

Russia Retains European Tennis Trophy Titles

Russia has retained the overall European Tennis Trophy, winning three of the five available categories for the second year in succession. Victory at the final professional tennis event of the season, the Davis Cup by BNP Paribas, cemented the win in the **Professional Tennis** category, whilst ensuring a large enough lead to edge leaders France into second place in terms of **Overall Performance**.

Capping a year in which they have excelled in Europe's junior team competitions and dominated the rankings at all age levels, Russia also retained the **Junior Tennis** Trophy, becoming the first nation to win the title in three consecutive years.

Reacting to the news, Russian Tennis Federation President Shamil Tarpishev said: "It is a great honour for the us to be recognised by Tennis Europe in such a >>



Russian Tennis Federation President Shamil Tarpishev (second from left) with the winning Davis Cup team in Moscow

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Tennis Europe and HEAD Announce Partnership

Tennis Europe has announced the launch of a three-year partnership with the worlds leading tennis equipment manufacturer, HEAD. With effect from January 2007, HEAD will become the Official Racquet, Ball, String, Bag, Accessory, Apparel and Footwear Partner of Tennis Europe, as well as taking an active role in the organisation's flagship junior competitions. More on Page 3.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Russia Retains European Tennis Trophy Titles

<< way. It is hard to express our pride at being awarded the prestigious Professional and Junior tennis trophies and, as a result, the overall European Tennis Trophy for the second year in succession. We try to do our best every day to promote European tennis through the excellent tournament performances of our players. We are happy to be working hard for the sake of tennis and helping to make it great sport worldwide."

The most significant improvement in the overall top ten was that of Italy, who recorded their best finish since winning in 1998 to rise from seventh to a strong third. Notably, Italy was the only one of 48 member nations to maintain or increase their position in all four Trophy categories. Belarus (up from 24th to 16th), Portugal (27th to 20th) and Bosnia & Herzegovina (32nd to 25th) were the highest climbers overall, their higher points tallies all largely due to excellent performances at junior level.

Netherlands won a sixth consecutive **Wheelchair Tennis** title, maintaining a clear lead over nearest rivals France to maintain their unbeaten record in the category since its inception in 2001.

There were no surprises in the **Seniors' Tennis** category, with Germany standing head and shoulders above the competition once again to extend their lead

over second placed Austria to a massive 1495 points. Germany has now won the title in all sixteen editions. The most notable improvements came from Italy, who rose from seventh to third, and Belgium, who rose from fourteenth to seventh in the list.

Announcing the winners, Tennis Europe President John James commented "We would like to congratulate the Russian Tennis Federation on a truly unforgettable season. To repeat, and in some cases exceed the achievements of 2005 is a remarkable feat. 2006 has been a vintage year for European tennis, with our players accounting for all Grand Slam junior and professional singles titles, as well as all major team competitions. We look forward to continuing to assist our member nations to excel in 2007."

The prizes will be awarded at the Annual General Meeting of Tennis Europe in Vienna, Austria in March, where the new-look European Tennis Trophy for 2007 will be unveiled, with the announcement of an event sponsor and revised points system.

For full results from all the categories, and a detailed explanation of how the points are calculated, please visit www.TennisEurope.org.

	OVERALL PERFORMANCE	PROFESSIONAL TENNIS	JUNIOR TENNIS	SENIORS' TENNIS	WHEELCHAIR TENNIS
1	RUSSIA	RUSSIA	RUSSIA	GERMANY	NETHERLANDS
2	FRANCE	FRANCE	FRANCE	AUSTRIA	FRANCE
3	ITALY	ITALY	CZECH REP.	ITALY	BELGIUM
4	GERMANY	SPAIN	ITALY	GT. BRITAIN	GT. BRITAIN
5	SPAIN	BELGIUM	NETHERLANDS	FRANCE	ITALY
6	CZECH REP.	CZECH REP.	SPAIN	HUNGARY	SWITZERLAND
7	NETHERLANDS	GERMANY	ROMANIA	BELGIUM	POLAND
8	BELGIUM	SWITZERLAND	SLOVAK REP.	NETHERLANDS	AUSTRIA
9	CROATIA	CROATIA	POLAND	SWITZERLAND	ISRAEL (9=)
10	POLAND	POLAND	CROATIA	SWEDEN	SWEDEN (9=)

Tennis Europe and HEAD Announce 3-Year Partnership

Tennis Europe has announced a three-year partnership deal with the world's leading tennis equipment manufacturer, HEAD.

