

### NEXT GEN ATP FINALS PRESENTED BY PIF – ATP MEDIA NOTES PREVIEW & DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER 2024

King Abdullah Sports City | Jeddah, Saudi Arabia | 18 - 22 December 2024 Draw: S-8 | Prize Money: \$2,050,000 | Surface: Indoor Hard

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#### <u>Tournament</u> NextGenATPFinals.com

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Media

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# **NEXT GEN ATP FINALS PRESENTED BY PIF - PLAYER FIELD**

Seed	Player	Age	Ranking	Career-High	2024	Season Highlight
1	Arthur Fils (FRA)	20	No. 20	No. 20	37-26	Hamburg, Tokyo Titles
2	Alex Michelsen (USA)	20	No. 41	No. 41	31-29	Newport, Winston-Salem Finals
3	Jakub Mensik (CZE)	19	No. 48	No. 48	25-17	Doha Final
4	Shang Juncheng (CHN)	19	No. 50	No. 47	25-18	Chengdu Title
5	Learner Tien (USA)	19	No. 122	No. 114	3-2	Winston-Salem QF
6	Luca Van Assche (FRA)	20	No. 128	No. 63	8-17	Australian Open 3R
7	Nishesh Basavareddy (USA)	19	No. 138	No. 138	0-0	CH: Tiburon, Puerto Vallarta Titles
8	Joao Fonseca (BRA)	18	No. 145	No. 145	7-7	Rio de Janeiro, Bucharest QF

# NEXT GEN ATP FINALS PRESENTED BY PIF - DRAW

Seeded positions	BLUE GROUP	FILS, Arthur	MENSIK, Jakub	TIEN, Learner	FONSECA, Joao	Round Robin Record		ets		mes	
							W - L	Win %	W - L	Win %	
1	FILS, Arthur					0 - 0	0 - 0	0.00%	0 - 0	0.00%	
3	MENSIK, Jakub					0 - 0	0 - 0	0.00%	0 - 0	0.00%	
5	TIEN, Learner					0 - 0	0 - 0	0.00%	0 - 0	0.00%	
8	FONSECA, Joao					0 - 0	0 - 0	0.00%	0 - 0	0.00%	
Seeded positions	RED GROUP	MICHELSEN, Alex	SHANG, Juncheng	VAN ASSCHE, Luca	BASAVAREDDY, Nishesh	Round Robin Record	Sets		Gar	Games	
S				>	BAS	Ro	W - L	Win %	W - L	Win %	
2	MICHELSEN, Alex					0 - 0	0 - 0	0.00%	0 - 0	0.00%	
~											
4	SHANG, Juncheng					0 - 0	0 - 0	0.00%	0 - 0	0.00%	
						0 - 0 0 - 0	0 - 0 0 - 0	0.00% 0.00%	0 - 0 0 - 0	0.00% 0.00%	

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# **NEXT GEN ATP FINALS PRESENTED BY PIF - TALKING POINTS**

- Last year's finalist **Arthur Fils** headlines the seventh edition of **Next Gen ATP Finals presented by PIF** as the No. 1 seed. The World No. 20 aims to become the first Frenchman to capture Next Gen ATP Finals title. After losing to **Hamad Medjedovic** in the 2023 final, he could become the second player to reach multiple finals at the event after **Alex de Minaur** reached 2018-19 finals.
- Fils captured 2 ATP 500 titles this season: in Hamburg on clay and Tokyo on hard courts, as well as advanced to the fourth round at Wimbledon. He is joined by compatriot **Luca Van Assche**, who also makes his second appearance at the event following last year's semi-final run, losing to Fils in all-French battle. Van Assche is the No. 6 seed and will open on Day 1 against Chinese No. 2 **Shang Juncheng**.
- **Shang** became the second Chinese ATP Tour champion in Chengdu this September and the youngest man to capture an ATP Tour title this year. One of two teenagers ranked inside Top 100 of PIF ATP Rankings (also Mensik) is the first player to represent China at the event and is one of two left-handers in the draw.
- Jakub Mensik enters the event on the back of winning 2024 Newcomer of the Year. The 19-year-old Czech, who began the 2024 season as World No. 167, entered Top 100 following his first ATP Tour final in Doha and finished the season as World No. 48, highlighted by 4 Top 10 wins (4-3 vs. Top 10).
- No. 2 seed Alex Michelsen leads 3 Americans in the field, as he is joined by World No. 122 Learner Tien and World No. 138 Nishesh Basavareddy. The three youngsters bid to join 2022 champion Brandon Nakashima as the only Americans to capture the event. Michelsen is one of four players in the field, who reached an ATP Tour final this season, doing so at Newport on grass and Winston-Salem on hard courts.
- Youngest player in the field and No. 8 seed, 18-year-old **Joao Fonseca**, takes on World No. 20 **Fils** on Wednesday, aiming to repeat the biggest win of career, when he defeated the Frenchman in Rio de Janeiro 1R in February. Fonseca, who gained 585 spots from No. 770 on January 1st to No. 145, joins Argentinians **Sebastian Baez** and **Juan Manuel Cerundolo** in 2021 as the only South Americans to qualify for the event.
- Star-studded alumni of the Next Gen ATP Finals include...
  - o 2021 champion Carlos Alcaraz, who won the 2022 US Open to become the youngest World No. 1
  - o 2019 champion Jannik Sinner, the World No. 1, who won both hard court Grand Slam titles this year
  - o 2018 champion Stefanos Tsitsipas, who won the 2019 Nitto ATP Finals and peaked at No. 3
- Twelve past competitors at the Next Gen ATP Finals have gone on to break into the Top 10. Of those 12 players, nine will have played at the Nitto ATP Finals.

