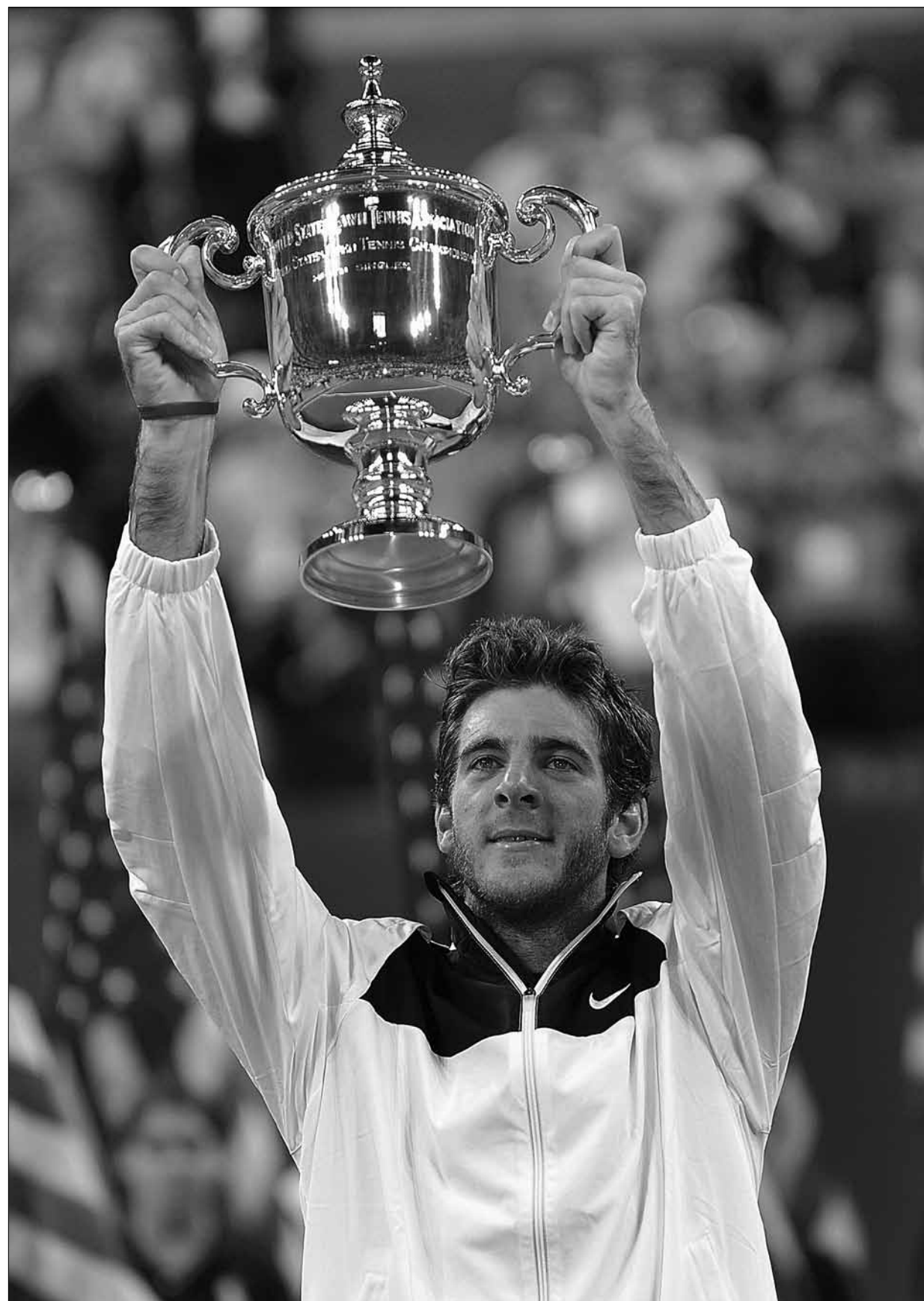


# Del Potro triumphs over Federer to win U.S. Open



CHAMPION: Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro pulled off an unbelievable upset of Roger Federer. TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

By RAHUL VAIDYANATH  
Epoch Times Staff

Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro defied all the odds and beat Roger Federer 3-6, 7-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-2 to win the U.S. Open Men's Singles championship on Monday in Flushing, N.Y.

The 20-year-old showed tremendous maturity, resilience, and a ferocious forehand to best tennis's greatest player of all time. In fact, Federer's last loss at the U.S. Open came in 2003 to another Argentine, David Nalbandian.

"He [Del Potro] was the best," said Federer in his on-court interview during the post-match ceremony.

"It's amazing for South America and for me," said Del Potro. "It will be in my mind forever."

In an up-and-down match, momentum shifts occurred on numerous occasions. The windy conditions made for some sloppy play—both players had more unforced errors than winners—but the drama was intense and the capacity crowd of 23,500 in Ashe Stadium ate up every minute of the four-hour match.

