



MEDIA RELEASE
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VERDASCO CLAIMS AAMI CLASSIC TITLE

Spain's **FERNANDO VERDASCO** defeated **JO-WILFRIED TSONGA (FRA)** 7/5, 6/3 in the final of the **AAMI Classic** today at Kooyong.

Verdasco was in scintillating form, looming as a serious contender for the Australian Open title in two weeks. He said after the match "I hope that it's going to help me a lot to be ready for the next two weeks, so let's see if I can play at least as good as I was playing last year here. So I'm very happy that I came again this year to Kooyong and getting ready for the best I can for the Australian Open. For me the most important thing is that I put myself in a good level with these tough conditions and I win three good matches against three very good players, so that's the most important thing for me" he added.

In an entertaining first match, **BERNARD TOMIC (AUS)** had a solid preparation for the Australian Open, proving too good for **NOVAK DJOKOVIC (SER)** 6/4, 3/6, 7/5. "I played well and I took everything seriously today" he said afterwards. "It was tough conditions out there, the ball was swirling around and I couldn't ask for anything better than to win today so I was happy".

Kooyong fans were taken back to the halcyon days of the grand old stadium when **PATRICK CASH (AUS)** took to the court against **HENRI LECONTE (FRA)** in the final match of the day.

For further information, please call Marie Kelley on 0417 168019.