

TENNIS EUROPE NEWS



INTERNET NEWSLETTER

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Issue N°20—June/July 2003

INTERVIEW

This month we speak to 'Seppli' Kacovsky, former coach to Roger Federer about his life, and what lies ahead for his former pupil.

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EUROPE REGAINS THE GRAND SLAM INITIATIVE

It has been a summer of triumphs for European tennis; an all-Belgian women's final at Roland Garros, won memorably by Justine Henin-Hardenne, followed the next day by Juan Carlos Ferrero's much heralded rise to the French crown, comprehensively defeating the surprise of the tournament, Dutchman Martin Verkerk. But arguably the most impressive of the hat trick of European Grand Slam title winning performances was that of Roger Federer of Switzerland, who came of age with a string of consistently excellent performances at Wimbledon.

The immediate future for European tennis looks bright. From the beginning of 2002, European players garnered only two of the ten Grand Slam singles titles on offer. Suddenly, we have three of the last four.

Local Impact

Nowhere has Roger Federer's victory had a greater impact than in his hometown of Basel, Switzerland, also the home of Tennis Europe. We spoke to 'Seppli' Kacovsky, who spent almost five years as Federer's first coach at Tennis Club Old Boys, about his life as a club coach, Roger's formative years, the future for Europe's newest Grand Slam champion, and the effect that this victory will have on the local tennis community.

Did you always expect this day to come?

Yes, almost as soon as we met! Within three weeks of his first training session I said to myself that this boy would one day be a Grand Slam winner. He had incredible drive for

one so young, and was blessed with so much natural talent. It wasn't like with many tennis parents, the family wasn't pushing him into doing it, and he needed no discipline. He just genuinely wanted to be the top player in the world, even at 10 years old.

Roger is known these days for his professionalism and sportsmanlike behaviour. Was he always this way?

He worked as hard as he could, even as a child. When he had training sessions he would always try to stay five minutes later than everyone else, to keep the ball going and always be the last one off the court, even if it meant extra training with the skipping rope. We always joked that he was born with a tennis racket in his hand! But he was very talented in a number of sports, and had to make the choice between tennis and football. Thankfully, he chose tennis! It was really an exceptional dedication though; I have trained many, many children in my years, but never met a child like Roger was.

You were also a very promising junior and played to a high standard. What are your favourite memories of the game?

As a Czech junior my first success was winning the national junior championships. I played against some of the best of my age group; such as Jan Kodes. I was the reserve for the Davis Cup team although I was still a junior, which was a very proud moment.

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Contact:
Tennis Europe,
Seltisbergerstrasse 6,
CH-4059 Basel

Telephone +41 61 331 7675
Fax: +41 61 331 72 53
Email: jonathanj@tenniseurope.org

Editorial:
Director: Olli Mäenpää
Coordinator: Jonathan Jobson

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I played in professional tournaments and my best achievement was beating the Polish number 1, Skonieczki in five sets at the national championships of Prague after he had won in Gstaad, which was one of my favourite matches. Like Roger I was into all sports, and used to divide my time between tennis and ice hockey. I would play tennis in the summer, ice hockey during the winter, and after work I would coach an ice hockey team from the top division of the Czech league.

How did you get into coaching as a profession?

Coaching was a lucky coincidence. The Czechoslovakian Tennis Association arranged me the post of national coach in Tunis, which meant spending two years there. It was wonderful to go there, to be in the sun all year, live by the beach and be in a different culture, with a very different lifestyle to that of Czechoslovakia at the time. My two years there were almost up, and to be honest I wasn't looking forward to going back, when as chance would have it, I met somebody from Old Boys Tennis Club, who was in Tunis on holiday. We played some tennis, and it was taped and he took the tape back to Switzerland to the club, where he showed the committee. They were impressed and offered me a job there as a coach. I remember he had a state of the art metallic Lacoste racket; we had nothing like that in Czechoslovakia, it was like seeing a space age car!

So you knew your future lay in Switzerland?

Sure, but getting here wasn't easy. We had a very stressful time waiting to see if I would be given the work permit. We were told a decision would take a couple of weeks, but we didn't hear anything. Then we were told one more week, and still nothing. All the time the clock was ticking and the deadline to go back to Czechoslovakia was approaching and we thought that was it. There were other

possibilities, but I really wanted to come to Switzerland more than anything. After two months of waiting we finally got the positive answer, so we went back to Czechoslovakia, sold all of our belongings and took the train through the only remaining open border to Vienna. It was very tense as this was 1968, and the month of the Soviet invasion. The train was so packed that people were actually hanging out of the windows. It was the last chance for many people to flee, and nobody knew what lay ahead. When we arrived at Zurich we had only a few dollars in our pockets, but we were very excited.