Del Potro began the match like a deer in the headlights of a freight train. Federer, a notoriously fast starter, jumped all over the 6'6" Argentine, breaking serve at the first opportunity.

One could excuse Del Potro for being a little awestruck given the occasion—his first grand slam final against an opponent who has won 15 of them.

Federer took the first set despite a poor 41 percent first-serve percentage. He managed to break Del Potro early in the second set, and it looked like another routine Federer victory was imminent.

The turning point in the match came when Del Potro broke back to take the second set to a tiebreak. Del Potro fired two big down-the-line forehand winners to break Federer's serve for the first time in the match.

The first winner was initially called out. Del Potro challenged the ruling, which was then shown to be in. Federer questioned the ruling and instead focused on a mark the ball supposedly left on the court.

Federer's irritability would be an ongoing theme in the final. He had a couple of arguments with chair umpire Jake Garner about



RARE MOMENT: Roger Federer with the runner-up trophy, and Juan Martin Del Potro. AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

challenges and how long one can take before deciding to challenge a call.

Del Potro took the second set tiebreak and had the momentum in his court at the start of the third set.

"I think if I win the second set, I'm in a great position to come through. Unfortunately, I didn't win that and that was it," said Federer in a post-match interview on www.usopen.org.

Del Potro started unleashing his forehand for which Federer had no answer. It's a rare thing to see Federer lose control of the baseline, but that is what happened. Federer continued to serve poorly as his first serve percentage remained below 50 percent and his double faults mounted.

Del Potro broke Federer to go up 4-3 in the third set, but then immediately dropped serve. In a disastrous tenth game, he served up two consecutive double faults to gift Federer the third set.

After the double faults, Del Potro felt he should go for a higher percentage of first serves and take his chances in the rallies with his big forehand.

This new strategy led him to gain the first break in the fourth set, but his strategy ruled out winning easy points on serve. Federer was able to break back.

But Federer's momentum would run out as soon as the fourth set tiebreak began. Federer's first service point resulted in a double fault.

Del Potro pushed the match into a fifth set.

## FIFTH SET

The last time the U.S. Open witnessed a fifth set in a men's final was in 1999 when Andre Agassi defeated Todd Martin.

The fifth set was all Del Potro. In fact, it was almost a reverse image of the first set. Del Potro broke Federer at the first opportunity and then proceeded to break Federer to win the match. He avoided the nerve-jangling experience of serving for the championship.

Federer's backhand produced two bad errors in the final game to make things much easier for Del Potro. The Swiss master racked up 11 double faults and only converted on five of 22 break point chances.

Del Potro fell to the court sobbing tears of joy. He then raised his long arms in a combination of joy and disbelief as he thanked the fans.

"Maybe tomorrow, maybe next week I will be believing in this," said Del Potro. "But now, I don't know. I don't understand nothing."

He thanked his parents in Spanish as well as the crowd. "The crowd helped me and they saw my fight in every point."

Federer added: "Got to give him all the credit because it's not an easy thing to do, especially coming out against someone like me with so much experience."

And that's what makes Del Potro's win truly remarkable.

## Brawn Returns to Early Season Form

Barrichello and Button finish one-two at Monza, Italy

By JAMES FISH  
Epoch Times Staff

After a great early season start followed by several bad races, Brawn GP is now back on form. Rubens Barrichello and Jenson Button finished one-two at the Italian Formula One Grand Prix at Monza last Sunday.

This was the fourth one-two finish of the season for Brawn. It kept both Brawn drivers well ahead in the Driver's Championship. Rubens Barrichello scored his third career win at Monza, while Jenson Button got some much-needed championship points.

"My pace was there, my brakes were great, the car was there all the time. It felt great. I have no big words—I just feel really good," Barrichello said after the race. The win keeps Barrichello in the hunt for the Drivers' Championship, 14 points behind leader Jenson Button.

Kimi Räikkönen in the Ferrari finished third after Lewis Hamilton

crashed on the last lap. Räikkönen and Adrian Sutil in the Force India car had a chance to finish one-two, but both had pit stop problems on lap 38.

Sutil, who finished fourth, came in too fast and nearly missed his pit, while Räikkönen tried to leave too early. They rejoined the field behind the Brawns, and that's where they finished.

"I was in a hurry to get out, because I knew it was going to be very close," Räikkönen explained. "The lollipop guy moved the lollipop [sign indicating 'wait' or 'go'], and I was ready to go already, and then he put it back down and I stopped. We lost a little bit of time but not too much."

"We got third place a little bit as a gift, but it doesn't matter—it counts."

While Räikkönen's third-place finish was a gift to Ferrari, the Brawns' results put Raikonen out of contention for the Drivers' Championship. There is no way he can earn enough points to win in the remaining four races.

## STRATEGY

Pit strategy played a key role in the race. Cars making one stop had to conserve their tires, while cars making two stops had to push hard and make up a lot of time on each stint.

