



## ASTANA OPEN - ATP MEDIA NOTES DAY 2 - TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

National Tennis Center | Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan | 20-26 September 2021

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## ATP HEAD2HEAD: TUESDAY FIRST-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

### CENTER COURT

#### [Q] Elias Ymer (SWE) vs [8] Ilya Ivashka (BLR)

#### First Tour Level Meeting

##### Other Meeting:

13 Helsinki Q (Finland)

Hard Q1 Elias Ymer

7-6(1) 4-6 7-6(5)

**Elias Ymer** | Age: 25 | World No. 169 | Career-High No. 105 | 2021: 3-5 (Three Times 2R) | Nur-Sultan W-L: 0-0

> Has a 3-5 tour level record this season, reaching 2R on home soil in Bastad (d. Daniel, I. to Laaksonen), Los Cabos (d. Ebden, I. to Norrie) and Washington (d. Thompson, I. to Millman) as a qualifier.

> Also has a 20-12 record on ATP Challenger Tour, reaching the Lyon final (I. to Cuevas) and SFs at Split-2 (I. to Zuk), Ostrava (I. to Bonzi) and Aix-en-Provence (I. to Guinard).

> Achieved a career-high ranking of No. 105 on 11 June 2018 and career-high junior ranking of No. 5 on 1 January 2013.

> As World No. 954 in doubles, captured 2016 Stockholm title in team debut with younger brother M. Ymer (d. Pavic/Venus 61 61 in 51 min). WCs saved 3 MPs in 1R vs. Matkowski/Rojer and 1 MP in QF vs. Fleming/Lipsky.

> Advanced to 1st ATP Tour singles QF at 2016 Gstaad, snapping 10-match tour-level losing streak (d. Brands and Kravchuk 75 in 3rd, I. to eventual champion Lopez). > Captured 1st ATP Challenger Tour title at 2015 Caltanissetta, ITA (d. Fratangelo) and 2nd at 2016 Barletta, ITA (d. Pavlasek). Won 28 of 30 Futures matches and 5 titles from Mar. 31, 2014 to Jun. 22, 2014.

> Made history in 2015 as 2nd man in Open Era to qualify for all 4 Grand Slam events, joining Dancevic in 2011. Went 12-0 in qualifying rounds at Grand Slams with wins over Chung, Paire, Pella and Struff. Went 0-4 in main draw matches, including 5-set loss to Soeda at Australian Open and 4-set loss to Karlovic at Wimbledon.

**Note:** No. 2 Swede behind brother Mikael, who is ranked No. 75 this week and playing in Metz. Mikael lost to Ivashka 6-0 6-2 in Winston-Salem final on 28 August.

**Ilya Ivashka** | Age: 27 | World No. 52 | Career-High No. 52 | 2021: 25-13 (Winston-Salem Title) | Nur-Sultan W-L: 0-0

> Qualified at 8 tour-level events in 2018 to break into Top 100 and earned personal-best 25 wins in 2021 to achieve career-high No. 52.

> Defeated Olympic bronze medallist Carreno Busta en route to 2021 Winston-Salem title, becoming 2nd Belarusian singles champion in ATP Tour history (also Mirnyi at 2003 Rotterdam).

> Upset No. 6 A. Zverev for biggest win of career en route to 2021 Munich SF as Q.

> Advanced to 2021 Wimbledon 4R and 2021 US Open 3R after starting career 1-6 at Grand Slams.

> Won 3-setters against Monfils and Kukushkin to reach 2020 Tokyo Olympics 3R (held in 2021).

**Note:** Belarus native is putting together his best season, winning his first ATP Tour title in Winston-Salem, reaching the SFs in Munich and QFs in Marbella and Eastbourne while earning a personal-best 25 wins.

#### [Q] Marc Polmans (AUS) vs Lorenzo Musetti (ITA)

#### First Meeting

**Marc Polmans** | Age: 24 | World No. 165 | Career-High No. 116 | 2021: 2-5 (Wimbledon, Gstaad 2R) | Nur-Sultan: 0-0

> Playing in sixth tour level tournament of season (2-5) and reached 2R at Wimbledon (d. Lu, I. to Garin) as a Q and in Gstaad (d. Ehrat, I. to Garin). Also 6-12 on ATP Challenger Tour with QFs in Ostrava and Liberec, CZE.

> Achieved career-high No. 116 after earning biggest win of career over No. 38 Humbert in 2020 Roland Garros 1R as LL.

> Debuted on ATP Tour at 2017 Umag as WC and earned 1st win at 2019 Washington as Q (d. Jaziri).

> As WC in doubles, advanced to 2017 Australian Open SF w/Whittington and 2020 Australian Open QF w/Duckworth.

> Owns 79-83 career Challenger record with titles at 2018 Launceston, 2019 Zhangjiagang and 2019 Traralgon.

> Won 2015 Australian Open boys' doubles title w/Delaney and earned straight-set boys' singles wins over future Top-25 ATP players de Minaur, Fritz, Shapovalov and A. Zverev.

**Note:** Aussie is looking for his first main draw tour level win on hard courts this season (0-3) and first since last year's Australian Open (d. Kukushkin in 1R).

