

TOP JUNIORS UNDERLINE THEIR STATUS AT EUROPEAN JUNIOR MASTERS

The European Junior Masters were held during the weekend of October 8-10 in Reggio Calabria, Italy. Introduced in 1996, the championships bring the European Junior Tour season to an end, and provide an opportunity for the eight best-performing players in each age category to play against one another. The event has historically been a reliable indicator of future success, with former champions including Kim Clijsters, Elena Bovina, Rafael Nadal and Tommy Robredo.

The 2004 event was no exception, and saw some great matches from the 32 players, all but three of whom had qualified for the event for the first time.

The 14 & Under girls event was eventually won by top seeded Renee Reinhard of the Netherlands, who added a first Masters title to her 14 & Under European Junior Championships win in July. With the win, she cements her position as the year-end #1 and ends the season with a record points tally for her age group.

Reinhard (pictured right receiving her medal from Tennis Europe President John James) had to battle hard for the title, and was taken to three sets by all three of her opponents. She was delighted with her victory though, explaining: "I had no expectations when I arrived, as I had just finished seven weeks of training. It's always a little difficult to start playing again".

Meanwhile in the Girls 16 & Under category, Alexandra Dulgheru of Romania outlasted her more experienced compatriot (and defending champion) Mihaela Buzarnescu to edge a 63 61 victory. Dulgheru, who played in her first professional event just last month, also seals her position as the top European Under 16 player, and becomes the third Romanian in three years to win the 16 & Under title.

The 14 & Under Boys event was characterized by up-sets, with three of the top four seeds losing on the first day. The biggest surprise came courtesy of the eventual finalist, Croatian Luka Somen, who beat top seed Vladimir Ignatik (BLR).



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EUROPEAN JUNIOR MASTERS

(continued) The sole remaining seed, Ricardis Berankis (LTU) would eventually triumph though, sweeping to the title without the loss of a set. The victory sees Berankis rise two places when the new rankings are released, to take the top spot for the first time.

Experience proved to be a crucial factor in the Boys 16 & Under event, as the two players who had managed to qualify for the second successive year faced off in the final. The end result was somewhat of an upset, as Russian Pavel Chekhov beat the European #1, and hero of the previous week's Spanish Junior Davis Cup win, Pere

Riba in straight sets. Riba ends the year at #2, whilst Chekhov climbs to fourteenth. Chekhov was delighted to play against the Spaniard, explaining, "At the last Masters, we were due to play the third place play-off match, but it was cancelled because of bad weather. I was curious to play against him this year to see how it would have turned out."

Full results from the 2004 European Junior Masters are available from the relevant section of www.TennisEurope.org.

2004 EUROPEAN JUNIOR MASTERS - WINNERS

	Girls Singles	Boys Singles
14 & Under	RENÉE REINHARD (NED)	RICARDIS BERANKIS (LTU)
16 & Under	ALEXANDRA DULGHERU (ROM)	PAVEL CHEKHOV (RUS)

TENNIS EUROPE TOP EXECUTIVES MEETING

The 28th Tennis Europe Top Executives Meeting was held during the weekend of October 15th-17th in Amsterdam, hosted by the Royal Dutch Lawn Tennis Association.

The annual two-day event is designed to bring together the executives of Tennis Europe's member nations in an informal setting in order to discuss current issues, hear presentations from leading figures in world tennis and to participate in working groups aimed at sharing knowledge and experiences whilst debating contemporary tennis issues.

40 delegates from 28 of Tennis Europe's member nations were in attendance at the meeting, which was divided into three sessions, each centred on a distinct theme and chaired by Tennis Europe President John James.

A wide variety of topics were discussed, ranging from tennis industry matters and the rise of web commerce

to National Tennis Association membership schemes and the ever-present question of how to attract children to the sport.

As usual, the International Tennis Federation played an integral role at the meeting, with Executive Vice-President Juan Margets and Executive Director, Commercial, Jan Menneken amongst the speakers.

Tennis Europe's Managing Director, External Affairs, Olli Mäenpää commented: "We are delighted with the attendance at this years meeting, which has been the highest for some years. This meeting is invaluable to the executives who come each year to meet and exchange ideas and also to benefit from world-class speakers, and we hope to see the trend continue. I would also like to thank the KNLTB for their hospitality, excellent organisation and contributions to the key sessions."

KIDS AND TENNIS IN THE NETHERLANDS

One of the topics on the agenda at this years Top Executives Meeting was that of our member nations; the variety of membership schemes and of ways to attract young players to the sport in a leisure environment which is increasingly competitive. We spoke to Hans Felijs, Technical Director of the Royal Dutch Tennis Federation, who told us more about some of their successful strategies.

The Netherlands is a country with high levels of sporting participation. What are the alternatives to tennis for Dutch children?

