



ALMATY OPEN – ATP MEDIA NOTES DAY 2 – TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2026

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LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: TUESDAY FIRST-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

CENTER COURT

Terence Atmane (FRA) vs Rinky Hijikata (AUS)

First Meeting

Terence Atmane | Age: 24 | World No. 98 | Career-High No. 41 | 2026: 16-22 (Acapulco QF) | Almaty: 0-0 (Debut)
> Broke into Top 200 in 2023, Top 100 in August 2025 and achieved career-high No. 41 in April 2026 after defeating No. 8 Auger-Aliassime to reach ATP Masters 1000 Miami 4R.
> Posted 1st Top 10 wins of career over No. 4 Fritz and No. 9 Rune en route to 1st ATP Tour QF and SF at 2025 ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati as Q to secure his Top 100 debut.
> Made ATP Tour debut at 2023 Zhuhai as Q and beat Thompson at 2023 ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai for 1st win.
> Qualified to make Grand Slam debut at 2024 Australian Open, taking a set off eventual finalist Medvedev in 1R.
> Went 11-1 in three-week span at Challenger events in September 2023, earning 1st final and title at Zhangjiagang after saving 6 MPs vs. Sun in 1R and 2nd title at Guangzhou, saving 3 MPs vs. Polmans in the final.
> Also captured Challenger titles in Busan and Guangzhou and went 35-18 on Challenger level in 2023.
> Reached career-high No. 20 on the ITF Juniors circuit, highlighted by run to 2020 Roland Garros boys' doubles QF w/Malgaroli.

NOTE: Atmane owns 1-5 record in ATP 250 events this season, sole win over Kypson in Delray Beach 1R (compared to 11-7 at ATP Masters 1000 level in 2026). 24-year-old earned 11 of 16 tour-level wins this season on hard courts, highlighted by defeating former champion Dimitrov and Jodar to reach Acapulco QF.

Rinky Hijikata | Age: 25 | World No. 86 | Career-High No. 62 | 2026: 15-20 (Queen's QF) | Almaty: 1-1 (2025 2R)
> Former World No. 9 junior broke into Top 100 after reaching 2023 US Open 4R as WC and achieved career-high No. 62 in August 2024.
> Rallied from a set down three times to reach 1st ATP Tour SF at 2023 's-Hertogenbosch as LL as well as to defeat No. 10 Bublik for biggest win of career to reach 2026 ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells 4R.
> Defeated [1] Koolhof/Skupski en route to 2023 Australian Open doubles title in team debut w/Kubler, joining Kokkinakis/Kyrgios as 2nd straight All-Aussie WCs to win their home Grand Slam championship.
> Also at 2023 Australian Open, rallied from 2 sets down vs. Hanfmann for 1st Grand Slam main draw singles win of career.
> Won 4 Challenger singles titles on home soil: Playford in 2022, 2024 and 2025 and Burnie immediately after 2023 Australian Open.
> Played college tennis at University of North Carolina from 2020-21, earning All-American honours as a sophomore before turning pro.

NOTE: Hijikata looks to record personal-best 16th tour-level win of the season (15-22 in 2024). 25-year-old aims to reach Almaty 2R for the second consecutive year after defeating Skatov in 1R last year before losing to Cobolli in 2R.

[7] Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE) vs Aleksandar Kovacevic (USA) **Series Tied 1-1**

24 Los Cabos (Mexico)	Hard	QF	Stefanos Tsitsipas	7-6(1) 6-3
26 Winston-Salem (U.S.A.)	Hard	R16	Aleksandar Kovacevic	6-3 7-6(1)

Stefanos Tsitsipas | Age: 28 | World No. 39 | Career-High No. 3 | 2026: 34-22 (Gstaad Title) | Event: 4-1 ('22 Final)
> Top-ranked Greek of all time achieved career-high No. 3 in August 2021 and boasts 11 wins vs. Top-3 opponents (2 vs. No. 1, 4 vs. No. 2, 5 vs. No. 3).
> Six-time Grand Slam semi-finalist, highlighted by runs to 2021 Roland Garros and 2023 Australian Open finals, losing to Djokovic on both occasions.
> Captured 2018 Next Gen ATP Finals title at age 20 and 2019 Nitto ATP Finals title at age 21, becoming youngest champion of latter since Hewitt, 20, in 2001.
> Won 13 ATP Tour titles, including 2021, 2022 and 2024 ATP Masters 1000 Monte Carlo and captured 1st ATP 500 title in 12th final at 2025 Dubai.

