

# Melanie Oudin

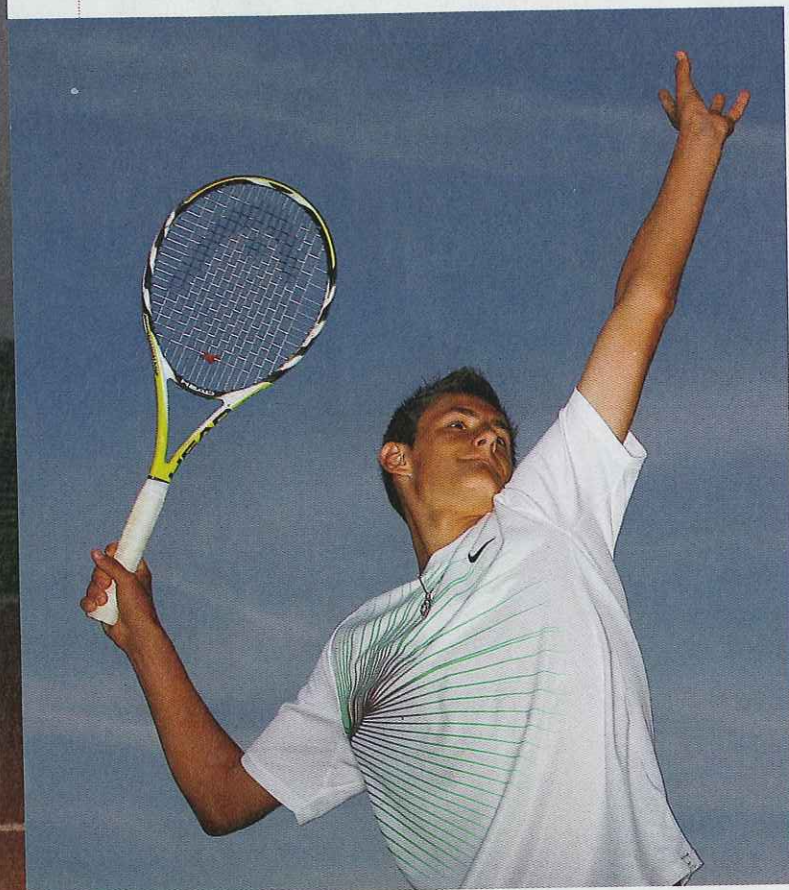
16 TENNIS PLAYER Marietta, Ga.

**Achievements** The world's No. 2 junior, she won the USTA International Spring Championships and the Easter Bowl tournament this spring and was the top seed at the French Open Juniors, losing in the quarterfinals.

**Reminiscent of** Justine Henin. "I'm like her, pretty small and really quick," says Melanie, who's 5' 5½". "I get a lot of balls back and a lot of variety with different shots. I try to control the point instead of hit as hard as I can."

**Coach's comment** "She's mature in terms of her focus and mental toughness, and her biggest strength is her passion for the game," says Brian de Villiers, the codirector of tennis at Atlanta's Riverside Club. "Right now our biggest concern is to make her stronger. She's not that tall, so for her serve, which is always going to be an issue because of her height, we're working to get better spin and placement."

**Next step** Melanie turned pro in February and at week's end was No. 272 in the WTA Tour rankings. She can still enter junior tournaments, but she hopes soon to start trying to qualify for the main draw at the Grand Slams.



# Bernard Tomic

15 TENNIS PLAYER Gold Coast, Australia

**Achievements** A German-born Australian of Croatian descent, Bernard became the youngest winner of the Australian Open Junior Championship last January. He's the only boy to have won three different age-group titles at the Orange Bowl, one of the most prestigious junior tournaments. Three months from his 16th birthday, he's already the world's second-ranked junior.

**Reminiscent of** Novak Djokovic. Like the Australian Open champion, Bernard is a versatile, workmanlike player with strong ground strokes and an all-court game.

**Coach's comment** "He's best back on the baseline, but he can come forward to serve-and-volley," says his coach and father, John. "He can hit harder than some of the [men] in the top 20, but he has to improve his legs. His strength will be better in two, three years."

**Next step** Bernard signed with IMG when he was 13. "He is undoubtedly a phenom," says his agent, Lawrence Frankopan. Bernard is in no rush to play full time on the ATP Tour, but he will likely enter some pro events next year.

BOB MARTIN (TOMIC)