

ATP World Tour Finals 2015

ATP World Tour Finals - Thoughts from the Big Three

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By Ros Satar

- Andy Murray, Novak Djokovic & Roger Federer talk to the press ahead of the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals
- The recent WADA findings on the scale of doping in Athletics drew strong opinions from the World Top 3
- The focus continued on Murray's hopes for a good run here and the Davis Cup Final

LONDON, UK – What should be the culmination of a great season of tennis perhaps found itself unfairly shadowed by the recent World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) findings on the Athletics doping crisis.

Tennis: Full Draws and Schedules

It is fair to say that the sporting world was rocked by the sheer extent of WADA's findings and perhaps the more damning accusations that Athletics' governing body, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) were implicated in covering up the scandal.

But was it a surprise? Not to Roger Federer, who believes that more should be done by the sport in general to govern itself.

ATP World Tour Finals - Thoughts from the Big Three

He told the press, during the pre-tournament press conference: "I think they are trying their best. I think we can always do more. Whenever you make the quarters, of any tournament in my opinion, where the points and money become greater, just know you will be tested. That would be very clear and simple.

"That's how you scare off people too. The country too, I think the Swiss programme is tough and strict. Then again out of competition, that should be increased, too. I don't see them very often. It should happen more often."

He did think though that perhaps it was not stringent enough in competition, as it stands:

"I don't understand that you have a run, win a couple of events and don't get tested. It just can't be that way. I'm always surprised I win a tourney, I walk off the court and I'm like where's the doping guy? I don't get that part. I hope the future's going to be better and we preserve the good clean image of our sport."

World No. 1 and three time defending champion Novak Djokovic concurred:

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“Of course with Olympic Games coming up, there’s always a certain subject/controversies coming up. Obviously people are trying to discover as many information as possible. Of course I am for a clean sport, and for transparency, fair and square conditions for every athlete, because I think from the perspective of tennis we’ve been very good in terms of doping scandals.

“We haven’t had many, especially not in the high level. You know you get tested quite a lot throughout the year, on the competition and off as well, so I think in terms of that, well I don’t know how many times they test the other players, but from what I hear, it’s a pretty solid number which works/allows the anti-doping agency and the ATP to track down possible things that the athletes can do and they’re not allowed.”

Andy Murray, who has a shot at finishing at World No. 2 at the end of this season has always been forthright on his views of doping in sport, and in the past has suggested that the prize money be put towards better finding anti-doping measures in the sport.

He re-iterated: “I do think the more transparency, the better. There’s absolutely no question about that. And I do think that we as a sport could invest more money in the anti-doping process. The prize money now is so, so high that there’s no reason for us not to have [this] as perfect as possible, a process really.

“I do think that the more money that’s invested in it gives you a better chance of catching everyone that’s cheating and also gaining the trust of the public as well which I think across sport in general is fading. It seems like every week something new is coming out and across a variety of different sports and we just hope that tennis can remain as clean as possible.”

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Of course for the Brit there is more at stake than just the prospect of advancing to the final for the first time, but ahead of that, Murray will be a pivotal part of the British team battling against Belgium for the Davis Cup.

After drawing some ire for stating that he might consider skipping the ATP season finale in London, and admitting that this may not be his priority, he still gave himself a good fist of a chance of going very deep here.

He said: "I think definitely I have a chance to win here. I do think that I have to be a bit realistic in the first few days. I have just switched surfaces and balls and now I will be going back again and I might not be timing the ball perfectly at the beginning of the week but as it goes on hopefully I will start to play better tennis. I do feel I have an opportunity here. I think the conditions in Paris are fairly similar to here so it will be interesting to see how I get on. But I do think I am playing well enough to go far."

We saw at the WTA Finals in Singapore just a couple of weeks ago that even if you lose a couple of rounds, it is not impossible to make it into the knock out stages. That probably is not the scenario that most want to entertain – in fact the mere thought of scenarios are enough to send most of us running for calculators, abaci, or just plain running!

Djokovic said: "Of course it does give you an option to survive the group stage with one and eventually two lost matches but I'm definitely not considering to lose any matches. I'm going to approach this tournament as any other and every match with the intention to win."

Of course neither Djokovic or Federer are strangers to the challenge of playing the ATP World Tour Finals and then travelling on to play at the Davis Cup Final – so what advice could they give Murray?

ATP World Tour Finals - Predictions

Federer said: "I think you have to ask Stan. He was in good shape. He handled it very well... we played same amount of matches here, but I was dealing with a back problem from Saturday night 'til Davis Cup. Stan handled it great, played unreal against Tsonga.

"Me, it took a match to get confident, knowing that I could play. A big relief for me. But it's possible. I know it's a surface change but it's something we do on many occasions throughout the year, maybe not within a few days, but we've done it in juniors, the pros, many levels all the time. You know if you had more time you'd play better tennis, but it's not a tournament, it's just a 2-3 day thing. I think it's a great challenge for Andy and I'm sure he's excited about it."

Murray's request for a Monday start was granted and he will kick off his campaign against David Ferrer, over whom he scored a win in the Paris Masters semi-final, while Federer and Djokovic will vie once more in their rich rivalry, but for the first time this year, not in a final.

Play starts for the 2015 Barclays ATP World Tour Finals on Sunday, at 2pm GMT.

Main Image Credit: Julian Finney/Getty Images

No Replies to "ATP World Tour Finals - Thoughts from the Big Three"

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ATP World Tour Finals - Predictions

By Britwatch Tennis Team

- Group Stan Smith: Novak Djokovic [1], Roger Federer [3], Tomas Berdych [6], Kei Nishikori [8]
- Group Ilie Nastase: Andy Murray [2], Stan Wawrinka [4], Rafael Nadal [5], David Ferrer [7]
- Britwatch's Tennis Writers make their picks

LONDON, UK – It is all eyes now on the capital where the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals returns once more – and the Britwatch Tennis Team got together for their regular fisticuffs over who will reign in London

Tennis: Full Draws and Schedules

Team Picks:

	WINNER	DARK HORSE	SHOCKER	HOW WILL MURRAY DO
Ros	Djokovic	Wawrinka	Murray	Group-stages
Phil	Djokovic	Ferrer	Murray/Nadal	Group-stages
Niall	Djokovic	Wawrinka	Murray	Group-stages
Naomi	Wawrinka	Nadal	Murray	Group-stages
Glenys	Djokovic	Ferrer	Berdych	Semi-final

Ros

ATP World Tour Finals - Predictions

Champion: Novak Djokovic – Right now, unless someone nicks his bags off the River Ferry I can't see anyone beating him. He is focussed, and is playing the best tennis of his career at the moment. With the Paris title tucked up under his arm he will lift the title again come a week on Sunday. Predictable? Maybe but dominance in the sport comes and goes, and it is his turn at the top.

Dark Horse: Stan Wawrinka – He may have gotten a bit of a bloody nose in his home tournament in Basel, but when he is on, he can give even the best a headache – just ask Djokovic about the French. He is looking more and more at home now at this level, and why not – like Andy Murray, he's now a two-time Slam champion and while both have a way to go to catch the likes of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal or Djokovic, they are the most credible challengers for the meaty titles right now. This could well be Wawrinka's year.

Shocker/How Will Andy Murray Do: Group Stages – Murray was confident in pre-tournament press and has been in good form, with a great run to the Paris Masters final for the first time in his career. He told the media in the pre-tournament press conference:

"I think definitely I have a chance to win here. I do think that I have to be a bit realistic in the first few days. I have just switched surfaces and balls and now I will be going back again and I might not be timing the ball perfectly at the beginning of the week but as it goes on hopefully I will start to play better tennis.

"I do feel I have an opportunity here. I think the conditions in Paris are fairly similar to here so it will be interesting to see how I get on. But I do think I am playing well enough to go far."

ATP World Tour Finals - Predictions

We have seen it *is* possible to have a shot at the knock out stages with just one win out of three at the WTA equivalents, and Murray's challenges will start with the ever gritty David Ferrer, before going on to face Nadal and Wawrinka. The Swiss could well spring the win, and Nadal could get some measure of revenge for his loss to Murray in at the Madrid Masters final. A loss to Wawrinka is quite possible, but it could fall to Nadal to deliver that final blow.

Phil

Champion: Novak Djokovic – The World Tour Finals is an exciting end to the 10-month ATP tour. The major downside to the tournament is that the lengthy and intensive tour schedule takes its toll and this can often be seen in the results of the season-ending finals. For example, Federer not contesting the final last year; Nadal, even in his prime never taking the title. The looming Davis Cup final casts another shadow on the tour finals, with Murray reportedly only playing due to contractual obligations and already practicing on clay in preparation for the final in Belgium.

That said, one player stand above the rest in his physical ability to train, recover and channel all remaining ounces of strength and adrenaline; Djokovic. Despite reaching the final of all four grand slams and eight 1000 series finals, including the Paris final a week ago, he is my favourite. Federer I think may get to the final but he had the misfortune of being in the same group as the world number one so would most likely have to face him twice to win.

Dark Horse: David Ferrer – I'm not sure you can be a Dark Horse in a tournament featuring only the top eight players in the world, but Ferrer would be my top choice. I don't see Berdych or Nishikori coming out of their group over Federer or Djokovic. Meanwhile Ferrer's group features Murray who, as mentioned, is prioritising the Davis Cup final, and Nadal who does not have the best record as the O2.

ATP World Tour Finals - Predictions

Shocker: Andy Murray & Rafael Nadal – Neither will qualify from their group.

How will Murray do: Group Stages

They say nothing is as good preparation as winning matches. However Federer showed that was not the case last year when he went straight from the World Tour Finals to the Davis Cup final and was distinctly off colour. I expect (or maybe it's just hope) that Andy will get one win under his belt, two losses and move onto Belgium...

Niall

Champion- Novak Djokovic: It would be silly to pick somebody else wouldn't it? Djokovic is a dominant world number one and the favourite for every tournament he enters, and this one is no different. He is full of confidence after winning Pairs to extend his winning streak to 22 matches and the slow court suits his game perfectly. Djokovic to win the title without dropping a set.

Dark Horse- Stan Wawrinka: Avoiding Djokovic is big for the French Open champion. Wawrinka is inconsistent, but when he plays well he can beat anyone in the world. The Swiss has proven that his game suits these courts with two semi-final appearances previously, one of which he had match points to make the final. The slow courts allow Wawrinka to take a big swing and unleash his bombs off both wings, and the group suits him perfectly. He has won the previous match against all three opponents in his group, and he could go 3-0 here. From there who knows?

