

NEXT GEN ATP FINALS PRESENTED BY NEOM – ATP MEDIA NOTES PREVIEW & DAY 1 – TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2023

King Abdullah Sports City | Jeddah, Saudi Arabia | 28 November - 2 December 2023 Draw: S-8 | Prize Money: \$2,000,000 | Surface: Indoor Hard

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NEXT GEN ATP FINALS PRESENTED BY NEOM - PLAYER FIELD

Seed	Player	Age	Ranking	Career-High	2023	Season Highlight
1	Arthur Fils (FRA)	19	No. 36	No. 36	19-17	Lyon Title
2	Luca Van Assche (FRA)	19	No. 70	No. 63	10-17	Hamburg, Metz QF
3	Dominic Stricker (SUI)	21	No. 94	No. 88	7-8	Basel QF
4	Alex Michelsen (USA)	19	No. 97	No. 94	7-5	Newport Final
5	Flavio Cobolli (ITA)	21	No. 100	No. 95	4-5	Munich QF
6	Hamad Medjedovic (SRB)	20	No. 110	No. 102	7-7	Gstaad, Astana SF
7	Luca Nardi (ITA)	20	No. 115	No. 115	1-5	CH: Porto, Matsuyama Titles
8	Abdullah Shelbayh (JOR)	20	No. 185	No. 185	2-6	CH: Charleston Title

NEXT GEN ATP FINALS PRESENTED BY NEOM - DRAW

Seeded positions	GREEN GROUP	FILS, Arthur	STRICKER, Dominic	COBOLLI, Flavio	NARDI, Luca	Round Robin Record	Se	ets	Gai	mes
S			S				W-L	Win %	W - L	Win %
1	FILS, Arthur					0 - 0	0 - 0	0.00%	0 - 0	0.00%
3	STRICKER, Dominic					0 - 0	0 - 0	0.00%	0 - 0	0.00%
5	COBOLLI, Flavio					0 - 0	0 - 0	0.00%	0 - 0	0.00%
7	NARDI, Luca					0 - 0	0 - 0	0.00%	0 - 0	0.00%

Seeded positions	RED GROUP	VAN ASSCHE, Luca MICHELSEN, Alex		SHELBAYH, Abdullah	Round Robin Record	Sets		Games		
				W	S	R	W-L	Win %	W-L	Win %
2	VAN ASSCHE, Luca					0 - 0	0 - 0	0.00%	0 - 0	0.00%
4	MICHELSEN, Alex					0 - 0	0 - 0	0.00%	0 - 0	0.00%
6	MEDJEDOVIC, Hamad					0 - 0	0 - 0	0.00%	0 - 0	0.00%
8	SHELBAYH, Abdullah					0 - 0	0 - 0	0.00%	0 - 0	0.00%



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NEXT GEN ATP FINALS PRESENTED BY NEOM - TALKING POINTS

- Two Frenchmen and two Italians headline the sixth edition of the Next Gen ATP Finals. French teenagers
 Arthur Fils and Luca Van Assche are the Top 2 seeds ranked No. 36 and No. 70, respectively, in the
 Pepperstone ATP Rankings. Fils won his first ATP Tour title this season on home soil in Lyon and he's made
 the biggest jump into the Top 50 from last year, climbing 213 spots from No. 249.
- Van Assche won 10 ATP Tour level matches and advanced to quarter-finals in Hamburg and Metz. He also compiled a 19-6 record on the ATP Challenger Tour and captured two titles. They join American Alex Michelsen as the teenagers in the Top 100 Pepperstone ATP Rankings. Michelsen is the No. 4 seed and he made the biggest jump into the Top 100 from last year, climbing 504 spots from No. 601 to No. 97.
- No. 3 seed **Dominic Stricker** of Switzerland is the only returning player from last year's Next Gen ATP Finals in Milan. The 21-year-old left-hander advanced to the semi-finals. This season he reached a career-high No. 88 highlighted by a quarter-final on home soil in Basel and 4th round at the US Open.
- No. 5 seed **Flavio Cobolli** and No. 7 **Luca Nardi** are the two youngest Italians in the Top 125 Pepperstone ATP Rankings. Cobolli, 21, is ranked No. 100 and Nardi, 20, is No. 115. Their country captured the Davis Cup on Sunday over Australia led by **Jannik Sinner**, who won the 2019 Next Gen ATP Finals trophy in Milan.
- No. 6 seed is **Hamad Medjedovic** is being mentored by countryman Novak Djokovic. The 20-year-old Serb advanced to ATP Tour semi-finals in Gstaad and Astana and reached a career-high ranking of No. 102. He comes into Jeddah at No. 110.
- The No. 8 seed is wild card **Abdullah Shelbayh** of Jordan. The 20-year-old has jumped from No. 524 last year to a career-high No. 185 coming into the tournament. He won his first Challenger title in Charleston on 1 October. He has trained at the Rafa Nadal Academy in Mallorca for more than five years.
- Star-studded alumni of the Next Gen ATP Finals include...
 - 2021 champion Carlos Alcaraz, who won the 2022 US Open to become the youngest World No. 1
 - o 2019 champion Jannik Sinner, who finished No. 4 this season and led Italy to the Davis Cup crown
 - 2018 champion Stefanos Tsitsipas, who won the 2019 Nitto ATP Finals and has ranked No. 3
- Twelve past competitors at the Next Gen ATP Finals have gone on to break into the Top 10. Of those 12 players, nine will have played at the Nitto ATP Finals.

