

Men's biographies Tennis Challenger 2011

1. SELA, Dudi (Israel)

At 26, Dudi Sela ranks 1st in his home country, Israel. For the last four years, he manages to rank himself in the 100 best tennis players according to the ATP. In 2009, he managed to rank himself 29th in the world rankings and allowed Israel's team to reach the semi-finals for the first time at the Davis Cup. In the last two months only, he has won the Challengers in Busan (South Korea), Fergana (Uzbekistan) and Nottingham-2 (Great Britain). This year is his first presence at the *National Bank's Challenger of Granby* and is therefore the favoured first.

2. MAHUT, Nicolas (France)

Third favoured in this 16th edition of the *National Bank's Challenger of Granby*, this 29 year old athlete is presently in the 94th spot of the ATP's ranking. He was also in the 50 best players in 2008 ranking 40th in singles and 25th in doubles. He is mostly well know for playing the longest professional tennis game in history at Wimbledon against the american John Isner. The game lasted 3 days for a total of 11 hours and 5 minutes and for a total of 5 sets. 12 Guinness world records where made during this event. This year is his first visit at the *National Bank's Challenger of Granby*.

3. BACHINGER, Matthias (Germany)

The forth player ranking in the top 100 is the german Matthias Bachinger. At age 24, he has been playing professionally since 2005. The last few months have consisted of the peaks of his career so far landing him in the 98th spot. In the beginning of this last June, he even ranked 92nd, his personal best. 2011 has been a great year for this tall 6 foot 2 athlete with him winning the Athen's Challenger and him reaching the finales in both the Nottingham (Great Britain) and Pingguo (China) Challengers. It is the first time that we will have the chance to see him play in the *National Bank's Challenger of Granby*.

5. ITO, Tatsuma (Japan)

This young player is not a newcomer to the *National Bank's Challenger of Granby*, this year being his forth consecutive year. This 23 year old has made great progress since his first visit here starting in 306th position and jumping to his current rank, 104th. This last ranking is the highest he has ever reached in the ATP's worldwide rankings. Earlier this year, he won the Recife, Brazil Challenger and even participated in the finale of the Busan (South Korea) Challenger against none other than our first favourite, Dudi Sela.

6. BECK, Karol (Slovak Republic)

Born on April 3rd 1982, Karol Beck is now 29 years old and has been playing professionally since 2001. He was once ranked 36th but a 2 year suspension given by the *International Federation of Tennis (ITF)* made his rankings drop. Since then, he has regularly been around the 100th spot placing actually in the 125th. One of the most memorable moments of his career is, like he says, the match he played against Peter Sampras in 2002 in the first round of the Davis Cup. It is his first visit to the *National Bank's Challenger of Granby*.

7. CLÉMENT, Arnaud (France)

The seventh favoured in this competition, Arnaud Clément is a highly talented athlete. This 33 year old veteran was born in Aix-en-Provence, France. He has been playing professionally for 15 years and has spent 12 of those in the top 100. His personal best occurred in 2001 when he reached the 10th highest ranking in the ATP ranks. He also won 4 titles in his career in single playing including one at the Davis Cup also in 2001 and 12 titles in doubles including the prestigious Wimbledon in 2007. It is an honour for us to welcome for the first time this experienced tennis player ranking presently at the 143rd spot.

8. ROGER-VASSELIN, Edouard (France)

A 3rd frenchman joins our main board during the 16th *National Bank's Challenger of Granby*. Edouard Roger-Vasselin, age 27, is at his first presence here in Granby. In July 2007, he was ranked 87th in the world rankings, his personal career best. Many say he inherited his father's, Christophe Roger-Vasselin, talent and passion. His most memorable performance for him was when he reached third rounds at both Roland-Garros and Wimbledon. He is actually ranked 145th and is the 8th favoured to the title.

9. POSPISIL, Vasek (Canada)

Vasek Pospisil is only 21 years of age but is already considered by many as one of the best canadian players. Born on June 23rd 1990 in British-Columbia, this young athlete constantly improves and is presently standing at the 212th world rank. This athlete is not at his first present here, this year being his 5th year in a row. He entered the professional world of tennis in 2007 and since then, has played many Challengers in Mexico and the United States, to name only a few. In the last 15 months, he has won 4 Futures, the most recent being two months ago in Korea.