Seppli, pictured at the Old Boys tennis club, where he coached Federer for four years

Roger's victory follows the 75th anniversary of the club last year. What effect will this have for the club?

It's a great thing for the club. To be able to say that a grand slam champion is from here is really something special. Over the last few days the club has had so much publicity; there were TV crews here broadcasting during the final, and we have had media from all across Switzerland, which is good because I am sure that that will translate into increased membership requests and attendance. All of the kids who train here are very excited, Roger is their hero, and so it's a great motivation for them too.

It was reported that the club would like to build a new court and dedicate it to its most famous son?

We were thinking about that. It's funny, because they named a street after Roger where he used to live, but he moved shortly afterwards! We're going to hang the sign here at the club: Roger Federer Boulevard! We would love to build some more courts here, so it would be nice to have such a monument.

What about the future of the club? You see all of the children at their most formative stages. Do you think any of them can go on to emulate Roger's success?

Well, it's always very difficult to say with children. They can always be so easily distracted, or lose focus or become interested in other sports. Roger was really the only child I have ever trained that left me in doubt that he would become a successful professional. But there are definitely children here with the potential to be top Swiss players, should they keep up their efforts.

And what of Roger's future now? How do you think he will adapt to being a Grand Slam champion?

Well, the media watch these things very closely, and they have been waiting for a sign that something has changed with Roger, but it won't. He is so down to earth and has his feet firmly on the ground. There have been so many opportunities, and so many occasions where a lesser man could have become bigheaded; winning the junior event at Wimbledon, Junior Player of the Year, his tournament wins, becoming top ten... He was already a top player at only 19. But Roger is Roger; he keeps the same friends that he has had for years, he has his home here and a close family. He's always been there for the club when we've asked him, giving things to the juniors and so on. Maybe the work will get harder, but he won't change. It's incredible, he has had no rest since Wimbledon. His phone is permanently engaged; everyone wants to talk to him, it's suddenly another world. And of course, he was ready to play in Gstaad immediately, but will still make time for everyone.

EUROPEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR WOMEN 2003

The sixth edition of the European Club Championships for Women took place during the first week of July in Rennes, France. The event was a great success, and its continued growth was reflected in a record number of 12 participating teams from across the continent, who for the first time in the history of the event were offered prize money and full hospitality.

The competition was played in a knock-out draw with a consolation event for the first round losers. Each tie consisted of four singles matches and one doubles match.

In an exciting week of Tennis the top seeded home team of Patton Rennes were surprised at the semi final stage by the strong Croatian team of TK Split, who boasted amongst their

members two former Tennis Europe 16 & Under Players of the Year, Jelena Kostanic and Lucija Krzelj.

The final was a particularly competitive affair, with the triumphant Tennis-Bridel-Koplescht team from Luxembourg ousting the Croatians thanks to a victory for Bianka Lamade and Liga Dekmeijere in the decisive doubles rubber.



Above: doubles finalists; L-R Lamade, Dekmeijere, Kostanic, Krzelj.

Women's European Club Championships Final Results 2003

Tennis Bridel-Koplescht, Luxembourg d. TK Split, Croatia, 3-2

Nicole Ludwig (TBK) d. Daniela Caljkusic (TKS) 61 63
Lioudmila Nikoian (TBK) d. Marijana Cutuk (TKS) 62 26 64
Liga Dekmeijere (TBK) lost to Lucija Krzelj (TKS) 36 26
Bianka Lamade (TBK) lost to Jelena Kostanic (TKS) 46 26

Liga Dekmeijere/Bianka Lamade (TBK) d. Jelena Kostanic/
Lucija Krzelj (TKS) 61 63

Full results are available from www.tenniseurope.org

CLUB AS PATTON RENNES: PROFILE

This years hosts, Club AS Patton Rennes have made themselves a name as a fervent supporter of club competitions. The past decade has brought many successes for the club, including the status of five-time Men's European Club Champion, seven times French Men's National Club Champion, and finishing twice as Women's European Club Champion.

During this years event, we spoke to Jean-Marc Reynard, the President of the Club and Tournament Director of the European Club Championships for Women. With his dedication to the sport, and especially to Club Tennis, Mr. Reynard has helped the development of the European Club Championships enormously.

You offered this year for the first time in the history of the European

Club Championships for Women prize money and full hospitality to the participants. What is your motivation to support this competition to this extent?

There are various motivations to organise such an event but in the first place it's definitely my big love of club tennis. For me the team competitions take a very important role in the world of tennis and that is something I really support from the bottom of my heart. We all have to be aware that the tennis clubs form the backbone of the game.