Shocker/How will Andy Murray do – Group Stages: With one eye on the Davis Cup final, there will be doubts that the best of Murray will be seen next week. The Brit also has a tough group with Wawrinka and Nadal as opponents, so he could easily lose two matches and be gone after the first round.

ATP World Tour Finals - Predictions

The last time Murray faced Wawrinka, even though it was two years ago, the Swiss ran out an easy winner in straight sets. The Brit has always struggled with the fourth seed and now Wawrinka is a better player. It will likely come down to the Nadal match and with the Davis Cup on his mind, Andy will not be able to replicate his Madrid performance. The sole win will come against Ferrer who will likely go 0/3 in the group.

The second seed will exit in the group stages and will take the next flight to Ghent to prepare for the Davis Cup final, which is his priority.

Naomi

Champion: Stan Wawrinka – He has made a habit of stepping up his game a few times a year and I think this will be one of them. Maybe he can't beat them consistently right now but he can beat them all when he is on. I reckon he will be able to pull out the standard he did in Paris, as he is due another great run.

Dark Horse: Rafael Nadal – After picking Wawrinka as my Champion the Dark Horse is a tough position to fill. If Nadal had found himself in the other group I don't think he would get through, but he will get through this one and the feeling of being back in the semi-finals could remind him that he has a fair few Grand Slams under his belt and he might just manage to wind the clock back a few years.

Shocker/How will Andy Murray do: Group Stages – Although Murray has had such a fantastic year and it would be brilliant to see him finish number two, I do think there is just too much on his plate for him to be get a good result here. He is chopping and changing surfaces, will most likely be involved in discussions about who to pick for the second GB singles and will be saving himself for Davis Cup even if it is subconsciously. He will come 3rd in his group with his only win coming against David Ferrer but also taking a set off Nadal.

Glenys

ATP World Tour Finals - Predictions

Champion: Novak Djokovic – Can't really see past the World No. 1 at the season ending championship. Being practically unstoppable this year I'd be surprised if anyone managed to defeat him on the hard court

Dark Horse: David Ferrer – Why not! – He has qualified again without being alternate and if he can defeat Nadal and Wawrinka then I have him in the semi-finals too. With a bit of luck on his side on with the other group and he could win overall

Shocker: Tomas Berdych – to win no matches at all. He is in the group with Djokovic, Federer and Nishikori, that is going to be very tough to progress from.

How will Andy Murray do – Semi-finals: Murray needs to win two matches in the Round Robin to secure the end of year-end No. 2. unless Federer wins the whole event. With the Davis cup final the weekend after this ends I see Murray getting to the semi-finals as he will win at least two of his matches (and possibly all three) – so I'm going with a semi-final finish then back to the clay.

The Barclays ATP World Tour Finals takes place between 15-22 November.

Main Image Credit: David M Benett/Getty Images

No Replies to "ATP World Tour Finals - Predictions"

Djokovic & Federer kick off the World Tour Finals – PREVIEW

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By Ros Satar

- Novak Djokovic [1] v Kei Nishikori [8] – H2H: 4-2
- Roger Federer [3] v Tomas Berdych [6] – H2H: 14-6

LONDON, UK – The Final Showdown finally gets underway as the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals kicks off in the Singles with three-time defending champion *Novak Djokovic* in the day session and six-time champion *Roger Federer* in the night session.

Tennis: Full Draws and Schedules

Novak Djokovic v Kei Nishikori – H2H: 4-2

Is anyone capable of stopping Djokovic? There is something about London that inspired the Serbian, and especially in this indoor arena. Add to that a completely dominant year once more and a staggering gap between him and the rest of the field in the rankings and Djokovic is sitting pretty.

For Nishikori, it has been a year of building on his breakout performance to reach last year's US Open final, and while he was not able to emulate this year and once more had to contend with injuries that have seemed to follow him around like a London rain-cloud, he was still able to qualify once more for the World Tour Finals.

Djokovic & Federer kick off the World Tour Finals – PREVIEW

Last year he came and gave the home town favourite Andy Murray a bloody nose with a straight sets win in the round robin stages and took a set off Djokovic in the semi-finals. But the moment is definitely with the World No. 1 just now. His last loss was to Federer in the final of the Cincinnati Masters and since that has been on a tear, coming into Sunday's opener on a 22-match winning streak.

After a very disappointing first round loss at the US Open, Nishikori poked up the pace a little to reach the Tokyo semi-final but is a little match shy with no back to back wins since then in either the Shanghai Masters or the Paris Masters.

We can expect Nishikori to try and exploit his clever use of angles to try and pull the everywhere-at-once Djokovic off the baseline, but with his improved ability at the net, it will be a tough ask to find that edge.

Nishikori will have to go some to even take a set off Djokovic in the opener and we predict a straight forward opener to ease the three-time defending champion into

Roger Federer v Tomas Berdych – H2H: 14-6

It has been a couple of years since Berdych has gotten the better of Federer, last beating him in the Dubai semi-final in 2013. Since then, the Czech's faith has been put in Andy Murray's former coach Dani Vallverdu, and his blind reliance on the game-plan has perhaps removed some of his instinct to just *play* tennis.

Djokovic & Federer kick off the World Tour Finals – PREVIEW

Much has been made of Federer's super-aggressive returning position – the famed Sneak Attack By Roger, and with a comfortable head to head, will we see him advance up the court to unsettle Berdych? Maybe. With no Davis Cup final looking over his head, Federer is looking in pretty fine fettle this time around, albeit with maybe an earlier than expected departure from the Paris Masters.

Still, he will need to tap into some good form to snap his current three-match losing streak and while Berdych is one of the cleanest hitters in the game, Federer will just have that ability to get the ball behind him, leaving him out in the cold.

Djokovic and Nishikori are scheduled on Centre Court not before 2pm, Federer and Berdych are scheduled not before 8pm.

Main Image Credit: Julian Finney/Getty

No Replies to "Djokovic & Federer kick off the World Tour Finals – PREVIEW"

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- November 15, 2015

By Ros Satar

Murray starts World Tour Finals campaign – PREVIEW

- Andy Murray [2] v David Ferrer [7] – H2H: 11-6
- Stan Wawrinka [4] v Rafael Nadal [5] – H2H: 3-13

LONDON, UK – World No. 2 and British No. 1 *Andy Murray* starts his campaign at the World Tour Finals, while *Stan Wawrinka* bids to get past the semi-finals for the first time this year.

Andy Murray [2] v David Ferrer [7] – H2H: 11-6

It is the start of a long and very important two week stint for Murray as he makes the switch from having practiced on the clay courts at Queen's Club for the indoor hard court in the O2 Arena. He seemed confident that he could make the transition, and certainly his form against the perennially gritty Ferrer was impressive at the Paris Masters.

But a Ferrer in tenacious form is probably not the best start for Murray who admitted it may take him a while to adjust to the surface again. But the beauty of the Round Robin format is that you can somehow survive even with two losses, not that we are expecting him not to give his best here.

Murray came in for some harsh words of what the ATP expected of him after admitted quite rightly that the chance to claim a Davis Cup title was his priority. Harsh, because it was Murray who dug them out of the clag when Roger Federer withdrew just before the final, with his own Davis Cup target looming.

Still, Ferrer is often just disregarded and perhaps unfairly. What he lacks in perhaps power and cheap points, he more than makes up for with just dogged determination to track absolutely everything down. The thing is Murray is every bit as good if not better at moving people round the court.

This has all the hallmarks of being a bit of a bruiser of an opener for the Brit, but he should weather the storm for the win.

Murray starts World Tour Finals campaign – PREVIEW

Stan Wawrinka [4] v Rafael Nadal [5] – H2H: 6-13

For so long Nadal had been dominate over the Swiss until it came to a landmark end in the Australian Open final 2014, as the Swiss No. 2 picked up his first Slam title. Since then he has fast established himself firmly as big names and surely will be the one to usurp someone in the Big Four to take his place there. In fact, some may argue he already is there, with Nadal dropping down the ranks somewhat.

Nadal was at pains to point out that his issues this year were down to confidence and not injuries, but the time for chat is over. It was a tough battle in the Paris Masters quarter-final, and Nadal's form post US Open has been pretty good as he gallops towards admittedly his least favourite surface.

The Spaniard has racked together some solid performances since the US Open, and Wawrinka picked up the Tokyo final on the way to a shaky start to the indoor hard season with a first round loss at home in Basel, but with his run to the semi-finals of Paris, and that win over Nadal in Paris.

We can expect this to be as tight as their previous meeting, but the momentum does seem to be with the Swiss and if anyone is likely to be the main challenger to Djokovic, it is Wawrinka.

Murray and Ferrer are scheduled not before 2pm, Wawrinka and Nadal, not before 8pm.

Main Image Credit: Julian Finney/Getty

No Replies to "Murray starts World Tour Finals campaign – PREVIEW"

Murray starts World Tour Finals campaign – PREVIEW

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By Ros Satar

- Novak Djokovic def. Kei Nishikori 6-1 6-1
- Federer Berdych
- Jamie Murray & John Peers start with a win but the Bryan Brothers lose opener

LONDON, UK – Three-time defending champion *Novak Djokovic* and six-time champion *Roger Federer* started with impressive wins, as well as home interest with a win for *Jamie Murray & John Peers*.

Novak Djokovic def. Kei Nishikori 6-1 6-1

Djokovic did not so much kick off his campaign as stomp his marker all over the court with a dominant win over Nishikori.

Breaking the Japanese player at the start of the match, he cruised through the first set with a second break at the end, effectively shutting down any efforts for Nishikori to get into his game.

But Djokovic was not done there, going on to break Nishikori three times in the second set to wrap up the match in a little over an hour.

Djokovic and Federer start with wins

Having made a decent enough impact on his World Tour Finals debut, reaching the semi-finals, it was perhaps a chastening experience for the World No. 8.

He said, after the match: "Obviously I didn't make any first serve today, so that cause lot of pressure that he always have a good return. I thought didn't play bad. I had great points with groundstrokes. I think my serve was the key. Both sets I lost my first service game.

"That gave me a little pressure to come back. I mean, he also played unbelievable tennis. Very ashamed with this score, but have two more matches. So I try to keep it up my serve tomorrow and next match."

