



The News Bulletin of the
International Tennis Federation
www.itftennis.com

THIS WEEK

Hyundai Hopman Cup underway in Perth

The Hyundai Hopman Cup - the ITF's official mixed team event - is currently underway in Perth, Australia.

This year sees one of the strongest line-ups in the competition's 16-year history, with an impressive array of stars taking to the Burswood Dome courts.

Four former World No. 1's - Lleyton Hewitt, Kim Clijsters, Lindsay Davenport and Marat Safin - are competing alongside other regular top 10 players Daniela Hantuchova, Amelie Mauresmo, Anastasia Myskina and Jiri Novak.

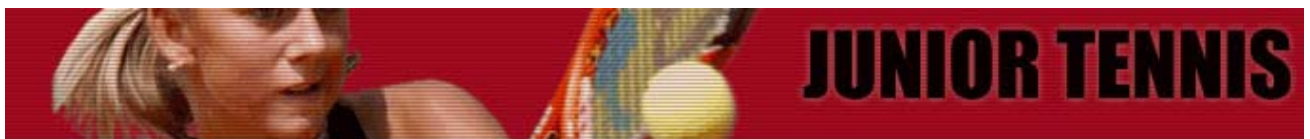


In the qualifying play-off - the opening tie of the event - Hungary defeated Canada 2-1 following a tight mixed doubles decider. Petra Mandula and Attila Savolt overcame Maureen Drake and Frank Dancevic 36 61 10(3) to put their country through to the round robin stage of the competition.

So far, three round robin matches have been completed. Home favourites Australia has overcome Hungary 3-0, Belgium has defeated Slovak Republic 3-0 and, in a rematch of the 2003 Fed Cup semifinal, France has won 2-1 against Russia.

Daily results are available from www.itftennis.com and additional information is available on the official Hopman Cup website: www.hopmancup.com.au.

ITF launches new Junior Tennis website



The ITF has relaunched its Juniors website, bringing it in line with the other new-look ITF websites under the umbrella of www.itftennis.com.

The newly designed website www.itftennis.com/juniors will continue where the popular www.itfjuniors.com left off, providing news and information on all aspects of junior tennis, while adding to the services that have been provided.

Since its launch in 2000, the ITF Juniors website has attracted millions of visitors, providing the latest news, rankings and calendar information, as well as historical facts, advice for young players and competitions for fans.

In redesigning the website, the ITF has taken into consideration many of the suggestions and requests made by players, coaches and fans. Some of the new features include printable drawsheets and rankings, a player notice board, interactive polls and audio interviews.

continued on page 2

6 January 2004 Issue 1

Inside

- ITF Activities
- Casablanca Cup
- Combined Junior Rankings
- New Juniors Website
- Zina Garrison named Fed Cup coach
- Wimbledon announcement
- Year-end vets rankings
- Australian Open wildcards & Junior Rankings
- Results & This Week Next Week



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activities

ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti travels to Australia to attend the Hopman Cup on 7 January.

He then travels to Christchurch, New Zealand, for the Invacare World Team Cup from 23-25 January.

USA dominates at Casablanca Cup

The first Grade A title of 2004, the Casablanca Cup, Mexico, was completed on Sunday 4 January with three of the four titles going to the USA.

Phillip Simmonds had a great start to the year, making a clean sweep of the boys' titles. Seeded No. 10 in singles, the American progressed to the final beating No. 4 seed and fellow American Robert Cameron en route. Simmonds' opponent in the final was No. 14 seed Coen Van Keulen from the Netherlands who had seen off the top seed Brendan Evans in the third round 62 63. The final proved to be a battle of the big servers with Simmonds coming out on top 64 62.



Phillip Simmonds (USA)
Photo: Aquiles Duarte

The boys' doubles final followed the American theme with all four boys flying the stars and stripes. Simmonds and Timothy Neilly edged past No. 1 seeds Scott Oudsema, the newly crowned 2003 ITF Junior Doubles Champion, and Brendan Evans in two nailbiting sets 76(2) 76(2).

No.1 seed Julia Cohen claimed the girls' singles title, dropping only two sets en route to victory. Her opponent in the final was unseeded Maraike Biglmaier from Germany who defeated No. 2 seed Yun-Jang Chan (TPE) and No. 8 seed Tara Iyer (IND) to make it to her first Grade A final. Despite her impressive performances earlier in the tournament, the German was unable to find a way past Cohen's relentless groundstrokes in



Julia Cohen (USA)
Photo: Aquiles Duarte

the final and quickly succumbed 62 61.