Traditionally soccer is the alternative to tennis for Dutch children, although many parents like their children to participate in one individual sport and one team sport from a young age. For this reason, soccer and tennis go together well. Also field hockey is popular, along with gymnastics, athletics, basketball, volleyball and many other sports. In recent years of course, television and computer games have become big competitors, so altogether we feel that the age group from 5 – 8 is the most important to us for tennis promotion. If we wait until the kids are 8 years old, they might already be “hooked” on other sports and will not be easily attracted to tennis.

What methods do you use to capture the attention of children and draw their attention to tennis?

The project we are carrying as an association is called “new tennis kids” and involves many different aspects: Firstly, school tennis; bringing tennis to the school system. This has been very important and successful for us; we provide balls, rackets, teaching methods, diploma’s and so on, and the response is very positive. At the moment we reach 1000 schools per year, which is around 90,000 children.

There is also a street tennis program; bringing tennis to marketplaces, parking lots, and public places in a special sponsored program. In addition, we run ‘Kids Villages’; promotional clinics during our professional tournaments and also around Davis Cup ties.

Furthermore, we send out promotional materials to our 1810 clubs. In 25 cities we participate inside a government supported system involving the municipality, the

education system in that city and the local tennis club

Finally, there is a special project for kids between 5 and 8 through the Dutch tennis coaches.

The project grows on a day to day basis and at the moment we are linking our project to an interactive website, so kids can be involved with their tennis on the internet as well.



KNLTB

Do you find that there is a particular age at which kids tend to “drop out” of tennis in the Netherlands, and what do you do to minimise this?

We found out that the highest drop out rates are between the ages of 15 and 18, because their interests are shifted towards other things in life at that time. On the one hand we have a strong league-system that keeps also kids of this age attracted to tennis as well as that we support clubs with special activity programs for this particular age group. On the other hand we are not too worried about this “drop out”, because recent studies have shown that many of them return to tennis at an older age.

How does the regional structure of the KNLTB organisation affect the opportunities for young talents to play?

Each region has its own staff of three people. One is focused on all the coaches working in the region, one is focused on the development of kids in the age between 5 and 12 years old and the last is focused on the physical aspect of the youngsters. They work closely together with all the club trainers and tennis academy coaches in the region. We feel that we don’t miss any talented child, because our facilities support talented players and their coaches.

We respect every single coach out there working with talented youngsters and our staff is there to support them and get the best out of the kids. Each child and

KIDS AND TENNIS IN THE NETHERLANDS

(continued) their coach decide for themselves which facilities they want to use and which ones not. We have facilities for tennis practice, physical training, mental training, match-play, tournaments, [para]medical facilities, parent education, the list goes on...

What is the KNLTB's strategy for isolating the most promising kids and turning them into real talents?

We are trying to do the opposite of isolating the promising kids. Our slogan is: "Holland against the rest of the world!" We believe in operating in groups and encouraging every individual to perform to his best within the group. We also believe in coaches cooperating together in order to get the best out of the Dutch kids. The private coach of each child is involved in our program and at weekends we bring the kids together to practice with each other and to play matches.

Up to the age of 15 we select kids on their skills [technical, tactical, physical, mental] as well as their match-play and we keep the international level in mind all the time. From the age of 15 the results become more and more important and we provide players and their coaches with facilities when they show certain results according to their age group, right up until they represent the Netherlands in Davis Cup or Fed Cup.

What is the evidence that the KNLTB's strategy is a successful one?

Planning plays an important part in developing talented youngsters into world class players. When you have a plan, you can evaluate year after year where you stand at that moment and where you stand according to where you want to go. We want to compete with Dutch players at the highest professional level, so we made an ambitious plan for our youngsters 5 years ago to be able to follow the footsteps of Richard Krajicek, Brenda Schultz, Paul Haarhuis, Jacco Eltingh, Jan Siemerink, and many others.

4 years ago there were no players reaching the targets we set out for them. Three years ago one player reached the target, two years ago 4 players did, last year 6 players did and this year 9 players reached the target we set for them. We are confident that within the next few years new Dutch players become role models for again new tennis kids by having success at the highest pro-

fessional level.

What role is there for clubs in attracting kids to the sport?

The clubs are involved in all of the main activities I outlined earlier. They use the promotional materials, the club coaches go to schools to get the kids playing tennis, the volunteers from the clubs make sure that follow-up programs are in place after each activity, no matter if it is street tennis, school tennis, kids village, clinics by the Davis Cup. Their role is therefore a very important one.

The KNLTB website has some innovative features which have proven popular with its users. Can you give us an outline of what services the KNLTBs website provides, and what benefits this brings?

We're very proud of the website [www.knlbtb.nl], which has been tailored with a wide range of products and services to suit the needs of our members. It consists of three main areas; a general website for the federation, an extranet for clubs, and a personalised area [My KNLTB] for each member. Members can take advantage of many facilities; store their results, look up the records of future opponents, seek calendars, even benefit from insurance and special offers.

How do you see the immediate future for Dutch tennis?

Our goal is to grow from 710.000 members in the beginning of 2004 to 750.000 members by 2008. As the numbers are growing at the moment and as we have our organisation in place to support our clubs, attract new youngsters and reach that goal, I am confident we will succeed.