Under the terms of the deal – the most comprehensive ever signed by Tennis Europe – HEAD will be recognised as the **'Official Racquet, Ball, String, Bag, Accessory, Apparel and Footwear Partner'** of the organisation.

HEAD will also become heavily involved with Tennis Europe's flagship junior events, assuming the presenting sponsor role of Europe's largest junior team tennis competition (henceforth known as the **'Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD'**), as well as of the forthcoming inaugural pan-European team event for Under 12s, set to be held next summer.

The company additionally attains exposure rights for the aforementioned product categories at all European Junior Championships and Tennis Europe Junior Masters events.

Furthermore, HEAD balls will be recognised as the **'Recommended Ball of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour,'** a circuit of some 270 events for under 12s, 14s and 16s with events scheduled to be held in almost all of the European Federation's 49 member nations in 2007.

Announcing the partnership, Tennis Europe President John James commented, "We are thrilled to be able to count upon the commitment and enthusiasm of HEAD - a brand synonymous with innovation, quality and high performance. As we continue to invest our resources in over 1,000 tennis events annually, we are confident that the partnership will not only serve to enhance these events, but will also enable HEAD to directly engage with many thousands of players of all ages and abilities across the continent."



left to right Robert Marte (Executive Vice President, HEAD Racquet Sports Division) and Olli Mäenpää (Managing Director, External Affairs, Tennis Europe) at the signing of the agreement.

"This partnership with the organizing body of European tennis strengthens HEAD's focus and commitment to key grass roots areas of Tennis in Europe," said Robert Marte, Executive Vice President of HEAD's racquet sports division. "We highly value the opportunity to bring our brand and innovative product portfolio even stronger to the entire European market. We are excited about the opportunities to support the development and promotion of the sport in general and will get particularly involved in junior tennis by sponsoring the most prestigious junior tennis events in Europe."

The partnership will take effect from 1st January 2007, with the **Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD** scheduled to be held across Europe throughout the month of February.



In the Spotlight: Jordi Arrese

Former top-25 player Jordi Arrese won six career titles and a silver medal at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. As a coach, he was Spain's Davis Cup captain from 2001-2005, winning the title in 2004 and finishing as runner-up in 2003. This year he took on the role of Sports Director of the Catalan Tennis Federation (FCT) and the Centre Internacional de Tennis (CIT) in Barcelona (Spain), Tennis Europe's Official Academy Partner. We spoke to him to find out more about the Academy.

How do you see this new challenge as the Sports Director of the CIT?

When I finished my career as a player I knew very clearly that I wanted to get involved in coaching. After some very enriching experiences, I got this opportunity to help young players to develop their game and their mentality, with the goal of becoming professional players. The project at the Centre Internacional de Tennis is an exciting one for me, especially with the support of the Catalan Federation, which has more than a hundred years of history and many famous successes.

What facilities does the centre offer?

The centre has the latest generation equipment, with a total of thirty-one courts of all surfaces: clay, hard and carpet, a specialised gymnasium for top players, an on-site residence for male players, and one for females which is under construction at the moment. We also have one of the world's leading sports medicine centres, which is focused on the prevention, diagnosis and recovery of injuries, as well as in the yield optimization for high-level competition.

What distinguishes the CIT from private academies?

There are many private tennis academies around the world, especially in the Barcelona area, which has be-

come a centre of a great activity with a recognised international prestige. Personally, what really motivated me was the singularity of being the academy of a federation with the trajectory and the prestige of the Catalan Tennis Federation. This difference is illustrated by the support, facilities and objectives being very different from a private academy, where tennis, sometimes, is not the most important thing.

