

Overview - Valencia Open

Scheduled the week before the Paris Masters this event was always going to attract a decent field, more so as several top players were still chasing a place in the end of season World Tour Finals.

To that end, no surprise that all the seeds safely made it through to R2 bar Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who only succumbed to a wrist injury in his match with Mikhail Youzhny. Most impressive were Andy Murray (No.1), himself just back from a similar ailment, and Nikolay Davydenko (No.2) who gave up four and three games respectively in their straight sets victories.

Elsewhere, Fernando Verdasco (No.4), Gilles Simon (No.5) and Gael Monfils (No.6) also faced little trouble in securing safe passage. Pick of the other matches included a good win for the Uruguayan, Pablo Cuevas, over Ferrero and solid performances by Tomas Berdych in defeating Mathieu and the Serb, Janko Tipsarevic, who eased past Hanescu.

R2 saw a couple of surprises. Gael Monfils losing to Guillermo Garcia-Lopez was hard to predict and David Ferrer (No.8) also departed, defaulting against fellow Spaniard, Albert Montanes, due to a leg injury. Two further home players did make the QF's as Verdasco saw off Tipsarevic and Tommy Robredo (No.7) was a three set winner against Feliciano Lopez.

Also through were Andy Murray, who faced a tough battle in the shape of the Argentine, Leonardo Mayer, Gilles Simon, who also went to a deciding set against Tomas Berdych, and Mikhail Youzhny who edged past Cuevas.

Little drama ensued in three of the four QF matches. The only result of note being Mikhail Youzhny's defeat of Gilles Simon - which severely dented the Frenchman's hopes of making the London finale. However, each of Murray, Davydenko and Verdasco put their lesser opponents to the sword with no great fuss and moved swiftly into the SF's.

Both these ties were good contests. Andy Murray beat Fernando Verdasco in a well-fought 2'01" match which hung in the balance until the Scot broke for 4-2 in the deciding set. The two Russians, Youzhny and Davydenko, then slugged it out for 2'24" before Youzhny eventually beat his more illustrious opponent having almost blown a 4-0 lead in the deciding set.

Murray wrapped up the title with a decisive 69 minute win. *'I was happy I have come back from the injury well and played better with every match'* - he said after winning his sixth title of 2009 (14:6 overall in finals) whilst Youzhny's loss dropped him to 5:7 in ATP championship matches.



Valencia Open

November 02-08, 2009

Indoor, Hard - World Tour 500

R32	Andy Murray [1]	66	R16	Andy Murray	636
R32	wc-Daniel Gimeno-Traver	31	R16	Leonardo Mayer	463
R32	Leonardo Mayer	66	R16	Albert Montanes	w/o
R32	Igor Andreev	33	R16	David Ferrer	
R32	Albert Montanes	636	R16	Fernando Verdasco	66
R32	q-Roberto Bautista-Agut	164	R16	Janko Tipsarevic	33
R32	Nicolas Almagro	572	R16	Feliciano Lopez	634
R32	David Ferrer [8]	766	R16	Tommy Robredo	466
R32	Fernando Verdasco [4]	60	R16	Gilles Simon	646
R32	wc-Oscar Hernandez	retd. 11	R16	Tomas Berdych	463
R32	Janko Tipsarevic	66	R16	Pablo Cuevas	261
R32	Victor Hanescu	43	R16	Mikhail Youzhny	626
R32	q-Alberto Martin	53	R16	Gael Monfils	25
R32	Feliciano Lopez	76	R16	Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	67
R32	q-Christophe Rochus	073	R16	Juan Monaco	35
R32	Tommy Robredo [7]	656	R16	Nikolay Davydenko	67
R32	Gilles Simon [5]	66	QF	Andy Murray	66
R32	Igor Kunitsyn	32	QF	Albert Montanes	42
R32	Tomas Berdych	66	QF	Fernando Verdasco	66
R32	Paul-Henri Mathieu	34	QF	Tommy Robredo	32
R32	Juan Carlos Ferrero	663	QF	Gilles Simon	44
R32	Pablo Cuevas	276	QF	Mikhail Youzhny	66
R32	Mikhail Youzhny	663	QF	Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	46
R32	Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [3]	retd. 700	QF	Nikolay Davydenko	67
R32	Gael Monfils [6]	66	SF	Andy Murray	626
R32	wc-Marcel Granollers	42	SF	Fernando Verdasco	363
R32	Guillermo Garcia-Lopez	76	SF	Mikhail Youzhny	366
R32	Simon Greul	52	SF	Nikolay Davydenko	643
R32	Juan Monaco	66			
R32	Martin Vassallo Arguello	32	RU	Mikhail Youzhny	32
R32	q-Alejandro Falla	21	W	Andy Murray	66
R32	Nikolay Davydenko [2]	66			

