



FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP – ATP MEDIA NOTES

PREVIEW & DAY 1 – MONDAY 1 APRIL 2024

River Oaks Country Club | Houston, TX, USA | 1-7 April 2024

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2024 FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES

SEED	PLAYER	2024 W-L (BEST FINISH)	EVENT W-L (BEST FINISH)
1	Ben Shelton (USA)	11-7 (Auckland, Dallas SF)	0-0 (Debut)
2	Francisco Cerundolo (ARG)	7-9 (Rio de Janeiro SF)	0-0 (Debut)
3	Frances Tiafoe (USA)	7-7 (Delray Beach SF)	7-4 (2023 Title)
4	Tomas Martin Etcheverry (ARG)	5-7 (Cordoba, Buenos Aires QF)	4-1 (2023 Final)
5	Christopher Eubanks (USA)	4-6 (Miami 3R)	0-0 (2019 Q2)
6	Jordan Thompson (AUS)	13-8 (Los Cabos Title)	3-4 (2019 QF)
7	Marcos Giron (USA)	8-7 (Dallas Final)	1-2 (2023 2R)
8	Max Purcell (AUS)	4-9 (4 times in 2R)	1-2 (2023 2R)

Tournament History 1969-2019, 2022-Present (54th edition in 2024, 22nd in Houston)
Singles Final Sunday 7 April at 2 pm
Wild Cards (3) Denis Kudla (USA), Michael Mmoh (USA), Denis Shapovalov (CAN)
Qualifiers (4) Gijs Brouwer (NED), Patrick Kypson (USA), Alexander Ritschard (SUI), Wu Yibing (CHN)
Oldest Player Benoit Paire (34)
#NextGen ATP (1) Alex Michelsen (19)
Tournament Records
Most Titles – Jimmy Connors (4)
Most Wins – Jimmy Connors (36)
Youngest Champion – Andre Agassi, 18, in 1988
Oldest Champion – Andre Agassi, 32, in 2003
Highest-Ranked Champion – No. 1 Jimmy Connors in 1974, 1976, 1978
Lowest-Ranked Champion – No. 352 Fernando Gonzalez in 2000
Last American Champion – Frances Tiafoe in 2023

COUNTRY BREAKDOWN (13)

United States (11) Christopher Eubanks, Marcos Giron, Aleksandar Kovacevic, Denis Kudla, Patrick Kypson, Alex Michelsen, Michael Mmoh, Brandon Nakashima, Ben Shelton, Frances Tiafoe, J.J. Wolf
Australia (5) James Duckworth, Rinky Hijikata, Thanasi Kokkinakis, Max Purcell, Jordan Thompson
Argentina (2) Francisco Cerundolo, Tomas Martin Etcheverry
Belgium (1) Zizou Bergs
Canada (1) Denis Shapovalov
China (1) Wu Yibing
Colombia (1) Daniel Elahi Galan
Croatia (1) Duje Ajdukovic
France (1) Benoit Paire
Italy (1) Luciano Darderi
Netherlands (1) Gijs Brouwer
Peru (1) Juan Pablo Varillas
Switzerland (1) Alexander Ritschard

PIF ATP RANKINGS POINTS AND PRIZE MONEY

Fayez Sarofim & Co. U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship	W	F	SF	QF	R16	R32
Singles Ranking Points	250	165	100	50	25*	0
Singles Prize Money (\$)	100,635	58,700	34,510	19,995	11,610	7,095
Doubles Ranking Points	250	150	90	45	0	--
Doubles Prize Money (\$)	34,960	18,170	10,970	6,130	3,610	--

* Singles players who receive a bye in R32 and lose in R16 earn 0 ranking points

2024 FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES

SEED	PLAYER	TEAM (BEST FINISH)	2024 (BEST FINISH)	EVENT (BEST FINISH)
1	Austin Krajceck (USA) Rajeev Ram (USA)	11-4 (2018 Moscow Title) 1-0 in 2024 (Davis Cup)	14-5 (Dubai, Miami Finals) 10-4 (Adelaide Title)	3-3 (2019 SF) 0-2 (2010-11 1R)
2	Nathaniel Lammons (USA) Jackson Withrow (USA)	78-58 (5 Titles) 9-9 in 2024 (2 SFs)	9-9 (2 times in SF) 9-9 (2 times in SF)	1-3 (2023 QF) 2-3 (2022-23 QF)
3	Julian Cash (GBR) Robert Galloway (USA)	12-10 (1 Title) 8-7 in 2024 (1 Title)	8-8 (Delray Beach Title) 8-7 (Delray Beach Title)	2-1 (2023 Final) 2-3 (2023 SF)
4	Max Purcell (AUS) Jordan Thompson (AUS)	26-7 (3 Titles) 13-3 in 2024 (2 Titles)	13-4 (Dallas, Los Cabos Titles) 13-3 (Dallas, Los Cabos Titles)	8-0 (2022-23 Titles) 4-1 (2023 Title)