What are the CIT's goals?

The CIT is oriented for young players with high potential, and our goal is to help them to develop their game to become professionals. The FCT asked me to design a training plan, which we are developing with our technical staff. I have to say that it would be an impossible task without a staff of highly experienced professional coaches from the ATP and WTA Tour circuits, so it's a privilege to be able to count on a team like that.

Could you tell us about this special training plan?

We have a special emphasis on mobility, that is the game of feet adapted for every surface, such as clay,

hard and indoor. We work with reduced groups of a maximum of four players, because in this way we can develop individual programs focused on technical, tactical and physical preparation. We see very clearly that an integral and individual preparation of each player is essential, and we must take advantage of the possibilities that new technologies offer, in order to improve the abilities of our players.

How do you think the new technologies can help?

The FCT is making great efforts in this area and recently we have acquired new machines, specially oriented for top players, which allow us to make comput-



In the Spotlight: Jordi Arrese

erised physical check ups, on resistance and effort, specific tests, and so on. We are also working with pioneering software of video analysis and observation, which is used directly on court to analyse the technical execution and tactical movements of the player. This is a very useful tool for coaches because it helps us to correct the player's game. All these elements help us to improve the efficiency and qualities of every player, and this preparation is complemented with competition.

What is the importance of competition in this kind of high-level preparation?

We believe that competition is vital to complete the training for a future professional player. Barcelona is currently one of the busiest places in the tennis world, in terms of tournaments each season. We have one or more tournaments every week and for all levels.

It's unusual for a regional federation such as the Catalan one, to have a centre like the CIT...

Of course, and thanks to this, the CIT is no doubt one of the best in Europe. All the public institutions of the Spanish and Catalan administration have invested in this project since the very beginning, and just few months later it has gained international recognition, such as that which Tennis Europe has offered us recently. The best under-18 Catalan players are currently training at the CIT, alongside some of the best from all over Spain. They share the training schedule with groups of players from around the world, who regularly visit us. Personally, I believe that this mutual cooperation is one of the great achievements of our academy.

What has been the feedback from the players who have visited from around the world?

As the sports director of the academy, I'm very proud to say that most of players and groups who have visited the CIT have had a great experience, both in terms of the personal treatment that they are received from our staff, and for the work that they did here. Many of them already come back on a regular basis. I believe that this is our finest achievement, and the best evidence that our work in the CIT has met with our initial goals.



What is the secret to the success of Catalan and Spanish players in recent years?

Spanish tennis has gone through a spectacular growth in these two last decades, and ours has become one of the most world-recognized training systems. We can discover the secrets to this success by observing the work of Catalan players and especially the FCT throughout its long history. The CIT has tried to gather all the experience and tradition of this system, and to put it into practice for the benefit of tomorrow's best players.

In recognition of the world-class training facilities on offer, CIT became Tennis Europe's Official Academy Partner earlier this year. For more information on the Centre, visit <http://centreinacional.fctennis.org/eng>

Roger Federer Foundation

"My young tennis career has already given me so much. Setting up the Roger Federer Foundation is my way of trying to give something back, especially to those who are least well off." These were Roger Federer's words during the launch of his Foundation in December 2003. The organisation's goals are to fund projects that benefit disadvantaged children as well as promote sport for young people.

The main activity of the Roger Federer Foundation is a partnership with IMBEWU, a South African/Swiss aid organisation aimed at empowering deprived communities in the townships and rural areas of the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. IMBEWU's core activities focus on education, health, sports/culture and volunteer programmes, mainly targeting children and youth (see www.imbewu.org). Next to the excellent quality of this initiative it was chosen due to Roger's close affinity to South Africa: it is the home country of his mother Lynette.

Smiles and stars lit children's faces in the Port Elizabeth townships when Roger paid them a surprise visit in March 2005. It was important to him to get a first-hand look at the entire project. His support has constantly grown ever since then, sponsoring schooling and meals for children, employing social workers and other staff as well as improving the local infrastructure. Roger's sponsor Nike has also helped generously by donating a sports ground where children can now ac-



The World #1 in South Africa. Photo: Roger Federer management

quire new skills – for sports and for life.

