

FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP: DAY 7 MEDIA NOTES

Sunday, 15 April 2018

River Oaks Country Club | Houston, TX, USA | 9-15 April 2018

Draw: S-28, D-16 | Prize Money: \$557,050 | Surface: Clay

ATP World Tour Info

ATPWorldTour.com

Twitter: @ATPWorldTour

Facebook: @ATPWorldTour

Tournament Info

MensClayCourt.com

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ATP PR & Marketing

Joshua Rey: jrey@atpworldtour.com

Press Room: pete@holtermmediainc.com

TV & Radio: TennisTV.com

ALL-AMERICAN FINAL AS DEFENDING CHAMP JOHNSON FACES SANDGREN

- There were 15 Americans in the main draw at the start of the Fayeze Sarofim & Co. U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship on Monday, and the event comes to a close with two of them left standing in the championship match. Reigning titleholder **Steve Johnson**, the No. 6 seed, will square off against No. 8 seed **Tennys Sandgren**, who will be contesting the first ATP World Tour singles final of his career. This will be their first Tour-level meeting, but Sandgren has defeated Johnson in a Futures event and in an ATP Challenger Tour event – both matches having taken place on clay.
- Johnson** is currently on an eight-match winning streak in Houston. He has become the first player to reach consecutive US Clay finals since Jack Sock in 2015-16, and is attempting to become the first player to successfully defend a US Clay title since Andy Roddick in 2001-02. Johnson picked up his fourth career Top 10 win over No. 9 John Isner in the quarter-finals, and after beating Taylor Fritz in the semi-finals, has defeated four of his countrymen in a row to reach the final (also Escobedo in 1st round and Tiafoe in 2nd round). If 28-year-old Johnson can defend his title with a win over Sandgren, he will be the first player to beat five Americans en route to the US Clay title since Jaime Yzaga of Peru did so in 1991.
- After reaching the first Tour-level quarter-final of his career earlier this year at the Australian Open, **Sandgren** can now add a first ATP World Tour semi-final and final to his list of accomplishments. On Saturday, the 26-year-old took down Croatia's big-serving Ivo Karlovic in two tiebreak sets to move into his maiden Tour-level final. The Tennessee native is exactly one year removed from qualifying for Houston to play his first career ATP World Tour main draw as the No. 157-ranked player in the world; now, after this week's exploits, he is projected to break into the Top 50 of the ATP Rankings.

INFOSYS ATP SCORES & STATS

Fayeze Sarofim & Co. U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship	[6] Steve Johnson	[8] Tennys Sandgren
Aces	33	33
1st-Serve Percentage	61% (229 of 375)	58% (179 of 309)
1st-Serve Points Won	76% (174 of 229)	75% (134 of 179)
2nd-Serve Points Won	60% (87 of 146)	58% (75 of 130)
Service Games Won	93% (53 of 57)	85% (39 of 46)
Break Points Saved	83% (20 of 24)	73% (19 of 26)
1st-Serve Return Points Won	26% (64 of 247)	33% (52 of 159)
2nd-Serve Return Points Won	48% (65 of 136)	47% (44 of 93)
Return Games Won	16% (9 of 57)	31% (14 of 45)
Break Points Converted	31% (9 of 29)	56% (14 of 25)

For the latest stats, facts and figures about the ATP World Tour, follow [@ATPMediaInfo](#) on Twitter.

ATP RANKING POINTS AND PRIZE MONEY

Fayez Sarofim & Co. U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship	Champion	Finalist
Ranking Points	250	150
Singles Prize Money (\$)	99,375	52,340

FEDEX ATP HEAD2HEADS: SINGLES FINAL

CENTER

[6] Steve Johnson (USA) vs [8] Tennys Sandgren (USA)

First Tour-Level Meeting

Other Meetings

09 U.S.A. F17 (U.S.A.)	Clay	R32	Tennys Sandgren	3-6 6-2 6-2
13 Savannah CH (U.S.A.)	Clay	R32	Tennys Sandgren	6-3 1-6 6-3

Johnson 2018 Summary

F (1): Houston; **SF (1):** Delray Beach (l. Gojowczyk)

YTD W-L: 10-8 (4-1 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 2

Date of Birth: 24 December 1989 (28)

ATP Ranking: 51

Houston W-L (Best Result): 10-4 (**2017 Champion**)

- Tournament Note: Defending champion and Southern California native has won his last eight matches at River Oaks following his 75 67(4) 62 SF victory over Fritz. Opened on Tuesday with a 36 76 62 win over Escobedo and followed with a 63 64 victory over Tiafoe, then outlasted [1] Isner 76 46 76 in 2h 37m. Last year, captured first clay-court title with wins over Brown, Verdasco, No. 16 Sock, and Bellucci in third-set TB. Prior to last year, was 2-4, falling in 2R in 2014-15. Making his sixth straight appearance in Houston.
- This week, has reached his fourth career ATP World Tour final (2-1). Most recent final and title came here last year.
- Earned 1st win in 4 tries over Raonic en route to Delray Beach SF (l. to Gojowczyk).
- Advanced to ATP Masters 1000 Miami 3R (d. Mannarino, l. to Carreno Busta).
- Squandered 5 MPs in New York 1R vs. Menendez-Maceiras.
- Returned to ATP Challenger Tour for 1st time since 2014 and reached Irving, USA SF (l. to Kukushkin).
- Clinched USA's 3-1 win over Serbia in Davis Cup 1R w/Harrison (d. Milojevic/Zekic). Did not play vs. Belgium in QF.
- Withdrew from Acapulco due to stomach pain.

Sandgren 2018 Summary

F (1): Houston; **QF (1):** Australian Open (l. Chung)

YTD W-L: 10-7 (5-2 on clay)

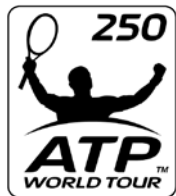
YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: 22 July 1991 (26)

ATP Ranking: 56

Houston W-L (Best Result): 4-1 (2018 Finalist)

- Tournament Note: Entered 1st career ATP World Tour singles final with 76 76 win over Karlovic in SF. Reached 1st career ATP World Tour semi-final after rallying to beat Pella 46 75 63 (trailed 1-3 in 3rd set). On Monday, opened with a 62 62 win over Kavcic and followed with 62 76 victory over Kicker. Last year came in ranked No. 157 and qualified (l. to Escobedo in 1R). In 2015, lost in 1R qualifying (l. to Sweeting).
- Earned 1st 2 Top 10 wins over Wawrinka and Thiem en route to Australian Open QF (l. to Chung).
- As World No. 97, became lowest-ranked Australian Open quarter-finalist since No. 105 Tillstrom in 1996.
- Became 1st player to earn 1st Grand Slam win en route to QFs since Verkerk at 2003 Roland Garros.
- Also became 1st player to reach 1st Tour-level QF at a Grand Slam since Kyrgios at 2014 Wimbledon.
- Made winning ATP Masters 1000 debut at Indian Wells as WC (d. Basilashvili, l. to Ferrer in 2R).
- Squandered 1 MP vs. Fognini in Rio de Janeiro 2R.
- Achieved career-high No. 54 in ATP Rankings on 5 February.



FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP: DAY 6 MEDIA NOTES

Saturday, 14 April 2018

River Oaks Country Club | Houston, TX, USA | 9-15 April 2018

Draw: S-28, D-16 | Prize Money: \$557,050 | Surface: Clay

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AMERICAN TRIO FRITZ, JOHNSON, SANDGREN JOIN KARLOVIC IN SEMIS

- This is the second straight year there are three Americans in the semi-finals at River Oaks Country Club, led by reigning champion **Steve Johnson** and first-time semi-finalists **Taylor Fritz** and **Tennys Sandgren**. The other semi-finalist is 2007 winner **Ivo Karlovic** of Croatia.
- In the opening singles match on Center, **Karlovic** and No. 8 seed **Sandgren** meet for the first time. The 39-year-old Karlovic is the oldest US Clay semi-finalist in the Open Era. He's also the oldest semi-finalist on the ATP World Tour since Jimmy Connors (40) at 1993 San Francisco. He is trying to be the oldest ATP finalist since 43-year-old Ken Rosewall won in Hong Kong in 1977. Sandgren is appearing in his first career ATP World Tour semi-final. One year ago the Tennessee native was ranked No. 157 and he qualified in Houston for his first career ATP World Tour tournament. Now the 26-year-old is one match away from reaching his first ATP World Tour final and breaking into the Top 50 ATP Rankings. He is projected to move from No. 56 to No. 51 with his SF effort.
- In the second match, No. 6 seed **Johnson** meets **Fritz**, who won the only previous meeting 76 76 in the second round of Memphis in February 2016. Fritz went on to reach his maiden ATP World Tour final. Johnson is trying to become the first player to reach consecutive US Clay finals since Sock in 2015-16. He's attempting to be the first player to repeat as US Clay champion since Andy Roddick in 2001-02. Johnson, who is 2-1 in ATP World Tour finals, is coming off his fourth career Top 10 win, the first on clay (1-3) over No. 9 Isner on Friday night. Fritz has won three straight three-set matches en route to his second career ATP World Tour semi-final (2016 Memphis final). This is the second straight year a 20-year-old has reached the semi-finals at River Oaks. Last year Ernesto Escobedo reached the semi-finals. Fritz is looking to become the youngest US Clay finalist since Roddick (20) fell to Agassi in the 2003 final.

FEDEX ATP HEAD2HEADS: SATURDAY SEMI-FINAL SINGLES MATCHES

CENTER

Ivo Karlovic (CRO) vs [8] Tennys Sandgren (USA)

First Meeting

Karlovic 2018 Summary

QF(1): New York (I Querrey)

YTD W-L: 8-6 (4-1 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 8

Date of Birth: February 28, 1979 (39)

ATP Ranking: 88

Houston W-L (Best Result): 10-5 (2007 **Champion**)

- **Tournament Note:** The 39-year-old Croat is appearing in his third SF in Houston after beating [4] Kyrgios 36 62 63. On Tuesday in first appearance at River Oaks since 2014, opened with a 76 64 win over Daniel and followed with 75 75 victory over [Q] Kudla. No. 2 in aces (39), service games won (34 of 36, 94%) and 1st serve pts. won (85%) this week. Has saved 8 of 10 BPs. Won 2007 title (d. Zabaleta) and SF in 2011 as a qualifier (l. to eventual champion Sweeting). At 39, he is oldest player to reach SF in Open Era tournament history.
- Croat is oldest to reach an ATP World Tour SF since Jimmy Connors (40) in 1993 San Francisco.
- He is trying to advance to his 19th ATP World Tour final (8-10), the first since last June in 's-Hertogenbosch (l. to Muller). His last ATP World Tour title came in August 2016 Los Cabos (d. Lopez)
- Became oldest player to reach Australian Open 3R since 44-year-old Rosewall in 1978.
- In Australian Open 2R, hit 53 aces to beat Sugita 12-10 in 5th. In 3R, hit 52 aces and lost to Seppi 9-7 in 5th.
- First player to hit 50+ aces in more than 1 match at a tournament since ATP began tracking serving stats in 1991.
- Advanced to New York QF (d. Donaldson and Harrison, l. to Querrey).
- Squandered 1 MP vs. Moutet in Quito 2R and 1 MP vs. Marterer in ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells 1R.
- Fell to No. 90 in ATP Rankings on 29 January -- lowest since No. 155 on 15 July 2013. He is projected to move from No. 88 to No. 73 and to No. 68 if he reaches the final (No. 56 if wins title).