Djokovic was equally as efficient as he wrapped up his own assessment of his opening match.

"Today I've had for an opponent one of the quickest tennis players, somebody that possesses a lot of talent and loves to play aggressively. But I didn't allow him to dictate the play. I mixed up the pace.

"I was feeling very comfortable on the court, feeling like I could get most of the balls back. I served efficiently. I mixed up the second serves as well. Didn't give him really the same look twice. I always tried to change. The tactics worked very well."

Jamie Murray & John Peers start with a win but the Bryans lose

Murray & Peers start their swansong with a win over Australian Open champions Simone Bolelli and Fabio Fognini in an exciting start to the tournament.

Djokovic and Federer start with wins

The pair's serving was impressive in the first set with neither pair giving an inch before a taut tie-break. The Italians swiftly struck back though, and the decent crowd that had turned out for the elder Murray's debut at the season ending finale.

The Match Tie-break went down to the wire though, with the momentum shifting throughout, and it was a great finish for the Brit and Aussie pairing, as they got off the mark with a win.

Talking after the match, Murray said: "It was a great match, really exciting match. I think both teams played well. There was a lot of exciting points. It came down to a couple of points right at the end. Yeah, really happy to win and really excited to move on in the tournament."

In the second doubles in the evening session the Bryan Brothers were beaten in their first round-robin match by Rohan Bopanna/Florin Mergea 6-4 6-3.

Roger Federer def. Tomas Berdych 6-4 6-2

For the briefest of moments it looked as though Berdych would be the one to pull off the first surprise of the tournament. Tenaciously he broke Federer in his opening game – would we see a real challenge to Federer's hopes of snaffling the year-end No. 2 spot? Sadly no, as Federer broke straight back to love in a tit-for-tat move.

Having to recover from a nasty slip, Berdych did well to keep with Federer but some very sloppy errors let the Swiss back in to break at the end of the set. Talk about momentum though. Federer left Berdych standing as he swiftly leapt out to a 4-0 lead.

Djokovic and Federer start with wins

It was just a mountain too far for the Czech, and while he managed to get at least a couple of games on the board before succumbing in a little over an hour to Federer, who was then awarded the ATP Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award, as well as picking up the ATP Fan Favourite Award this year too.

Ever the perfectionist, Federer lamented what he called 'one of the worst starts I've had in years,' but looking at the results today, he assessed who would maybe fare the best on the court.

Federer said: "I think what I underestimated a little bit in some ways was that it was a first round. I think I was playing very well in practice. I had a very good idea with Severin and Stefan how I should play the match. When I came in, I kind of forgot it was a first round. I do have to be a little bit careful as well at times. I was a bit sluggish coming in. I don't want to say too overconfident, but I thought it was going to be easier than that. It was a good lesson for me to learn. But now I'm in the second round, so that's a good thing."

He continued: "I think it's a really good court for me personally. I think it's a really good court for Novak, too. Kei, I've played him here in the past. I play very well against him. So it's just gotten to be a surface, maybe it's the end of the season, maybe it's the surface, we saw the faster results here last year. Seems like whoever takes charge of the baseline, and if you cannot serve your way out of trouble often enough, which is hard to do here because of the pace of the court, the guy from the baseline wins, the better one. That's why we see some crushing scores, like Novak against Kei today. Last year, as well."

Play continues on Monday starting with doubles at 1pm GMT.

Main Image Credit: Clive Brunskill/Getty

No Replies to "Djokovic and Federer start with wins"

Djokovic and Federer start with wins

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- November 16, 2015

By Ros Satar

- Tomas Berdych [6] v Kei Nishikori [8]
- Novak Djokovic [1] v Roger Federer [3]
- Jamie Murray/John Peers [4] v Bopanna./Mergea [8]

LONDON, UK – The scene is set for the first of two possible show-downs between defending champion *Novak Djokovic* and *Roger Federer* on Day 3 of the World Tour Finals.

Tomas Berdych [6] v Kei Nishikori [8] – H2H: 1-3

After less than outstanding starts by either player in London, the question will be if Nishikori can get a handle on his serving, and whether Berdych can eradicate the wild errors that rendered him truly on the back foot in his opening match.

For Nishikori, it was a case of feeling very shame-faced over his performance against defending champion Novak Djokovic on the first day of the tournament. Struggling against perhaps one of the sharpest returners in the game, Nishikori was simply not allowed to flex any of the canny muscle he possesses.

Djokovic v Federer highlight for World Tour Finals Day 3

With Djokovic simply dictating each and every point, there was no chance for Nishikori to try and get on his own terms – what he lacks in the hard and clean hitting power game of the Czech, he makes up for in guile and fleet of foot around the court – Berdych was at sixes and sevens against Federer, who was able to bully the points, especially in the second set.

Both will be desperate to get a win on the board in a tough group but the edge has to be with Nishikori. He has the game to confound Berdych, who although quite nimble for such a large unit, he can be left in no man's land by the more agile.

Berdych has spoken with praise about his partnership with Andy Murray's former coach Dani Vallverdu, but his reliance on the 'game plan' seems to have robbed him of the quintessential instinct he once had. He needs to be able to change things up when it is not going to plan.

If Nishikori can get behind his serve (which really let him down on Sunday), then the win will be his.

Novak Djokovic [1] v Roger Federer [3] – H2H: 21-21

It is not the first time this pair have met in the earlier stages of the World Tour Finals, and as Federer recalled, it was not the best of quality matches between them.

Djokovic v Federer highlight for World Tour Finals Day 3

Talking after his victory over Tomas Berdych on Sunday, he said: "I played him here first round two years ago maybe. Three sets. I think that's the year I played back-to-back London and Paris. We were both struggling with rhythm, I remember. I took an approach of, yeah, it was different. I played it more like keeping the ball in the court, not going for too much. We had longer rallies.

"It was an intense match. But we were both playing quite bad, I thought. We've had that in the past, and it was quite unusual then to play each other so early in a tournament. This doesn't feel now so crazy early because we've had the week of preparation, we've both had a match now. I think we both feel like we're in the tournament."

It was a slow start on Sunday for Federer, and luckily for him Berdych was not able to take full advantage of that. Djokovic will not be anywhere near as obliging on Tuesday evening. Will this be like a de facto semi-final? Possibly not, but after the first day of fairly straight forward victories in Group Stan Smith, this is set to be one of the more engaging matches in these stages.

That being said, Djokovic's form still puts him as an almighty favourite to go two for two.

Jamie Murray and John Peers v Rohan Bopanna/Florin Mergea

The organisers certainly have it right on the button to give the fans a Murray a day. It was a tough battle but a great win for the Murray and Peers over Australian Open champions Simone Bolelli and Fabio Fognini, but Bopanna and Mergea will be buzzing over their comfortable win over the top seeds Bob and Mike Bryan.

It was a solid performance and it will be another tough match for the Brit and Aussie pairing, but a win here will definitely boost their chances of advancing, much less usurping the Bryans as the top doubles pairing for the year.

Djokovic v Federer highlight for World Tour Finals Day 3

Murray/Peers v Bopanna/Mergea are the opening match at 12pm with Berdych v Nishikori not before 2pm, and Djokovic v Federer not before 8pm (all times GMT).

Main Image Credit: Clive Brunskill/Getty

No Replies to "Djokovic v Federer highlight for World Tour Finals Day 3"

[CLICK FOR ORIGINAL ARTICLE](#)

By Ros Satar

- Andy Murray def. David Ferrer 6-4 6-4
- Rafael Nadal def. Stan Wawrinka 6-3 6-2

LONDON, UK – *Andy Murray* started his campaign with a win, while dark horse *Stan Wawrinka* suffered a bad day at the office at the hands of *Rafael Nadal*, on Day 2 of the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals.

Tennis: Full Draws and Schedules

Andy Murray def. David Ferrer 6-4 6-4

Despite getting started with an ace, it was a long initial hold for Murray as early on **David Ferrer** set out his stall to push Murray around the court, even putting him under pressure early on with the first break point of the match.

Djokovic v Federer highlight for World Tour Finals Day 3

Even though he did settle down to match Ferrer's love hold, at times he seemed to skid along at the back of the court, if he wasn't rendered stuck while Ferrer squeaked winners here and there.

He even had his chances to edge Ferrer earlier in the set, but the Spaniard was in no mood to fall for a cheeky attempt at a misdirect. Murray finally grabbed his chance to seal the first set thanks to some wild shots and a nervous double-fault.

But any hopes that Murray was on a roll were quickly dashed as the Spaniard caught him napping at the start of the second set. Although Murray steadied the ship before the first change of ends, it was down to some consistent point-building that the Brit finally got back on course.

Once more it looked as though nerves were glitching Ferrer as Murray built up to a crescendo and it was a fitting final rally with both showing off their retrieval skills to seal the win.

It was a comfortable start for the Brit, and now puts him one win away from clinching the World No. 2 spot, unless **Roger Federer** goes on to win the title.

Murray and Nadal post World Tour Finals Wins on Day 2

Talking after the match he said: "First couple of games my timing was a little bit off. But I got it back pretty quickly, which was pleasing. You know, if you're looking for a little bit of rhythm, he's also a guy who makes you hit a lot of balls. The rallies are often quite long, so you can get into a rhythm against him. So that was good."

He continued: "It would be obviously nice to finish No. 2 because I haven't done it before, but it's not a goal that I'd set for myself at the beginning of this year or throughout the whole year really. But the benefits of it, obviously for Australia, being seeded 2 is slightly better than being seeded 3 or 4. Yeah, that's the main benefit for it rather than something that I'll be delighted to finish No. 2."

Rafael Nadal def. Stan Wawrinka 6-3 6-2

For many (including me), Wawrinka is the dark horse of the competition. He was on his way here with some momentum, having reached the semi-finals in Paris. Starting with an immediate break of the Spaniard, we could have been forgiven for thinking he was about to set down his marker.

Nadal's confidence is returning, shown by matching Wawrinka's opening break to love with one of his own. There on in the pair settled down until a dogged Nadal turned the screw at the end of the first set, finally coming good on his third break point. It was enough for him to head Wawrinka off at the pass as he took the first set.

Wawrinka seemed at odds with everything, muttering and looking ill at ease, and his mood will not have been lightened by having to pull off a mammoth hold, saving seven break points at the start of the second set, only to succumb in his second service game.