Player	Career-High	Next Gen ATP Finals (W-L)	Nitto ATP Finals (Best Result)
Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)	No. 1 in 2022	2021 Title (5-0)	2023 (SF)
Daniil Medvedev	No. 1 in 2022	2017 SF (2-2)	2019-23 (2020 Title)
Casper Ruud (NOR)	No. 2 in 2022	2019 Round Robin (1-2)	2021-22 (2022 Finalist)
Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE)	No. 3 in 2021	2018 Title (5-0)	2019-23 (2019 Title)
Jannik Sinner (ITA)	No. 4 in 2023	2019 Title (4-1)	2021 ALT, 2023 (2023 Finalist)
Holger Rune (DEN)	No. 4 in 2023	2021 Round Robin (1-2)	2023 (Round Robin)
Andrey Rublev	No. 5 in 2021	2017 Final, 2018 SF (6-4)	2020-23 (2022 SF)
Taylor Fritz (USA)	No. 5 in 2023	2018 Round Robin (1-2)	2022 (SF)
Karen Khachanov	No. 8 in 2019	2017 Round Robin (1-2)	
Hubert Hurkacz (POL)	No. 9 in 2021	2018 Round Robin (1-2)	2021, 2023 ALT (2021, '23 RR)
Frances Tiafoe (USA)	No. 10 in 2023	2018 RR, 2019 SF (3-4)	
Denis Shapovalov (CAN)	No. 10 in 2020	2017 Round Robin (2017)	

Prize Money Breakdown	Prize Money
Participation (3 Matches)	\$150,000
Round Robin Win	\$32,500
Semi-Final Win	\$113,500
Final Win	\$153,000
Undefeated Champion	\$514,000



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- The 2023 Next Gen ATP Finals will feature the following innovations and rules...
 - No on-court warm-up: Matches will start immediately after the coin toss, with a separate practice court available for warm-ups.
 - Shot-Clock Reductions: A new maximum of eight seconds will be introduced between first and second serves. This also applies after a let on first or second serve. As in previous editions, time between points will be reduced from 25 to 15 seconds if the previous point includes fewer than three shots
 - Wearables: Players will be able to track and visualise biometric data during matches via wearable devices – providing a comprehensive overview of their physical performance and stress responses.
 - Insights: A new Physicality Index, developed by Tennis Data Innovations and Kinexon, will capture
 physical exertion through player and ball-tracking technology. Existing TDI insights such as Shot
 Quality will be leveraged in stadium for the first time.
 - In-match analytics: The newly launched Tennis IQ platform will be available to coaches sitting courtside along with data-tagged video footage, with match data updated in real time and visualised in stadium.
 - Basecamp: A new pre-event, off-court competition, Basecamp, will measure the skills and physicality
 of players through a series of tests, creating new ways for fans to analyse the game's rising stars.
 - Lower umpire chair to reduce the visual obstruction for fans in the arena. Live Electronic Line Calling remains in place on all line calls.
 - o Simplified scoreboard for improved fan engagement and understanding.

