

EUROPE'S BEST CONFIRM CLAY COURT SUPREMACY AT ROLAND GARROS

Two players dominated the 2005 French Open from start to finish. Former world #1 Justine Henin-Hardenne and rising star Rafael Nadal stole the headlines from the very first day of the event, their inexorable trajectories to the titles having a number of parallels. Both had won three significant clay court events in the weeks prior to Roland Garros. Both celebrated a birthday during the event, Henin Hardenne turning 23 and Nadal 19. Both made light work of tough draws, and upset the reigning world #1 on the way to the title. Finally, both players left Paris with win streaks of over 20 matches.

Of the two, it was Henin Hardenne who had the tougher draw, at least on paper. The Belgian, seeded tenth after clawing her way back from a year of illness-enforced absence in which she had been able to play only sporadically, had to face a series of top Russians. Ultimately, US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova was the only one to seriously challenge her, extending their match to a 7-5 third set in the fourth round, during

which Henin Hardenne saved two match points. Curiously, it was second year in succession that Kuznetsova would hold match points against the eventual champion without success.

Maria Sharapova's clay court season was better than last year, but still served to highlight her relative inexperience on the surface, as Henin Hardenne swept her aside in the quarterfinals, as she did Nadia Petrova in a lacklustre semi-final. Henin's final opponent was home favourite Mary Pierce, who had swept through the top half of the draw, surprising and delighting the French fans, and even herself, with her best tennis in years, including a straight sets quarter-final demolition of world #1 Lindsay Davenport. The mood was reminiscent of her imperious runs to the final in 1994 and the title in 2000, but this time she could not maintain her form when she really needed to, capitulating to Henin-Hardenne in a tense and error strewn display that lasted barely an hour. (continued on Page 2)

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Henin-Hardenne holds the French Open trophy for the second time.
Photo: Paul Zimmer

ROLAND GARROS

[continued from front page] Pierce will be hoping it's a sign of better things to come. Her ranking improves to the low teens, and with few points to defend for the rest of the year, she'll be hoping for a return to the top ten for the first time in almost five years. Henin Hardenne's success indicates that she will soon be battling for the #1 position that was undeniably hers before a virus sapped her strength so much that she wondered if she ever be able to play again. Her 2005 record is now 28-1 and she looks sure to end the year among the top five.

The men's event was just as full of surprises as the women's, but also was ultimately won by the pre-tournament favourite, this time in the form of Rafael Nadal of Spain [pictured]. After winning optional clay court events in Brazil and Mexico early in the season, and reaching his first Masters Series final in Miami (where he was two sets and a break of serve up against Roger Federer before being pegged back), Nadal took the European clay court events by storm, winning back-to-back Masters Series events in Monte Carlo and Rome, and adding the Barcelona title for good measure.



Having been forced to withdraw from the Hamburg Masters Series event prior to Roland Garros due to blisters sustained during the 5-hour final match against Guillermo Coria in Rome, Nadal arrived in Paris relatively fresh, despite a heavy schedule. His standard of play did not suffer though, winning five consecutive straight sets matches to set up a semi final with Federer that most believed would effectively be the final, and had been hotly anticipated since the draw was announced. Playing in difficult conditions, both players dug deep for their

best form, but rarely played at their best simultaneously. Federer eventually paid a high price for an uncharacteristically large amount of forehand errors, and was seen off in four sets as darkness fell.

The pundits who had predicted that the winner of the Federer-Nadal match would walk away with the final gave short shrift to Argentinian Mariano Puerta, who came through a hotly contested bottom half of the

draw. Unseeded, Puerta had had a moderately successful clay court season, which had included three wins over former world #1 Carlos Moya, a run to the title in Casablanca and a final in Buenos Aires.

He came through a number of tough matches to reach the final, coming back from a deficit of two sets to one against compatriot Guillermo Cañas in the quarter final, and also against Russian Nikolay Davydenko in a thrilling semi final.

Indeed it was Puerta who looked to be the likely winner for the first hour or so of the final, as he took the first set on a tie break after forcing numerous errors from his Spanish opponent. This only served to fire up Nadal though, and after breaking early in the second set, Nadal's form reached a level to which Puerta had no answers, at least for the next two and half sets. As Nadal edged closer to victory, Puerta fought back from a break down in the fourth set to peg the score at 5-5 only to concede a decisive break of serve.

That Nadal managed to muscle his way to the title on his Roland Garros debut is a remarkable feat, but while many had predicted a win, the calmly determined and self-assured manner in which he did so drew comparisons to Boris Becker's awesome march to the Wimbledon title as a 17-year old in 1985.

Order was restored in the men's doubles, as world #1 Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden teamed with Belorussian Max Mirnyi to win a first French Open title, eleven years after first reaching the final in Paris. It is the third title of the year for the team, following wins at the Masters Series events in Miami and Rome.

There will be familiar names on the women's doubles trophy, as Virginia Ruano Pascual of Spain and Paola Suarez of Argentina won the Roland Garros title for the fourth time in five years. The world's top pair have now reached an incredible nine consecutive Grand Slam doubles finals, and are closing in on the long standing record of 13 held by Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver.