Player	Career-High	Next Gen ATP Finals (W-L)	Nitto ATP Finals (Best Result)
Jannik Sinner (ITA)	No. 1 in 2024	2019 Title (4-1)	2021 ALT, 2023-24 (2024 Title)
Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)	No. 1 in 2022	2021 Title (5-0)	2023-24 (2023 SF)
Daniil Medvedev	No. 1 in 2022	2017 SF (2-2)	2019-24 (2020 Title)
Casper Ruud (NOR)	No. 2 in 2022	2019 Round Robin (1-2)	2021-22, 2024 (2022 Finalist)
Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE)	No. 3 in 2021	2018 Title (5-0)	2019-23 (2019 Title)
Taylor Fritz (USA)	No. 4 in 2024	2018 Round Robin (1-2)	2022, 2024 (2024 Final)
Holger Rune (DEN)	No. 4 in 2023	2021 Round Robin (1-2)	2023 (Round Robin)
Andrey Rublev	No. 5 in 2021	2017 Final, 2018 SF (6-4)	2020-24 (2022 SF)
Hubert Hurkacz (POL)	No. 6 in 2024	2018 Round Robin (1-2)	2021, 2023 ALT (2 times in RR)
Alex de Minaur (AUS)	No. 6 in 2024	2018-19 Finals (8-2)	2024 (Round Robin)
Karen Khachanov	No. 8 in 2019	2017 Round Robin (1-2)	
Frances Tiafoe (USA)	No. 10 in 2023	2018 RR, 2019 SF (3-4)	
Denis Shapovalov (CAN)	No. 10 in 2020	2017 Round Robin (1-2)	



Prize Money Breakdown	Prize Money
Participation (3 Matches)	\$150,000
Round Robin Win	\$36,660
Semi-Final Win	\$113,500
Final Win	\$153,000
Undefeated Champion	\$526,480

## **NEXT GEN ATP FINALS PRESENTED BY PIF - PAST FINALS**

Year	Champion	Finalist	Score
2023	Hamad Medjedovic (SRB)	Arthur Fils (FRA)	3-4(6) 4-1 4-2 3-4(9) 4-1
2022	Brandon Nakashima (USA)	Jiri Lehecka (CZE)	4-3(5) 4-3(6) 4-2
2021	Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)	Sebastian Korda (USA)	4-3(5) 4-2 4-2
2020	TOURNAMENT NOT HELD		
2019	Jannik Sinner (ITA)	Alex de Minaur (AUS)	4-2 4-1 4-2
2018	Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE)	Alex de Minaur (AUS)	2-4 4-1 4-3(3) 4-3(3)
2017	Hyeon Chung (KOR)	Andrey Rublev	3-4(5) 4-3(2) 4-2 4-2

