ASTANA OPEN - ATP MEDIA NOTES
DAY 4 - THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2021

National Tennis Center | Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan | 20-26 September 2021

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ATP HEAD2HEAD: THURSDAY SECOND-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

CENTER COURT

Soonwoo Kwon (KOR) vs [3] Dusan Lajovic (SRB) — Kwon Leads 1-0

20 Acapulco (Mexico)	Hard	R16	Soonwoo Kwon	7-6(2) 6-0

Soonwoo Kwon | Age: 23 | World No. 82 | Career-High No. 69 | 2021: 15-14 (Eastbourne, SF) | Nur-Sultan: 1-0
> Achieved career-high No. 69 on 2 March 2020 after reaching 4 ATP Tour QFs in as many weeks.
> Defeated Ivashka for 1st ATP Tour QF win in 8th attempt to reach 2021 Eastbourne SF as LL.
> Reached 2021 Roland Garros 3R after qualifying at Wimbledon and US Open in 2019.
> Went 35-14 at Challengers in 2019 with titles at Yokohama and Seoul, then captured 3rd Challenger title at 2021 Biella-2.
> Enjoys eating Kit Kat chocolate bars on court and going to the karaoke to sing with friends on off-days.

Note: Kwon is looking to reach his 4th QF of the 2021 season with a win over Lajovic.

[3] Dusan Lajovic | Age: 31 | World No. 35 | Career-High No. 23 | 2021:15-22 (3 QF) | Nur-Sultan: 0-0
> Achieved career-high No. 23 after defeating No. 5 Thiem en route to 1st ATP Tour singles final at 2019 ATP Masters 1000 Monte Carlo.
> Entered Monte Carlo as World No. 48 and became lowest-ranked Monte Carlo finalist since No. 53 Arazi in 2001.
> Won 1st ATP Tour singles title at 2019 Umag, doubles title at 2015 Istanbul w/Albot and team title at 2020 ATP Cup for Team Serbia.
> Advanced to Grand Slam 4R for 1st time at 2014 Roland Garros, losing to 13-time champion Nadal.
> Qualified 10 times at ATP Masters 1000 events, including series debut at 2014 Indian Wells.

Note: Lajovic is also competing to reach his 4th QF of the 2021 season with a defeat of his opponent.

[1] Aslan Karatsev (RUS) vs Emil Ruusuvuori (FIN) — First Meeting

Aslan Karatsev | Age: 28 | World No. 25 | Career-High No. 23 | 2021: 26-15 (Dubai W) | Nur-Sultan: 1-1
> Rose from No. 114 to No. 42 following run to 2021 Australian Open SF, then achieved career-high No. 23 following 24-12 start to season.
> At 2021 Australian Open, became 1st player in Open Era to reach SF in Grand Slam main draw debut, 1st qualifier to reach Grand Slam SF since Voltchkov at 2000 Wimbledon, and lowest-ranked Grand Slam semi-finalist since No. 125 Ivanisevic at 2001 Wimbledon.
> Ended 23-match ATP 500 win streak of countryman Rublev en route to 2021 Dubai title, then defeated No. 1 Djokovic at 2021 Belgrade-1 and No. 2 Medvedev at 2021 Rome.
> In mixed doubles w/Vesnina, finished as 2021 Roland Garros runner-up and 2020 Tokyo Olympics silver medallist in All-Russian final (held in 2021).
> Went 18-2 at Challengers following tour resumption in August 2020, including titles at Prague-2 and Ostrava.

Note: No.1 seed lost first round in 2020 after 2 rounds of qualiefiers.

Emil Ruusuvuori | Age: 22 | World No. 84 | Career-High No. 66 | 2021: 21-17 (2 SF) | Nur-Sultan: 4-1
> Former World No. 4 junior achieved career-high No. 66 and advanced to SFs at Atlanta and Winston-Salem during summer 2021.
> In 2020, advanced to 1st ATP Tour SF at Nur-Sultan after winning ATP debut at Montpellier (d. Novak), ATP Masters 1000 debut at Cincinnati (d. Korda) and Grand Slam debut at US Open (d. Bedene).
> Defeated No. 5 Thiem during 2019 Davis Cup tie and No. 7 A. Zverev en route to 2021 ATP Masters 1000 Miami 4R.
> Posted 36-12 Challenger record in 2019 with titles at Fergana, Mallorca, Glasgow and Helsinki.
> Began playing tennis at age 5 after a tennis coach spotted him playing badminton with his mom, Eva, and convinced him to switch sports.