If you would also like to help, follow the link on www.tenniseurope.org, or visit www.rogerfederer.com for information on how to make a donation or order an official fan calendar, the proceeds of which go towards the Foundation.

Roger Federer Foundation contact

Roger Federer Foundation, P.O. Box, CH-4103 Bottmingen, Switzerland

E-mail: management@rogerfederer.com

Special Olympics

2007 is set to be a big year for the Special Olympics, who are due to hold their World Summer Games in Shanghai, China, from October 2nd to 11th.

The event expects to see participation from some 7,000 athletes from 150 countries, making it the world's largest event for people with intellectual disabilities in 2007.

Tennis features high on the agenda at the Games, with 15 European countries scheduled to take part, including those nations under the Special Olympics tennis focus programs; Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Tennis Europe encourages all member national federations to expand existing opportunities for potential and current players with intellectual disabilities.

Further information can be found at www.specialolympics.org.



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ITF/Tennis Europe Implement New 'Feed-Up' System

The ITF and Tennis Europe have announced the introduction of a 'Feed-Up' system in 2007, designed to smooth the path for Europe's top Under 16s on to the ITF Junior Circuit.

Throughout the season, a selection of European ITF Junior Circuit events will offer two Feed Up Exempt positions in the main draw. The spots will be given to the top 7 European players according to the 2006 season ending Tennis Europe Junior Tour ranking, and will be distributed as shown in the chart opposite.

TENNIS EUROPE JUNIOR TOUR YEAR END-RANKING	FEED UP EVENTS
#1	2 X Grade 1
#2	1 x Grade 1 1 x Grade 2
#3	2 x Grade 2
#4—#7	2 x Grade 3

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Latest



Europe's biggest indoor junior team tennis competition, the **Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD** are now just around the corner.

117 national teams aged Under 14 and Under 16 are set to take part in the event. Qualifying rounds will

take place at sixteen venues across the continent during the weekends of February 9-11th and 16-18th, the with final rounds set to be held a week later, from the 23-25th February.

The **final round venues** are as follows:

Girls 14&U - Leeuwarden (NED)
Girls 16&U - Ronchin (FRA)
Boys 14&U - Pruhonice (CZE)
Boys 16&U - Pruhonice (CZE)

To see the full repartition of nations, and for further information, visit the Tennis Europe Winter Cups by HEAD section of the www.TennisEurope.org

have been published and are now available for download at the Tennis Europe website.

While the Under 16s take a break in December, there were three 14 & Under events in earlier this month, with some interesting consequences for the rankings.

Spain's European #1 **Carlos Boluda** looks set to his excellent form of 2006 over into the new year, having won the first Category 1 event of the season in St. Genevieve des Bois. With the win, Boluda extended his ranking total to a tour record of 820 points, leaving him a full 350 points ahead of second placed

Anton Volkov of Russia. It was not the easiest of wins for the European Junior Champion though, having to come back from the brink of defeat in his three final matches to beat **Lukas Vrnak** (CZE) 46 75 64, **Ciprian Porumb** (ROM) 57 75 60 and Volkov 26 75 62.

The girls' title was won by 12-year old **Daria Gavrilova** of Russia, who shot from 42nd to 15th in the rankings as a result of her first Tennis Europe Junior Tour title, also adding the doubles title for good measure.

Full draws and results from all Tour events can be found at the Tennis Europe website.

The 2007 **Tennis Europe Junior Tour** calendars

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings—14 & Under



Tennis Europe Junior Tour rankings are updated each Thursday only at www.TennisEurope.org

Photo: Players visit the Tennis Europe Junior Tour stand at last months event in Moscow.