> Youngest of 31 players to defeat Djokovic (2018 Toronto 3R), Federer (2019 Australian Open 4R) and Nadal (2019 Madrid SF), sweeping Big 3 before turning 21.

NOTE: Tsitsipas is making his second appearance at the event after advancing to 2022 final, then held in Astana. 28-year-old is on a 12-1 run vs. players ranked outside Top 30 since Wimbledon, lone loss to then-No. 89 Kovacevic in Winston-Salem 3R. He aims to set up a meeting vs. Kukushkin in 2R, who defeated Greek No. 2 Sakellaridis in 1R.

Aleksandar Kovacevic | Age: 28 | World No. 82 | Career-High No. 54 | 2026: 15-24 (2 SFs) | Almaty: 0-0 (Debut)
> Broke into Top 100 in January 2024 after previously peaking at No. 101 in April 2023 and achieved career-high No. 54 in January 2026.
> Upset No. 10 Rublev twice to reach ATP Tour finals of 2025 Montpellier and 2025 Los Cabos and defeated No. 5 Auger-Aliassime for biggest win of career en route to 2026 Hamburg SF as LL.
> Defeated countryman McDonald to reach 2022 Seoul SF in ATP Tour main draw debut as 222nd-ranked LL and former champion Kyrgios en route to 2026 Brisbane SF.
> Won Challenger titles at Cleveland, Waco, Shenzhen and Temuco in 2023, highlighted by win over Wu Yibing in Cleveland final and captured latest titles at 2025 Oeiras-2 and 2025 Cap Cana.
> Made Grand Slam debut at 2023 Roland Garros, losing to eventual champion Djokovic in 1R and defeated Tabilo to earn 1st Grand Slam win at 2024 Australian Open.
> Played 5 years of college tennis at University of Illinois, where he was a 2-time All-American and graduated in 2021 with finance degree.

NOTE: Kovacevic aims to record his first tour-level win since defeating Balshaw, Van Assche and Tsitsipas to reach Winston-Salem QF. Only American in the field is playing in his third ATP Tour event indoors this season after advancing to 2R of Montpellier (d. Kouame, l. to Droguet) and Dallas (d. Kypson, l. to Shapovalov), both in February.

Fabian Marozsan (HUN) vs [WC] Timofey Skatov (KAZ)

First Tour-Level Meeting

Other Meetings

23 ATP Masters 1000 Rome Q (Italy)	Clay	Q1	Fabian Marozsan	6-0 2-6 7-5
23 Vienna Q (Austria)	Hard	Q1	Fabian Marozsan	6-3 7-6(2)

Fabian Marozsan | Age: 27 | World No. 64 | Career-High No. 36 | 2026: 22-24 (3 SFs) | Almaty: 2-2 (2025 QF)
> Broke into Top 200 in August 2022, Top 100 in June 2023 and earned career-high No. 36 in May 2024, becoming fourth Hungarian to break into Top 50 in PIF ATP Rankings history (since 1973).
> In ATP Tour debut, defeated No. 2 Alcaraz for biggest win of career en route to 2023 ATP Masters 1000 Rome 4R as Q and reached 1st QF at 2023 ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai (d. No. 9 Ruud in 4R).
> Upset No. 7 Rune in 2R and No. 10 de Minaur in 4R en route to 2024 ATP Masters 1000 Miami QF.
> Earned 1st Grand Slam main draw win at 2023 US Open (d. Gasquet) and advanced to Australian Open 3R in three consecutive years (2024-26).
> Advanced to 1st ATP Tour SF at 2025 Munich after 0-6 start in ATP Tour QFs and reached semi-finals in Auckland, Bucharest and Mallorca during 2026 season.
> Owns 55-30 Challenger record (3-1 in finals), winning titles at 2022 Banja Luka, 2023 Antalya and 2023 Perugia and losing to countryman Fucsovics at 2022 Bratislava-2 in first all-Hungarian final in Challenger history.

NOTE: Marozsan is 12-7 at ATP 250 level this season, highlighted by semi-final runs in Auckland, Bucharest and Mallorca. He is making his third main draw appearance at the event, losing to Coric in 1R two years ago, before advancing to quarter-finals last year (d. Nardi, Nakashima), losing to eventual champion Medvedev.

