



ALMATY OPEN – ATP MEDIA NOTES DAY 2 – TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2024

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LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: TUESDAY FIRST-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

CENTER COURT

Roman Safiullin vs [8] Adrian Mannarino (FRA)

21 Moscow (Russia)
23 Stockholm (Sweden)

Hard	R32	Adrian Mannarino
Hard	R16	Adrian Mannarino

Mannarino Leads 2-0

1-6	7-6(6)	6-4
6-4	6-4	

Roman Safiullin | Age: 27 | World No. 58 | Career-High No. 36 | 2024: 17-23 (Brisbane SF) | Event: 0-0 (Debut)
> Former World No. 2 junior broke into Top 100 in August 2022 and achieved career-high No. 36 in January 2024.
> Posted personal-best 20 wins in 2023, highlighted by 1st ATP Tour final at Chengdu and win over No. 2 Alcaraz at ATP Masters 1000 Paris to reach 3R as Q.
> As World No. 92 in Wimbledon main draw debut, became the lowest-ranked quarter-finalist since Kyrgios in 2014.
> Defeated 2-time champion and World No. 4 Tsitsipas to reach 1st ATP Tour SF at 2022 Marseille, and advanced to 2nd SF on indoor hard courts at 2022 Tel Aviv.
> Went 105-21 with 11 titles on ITF Junior Circuit, posting wins over Medvedev, Rublev and Khachanov before ending junior career as 2015 Australian Open champion.

NOTE: Safiullin is 3-10 vs. higher-ranked opponents on hard courts this season, including wins over No. 27 Bublik and No. 17 Tiafoe en route to ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai 4R last week. He seeks 50th tour-level win of career (49-54).

Adrian Mannarino | Age: 36 | World No. 56 | Career-High No. 17 | 2024: 12-27 (Dallas SF) | Event: 10-2 (2023 Title)

> Ended 11 straight years in Top 75 of PIF ATP Rankings (2013-23), before breaking into Top 20 at the age 35, achieving career-high No. 17 in January 2024.
> Captured 1st ATP Tour title in 7th final of career at 2019 's-Hertogenbosch, 2nd title in 11th final of career at 2022 Winston-Salem.
> Posted personal-best 43 wins in 2023, highlighted by ATP Tour titles in Newport, Astana and Sofia.
> Earned first Top 5 win over No. 5 Cilic to reach biggest final of career at 2017 Tokyo and biggest win of career over No. 3 Medvedev at 2023 's-Hertogenbosch.
> Reached Australian Open 4R in 2022 and 2024 and Wimbledon 4R in 2013, 2017 and 2018, but owns 0-22 record vs. Top-10 players at Grand Slams.

NOTE: Mannarino owns the tournament record for most wins (10) and is the only previous champion in the field after defeating Korda in last year's Astana final. He earned 11 of his 12 wins this year on hard courts.

[Q] Benjamin Hassan (LBN) vs [WC] Beibit Zhukayev (KAZ)

First Meeting

Benjamin Hassan | Age: 29 | World No. 245 | Career-High No. 143 | 2024: 4-3 (Olympics 2R) | Event: 0-0 (Debut)

> Became the first Lebanese player to break inside Top 200 in PIF ATP Rankings history (since 1973), reaching career-high No. 161 in June 2024 soon after making ATP Masters 1000 debut as Q (l. to Coric in 1R).
> Received 'University Place' to compete in 2024 Paris Olympics, alongside countryman Habib, becoming 1st tennis players to represent Lebanon in Olympics and defeated Eubanks in 1R for first tour-level win outside Davis Cup.
> Made tour-level debut playing for Lebanon in Davis Cup in 2018 and owns a 15-6 record in Davis Cup, then made ATP Tour debut at 2023 Stockholm as Q (l. to Ruusuvuori).
> Owns 92-84 Challenger record (0-3 in finals), reaching finals at 2022 Troyes, 2023 Grodzisk Mazowiecki and 2023 Lisbon and 78-52 on ITF Tour, winning titles at 2018 Qatar F2 and 2022 M25 Manacor.
> Developed passion for tennis alongside his father, a former Davis Cup player, and says he was a hobby player until the age of 22, when he decided to fully dedicate himself to the sport.

NOTE: Hassan aims to become the first player representing Lebanon to record a main draw win in ATP Tour events after earning 1st tour-level win outside Davis Cup at Paris Olympics over Eubanks. Previously qualified to 2023 Stockholm (l. to Ruusuvuori), 2023 Basel (l. to Stricker) and 2024 ATP Masters 1000 Madrid (l. to Coric).

