



Day Three Preview

Wawrinka eyeing off spot in final

Roger Federer is through to the final of the AAMI Classic after surviving a long three set encounter with Spain's Fernando Verdasco 6/3 3/6 7/6 (7/5).

The match was a great battle and was part of an excellent day of competitive matches for the fans inside Kooyong's famous old stadium.

Federer started the better of the two racing out to a 5/0 lead before Verdasco fought his way back into the match.

After losing the first set, Verdasco turned the tables to win the second set and took it up to Federer in the final set before the champion took control in the tie break and finished the match off, in impressive fashion, with an ace.

'It's good to be out there and get used to the court, so long matches don't bother me at this stage,' said Federer after the three set match with Verdasco.

In the earlier match, Marcos Baghdatis returned to the winners list for the first time in four months when he defeated Ivan Ljubicic in a tough battle 7/5 6/4.

Baghdatis looked to be finding some form towards the end of the match and will garner some confidence from the win.

In the final game of the day Marin Cilic defeated Carlos Moya in what proved to be another tough match.

Cilic won the first set 6/3 against his more experienced opponent but Moya fought back in the second set and the match could have gone either way before Cilic closed out the match in the tie break.

Day Three shapes up as another great day of action with Stanislas Wawrinka to do battle with Fernando Gonzalez for a spot in the final against Roger Federer on Saturday.

The loser of this match will play against Fernando Verdasco on Saturday.

This will be followed by Marcos Baghdatis playing against the rising star Marin Cilic and both men are sure to be keen for a victory leading into next week's Australian Open.

Baghdatis will take a lot of confidence from his win against Ljubicic and will be hoping to replicate that against Cilic tomorrow but this might be a tougher assignment.

Ivan Ljubicic will take on Carlos Moya in the final match of the day and this should give both players a good idea about how their preparation is going leading into next week's Grand Slam.

Day Three should answer several questions as we head for Saturday's final.