Doubles Final: Saturday 6 April following singles semi-finals

FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES FINALS (since 2011)

YEAR	CHAMPION	FINALIST	SCORE
2023	Frances Tiafoe (USA)	Tomas Martin Etcheverry (ARG)	7-6(1) 7-6(6)
2022	Reilly Opelka (USA)	John Isner (USA)	6-3 7-6(7)
2020-21	TOURNAMENT NOT HELD		
2019	Cristian Garin (CHI)	Casper Ruud (NOR)	7-6(4) 4-6 6-3
2018	Steve Johnson (USA)	Tennys Sandgren (USA)	7-6(2) 2-6 6-4
2017	Steve Johnson (USA)	Thomaz Bellucci (BRA)	6-4 4-6 7-6(5)
2016	Juan Monaco (ARG)	Jack Sock (USA)	3-6 6-3 7-5
2015	Jack Sock (USA)	Sam Querrey (USA)	7-6(9) 7-6(2)
2014	Fernando Verdasco (ESP)	Nicolas Almagro (ESP)	6-3 7-6(4)
2013	John Isner (USA)	Nicolas Almagro (ESP)	6-3 7-5
2012	Juan Monaco (ARG)	John Isner (USA)	6-2 3-6 6-3
2011	Ryan Sweeting (USA)	Kei Nishikori (JPN)	6-4 7-6(3)

BOLD: Player in 2024 Fayez Sarofim & Co. U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship singles draw.

FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLES FINALS (since 2011)

YEAR	CHAMPION	FINALIST	SCORE
2023	Max Purcell / Jordan Thompson	Julian Cash / Henry Patten	4-6 6-4 [10-5]
2022	Matthew Ebden / Max Purcell	Ivan Sabanov / Matej Sabanov	6-3 6-3
2020-21	TOURNAMENT NOT HELD		
2019	Santiago Gonzalez / Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi	Ken Skupski / Neal Skupski	3-6 6-4 [10-6]
2018	Max Mirnyi / Philipp Oswald	Andre Begemann / Antonio Sancic	6-7(2) 6-4 [11-9]
2017	Julio Peralta / Horacio Zeballos	Dustin Brown / Frances Tiafoe	4-6 7-5 [10-6]
2016	Bob Bryan / Mike Bryan	Victor Estrella Burgos / Santiago Gonzalez	4-6 6-3 [10-8]
2015	Ricardas Berankis / Teymuraz Gabashvili	Treat Huey / Scott Lipsky	6-4 6-4
2014	Bob Bryan / Mike Bryan	David Marrero / Fernando Verdasco	4-6 6-4 [11-9]
2013	Jamie Murray / John Peers	Bob Bryan / Mike Bryan	1-6 7-6(3) [12-10]
2012	James Blake / Sam Querrey	Treat Huey / Dominic Inglot	7-6(14) 6-4
2011	Bob Bryan / Mike Bryan	John Isner / Sam Querrey	6-7 6-2 [10-5]

BOLD: Player in 2024 Fayez Sarofim & Co. U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship doubles draw – team Purcell/Thompson remains intact.

LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: MONDAY FIRST-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

STADIUM COURT

Duje Ajdukovic (CRO) vs Brandon Nakashima (USA)

First Meeting

Duje Ajdukovic | Age: 23 | World No. 115 (Career-High) | 2024: 1-1 (Davis Cup) | Houston: 0-0 (Debut)

- > Broke Top 200 in September 2023 soon after capturing 1st Challenger title in Luedenscheid as Q, then achieved career-high No. 115 in April 2024.
- > Made ATP Tour debut at 2021 Umag as WC, defeating Collarini for first win and recorded second win at 2024 Davis Cup vs. Belgium, defeating De Loore in front of home crowd in Croatia.
- > Owns 74-60 Challenger record (2-2 in finals) with titles at 2023 Luedenscheid and 2023 Kobe.
- > Defeated No. 99 Mager at 2022 Zadar CH for lone Top 100 win of career.
- > Left Croatia to train in Italy at age 16 and says that Italians Riccardo Piatti and Andrea Volpini taught him the most about tennis, but countryman Dino Marcan had the biggest impact on his game overall.

