HANGZHOU OPEN – ATP MEDIA NOTES
DAY 5 – SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2024

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LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: SINGLES QUARTER-FINALS

CENTER COURT

[4] Brandon Nakashima (USA) vs Rinky Hijikata (AUS) — Nakashima Leads 1-0

24 Houston (U.S.A.)	Clay	R16	Brandon Nakashima	6-1 6-4

Brandon Nakashima | Age: 23 | World No. 39 (Career-High) | 2024: 24-16 (Stuttgart SF) | Career: 92-73 (1 Title)
> Former World No. 3 junior broke into Top 50 in July 2022 and achieved career-high No. 39 in September 2024 after defeating No. 15 Rune and No. 18 Musetti en route to reaching US Open 4R.
> Ended 2022 season on 16-1 run in tiebreaks then 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 saved 2 MPs vs. Wong in 2R and now seeks 6th ATP Tour SF (3-2), 4th on hard courts and 2nd in 2024 (l. to Draper in Stuttgart). The American is 13-1 on hard courts against Australians on tour-level, losing to Thompson at 2022 Dallas for his sole loss.

Rinky Hijikata | Age: 23 | World No. 81 | Career-High No. 62 | 2024: 15-20 (5 QFs) | Career: 27-34 (1 SF)
> Former World No. 9 junior broke into Top 100 after reaching 2023 US Open 4R as WC, then achieved career-high No. 65 in August 2024.
> Rallied from a set down in three consecutive matches en route 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 advanced to QF via W/O as Marozsan withdrew due to illness and now seeks 2nd SF of career after 2023 ‘s-Hertogenbosch (l. to Thompson). He is 0-4 in QFs this season (Brisbane, Delray Beach, Queen’s Club, Winston-Salem).

[Q] Yasutaka Uchiyama (JPN) vs [WC] Marin Cilic (CRO) — Cilic Leads 1-0

17 Tokyo (Japan)	Hard	R16	Marin Cilic	6-3 6-4

Yasutaka Uchiyama | Age: 32 | World No. 160 | Career-High No. 78 | 2024: 2-0 (Hangzhou QF) | Career: 13-27 (3 QFs)
> Broke into Top 100 after winning 2019 Ningbo Challenger title and achieved career-high No. 78 after reaching 2019 Playford Challenger final.
> Qualified and defeated No. 14 Edmund for biggest career win en route to 1st ATP Tour QF at 2019 Brisbane.
> Went on to qualify for 1st time in 15th attempt at a Grand Slam event at 2019 Wimbledon.
> Owns 184-178 Challenger record, with titles at 2017 Kyoto, 2018 Yokohama, 2018 Zhangjiagang, 2019 Shanghai, 2019 Ningbo, 2024 Busan and 2024 Zhangjiagang
> Captured 2017 Tokyo doubles title with countryman McLachlan as 494th-ranked WC.
> Big baseball fan who supports Haruki Nishikawa and his team, the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters.

NOTE: Uchiyama is playing in his third ATP Tour QF after 2019 Brisbane (l. to Chardy) and 2019 Tokyo (l. to Opelka) and aims to join Daniel (Auckland) and Nishioka (Atlanta) as only Japanese players to reach ATP Tour SF in 2024.

Marin Cilic | Age: 35 | World No. 777 | Career-High No. 3 | 2024: 2-4 (Hangzhou QF) | Career: 584-332 (20 Titles)
> Former World No. 1 junior broke into Top 10 after reaching 2010 Australian Open SF and achieved career-high No. 3 following run to 2018 Australian Open final.
> Defeated Federer en route to 2014 US Open title but lost to him in 2017 Wimbledon and 2018 Australian Open finals.
> Upset No. 2 Medvedev en route to 2022 Roland Garros SF, becoming 3rd of 4 active players to advance to SFs of all 4 Grand Slam events (also Djokovic, Nadal and Sinner).
> Owns 20 titles and 584 victories, highlighted by biggest wins of career over No. 1 Djokovic at 2016 Paris and No. 1 Nadal at 2018 Australian Open.
> Won 2016 ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati title, clinched 2018 Davis Cup for Croatia, and earned silver medal in All-Croatian men's doubles final at 2020 Tokyo Olympics w/Dodig (held in 2021).

NOTE: Cilic defeated Nishioka in 2R to record consecutive ATP Tour wins for the first time since reaching 2022 Tel Aviv final. The former World No. 3 now seeks 67th tour-level semi-final (36-30), 43rd on hard courts.