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(continued from previous page) Navratilova herself was still involved during the final weekend, teaming with regular partner Leander Paes of India, but failed to win a third French open mixed title as the popular team were beaten by the crowd-pleasing duo of Daniela Hantuchova and Fabrice Santoro. Navratilova and Paes were a break up in the third set but lost six consecutive games as Hantuchova and Santoro upset a seeded team for the fourth consecutive match.

European players also dominated the junior events. Eighth seeded Agnes Szavay of Hungary swept aside Romanian Raluca Ioana Olaru for the girl's title. The event was characterised by upsets, and not one of the top four seeds reached as far as the third round. Top seeded American Jessica Kirkland lost an epic second round encounter to Bibiane Schoofs of the Netherlands 9-7 in the third set, whilst second-seeded Belorussian Viktorya Azarenka lost 8-6 in the same round to Russian Alyssa Kleybanova. Olaru was unable to take the opportunity for revenge in the doubles final, as she as Amina Rakhim of Kazhakstan lost in three sets to Szavay and Azarenka. It was the second consecutive Grand Slam in which Szavay had reached both the singles and doubles final, having lost both matches in

Australia at the beginning of the year.

The boy's event was strikingly similar. Top seeded Briton Andrew Murray was the only of the top four seeds to reach the third round, making it is far as the semi finals before being upset by the eventual champion Marin Cilic. The unseeded Croatian 16 year old put in an impressive performance in Paris, winning all but one of his matches in straight sets, and adding a Junior Grand Slam title to the European Championships title he won last summer. Argentinian players featured in a third final of the tournament as Emiliano Massa and Leonardo Mayer teamed to beat the Ukrainian/French team of Sergei Bubka and Jeremy Chardy in three sets.

The tour now begins it's annual jolt to the grass court circuit in preparation for Wimbledon, with some intriguing battles in prospect, notably the struggle for the top spot in the men's game. Nadal has shown that the world #1 is not necessarily the clay court #1, and with victory in Paris has tied Federer for the lead in the ATP Race ranking. Whilst he is quick to play down his chances at this years Wimbledon, the tennis world will be hoping to see the next act of his emerging rivalry with Federer played out on the lawns of SW19.

2005 BNP PARIBAS CUP LAUNCHED

Tennis Europe President John James (photo, second-right) was on hand at a press conference to launch this year's edition of the BNP Paribas Cup during Roland Garros. He was joined by representatives of the events main partners and other tennis dignitaries including ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti and his French Tennis Federation counterpart Christian Bîmes as the organisers outlined their plans for this year's event.



The 14 & Under tournament, now in its' 16th year, is a prestigious Category 1 event on the European Junior Tour, and past champions include Justine Henin Hardenne and Guillermo Coria, the latter of whom is involved in 2005 as one of the events supporters. The main event will take place at the Stade Français from July 4th, with the finals being held at Roland Garros.

In his speech, Mr James stressed the importance of junior activities for Tennis Europe, highlighted the excellent performances at Roland Garros of many of the tour's graduates.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: PEDRO MUÑOZ

There have been some major changes at the Spanish Tennis Federation in 2005, following former Tennis Europe President Agustin Pujol's decision to stand down from his role as RFET leader after nineteen years in office at the beginning of the year. We took the opportunity to speak to his successor, Pedro Muñoz, at Roland Garros to find out what's in store for one of Europe's most successful national associations.

How are you finding your new role so far?

Very good, thank you. My first hundred days in office are over and I feel very happy. Just last Saturday we had our AGM, where reports and plans for the future were widely approved. I have travelled intensively to visit as many of our regional associations as promised during the electoral campaign.

I have also attended some international events and meetings (such as the Tennis Europe AGM or the Masters final in Rome), but at the same time, I have been very busy understanding the administrative structure of the RFET as it is now.

Can you explain a little about this structure? The Spanish Tennis Federation is comprised of many regional associations. What are the challenges of coordinating so many entities?

The Federation structure in Spain is now undergoing a profound change. Spain is a country divided into 19 autonomous communities and the regional tennis associations, whose territories correspond to that of their autonomous community, have not so far achieved the right level of autonomy. The Spanish Tennis Federation is the sum of all its regional associations and as such it should be run. It should take independent decisions only at the level of the national team competition.

All the regional associations are now integrated and represented in our executive board and participate in all decisions. We want the RFET to be a service provider to the regional associations, assisting them in the administration and granting them bonuses and awards for the successful organisation of events, players education

and so on. Our main goal is to give them the tools to generate sources of income by educating them into best Marketing and Communication practices, so that they become less financially-dependent on RFET and on regional government subsidies.

Women's tennis in Spain in recent years has undergone something of a crisis, at least compared to the stellar results of the 1990s. In an effort to stimulate female participation, the 'Enamorate' programme was launched last year. What are the aims, and how successful has it been so far?



The main goal is to guarantee that girls have access to the same resources as the boys: the same level of coaches, same training centres and same level of competition. We have increased our number

of \$25,000 ITF events to 6 and have one higher one. Our immediate objective is to have 16 to 18 \$10,000 ITF events, 10 \$25,000 events and one WTA Tour event.

Looking at the draw here in Roland Garros, I was a little surprised to see that there were no Spanish juniors in either the boys or girls competitions. Why is this?

