



ALMATY OPEN – ATP MEDIA NOTES DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2026

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LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: WEDNESDAY SINGLES MATCHES

CENTER COURT

2R: James Duckworth (AUS) vs [2] Luciano Darderi (ITA)

First Meeting

James Duckworth | Age: 34 | World No. 73 | Career-High No. 46 | 2026: 13-20 (Winston-Salem SF) | Event: 8-4 ('21 Final)
> Achieved career-high No. 46 in January 2022 after earning personal-best 22 tour-level wins in 2021, highlighted by 1st ATP Tour final at Astana and biggest win of career vs. No. 13 Goffin at Miami.
> Also in 2021, advanced to 1st Grand Slam 3R at Wimbledon and 1st ATP Masters 1000 QF at Paris.
> 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 9 surgeries: right elbow in late-2012, early-2014 and February 2018; right foot in February 2017, August 2017 and January 2018; right shoulder in March 2017 and March 2020; and hip in January 2022.
> Grandmother, Beryl Penrose, swept singles and doubles titles at 1955 Australian Championships.

NOTE: Duckworth is 8-42 vs. Top 30 in his career, seeking first win since defeating No. 22 Cobolli in Almaty QF last year (0-6 since). 34-year-old looks for his 15th ATP Tour QF, second of the season, and third at this event following run to 2021 final (l. to Kwon) and last year's semi-final (l. to Medvedev in 3 sets).

Luciano Darderi | Age: 24 | World No. 23 | Career-High No. 16 | 2026: 35-24 (Santiago Title) | Event: 0-1 ('25 2R)
> Broke into Top 100 and Top 50 in 2024 before achieving career-high No. 16 in May 2026 after saving 4 MPs for biggest win of career over No. 3 Zverev en route to 1st ATP Masters 1000 QF and SF in Rome.
> Captured his 1st ATP Tour title in Cordoba, defeating Bagnis in 3rd final between two qualifiers since the ATP Tour was established in 1990.
> In 2025, won Bastad and Umag titles in back-to-back weeks in July after Marrakech title in April.
> Owns 95-61 Challenger record (4-3 in finals), winning titles at 2023 Todi, 2023 Lima-2, 2024 Perugia and 2025 Genoa.
> Peaked at No. 8 in junior rankings in February 2020 after earning 3 singles and 3 doubles titles to start the season.
> Born in Argentina, started playing tennis at age 4 with his father Luciano Enrique, a former tennis player and current coach.

NOTE: Darderi owns 1-8 tour-level record on indoor hard courts, sole win over No. 318 Thiem at 2024 Vienna in Austrian's final match of career. He aims to advance to his 21st ATP Tour QF, third on hard courts after Auckland and ATP Masters 1000 Montreal earlier this year, and 1st indoors to become the second man to reach 11 QFs in 2026.

2026 ATP 250 Win Leaders

Player	W-L	Best Result
Luciano Darderi	16-8	Santiago Title
Mariano Navone	14-9	Bucharest Title
Sebastian Baez	14-10	Auckland Final
Fabian Marozsan	13-7	Auckland, Bucharest, Mallorca SF

Most Men's 2026 Tour-Level Quarter-Finals

Player	QFs
Alexander Zverev	12
Luciano Darderi	10
Ben Shelton	10
de Minaur, Rublev	9

1R: [WC] Zangar Nurlanuly (KAZ) vs Tomas Machac (CZE)

First Meeting

Zangar Nurlanuly | Age: 18 | World No. 1308 (Career-High) | 2026: 0-0 (M15 Astana SF) | Event: 0-0 (Debut)
> Former Top-10 junior earned 1st ranking point in December 2025, achieving career-high No. 1308 in October 2026
> Making ATP Tour debut in his hometown of Almaty in 2026 as WC in singles and doubles, teaming up with Kazakhstani singles No. 1 Bublik in doubles, losing to Cukierman/Romboli in 1R in deciding set.
> Advanced to 2025 M15 Sharm El Sheikh QF and 2026 M15 Astana SF on ITF World Tennis Tour, but still seeks his 1st Challenger win (0-4).
> Peaked at No. 7 in juniors in May 2026, highlighted by semi-final runs in boys' singles at 2025 US Open and 2026 Australian Open.

