, to Daniel Gimeno-Traver, and then another seed went as Diego Junquiera (No.7) was comprehensively beaten by Lleyton Hewitt ... all of a sudden this event was anybody's for the taking.

However, few players seemed willing to rise to the challenge as R2 saw the remaining three seeds fall. Jeremy Chardy (No.4) was annihilated by the Spaniard, Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, in 56 minutes for the loss of just one game, then it was Jurgen Melzer (No.3) as he was similarly demolished in straight sets by Wayne Odesnik.

Finally, the defending champion, Marcel Granollers (No.6) tasted defeat at the hands of another former champion, Tommy Haas.

So, no seeds in the QF's but still enough big names to generate some real interest ... and keep the shocks coming. The Russian, Evgeny Korolev, came back from a set down to beat Guillermo Canas and Bjorn Phau beat fellow German, Haas, also by way of a decider.

Lleyton Hewitt proved too strong for Garcia-Lopez and the last player into the SF's was Wayne Odesnik, who won the battle of the last two remaining Americans in the draw - but only after a 2'37" marathon against John Isner.

Odesnik followed up that epic win with a much swifter victory over Phau to reach his first ATP Tour final (he also made the SF here in '08). He would face Lleyton Hewitt in the final as the Australian saw off Korolev to make his first championship match since winning in Las Vegas in March '07.

Experience told in the final as Hewitt easily won the first set and led 3-0 in the second before Odesnik hit back to lead 5-3. The Australian then re-grouped to reel off four straight games and win his first title in over two years (now 27:14 in finals) - *'it feels fantastic and it's been a long time coming'* said Hewitt after the win. This was Odesnik's first ATP final but despite the loss he showed a good attitude, added to some good form, throughout the week.



## US Clay Court Championships

April 06-12, 2009

Outdoor, Clay - ATP Tour Masters 250

<b>R32 James Blake [1]</b>	44	<b>R16</b> Guillermo Canas	66
<b>R32</b> Guillermo Canas	66	<b>R16</b> Taylor Dent	22
<b>R32</b> wc-Taylor Dent	466	<b>R16</b> Evgeny Korolev	67
<b>R32</b> Marcos Daniel	632	<b>R16</b> Daniel Gimeno-Traver	36
<b>R32</b> Evgeny Korolev	727	<b>R16</b> Jeremy Chardy	10
<b>R32</b> Leonardo Mayer	665	<b>R16</b> Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	66
<b>R32</b> Daniel Gimeno-Traver	636	<b>R16</b> Sergio Roitman	13
<b>R32 Maximo Gonzalez [8]</b>	461	<b>R16</b> Lleyton Hewitt	66
<b>R32 Jeremy Chardy [4]</b>	66	<b>R16</b> Paul Capdeville	666
<b>R32</b> LL-Jesse Levine	30	<b>R16</b> John Isner	477
<b>R32</b> Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	166	<b>R16</b> Wayne Odesnik	66
<b>R32</b> q-Giovanni Lapentti	602	<b>R16</b> Jurgen Melzer	40
<b>R32</b> Sergio Roitman	66	<b>R16</b> Marcel Granollers	623
<b>R32</b> Agustin Calleri	33	<b>R16</b> Tommy Haas	466
<b>R32</b> Lleyton Hewitt	66	<b>R16</b> Scoville Jenkins	46
<b>R32 Diego Junqueira [7]</b>	02	<b>R16</b> Bjorn Phau	67
<b>R32</b> LL-Amer Delic	761	<b>QF</b> Guillermo Canas	634
<b>R32</b> Paul Capdeville	676	<b>QF</b> Evgeny Korolev	266
<b>R32</b> wc-John Isner	466	<b>QF</b> Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	34
<b>R32</b> q-Michael Russell	632	<b>QF</b> Lleyton Hewitt	66
<b>R32</b> Kevin Anderson	64	<b>QF</b> John Isner	566
<b>R32</b> Wayne Odesnik	76	<b>QF</b> Wayne Odesnik	737
<b>R32</b> Robert Kendrick	15	<b>QF</b> Tommy Haas	363
<b>R32 Jurgen Melzer [3]</b>	67	<b>QF</b> Bjorn Phau	636
<b>R32 Marcel Granollers [6]</b>	266		
<b>R32</b> Brian Dabul	641	<b>SF</b> Evgeny Korolev	64
<b>R32</b> wc-Tommy Haas	66	<b>SF</b> Lleyton Hewitt	76
<b>R32</b> Denis Gremelmayr	33	<b>SF</b> Wayne Odesnik	66
<b>R32</b> q-Alexander Peya	643	<b>SF</b> Bjorn Phau	43
<b>R32</b> q-Scoville Jenkins	066		
<b>R32</b> Bjorn Phau	656	<b>RU</b> Wayne Odesnik	25
<b>R32 Mardy Fish [2]</b>	373	<b>W</b> Lleyton Hewitt	67