This is an interesting and unusual situation. Spanish junior players traditionally start playing Futures events at a relatively early stage, as there are many opportunities for them to play ITF professional events at home. The complication arising from this is that our boys and girls, while having ATP and WTA ranking points and a similar or higher level of play than the players of the main draw of Junior Grand Slams, do not have a high enough ITF Junior ranking to be included. We are going to try to address this situation because we respect the competition and because there are junior players that will never make it to professional level and they also deserve to be able to participate in events with a good level of competition.

You first got involved with the sport through an unusual avenue, could you explain how?

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT: PEDRO MUÑOZ

(continued from previous page) That's right. When I was 27, I was suffering a depression and when a friend introduced me to tennis, I discovered that playing helped me to avoid having long naps and taking medication. That's why I owe so much to tennis; I cannot say that it saved my life but it certainly improved it! Thanks to tennis I overcame the illness and that is more than reason enough to love it as much as I do. I spent countless hours helping players and studying their behaviour on court and never tired of it.

Would you agree then that the organising bodies of tennis are sometimes guilty of placing too much emphasis on the competitive aspect of the sport, and that too little attention is paid to the benefits of social tennis, and of the sport as an aid to a healthy lifestyle?

Yes, absolutely. Social tennis practice is about to make a big step forward in the coming years in Spain, although this type of promotion typically receives little attention in the media. Our regional associations missions and key objectives are junior, club and senior ten-

nis. We cannot limit ourselves to competitive tennis, and we have a duty to educate people in the values of the sport. Children who get started now may not become professionals, but there is much life after and apart from tennis and they should be able to use the best of this experience outside the courts. They should at least be able to use tennis as a means to follow a healthy lifestyle and hopefully not abandon it when they realize that will never become professional players.

What you like your presidency to be remembered for?

Our dream is to organize a combined two-week event at the highest professional level - an ATP Master Series together with a WTA Tier One tournament. This would have many great effects for Spanish tennis, and such an event would guarantee a source of income beyond that of the Davis Cup, which can never be relied upon, and would allow us to take on even more ambitious projects in years to come.

A STUDY OF JUNIOR PLAYER ACTIVITY AND THE AGE ELIGIBILITY RULE

Tennis Europe Women's Committee Members Barbro Raabe and Mark Verbeek have recently been working on a follow up to the 2001 study of the Age Eligibility Rule, devised to protect young (female) players from over-playing, or 'burn-out'.

In 2004, Tennis Europe commissioned a new study of the effectiveness of the rule, after concerns were expressed about the ability of players to circumvent the system and play a virtually unlimited number of events by competing in tournaments on each circuit.

The study takes a look at the top 100 ITF Junior-ranked girls and looks at their activities in WTA, ITF Pro Circuit, Under 18, Under 16, National and Team event competitions, and has some striking findings.

The full report is published on the Professional tennis section of the Tennis Europe website, or accessible directly through this link: www.tenniseurope.org/pdf/Professional/JuniorSurvey05.pdf

EUROPEAN RACQUET STRINGERS ASSOCIATION

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JUNIOR TOUR PLAYERS OF THE YEAR—THE NEXT STEP: ALEXANDRA DULGHERU

In the first of a series in which we focus on former European Junior Tour Players of the Year, we speak to the most recent: Junior Masters winner and current Under 16 #1 Alexandra Dulgheru of Romania, to find out how she has been doing since leaving the Tour. At the end of the 2004 season, Dulgheru's Under 16-ranking lead was such that she has spent all of 2005 so far in the top spot, despite having shifted her focus on to the ITF 18 & Under Tour.

It is on the ITF Junior Circuit that she has excelled, compiling a 31-4 record since the beginning of the year, winning four events and rising to seventh in the world. In addition to this she has played her first professional events, coming through qualifying to win a \$10,000 ITF Pro Circuit event in her hometown of Bucharest, following up with a final showing at a similar event in Pitesti the following week. Following these early successes, she debuted on the WTA rankings at 811.

We caught up with her at Roland Garros, where she celebrated her 16th birthday with a first round win at her first ever Junior Grand Slam event.



Are you enjoying your Roland Garros experience so far?

Yes – I love it here; it's inspiring. When I first got here I didn't know what to do first. I'm really happy to be around all the great players and to see them play. I've seen some women's matches, and I thought they'd be extraordinary, but they're human too. They have more confidence, and can play better of course, but it shows me that I can be there too.

In the last six months, you have played tennis at many different different levels. How do you adapt to playing such a variety of events?

To be honest, there's not too much difference. I had some tough matches in the ITF Juniors as well as in the

\$10,000 events. A lot of it depends on your confidence, and I had a lot of confidence to move up a level after winning the junior masters last year. I started to play Under 18 events, and just told myself "It's the same thing; a lot of the players are the same, just go for it!" Then, when I started to play the small professional events, I expected a big jump but there wasn't such a gap. The difference is the mentality. It's not that the shots are different or that people play from out of this world, but the better players have a lot of self-confidence, and that makes a big difference.

What are your plans for the rest of the year?

A mixture. I'll play some more \$10,000s, but I will continue to combine them with ITF Junior events.

What are your targets? Where do you see yourself in a years time?

