DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS – ATP MEDIA NOTES
DAY 2 – TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2024

Dubai Duty Free Tennis Stadium | Dubai, UAE | 26 February - 2 March 2024

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DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS TALKING POINTS

- The opening round of the **Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships** concludes on Tuesday with the remaining nine matches on the schedule. Reigning champion and No. 1 seed **Daniil Medvedev** begins his title defense campaign against **Alexander Shevchenko**, who is looking for the third Top 10 win of his career.

- Medvedev is making his first appearance on tour since losing in the final of the Australian Open to **Jannik Sinner**. The World No. 4 withdrew from subsequent events in Doha and Rotterdam, citing fatigue and a right foot issue. All three tournaments were part of his 19-match win streak across February and March 2023 as he picked up three titles in a row and reached the ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells final.

- Wildcard **Gael Monfils** and No. 5 seed **Ugo Humbert** met in the Doha quarterfinals with the 37-year-old Monfils now looking to beat his compatriot for the second time in as many weeks. Another Doha rematch was initially scheduled with No. 4 seed **Karen Khachanov** expected to take on **Alexei Popyrin**, but the Australian pulled out and has been replaced by lucky loser **Luca Van Assche**.

- The last match on Centre Court features Indian wildcard **Sumit Nagal**, who debuted in the Top 100 this month after winning the Chennai Challenger. Making his first main draw appearance in Dubai, the 26-year-old will be trying to pick up the third Top 50 win of his career by beating last year's quarterfinalist **Lorenzo Sonego**.

LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: TUESDAY FIRST-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

CENTRE COURT

[WC] Gael Monfils (FRA) vs [5] Ugo Humbert (FRA)

Humbert Leads 2-1

19 Wimbledon (Great Britain)	Grass	R128	Ugo Humbert	6-7(6) 3-6 6-4 7-5 3-0 RET
23 ATP Masters 1000 Miami (U.S.A.)	Hard	R128	Ugo Humbert	3-3 RET
24 Doha (Qatar)	Hard	QF	Gael Monfils	6-2 6-4

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.

Insight from 2024 Doha quarter-final:

Player	In Attack	Conversion Score	Steal Score	Serve Quality	Return Quality	Forehand Quality	Backhand Quality
Gael Monfils	18%	**67%**	**44%**	**8.0**	**7.3**	**8.4**	**8.3**
Ugo Humbert	**28%**	56%	33%	7.5	7.1	8.3	**8.3**
Tour Average	*25%*	*66%*	*34%*	*7.9*	*6.6*	*7.6*	*7.2*

Both players had high Shot Quality scores, with Monfils gaining the edge serve, return and forehand quality. However, Monfils's defence was the difference maker, winning 44% of points from defence (Monfils avg 37%).

Gael Monfils | Age: 37 | World No. 54 | Career-High No. 6 | 2024: 5-5 (Doha SF) | Dubai: 8-4 (2019-20 SF)
> Former World No. 1 junior achieved career-high No. 6 in 2016 and married former WTA No. 3 Elina Svitolina in 2021.
> Owns 12 ATP Tour titles, including ATP 500s at 2016 Washington, 2019 Rotterdam and 2020 Rotterdam.
> Reached at least 1 final in 19 straight seasons (2005-23), including ATP Masters 1000s at 2009 Paris, 2010 Paris and 2016 Monte Carlo.
> Earned 545 career victories, highlighted by biggest wins over No. 1 Nadal at 2009 Doha and No. 1 Medvedev at 2022 Indian Wells, as well as career-long win streaks of 12 matches and 25 sets in 2020.
> Advanced to 2008 Roland Garros and 2016 US Open SFs after winning junior titles at Australian Open, Roland Garros and Wimbledon in 2004.

NOTE: Monfils is making his 5th appearance in Dubai, debuting in this event back in 2008 (l. to Berdych in 1R). He made back-to-back semifinals in 2019-20 and had 3 MPs to beat No. 1 Djokovic in the latter edition.

Ugo Humbert | Age: 25 | World No. 18 (Career-High) | 2024: 8-3 (Marseille Title) | Dubai: 0-0 (Debut)
> Broke inside Top 20 in November 2023 after winning his 4th ATP Tour title in Metz, his hometown, then reached career-high No. 18 in February 2024 after capturing 5th title in 5th final in Marseille.
> Upset No. 6 A. Zverev and No. 7 Rublev en route to biggest of 5 career titles at 2021 Halle.
> Won 1st ATP Tour title at 2020 Auckland as 21-year-old to become youngest French champion since Gasquet, 21, at 2007 Mumbai and saved 4 MPs vs. Evans en route to 2nd ATP Tour title at 2020 Antwerp.
> Owns 10-12 record vs. Top 10 and earned biggest win of career over No. 2 Medvedev at 2022 ATP Cup.
> Defeated former No. 3 Thiem 6-3 6-0 to win 7th Challenger title of career at 2022 Rennes and in May 2023 earned 8th and 9th Challenger titles at Cagliari and Bordeaux in a 3-week span.