14 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Hanna ORLIK	BLR	740
2	▶	Ajla TOMLJANOVIC	CRO	520
3	▶	Timea BABOS	HUN	510
4	▶	Vivien JUHASZOVA	SVK	500
5	▶	Ksenia KIRILLOVA	RUS	495
6	▶	Jennifer REN	GBR	465
7	NEW	Alexandra KRUNICH	SRB	425
8	▲	Ingrid RADU	ROM	395
9	▼	Maryna ZANEVSKA	UKR	380
10	▼	Silvija NJIRIC	CRO	360
14 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Carlos BOLUDA	ESP	820
2	▶	Anton VOLKOV	RUS	470
3	▶	Jiri VESELY	CZE	385
4	▲	Ciprian PORUMB	ROM	330
5	▶	Lukas VRNAK	CZE	315
6	▼	Filip HORANSKY	SVK	215
7	▶	Andrea DALL'ASTA	ITA	260
8	▶	Leonard STAKHOVSKY	UKR	225
9	▶	Mate PAVIC	CRO	200
10	NEW	Robert RUMLER	CZE	200

Rankings as of 21.12.06

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Rankings—16 & Under



The rankings are published each Thursday at www.TennisEurope.org, and can be found in alphabetical and numerical formats, as well as in printable versions. The five best singles results, plus the two best doubles results and the best (one) team competition result count towards a players' ranking. The top eight European players at the end of each season qualify to compete at the season-ending Tennis Europe Junior Masters.



Photo: Mirza Basic continues to reign as Europe's top Under 16.

16 & Under Girls		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Ekaterine GORGODZE	GEO	495
2	▶	Simona HALEP	ROM	480
3	▶	Linda ABU MUSHRAF	BRN	415
4	▶	Julia MAYR	ITA	400
5	▶	Martina GLEDACHEVA	BUL	375
6	▶	Kai Chen CHANG	TPE	370
7	▶	Monika TUMOVA	CZE	370
8	▶	Maria MELIUK	BLR	355
9	▶	Camelia HRISTEA	ROM	345
10	▶	Isbella SHINIKOVA	BUL	330

16 & Under Boys		Player	Country	Points Total
1	▶	Mirza BASIC	BIH	470
2	▶	Marco SPERONELLO	ITA	385
3	▶	Henrik SILLANPÄÄ	FIN	290
4	▶	Piotr GADOMSKI	POL	285
5	▶	Tsuna-Hua YANG	TPE	255
6	▶	Diminik WIREND	AUT	255
7	▶	Sebastian CHYLINSKI	POL	240
8	▶	Grigor DIMITROV	BUL	230
9	▶	Patrick GRIGORIU	ROM	230
10	▶	Gleb PANOV	BLR	225

Rankings as of 21.12.06

Tennis Europe Junior Tour Results

14 & UNDER

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
06/11	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	3	T Neimatov (RUS)	D Skripnik (ISR)	64 75
			K Alesha (BLR)	(3) Y Petralias (GRE)	36 63 63
06/11	Willem (SUI)	2	(2) C Porumb (ROM)	(7) J Cagnina (BEL)	36 61 63
			(1) I Stoica (ROM)	(2) L Sporea (ROM)	61 64
13/11	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	3	(4) S Branzburg (ISR)	(1) A Metrevelli (GEO)	63 63
			(1) E Svitolina (UKR)	L Zimmermann (ISR)	60 75
04/12	Gothenburg (SWE)	3	M Watkins (GBR)	F Ramos (POR)	61 75
			(8) M Kraljevic (SUI)	A Kushkhova (RUS)	61 64
11/12	St. Genevieve des Bois (FRA)	1	(1) C Boluda (ESP)	(2) A Volkov (RUS)	26 75 62
			(10) D Gavrilova (RUS)	(4) A Krunic (SRB)	63 46 62
11/12	Ostrava (CZE)	2	T Pitra (CZE)	(6) T Neymatov (RUS)	64 64
			P Leykina (RUS)	(5) V Zavodska (CZE)	62 64

16 & UNDER

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
11/12	Gothenburg (SWE)	3	(7) I Turudic (CRO)	D Berta (SWE)	64 36 62
			A Marenko (RUS)	WC V Osadchenko (SWE)	75 61



ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) 2006

The \$25,000 Women's Circuit event in Valasske Mezirici (CZE) last week brought to an end activity on the ITF Pro Circuits in Europe for another season. The Circuits consist of over 500 events with a total prize money of over \$7,000,000. Below is an extract from the completed 2006 Circuit Statistics, updated weekly at: http://www.tenniseurope.org/ProfessionalTennis/Pro_Te_Results_Archive.aspx



Meanwhile, the full list of 2007 changes to ITF Pro Circuits, plus the Code of Conduct and the Age Eligibility Rule can be found at http://www.tenniseurope.org/ProfessionalTennis/Pro_Te_RulesandRegulations.aspx.

