

Federer Marches to Fifth Consecutive Wimbledon Crown



Players, fans and organisers will no doubt long remember Wimbledon 2007 as a test of endurance, as one of the wettest fortnights in the tournaments' history led to a backlog of matches that tested the fitness, patience and mental toughness of the competitors.

In such conditions, it was unsurprising that arguably the two most experienced active players at Wimbledon – Roger Federer and Venus Williams – emerged victorious, the second time in three years that the pair would hold the trophies simultaneously.

As in Paris three weeks ago, the world's attention focused on the sports top two players as Federer and Rafael Nadal closed in on another Grand Slam final for the latest encounter in their gripping rivalry, this time playing out a five-set classic in what was by far the toughest yet of Federer's five Wimbledon finals.

The two players had contrasting paths to the final. Nadal was playing for a seventh consecutive day, having been forced to finish five matches in five days, while Federer had been inactive during one five day period, thanks partly to some lucky >>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page

- 4 European Tennis Trophy by Lindström
- 5 Tennis...Play and Stay Launched
- 8 Mike Ballardie Receives Tennis Europe Award
- 10 In the Spotlight: Pemra Özgen
- 13 European Summer Cups
- 15 All the latest European rankings and results

European Tennis Trophy by Lindström



Germany has been confirmed as the first nation to win a 2007 European Tennis Trophy, accumulating enough points to wrap up the Senior Tennis Trophy at the half-way stage of the season.

With the points calculated to reflect the achievements of European tennis nations during the first six months of the year, there's also good news for Russia and the Netherlands as they look to defend their 2006 titles.

A full update can be found on Page 4.

Beyond the Baseline...

The **ATP** have confirmed that London will host season-ending championships for four years from 2009. The event, which will be renamed the **ATP World Tour Final** will be staged at the 20,000-seat O2 Arena, and will also feature a special kids' zone, hosted by the LTA.

The **Sony Ericsson WTA Tour Championships** also look set to return to Europe, though after a spell in Doha, Qatar. The event, set to be staged for the second consecutive year in Madrid this November, will take place in Doha for three years from 2008, before returning to European soil in **Istanbul**, Turkey in 2011, where organisers plan to build a 10,000 stadium which will host the event.

Players have rallied to donate items for an online auction to benefit 24-year old Austrian twin sisters **Daniela and Sandra Klemenschits**, regulars on the ITF and WTA circuits, who have been diagnosed with a rare form of stomach cancer. Fans can visit the auction site at <http://www.sonyericssonwtatourauctions.com/> to bid for items from the likes of Rafael Nadal, Martina Hingis, Maria Sharapova, and Justine Henin, the proceeds of which will go towards expensive medical costs for the pair.

The **WTA** have announced details of the 2009 calendar, which has been re-shaped in order to take into consideration player demands for a longer off-season. The calendar sees some major consequences for European events, with the traditional autumn indoor season most affected, with only Moscow and Linz remaining from the existing five week swing. A new tournament in Madrid during the week of May 11th will be the only mandatory European event, whilst Stuttgart's indoor event moves to clay and replaces Warsaw.

The WTA has followed the lead of the ATP in introducing no-ad scoring and a match tie-break in lieu of third sets for all Tour doubles matches, with immediate effect after Wimbledon. Experiments with on-court coaching will also continue at all Tier I and II events throughout the second half of the year, including at the Sony Ericsson WTA Championships, before a final decision is made at the end of the season.

The **International Tennis Federation** have launched an interactive online coaching website, www.tenniscoach.com. The site includes a wealth of materials from the world's leading coaching experts on all aspects of playing and teaching the sport, including tactics, psychology, conditioning, biomechanics, individual strokes, teaching methodology and much more.

The 2008 **Fed Cup** dates have been announced, with first round ties taking place the week following the Australian Open (January 28th). Semi-finals and play-offs will take place in the week of April 21st, while the finals will be held in the week of September 8th.

Organisers are promoting what they hope to be the best Futures event on the circuit. Next month's **Volksbank Open** in Irnding, Austria will boast live internet streaming of matches, a VIP area, speed measure machines, ball kids and line judges for all main draw matches and many side events during the week. More information on the official website at www.volksbank-open.com

London's O2 Arena will host a special '**Turbo Tennis**' exhibition in September, with six players fighting for a winner takes all prize of £100,000. Each match will last just 30 minutes, with the player in the end when time runs out being declared the winner. Players involved include Andy and Jamie Murray, Tim Henman, James Blake, Goran Ivanisevic and Pat Cash.

The 3rd **International Tennis Fellowship of Rotarians** World Tennis Championships will take place from the 8 to the 15 of September in Salerno, Italy. Aimed at bringing together Rotarians from around the world in the spirit of sport, the event will also give the opportunity to support a specific international service project promoted by Rotary Club Salerno and its 'Onlus' (non-profit welfare organisation). For further information, visit www.rotarytennis.org.

According to reports, former world #1 **Kim Clijsters**, who retired in May, is expecting her first child. The 23-year old Belgian will marry fiancé Brian Lynch next weekend.

Fast Facts...

In the first Quarter of 2007, sales of Junior tennis racquets were over 50% higher than in the same period in 2006

Source: Sports Marketing Surveys Shipment Reports)