Sandgren 2018 Summary

QF(1): Australian Open (l. Chung)

YTD W-L: 9-7 (4-2 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: July 22, 1991 (26)

ATP Ranking: 56

Houston W-L (Best Result): 3-1 (2018 Semi-finalist)

- **Tournament Note:** Appearing in first career ATP World Tour semi-final after rallying to beat Pella 46 75 63 (trailed 1-3 in 3rd set). On Monday opened with a 62 62 win over Kavcic and followed with 62 76 victory over Kicker. Last year came in ranked No. 157 and qualified (l. to Escobedo in 1R). In 2015, lost in 1R qualifying (l. to Sweeting).
- Earned 1st 2 Top 10 wins over Wawrinka and Thiem en route to Australian Open QF (l. to Chung).
- As World No. 97, became lowest-ranked Australian Open quarter-finalist since No. 105 Tillstrom in 1996.
- Became 1st player to earn 1st Grand Slam win en route QFs since Verkerk at 2003 Roland Garros.
- Also became 1st player to reach 1st tour-level QF at a Grand Slam since Kyrgios at 2014 Wimbledon.
- Made winning ATP Masters 1000 debut at Indian Wells as WC (d. Basilashvili, l. to Ferrer in 2R).
- Squandered 1 MP vs. Fognini in Rio de Janeiro 2R.
- Achieved career-high No. 54 in ATP Rankings on 5 February.
- Withdrew from Auckland due to left shoulder injur

[6] Steve Johnson (USA) vs Taylor Fritz (USA)

16 Memphis (U.S.A.)

Hard R16

Taylor Fritz

Fritz Leads 1-0

7-6(5) 7-6(7)

Fritz 2018 Summary

QF(1): Delray Beach (l. Shapovalov)

YTD W-L: 8-3 (3-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: October 28, 1997 (20)

ATP Ranking: 72

Houston W-L (Best Result): 3-0 (2018 Semi-finalist)

- **Tournament Note:** Has won three straight three-set matches en route to his first ATP World Tour SF on clay. Made debut Tuesday night and saved two MPs in 67 62 76 win over Smyczek in 2h, 39m battle. Then rallied over [7] Harrison 36 60 63. and followed with 63 36 64 victory over [3] Sock in 2h, 22m. Leads tournament in 2nd serve return pts. won (54%) and has won tournament-best 14 return games (33%, 14 of 42).
- Appearing in second ATP World Tour SF, first since February 2016 in Memphis where he was finalist (l. to Nishikori).
- Has a 6-0 record in third set TBs this season on all levels (ATP World Tour main draw, qualifying, Challenger)
- Reached ATP Masters 1000 R16 for 1st time at Indian Wells (d. Opelka in 1R after saving 1 MP, l. to Coric).
- Advanced to Delray Beach QF (d. Querrey and Youzhny, l. to Shapovalov).
- Has a 14-3 ATP Challenger Tour record, highlighted by 4th career title at Newport Beach, USA (d. Klahn).
- Also reached Noumea, CAL Challenger final (l. to Rubin) and Indian Wells, USA Challenger SF (l. to D. King).
- He is projected to move from No. 72 to No. 64 and to No. 57 if he reaches the final (around No. 49 if wins title).

Johnson 2018 Summary

SF(1): Delray Beach (l. Gojowczyk)

YTD W-L: 9-8 (3-1 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 2

Date of Birth: December 24, 1989 (28)

ATP Ranking: 51

Houston W-L (Best Result): 9-4 (2017 **Champion**)

- **Tournament Note:** Southern Californian native has won his last seven matches at River Oaks and making his sixth straight appearance. Opened on Tuesday with a 36 76 62 win over Escobedo and followed with a 63 64 victory over Tiafoe and outlasted [1] Isner 76 46 76 in 2h, 37m. Leads tournament in 2nd serve pts. won (61%) and No. 4 in service games won (93%, 38 of 41 games), saving a tournament-high 17 of 20 break pts. (85%) Last year captured first clay court title with (1R bye) and wins over Brown, Verdasco, No. 16 Sock and Bellucci in third set TB. Prior to last year, was 2-4, falling in 2R in 2014-15.
- Trying to reach his fourth career ATP World Tour final (2-1) and last final/title came here last year.
- Earned 1st win in 4 tries over Raonic en route to Delray Beach SF (l. to Gojowczyk), his best result this season.
- Advanced to ATP Masters 1000 Miami 3R (d. Mannarino, l. to Carreno Busta).
- Squandered 5 MPs in New York 1R vs. Menendez-Maceiras.
- Returned to ATP Challenger Tour for 1st time since 2014 and reached Irving, USA SF (l. to Kukushkin).
- Clinched USA's 3-1 win over Serbia in Davis Cup 1R w/Harrison (d. Milojevic/Zekic). Did not play vs. Belgium in QF
- Withdrew from Acapulco due to stomach pain.

DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

**Max Mirnyi (BLR) / Philipp Oswald (AUT) vs
Andre Begemann (GER) / Antonio Sancic (CRO)**

First Meeting

- **Mirnyi** and **Oswald** are through to their third ATP World Tour final (1-1) this season and fourth final overall (2-1) after defeating [3] Peralta/Zeballos 63 76, Lipsky/Sandgren 67 76 11-9 and [1] Bryan-Bryan 64 26 10-6.
- This will be Mirnyi's 97th career doubles final (51-45), and he has also competed in four singles finals (1-3).
- Oswald is appearing in his 12th doubles final (7-4) with five of his seven titles coming on clay. Other two titles on hard-courts came in 2017 Moscow and New York Open in February (both w/Mirnyi).
- Mirnyi and Oswald have a 19-7 career record together (10-4 this season) and they will be appearing in their fourth ATP World Tour final as a team (2017 Moscow, d. Dzumhur/Sancic in F; 2018 Auckland, l. to Marach/Pavic in F; 2018 New York, d. Koolhof/Sitak in F).
- Oswald has seven career ATP World Tour doubles titles, including five on clay. Other two titles on hard-courts was in 2017 Moscow and New York Open in February (both w/Mirnyi).
- Mirnyi is ranked No. 39 in doubles (career-high No. 1 on June 9, 2003), while Oswald is ranked No. 49 in doubles (career-high No. 37 on February 23, 2015).
- **Begemann** and **Sancic** are playing together for the first time this week and they have posted wins over Monroe/Smith 63 64, [4] Gonzalez/Young 76 62 and last year's finalists Brown/Tiafoe 63 36 10-7
- Begemann is playing in his 10th ATP World Tour final (4-5) and his last title came in 2014 Gstaad while Sancic will be contesting his third career ATP World Tour final with hopes of winning his first title.
- Begemann is ranked No. 87 in doubles (career-high No. 36 on May 11, 2015), while Sancic is ranked No. 69 in doubles (career-high No. 64 on February 19, 2018).

POTENTIAL CHAMPIONSHIP FEDEX ATP HEAD2HEADS

[6] Steve Johnson (USA) vs Ivo Karlovic (CRO)

Series Tied 3-3

13 San Jose (U.S.A.)	Hard	R32	Steve Johnson	6-7(2)	6-4	7-6(6)
14 Washington (U.S.A.)	Hard	R16	Steve Johnson	3-6	7-6(4)	7-6(7)
15 Delray Beach (U.S.A.)	Hard	QF	Ivo Karlovic	6-2	7-6(4)	
15 ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells (U.S.A.)	Hard	R64	Steve Johnson	6-3	7-6(5)	
16 Washington (U.S.A.)	Hard	SF	Ivo Karlovic	6-4	6-4	
16 Vienna (Austria)	Hard	R32	Ivo Karlovic	7-6(5)	6-3	

Steve Johnson (USA) vs Tennys Sandgren (USA)

First Tour Level Meeting
Other meetings:

09 U.S.A. F17 (U.S.A.)	Clay	R32	Tennys Sandgren	3-6	6-2	6-2
13 Savannah CH (U.S.A.)	Clay	R32	Tennys Sandgren	6-3	1-6	6-3

Taylor Fritz (USA) vs Ivo Karlovic (CRO)

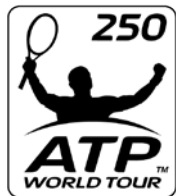
Karlovic Leads 1-0

16 ATP Masters 1000 Toronto (Canada)	Hard	R64	Ivo Karlovic	6-7(9)	7-6(5)	6-2
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Taylor Fritz (USA) vs Tennys Sandgren (USA)

First Tour Level Meeting
Other meetings:

17 Aptos CH (U.S.A.)	Hard	QF	Taylor Fritz	7-5	7-6(1)	
17 Vancouver CH (Canada)	Hard	R16	Taylor Fritz	6-2	6-2	



FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP: DAY 5 MEDIA NOTES

Friday, 13 April 2018

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FOUR FORMER CHAMPIONS HEADLINE QUARTER-FINALS

- This is the second straight year there are four past champions in the quarter-finals at River Oaks Country Club and the second year in a row five Americans are among the last eight. The former champions are: reigning winner **Steve Johnson**, **Jack Sock** (2015), **John Isner** (2013) and **Ivo Karlovic** (2007). The five Americans are **Taylor Fritz**, Isner, Johnson, **Tennys Sandgren** and Sock.
- In the opening singles match on Center, No. 8 **Sandgren** takes on Argentine **Guido Pella** for the first time in the main draw. Pella won the previous meeting 64 62 in the 2R of the 2012 US Open qualifying. Both players appearing in their first Houston quarter-final. Sandgren, who reached the quarter-finals at the Australian Open, is bidding to reach his first career ATP World Tour semi-final. Pella began the season with a semi-final in Doha. He, along with Sandgren and Fritz are trying to capture their first career ATP World Tour title.
- In the next match on, **Karlovic** looks for his first win (0-4) against No. 4 seed **Nick Kyrgios**, who has won all four previous hard court meetings. Six of their 12 sets have been decided in tie-breaks with the Aussie leading 5-1. The 39-years-old Karlovic is the oldest US Clay quarter-finalist in the Open Era. He's also the oldest quarter-finalist at an ATP World Tour event since Tommy Haas (39) at Stuttgart last June. He is aiming to become the oldest semi-finalist on the ATP World Tour since Jimmy Connors (40) at San Francisco in 1993. Kyrgios comes in with an 11-3 record on the season and he's trying to advance to his first semi-final since the opening week of the year in Brisbane where he won the title (d. Harrison).
- In the third match on, **Sock** brings a 2-0 record against #NextGenATP standout **Fritz**, who is appearing in his first career ATP World Tour quarter-final on clay. Sock won both previous matches in five sets in the 1R at the 2016 Australian Open and later that year at the US Open. Sock, who is 14-4 lifetime in Houston, reaching the quarter-finals or better for the fifth time, is making his first QF showing of the season. Fritz is off to a 7-3 start this year and he is trying to advance to his second career ATP World Tour semi-final. In 2016, he was a finalist in Memphis (l. to Nishikori).
- In the evening session, **Isner** and **Johnson** square off for the ninth time (tied 4-4), the third on clay (Isner leads 2-0). Isner enters on an eight-match winning streak and in his last five ATP matches (not including Davis Cup last week), he has held serve 62 straight games. Isner is closing in on 10,000 career aces. He is 19 aces away from becoming the fourth player to reach the 10,000 ace club, joining Ivo Karlovic (12,604 going into QF), Roger Federer (10,463) and Goran Ivanisevic (10,131). Johnson is trying to match his best result of the season, a semi-final, in Delray Beach.
- In the final match, top seeds **Bob** and **Mike Bryan** will look to win their eighth match in a row as they face long-time rival **Max Mirnyi** and **Philipp Oswald**. The Bryans are 31-23 vs. Mirnyi, including nine wins in the last 10 meetings.



