



## KINOSHITA GROUP JAPAN OPEN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS – ATP MEDIA NOTES

**DAY 6 – MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2026**

Ariake Tennis Forest Park | Tokyo, Japan | 30 September – 6 October 2026

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## KINOSHITA GROUP JAPAN OPEN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS TALKING POINTS

- World No. 3 and defending champion **Carlos Alcaraz** is 19-0 at ATP 500 level since losing to Rune in last year's Barcelona final. 23-year-old seeks 4th tour-level final of the season, 1st since ATP Masters 1000 Monte-Carlo in April to pass Bruguera (35) for 5th-most tour-level finals by a Spanish man in Open Era. He leads qualifier **Jaume Munar** 3-1 in their **Lexus ATP Head2Head** and aims to extend his 15-0 record vs. countrymen since losing to Nadal in 2022 ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells SF.
- Munar** defeated No. 12 Fritz in the opening round for his biggest win of the season and earned one of his two career Top 5 wins at this event over then-No. 3 Ruud in 2022. 29-year-old Spaniard aims to snap a 5-match losing streak in ATP Tour SFs and reach his second tour-level final after 2021 Marbella.
- In the second semi-final at **Kinoshita Group Japan Open Tennis Championships**, **Jiri Lehecka** takes on No. 8 seed **Valentin Vacherot**. Lehecka seeks 2nd ATP Tour final of the season and a 6th straight win after winning both his singles matches in Davis Cup tie vs. USA earlier this month. 24-year-old aims to become the first Czech man to reach the final at the event since Berdych in 2008.
- Vacherot** is playing in his 3rd ATP Tour SF after ATP Masters 1000 semi-finals at 2025 Shanghai and Monte-Carlo earlier this season. 27-year-old, who was ranked No. 204 this time last year, has already secured a new career-high ranking on Monday and now seeks his 2nd ATP Tour final after winning ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai in October last year, extending his 10-1 ATP Tour record in Asia.

## PIF ATP LIVE RACE TO TURIN

| Race | Player                        | Points | Scenario                                    |
|------|-------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1    | <b>Alexander Zverev (GER)</b> | 8,750  | <i>Beijing – Lost to Djokovic in QF</i>     |
| 2    | <b>Jannik Sinner (ITA)</b>    | 7,950  | ----                                        |
| 3    | Ben Shelton (USA)             | 4,430  | ----                                        |
| 4    | <b>Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)</b>   | 4,250  | Tokyo – +130 for SF win vs. Munar           |
| 5    | Flavio Cobolli (ITA)          | 3,530  | <i>Beijing – Lost to Safiullin in 1R</i>    |
| 6    | Frances Tiafoe (USA)          | 3,380  | <i>Tokyo – Lost to Fils in 2R</i>           |
| 7    | Arthur Fils (FRA)             | 3,275  | <i>Tokyo – Lost to Vacherot in QF</i>       |
| 8    | Daniil Medvedev               | 3,220  | Beijing – +130 for SF win vs. Djokovic      |
| 9    | Alex de Minaur (AUS)          | 2,560  | Beijing – +130 for SF win vs. Hurkacz       |
| 10   | Novak Djokovic (SRB)          | 2,530  | Beijing – +130 for SF win vs. Medvedev      |
| 11   | Rafael Jodar (ESP)            | 2,509  | <i>Tokyo – Lost to Vallejo in 1R</i>        |
| 12   | Taylor Fritz (USA)            | 2,480  | <i>Tokyo – Lost to Munar in 1R</i>          |
| 13   | Jakub Mensik (CZE)            | 2,405  | <i>Beijing – Lost to F. Cerundolo in 2R</i> |
| 14   | Tommy Paul (USA)              | 2,385  | <i>Tokyo – Lost to Tabilo in 1R</i>         |
| 15   | Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN)   | 2,365  | <i>Beijing – Lost to Khachanov in 1R</i>    |
| 16   | Brandon Nakashima (USA)       | 2,275  | <i>Tokyo – Lost to Humbert in 1R</i>        |

**BOLD:** Qualified for 2026 Nitto ATP Finals in Turin (15-22 November)

## LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: SINGLES SEMI-FINALS

### COLOSSEUM

#### [1] Carlos Alcaraz (ESP) vs [Q] Jaume Munar (ESP)

|                                          |       |     |                |
|------------------------------------------|-------|-----|----------------|
| 21 Marbella (Spain)                      | Clay  | SF  | Jaume Munar    |
| 22 Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)               | Clay  | R32 | Carlos Alcaraz |
| 22 Barcelona (Spain)                     | Clay  | R16 | Carlos Alcaraz |
| 25 London / Queen's Club (Great Britain) | Grass | R16 | Carlos Alcaraz |

