



MUTUA MADRID OPEN - ATP MEDIA NOTES DAY 2 – THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2024

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MUTUA MADRID OPEN TALKING POINTS

- Thursday at the **Mutua Madrid Open** will feature the remaining sixteen first-round matches from the top half of the draw. Coming up first on **Manolo Santana Stadium** is 2022 quarter-finalist **Felix Auger-Aliassime** facing **Yoshihito Nishioka**. Their **Lexus ATP Head2Head** stands at 2-2 with the Japanese winning the only clay meeting so far at 2020 Roland Garros.
- Five-time champion **Rafael Nadal** (2008, 2010, 2013-14, 2017) will play against 16-year-old wildcard **Darwin Blanch**. The age gap between them is 21 years and 117 days, which makes it the biggest-ever between two opponents at the ATP Masters 1000 level (surpassing Richard Gasquet against Martin Landaluce in Madrid 1R last year). By the time Blanch was born, Nadal had already claimed 23 tour-level titles.
- On **Arantxa Sanchez Stadium**, qualifier **Richard Gasquet** faces **Lorenzo Sonego**. The 37-year-old is set to compete in his 1000th tour-level match and would become the 4th active player to do so after **Novak Djokovic**, **Rafael Nadal**, and **Fernando Verdasco**. Gasquet and Sonego are tied 1-1 in their **Lexus ATP Head2Head** series.

Singles Tour-Level Matches Played (Active Players)

Player	Matches Played	Win/Loss Record
Novak Djokovic	1315	1098-217
Rafael Nadal	1293	1071-222
Fernando Verdasco	1006	559-447
Richard Gasquet	999	604-395
Andy Murray	996	738-258

- Lucky loser **Roberto Bautista Agut** clinched his 400th tour-level win in Barcelona last week (400-255), before losing to fellow veteran **Albert Ramos-Vinolas** in the final round of qualifying in Madrid. Bautista Agut, who takes on **Daniel Elahi Galan**, made the semifinals at this event in 2014 (went out to World No. 1 Nadal) and has not been past the third round since.
- Headlining action on **Stadium 3** is **Zhang Zhizhen**, who became the first Chinese man to reach an ATP Masters 1000 quarterfinal in Madrid last year and posted breakthrough wins over **Taylor Fritz** and **Denis Shapovalov** along the way. He takes on **Miomir Kecmanovic** in the opening round in their first tour-level meeting.
- Wildcard **Joao Fonseca** makes his ATP Masters 1000 debut in a battle of #NextGenATP players with **Alex Michelsen**. The 17-year-old is sitting at No. 6 in the [PIF ATP Live Race to Jeddah](#) with Michelsen, who already competed at the **Next Gen ATP Finals** last year, currently two spots higher at No. 4.

LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: THURSDAY FIRST-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

MANOLO SANTANA STADIUM

Tennis Data Innovations Insights uses algorithmic software to process ball and player tracking data in real-time to calculate shot type, shot quality, situation, phase of play and tactic for every shot. Insights explained at <https://www.atptour.com/en/news/insights-introduction>.

Yoshihito Nishioka vs Felix Auger-Aliassime

Insight from their 2022 ATP Masters 1000 Montreal 2R meeting:

Player	In Attack	Conversion Score	Steal Score	Serve Quality	Return Quality	Forehand Quality	Backhand Quality
Yoshihito Nishioka	21%	75%	35%	6.6	7.1	8.2	7.2
Felix Auger-Aliassime	28%	65%	25%	9.1	6.9	8.1	7.2
Tour Average	25%	66%	34%	7.9	6.6	7.6	7.2

Auger-Aliassime served excellently in Montreal (17 aces, 60% 1st serve in, 125 mph avg speed), leading to a big In Attack advantage.

Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN) vs Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN)

Series Tied 2-2

19 ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells (U.S.A.)	Hard	R32	Yoshihito Nishioka	6-7(2) 6-4 7-6(5)
20 Roland Garros (France)	Clay	R128	Yoshihito Nishioka	7-5 6-3 6-3
20 Cologne-2 (Germany)	Hard	QF	Felix Auger-Aliassime	6-3 6-4
22 ATP Masters 1000 Montreal (Canada)	Hard	R32	Felix Auger-Aliassime	7-6(6) 6-4

Other Meeting

15 Granby CH (Canada)	Hard	QF	Yoshihito Nishioka	4-6 6-2 6-1
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Yoshihito Nishioka | Age: 28 | World No. 78 | Career-High No. 24 | 2024: 5-6 (3 times in 2R) | Madrid: 2-2 (2023 3R)
> Achieved career-high No. 24 in June 2023 after advancing to Grand Slam 4R at 2023 Australian Open and Roland Garros for the 1st time in career.