The only trophy not returning to the United States is the girls' doubles crown which will be splitting its time between the Netherlands and New Zealand. The pairing of Marina Erakovic (NZL) and Bibiane Schoof (NED), seeded No. 2, overturned the favourites Aleksandra Wozniak (CAN) and Yun-Jang Chan (TPE) 64 64 for the title.

For complete details from the Casablanca Cup, including daily reports, photos and printable drawsheets, visit the new ITF Juniors website: www.itftennis.com/juniors

Junior Tennis website (contd.)

The Juniors website is just one part, or one 'weblet', of the many that will make up ITF online, with each section dedicated to one of the areas in which the ITF operates. The Junior weblet adds to the already launched Men's, Women's and Vets' Circuit weblets, and the About the ITF weblet. Each weblet's address takes the same format of www.itftennis.com/weblet, for example www.itftennis.com/juniors, and each one will adopt the same look and feel. This is so that users can navigate between all the areas in which the ITF operates more easily, and it also means that all weblets - as well as ITF sites which are not yet integrated into the weblet system - are accessible via www.itftennis.com.

"We will be adding other weblets in the course of the next few months, in particular one for the Olympic Tennis Event," said Andrew Rigby, ITF Web Content Editor. "There will also be a new homepage for www.itftennis.com, which serves as a portal for the various weblets as well as the Official Davis Cup and Fed Cup websites, www.daviscup.com and www.fedcup.com."

Combined World Junior Rankings Released

The ITF has launched a combined world junior ranking for boys and girls. The first lists of the Combined Junior Ranking were released yesterday, Monday 5 January (see page 5). This new ranking replaces the Junior Singles and Junior Doubles Rankings and will now be the sole junior ranking published by the ITF.

For details on how the new ranking is calculated, please visit the newly launched ITF Juniors website: www.itftennis.com/juniors

2003 Davis Cup Yearbook on sale

The ITF's official Davis Cup Yearbook for 2003 is now on sale. *Davis Cup by BNP Paribas - The Year in Tennis 2003* takes a look back at a memorable competition that saw Australia defeat Spain 3-1 on a portable grass court in the World Group Final in Melbourne. Author Neil Harman takes a detailed look at all World Group ties, combining match reports, off-court stories and player profiles. The 128-page book also contains full colour photographs from the world's leading tennis photographers and a complete set of 2003 Davis Cup results. *Davis Cup by BNP Paribas - The Year in Tennis 2003* (published by Universe Publishing) can be purchased on the official on-line Davis Cup Store: www.daviscupstore.com



Zina Garrison named 2004 US Fed Cup Captain

FED CUP

The USTA has announced that Zina Garrison will replace Billie Jean King as this year's US Fed Cup captain.

King will continue her support of the US Fed Cup effort as team coach.



Garrison represented the US on eight Fed Cup teams from 1984 to 1994, helping the United States win three titles during that period.

Her overall Fed Cup record as a player stands at 22-5 (7-4 singles; 15-1 doubles).

Wimbledon unveils plans for new Centre Court

The AELTC has unveiled plans for a renovation of the existing Centre Court that will include provision for a larger 15,000 capacity, more comfortable seating and a retractable roof over the court.



Subject to planning permission, work is planned to commence in 2006 and completion of the Centre Court is scheduled for 2009.

AELTC Chairman Tim Philips commented: "Our continuing aim is for Wimbledon to be acknowledged as the world's premier tennis event. Our innovative plans seek to retain the history and tradition of Centre Court, but with outstanding new facilities for the players, spectators and television audiences of the 21st Century."

Year-end ITF Vets Rankings released

Players from Germany and the United States dominate the year-end ITF Vets rankings claiming no less than six top spots each and continuing the supremacy that these two nations showed at the 2003 ITF Vets Team Competitions. A further seven nations, representing four continents, provide the leading players in the remaining eight categories, emphasising the global nature of Vets tennis.

Two players completed the 2003 season undefeated in their age category. Peter Pokorny (AUT, M60) won 42 matches and Heide Orth (GER, W60) won 20 matches for the loss of just one set each. Both players won the individual ITF Vets World Championships title, led their countries to success in the ITF Vets Team Competitions and won three Grade 1 titles to secure maximum ranking points and retain their No.1 positions. Eugenia Birukova, (ITA, W50), whose only defeat came as a result of injury, also secured maximum ranking points to claim her first year-end No.1 ranking.

