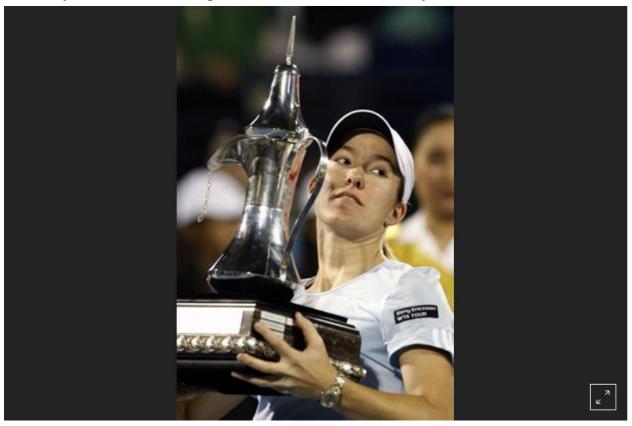


Henin beats Mauresmo for Dubai title

DUBAI (Reuters) - Justine Henin defeated second seed Amelie Mauresmo 6-4 7-5 on Saturday to win the Dubai Open for the fourth time in five years.



Belgium's Justine Henin lifts the trophy after winning the Dubai Tennis Championships beating France's Amelie Mauresmo February 24, 2007. REUTERS/Steve Crisp

The top seeded Belgian captured her 30th career title after extending her unbeaten streak at the event to 16 matches.

For Mauresmo, winner here in 2002, the match proved to be one too many as she was seeking to claim back-to-back titles following her triumph in Antwerp last week.

Although she displayed flashes of brilliance, the Frenchwoman was reduced to playing catch-up after she was broken in the opening game thanks to a flowing backhand pass from Henin.

Mauresmo also floated too many balls that allowed Henin to secure numerous cheap points.

A heavy forehand winner gave Henin a second break for 4-1, but Mauresmo then began to compete more aggressively. She hit a forehand winner to pull one break back in the next game and had three break points to level at 4-4.

But Henin played her way out of trouble and, although she failed to convert a set point in the next game, the Belgian went on to serve out the set to love.

Mauresmo had another chance to slow Henin's march to the title when she held a break point to lead 2-0 in the second set. But Henin dug herself out of trouble with an exquisite low forehand, and then took advantage of an inexplicably poor game from Mauresmo at 5-5.

Mauresmo's sixth double-fault gave Henin the breakthrough and she finished the match by winning the last 12 points.