#### Alcaraz Leads 3-1

|                |
|----------------|
| 7-6(4) 6-4     |
| 2-6 6-2 6-1    |
| 6-3 6-3        |
| 6-4 6-7(7) 7-5 |

Insights from their 52-week averages:

| Player       | In Attack | Conversion Score | Steal Score | Serve Quality | Return Quality | Forehand Quality | Backhand Quality |
|--------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Alcaraz      | 26%       | 71%              | 38%         | 7.9           | 8.1            | 9.0              | 8.4              |
| Munar        | 21%       | 71%              | 37%         | 7.9           | 6.6            | 7.7              | 7.5              |
| Tour Average | 24%       | 67%              | 33%         | 7.9           | 6.4            | 7.3              | 7.0              |

**Carlos Alcaraz** | Age: 23 | World No. 3 | Career-High No. 1 | 2026: 30-4 (2 Titles) | Tokyo: 8-0 (2025 Title)  
 > Youngest and first teenage World No. 1 and year-end No. 1 in PIF ATP Rankings history (since 1973), making record rise from No. 32 at end of 2021 to No. 1 at age 19 in September 2022, earning 66 weeks at No. 1.  
 > Youngest man in history to complete a Career Grand Slam at age 22 following 2026 Australian Open title win, also becoming the first player to defeat 10-time champion Djokovic in a final of that event.  
 > Beat Ruud in 2022 US Open final for No. 1 ranking, becoming youngest men's champion at US Open since Sampras, 19, in 1990 and at any Grand Slam event since Nadal, 19, at 2005 Roland Garros.  
 > Defeated 7-time champion Djokovic in 2023 and 2024 Wimbledon finals to be 2nd man in Open Era to win 1st four Grand Slam finals and became youngest Olympic men's finalist since 1904, earning silver medal at Paris Olympics.  
 > Seven-time Grand Slam champion (7-1 in finals), including 2025 Roland Garros, where he saved 3 championship points to beat Sinner in longest final in event history (5H 29M), and 8-time ATP Masters 1000 champion (8-2 in finals).  
 > Youngest player to defeat both Nadal and Djokovic and 1st to do so at same clay-court event, beating them on back-to-back days en route to 2nd ATP Masters 1000 title at 2022 Madrid.

**NOTE:** Alcaraz is on an 8-match winning streak in Tokyo and looks for 36th tour-level final of career (26-9), 4th of the season, first since ATP Masters 1000 Monte-Carlo final in April (l. to Sinner). 23-year-old is 37-1 vs. players ranked outside Top 50 since start of 2025 season with a sole loss to No. 55 Goffin in ATP Masters 1000 Miami 2R.

#### Spanish Men's Final Leaders in Open Era:

| Player         | Finals | Player                | Finals    |
|----------------|--------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Rafael Nadal   | 131    | Sergi Bruguera        | 35        |
| Manuel Orantes | 72     | <b>Carlos Alcaraz</b> | <b>35</b> |
| David Ferrer   | 52     | Juan Carlos Ferrero   | 34        |
| Carlos Moya    | 44     | Alex Corretja         | 30        |

#### Spanish men's Finalists in Tokyo:

| Player                | Finals (Years)  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Manuel Orantes        | 2 (1975, 1977)  |
| Rafael Nadal          | 2 (2010, 2011)  |
| David Ferrer          | 1 (2007)        |
| <b>Carlos Alcaraz</b> | <b>1 (2025)</b> |

#### Men's Players with Back-To-Back Tokyo Final Appearances

| Player        | Years       | Player          | Years       | Player       | Years       |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Stefan Edberg | 1987-91 (5) | Ken Rosewall    | 1973-74 (2) | Pete Sampras | 1993-94 (2) |
| Milos Raonic  | 2012-14 (3) | Pat Dupre       | 1978-79 (2) | Rafael Nadal | 2010-11 (2) |
| John Newcombe | 1973-74 (2) | Eliot Teltscher | 1980-81 (2) | David Goffin | 2016-17 (2) |