Our present Davis Cup team members have a great attraction to the Dutch people as is not only shown by Davis Cup matches, but at all the Dutch professional tournaments where the crowds come out in big numbers. On the women's side we have no players in the top 100 right now, but a few are definitely on their way. Michaella Krajicek is the top junior in the world right now and also the outstanding European Under 14 Champion is Dutch. The future looks bright!

MASSIMO MORELLI INTERVIEW

Tennis Europe this month bids farewell to Massimo Morelli, who has spent the last two years working in the role of European Junior Tour Supervisor / Quality Coordinator. The position was created in 2002 in response to the increasing demands of an ever growing and developing tour. The success of the Tour is such that in 2004 a total of over 250 events were held, spread across almost all of Tennis Europe's 48 Member Nations.

With such growth, Mr Morelli's role has been a highly influential one, being a key contact between tournament organisers and the junior committee, travelling extensively in order to make and maintain contacts, and ensure standards were met across the spectrum of events that comprise the tour.

As he leaves the Tour, Massimo spoke to us to sum up his feelings about what has been achieved, and also his hopes for the future of the European Junior Tour.

Can you outline the evolution of the European Junior Tour during your time as Supervisor/Quality Coordinator, and how your role has affected it?

When this project started two and half years ago the Junior Committee and the management of Tennis Europe asked me to take an in depth look at the various rules and regulations that existed for the various tournaments, cups, and individual championships, in order to make them more simple and effective. On the other hand, my task was also to examine the various organisational aspects, in order to bring some cohesion to the different tournaments that exist under three categories all over Europe.

To gain the best possible first-hand experience, I began to travel extensively in the first six months to meet various Tournament Directors. I learned a lot from them and I listened to their opinions as to on how Tennis Europe could help them to improve the Tour itself. At the same time I was reviewing the 'Rules and Regulations' paper,

in an attempt to bring the organisation of events up to a more professional standard, whilst not forgetting the role of Tennis Europe, which is to promote tennis amongst children. The result of this hard work was presented last year in Maia at the Junior General Meeting and is included in the project "New Requirements of the Junior Tour"

Do you think in retrospect that this role is what was needed, and how will it affect the tour not to have someone in your exact role in the future?



My position was created after the Junior General Meeting in Cambridge. The assembly felt that it was the time for Tennis Europe to have someone expressly dedicated to the Junior Tour. This also was a demand from the tournaments, which were growing quickly and needed a "travelling" point of reference for assistance and rule inter-

pretations. Also the committee felt that an experienced referee could be of help for some tournaments without the necessary experience. Now that the necessary procedures have been implemented this type of work can be carried out in future from Tennis Europe's Basel headquarters, where the Junior Department has worked very closely with me during these two years. Of course, even if the project is over, my phone will always be on for Tennis Europe!

What do you feel have been your major achievements during the last couple of years?

Firstly, I think it has been a valuable exercise to travel so extensively, enabling the tournament directors to see the "face" of Tennis Europe and to have a contact available on site to solve various problems. My feeling is that this has been very much appreciated. Secondly, I believe that now all the tournaments are part of a "whole single project" which drives in a harmonious way in the same direction: the promotion of tennis amongst children and of the tour itself.

MASSIMO MORELLI INTERVIEW

Along with the Junior Committee, you have proposed a number of changes for the coming season[s]. Could you sum these up and express what you hope to achieve with them?

There are a few major ones, especially in terms of organizational requirements. This will give better opportunities to tournaments, which may not be geographically convenient to reach, but make excellent efforts to improve and to offer facilities to players (such as free hospitality) to attain upper category status, even if the top players are not in attendance.

Secondly, we aim to provide mandatory White Badge Officials and Physios for Category 1 tournaments. These tournaments are sometimes played by youngsters who already compete on the professional tennis tours, especially the WTA and ITF Circuits, and they are used to a certain level of service, which we want them to find in our top events

We have also introduced an integrated ranking for singles and doubles, which, we hope will encourage players to play doubles as well. Finally, with the introduction of electronic forms, comparable to those that exist in professional tennis, we hope to greatly help speed up and facilitate the processes for on-site officials.

What other changes would you like to see in future?

In my opinion the next step must be the "selling" of the tour to sponsors interested in promoting their products at this audience. The tour is made of more than 200 events in 48 countries and is an unbelievable vehicle of commercial promotions.

What's next for you personally?

I will be moving to the Italian Basketball League, as Director of Marketing and Events, and will be working in the promotion of Italian basketball events in Italy and Europe. I was made the offer though a person who knew and appreciated the results of my job at Tennis Europe. Of course I will continue refereeing in a numerous events. I love refereeing and I never forget that without it I wouldn't have reached Tennis Europe.

I would like to thank the President, the Committee of Management and the Junior Committee of Tennis Europe for their continuous support in these two and half years. Also I thank the staff of Tennis Europe as well as the ITF Officiating staff for their precious suggestions and help. Without the help of all these people all this hard work would not have been possible.

