



## WINSTON-SALEM OPEN STORYLINES

Wake Forest University | Winston-Salem, NC, USA | 19-25 August 2018  
Draw: S-48, D-16 | Prize Money: \$691,415 | Surface: Outdoor Hard

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## 10 THINGS TO WATCH IN WINSTON-SALEM

- 1) **Mini US Open:** One week before the last Grand Slam of 2018, the Winston-Salem Open welcomes 19 of the Top 50 players in the ATP Rankings and more than 40 men who will compete in the US Open main draw, including #NextGenATP's **Alex de Minaur**, **Andrey Rublev** and **Taylor Fritz**.
- 2) **Demon Child:** De Minaur has achieved a career-high ranking 15 times in 2018, rising from No. 208 on 1 January to No. 43 this week. The 19-year-old saved four match points to defeat Rublev in the Washington semi-finals on 4 August. De Minaur's loss to **Alexander Zverev** one day later was the youngest ATP World Tour final since **Rafael Nadal** defeated **Novak Djokovic** at 2007 Indian Wells.
- 3) **Youth Movement:** #NextGenATP players Zverev, de Minaur, Rublev and **Stefanos Tsitsipas** comprised the semi-finals in Washington, marking the first ATP World Tour event since 1995 Buenos Aires to feature four semi-finalists under the age of 22. Though Rublev lost to de Minaur, the Russian won his first title at 2017 Umag as a 19-year-old and advanced to the 2018 Doha final.
- 4) **Phenomenal Fritz:** Before the breakthroughs of Rublev and de Minaur, an 18-year-old Fritz advanced to the 2016 Memphis final in the third tour-level event of his career. Two-and-a-half years later, Fritz remains the youngest finalist on tour since **Kei Nishikori**, 18, at 2008 Delray Beach.
- 5) **Race to Milan:** If the season ended today, Fritz, Rublev and de Minaur would all qualify for the Next Gen ATP Finals, where **Hyeon Chung** won the title in 2017. Chung went on to defeat Zverev and Djokovic en route to the Australian Open semi-finals. He is the No. 6 seed in Winston-Salem.
- 6) **American Made:** No. 8 seed **Steve Johnson** and No. 9 seed **Sam Querrey** share a coach in **Craig Boynton** and are separated by one spot in the ATP Rankings. While Johnson has won titles at Houston and Newport this season, Querrey's only semi-final came at New York in February.
- 7) **Tough at the Top:** World No. 11 **David Goffin** is the No. 1 seed in Winston-Salem. In eight prior tournaments as the top seed, Goffin has reached a final only once at 2015 Gstaad. The Belgian returns to Winston-Salem for the first time since qualifying en route to the 2014 quarter-finals.
- 8) **Past Champion Busta:** The only former champion in the Winston-Salem field is No. 2 seed **Pablo Carreno Busta**, who won the title in 2016. Like Goffin, Carreno Busta is seeking his first final of the season. He reached semi-finals in the spring at ATP Masters 1000 Miami, Barcelona and Estoril.
- 9) **Breakout Year:** No. 1 Brit **Kyle Edmund** reached his first Grand Slam semi-final at the Australian Open, first ATP World Tour final at Marrakech and first ATP Masters 1000 quarter-final at Madrid. Edmund, who is ranked a career-high No. 16 this week, accepted a wild card into Winston-Salem.
- 10) **Home-Court Advantage:** Three members of the 2018 NCAA national champion Wake Forest Demon Deacons will compete on their home courts at the Winston-Salem Open: main draw wild card **Borna Gojo** and qualifying wild cards **Petros Chrysochos** and **Skander Mansouri**.

Information accurate as of Friday, 17 August at 12 pm ET.

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