**Jaume Munar** | Age: 29 | World No. 64 | Career-High No. 33 | 2026: 15-15 (Tokyo SF) | Tokyo: 4-2 (2026 SF)  
 > Former World No. 3 junior advanced to 2018 Next Gen ATP Finals SF and reached No. 52 in 2019, before breaking into Top 50 in July 2025 and achieving career-high No. 33 in December 2025.  
 > Defeated countryman Alcaraz before falling to countryman Carreno Busta in 1st ATP Tour final at 2021 Marbella.  
 > Recorded personal-best 31 wins in 2025, advanced to Wimbledon 3R (d. No. 31 Bublik in 1R) and 2025 US Open 4R after 0-11 start to career in Grand Slam 2Rs.  
 > Earned 2 Top-5 wins over No. 3 Zverev at 2019 Marrakech 2R and No. 3 Ruud at 2022 Tokyo 1R.  
 > Owns 144-74 Challenger record (10-8 in finals), including most recent clay-court title at 2024 Bad Waltersdorf.  
 > Reached 2014 Roland Garros boys' singles final and won boys' doubles title in 2015 with countryman Lopez San Martin.

**NOTE:** Munar is 1-6 in ATP Tour SFs, bidding to reach his second final after 2021 Marbella (l. to Carreno Busta) to become the 4th qualifier in tournament history to reach Tokyo final. 29-year-old 2-10 vs. Top 5 opponents, defeating No. 3 Zverev in 2019 Marrakech 2R and No. 3 Ruud in 2022 Tokyo 1R.

**Men's Qualifiers in Tokyo Final**

| Player          | Year |
|-----------------|------|
| Magnus Norman   | 2002 |
| Daniil Medvedev | 2018 |
| John Millman    | 2019 |

**Lowest-Ranked Tokyo Men's Finalists since 2000**

| Rank    | Player          | Year | Rank   | Player            | Year |
|---------|-----------------|------|--------|-------------------|------|
| No. 212 | Magnus Norman   | 2002 | No. 57 | Michel Kratochvil | 2001 |
| No. 121 | Kenneth Carlsen | 2002 | No. 55 | Taylor Dent       | 2004 |
| No. 98  | Wesley Moodie   | 2005 | No. 55 | Tim Henman        | 2006 |
| No. 80  | John Millman    | 2019 | No. 51 | Sjeng Schalken    | 2000 |

**Jiri Lehecka (CZE) vs [8] Valentin Vacherot (MON)**

25 ATP Masters 1000 Paris (France)

Hard R64

Valentin Vacherot

**Vacherot Leads 1-0**

6-1 6-3

Insights from their 52-week averages:

| Player              | In Attack  | Conversion Score | Steal Score | Serve Quality | Return Quality | Forehand Quality | Backhand Quality |
|---------------------|------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Lehecka             | <b>27%</b> | <b>69%</b>       | 32%         | 8.4           | 6.6            | <b>7.4</b>       | 6.9              |
| Vacherot            | <b>27%</b> | 66%              | <b>33%</b>  | <b>8.7</b>    | <b>7.0</b>     | <b>7.4</b>       | <b>7.3</b>       |
| <i>Tour Average</i> | <i>24%</i> | <i>67%</i>       | <i>33%</i>  | <i>7.9</i>    | <i>6.4</i>     | <i>7.3</i>       | <i>7.0</i>       |

**Jiri Lehecka** | Age: 24 | World No. 23 | Career-High No. 12 | 2026: 33-17 (Miami Final) | Tokyo: 3-0 (2026 SF)

> Broke into Top 20 in September 2025 and achieved career-high No. 12 in May 2026 soon after reaching 1st ATP Masters 1000 final without dropping serve en route (56 of 56 service games won) in Miami.

> Joined Berdych, P. Korda and Lendl as only Czech men to advance to quarter-finals of both hard-court Grand Slams after reaching last 8 stage at Australian Open in 2023 and US Open in 2025.

> Also in Australia, captured both career ATP Tour titles at 2024 Adelaide and 2025 Brisbane.

> Defeated No. 5 Rublev to reach 2nd ATP Tour SF at 2023 Doha and en route to 1st ATP Masters 1000 QF at 2024 Indian Wells before defeating No. 4 Medvedev via RET to reach 1st ATP Masters 1000 SF at 2024 Madrid.

> Reached 1st ATP Tour SF at 2022 Rotterdam as Q after defeating No. 12 Shapovalov in 1R for 1st ATP Tour win.

> Celebrated 21st birthday during 2022 Next Gen ATP Finals and finished as runner-up.

> Former World No. 10 junior won 2019 Wimbledon boys' doubles title with countryman Forejtek.

