HANGZHOU OPEN – ATP MEDIA NOTES
DAY 6 – MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2024

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LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: SINGLES SEMI-FINALS

CENTER COURT

[WC] Marin Cilic (CRO) vs [4] Brandon Nakashima (USA) First Meeting

Marin Cilic | Age: 35 | World No. 373 | Career-High No. 3 | 2024: 3-4 (Hangzhou SF) | Career: 585-332 (20 Titles)
> Former World No. 1 junior broke into Top 10 after reaching 2010 Australian Open SF and achieved career-high No. 3 following run to 2018 Australian Open final.
> Defeated Federer en route to 2014 US Open title but lost to him in 2017 Wimbledon and 2018 Australian Open finals.
> Upset No. 2 Medvedev en route to 2022 Roland Garros SF, becoming 3rd of 4 active players to advance to SFs of all 4 Grand Slam events (also Djokovic, Nadal and Sinner).
> Owns 20 titles and 585 victories, highlighted by biggest wins of career over No. 1 Djokovic at 2016 Paris and No. 1 Nadal at 2018 Australian Open.
> Won 2016 ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati title, clinched 2018 Davis Cup for Croatia, and earned silver medal in All-Croatian men's doubles final at 2020 Tokyo Olympics w/Dodig (held in 2021).

NOTE: Cilic saved 2 MPs vs. Uchiyama in QF and aims to advance to 37th tour-level final (20-16), 1st since 2022 Tel Aviv in October and contest in a final in 14th different season (2008-18, 2021-22). As World No. 777 at start of event, he would be 2nd lowest-ranked finalist in ATP Tour era behind No. 866 Sluiter at 2009 's-Hertogenbosch.

Lowest-Ranked Finalists in ATP Tour Era (since 1990):

Ranking	Player	Tournament
No. 866	Raemon Sluiter	2009 's-Hertogenbosch (l. to Ben. Becker)
No. 590	Pat Cash	1990 Seoul (l. to Antonitsch)
No. 574	Kevin Ullyett	1999 Nottingham (l. to Pioline)
No. 550	Lleyton Hewitt	1998 Adelaide (d. Stoltenberg)
No. 488	Peter Wessels	2007 's-Hertogenbosch (l. to Ljubicic)

Brandon Nakashima | Age: 23 | World No. 36 (Career-High) | 2024: 25-16 (2 SFs) | Career: 93-73 (1 Title)
> Former World No. 3 junior broke into Top 50 in July 2022 and achieved career-high No. 39 in September 2024 after defeating No. 15 Rune and No. 18 Musetti en route to reaching US Open 4R.
> Ended 2022 season on 16-1 run in tiebreaks then returned to Milan and went 5-0 to capture 2022 Next Gen ATP Finals title after reaching SF in 2021.
> Defeated countryman Giron to win 1st ATP Tour title in hometown of San Diego in 2022.
> Played in back-to-back ATP Tour finals at Los Cabos and Atlanta as 19-year-old in 2021, becoming youngest American to reach multiple finals since Roddick in 2001-02.
> Reached Roland Garros 3R, Wimbledon 4R and US Open 3R in 2022, highlighted by first Top 20 wins of career over No. 16 Shapovalov in Wimbledon 2R and No. 19 Dimitrov in US Open 2R.

NOTE: Nakashima saved 2 MPs vs. Wong in 2R and now looks for 4th ATP Tour final (1-2), first since capturing 1st title at 2022 San Diego. He is No. 36 on PIF ATP Live Rankings and would reach No. 33 with a SF win. He bids to be the 8th American man to reach a final in 2024 (Fritz – 4, Paul – 3, Giron, Korda, Michelsen, Tiafoe – 2, Shelton – 1).

[6] Zhang Zhizhen (CHN) vs [WC] Buyunchaokete (CHN) First Meeting

Zhang Zhizhen | Age: 27 | World No. 43 | Career-High No. 31 | 2024: 24-23 (2 SFs) | Career: 54-53 (3 SFs)
> Became the first Chinese player in PIF ATP Rankings history to break into Top 100 in October 2022 and Top 50 in January 2024, earning career-high No. 31 in July 2024.
> Won 3 consecutive matches in the deciding set tie-break to become the 1st Chinese player in ATP Masters 1000 QF at 2023 Madrid and also reached 2nd ATP Masters 1000 QF on clay at 2024 Rome.
> During 2023 season, reached 1st ATP Tour SF in Hamburg, then became 1st Chinese man to defeat a Top 5 opponent, beating No. 5 Ruud en route to US Open 3R.

> Qualified at 2021 Wimbledon and joining fellow qualifier Wu at 2022 US Open as 1st Chinese man to compete in main draw of both events in Open Era.
> Equaled biggest win of career over No. 5 Medvedev in 2024 Halle 2R en route to 2nd ATP Tour SF and became the first Chinese man to reach a tour-level semi-final on grass in Open Era.

NOTE: Zhang is playing in his third ATP Tour SF after 2023 Hamburg (l. to Djere) and Halle in June this year (l. to Sinner) and aims to win the 1st all-Chinese SF in Open Era to become the 2nd man representing China to reach an ATP Tour final after Wu Yibing at 2023 Dallas and first to do it on home soil (also Shang in Chengdu).

Buyunchaokete | Age: 22 | World No. 96 (Career-High) | 2024: 4-2 (Hangzhou SF) | Career: 5-4 (1 SF)
> Former World No. 5 junior earned 1st ranking point in January 2022, broke into Top 200 in May 2023, then earned career-high No. 113 in September 2024 after qualifying for US Open (l. to No. 8 Ruud).
> Made tour-level debut at 2022 Davis Cup (l. to M. Cuevas) and ATP Tour debut at 2023 ATP Masters Shanghai as WC, earning first tour-level win of career over No. 45 Kecmanovic in 1R.
> Owns 60-35 Challenger record (3-2 in finals) with titles at 2023 Seoul, 2024 Wuxi and 2024 Granby.
> He notes Andy Murray as his tennis idol and played against him at 2023 Surbiton CH, losing in straight sets.
> Earned win over future-Top 10 player Rune en route to 2019 Australian Open boys' singles 3R and reached quarter-finals in boys' doubles at 2019 Roland Garros w/Khan and 2020 Australian Open w/Mitsui.

NOTE: Buyunchaokete earned the biggest win of his career over No. 23 Khachanov in 2R en route to 1st ATP Tour QF and SF. He looks for 3rd Top 50 win, also defeating No. 45 Kecmanovic in ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai 1R last year. He is No. 96 on PIF ATP Live Rankings and would reach No. 88 with a SF win. He became the fourth Chinese man to break inside Top 100 in PIF ATP Rankings history (since 1973).

Chinese Men in Top 100 in PIF ATP Rankings history:

Player	Career-High	Rank Date
Zhang Zhizhen	No. 31	22nd July 2024
Wu Yibing	No. 54	29th May 2023
Shang Juncheng*	No. 55	23rd September 2024
Buyunchaokete	**No. 96**	**23rd September 2024**

* Shang could improve career-high after end of Chengdu

LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: POTENTIAL SINGLES FINALS

[WC] Marin Cilic (CRO) vs [6] Zhang Zhizhen (CHN) — First Meeting

[WC] Marin Cilic (CRO) vs [WC] Buyunchaokete (CHN) — First Meeting

[4] Brandon Nakashima (USA) vs [6] Zhang Zhizhen (CHN) — Zhang Leads 1-0

23 ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai (China)	Hard	R32	Zhang Zhizhen	7-6(2) 6-2

[4] Brandon Nakashima (USA) vs [WC] Buyunchaokete (CHN) — First Meeting