



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

DAY 5 – FRIDAY 4 APRIL 2025

River Oaks Country Club | Houston, TX, USA | 31 March - 6 April 2025

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Media

Interview Queries: alexander.scott@atptour.com

Facts & Stats Queries: mediainfo@atptour.com

Press Officer: Pete Holtermann (pete@holtermanninc.com)

LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: SINGLES QUARTER-FINALS

NOTE: This is the first time since 1991 Orlando (Adams, Agassi, Arias, Gilbert, Pate, Rostagno, Sampras, Washington) that an ATP Tour event features an all-American quarter-final line-up. The last time four Americans were in a semi-final was Newport in July (Eubanks, Giron, Michelsen, Opelka).

STADIUM COURT

[Q] Jenson Brooksby (USA) vs Aleksandar Kovacevic (USA)

First Tour-Level Meeting

Other Meeting

19 M25 Champaign (U.S.A.)

Hard

SF

Jenson Brooksby

6-4 6-3

Jenson Brooksby | Age: 24 | World No. 507 | Career-High No. 33 | 2025: 4-4 (Houston QF) | Houston: 2-1 (2025 QF)
> Achieved career-high No. 33 in June 2022, then defeated 6-time champion Isner at 2022 Atlanta en route to 3rd ATP 250 final on home soil.

> Advanced to 1st ATP Tour QF, SF and final in his grass-court debut at 2021 Newport, becoming 2nd-youngest finalist at age 20 in 46-year tournament history (Rusedski, 19, in 1993).

> Reached 2021 US Open 4R as 20-year-old WC, becoming youngest American in US Open 4R since Roddick, 20, in 2002.

> Defeated No. 3 Ruud for biggest win of career and to reach 2023 Australian Open 3R and did not play another tournament until 2025 Australian Open.

> Qualified at 2019 US Open and ended former World No. 4 Berdych's career for 1st tour-level win, then missed entire 2020 season due to toe injury.

NOTE: Brooksby saved 1 MP vs. F.A. Gomez in Q1 & 3 MPs vs. Tabilo in 2R and now seeks 8th ATP Tour SF (3-4), 1st since 2023 Auckland (l. to Norrie), 5th on home soil, 1st on clay. He would secure a Top 300 return with a QF win.

Aleksandar Kovacevic | Age: 26 | World No. 79 | Career-High No. 72 | 2025: 6-4 (Montpellier Final) | Houston: 3-2 ('25 QF)
> Broke into Top 100 in January 2024 after previously peaking at No. 101 in April 2023 and achieved career-high No. 72 in September 2024

> Defeated countryman McDonald to reach 2022 Seoul SF in ATP Tour main draw debut as 222nd-ranked LL and upset No. 10 Rublev for biggest win of career to reach 1st ATP Tour final at 2025 Montpellier.

> Won Challenger titles at Cleveland, Waco, Shenzhen and Temuco in 2023, highlighted by win over Wu Yibing in Cleveland final and captured latest title at 2025 Cap Cana.

> Made Grand Slam debut at 2023 Roland Garros, losing to eventual champion Djokovic in 1R and defeated Tabilo to earn 1st Grand Slam win at 2024 Australian Open.

> Played 5 years of college tennis at University of Illinois, where he was a 2-time All-American and graduated in 2021 with finance degree.

NOTE: Kovacevic seeks 3rd ATP Tour SF after 2022 Seoul (l. to Nishioka) and Montpellier this February (l. to Auger-Aliassime in the final), both on hard courts. He posted all 3 tour-level clay-court wins at this venue (3-7).

[1] Tommy Paul (USA) vs [Q] Colton Smith (USA)

First Meeting

Tommy Paul | Age: 27 | World No. 13 | Career-High No. 9 | 2025: 14-5 (2 SFs) | Houston: 3-3 (2025 QF)

> Former World No. 3 junior achieved career-high No. 9 in January 2025 after earning personal-best 45 wins during 2024 season, highlighted by biggest of 4 ATP Tour title at London/Queen's Club.

> At 2023 Australian Open, became 1st American man to reach SF of that event since Roddick in 2009.

> Defeated junior rivals Fritz and Tiafoe en route to 1st ATP Tour final and title at 2021 Stockholm.

> In 2024, captured titles in Dallas, London/Queen's Club and Stockholm and advanced to ATP Masters 1000 SFs in Indian Wells and Rome, defeating reigning champion No. 4 Medvedev in Rome 4R.

> Won 2015 Roland Garros boys' singles title (d. Fritz), advanced to 2015 Roland Garros boys' doubles final w/Blumberg and reached 2015 US Open boys' singles final (l. to Fritz).

NOTE: Paul looks to reach his 17th tour-level semi-final (7-9), 3rd on clay after 2021 Parma (l. to Korda) and 2024 ATP Masters 1000 Rome (l. to Jarry). He is 17-1 vs. players ranked outside Top 100 since August 2023, lone loss to No. 204 Damm via RET at 2024 ATP Masters 1000 Miami.

Colton Smith | Age: 22 | World No. 200 (Career-High) | 2025: 3-1 (Houston QF) | Houston: 2-0 (2025 QF)
 > Achieved career-high No. 200 in March 2025 after reaching Phoenix CH QF (l. to 2-time defending champ Borges).
 > Earned ITA All-American honours for University of Arizona in the 2023-24 season, reaching NCAA Singles Championship Final Four and earning an ITA singles ranking of No. 5 in November 2023.
 > Qualified for 2025 ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells and defeated No. 40 Cobolli to reach 2R.
 > Owns 17-8 Challenger record, including 2025 Cleveland title (d. Spizzirri) and 2024 Sioux Falls final (l. to Gojo).
 > Reached 2021 US Open boys' singles 3R as WC in only junior Grand Slam appearance.