One problem for us has been that when competing in the French Interclub for Women, AS Patton Rennes 35 does not usually get the chance to play home matches as the format doesn't allow it, so the European Club Championships for Women is a

good chance for the girls but also for the spectators to have some attractive days of women's tennis in Rennes. This is a very important event for the City of Rennes and also for the Regional council, which will be represented by 50 people during the Finals.

The event was very well attended, with 1,500 tickets sold in advance for the Championships. How did you promote your event?

There were posters in the whole City and about 450 messages were sent via three Radio stations to the public. Of course also newspaper articles and my business networks helped me a great deal to sell the tickets. Furthermore we are going to have a very popular raffle during the final stages where the spectators are given the opportunity to win great-

EUROPEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR WOMEN 2003

(Continued from previous page)

prizes, including a Mini Cooper, a trip to Cuba, TV, DVDs, and so on.

We also had a very popular women's tennis day, during which some of the competitors took the opportunity to play for fun with members of the local public, which everybody seemed to enjoy.

What is your vision for the European Club Championships?

My ideal vision would be to play the championships with a draw of 16 clubs and I hope that we can already

achieve that by next year. I feel we have taken a big step forward this year, and we have to continue working hard in cooperation with Tennis Europe in order to give this competition the glamour it deserves, as we have seen that the competition is a great experience for the players and public alike.

(Magnus Grönvold)



Some of the organisers and competitors at the Championships, Jean-Marc Reynard (centre) and Pierre-Paul de Keghel, Chairman of the Team Championships Committee (third right)

TENNIS EUROPE PRESIDENT HONoured



Tennis Europe's President John James recently attended Buckingham Palace to collect his O.B.E. (Order of the British Empire) award from Prince Charles (pictured).

Mr. James was awarded the accolade in the Queen's New Year Honours list at the start of the year, as a recognition of his lifetimes

achievements in the sporting world. Prior to his current term as Tennis Europe President, Mr. James has worked for many years for a variety of sporting organisations, including the British Olympic Association, and a number of roles at the Lawn Tennis Association of Great Britain, including a time as Executive Officer for The Championships, Wimbledon. Tennis Europe extends its warmest congratulations once again!

NEW TENNIS MUSEUM OPENS AT ROLAND GARROS

The 2003 French Open also marked the inauguration of the 'Tenniseum', an ambitious project coordinated by Roland Garros and the French Tennis Federation, who were looking for a way of displaying their wealth of information and historical artefacts, and to give the public the opportunity to see them first hand.

The Tenniseum is a truly modern museum; interactive displays and multimedia options give the visitor the opportunity to travel through time and view any one of thousands of matches from past editions of the clay court Grand Slam dating as far back as 1895.

The history of the French Open, and

the other Grand Slam events can also be researched through the mountains of statistical databases, interviews, and press agency photos.

In addition to the mine of information, the museum is the current home of the actual trophies awarded during the tournament, as well as a comprehensive 140 square metre tennis library featuring historical and contemporary publications both in digital and print form from all over the world.

During a tour of the museum the visitor can follow the development of tennis from its origins to the current game with an interactive tour that

traces the game back to the middle ages.

The 2,200 square metres also features a cinema showing antique news reels, classic equipment from eras gone by, and an art gallery featuring Andy Warhol's take on Chris Evert, amongst other fascinating pieces.

In addition, the museum offers workshops for youngsters and can be booked by schools and clubs for educational classes.

The museum is open all year round except Mondays, and more information can be found at www.rolandgarros.com.

FEDERATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE

In 2002 Tennis Europe launched the Federation Development Project, aimed at creating opportunities for the less developed tennis nations based on their specific needs and national development priorities. Tennis Europe will provide the know-how and financial or material assistance for the best projects around Europe. An additional aim is to share the best practices and follow-up projects among the European tennis family in order to maximise the benefits of the project.

The Norwegian Project

In 2002, the Development Committee accepted the Norwegian Project "Girls and Tennis". The project is the brainchild of Mr Per Frederik Wright, who explained that the project is of particular importance to the Norwegian Tennis Association, as in recent years statistics from the age of 14 have shown a clear increase in the dropout rate for girls competing in tournaments.

To tackle this, the Norwegian Tennis Association has compiled a Comprehensive Sports Plan 2001-2004, and one of the main goals to improve

conditions for girls in Norway.

The central theme of the campaign is: "How to get more girls to play tennis: better and longer", and there are three main aims:

- Equal opportunities for girls and boys
- Improve coaching of girls based on female thinking
- Reduce dropout rate

Project Implementation

To implement the programme, a number of materials have been prepared and distributed to Norwegian clubs. A multipoint plan of action was devised, in addition to a 40-page compendium on "How to Train Girls?", focusing especially on girls motivation and special needs. Other recommendations of the plan include:

- Training courses for coaches based on the compendium
- Clubs encouraged to form girls teams for different age groups and play team matches

- Implementation of a Pilot Project for Clubs. Six clubs are selected on the basis of plans submitted by clubs to implement the Plan of Action. A Board member of the Norwegian Tennis Association is leading the project and each club has appointed a responsible person to follow up. This Pilot Project will continue for three years and keep accurate records of the number of girls who are active players in each age group each year. In addition, they will keep record of the number of female coaches and leaders in the club.