Note: Ruusuvuori made the semi-finals of Atlanta and Winston Salem so far during the 2021 ATP Tour season.

[4] Filip Krajinovic (SRB) vs James Duckworth (AUS) First Meeting

Filip Krajinovic | Age: 29 | World No. 37 | Career-High No. 26 | 2021: 14-15 (Hamburg F) | Nur-Sultan: 0-0
> Achieved career-high No. 26 in 2018 and earned 1st Top-100 finish in 2017 after ending 2014 and 2015 at No. 101.
> Reached 1st of 4 ATP Tour finals at 2017 ATP Masters 1000 Paris as 77th-ranked Q.
> First qualifier to reach an ATP Masters 1000 final since Janowicz at 2012 Paris and lowest-ranked ATP Masters 1000 finalist since No. 98 Fish at 2008 Indian Wells.
> Beat No. 2 Djokovic 6-4 ret in 2010 Belgrade QF and remains youngest player (18) to beat Top-2 opponent since 2004 and lowest-ranked (No. 319) since 2006.

Note: Defeated no. 4 Tsitsipas in QF on his way to 2021 Hamburg finals (l. Carreno Busta).

James Duckworth | Age: 29 | World No. 65 | Career-High No. 65 | 2021: 13-13 (4 times in 3R) | Nur-Sultan: 1-1
> Achieved career-high No. 67 and earned personal-best 12 tour-level wins in 2021, advancing to 1st Grand Slam 3R at Wimbledon and 1st ATP Masters 1000 3Rs at Miami and Toronto.
> Saved 1 MP vs. Daniel en route to 1st ATP Tour SF at 2020 Pune.
> Went 0-3 on ATP Tour and 49-18 at Challengers in 2019 with 4 titles in 6 finals: Bangkok, Baotou, Playford and Pune.
> Underwent surgeries on right elbow in late-2012, early-2014 and February 2018; as well as on right foot in February 2017, August 2017 and January 2018; and right shoulder in March 2017 and March 2020.
> Grandmother, Beryl Penrose, swept singles and doubles titles at 1955 Australian Championships.

Note: A defeat of Krajinovic would take Duckworth to his first ATP Tour QF of the 2021 season.

Miomir Kecmanovic (SRB) vs [2] Alexander Bublik (KAZ) First Meeting

Miomir Kecmanovic | Age: 22 | World No. 60 | Career-High No. 38 | 2021: 13-20 (Buenos Aires SF) | Nur-Sultan: 1-1
> Broke into Top 40 after winning 1st ATP Tour title at 2020 Kitzbuhel.
> Set new career-high ranking 15 times in 2019, breaking into Top 100 following run to ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells QF as LL.
> Earned 1st 24 tour-level victories of career in 2019 with biggest win over No. 6 A. Zverev at ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati.
> Beat Ruud and Davidovich Fokina to reach 2019 Next Gen ATP Finals SF (l. to eventual champion Sinner).
> Defeated Tsitsipas in 3rd-set TB to win 2015 Orange Bowl junior title, then ended 2016 as World No. 1 junior ahead of No. 2 Tsitsipas.

Note: Kecmanovic is looking to advance past the 2nd round after losing to Tiafoe (round 2) in 2020.

Alexander Bublik | Age: 24 | World No. 34 | Career-High No. 34 | 2021: 29-24 (Newport SF) | Nur-Sultan: 0-1
> Achieved career-high No. 34 and earned personal-best 29 victories in 2021, including biggest win of career over No. 7 A. Zverev at Rotterdam.
> Reached ATP Tour finals at 2019 Newport, 2019 Chengdu, 2021 Antalya and 2021 Singapore.
> Advanced to ATP Masters 1000 QFs at 2021 Miami and 2021 Madrid.
> Owns 6-0 career record in Challenger finals with titles in 2019 at Budapest, Pau and Monterrey.
> In doubles, advanced to 2021 Roland Garros final w/Golubev and 2020 Australian Open SF w/Kukushkin.

Note: No. 2 seed lost in first round to Mackenzie McDonald in the 2020 event.

COURT 1

Egor Gerasimov (BLR) vs Carlos Taberner (ESP) First Meeting