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Last Updated: Sunday, 2 March, 2003, 17:45 GMT

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Federer's Dubai delight

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Dubai Open

Roger Federer lived up to his top seeding by beating Jiri Novak 6-1 7-6 (7/2) in the Dubai Open final.



Federer was in commanding form

It was a particularly sweet victory for the Swiss player.

He had his prize and appearance money withheld in 2002 after the former tournament director accused him of not trying in his second-round defeat by Rainer Schuettler.

He was eventually given his prize money, but it was agreed that he would only receive his appearance fee if he returned this year.

The first set was far closer than the scoreline suggested, with Novak playing a full part in the rallies.

The second set remained in the balance until the end.

After Novak held to love to start the set, the next four games went against serve.

Federer then wasted what could have been a vital opportunity when he netted a weak backhand return on break point at 3-3.

Novak forced a backhand error to save another break point at 5-5, but Federer took control of the tie-break, winning the last six points to clinch it 7-2.