The financial support from Tennis Europe's Federation Development Project has made it possible to implement the whole project, which is greatly beneficial to the effectiveness of the study.

We wish every success to the Norwegian Tennis Association and look forward to the projects from other member nations.

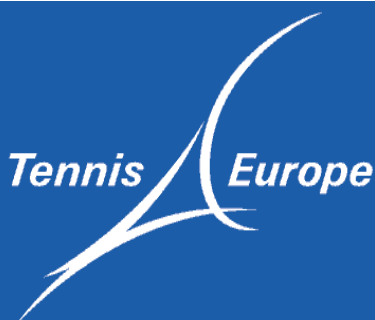
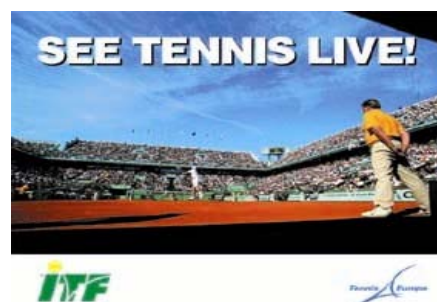
(Hrvoje Zmajic)

SEE TENNIS LIVE UPDATE

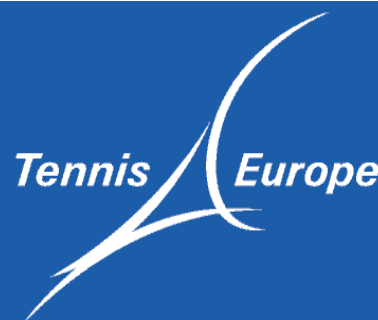
Tennis Europe's promotional campaign to increase awareness of and attendance at entry level professional tournaments continues. July saw the first case study of the effectiveness of the campaign, thanks to the efforts of the organisers of the \$10,000 tournament in Savitaipale, Finland. More

information will be available by the next issue of Tennis Europe News.

If you organise an event on the ITF Men's or Women's Circuit and have not received your information pack from tennis Europe, or would like to know more, please visit www.tenniseurope.org/seetennislive



www.tenniseurope.org



VETERANS NEWS

For European Veterans Players, June is one of the busiest months of the year, with both the European Outdoor Individual and Club Championships taking place.

Detailed results for all of the championships below can be found at <http://www.tenniseurope.org/sites/veteran/vet.htm>

European Championships 40-55 in Baden-Baden, Germany June 9-15

The 46th European Veterans Championships were a great success, with 200 players from 20 countries taking part. The event was staged for the 34th consecutive time in Baden-Baden. As Whitsuntide holidays and other events taking place simultaneously clashed with the start of the event, there were a few less participants than the previous year. However the level of play was, as always, outstanding. The 2002 Players of the year Heidi Eisterlehner (Germany) and Heidi Orth (Germany)



Men's doubles 40/45 finalists l-r champions, Heckmanns, Fasthoff, runners-up Henn, Seuss.

captured the title in the Women 50 and Women 60 categories.

European Championships 60-85 in Pörschach, Austria June 9-15

A record number of enthusiastic veteran players came to Pörschach this year: 330 participants from 21 countries (a 20% increase on the previous year), including the best European players and a strong delegation from USA and Australia. American players fared particularly well, claiming four of the 11 titles.

European Veterans Clubs Championships Women 40/50, Rome, June 16-20

TC Roma, last year's winner of the Women 40 Championships, kindly offered to stage the 2003 event and did not save any effort to provide a very enjoyable stay to the 16 Clubs that had entered both Women 40

and Women 50 European Championships. Tennis Roma retained their title against the British Chandos LTC in the younger category, while the 45 Club (GBR) took its revenge on the Warwick BC (GBR) after losing to them in the final last year.



The victorious women's 40 Tennis Roma team l-r Cucchiaroni (Captain), Ciardi, Bozzano, Ippoliti.

European Veterans Clubs Championships Men 55/60, Le Touquet, June 16-20

The famous Atlantic seaside resort continued its traditional role as host and again organised perfectly our Championships, this time for men, having hosted the Womens events for many years. 10 Clubs played the Men 55 Championships and 5 Clubs came for the Men 60 event. Both last year's Champions managed to repeat this year: TC Saarbrücken (GER) won the Men 55 Championships against DSD Düsseldorf (GER), while TC SF Hamborn were in great form, winning the round robin tournament with some ease.