**NOTE:** Lehecka is looking for his 8th ATP Tour final (2-5), second of the season after ATP Masters 1000 Miami (l. to Sinner). He is 4-6 vs. Top 20 this season, winning the last 2 matches at Davis Cup earlier this month, defeating No. 4 Shelton and No. 13 Tien. He is No. 19 on [PIF ATP Live Rankings](#), securing return to Top 20, and would jump to No. 15 with a win and pass Mensik to return as Czech No. 1.

**Czechs Finalists at the event:**

| Player        | Finals (Years)       |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Ivan Lendl    | 3 (1980, 1989, 1991) |
| Jiri Novak    | 1 (2004)             |
| Tomas Berdych | 1 (2008)             |

**Valentin Vacherot** | Age: 27 | World No. 18 | Career-High No. 16 | 2026: 23-15 (2 SFs) | Tokyo: 3-0 (2026 SF)

> Highest-ranked Monegasque in PIF ATP Rankings history achieved career-high No. 16 in May 2026 soon after becoming 1st home player to reach ATP Masters 1000 Monte-Carlo QF and SF in Open Era.

> Qualified en route to becoming lowest-ranked ATP Masters 1000 champion at 2025 Shanghai as World No. 204, defeating No. 5 Djokovic in SF and his cousin, Rinderknech, in final to be first Monegasque to win an ATP Tour title.

> In Monte-Carlo, made ATP Tour debut in 2023 as WC and defeated Struff in 2025 for 1st ATP Tour win and advanced to semi-finals in 2026 to be the first home player to reach that stage at the event in Open Era.

> Qualified at 2024 Roland Garros for Grand Slam main draw debut and became 1st man representing Monaco to reach Grand Slam 3R in Open Era at 2026 Australian Open.

> Coached by former Monegasque player, his half-brother, Benjamin Balleret and played college tennis for Texas A&M University alongside his cousin, Arthur Rinderknech.

**NOTE:** Vacherot looks for his 2nd ATP Tour final (1-0) after win over his cousin, Rinderknech, at ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai last October. He is 6-1 vs. players ranked outside the Top 20 since US Open in August with sole loss to No. 136 Harris in Chengdu last week. He is No. 14 on [PIF ATP Live Rankings](#) securing a new career-high ranking.

## LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: POTENTIAL SINGLES FINAL

### [1] Carlos Alcaraz (ESP) vs Jiri Lehecka (CZE)

|                                          |       |     |                |
|------------------------------------------|-------|-----|----------------|
| 23 London / Queen's Club (Great Britain) | Grass | R16 | Carlos Alcaraz |
| 25 Doha (Qatar)                          | Hard  | QF  | Jiri Lehecka   |
| 25 London / Queen's Club (Great Britain) | Grass | F   | Carlos Alcaraz |
| 25 US Open (U.S.A.)                      | Hard  | QF  | Carlos Alcaraz |

### Alcaraz Leads 3-1

6-2 6-3  
6-3 3-6 6-4  
7-5 6-7(5) 6-2  
6-4 6-2 6-4

### [1] Carlos Alcaraz (ESP) vs [8] Valentin Vacherot (MON)

|                                          |      |    |                |
|------------------------------------------|------|----|----------------|
| 26 ATP Masters 1000 Monte-Carlo (Monaco) | Clay | SF | Carlos Alcaraz |
|------------------------------------------|------|----|----------------|

### Alcaraz Leads 1-0

6-4 6-4

### [Q] Jaume Munar (ESP) vs Jiri Lehecka (CZE)

|                                      |       |     |              |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-----|--------------|
| 24 ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai (China) | Hard  | R64 | Jiri Lehecka |
| 24 Antwerp (Belgium)                 | Hard  | R32 | Jiri Lehecka |
| 25 Davis Cup Finals (Italy)          | Hard  | QF  | Jaume Munar  |
| 26 Wimbledon (Great Britain)         | Grass | R32 | Jiri Lehecka |

### Lehecka Leads 3-1

7-6(6) 6-4  
6-1 6-4  
6-3 6-4  
6-4 6-4 4-6 6-4

### [Q] Jaume Munar (ESP) vs [8] Valentin Vacherot (MON)

#### Other Meeting

|                                |      |     |                   |
|--------------------------------|------|-----|-------------------|
| 25 Aix-en-Provence CH (France) | Clay | R16 | Valentin Vacherot |
|--------------------------------|------|-----|-------------------|

### First Tour-Level Meeting

7-6(2) 6-2