FEDEX ATP HEAD2HEADS: FRIDAY QUARTER-FINAL SINGLES MATCHES

CENTER

[8] Tennys Sandgren (USA) vs Guido Pella (ARG)

First Tour Level Meeting

Other meeting:

12 US Open Q (U.S.A.) Hard -- Guido Pella 6-4 6-2

Sandgren 2018 Summary

QF(1): Australian Open (I Chung)

YTD W-L: 8-7 (3-2 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: July 22, 1991 (26)

ATP Ranking: 56

Houston W-L (Best Result): 2-1 (2018 Quarter-finalist)

- Tournament Note: On Monday opened with a 62 62 win over Kavcic and followed with 62 76 victory over Kicker. Last year came in ranked No. 157 and qualified (l. to Escobedo in 1R). In 2015, lost in 1R qualifying (l. to Sweeting).
- Trying to reach first career ATP World Tour semi-final.
- Earned 1st 2 Top 10 wins over Wawrinka and Thiem en route to Australian Open QF (l. to Chung).
- As World No. 97, became lowest-ranked Australian Open quarter-finalist since No. 105 Tillstrom in 1996.
- Became 1st player to earn 1st Grand Slam win en route QFs since Verkerk at 2003 Roland Garros.
- Also became 1st player to reach 1st tour-level QF at a Grand Slam since Kyrgios at 2014 Wimbledon.
- Made winning ATP Masters 1000 debut at Indian Wells as WC (d. Basilashvili, l. to Ferrer in 2R).
- Squandered 1 MP vs. Fognini in Rio de Janeiro 2R.
- Achieved career-high No. 54 in ATP Rankings on 5 February.

Pella 2018 Summary

SF(1): Doha (I Rublev); **QF(1):** Buenos Aires (I Thiem)

YTD W-L: 9-7 (6-3 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: May 17, 1990 (27)

ATP Ranking: 63

Houston W-L (Best Result): 2-1 (2018 Quarter-finalist)

- Tournament Note: Argentine registered his first win on Tuesday over [Q] Kozlov 63 62 and followed with 26 76 76 victory over [2] Querrey. In previous appearance n 2013, lost to R. Williams in 1R.
- Advanced to 2nd hard-court SF of career at Doha (l. to Rublev after holding 1 MP).
- Reached Buenos Aires QF for 1st time in 5th main draw appearance (d. Verdasco, l. to eventual champion Thiem).
- Also lost to Thiem in Australian Open 1R.
- Withdrew from Auckland due to left shoulder injury.

Ivo Karlovic (CRO) vs [WC-4] Nick Kyrgios (AUS)

Kyrgios Leads 4-0

15 Australian Open (Australia)	Hard	R64	Nick Kyrgios	7-6(4)	6-4	5-7	6-4
15 Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)	Hard	QF	Nick Kyrgios	7-6(4)	7-6(2)		
17 ATP Masters 1000 Miami (U.S.A.)	Hard	R32	Nick Kyrgios	6-4	6-7(4)	7-6(2)	
17 ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati (U.S.A.)	Hard	R16	Nick Kyrgios	4-6	7-6(6)	6-3	

Karlovic 2018 Summary

QF(1): New York (I Querrey)

YTD W-L: 7-6 (3-1 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 8

Date of Birth: February 28, 1979 (39)

ATP Ranking: 88

Houston W-L (Best Result): 9-5 (2007 **Champion**)



- Tournament Note: On Tuesday in first appearance at River Oaks since 2014, opened with a 76 64 win over Daniel and followed with 75 75 victory over [Q] Kudla. Won 2007 title (d. Zabaleta) and SF in 2011 as a qualifier (l. to eventual champion Sweeting). At 39, he is oldest player to reach QF in Open Era tournament history.
- Croat is oldest to reach an ATP World Tour QF since Haas (39) in Stuttgart last June. If he reaches SF, will be oldest in an ATP World Tour SF since Jimmy Connors (40) in 1993 San Francisco.
- Became oldest player to reach Australian Open 3R since 44-year-old Rosewall in 1978.
- In Australian Open 2R, hit 53 aces to beat Sugita 12-10 in 5th. In 3R, hit 52 aces and lost to Seppi 9-7 in 5th.
- First player to hit 50+ aces in more than 1 match at a tournament since ATP began tracking serving stats in 1991.
- Advanced to New York QF (d. Donaldson and Harrison, l. to Querrey).
- Squandered 1 MP vs. Moutet in Quito 2R and 1 MP vs. Marterer in ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells 1R.
- Fell to No. 90 in ATP Rankings on 29 January -- lowest since No. 155 on 15 July 2013.

Kyrgios 2018 Summary

W(1): Brisbane (d Harrison)

YTD W-L: 11-3 (1-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 1 / Career Titles: 4

Date of Birth: April 27, 1995 (22)

ATP Ranking: 24

Houston W-L (Best Result): 1-0 (2018 Quarter-finalist)

- Tournament Note: Made tournament singles debut Wednesday night and rallied past Fratangelo 67 61 62.
- Captured 4th ATP World Tour title overall and 1st on home soil at Brisbane (d. Dimitrov and Harrison).
- Defeated 2008 finalist Tsonga to reach Australian Open 4R for 2nd time (l. to Dimitrov).
- Lost to A. Zverev ATP Masters 1000 Miami 4R and Davis Cup 1R (GER d. AUS 3-1).
- Withdrew from Rotterdam, Delray Beach, Acapulco and ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells due to right elbow injury.

[3] Jack Sock (USA) vs Taylor Fritz (USA)

16 Australian Open (Australia)

Hard R128 Jack Sock

Sock Leads 2-0

16 US Open (U.S.A.)

Hard R128 Jack Sock

6-4 3-6 0-6 6-3 6-4

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

Sock 2018 Summary

YTD W-L: 4-6 (1-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 4

Date of Birth: September 24, 1992 (25)

ATP Ranking: 16

Houston W-L (Best Result): 14-4 (2015 **Champion**)

- Tournament Note: Opened sixth straight visit with 64 64 win over Zeballos. Won maiden ATP World Tour title in 2015 (d. Querrey) and runner-up in 2016 (l. to Monaco). Also SF last year (l. to Johnson) and QF in 2014 (l. to Almagro).
- Did not drop a set en route to 10th ATP World Tour doubles title -- 2nd w/Isner -- at Indian Wells (d. Bryan/Bryan).
- Teamed with childhood friend and fellow Nebraska native Withrow for Delray Beach doubles title (d. Monroe/Smith).
- Lost in 2R as defending singles champion at Auckland (l. to Gojowczyk) and Delray Beach (l. to No. 228 Opelka).
- Has 4-6 singles record with ATP Masters 1000 3R losses at Indian Wells (l. to Lopez) and Miami (l. to Coric).

Fritz 2018 Summary

QF(1): Delray Beach (l Shapovalov)

YTD W-L: 7-3 (2-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: October 28, 1997 (20)

ATP Ranking: 72 / Houston W-L (Best Result): 2-0 (2018 Quarter-finalist)

- Tournament Note: Made debut Tuesday night and saved two MPs in 67 62 76 win over Smyczek in 2h, 39m battle. Then rallied over [7] Harrison 36 60 63 to reach first ATP World Tour QF on clay.
- Trying to reach first ATP World Tour SF since February 2016 in Memphis where he was runner-up (l. to Nishikori).
- Has a 6-0 record in third set TBs this season on all levels (ATP World Tour main draw, qualifying, Challenger)
- Reached ATP Masters 1000 R16 for 1st time at Indian Wells (d. Opelka in 1R after saving 1 MP, l. to Coric).
- Advanced to Delray Beach QF (d. Querrey and Youzhny, l. to Shapovalov).
- Has a 14-3 ATP Challenger Tour record, highlighted by 4th career title at Newport Beach, USA (d. Klahn).
- Also reached Noumea, CAL Challenger final (l. to Rubin) and Indian Wells, USA Challenger SF (l. to D. King).

[1] John Isner (USA) vs [6] Steve Johnson (USA)

14 Washington (U.S.A.)	Hard	R32	Steve Johnson	6-7(5)	6-3	7-6(6)
14 ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai (China)	Hard	R32	John Isner	7-6(6)	7-6(7)	
15 ATP Masters 1000 Monte Carlo (Monaco)	Clay	R64	John Isner	6-4	6-4	
15 Nice (France)	Clay	R16	John Isner	7-6(3)	4-6	6-3
15 Washington (U.S.A.)	Hard	SF	John Isner	6-3	3-6	7-6(9)
16 Washington (U.S.A.)	Hard	QF	Steve Johnson	7-6(7)	7-6(15)	
17 Auckland (New Zealand)	Hard	QF	Steve Johnson	6-3	5-7	7-6(3)
17 Acapulco (Mexico)	Hard	R32	Steve Johnson	6-4	6-4	

Series Tied 4-4

	John Isner	Steve Johnson
Sets Won:	10	10
Tiebreak Sets Won:	5	4
Match Wins By Surface:		
Clay:	2	0
Hard:	2	4

Isner 2018 Summary

W(1): ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Miami (d A Zverev)

YTD W-L: 10-6 (2-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 1 / Career Titles: 13

Date of Birth: April 26, 1985 (32)

ATP Ranking: 9 (Career-high)

Houston W-L (Best Result): 15-9 (2013 **Champion**)

- Tournament Note: Making 11th straight appearance and opened by hitting 13 aces in 64 62 win over Laaksonen on Thursday night. Won 2013 title (d. Almagro). Also finalist in 2012 (l. to Monaco) and SF in 2016 and QF in 2009, 2011 and last year. Had played at least one tie-break in seven straight matches at River Oaks (6-6 record) prior to opener.
- Comes in on an eight-match winning streak and a career-high No. 9 in ATP Rankings after winning maiden ATP Masters 1000 singles crown in Miami on April 1 (d. No. 3 Cilic in 4R, No. 6 Del Potro in SF and No. 5 Zverev in F). Back in Top 10 for first time since May 5, 2014.
- Last Friday, won opening Davis Cup match vs. De Loore in four sets to help U.S. to 4-0 QF victory over Belgium.
- Did not drop a set en route to 3rd ATP Masters 1000 doubles title -- 2nd w/Sock -- at Indian Wells (d. Bryan/Bryan).
- Squandered 3 MPs vs. Gojowczyk in Delray Beach 2R and 1 MP vs. Monfils in ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells 2R.
- Improved to 3-0 lifetime in 5th-set TBs, edging Lajovic to help USA defeat Serbia 3-1 in Davis Cup 1R.