NOTE: Almaty-native Nurlanuly is making his ATP Tour singles debut and aims to record his first Top 500 win of career to become the second-youngest match winner in tournament history after Engel, 17, in 2024. 18-year-old bids to become the fifth man born in 2008 or later to record an ATP Tour or Grand Slam win.

ATP Tour or Grand Slam Wins by Players Born Since 2008: 2008-born Nurlanuly would join the list with a win.

Player	Birth Year	Wins	Tournament
Moise Kouame	2009	4	2026 Miami (d. Svajda), 2026 Roland Garros (d. Cilic, Vallejo), 2026 Lyon (d. Sonogo)
Cruz Hewitt	2008	2	2026 Washington (d. Giron), 2026 Winston-Salem (d. Gorznyi)
Diego Dedura	2008	1	2025 Munich (d. Shapovalov)
Thijs Boogaard	2008	1	2026 's-Hertogenbosch (d. Wu)

Tomas Machac | Age: 26 | World No. 72 | Career-High No. 20 | 2026: 15-15 (Adelaide Title) | Event: 1-1 (2024 2R)

> Broke into Top 100 in time for 2022 year-end rankings and achieved career-high No. 20 in March 2025 after capturing 1st ATP Tour title in Acapulco, becoming first Czech man in Top 20 since Berdych in 2018.

> Reached 1st ATP Tour final at 2024 Geneva by defeating No. 1 Djokovic and upset No. 2 Alcaraz to advance to 2024 ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai SF.

> Representing Czechia, recorded wins over Zhang at 2024 Paris Olympics in men's singles 1R and mixed doubles final to earn gold medal with Siniakova.

> Boasts 112-55 Challenger record (6-5 in finals), including back-to-back titles at Orleans and Mouilleron le Captif in October 2023.

> Captured 2nd ATP Tour title at 2026 Adelaide, joining Auckland champion Mensik as the first Czech men's duo to win tour-level titles in the same week since Lendl and Smid in July 1982.

NOTE: Machac earned 9 of 15 wins this season on hard courts, highlighted by going on a 7-match winning streak to capture Adelaide title and reach Australian Open 3R in January. He is playing in his third match vs. a home player in as many matches played at this event following win over Skatov in 2024 1R, before retiring vs. Zhukayev in 2R.

2R: Adrian Mannarino (FRA) vs [4] Andrey Rublev

19 Moscow (Russia)	Hard	F	Andrey Rublev	6-4 6-0
21 Moscow (Russia)	Hard	R16	Adrian Mannarino	5-7 7-6(4) 6-3
22 Astana (Kazakhstan)	Hard	QF	Andrey Rublev	6-1 6-2
23 ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai (China)	Hard	R32	Andrey Rublev	6-3 6-0
25 Wimbledon (Great Britain)	Grass	R32	Andrey Rublev	7-5 6-2 6-3

Rublev Leads 4-1

Adrian Mannarino | Age: 38 | World No. 79 | Career-High No. 17 | 2026: 18-26 (Montpellier Final) | Event: 12-3 ('23 Title)

> Ended 13 straight years in Top 75 of PIF ATP Rankings (2013-25) and became the oldest man to break into Top 20 in PIF ATP Rankings history at 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 and posted win over No. 6 Shelton via RET to reach 2025 US Open 4R, after 0-22 start vs. Top-10 at Grand Slams.

NOTE: Mannarino owns tournament record for most wins in event history (12), highlighted by runs to 2020 final (l. to Millman) and 2023 title (d. Korda). He aims to advance to his 66th ATP Tour QF, fourth of 2026 (Montpellier, 's-Hertogenbosch, Chengdu) and become first man to reach 4 QFs at this event (2020, 2022-23).