Robert Sherman (USA, M80) maintained his governance of his age category where he has been ranked No.1 since December 2000, also scoring maximum points and heading the US dominance of the older age categories. ITF Vets World Champions Elaine Mason (USA, W75) and Mary Boswell (USA, W70) headed the end of year rankings for the fourth and second successive year respectively. Jason Morton (USA, M75) and Albert Ritzenberg (USA, M85) ended their first year in a new age category at the top, both winning, amongst other events, two Grade 1 titles each.

Pierre Godfroid, (BEL, M45) who ended 2002 as joint year-end No.1 claimed the honour for himself this year on the back of two Grade 1 victories. Ingrid Resch (AUT, W40) also finished in the top spot for the second time in her career, performing consistently in the four events that she contested. Lorne Main (CAN, M70) returned to the top spot after three years following his ITF Vets World Championship victory and three other international titles. Peter Adrigan (GER, M55) topped the year-end rankings for the third time after finishing runner-up in the ITF Vets World Championships and winning one of the three Grade 1 finals that he reached.

Bodo Nitsche (GER, M65) and Radovan Cizek (CZE, M50) secured their first year-end No.1 ranking with just one loss throughout the year in their age category. Both players won their age groups at the ITF Vets World Championships and collected two Grade 1 titles in this first year in their respective categories. Stefan Fasthoff (GER, M40) and Gustavo Miranda (ARG, M35) reached the top of the rankings for the first time after winning several Grade 1 titles, while Sylvia Bauwens (GER, W55) also climbed to the top for the first time, winning two Grade 1 titles this year.

Ros Balodis (AUS, W45), finished top of the rankings in her new age category, having topped the W40 category last year. Renata Marcinkowska (USA, W35) and Ilse Michael (GER, W65) held on to the No.1 spots that they earned in the summer to earn their first year-end No.1 ranking, Marcinkowska winning two Grade 2 events and Michael impressively capturing three Grade 1 titles.

The 2004 ITF Vets Circuit sees important Grade 1 events in Austria, France and Australia in January, which could affect the next rankings at the end of March.

The complete list of year-end No.1 ranked players for 2003 is:

Men	Age Category	Women
Gustavo Miranda (ARG)	35	Renata Marcinkowska (USA)
Stefan Fasthoff (GER)	40	Ingrid Resch (AUT)
Pierre Godfroid (BEL)	45	Ros Balodis (AUS)
Radovan Cizek (CZE)	50	Eugenia Birukova (ITA)
Peter Adrigan (GER)	55	Sylvia Bauwens (GER)
Peter Pokorny (AUT)	60	Heide Orth (GER)
Bodo Nitsche (GER)	65	Ilse Michael (GER)
Lorne Main (CAN)	70	Mary Boswell (USA)
Jason Morton (USA)	75	Elaine Mason (USA)
Robert Sherman (USA)	80	
Albert Ritzenberg (USA)	85	

ITF Junior Rankings

Boys' Combined Rollover Ranking

1.	Sebastian Rieschick (GER)	810.00
2.	Andrew Murray (GBR)	760.00
3.	Phillip Simmonds (USA)	730.00
4.	Brendan Evans (USA)	640.00
5.	Alex Kuznetsov (USA)	635.00
6.	Scott Oudsema (USA)	598.75
7.	Karan Rastogi (IND)	596.25
8.	Bruno Rosa (BRA)	567.50
9.	Josselin Ouanna (FRA)	561.25
10.	Rafeal Arevalo Gonzalez (ESA)	555.00

Girls' Combined Rollover Ranking

1.	Kirsten Flipkens (BEL)	1445.00
2.	Michaella Krajicek (NED)	1128.75
3.	Alisa Kleybanova (RUS)	997.50
4.	Emma Laine (FIN)	875.00
5.	Andrea Hlavackova (CZE)	825.00
6.	Katerina Bondarenko (UKR)	791.25
7.	Julia Cohen (USA)	777.50
8.	Veronika Chvojikova (CZE)	756.25
9.	Katerina Bohmova (CZE)	717.50
10.	Nicole Vaidisova (CZE)	682.50

Tennis Australia confirms a further four wild cards for Australian Open



Tennis Australia has announced that Wayne Arthurs, Chris Guccione, Evie Dominikovic and Casey Dellacqua will all receive main draw wild cards for the 2004 Australian Open.

