

The News Bulletin of the  
International Tennis Federation  
[www.itftennis.com](http://www.itftennis.com)



## Spain begins Davis Cup title defence

Spain begins the defence of its Davis Cup title when the first round of the 2005 Davis Cup by BNP Paribas gets underway this Friday, with 14 of the world's top 20 players competing in the largest annual team competition in sport. A total of eight World Group first round ties and 26 Zonal Group I and II ties will be held on 4-6 March, with full coverage on the official Davis Cup website [www.daviscup.com](http://www.daviscup.com).



2004 Spanish champions (Photo: Paul Zimmer)

For the second year running, Spain faces a difficult first round contest in eastern Europe when it takes on the Slovak Republic on an indoor hard court in Bratislava. In 2004, Rafael Nadal won the deciding rubber in Spain's 3-2 first round victory over the Czech Republic, and the 18-year-old features in a Spanish team that also includes Feliciano Lopez, Fernando Verdasco and Albert Costa. Dominik Hrbaty and Karol Beck head the Slovak Republic squad.

Thirty-four-year-old Andre Agassi returns to the USA team for the first time since 2000 for its home tie against Croatia in Carson, California. Agassi, who boasts a 30-5 career win-loss Davis Cup singles record, joins Andy Roddick and ITF World Doubles Champions Bob and Mike Bryan in a full-strength American line-up. Ivan Ljubicic, a four-time finalist in 2005, and Scottsdale runner-up Mario Ancic head a strong Croatian team.

In other ties, Switzerland hosts the Netherlands in Fribourg, Australia takes on Austria in Sydney, Argentina meets the Czech Republic in Buenos Aires, Russia hosts Chile in Moscow, France faces Sweden in Strasbourg, and Romania takes on Belarus in Brasov.

In addition to the 34 ties taking place over the weekend across the World Group, and Groups I and II, there are also two week-long Zonal events:

### Americas Zone Group III

Date: Wednesday 2 - Sunday 6 March

Venue: La Paz, Bolivia (clay - outdoors)

8 Nations: Puerto Rico, Haiti, El Salvador, Bolivia, Honduras, Panama, Guatemala, St Lucia

### Europe/Africa Zone Group IV

Date: Wednesday 2 - Sunday 6 March (tbc)

Venue: Kampala, Uganda (clay - outdoors)

13 Nations: Andorra, Angola, Azerbaijan, Benin, Botswana, Djibouti, Gabon, Malta, Mauritius, Moldova, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda

Nominations for all ties, including Zonal events, can be found on [www.daviscup.com](http://www.daviscup.com), where you can also view up-to-date results over the whole week, as well as live scoring, news and photographs from all eight World Group ties. The draws for all this weekend's ties will take place on **Thursday 3 March**.

[More Davis Cup over/...](#)





## Davis Cup to receive widespread TV coverage

This weekend's World Group first round ties in the Davis Cup by BNP Paribas will receive considerable worldwide television exposure. Fifteen of the 16 countries participating in the World Group will enjoy dedicated live and full coverage, mainly through free-to-air terrestrial broadcasters.

The broadcasters include Slovak TV, TVE in Spain, SRG in Switzerland, NOS in the Netherlands, Australia's Channel 7, ORF in Austria, NTV Plus and RTR in Russia, TVN in Chile, TyC Sports in Argentina, TVR in Romania, ONT in Belarus, ESPN in the USA, and HRT in Croatia.

France Television will be the host broadcaster of the ITF's feature tie, France v Sweden, while SVT will be taking the feed in Sweden. The tie will reach over 25 countries live, with international broadcasters including BskyB in the UK, Spain's TVE Teledeporte, The Tennis Channel in the USA, CCTV in China, Fox Sports in Australia, SCV in Singapore, and J Sports in Japan.

Of the Group I Zonal ties, there will be live and full coverage in 12 of the 16 countries involved, including JCS and BBC for Israel v Great Britain, MNet and DSF for South Africa v Germany, Meridiano (VEN) for Venezuela v Peru, and Doordarshan and CCTV for India v China.

Highlights of the World Group first round ties will be shown by 13 broadcasters reaching over 65 countries, while news agencies Reuters and SNTV will carry daily reports reaching over 195 countries.

## Daviscup.com looks to boost numbers

After a record-breaking year in 2004, the official website of the Davis Cup by BNP Paribas, [www.daviscup.com](http://www.daviscup.com), will once again be providing comprehensive coverage of the 2005 competition as the action gets underway this week.

Last year the site received nearly 14.7 million page views, up nearly 40 per cent on 2003. The majority of these came over the four World Group weekends, with an average of nearly 2 million page views recorded each weekend. The total number of visits recorded in 2004 also surpassed 3 million for the first time in a calendar year.