	ITF MEN'S CIRCUIT	ITF WOMEN'S CIRCUIT
Tournaments	269	234
Winning Nations	38	39
Nations with most titles	France - 35 Spain - 35 Germany - 26 Italy - 24	Germany - 24 France - 20 Russia - 20 Italy - 18
Players with most singles titles	(6) Victor Ionita (ROM)	(5) Sandra Martinovic (BIH) (5) Anne Schaefer (GER)
Unranked winners	4	3
Wild Card winners	11 (4% of tournaments)	12 (5% of tournaments)
Qualifier winners	20 (7%)	20 (9%)
Lowest Ranked winner	Unranked - Boy Westerhof (NED), Lars Poerschke (GER), Thomas Schiessling (AUT), Franz Stauder (GER)	Unranked - Renee Reinhard (NED)
Youngest winner	17 years, 4 months Marin Cilic (CRO) / Ernest Gulbis (LAT)	14 years, 9 months Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (RUS)
Oldest winner	31 years, 11 months Werner Eschauer (AUT)	29 years, 10 months Anna Smashnova (ISR)

ITF Pro Circuits (Europe) Results

ITF Men's Circuit					
Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Nov-13	Las Palmas (ESP)	\$15,000	(2) A Golubev (RUS)	(8) J Masson (BEL)	64 63
Nov-13	Sunderland (GBR)	\$15,000	(8) J Scherrer (SUI)	(5) B Knittel (GER)	57 62 64
Nov-13	Sergiev Posad (RUS)	\$15,000	(2) K Kravchuk (RUS)	(1) A Kedriouk (KAZ)	61 57 76(6)
Nov-20	Mosrentgen (RUS)	\$15,000	E Kirillov (RUS)	(Q) M Kukushin (RUS)	36 61 63
Nov-20	Maspalomas (ESP)	\$15,000	(3) M Fornell (ESP)	G Kretschmer (GER)	64 63
Nov-20	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	\$10,000	(8) A Haider-Maurer (AUT)	(5) T De Bakker (NED)	64 64
Nov-27	Vendryne (CZE)	\$15,000	(1) J Goodall (GBR)	(3) S Bubka (UKR)	64 62
Nov-27	Tel Aviv (ISR)	\$10,000	V Skenderovic (CRO)	F Hemmes (NED)	64 63
Dec-04	Opava (CZE)	\$15,000	(2) L Rosol (CZE)	(1) J Goodall (GBR)	67(5) 64 76(8)
Dec-04	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	\$10,000	(6) F Hemmes (NED)	M Elgin (RUS)	63 64
ITF Women's Circuit					
Nov-13	Deauville (FRA)	\$50,000	(8) V Kutuzova (RUS)	(6) A Brianti (ITA)	61 62
Nov-13	Prerov (CZE)	\$25,000	(5) A Keothavong (GBR)	A Kerber (GER)	64 75
Nov-13	Mallorca (ESP)	\$10,000	(Q) M Gerards (NED)	(4) E Fernandez Brugues (ESP)	61 63
Nov-13	Sunderland (GBR)	\$10,000	(7) M Pavelec (GER)	(2) P Suomalainen (FIN)	62 64
Nov-20	Poitiers (FRA)	\$75,000	(1) A Rezai (FRA)	I Lisjak (CRO)	76(0) 61
Nov-20	Ramat Hasharon (ISR)	\$10,000	(4) N Thyssen (NED)	(5) N Silva (POR)	62 64
Nov-27	Milan (ITA)	\$50,000+H	(7) R Vinci (ITA)	M Chakhnashvili (GEO)	62 64
Nov-27	Tel Aviv (ISR)	\$10,000	(Q) S Vogeles (SUI)	S Meddens (NED)	63 64
Dec 11	Valasske Mezirici (CZE)	\$25,000	WC P Kvitova (CZE)	(Q) R Holusova (CZE)	63 64

The latest draws and results from ITF Pro Circuit events in Europe are updated seven days a week at www.TennisEurope.org.

