

US Open - Overview

Fair to say that the top players hit the ground running as seeds No.1 to No.8 all won their R1 matches in straight sets - there wasn't even a tie-break!

A few shocks though amongst the lower ranked seeds as Karlovic (No.27), Mathieu (No.28), Hanesu (No.28), Andreev (No.29) and, most surprisingly, Stanislas Wawrinka (No.19) all fell at the first hurdle. Mathieu got Youzhny, Hanesu faced John Isner but the other three all fell to players they really should have beaten - there were simply no excuses for their defeats.

Being the US Open we experience fifth set tie-breaks to settle matches and the Giovanni Lapentti/Simon Greul match was the first of the championships to be settled by a 'breaker' - Greul winning the 3'37" match by the narrowest of margins.

Overall it was a round of few majors upsets as most players progressed, at least according to the formbook, as expected. Most games (36 of 64) were settled in straight sets and all the fancied players lived to fight another day.

The big names were little softer on their opponents in R2. Only Murray (No.2) and Nadal (No.4) dropped a set of the top eight - although neither was ever in any great trouble - and all the rest won in straight sets once again.

Strangely, like R1, there were no major shocks. A few matches produced well-contested five set encounters - Acasuso/Ferrer, Almagro/Ginepri and the epic 4'12" Dent/Navarro battle - but the results, by and large, were to be expected.

The matches began to get a bit tougher in R3. Roger Federer (No.1) was pushed to a fourth set by the former champion, Lleyton Hewitt, another fancied player, Novak Djokovic (No.4), had no easy task in seeing off the qualifier, Jesse Witten, in four close sets and Juan Martin Del Potro (No.6) also dropped a set in seeing off Austrian Daniel Koellerer.

Shock of the round though came in the all-American clash between John Isner and Andy Roddick. The pair traded 57 aces before 6'10" Isner won a fifth set tie-break and, in doing so, qualified for the second week of a Slam for the first time.

High quality matches abounded in this round as Robin Soderling took out Sam Querrey in four sets, Tommy Robredo knocked out another American, James Blake, and Fernando Gonzalez defeated Tomas Berdych, both in straight sets, and Fernando Verdasco eventually saw off Tommy Haas in a

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tense 3'45" match which the Spaniard finally took 6-4 in the fifth set.

However, if R3 was competitive, then R4 took the action up a couple of levels as we witnessed fine displays from Roger Federer, who easily dispatched Tommy Robredo, Novak Djokovic, another very easy winner in his match with Radek Stepanek, and Juan Martin Del Potro also made short work of Juan Carlos Ferrero.

The big casualty was Andy Murray. The second seed was totally outplayed by the Croat, Marin Cilic, who ran out a very easy winner against the Scot - a win which was as comprehensive as it was unexpected.

Verdasco over Isner and Gonzalez over Tsonga also notched fine wins and Robin Soderling, who trounced Nikolay Davydenko in the French Open, beat him again - this time the Russian retired with a thigh injury.

Soderling then faced a re-match of the French Open final with Federer in the QF's and lightning did indeed strike twice. Federer won in four sets. The other three QF matches also went to form as Rafael Nadal produced his most convincing display of the event in defeating the Chilean, Fernando Gonzalez, in straight sets and both Del Potro as well as Djokovic also won through with four set wins over Verdasco and Cilic respectively - Del Potro coming back very well from a shaky start to completely overpower his opponent.

Two contrasting SF's - although both were settled in straight sets. In what was surprisingly his first US Open SF, Rafael Nadal met Del Potro on a good day, a very good day for the South American. The 6'6" Argentine played what he called '*the match of his life*' to hand the No.3 seed one of his worst ever beatings. Del Potro dropped just 6 games in their 2'20" match.

Roger Federer then edged out Novak Djokovic to win his 40th straight match at Flushing Meadows. The Serb posed the five-time champion plenty of problems but Federer always had an answer en route to a 7-6 7-6 7-5 win.