Murray and Nadal post World Tour Finals Wins on Day 2

Nadal was striding about with a sense of purpose that had obviously returned to him in the latter half of the year – and as errors continued to spray forth from Wawrinka, apart from the occasional emergency serve, it was Nadal who struck for home.

He really did not have to do much as Wawrinka was specialising in smacking balls far and wide, and anywhere outside the court. Yet if it is about confidence on a surface he freely admits is not his best, Nadal got it in spades while all around the general consensus was that Wawrinka had simply checked out. What had looked to be one of the more tightly contested matches of the tournament so far turned out to be little more than a formality for Nadal, for a 6-3 6-2 win.

Wawrinka had to admit that as well as having had a terrible day at the office, Nadal's game had definitely been improving.

He said: "Just disappointed in general. I don't think was great level, was great match. You know, when something goes wrong today, everything went wrong. Just everything went the wrong way."

He continued: "He's playing better than few months ago, that's for sure. You can see the last two months he made some final, played some good match, beat some top-10 guys, playing a little bit more aggressive, staying a little bit more on his line. But still for sure he's not where he wants to be probably or where he was when he was No. 1 and really strong. But so far he's been playing better."

Nadal looked to be happy, despite still contending that this surface was his weakest, and he would prefer a faster level on the court.

Murray and Nadal post World Tour Finals Wins on Day 2

He said: "I had a good week of practice here. I think I played the way that I wanted to play. I played aggressive. I played with not many mistakes. Just the thing I can do a little bit better is serving. For the moment I didn't serve as good as I was doing in the previous days. But for the rest, all the shots worked well: backhand, forehand, good volleys, good smash, no missing the smashes today. So that's good."

Nadal will face Murray in the next round robin match, while Wawrinka will play Ferrer.

Main Image Credit: Clive Brunskill/Getty

No Replies to "Murray and Nadal post World Tour Finals Wins on Day 2"

[CLICK FOR ORIGINAL ARTICLE](#)

- November 17, 2015

By Ros Satar

- Andy Murray [2] v Rafael Nadal [5] – H2H: 6-15
- Stan Wawrinka [4] v David Ferrer [7] – H2H: 6-7

LONDON, UK – *Andy Murray* bids to secure the World No. 2 ranking against a resurgent *Rafael Nadal*, while *Stan Wawrinka* and *David Ferrer* battle for their first win.

Murray and Nadal post World Tour Finals Wins on Day 2

Tennis: Full Draws and Schedules

Andy Murray [2] v Rafael Nadal [5] – H2H: 6-15

Murray and Nadal meet for the first time since Murray beat the Spaniard in the Madrid Masters to claim his first clay court title. It has been no secret that Nadal has struggled with his confidence throughout the season, but he has picked up in the latter part of the season, and took full advantage of a very lacklustre performance from Stan Wawrinka.

Murray took a little time to find his rhythm in his opener against David Ferrer, but sealed a comfortable straight sets win over the Spaniard, and will feel some confidence in his scheduling this time around. He is more rested and prepared but with the prospect of the Davis Cup final coming, he will want to try and keep his energy.

On the table is the prospect of Murray securing the World No. 2 ranking, although he admitted that it was more a 'nice to have' in readiness for the Australian Open.

Murray will need to lock in his return, that was a little off at times against Ferrer, but with Nadal now picking up his form in recent months and the way his forehand was firing in his opener, Murray will need his serve to be on form, and sharpening up his own returns to go toe-to-toe with the fifth seed.

This could be a pivotal match for Murray as Nadal was the potential tipping point for his advance through the group stages as Nadal was the unknown quantity based on Wawrinka's momentum. With the Swiss very off-key on Monday, the group dynamic rests with this pairing and it would be no surprise for this to be the first three-setter of the tournament – something that the tournament needs.

PREVIEW – Murray v Nadal – World Tour Finals

Stan Wawrinka [4] v David Ferrer [7] – H2H: 6-7

A dark horse for the tournament for many, it was a very sub-par performance by Wawrinka and he will need to find the momentum he had coming into the tournament, and smartly if Ferrer's determination was anything to go by.

Ferrer was perhaps unfortunate not to take more advantage of Murray's time to adjust, and despite his own straight sets lost, he will be looking to snap a three match losing spree against Wawrinka, dating back to 2013.

Wawrinka will have to tighten up those errors he was freely handing away against Nadal, if he wants to stand any chance of making another semi-final, and admitted that nothing was working for him after his initial break of Nadal's serve. He will look to stop Ferrer from being able to mix up the points – while the Spaniard may not have as much power or an aggressive approach, his speed around the court burned Murray on more than one occasion.

The edge may well be with the Spaniard this time. Wawrinka... well he might just be a donkey on the edge.

Murray and Nadal are scheduled not before 2pm, and Wawrinka v Ferrer not before 8pm GMT.

Main Image Credit: Glyn Kirk/AFP/Getty

No Replies to "PREVIEW – Murray v Nadal – World Tour Finals"

PREVIEW – Murray v Nadal – World Tour Finals

[CLICK FOR ORIGINAL ARTICLE](#)

By Ros Satar

- Jamie Murray and John Peers edged by Rohan Bopanna and Florin Mergea 6-3 7-6(5)
- Kei Nishikori def. Tomas Berdych 7-5 3-6 6-3
- Roger Federer def. Novak Djokovic 7-5 6-2

LONDON, UK – *Jamie Murray & John Peers* face a tough fight to qualify after losing their second round robin match, while *Kei Nishikori* and *Roger Federer* were winners on day three of the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals.

Tennis: Full Draws and Schedules

Rohan Bopanna & Florin Mergea def. Jamie Murray & John Peers 6-3 7-6(5)

The conquerors of the top seeded **Bryan Brothers** pulled off another confident straight sets win, as they dented the British hopes on show for the day.

PREVIEW – Murray v Nadal – World Tour Finals

It turned out to be a bit of a tough day at the office for the Brits as the first set got away from them fast with an early break of serve, and although they put up a good fight to try and secure the break straight back, it was not to be, almost broken at the end of the set but staving off two break points to force them to serve it out.

The second set was a lot tighter, with just one exchange of breaks and some great shots between them, including one of the best reflex shots you will ever see. With the Commonwealth pairing nudging into the lead, it looked like the momentum was with them, but the chance to force a match tie-break came and went in a single mini-break.

Kei Nishikori def Tomas Berdych 7-5 3-6 6-3

With both players searching for their first win, this had the makings of being one of the more entertaining matches so far in the tournament. Nishikori was the one doing the hustling at the start of the match, pushing Berdych hard, forcing him to save two break points, before finally being rewarded once more at the end of the set, this time needing three break points before he converted one.

It looked as though the Japanese No. 1 was going to run away with it as he broke Berdych right at the start of the second set, consolidating to leave the Czech on the back foot.

But just as quickly as the momentum had come, Berdych picked up the pace as Nishikori threw in a sloppy game to allow Berdych back into the match, as we went into our first three-setter of the tournament.

Federer stuns Djokovic – World Tour Finals Day 3 Recap [PHOTOS]

Much like the first set, it was Nishikori making more chances for himself, again putting Berdych under pressure early on but not quite able to make good on a couple of break point chances. He was finally rewarded for his patience when once more he broke at the end of the set, serving out confidently to love to get his first win on the board, leaving Berdych with a mountain to climb, as he faces Djokovic next.

Nishikori said, after the match: “It was much better than first match. My serve went in much better than first match. Had a more good percentage for my first serve. Strokes, too. I thought I was being very aggressive. These courts are really slow, have more time to step in. I thought there were many good shots for me. I mean, I had a bad game in second set at 2-1, and after that he started playing better. That was kind of my fault that I give him little bit chance to come back for the match. Third set I tried to stay there all the time, more consistency, less unforced errors for me. Very happy with my game today.”

Berdych had to contend that perhaps he was unlucky to concede the last set:

“I was playing well in the third. I was the one having a first chance having a breakpoint in the third set. Had a good rally, had a good position to finish the ball, but I just didn’t make it. Then he took the chance. He break me next game. That was it.”

Roger Federer def. Novak Djokovic 7-5 6-2

Talk about going off-script! Already within the first couple of games it was clear to see that the quality of the match was going to high. It was a very competitive first set with neither player giving an inch after Djokovic had a sole break point in the first game.

Federer stuns Djokovic – World Tour Finals Day 3 Recap [PHOTOS]

Bruising rallies, deft groundstrokes, and perhaps the cruelest kick in the final game of the first set, when Federer made good on his second chance to break Djokovic to nab the first set.

Some tit-for-tat breaks at the start of the second set arrested any ideas that Djokovic had to strike quickly, but his forehand started to let him down as Federer hit Djokovic hard not once but twice to break for the match.

Not even a cheeky challenge on the second match point could save the defending champion, as Hawkeye proved to be a Federer fan, giving the Swiss a pass into the semi-finals with no painful scenarios to mull over.

There were no real attempts by Federer to throw in the now infamous SABR (Sneak Attack By Roger) but given the speed (or indeed lack thereof) of the court, that did not come as a surprise to Djokovic, when he came in immediately for his post-match conference:

“The court is playing a little bit slower than maybe US Open or Cincinnati, the last couple times we played against each other. I think that’s where he felt maybe he can spin the ball and wait for a shorter ball from my side and come in, which he did. He tactically played well.

“Undoubtedly, he was the better player on the court. But I think I also allowed him to play and penetrate through the ball and dictate the tempo from the baseline. As I said, I didn’t have this follow-through on my shots, no depth honestly, many mistakes. Basically if you play this way against Roger, you have no chance. I was hoping that when I broke back in the second, I’m going to start playing better, but it just wasn’t to be today.”

Federer stuns Djokovic – World Tour Finals Day 3 Recap [PHOTOS]

As confident as Federer is, the make up of round-robin format does change the mentality of the player, no matter how competitive they want to be, as Federer explained:

"I wouldn't have picked it maybe before the tournament, you know, just because of his really good record on the indoors, the year he's had, especially with the run he's been on. I focused more on beating Berdych and Nishikori and let's see what happens against Novak.

"That shows me that I didn't expect this victory. But then again, all day I felt good about my chances. It was clear in my head how I wanted to play. Once the match went on, I felt like, I'm with him, I'm serving well, could play better from the baseline maybe at times, but he was doing a good job there. We were just staying with each other really."

