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IT'S BEACH TENNIS USA

Just steps away from where Henin dispatched Cibulkova, a serious game of beach volleyball – with paddles, or was it tennis on sand? – drew the attention of more than a few passersby.

The game officially goes by the moniker of Beach Tennis USA, and even though it is an afterthought on this side of the Atlantic, it has a considerable following in Europe.

The gist: Think beach badminton, with a tennis ball.

The ball can't hit the ground, serves can come from anywhere on the baseline, and a match is a nine-game pro set.

Pool play for the event – which had a cash prize for the winners – was Saturday.

The quarterfinals, semifinals and final were Sunday. Anyone willing to pay the modest entry fee could compete.

"It's played all over the world on all the best beaches in the world," said **Alex Mingozi**, an Italian star of the sport. "It's for the beach person, and it's easier to play than volleyball."

The domestic version of the sport had been played with rackets but recently switched to a synthetic wooden paddle.