Almaty Win Leaders

Player	W-L
Adrian Mannarino	12-3
James Duckworth	8-4
Daniil Medvedev	7-1
Karen Khachanov	7-2

Mannarino's Top 30 Wins This Season

Win Over	Tournament
No. 24 Arthur Rinderknech	's-Hertogenbosch 2R
No. 16 Jakub Mensik	London / Queen's Club 1R
No. 16 Learner Tien	Washington 1R
No. 7 Flavio Cobolli	ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai 2R

Andrey Rublev | Age: 29 | World No. 22 | Career-High No. 5 | 2026: 33-20 (Bastad Title) | Event: 3-1 (2022 SF)

> Former No. 1 junior broke into Top 20 in January 2020, Top 10 in October 2020 and Top 5 in September 2021.

> Rallied from a set down in both SF (d. Fritz) and final (d. Rune) at 2023 Monte-Carlo to capture 1st ATP Masters 1000 title and defeated two-time defending champion No. 3 Alcaraz en route to 2nd title at 2024 Madrid.

> Defeated No. 3 Nadal at 2021 Monte-Carlo, No. 2 Medvedev at 2021 Cincinnati and No. 1 Sinner at 2024 Montreal

en route to ATP Masters 1000 finals and beat No. 1 Djokovic for 11th of 18 ATP Tour titles at 2022 Belgrade.
> Led tour with 5 titles in 2020, tied for tour-lead with 41 victories in 2020, and won 23 matches and 4 titles in a row at ATP 500 events from 2020-21.
> Ten-time Grand Slam quarter-finalist reached 2022 Nitto ATP Finals SF and won gold medal in All-ROC mixed doubles final at 2020 Tokyo Olympics w/Pavlyuchenkova (held in 2021).
> Went 9-1 in singles and 4-1 in doubles at team events during 2021 season, sweeping titles at ATP Cup, Laver Cup and Davis Cup.

NOTE: Rublev, who turned 29 on Tuesday, aims to advance to his 92nd tour-level quarter-final, first on indoor hard courts since Rotterdam in February last year. He would become the fourth man to reach 10 tour-level quarter-finals this year, joining Zverev (12), Darderi (10) and Shelton (10).

2R: [7] Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE) vs [WC] Mikhail Kukushkin (KAZ) Tsitsipas Leads 4-0

18 Dubai (U.A.E.)	Hard	R32	Stefanos Tsitsipas	6-2 6-7(5) 6-3
19 Marseille (France)	Hard	F	Stefanos Tsitsipas	7-5 7-6(5)
19 ATP Masters 1000 Monte-Carlo (Monaco)	Clay	R32	Stefanos Tsitsipas	6-3 7-5
22 Astana (Kazakhstan)	Hard	R32	Stefanos Tsitsipas	6-3 6-4

Other Meeting

18 ATP Masters 1000 Rome Q (Italy)	Clay	Q1	Stefanos Tsitsipas	5-7 6-3 7-6(5)
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Stefanos Tsitsipas | Age: 28 | World No. 39 | Career-High No. 3 | 2026: 35-22 (Gstaad Title) | Event: 5-1 ('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 seeks 86th tour-level quarter-final, third of the season after Doha and Gstaad, and first indoors since Rotterdam last year. 28-year-old is on a 13-1 run vs. players ranked outside Top 30 since Wimbledon, lone loss to then-No. 89 Kovacevic in Winston-Salem 3R, avenging the loss by defeating Kovacevic in Almaty 1R.

Mikhail Kukushkin | Age: 38 | World No. 389 | Career-High No. 39 | 2026: 1-0 (Almaty 2R) | Event: 3-5 (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 278-158 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, who turned pro in 2006, is playing in his last ATP Tour event of his career, and defeated Greek No. 2 Sakellaridis in 1R. Now, 38-year-old aims to reach his 21st ATP Tour QF, third in this decade after 2020 Astana and 2024 Hangzhou, and record his first Top 40 win since defeating No. 28 Paire in 2020 Astana 2R.

COURT 1

1R: Mattia Bellucci (ITA) vs [6] Tomas Martin Etcheverry (ARG) Bellucci Leads 1-0

26 ATP Masters 1000 Rome (Italy)	Clay	R64	Mattia Bellucci	5-7 6-2 6-3
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2R: Facundo Diaz Acosta (ARG) vs [Q] Nikoloz Basilashvili (GEO) First Meeting