



## MIAMI OPEN PRESENTED BY ITAU - ATP MEDIA NOTES DAY 2 – THURSDAY 23 MARCH 2023

Hard Rock Stadium | Miami, FL, USA | 22 March-2 April 2023

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## MIAMI OPEN PRESENTED BY ITAU TALKING POINTS

- Former World No. 3 **Dominic Thiem** returns to **Miami Open presented by Itau** for the first time since 2019. The 29-year-old Austrian reached the quarter-finals in 2015 and now faces Italian **Lorenzo Sonego**. This is their third meeting, after splitting matches 1-1, both previously winning in front of their home crowd. Thiem is looking for his first win at an ATP Masters 1000 event since being sidelined due to right wrist tear in June 2021, while Sonego is aiming to break a 6-match losing streak in ATP Masters 1000 events.
- One of 5 Americans in singles action today, **Marcos Giron**, opens the Stadium action on Thursday, meeting qualifier **Cristian Garin** in their second tour-level encounter. Giron is 0-3 vs. Chileans across all levels, but owns a 7-2 record vs. lower-ranked players this season. Garin earned 3rd career Top 10 win over Casper Ruud last week at Indian Wells 3R, coming from qualifying to reach 4R and is now hoping to get his first tour-level win at the event, after successfully passing through the qualifying for the second time this month.
- Mackenzie McDonald** will aim to maintain his flawless record in opening rounds this season (7-0) vs. No. 1 Colombian **Daniel Elahi Galan**. Galan has lost 8 of his last 9 tour-level matches, but enjoyed success in Miami before, earning first career Top 30 win over then-World No. 23 **Alex de Minaur** to reach 3rd round in 2021.
- Richard Gasquet** is edging closer to his 600th tour-level win with 595 career wins, most of all Frenchmen in Open Era (since 1968). The 36-year-old veteran will be looking for his first win at the event since reaching 4R in 2016 (l. to No. 7 Berdych) against Australian lucky loser **Christopher O'Connell** in their first meeting. No. 1 Frenchman earned his 16th career ATP Tour title in Auckland this January, almost 21 years after winning first ATP Tour match at 2002 ATP Masters 1000 Monte Carlo.

## ATP HEAD2HEAD: THURSDAY FIRST-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

### STADIUM

#### Marcos Giron (USA) vs [Q] Cristian Garin (CHI)

21 Roland Garros (France)

Clay R32 Cristian Garin

#### Garin Leads 1-0

6-1 5-7 6-2 6-2

#### Other Meeting

17 US Open (U.S.A.)

Hard Q1 Cristian Garin

6-3 6-4

**Marcos Giron** | Age: 29 | World No. 71 | Career-High No. 49 | 2023: 8-7 (3 times in QF) | Miami: 1-2 (2021 2R)

> One of 3 former UCLA Bruins to break into Top 50 during 2022 season (also Cressy, McDonald), achieving career-high No. 49 after reaching ATP Masters 1000 Rome 3R as LL.

> Advanced to 1st ATP Tour final at age 29 and in his home state of California at 2022 San Diego.

> Qualified at 8 ATP Masters 1000 events, including 2020 Paris, earning biggest win of career over No. 10 Berrettini in 2R.

> Reached 2021 Roland Garros 3R after rallying from 6-2 6-4 5-1 down and saving 3 MPs vs. Dimitrov in 1R.

> Won 2014 NCAA singles title for UCLA and broke into Top 100 in 2020 following right hip surgery in 2015 and left hip surgery in 2016.

**NOTE:** Giron seeks 50th hard court tour-level win (49-52). He also owns 6 wins on clay courts (6-12) and grass courts (6-7).

**Cristian Garin** | Age: 26 | World No. 82 | Career-High No. 17 | 2023: 6-6 (Indian Wells 4R) | Miami: 0-2 (2021-22 2R)

> Won biggest title of career at 2020 Rio de Janeiro to rise to No. 18, then ended 2021 season at career-high No. 17.

> Five-time ATP Tour champion saved 5 MPs vs. Chardy en route to 2019 Houston title and 2 MPs vs. No. 3 A.

Zverev en route to 2019 Munich title.

- > Advanced to 1st Grand Slam QF at 2022 Wimbledon after reaching ATP Masters 1000 QFs at 2019 Paris, 2021 Madrid and 2022 Rome.
- > Earned 1st ATP Tour win at 2013 Vina del Mar as 16-year-old WC (d. Lajovic) and 2nd ATP Tour win at 2019 Buenos Aires (d. Auger-Aliassime).
- > Former World No. 4 junior defeated A. Zverev for 2013 Roland Garros boys' singles title and reached boys' doubles final with countryman Jarry.