**BOLD**: Player in 2024 Next Gen ATP Finals presented by PIF draw.

## NEXT GEN ATP FINALS COUNTRY BREAKDOWN (20) - All-time

	No.	Players (Year)								
Italy	8	Arnaldi (2022), Caruana (2018), Cobolli (2023), Musetti (2021-22),								
		Nardi (2023), Passaro (2022),	Quinzi (2017), S	inner (2019)						
USA	8	Basavareddy (2024), Donaldson (2017), Fritz (2018), Korda (2021),								
		Michelsen (2023-24), Nakashi								
France	4	Fils (2023-24), Gaston (2021),	Fils (2023-24), Gaston (2021), Humbert (2019), Van Assche (2023-24)							
Spain	3	Alcaraz (2021), Davidovich Fol		nar (2018)						
Argentina	2	Baez (2021), J.M. Cerundolo (2	Baez (2021), J.M. Cerundolo (2021)							
Czechia	2		Lehecka (2022), Mensik (2024)							
Serbia	2 Kecmanovic (2019), Medjedovic (2023)									
One Each:										
Australia		de Minaur (2018-19)	Great Britain	Draper (2022)						
Brazil		Fonseca (2024)	Greece	Tsitsipas (2018)						
Canada		Shapovalov (2017)	Jordan	Shelbayh (2023)						
China		Shang (2024)	Norway	Ruud (2019)						
Chinese Ta	aipei	Tseng (2022)	Poland	Hurkacz (2018)						
Croatia		Coric (2017)	South Korea	Chung (2017)						
Czech Rep	oublic	Lehecka (2022)	Sweden	M. Ymer (2019)						
Denmark		Rune (2021)	Switzerland	Stricker (2022-23)						
Khachanov (2017), Medvedev (2017), Rublev (2017-18)										

# LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD – WEDNESDAY ROUND ROBIN MATCHES

### [4] Shang Juncheng (CHN) vs [6] Luca Van Assche (FRA)

First Meeting

**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 <a href="https://www.atptour.com/en/news/insights-introduction">https://www.atptour.com/en/news/insights-introduction</a>.



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Insights from their 52-wk averages:

Player	In Attack	Conversion Score	Steal Score	Serve Quality	Return Quality	Forehand Quality	Backhand Quality
Shang	22%	68%	36%	7.4	5.9	7.8	7.5
Van Assche	19%	67%	34%	7.4	6.1	6.9	7.0
Tour Average	25%	66%	34%	7.9	6.6	7.6	7.2

The 52-Week Averages highlight Shang's advantage in Forehand Quality. While Van Assche leads in consistency with a Forehand In Percentage of 87% compared to Shang's 84%, Shang outperforms in average speed, clocking in at an average of 127 kph versus Van Assche's 119 kph. Additionally, Shang boasts a significantly higher Winner Rate Percentage, with a Forehand Winner Percentage of 7.1%, compared to Van Assche's 5.3%.

**Shang Juncheng** | Age: 19 | World No. 50 | Career-High No. 47 | 2024: 25-18 (Chengdu Title) | Event: 0-0 (Debut) > Became the first Chinese teenager to break inside Top 100 in PIF ATP Rankings history (since 1973) in May 2024 and achieved career-high No. 47 in October 2024 after winning 1st ATP Tour title in Chengdu.

> Earned biggest wins over career over Americans No. 16 Tiafoe to reach 1st ATP Tour SF in Hong Kong and No. 14 Shelton en route to 2nd SF at 2024 Atlanta.

> Reached 1st Grand Slam 3R at 2024 Aus. Open and became the 1st Chinese man in 3R of that event in Open Era.
> Made ATP Tour debut at 2022 Rio de Janeiro as a WC, before earning 1st tour-level win at 2023 Australian Open, beating Otte in 1R as Q (I. to Tiafoe in 2R).

> Owns 37-27 record on ATP Challenger Tour, highlighted by 1st title at 2022 Lexington.

> Father, Yi, was a professional football player and his mother, Na, was a world champion table tennis player.

> His nickname is Jerry after the cartoon character of his favorite childhood show.

**NOTE**: Shang is the first Chinese competitor in event history and is one of 2 players in the draw to win an ATP Tour title this season (also Fils), becoming the only teenager to win a tour-level title during 2024 season. He looks for first ATP Tour win since defeating No. 128 Wong in ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai 1R at start of October (0-4 since).

Luca Van Assche | Age: 20 | World No. 128 | Career-High No. 63 | 2024: 8-17 (Aus. Open 3R) | Event: 2-2 (2023 SF) > Former junior World No. 1 broke into Top 200 in November 2022, entered Top 100 in April 2023 and achieved careerhigh 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 longest ATP Challenger final in history (3h56m).

> 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 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 3-22 vs. Top 50 players (2-9 in 2024) on tour-level, earning wins this season over No. 28 Musetti in Aus. Open 2R and No. 47 Zhang in Barcelona 1R. One of three players making their second appearance in Jeddah this year (also Fils, Michelsen). The 20-year-old earned 6 of 8 tour-level wins this season on hard courts, highlighted by run to 3R at Australian Open.