The Davis Cup Live Scoreboard, sponsored by Getronics and nominated for a Sport Industry Award, will again carry point-by-point live scoring from all World Group and World Group Play-off ties this year, along with other statistics including service speeds and trajectories. Official scorecards from these ties will also be available.



The site will cover the World Group ties in depth as usual, with audio clips from selected ties in USA and Australia. Exclusive previews and interviews with Davis Cup stars are a popular feature of the site and will add to coverage on the site between tie weekends in 2005.

For those that cannot keep up to date with the action either on the web or on TV, the Davis Cup SMS Service, sponsored by Getronics, will keep fans informed of all the latest news on their mobile phones, wherever they are in the world. As last year, there are a range of services available to suit fans' preferences, from simple nation updates, to the draw and the tie result; or match by match updates; and for the serious Davis Cup fan, set by set updates.

Please see [www.daviscup.com/interact/sms.asp](http://www.daviscup.com/interact/sms.asp) for more details of the services available and links to sign up.

## FedCup Davenport and Williams lead USA team

The USA has announced that world No. 1 Lindsay Davenport and world No. 3 Serena Williams will lead the USA Fed Cup Team that faces Belgium in their World Group first round tie on 23-24 April at the Delray Beach Tennis Center in Delray Beach, Florida. Tickets for the two-day tie go on sale today.

Williams, the 2005 Australian Open singles champion, and Davenport, a singles and doubles finalist in Melbourne, have a total of 21 Grand Slam singles and doubles titles between them. They will take on a Belgian team that could include Justine Henin-Hardenne and Kim Clijsters, both of whom previously held the world No. 1 ranking.

“Having the commitments of both Lindsay and Serena, two of the top three players in the world, gives us a great opportunity for success against a potentially dangerous Belgian team,” said US Fed Cup Captain Zina Garrison. “They’re both playing top-level tennis, with Lindsay holding the No. 1 spot since October and Serena coming off of a huge win at the Australian Open. We have a great foundation for our team and anticipate assembling the rest of the US squad shortly.”

“I’m honoured to return to the US team and represent my country in Fed Cup play,” said Davenport. “I welcome the camaraderie and support that have always been part of my Fed Cup experiences and look forward to helping my team in Delray Beach advance to the semifinals.” For further information, visit [www.fedcup.com](http://www.fedcup.com).

### Team Identification update

The ITF has granted the RFET permission to change Spain’s nominated Team Identification colours from Burgundy and White to the more traditional Red and White. This change will be in effect in both Davis Cup and Fed Cup for 2005.

### activities

ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti and Executive Vice President Juan Margets will be attending the Davis Cup ties in Bratislava and Moscow respectively.

### development events

1-9 March: ITF Level 1 Coaches Course,  
Ecuador

10-18 March: ITF/Tennis Europe 14&U Development  
Champs, Tallinn, Estonia

15-19 March: International Junior Championships  
of Mauritius, Mauritius

21-26 March: 28th ITF/CAT African Junior  
Championships, Mauritius

27 March - 10 April: ITF 14 & Under Asian  
Championships - Zone 1, India  
(including ITF teams)

## INDESIT ATP 2005 Race



Roger Federer regained the Race lead after claiming his third title of the year in Dubai. A player's position is based on points received from the four Grand Slams, nine ATP Masters Series tournaments, and his best five results from International Series events. The top seven players in the Race, plus eligible Grand Slam champions, automatically qualify for the eight-player 2005 Tennis Masters Cup in Shanghai which runs from 12-20 November. The event is co-owned by the ITF, Grand Slams and ATP.

### LEADER BOARD

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	FEDERER, Roger (SUI)	250
2nd	SAFIN, Marat (RUS)	201
3rd	HEWITT, Lleyton (AUS)	183
4th	LJUBICIC, Ivan (CRO)	162
5th	RODDICK, Andy (USA)	147
6th	NADAL, Rafael (ESP)	136
7th	JOHANSSON, Joachim (SWE)	113
8th	DAVYDENKO, Nikolay (RUS)	101
9th	GAUDIO, Gaston (ARG)	87
10th	AGASSI, Andre (USA)	85

## Porsche Race to the Championships



The Race to the Championships determines the eight players who will contest the WTA Tour's season-ending Championships in Los Angeles on 9-14 November. Points earned by players in all WTA Tour events contested during the season (round and quality points) are tallied to produce the separate weekly standings.