MOLIK OUTLASTS SHARAPOVA AT SWISSCOM CHALLENGE

Alicia Molik of Australia was the unexpected star of Tennis Europe's partner event, the Swisscom Challenge. Whilst the plethora of injuries at the upper echelons of the women's game depleted the draw somewhat (defending champion Justine Henin Hardenne was amongst those unable to play), fans were engrossed in a series of thrilling battles between up and coming stars and current champions each seeking to establish their supremacy.

Molik's second title of her career (she followed it up the following week with a third, in Luxembourg) was also her biggest to date, and the Zurich crowd were in no doubt that she had earned it after sealing four consecutive victories over top 20 opponents, including a three-set final win over Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova, thus ending the young Russian's autumnal win streak at eleven matches.

Earlier in the week, crowds were treated to some impressive displays from teenage talents, with Serbian Ana Ivanovic amongst those to impress. The 16 year old (who compiled a 31-0 record on the ITF Women's Circuit this year) qualified and upset current top ranked 16 year old Tatiana Golovin before falling in two tie breaks to Venus Williams in what was arguably the match of the tournament.

Meanwhile, Sharapova's final placing earned her enough points to qualify for the season ending WTA Championships.





ALLEGANY COUNTY CLUB, SEWICKLEY (PENNSYLVANIA), USA

SURFACE OF CHAMPIONS



2004 EUROPEAN COACHES SYMPOSIUM

The 27th European Coaches Symposium took place during the week of October 30th-November 4th, and was a great success, attracting over 70 delegates and 20 speakers from more than half of Tennis Europe's member nations.

The Symposium, which in conjunction with Tennis Europe's European Specific Theme Conference, acts as Europe's largest annual coaching event, was organised in cooperation with the Maltese Tennis Federation for the first time, where delegates were able to take advantage of the excellent late summer weather conditions to benefit from over 20 sessions, divided over five days between the classroom and tennis court.

Speakers came from as far as the United States [Luis Wyche, Thor Besier] and Australia [Tim Wood] to participate at the event, which also included numerous top names in European coaching, such as Luis Bruguera and Babette Pluim, speaking alongside a number of Symposium regulars, including Anne Pankhurst, Ivo van Aken and Richard Schönborn, amongst others.

During the opening dinner, Tennis Europe President John James presented Mr. Schönborn with a special award in recognition of his years of service to the Symposium. He holds the unique distinction of having attended every edition of the European Coaches Symposiums since its inception in the 1970s, and has been a regular and committed speaker throughout this time.

Also at the Symposium, the ITF's Executive Director (Development), Dave Miley, awarded Russian speaker Anna Skorodumova a special award in recognition of her contribution to tennis and coaching in Europe.

Once again, the ITF/Tennis Europe Development Programme provided accommodation grants in order to facilitate the attendance of coaches from some of the European family's less developed nations, ensuring that the 2004 event was one of the best attended yet. Through the distribution of conference materials and



Tennis Europe President John James (left) presents Richard Schönborn with an award for his contribution to the Symposiums.

the sharing of their findings, it is hoped that these delegates will be able to pass on the benefit of their experience to a wider audience of coaches at a domestic level.

Tennis Europe's Managing Director for External Affairs, Olli Mäenpää summed up the event, commenting "This has been one of the best-attended symposiums in recent years. A wide range of topics has been covered, giving those present invaluable insights into various aspects of top-level coaching, knowledge with which they can continue to greatly contribute towards coaching schemes in their respective national tennis associations."

The 2005 event will be the bi-annual European Specific Theme Conference. Further updates about the forthcoming event can be found at www.TennisEurope.org. National associations are reminded that coaching events open to international delegates can also be publicised at the site. Please send any relevant information to jonathanj@tenniseurope.org.



LUIS WYCHE—POWER TENNIS

One of the speakers creating a big impression at the European Coaches Symposium this year was Luis Wyche, whose revolutionary 'Power System' of tennis training has been hugely successful for novices and professionals alike. We caught up with him in Malta in order to discuss the system, which unlike traditional training methods, encapsulates a wide variety of other sporting philosophies, including those of martial arts.

The Power System has been the topic of much conversation here. Where do its central tenets come from?

It comes from an endless search to find the easiest, fastest and most enjoyable way to teach and to learn tennis. It is a diverse synthesis of many disciplines and sciences, incorporating quantum physics, martial arts, philosophy and humanistic psychology. There are many geniuses whose discoveries can be taken advantage of or directly modified for tennis, even if they come from fields that at face value have little to do with the sport.

Why is it called the Power System?

One meaning of power is potential. This aspect of the system comes from the interaction of thousands of players and hundreds of teachers who have participated in the development of the system. The experiences, desires and questions of the participants have reinforced and extended the content, causing a constant growth of the system. Also, 'power' is the most impressive aspect for beginning and evolving players. Adding power with control is one of the biggest motivators. Coaches love to see the powerful acceleration of learning in their pupil through the incorporation of these principles. The coaches' role as a motivator and transmitter of information is transformed into that of a guide who creates a highly effective personalised system for its players.