**Lorenzo Musetti** | Age: 19 | World No. 57 | Career-High No. 57 | 2021: 17-14 (Acapulco, Lyon SF) | Nur-Sultan: 0-0  
 > Achieved career-high No. 57 following run to 2021 Roland Garros 4R (l. to World No. 1 and eventual champion Djokovic after leading by 2 sets).  
 > Reached ATP Tour SFs at 2020 Sardinia as WC, 2021 Acapulco as Q and 2021 Lyon.  
 > Beat Wawrinka and Nishikori to reach 2020 Rome 3R as Q-WC, becoming 1st player born in 2002 to win an ATP Tour match and youngest player in Rome 3R since Santoro, 18, in 1991.  
 > Following Rome run, defeated 4 Top-100 players for 1st Challenger title at 2020 Forli as WC.  
 > Became World No. 1 junior after winning 2019 Australian Open boys' singles title and reaching 2018 US Open boys' singles final.

**Note:** #NextGenATP Italian teenager is playing his first career indoor main draw match on the ATP Tour and looking to qualify for Intesa Sanpaolo Next Gen ATP Finals in Milan. This week is 6th in Race to Milan standings.

### [Q] Dmitry Popko (KAZ) vs [5] John Millman (AUS)

### First Meeting

**Dmitry Popko** | Age: 24 | World No. 188 | Career-High No. 165 | 2021: 23-21 (Challenger) | Nur-Sultan: 0-1  
 > Playing in second career ATP Tour main draw and last year made his debut as a WC in Nur-Sultan and lost to Albot in three sets in 1R.  
 > This season has compiled a 23-21 match record on ATP Challenger Tour, reaching final at Prague-2 (l. to Svrcina) last month. Also SF on home soil in Almaty and in Poznan along with QF in four other events.  
 > Has a 4-2 career Davis Cup record in singles, making his debut in 2017.

**Note:** No. 3 player from Kazakhstan (behind Bublik, Kukushkin) has compiled a 113-102 career record on ATP Challenger Tour (60-51 on clay, 53-51 on hard) and still looking for his first title (0-2 in finals).

**John Millman** | Age: 32 | World No. 48 | Career-High No. 33 | 2021: 14-20 (Munich, Washington QF) | Nur-Sultan: 4-0  
 > After undergoing right shoulder surgery in 2013 and groin surgery in 2017, achieved new career-high ranking 10 times in 2018 and peaked at No. 33.  
 > Saved 2 MPs vs. Paul en route to 1st ATP Tour title as 31-year-old at 2020 Nur-Sultan.  
 > Saved 3 MPs vs. Bedene en route to 1st final at 2018 Budapest and 3 MPs vs. Klahn en route to 2nd final at 2019 Tokyo as Q.  
 > Upset 5-time champion and World No. 2 Federer for biggest win of career and to reach 1st Grand Slam QF at 2018 US Open.  
 > In his hometown of Brisbane, made ATP Tour debut in 2010 (l. to Stepanek), earned 1st career win in 2013 (d. Ito) and went 2-0 at 2020 ATP Cup (d. Auger-Aliassime and Pervolarakis).

**Note:** No. 2 Aussie (behind No. 21 de Minaur) comes in as reigning champion and came back from a set down in QF vs. Paul (saved 2 MPs) and SF vs. Tiafoe before beating Mannarino in straight sets in the final.

### [6] Benoit Paire (FRA) vs Egor Gerasimov (BLR)

### Gerasimov Leads 2-0

|                                |      |      |                |     |     |        |     |
|--------------------------------|------|------|----------------|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| 18 Moscow (Russia)             | Hard | R16  | Egor Gerasimov | 6-4 | 6-4 |        |     |
| 21 Australian Open (Australia) | Hard | R128 | Egor Gerasimov | 6-2 | 2-6 | 7-6(5) | 7-5 |

**Benoit Paire** | Age: 32 | World No. 53 | Career-High No. 18 | 2021: 12-25 (Four Quarter-finals) | Nur-Sultan: 0-1  
 > Rose 99 spots during season to end 2015 at No. 19, then reached career-high No. 18 in January 2016.  
 > In 2015, won 1st ATP Tour singles title (Bastad), 3 Challenger titles and 1 Futures title to become 1st player to sweep titles at all 3 levels since Darcis in 2007.  
 > Earned personal-best 34 wins in 2019, adding 2 more ATP Tour titles at Marrakech and Lyon.  
 > Saved 2 MPs to beat Nishikori en route to 2015 US Open 4R, also reaching 4R at 2017 Wimbledon, 2019 Roland Garros and 2019 Wimbledon.  
 > Defeated No. 3 Wawrinka for biggest win of career at 2017 Madrid, lost to Wawrinka in biggest of 9 career finals at 2015 Tokyo and teamed w/Wawrinka for lone doubles title at 2013 Chennai.

**Note:** Frenchman has compiled a 10-8 record since July after going 2-17 through June. During his turnaround, reached QFs in Hamburg (l. to Delbonis), Gstaad (l. to Ruud) and ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati (l. to Rublev).

**Egor Gerasimov** | Age: 28 | World No. 97 | Career-High No. 65 | 2021: 13-18 (Montpellier SF) | Nur-Sultan: 2-1  
> Achieved career-high No. 65 in February 2020 after defeating No. 10 Goffin at Marseille for biggest win of career.  
> Earlier that month, advanced to 1st ATP Tour final at Pune.  
> Earned 7 wins in 8 days across 2 countries en route to 1st SF at 2019 St. Petersburg (2 Davis Cup, 2 qualifying, 3 main draw).  
> Qualified at a Grand Slam for 1st time in 14th attempt at 2019 US Open and defeated Harris in 1R.  
> Owns 6-1 record in Challenger finals (107-70 record), including 2019 Recanati title.

**Note:**No. 2 Belarus player (behind No. 52 Ivashka) last year reached quarter-finals in Nur-Sultan with wins over Harris and Vesely (l. to Tiafoe), all in three sets. Best result this season is SF in Montpellier (l. to eventual champ Goffin).