

Tournaments At-a-Glance

2005 Dates

Women's Jul. 16-24

Seniors Aug. 12-13

Men's Aug. 13-21

Tickets

Tickets are on sale now!

Tournament: 513-651-

0303 / cincytennis.com

or TicketMaster:

513-562-4949 /

ticketmaster.com

Who's Playing?

Men's Event: As an ATP

Masters Series event,

Cincinnati is mandatory

for all players ranked

high enough to enter,

such as Andy Roddick &

Roger Federer.

Women's Event: The

field will be announced

in May, 2005.

Hotels

For a great rate at a

preferred tournament

hotel, visit www.

cincytennis.com or call

513-665-3830.

3 Women Commit

Three players who've spent time in the top ten – **Ai Sugiyama** of Japan, **Daniela Hantuchova** of Slovakia, and **Vera Zvonareva** of Russia – have committed to play in the W&SFG Women's Open, according to a preliminary list released by the WTA Tour. **See Story on Page 3 >**



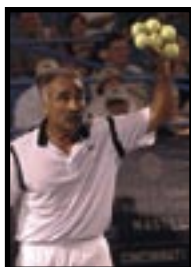
Who'll Catch Him?

Masters Series titles at Indian Wells and Miami, a semifinal showing at the Australian Open and a quarterfinal showing at Masters Series Monte Carlo have allowed **Roger Federer** to open a tremendous lead in the rankings. He can't win 'em all, but who are the players most likely to challenge him this year? **See Story on Page 2 >**



Seniors Field Set

The Clown Prince of Tennis, **Mansour Bahrami**, and Hall of Famers **Guillermo Vilas** and **Hana Mandlikova** will play in the 15th annual Western & Southern Financial Group Seniors Championship. The four-team mixed doubles competition is held just before the start of the W&SFG Masters. **See Story on Page 6 >**



\$6 Million Mark Hit

For the 31st straight year, local charities are the real winners of the tournament, with more than \$344,000 handed out recently. Donations from the 2004 tournament brings total giving since 1974 to more than \$6 million. **See Story on Page 6 >**



Host of Players Chasing Federer

There's one big dog in men's tennis, and the three closest on his heels are running hard to stay close.

By winning the back-to-back Masters Series events in Indian Wells and Miami, and reaching the semis at the Australian Open and the quarters at Monte Carlo, **Roger Federer** has opened huge leads in both the Indesit ATP 2005 Race and the 52-week Indesit ATP Entry Rankings. In the latter measurement, his closest competitor, **Lleyton Hewitt**, is 2,200 points behind, while Federer has nearly twice the points of both **Marat Safin** (currently No. 3) and **Andy Roddick** (No. 4).

When asked at Miami if he's ever been more confident, a grinning Federer said "I don't remember...but I've had good times before (as well)."

So other than Hewitt, Roddick and Safin, who among the men are poised, or at least capable, of challenging Federer? Two possible answers are **Rafael Nadal** and **Andre Agassi**.

His biggest test this year may have come from Nadal, an 18-year-old Spaniard who just won his first Masters Series title at Monte Carlo. Nadal also came within an eyelash of knocking out the Swiss superstar in a five-set final in Miami. Nadal took the first two sets and led 4-1 in the third before Federer rallied to force a tiebreak. In the breaker, Nadal was up 5-3, within two points of his first Masters Series title,

before Federer battled back to take the set. He then won 12 of the next 16 games to close out the match.

Agassi is still a threat to Federer, but at 35 it would be easy to write him off. Federer has a lot of respect for Agassi, who he beat in the semifinals at Miami. He expects him to stick around a little longer, if for no other reason than his limited schedule.

"He doesn't play every week. He makes very wise and good choices, I would say, for his age. I think that this is the reason why we are going to see him longer. If he would play a full schedule of 20 tournaments, he would burn out. He has his family, and all he wants in his life. But he wants to play a little longer. I think it's great he's still playing. As long as he can challenge the best, and needs the best players in the world to beat him, I think then he's going to keep playing," Federer said in Miami.

As tennis moves to clay, which players does Federer think may challenge him on that surface?

"Nadal ...Moya and Coria will be in the mix for the big events. Safin, maybe Ferrero. We'll see. I can't really tell because there's plenty of tough guys out there."