2026 ATP 250 Win Leaders

Player	W-L	Best Result
Luciano Darderi	16-8	Santiago Title
Sebastian Baez	14-9	Auckland Final
Mariano Navone	13-9	Bucharest Title
Yannick Hanfmann	12-6	Santiago Final
Fabian Marozsan	12-7	Auckland, Bucharest, Mallorca SF

Timofey Skatov | Age: 25 | World No. 201 | Career-High No. 123 | 2026: 3-3 (Estoril 2R) | Event: 1-4 (2021 2R)
> Former World No. 1 junior broke into Top 200 in March 2022 and achieved career-high No. 123 in September 2023.
> Earned clay-court wins over No. 22 F. Cerundolo and No. 28 Etcheverry in 2024 Davis Cup vs. Argentina and No. 27 Griekspoor to reach 1st ATP Tour QF at 2024 Bastad as Q.
> Made ATP Tour debut on home soil at 2020 Astana as WC and defeated Seppi for 1st win at 2021 Astana as WC.
> Qualified for Grand Slam events at 2022 Australian Open, 2023 Roland Garros and US Open in 2023 and 2024.
> Owns 130-119 Challenger record (3-6 in finals) including titles in 2022 Parma, 2024 Augsburg, and 2025 Todi.

> Went 90-33 on ITF Junior Circuit, including wins over future Top-50 ATP players Draper, Musetti and Nakashima

NOTE: Skatov looks to earn second ATP Tour win of the season (excluding Davis Cup) after defeating de Jong in Estoril 1R. 25-year-old also aims to record his third Top 100 win on hard courts in his career after defeating No. 87 Seppi at 2021 Astana for his only win at this event and No. 96 E. Gomez in 2023 ATP Masters 1000 Miami qualifying.

[Q] Rei Sakamoto (JPN) vs [5] Karen Khachanov

First Meeting

Rei Sakamoto | Age: 20 | World No. 124 (Career-High) | 2026: 5-6 (Shanghai 3R) | Almaty: 0-0 (Debut)

> Former World No. 1 junior earned 1st ranking point in 2022, broke into Top 200 in August 2025 and achieved career-high No. 124 in October 2026 after defeating No. 23 Rublev to reach 1st ATP Masters 1000 3R in Shanghai.

> Qualified for ATP Tour debut at 2025 ATP Masters 1000 Miami and qualified for Grand Slam main draws at 2026 Australian Open and 2026 US Open after defeating countryman and former-World No. 4 Nishikori in Q3.

> Owns 44-32 Challenger record (3-0 in finals), winning titles at 2024 Yokkaichi, 2025 Cary and 2025 Yokohama, becoming 1st Japanese teenager to win 3 Challenger titles in history.

> Peaked at No. 1 in juniors in May 2024 after becoming Australian Open boys' singles champion earlier that year and partnered w/Mrva to win 2024 US Open boys' doubles title.

NOTE: Sakamoto rallied from a set down to defeat 2024 finalist Diallo in qualifying and now aims to record 2nd Top 50 win of career (1-6) after defeating No. 23 Rublev in ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai 2R two weeks ago. He bids to be the 4th Japanese match winner in event history after Sugita in 2020, Shimabukuro in 2023 and Mochizuki last year.

Youngest Match Winners in Event History – Sakamoto (20Y 3M) aims to join the list.

Player	Age	Year	Wins
Justin Engel	17Y 13D	2024	d. Wong
Luca Nardi	19Y 1M	2022	d. Shevchenko
Lorenzo Musetti	19Y 6M	2021	d. Polmans
Hamad Medjedovic	20Y 2M	2023	d. Djere, Shevchenko, Lehecka
Timofey Skatov	20Y 7M	2021	d. Seppi

Karen Khachanov | Age: 30 | World No. 25 | Career-High No. 8 | 2026: 25-21 (US Open SF) | Event: 6-2 (2024 Title)

> 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), ended by beating No. 3 Tsitsipas en route to 4th ATP Masters 1000 SF at 2023 Miami.

> 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, 2023 Australian Open SF and 2026 US 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).

> Saved a match point to defeat No. 3 Zverev and reach 2025 Toronto final, recording biggest gap between ATP Masters 1000 final appearances (2468 days) in series history (since 1990).

NOTE: Khachanov is one of three former champions in the field (also Mannarino, Medvedev), winning 2024 title. He is on a 9-3 run since the start of September, advancing to US Open SF, Beijing QF and ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai 4R. 30-year-old led all players in indoor wins in 2024, going 14-3, but is 3-5 indoors since the start of 2025 season.

COURT 1

Sho Shimabukuro (JPN) vs [Q] Roman Safiullin

First Meeting