



MEDIA RELEASE

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DEL POTRO INTO AAMI CLASSIC FIELD **Kooyong, January 13-16, 2010**

US Open winner and world no. 5, Argentine **JUAN MARTIN DEL POTRO**, will replace Cypriot **MARCOS BAGHDATIS** in January's AAMI Classic.

Del Potro was recently named by Tournament Director, Colin Stubs, as alternate for the event and will now take his place in the eight-man field alongside:

NOVAK DJOKOVIC (3)
JO-WILFRIED TSONGA (9)
FERNANDO GONZALEZ (11)

FERNANDO VERDASCO (8)
ROBIN SODERLING (10)
TOMMY HAAS (17)

Eighth spot is being kept for world no. 1 **ROGER FEDERER**, who is expected to advise of his decision in the New Year.

Baghdatis recently changed his manager, who advised Stubs the following in the last few days: "Marcos has been heavily sidelined for the best part of the year by injury. This has taken a heavy toll on his ranking. Although he has found some of his old form, he still has a good way to go till he reaches his maximum potential. Marcos is now keen to participate at tournaments that earn ranking points so he can consolidate his ranking. Very much to his regret, he shall have to withdraw from Kooyong. I hope that you will understand the predicament and dilemmas that are in the mind of Marcos, especially when he had to take the decision to withdraw from Kooyong, a tournament which he greatly values and respects".

Stubs said today "It is most unfortunate to lose Marcos from an already announced field, but I understand his situation. This event was instigated to provide the world's top players with the best possible preparation for the Australian Open, but it will not always suit. We are delighted to now announce the inclusion of one of the most exciting players on the ATP Tour at the moment, **JUAN MARTIN DEL POTRO**. It will be his first appearance at Kooyong and he is sure to excite our loyal band of fans.

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