### LEADER BOARD

Position	Player Name (Nationality)	Points
1st	WILLIAMS, Serena (USA)	1261
2nd	SHARAPOVA, Maris (RUS)	1201
3rd	DAVENPORT, Lindsay (USA)	1004
4th	MOLIK, Alicia (AUS)	900
4th	MAURESMO, Amelie (FRA)	851
6th	DECHY, Nathalie (FRA)	646
7th	SCHNYDER, Patty (SUI)	602
8th	SAFINA, Dinara (RUS)	412
9th	PETROVA, Nadia (RUS)	381
10th	KUZNETSOVA, Svetlana (RUS)	364

## ITF Junior Rankings

Juan-Martin Del Potro drops three places to No. 6 on the boys' rankings after electing not to defend his titles in Chile and Argentina. Donald Young and Viktoria Azarenka remain at the top of the rankings. The ITF Combined Junior Rankings are calculated using a player's best six singles results plus one quarter of their best six doubles results. The ITF introduced the Combined Junior Ranking on 1 January 2004.

### Boys' Combined Rollover Ranking

1.	Donald Young (USA)	1343.75
2.	Sun-Yong Kim Jr. (KOR)	1108.75
3.	Lukas Lacko (SVK)	752.50
4.	Robin Haase (NED)	752.50
5.	Sergei Bubka (UKR)	722.50
6.	Juna-Martin Del Potro (ARG)	720.00
7.	Chu-Huan Yi (TPE)	700.00
8.	Timothy Neilly (USA)	672.50
9.	Andrew Murray (GBR)	670.00
10.	Mihail Zverev (GER)	635.00

### Girls' Combined Rollover Ranking

1.	Viktoria Azarenka (BLR)	1515.00
2.	Michaella Krajicek (NED)	1395.00
3.	Aleksandra Wozniak (CAN)	973.75
4.	Sesil Karatancheva (BUL)	937.50
5.	Monica Niculescu (ROM)	895.00
6.	Yung-Jan Chan (TPE)	887.50
7.	Marina Erakovic (NZL)	875.00
8.	Olga Govortsova (BLR)	790.00
9.	Dominika Cibulkova (SVK)	747.50
10.	Agnes Szavay (HUN)	737.50

# This Week

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## Results week commencing 21 February

### ITF MEN'S CIRCUIT

#### AUSTRALIA F2, GOSFORD (\$15,000)

##### Singles

Dudi Sela (ISR) d. Sadik Kadir (AUS) 61 61

##### Doubles

Sadik Kadir/Robert Smeets (AUS) d. Brodie Stewart/Peter Tramacchi (AUS) 64 63

#### BRAZIL F1, CALDAS NOVAS (\$15,000)

##### Singles

Francisco Costa (BRA) d. Franco Ferreira (BRA) 60 36 63

##### Doubles

Brian Dabul/Damian Patriarca (ARG) d. Diego Junqueira (ARG)/Gabriel Trujillo (ESP) 64 76(4)

#### CROATIA F2, ZAGREB (\$15,000)

##### Singles

Vjekoslav Skenderovic (CRO) d. Rok Jarc (SLO) 63 64

##### Doubles

Rok Jarc/Bostjan Osabnik (SLO) d. Marin Cilic/Ante Nakic-Alfirevic (CRO) 76(3) 62

#### ITALY F1, TRENTO (\$15,000)

##### Singles

Giorgio Galimberti (ITA) d. Lado Chikhladze (GEO) 76(7) 75

##### Doubles

Stefano Galvani/Daniele Giorgini (ITA) d. Fabio Colangelo/Alessandro Da Col (ITA) 67(3) 63 61

#### NEW ZEALAND F2, NORTH SHORE (\$15,000)

##### Singles

Alexander Hartman (SWE) d. John-Paul Fruttero (USA) 76(4) 75

##### Doubles

Mark Nielsen/Matthew Prentice (NZL) d. Benjamin Stapp/Clinton Thomson (AUS) 62 67(5) 75

#### PORTUGAL F1, FARO (\$10,000)

##### Singles

Frederico Gil (POR) d. Marcel Granollers (ESP) 62 67(3) 63

##### Doubles

Agustin Tarantino/Horacio Zeballos (ARG) d. Marcos Conde/Daniel Monedero (ESP) 75 61

#### SPAIN F4, CARTAGENA (\$10,000)

##### Singles

Gorka Fraile (ESP) d. Mariano Albert (ESP) 67(7) 61 64

##### Doubles

Marc Fornell/Alberto Soriano (ESP) d. Mariano Albert/Francisco Mendez (ESP) 64 63

