



Western & Southern  
Financial Group®  
MASTERS

## MEDIA INFORMATION

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# World's Top Players In Hunt For W&SFG Masters Title

MASON – June 23, 2008 – How strong is the field for the 2008 Western & Southern Financial Group Masters? Only 44 men are given direct acceptance into the singles draw, and the last man on the preliminary list is ranked No. 44, the tournament announced today.

“The field will be as strong as any in professional tennis,” said tournament director Bruce Flory. “The players understand how important this tournament is to their ranking and their careers.”

Two of the men expected to compete are the winningest players in the men’s game of late – two-time and defending champion **Roger Federer** and world No. 2 **Rafael Nadal**. The man chasing those two for a spot at the top of men’s tennis, **Novak Djokovic**, also will play, as will two-time Cincinnati champ **Andy Roddick**, 2007 finalist **James Blake**, 2008 Australian Open finalist **Jo-Wildred Tsonga**, two-time W&SFG Masters finalist **Lleyton Hewitt**, and every other star in the men’s game.

The list includes players from 18 different countries, two players who will be making their first appearance in Cincinnati, three former champions, and five players who either are or have been ranked No. 1 in the world (Federer, Roddick, Ferrero, Moya and Hewitt). Here are the players who have gained direct acceptance into the tournament, their ranking (as of June 23, the cut-off date), their country, and their best result at Cincinnati’s W&SFG Masters:

<b>Player</b>	<b>Rnk</b>	<b>Nat</b>	<b>Best Cincy Result</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Rnk</b>	<b>Nat</b>	<b>Best Cincy Result</b>
Federer, Roger	1	SUI	Winner in '07 & '05	Ferrero, Juan Carlos	23	ESP	Finalist in '06
Nadal, Rafael	2	ESP	Quarters in '06	Moya, Carlos	24	ESP	Winner in '02
Djokovic, Novak	3	SRB	Round of 32 in '06	Baghdatis, Marcos	25	CYP	Round of 16 in '07 & '06
Davydenko, Nikolay	4	RUS	Semis in '07	Ljubicic, Ivan	26	CRO	Quarters in '06 & '01
Ferrer, David	5	ESP	Quarters in '07 & '06	Hewitt, Lleyton	27	AUS	Finalist in '04 & '02
Roddick, Andy	6	USA	Winner in '06 & '03	Nieminen, Jarkko	28	FIN	Round of 16 in '02
Nalbandian, David	7	ARG	Quarters in '03	Simon, Gilles	29	FRA	Round of 32 in '06 & '05
Blake, James	8	USA	Finalist in '07	Seppi, Andreas	30	ITA	Round of 64 in '06
Gasquet, Richard	9	FRA	Round of 32 in '05	Tursunov, Dmitry	31	RUS	Round of 32 in '06
Wawrinka, Stan	10	SUI	Round of 16 in '06	Monfils, Gael	32	FRA	Round of 16 in '05
Murray, Andy	11	GBR	Quarters in '06	Kiefer, Nicolas	33	GER	Round of 16 in '01 & '99
Almagro, Nicolas	12	ESP	Quarters in '07	Llodra, Michael	34	FRA	Round of 64 in '04
Tsonga, Jo-Wilfried	13	FRA	1st Appearance	Lopez, Feliciano	35	ESP	Round of 32 '04 & '03
Gonzalez, Fernando	14	CHI	Semis in '06 & '02	Kohlschreiber, Philipp	36	GER	Round of 32 in '07
Stepanek, Radek	15	CZE	Round of 64 in '05 & '03	Andreev, Igor	37	RUS	Round of 64 in '05
Mathieu, Paul-Henri	16	FRA	Round of 32 in '05 & '03	Haas, Tommy	38	GER	Quarters in '04
Youzhny, Mikhail	17	RUS	Quarters in '05	Fish, Mardy	39	USA	Finalist in '03
Robredo, Tommy	18	ESP	Semis in '06 & '04	Tipsarevic, Janko	40	SRB	1st Appearance
Berdych, Tomas	19	CZE	Round of 16 in '07	Soderling, Robin	41	SWE	Round of 16 in '06 & '04
Monaco, Juan	20	ARG	Round of 16 in '07	Querrey, Sam	42	USA	Quarters in '07
Verdasco, Fernando	21	ESP	Round of 32 in '07	Ancic, Mario	43	CRO	Round of 16 in '05
Karlovic, Ivo	22	CRO	Round of 16 in '04	Benneteau, Julien	44	FRA	Round of 64 in '06

In addition to these 44 players, the 56-man main draw field also will include:

4 Wild Cards — These are four spots in the main draw filled at the tournament’s discretion. The four players will be determined between now and the draw ceremony on Friday, July 25.



**Men's Tournament:** July 25-August 3, 2008  
Tournaments played at the Lindner Family Tennis Center, Mason, Ohio, and operated by Tennis for Charity, Inc.  
Men's tournament played for the benefit of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.



AN ATP MASTERS SERIES EVENT

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7 Qualifiers — Seven players who win two matches in the 28-man qualifier on July 26 & 27 are placed into the main draw.

1 Special Exempt — A spot left open for a player who would have had to go through qualifying, but who's in the semis in AMS Canada, which are played at the same time as qualifying here. (If this doesn't happen, the spot is used by the next player in line for direct acceptance.)

A few of the players who did not gain direct acceptance and will have to qualify, be granted a wild card or rely on injury withdrawals include:

- Robby Ginepri .....a W&SFG Masters semifinalist in 2005
- Thomas Johansson ....the 2002 Australian Open champion
- Marat Safin .....former World No. 1, two-time Grand Slam champ and five-time AMS titleist
- John Isner .....a rising young American and a wild card entrant at the 2007 W&SFG Masters
- Donald Young.....an 18-year-old American who broke into the top 75 this year
- Kei Nishikori .....an 18-year-old from Japan who beat James Blake in the final at Delray Beach this year

A preliminary qualifying field will be announced in early July, and the wild card entrants will be announced as they are determined.

The 2008 Western & Southern Financial MASTERS will be held July 25-August 3 in Mason, Ohio. The Western & Southern Financial Group WOMEN'S OPEN will be held August 9-17. For tickets or information visit [www.cincytennis.com](http://www.cincytennis.com) or call the tournament 513-651-0303. Tickets also are available via TicketMaster at 513-562-4949, or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).