After playing in an epic Wimbledon final, which he won, Federer played in another here, which he lost. But should have won. The world No.1 really had Del Potro where he wanted him, leading 2:1 in sets, but as new champion was to say afterwards '*you never lose until the last point, so keep fighting. The crowd help me, and they saw my fight in every point*'. It was a great match, a first Grand Slam title for Del Potro (now 7:2 in finals) and a fitting way to round off a great year for the tennis 'majors'. Federer, for his part, did all he could but it simply wasn't to be - now 61:23 in ATP deciders.



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First Quarter

Second Quarter

R128 Roger Federer [1]	6 6 7	R128 Novak Djokovic [4]	6 6 6
R128 wc-Devin Britton	1 3 5	R128 Ivan Ljubicic	3 1 3
R128 q-Giovanni Lapentti	3 6 6 0 6	R128 q-Juan Pablo Brzezicki	6 3 4
R128 Simon Greul	6 4 3 6 7	R128 q-Carsten Ball	7 6 6
R128 Juan Ignacio Chela	6 6 6	R128 Karol Beck	6 6 1 4 3
R128 Oscar Hernandez	4 4 2	R128 Maximo Gonzalez	2 1 6 6 6
R128 Thiago Alves	0 3 4	R128 q-Jesse Witten	6 6 6
R128 Lleyton Hewitt [31]	6 6 6	R128 Igor Andreev [29]	4 0 2
R128 James Blake [21]	6 6 7	R128 Philipp Kohlschreiber [23]	6 6 6
R128 Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo	1 4 5	R128 Andreas Seppi	0 4 4
R128 Olivier Rochus	6 6 6	R128 q-Somdev Devvarman	6 6 6
R128 Igor Kunitsyn	3 0 2	R128 Frederico Gil	3 4 3
R128 q-Peter Polansky	4 4 7 6 1	R128 Andrey Golubev	4 6 5 3
R128 Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	6 6 5 3 6	R128 Leonardo Mayer	6 4 7 6
R128 q-Donald Young	4 6 2 3	R128 Simone Bolelli	4 4 4
R128 Tommy Robredo [14]	6 3 6 6	R128 Radek Stepanek [15]	6 6 6
R128 Robin Soderling [12]	6 3 6 6	R128 Fernando Verdasco [10]	7 6 7
R128 Albert Montanes	1 6 1 4	R128 Benjamin Becker	5 4 5
R128 Mischa Zverev	6 5 6 4 0	R128 Florent Serra	7 7 7
R128 Marcel Granollers	2 7 3 6 6	R128 Janko Tipsarevic	6 6 6
R128 Kevin Kim	6 0 6 6	R128 Robert Kendrick	6 6 6
R128 Dudi Sela	3 6 2 2	R128 Martin Vassallo Arguello	3 2 2
R128 q-Michael Yani	3 5 4	R128 q-Alejandro Falla	5 6 6 2
R128 Sam Querrey [22]	6 7 6	R128 Tommy Haas [20]	7 4 7 6
R128 Paul-Henri Mathieu [26]	6 5 0 2	R128 Victor Hanescu [28]	1 6 6
R128 Mikhail Youzhny	2 7 6 6	R128 John Isner	6 7 7
R128 Potito Starace	6 6 0	R128 q-Marsel Ilhan	3 6 3 7 7
R128 q-Marco Chiudinelli	7 7 6	R128 Christophe Rochus	6 3 6 5 5
R128 Jan Hernych	1 7 6 2 6	R128 Marc Gicquel	6 5 6 6
R128 Rainer Schuettler	6 6 4 6 3	R128 Dmitry Tursunov	2 7 3 3
R128 q-Dieter Kindlmann	3 4 5	R128 Bjorn Phau	1 4 2
R128 Nikolay Davydenko [8]	6 6 7	R128 Andy Roddick [5]	6 6 6

