



## CITI OPEN – ATP MEDIA NOTES DAY 4 – THURSDAY 4 AUGUST 2022

Rock Creek Park Tennis Center | Washington, DC, U.S.A. | 1-7 August 2022

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### CITI OPEN TALKING POINTS

- In the first match on Stadium, unseeded **Nick Kyrgios** meets No. 4 seed **Reilly Opelka**. The Australian has won the Citi Open in 2019, but will face a tough challenge as he meets Opelka who has not lost a match on home soil since Miami. The American has won their two previous meetings and is looking to continue his good run in the US.
- Top seed and World No. 8 **Andrey Rublev** will meet No. 13 seed American **Maxime Cressy** for the first time today. Cressy clinched his maiden ATP Tour title earlier this summer in Newport (d. Bublik) and is making his debut in the Citi Open main draw this week.
- No. 7 seed **Karen Khachanov** is looking to reach a 200 career wins milestone today as he faces Japan's **Yoshihito Nishioka** on John Harris Court. Khachanov is 5-3 against left-handers so far this season. He beat German lefty Dominik Koepfer in his first match here two days ago.
- American No. 1 and No. 3 seed **Taylor Fritz** has a 11-3 W-L on home soil this season, having won his first ATP Masters 1000 title in Indian Wells. The 24-year-old has won the only tour-level meeting with **Daniel Evans** on clay in Rome last year.
- Also in action today is No. 10 seed **Frances Tiafoe** who will face No. 8 seed **Botic van de Zandschulp** for the first time. Both players bid to reach the Citi Open quarter-finals for the first time in their career.

### ATP HEAD2HEAD: THURSDAY THIRD ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

#### STADIUM

#### Nick Kyrgios (AUS) vs [4] Reilly Opelka (USA)

21 ATP Masters 1000 Canada (Canada)  
22 Houston (U.S.A.)

Hard R64  
Clay SF

Reilly Opelka  
Reilly Opelka

#### Opelka Leads 2-0

4-6 7-6(4) 6-4  
6-3 7-5

**Nick Kyrgios** | Age: 27 | World No. 63 | Career-High No. 13 | 2022: 23-7 (Wimbledon Final) | Washington: 8-2 (2019 Title)

> Former World No. 1 junior broke into Top 50 at age 19 in 2015 and ended 2016 at career-high No. 13.

> Joined countryman Hewitt as 1 of 2 players to win 1st meeting with Nadal (2014 Wimbledon), Federer (2015 Madrid) and Djokovic (2017 Acapulco).

> Defeated Nadal en route to 1st Grand Slam QF (2014 Wimbledon), 1st ATP Masters 1000 final (2017 Cincinnati) and 2nd of 3 ATP 500 titles (2019 Acapulco).

> Reached 2nd Grand Slam QF as 19-year-old at 2015 Australian Open, becoming youngest quarter-finalist at his home Grand Slam event since Cherkasov, 19, in 1990.

> Won 2022 Australian Open doubles title as 259th-ranked WC with countryman Kokkinakis, defeating Ebden/Purcell in 1st All-Aussie Grand Slam doubles final since 1980 Australian Open.

**NOTE:** Kyrgios is the only former champion in the 2022 Citi Open singles draw.

**Reilly Opelka** | Age: 24 | World No. 17 | Career-High No. 17 | 2022: 21-14 (Dallas, Houston Titles) | Washington: 3-4 (2021, 2022 3R)

> Former World No. 4 junior became No. 1 American in June 2021 and achieved career-high No. 17 in February 2022.

- > Defeated Isner for 4th ATP 250 title on American soil at 2022 Houston after beating him 7-6(7) 7-6(22) en route to 2022 Dallas title, winning longest tiebreak in ATP Tour history (since 1990).
- > At 2020 Delray Beach, saved 1 MP vs. Raonic in SF and beat Nishioka in final on same day to win 2nd title.
- > At 2019 New York, saved 6 MPs and hit 43 aces vs. Isner in SF, then hit 43 more aces vs. Schnur in final to win 1st title.
- > Upset No. 3 Tsitsipas at 2021 Toronto for biggest win of career and to reach 1st ATP Masters 1000 final.

