

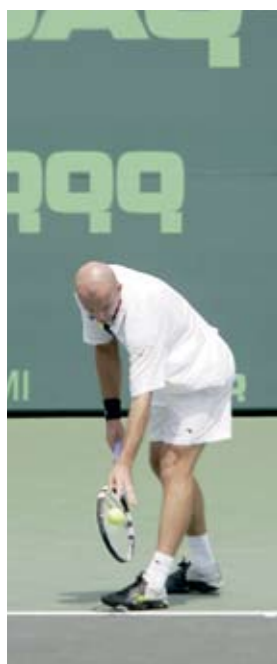


EYE ON IVAN

Ivan Ljubicic is firmly entrenched in the world's top ten, with his achievements including qualification in the season-ending Tennis Masters Cup and leading Croatia to it's first-ever Davis Cup title in 2005.

Like the rest of the strong Croatian contingent on tour, Ljubicic's all-round game is complemented by his consistent **serve**. While he may not be considered a star player, he is certainly a player who is shining bright!

By **Torrey J. Dorsey**



1 Ljubicic begins his serve with a pendulum or rocking motion. This is not necessarily functional, but a mark of individual style.

2 He has established eye contact with his target. More importantly is his loose or 'broken' wrist in the preparation.

3 Ljubicic is establishing a base from which to propel himself up towards the ball after the toss. His left foot will act as an anchor to guarantee balance. The arc of the left foot in the preparation was also a trademark of both Boris Becker and Pete Sampras.

4 His front knee begins to bend, which will allow him to extend up and out with great momentum.

5 Ljubicic maintains eye contact with the ball and keeps his head steady throughout his service motion.

6 His non-hitting arm is extended, placing the toss in the ideal position for contact.

7 He now extends his body up and out towards his target.

8 Ljubicic has full shoulder rotation, not unlike an over-arm throwing motion. The acceleration of the racquet head using the wrist will provide power and spin.

9 His shoulders and lower body have rotated effectively, with his momentum directed towards his target. He is now in a good position to play the next shot.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN ANTHONY



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Next month:

New York, New York – Don't miss our coverage from the final Slam of the year, plus an in-depth look at Andy Murray and other rising stars on tour.