Johnson 2018 Summary

SF(1): Delray Beach (l Gojowczyk)

YTD W-L: 8-8 (2-1 on clay)

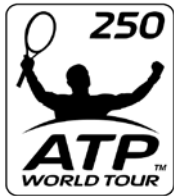
YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 2

Date of Birth: December 24, 1989 (28)

ATP Ranking: 51

Houston W-L (Best Result): 8-4 (2017 **Champion**)

- Tournament Note: Southern Californian native is making his sixth straight appearance and opened on Tuesday with a 36 76 62 win over Escobedo and followed with a 63 64 victory over Tiafoe. Last year captured first clay court title with (1R bye) and wins over Brown, Verdasco, No. 16 Sock and Bellucci in third set TB. Prior to last year, was 2-4, falling in 2R in 2014-15.
- Earned 1st win in 4 tries over Raonic en route to Delray Beach SF (l. to Gojowczyk), his best result this season.
- Advanced to ATP Masters 1000 Miami 3R (d. Mannarino, l. to Carreno Busta).
- Squandered 5 MPs in New York 1R vs. Menendez-Maceiras.
- Returned to ATP Challenger Tour for 1st time since 2014 and reached Irving, USA SF (l. to Kukushkin).
- Clinched USA's 3-1 win over Serbia in Davis Cup 1R w/Harrison (d. Milojevic/Zekic). Did not play vs. Belgium in QF
- Withdrew from Acapulco due to stomach pain.



FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP: DAY 4 MEDIA NOTES

Thursday, 12 April 2018

River Oaks Country Club | Houston, TX, USA | 9-15 April 2018

Draw: S-28, D-16 | Prize Money: \$557,050 | Surface: Clay

ATP World Tour Info

ATPWorldTour.com

Twitter: @ATPWorldTour

Facebook: @ATPWorldTour

Tournament Info

MensClayCourt.com

@MensClayCourt

@MensClayCourt

ATP PR & Marketing

Joshua Rey: jrey@atpworldtour.com

Press Room: pete@holtermmediainc.com

TV & Radio: TennisTV.com

FORMER CHAMPIONS ISNER, SOCK, JOHNSON, EYE QUARTER-FINALS

- Former Houston champions **John Isner**, **Jack Sock** and **Steve Johnson** are among the remaining four second round matches on Thursday's schedule at River Oaks Country Club. Overall, six of the eight singles players in action are Americans.
- In the opening singles match on Center, #NextGenATP star **Frances Tiafoe** takes on reigning champion No. 6 seed **Johnson** for the first time. Tiafoe, who captured his maiden ATP World Tour title in Delray Beach on Feb. 25, is trying to reach the quarter-finals for the third time in the last five tournaments. He is 11-5 on the season, already surpassing last year's 7-17 record. Johnson's best result of the season is a semi-final in Delray Beach.
- In the next match on, #NextGenATP American **Taylor Fritz** meets countryman No. 7 seed **Ryan Harrison** for the first time on the ATP World Tour. Harrison won the previous two meetings in qualifying at 2016 ATP Masters 1000 Paris and in last year's final at the Dallas Challenger. Fritz saved two match points in his Houston debut win over Tim Smyczek on Tuesday night and he's trying to reach his second quarter-final of the season (Delray Beach). Harrison is off to an 11-7 start with a runner-up in Brisbane (l. to Kyrgios) and quarter-final in Acapulco. He also advanced to the quarter-finals at River Oaks in 2012.
- In the evening session, top seed **Isner**, who won the 2013 title, plays **Henri Laaksonen** of Switzerland for the second time. Isner won in February 2017 in four sets in a Davis Cup tie. Isner is making his 11th straight appearance in Houston and he enters on a seven-match winning streak. At 32, he became the oldest first-time ATP Masters 1000 champion in Miami on April 1 (d. A. Zverev). He is a career-high No. 9 in the ATP Rankings, which he first achieved on 16 April 2012 after reaching the Houston final. Isner is also 32 aces away from reaching 10,000 in his career on the ATP World Tour. Laaksonen is trying to earn his first career Top 10 victory (0-3) and advance to his first ATP World Tour quarter-final since September last year in Shenzhen (SF).
- In the final match, No. 3 **Sock**, who won the 2015 title, plays Argentine left-hander **Horacio Zeballos** for the first time. Sock is making his sixth straight visit at River Oaks and he has reached the quarter-finals or better in four of the previous five appearances. He is looking to jumpstart his 2018 season. He comes in with a 3-6 record on the year and he has yet to win back-to-back singles matches. He did win the doubles title at ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells (w/Isner) and clinched last weekend's Davis Cup QF win over Belgium by winning his doubles match (w/Harrison). Zeballos is trying to even his season record (7-8) by advancing to his second quarter-final. Last month he was a semi-finalist in Sao Paulo. In his Houston debut in 2010, he reached the semi-finals. Last year he won the doubles crown here (w/Peralta).



FEDEX ATP HEAD2HEADS: THURSDAY 2ND-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES CENTER

Frances Tiafoe (USA) vs [6] Steve Johnson (USA)

First Meeting

Tiafoe 2018 Summary

W (1): Delray Beach (d. Gojowczyk); **QF (1):** New York (l. Anderson)

YTD W-L: 11-5 (1-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 1 / Career Titles: 1

Date of Birth: 20 January 1998 (20)

ATP Ranking: 58 (Career-high)

Tournament W-L (Best Result): 1-2 (2018 2nd Round)

- Tournament Note: Won first match in three appearances on Monday night over [WC] McDonald 63 63. Previously lost to Barton in 2016 and eventual finalist Bellucci last year.
- Advanced to 1st ATP World Tour SF and final en route to 1st title at Delray Beach (d. Shapovalov and Gojowczyk).
- As 20-year-old, became youngest American champion on ATP World Tour since Roddick (19) at 2002 Houston.
- Also became 1st WC to win Delray Beach title in 26-year tournament history.
- Defeated boyhood idol Del Potro in Delray Beach 2R for 2nd Top 10 win of career.
- Reached 1st ATP World Tour QF a week earlier at New York (l. to eventual champion Anderson in 3 sets).
- Beat Berdych in Miami 3R for 10th win of season (l. to Anderson in 4R). Entered 2018 with 9 career wins.
- Achieved career-high No. 58 in ATP Rankings on 2 April.

Johnson 2018 Summary

SF(1): Delray Beach (l. Gojowczyk)

YTD W-L: 7-8 (1-1 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 2

Date of Birth: December 24, 1989 (28)

ATP Ranking: 51

Houston W-L (Best Result): 7-4 (2017 **Champion**)

- Tournament Note: Southern Californian native is making his sixth straight appearance and opened on Tuesday with a 36 76 62 win over Escobedo. Last year captured first clay court title with (1R bye) and wins over Brown, Verdasco, No. 16 Sock and Bellucci in third set TB. Prior to last year, was 2-4, falling in 2R in 2014-15.
- Earned 1st win in 4 tries over Raonic en route to Delray Beach SF (l. to Gojowczyk), his best result this season.
- Advanced to ATP Masters 1000 Miami 3R (d. Mannarino, l. to Carreno Busta).
- Squandered 5 MPs in New York 1R vs. Menendez-Maceiras.
- Returned to ATP Challenger Tour for 1st time since 2014 and reached Irving, USA SF (l. to Kukushkin).
- Clinched USA's 3-1 win over Serbia in Davis Cup 1R w/Harrison (d. Milojevic/Zekic). Did not play vs. Belgium in QF
- Withdrew from Acapulco due to stomach pain.

Taylor Fritz (USA) vs [7] Ryan Harrison (USA)

First Tour Level Meeting

Other meetings:

16 ATP Masters 1000 Paris Q (France)

Hard 1RQ

Ryan Harrison 7-6(4) 4-6 6-3

17 Dallas CH (U.S.A.)

Hard F

Ryan Harrison 6-3 6-3

Fritz 2018 Summary

QF(1): Delray Beach (l. Shapovalov)

YTD W-L: 6-3 (1-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: October 28, 1997 (20)

ATP Ranking: 72

Houston W-L (Best Result): 1-0 (2018 2nd Round)



- Tournament Note: Made debut Tuesday night and saved two MPs in 67 62 76 win over Smyczek in 2h, 39m battle. One of three #NextGenATP Americans in main draw (Kozlov, Tiafoe).
- Has a 6-0 record in third set TBs this season on all levels (ATP World Tour main draw, qualifying, Challenger)
- Reached ATP Masters 1000 R16 for 1st time at Indian Wells (d. Opelka in 1R after saving 1 MP, l. to Coric).
- Advanced to Delray Beach QF (d. Querrey and Youzhny, l. to Shapovalov).
- Has a 14-3 ATP Challenger Tour record, highlighted by 4th career title at Newport Beach, USA (d. Klahn).
- Also reached Noumea, CAL Challenger final (l. to Rubin) and Indian Wells, USA Challenger SF (l. to D. King).

Harrison 2018 Summary

F(1): (Brisbane (l Kyrgios); **QF(1):** Acapulco (l A. Zverev)

YTD W-L: 11-7 (1-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 1

Date of Birth: May 7, 1992 (25)

ATP Ranking: 54

Houston W-L (Best Result): 4-5 (2012 Quarter-finalist)

- Tournament Note: In Houston return for first time since 2014, opened Tuesday with 64 63 win over [Q] Kecmanovic. Best result is QF in 2012 (l. to Russell). Made debut 10 years ago as a 15-year-old Q, beat Cuevas (l. to No. 8 Blake).
- Earned 3 wins in 3 sets to reach 3rd career (1-2) ATP World Tour singles final at Brisbane (l. to Kyrgios).
- Beat Sela for 1st win in a 5-setter en route to 2nd Grand Slam 3R at Australian Open (l. to Cilic).
- Enjoyed Top 20 wins over Isner and Schwartzman to reach Acapulco QF (l. to A. Zverev).
- Squandered 2 MPs vs. Delbonis in ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells 1R.
- Returned to Davis Cup for 1st time since 2012 and clinched USA's 1R win over SRB w/Johnson (d. Milojevic/Zekic). In QF tie vs. BEL, also clinched tie w/Sock (d. Gille/Vliegen). Also beat Bemelmans in singles dead rubber.