Nadal



Lleyton Hewitt, Andy Roddick and Marat Safin (the second, third and fourth photos, left to right) are ranked No. 2, 3 and 4 in the world, and have been staring into the face of a monster on quite a few Final Sundays recently. Federer (far left above) has not lost the final of a Grand Slam or an ATP Masters Series event since Rome in 2003.

First Three Players Commit To Cincy

The first three players committed to playing in Cincinnati's Western & Southern Financial Group Women's Open should be very familiar to tennis fans. All three have won big titles, and all three have spent time in the world's top ten.

Ai Sugiyama of Japan, **Daniela Hantuchova** of Slovakia, and **Vera Zvonareva** of Russia are the first to commit to playing in the Queen City.

"These are three players who've already made a mark in women's tennis, and we're thrilled our fans will have a chance to see them in Cincinnati," said tournament director Bruce Flory. "But they're just the first three, and we're expecting other top players to join the field as we get closer to the event."

Fans may recall that last year's champion, **Lindsay Davenport**, did not commit to playing in the tournament until the week before.

"Lindsay was an example of a player not signing up for our tournament, and then deciding to play rather than taking the week off or practicing," Flory said. "Other top players may do that as well this year."

Sugiyama, who's been ranked as high as No. 9, reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon last summer. The 29-year-old turned pro in 1991 and has won six singles titles, including three in her hometown of Tokyo. In addition to her run at Wimbledon last year, she's reached the quarterfinals at the Australian Open, and the fourth round at the French Open and the US Open. She's also been ranked No. 1 in doubles, and has won 30 doubles titles, including the US Open in 2000 (with

Julie Halard-Decugis), and the French Open and Wimbledon in 2003 with **Kim Clijsters**.

Hantuchova

Vera Zvonareva was the No. 2 seed in Cincinnati last year. She reached the final before falling to Lindsay Davenport.

has been ranked as high as No. 5 in the world after a 2002 campaign that saw her win the Tier I title at Indian Wells, reach the final at Filderstadt, and the semifinals at four other events.

The 22-year-old also reached the quarterfinals at both Wimbledon and the US Open in 2002, and was a quarterfinalist at the Australian Open in 2003. She's also won mixed doubles titles at Wimbledon (2001) and the Australian Open (2002).

Zvonareva is returning to Cincinnati in hopes of going "one better" than her finals appearance last year. The 20-year-old from Moscow is coming off her best year as a pro. Last year, she won her second singles title (Memphis), reached the final in Philadelphia as well as Cincinnati, and hit a career-high ranking of No. 9. She also reached the semifinals at six other tournaments, including three Tier I events.



Daniela Hantuchova upset Justine Henin-Hardenne and Martina Hingis to win the Indian Wells title in 2002.



They Said It

"It's a new goal. Instead of winning the four Grand Slams (in one year), you win the nine Masters Series. I'll take that as well."

— **Roger Federer**, when asked by *USA Today* about winning all nine ATP Masters Series events in a calendar year.

"I didn't play tennis for so long. It made me realize how much I enjoy playing tennis and how much I enjoy going to tournaments and being able to play those big matches.

— **Kim Clijsters**, when asked about her "solid and energetic play" in the Miami final on April 2. Clijsters missed nearly all of last year with injuries, but started this year with back-to-back wins at Indian Wells and Miami.

"He says he's never played the French Open. He has a lot of other tournaments before then that he's concentrating on, including three Masters Series tournaments that are just as important in his points for his ranking that he needs to concentrate on and is very intent on doing well in."

— **Rafael Nadal**, through a translator, when asked on April 3 if he felt he was prepared for the French Open, seven weeks away. Nadal won Monte Carlo two weeks later.

"Sometimes when Lindsay hit the ball my hand was hurting. I thought my wrist was going to fall off."

— **Jelena Jankovic**, on facing Lindsay Davenport in the Dubai final in March.

"Brutal question. As a teenager, on the vehicles getting you from one destination to another... I have the minivan now. Greatest car in the world. Doors open on the key chain. Awesome with grocery bags and two children hanging on you."

— **Andre Agassi**, in March when asked by Dan Le Batard of the *Miami Herald*: "You've won \$29 million in career prize money alone. What's the dumbest money you've ever spent?"

"I feel like I'm playing my best tennis right now. Because I'm smaller than some of the top players, I have to stay in the best shape possible."