It's hard to say. I would hope to reach maybe the top 500. My objective is to be a professional, and make my living playing tennis. I never said "I want to be #1 in Europe" or "I want to be in the top ten Under 18s" – of course, it would be nice, but everyone wants those things. For me, it's better

to have wider goals, such as to play well or to be a professional, because if I play well, the other things will follow.

What about education? How do you manage to stay on top of school work?

Well, I'm lucky in that my school is quite understanding. [Former Romanian men's #1] Adrian Voinea also went there, so they have some experience with tennis players and know that we have to travel. I still have to keep up though, and have exams and things at the same time as everybody else.

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JUNIOR TOUR PLAYERS OF THE YEAR—THE NEXT STEP: ALEXANDRA DULGHERU

[continued from Page 7] *Who do you travel with?*

My coach, Alina Tecpor. We get on really well, and she always knows exactly the right words to encourage me. Many people travel with their parents, but tennis is a job, so I prefer to be with my coach.

It seems that there are many Romanian girls who excel as juniors, but in recent years there hasn't been a female Romanian near the top of the rankings. Why do you think this is?

That's a difficult question. Many people just don't have

the possibilities to play; they're unwilling or unable to travel abroad for example, and many stop playing in their teens, but I guess that's the same in every country. I wouldn't say that it's something specific to Romanian tennis.

How will you remember the European Junior Tour?

Well, these are the first tournaments that you really have to play if you want to make it. I remember reading that Clijsters, Henin – all the top players played. I had a good time on the tour, it's the best way to prepare for what's ahead.

ITF/TENNIS EUROPE 16 & UNDER TOURING TEAMS

The ITF/Tennis Europe 16 & Under Touring Team is currently mid-way through their tour of European Junior Tour events. The project is now in its eighth year, and aims to provide high-level



playing opportunities for some of the most promising players from developing tennis nations. Financed by the Grand Slam Development Fund, in recent years the project has enabled such players as Marcos Baghdatis, Jarkko Nieminen and Eleni Daniilidou to travel to top international junior events.

The 2005 Team has already had some success, with Bosnian player Nadina Secerbegovic reaching the final of the first event of the five-tournament tour, a Category 2 event in Montecatini, Italy. The result moves her in to the European Junior Tour 16 & Under top ten for the first time this week. We spoke to her briefly in Avvenire, where the team were about to participate in their second event.

Congratulations on reaching the final last week - did you expect to do so well?

I had no expectations at first, but I was playing well and when I

saw that I had the opportunity to reach the finals I really went for it.

How do you feel to be included in the ITF/Tennis Europe Touring Team?

I'm very happy about it, because they've chosen me over thousands of girls who play tennis in Europe. It's a little different, as we are a very big team, so I don't have a lot to worry about, although I still need to do a lot of things on my own.

A further report on the progress of the team will follow in the next issue.

2005 ITF/Tennis Europe 16 & Under Touring Team

Boys

- Valentin Dimov (BUL)
- Ricardas Berankis (BLR)
- Ilija Martinovski (MKD)

Girls

- Ioana Ivan (ROM)
- Nadina Secerbegovic (BIH)
- Katarina Jeritcheva (EST)

EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR RESULTS - 14 & UNDER

Venue/Category	U14	Winner	Runner-up	Score
BRATISLAVA (SVK) (2)	Boys	MICHAL KOZELSKY (CZE)	IGOR NOWAK (POL)	64 76
	Girls	PALOMA KIRALY (HUN)	YULIA GOLOBORODKO (UKR)	75 63
ZAGREB (CRO) (2)	Boys	MIRZA BASIC (BIH)	JASMIN ADEMOVIC (BIH)	63 62
	Girls	JASMINA KAJTAZOVIC (SLO)	ANNA ARINA MARENKO (RUS)	61 62
OPALENICA (POL) (2)	Boys	ULRIK THOMSEN (DEN)	PRZEMYSLAW CENTKOWSKI (POL)	64 60
	Girls	MARTINA BORECKA (CZE)	YULIA GOLOBORODKO (UKR)	63 64
RAKOVNIK (CZE) (2)	Boys	RADIM URBANEK (CZE)	STINISLAV POPLAVSKYY (UKR)	61 75
	Girls	LUCIA VRSKOVA	DALILA JAKUPOVIC (SLO)	26 76 63
KIEV (UKR) (3)	Boys	ANTON PROTSENKO (UKR)	GEORGY BATRAKOV (RUS)	64 64
	Girls	YULIA GOLOBORODKO (UKR)	ANASTASIA EROFEEVA (RUS)	64 63
PECS (HUN) (2)	Boys	ANDREI SAVULESCU (ROM)	TAMAS BATYI (HUN)	75 62
	Girls	BOJANA JOVANOVSKI (SCG)	MILICA MILOSAVLJEVIC (SCG)	67 67 64
ZABRZE (POL) (2)	Boys	VADIM PINKO (LTU)	JAMES CHAUDRY (GBR)	16 62 63
	Girls	DOMINIKA KANAKOVA (CZE)	EKATERINA ABAEVA (RUS)	75 64
PRAGUE (CZE) (1)	Boys	GRIGOR DMITROV (BUL)	RADIM URBANEK (CZE)	62 76
	Girls	SIMON HALEP (ROM)	YULIA GOLOBORODKO (UKR)	64 63
YEREVAN (ARM) (3)	Boys	ASHOT KHACHARYAN (RUS)	GIORGI KHMIADASHVILI (GEO)	60 36 60
	Girls	EKATERINA GORGODZE (GEO)	OLGA MAKHOVA (RUS)	64 62
PESCARA (ITA) (2)	Boys	MARCO BORTOLOTTI (ITA)	ANDREA PACIELLO (ITA)	62 63
	Girls	CAROLINA PILLOT (ITA)	SERENA FRAZZITA (ITA)	64 76
MARIBOR (SLO) (3)	Boys	MIRZA BASIC (BIH)	MORITZ DETTINGER (GER)	75 41 RET
	Girls	POLONA HERCOG (SLO)	INDIRE AKIKI (CRO)	60 61
CORREGGIO (ITA) (2)	Boys	ANDREA PACIELLO (ITA)	MARCO BORTOLOTTI (ITA)	61 64
	Girls	HANA TOMLJANOVIC (CRO)	JULIA MAYR (ITA)	64 36 64
EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR RESULTS - 16 & UNDER				
BRNO (CZE) (3)	Boys	ARTEM GRAMMA (UKR)	WALTER KUBICKA (AUT)	64 61
	Girls	MARKETA HAVELKOVA (CZE)	SINIKA JEZKOVA (CZE)	64 63
BUDAPEST (HUN) (3)	Boys	BENCE TOTH (HUN)	MARCEL THIEL (GER)	62 62
	Girls	KATA SZEKELY (HUN)	PALMA KIRALY (HUN)	75 16 63
MINSK (BLR) (3)	Boys	ARTUR KLIMENKA (BLR)	STANISLAV FALKOVICH (BLR)	60 63
	Girls	NATALIA SHATKOVSKAYA (BLR)	HANA MALAKHOVICH (BLR)	75 60
KIEV (UKR) (3)	Boys	DZIMITRY ZHRMONT (BLR)	ARTSIOM BARADACH (BLR)	61 60
	Girls	TATYANA AREFYEVA (UKR)	KATERYNA BYELCHEVA (RUS)	76 64
FOGGIA (ITA) (2)	Boys	DANIEL COX (GBR)	GASTAO ELIAS (POR)	62 61
	Girls	CLAUDIA GIOVINE (ITA)	SIMONETTA MIORI (ITA)	64 62
CREMA (ITA) (3)	Boys	DANIEL EVANS (GBR)	DANIEL COX (GBR)	57 62 61
	Girls	GIULIA LANTERI (ITA)	GIULIA GARDANI (ITA)	67 76 61
YEREVAN (ARM) (3)	Boys	GAGIK KURDADZE (ARM)	ASHOT GVORGYAN (ARM)	64 75
	Girls	MANANA SHAPAKIDZE (GEO)	ZARUHI HARUTYUNYAN (ARM)	63 62
MARIBOR (SLO) (2)	Boys	ALJAZ BEDENE (SLO)	ALIN MIHAI CONSTANTIN (ROM)	06 63 62
	Girls	TADEJA MAJERIC (SLO)	LARA KAMNIK (SLO)	62 62
FOLIGNO (ITA) (2)	Boys	DANIEL EVANS (GBR)	DANIEL COX (GBR)	67 76 75
	Girls	DELIA DAMASCHIN (ROM)	ELORA DABILJA (ROM)	57 63 62
WARSAW (POL) (3)	Boys	JAAN BRUNKEN (GER)	JONAS LUCIEN (GER)	62 62
	Girls	SABRINA BAUMGARTEN (GER)	HANNA KAPUSTKA (POL)	63 63
MONTECATINI (ITA) (2)	Boys	GUILLERMO RIVERA (CHI)	ILIJA MARTINOSKI (MKD)	46 63 62
	Girls	KSENIA PALKINA (KGZ)	NADINA SECERBEGOVIC (BIH)	46 63 64

EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR RANKINGS

14 & UNDER GIRLS				14 & UNDER BOYS			
Rank	Name	Nation	Points	Rank	Name	Nation	Points
1	Ksenia Pervak	RUS	550	1	Radim Urbanek	CZE	565
2	Polona Hercog	SLO	525	2	Martim Trueva	POR	440
3	Dominika Kanakova	CZE	465	3	Vadim Pinko	LTU	385
4	Yulia Goloborodko	UKR	455	4	Grigor Dmitrov	BUL	380
5	Jasmina Kajtazovic	SLO	420	5	Yannick Reuter	BEL	380
6	Petra Martic	CRO	400	6	Stanislav Poplavskyy	UKR	380
7	Indire Akiki	CRO	387	7	Andrei Savulescu	ROM	375
8	Simona Halep	ROM	385	8	Michal Kozelsky	CZE	365
9	Kristyna Pliskova	CZE	350	9	James Chaudry	GBR	360
10	Yulia Kirienko	UKR	345	10	Marco Speronello	ITA	360
16 & UNDER GIRLS				16 & UNDER BOYS			
1	Alexandra Dulgheru	ROM	420	1	Deni Zmak	CRO	435
2	Ioana Ivan	ROM	390	2	Kevin Botti	FRA	410
3	Arina Rodionova	RUS	370	3	Petru Luncanu	ROM	395
4	Maya Gaverova	RUS	365	4	Dylan Sessagesimi	SUI	365
5	Euvgenia Vertesheva	RUS	361	5	Jan Blecha	CZE	355
6	Andrea Rebrova	SVK	310	6	Thomas Fabbiano	ITA	325
7	Maite Gabarrus	ESP	305	7	Artem Gramma	UKR	305
8	Jekaterina Jeritsheva	EST	285	8	Gueorgui Roumenov	BUL	290
9	Nadina Secerbegovic	BIH	275	9	Vladimir Karusevich	RUS	287
10	Jana Belohlavkova	CZE	247.5	10	Vladimir Ignatik	BLR	285