Some of the players of the winning Hamborn team, and the defeated finalists from Buchschlag.

(Charlotte Ferrari)

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS SPECIAL—2003 INVACARE WORLD TEAM CUP

The Polish resort of Sopot hosted the first Invacare World Team Cup held in Eastern Europe during the week of 9th-15th June.

This was just one of many landmarks for which this year's event will be remembered, along with Japan's triumph in the Men's event making them the first Asian nation to win an Invacare World Team Cup title, and Sweden's victory in the Junior competition being Scandinavia's first title in the 19-year history of the Invacare World Team Cup.

A week of high sporting drama and excellence got underway with Susan Elder, Director of Marketing Communications of title sponsor Invacare, and Ellen De Lange, ITF Wheelchair Tennis Manager, conducting the draw at Sopot Tennis Club's Indoor Hall on the eve of the first day's play.

The following evening, Susan Elder joined Martin McElhatton, representing the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee, and Mr Włodzimierz Wapinski, president of the Polish Wheelchair Tennis Federation, in welcoming all participants on to Centre Court for the official Opening Ceremony.

With the formalities completed, cabaret fun with mobile phones, and local schoolchildren singing folk songs got the festivities started, while top Polish pop group Blue Café brought the evening to an energetic end. The following morning it was back to the main business of the week....

Men

Peru were involved in one of the most exciting ties on the first day, which was also their debut in the event, although Robinson Mendez and Enzo Roco clinched victory for Chile with a 64 76(6) win over Peruvians Gustavo Neyra and Reymundo Delgado in the deciding doubles.

Meanwhile, New Zealand had an equally close opening win over Finland. New Zealand's Glen Barnes

turned villain in their next match against Spain, hitting a ball in frustration during a third set tie-break against Francesco Tur and was defaulted to end New Zealand's chances of moving into the last 16. In contrast, the Spanish Men's team went on to collect the 'Team of the Year' award at the end of the week.

The first major upset came in the last 16, when the unseeded Czech Republic defeated fourth seeds Sweden 2-1 in an enthralling tie, with the Swedes obviously missing the injured Niclas Larsson.

While all seven remaining seeds successfully reached the quarterfinals, the Czechs scored another upset in their last eight clash against eighth seeds Great Britain. Miroslav Brychta and Michal Stefanu recovered from losing the first set of the deciding doubles against Simon Hatt and Jayant Mistry to triumph 06 63 63.

In the semifinals Japan's 19-year-old Shingo Kunieda overcame higher ranked Dutchman Eric Stuurman 63 63 before World No. 2, Robin Ammerlaan, avenged two recent defeats by Satoshi Saida to come through a monumental second singles 63 57 75 and level the tie. However Kunieda and Saida proved strongest to win the doubles 62 16 63 and seal a famous victory for the third seeds.

The United States' Jon Rydberg and Stephen Welch brought the Czech Republic's great run to an end in their semi-final, although the Czechs went on to take fourth place - their best ever.

In the opening singles rubber of the final, Kunieda produced some breathtaking tennis to defeat Rydberg 61 62. The second rubber between Saida and Welch was full of outstanding rallies as Saida took the first set 62.

Welch came back to take the second to level the match for the second seeds, but after going 3-1 up in the

final set, Saida proved more consistent to eventually secure a 62 46 61 victory amid joyous scenes in the Japanese camp.

Amongst the spectators enjoying the final stages were ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti and the Chairman and CEO of Invacare, Mr Malachi Mixon III, who were on hand to award medals and trophies to the successful nations.

Women

Sweden's first Women's team in an Invacare World Team Cup had a baptism of fire, with a 3-0 defeat at the hands of the mighty Dutch as the Netherlands began their sweep through the top half of the draw.

Meanwhile, Canada's Helen Simard and Yuka Chokyu came from a set down to beat France's Armelle Fabre and Florence Gravelier 57 62 64 to claim victory in a first round match that was completed the morning after it had started. However, the challenge of fourth seeds Switzerland proved too strong for Canada in the quarterfinals later on the second day.

The Swiss were involved in a dramatic semifinal against second seeds the United States, with the second singles between America's Sharon Clark and Switzerland's Karin Suter-Erath going to a titanic third set that turned out to be the longest set of the week. Clark eventually claimed a 15-13 win in the tie-break to book the United States a place in the final against the Dutch.

Having beaten third seeds Great Britain 3-0 in their semifinal, the Dutch went on to collect their 16th Invacare World Team Cup title without dropping a set. The first singles rubber of the final saw American Karin Korb get close to World No. 2 Maaïke Smit in the opening set, but Smit gained the decisive break before going on to take the match 75 62.

