



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

PREVIEW & DAY 1 – MONDAY 31 MARCH 2025

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

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2025 FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES

SEED	PLAYER	2025 W-L (BEST FINISH)	EVENT W-L (BEST FINISH)
1	Tommy Paul (USA)	13-5 (Adelaide, Dallas SF)	2-3 (2016, 2022-23 2R)
2	Frances Tiafoe (USA)	6-6 (Indian Wells, Miami 3R)	10-5 (2023 Title)
3	Alejandro Tabilo (CHI)	2-8 (Indian Wells, Miami 3R)	1-1 (2022 2R)
4	Brandon Nakashima (USA)	10-8 (Acapulco SF)	2-1 (2024 QF)
5	Alex Michelsen (USA)	11-8 (Delray Beach SF)	0-1 (2024 1R)
6	Jordan Thompson (AUS)	5-4 (Brisbane QF)	5-5 (2019, 2024 QF)
7	Tomas Martin Etcheverry (ARG)	7-9 (Santiago QF)	6-2 (2023 Final)
8	Kei Nishikori (JPN)	7-6 (Hong Kong Final)	4-2 (2011 Final)

Tournament History

Singles Final

Wild Cards (3)

Qualifiers (4)

Oldest Player

#NextGen ATP (1)

Tournament Records

1969-2019, 2022-Present (55th edition in 2025, 23rd in Houston)

Sunday 6 April at 2 pm

Cristian Garin (CHI), Michael Mmoh (USA), Ethan Quinn (USA)

Jenson Brooksby (USA), Corentin Denolly (FRA),

Mitchell Krueger (USA), Colton Smith (USA)

Kei Nishikori (35)

Learner Tien (19)

Most Titles – Jimmy Connors (4)

Most Wins – Jimmy Connors (36)

Youngest Champion – Andre Agassi, 18, in 1988

Oldest Champion – Andre Agassi, 32, in 2003

Highest-Ranked Champion – No. 1 Jimmy Connors in 1974, 1976, 1978

Lowest-Ranked Champion – No. 352 Fernando Gonzalez in 2000

Last American Champion – Ben Shelton in 2024

COUNTRY BREAKDOWN (9)

United States (15)

Jenson Brooksby, Christopher Eubanks, Brandon Holt, Aleksandar Kovacevic, Mitchell Krueger, Mackenzie McDonald, Alex Michelsen, Michael Mmoh, Nicolas Moreno de Alboran, Brandon Nakashima, Ethan Quinn, Tommy Paul, Colton Smith, Frances Tiafoe, Learner Tien

Australia (4)

James Duckworth, Rinky Hijikata, Jordan Thompson, Adam Walton

Chile (2)

Cristian Garin, Alejandro Tabilo

Japan (2)

Taro Daniel, Kei Nishikori

Argentina (1)

Tomas Martin Etcheverry

Colombia (1)

Daniel Elahi Galan

France (1)

Corentin Denolly

Germany (1)

Yannick Hanfmann

Switzerland (1)

Alexander Ritschard

PIF ATP RANKING POINTS AND PRIZE MONEY

Fayez Sarofim & Co. U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship	W	F	SF	QF	R16	R32
Singles Ranking Points	250	165	100	50	25*	0
Singles Prize Money (\$)	103,455	60,350	35,480	20,555	11,935	7,295
Doubles Ranking Points	250	150	90	45	0	--
Doubles Prize Money (\$)	35,980	19,330	11,310	6,270	3,700	--

* Singles players who receive a bye in R32 and lose in R16 earn 0 ranking points

2025 FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES

SEED	PLAYER	TEAM (BEST FINISH)	2025 (BEST FINISH)	EVENT (BEST FINISH)
1	Robert Galloway (USA) Jackson Withrow (USA)	1-1 (2022 Houston QF) 0-0 in 2025	6-8 (Dallas Final) 3-8 (Brisbane QF)	2-4 (2023 SF) 2-4 (2022-23 QF)
2	Christian Harrison (USA) Evan King (USA)	15-4 (2 Titles) 15-4 in 2025 (2 Titles)	19-6 (Dallas, Acapulco Titles) 15-5 (Dallas, Acapulco Titles)	0-1 (2023 1R) 0-1 (2024 1R)
3	Austin Krajicek (USA) Rajeev Ram (USA)	25-19 (2018 Moscow Title) 5-7 in 2025 (2 QFs)	5-7 (Brisbane, Dallas QF) 8-7 (Auckland Final)	3-4 (2019 SF) 0-3 (2010-11, 2024 1R)
4	Rinky Hijikata (AUS) Jordan Thompson (AUS)	0-0 (Team Debut)	4-4 (Brisbane SF) 6-2 (Indian Wells Final)	2-1 (2023-24 QF) 8-1 (2023-24 Titles)