[1] John Isner (USA) vs Henri Laaksonen (SUI)

17 USA vs. SUI WG 1st RD (United States) Hard RR John Isner 4-6 6-2 6-2 7-6(1)

Isner Leads 1-0

Isner 2018 Summary

W(1): ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Miami (d A Zverev)

YTD W-L: 9-6 (1-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 1 / Career Titles: 13

Date of Birth: April 26, 1985 (32)

ATP Ranking: 9 (Career-high)

Houston W-L (Best Result): 14-9 (2013 **Champion**)

- Tournament Note: Making 11th straight appearance and won 2013 title (d. Almagro). Also finalist in 2012 (l. to Monaco) and SF in 2016 and QF in 2009, 2011 and last year. Has played at least one tie-break in last seven matches at River Oaks and has 6-6 record during that stretch.
- Comes in on a seven-match winning streak and a career-high No. 9 in ATP Rankings after winning maiden ATP Masters 1000 singles crown in Miami on April 1 (d. No. 3 Cilic in 4R, No. 6 Del Potro in SF and No. 5 Zverev in F). Back in Top 10 for first time since May 5, 2014.
- Last Friday, won opening Davis Cup match vs. De Loore in four sets to help U.S. to 4-0 QF victory over Belgium.
- Did not drop a set en route to 3rd ATP Masters 1000 doubles title -- 2nd w/Sock -- at Indian Wells (d. Bryan/Bryan).
- Squandered 3 MPs vs. Gojowczyk in Delray Beach 2R and 1 MP vs. Monfils in ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells 2R.
- Improved to 3-0 lifetime in 5th-set TBs, edging Lajovic to help USA defeat Serbia 3-1 in Davis Cup 1R.

AMERICANS IN TOP 100: Isner leads a pack of nine Americans in the Top 100 ATP Rankings. Eight of the nine (except Donaldson-not entered) are in the 2R (or better) in Houston:

9 John Isner	54 Ryan Harrison
14 Sam Querrey	56 Tennys Sandgren (in QF)
16 Jack Sock	58 Frances Tiafoe
50 Jared Donaldson	72 Taylor Fritz
51 Steve Johnson	



Laaksonen 2018 Summary

YTD W-L: 1-1 (1-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: 31 March 1992 (26)

ATP Ranking: 143

Tournament W-L (Best Result): 1-0 (2018 2nd Round)

- Tournament Note: On Monday opened with 64 63 win over [WC] Brown to win first match in Houston and first ATP World Tour match of season. In only prior appearance, fell in 1R of qualifying in 2016 to Donaldson.
- Fell in 1R of qualifying at Australian Open (l. to Gaio), Indian Wells (l. to Ruud), and Miami (l. to Broady).
- Defeated Youzhny (via ret.) in 1R at Indian Wells, CA Challenger (l. to eventual champion Klizan in 2R).
- Looking for first career Top 10 victory (0-3).

[3] Jack Sock (USA) vs Horacio Zeballos (ARG)

First Meeting

Sock 2018 Summary

YTD W-L: 3-6 (0-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 4

Date of Birth: September 24, 1992 (25)

ATP Ranking: 16

Houston W-L (Best Result): 13-4 (2015 **Champion**)

- Tournament Note: Making sixth straight visit and has never lost 1st match. Won maiden ATP World Tour title in 2015 (d. Querrey) and runner-up in 2016 (l. to Monaco). Also SF last year (l. to Johnson) and QF in 2014 (l. to Almagro).
- Did not drop a set en route to 10th ATP World Tour doubles title -- 2nd w/Isner -- at Indian Wells (d. Bryan/Bryan).
- Teamed with childhood friend and fellow Nebraska native Withrow for Delray Beach doubles title (d. Monroe/Smith).
- Lost in 2R as defending singles champion at Auckland (l. to Gojowczyk) and Delray Beach (l. to No. 228 Opelka).
- Started season 3-6 in singles with ATP Masters 1000 3R losses at Indian Wells (l. to Lopez) and Miami (l. to Coric).

Zeballos 2018 Summary

SF(1): Sao Paulo (l Jarry)

YTD W-L: 7-8 (5-4 on clay)

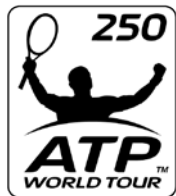
YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 1

Date of Birth: April 27, 1985 (32)

ATP Ranking: 66

Houston W-L (Best Result): 7-4 (2010 Semi-finalist)

- Tournament Note: Argentine opened with 61 62 win over [Q] Nishioka to improve to 5-0 in 1R matches in Houston. Best result is SF in 2010 debut (l. to Chela). Also 2R in 2011-12 (l. to Isner in both) and last year (l. to Querrey). Won doubles title last year (w/Peralta), defeating Brown/Tiafoe
- Advanced to 5th ATP World Tour singles SF of career at Sao Paulo (d. Monfils in 2R, l. to Jarry).
- Squandered 1 MP vs. Monfils in Rio de Janeiro 1R and 1 MP vs. Carreno Busta in Indian Wells 2R.
- Captured 8th doubles title of career at Buenos Aires with countryman Molteni (d. Cabal/Farah).
- Finished as Brisbane doubles runner-up in 1st event w/L. Mayer since 2010 Wimbledon (l. to Kontinen/Peers).



FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP: DAY 3 MEDIA NOTES

Wednesday, 11 April 2018

River Oaks Country Club | Houston, TX, USA | 9-15 April 2018

Draw: S-28, D-16 | Prize Money: \$557,050 | Surface: Clay

ATP World Tour Info

ATPWorldTour.com

Twitter: @ATPWorldTour

Facebook: @ATPWorldTour

Tournament Info

MensClayCourt.com

@MensClayCourt

@MensClayCourt

ATP PR & Marketing

Joshua Rey: jrey@atpworldtour.com

Press Room: pete@holtermmediainc.com

TV & Radio: TennisTV.com

NO. 2 SEED QUERREY, NO. 4 KYRGIOS HEADLINE DAY THREE ACTION

- There are four second round singles matches on Wednesday's schedule at River Oaks Country Club with No. 2 seed **Sam Querrey** and No. 4 **Nick Kyrgios** leading the way. In addition, six-time doubles champions **Bob** and **Mike Bryan** play their 1R in the final match of the night session.
- In the opening singles match on Center, **Tennys Sandgren** and Argentine **Nicolas Kicker** meet for the first time on the ATP World Tour. Last year the American won in three sets in the QFs at the Prostějov, CZE Challenger. Sandgren is trying to advance to his second QF this season (Australian Open). Kicker is looking to even his record (7-8) on the year and reach his first ATP World Tour quarter-final in 2018.
- In the next match on, qualifier **Denis Kudla** and 2007 champion **Ivo Karlovic** square off for the fifth time (tied 2-2), the second on clay. Kudla won the previous clay match in three tie-breaks in 2016 ATP Masters 1000 Madrid. Kudla, who is 13-4 on the ATP Challenger Tour this season, is trying to reach his first ATP World Tour quarter-final since 2015 Atlanta where he was a semi-finalist. Karlovic reached the QFs in New York in February, his best result of the season.
- In the third match on, Argentine **Guido Pella** takes on **Querrey**, who won the only previous meeting in the 1R of the 2013 US Open. Both players are trying to advance to their third ATP World Tour quarter-final of the season. Querrey, who reached the final here in 2010 and 2015, is playing in Houston for the 10th time in 12 years.
- In the evening session, American **Bjorn Fratangelo** squares off with **Kyrgios** for the first time. The 22-year-old Kyrgios is making his River Oaks debut and is playing his first singles match on clay this season. The **Bryan** brothers follow against the Japanese duo of **Taro Daniel** and **Yoshihito Nishioka**. The Bryans are 17-5 this season and coming off their 115th title together in Miami.

FEDEX ATP HEAD2HEADS: WEDNESDAY 2ND-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

CENTER

Tennys Sandgren (USA) vs Nicolas Kicker (ARG)

First Tour-Level Meeting

Other meeting:

17 Prostějov CH (Czech Republic)

Clay

QF

Tennys Sandgren

2-6

6-2

6-4

Sandgren 2018 Summary

QF(1): Australian Open (I Chung)

YTD W-L: 7-7 (2-2 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: July 22, 1991 (26)

ATP Ranking: 56

Houston W-L (Best Result): 1-1 (2018 2nd Round)

- **Tournament Note:** On Monday opened with a 62 62 win over Kavcic. Last year came in ranked No. 157 and qualified (l. to Escobedo in 1R). In 2015, lost in 1R qualifying (l. to Sweeting).
- Earned 1st 2 Top 10 wins over Wawrinka and Thiem en route to Australian Open QF (l. to Chung).
- As World No. 97, became lowest-ranked Australian Open quarter-finalist since No. 105 Tillstrom in 1996.
- Became 1st player to earn 1st Grand Slam win en route QFs since Verkerk at 2003 Roland Garros.
- Also became 1st player to reach 1st tour-level QF at a Grand Slam since Kyrgios at 2014 Wimbledon.
- Made winning ATP Masters 1000 debut at Indian Wells as WC (d. Basilashvili, l. to Ferrer in 2R).
- Squandered 1 MP vs. Fognini in Rio de Janeiro 2R.
- Achieved career-high No. 54 in ATP Rankings on 5 February.

Kicker 2018 Summary

YTD W-L: 7-8 (3-4 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: August 16, 1992 (25)

ATP Ranking: 87

Houston W-L (Best Result): 2-2 (2017-18 2nd Round)

- **Tournament Note:** Argentine opened on Tuesday with a 63 62 win over Young. He is making third straight appearance and last year won first match (d. Rubin, l. to Verdasco). Two years ago came in ranked No. 159, qualified and lost to Smyczek in three sets.
- Earned 1st non-clay wins of career to reach Australian Open 3R (d. Thompson and Lacko, l. to Fucsovics).
- Enjoyed run to Indian Wells 3R in ATP Masters 1000 main draw debut (d. Vesely and Dzumhur, l. to Anderson).
- Defeated Estrella Burgos to reach 2R at Rio de Janeiro (l. to Verdasco) and Sao Paulo (l. to Dutra Silva).

[Q] Denis Kudla (USA) vs Ivo Karlovic (CRO)

11 Newport (U.S.A.)

Grass R32

Denis Kudla

Series Tied 2-2

7-6(4) 4-6 6-4

13 Moscow (Russia)

Hard R32

Ivo Karlovic

6-2 6-3

16 ATP Masters 1000 Madrid (Spain)

Clay R64

Denis Kudla

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

17 Newport (U.S.A.)

Grass R16

Ivo Karlovic

6-4 6-4

Kudla 2018 Summary

YTD W-L: 2-1 (1-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: 17 August 1992 (25)

ATP Ranking: 122

Houston W-L (Best Result): 2-2 (2018, 2016 2nd Round)

- **Tournament Note:** Qualified with straight-set wins over compatriots Opelka and Krueger and beat [5] Verdasco 64 76 on Monday night. Claimed other main draw win in 2016 1R over M. Zverev in final-set tiebreak (l. to Isner in 2R).
- Has a 13-4 record on ATP Challenger Tour this season. Won Challenger title in Drummondville, CAN (def. Bonzi in final) and reached final in Le Gosier, Guadeloupe 2 weeks later (l. to Lajovic). Has jumped from No. 168 on Mar. 5 to No. 122 this week in ATP Rankings.
- Qualified for 3rd time at Australian Open and advanced to 2R (l. to Thiem after leading by 2 sets).