The pressure is now off for the Swiss, as he plays now for position of qualification in the group. Only if Berdych defeats Djokovic and he loses to Nishikori will he finish in second position. But the impact of that will become more clear after Group IIie Nastase take their turn.

Play begins with doubles at 12pm on Wednesday, with Andy Murray facing Rafael Nadal not before 2pm, and Stan Wawrinka v David Ferrer, not before 8pm (all times GMT).

Main Image Credit: Julian Finney/Getty

No Replies to "Federer stuns Djokovic – World Tour Finals Day 3 Recap [PHOTOS]"

Federer stuns Djokovic – World Tour Finals Day 3 Recap [PHOTOS]

[CLICK FOR ORIGINAL ARTICLE](#)

By Ros Satar

- Novak Djokovic [1] v Tomas Berdych [6] – H2H: 20-2
- Roger Federer [3] v Kei Nishikori [8] – H2H: 3-2
- Jamie Murray/John Peers must beat the Bryans to keep their qualification chances alive

LONDON, UK – With *Roger Federer* already qualified for the semi-finals, three-time defending champion *Novak Djokovic* holds centre stage with a must win match to qualify.

Tennis: Full Draws and Schedules

Novak Djokovic [1] v Tomas Berdych [6] – H2H: 20-2

There was very little real explanation for Djokovic's loss to Federer, other than it was just one of those days. Having watched him in practice, he had seemed focus with no real issues. He had not even been really bugged with the now (in)famed Sneak Attack By Roger (SABR), but Djokovic had not really moved well enough or exploited his own weapons nearly enough.

Federer stuns Djokovic – World Tour Finals Day 3 Recap [PHOTOS]

For Federer on the other hand, he had not really come in expecting to win and was really focused on getting past Berdych and Kei Nishikori. So to qualify, and in all but one scenario at the top of the group was an added bonus, and one the tournament should be thankful for.

The speed of the court has come in for a lot of discussion. Playing slow, while the doubles has seen some incredibly exciting exchanges, the singles matches (with the exception of Berdych v Nishikori) have all gone to straight sets, with probably the best quality being in last night's battle of the former champions.

Still, it is a very aggressive mountain that Berdych will have to climb. While he possesses the power, and overall is happy with his year under the watchful eye of Dani Vallverdu, there is just someone lacking when he faces the very top of the tree.

His only two victories over the current World No. 1 came on grass (Wimbledon 2010 on his way to his only Grand Slam final) and two and a half years ago on the clay of Rome. Since then he has been on the wrong end of a seven-match losing streak, including a 6-2 6-2 drubbing in the round-robin stages of the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals last year.

Berdych's play is just a little too 'by the numbers' where someone of the flexibility of Djokovic is concerned, and the Serbian would have to have another monumental off-day to give Berdych a chance to upset the apple-cart.

The Czech would need a straight sets win over Djokovic, with Federer doing the same to Nishikori to stand a chance of qualifying. If he squanders a set, then it is all over for him.

PREVIEW – Djokovic & Murray/Peers bid for World Tour Finals semi-finals

Sadly we can't see Djokovic losing another winning streak, having surrendered his unbeaten indoor streak, and it looks like the [predictions](#) of Berdych going 0-3 will be all too real.

Roger Federer [3] v Kei Nishikori [8] – H2H: 3-2

Before all the drama unfolds with Djokovic, Federer will be kicking off the action as he looks to determine his position of qualification against Nishikori. It had been a pretty disastrous start for the Japanese No. 1 who had come up against a very dominant Djokovic and had really been closed down.

He was able to at least serve a lot more efficiently the second time around against Berdych, and apart from one loose game that allowed the Czech back into the match, he was the one who perhaps pressured more and got the results. Federer can afford to take his foot off the gas as he qualified first in the group in almost all scenarios with a third straight win over the Japanese player.

But Nishikori has got the better of the Swiss twice (Miami 2014 and Madrid 2013). But on indoor hard, Federer remains supreme and there is no reason to believe he won't feel right at home here. He started far better than in his match against Berdych, and was able to compound whatever was ailing Djokovic, and will hope to have Murray finish second in the group to avoid facing Nadal in the semi-finals. Arguably though, on the form he showed last night, neither player would start as a favourite to stop him from reaching the final.

Expect Federer to win, but Nishikori could take a set off him, without changing the scenario status quo too much.

Jamie Murray & John Peers [4] v Bob and Mike Bryan [1]

PREVIEW – Djokovic & Murray/Peers bid for World Tour Finals semi-finals

Both teams have come up against a quite frankly fearless-looking Rohan Bopanna and Florin Mergea, who have qualified at the top of Group Ashe/Smith already. So it is all about who wins this one to qualify second. Murray and Peers have had the measure of the Bryans a couple of times with the American twins only leading their head to head by 3-2, and interestingly this will be their first hard court encounter.

The Bryans have recently been shifted down a place in the overall rankings, although as an established pairing they recaptured the No. 1 spot in the Doubles Teams rankings with their win over the Australian Open champions Simone Bolelli and Fabio Fognini.

Murray and Peers will want to go out on a high here, as they are dissolving their partnership at the end of the year. Murray will join Bruno Soares and Peers will play with Henri Kontinen. The Bryans have not really seemed at the top of their game since winning the Montreal Masters, which was their last title, added to some family time as Bob welcomed his third child at the end of October.

The Commonwealth pair will need to put on a real show if they want to advance and keep the flag flying on their partnership into the knockout stages.

Federer v Nishikori is not before 2pm on Thursday, with Murray/Peers v Bryans opening the night session at 6pm, and closing with Djokovic v Berdych, not before 8pm (all times GMT).

Main Image Credit: Clive Brunskill/Getty

PREVIEW – Djokovic & Murray/Peers bid for World Tour Finals semi-finals

[CLICK FOR ORIGINAL ARTICLE](#)

- November 18, 2015

By Ros Satar

- Rafael Nadal [5] def. Andy Murray [2] 6-4 6-1
- Stan Wawrinka [4] def. David Ferrer [7] 7-5 6-2

LONDON, UK – *Rafael Nadal* hustled his way to the top of the group with a win over *Andy Murray*, leaving the Brit with it all to do on Friday against *Stan Wawrinka*.

Rafael Nadal [5] def. Andy Murray [2] 6-4 6-1

From what looked like a confident start with an opening break of serve from the Brit soon turned into a grueling nightmare as Nadal set himself up for a commanding lead at the top of the group.

Recovering the break immediately, from that point it always seemed to be him in charge of the points as he hustled Murray around the court mercilessly. From the start of the match he succeeded in pulling the Brit out of position, moving extremely well and hitting aggressively.

On the few occasions that Murray did try and shorten his points he saw the fleeting rewards, but much like Djokovic the day before, nothing seemed to be going right for him.

PREVIEW – Djokovic & Murray/Peers bid for World Tour Finals semi-finals

His trademark patience in building up points before going for the kill resulted in him winding up his forehand and sending it flying long and free. In truth at times Nadal did not really have to do much for the breaks.

After the match he admitted that he could not hope to get away with that against an in-form Nadal.

“I think that he was hitting the ball extremely well today from the back of the court. From the middle till the end of the second set he played extremely well. But I didn’t really help myself. I served poorly at the end of the first set and all through the second.

“That’s not going to be good enough against him when he’s playing that well. But, I mean, he’s won way more matches the last few months. He’s come back from tight situations which is signs he is getting back to where he wants to be. I’m sure, even now, but beginning of next year, he’ll be playing at a very, very high level again.”

There is no doubt about it, the Spaniard’s confidence continues to grow, and with the prospect of his countryman David Ferrer next, it is highly likely that Nadal will finish top of the group.

He said: “[It] is an important victory obviously because that put me in a good position to try to be in the semifinals, and at the same time I have a big day against a great player in a tough surface. Just want to try to keep working the same way to keep confirming that I am in the completely right direction.”

Stan Wawrinka def. David Ferrer 7-5 6-2

ATP World Tour Finals: Murray stumbles as Nadal & Wawrinka are Victorious

From the initial exchanges, it looked as though this would be a little more competitive, but Ferrer was the first to strike with a break, pushing out to a 5-2 lead.

He must have thought he was half way home, especially after surviving the first two break points on his serve, but Wawrinka was soon on a roll as he reeled off five games in a row. Having hurled his own racquet around at the start of the set, it was Ferrer's turn to take it out on his tool of choice.

As has been the way, certainly today if not the whole week – a tight first set is usually followed by a swift capitulation and this was certainly the case. Wawrinka was by far a very different beast to the one we saw two days ago, as he hurtled out to a 5-1 lead.

Both players have been named in our predictions as dark horses and while Wawrinka's canter to the line was stemmed briefly as Ferrer notched another game up on the board.

Were nerves getting to our leading prancing pony? One unbelievably botched overhead would suggest yes. Drama was to come as Wawrinka's shot on a third match point sailed just long. Ferrer with no challenges left shook hands at the net, while the clandestine challenge on the screens in the media centre showed it was just out.

We could wonder what might have been, but it was a long way back for the gritty Spaniard, once Wawrinka locked into his range.

Now it will come down to a straight shoot out between Wawrinka and Murray for the spot in the semi-finals when they come for the final round-robin stages on Friday.

ATP World Tour Finals: Murray stumbles as Nadal & Wawrinka are Victorious

*The final round-robin matches for Group Stan Smith take place on Thursday with **Roger Federer** v **Kei Nishikori**, not before 2pm and **Novak Djokovic** v **Tomas Berdych**, not before 8pm (all times GMT)*

Main Image Credit: Julian Finney/Getty

No Replies to "ATP World Tour Finals: Murray stumbles as Nadal & Wawrinka are Victorious"

ATP World Tour Finals: Murray stumbles as Nadal & Wawrinka are Victorious

- November 19, 2015

[CLICK FOR ORIGINAL ARTICLE](#)

By Ros Satar

- Rafael Nadal [5] v David Ferrer [7] – H2H: 23-6
- Andy Murray [2] v Stan Wawrinka [4] – H2H: 8-6

London, UK – The match of the day sees *Andy Murray* in a straight shootout against *Stan Wawrinka* for a place in the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals semi-finals.

Rafael Nadal [5] v David Ferrer [7]– H2H: 23-6

It is fair to say that Nadal has been growing with confidence match on match here, and indeed since the start of the autumn swing, and it showed against Andy Murray, as he put the Brit under constant pressure almost from the start of the match.

