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ATP PR & Marketing: Richard Evans (revans@atpworldtour.com),James Masur (jmasur@atpworldtour.com) |Press Room:61 2 9024 7743

FRIDAY PREVIEW – BENNETEAU-ANDERSON MEET, SEPPI-TOMIC SQUARE OFF IN SEMI-FINALS

- The semi-finals of the Apia International Sydney on Friday feature the No. 3 seed/top Italian, a Frenchman in the semi-finals for the third time in four years, a 20-year-old Aussie in his second ATP semi-final and South African trying to become the first winner from his country in tournament history.

- In the opening match of the day on Ken Rosewall Arena, No. 4 seeds **Max Mirnyi** of Belarus and **Horia Tecau** of Romania play the Spanish duo of **David Marrero** and **Fernando Verdasco**. Mirnyi and Tecau are teaming up together for the first time this season while Marrero and Verdasco won four titles together last year.

- In the first singles match on, last year's runner-up **Julien Benneteau** takes a 2-0 head-to-head advantage against South African **Kevin Anderson**. Both players are unseeded. The Frenchman won the last meeting at the Queen's Club in London in June 2010. Benneteau is appearing in the semi-finals in Sydney for the third time in four years and he's trying to win his first career ATP World Tour title (0-7 in finals). A Frenchman has reached the Sydney final the past three years. The 31-year-old, who finished a personal-best No. 35 last season, is the oldest player left. Anderson is making his main draw debut this week here and he's the first South African to reach the semi-finals since Wayne Ferreira in 2004 (l. to Moya). A South African has never reached the final in tournament history. Anderson is trying to reach his fourth ATP World Tour final (2-1).

- In the next match on, No. 3 seed **Andreas Seppi** of Italy meets No. 2 Aussie **Bernard Tomic**, who won the previous meeting in the first round at the Queens' Club in London in 2010. Seppi is coming off his best season in which he won two ATP World Tour titles and finished a year-end high No. 23. He is appearing in his second semi-final in Sydney. In his debut in 2006, he reached the semis, defeating No. 4 Lleyton Hewitt along the way in the quarter-finals (l. to Andreev). The 20-year-old Tomic is playing in his second ATP World Tour semi-final, the first since Brisbane last year. He is the first Aussie to reach the semis in Sydney since Chris Guccione was runner-up in 2008. The last Aussie winner was Lleyton Hewitt in 2005. Tomic finished last season No. 52 after reaching a career-high No. 27 on June 11. He is No. 64 this week. He will return to the Top 50 by reaching his first ATP World Tour final.

- **FRENCHMEN IN SEMI-FINALS –** This is the seventh year in a row at least one Frenchman has reached the semi-finals in Sydney, the third time in four years Benneteau has been involved:

  2013 – Julien Benneteau vs. Kevin Anderson
  2012 – **Julien Benneteau (Runner-up)**
  2011 – Gilles Simon (Winner)
  2010 – Richard Gasquet (Runner-up), **Julien Benneteau** (SF)
  2009 – Richard Gasquet (SF)
  2008 – Fabrice Santoro (SF)
  2007 – Fabrice Santoro (SF)

FRIDAY SEMI-FINALS FedEx ATP Head 2 Head – In Order of Play

Ken Rosewall Arena

Julien Benneteau (FRA) vs Kevin Anderson (RSA) — Benneteau Leads 2-0

09 Lyon (France)	Hard (I)	R16	Julien Benneteau	7-5	6-2
10 London / Queen's Club (Great Britain)	Grass	R32	Julien Benneteau	7-5	6-3

Benneteau FastFacts:
2012 Highlights:
F(2): **Sydney** (l Nieminen); Kuala Lumpur (l Monaco); **SF**: San Jose (l Istomin)
YTD W-L: 27-23 (3-1 this year)
YTD Titles: 0
Career Titles: 0
Date of Birth: December 20, 1981
Emirates ATP Ranking: 35 (year-end, this week)