Karlovic 2018 Summary

QF(1): New York (l Querrey)

YTD W-L: 6-6 (2-1 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 8

Date of Birth: February 28, 1979 (39)

ATP Ranking: 88

Houston W-L (Best Result): 8-5 (2007 **Champion**)

- **Tournament Note:** On Tuesday in first appearance at River Oaks since 2014, opened with a 76 64 win over Daniel. Won 2007 title (d. Zabaleta) and SF in 2011 as a qualifier (l. to eventual champion Sweeting).
- Became oldest player to reach Australian Open 3R since 44-year-old Rosewall in 1978.
- In Australian Open 2R, hit 53 aces to beat Sugita 12-10 in 5th. In 3R, hit 52 aces and lost to Seppi 9-7 in 5th.
- First player to hit 50+ aces in more than 1 match at a tournament since ATP began tracking serving stats in 1991.
- Advanced to New York QF (d. Donaldson and Harrison, l. to Querrey).
- Squandered 1 MP vs. Moutet in Quito 2R and 1 MP vs. Marterer in ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells 1R.
- Fell to No. 90 in ATP Rankings on 29 January -- lowest since No. 155 on 15 July 2013.



Guido Pella (ARG) vs [2] Sam Querrey (USA)

13 US Open (U.S.A.)

Hard R128 Sam Querrey

Querrey Leads 1-0

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

Pella 2018 Summary

SF(1): Doha (I Rublev); **QF(1):** Buenos Aires (I Thiem)

YTD W-L: 8-7 (5-3 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: May 17, 1990 (27)

ATP Ranking: 63

Houston W-L (Best Result): 1-1 (2018 2nd Round)

- Tournament Note: Argentine registered his first win on Tuesday over [Q] Kozlov 63 62. In previous appearance in 2013, lost to R. Williams in 1R
- Advanced to 2nd hard-court SF of career at Doha (l. to Rublev after holding 1 MP).
- Reached Buenos Aires QF for 1st time in 5th main draw appearance (d. Verdasco, l. to eventual champion Thiem).
- Also lost to Thiem in Australian Open 1R.
- Withdrew from Auckland due to left shoulder injury.

Querrey 2018 Summary

F(1): New York (I Anderson); **QF(1):** ATP World Tour Masters 1000 Indian Wells (I Raonic)

YTD W-L: 10-7 (1-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 10

Date of Birth: October 7, 1987 (30)

ATP Ranking: 14

Houston W-L (Best Result): 14-8 (2010, 2015 Finalist)

- Tournament Note: No. 2 American (behind No. 9 Isner) is a two-time finalist, in 2010 (l. to Chela) and 2015 (l. to Sock). Also SF in 2014 (W/O vs. Almagro) and QF last two years, falling to Monaco in 2016 and Bellucci last year. Since debut in 2007, has played 10 of 12 years (except 2009, 2013).
- Fell to 0-4 lifetime in ATP Masters 1000 QFs at Indian Wells (l. to Raonic in 3 sets).
- Suffered 3 consecutive losses in 3rd-set TBs, falling to Anderson in New York final, Fritz in Delray Beach 1R and Ebden in Acapulco 1R.
- Achieved career-high No. 11 on 26 February before losing 500 ranking points as defending Acapulco champion.
- Opened Davis Cup 1R tie with win over Djere (USA d. SRB 3-1).

AMERICANS IN TOP 100: Querrey is one of nine Americans in the Top 100 ATP Rankings:

9 John Isner

54 Ryan Harrison

14 Sam Querrey

56 Tennys Sandgren

16 Jack Sock

58 Frances Tiafoe

50 Jared Donaldson

72 Taylor Fritz

51 Steve Johnson

Bjorn Fratangelo (USA) vs [WC-4] Nick Kyrgios (AUS)

First Meeting

Fratangelo 2018 Summary

YTD W-L: 1-2 (1-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: July 19, 1993 (24)

ATP Ranking: 108

Houston W-L (Best Result): 1-1 (2018 2nd Round)

- Tournament Note: Opened with 61 61 victory in 63 minutes over Aussie Thompson on Monday. Lost only 5 points on serve (28 of 33). In main draw debut last year lost to Lopez in 1R. In 2014 and 2016 lost in 2R of qualifying.
- Comes in with a 1-2 record and qualified in New York (l. to Albot) and ATP Masters 1000 Miami (l. to Broady).
- Trying to reach second career ATP World Tour quarter-final. Last July advanced to SF in Newport (l. to Isner).
- Has a 3-4 record on ATP Challenger Tour with best result QF in Irving (l. to eventual champion Kukushkin).
- Looking to return to Top 100 in ATP Rankings. Broke Top 100 on June 6, 2016 at No. 99. No. 108 this week



Kyrgios 2018 Summary

W(1): Brisbane (d Harrison)

YTD W-L: 10-3 (0-0 on clay)

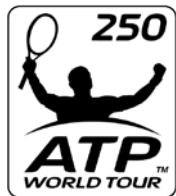
YTD Titles: 1 / Career Titles: 4

Date of Birth: April 27, 1995 (22)

ATP Ranking: 24

Houston W-L (Best Result): 0-0 (Tournament debut)

- Captured 4th ATP World Tour title overall and 1st on home soil at Brisbane (d. Dimitrov and Harrison).
- Defeated 2008 finalist Tsonga to reach Australian Open 4R for 2nd time (l. to Dimitrov).
- Lost to A. Zverev ATP Masters 1000 Miami 4R and Davis Cup 1R (GER d. AUS 3-1).
- Withdrew from Rotterdam, Delray Beach, Acapulco and ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells due to right elbow injury.



FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP: DAY 2 MEDIA NOTES

Tuesday, 10 April 2018

River Oaks Country Club | Houston, TX, USA | 9-15 April 2018

Draw: S-28, D-16 | Prize Money: \$557,050 | Surface: Clay

ATP World Tour Info

ATPWorldTour.com

Twitter: @ATPWorldTour

Facebook: @ATPWorldTour

Tournament Info

MensClayCourt.com

@MensClayCourt

@MensClayCourt

ATP PR & Marketing

Joshua Rey: jrey@atpworldtour.com

Press Room: pete@holtermmediainc.com

TV & Radio: TennisTV.com

REIGNING CHAMPION JOHNSON, 2007 WINNER KARLOVIC IN ACTION

- Reigning champion **Steve Johnson** and 2007 winner **Ivo Karlovic** are among the featured matches on Tuesday at River Oaks Country Club. Overall there are seven Americans in singles action, including two all-American match ups during the evening session. They are part of a group of 15 Americans in this year's field, which is an all-time record for a 28-draw on the ATP World Tour. That also equals the tournament's Houston-era record which was set in 2003 when the event was a 32-player draw.
- In the opening singles match on Center, Argentine **Nicolas Kicker** takes on **Donald Young** for the first time on the ATP World Tour. Two years ago at the Savannah, GA Challenger, Young won 64 75 in the quarter-finals. Kicker is 6-8 on the season while Young is looking to turn things around on clay after going 1-7 on hard courts.
- In the next match on, #NextGenATP qualifier **Miomir Kecmanovic** takes on No. 7 seed **Ryan Harrison** for the first time. The 18-year-old Serb is playing in his second career ATP World Tour main draw (Miami last month). Harrison won his first ATP main draw match here 10 years ago as a 15-year-old. He is playing in the main draw at River Oaks for the first time since 2014.
- In the evening session, **Johnson** looks for his second win against last year's semi-finalist **Ernesto Escobedo**. Johnson won the previous meeting 76 63 in the 2R of Acapulco last year. Johnson is bidding to be the first player to repeat as US Clay champion since Andy Roddick in 2001-02.
- In the final match on, Americans **Tim Smyczek** and **Taylor Fritz** square off for the second time on the ATP World Tour. Two years ago in Delray Beach Smyczek won 63 63 in the 1R. Both players are making their season debut on clay.

FEDEX ATP HEAD2HEADS: TUESDAY FIRST-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

CENTER

Nicolas Kicker (ARG) vs Donald Young (USA)

Other Meeting

16 Savannah CH (U.S.A.)

Clay

QF

Donald Young

First Tour-Level Meeting

6-4 7-5

Kicker 2018 Summary

YTD W-L: 6-8 (2-4 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: August 16, 1992 (25)

ATP Ranking: 87

Houston W-L (Best Result): 1-2 (2017 2nd Round)



- Tournament Note: Argentine is making third straight appearance and last year won first match (d. Rubin, I. to Verdasco). Two years ago came in ranked No. 159, qualified and lost to Smyczek in three sets.
- Earned 1st non-clay wins of career to reach Australian Open 3R (d. Thompson and Lacko, I. to Fucsovics).
- Enjoyed run to Indian Wells 3R in ATP Masters 1000 main draw debut (d. Vesely and Dzumhur, I. to Anderson).
- Defeated Estrella Burgos to reach 2R at Rio de Janeiro (I. to Verdasco) and Sao Paulo (I. to Dutra Silva).

Young 2018 Summary

YTD W-L: 1-7 (0-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: July 23, 1989 (28)

ATP Ranking: 130

Houston W-L (Best Result): 4-7 (2014 Quarter-finalist)

- Tournament Note: Atlanta resident is making fifth straight appearance and eighth overall. Best result is QF in 2014 (d. Harrison, Monaco, I. to eventual champion Verdasco). Made debut in 2005 at age 15 (I. to Calatrava).
- Earned only win of season at Delray Beach (d. Ramanathan, I. to Donskoy in 2R).
- Suffered 1R losses at 6 events, including Australian Open (I. to Djokovic).
- Fell to No. 130 in ATP Rankings on 9 April -- lowest since No. 142 on 23 September 2013.

[Q] Miomir Kecmanovic (SRB) vs [7] Ryan Harrison (USA)

First Meeting

Kecmanovic 2018 Summary

YTD W-L: 0-1 (0-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: August 31, 1999 (18)

ATP Ranking: 187

Houston W-L (Best Result): 0-0 (Tournament debut)

- Tournament Note: Young Serb qualified with wins over Mmoh 61 76 and Novikov 64 57 63 to reach main draw.
- Achieved career-high No. 176 in ATP Rankings on 19 February.
- Fell in Australian Open qualifying (I. to Galovic in Q1).
- Has a 10-6 ATP Challenger Tour record with SF in San Francisco (I. to Jung).
- Also reached Challenger QFs at Newport Beach, USA (d. Tiafoe in 1R, I. to Klahn) and Dallas, USA (I. to Jung).
- Received wild card into ATP Masters 1000 Miami and lost to Istomin in 1R, in ATP World Tour main draw debut.