A further two men's and women's main draw wild cards remain to be allocated. The list of confirmed wild cards to date is:

Men

Wayne Arthurs
Nicolas Escude
Chris Guccione
Alun Jones
Todd Reid
Vadim Kutsenko

Women

Chuang Chia Jung
Evie Dominikovic
Casey Dellacqua
Tatiana Golovin
Trudi Musgrave
Samantha Stosur

Results w/c 22 & 29 December 2003

ITF Junior Circuit

Casablanca Cup, Mexico, Grade A

Boys' Singles

P. Simmonds (USA) d. C. Van Keulen (NED) 64 62

Girls' Singles

J. Cohen (USA) d. M. Biglmaier (GER) 62 61

Boys' Doubles

T. Neilly/P. Simmonds (USA) d. B. Evans/S. Oudsema (USA) 76(2) 76(2)

Girls' Doubles

M. Erakovic (NZL)/B. Schoofs (NED) d. Y. Chan (TPE)/A. Wozniak (CAN) 64 64

Yucatan Cup, Mexico, Grade 1

Boys' Singles

R. De Rijke (NED) d. P. Andujar-Alba (ESP) 76(6) 63

Girls' Singles

A. Kleybanova (RUS) d. M. Erakovic (NZL) 64 64

Boys' Doubles

R. Arevalo Gonzalez/J. Cuellar (ESA) d. D. Vallverdu (VEN)/C. Van Keulen (NED) 46 63 64

Girls' Doubles

A. Kleybanova (RUS)/T. Mircic (YUG) d. M. Erakovic (NZL)/B. Schoofs (NED) 61 62

Heiveld, Belgium, Grade 5

Boys' Singles

N. Desein (BEL) d. D. Ingot (GBR) 63 62

Girls' Singles

A. Koulikova (RUS) d. M. Klaffner (AUT) 61 61

Boys' Doubles

N. Desein/C. Roelant (BEL) d. R. Bemelmans/C. De Leeuw (BEL) 36 63 64

Girls' Doubles

J. Bockx/S. Van Deun (BEL) d. A. Koulikova (RUS)/A. Vermoezen (BEL) 64 63

ITF Vets Circuit

Wilson/Mayfair Senior Circuit 2004, Grade 4

Men's 35 Singles

A. Sznajder (CAN) d. H. Karrasch (CAN) 62 67(6) 64

Men's 45 Singles

J. Cameron (CAN) d. K. Porter (CAN) 76(5) 64

Men's 55 Singles

H. Ayoub (CAN) d. T. Redvers (CAN) 62 62

Men's 65 Singles

R. Armata (CAN) d. L. Zold (CAN) 46 76 64

Women's 35 Singles

R. Simpson (CAN) d. E. Boynton (CAN) 61 60

Women's 45 Singles

A. Seiriki (CAN) d. R. Loze (CAN) 61 46 63

This Week Next Week

Events week commencing 5 January 2004

MEN	Germany F1	Nussloch	\$10,000	+49 40 411 78 275
	Spain 1	Majorca	\$25,000	+34 93 201 0844
WOMEN	No tournaments			
	JUNIORS			
	Ghana	Winneba	Grade 4	+233 432 22005
	Bangladesh	Dhaka	Grade 4	+880 2 770 12156
	Costa Rica	San Jose	Grade 1	+506 228 9333
	Sweden	Vasteras	Grade 4	+46 21 131866
VETS	USA	Houston, TX	TBC	+1 713 772 9955
	Austria	Seefeld	TBC	+43 5212 3536
WHEELCHAIR	No tournaments			

Events week commencing 12 January 2004

MEN	El Salvador F1	San Salvador	\$10,000	+503 278 8069
	Germany F2	Stuttgart	\$10,000	+49 40411 78 265
	UAE F1	Dubai	\$15,000	+971 4 206 2428
	USA F1	Tampa, FL	\$10,000	+1 914 696 7277
WOMEN	India	Hyderabad	\$10,000	+91 11 261 762 76
	UAE	Dubai	\$10,000	+971 4 269 0393
	USA	Tampa, FL	\$10,000	+1 914 696 7000
	JUNIORS			
	Australia	Traralgon, VI	Grade 2	+61 3 9286 1177
	Togo	Lome	Grade 4	+228 221 0476
	Austria	Bergheim	Grade 4	+43 662 453100
	Venezuela	Caracas	Grade 1	+58 212 263 1944
	Bangladesh	Rajshahi Sreerampur	Grade 3	+880 721 774155
	Hong Kong	Causeway Bay	Grade 5	+852 2504 8266
VETS	USA	Naples, FL	TBC	+1 239 261 5777
	WHEELCHAIR	No tournaments		

development events

3-12 January

2004 North-East European Regional
Training Camp for players 14 and under,
Estonia

5-13 January

27th ITF/CAT African Junior
Championships Southern/East African
Qualifying Event, Pretoria, South Africa

13-24 January

OS Central America Level II Coches
Course, Cuba