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
<b>R32</b>	16 matches	7-9	2.56	23.37
<b>R16</b>	8 matches	6-2	2.25	21.12
<b>QF</b>	4 matches	1-3	2.75	26.75
<b>SF</b>	2 matches	2-0	2.00	21.00
<b>F</b>	1 match	1-0	2.00	20.00

## US Clay Court Championships - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
James Blake [1]	11/2
Jeremy Chardy [4]	15/2
Sam Querrey [5]	8/1
Jurgen Melzer [3]	8/1
Mardy Fish [2]	8/1
Tommy Haas	9/1
Lleyton Hewitt	14/1
Marcel Granollers [6]	16/1
Maximo Gonzalez [8]	20/1
Evgeny Korolev	20/1
Wayne Odesnik	20/1
John Isner	25/1
Guillermo Canas	33/1
Guillermo Garcia Lopez	33/1
Agustin Calleri	40/1

### Performance Of The Seeded Players

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

### Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
<b>2009</b>	Lleyton Hewitt (14/1)	Wayne Odesnik (20/1)	Korolev-Phau
<b>2008</b>	Marcel Granollers (50/1)	James Blake (7/2)	Odesnik-Hernandez
<b>2007</b>	Ivo Karlovic (100/1)	Mariano Zabaleta (66/1)	Montanes-Blake
<b>2006</b>	Mardy Fish (66/1)	Jurgen Melzer (80/1)	Haas-Goldstein
<b>2005</b>	Andy Roddick (11/8)	Sebastien Grosjean (50/1)	Melzer-Lapentti
<b>2004</b>	Tommy Haas (25/1)	Andy Roddick (13/2)	Horna-Pavel

## **Betting - US Clay Court Championships**

### **Pre-Tournament Briefing :-**

Top seed , and favourite, James Blake (11/2) had never won a clay court event. Was it time to back him to win a first title on dirt? Probably not. His draw was no gimme (Canas-Dent-Gonzalez-Chardy-Fish) and even odds of 11/2 for the best player in the field were easy to dismiss.

Better options in his half of the draw were Chardy (15/2) who had made a good start to the year plus the perennial threat of two old-stagers who hadn't won for a while, Lleyton Hewitt (14/1) and Guillermo Canas (33/1).

The bottom half had last years champions, Marcel Granollers (16/1) plus other previous winners/finalists in Mardy Fish (8/1), Tommy Haas (9/1) and Jurgen Melzer (8/1). Besides those four, there seemed little real quality - maybe John Isner (25/1) if his huge serve managed to work on the surface.

Generally it would be a case of siding with experience ... but very few players brought any recent winning form to the table and even fewer were what you would call 'matural' or even 'capable' on clay. Even the American variety.

### **Post-Tournament Review :-**

Blake and Fish were out in R1 and no seed made it past R2 - this event was hardly a great example for the formbook.

However, Hewitt's win - his first in two years - was deserved as he didn't drop a set all week and barely struggled in any of his matches.

Blake, to be fair, caught a tough draw in Canas but each of Fish, Melzer and Chardy had no excuse for their respective defeats. Korolev, Isner and Odesnik were the only others to emerge with any credit and their reputations enhanced whilst a couple of other veterans (Haas and Calleri) continued their steady slide on the latter stages of their careers.

### **Pointers for 2010 :-**

Looking at the list of winners you would hardly peg this for a clay event. Such is the nature of the field, the standard of player this event attracts and probably the court conditions here in Texas. A real clay-courter would walk this ... but real clay-courters don't play here! Americans tend to do well (Isner and Querrey look ones to watch out for in future) whilst an average standard of European player has done well in the past - Jurgen Melzer, Evgeny Korolev or Ivo Karlovic.