Harrison 2018 Summary

F(1): (Brisbane (I Kyrgios); **QF(1):** Acapulco (I A. Zverev)

YTD W-L: 10-7 (0-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 1

Date of Birth: May 7, 1992 (25)

ATP Ranking: 54

Houston W-L (Best Result): 3-5 (2012 Quarter-finalist)

- Tournament Note: Playing in main draw for first time since 2014. Best result is QF in 2012 (I. to Russell, who is his current coach). Made debut 10 years ago as a 15-year-old qualifier and beat Cuevas (I. to No. 8 Blake)
- Earned 3 wins in 3 sets to reach 3rd ATP World Tour singles final of career at Brisbane (I. to Kyrgios).
- Beat Sela for 1st win in a 5-setter en route to 2nd Grand Slam 3R at Australian Open (I. to Cilic).
- Enjoyed Top 20 wins over Isner and Schwartzman to reach Acapulco QF (I. to A. Zverev).
- Squandered 2 MPs vs. Delbonis in ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells 1R.
- Returned to Davis Cup for 1st time since 2012 and clinched USA's 1R win over SRB w/Johnson (d. Milojevic/Zekic). In QF tie vs. BEL, beat Bemelmans in dead rubber.



Ernesto Escobedo (USA) vs [6] Steve Johnson (USA)

17 Acapulco (Mexico)

Hard R16 Steve Johnson

Johnson Leads 1-0

7-6(5) 6-3

Escobedo 2018 Summary

YTD W-L: 3-5 (0-1 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: July 4, 1996 (21)

ATP Ranking: 120

Houston W-L (Best Result): 3-1 (2017 Semi-finalist)

- Tournament Note: Last year made main draw debut and posted wins over Sandgren, Monteiro and No. 23 Isner in Three TBs before losing in three sets to Bellucci in first ATP World Tour semi-final
- Qualified at Brisbane (l. to Zeballos in 1R) and lost in final round of qualifying at Australian Open (l. to Ruud).
- In February, lost to Karlovic in third set TB in Quito (on clay) and then qualified in New York (d. McDonald, l. to No. 11/eventual champion Anderson in third set TB) and closed month by qualifying in Acapulco where he posted first Top 10 win over No. 10 Sock (l. to Chung)
- In first two ATP Masters 1000 tournaments, lost in 2R in Indian Wells (d. Tiafoe, l. to Lopez) and 2R qualifying in Miami (d. Sakharov, l. to Millman).

Johnson 2018 Summary

SF(1): Delray Beach (l. Gojowczyk)

YTD W-L: 6-8 (0-1 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 2

Date of Birth: December 24, 1989 (28)

ATP Ranking: 51

Houston W-L (Best Result): 6-4 (2017 **Champion**)

- Tournament Note: Southern Californian native is making his sixth straight appearance and last year captured first clay court title with (1R bye) and wins over Brown, Verdasco, No. 16 Sock and Bellucci in third set TB. Prior to last year, was 2-4, falling in 2R in 2014-15.
- Earned 1st win in 4 tries over Raonic en route to Delray Beach SF (l. to Gojowczyk), his best result this season.
- Advanced to ATP Masters 1000 Miami 3R (d. Mannarino, l. to Carreno Busta).
- Squandered 5 MPs in New York 1R vs. Menendez-Maceiras.
- Returned to ATP Challenger Tour for 1st time since 2014 and reached Irving, USA SF (l. to Kukushkin).
- Clinched USA's 3-1 win over Serbia in Davis Cup 1R w/Harrison (d. Milojevic/Zekic). Did not play vs. Belgium in QF
- Withdrew from Acapulco due to stomach pain.

Tim Smyczek (USA) vs Taylor Fritz (USA)

16 Delray Beach (U.S.A.)

Hard R32 Tim Smyczek

Smyczek Leads 1-0

6-3 6-3

Other Meeting

15 Fairfield CH (USA)

Hard R16 Taylor Fritz

6-2 6-3

Smyczek 2018 Summary

YTD W-L: 2-3 (0-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: December 30, 1987 (30)

ATP Ranking: 124

Houston W-L (Best Result): 3-4 (2016 Quarter-finalist)

- Tournament Note: In last main draw appearance two years ago advanced to QF with wins over Kicker and Young (l. to Lopez). Made debut in 2011 as a qualifier (l. to Sweeting) and reached 2R in 2013 (d. Ouanna, l. to Monaco)
- Advanced to Australian Open 2R for 4th time (l. to Ramos-Vinolas) and last month qualified at ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells (d. Djere, l. to Kohlschreiber in three sets).
- Qualified at Auckland (l. to Gojowczyk in 1R).
- Has played in four Challengers (3-4 record) with best result QF in Dallas (l. to McDonald)



Fritz 2018 Summary

QF(1): Delray Beach (I Shapovalov)

YTD W-L: 5-3 (0-0 on clay)

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: October 28, 1997 (20)

ATP Ranking: 72

Houston W-L (Best Result): 0-0 (Tournament debut)

- Tournament Note: Making debut and one of three #NextGenATP Americans in main draw (Kozlov, Tiafoe).
- Reached ATP Masters 1000 R16 for 1st time at Indian Wells (d. Opelka in 1R after saving 1 MP, l. to Coric).
- Advanced to Delray Beach QF (d. Querrey and Youzhny, l. to Shapovalov).
- Has a 14-3 ATP Challenger Tour record, highlighted by 4th career title at Newport Beach, USA (d. Klahn).
- Also reached Noumea, CAL Challenger final (l. to Rubin) and Indian Wells, USA Challenger SF (l. to D. King).

COURT 3

Taro Daniel (JPN) vs Ivo Karlovic (CRO)

First Meeting

Horacio Zeballos (ARG) vs [Q] Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN)

16 Atlanta (U.S.A.) Hard QF Yoshihito Nishioka

Nishioka Leads 1-0

6-4 6-4

Other Meetings

14 US Open Q (U.S.A.) Hard Q-1R Yoshihito Nishioka

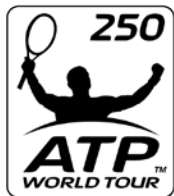
6-4 6-4

16 ATP Masters 1000 Miami Q (U.S.A.) Hard Q-2R Yoshihito Nishioka

6-4 4-6 6-1

[Q] Stefan Kozlov (USA) vs Guido Pella (ARG)

First Meeting



FAYEZ SAROFIM & CO. U.S. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP: PREVIEW & DAY 1 MEDIA NOTES

Monday, 9 April 2018

River Oaks Country Club | Houston, TX, USA | 9-15 April 2018

Draw: S-28, D-16 | Prize Money: \$557,050 | Surface: Clay

ATP World Tour Info

ATPWorldTour.com

Twitter: @ATPWorldTour

Facebook: @ATPWorldTour

Tournament Info

MensClayCourt.com

@MensClayCourt

@MensClayCourt

ATP PR & Marketing

Joshua Rey: jrey@atpworldtour.com

Press Room: pete@holtermmediainc.com

TV & Radio: TennisTV.com

10 THINGS TO WATCH IN HOUSTON

- 1) **Back to Clay:** The ATP World Tour's only event in Africa and only clay-court event in North America take place this week at Marrakech and Houston respectively. Twelve clay-court tournaments will be held over the next seven weeks leading into Roland Garros 27 May-10 June.
- 2) **In-Form Isner:** The Houston field is led by 32-year-old **John Isner**, who won the Miami title on 1 April to become the oldest first-time ATP Masters 1000 champion. Isner has played in Houston every year since turning pro in June 2007. He is a career-high No. 9 in the ATP Rankings, which he first achieved on 16 April 2012 after reaching the Houston final. Isner won the title one year later.
- 3) **Nashville Stars:** Isner is one of six seeded Americans, including all five members of the U.S. Davis Cup team that competed in Nashville 6-8 April. No. 2 seed **Sam Querrey** is making the trip from Tennessee to Texas for his 10th appearance. He reached the Houston final in 2010 and 2015.
- 4) **Sock's Slow Start:** Also arriving from Nashville is No. 3 seed **Jack Sock**, who entered the Davis Cup quarter-finals against Belgium with a 3-6 record on the season. Sock is appearing for the sixth straight spring in Houston, where he beat Querrey for his first ATP World Tour singles title in 2015.
- 5) **The Champ is Here:** Isner, Querrey, Sock and **Steve Johnson** came to Houston one year ago from a Davis Cup tie in Brisbane, Australia. Despite the distance, Johnson beat Sock in the semi-finals en route to his second ATP World Tour singles title. He returns this week as the No. 6 seed.
- 6) **Tenth Anniversary:** No. 7 seed **Ryan Harrison** is the other member of the 2018 U.S. Davis Cup team. As a 15-year-old, Harrison beat **Pablo Cuevas** in the 2008 Houston first round. He remains the youngest player to win an ATP World Tour match since **Rafael Nadal**, 15, at 2002 Mallorca.
- 7) **Much-Anticipated Debut:** **Nick Kyrgios** received a wild card on 26 March and will make his Houston debut as the No. 4 seed. Kyrgios reached two Grand Slam quarter-finals as a 19-year-old. Now 22, he owns a win over **Roger Federer** and two wins each over Nadal and **Novak Djokovic**.
- 8) **Familiar Fernando:** Returning to Houston for a sixth straight year is No. 5 seed **Fernando Verdasco**. The Spaniard won the Houston title in 2014 and is one of five former champions in the field, joining Johnson (2017), Sock (2015), Isner (2013) and 6-foot-11 Croat **Ivo Karlovic** (2007).
- 9) **Young Americans:** #NextGenATP players **Frances Tiafoe** and **Taylor Fritz** reached the fourth round last month at ATP Masters 1000s in Miami and Indian Wells respectively. They are joined this week by 21-year-old American **Ernesto Escobedo**, a surprise semi-finalist at 2017 Houston.
- 10) **Bros are Back:** **Bob** and **Mike Bryan** have captured a record 115 doubles titles on the ATP World Tour, including a team-best six each at Houston, the Australian Open and the defunct event in Los Angeles. The Bryans have reached three straight finals this season, highlighted by the Miami title.