(continued overleaf)

2003 INVACARE WORLD TEAM CUP

(continued from previous page)

In the second singles, Dutch World No. 1 Esther Vergeer and American World No. 8 Sharon Clark both held their service games early on, but then Vergeer took complete control and soon wrapped up a 63 60 victory to continue the Netherlands dominance in the Women's competition.

Quads

The opening matches of the Quad competition produced a dramatic comeback from Britain's Mark Eccleston, who recovered from a set and 5-1 down against Israel's Shraga Weinberg to eventually secure a 3-6 7-5 6-2 victory and give the defending champions an unassailable 2-0 lead. Further victories over the Netherlands and Sweden left second seeds Britain top of their round-robin group and with a semifinal against Canada, who were second in the other group after overcoming Italy in the decisive doubles in their final pool match.

While Eccleston and Peter Norfolk beat Sarah Hunter and Brian McPhate 60 62 in the doubles rubber of their semifinal against Canada, the United States semifinal against the Netherlands also went down to the wire, with former and current World No. 1s Rick Draney and David Wagner securing a 62 16 64 victory in the deciding doubles rubber for the United States. Wagner had earlier survived a scare before fighting back to beat Dutchman Bas Van Erp 26 61 63.

In a repeat of last year's final, Norfolk beat American Nick Taylor 60 63 in the opening singles rubber. The second singles saw Wagner take on Eccleston, his predecessor as World No. 1. But with Eccleston showing only brief signs of his best, Wagner ran out a 61 62 winner. The deciding rubber brought an upset as Draney and Wagner put up a solid performance to beat Eccleston and Norfolk 64 60, securing the United States' second Quad title and inflicting the first defeat on Great Britain in 13 ties.



ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti presents the trophy to the victorious Dutch women's team

Juniors

Six nations contested the Junior event with Poland and Israel making their debuts in the event. In the semifinals, second seeds the United States upset defending champions the Netherlands 3-0, with Zack Sikora in imperious form against Jiske Griffioen to land a 60 61 victory.

In the other semifinal, Alexander Hansson and Stefan Olsson lost just six games throughout their two singles rubbers and the doubles to give Sweden a comfortable 3-0 win over Germany.

The first singles rubber of the final saw Verfuert survive a match of wildly conflicting fortunes to defeat Hansson 60 16 61 to give the United States a 1-0 lead. However, Olsson then beat Zack Sikora 62 64 to level the tie, and in a tremendous doubles rubber, Hansson and Olsson proved to have the stronger mental game and came through to triumph 63 64 to give Sweden their first ever Invacare World Team Cup title.

Eastern Europe's first Invacare World Team Cup was a magnificent week and everyone involved in the organisation of the event is to be congratulated and thanked for their meticulous attention to detail and

friendly, helpful and hardworking staff.

In addition to the on court achievements of the players, there were some other notable accolades given this year. On the eve of Japan's triumph in the Men's competition, the Japanese had another reason to celebrate when Aoi Kobayashi was presented with the Brad Parks award during the official dinner. The award is presented annually to recognise the contribution of an individual or organisation towards wheelchair tennis. Kobayashi, who is a member of the IWTA Management Committee, has been active for many years in promoting the sport in Japan and neighbouring countries and received the award for her contribution to the game in the Asian region.

Also during the Dinner, the organising committee of this year's Invacare World Team Cup, led by Mr Wapinski, presented a cheque to the Silver Fund. Set up in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of wheelchair tennis, the Silver Fund will place an ITF expert into a less developed nation for several weeks, donate tennis wheelchairs and put in place a programme to develop the sport.

(Marshall Thomas, photos courtesy Rien Hokken)

2003 EUROPEAN SUMMER CUPS

The European Summer Cups for Boys and Girls 14 & Under, which began with the Qualifying Rounds at the end of June, came to a close during the weekend of 4th- 6th of July, when the final rounds were staged. Eight teams from across the continent took part in the finals, culminating in a decisive victory for the Czech Republic boy's team, and a thrilling final rubber victory for the Russian girls. The events were excellently organised by the National Associations of Spain and Italy, as was the case with the earlier Qualifying Rounds. All of the draws and details of both Final and Qualifying Rounds can be found at www.tenniseurope.org

| BOYS 14&U COPA DEL SOL | | GIRLS 14&U EUROPA CUP | |
|------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--|
| CZECH REPUBLIC | WINNER | RUSSIA | |
| CROATIA | 2 | ROMANIA | |
| FRANCE | 3 | ITALY | |
| GREAT BRITAIN | 4 | POLAND | |
| ITALY | 5 | CROATIA | |
| BELARUS | 6 | CZECH REPUBLIC | |
| BELGIUM | 7 | BELARUS | |
| POLAND | 8 | SPAIN | |