NOTE: Ajdukovic is playing his first ATP Tour main draw outside of Umag and seeking the biggest win of his career (1-5 against the Top 100 across all levels). He aims to be the first Croatian to capture a match win in Houston since Karlovic reached 2018 SF.

Brandon Nakashima | Age: 22 | World No. 92 | Career-High No. 43 | 2024: 1-2 (Indian Wells 2R) | Houston: 0-0 (Debut)

- > Former World No. 3 junior broke into Top 50 in July 2022 and achieved career-high No. 43 in October 2022, ending season on 16-1 run in tiebreaks.
- > Returned to Milan and went 5-0 to capture 2022 Next Gen ATP Finals title after reaching SF in 2021.
- > Defeated countryman Giron to win 1st ATP Tour title in hometown of San Diego in 2022.
- > Played in back-to-back ATP Tour finals at Los Cabos and Atlanta as 19-year-old in 2021, becoming youngest American to reach multiple finals since Roddick in 2001-02.
- > Reached Roland Garros 3R, Wimbledon 4R and US Open 3R in 2022, highlighted by first Top 20 wins of career over No. 16 Shapovalov in Wimbledon 2R and No. 19 Dimitrov in US Open 2R.

NOTE: Nakashima is competing in his 4th ATP Tour match of 2024, all on home soil (2 - ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells, 1 - ATP Masters 1000 Miami). He is 20-6 vs. opponents ranked outside the Top 100 across all levels in 2024.

[Q] Patrick Kypson (USA) vs Zizou Bergs (BEL)

First Tour-Level Meeting

Other Meeting

23 Tallahassee CH (U.S.A.)

Clay R16 Zizou Bergs

6-2 6-2

Patrick Kypson | Age: 24 | World No. 133 (Career-High) | 2024: 3-3 (Delray Beach QF) | Houston: 0-0 (Debut)

- > Earned first ranking point at age 16 in 2015, broke into Top 200 in November 2023 after winning his 2nd Challenger title in Champaign and achieved career-high No. 133 in April 2024.
- > Made his tour-level debut at 2017 US Open as a 17-year-old WC losing to Menendez-Maceiras in 1R.
- > Captured 1st Challenger title at 2023 Medellin, hometown of current coach Alejandro Gonzalez.
- > Earned biggest win of career over No. 40 Kecmanovic to earn 1st ATP Tour win of career at 2024 Delray Beach.
- > Owns a 38-32 Challenger record (3-0 in finals), winning titles at 2023 Medellin, Champaign and 2024 Cleveland.
- > Peaked at No. 18 in junior rankings in 2017, reaching 2016 US Open QF as Q (l. to eventual champion Auger-Aliassime) and 2017 Wimbledon SF (l. to eventual champion Davidovich Fokina) in boys' singles.

NOTE: Kypson is playing his 2nd tour-level event on clay after losing to Albot at 2023 Roland Garros 1R. He has earned all his tour-level wins on home soil (2 at 2024 Delray Beach, 1 at 2024 ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells).

Zizou Bergs | Age: 24 | World No. 111 (Career-High) | 2024: 2-2 (2 times in 2R) | Houston: 0-1 (2023 2R)

- > Former World No. 12 junior broke into Top 200 in July 2021 and achieved career-high No. 111 in April 2024.
- > Defeated Ramos-Vinolas for 1st ATP Tour win at 2020 Antwerp as 528th-ranked WC and advanced to 1st ATP Tour QF at 2023 Gstaad.
- > Earned 2022 Wimbledon WC after defeating former World No. 8 Sock for 2022 Ilkley Challenger title as Q.
- > Also won Challenger titles at 2021 St. Petersburg-1 as Q, 2021 Lille as Q, 2021 Almaty, 2023 Tallahassee, 2023 Drummondville and 2023 Yokkaichi.
- > Went 90-45 on ITF Junior Circuit, but lost in 1R of all 4 Grand Slam boys' singles events in 2017.

NOTE: Bergs is looking for his first tour-level win outside of Davis Cup since making 2023 Gstaad QF (l. to Kecmanovic). He is 9-3 against Americans across all levels, 4-0 on clay including the win over Kypson at 2023 Tallahassee CH.

