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THIS WEEK

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Field Set for Hyundai Hopman Cup

World Doubles Champion Ruano Pascual replaces Sanchez-Vicario

The field is now set for the 2003 Hyundai Hopman Cup, with defending Champions Spain nominating Virginia Ruano Pascual as Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario's replacement.



Sanchez-Vicario announced her retirement from professional tennis earlier this month ending an illustrious career that included seven Hopman Cup appearances and two Hopman Cup titles. Tournament Director Paul McNamee commented: "Arantxa has been a great supporter of the Hopman Cup. She is the only individual player to have won the tournament twice. We are sad that she is unable to defend her title but would like to thank her for all the wonderful memories she has given us over the years."

Ruano Pascual, the 2002 ITF World Doubles Champion and winner of three Grand Slam Doubles Titles (2001 and 2002 Roland Garros and 2002 US Open), will join Tommy Robredo in an attempt to win another Hopman Cup title and become the only nation to win back-to-back titles in the history of the competition.



Serena Williams and Lleyton Hewitt
2002 Wimbledon Champions Photo: Ron Angle

Ruano Pascual joins a formidable line-up (see below) that includes both the men's and women's year-end world number ones (Lleyton Hewitt (AUS) and Serena Williams (USA)). The Hopman Cup is the ITF's International Mixed Teams Championship, played at the start of each year at the Burswood Resort in Perth, Australia. ITF President, Francesco Ricci Bitti, and Executive Director of Men's Tennis, Bill Babcock, will be representing the ITF at the 2003 event.

Matches commence on Saturday 28 December with the final being contested on Saturday 4 January 2003. A full schedule and additional tournament details are available at www.hopmancup.com.au.

Hopman Cup 2003 - Team Nominations

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| USA (1) | Serena Williams & James Blake |
| Australia (2) | Alicia Molik & Lleyton Hewitt |
| Czech Republic (3) | Daja Bedanova & Jiri Novak |
| Belgium (4) | Kim Clijsters & Xavier Malisse |
| Italy | Silvia Farina Elia & Davide Sanguinetti |
| Slovak Republic | Daniela Hantuchova & Dominik Hrbaty |
| Spain | Virginia Ruano Pascual & Tommy Robredo |
| Paraguay* | Rossana Neffa-de Los Rios & Ramon Delgado |
| Uzbekistan* | Iroda Tulyaganova & Oleg Ogorodov |

* Two teams play off for final place in Hyundai Hopman Cup

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activities

On Tuesday 17 December, ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti will be attending a meeting between WADA and IOC representatives in Lausanne to discuss anti-doping matters.

The second leg took the players to Kampala and to the clay courts of the Lugogo Club. The Opening Ceremony was attended by the Chairman of the Uganda Tennis Association and the Minister of Sport. Repeating his success of the first leg, Rwandan player Eric Hagenimana reached the final to meet Nigeria's Lawal Shehu. In a close contest, Hagenimana beat Shehu 46 63 62. In the girls' singles, the number one seed Tapiwa Marobela (Botswana) met Santie Delpport (South Africa), winning 75 46 60.

In total, 13 countries have participated in this circuit with players not only coming from countries in the region but from places as far afield as Great Britain in order to earn ITF world ranking points. Karl Davies, ITF Development Officer for East & Southern Africa commented: "This circuit is an important part of the development of tennis in the region. I have been impressed not only with the number of players from the region taking part but also the organisational effort put in by both the Fédération Rwandaise de Tennis and Uganda Tennis Association".

ITF East African 18 & Under Circuit 2002

The ITF East African 18 & Under Circuit 2002 began at the Cercle de Sportif Club in Kigali, Rwanda, on 2 December. It is the first time that Rwanda has hosted an ITF 18 & Under Circuit leg since the war of 1994.

There was further cause for celebration when local boy Eric Hagenimana became the boys' singles winner of the first leg. Eric, a product of the ITF/SATA Training Centre in South Africa, beat fellow Training Centre player, Pheny Matong from Botswana 63 63 in the final. Later that day, Eric teamed up with Cobus Jooste from South Africa to beat the Nigerian pairing of Lawal Shehu and Candy Idoko 75 76(5).

In the girls' singles final, Santie Delpport, the third seed from South Africa, beat Claudia Dresselhaus from Namibia convincingly 62 61. The girls' doubles title was taken by Tapiwa Marobela (Botswana) (another Training Centre player) and Sidsel Lorenzen (Mozambique), beating Rehema Athumani (Tanzania) and Caroline Oduor (Kenya) 62 61. The president of the Rwandan Tennis Federation and the Rwandan Minister of Sport presented the medals to the winners at the Closing Ceremony.



Medal winners from Rwanda leg

Trippe Named LTA President

Charles Trippe was elected LTA President at the association's annual meeting at the Queen's Club last week with Stuart Smith elected Vice-President. Both terms last for three years.

Record Page Views for Daviscup.com



The final of the Davis Cup by BNP Paribas saw a marked increase in traffic to the official Davis Cup Website, www.daviscup.com.