NOTE: Humbert is 14-2 in opening-round matches since Newport last year and 7-2 against fellow Frenchmen on tour-level since the start of the 2023 season, including a loss to Monfils in Doha QF last week.

[LL] Luca Van Assche (FRA) vs [4] Karen Khachanov First Meeting

Luca Van Assche | Age: 19 | World No. 72 | Career-High No. 63 | 2024: 4-4 (Aus. Open 3R) | Dubai: 0-0 (Debut)
> Former junior World No. 1 broke into Top 200 in November 2022, entered Top 100 in April 2023 and achieved career-high No. 63 in October 2023 before reaching 2023 Next Gen ATP Finals SF.
> Earned 1st Grand Slam main draw win at 2023 Roland Garros over 2018 semi-finalist Cecchinato in 1R and defeated No. 28 Musetti for biggest win of career to reach 3R at 2024 Australian Open.
> Advanced to ATP Tour QFs at 2023 Hamburg on clay and 2023 Metz on indoor hard court.
> Saved 2 championship points to defeat Humbert at 2023 Pau in the longest Challenger final in history (3 hours 56 minutes).
> Posted 29-19 Challenger record in 2022 (1-3 in finals), going on a 19-6 run from late September to December, reaching finals of Lisbon, Brest and Valencia before winning first ATP Challenger title in Maia.
> Defeated fellow countryman Fils to win the 2021 Roland Garros boys' singles title and ended junior career with a 79-27 record.

NOTE: Van Assche is seeking the biggest win of his career, 0-6 against the Top 20 with losses to No. 19 Norrie in Auckland and No. 7 Tsitsipas at the Australian Open this year.

Karen Khachanov | Age: 27 | World No. 15 | Career-High No. 8 | 2024: 9-3 (Doha Title) | Dubai: 5-7 (2020 QF)
> Broke into Top 10 and achieved career-high No. 8 in July 2019 after ending 2018 season at No. 11.
> Upset Top-10 players Isner, A. Zverev, Thiem and Djokovic en route to 2018 ATP Masters 1000 Paris title, but went on a 23-match losing streak to Top 10 players (August 2019-March 2023), before beating No. 3 Tsitsipas en route to 4th ATP Masters 1000 SF at 2023 Miami, first since 2019 Montreal.
> At 2018 Paris, became 1st unseeded ATP Masters 1000 champion since Nalbandian at 2007 Paris.
> Advanced to QFs of all 4 Grand Slam events, highlighted by runs to 2022 US Open SF and 2023 Australian Open SF.
> Entered 2020 Tokyo Olympics as No. 4 men's player on Team ROC and went on to earn silver medal (held in 2021).

NOTE: Khachanov leads the field alongside Murray in most main draw appearances, playing in Dubai for the 8th time. He is 20-4 against opponents ranked outside the Top 50 since the start of the 2023 season, 4-1 in 2024, and enters the event on a 4-match winning streak after claiming 6th ATP Tour title in Doha last week.

[1] Daniil Medvedev vs Alexander Shevchenko (KAZ) — Medvedev Leads 1-0

23 ATP Masters 1000 Madrid (Spain) Clay R32 Daniil Medvedev 4-6 6-1 7-5

Daniil Medvedev | Age: 28 | World No. 4 | Career-High No. 1 | 2024: 6-1 (Aus. Open Final) | Dubai: 6-2 (2023 Title)
> Spent 16 weeks as World No. 1 in 2022, becoming tallest No. 1 in history at 1.98m (6'6") and 1st No. 1 other than Djokovic, Federer, Murray and Nadal since Roddick in 2004.
> Six-time Grand Slam finalist owns 5-3 record vs. Djokovic when Serb is World No. 1, including 6-4 6-4 6-4 win in 2021 US Open final that denied Djokovic calendar Grand Slam.
> Beat No. 1 Djokovic, No. 2 Nadal and No. 3 Thiem en route to 2020 Nitto ATP Finals title, becoming 1st player to sweep Top 3 in tournament history and anywhere on ATP Tour since 2007 Madrid (Nalbandian).
> Earned 20 straight wins from 2020-21 (12 vs. Top 10), led ATP Tour with 63 victories in 2021, and captured team titles at 2021 ATP Cup, Laver Cup and Davis Cup.
> Won 18 of his 20 singles titles on hard courts and all 20 of his titles at different events, including ATP Masters 1000 championships at 2019 Cincinnati, 2019 Shanghai, 2020 Paris, 2021 Toronto, 2023 Miami and 2023 Rome, his 1st career clay ATP Tour title.