Women's biographies Tennis Challenger 2011

1. DUBOIS, Stéphanie (Canada)

Born in Laval on October 31st 1986, this young Quebecer is the favoured first in the *National Bank's Challenger of Granby*. She has been playing professionally since 2004 and is now 122nd in the world rankings. In 2008, she was the first ever Quebecer to enter the prestigious top 100. After participating in tournaments such as Wimbledon, Roland Garros and many Challengers, Dubois is making a stop in Granby for the first time this year.

2. LUZHANSKA, Tetiana (Ukraine)

Tetiana Luzhanska started playing tennis at the age of 7 and is now ranked 192nd world wide which makes her the second favoured to the title in the *National Bank's Challenger of Granby*. Born in Kiev, Ukraine, this 26 year old took part in many ITF tournaments and even won at Dothan.

3. IJIMA, Kumiko (Japan)

Born in Japan on October 22nd 1982, Kumiko Iijima has been playing professionally since 1997. She quickly won her first title the next year in Haibara, Japan. Iijima mainly plays in double and is now at the peak of her career placing herself at the 197th spot of the WTA rankings. Earlier this year, she played in the semi-finals of the Fukuoka tournament in Japan. The *National Bank's Challenger of Granby* is her first tournament taking place on American grounds this year.

4. ZHANG, Ling (China)

Ling Zhang is only 21 years of age and has been playing professionally since 2005. She now places herself at the 198th spot in the world rankings making her the favoured fourth at the *National Bank's Challenger of Granby*. Only this year, she has already participated in ten tournaments worldwide. She even won the Sanya tournament in China against Iryna Bremond this last March.

5. GLUSHKO, Julia (Israel)

Julia Glushko was born on July 4th 1990 in Donetsk, Ukraine and started playing tennis at the young age of 4 years. She started playing professionally in 2004. The year of 2010 was a great one for this young player who won four tournaments in Australia and in Israel making her world rank take a huge leap forward. She now occupies the 200th spot in the WTA ranking. This year only, she has participated in 17 tournaments everywhere in the world.

6. EL TABAKH, Heidi (Canada)

Born in Alexandria, Egypt, Heidi El Tabakh has now been living in Toronto for many years. At 24, this Canadian athlete's trainer is none other than Kelly Jones. In 2010, she tried out for many tournaments like the famous Grand Slam four. She has already participated in 11 tournaments this year and ranks herself in the 220th spot.

7. FICHMAN, Sharon (Canada)

Sharon Fichman was born on December 3rd 1990 in Toronto, Canada. She is presently ranked 245th in the world rankings but reached her personal best in March 2010 when she placed herself at the 114th spot. Her aptitudes being mainly in playing doubles, she has already won 23 tournaments including those of Charlottetown and Raleigh in the United States. Participating in ITF tournaments is not all for the young player who also is part of the Canadian Fed Cup in 2011.

8. SCHOLL, Chichi (United States)

At only 19 years of age, Chichi Scholl places herself at the 271st rank in the WTA. Born on July 5th 1992, she has been playing professionally since 2008 and is now at the highest placement in her career. In 2011, Chichi Scholl participated in many tournaments in the United States and has recently won the El Paso's. It is at the *National Bank's Challenger of Granby* that she will participate in her first tournament on Canadian grounds.

9. HSU, Wen-Hsin (Taiwan)

It is on June 13th 1988 in Taipei, Taiwan that was born Wen-Hsin Hsu. She started playing tennis at the age of 8 and entered the professional world in 2003. She ranks herself at the 284th spot in the world rankings. When she was playing junior, she found herself in the top 50 best players with her 38th place in simple playing. Earlier this year, she participated in the finale of the Sanya tournament in China.

10. RAMPRE, Petra (Slovenia)

Petra Rampre was born in Ljubjana, Slovenia and has been playing professionally since 1996. This 31 year old athlete stood out quickly when she was playing in the juniors. She reached the finales in the US Open 1996 playing double and at Wimbledon in 1998. She has won many titles in both single and double playing throughout her career. She reached her personal best in 2000 when she placed herself at the 162nd spot. She is presently placed at the 291st spot in the WTA rankings. Earlier this year, she won the ITF tournament in Raleigh, United States.