**NOTE:** Opelka hit 28 aces in a 6-7(6), 6-4, 6-4 win against countryman Denis Kudla in 2R.

## [1] Andrey Rublev vs [13] Maxime Cressy (USA)

## First Meeting

**Andrey Rublev** | Age: 24 | World No. 8 | Career-High No. 5 | 2022: 16-15 (Marseille, Dubai, Belgrade Titles) | Washington: 1-0 (2022 3R)

- > Former World No. 1 junior broke into Top 20 in January 2020, Top 10 in October 2020 and Top 5 in September 2021.
- > Defeated No. 3 Nadal at 2021 Monte Carlo and No. 2 Medvedev at 2021 Cincinnati en route to ATP Masters 1000 finals, then beat No. 1 Djokovic for 11th ATP Tour title at 2022 Belgrade.
- > Led ATP 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.
- > Reached 5 Grand Slam QFs and won gold medal in mixed doubles final at 2020 Tokyo Olympics w/Pavlyuchenkova (held in 2021).
- > Earned 4 singles wins at both 2021 ATP Cup and 2021 Davis Cup Finals, sweeping each team title.

**NOTE:** Rublev is seeking his fourth title of the season (Marseille, Dubai, Belgrade), a mark which would draw him level with Spaniards Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz for joint-most on the year.

**Maxime Cressy** | Age: 25 | World No. 32 | Career-High No. 32 | 2022: 20-16 (Newport Title) | Washington: 1-0 (2022 3R)

- > French-born American broke into Top 100 and achieved career-high No. 32 in August 2022.
- > Won 11 of 14 matches in Australia during month of January 2022, reaching Melbourne final as Q, Sydney QF as SE and Australian Open 4R.
- > Captured Challenger titles at 2019 Cleveland as Q, 2020 Drummondville and 2021 Forli-2.
- > Broke into Top 200 in October 2019 – less than 5 months following college career.
- > Played college tennis for UCLA from 2016-19, posting 26-0 doubles record as a senior, winning 2019 NCAA doubles title w/K. Smith, and ending career as No. 1 doubles and No. 17 singles player in nation.

**NOTE:** Cressy is 1-2 against Top 10 players so far this season (beat Auger-Aliassime in Wimbledon 1R).

## JOHN HARRIS

### Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN) vs [7] Karen Khachanov

### Khachanov Leads 2-0

19 Australian Open (Australia)	Hard	R64	Karen Khachanov	6-3	6-3	6-3
21 Tokyo Olympics (Japan)	Hard	R64	Karen Khachanov	3-6	6-1	6-2

**Yoshihito Nishioka** | Age: 26 | World No. 96 | Career-High No. 48 | 2022: 7-10 (Acapulco QF) | Washington: 5-4 (2019, 2022 3R)

- > Broke into Top 50 at career-high No. 48 in February 2020 and became No. 1 Japanese player in June 2021, ending Nishikori's 10-year reign as top player from Japan.
- > Saved 2 MPs vs. Shapovalov en route to 1st ATP Tour final and title at 2018 Shenzhen as 171st-ranked Q.
- > Defeated countryman and World No. 5 Nishikori for biggest win of career en route to 2019 ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati QF as Q.
- > Ended 0-6 start to career in Grand Slam 2R matches by beating Evans to reach 2020 Australian Open 3R.
- > Tore left ACL in 2017 ATP Masters 1000 Miami 2R vs. Sock and missed remainder of season following surgery.

**NOTE:** The Japanese beat last week's Atlanta champion and No. 11 seed Alex de Minaur in three sets yesterday.

**Karen Khachanov** | Age: 26 | World No. 24 | Career-High No. 8 | 2022: 25-17 (Adelaide -1 Final) | Washington: 1-2 (2022 3R)

- > Broke into Top 10 and achieved career-high No. 8 in 2019 after ending 2018 at No. 11.
- > Upset Top-10 players Isner, A. Zverev, Thiem and Djokovic en route to 2018 ATP Masters 1000 Paris title.
- > Remains only unseeded ATP Masters 1000 champion since Nalbandian at 2007 Paris.
- > Advanced to Grand Slam QFs at 2019 Roland Garros and 2021 Wimbledon, where he broke Korda 7 times in 5th set of 4R win.
- > Entered 2020 Tokyo Olympics as No. 4 men's player on Team ROC and went on to earn silver medal (held in 2021).