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Third Quarter

Fourth Quarter

R128 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [7]	6 6 6	R128 Juan Martin Del Potro [6]	6 6 6
R128 wc-Chase Buchanan	0 2 1	R128 Juan Monaco	3 3 1
R128 Jarkko Nieminen	7 7 6	R128 Jurgen Melzer	1 6 6 6
R128 Fabio Fognini	5 6 4	R128 Marat Safin	6 4 3 4
R128 Flavio Cipolla	6 1 3 3	R128 Pablo Cuevas	6 7 6
R128 Julien Benneteau	4 6 6 6	R128 wc-Chris Guccione	4 6 0
R128 LL-Peter Luczak	3 3 6 6 1	R128 Daniel Koellerer	6 6 2 6
R128 Viktor Troicki [30]	6 6 1 2 6	R128 LL-Rui Machado	2 4 6 2
R128 Tomas Berdych [17]	7 6 6	R128 Juan Carlos Ferrero [24]	6 6 6
R128 Wayne Odesnik	5 4 4	R128 Fabrice Santoro	4 3 3
R128 Q-Michael Berrer	3 6 6 0	R128 Philipp Petzschner	7 6 6 4 6
R128 Q-Horacio Zeballos	6 7 3 6	R128 Sergiy Stakhovsky	6 7 4 6 3
R128 Q-Josselin Ouanna	7 6 3 6	R128 Q-Thomaz Bellucci	6 6 6
R128 Rajeev Ram	6 4 6 3	R128 Yen-Hsun Lu	4 2 3
R128 Nicolas Massu	3 3 3	R128 Daniel Gimeno-Traver	4 6 3
R128 Fernando Gonzalez [11]	6 6 6	R128 Gilles Simon [9]	6 7 6
R128 Gael Monfils [13]	6 6 6	R128 Marin Cilic [16]	7 6 7
R128 Jeremy Chardy	1 4 3	R128 wc-Ryan Sweeting	6 4 6
R128 Evgeny Korolev	3 4 6 6 4	R128 Teimuraz Gabashvili	5 1 2
R128 Andreas Beck	6 6 2 2 6	R128 wc-Jesse Levine	7 6 6
R128 Marcos Daniel	2 4 3	R128 Denis Istomin	6 6 7
R128 Jose Acasuso	6 6 6	R128 wc-Brendan Evans	4 4 6
R128 Alberto Martin	5 7 3 3	R128 Nicolas Lapentti	4 3 7 7 6
R128 David Ferrer [18]	7 5 6 6	R128 Stanislas Wawrinka [19]	6 6 6 6 3
R128 Nicolas Almagro [32]	6 6 2 7	R128 Ivo Karlovic [27]	4 6 6
R128 Steve Darcis	2 4 6 6	R128 Ivan Navarro	6 7 7
R128 Robby Ginepri	5 6 6 6	R128 Feliciano Lopez	6 6 3 5
R128 Andrei Pavel	7 2 4 0	R128 wc-Taylor Dent	4 7 6 7
R128 wc-Michael Llodra	3 4 4	R128 Paul Capdeville	6 6 7
R128 Nicolas Kiefer	6 6 6	R128 Victor Crivoi	3 0 6
R128 Richard Gasquet	2 2 3	R128 Ernests Gulbis	5 3 5
R128 Rafael Nadal [3]	6 6 6	R128 Andy Murray [2]	7 6 7