The remaining fixtures for the European Summer Cup events are as follows:

BOROTRA CUP (Boys 16&U) - Qualifying Rounds 29-31 July, Final 4-6 August
HELVETIE CUP (Girls 16&U) - Qualifying Rounds 29-31 July, Final 3-5 August
GALEA / VALERIO CUP (Boys 18&U) - Qualifying Rounds 29-31 July, Final 3-5 August
REINA / SOISBAULT CUP (Girls 18&U) Qualifying Rounds 29-31 July, Final 26-28 September

(Stephanie Kamberi)

JUNIOR TOUR SUPERVISOR REPORT

The busiest months for the 2003 European Junior Circuit have started. The next two months will be the scene of more than eighty tournaments in twenty different countries, as well as the Summer Cups and the Individual Junior Championships for all age categories. However, the end of the spring was already busy: I personally visited ten different venues, travelling from Italy to Slovenia, from France to Slovak Republic, from Poland to Latvia. My tour took me from the seaside village of Follonica, location of their first Category 3 event, to Piestany, Slovak Republic, where I had the possibility to see the fast growing tennis movement of the eastern European countries, since many highly talented children from that region of Europe had travelled to participate in that event.

Subsequently a two thousand-kilometre trip brought me very quickly to four different sites. Moving from the beautiful club of Maribor, Slovenia, where excellent 14 & Under and 16 and Under events were organised, I headed to the 16 & Under tournaments at Foligno and Bologna, Italy, where the Cierrebi Club hosted a memorable event which saw many of the top European players in action.

Continuing with the 16 & Under Tour I then moved to Zarbrze, Poland and then I finally attended in my hometown, Milan, the "Trofeo Avvenire", a tournament with a great history, having featured many great champions among the past winners, Edberg, Lendl, Cash and Capriati.

Finally I moved on to the 12 & Under category, visiting Correggio, not far from Reggio Emilia, Italy, where the most precocious champions of the future were taking their first competitive steps, but where they also enjoyed the atmosphere of the club, which made every effort to provide plenty of social activities and where they also loved to sample the parmesan cheese which sponsored the event!

Once again I found across the continent a great commitment and enthusiasm among the organisers, who work so hard to ensure not only that these junior tournaments are professionally run, but that they are an enjoyable first taste of competition for European youngsters.

(Massimo Morelli)

RACE TO THE MASTERS - TENNIS EUROPE JUNIOR MASTERS

The Tennis Europe Junior Masters began in 1996, devised to reward the best players competing on the European Junior Tour. It is the end of season highlight for the eight best-ranked boys and girls of the 14 and 16 & Under age categories. The 2003 European Masters will be played at Tennis Club Jesi, Italy, during the week-end of 17-19th October.

The rankings below illustrate the players currently (ranking as of 9th July 2003) qualified for the 2003 European Junior Masters. The players who occupy these top 8 positions on October 2nd will qualify to compete in this years event.

BOYS 14 & UNDER

GIRLS 14 & UNDER

| Name | Nation | Points | Name | Nation | Points |
|----------------------|--------|--------|---------------------------|--------|--------|
| 1 Andrei KARATCHENIA | BLR | 475 | 1 Evgeniya RODINA | RUS | 545 |
| 2 Michal KONECHY | CZE | 460 | 2 Raluca OLARU | ROM | 405 |
| 3 Plamen AVRAMOV | BUL | 410 | 3 Sorana Mihaela CIRSTEAN | ROM | 370 |
| 4 Jiri KOSLER | CZE | 355 | 4 Vesna MANASIEVA | RUS | 360 |
| 5 Petr MICHNEV | CZE | 350 | 5 Dominica CIBULKOVA | SVK | 350 |
| 6 Roman JEBAVY | CZE | 340 | 6 Joanna MATUSZCZYK | POL | 340 |
| 7 Mateusz SMIGIEL | POL | 310 | 7 Vika AZARANKA | BLR | 335 |
| 8 Valentin DIMOV | BUL | 310 | 8 Caroline WONIACKI | CRO | 310 |

BOYS 16 & UNDER

GIRLS 16 & UNDER

| Name | Nation | Points | Name | Nation | Points |
|----------------------|--------|--------|----------------------|--------|--------|
| 1 Santiago GIRALDO | COL | 390 | 1 Monica NICULESCU | ROM | 475 |
| 2 Marin CILIC | CRO | 337 | 2 Hewenfei LI | CHN | 390 |
| 3 Alexandr NEDOVESOV | UKR | 335 | 3 Polona REBERSAK | SLO | 385 |
| 4 Franko SKUGOR | CRO | 320 | 4 Mihaela BUZARNESCU | ROM | 385 |
| 5 Roberto VELILLA | ESP | 310 | 5 Agnes SZATMARI | ROM | 360 |
| 6 Grzegorz PANFIL | POL | 310 | 6 Katia SABATE | ESP | 325 |
| 7 Pavlo TARTASYUK | UKR | 290 | 7 Natalia RAKHMANINA | RUS | 320 |
| 8 Slavco BJELICA | YUG | 250 | 8 Jelena STANIVUK | BIH | 320 |