- **Benneteau**, 31, is appearing in the semi-finals in Sydney for the third time in four years (10-5 career record) and this week defeated Spaniard Pablo Andujar 63 57 62 and No. 6 Radek Stepanek, who retired at 40-15 in the first game due a back injury, and qualifier Ryan Harrison 64 62. Last year reached the final with four straight-set Top 50 wins before losing to Nieminen in the final. In 2010, advanced to semi-finals (l. to Gasquet)
- No. 2 this week in return games won (46%, 11 of 24) and No. 4 in aces (14). Has held serve 18 of 23 games (78%), saving four of nine break points
- This is the seventh year in a row a Frenchman has reached the semi-finals in Sydney and the past three finals have included a French player
- Last week opened season in Brisbane and lost in 1R to Nieminen 63 26 61
- Last season the Frenchman finished a year-end high No. 35, highlighted by ATP World Tour finals in Sydney (l. to Nieminen) and Kuala Lumpur (d. No.5 Ferrer in SF, l. to Monaco)
- Has played in 204 career tournaments going into Sydney without an ATP World Tour title (0-7 in finals)
- Also made SF in San Jose (l. to lstomin) and reached 3R in each Grand Slam with 3 losses coming to Top 10 opponents- No.8 Tipsarevic at Roland Garros, No.3 Federer in five sets at Wimbledon and No.2 Djokovic at US Open
- Suffered right wrist and elbow injuries in Monte-Carlo and missed a month
- Posted Top 20 wins overNo.19 F. Lopez in Sydney and No.14 Simon at Australian Open
- Went 1-8 vs. Top 10 foes and compiled records of 19-16 on hard, 4-3 on clay and 4-4 on grass
- In doubles, won bronze medal at London Olympics (w/Gasquet)

Anderson FastFacts:
2012 Highlights:
W: Delray Beach (d Matosevic); **QF(5)**: San Jose (l Raonic); Houston (l Monaco); London / Queen's Club (l Dimitrov); Washington (l Querrey); Basel (l Del Potro)
YTD W-L: 30-26 (3-0 this year)
YTD Titles: 1
Career Titles: 2
Date of Birth: May 18, 1986
Emirates ATP Ranking: 37 (year-end), 36 (this week)

- **Anderson**, 26, is the first South African to reach the semi-finals here since former Top 10 Wayne Ferreira in 2004 (l. to Moya). Trying to become the first South African to reach the final in tourn. history
- This week has posted wins over Aljaz Bedene 63 36 63, Feliciano Lopez 63 64 and Denis Istomin 64 63. In his previous appearance here, lost in the 2R of qualifying in 2009
- No. 3 this week in service games won (31 of 33, 94%), saving seven of nine break pts. (78%). Also No. 2 in first serve pct. (68%) and No. 3 in aces (23) and second serve pts. won (66%)
- Finished in Top 40 for second straight year, highlighted by second career ATP World Tour title in Delray Beach in March (d. Roddick in QF, Isner in SF, Matosevic in F). Has a 2-1 career record in finals
- Also reached QF in San Jose, Houston, London/Queen's Club, Washington and Basel
- Best Grand Slam result was 3R at Australian Open and Roland Garros (l. to Berdych in both)
- Compiled records of 20-18 on hard, 7-6 on clay and 3-2 on grass. Went 0-8 vs. Top 10 opponents and highest ranked win came over No. 11 Isner in Delray Beach

(3) Andreas Seppi (ITA) vs Bernard Tomic (AUS) — Tomic Leads 1-0

10 London / Queen's Club (Great Britain) Grass	R64	Bernard Tomic	6-3	5-7 6-3

Seppi FastFacts:
2012 Highlights:
W(2): Belgrade (d Paire); Moscow (d Bellucci); **F(2)**: Eastbourne (l Roddick); Metz (l Tsonga); **QF(4)**: Doha (l Federer); Rotterdam (l Berdych); Bucharest (l Fognini); ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Rome (l Federer)
YTD W-L: 38-27 (2-0 this year)
YTD Titles: 2
Career Titles: 3
Date of Birth: February 21, 1984
Emirates ATP Ranking: 23 (year-end, this week)

- **Seppi**, 28, comes into his second semi-final in Sydney with an 8-7 career record after wins over Aussie wild card John Millman 62 36 63 and No. 8 seed Marcel Granollers 64 75. In 2006 debut, reached SF (d. No. 4 Hewitt, l. to Andreev). Then lost in 2R in 2008, '10-11
- Trying to become the first Italian to reach the final in tournament history

- Has held serve 21 of 24 games (88%) and broken opponents seven times in 24 games (29%)
- Last season finished in Top 25 for first time in his career, winning ATP World Tour titles in Belgrade (d. Paire) in May and Moscow (d.Bellucci) in October and reaching finals in Eastbourne in June (l. to Roddick) and Metz in September (l. to Tsonga). Also QF in four other tournaments, including hometown in Rome (l. to Federer)
- In Grand Slam play, broke through to reach 4R for first time at Roland Garros where he lost to No.1 Djokovic in five sets (after holding two-set lead)
- Had most match wins (38) in his career, surpassing previous best (30) in 2008
- Compiled records of 16-5 on clay, 18-18 on hard and 4-4 on grass. Went 1-11 vs. Top 10 opponents with lone win over No.10 Isner in Rome
- Has won at least 20 matches in each of the past seven seasons while finishing in the Top 75 for eight years in a row