Mikhail Kukushkin (KAZ) vs [WC] Bu Yunchaokete (CHN) First Meeting

Mikhail Kukushkin | Age: 36 | World No. 112 | Career-High No. 39 | 2024: 2-1 (Hangzhou QF) | Career: 175-235 (1 Title)
> Achieved career-high No. 39 and earned personal-best 22 wins in 2019.
> Posted 1st Top-10 win vs. No. 10 Youzhny to capture 2010 St. Petersburg title, then beat No. 4 Wawrinka for biggest win of career in 2014 Basel 1R.
> Advanced to 2012 Australian Open 4R following 5-set wins over Troicki and Monfils and 2019 Wimbledon 4R after beating Isner in 5 sets.
> Owns 247-129 Challenger record with 16 titles and wins over former or future Top-10 players Ancic, Bautista Agut, Berrettini, Gasquet, Goffin, Khachanov, Schwartzman and Verdasco.
> In 2024, broke a 6-year title drought on Challenger tour to capture title wins in Manama and Tenerife.
> Underwent left hip surgery on 25 September 2012 and right hip surgery on 8 October 2012.

NOTE: Kukushkin is playing in first ATP Tour QF since 2020 Astana and now seeks 10th ATP Tour SF (4-5), first since 2019 Marseille. He is No. 99 on PIF ATP Live Rankings and would advance to No. 92 with a QF win, as the 36-year-old looks to return to Top 100 for the first time since May 2021.

Bu Yunchaokete | Age: 22 | World No. 124 | Career-High No. 113 | 2024: 3-2 (Hangzhou QF) | Career: 4-4 (1 QF)
> Former World No. 5 junior earned 1st ranking point in January 2022, broke into Top 200 in May 2023, then earned career-high No. 113 in September 2024 after qualifying for US Open (l. to No. 8 Ruud).
> Made tour-level debut at 2022 Davis Cup (l. to M. Cuevas) and ATP Tour debut at 2023 ATP Masters Shanghai as WC, earning first tour-level win of career over No. 45 Kecmanovic in 1R.
> Owns 60-35 Challenger record, with titles at 2023 Seoul, 2024 Wuxi and 2024 Granby.
> He notes Andy Murray as his tennis idol and played against him at 2023 Surbiton CH, losing in straight sets.
> Earned win over future-Top 10 player Rune en route to 2019 Australian Open boys' singles 3R and reached quarter-finals in boys' doubles at 2019 Roland Garros w/Khan and 2020 Australian Open w/Mitsui.

NOTE: Bu is playing in his 1st ATP Tour QF after recording biggest win of career over No. 23 Khachanov in 2R. With a win, he would be the 5th Chinese player in an ATP Tour SF and could move to No. 96 on PIF ATP Live Rankings.

[6] Zhang Zhizhen (CHN) vs Roberto Carballes Baena (ESP) First Tour Level Meeting

Other Meeting

22 Tunis CH (Tunisia)	Clay	SF	R. Carballes Baena	6-2 6-1

Zhang Zhizhen | Age: 27 | World No. 48 | Career-High No. 31 | 2024: 23-23 (Halle SF) | Career: 53-53 (2 SFs)
> Became the first Chinese player in PIF ATP Rankings history to break into Top 100 in October 2022 and Top 50 in January 2024, earning career-high No. 31 in July 2024.
> Won 3 consecutive matches in the deciding set tie-break to become the 1st Chinese player in ATP Masters 1000 QF at 2023 Madrid and also reached 2nd ATP Masters 1000 QF on clay at 2024 Rome.
> During 2023 season, reached 1st ATP Tour SF in Hamburg, then became 1st Chinese man to defeat a Top 5 opponent, beating No. 5 Ruud en route to 2023 US Open 3R.
> Qualified at 2021 Wimbledon and joining fellow qualifier Wu at 2022 US Open as 1st Chinese man to compete in main draw of both events in Open Era.
> Equaled biggest win of career over No. 5 Medvedev in 2024 Halle 2R en route to 2nd ATP Tour SF and became the first Chinese man to reach a tour-level semi-final on grass in Open Era.

NOTE: Zhang defeated Bellucci in 2R to mark the first time multiple Chinese players reached an ATP Tour QF at the same event (with Bu). The Chinese No. 1 seeks his 3rd ATP Tour SF (0-2), 1st on hard courts, after reaching the stage at 2023 Hamburg on clay and Halle this June on grass.

R. Carballes Baena | Age: 31 | World No. 55 | Career-High No. 49 | 2024: 22-20 (Marrakech Final) | Career: 115-140 (2 Titles)
> Former World No. 8 junior entered Top 50 at 30 years of age at career high No. 49 in April 2023 after rallying from a set down three times in five matches to win 2nd ATP Tour title in Marrakech.
> At 2018 Quito, became 1st Spanish qualifier to win an ATP Tour title since Almagro at 2006 Valencia.
> Defeated No. 11 Shapovalov 8-6 in 5th after 5 hours to reach 2020 Roland Garros 3R for 1st Top 20 win and defeated No. 4 Rune at 2023 US Open for 1st Top 10 win in 14th attempt.
> Defeated Goffin for 1st ATP Tour win en route to 2014 Casablanca SF as Q.
> Boasts 243-151 Challenger record (13-8 in finals), including clay-court titles at 2022, 2023 and 2024 Seville.

NOTE: Carballes Baena seeks 6th ATP Tour SF (3-2), first on hard courts. He is 3-11 vs. Top 50 players this season, earning last win in Barcelona 2R over No. 24 Musetti in April.