**NOTE:** Garin is 7-1 in matches and 14-2 in sets at ATP Masters 1000 events (including qualifying) this season, after reaching 4R at Indian Wells without losing a set as a qualifier (d. No. 4 Ruud in 3R) and defeating compatriot Tabilo to qualify for Miami.

<b>Lorenzo Sonego (ITA) vs [WC] Dominic Thiem (AUT)</b>				<b>Series Tied 1-1</b>
19 Kitzbuhel (Austria)	Clay	SF	Dominic Thiem	6-3 7-6(6)
21 ATP Masters 1000 Rome (Italy)	Clay	R16	Lorenzo Sonego	6-4 6-7(5) 7-6(5)

- Lorenzo Sonego** | Age: 27 | World No. 59 | Career-High No. 21 | 2023: 5-8 (2 times in QF) | Miami: 3-3 (2021 4R)
- > 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 aiming to break a 6-match losing streak in ATP Masters 1000 events since defeating Ivashka at 2022 Monte Carlo 1R and seeks first hard court ATP Masters 1000 win since defeating Paul at 2021 Cincinnati 2R.

- Dominic Thiem** | Age: 29 | World No. 106 | Career-High No. 3 | 2023: 1-7 (Buenos Aires 2R) | Miami: 7-5 (2015 QF)
- > Achieved career-high No. 3 in March 2020 and remained in Top 5 until suffering right wrist tear in June 2021.
  - > Playing in his 4th Grand Slam final, defeated A. Zverev in 5th-set TB to win 2020 US Open title, becoming 1st player to win US Open final from 2 sets down since Gonzales in 1949 (Amateur Era).
  - > Qualified for Nitto ATP Finals each year from 2016-20, defeating No. 3 Federer and No. 2 Djokovic en route to 2019 championship match, then beating No. 2 Nadal and No. 1 Djokovic en route to 2020 final.
  - > Playing in his 3rd ATP Masters 1000 final, defeated 5-time champion Federer to win 2019 Indian Wells title.
  - > Went 9-3 from 2019-20 against Djokovic, Federer and Nadal, joining Murray as 1 of 2 players with at least 5 career wins over each member of Big 3.

**NOTE:** Thiem is looking for his first win at the event since 2016 after losing his opening match in 2017 (2R, l. to Coric) and 2019 (2R, l. to Hurkacz). Aims to win first ATP Masters 1000 match since 2021 Rome (d. Fucsovics in 1R, l. to Sonego in 2R).

## GRANDSTAND

<b>[Q] Christopher Eubanks (USA) vs Denis Kudla (USA)</b>				<b>First Tour-Level Meeting</b>
<b>Other Meeting</b>				
20 Orlando CH (U.S.A.)	Hard	QF	Christopher Eubanks	5-7 7-6(3) 6-3

- Christopher Eubanks** | Age: 26 | World No. 119 | Career-High No. 102 | 2023: 2-5 (2 times in 2R) | Miami: 0-2 ('18-19 1R)
- > Qualified at Doha, Indian Wells, Newport, US Open and San Diego in 2022, then achieved career-high No. 102 in February 2023.
  - > Defeated countrymen Fritz and Donaldson in his hometown for 1st ATP Tour wins en route to 2017 Atlanta QF as WC.
  - > Beat then-No. 106 Auger-Aliassime en route to qualifying at 2019 Australian Open and Martinez for 1st Grand Slam main draw win at 2022 US Open.
  - > Won Challenger titles at 2018 Leon, 2021 Orlando-2 and 2021 Knoxville, then ended 2022 season on 11-3 run.
  - > Played college tennis at Georgia Tech from 2015-17 and was a 2-time All-American and 2-time ACC Player of the Year.

**NOTE:** Eubanks owns a 2-5 career ATP Masters 1000 record, earning both wins at Indian Wells in 2021 (d. Gerasimov in 1R, l. to Basilashvili in 2R) and 2022 (d. Cressy in 1R, l. to Ruud in 2R).

**Denis Kudla** | Age: 30 | World No. 122 | Career-High No. 53 | 2023: 3-3 (2 times in 2R) | Miami: 4-5 (2022 3R)  
> Former World No. 3 junior earned 1st ranking point at age 15 in 2008, broke into Top 100 at age 20 in 2013 and achieved career-high No. 53 at age 23 in 2016.  
> Won 13 straight matches overall during 2-week stretch in March 2022, sweeping singles and doubles titles at Phoenix Challenger before reaching ATP Masters 1000 Miami 3R as Q.  
> Also qualified en route to 1st ATP Tour SF at 2015 Atlanta and 2nd ATP Tour SF at 2018 Halle.  
> Posted grass-court records of 26-26 on tour and 28-11 at Challengers, including win over former World No. 1 and 2-time Wimbledon champion Murray at 2022 Surbiton Challenger.  
> Defeated future World No. 3 A. Zverev en route to 2015 Wimbledon 4R as WC and has qualified at Australian Open 3 times, Roland Garros twice and Wimbledon 3 times.