— **Patty Schnyder** after she beat world No.5 **Anastasia Myskina** in Dubai in March. Schnyder, of Switzerland, is listed as five-feet, six-inches tall, 125 pounds.

"Before what happened last year, I was always in the top five or top ten. I have to take some time and not go in a hurry. I have to go step by step, start again, make new goals... not winning Masters Series or Grand Slams, but different goals."

— **Juan Carlos Ferrero** on his more modest goals this year after suffering illness and injuries last year.



Federer



Clijsters



Agassi



Schnyder

What's Your Favorite Thing?

"We've been series seat holders since 1988, and every year is a wonderful experience. Where else can you go in the Midwest to see the top players in tennis? I travel all over the United States, and there are any one of a number of cities that would give their 'eye teeth' to have that tournament. Of all the different tennis venues I've seen, nothing compares to Cincinnati. We've brought many people with us from Bloomington, and they all rave about it. It's safe, and it's easy to get in and out. There's great shopping for men and women. It's wonderful to see this kind of tennis in that kind of market. We especially love the ability to get so close to the players. We've seen Jimmy Connors, Ivan Lendl and other great players during our time there. I remember one year in particular. Jim Courier and Pete Sampras were just coming onto the circuit and they played doubles together there in Cincinnati. We watched them play on the Grandstand Court. Back then it was just bleachers. After the match, it started raining, and we all sang Happy Birthday to Pete Sampras. He'd just turned 18. Pete stayed there in the rain and signed autographs until every kid had one."



The ability to get close to the players, as fans do on Court 9 (right), often is cited as one of the most enjoyable aspects of the tournaments. Courts 9 & 10 were built specifically as practice courts in 1998.

— Albert Simmler of Bloomington, Illinois

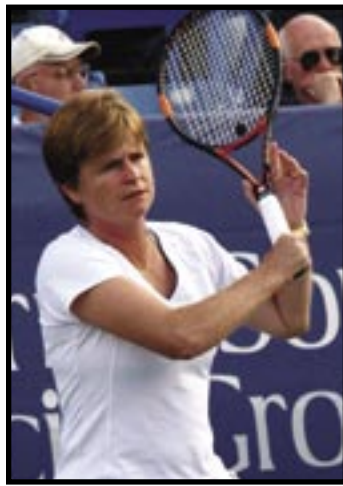
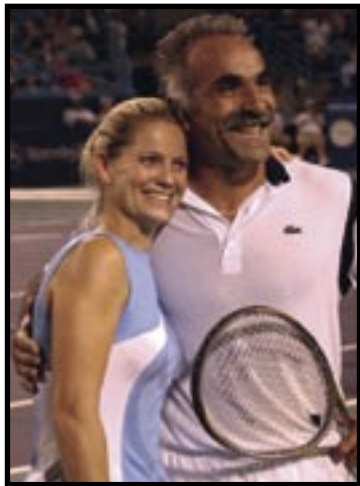
2005 Major Men's Tournaments

Australian Open Champ: M. Safin (his 2nd GS)	Hamburg (May 9-15)	U.S. Open (Aug. 29-Sep. 11)
Indian Wells Champ: R. Federer (his 5th MS)	Roland Garros (May 23-Jun. 5)	Madrid (Oct. 17-23)
Miami Champ: R. Federer (his 6th MS)	Wimbledon (Jun. 20-Jul. 3)	Paris (Oct. 31-Nov. 6)
Monte Carlo Champ: R. Nadal (his 1st MS)	Montréal (Aug. 8-14)	Tennis Masters Cup / Shanghai 2005 (Nov. 12-20)
Rome (May 2-8)	Cincinnati (Aug. 15-21)	

A player's ranking is based on points received from all four Grand Slams (GS), all nine ATP Masters Series (MS) events and his best five results from Int'l Series events.

Bahrami & Vilas Top Seniors Field

Mansour Bahrami, one of the most popular Seniors players ever to play in Cincinnati, and Hall of Famer **Guillermo Vilas** headline a field of eight players in mixed doubles play for the 15th annual W&SFG Seniors Championship, to be played August 12-13. In addition to Bahrami, other players expected to compete are International Tennis Hall of Famer **Hana Mandlikova**, former Davis Cup captain **Tom Gullikson**, former world No. 1 doubles player **Gigi Fernandez**, and perennial fan favorites **Kathy Rinaldi**, **Luke Jensen** and **Brenda Schultz-McCarthy**. Tickets are available now for the Seniors tournament by calling 513-651-0303 or visiting www.cincytennis.com.