NOTE: Smith is playing in his 1st ATP Tour QF in 2nd tour-level event (l. to Michelsen in ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells 2R in March). He is facing a Top 30 player for the first time in career and is yet to have his serve broken in 4 matches in Houston (6/6 BPs saved including qualifying).

Christopher Eubanks (USA) vs [4] Brandon Nakashima (USA)

23 Atlanta (U.S.A.)	Hard	R16	Christopher Eubanks
24 ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells (U.S.A.)	Hard	R128	Brandon Nakashima
24 Stuttgart (Germany)	Grass	R32	Brandon Nakashima

Nakashima Leads 2-1

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

Other Meetings

19 Tiburon CH (U.S.A.)	Hard	R16	Brandon Nakashima	7-6(5) 7-5
19 Champaign CH (U.S.A.)	Hard	R32	Christopher Eubanks	6-4 7-6(5)
21 ATP Masters 1000 Miami Q (U.S.A.)	Hard	Q1	Brandon Nakashima	6-7(5) 6-4 6-4

Christopher Eubanks | Age: 28 | World No. 117 | Career-High No. 29 | 2025: 3-4 (Houston QF) | Houston: 2-1 ('25 QF)
 > Earned personal-best 21 wins and made his Top 100 debut at age 26 in 2023, peaking at No. 29 in July soon after advancing to Wimbledon QF, defeating No. 5 Tsitsipas for biggest win of career in 4R.
 > Broke into Top 100 by reaching 1st ATP Masters 1000 QF at 2023 Miami as Q 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 seeks 3rd ATP Tour SF after 2023 Mallorca (d. Mannarino in the final) and 2024 Newport (l. to Giron), both on grass. He looks for biggest clay win of career (0-4 vs. Top 50) and 1st Top 50 win overall since beating No. 46 Martinez and No. 17 Bublik en route to Halle QF in June (l. to Zhang).

Brandon Nakashima | Age: 23 | World No. 33 | Career-High No. 32 | 2025: 11-8 (Acapulco SF) | Houston: 3-1 ('24-'25 QF)
 > Former World No. 3 junior broke into Top 50 in July 2022 and achieved career-high No. 32 in March 2025.
 > 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 and ended season on 16-1 run in tiebreaks.
 > 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, before reaching US Open 4R in 2024 with wins over No. 15 Rune and No. 18 Musetti.

NOTE: Nakashima bids to reach his 8th ATP Tour SF (3-4), 2nd on clay after 2023 Lyon (l. to Fils). He aims to reach multiple ATP Tour SFs in a season for 3rd time in career (2 – 2021, 2024) after losing to Machac in Acapulco SF in February and would move up to No. 31 on [PIF ATP Live Rankings](#) with a QF win.

[5] Alex Michelsen (USA) vs [2] Frances Tiafoe (USA)

24 Dallas (U.S.A.)	Hard	R16	Frances Tiafoe
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Tiafoe Leads 1-0

6-4 6-3

Alex Michelsen | Age: 20 | World No. 34 | Career-High No. 32 | 2025: 13-8 (Delray Beach SF) | Houston: 2-1 ('25 QF)
 > Broke inside Top 50 in August 2024 and achieved career-high No. 32 in March 2025, not long after defeating former finalist Tsitsipas en route to 1st Grand Slam 4R at Australian Open.

- > At 2024 Australian Open, became youngest American man in Grand Slam 3R since Young at 2007 US Open.
- > Earned 1st ATP Tour win and reached 1st QF, SF and final at 2023 Newport, becoming youngest American ATP Tour finalist since Fritz at 2016 Memphis and reached 2nd final at 2024 Newport (held 1 MP vs. Giron).
- > Defeated No. 9 de Minaur for biggest win of career in 2024 Los Cabos 2R, before squandering 3 MPs in QF against eventual champion Thompson.
- > Also reached 2024 ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati doubles final w/McDonald after defeating him in qualifying.

NOTE: Michelsen seeks 6th ATP Tour SF (3-2), 5th on home soil, 1st on clay. He is 6-11 vs. Top 20, 1-1 on clay including win over No. 12 Fritz in Geneva last May.

Frances Tiafoe | Age: 27 | World No. 17 | Career-High No. 10 | 2025: 7-6 (Houston QF) | Houston: 11-5 (2023 Title)

- > Former World No. 2 junior achieved career-high No. 10 in June 2023 after lifting 3rd title in Stuttgart, saving 1 MP vs. Struff in the final to own ATP Tour titles on all three surfaces.
- > Joined Fritz in Top 10 to mark 1st time two American men were ranked in Top 10 since 2012.
- > Defeated 4-time champion Nadal en route to 2022 US Open SF, becoming that event's 1st American men's semi-finalist since Roddick in 2006 and returned to US Open SF in 2024, losing to Fritz in all-American match.
- > Led Team World to 2022 Laver Cup title, teaming w/Sock to defeat Federer/Nadal in Swiss' final match before clinching cup with win over Tsitsipas.
- > Rallied from 3-5 in third set and saved 2 MPs vs. Rune to reach 1st ATP Masters 1000 final at 2024 Cincinnati.
- > Won 1st ATP Tour title as 20-year-old at 2018 Delray Beach and remains youngest American champion since Roddick, 19, at 2002 Houston and 2nd ATP Tour title at 2023 Houston.
- > 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: Tiafoe looks for 3rd straight Houston SF after 2023 title (d. Etcheverry) and last year's final (l. to Shelton). He would be the 1st player since Sock in 2015-17 to reach three consecutive Houston SFs (2015 Title, 2016 Final, 2017 SF) and aims to win consecutive matches for 1st time since reaching US Open SF in September (l. to Fritz).