Beibit Zhukayev | Age: 24 | World No. 213 | Career-High No. 171 | 2024: 1-1 (Shanghai 1R) | Event: 0-1 (2022 1R)

- > Broke into the Top 200 in 2023 after winning first Challenger title in Charlottesville and achieved career-high No. 171 in May 2024.
- > Qualified for 2023 ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai and earned first ATP Tour win by defeating fellow qualifier Napolitano in 1R (l. to Khachanov in 2R) and recorded first Davis Cup match win in 2024 vs Hjorth.
- > Made ATP Tour debut at 2022 Astana Open as No. 327-ranked WC, losing to van de Zandschulp in 1R.
- > Owns 50-46 Challenger record (1-1 in finals), ending 2023 season with sole title in Charlottesville (d. Mayo in final).
- > Defeated No. 69 Kokkinakis in straight sets for biggest win of career at 2023 Shenzhen CH.

NOTE: Zhukayev aims to secure his 2nd ATP Tour win, his first coming at 2023 ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai against fellow qualifier Napolitano. He aims to be the fifth player representing Kazakhstan to win a match at the event after Bublik, Kukushkin, Shevchenko and Skatov.

Alexander Shevchenko (KAZ) vs [Q] Mikhail Kukushkin (KAZ) **Kukushkin Leads 1-0**
24 Hangzhou (China) Hard R16 Mikhail Kukushkin 6-4 7-6(3)

- Alexander Shevchenko** | Age: 23 | World No. 61 | Career-High No. 45 | 2024: 19-26 (3 QFs) | Event: 1-2 (2023 2R)
- > 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 in Basel, then advanced to 1st SF and final in Metz to end his 2023 season.
 - > Also advanced to ATP Tour QFs at 2024 Montpellier, 2024 Rotterdam and 2024 Geneva.
 - > Earned 1st ATP Tour win at 2023 Barcelona (d. Giustino) and 1st 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.

NOTE: Shevchenko is 10-4 in opening rounds on hard courts this season and looks for second win at the event after defeating van de Zandschulp in 1R last year (l. to Medjedovic). He aims to become the second player representing Kazakhstan to earn 20 tour-level wins this season after Bublik (25).

- Mikhail Kukushkin** | Age: 36 | World No. 111 | Career-High No. 39 | 2024: 2-2 (Hangzhou QF) | Event: 2-4 (2020 QF)
- > Achieved career-high No. 39 and earned personal-best 22 wins in 2019.
 - > Posted 1st Top-10 win vs. No. 10 Youzhny to capture 2010 St. Petersburg title, then beat No. 4 Wawrinka for biggest win of career in 2014 Basel 1R.
 - > Advanced to 2012 Australian Open 4R following 5-set wins over Troicki and Monfils and 2019 Wimbledon 4R after beating Isner in 5 sets.
 - > Owns 247-129 Challenger record with 16 titles and wins over former or future Top-10 players Ancic, Bautista Agut, Berrettini, Gasquet, Goffin, Khachanov, Schwartzman and Verdasco.
 - > In 2024, broke a 6-year title drought on Challenger tour to capture title wins in Manama and Tenerife.
 - > Underwent left hip surgery on 25 September 2012 and right hip surgery on 8 October 2012.

NOTE: Kukushkin seeks 3rd ATP Tour win of the season after making Hangzhou QF in his first tour-level appearance of 2024. He qualified to become the only player to make main draw appearances at all 5 editions of the event.

COURT 1

Christopher O'Connell (AUS) vs Gabriel Diallo (CAN) **First Meeting**

Otto Virtanen (FIN) vs Fabio Fognini (ITA) **First Meeting**

Taro Daniel (JPN) vs [Q] Daniel Evans (GBR) **Evans Leads 1-0**
22 San Diego (U.S.A.) Hard R16 Daniel Evans 6-4 6-4

Other Meetings

14 Doha Q (Qatar)	Hard	Q3	Daniel Evans	6-2 6-2
14 Vancouver CH (Canada)	Hard	R16	Taro Daniel	6-4 7-5
15 Vancouver CH (Canada)	Hard	R16	Daniel Evans	4-6 6-3 7-6(6)
19 Phoenix CH (U.S.A.)	Hard	R32	Taro Daniel	6-4 6-2

[6] Zhang Zhizhen (CHN) vs [Q] Aslan Karatsev **Karatsev Leads 2-1**

22 Astana (Kazakhstan)	Hard	R32	Zhang Zhizhen	4-6 6-4 6-1
23 ATP Masters 1000 Madrid (Spain)	Clay	QF	Aslan Karatsev	7-6(3) 6-4
23 Tokyo (Japan)	Hard	R16	Aslan Karatsev	6-3 6-4