**NOTE:** If Khachanov wins today, he will reach a 200 career wins milestone.

### [3] Taylor Fritz (USA) vs [16] Daniel Evans (GBR)

21 ATP Masters 1000 Rome (Italy) Clay R64 Taylor Fritz

#### Other meeting

15 Champaign CH (U.S.A.) Hard R16 Taylor Fritz

### Fritz Leads 1-0

6-3 6-2

6-2 3-6 6-4

**Taylor Fritz** | Age: 24 | World No. 13 | Career-High No. 12 | 2022: 30-11 (Indian Wells, Eastbourne Titles) | Washington: 2-2 (2022 3R)

- > Finished 2021 season as No. 1 American, advanced to 1st Grand Slam 4R at 2022 Australian Open and achieved career-high No. 12 in July 2022.
- > Equaled biggest win of career and snapped 20-match win streak of No. 4 Nadal to capture 2022 ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells title.
- > Became 1st American to win Indian Wells men's singles title since Agassi in 2001.
- > Won 1st ATP Tour title at 2019 Eastbourne after reaching 1st final at 2016 Memphis as 18-year-old WC, becoming youngest American finalist since start of ATP Tour in 1990.
- > Ended junior career in 2015 as World No. 1 after winning US Open title, reaching Roland Garros final and posting wins over future Top-10 ATP players Rublev, Shapovalov and Tsitsipas.

**NOTE:** The reigning Indian Wells champion is the American No. 1 and one of six Americans in the third round of the Citi Open.

**Daniel Evans** | Age: 32 | World No. 40 | Career-High No. 22 | 2022: 14-16 (Sydney SF) | Washington: 3-3 (2016, 2022 3R)

- > Unranked in April 2018 before becoming No. 1 Brit for 1st time in October 2019 and achieving career-high No. 22 in September 2021.
- > Did not drop a set en route to 1st ATP Tour title as a 30-year-old at 2021 Melbourne-2.
- > Reached 1st final at 2017 Sydney and squandered 3 MPs vs. Albot in 2019 Delray Beach final as Q.
- > Rallied from 2 sets down and won 5th-set TB vs. Popyrin to reach 2nd Grand Slam 4R of career at 2021 US Open.
- > Upset No. 1 Djokovic en route to 2021 ATP Masters 1000 Monte Carlo SF and reached back-to-back ATP Masters 1000 doubles finals w/N. Skupski at Miami and Monte Carlo in 2021.

**NOTE:** Won the Nottingham Challenger on grass in June. Looking to reach his first quarter-final since Sydney where he lost to Karatsev in the semi-final.

### [8] Botic van de Zandschulp (NED) vs [10] Frances Tiafoe (USA) First Meeting

**Botic van de Zandschulp** | Age: 26 | World No. 26 | Career-High No. 24 | 2022: 26-18 (Munich Final) | Washington: 1-0 (2022 3R)

- > Ended 2021 as No. 1 Dutchman and achieved new career-high ranking 9 times in 2022, peaking at No. 24 on 11 July.
- > At 2021 US Open, became 3rd men's qualifier to reach US Open QF in Open Era, 1st Dutchman to reach Grand Slam QF since 2004, and only player to take a set off eventual champion Medvedev.
- > Went 11-1 in Grand Slam qualifying matches in 2021, qualifying at Australian Open, Roland Garros and US Open, while entering Wimbledon as LL (l. to Tringelliti in Q3).
- > Upset No. 7 Ruud en route to 1st ATP Tour final at 2022 Munich after beating No. 6 Rublev to reach 1st ATP Tour SF at 2021 St. Petersburg.

**NOTE:** A year ago, the Dutchman was ranked exactly 100 spots lower - 126 - in the Pepperstone ATP Rankings. He entered the Top 100 in September 2021, after reaching the quarter-finals at the US Open as a qualifier (l. to Medvedev).