Doubles Final: Saturday 5 April following singles semi-finals

FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES FINALS (since 2011)

YEAR	CHAMPION	FINALIST	SCORE
2024	Ben Shelton (USA)	Frances Tiafoe (USA)	7-5 4-6 6-3
2023	Frances Tiafoe (USA)	Tomas Martin Etcheverry (ARG)	7-6(1) 7-6(6)
2022	Reilly Opelka (USA)	John Isner (USA)	6-3 7-6(7)
2020-21	TOURNAMENT NOT HELD		
2019	Cristian Garin (CHI)	Casper Ruud (NOR)	7-6(4) 4-6 6-3
2018	Steve Johnson (USA)	Tennys Sandgren (USA)	7-6(2) 2-6 6-4
2017	Steve Johnson (USA)	Thomaz Bellucci (BRA)	6-4 4-6 7-6(5)
2016	Juan Monaco (ARG)	Jack Sock (USA)	3-6 6-3 7-5
2015	Jack Sock (USA)	Sam Querrey (USA)	7-6(9) 7-6(2)
2014	Fernando Verdasco (ESP)	Nicolas Almagro (ESP)	6-3 7-6(4)
2013	John Isner (USA)	Nicolas Almagro (ESP)	6-3 7-5
2012	Juan Monaco (ARG)	John Isner (USA)	6-2 3-6 6-3
2011	Ryan Sweeting (USA)	Kei Nishikori (JPN)	6-4 7-6(3)

BOLD: Player in 2025 Fayez Sarofim & Co. U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship singles draw.

FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLES FINALS (since 2011)

YEAR	CHAMPION	FINALIST	SCORE
2024	Max Purcell / Jordan Thompson	William Blumberg / John Peers	7-5 6-1
2023	Max Purcell / Jordan Thompson	Julian Cash / Henry Patten	4-6 6-4 [10-5]
2022	Matthew Ebden / Max Purcell	Ivan Sabanov / Matej Sabanov	6-3 6-3
2020-21	TOURNAMENT NOT HELD		
2019	Santiago Gonzalez / Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi	Ken Skupski / Neal Skupski	3-6 6-4 [10-6]
2018	Max Mirnyi / Philipp Oswald	Andre Begemann / Antonio Sancic	6-7(2) 6-4 [11-9]
2017	Julio Peralta / Horacio Zeballos	Dustin Brown / Frances Tiafoe	4-6 7-5 [10-6]
2016	Bob Bryan / Mike Bryan	Victor Estrella Burgos / Santiago Gonzalez	4-6 6-3 [10-8]
2015	Ricardas Berankis / Teymuraz Gabashvili	Treat Huey / Scott Lipsky	6-4 6-4
2014	Bob Bryan / Mike Bryan	David Marrero / Fernando Verdasco	4-6 6-4 [11-9]
2013	Jamie Murray / John Peers	Bob Bryan / Mike Bryan	1-6 7-6(3) [12-10]
2012	James Blake / Sam Querrey	Treat Huey / Dominic Inglot	7-6(14) 6-4
2011	Bob Bryan / Mike Bryan	John Isner / Sam Querrey	6-7 6-2 [10-5]

BOLD: Player in 2025 Fayez Sarofim & Co. U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship doubles draw.

LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: MONDAY FIRST-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

STADIUM COURT

[WC] Cristian Garin (CHI) vs Alexander Ritschard (SUI)

First Meeting

Cristian Garin | Age: 28 | World No. 133 | Career-High No. 17 | 2025: 3-3 (2x 2R) | Houston: 10-2 (2019 Title)
 > Won biggest title of career at 2020 Rio de Janeiro to rise to No. 18, then ended 2021 season at career-high No. 17.
 > Five-time ATP Tour champion saved 5 MPs vs. Chardy en route to 2019 Houston title and 2 MPs vs. No. 3 A. Zverev en route to 2019 Munich title.
 > Advanced to 1st Grand Slam QF at 2022 Wimbledon after reaching ATP Masters 1000 QFs at 2019 Paris, 2021 Madrid and 2022 Rome.
 > Earned 1st ATP Tour win at 2013 Vina del Mar as 16-year-old WC (d. Lajovic) and 2nd ATP Tour win at 2019 Buenos Aires (d. Auger-Aliassime).
 > Former World No. 4 junior defeated A. Zverev for 2013 Roland Garros boys' singles title and reached boys' doubles final with countryman Jarry.

NOTE: Garin won 1st of his 5 ATP Tour titles in Houston in 2019 (d. Ruud) and reached the quarterfinals in all three appearances (2019 Title, 2022 SF, 2023 QF). He is one of two former champions in the draw alongside Tiafoe (2023).

Alexander Ritschard | Age: 31 | World No. 125 | Career-High No. 99 | 2025: 0-0 | Houston: 0-1 (2024 1R)
 > Earned 1st ranking point at age 16 in September 2010 and broke into Top 100 for 2 weeks at career-high No. 99 in September 2024 at age 30 after winning 4th Challenger title in Lisbon.
 > Made tour-level debut as Q at 2022 Wimbledon (l. to Tsitsipas in 1R) and defeated J. Sousa to earn 1st ATP Tour win at 2022 Gstaad as WC.
 > Owns 119-96 Challenger record (4-4 in finals), capturing 3 titles in 2024 at Savannah, Salzburg and Lisbon.
 > Played college tennis at University of Virginia and helped Cavaliers win NCAA team titles in 2015, 2016 and 2017.
 > Former World No. 65 junior began playing tennis at age 5 with his father Hans, who competed professionally in 1980s.

NOTE: Ritschard is playing 1st ATP Tour match since this event last year (l. to Wolf) and seeks 1st win since 2023 Munich (d. Struff in 1R). He would be 1st Swiss Houston match winner since Laaksonen in 2019 (l. to Garin in QF).

Taro Daniel (JPN) vs [Q] Jenson Brooksby (USA)

First Meeting

Taro Daniel | Age: 32 | World No. 124 | Career-High No. 58 | 2025: 0-3 (3 times in 1R) | Houston: 0-1 (2018 1R)
 > Achieved career-high No. 58 in January 2024 after reaching 2nd ATP Tour final at Auckland.
 > Advanced to 1st ATP Tour SF and final en route to 1st title at 2018 Istanbul joining Nishikori as only Japanese men to win a tour-level clay court title in Open Era.
 > Led all players by qualifying for 9 tour-level events in 2022, including Australian Open, ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells and ATP Masters 1000 Miami.
 > Also qualified at 2023 Acapulco and defeated No. 4 Ruud in 2R for biggest win of career.
 > Defeated 5-time champion Djokovic to reach 2018 Indian Wells 3R as Q and 5-time finalist Murray to reach 2022 Australian Open 3R as Q.
 > Won 17 of 21 tour-level and Challenger matches during 6-week span in 2016, defeating 2-time medalist Sock at Rio Olympics along the way.

NOTE: Daniel seeks 1st ATP Tour win since defeating Gerasimov in ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai 1R in October (0-5 since) and 1st ATP Tour win on clay since beating Vukic in ATP Masters 1000 Madrid 1R last April (0-5 since).

Jenson Brooksby | Age: 24 | World No. 507 | Career-High No. 33 | 2025: 2-4 (Indian Wells 3R) | Houston: 0-1 ('22 1R)
 > 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 and is competing in his first clay tournament since 2022 Roland Garros (l. to P. Cuevas in 1R). He would be the lowest-ranked Houston match winner since No. 826 Haas in 2017 (d. Opelka in 1R, l. to Sock in 2R).