- > Earned biggest win of career over No. 2 Ruud en route to 2nd ATP Tour title at 2022 Seoul.
- > Saved 2 MPs vs. Shapovalov en route to 1st title at 2018 Shenzhen as 171st-ranked Q.
- > Rallied from a set down 3 times en route to 2020 Delray Beach final and saved 1 MP vs. de Minaur en route to 2022 Washington final.
- > Defeated countryman and World No. 5 Nishikori en route to 2019 ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati QF as Q.

NOTE: Nishioka is seeking his 1st Top 50 win since October (d. No. 47 Altmaier at 2023 ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai 1R). He is 6-17 against the Top 50 on clay, including a win over No. 22 Auger-Aliassime at 2020 Roland Garros.

Felix Auger-Aliassime | Age: 23 | World No. 35 | Career-High No. 6 | 2024: 11-10 (Montpellier SF) | Madrid: 3-4 (2022 QF)
> Achieved career-high No. 6 and earned personal-best 60 wins during breakout 2022 season, including career-long 16-match win streak with 3 titles in as many weeks at Florence, Antwerp and Basel.

- > Also in 2022, won Rotterdam title to snap 0-8 start to career in singles finals, advanced to 3rd straight Grand Slam QF at Australian Open, and swept team titles at ATP Cup, Laver Cup and Davis Cup.
- > Led ATP Tour with 45 hard-court and 31 indoor wins in 2022, highlighted by victories over No. 1 Alcaraz and former No. 1s Djokovic, Murray and Nadal.
- > At 2021 US Open, became 1st Canadian men's singles semi-finalist in tournament history (since 1881).
- > As an 18-year-old in 2019, became youngest Top-25 player since Hewitt, 18, in 1999, youngest ATP 500 finalist in series history at Rio de Janeiro (since 2009), and youngest semi-finalist in Miami tournament history (since 1985).

NOTE: Auger-Aliassime is 8-2 in opening round matches this year, 2-0 on clay (ATP Masters 1000 Monte-Carlo, Munich). He posted the 2nd biggest clay win of his career en route to 2022 quarterfinal in Madrid (d. No. 12 Sinner).

[WC] Darwin Blanch (USA) vs [PR] Rafael Nadal (ESP)

First Meeting

Darwin Blanch | Age: 16 | World No. 1028 (Career-High) | 2024: 0-1 (Miami 1R) | Madrid: 0-0 (Debut)

- > Current World No. 8 junior earned first ranking point in February 2022, then reached career-high No. 1028 in April 2024 after advancing to his third ITF World Tennis Tour SF at M15 Telde.
- > Made his ATP Tour debut at 2024 ATP Masters 1000 Miami as WC, becoming the 5th-youngest player at ATP Masters 1000 events since the series began in 1990.
- > He is 11-13 on the ITF World Tennis Tour, highlighted by SFs at 2023-24 M15 Telde and 2024 M15 Torello.
- > Peaked at No. 4 on junior circuit and owns a 71-35 record, highlighted by runs to 2023 Roland Garros (d. No. 1 Pacheco Mendez in 1R) and Wimbledon SFs in boys' singles.
- > Left-handed American is based in Juan Carlos Ferrero academy and is a regular training partner of World No. 3 Alcaraz.

NOTE: Blanch is seeking his 1st ATP Tour win (0-1), losing to Machac at 2024 ATP Masters 1000 Miami in his debut. He would be the 2nd youngest player to win an ATP Masters 1000 match since the series began in 1990.