Meanwhile Ferrer had started well and maintained his level save for some awkward double-faults (are there ever any good times to have them?) but while he stayed in touch with Murray in their opening match, the Spaniard unraveled quite spectacularly at the hands of a rejuvenated Stan Wawrinka.

ATP World Tour Finals: Murray stumbles as Nadal & Wawrinka are Victorious

For some he had been the unsung dark horse in the Britwatch Tennis team's [predictions](#) but sadly it looks as though he will be trotting out of the O2 with a 0/3 record to his name. In all probability, Nadal will wind up facing Djokovic in the semi-final and that will require some preservation of energy in the first degree.

That being said,. Their past couple of encounters (albeit on clay) have been hard fought affairs, but their last indoor hard court battle went the way of Ferrer at the Paris Masters. With the elder Spaniard already eliminated, will he have the heart to put up enough of a battle to claim a second successive indoor hard court win?

Nadal's search for continued confidence in his game suggests not and we expect this to be a two-set rout.

Andy Murray [2] v Stan Wawrinka [4] – H2H: 8-6

In the world of Round-Robins and the perpetual generation of scenario grids that involve using fingers, toes and allsorts to calculate, it is refreshing to see that this boils down to a good, old-fashioned shoot out for the second place.

It may well have been a couple of years since the pair met, but in a time when they played each quite often in later rounds of tournaments. But the last couple of times it was Wawrinka who took the honours, and if he keeps that more positive frame of mind carried forward from his win over Ferrer, he will be tough for Murray to get to grips with, if he starts slow again.

Murray's serving really let him down against Nadal, and his usual sure finishing of points was lapsing into wild swings, and he will need to match Wawrinka's more attacking play with a far more aggressive game this time around.

[PREVIEW] Murray v Wawrinka - World Tour Finals

Of course at stake is his chance to close out the year as the year-end World No. 2 but as he explained earlier in the tournament that was not a clear goal other than helping for the seedings for the Australian Open.

And as we gallop ever closer to the first GB team in a Davis Cup final in 79 years, there, Wawrinka noted that if his focus is elsewhere, it really does affect his play.

He said: "It's impossible to know exactly what we can expect from him for Friday. For sure if I look the match today, I think was a little bit flat. For sure the fact he practiced so much after Paris on clay to get the rhythm doesn't help him to feel completely fresh this week. If he's mentally not really here, then he's a different player."

Murray, for his part vehemently denied that he had any other focus than trying to win here, but you can't deny that the chance to help his country to a famous win must be an alluring one.

In his first night match of the tournament, if he should bow out at this stage, let's hope that we get a thriller to end on, for the crowd's sake.

Nadal v Ferrer is not before 2pm, and Murray v Wawrinka is not before 8pm (all times GMT).

Main Image Credit: Julian Finney/Getty

No Replies to "[PREVIEW] Murray v Wawrinka - World Tour Finals"

[PREVIEW] Murray v Wawrinka - World Tour Finals

[CLICK FOR ORIGINAL ARTICLE](#)

By Ros Satar

- Roger Federer def. Kei Nishikori 7-5 4-6 6-4
- Bob & Mike Bryan def. Jamie Murray & John Peers 6-7(5) 7-6(5) 6-4
- Novak Djokovic def. Tomas Berdych 6-3 7-5

LONDON, UK – *Roger Federer* cemented his place at the top of Group Stan Smith, while *Novak Djokovic* finished second at the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals.

Roger Federer def. Kei Nishikori 7-5 4-6 6-4

Secure in the knowledge that he will end up at the top of the group, it would be interesting to see just how Federer approached this match. With a closer than usual head to head against **Kei Nishikori**, this had the hallmarks of being a good match.

Indeed it looked as though the World No. 3 was going for a quick finish, in time for afternoon tea breaking Nishikori in the fourth game, but they have a tight head to head for a reason, with the Japanese player getting the immediate break back.

A couple of games later he repeated the feat, this time forcing Federer to strike back straight away, with some very high quality exchanges. From that point Federer just looked a little sharper, breaking to edge the first set.

[PREVIEW] Murray v Wawrinka - World Tour Finals

As has often been the way, certainly this tournament, the momentum stays with the early victor, and the opponent drops away quiet alarmingly. Nishikori found himself battling hard while Federer hit cruise control, swiftly leaping out to a 4-1 lead in the second set.

Not that you would expect Federer to do defending champion **Novak Djokovic** any favours (a straight sets win means that Djokovic just needs a single set to go through) but certainly his commanding lead over the Japanese player was nibbled away with Nishikori nabbing the second set.

The pressure on him did not stop there, forcing Federer to save three break points early in the decider, but despite some blistering shots from Nishikori, first to draw blood was Federer after a long struggle.

It looked as though things were unraveling with a 1-4 deficit but Nishikori pulled away again winning three more games before Federer edged him out to win the match.

Afterwards he spoke about the format and about knowing it had been decided before he went in to the match.

He said: "The good thing is that I was through. It relaxes your nerves. The good thing is I've been in this position before so I know how to handle it. I always mention the first time it happened to me in 2002, was the first time I ever qualified. I was also qualified after two matches. Agassi had pulled out. Johansson came in. I was totally out of sorts. I was like, Oh, God, there's so much points on the line, don't want to lose. Anyway, I ended up playing all right. But mentally I was just spinning."

Sadly Nishikori misses out on defending his semi-final points from last year, and perhaps will rue such a slow start against Djokovic in the first match.

Federer & Djokovic advance in London - PHOTOS

He said: "I thought I was playing very good. Especially return, I was making lot of returns. Second serve, I think I was attacking really well. I think that's why I able to broke that much. But each set I didn't start well. I think every one he broke first and I was kind of defense all the time. That was my big mistake that I did today. I mean, in end really close game. I think just couple points that I didn't play quite well enough. But, yeah, it is a shame to lose like this."

Bob & Mike Bryan def. Jamie Murray/John Peers 6-7(5) 7-6(5) 16-14

If you have to have a swansong, then being one pairing who deliver one of the best doubles matches of the tournament, before bowing out in a thrilling Match Tie-Break 16-9!

But that was not the entire tale of the tape as it was Murray & Peers who made all the running. The Bryans have not really been firing on all cylinders since Montreal, and having parted ways briefly while Bob's newest child came into the world, they looked at times to be a little rusty.

They rallied after finding themselves 1-4 down admirably, breaking the Brit and the Aussie to force a tie-break. Just one mini-break to Murray & Peers was enough got them to keep the lead and take the first set.

The second set was more evenly matched – with no breaks points on anyone's serve, much less any to-ing and fro-ing of breaks, but they made up for that in the second set tie-break with the momentum swinging from Murray/Peers being two points away from the win, to relinquishing the second set.

Federer & Djokovic advance in London - PHOTOS

The fourth seeds were in control in the Match Tie-break, with four match points, duly squandered as the Bryans reeled off five points in a row to have a first match point of their own. Once more it was within grasp for Murray and Peers at 11-10 and there were some breathtaking rallies between arguably two of the best doubles teams in the world.

Alas, Peers became the target for the Bryans, and although he salvaged one miss, it was a sad end to the partnership as a couple of wild shots from Peers signaled the end of their bid for the semi-final and also for their shot at finishing as the No. 1 doubles pairing.

Murray said: "We had lot of success this year, especially the first year we played as well. Yeah, it's been a long journey for us. I think we started around 80 in the world together and finishing up in the top 10, qualifying for the end-of-year Masters here. Lots of great experiences, Grand Slam finals, won a few tournaments as well. It's been great. Now we're ready to move on to other things. Hopefully we can keep the success we've had this year.

Peers echoed those sentiments: "We've done a lot of great things. We can't pinpoint this little moment, but we're going to look at the whole picture and say we've had a great journey together and ready to look forward."

Novak Djokovic def. Tomas Berdych 6-3 7-5

With such a dominant head to head over the Czech, it was no surprise to see a swift break at the start of the match, but the real question would be how much resistance would Berdych be able to throw up?

He would go on to break straight back but was immediately put back under pressure as Djokovic pushed away at Berdych, forcing him to save three break points. The Czech held firm until the end of the set, again battling hard to hold on to his serve, allowing Djokovic to serve out the first set.

Federer & Djokovic advance in London - PHOTOS

Djokovic needed just that set to face Group winner Rafael Nadal in Saturday's semi-finals as the early initiative he had with a break right at the start of the second set was erased as the quality of Berdych's returning improved.

Neither were giving an inch on serve, but the first cracks appeared for Berdych, with a decisive break to serve for the match, having made some heavy weather of it in the mean time.

It was enough for him to take the match, leaving Berdych on the wrong end of a 0/3 record this tournament.

Djokovic admitted that perhaps it had been a battle for both of them, saying: "He found a way to play better, aggressive, more efficient and tactically smart. I think today we played two close sets. We both could have done better.

"But, again, we both had a long season and we tried our best. Best changes day-to-day. But I've played him so many times, I think the last couple months he raised his level and managed to play some better tennis."

He admitted that Nadal's level and confidence has been plain to see since the US Open, and added: "I've played him so many times on different surfaces, two or three on this very court. Hopefully I'll be able to perform my best, that's what's needed to compete against him."

The final semi-final places will be decided on Friday, when Group winner Nadal faces Ferrer not before 2pm and Andy Murray faces Stan Wawrinka in the evening match, not before 8pm (all times GMT).

Main Image Credit: Julian Finney/Getty

Federer & Djokovic advance in London - PHOTOS

[CLICK FOR ORIGINAL ARTICLE](#)

- November 20, 2015

By Ros Satar

- Novak Djokovic [1] v Rafael Nadal [5] 22-23
- Nadal is winless against Djokovic this year
- Djokovic has won each of their matches while the World Tour Finals has been in London

LONDON, UK – Three time defending champion *Novak Djokovic* will try and reach his fourth consecutive final when he faces a resurgent *Rafael Nadal* in the semi-final at the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals.

After such a dominant year, we could be forgiven for assuming that this would be little short of a formality. Djokovic has reigned supreme the last year years in London, and his 2015 has been outstanding.

Not even the vagaries of the round-robin format whereby a loss in the group stages still means there is a chance to qualify has dented the Serbian's progress, although no-one expected that break in proceedings.