[2] Alex Michelsen (USA) vs	First Tour-Level Meeting			
Other Meetings				
23 Fairfield CH (U.S.A.)	Hard	QF	Nishesh Basavareddy	6-3 6-3
23 Knoxville CH (U.S.A.)	Hard	QF	Alex Michelsen	6-3 6-3

Alex Michelsen | Age: 20 | World No. 41 (Career-High) | 2024: 31-29 (2 Finals) | Event: 0-3 (2023 RR) > #NextGenATP player broke inside Top 50 in August 2024 after reaching 3rd ATP Tour final in Winston-Salem and achieved career-high No. 41 in November.



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> Became the youngest American man in Grand Slam 3R since Young at 2007 US Open, reaching 3R at Aus. Open.
 > Earned 1st ATP Tour win and reached 1st QF, SF and final at 2023 Newport, becoming youngest American ATP Tour finalist since Fritz at 2016 Memphis and reached 2nd final at 2024 Newport (held 1 MP vs. Giron in final).
 > Defeated No. 9 de Minaur for the biggest win of career in 2024 Los Cabos 2R, before squandering 3 MPs in QF against eventual champion Thompson.

> Also reached 2024 ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati doubles final w/McDonald after defeating him in qualifying.
 > Reached career-high No. 25 in ITF Juniors, highlighted by 2022 Wimbledon boys' doubles title w/Gorzny.

**NOTE**: Michelsen is looking for his first Next Gen ATP Finals match win after going 0-3 in round robin play last year (I. to Medjedovic, Shelbayh, Van Assche). As World No. 41, he became the youngest American man to finish inside Top 50 of Year-End PIF ATP Rankings since Roddick in 2002.

**Nishesh Basavareddy** | Age: 19 | World No. 138 (Career-High) | 2024: 0-0 (2 CH Titles) | Event: 0-0 (Debut) > Peaked at No. 3 in junior rankings in January 2023, then broke into Top 500 in October 2023, Top 200 in September 2024 and achieved career-high No. 138 in December 2024.

> One of three Americans to qualify for 2024 Next Gen ATP Finals, joining Michelsen and Tien and received a main draw wildcard for upcoming 2025 Australian Open.

> Owns 50-20 Challenger record (2-5 in finals), capturing titles at 2024 Tiburon and 2024 Puerto Vallarta.

> Spent two seasons playing for Stanford University, where he was a two-time ITA All-American.

> Won 2022 US Open boys' doubles title w/Baris, becoming the second all-American team to win the US Open boys' doubles title since 2007 (also Spizzirri/Zink in 2019).

**NOTE**: Basavareddy is playing in his first ATP Tour event of career and in his first match vs. a Top 50 opponent. The 19-year-old went 41-13 on Challenger level this season (3rd-most wins in Challenger events in 2024), highlighted by 6 finals and 2 titles in Tiburon and Puerto Vallarta.

### [3] Jakub Mensik (CZE) vs [5] Learner Tien (USA)

#### **First Meeting**

Jakub Mensik | Age: 19 | World No. 48 (Career-High) | 2024: 25-17 (Doha Final) | Event: 0-0 (Debut) > Former World No. 2 junior broke into Top 100 in February 2024 after reaching 1st QF, SF and final in Doha and earned career-high No. 48 in October 2024 soon after advancing to ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai QF (I. to Djokovic). > Also in Doha, defeated former champions Murray, Monfils and No. 5 Rublev for biggest win of career to become the youngest Czech ATP Tour finalist and first man born in 2005 or later to play in an ATP Tour final.

> In tour-level debut, reached 3R at 2023 US Open as Q, becoming the youngest player to reach Grand Slam 3R since Nadal at 2004 Aus. Open and youngest at US Open since Santoro in 1990, then I, to Fritz on his 18th birthday.

> Qualified for 2nd tour-level event at 2024 Australian Open, defeating former-Top 10 player Shapovalov in 1R.

> Owns a 30-21 Challenger record, winning 1st title at 2023 Prague-2 in May as No. 333-ranked WC.

> Went 85-28 on ITF Juniors circuit, highlighted by reaching 2022 Australian Open boys' singles final.

**NOTE**: Mensik is the youngest player ranked inside Top 100 on PIF ATP Rankings and is one of five teenagers in the field and second Czech to qualify for the event after 2022 finalist Lehecka. He is 11-1 vs. players ranked outside Top 50 on tour-level hard courts this season, lone loss to No. 78 Kokkinakis in Davis Cup play.