**Frances Tiafoe** | Age: 24 | World No. 27 | Career-High No. 25 | 2022: 18-15 (Estoril Final) | Washington: 3-5 (2018, 2019, 2022 3R)

- > Former World No. 2 junior achieved career-high No. 25 in May 2022 after earning personal-best 33 victories in 2021, including biggest career win over No. 3 Tsitsipas en route to Vienna final.
- > Won 1st ATP Tour title as 20-year-old at 2018 Delray Beach and remains youngest American champion since Roddick, 19, at 2002 Houston.
- > Defeated Dimitrov on 21st birthday to reach 1st Grand Slam QF at 2019 Australian Open, becoming youngest American Grand Slam quarter-finalist since Roddick, 20, at 2003 Wimbledon.
- > Advanced to US Open 4R in 2020 and 2021, becoming 1st American to do so in back-to-back years since Fish and Roddick in 2011 and 2012.
- > Parents emigrated from Sierra Leone in 1996 and father was Head of Maintenance at Junior Tennis Champions Center in Maryland, where Frances and his twin brother Franklin trained as kids.

**NOTE:** Met New York Mets star Francisco Lindor during his visit to the Citi Open on Tuesday.

## [9] Holger Rune (DEN) vs [WC] J.J. Wolf (USA)

## First Meeting

**Holger Rune** | Age: 19 | World No. 28 | Career-High No. 27 | 2022: 17-17 (Munich Title) | Washington: 1-0 (2022 3R)

- > Broke into Top 100 in January 2022 and Top 50 in May 2022 before achieving career-high No. 27 in July 2022, becoming top-ranked Danish player in Pepperstone ATP Rankings history (since 1973).
- > Earned biggest win of career over World No. 3 and 2-time champion A. Zverev en route to 1st ATP Tour SF, final and title at 2022 Munich, becoming 1st Danish champion since Carlsen at 2005 Memphis.
- > Beat World No. 4 and 2021 finalist Tsitsipas at 2022 Roland Garros to become 1st Danish man to reach QF in tournament history (since 1925) and to reach any Grand Slam QF in Open Era (since 1968).
- > Captured 5th Challenger title of career at 2022 Sanremo (d. Passaro 6-1 2-6 6-4), then won ATP Masters 1000 Monte Carlo Q1 match on same day (d. Albot 6-2 6-3).
- > Won 2019 Roland Garros boys' singles title and went on to become World No. 1 junior in October 2019.

**NOTE:** Ended a 6-match losing streak by beating Benoit Paire in his opening match here in Washington DC.

**J.J. Wolf** | Age: 23 | World No. 99 | Career-High No. 99 | 2022: 6-4 (Washington 3R) | Washington: 2-0 (2022 3R)

- > Broke into Top 200 on 18 November 2019 after winning Champaign, USA Challenger title. Already ranked in Top 300 when he turned pro on 17 July 2019.
- > Qualified and made ATP Tour main draw debut at 2020 Cincinnati (l. to Gasquet), which typically is his hometown event but was played for one year only in New York City. Advanced to final round of qualifying at Cincinnati in 2018 and 2019.
- > Peaked at No. 18 in juniors on 16 May 2016. Suffered boys' singles losses to future Top-20 ATP players Auger-Aliassime, de Minaur and Shapovalov. Won 2016 USTA Boys' 18s National Championship in doubles w/McNally and reached singles final in 2017.
- > Reached semi-finals at Phoenix, Savannah and Orlando Challengers this season.

**NOTE:** Reached a career-high ranking of 99 on Monday.

## GRANDSTAND

### Mikael Ymer (SWE) vs Emil Ruusuvuori (FIN)

21 ATP Masters 1000 Miami (U.S.A.)  
21 Bastad (Sweden)

Hard	R32	Emil Ruusuvuori
Clay	R32	Emil Ruusuvuori

### Ruusuvuori Leads 2-0

4-6 6-1 7-5  
1-6 6-4 6-3

## [5] Grigor Dimitrov (BUL) vs Sebastian Korda (USA)

## First Meeting