Page views were up nearly 50% compared with figures for the 2001 final, from nearly 21 million for the weekend to over 32.5 million.

"This is an encouraging sign, especially in view of the imminent relaunch of the site, which we hope will make Daviscup.com even more informative and user-friendly," said Juan Margets, ITF Executive Vice President and Chairman of the Davis Cup Committee. "We hope to continue to attract more visitors in 2003."

The site will relaunch on 1st January 2003 with a new design and a range of added features. More details will appear soon in *This Week*.

Clarke Named Championships Press Officer



Sarah Clarke has been named Press Officer for the 2003 Wimbledon Championships. Clarke, who served as Acting Press Officer in 2002, has worked in the Press Office at Wimbledon for 16 years, serving as Deputy Press Officer to the late Heather Dallas from 1999.

Obituaries

Gerry Boycks, one of the originators of the Lipton Tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida, died at his home in Flagstaff, Arizona, late last week. It was Boycks' involvement with the event from its inception that provided the impetus for Thomas J. Lipton Company to sign the original title sponsorship contract in September of 1983, which led the way for the first instalment of the tournament in 1985.

Boycks was involved in the business development for the tournament until 1999, and in the last few years he acted as an advisor to the tournament as Honorary Chairman.

Wim Buitendijk, Tournament Director of the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam, passed away last week after a short illness.

Buitendijk became involved with the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament in 1974 and from 1984 he was the tournament director.

The 2003 event will be led by Stan Franker, former captain of the Dutch Davis Cup Team and in 2004, Richard Krajicek, former Wimbledon champion, will be the tournament director.

ITF Junior Circuit - Venezuela

Due to political unrest in Venezuela the Barquisimeto International Junior Championships which were scheduled to take place from 6-12 January have been cancelled. The COSAT (South American) Circuit will now start with the Pony Malta Cup, Colombia, from 13-19 January 2003.

Up-to-date calendar information can be found on www.itfjuniors.com.

Brian Baker & Vera Douchevina Win Boys' And Girls' 18s Singles Titles At Orange Bowl International Championships

Brian Baker of Nashville, TN, USA and Russia's Vera Douchevina captured the boys' and girls' 18-and-under singles titles respectively at the Burger King Orange Bowl International Championships held at the Tennis Centre at Crandon Park.

Baker, No. 11 in the ITF World Junior Rankings, defeated No. 12 Mathieu Montcourt of France, 76(5) 63, to become the first American to win the boys' 18s title since Andy Roddick in 1999. Top-seeded Douchevina, the reigning Wimbledon girls' champion, outclassed No.2 seed Anna-Lena Groenefeld of Germany, 60 61, in 43 minutes.

The Orange Bowl was the final tournament of the year for all four finalists, who returned to their part of the world to spend the Christmas holidays with family and friends before resuming training. Baker and Montcourt will head to the Australian junior events in January as two of the top five returning players in the boys' rankings. Douchevina and Groenefeld plan on skipping the first major to play in ITF Futures but will return to the junior circuit for the other majors.

Baker, who upset No. 2 ranked Marcos Baghdatis in the semifinals, adds his name to a list of Orange Bowl boys' 18s champions that includes Andy Roddick (1999), Roger Federer (1998), Jim Courier (1987), Guy Forget (1982), Ivan Lendl (1977) and John McEnroe (1976). The seventeen-year-old has not made his decision about turning professional right away or attending college before heading for the tour.



Brian Baker (USA)
Photo: Susan Mullane

"It feels good right now but I still have to prove myself," said Baker. "It's good. I hadn't necessarily done as well as I thought I could have at the Slams this year. I was hurt at a couple of them and didn't play well at the other two. It is very exciting for me to do well here. I'm very happy."



Vera Douchevina (RUS)
Photo: Susan Mullane

Douchevina gave Russia its fourth Orange Bowl girls' 18s title in the last five years and accomplished the feat in front of her good friend Vera Zvoneroova who successfully defended the title last year to become the first player to win consecutive 18s titles since 1975. Zvoneroova is still young enough to compete on the junior circuit, but played mostly professional events this year and finished her rookie season on the WTA Tour ranked No. 45 in the world.

Douchevina dominated the match from the outset and pinned Groenefeld behind the baseline with deep-penetrating groundstrokes from both sides. The title brought a smile to the usual stoic pony-tailed sixteen-year-old who planned on an afternoon of shopping before heading home to Moscow on Monday.

In doubles, Americans Scott Oudsema and Phillip Simmonds gave the host nation a sweep of the boys' 18s titles when they upset No.1 seeds Florin Mergea and Horia Tecau of Romania in the final 64 64. Oudesma and Simmonds also upset No.2 seeds Baker and Brendan Evans in the semifinals. The unseeded Belarus team of Daria Kustava and Anastasia Yakimova, who earlier this year lifted the Junior Fed Cup trophy for their country, won the girls' 18s doubles title with a 62 63 win over No.1 seeds Jarmila Gajdosova of Slovak Republic and Andrea Hlavackova of the Czech Republic in the final.