THE EUROPEAN TOP TEN

Two Grand Slams have been played since the last edition of Tennis Europe News, so there is a great deal of change in the European rankings. The performances of Justine Henin-Hardenne and Kim Clijsters in Paris reinforced their positions as the top two women both in Belgium and in Europe as a whole. The injury-enforced absence from Wimbledon thwarts the attempt of Amélie Mauresmo to catch them for the time being. Veteran Spaniard Conchita Martinez makes a welcome return to the European top ten for the first time in two years, thanks to some consistent clay court performances. Another new entry to the top ten is Vera Zvonareva, the second of three Russians, boosted largely by her Roland Garros upset of Venus Williams.

There is change at the top of the men's rankings; Roger Federer of Switzerland takes the lead thanks to his stellar unbeaten run on grass, during which he won the

Halle and Wimbledon titles. Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain, who took the title at Roland Garros is close behind in second. These two rivals since their days on Tennis Europe's European Junior Tour (pictured) now look set for a close battle to finish the year as World #1.



| WOMEN | Player | Country | WTA TOUR Ranking | Points Total |
|-------|------------------------|---------|------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Kim CLIJSTERS | BEL | 2 | 5721 |
| 2 | Justine HENIN-HARDENNE | BEL | 3 | 4705 |
| 3 | Amélie MAURESMO | FRA | 6 | 2932 |
| 4 | Daniela HANTUCHOVA | SVK | 9 | 2078 |
| 5 | Anastasia MYSKINA | RUS | 10 | 1990 |
| 6 | Jelena DOKIC | YUG | 12 | 1759 |
| 7 | Magdalena MALEEVA | BUL | 13 | 1700 |
| 8 | Conchita MARTINEZ | ESP | 14 | 1665 |
| 9 | Vera ZVONAREVA | RUS | 16 | 1539 |
| 10 | Elena DEMENTIEVA | RUS | 17 | 1483 |

The European Women's Ranking is based on the WTA Ranking of 14th July 2003.

| MEN | Player | Country | ATP CHAMPIONS RACE | Points |
|-----|---------------------|---------|--------------------|--------|
| 1 | Roger FEDERER | SUI | 1 | 547 |
| 2 | Juan Carlos FERRERO | ESP | 2 | 537 |
| 3 | Rainer SCHUETTLER | GER | 6 | 353 |
| 4 | Carlos MOYA | ESP | 7 | 334 |
| 5= | Felix MANTILLA | ESP | 9= | 235 |
| 5= | Martin VERKERK | NED | 9= | 235 |
| 7 | Sebastien GROSJEAN | FRA | 11 | 230 |
| 8 | Albert COSTA | ESP | 15 | 201 |
| 9 | Tommy ROBREDO | ESP | 16 | 199 |
| 10 | Jiri NOVAK | CZE | 17 | 195 |

The European Men's Ranking is based on the ATP Champions Race Standings as of 14th July 2003.

THE LATEST FROM TENNIS EUROPE



CONTACT CHANGES

Please note that Tennis Ireland have recently changed email addresses.

For General information please use info@tennisireland.ie

For Aileen Rogan please use aileen.rogan@tennisireland.ie

For Des Allen please use des.allen@tennisireland.ie

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Francoise Dürr, member of Tennis Europe's Womens Committee, on her induction into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, a recognition of her remarkable career which saw her become Roland Garros singles champion (1967), in addition to another 11 Grand Slam doubles titles.

DIARY DATES

The European Junior Individual Championships (Girls 16&U) have been confirmed for the week of 21-28 September in Eeklo, Belgium.

The final rounds of the **Reina / Soisbault Cup (Girls 18&U)** will now take place on October 10-12th in Lerida, Spain.

The following meetings have been confirmed for later in the year:

The **Regional Meetings** at the ITF Annual General Meeting will be conducted on 10th September in Rio de Janeiro.

The **2003 Top Executive's Meeting** will take place in Brussels, Belgium during the weekend of 10-12th October.

The **2003 European Specific Theme Conference**, 'Strategy and Tactics in Tennis' will be held in collaboration with the Portuguese Tennis Association in Vilamoura, between the 18th and 20th October.


For more information on these or any other schedules, please contact the Tennis Europe office in Basel.




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