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R64	Roger Federer	677	R64	Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	766
R64	Simon Greul	355	R64	Jarkko Nieminen	534
R64	Juan Ignacio Chela	334	R64	Julien Benneteau	6366
R64	Lleyton Hewitt	666	R64	Viktor Troicki	1610
R64	James Blake	6376	R64	Tomas Berdych	6676
R64	Olivier Rochus	4663	R64	Horacio Zeballos	3762
R64	Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	2624	R64	Josselin Ouanna	4734
R64	Tommy Robredo	6466	R64	Fernando Gonzalez	6666
R64	Robin Soderling	2	R64	Gael Monfils	676
R64	Marcel Granollers	ret'd. 0	R64	Andreas Beck	353
R64	Kevin Kim	5744	R64	Jose Acasuso	63166
R64	Sam Querrey	7666	R64	David Ferrer	36632
R64	Mikhail Youzhny	6643	R64	Nicolas Almagro	66646
R64	Marco Chiudinelli	2766	R64	Robby Ginepri	72364
R64	Jan Hernych	412	R64	Nicolas Kiefer	0634
R64	Nikolay Davydenko	666	R64	Rafael Nadal	6366
R64	Novak Djokovic	666	R64	Juan Martin Del Potro	766
R64	Carsetn Ball	344	R64	Jurgen Melzer	633
R64	Maximo Gonzalez	7452	R64	Pablo Cuevas	6214
R64	Jesse Witten	6676	R64	Daniel Koellerer	3666
R64	Philipp Kohlschreiber	6606	R64	Juan Carlos Ferrero	13666
R64	Somdev Devvarman	3462	R64	Philipp Petzschner	66424
R64	Leonardo Mayer	634	R64	Thomaz Bellucci	324
R64	Radek Stepanek	766	R64	Gilles Simon	666
R64	Fernando Verdasco	666	R64	Marin Cilic	42666
R64	Florent Serra	303	R64	Jesse Levine	66030
R64	Robert Kendrick	446	R64	Denis Istomin	26477
R64	Tommy Haas	667	R64	Nicolas Lapentti	64656
R64	John Isner	667	R64	Ivan Navarro	47756
R64	Marsel Ilhan	346	R64	Taylor Dent	65677
R64	Marc Gicquel	144	R64	Paul Capdeville	2602
R64	Andy Roddick	666	R64	Andy Murray	6366

	No. Matches	3/4/5 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R128	64 matches	36-16-10	3.56	34.10
R64	32 matches	14-12-6	3.75	35.09
R32	16 matches	8-6-2	3.62	35.43
R16	8 matches	6-2-0	3.25	32.00

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R32 Roger Federer	4 6 7 6	R16 Roger Federer	7 6 6
R32 Lleyton Hewitt	6 3 5 4	R16 Tommy Robredo	5 2 2
R32 James Blake	6 4 4	R16 Robin Soderling	7 3 6
R32 Tommy Robredo	7 6 6	R16 Nikolay Davydenko	retd. 5 6 2
R32 Robin Soderling	6 7 6 6	R16 Novak Djokovic	6 6 6
R32 Sam Querrey	2 5 7 1	R16 Radek Stepanek	1 3 3
R32 Marco Chiudumelli	4 5 5	R16 Fernando Verdasco	4 6 6 6
R32 Nikolay Davydenko	6 7 7	R16 John Isner	6 4 4 4
R32 Novak Djokovic	6 6 7 6	R16 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	6 3 6 4
R32 Jesse Witten	7 3 6 4	R16 Fernando Gonzalez	3 6 7 6
R32 Philipp Kohlschreiber	6 2 3 3	R16 Gael Monfils	7 3 1 3
R32 Radek Stepanek	4 6 6 6	R16 Rafael Nadal	6 6 6 6
R32 Fernando Verdasco	3 7 7 1 6	R16 Juan Martin Del Potro	6 6 6
R32 Tommy Haas	6 5 6 6 4	R16 Juan Carlos Ferrero	3 3 3
R32 John Isner	7 6 3 5 7	R16 Marin Cilic	7 6 6
R32 Andy Roddick	6 3 6 7 6	R16 Andy Murray	5 2 2
R32 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga	7 6 6	QF Roger Federer	6 6 6 7
R32 Julien Benneteau	6 2 4	QF Robin Soderling	0 3 7 6
R32 Tomas Berdych	5 4 4	QF Novak Djokovic	7 1 7 6
R32 Fernando Gonzalez	7 6 6	QF Fernando Verdasco	6 6 5 2
R32 Gael Monfils	6 6 1	QF Fernando Gonzalez	6 6 0
R32 Jose Acasuso	retd. 3 4 0	QF Rafael Nadal	7 7 6
R32 Nicolas Almagro	5 4 4	QF Juan Martin Del Potro	4 6 6 6
R32 Rafael Almagro	7 6 6	QF Marin Cilic	6 3 2 1
R32 Juan Martin Del Potro	6 3 6 6	SF Roger Federer	7 7 7
R32 Daniel Koellerer	1 6 3 3	SF Novak Djokovic	6 5 5
R32 Juan Carlos Ferrero	1 6 7 1	SF Rafael Nadal	2 2 2
R32 Gilles Simon	retd. 6 4 6 0	SF Juan Martin Del Potro	6 6 6
R32 Marin Cilic	6 6 6	RU Roger Federer	6 6 6 6 2
R32 Denis Istomin	1 4 3	W Juan Martin Del Potro	3 7 4 7 6
R32 Taylor Dent	3 2 2		
R32 Andy Murray	6 6 6		