European Junior Tour ranking points are awarded throughout the year at all tournaments on the European Junior Tour. The allocation of points depends on the round reached, and the category of tournament. Events are divided into three categories. Category 1 events have the strongest draws, and thus award more ranking points. Category 3 events are the most common type, and award less ranking points than Categories 1 and 2.

At the end of the season, the top eight European juniors are invited to take part in the Junior Masters, which this year will be held during the weekend of 7-9 October in Reggio Calabria, Italy. Rankings are updated each Thursday, and the full ranking lists can be found in a variety of formats, along with a points-per-tournament breakdown and a year end ranking history at www.TennisEurope.org

ITF MEN'S CIRCUIT EVENTS IN EUROPE - RESULTS

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Apr 25	Padova (ITA)	\$10,000	M Ocera (ITA)	S Korteling (NED)	75 63
Apr 25	Lleida (ESP)	\$10,000	(3) D Marrero (ESP)	(1) J Genaro Martinez (ESP)	76(5) 76(6)
Apr 25	Budapest (HUN)	\$10,000	(WC) S Kiss (HUN)	G Zemlja (SLO)	61 62
Apr 25	Belek (TUR)	\$6,250	(1) C Cuadrado (ESP)	(3) H Ruiz Cadenas (ESP)	63 60
Apr 25	Bournemouth (GBR)	\$6,250	(5) F Cipolla (ITA)	(2) A Mackin (GBR)	75 63
May 2	Vic (ESP)	\$10,000	(5) D Perez (ESP)	(1) D Gimeno Traver (ESP)	75 67 76
May 2	Bucharest (ROM)	\$10,000	(5) V Crivoi (ROM)	(1) G Moraru (ROM)	62 64
May 2	Valdengo (ITA)	\$10,000	(4) M Lammer (SUI)	A Brizzi (ITA)	63 61
May 2	Miskolc (HUN)	\$10,000	F Polyak (SVK)	L Recouderk (FRA)	63 64
May 2	Sofia (BUL)	\$6,250	(3) R Lukaev (BUL)	D Luque Velasco (ESP)	57 63 75
May 2	Edinburgh (GBR)	\$6,250	(2) A Mackin (GBR)	(1) M Hilton (GBR)	63 64
May 9	Lleida (ESP)	\$10,000	(1) D Gimeno Traver (ESP)	(4) M Granollers Pujol (ESP)	64 61
May 9	Vicenza (ITA)	\$10,000	G Carry (ARG)	S Korteling (NED)	62 76(4)
May 9	Bucharest (ROM)	\$10,000	(2) D Guez (FRA)	(5) S Saoudi (ALG)	61 62
May 9	Hodmezovasarhely (HUN)	\$10,000	(3) B Pashansk (SCG)	A Hadad (ISR)	76(2) 61
May 9	Rousse (BUL)	\$6,250	(2) F Gil (POR)	(1) I Kushev (BUL)	76(5) 26 75
May 9	Newcastle (GBR)	\$6,250	(2) F Cipolla (ITA)	C Fleming (GBR)	62 60
May 16	Most (CZE)	\$10,000	(5) L Chramosta (CZE)	(2) R Junaid (AUS)	63 62
May 16	Bacau (ROM)	\$10,000	(4) F Crivoi (ROM)	(2) A Cruciat (ROM)	76(2) 67(3) 63
May 16	Grottaglie (ITA)	\$10,000	(7) A Goloubev (RUS)	(1) M Jaziri (TUR)	63 76(3)
May 16	Gdynia (POL)	\$10,000	(Q) B Dabrowski (POL)	(1) M Dilaj (POL)	60 46 63
May 16	Sarajevo (BIH)	\$10,000	(1) I Bozoljac (SCG)	(2) G Zemlja (SLO)	64 63
May 16	Balaguer (ESP)	\$10,000	T Salva Vidal (ESP)	(WC) P Riba (ESP)	75 75
May 16	Pleven (BUL)	\$6,250	(1) F Gil (POR)	(2) R Lukaev (BUL)	64 36 76(6)
May 16	Solihull (GBR)	\$6,250	(1) F Cipolla (ITA)	(2) A Mackin (GBR)	76(3) 76(3)
May 23	Teramo (ITA)	\$10,000	A Goloubev (RUS)	(5) A Accardo (ITA)	63 61
May 23	Brcko (BIH)	\$10,000	(4) I Bozoljac (SCG)	(2) L Magdincev (MKD)	64 62
May 23	Jablonec Nad Nisou (CZE)	\$10,000	J Hajek (CZE)	(Q) T Jecminek (CZE)	64 62
May 23	Kedzierzyn Kozle (POL)	\$10,000	(1) R Eitzinger (AUT)	(3) M Dilaj (POL)	63 61
May 23	Oxford (GBR)	\$10,000	(4) N Healey (AUS)	(2) H Mankad (IND)	64 75
May 23	Reus (ESP)	\$10,000	(1) M Mimegg (AUT)	H Ruiz Cadenas (ESP)	36 61 60
May 23	Bucharest (ROM)	\$10,000	(1) G Moraru (ROM)	(2) A Ungur (ROM)	46 63 63
May 23	Sofia (BUL)	\$6,250	(3) I Kushev (BUL)	L Sorensen (IRL)	57 64 30ret
May 30	Prijedor (BIH)	\$10,000	(5) I Bozoljac (SCG)	(8) C Rexach Itoiz (ESP)	wo
May 30	Cesena (ITA)	\$10,000	(7) A Piccari (ITA)	(6) A Accardo (ITA)	63 63
May 30	Koszalin (POL)	\$10,000	(3) F Urban (POL)	(5) D Olejniczak (POL)	62 67(4) 64
May 30	Bucharest (ROM)	\$10,000	(2) A Ungur (ROM)	(6) C Poch Gradin (ESP)	62 75
May 30	Karlovy Vary (CZE)	\$10,000	(1) J Mertl (CZE)	(8) C Ferrer Victoria (ESP)	61 46 61
May 30	Maspalomas (ESP)	\$10,000	(4) A Jones (AUS)	(8) I Villacampa (ESP)	61 62
May 30	Kranj (SLO)	\$10,000	(5) G Zemlja (SLO)	R Kutac (CZE)	76 64