European Rankings

Despite the addition of points from the season-ending Tennis Masters Cup in Shanghai, there are no changes to the European rankings since last month's edition.

The victory in China - his third overall - cements Roger Federer's unprecedented lead at the top of the world rankings and added a number of new accomplishments to his ever growing list; first professional player ever to earn over \$8 million in one season, a record season-ending points tally and the first player in the Open era to end the year with ten or more titles in three consecutive seasons, as well as guaran-

teeing that next February he will break Jimmy Connors' long standing record for most consecutive weeks at #1.

In recognition of their 2006 achievements, the two #1s, Federer and Belgium's Justine Henin-Hardenne were last week confirmed as the ITF World Champions.

Rankings as of December 18th, 2006

WOMEN		PLAYER	COUNTRY	WTA TOUR RANK	POINTS TOTAL
1	►	Justine HENIN-HARDENNE	BEL	1	3998
2	►	Maria SHARAPOVA	RUS	2	3532
3	►	Amélie MAURESMO	FRA	3	3391
4	►	Svetlana KUZNETSOVA	RUS	4	2532
5	►	Kim CLIJSTERS	BEL	5	2215
6	►	Nadia PETROVA	RUS	6	2189
7	►	Martina HINGIS	SUI	7	2018
8	►	Elena DEMENTIEVA	RUS	8	1875
9	►	Patty SCHNYDER	SUI	9	1578
10	►	Nicole VAIDISOVA	CZE	10	1391

MEN		PLAYER	COUNTRY	ATP ENTRY RANK	POINTS TOTAL
1	►	Roger FEDERER	SUI	1	8370
2	►	Rafael NADAL	ESP	2	4470
3	►	Nikolay DAVYDENKO	RUS	3	2825
4	►	Ivan LJUBICIC	CRO	5	2495
5	►	Tommy ROBREDO	ESP	7	2375
6	►	Mario ANCIC	CRO	9	2060
7	►	Tommy HAAS	GER	11	1890
8	►	Marcos BAGHDATIS	CYP	12	1860
9	►	Tomas BERDYCH	CZE	13	1705
10	►	David FERRER	ESP	14	1475

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL AT TENNIS EUROPE!

Season's greetings from Tennis Europe President John James and all the staff: David Albareda, Flurin Conrad, Charlotte Ferrari, Magnus Grönvold, Jonathan Jobson, Stephanie Kamberi, Nadja Koran, Carola Löffler, Martina Lutkova, Olli Mäenpää and Hrvoje Zmajic.

EUROPEAN RACQUET STRINGER'S ASSOCIATION

The latest issue of **ERSA's Racquet Tech** magazine can be downloaded and read at:

www.tenniseurope.org/pdf/RT4-06.pdf

OBITUARY: DEREK BONE

Tennis Europe was greatly saddened to learn of the sudden death of Derek Bone, who passed away on 13th November. Mr Bone attended many Junior General Meetings and worked tirelessly at the LTA and, more recently, at the FIT Academy in Buckinghamshire, England. His great contributions to British and European tennis were recognised in 2004 with the Tennis Europe Award.

OBITUARY: MICHAEL MacCAUGHEY

We are further saddened to report the death of Michael McCaughey, who passed away on the 12th December after battling with cancer. Mr. MacCaughey was also a former recipient of the Tennis Europe Award, due to his constructive and valued support to the organisation over the years, most notably in presiding over the long-standing relationship between Tennis Europe and Mr MacCaughey's company, Tretorn, and will be sorely missed by all at Tennis Europe.

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