Learner Tien | Age: 19 | World No. 122 | Career-High No. 114 | 2024: 3-2 (Winston-Salem QF) | Event: 0-0 (Debut) > Broke into Top 200 in August 2024 after reaching 1st ATP Tour QF at 2024 Winston-Salem, becoming youngest American man in Top 200 since Kozlov, 18, in 2016, then achieved career-high No. 114 in November. > Received 2022 and 2023 US Open WCs after winning 2022 and 2023 USTA Boys' 18s National Championships and

2024 US Open WC by winning US Open Wild Card Challenge.

> Went on a 28-match winning streak from May to July 2024, capturing ITF Tour titles at M15 San Diego twice, M15 Rancho Santa Fe, M15 Lakewood and 1st career Challenger title in Bloomfield Hills.

> Also earned Challenger titles at 2024 Las Vegas and 2024 Fairfield, going 35-9 during 2024 Challenger season.
 > Peaked at No. 4 in juniors, highlighted by runs to junior finals of 2023 Australian Open (I. to Blockx) and US Open (I. to Fonseca) and defeated Blockx/Fonseca to capture 2023 Australian Open boys' doubles title w/C. Williams.

**NOTE**: Tien earned all 3 career tour-level wins en route to Winston-Salem QF in August. The 19-year-old is 1-3 vs. Top 50 in career, defeating No. 49 Marozsan in Winston-Salem 2R for lone win. One of three Americans in the draw, joining Basavareddy and Michelsen. Started the 2024 season as World No. 453, improving 331 places to No. 122 for year-end rankings.



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### [1] Arthur Fils (FRA) vs [8] Joao Fonseca (BRA)

24 Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

Clay R32 Joao Fonseca

**Fonseca Leads 1-0** 6-0 6-4

Arthur Fils | Age: 20 | World No. 20 (Career-High) | 2024: 37-26 (Hamburg, Tokyo Titles) | Event: 4-1 (2023 Final) > Achieved new career-high ranking 13 times in 2023, breaking into Top 200 in January, Top 100 in May and Top 50 in July before peaking at No. 20 in July 2024.

> Equaled biggest win of career over No. 4 Zverev to capture 2024 Hamburg title, then saved a championship point in all-French final to defeat Humbert at 2024 Tokyo.

> Became youngest Frenchman at 18 years and 11 months to win an ATP Tour title since Gael Monfils at 2005 Sopot, defeating F. Cerundolo to lift the 2023 Lyon title as No. 112-ranked WC.

> In February 2023, reached 1st ATP Tour SFs of career in Montpellier (I. to Sinner) and Marseille (I. to Bonzi).

> Defeated former Top-20 player Tomic in Grand Slam qualifying debut at 2021 Roland Garros as 16-year-old ranked 1,035th, advanced to boys' singles final (I. to countryman Van Assche) and won the boys' doubles title w/Mpetshi Perricard, achieving career-high No. 3 in junior rankings during 2021 season.

**NOTE**: Last year's runner-up Fils becomes the first player to be the No. 1 seed multiple times in event history. As World No. 20, he is the third Top 20 player to compete at the event after No. 15 Tsitsipas in 2018 (champion) and No. 18 de Minaur in 2019 (runner-up).

Joao Fonseca | Age: 18 | World No. 145 (Career-High) | 2024: 7-7 (Rio de Janeiro, Bucharest QF) | Event: 0-0 (Debut) > After reaching World No. 1 in juniors in September 2023, he earned career-high No. 145 on PIF ATP Rankings in November 2024 after capturing 1st ATP Masters 1000 win in Madrid (d. Michelsen) earlier in the season. > In February 2024, defeated No. 36 Fils in 1R for biggest win of career and 1st ATP Tour win, before becoming the youngest Brazilian guarter-finalist in Open Era in his hometown of Rio de Janeiro.

> Made ATP Tour debut as 16-year-old WC in Rio de Janeiro in 2023, losing to Molcan in 1R.

> Attended previous editions of the Rio de Janeiro event as a fan and saw Nadal win the title in 2014.

> Won 2023 US Open boys' singles event to become World No. 1 in junior rankings after reaching the quarter-finals at Australian Open, Roland Garros and Wimbledon earlier in the season and became 2023 ITF World Champion.

> Owns a 28-18 Challenger record (1-1 in finals), highlighted by 1st title at 2024 Lexington.

> In 2023 was invited to Nitto ATP Finals as a sparring partner for the qualified players.

**NOTE**: At 18 years and 3 months, Fonseca is the second-youngest player in event history behind 2019 champion Sinner (18y2m). He is 1-3 vs. Top 50 players (0-0 vs. Top 20), defeating No. 36 Fils in Rio de Janeiro 1R in February on clay for lone win.