ITF Junior Rankings

Boys Singles:

1. Richard Gasquet (FRA) 1320
2. Marcos Baghdatis (CYP) 970
3. Clement Morel (FRA) 890
4. Todd Reid (AUS) 880
5. Brian Dabul (ARG) 820
6. Brian Baker 780
7. Marcel Felder (URU) 760
8. Lamine Ouahab (ALG) 740
9. Martin Villarubi (URU) 680
10. Steve Darcis (BEL) 660

Boys Doubles:

- 1.= Horia Tecau (ROM) 900
- 1.= Florin Mergea (ROM) 900
- 3.= Michel Koning (NED) 760
- 3.= Bas Van Der Valk (NED) 760
5. Ryan Henry (AUS) 730
6. Philipp Petzschner (GER) 660
7. Todd Reid (AUS) 640
8. Chris Guccione (AUS) 640
9. Markus Bayer (GER) 635
10. Brendan Evans 630

Girls Singles:

1. Barbora Strycova (CZE) 1290
2. Vera Douchevina (RUS) 1200
3. Maria Kirilenko (RUS) 1140
4. Anna-Lena Groenefeld (GER) 810
5. Myriam Casanova (SUI) 790
6. Petra Cetkovska (CZE) 760
7. Maria Sharapova (RUS) 710
8. Jarmilla Gajdosova (SVK) 650
9. Lucie Safarova (CZE) 640
10. Tatiana Golovin (FRA) 610

Girls Doubles:

1. Elke Clijsters (BEL) 1380
2. Barbora Strycova (CZE) 1230
3. Anna-Lena Groenefeld (GER) 910
4. Kirsten Flipkens (BEL) 765
- 5.= Andrea Hlavackova (CZE) 580
- 5.= Jarmila Gajdosova (SVK) 580
7. Myriam Casanova (SUI) 530
8. Elise Tamaela (NED) 530
9. Kristina Czufikova (SVK) 515
10. Silvana Bauer (NED) 505

Results w/c 9 December 2002

ITF Men's Circuit

Spain F22 Ourense \$10000 Singles

T. Ascione (FRA) d. R. Karanusic (CRO) w/o

Doubles

O. Frelove (GBR)/J. Jimenez-Guerra (AND) d. S. Demekhine/I. Syrov (RUS) 64 62

Czec Rep F10 Ostrava \$15000 Singles

P. Petzschner (GER) d. J-C. Scherrer (SUI) 63 63

Doubles

M. Fyrstenberg/L. Kubot (POL) d. J. Pospisil/J. Vencel (CZE) 26 63 64

Jamaica F21 Montego Bay \$10000 Singles

M. Przysiezny (POL) d. J-J. Rojer (AHO) 76(7) 64

Doubles

R. Klaasen (RSA)/M. Kosta (USA) d. J-P. Fruttero/M. Pehar (USA) 64 64

ITF Junior Circuit

Orange Bowl, USA (Grade A) Boys' Singles

B. Baker (USA) d. M. Montcourt (FRA) 76(5) 62

Girls' Singles

V. Douchevina (RUS) d. A-L. Groenefeld (GER) 60 61

Boys' Doubles

S. Oudsema/P. Simmonds (USA) d. F. Mergea/H. Tecau (ROM) 64 64

Girls' Doubles

D. Kustava/A. Yakimova (BLR) d. A. Hlavackova (CZE)/J. Gajdosova (SVK) 62 63

Kampala, Uganda (Grade 4) Boys' Singles

E. Hagenimana (RWA) d. L. Shehu (NGR) 46 63 62

Girls' Singles

T. Marobela (BOT) d. SE. Delport (RSA) 75 46 60

Boys' Doubles

C. Idoko/L. Shehu (NGR) d. E. Hagenimana (RWA)/C. Jooste (RSA) 57 63 61

Girls' Doubles

S. Lorenzen (MOZ)/T. Marobela (BOT) d. SE. Delport (RSA)/C. Dresselhaus (NAM) 16 62 61

New Delhi, India (Grade B2) Boys' Singles

T-W. Liu (TPE) d. H-J. Suk (KOR) 62 63

Girls' Singles

S. Mirza (IND) d. A. Bhambri (IND) 63 75

Boys' Doubles

WC. Hsieh/Y-M. Wu (TPE) d. W-S. Jun (KOR)/Y-D. Shieh (TPE) 76(3) 62

Girls' Doubles

J-Y. Kim/S-J. Kim (KOR) d. S. Mirza/I. Lakhani (IND) 76(4) 76(7)

This Week Next Week

Events week commencing 16 December 2002

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|--|----------|------------------|
| MEN | Jamaica F22 | Trelawny | \$10,000 | (1) 876 978 2496 |
| WOMEN | No events | | | |
| JUNIORS | Mexico | 25th Int. Casablanca Tennis Junior Cup, Tlalnepantla | Grade 1 | (52-55) 52080040 |
| WHEELCHAIR | No events | | | |
| VETS | UAE | Dubai | | (971) 4 399 3140 |



Please note that this is the last edition of *This Week* for 2002.

The first edition of *This Week* for the new year will be published on Monday 6th January, 2003.