	No. Matches	2 sets-3 sets	Ave. Sets/Match	Ave. Games/Match
R32	16 matches	11-5	2.31	20.37
R16	7 matches	3-4	2.57	24.00
QF	4 matches	4-0	2.00	19.50
SF	2 matches	0-2	3.00	27.00
F	1 match	1-0	2.00	17.00

Valencia Open - Facts & Figures

Market Leaders	Odds
Andy Murray [1]	13/8
Nikolay Davydenko [2]	7/2
Fernando Verdasco [4]	10/1
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga [3]	11/1
Gilles Simon [5]	16/1
Gael Monfils [6]	18/1
Tomas Berdych	20/1
David Ferrer [8]	33/1
Feliciano Lopez	40/1
Janko Tipsarevic	40/1
Mikhail Youzhny	40/1
Tommy Robredo [7]	66/1
Juan Carlos Ferrero	80/1
Nicolas Almagro	80/1
Igor Andreev	100/1

Performance Of The Seeded Players

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2009	W	SF	R1	SF	QF	R2	QF	R2
2008	No event held							
2007	No event held							
2006	No event held							
2005	No event held							
2004	No event held							

Recent Winners/Leading Performers

	Winner	Runner-Up	Losing SF's
2009	Andy Murray (13/8)	Mikhail Youzhny (40/1)	Verdasco-Davydenko
2008	No event held		
2007	No event held		
2006	No event held		
2005	No event held		
2004	No event held		

Betting - Valencia Open

Pre-Tournament Briefing :-

Much depended upon Murray's readiness for action after an injury lay-off. At 13/8 it was very much 'all or nothing' with the Scot. Fully-fit, of course, he would be hard to beat but a possible QF-SF-F of Ferrer-Verdasco-Davydenko made his odds seem a little short of value.

Ferrer (33/1) had endured a fruitless year to this point and Robredo (66/1) had also shown no great form for several months but Verdasco (10/1) was capable of beating Murray - had done so before at the Australian Open.

The bottom half was even more difficult to unravel. Davydenko (7/2) is always one to note, Tsonga (11/1) had been in good form, Simon (16/1) maybe less so but Monfils (18/1) had looked far more threatening in recent months.

But that was only four players in the section. Ignoring this quartet, each of Berdych (20/1), Youzhny (40/1) and Ferrero (66/1) also had form in the book which suggested they could mount a challenge this week.

Take a short price about Murray or speculate with a couple of players at much bigger odds - that, in plain terms, was the choice.

Post-Tournament Review :-

Murray proved his class in winning. Maybe not playing his best tennis he overcame a couple of tricky matches before winning the final in style.

That task might have been tougher had the impressive Youzhny not beaten Davydenko in the SF's but Murray takes no blame for that. As it happens, both Russians played very well all week as did Verdasco, who threw all he could at Murray but still lost.

Tsonga, Simon, Ferrer all disappointed for one reason or another but this late in the season (and with two losing by virtue of injury) excuses can be made.

Pointers for 2010 :-

Not too much to go after just one staging of this tournament. However, given its place in the calendar and proximity to a Masters Series event the shrewd play would be to head to the top of the market and look for guys with not too many miles on the clock, some form post-US Open and possibly players looking to secure places in the World Tour Finals. Token suggestions would include Davydenko, Tsonga and Verdasco but time which players will visit this place as a matter of choice rather than necessity.