Tomic FastFacts:
2012 Highlights:
SF: Brisbane (l Murray); **QF(3)**: Delray Beach (l Isner); Munich (l Lopez); Bangkok (l Gasquet)
YTD W-L: 26-27 (3-0 this year)
YTD Titles: 0
Career Titles: 0
Date of Birth: October 21, 1992
Emirates ATP Ranking: 52 (year-end), 64 (this week)

- **Tomic**, 20, is the first Aussie to reach the semi-finals in Sydney since (WC) Chris Guccione was runner-up in 2008 (l. to Tursunov). The last Aussie winner was Lleyton Hewitt in 2005 (d. Minar). Roger Federer was the last 20-year-old winner here in 2002 (d. Chela)
- He is playing in the main draw for the second time. On Tuesday, defeated top countryman Marinko Matosevic 63 64, converting four of six break pts. and followed on Wednesday with a 76(4) 62 win over No. 5 seed Florian Mayer (hitting 14 aces). On Thursday, rallied to beat defending champion Jarkko Nieminen 67 64 62. Two years ago in his debut, qualified (ranked No. 209) and lost to Alexandr Dolgopolov in three sets in 1R
- Leads the tournament in aces (27) and service games won (33 of 35, 94%), saving four of six break pts. Has won nine of 34 return games (26%)
- Came in ranked No. 64 and will move to around No. 54 and if he reaches the final to around No. 49 (and around No. 43 if he wins the title)
- In 2012, the No.2 Australian (behind No.49 Matosevic) was youngest player in Top 100 for second year in a row, highlighted by SF in opening week of season in Brisbane (l. to Murray) and three QF results
- In Grand Slam play, advanced to 4R on home soil at Australian Open (d. Verdasco, Querrey, Dolgopolov, l. to Federer). Lost in 2R at Roland Garros (d. Haider-Maurer, l. to Giraldo) and US Open (d. Berlocq, l. to Roddick)
- Played in two Davis Cup ties and went 3-1 in singles (1-1 vs Germany in World Group play-off tie in Hamburg, d. Stebe, l. to F. Mayer)
- Compiled records of 17-13 on hard, 8-10 on clay and 1-4 on grass. Went 0-6 vs. Top 10 opponents and highest-ranked win came over No.13 Dolgopolov at Australian Open

SERVING IMPROVEMENT – Here is a look at Tomic's service game this week compared to 2012:

	Aces	1st Serve Pts. Won	2nd Serve Pts. Won	Service Games	Brk. Pts. Saved
This week	9.0 avg	79%	60%	94% (33 of 35)	67% (4 of 6)
2012	5.0 avg	67%	50%	77%	61%

TOMIC DOWN UNDER – Tomic has an 18-10 career record in ATP World Tour level events in Australia, including 8-2 last season (only losses to Murray and Federer):

Tournament	Career Record	Best Result
Brisbane	3-4	SF - 2012 (l. to Murray)
Sydney	3-1	SF - 2013 (vs. Seppi)
Australian Open	7-4	4th Rd. - 2012 (l. to Federer)
Davis Cup	5-1	-----

POTENTIAL FINAL HEAD-TO-HEADS –

Julien Benneteau (FRA) vs Andreas Seppi (ITA)				**Tied 1-1**
12 Sydney (Australia)	Hard	R32	Julien Benneteau	6-3 6-4
12 Beijing (China)	Hard	R32	Andreas Seppi	6-1 2-0 ret
Other meetings:				
08 Bergamo CH (Italy)	Hard	F	Andreas Seppi	2-6 6-2 7-5
11 Mons CH (Belgium)	Hard	F	Andreas Seppi	2-6 6-3 7-6(4)
Julien Benneteau (FRA) vs Bernard Tomic (AUS)				**Tomic Leads 1-0**
12 Brisbane (Australia)	Hard	R32	Bernard Tomic	6-2 4-6 7-5
Other meetings:				
11 ATP Masters 1000 Monte Carlo Q	Clay	--	Julien Benneteau	6-7(5) 6-4 6-3
11 ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati Q (USA)	Hard	--	Julien Benneteau	7-6(4) 6-7(3) 6-1
Kevin Anderson (RSA) vs Andreas Seppi (ITA)				**First Meeting**
Kevin Anderson (RSA) vs Bernard Tomic (AUS)				**Tomic Leads 1-0**
11 ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Shanghai	Hard	R64	Bernard Tomic	7-6(5) 6-7(4) 6-3
Other meeting:				
10 Nottingham CH (Great Britain)	Grass	R32	Kevin Anderson	7-6(8) 6-1