Youngest Players to Win ATP Masters 1000 Match

No.	Player	Age	Event	Rd.	Opponent
1	Richard Gasquet	15	2002 Monte-Carlo	1R	Franco Squillari
2	Rafael Nadal	16	2003 Monte-Carlo	1R	Karol Kucera
3	Rafael Nadal	16	2003 Monte-Carlo	2R	No. 7 Albert Costa
4	Rafael Nadal	16	2003 Hamburg	1R	Paul-Henri Mathieu
5	Rafael Nadal	16	2003 Hamburg	2R	No. 4 Carlos Moya

Rafael Nadal | Age: 37 | World No. 512 | Career-High No. 1 | 2024: 3-2 (Brisbane QF) | Madrid: 56-14 (2008, 2010, 2013-14, 2017)
 > 22-time Grand Slam men's singles champion, including most recent of record 14 Roland Garros titles in 2022.
 > First men's player in history to complete career Grand Slam twice and win 2 Olympic gold medals (2008 Beijing singles, 2016 Rio doubles w/M. Lopez).
 > Won an ATP Tour title in record 19 straight seasons (2004-22), earned record 23 wins vs. World No. 1, and ranked in Top 10 for record 912 consecutive weeks (2005-23), including 209 total weeks as No. 1 following 160 straight weeks as No. 2.
 > Owns 4th-most men's singles wins in Open Era (1,071), including record 406 victories at ATP Masters 1000s and 2nd-most titles at ATP Masters 1000s (36).
 > Greatest of all time on clay with 63 of his 92 titles, 475-46 record overall (.912), 137-3 record in best-of-5-set matches (.979), 81-match win streak (2005-07), 50-set win streak (2017-18) and 0 losing streaks.

NOTE: Nadal owns the most wins (56) and titles (5) in tournament history and is making his 20th appearance in Madrid. He is 18-1 in opening matches at this event (l. to Corretja in 2003) and is 54-1 against players ranked outside the Top 100 on clay at tour-level (l. to No. 113 Mutis at 2004 Palermo).

ARANTXA SANCHEZ STADIUM

[Q] Richard Gasquet (FRA) vs Lorenzo Sonego (ITA)

18 Australian Open (Australia) Hard R64 Richard Gasquet
 18 Budapest (Hungary) Clay R16 Lorenzo Sonego

Series Tied 1-1

6-2 6-2 6-3
 6-4 7-6(4)

Gasquet vs Sonego

Insight from their 52-week averages:

Player	In Attack	Conversion Score	Steal Score	Serve Quality	Return Quality	Forehand Quality	Backhand Quality
Richard Gasquet	20%	71%	36%	7.5	6.0	7.4	8.0
Lorenzo Sonego	23%	64%	31%	8.1	6.3	7.1	6.4
Tour Average	25%	66%	34%	7.9	6.6	7.6	7.2

Richard Gasquet | Age: 37 | World No. 116 | Career-High No. 7 | 2024: 2-6 (Estoril QF) | Madrid: 10-11 ('08, '12, '16 3R)
 > Former World No. 1 junior achieved career-high No. 7 in 2007 and finished 4 seasons in Top 10 overall (2007, 2012-13, 2015).
 > Defeated Top-5 players in 5 sets to reach SFs at 2007 Wimbledon (d. Roddick in QF), 2013 US Open (d. Ferrer in QF) and 2015 Wimbledon (d. Wawrinka in QF).
 > Owns 16 titles, qualified at Nitto ATP Finals in 2007 and 2013, and reached ATP Masters 1000 finals at 2005 Hamburg, 2006 Toronto and 2012 Toronto.
 > Won ATP Tour debut as 15-year-old at 2002 Monte Carlo (d. Squillari), earned biggest career win at 2005 Monte Carlo (d. No. 1 Federer) and posted 500th career win at 2018 Monte Carlo (d. M. Zverev).
 > Remains youngest match winner since start of ATP Tour in 1990 and owns 604 wins overall – most among Frenchmen in Open Era (since 1968) and one of 4 active players on the ATP Tour with 600+ wins.

NOTE: Gasquet is set to become the 4th active player to reach 1000 tour-level matches played (Djokovic - 1315, Nadal - 1293, Verdasco - 1006). He made it through the qualifying at an ATP Masters 1000 event for the 6th time in his career, 22 years after 2002 Monte-Carlo, and seeks 1st win at this level since 2023 Madrid (d. Landaluce in 1R).