Rinky Hijikata (AUS) vs [5] Christopher Eubanks (USA)

First Tour-Level Meeting

Other Meeting

21 Australian Open Q (Australia) Hard Q1 Rinky Hijikata 6-2 6-3

Rinky Hijikata | Age: 23 | World No. 80 | Career-High No. 70 | 2024: 6-7 (2 times in QF) | Houston: 0-0 (2023 Q1)
 > Former World No. 9 junior achieved career-high No. 70 in October 2023 soon after reaching US Open 4R.
 > Broke into Top 100 after advancing to 1st ATP Tour SF at 2023 's-Hertogenbosch as LL.
 > 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 2 Challenger singles titles on home soil: Playford in October 2022 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 is playing his 1st ATP Tour match on clay and is 2-14 against Top 50 opponents, defeating No. 36 Djere at 2023 ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai and No. 43 Arnaldi at 2024 Delray Beach.

Christopher Eubanks | Age: 27 | World No. 41 | Career-High No. 29 | 2024: 4-6 (Miami 3R) | Houston: 0-0 (2019 Q2)
 > Earned personal-best 21 wins in 2023 and made his Top 100 debut at age 26, peaking at No. 29 in July 2023 soon after reaching 1st Grand Slam QF at 2023 Wimbledon (d. No. 5 Tsitsipas in 4R).
 > Broke into Top 100 by reaching 1st ATP Masters 1000 QF as a Q at 2023 Miami in March and Top 50 by capturing 1st ATP Tour title at 2023 Mallorca (d. Mannarino) in June.
 > 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.
 > 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 is competing in his 4th tour-level match on clay (1-2), picking up a win over No. 149 Paire at 2023 Geneva. He is 6-2 in opening round tour-level matches on home soil since ATP Masters 1000 Miami last year.

[Q] Alexander Ritschard (SUI) vs J.J. Wolf (USA)

First Tour-Level Meeting

Other Meeting

22 Tallahassee CH (U.S.A.) Clay R16 J.J. Wolf 7-6(5) 6-3

Alexander Ritschard | Age: 30 | World No. 194 | Career-High No. 160 | 2024: 0-0 | Houston: 0-0 (Debut)
 > Earned 1st ranking point at age 16 in September 2010, broke into Top 200 at age 28 in June 2022 and achieved career-high No. 160 in June 2023.
 > Qualified and made tour-level debut as 28-year-old at 2022 Wimbledon (l. to Tsitsipas in 1R), earned 1st tour-level win at 2022 Gstaad as WC (d. Sousa in 1R), and qualified at 2022 US Open.
 > Won his maiden Challenger title at 2022 Hamburg after losing in finals at 2021 Naples and 2022 Forli-5.
 > Played college tennis at University of Virginia and helped Cavaliers win NCAA team titles in 2015, 2016 and 2017.
 > Former World No. 65 junior began playing tennis at age 5 with his father Hans, who competed professionally in 1980s.

NOTE: Ritschard is 2-13 against Top 100 players across all levels, posting both wins in ATP Tour events on clay (over No. 58 J. Sousa at 2022 Gstaad and No. 64 Struff at 2023 Munich).

J.J. Wolf | Age: 25 | World No. 96 | Career-High No. 39 | 2024: 0-4 (4 times in 1R) | Houston: 3-2 (2023 QF)
 > Already ranked No. 272 when he turned pro in July 2019, then broke into Top 100 in August 2022 and achieved career-high No. 39 in February 2023.
 > Advanced to 1st ATP Tour SF and final of career at 2022 Florence after reaching US Open 3R as WC in both 2020 and 2022.
 > Upset No. 14 Tiafoe for biggest win of career and to reach 2nd ATP Tour SF at 2023 Dallas.
 > Defeated fellow American Mmoh to advance to 2023 Australian Open 4R, falling in 5 sets to countryman Shelton.
 > Owns 78-43 Challenger record overall, including 5-1 in finals and 21-7 with 2 titles in Columbus, where he played 3 seasons of college tennis for Ohio State University.

NOTE: Wolf is trying to snap a 7-match tour-level losing streak since beating Baez at Stockholm in October. Earned 3 of 6 ATP Tour clay-court wins in Houston over Brooksby in 2022 1R and Thompson and Kudla in 2023 to make 4th of 7 career ATP Tour QFs.