NOTE: Medvedev is aiming to defend a title for the 1st time in his career (finished runner-up at 2021 ATP Masters 1000 Paris, 2021 Nitto ATP Finals, and 2023 Vienna). He is 28-2 on hard courts against opponents ranked outside the Top 50 since the start of the 2023 season (both losses to Korda).

Alexander Shevchenko | Age: 23 | World No. 47 | Career-High No. 45 | 2024: 7-7 (2 QFs) | Dubai: 0-1 (2023 1R)
> Broke into Top 300 in March 2022, Top 200 in June 2022 and Top 100 in April 2023, achieving career-high No. 45 in February 2024 after defeating No. 7 Rune for biggest win of career to reach Rotterdam QF.
> Saved 2 MPs to earn 1st Top 10 win over No. 9 Fritz and reach 1st ATP Tour QF at 2023 Basel, then reached 1st SF and final at 2023 Metz in his following tournament to end the season.
> Earned 1st ATP Tour win at 2023 Barcelona (d. Giustino) and first Grand Slam win at 2023 Roland Garros (d. Otte).
> Did not drop a set en route to 1st Challenger final and title at 2022 Bratislava and 2nd title at 2023 Tenerife-1.
> Owns 52-40 Challenger record (3-1 in finals) and a 97-57 record on ITF Tour with titles at 2020 Monastir, 2021 Tbilisi, 2021 Velenje and 2022 Antalya.

NOTE: Shevchenko is seeking biggest win of his career and is 2-5 against the Top 10 including a loss to No. 3 Medvedev at 2023 ATP Masters 1000 Madrid (was up a break twice in the 3rd set), looking for 1st win outdoors (0-4).

[WC] Sumit Nagal (IND) vs Lorenzo Sonego (ITA) — First Meeting

Sumit Nagal | Age: 26 | World No. 97 (Career-High) | 2024: 1-1 (Australian Open QF) | Dubai: 0-0 (2018 Q1)
> Earned 1st ranking point at age 16 in 2013, broke into Top 200 in 2019 and Top 100 in February 2024 by winning 5th Challenger title in Chennai, achieving career-high no. 97 later that month.
> Made ATP Tour debut on home soil at 2018 Pune as Q and Grand Slam debut at 2019 US Open as Q (l. to 5-time champion Federer in 1R).
> Earned first tour-level wins at 2019 Davis Cup vs. Pakistan, followed by 1st Grand Slam win at 2020 US Open.
> Owns 119-103 Challenger record (5-3 in finals), picking up titles at 2017 Bangalore, 2019 Buenos Aires, 2023 Rome, 2023 Tampere, and 2024 Chennai.
> Peaked at No. 23 in juniors in 2015 and went 88-53 in juniors with wins over future Top 10 players Berrettini, Hurkacz, Shapovalov and Tiafoe, ending junior career by winning 2015 Wimbledon boys' doubles title w/Ly.

NOTE: Nagal owns a 2-8 record against the Top 50 across all levels, recently picking up a win over No. 27 Bublik at the 2024 Australian Open.

Lorenzo Sonego | Age: 28 | World No. 48 | Career-High No. 21 | 2024: 2-6 (2 times in 2R) | Dubai: 3-2 (2023 QF)
> 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 is 8-3 in his last 11 opening-round matches on hard courts, but lost in Rotterdam and Doha 1R the last two weeks. He made the quarterfinals in Dubai in 2023, beating No. 9 Auger-Aliassime in 2R.

COURT 1

Fabian Marozsan (HUN) vs [8] Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (ESP) **First Meeting**

Lorenzo Musetti (ITA) vs [Q] Arthur Cazaux (FRA) **First Meeting**

[SE] Jakub Mensik (CZE) vs Borna Coric (CRO) **First Meeting**

COURT 3

Jiri Lehecka (CZE) vs [Q] Marton Fucsovics (HUN) **First Meeting**

[Q] Maximilian Marterer (GER) vs Christopher O'Connell (AUS) **First Tour-Level Meeting**

Other Meeting

17 Quanzhou CH (China)	Hard	R16	Maximilian Marterer	6-4 6-