Draws and results from ITF Professional Circuit Events in Europe are posted daily at www.TennisEurope.org.

ITF WOMEN'S CIRCUIT EVENTS IN EUROPE

Week	Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-Up	Score
Apr 25	Cagnes Sur Mer (FRA)	\$75,000	(8) L Pous Tio (ESP)	E Bychkova (RUS)	76 64
Apr 25	Torrent (ESP)	\$25,000	(1) P Garcia (ESP)	(5) N Gussoni (ARG)	63 57 60
Apr 25	Taranto (ITA)	\$25,000	(1) M Santangelo (ITA)	(3) K Nagy (HUN)	61 60
Apr 25	Cavtat (CRO)	\$10,000	(Q) D Sedenkova (CZE)	(7) K Andlovic (SWE)	60 57 62
Apr 25	Bournemouth (GBR)	\$10,000	(1) G Widmer (SUI)	(Q) G Stoop (GBR)	63 62
Apr 25	Herceg Novi (SCG)	\$10,000	(8) R Olaru (ROM)	(2) M Adanko (HUN)	75 76
May 2	Catania (ITA)	\$25,000	(4) J Gajdosova (SVK)	(5) I Abramovic (CRO)	63 75
May 2	Warsaw (POL)	\$25,000	(6) T Poutchek (BLR)	(LL) O Lyubtsova (UKR)	60 46 62
May 2	Tortosa (ESP)	\$10,000	(3) A Gonzalez Peñas (ESP)	A Font Estrada (ESP)	46 63 60
May 2	Dubrovnik (CRO)	\$10,000	V Corovic (SCG)	(Q) E Rodina (RUS)	64 60
May 2	Edinburgh (GBR)	\$10,000	(4) E Kozhokina (RUS)	(3) M South (GBR)	64 63
May 2	Antalya-Belek (TUR)	\$10,000	G Niculescu (ROM)	(6) A Vedy (FRA)	57 62 62
May 9	Saint Gaudens (FRA)	\$50,000	(WC) A Rezai (FRA)	S Gehrlein (GER)	64 26 62
May 9	Monzon (ESP)	\$25,000	(6) O Antypina (UKR)	A Kerber (GER)	63 63
May 9	Altalya Manavgat (TUR)	\$25,000	(Q) M Niculescu (ROM)	(8) E Dzehalevich (BLR)	62 62
May 9	Falkenberg (SWE)	\$10,000	J Larsson (SWE)	(1) S Arvidsson (SWE)	61 63
May 9	Casale (ITA)	\$10,000	(3) R Oprandi (ITA)	(5) S Zahlavova (CZE)	62 60
May 9	Mostar (BIH)	\$10,000	V Corovic (SCG)	(7) A Szatmari (HUN)	64 61
May 9	Bucharest (ROM)	\$10,000	(Q) A Dulgheru (ROM)	(1) L Balaci (ROM)	62 62
May 16	Tenerife (ESP)	\$25,000	P Cetkowska (CZE)	(WC) C Suarez Navarro (ESP)	67 63 61
May 16	Caserta (ITA)	\$25,000	I Lisjak (CRO)	(1) O Blahtova (CZE)	63 75
May 16	Pitesti (ROM)	\$10,000	(Q) A Sere (ROM)	(WC) A Dulgheru (ROM)	75 62
May 16	Zadar (CRO)	\$10,000	(5) S Raab (GER)	J Bek (CRO)	57 62 63
May 23	Oxford (GBR)	\$10,000	(7) R Llewellyn (GBR)	(6) S De Beer (RSA)	06 63 63
May 23	Bals (ROM)	\$10,000	(8) A Popovic (SCG)	(3) L Dlhopolcova (SVK)	60 76
May 23	Campobasso (ITA)	\$25,000	M Koryttseva (UKR)	(3) Z Kucova (SVK)	57 61 75
May 23	Olecko (POL)	\$10,000	D Sedenkova (CZE)	R Holusova (CZE)	75 61
May 23	Kiev (UKR)	\$10,000	A Panova (RUS)	(1) O Lyubtsova (UKR)	36 76 20r
May 23	La Palma (ESP)	\$10,000	(WC) Del Barrio Aragon (ESP)	T Ferrer Lopez (ESP)	61 57 63
May 30	Prostejov (CZE)	\$75,000	(3) L Safarova (CZE)	(1) T Garbin (ITA)	64 36 63
May 30	Surbiton (GBR)	\$25,000	(2) K Brandi (PUR)	(4) L Granville (USA)	63 61
May 30	Galatina (ITA)	\$25,000	M Koryttseva (UKR)	(6) E Vesnina (RUS)	63 62
May 30	Raanana (ISR)	\$25,000	(1) T Obziler (ISR)	(4) M Chaknashvili (GEO)	60 62