WHO TO WATCH THIS WEEK

SINGLES

SEED	PLAYER	W-L	BEST TOURNAMENT FINISH
1	John Isner (USA)	14-9	2013 Champion
2	Sam Querrey (USA)	14-8	2010, 2015 Finalist
3	Jack Sock (USA)	13-4	2015 Champion
4	Nick Kyrgios (AUS)	0-0	Debut
5	Fernando Verdasco (ESP)	11-4	2014 Champion
6	Steve Johnson (USA)	6-4	2017 Champion
7	Ryan Harrison (USA)	3-5	2012 Quarter-finalist
8	Tennys Sandgren (USA)	0-1	2017 1st Round

QUALIFIERS (4)

Miomir Kecmanovic (SRB)

Stefan Kozlov (USA)

Denis Kudla (USA)

Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN)

OLDEST PLAYER

Ivo Karlovic (CRO)

39 years, 1 month

YOUNGEST PLAYER

Miomir Kecmanovic (SRB)

18 years, 7 months

WILD CARDS (3)

Dustin Brown (GER)

Nick Kyrgios (AUS)

Mackenzie McDonald (USA)

TOP COUNTRY BREAKDOWN

United States 15, Argentina 3,

Australia 2, Japan 2

DOUBLES

SEED	TEAM	W-L	BEST TOURNAMENT FINISH
1	Bob Bryan (USA)	38-9	2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2016 Champion
	Mike Bryan (USA)	38-9	2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2016 Champion
2	Ryan Harrison (USA)	1-3	2010 Quarter-finalist
	Ben McLachlan (JPN)	0-0	Debut
3	Julio Peralta (CHI)	5-1	2017 Champion
	Horacio Zeballos (ARG)	6-3	2017 Champion
4	Santiago Gonzalez (MEX)	7-6	2016 Finalist
	Donald Young (USA)	3-6	2010, 2011, 2015 Quarter-finalist

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	150	90	45	20	0
Singles Prize Money (\$)	99,375	52,340	28,350	16,155	9,515	5,640
Doubles Ranking Points	250	150	90	45	0	---
Doubles Prize Money (\$)	30,190	15,870	8,600	4,920	2,880	---

PAST FINALISTS

SINGLES (since 2007)

YEAR	CHAMPION	FINALIST	SCORE
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)
2010	Juan Ignacio Chela (ARG)	Sam Querrey (USA)	5-7 6-4 6-3
2009	Lleyton Hewitt (AUS)	Wayne Odesnik (USA)	6-2 7-5
2008	Marcel Granollers (ESP)	James Blake (USA)	6-4 1-6 7-5
2007	Ivo Karlovic (CRO)	Mariano Zabaleta (ARG)	6-4 6-1

BOLD: Player in 2018 Fayez Sarofim & Co. U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship singles draw.

DOUBLES (since 2003)

YEAR	CHAMPION	FINALIST	SCORE
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(4) 6-2 [10-5]
2010	Bob Bryan/Mike Bryan	Stephen Huss/Wesley Moodie	6-3 7-5
2009	Bob Bryan/Mike Bryan	Jesse Levine/Ryan Sweeting	6-1 6-2
2008	Ernests Gulbis/Rainer Schuettler	Pablo Cuevas/Marcel Granollers	7-5 7-6(3)
2007	Bob Bryan/Mike Bryan	Mark Knowles/ Daniel Nestor	7-6(3) 6-4
2006	Michael Kohlmann/Alexander Waske	Julian Knowle/Jurgen Melzer	5-7 6-4 [10-5]
2005	Mark Knowles/ Daniel Nestor	Martin Garcia/Luis Horna	6-3 6-4
2004	James Blake/Mardy Fish	Rick Leach/Brian MacPhie	6-3 6-4
2003	Mark Knowles/ Daniel Nestor	Jan-Michael Gambill/Graydon Oliver	6-4 6-3

BOLD: Player in 2018 Fayez Sarofim & Co. U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship doubles draw.

FEDEX ATP HEAD2HEADS: MONDAY FIRST-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

CENTER

[WC] Dustin Brown (GER) vs Henri Laaksonen (SUI)

First Tour-Level Meeting

Other Meetings

13 Mouilleron-Le-Captif CH (France)

Hard R16

Dustin Brown

6-2 7-6(3)

13 Helsinki CH (Finland)

Hard R32

Henri Laaksonen

7-6(4) 5-7 6-1

Brown 2018 Summary:

YTD W-L: 0-2

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: 8 December 1984 (33)

ATP Ranking: 152

Tournament W-L (Best Result): 3-2 (2014 Quarter-finals)

- Tournament Note: Reached QF on debut in 2014 by beating World No.9 Isner in final-set tiebreak in 2R (l. to Querrey in QF); last year, beat 2-time champion Monaco in 1R before losing to eventual champion Johnson in 2R.
- Qualified at Australian Open, but fell to 0-4 in main draw matches at event (l. to Sousa in 5 sets).
- Lost in Doha qualifying 1R (l. to Setkic) and Montpellier qualifying 1R (ret. down 76 52 to Mahut).

Laaksonen 2018 Summary:

YTD W-L: 0-1

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: 31 March 1992 (26)

ATP Ranking: 143

Tournament W-L (Best Result): 0-0 (Main draw debut)

- Tournament Note: In only prior appearance, fell in 1R of qualifying in 2016 to Donaldson.
- Fell in 1R of qualifying at Australian Open (l. to Gaio), Indian Wells (l. to Ruud), and Miami (l. to Broady).
- Defeated Youzhny via retirement in 1R of ATP Challenger Tour event at Indian Wells, CA, USA (l. to eventual champion Klizan in 2R).

[5] Fernando Verdasco (ESP) vs [Q] Denis Kudla (USA)

15 Stockholm (Sweden)

Hard R32

Fernando Verdasco

Verdasco Leads 1-0

6-4 6-4

Verdasco 2018 Summary:
F (1): Rio de Janeiro (l. Schwartzman)

YTD W-L: 11-8

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 7

Date of Birth: 15 November 1983 (34)

ATP Ranking: 36

Tournament W-L (Best Result): 11-4 (**2014 Champion**)

- Tournament Note: 2014 champion (def. Almagro in final) has played every year dating back to 2013 and has never lost in the 1R; also reached SF in 2015 (l. to Querrey) and QF last year (l. to eventual champion Johnson).
- Defeated Thiern en route to Rio de Janeiro singles final (l. to Schwartzman).
- Lost to Schwartzman again 2 days later in Acapulco 1R.
- Earned 3rd straight Top 10 win over Dimitrov in ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells 2R (l. to Fritz in 3R).
- Made 59th straight Grand Slam appearance at Australian Open (d. Bautista Agut, l. to Marterer in 2R).
- Captured 8th doubles title -- 1st since 2013 ATP Finals -- at Rio de Janeiro w/Marrero as LL (d. Mekic/Peya).

Kudla 2018 Summary:

YTD W-L: 1-1

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: 17 August 1992 (25)

ATP Ranking: 122

Tournament W-L (Best Result): 1-2 (2016 2nd Round)

- Tournament Note: Qualified with straight-set wins over compatriots Opelka and Krueger; claimed only main draw win in 2016 1R over M. Zverev in final-set tiebreak (l. to Isner 67 67 in 2R).
- Won ATP Challenger Tour event in Drummondville, CAN (def. Bonzi in final) and reached additional Challenger final in Le Gosier, Guadeloupe 2 weeks later (l. to Lajovic in final).
- Qualified for 3rd time at Australian Open and advanced to 2R (l. to Thiern after leading by 2 sets).
- Fell in Brisbane qualifying 1R (l. to Kovalik).

Frances Tiafoe (USA) vs [WC] Mackenzie McDonald (USA)
First Tour-Level Meeting
Other Meetings

16 Tiburon CH (U.S.A.)	Hard	QF	Mackenzie McDonald	3-6 7-6(5) 7-5
16 Stockton CH (U.S.A.)	Hard	SF	Frances Tiafoe	7-6(4) 6-3
16 Charlottesville CH (U.S.A.)	Hard	R16	Mackenzie McDonald	6-0 6-3
18 Dallas CH (U.S.A.)	Hard	R16	Mackenzie McDonald	7-5 2-6 6-3

**Tiafoe 2018 Summary:****W (1):** Delray Beach (d. Gojowczyk); **QF (1):** New York (l. Anderson)

YTD W-L: 10-5

YTD Titles: 1 / Career Titles: 1

Date of Birth: 20 January 1998 (20)

ATP Ranking: 58

Tournament W-L (Best Result): 0-2 (2016, 2017, 2018 1st Round)

- Tournament Note: Lost 1R in two previous appearances, to Barton in 2016 and eventual finalist Bellucci last year.
- Advanced to 1st ATP World Tour SF and final en route to 1st title at Delray Beach (d. Shapovalov and Gojowczyk).
- As 20-year-old, became youngest American champion on ATP World Tour since Roddick, 19, at 2002 Houston.
- Also became 1st WC to win Delray Beach title in 26-year tournament history.
- Defeated boyhood idol Del Potro in Delray Beach 2R for 2nd Top 10 win of career.
- Reached 1st ATP World Tour QF a week earlier at New York (l. to eventual champion Anderson in 3 sets).
- Beat Berdych in Miami 3R for 10th win of season (l. to Anderson in 4R). Entered 2018 with 9 career wins.
- Achieved career-high No. 58 in ATP Rankings on 2 April.

McDonald 2018 Summary:

YTD W-L: 1-3

YTD Titles: 0 / Career Titles: 0

Date of Birth: 16 April 1995 (22)

ATP Ranking: 142

Tournament W-L (Best Result): 0-0 (Debut)

- Tournament Note: First appearance in Houston, looking for 2nd Tour-level win of career.
- Earned 1st Tour-level win at Australian Open as Q (d. E. Ymer, l. to Dimitrov 86 in 5th)
- Reached ATP Challenger Tour final at Dallas, TX, USA (d. Tiafoe, Smyczek, and Kudla en route, l. to Nishikori).
- As WC, fell to Escobedo 76 in 3rd set in 1R of New York Open.
- Entered Acapulco as lucky loser (l. to Escobedo in final Q round; lost to World No. 5 A. Zverev in 1R of main draw).
- Lost in 2R of qualifying at Indian Wells (l. to Daniel) and Miami (l. to D. King).
- Fell in 1R at Playford, AUS Challenger (l. to Ignatik), where he won doubles title w/Paul (d. Banes/Kubler).

COURT 3**[8] Tennys Sandgren (USA) vs Blaz Kavcic (SLO)****First Meeting****Bjorn Fratangelo (USA) vs Jordan Thompson (AUS)****First Tour-Level Meeting****Other Meeting**

16 Bordeaux CH (France)	Clay	R32	Bjorn Fratangelo	6-4 6-3
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FEDEX ATP HEAD2HEADS: REMAINING FIRST-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES**Ernesto Escobedo (USA) vs [6] Steve Johnson (USA)****Johnson Leads 1-0**

17 Acapulco (Mexico)	Hard	R16	Steve Johnson	7-6(5) 6-3
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Horacio Zeballos (ARG) vs [Q] Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN)**Nishioka Leads 1-0**

16 Atlanta (U.S.A.)	Hard	QF	Yoshihito Nishioka	6-4 6-4
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Other Meetings

14 US Open Q (U.S.A.)	Hard	Q-1R	Yoshihito Nishioka	6-4 6-4
16 ATP Masters 1000 Miami Q (U.S.A.)	Hard	Q-2R	Yoshihito Nishioka	6-4 4-6 6-1

Tim Smyczek (USA) vs Taylor Fritz (USA)**Smyczek Leads 1-0**

16 Delray Beach (U.S.A.)	Hard	R32	Tim Smyczek	6-3 6-3
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Other Meeting

15 Fairfield CH (USA)	Hard	R16	Taylor Fritz	6-2 6-3
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[Q] Miomir Kecmanovic (SRB) vs [7] Ryan Harrison (USA)

First Meeting

Taro Daniel (JPN) vs Ivo Karlovic (CRO)

First Meeting

Nicolas Kicker (ARG) vs Donald Young (USA)

First Tour-Level Meeting

Other Meeting

16 Savannah CH (U.S.A.)

Clay

QF

Donald Young

6-4 7-5

[Q] Stefan Kozlov (USA) vs Guido Pella (ARG)

First Meeting