Even **Roger Federer**, who beat the World No. 1 in straight sets had said he hadn't expected to win that group-stage match, preferring to concentrate instead of the rest of the group.

Federer & Djokovic advance in London - PHOTOS

After his straight sets win over Djokovic he said: "I wouldn't have picked it maybe before the tournament, you know, just because of his really good record on the indoors, the year he's had, especially with the run he's been on. I focused more on beating Berdych and Nishikori and let's see what happens against Novak. That shows me that I didn't expect this victory.

"We were just staying with each other really. I was just hoping I was going to get a good return game, which I did get eventually. Then winning the first set clearly in a match like this gives you the upper hand. It was important to strike again as quick as possible in the second set, and I did. I was a bit disappointed he got back on me, which didn't happen in Cincinnati. It was a similar situation. But he did well to break. I stayed calm. At the end it was not that surprising because I was playing really well and he dropped his level towards the end."

Djokovic could only surmise it was just one of those days, and even his final round-robin match against Tomas Berdych was not a match of the highest quality by his extraordinary standards this year.

"He found a way to play better, aggressive, more efficient and tactically smart. I think today we played two close sets. We both could have done better. We didn't play on such a high level. We are aware of that."

Is Djokovic just playing within himself until the semi-final? He has admitted the court plays to his strengths, and Nadal has (per usual) been less than happy with this particular surface as the favoured one for the year end championships.

World Tour Finals: Djokovic v Nadal SF Preview

We suspect that Djokovic will pull out some of the stops to ensure that he keeps his record against Nadal in London intact. Nadal is no stranger to the long and brutal rally and weathered a 14 minute grinding epic against David Ferrer, but at times was looking quote fatigued.

On paper this is Djokovic all the way, but probably will battle itself up to be a grueling three setter.

Djokovic and Nadal are scheduled on Centre Court, not before 2pm GMT.

Main Image Credit: Julian Finney/Getty

No Replies to "World Tour Finals: Djokovic v Nadal SF Preview"

World Tour Finals: Djokovic v Nadal SF Preview

By Ros Satar

- Rafael Nadal [5] def. David Ferrer [7] 6-7(2), 6-3 6-4
- Stan Wawrinka [4] def. Andy Murray [2] 7-6(4) 6-4

LONDON, UK – The Barclays ATP World Tour semi-finals were set as Group winner *Rafael Nadal* defeated *David Ferrer* and *Stan Wawrinka* ended *Andy Murray's* run.

Rafael Nadal [5] def. David Ferrer [7] 6-7(2), 6-3 6-4

Much as for **Roger Federer** in yesterday's final round-robin matches for Group Stan Smith, it was all about how Nadal would play in a virtually meaningless match, having already qualified for the semi-final.

As winner of the group, he will face three-time defending champion **Novak Djokovic**, and it is likely to be a bruising encounter if both are playing to their best.

Certainly at the start of the match, this was looking very much like this would be a foregone conclusion, jumping out to a 3-0 lead only for Ferrer to dial back into his game to bring things back on serve, reeling off four game on the bounce.

Again when it looked like Nadal had delivered the crucial blow, breaking for 6-5 and serving for the set, he could not hang on to his serve, despite staving off four break points and having a set point himself – Ferrer was not going to go quietly into the murky night.

A woeful start in the tie-break had the younger Spaniard on the back foot, as Ferrer sped out to a 5-2 lead, closing it out quite comfortably.

World Tour Finals: Djokovic v Nadal SF Preview

Any doubts we might have had that Nadal was going to treat this as an inconsequential loss went out the window, when he broke at the end of a competitive second set, having put Ferrer under a little pressure on the service game before, and taking more advantage at the end of the set, serving out for a rare decider in these parts!

No-one was expecting the 14 minute service hold where Ferrer had to hold off Nadal, who wanted in for a kill now, for five break points. Many thought that would actually be a crucial hold, and again the set was largely competitive between the Spaniard, with not much between them at all.

A vital break for Nadal at the end of the set and a single match point to wrap it up and it was a tale of two score-lines for the Spaniard. Nadal of course finished top of the group anyway, but 3/0 while Ferrer, who is a consistent presence here was perhaps unjustly awarded the wooden spoon of 0/3.

Nadal's reward of course is a semi-final against the World No. 1, and he seems to be ready.

He said, after the match: "For me is an important victory. Doesn't matter if I was qualified. As I said before, for me the main goal is try to arrive in good shape next year. Today was an opportunity to play against another of the top eight players of the world in a tough surface, good surface for him. I think he likes to play here.

"I need to play my best to have any chance. The right work is done. Lot of positive things during the last weeks."

Stan Wawrinka [4] def. Andy Murray [2] 7-6(4) 6-4

Murray thwarted by Wawrinka in London

Never afraid of trying something new, Murray's entire support team was sitting up on the gods for the match which had a place in the semi-finals riding on it, and the year-end No. 2 spot.

Even allowing for Wawrinka's slightly weaker serving at the start of the match the Swiss quickly started to build up a lot of momentum with some very solid hitting, and he was rewarded with a break that had been brewing. But credit to Murray who came right back at the Swiss.

Wawrinka, who had already smacked his racquet about earlier in the set looked like he was about to have another fit at it, after going down a mini-break in the tie-break. Where it looked as though Murray's lack of aggressiveness was going to cost him, now it seemed that it was working in his favour in the longer rallies.

Up until now he had been doing just enough defending to draw the errors from the Swiss, but you can never be too passive with Wawrinka. Suddenly his accuracy and range started to desert him., allowing Wawrinka to edge back into the lead, as error after error flew from Murray's racquet.

The momentum, such as it was stayed with the Swiss as he broke at the start of the second set, and with a 5-2 lead and serving for the set it looked as though Murray was heading for an early bath, but Wawrinka clawed back the three break points, before giving up a fourth.

Was a come-back on the cards? The confident hold to love that followed from Murray certainly gave that appearance, and it even looked as if he would break him again to get things back on level terms. But the errors that had been plaguing Murray came with a careless backhand miss.

Murray thwarted by Wawrinka in London

The assessment was short and to the point from Murray: "I made too many errors. It was tough. I couldn't quite get the balance. Because when I was going for my shots, I felt like I was making errors. Even in the last game, as well, a couple of backhands, one in the middle of the net on a deuce point, and match point, another simple backhand into the tramlines. Way too many errors. Cheap ones, as well. Disappointing."

Wawrinka said: "I had a tough match now, two hours' match with a lot of pressure. I also feel quite tired. I'm going to be focused on that, try to rest, try to recover and be ready for hopefully a good match."

Djokovic v Nadal is scheduled not before 2pm and Federer v Wawrinka is scheduled not before 8pm (all times GMT).

Main Image Credit: Clive Brunskill/Getty

No Replies to "Murray thwarted by Wawrinka in London"

ATP World Tour Finals SF: Federer v Wawrinka – PREVIEW

[CLICK FOR ORIGINAL ARTICLE](#)

- November 21, 2015

By Ros Satar

- Roger Federer [3] v Stan Wawrinka [4]
- Head to head 17-3

LONDON, UK – It is a highly anticipated rematch between *Roger Federer* and *Stan Wawrinka*, after last year's emotionally charged semi-final at the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals.

Britwatch Tennis: Full Draws and Schedules

Everything about that head to head tells you all you need to know about where Federer's advantage lies. Wawrinka's only three wins have come on the clay, but of course last year the Swiss No. 2 came within match-points of turning in his first win over Federer outside of the dirt.

Wawrinka admitted after his group-stage win over **Andy Murray** that this time last year, his match-play confidence had been low, and for him it had been all about getting that confidence back against the big players and ahead of the Davis Cup final between Switzerland and France.

ATP World Tour Finals SF: Federer v Wawrinka – PREVIEW

This year, he has had a few ups and downs, granted but he has played progressively better since the start of the tournament, If we are being honest he could have hardly played worse than his first match against Rafael Nadal.

The conditions are quite good for both players, and once Wawrinka locks into his groove and starts hitting through, it will require all Federer's tricks of the trade to try and get through Wawrinka. But the Swiss No. 1 has also been playing very well, achieving a coup in taking out Novak Djokovic in the round-robins.

He admitted that he had not thought he would do that, preferring to concentrate on securing wins over **Kei Nishikori** and **Tomas Berdych**, and so some of the pressure is off now as Djokovic's level has not been as dominant as we often expect.

You have to think the confidence will be with Federer. He has been on top form all tournament, graduating top of the class from Group Stan Smith. Admittedly he started slow against Berdych (for about one game) and Kei Nishikori pushed him to three sets.

Wawrinka has been improving, and while his first serve stats had been shaky at times against Murray, those he did get in came in high. And his second serve is one of the best in the business, and as he possibly stands on the verge of stretching the former Big Four to the Big Five, but has he still got those lingering mental fragilities that we saw in abundance in the first match.

Federer seems just too secure to relinquish another notch in their head to head just now, so Wawrinka may well have to wait until next year to try and better his compatriot on any surface other than clay.

Federer and Wawrinka are scheduled not before 8pm GMT.

ATP World Tour Finals SF: Federer v Wawrinka – PREVIEW

Main Image Credit:

No Replies to "ATP World Tour Finals SF: Federer v Wawrinka – PREVIEW"

Djokovic Dominates Nadal to reach the Final

[CLICK FOR ORIGINAL ARTICLE](#)

- November 21, 2015

By Ros Satar

- Novak Djokovic [1] def. Rafael Nadal [5] 6-3 6-3
- Reaches fourth straight final, and is aiming for a fifth title overall

LONDON, UK – Three-time defending champion *Novak Djokovic* eased past *Rafael Nadal* to book a place in his fourth straight Barclays ATP World Tour Finals.

Just how much of a battle of wills would this become? Djokovic had not been perhaps as sharp as he would have expected to be, especially after his rout of **Kei Nishikori** in his opening session. His only loss was to **Roger Federer**, and he admitted that his level of play against **Tomas Berdych** was not as high as he would have liked.

With such a close run head to head between them, and Nadal coming back to form with a great run since a disappointing US Open (17-4) is the best of his career, and that is some momentum to take into a match against the World No. 1.

Djokovic Dominates Nadal to reach the Final

But Djokovic started with the kind of aggression we have been used to seeing from him all this year – breaking the Spaniard to love in his opening service game. The nerves settled a bit for Nadal as he crept onto the board but the upper hand belonged to the defending champion as he closed out the first set 6-3.