Luke Jensen and Gigi Fernandez (above) paired up to win the 2004 Seniors event, while Mansour Bahrami and Kathy Rinaldi (far left) were finalists in 2003. Hall of Famer Hana Mandlikova (left) won the event in 2003 with Gene Mayer.

Charitable Donations Top \$6 Million

For the 31st straight year, proceeds from the W&SFG Masters & Women's Open were donated to charity, bringing the tournament's total giving to local charities since 1974 to more than \$6.3 million.

Proceeds from the 2004 tournaments of \$309,958 were presented to Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, bringing the tournament's total contributions to Children's since 1974 to \$5,925,513. Also, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission received \$36,000 from proceeds of the Seniors tournament held in conjunction with the 2004 tournament.

Together, the two charities received \$345,958, bringing the tournament's total giving since 1974 to \$6,324,146.

The CRC donation will benefit the Cincinnati chapter of the National Junior Tennis League, a program established to teach tennis to youngsters who normally could not afford to learn.

"In addition to shining an international spotlight on Southwestern Ohio, the tournament provides valuable support to two very worthwhile charities," said Flory. "Our sponsors, fans, volunteers and staff are what make this possible."

Reap Advantages of Full Series Seats

Series seats offer tremendous benefits over single-session tickets, including:

- > You'll have tickets to every session, even sell-out sessions.
- > Men's series tickets get you into the highly popular Draw Ceremony, where fans watch the draw being made while enjoying a complimentary buffet dinner.
- > Full Series seats come with a parking pass, allowing you to park closer to the facility.
- > When you buy a men's Masters Terrace Series package, the cost savings amounts to eight free sessions. For the Women's Open, it amounts to five free sessions.
- > You'll have preference for seat upgrades.
- > You'll have the same seat for each session.
- > If you can't be at every session, tickets make great gifts for friends and neighbors.

See the attached order form for pricing and to order your seats today!

Friday Tips at 11^{am} Finals are Earlier

There's been a minor alteration to the start time of one session. The Friday day session of the men's W&SFG Masters (Session M13) will now start at 11^{am} instead of 10:30^{am}, as earlier announced.

The singles final of the men's W&SFG Masters on Sunday, August 21 will be held at 12:30^{pm} this year with the doubles final to follow. This is a change from the past several years, when the final was held at 4^{pm}.

Travel Packages Start at \$183

For as little as \$183 per person (with double occupancy), you can spend three days and two nights at the men's Masters, and stay in a nearby hotel. (Hotel taxes are extra.) Call 513-665-3830 or send an email to info@cincytennis.com for more info and details.

Be On Hand for These Special Events

Kids Days!

Monday, July 18 & Monday, August 15

There are two Kids Days, one during the Women's Open (July 18), and one during the men's Masters (August 15). Tickets for kids 14-and-under are half-price, and the fun also includes an entertaining clinic with players, autographs, and the ability to see all the matches that day. It's your chance to see world-class tennis while spending the day with your family and/or your tennis team members.

High School Days!

Tuesday, July 19 & Tuesday, August 16

These special days include a spirited clinic as well as appearances by the touring pros.

Lunch from Skyline Chili also is included for those who register in advance. After the clinic, enjoy the matches which will include many of the world's top players on various courts. It's a great time for you and your team.

Macy's Ladies Day!

Tuesday, August 16 (during men's Masters)

Preview new fall fashions, from sportswear to career wear, while visiting with friends and teammates at a festive buffet brunch. Then enjoy an afternoon of world-class tennis. The day begins at 9:15^{am}.

For more info on all these events, call 513-665-3826.

Tennis For Charity, Inc.

250 East Fifth Street
Suite 1610
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

We'd love to hear from you. Email your comments, questions or suggestions to info@cincytennis.com or call 513-451-0303.

Tournaments operated by Tennis for Charity, Inc., and played for the benefit of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Tennis for City Youth and the Barrett Cancer Center.

Tournaments played at the Lindner Family Tennis Center, Mason, Ohio.

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