#### USA F4, BROWNSVILLE, TX (\$15,000)

##### Singles

Eric Nunez (USA) d. Petr Kralert (CZE) 76(3) 36 75

##### Doubles

Lester Cook (USA)/Robert Steckley (CAN) d. Tres Davis/Eric Nunez (USA) w/o

#### GREAT BRITAIN 1 SATELLITE (WEEK 4), SHEFFIELD

##### Singles

Harsh Mankad (IND) d. Mark Hilton (GBR) 64 64

##### Doubles

Mark Hilton/Jonathan Marray (GBR) d. Flavio Cipolla/Alessandro Motti (ITA) 63 75

#### SWITZERLAND 1 SATELLITE (WEEK 3), WILEN

##### Singles

Benjamin Rufer (SUI) d. Giuseppe Menga (ITA) 36 76(4) 76(5)

##### Doubles

Bastian Knittel/Peter Mayer-Tischer (GER) d. Matteo Galli/Giuseppe Menga (ITA) 64 64

### ITF WOMEN'S CIRCUIT

#### \$10,000 MELILLA (ESP)

##### Singles

Sara Errani (ITA) d. Lucia Jimenez (ESP) 61 64

##### Doubles

Sara Errani (ITA)/Maria-Jose Martinez (ESP) d. Sheng-Nan Sun/Shu-Jing Yang (CHN) 67(2) 60 75

#### \$25,000 TAIPEI (TPE)

##### Singles

Yung-Jan Chan (TPE) d. Seiko Okamoto (JPN) 63 62

##### Doubles

Chia-Jung Chuang/Su-Wei Hsieh (TPE) d. Ryoko Fuda/Seiko Okamoto (JPN) 63 62

#### \$50,000 BENDIGO (AUS)

##### Singles

Ye-Ra Lee (KOR) d. Shayna McDowell (AUS) 63 62

##### Doubles

Casey Dell'acqua/Trudi Musgrave (AUS) d. Beti Sekulovski/Cindy Watson (AUS) 64 76(2)

#### \$50,000 ST PAUL, MN (USA)

##### Singles

Laura Granville (USA) d. Akiko Morigami (JPN) 62 67(6) 62

##### Doubles

Yulia Beygelzimer (UKR)/Sandra Kloesel (GER) d. Melanie Marois (CAN)/Sarah Riske (USA) 62 61

### ITF JUNIOR CIRCUIT

#### MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA, GRADE 2

##### Boys Singles

Joao Souza (BRA) d. Leonardo Mayer (ARG) 76(5) 06 63

##### Girls Singles

Anna Tatishvili (GEO) d. Florencia Molinero (ARG) 60 60

##### Boys Doubles

Emiliano Massa/Leonardo Mayer (ARG) d. Ravid Hezi (ISR)/Bryan Koniecko (USA) 62 67(4) 61

##### Girls Doubles

Sharon Fichman (CAN)/Anna Tatishvili (GEO) d. Fernanda Hermenegildo (BRA)/Florencia Molinero (ARG) 75 64

#### SARAWAK, MALAYSIA, GRADE 3

##### Boys Singles

Hsin-Han Lee (TPE) d. Shuhei Uzawa (JPN) 62 63

##### Girls Singles

Shao-Yuan Kao (TPE) d. Yurina Koshino (JPN) 76(7) 63

##### Boys Doubles

Elbert Sie (INA)/Shuhei Uzawa (JPN) d. Ronald Chow/Xiao-Peng Lai (HKG) 62 62

##### Girls Doubles

Yurina Koshino/Chie Moriuchi (JPN) d. Shao-Yuan Kao/Su-Han Yang (TPE) 57 64 63

Cont. over/...

## Results w/c 21 February cont...

### ALMERE, NETHERLANDS, GRADE 4

#### Boys Singles

Danny Heidecker (GER) d. Florian Stephan (GER) 63 61

#### Girls Singles

Marrit Boonstra (NED) d. Stefania Boffa (SUI) 76(1) 61

#### Boys Doubles

Danny Heidecker/Dean Jackson (GER) d. Jan Hoekzema/Florian Stephan (GER) 62 60

#### Girls Doubles

Marlot Meddens/Arantxa Rus (NED) d. Stefania Boffa (SUI)/Tatiana Cutrona (BEL) 63 61

### HELSINKI, FINLAND, GRADE 4

#### Boys Singles

Rasmus Moller (DEN) d. Victor Kozin (RUS) 63 64

#### Girls Singles

Johanna Larsson (SWE) d. Katarina Tuohimaa (FIN) 64 64

#### Boys Doubles

Vladimir Ivanov (EST)/Victor Kozin (RUS) d. Martin Kildahl/Carl Sundberg (NOR) 62 61