Lorenzo Sonego | Age: 28 | World No. 52 | Career-High No. 21 | 2024: 6-12 (Marrakech QF) | Madrid: 0-2 (2022-23 1R)
 > Earned personal-best 30 wins and achieved career-high No. 21 in 2021, sweeping Cagliari titles to become 1st Italian champion on home soil in singles since 2006 and in doubles since 2005 (w/Vavassori).
 > Broke into Top 50 after saving championship point vs. Kecmanovic to win 1st ATP Tour title at 2019 Antalya.
 > Did not drop a set en route to 3rd singles title of career at 2022 Metz, including wins over former champions Simon and Hurkacz.
 > Upset No. 1 Djokovic 6-2 6-1 en route to 2020 Vienna final, becoming 1st lucky loser to defeat Djokovic and equaling fewest games ever conceded to Djokovic in a match.
 > Saved 1 MP vs. Thiem en route to 2021 ATP Masters 1000 Rome SF, becoming 1st Italian semi-finalist at Foro Italico since 2007 and 2nd since 1978.

NOTE: Sonego owns at least 1 win at 7 of 9 ATP Masters 1000 events, looking to add Madrid to his collection. He aims to make the quarterfinals at all clay ATP Masters 1000 events (2019 Monte-Carlo QF, 2021 Rome SF).

Daniel Elahi Galan (COL) vs [LL] Roberto Bautista Agut (ESP) First Meeting
 22 Wimbledon (Great Britain) Grass R128 Daniel Elahi Galan W/O

Daniel Elahi Galan | Age: 27 | World No. 89 | Career-High No. 56 | 2024: 4-8 (4 times in 2R) | Madrid: 0-1 (2023 1R)
 > Improved year-end ranking in 8 straight seasons (2015-22), finishing 2022 as No. 1 Colombian and reached career-high No. 56 in July 2023 after advancing to 1st Grand Slam 4R at Wimbledon (l. to Sinner).
 > Upset World No. 5 Tsitsipas for biggest win of career en route to 2022 US Open 3R as Q.
 > Defeated 2-time defending champion Johnson en route to 1st ATP Tour QF and SF at 2019 Houston as Q-WC.
 > Won in ATP Tour main draw debut on home soil at 2015 Bogota as 19-year-old WC (d. Riba).
 > Owns 126-105 Challenger record (4-5 in finals), including clay-court titles in 2022 at Concepcion and Sarasota.

NOTE: Galan is seeking his 50th tour-level win (49-65) and aims to snap a 7-match losing streak at the ATP Masters 1000 level, dating back to 2022 Miami (l. to Bublik in 2R). He made his only clay ATP Masters 1000 appearance at Madrid last year (l. to Bublik in 1R).

Roberto Bautista Agut | Age: 36 | World No. 86 | Career-High No. 9 | 2024: 8-9 (Hong Kong QF) | Madrid: 12-9 (2014 SF)
 > Captured 10th and 11th ATP Tour titles of career in 2022, earned 300th win of career in 2020 and ended 2019 at career-high No. 9.
 > Reached 1st Grand Slam QF at 2019 Australian Open and 1st Grand Slam SF at 2019 Wimbledon after entering season with 0-9 record in Grand Slam 4R matches.
 > Defeated No. 1 Djokovic in 2016 ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai SF, 2019 Doha SF and 2019 ATP Masters 1000 Miami 4R, as well as No. 1 Medvedev in 2022 Mallorca QF.
 > Went 4-1 at 2022 ATP Cup and 6-0 at 2020 ATP Cup to lead Spain to finals after helping his country win 2019 Davis Cup.
 > Played football for Villarreal C.F. until he was 14 years old.

NOTE: Bautista Agut entered a draw as a lucky loser for the 2nd time in his professional career (2011 Bordeaux CH, l. to Capdeville in 1R). He made 1st of his 4 ATP Masters 1000 semi-finals at 2014 Madrid (l. to Nadal in SF).

Dominik Koepfer (GER) vs Roberto Carballes Baena (ESP) First Meeting

Dominik Koepfer | Age: 29 | World No. 54 | Career-High No. 49 | 2024: 8-9 (2 times in QF) | Madrid: 1-1 (2021 2R)
 > Improved year-end ranking in 6 straight seasons (2016-21), breaking into Top 100 in 2019 and achieving career-high No. 49 in April 2024.
 > Did not drop a set en route to 1st ATP Tour SF at 2021 Acapulco and 2nd SF at 2023 Los Cabos.
 > Qualified and made ATP Masters 1000 main draw debut at 2020 Rome, where he earned biggest win of career over No. 9 Monfils en route to 1st ATP Tour QF.
 > Posted 6 wins en route to 2019 US Open 4R as Q, then reached 3R at Roland Garros, Wimbledon, Tokyo Olympics and ATP Masters 1000 Paris in 2021.
 > Earned finance degree and was a 2-time All-American at Tulane University in New Orleans (2013-16).