Pole-sitter Lewis Hamilton led most of the first half of the race, but his McLaren-Mercedes seemingly slowed in the second stint, forcing him to pit early and give up some advantage. Then, on the final lap, Hamilton put a rear wheel over a curb, spun, and slammed into the tire wall, ending his race.

Red Bull, Brawn's strongest opposition, had a terrible day. Sebastian Vettel, third in championship points, finished in eighth place, while Mark Webber, fourth in the points, was knocked out in the first lap by Robert Kubica in the BMW.

This hurt both drivers badly in their quests for championship points and set the team back in the Constructor's points race.



MIGHTY BRAWN: Rubens Barrichello celebrates after winning the Italian Grand Prix last Sunday. MARIO LAPORTA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The one-two finish gives Brawn a 40.5-point lead in the Constructors Championship. As long as both Brawns finish in every race no worse

than where both Red Bulls cars finish, the Constructors Championship will go to Brawn.

And unless Rubens Barrichello wins

a race that Jenson Button doesn't finish, it looks like Jenson Button will manage to preserve his early championship lead, despite the dismal middle of the season.

## TENNIS RANKINGS

Women		Men	
Name	Points	Name	Points
1. (1) Dinaara Safina (Russia)	9,070	1. (1) Roger Federer (Switzerland)	11,240
2. (2) Serena Williams (U.S.)	7,807	2. (3) Rafael Nadal (Spain)	8,845
3. (3) Venus Williams (U.S.)	6,645	3. (2) Andy Murray (Britain)	8,390
4. (6) Svetlana Kuznetsova (Russia)	6,060	4. (4) Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	7,480
5. (4) Elena Dementieva (Russia)	6,035	5. (6) Juan Martin del Potro (Argentina)	6,825
6. (8) Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark)	5,850	6. (5) Andy Roddick (U.S.)	5,310
7. (7) Vera Zvonareva (Russia)	5,460	7. (7) Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (France)	3,950
8. (5) Jelena Jankovic (Serbia)	5,320	8. (8) Nikolay Davydenko (Russia)	3,535
9. (10) Victoria Azarenka (Belarus)	4,592	9. (10) Fernando Verdasco (Spain)	3,430
10. (10) Flavia Pennetta (Italy)	3,490	10. (9) Gilles Simon (France)	3,090
11. (11) Ana Ivanovic (Serbia)	3,155	11. (12) Robin Soderling (Sweden)	3,015
12. (13) Nadia Petrova (Russia)	3,130	12. (11) Fernando Gonzalez (Chile)	2,885
13. (12) Agnieszka Radwanska (Poland)	3,000	13. (13) Gael Monfils (France)	2,355
14. (15) Samantha Stosur (Australia)	2,860	14. (14) David Nalbandian (Argentina)	2,225
15. (14) Marion Bartoli (France)	2,825	15. (17) Marin Cilic (Croatia)	2,195
16. (18) Virginie Razzano (France)	2,420	16. (15) Tommy Robredo (Spain)	2,045
17. (16) Dominika Cibulkova (Slovakia)	2,405	17. (16) Radek Stepanek (Czech Republic)	2,030
18. (19) Na Li (China)	2,352	18. (18) Tomas Berdych (Czech Republic)	2,025
19. (NR) Kim Clijsters (Belgium)	2,310	19. (19) David Ferrer (Spain)	1,785
20. (17) Amelie Mauresmo (France)	2,281	20. (21) Tommy Haas (Germany)	1,780

Rankings as of September 14, previous rankings in parentheses

## English Soccer Clubs Face 'Home-Grown' Quota

Rule purports to ultimately benefit England's national team

LONDON (Reuters)—English top flight clubs will have their squads limited to 25 next season with eight players having to be "home-grown," the Premier League said on Tuesday.

It said the 20 clubs had agreed to the change, effective from the start of the 2010-2011 campaign.

"As of next season, clubs will be required to have a squad named of up to 25 players, of which no more than 17 can be over the age

of 21 and not home grown," chief executive Peter Scudamore told the league's Web site (www.premier-league.com).

"The definition of home grown is trained for three years under the age of 21 by somebody in the English and Welsh professional system."

Clubs would have to name 25 players at the end of August when the transfer window closed and again at the end of January.

Scudamore said the England team would ultimately benefit from the change.

"It's not in the clubs' interest to stockpile players," he said. "It will make buying home-grown talent more attractive."

Extra Incentive  
"We're not going down the route of a nationality test but what this will mean is that you just can't buy a team from abroad."

"We think it will give clubs an extra incentive to invest in youth. We think that one of the benefits will be that it will help the England team," he added.

Liverpool's Spanish manager Rafa Benitez expressed some concerns, however.

"For a lot of clubs it will be easy, for the top five maybe to bring in eight local players of quality means you will have to bring them through the academy system which normally does not produce too many in England."

"The problem in England is that in between the academy and the first team there is a big gap. It will be difficult to bring in some quality but, ok, we will try. The question is not the number of players—that is very easy."

The Premier League said its members' academies have 320 players aged 16 to 18 and a further 2,486 under 16.