#### Girls Doubles

Idunn Hertzberg (NOR)/Nina Munch-Soegaard (USA) d. Julia Bone/Samantha Murray (GBR) 62 61

### WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, GRADE 5

#### Boys Singles

Soon-Sung Park (KOR) d. Austin Childs (NZL) 64 63

#### Girls Singles

Yoon-Young Jeong (KOR) d. Therese Tisseverasinghe (AUS) 64 61

#### Boys Doubles

Robert Foy/Adam Siddall (NZL) d. Michael Bartlett/James Pilbro (NZL) 62 75

#### Girls Doubles

Yoon-Young Jeong (KOR)/Natsumi Yokota (JPN) d. Emelyn Starr/Jenny Swift (AUS) 64 57 63

### ZAPOPAN, MEXICO, GRADE 5

#### Boys Singles

Guillaume St Maurice (CAN) d. Keziel Juneau (CAN) 26 61 64

#### Girls Singles

Valentine Fauvau (FRA) d. Paulina Luquin (MEX) 75 61

#### Boys Doubles

Bradley Cox/Wil Spencer (USA) d. Keziel Juneau/Guillaume St Maurice (CAN) 46 63 63

#### Girls Doubles

Thalia Diaz Barriga/Paulina Luquin (MEX) d. Yi Xi Liu (CHN)/Stefanie Nunic (USA) 61 64

## This Week Next Week

### Events - week commencing 28 February 2005

<b>MEN</b>			
<b>DAVIS CUP BY BNP PARIBAS</b>			
	Italy F2 Futures	Roma Castelgandolfo	\$10,000
	Portugal F2 Futures	Lagos	\$10,000
	Brazil F2 Futures	Guarulhos	\$10,000+H
	USA F5 Futures	Harlingen, TX	\$15,000
	Spain 2 Satellite (Week 1)	Terrasa	\$6,250
	Switzerland 1 Sat (Week 4)	Oberentfelden	\$6,250
<b>WOMEN</b>			
	Australia	Warrnambool	\$10,000
	Germany	Buchen	\$10,000
	Spain	Gran Canaria	\$10,000
<b>SENIORS</b>			
	USA	Houston, TX	Grade 1
	USA	Houston, TX	Grade 2
<b>JUNIORS</b>			
	Germany	Nurnberg	Grade 2
	Uruguay	Maldonado	Grade 2
	Russia	Izhevsk	Grade 3
	Australia	Adelaide	Grade 4
	Brunei	Jalan Berakas	Grade 4
	El Salvador	La Libertad	Grade 4
	Lithuania	Siauliai	Grade 4
	Norway	Oslo	Grade 4
	Algeria	Annaba	Grade 5
<b>WHEELCHAIR</b>			
	Canada	Quebec	ITF Futures Series
	Canada	Windsor	ITF Futures Series
	USA	Tucson, AZ	ITF Futures Series

### Events - week commencing 7 March 2005

<b>MEN</b>			
	Great Britain F3 Futures	Sunderland	\$10,000
	Italy F3 Futures	Siracusa	\$10,000
	Portugal F3 Futures	Lagos	\$10,000
	USA F6 Futures	McAllen, TX	\$15,000
	France F4 Futures	Lille	\$15,000+H
	Croatia 1 Satellite (Week 1)	Porec	\$6,250
	Spain 2 Satellite (Week 2)	Sabadell	\$6,250
<b>WOMEN</b>			
	Australia	Benalla	\$10,000
	<del>Belarus</del>	POSTPONED TO 4 APRIL	<del>\$10,000</del>
	Great Britain	Sunderland	\$10,000
	Italy	Napoli	\$10,000
	Mexico	Toluca	\$10,000
	Slovenia	Rogaska Slatina	\$10,000
	Spain	Gran Canaria	\$10,000
<b>SENIORS</b>			
	Sweden	Boras	Grade 4
<b>JUNIORS</b>			
	Paraguay	Lambare	Grade 1
	Indonesia	Jakarta	Grade 2
	Costa Rica	San Jose	Grade 3
	Moldova	Chisinau	Grade 3
	Sweden	Kramfors	Grade 3
	Algeria	Oran	Grade 4
	Australia	Gosford	Grade 4
	Latvia	Riga	Grade 5
<b>WHEELCHAIR</b>			
	Chinese Taipei	Taipei	ITF 3 Series
	Switzerland	Biel-Bienne	ITF 3 Series
	Australia	Hobart	ITF Futures Series
	Canada	Repentigny	ITF Futures Series

Visit [www.itftennis.com](http://www.itftennis.com) for full contact details for all forthcoming events