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EUROPEAN RANKINGS

The recent French Open has had some significant effects on the European rankings. Champion Justine Henin-Hardenne sees her ranking rocket back into the top five, having almost dropped out of the WTA top 50 just two months ago. Beaten finalist Mary Pierce returns to the European top ten for the first time in four years.

Maria Sharapova retains her spot at the top, but lost the opportunity to overtake Lindsay Davenport as the worlds' top player at Roland Garros as both players failed to advance past the quarter finals. With a large percentage of her points to defend during the grass court season, it may be some time before she is able to challenge again.

Despite failing to advance beyond the semi finals at a Grand Slam in 2005 after winning three in 2004, Roger Federer maintains the #1 spot in the European rankings, with almost twice as many points as his nearest challenger, and conqueror in Paris, Rafael Nadal. Nadal's second place is a career high, and he equals Federer for first position in terms of ATP Race points (earned since January 1st), setting up a intriguing battle for the end of year #1 spot.

Thanks to a semi final showing in Paris, Nikolai Davydenko jumps to fourth on the list, leapfrogging Britains Tim Henman.

Rankings are as of June 6th 2005.

WOMEN	Player	Country	WTA TOUR RANK	Points Total
1	Maria SHARAPOVA	RUS	2	4986
2	Amelie MAURESMO	FRA	3	4285
3	Svetlana KUZNETSOVA	RUS	5	3212
4	Elena DEMENTIEVA	RUS	6	3087
5	Justine HENIN-HARDENNE	BEL	7	3067
6	Nadia PETROVA	RUS	8	2610
7	Anastasia MYSKINA	RUS	10	2287
8	Patty SCHNYDER	SUI	11	2230
9	Vera ZVONAREVA	RUS	12	2075
10	Mary PIERCE	FRA	13	2002
MEN	Player	Country	ATP ENTRY RANK	Points Total
1	Roger FEDERER	SUI	1	6980
2	Rafael NADAL	ESP	3	3600
3	Marat SAFIN	RUS	4	3065
4	Nikolay DAVYDENKO	RUS	7	2085
5	Tim HENMAN	GBR	9	1780
6	Joachim JOHANSSON	SWE	10	1620
7	Tommy ROBREDO	ESP	13	1515
8	David FERRER	ESP	15	1440
9	Radek STEPANEK	CZE	16	1435
10	Ivan LJUBICIC	CRO	17	1435

IN BRIEF...**Internal**

The new Tennis Europe Committees will be appointed at a meeting of the Committee of Management during the ITF AGM in Prague later this month. Full details will follow in the next issue.

**2005 European Specific Theme Conference**

The 2005 European Specific Theme Conference will be held in Cologne, Germany, on the 2nd and 3rd of December. The theme of the conference will be 'Coaches Education'. All relevant information will be sent to the National Associations at the beginning of September.

Notes from National Associations

Waldemar Dubaniowski has been re-elected President of the Polish Tennis Association, whilst Tomasz Polgrabski takes over the role of General Secretary.

There are some new contacts for the Macedonia Tennis Federation:

President: Risto Guskov

Phone/Fax: +389 2 3131361

Vice-president: Ognen Nikolovski

Email: mta@unet.com.mk or inteko@mol.com.mk

Competition Officer: Biljana Dimovska

TennisEurope.org News

Players and fans of Seniors Tennis, please note that TennisEurope.org now posts detailed results from all European tournaments part of the ITF Senior Circuit.

Professional players should also note that from January of this year, fact sheets, acceptance lists and daily results from ITF Men's Circuit events can be found at the Professional tennis section alongside those of the Women's Circuit.

Competition

The Sanchez-Casal Academy in Barcelona is offering the chance for one lucky www.TennisEurope.org user to win a week's training at the Academy, where stars such as Svetlana Kuznetsova fine tune their game, with accommodation and travel expenses included. To find out more or to enter, click the banner to visit our website.

Win an exclusive course at Europe's most successful tennis academy

Which Sanchez-Casal academy player won the US Open last year?

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