	No. Matches	3/4/5 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
QF	4 matches	2-1-1	3.75	28.75
SF	2 matches	1-1-0	3.50	40.00
F	1 match	0-0-1	5.00	77.00

US Open - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Roger Federer [1]	5/4
Andy Murray [2]	3/1
Rafael Nadal [3]	6/1
Novak Djokovic [4]	13/2
Juan Martin Del Potro [6]	16/1
Andy Roddick [5]	20/1
Nikolay Davydenko[8]	50/1
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [7]	66/1
Fernando Verdasco	80/1
Robin Soderling	100/1
Tommy Haas	125/1
Fernando Gonzalez	125/1
Marin Cilic	150/1
Tomas Berdych	150/1
Gilles Simon	150/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2009	RU	QF	SF	SF	R3	W	R4	R4
2008	SF	W	SF	R3	R4	RU	R3	QF
2007	W	R4	RU	SF	QF	R4	R1	R3
2006	W	QF	R1	R2	QF	R4	SF	R2
2005	W	R3	SF	R1	-	R2	RU	QF
2004	W	QF	R3	RU	SF	QF	R2	R2

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Juan Martin Del Potro (16/1)	Roger Federer (5/4)	Nadal-Djokovic
2008	Roger Federer (10/3)	Andy Murray (12/1)	Djokovic-Nadal
2007	Roger Federer (8/15)	Novak Djokovic (7/1)	Davydenko-Ferrer
2006	Roger Federer (4/7)	Andy Roddick (12/1)	Davydenko-Youzhny
2005	Roger Federer (8/13)	Andre Agassi (33/1)	Hewitt-Ginepri
2004	Roger Federer (13/8)	Lleyton Hewitt (8/1)	Henman-J.Johansson

Betting - US Open

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Federer (5/4), with an impeccable record in Grand Slams and a five-time defending champion in New York, had to be considered. His quarter looked very straightforward and a possible SF with either Djokovic (13/2) or Roddick (20/1) would see the Swiss player as the favourite - and most likely winner.

However, if the draw had been kind to the No.1 seed it made the bottom half of the draw a tough one to read. Nadal (6/1) and Tsonga (66/1) were obvious possibilities in the third quarter but both Fernando Gonzalez (125/1) and maybe Gael Monfils (150/1) could mount a challenge.

The fourth quarter had Murray (3/1) as the form pick but with a last three matches of, possibly, Del Potro, Nadal and Federer was the price good value? Even if he had made the final the previous year. Del Potro (16/1) had to be considered as an alternative and Cilic (150/1) was certainly capable of giving Murray a fright ... and a bit more as it proved!

Post-Tournament Review :-

Federer did all he could but after wins in the French and Wimbledon perhaps he'd used up all his good fortune for the year. Del Potro strung together some exceptional performances against Cilic, Nadal and Federer to fully deserve his title.

His fine win over Cilic, compared to Murray's tame loss to the Croat, summed up the Scot's tournament. Murray must beat these kind of players, regularly, at Slams if he's going to win one.

Nadal, yet again, showed his dislike for US hard courts (never made a final here) Djokovic proved himself to be good, as we know, but not *that* good, as we also know. Cilic, Soderling and Monfils all showed that they will be able to compete at this level in the future. Disappointments were few, Murray aside, Roddick lost a battle of serves whilst Tsonga and Davydenko both lost to quality opponents.

Pointers for 2010 :-

Federer's recent domination is slightly misleading. This is an event where the outsiders have a chance - Safin, Hewitt, Roddick and Del Potro have all won maiden Slams here in recent years. Of course, go for known quality but played late season, on a hard court, this event, like Australia, is more open than you think. Andy Murray must have a chance in 2010, Novak Djokovic similarly, as well as Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, Marin Cilic and, if you must, Federer.