Oh how Djokovic will have wanted to repeat the feat, again pulling up a breakpoint on Nadal's serve at the start of the second set, but this time the Spaniard held firm but with no impact to his return game, it was with a feeling of inevitability that Djokovic was able to nibble away once more at his service game, to break once more.

Should we feel surprised at Nadal's meekness on the receiving end of Djokovic? As he has been at great pains to point out, his year was more down to his (lack of) confidence and not down to injuries. He could go down the Andy Murray route of throwing himself into his training but maybe the issue is more instinct.

The grueling encounter with fellow countryman **David Ferrer** possibly took more out of him than expected, as Djokovic closed in comfortably on a straight sets win.

With good humour, Nadal raised a chuckle with his assessment of the match, saying: "He was better than me and he deserved to do what he did during the whole season. He played just fantastic. When somebody's doing like this, just the only thing I can do is congratulate him and just wish not the best of luck for the next year (smiling)."

His solution to the Djokovic 'problem' will be to keep practicing, but for him the confidence comes from the time he can also put in on the practice court, as well as the all-important match play.

Djokovic Dominates Nadal to reach the Final

For our money Nadal looks a lot leaner, and may need the time to adjust and regain that balance of power but claimed his body felt good now. As he approaches 30, he continues to be more focused on conquering the demons that plagued him at the start of the season.

Djokovic was still very measured knowing that he has a tough final to come, whoever it may be across the net.

He said: "Regardless of the outcome of tomorrow's match, the season will still be the best that I had. There is always room for improvement, so that's something that honestly excites me and motivates me to keep on going. I still feel like I want to do more, and I can do more."

The Barclays ATP World Tour Final will be on Sunday.

Main Image Credit: Clive Brunskill/Getty

No Replies to "Djokovic Dominates Nadal to reach the Final"

Federer sets up Final with Djokovic

[CLICK FOR ORIGINAL ARTICLE](#)

- November 22, 2015

By Ros Satar

- Roger Federer [3] def. Stan Wawrinka [4] 7-5 6-3
- Sets up rematch of the final that never was in 2014

LONDON, UK – *Roger Federer* pushed aside fellow countryman *Stan Wawrinka* to set up a rematch with *Novak Djokovic*, after withdrawing from the final moments before it was due to start last year.

Setting aside all the drama from last year's semi-final, and with none of the subsequent pressures in play, we could enjoy (hopefully) a semi-final of the highest quality.

Wawrinka came to play, breaking Federer mid-way through the set, and looked like he was going to be putting him under pressure throughout, but Federer stuck to his guns to break back a few games later.

Nerves and timing is everything, and after such a strong start, a sloppy final game by Wawrinka in the first set saw Federer capitalise to take it 7-5.

It was almost as though he had reverted somewhat the mentality that had plagued him in his opening match. He seemed to want to speed up his serve, which is the wrong tactic against Federer, who actually enjoys the play being fast.

Federer sets up Final with Djokovic

The wind seemed to seep out of Wawrinka's sails at that points, error-strewn games and a swift break looked to spell an early doom for the Swiss No. 2 as Federer led with a set and 3-0.

Gone was the (tennis) drama of the year before as the second set proceeded to get away from Wawrinka rapidly. Still, nerves seemed evident as he battled to try and break Wawrinka for the match, before serving out to love.

Fans were denied the final last year, finding out at the last moment, and so will now get the final many would have wanted when they bought those tickets all those months ago.

Wawrinka has at least been consistent this year, at a high level but when it comes to Federer outside of the clay it just doesn't work, as he explained:

"In general, his game is tough for me, for my game. I will say he has the perfect game against my game. He's mixing a lot, he's serving well, he's putting a lot of pressure, playing so fast. If you look today, it's not that I play really bad. I'm not tough enough mentally with myself, I'm not completely there. But one, two point change the first set completely."

Of course this time last year, Federer was sat in a press conference fielding questions surrounding what had happened on (and off) the court after the emotionally charged semi-final, and things were not as pleasant for him, as he recounted:

"Feeling slightly better than last year. Yeah, the press conference wasn't the fun part, I could tell you that, because I knew I was not in good shape. This year obviously it's very different. I feel completely normal. It's a big relief for me. Happy of how the week's gone so far. Yeah, so it's a good feeling this time around."

Federer sets up Final with Djokovic

He will face Djokovic in the final, not before 6pm Sunday.

Main Image Credit: Clive Brunskill/Getty

No Replies to "Federer sets up Final with Djokovic"

Djokovic v Federer in the Final Showdown

- November 22, 2015

[CLICK FOR ORIGINAL ARTICLE](#)

By Ros Satar

- Novak Djokovic [1] v Roger Federer [3] – H2H: 22-21
- Djokovic aiming for record fourth straight title
- Federer aiming for a record seventh title overall

LONDON, UK – The final that should have been? *Novak Djokovic* and *Roger Federer* rejoin on the final Sunday for the third time, at the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals.

Britwatch Tennis: Full Draws and Schedules

Fans could be forgiven for thinking they had gone back a year – the final that should have been, dramatically called off minutes before it was about to start resulted in an impromptu couple of exhibition matches featuring trounced Andy Murray who sped across London to spare the ATP's blushes, and ex-players on pundit duty!

Thankfully this time around, Federer seemed in a far happier place than he had been sitting with the press 12 months ago!

Djokovic v Federer in the Final Showdown

He said, after his win over Stan Wawrinka: “Feeling slightly better than last year. Yeah, the press conference wasn’t the fun part, I could tell you that, because I knew I was not in good shape. This year obviously it’s very different. I feel completely normal. It’s a big relief for me. Happy of how the week’s gone so far. Yeah, so it’s a good feeling this time around.”

He has been in impressive form overall. From the gasps that accompanied his immediate break by **Tomas Berdych** in the first match, to losing a set to **Kei Nishikori**, he has been able to lift his level when it has counted. And of course that included his straight sets win over Djokovic in the round robin.

That is of course the beauty of the round-robin format. Djokovic, who has been dominant for so much of the season started strongly with a veritable rout over Nishikori before losing to Federer, and admitting that in his final round-robin against Berdych, neither of them were playing particular well.

That all changed in his semi-final against **Rafael Nadal** where he lifted his game and prevented the Spaniard from any kind of toe-hold in the game. Nadal had been put through the ringer in his match against his last group stage match against **David Ferrer**, and he knows that the final will be tough given his earlier loss against the Swiss.

He said: “I’ve lost against Roger three times this year. When he’s on, it’s hard to play him. I think he also like playing me because he has a variety in his game with the slice, he comes to the net, I takes away the time from me, so forth.

“We always play matches with a lot of tension. There is a lot at stake. I know I have to be on top in order to win against him. Hopefully I’ll be able, if I play him tomorrow, to play better than I’ve done a few days ago. But the performance today definitely gives me reason to believe that I’ll do that.”

Djokovic v Federer in the Final Showdown

The unprecedented nature of the withdrawal last year saw the ATP offer an automatic 60% refund to final ticket holders who bought their tickets through authorised channels as well as receiving advanced access for ticket purchasing for this year's tournament.

This year's fans can enjoy one of the Open Era's most enduring rivalries taking centre stage once more to bring the curtain down on the season.

Djokovic v Federer are scheduled on Centre Court at 6pm GMT.

Main Image Credit: Julian Finney/Getty

No Replies to "Djokovic v Federer in the Final Showdown"

Djokovic Downs Federer for Fifth Season-Ending Title

- November 22, 2015

[CLICK FOR ORIGINAL ARTICLE](#)

By Ros Satar

- Novak Djokovic [1] def. Roger Federer
- Djokovic wins a fifth title, and a record fourth straight title in London

Britwatch Tennis: Full Draws and Schedules

As you would expect, the crowds were up for this final – at last they would see what we should have seen this time last year. Djokovic and Federer had done enough to qualify comfortably. Neither had a complete cakewalk, despite Federer going 3-0 in the tournament, but now the big prize was up for grabs.

Federer looked nervy walking out, and once play started, interrupted early in the first game by a raucous shout from the crowd, you know this was going to be an edgy match.

Federer succumbed early to a break, and although he had chances before and indeed after that to level the score, a sometimes off-balance Djokovic got the better of him on his second set point, despite doing his level best to gift away the lead he had built up in the vital game.

Djokovic Downs Federer for Fifth Season-Ending Title

What could Federer do to redress the balance? We had not seen the much discussed 'SABR', he had nicked Djokovic's chair – what could he do to get some kind of look at the Djokovic serve, as play ticked on with serve in the second set.

You got the impression that Federer would have to rely on Djokovic's level drop as it did in the round-robin to at least get on even terms with him. There were moments of sublime tennis, with routine netted backhands straight to follow from Federer and sure enough the danger was lurking from Djokovic in the eighth game as Djokovic forced three break points. Federer had to dig deep to win the five points in a row needed to dig himself out of trouble.

It was a brief respite, as Djokovic dominated his next service game before helping himself to another slice of break points. Even the moment of victory was muted as a challenge delayed the inevitable call of Game Set and Match on Djokovic's second set point.

With that win, Djokovic becomes the first player to win four season ending finales in a row , he equals his head to head with Federer and it has been all about the big silverware for the Serbian.

It is not the first time he has had a remarkable run but this stands out, perhaps because he is older, wiser, and if anything better placed next year to *try* and sustain it.

He said: "This season definitely stands out. I can't say I expected it, not at all. But I always gave my best, and I'm always asking from myself the most. I was always hoping that I can play this well throughout the entire season. Managing to reach this kind of season and achievement this year obviously gives me a lot of confidence for anything that is coming in the future."

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Federer knows what it takes to maintain that level, and this is the position Djokovic will now face heading into 2016.

He said: "It's hard to do. It's hard to play at this pace all the time. Margins are small at the very top. That's why this year of Novak's is amazing. Rafa has been there. I've been there. We both know how hard it is to back it up year after year. It's not the first good year of Novak.

Clearly he's going into next year with massive confidence, but you can't just repeat a year like this. It takes a lot of effort. You've got to be physically in shape, no injuries whatsoever. Mentally you have to be at your peak at all times. It's not as easy as it seems sometimes."

The ATP tour recommences in 2016, with Brisbane.

Main Image Credit: Julian Finney/Getty

No Replies to "Djokovic Downs Federer for Fifth Season-Ending Title"