So how does it work?

All of the Power System training courses, both for coaches and players, have four basic interconnected

components: *Stability training* is a program to coordinate the mind and body to rapidly increase their performance. *Bio-Semantics* is an advanced method of communication to help each player understand the essence of a shot or aspect of tennis in as little as a single attempt. Thirdly, *Principles of Advanced Training* are the methods of integration of techniques and concepts of the Power System within the daily program of a class school or academy. Finally, *Super techniques* are specific scenarios used to create a favourable atmosphere to spontaneous learning. Also there are special courses for Academies and individual coaches and players of elite junior or professional levels.

How does it differ from conventional training systems?

Although we are obviously dealing with the same sport there are important differences in perspective, approach and even in vocabulary. What Andres Gimeno [ex French Open Winner] found most interesting was that the Power System does not try to reinvent tennis, but presents a new perspective to teach what the coaches

want, and what good players need, and the great players have always experienced in a faster, simpler and more effective form.

The majority of other systems function through an analysis of movement and the correction thereof. They deal with cause and effect from a Newtonian perspective. There is nothing wrong with that, but until now there have been no viable and proven alternatives. Think about it, when a tennis player is in the Zone, they report nothing about well executed grip changes or back-swings - it is spontaneous. This is a Quantum Perspective. They gush about intense feelings and flow and higher states of consciousness that allow them to play at amazing levels. They are what Maslow described as peak experiences and are virtually identical with mystical ones. They have nothing to do with analysis, it is the absence of it if anything. The Power System is the only system designed specifically to provoke these states in



Wyche presenting at the Symposium in Malta

LUIS WYCHE—POWER TENNIS

(continued) learning, training and in playing situations. It is not concerned with what a person is doing badly, but with imagining the ideal situation and creating a way to realise it with greater effectiveness. If we say that the conventional systems are types of therapy, the Power System in contrast, would be a health program.

Some enthusiasts have claimed it to be the "best training system in the world"

That may be going a little overboard with enthusiasm because nobody knows everything available and for sure not everything is possible. What we can report is that the system works more quickly and effectively than all of the participants and observers had thought was possible. The players comment that they had never played so well nor felt so free on the court. Coaches tell me that they had never obtained such impressive results, which increased enjoyment of their jobs enormously. Those are good criteria. At the end of the day however, the "best" system is what works for each person, and what responds to their needs. The more each coach learns about possibilities, the more informed choices they will be able to make to create their own personal systems.

How did you enjoy the European Coaches Symposium?

The local players and coaches who participated in the demonstration in Malta asked me to do extra sessions with them during the conference and to come back to Malta to do a workshop. The father of one of Malta's top talents was so happy about the short training session he told me "It really is Tennis Magic!" If I didn't get this kind of feedback I would stop tomorrow. The second best resonance of the Congress was surprisingly from the scientists who saw the tremendous potential of the Power System for instantly explaining Bio-mechanical principles through the unique Mind-Body exercises and concepts. Tasks that would normally take them many hours to accomplish could be now done in just minutes. Because of this I was invited to do a presentation for the professors of a Sport Science University in Germany.

The younger coaches at the Congress approached me and were interested in the practical coaching methods that can help their players on Junior Fed and Davis Cup teams fully realize their potential in a much shorter time frame. They saw the benefits of reducing the risk of injuries at the same time as improving training intensities. I

also spoke with a few Coaches Federations from various countries who were looking to revitalize systems and were captivated by a new and exciting Teaching Philosophy. The Symposium was a very enjoyable and rewarding experience for which I want to thank Tennis Europe for inviting me and Wilson for sponsoring my presentation.

Has the system produced results for professionals?

It is based on natural laws and functions for everyone, regardless of age or apparent ability. During the development of the system, we followed two junior players studying under the program. After the course, both had risen more than 600 WTA ranking places in less than a year. They had attained places on their Fed Cup teams, were voted most improved players and arrived amongst the top ranking in their respective countries. I have the policy not to take players on tour which allows me to work with top coaches and players with no personal agenda. I have been also invited to work with some of the best professionals on specific aspects of their games for this coming year and hope to give some reports in the future about these experiences.

You're based in Spain, where a number of notable coaches have taken part in your training courses.

Yes the word is spreading, Jordi [Arrese, Davis Cup captain] came by recommendation of Miquel Puigdevall, the present Spanish and World Veterans Champion. Miquel was excited by the fantastic transformations that happened to the players, (including himself) who had learned the Power System. Jordi, along with Eduardo Osta [ex-coach of Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez] does not have time to squander with trivialities, but attended both full days of the course, posing astute questions and putting interesting challenges to the Power System. They interviewed him during the course, and he commented that "Each player and coach in Spain should spend a couple of weeks learning the Power System." Eduardo said that is was "vastly more effective than any system he had ever seen."

If any of our readers are interested, how can they learn more about the Power System, or attend a course?