NOTE: Koepfer is seeking his 1st tour-level win on clay since 2021 Hamburg (d. Marterer in 1R) and is 0-3 on the surface this year with 1R exits at Estoril, ATP Masters 1000 Monte-Carlo, and Munich.

R. Carballes Baena | Age: 31 | World No. 68 | Career-High No. 49 | 2024: 11-10 (Marrakech Final) | Madrid: 1-3 (2023 2R)
 > Former World No. 8 junior entered Top 50 at 30 years of age at career high No. 49 after rallying from a set down three times in five matches to win 2nd ATP Tour title at 2023 Marrakech.
 > At 2018 Quito, became 1st Spanish qualifier to win an ATP Tour title since Almagro at 2006 Valencia.

- > Defeated No. 11 Shapovalov 8-6 in 5th after 5 hours to reach 2020 Roland Garros 3R for 1st Top 20 win and defeated No. 4 Rune at 2023 US Open for 1st Top 10 win in 14th attempt.
- > Defeated Goffin for 1st ATP Tour win en route to 2014 Casablanca SF as Q.
- > Boasts 233-150 Challenger record (11-8 in finals), including clay-court titles at 2022 and 2023 Seville.

NOTE: Carballes Baena has won 5 of his last 6 opening matches at the ATP Masters 1000 level, including Indian Wells and Miami this year. He is 1-4 against left-handers in 2024, beating Gigante via RET in Marrakech 1R.

STADIUM 3

Zhang Zhizhen (CHN) vs Miomir Kecmanovic (SRB) **First Tour-Level Meeting**
Other Meeting
 17 Chengdu CH (China) Hard R16 Miomir Kecmanovic 6-3 6-3

[Q] Albert Ramos-Vinolas (ESP) vs Pavel Kotov **First Meeting**

Alex Michelsen (USA) vs [WC] Joao Fonseca (BRA) **First Meeting**

COURT 4

Tomas Machac (CZE) vs Emil Ruusuvuori (FIN) **First Tour-Level Meeting**
Other Meeting
 23 Vienna Q (Austria) Hard Q2 Tomas Machac 6-3 6-3

Dusan Lajovic (SRB) vs [Q] Thiago Monteiro (BRA) **Lajovic Leads 2-1**
 16 Los Cabos (Mexico) Hard R32 Dusan Lajovic 6-3 6-4
 17 Bastad (Sweden) Clay R32 Thiago Monteiro 6-3 RET
 19 Roland Garros (France) Clay R128 Dusan Lajovic 6-3 6-4 6-4

Other Meetings
 14 Sao Paulo Q (Brazil) Clay Q2 Dusan Lajovic 6-3 7-5
 22 Salzburg CH (Austria) Clay QF Thiago Monteiro 6-4 6-7(2) 6-4
 22 Vienna Q (Austria) Hard Q1 Thiago Monteiro 6-4 6-2

COURT 6

Alejandro Tabilo (CHI) vs Flavio Cobolli (ITA) **First Meeting**

Christopher O'Connell (AUS) vs Matteo Arnaldi (ITA) **First Tour-Level Meeting**
Other Meeting
 22 Split CH (Croatia) Clay SF Christopher O'Connell 7-5 6-2

Yannick Hanfmann (GER) vs Jakub Mensik (CZE) **First Tour-Level Meeting**
Other Meeting
 22 Bratislava-2 CH (Slovakia) Hard R32 Yannick Hanfmann 6-3 6-4

[Q] Aleksandar Kovacevic (USA) vs [Q] Hamad Medjedovic (SRB) **First Meeting**

COURT 8

Pedro Cachin (ARG) vs Sebastian Ofner (AUT) **First Tour-Level Meeting**
Other Meetings
 18 Sao Paulo Q (Brazil) Clay Q2 Sebastian Ofner 4-6 6-2 6-4
 23 Madrid CH (Spain) Clay QF Pedro Cachin 6-3 3-6 6-4

Max Purcell (AUS) vs Marcos Giron (USA) **Giron Leads 1-0**
 24 Dallas (U.S.A.) Hard R16 Marcos Giron 6-4 6-3