NEXT GEN ATP FINALS PRESENTED BY NEOM - PAST FINALS

Year	Champion	Finalist	Score
2022	Brandon Nakashima (USA)	Jiri Lehecka (CZE)	4-3(5) 4-3(6) 4-2
2021	Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)	Sebastian Korda (USA)	4-3(5) 4-2 4-2
2020	Not	Held	
2019	Jannik Sinner (ITA)	Alex de Minaur (AUS)	4-2 4-1 4-2
2018	Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE)	Alex de Minaur (AUS)	2-4 4-1 4-3(3) 4-3(3)
2017	Hyeon Chung (KOR)	Andrey Rublev	3-4(5) 4-3(2) 4-2 4-2

NEXT GEN ATP FINALS COUNTRY BREAKDOWN (20) - All-time

	No.	Players (Year)							
Italy	8	Arnaldi (2022), Caruana (2018), Cobolli (2023) , Musetti (2021-22), Nardi (2023) , Passaro (2022), Quinzi (2017), Sinner (2019)							
USA	6	Donaldson (2017), Fritz (2018), Korda (2021), Michelsen (2023), Nakashima (2021-22), Tiafoe (2018-19)							
France	4	Fils (2023), Gaston (2021), Humbert (2019), Van Assche (2023)							
Spain	3	Alcaraz (2021), Davidovich Fokina (2019), Munar (2018)							
Argentina	2	Baez (2021), J.M. Cerundolo (2021)							
Serbia	2	Kecmanovic (2019), Medjedovic (2023)							
One Each	n:								
Australia		de Minaur (2018-19)	Greece	Tsitsipas (2018)					
Canada		Shapovalov (2017)	Jordan	Shelbayh (2023)					
Chinese T	aipei	Tseng (2022)	Norway	Ruud (2019)					
Croatia Coric (2017)		Coric (2017)	Poland	Hurkacz (2018)					
Czech Republic		Lehecka (2022)	South Korea	Chung (2017)					
Denmark		Rune (2021)	Sweden	M. Ymer (2019)					
Great Britain		Draper (2022)	Switzerland	Stricker (2022-23)					

Khachanov (2017), Medvedev (2017), Rublev (2017-18)



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LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEADS - TUESDAY MATCHES

[1] Arthur Fils (FRA) vs [7] Luca Nardi (ITA)

First Meeting

Arthur Fils | Age: 19 | World No. 36 (Career-High) | 2023: 19-17 (Lyon Title) | Event: 0-0 (Debut)

- > Earned 1st ranking point at age 16 in January 2021, then achieved career-high No. 36 in October 2023.
- > Became youngest Frenchman at 18 years and 11 months to win an ATP Tour title since Gael Monfils at 2005 Sopot at 2023 Lyon as No. 112-ranked WC.
- > In February 2023, became the youngest Frenchman to reach an ATP Tour SF since Gasquet in 2004 at 2023 Montpellier (I. to Sinner) and advanced to 2nd ATP Tour SF at 2023 Marseille (I. to Bonzi).
- > Made ATP Tour main draw debut at 2022 ATP Masters 1000 Paris after beating Top-60 players Munar and Fognini in qualifying before losing to [LL] Fognini in 1R.
- > Defeated former Top-20 player Tomic in Grand Slam qualifying debut at 2021 Roland Garros as 16-year-old ranked 1,035th, advanced to boys' singles final (I. to countryman Van Assche) and won the boys' doubles title w/Mpetshi Perricard, achieving career-high No. 3 in junior rankings during 2021 season.

NOTE: Fils will finish as the No. 3 Frenchman in the Pepperstone ATP Rankings (behind No. 20 Humbert, No. 22 Mannarino) and the only player in the draw to win an ATP Tour title this season (in Lyon).. One of three teenagers in the field along with countryman Luca Van Assche and American Alex Michelsen. Has made the biggest jump in the Top 50 Pepperstone ATP Rankings from last year, climbing 213 spots from No. 249 to No. 36.

Luca Nardi | Age: 20 | World No. 115 (Career-High) | 2023: 1-5 (Monte Carlo 2R) | Event: 0-0 (Debut)

- > Broke into Top 200 in April 2022 and achieved a career-high No. 115 in November 2023, qualifying for 2023 Next Gen ATP Finals in Jeddah.
- > Earned 1st ATP Tour win at 2022 Astana after appearing in main draws of 2020 Antwerp and 2022 ATP Masters 1000 Rome as a WC and qualifying for 2022 Hamburg.
- > Owns 64-49 Challenger record (5-1 in finals), winning 1st title on home soil at Forli-1.
- > Qualified for 2023 ATP Masters 1000 Monte Carlo, posting 2 Top 100 wins in qualifying, including biggest win of career over No. 61 Lestienne.
- > Former Top-20 junior has been working with coach Francesco Sani since age 7, when he first started playing and mentions riding motorcycles as his biggest passion outside tennis.