For brochures or more information you can email me at luiswyche@hotmail.com

EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

November's Players of the Month both impressed at the European Junior Masters event in Reggio Calabria, Italy, winning the 16 & Under titles to cap hugely successful years for both on the European Junior Tour. We had some quick questions for the champions...

Name: ALEXANDRA DULGHERU
Nationality: ROMANIA
Ranking: UNDER 16 #1

2004 Record: WON (6) - (Singles) Ülm, Echting Bei München, Maribol, Maribol 2, Renningen/Rutesheim, European Junior Masters

(Doubles) WON (2) Rixensart, Maribol.

Recorded a win in first professional match at ITF Event in Cluj Napoca in October.



Alexandra Dulgheru Interview

What were your expectations when you arrived at the Masters?

When I arrived here I knew I was going to have to play well and have lots of confidence in order to reach the final. Once I got that far I relaxed a bit and thought; it's a great title, so now I have to do my best to win it!

What will you take from this event when you think about what you have achieved?

I have the trophy, so that's the most important memory I can take from here!

What ambitions do you have in the sport?

I would like to become a better player day by day, to

become a professional and one day to win one of the four Grand Slams&who knows, maybe even all of them!

Who are your favourite players and why?

My favourite player is Anastasia Myskina, because she's a very calm and positive-thinking person. Thanks to her hard work and and offensive game she's now one of the best players in the world, and I would love to play like her.

What is next for you?

In the short term, I would like to reach the top 50 in the ITF [Junior] ranking, so that I can play junior Grand Slams next year. Winning the Masters was a great experience for me and I have very nice memories of the event and of this country.



Name: PAVEL CHEKHOV
Nationality: RUSSIA
Ranking: #14 (UNDER 16)

2004 Record: WON (1) European Junior Masters
SEMI-FINALIST (2) European Winter Cups by Prince, European Individual Championships

One of only two players to qualify for the Junior Masters in both 2003 and 2004, represented Russia at both European Winter Cups by Prince and Borotra (Summer) Cups in 2004.

EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

Pavel Chekhov interview

You qualified for the Masters at the last minute; how confident were you of winning the event?

Well, I wanted to win but most of all I was happy to qualify and to have the opportunity to play against the best players in Europe once again.

What was the highlight for you?

I was really happy to have the opportunity to play against

Pere Riba. At the last Masters, we were due to play the third place play-off match, but it was cancelled because of bad weather. I was curious to play against him this year to see how it would have turned out.

What is next for you?

The next tournament that I'll play will be an ITF Under 18 event in Thailand, and then off to the United States for some events there. In my personal life, I'm now attending the University of Economics and Statistics and Informatics in Moscow, so I'll be working hard there too!

5th BALKAN JUNIOR TENNIS GAMES

The 5th Balkan Junior Tennis Games, for girls & boys aged 14&Under took place in Izmir from 10 – 13 September, organised by the Karsiyaka Sport Kulübü in conjunction with the Turkish Tennis Federation.

5 of the 8 Balkan nations participated in the tournament, which was also the scene of a meeting of the Balkan Tennis Union Management Committee.

The event was a great success, held in a friendly atmosphere, where organizers provided excellent conditions for the visiting teams, and a social programme which included a dinner and dance on a boat, a visit to the historical Ephesus complex with the Virgin Maria site and a farewell dinner at a traditional seafood restaurant.

The final standings are below:

	Girls	Boys
1	ROMANIA	GREECE
2	GREECE	TURKEY
3	TURKEY	ROMANIA
4	MACEDONIA	MACEDONIA
5	BULGARIA	BULGARIA



TennisEurope.org has a new logo and a new look. Click here!

EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR - RESULTS 14 & UNDER

Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-up	Score
CHISINAU (MDA) (3)	<i>Boys</i>	OLEXANDER VYDMYSH (UKR)	ANDREI VASILEUSKI (BLR)	60 62
	<i>Girls</i>	ANASTASIA PAVYLUCHENKOVA (RUS)	CORINA DOSPINOIU (ROM)	62 60
BRATISLAVA (SVK) (2)	<i>Boys</i>	ROBERT JANUCH (SVK)	RICHARD HAMPEL (CZE)	61 60
	<i>Girls</i>	POLONA HERCOG (SLO)	ADRIANA SINSKA (SVK)	64 63
HELSINKI (FIN) (3)	<i>Boys</i>	ADRIAN SKOGENG (NOR)	MARKUS POPS (EST)	60 62
	<i>Girls</i>	KSENIA PERVAK (RUS)	MARGARITA EDINAROVA (RUS)	61 62
OULU (FIN) (3)	<i>Boys</i>	JESSE KIURU (FIN)	MARKUS POPS (EST)	64 75
	<i>Girls</i>	KSENIA PERVAK (RUS)	MARGARITA EDINAROVA (RUS)	60 62
JAFFA (ISR) (3)	<i>Boys</i>	ANDREI SAVULESCU (ROM)	TONI ANDROIC (CRO)	61 61
	<i>Girls</i>	ALEANDRA DAMASCHIN (RUS)	NADEZHDA GUSKOVA (RUS)	75 63
RAMAT HASHARON (ISR) (3)	<i>Boys</i>	TONI ANDROIC (CRO)	ROK STARC (SLO)	76(6) 46 64
	<i>Girls</i>	ANASTASIYA LYTOVCHENKO (UKR)	OKSANA PAVLOVA (UKR)	63 61
MOSCOW (RUS) (2)	<i>Boys</i>	ILLIA SHATSKIY (RUS)	ANTON GALKIN (RUS)	61 64
	<i>Girls</i>	KSENIA PERVAK (RUS)	VIKTORIYA KAMENSKAYA (RUS)	63 64

EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR - RESULTS 16 & UNDER

Venue	Cat.	Winner	Runner-up	Score
CHISINAU (MDA) (3)	<i>Boys</i>	RADU ALBOT (MDA)	MAKSYM ATAMANOV (UKR)	63 62
	<i>Girls</i>	YULIA KIRIENKO (UKR)	KATERINA YERGINA (UKR)	64 64
TORRELLO (ESP) (3)	<i>Boys</i>	ALBERT RAMOS (ESP)	MARCEL GRANOLLERS (ESP)	76(6) 46 62
	<i>Girls</i>	NICOLE RINER (SUI)	CRISTINA BALA (ESP)	26 75 61
NOVI SAD (SCG) (2)	<i>Boys</i>	PETRU LUNCANU (ROM)	MILJAN ZEKIC (SCG)	64 62
	<i>Girls</i>	MILJANA JOCIC (SCG)	NADINA SECERBEGOVIC (BIH)	62 16 62
MADEIRA (POR) (3)	<i>Boys</i>	GASTAO ELIAS (POR)	ALEXANDRE CARDOSO (POR)	62 62
	<i>Girls</i>	TRINA SLAPEKA (LAT)	MARIA GUERREIRO (POR)	36 62 63
HELSINKI (FIN) (3)	<i>Boys</i>	HARRI HELIÖVAARA (FIN)	VLADIMIR KARUSEVICH (RUS)	75 62
	<i>Girls</i>	EVGENIA VERTESHEVA (RUS)	EMMA-SOFIA ELISTEN (FIN)	64 61
OULU (FIN) (3)	<i>Boys</i>	KRISJANS STABINS (LAT)	HARRI HELIÖVAARA (FIN)	06 76(5) 62
	<i>Girls</i>	EVGENIA VERTESHEVA (RUS)	ANNA MASKALJUN (EST)	61 62
JAFFA (ISR) (3)	<i>Boys</i>	JONATHAN HADASH (ISR)	KONSTANTIN BLANK (ISR)	63 62
	<i>Girls</i>	CHEN ASTRUGO (ISR)	NADINE FAHOUM (ISR)	64 46 61
RAMAT HASHARON (ISR) (3)	<i>Boys</i>	EVGENY DONSKOY (RUS)	GIORGI CHANTOURIA (GEO)	63 16 61
	<i>Girls</i>	OKSANA KALASHNIKOVA (GEO)	NADINE FAHOUM (ISR)	62 62
BIEL (SUI) (2)	<i>Boys</i>	DYLAN SESSAGESIMI (SUI)	VLADIMIR IGNATIK (BLR)	60 61
	<i>Girls</i>	KSENIA MILEVSKAYA (BLR)	AMRA SADIKOVIC (SUI)	63 61

YEAR END EUROPEAN JUNIOR TOUR RANKINGS

The rankings below are the official year end rankings for 2004, as published on October 29th following the conclusion of the season-ending Junior Masters event. Subsequent rankings publications this year will count towards the 2005 Race to the Masters.

How the rankings work: Players earn points throughout the year according the round they reach at tournaments part of the Tennis Europe Junior Tour. The top eight European juniors are invited to take part in the Junior Masters at the end of the season. Rankings are updated every Thursday, and the full ranking lists can be found in a variety of formats, including a breakdown of points per tournament at www.TennisEurope.org