[5] Alex Michelsen (USA) vs Learner Tien (USA)

24 Next Gen ATP Finals (Saudi Arabia) Hard SF Learner Tien

Tien Leads 1-0

2-4 4-2 1-4 4-0 4-1

Alex Michelsen | Age: 20 | World No. 34 | Career-High No. 32 | 2025: 11-8 (Delray Beach SF) | Houston: 0-1 ('24 1R)
 > 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 played his 1st tour-level match on clay at this venue last year (l. to Purcell in 1R). He posted 2 of his 3 ATP Tour wins on clay against Americans (d. No. 12 Fritz and No. 88 Kovacevic at 2024 Geneva).

Learner Tien | Age: 19 | World No. 69 | Career-High No. 66 | 2025: 6-6 (Acapulco QF) | Houston: 0-0 (Debut)
 > Broke into Top 200 in August 2024, Top 100 in January 2025 and achieved career-high No. 66 in March 2025 after defeating No. 2 Zverev for biggest win of career to reach his biggest ATP Tour QF in Acapulco.
 > Upset No. 5 Medvedev en route to Australian Open 4R as Q to be youngest man to defeat a Top-5 player at that event in PIF ATP Rankings history (since 1973).
 > Qualified for 2024 Next Gen ATP Finals, defeating Top-3 seeds, No. 1 Fils and No. 3 Mensik in RR and No. 2 Michelsen in SF to become 1st left-handed finalist in event history.
 > Went on a 28-match winning streak from May to July 2024, capturing ITF Tour titles at M15 San Diego twice, M15 Rancho Santa Fe, M15 Lakewood and biggest title of career – 1st Challenger title in Bloomfield Hills.
 > Received 2022 and 2023 US Open WCs after winning 2022 and 2023 USTA Boys' 18s National Championships and 2024 US Open WC by winning US Open Wild Card Challenge.
 > Peaked at No. 4 in juniors, highlighted by runs to junior finals of 2023 Australian Open (l. to Blockx) and US Open (l. to Fonseca) and defeated Blockx/Fonseca to capture 2023 Australian Open boys' doubles title w/C. Williams.

NOTE: Tien is competing in his 1st ATP Tour match on clay and seeks 1st win since reaching Acapulco QF (l. to Machac). He would be the youngest match winner in Houston since Paul, 18, in 2016 (d. Lorenzi in 1R and l. to H. Chung in 2R) and is 6-4 vs. Top 50 since August.

Aleksandar Kovacevic (USA) vs [7] Tomas Martin Etcheverry (ARG) First Meeting

A. Kovacevic | Age: 26 | World No. 79 | Career-High No. 72 | 2025: 4-4 (Montpellier Final) | Houston: 1-2 (2024 2R)
 > 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 biggest clay win of career after beating No. 104 Kokkinakis in 1R last year for lone ATP Tour clay win (0-4 vs. Top 100) and posted all 4 ATP Tour wins of 2025 en route to Montpellier final (l. to Auger-Aliassime).

T. M. Etcheverry | Age: 25 | World No. 44 | Career-High No. 27 | 2025: 7-9 (Santiago QF) | Houston: 6-2 (2023 Final)
 > Former World No. 12 junior broke into Top 200 in June 2021 and Top 100 in April 2022, achieving career-high No. 27 in February 2024.
 > At 2023 Roland Garros, earned 1st two Top 20 wins of career over No. 19 de Minaur in 2R and No. 16 Coric in 3R and reached the quarter-finals without losing a set.
 > Defeated clay-court champions Fognini, F. Cerundolo, Lajovic and Baez en route to 1st ATP Tour final at Santiago and J. Cerundolo and Garin en route to 2nd ATP Tour final at 2023 Houston.

- > Earned personal-best 31 wins in 2024, highlighted by Lyon final, where he held 1 MP against Mpetshi Perricard.
- > Posted Challenger records of 49-19 in 2021 and 41-16 in 2022, highlighted by clay-court titles at 2021 Perugia, 2021 Trieste and 2022 Concepcion-2.

NOTE: Etcheverry reached 2nd of 3 ATP Tour finals at this venue in 2023 (l. to Tiafoe) before advancing to 2024 SF (l. to Shelton). He is 12-2 in tour-level opening rounds on clay since start of 2024 season (11-10 on other surfaces).

COURT 3

Brandon Holt (USA) vs [Q] Corentin Denolly (FRA)

First Meeting