NOTE: Nardi seeks biggest win of his career (0-5 vs. Top 50) players. Owns an 8-1 record in November, winning challenger title in Matsuyama (d. No. 86 Daniel in final) and reaching the semi-finals of Kobe CH. Compiled a 34-21 record on ATP Challenger Tour and youngest of seven Italians in the Top 125 Pepperstone ATP Rankings.

[3] Dominic Stricker (SUI) vs [5] Flavio Cobolli (ITA)

First Meeting

Dominic Stricker | Age: 21 | World No. 94 | Career-High No. 88 | 2023: 7-8 (Basel QF) | Event: 3-1 (2022 SF)

- > After ending 2020 as World No. 3 junior, achieved career-high No. 88 in October 2023 soon after defeating No. 7 Tsitsipas for biggest win of career en route to 1st Grand Slam 4R at 2023 US Open.
- > Qualified for 2022 and 2023 Next Gen ATP Finals, falling in SFs to Lehecka in 2022.
- > Advanced to QFs in ATP Tour debut at 2021 Geneva as WC, 2nd ATP Tour main draw at 2021 Stuttgart as WC and 2023 Basel defeating No. 8 Ruud in 2R.
- > Beat Cressy in 2022 Basel 1R as 20-year-old WC to become youngest Swiss to earn a win in Basel since Federer, 19, in 2000.
- > Captured 1st Challenger title in 2nd Challenger appearance at 2021 Lugano as WC.
- > Defeated Riedi in 1st All-Swiss Grand Slam boys' singles final at 2020 Roland Garros before teaming w/Cobolli to win boys' doubles title, becoming 1st player to sweep those titles since Gonzalez in 1998.

NOTE: Stricker is the only player making his return appearance at the event. He went 3-0 in Round Robin play in Milan last year (d. No. 23 Musetti), before losing to Lehecka in SF. Will finish as the No. 2 Swiss (behind No. 50 Wawrinka) and in the Top 100 Pepperstone ATP Rankings for the first time.



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Flavio Cobolli | Age: 21 | World No. 100 | Career-High No. 95 | 2023: 4-5 (Munich QF) | Event: 0-0 (Debut)

- > Broke into Top 200 in January 2022 and Top 100 in October 2023, achieving career-high No. 95 after finishing 2020 outside Top 900.
- > Came through qualifying to earn 2 Top 100 wins en route to 1st ATP Tour QF at 2023 Munich.
- > Saved 3 MPs vs. Giron to win ATP Tour main draw debut 3-6 7-6 7-6 at 2021 Parma as 429th-ranked WC.
- > Won Challenger titles at 2022 Zadar and 2023 Lisbon and reached finals at 2021 Rome-2, 2021 Barletta and 2023 Olbia.
- > Peaked at No. 8 in juniors and ended career by winning 2020 Roland Garros boys' doubles title w/Stricker.

NOTE: Cobolli is the youngest of six Italians in the Top 100 Pepperstone ATP Rankings at No. 100. Compiled a 40-26 record on ATP Challenger Tour and improved from No. 173 at the end of last year.

[2] Luca Van Assche (FRA) vs [8/WC] Abdullah Shelbayh (JOR) First Tour-Level Meeting Other Meetings

20 J1 Villena Juniors (Spain) Clay Q3 Luca Van Assche 6-2 6-4 21 J2 Haskovo Juniors (Bulgaria) Clay F Luca Van Assche 6-4 6-0

Luca Van Assche | Age: 19 | World No. 70 | Career-High No. 63 | 2023: 10-17 (Hamburg, Metz QF) | Event: 0-0 (Debut) > Former junior World No. 1 broke into Top 200 in November 2022, entered Top 100 in April 2023 and achieved career-high No. 63 in October 2023.

- > Earned 1st Grand Slam main draw win at 2023 Roland Garros over 2018 semi-finalist Cecchinato in 1R before defeating No. 39 Davidovich Fokina for biggest win of career to reach 1st ATP Tour QF at 2023 Hamburg.
- > Made ATP Tour debut at 2022 Antwerp as Q before earning first win at 2023 Estoril (d. P. Sousa).
- > Saved 2 championship points to defeat Humbert at 2023 Pau in the longest Challenger final in history (3 hours 56 minutes).
- > Posted 29-19 Challenger record in 2022 (1-3 in finals), going on a 19-6 run from late September to December, reaching finals of Lisbon, Brest and Valencia before winning first ATP Challenger title in Maia.
- > Defeated fellow countryman Fils to win the 2021 Roland Garros boys' singles title and ended junior career with a 79-27 record.