**NOTE:** Kudla came from qualifying to win consecutive matches at an ATP Masters 1000 event for the first time in his career in Miami last year, but has since lost in 5 straight qualifying 1st rounds at ATP Masters 1000 events.

### **Daniel Elahi Galan (COL) vs Mackenzie McDonald (USA) McDonald Leads 1-0**

23 Adelaide-1 (Australia)

Hard

R32

Mackenzie McDonald

6-3 RET

#### **Other Meeting**

21 Heilbronn CH (Germany)

Clay

SF

Daniel Elahi Galan

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

**Daniel Elahi Galan** | Age: 26 | World No. 89 | Career-High No. 67 | 2023: 1-7 (Rio de Janeiro 2R) | Miami: 3-2 (2021 3R)  
> Improved year-end ranking in 8 straight seasons (2015-22), finishing 2022 as No. 1 Colombian and at career-high No. 67.  
> Upset World No. 5 Tsitsipas for biggest win of career en route to 2022 US Open 3R as Q.  
> Defeated 2-time defending champion Johnson en route to 1st ATP Tour QF and SF at 2019 Houston as Q-WC.  
> Won ATP Tour main draw debut on home soil at 2015 Bogota as 19-year-old WC (d. Riba).  
> Owns 106-96 Challenger record (4-3 in finals), including clay-court titles in 2022 at Concepcion and Sarasota.

**NOTE:** Galan owns a 3-4 record at ATP Masters 1000 events, earning all 3 wins in Miami (2021 – 3R, 2022 – 2R). He aims to win first tour-level hard court match since 2022 Naples (d. Borges in 2R, l. to Musetti in QF) in October.

**Mackenzie McDonald** | Age: 27 | World No. 55 | Career-High No. 48 | 2023: 12-7 (Delray Beach SF) | Event: 4-3 (2022 3R)  
> Broke into Top 50 in February 2022 and achieved career-high No. 48 in August 2022 after undergoing right hamstring surgery in 2019 and falling out of Top 250 in 2020.  
> Defeated former champions Kyrgios and Nishikori en route to 1st ATP Tour final at 2021 Washington, then won 1st ATP Tour title in doubles at 2022 Tokyo w/Melo.  
> Upset defending champion and World No. 2 Nadal in 2023 Australian Open 2R for biggest win of career.  
> Advanced to 2018 Wimbledon 4R as No. 103 and 2021 Australian Open 4R as No. 192, becoming lowest-ranked player in Australian Open 4R since No. 248 Canas in 2004.  
> Qualified for 2013 ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati at age 18 by defeating USC legend Johnson, then went on to win 2016 NCAA singles and doubles titles for UCLA.

**NOTE:** McDonald is 7-0 in his opening rounds this season (3-4 in 2R) and 7-1 vs. players ranked outside of Top 50 (l. to No. 77 Ymer at Adelaide-2 2R).

### **Richard Gasquet (FRA) vs [LL] Christopher O'Connell (AUS) First Meeting**

**Richard Gasquet** | Age: 36 | World No. 40 | Career-High No. 7 | 2023: 7-6 (Auckland Title) | Miami: 12-12 (2013 SF)  
> Former World No. 1 junior achieved career-high No. 7 in 2007 and finished 4 seasons in Top 10 overall (2007, 2012-13, 2015).  
> Defeated Top-5 players in 5 sets to reach SFs at 2007 Wimbledon (d. Roddick in QF), 2013 US Open (d. Ferrer in QF) and 2015 Wimbledon (d. Wawrinka in QF).  
> Owns 16 titles, qualified at Nitto ATP Finals in 2007 and 2013, and reached ATP Masters 1000 finals at 2005 Hamburg, 2006 Toronto and 2012 Toronto.  
> Won ATP Tour debut as 15-year-old at 2002 Monte Carlo (d. Squillari), earned biggest career win at 2005 Monte Carlo (d. No. 1 Federer) and posted 500th career win at 2018 Monte Carlo (d. M. Zverev).  
> Remains youngest match winner since start of ATP Tour in 1990 and owns 595 wins overall – most among Frenchmen in Open Era (since 1968).

**NOTE:** Gasquet made his Miami debut 20 years ago (l. to Lisnard at 2003 Miami 1R) and earned best result at the event 10 years ago (l. to Murray in SF).