14 & UNDER GIRLS				14 & UNDER BOYS			
Rank	Name	Nation	Points	Rank	Name	Nation	Points
1	Renee Reinhard	NED	700	1	Jerome Inzerillo	FRA	610
2	Klaudia Boczova	SVK	545	2	Vladimir Ignatic	BLR	600
3	Elena Kulikova	RUS	490	3	Ricardis Berankis	LTU	560
4	Ksenia Milevskaya	BLR	480	4	Nassim Slilam	FRA	515
5	Urszula Radwanska	POL	465	5	Luka Somen	CRO	465
6	Cristina Kucova	SVK	450	6	Alexiei Grigorov	RUS	445
7	Martina Balogova	SVK	445	7	Daniel Cox	GBR	445
8	Polona Hercog	SLO	405	8	Daniele Piludu	ITA	435
9	Andrea Berkova	CZE	380	9	Emanuel Reholá	CZE	400
10	Petra Mokra	CZE	375	10	Pawel Poziomski	POL	390
16 & UNDER GIRLS				16 & UNDER BOYS			
1	Alexandra Dulgheru	ROM	500	1	Robin Roshardt	SUI	465
2	Arina Rodionova	RUS	415	2	Pere Riba	ESP	465
3	Ayu Fani Damayanti	INA	410	3	Andrei Karatchenia	BLR	410
4	Maria Miziouk	RUS	395	4	Emiliano Massa	ARG	395
5	Ekaterina Jeritsheva	EST	350	5	Albert Ramos	ESP	385
6	Maya Gaverova	RUS	350	6	Robert Varga	UKR	365
7	Mihaela Buzarnescu	ROM	340	7	Javier Garrapiz	ESP	360
8	Selma Babic	BIH	340	8	Boris Obama	FRA	355
9	Raluca Ioana Olaru	ROM	310	9	Marc Meigel	GER	355
10	I-Hsuan Hwang	TPE	305	10	Marin Cilic	CRO	350

EUROPEAN RANKINGS

There is little change at the top of the European rankings as the professional tours make their way to the season ending championships scheduled for Los Angeles and Houston in the coming fortnight.

Amelie Mauresmo has sealed her position as the top European female player of the year before a ball is struck, thanks to back to back indoor victories in Linz and Philadelphia. She will go head-to-head with Lindsay Davenport for the year end #1 ranking next week in a battle between the two most prolific tournament winners of the year; yet neither of them managed to take a Grand Slam title.

The Russian advance continues unabated, as Elena Bovina's solid autumn makes her the seventh Russian to

feature in the European top ten.

The return to form of another Russian, Marat Safin, is the story of the men's list. After a dip in form during the summer, Safin enjoyed a bumper indoor season, with back-to-back Masters Series titles in Madrid and Paris, and raising the pressure on Andy Roddick and Lleyton Hewitt for the year end #2 spot, which will be settled in Houston.

The highest climber is Joachim Johansson, who continued to impress in his breakthrough year after his run to the US Open semi finals. He reaches the top 5 in Europe for the first time.

Rankings are based on ATP/WTA ranks of November 8th.

WOMEN	Player	Country	WTA TOUR Rank	Points Total
1	Amélie MAURESMO	FRA	2	4195
2	Anastasia MYSKINA	RUS	3	3645
3	Svetlana KUZNETSOVA	RUS	4	3445
4	Elena DEMENTIEVA	RUS	5	3382
5	Maria SHARAPOVA	RUS	6	2902
6	Justine HENIN-HARDENNE	BEL	7	2884
7	Vera ZVONAREVA	RUS	11	2299
8	Nadia PETROVA	RUS	12	2022
9	Patty SCHNYDER	SUI	14	1683
10	Elena BOVINA	RUS	15	1598
MEN	Player	Country	ATP CHAMPI-ONS RACE	Points Total
1	Roger FEDERER	SUI	1	1117
2	Marat SAFIN	RUS	4	572
3	Carlos MOYA	ESP	5	484
4	Tim HENMAN	GBR	7	473
5	Joachim JOHANSSON	SWE	12	303
6	Tommy ROBredo	ESP	13	293
7	Dominik HRBATY	SVK	14	276
8	Sébastien GROSJEAN	FRA	15	274
9	Mikhail YOUZHNY	RUS	16	268
10	Tommy HAAS	GER	17	266

CONGRATULATIONS

To Tennis Europe President John James, who was elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame's International Council at its annual meeting in October.

EUROPEAN WINTER CUPS BY PRINCE COMPETITION

We can finally announce the winner of our competition earlier this year to win a Prince racquet signed by Juan Carlos Ferrero. Congratulations to Vesna Babic of Serbia and Montenegro—you'll be receiving your racquet very soon!



NOTES FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The **Armenia Tennis Federation** have new contact details as follows:

Hrazdan Marzhamalir,
Kilikia 82, Yerevan,
Republic of Armenia.

Tel: (+3741) 529 429 or 565 665

Fax: (+3741) 529 429

Email: tennisarmenia@mail.com or armeniantennis@hotmail.com

Changes also at the **Belgian Tennis Federation**:

Fédération Royale Belge de Tennis,
Galerie de la Porte Louis 203/3
1050, Bruxelles

Tel: (+32) 2548 0304 (Dutch/English)

Tel: (+32) 2513 2920 (French)

Fax: (+32) 2548 0303

Email: info@rbtf.be

www.rbtf.be

The **Georgian Tennis Federation** has a new email address: gtf@gol.ge

Henrik Klitvad has been temporarily appointed as President of the **Danish Tennis Federation**, following the death of Finn Kaulhauge earlier this year.

EUROPEAN RACQUET STRINGERS ASSOCIATION

The latest issue of Racquet Tech Europe magazine can be found at
<http://www.ersa-stringers.com/pdf/rt304.pdf>

You can also subscribe to the official newsletter of the European Racquet Stringers Association by mailing mmaslo3330@aol.com



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