NOTE: Van Assche is one of three teenagers in the field along with countryman Arthur Fils and American Alex Michelsen. He and Fils are the third and fourth Frenchmen to qualify in the history of the Next Gen ATP Finals, joining Ugo Humbert (2019) and Hugo Gaston (2021). Has improved ranking from No. 138 last year to No. 70 this season.

Abdullah Shelbayh | Age: 20 | World No. 185 (Career-High) | 2023: 2-6 (Banja Luka, Metz 2R) | Event: 0-0 (Debut) > Left-handed Jordanian started the season ranked outside of Top 450 and achieved a career-high No. 185 in November 2023 soon after capturing 1st Challenger title at Charleston.

- > Made ATP Tour debut at 2023 Doha, before capturing first ATP Tour win at 2023 Banja Luka over E. Ymer as Q.
- > Earned first Top 100 win of career over No. 79 Kubler at 2023 Manama CH QF en route to becoming the first player from Jordan to reach a final in ATP Challenger Tour history at 2023 Manama.
- > Owns a 17-14 record on ATP Challenger Tour (1-1 in finals) and 41-18 on ITF Tour, winning 3 titles.
- > Trains at Rafa Nadal Academy since he was 14 years old, where he also became the first player from Jordan to win a match in ATP Challenger Tour history at 2022 Mallorca CH in September.

NOTE: Shelbayh seeks biggest win of career and owns a 3-5 record vs. Top 100 players (including qualifying and Challengers). Aims to become the first Asian player to win a match at the event since Hyeon Chung won title in first edition in 2017 (Tseng of Chinese Taipei was 0-3 in 2022).

[4] Alex Michelsen (USA) vs [6] Hamad Medjedovic (SRB) First Meeting

Alex Michelsen | Age: 19 | World No. 97 | Career-High No. 94 | 2023: 7-5 (Newport Final) | Event: 0-0 (Debut) > Youngest American (19) in Top 200 Pepperstone ATP Rankings earned career-high No. 94 in November 2023 after reaching 1st ATP Tour final at Newport (I. to Mannarino) earlier in the season.

- > Won first Grand Slam match at 2023 US Open as WC defeating Ramos-Vinolas in 1R (I. to Jarry in 2R).
- > Made ATP Tour main draw debut at 2023 Mallorca as LL (I. to eventual champion Eubanks in 3 sets).
- > Owns a 34-15 Challenger record (2-2 in finals), winning titles at 2023 Chicago and Knoxville.
- > Reached career-high No. 25 in ITF Juniors, highlighted by 2022 Wimbledon boys' doubles title w/Gorzny.
- > Started playing at the age of 3, hitting with his mother, former college player, every day until 15 years of age.

NOTE: Michelsen, the only American in the draw, will aim to defend the title for the USA as Brandon Nakashima won the 2022 edition (d. Lehecka). Has made the biggest jump into the Top 100 Pepperstone ATP Rankings from last year, climbing 504 spots from No. 601 to No. 97.



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Hamad Medjedovic | Age: 20 | World No. 110 | Career-High No. 102 | 2023: 7-7 (Gstaad, Astana SF) | Event: 0-0 (Debut) > Broke into Top 500 in April 2022, Top 200 in March 2023, earning a career-high No. 102 in October 2023 soon after reaching 2nd ATP Tour SF at 2023 Astana.

- > Came through qualifying and beat 2015 champion Thiem en route to 1st ATP Tour SF at 2023 Gstaad (I. to Cachin).
- > Made ATP Tour debut at 2021 Belgrade-2 and earned first tour-level win at 2023 Davis Cup over Durasovic.
- > Owns 35-23 Challenger record (4-0 in finals), became the 3rd Serbian teenager to win a trio of ATP Challenger Tour titles at 2022 Luedenscheid, 2023 Szekesfehervar and 2023 Mauthausen, joining Djokovic and Tipsarevic.
- > Achieved career-high No. 9 in junior rankings after winning titles without dropping a set at 2019 Berlin Grade 1 and 2019 New Delhi Grade 2.

NOTE: Medjedovic is the second Serbian to qualify for the Next Gen ATP Finals after Kecmanovic in 2019 (I. to Sinner in SF). Has improved from No. 257 last year to No. 110 in the Pepperstone ATP Rankings. Will be one of five Serbians to finish in the Top 125 year-end Pepperstone ATP Rankings.