



KINOSHITA GROUP JAPAN OPEN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS – ATP MEDIA NOTES

DAY 3 – FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER 2026

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

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KINOSHITA GROUP JAPAN OPEN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS TALKING POINTS

- World No. 8 **Frances Tiafoe** takes on World No. 9 **Arthur Fils**, who entered the draw through qualifying, in the second round at **Ariake Tennis Forest Park**. For the second time in ATP Tour history (since 1990), two Top 10 players meet in the second round of an event* after No. 6 Lendl defeated No. 10 Ivanisevic at 1992 Brussels. In a rematch of this year's ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati final, 2022 finalist Tiafoe bids to tie Sinner (44) for 2nd most tour-level wins this season, behind Zverev (57).
* excluding Nitto ATP Finals and Grand Slam Cup
- 2024 champion Fils, one of two former champions remaining in the draw (also Alcaraz), is on a 6-match winning streak at the event (8 including qualifying). He is playing in his 5th ATP 500 event of the season and owns 10-3 record at ATP 500 level in 2026, highlighted by Barcelona title and Doha final.
- No. 8 seed **Valentin Vacherot** takes on **Stefanos Tsitsipas**, a qualifier this week, in their first meeting. Tsitsipas seeks his 2nd Tokyo QF after losing to Nishikori in 2018. Monegasque No. 1, who is making his tournament debut, looks for his 2nd ATP Tour QF in Asia after winning Shanghai title last year.
- Kyrian Jacquet** seeks his 3rd and biggest ATP Tour QF and the biggest win of his career after defeating No. 30 Etcheverry in Hangzhou 2R last week for his 1st Top 50 win. He faces World No. 19 **Luciano Darderi**, who bids to reach his 2nd hard-court quarter-final above ATP 250 level after ATP Masters 1000 Montreal in August to become the first Italian quarter-finalist in Tokyo since Occhipinti in 1983.
- Opening second-round play at **Kinoshita Group Japan Open Tennis Championships** is qualifier **Jaume Munar** against lucky loser **Jaime Faria**. Munar, who upset No. 3 seed Fritz in 1R, looks to record back-to-back wins on hard courts for the first time since run to Rotterdam QF in February. Faria seeks his 3rd ATP 500 QF, all as lucky loser, after reaching the stage in Rio de Janeiro in 2025 and 2026 after losing in qualifying.

PIF ATP LIVE RACE TO TURIN

Race	Player	Points	Scenario
1	Alexander Zverev (GER)	8,700	Beijing – +50 for 2R win vs. Shang
2	Jannik Sinner (ITA)	7,950	----
3	Ben Shelton (USA)	4,430	----
4	Carlos Alcaraz (ESP)	4,100	Tokyo – +50 for 2R win vs. Arnaldi
5	Flavio Cobolli (ITA)	3,530	<i>Beijing – Lost to Safiullin in 1R</i>
6	Frances Tiafoe (USA)	3,380	Tokyo – +50 for 2R win vs. Fils
7	Arthur Fils (FRA)	3,225	Tokyo – +50 for 2R win vs. Tiafoe
8	Daniil Medvedev	3,020	Beijing – +50 for 1R win vs. Carreno Busta
9	Rafael Jodar (ESP)	2,509	<i>Tokyo – Lost to Vallejo in 1R</i>
10	Taylor Fritz (USA)	2,480	<i>Tokyo – Lost to Munar in 1R</i>
11	Alex de Minaur (AUS)	2,410	Beijing – +50 for 2R win vs. Halys
12	Jakub Mensik (CZE)	2,405	Beijing – +50 for 2R win vs. F. Cerundolo
13	Tommy Paul (USA)	2,385	<i>Tokyo – Lost to Tabilo in 1R</i>
14	Novak Djokovic (SRB)	2,380	Beijing – +50 for 2R win vs. Bu
15	Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN)	2,365	<i>Beijing – Lost to Khachanov in 1R</i>
16	Brandon Nakashima (USA)	2,275	<i>Tokyo – Lost to Humbert in 1R</i>

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

LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: FRIDAY SECOND-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

COLOSSEUM

[Q] Jaume Munar (ESP) vs [LL] Jaime Faria (POR)

Series Tied 1-1

25 Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

Clay

R16

Jaime Faria

6-4 2-6 6-3

25 US Open (U.S.A.)

Hard

R128

Jaume Munar

6-0 6-3 5-7 6-2

Tennis Data Innovations Insights uses algorithmic software to process ball and player tracking data in real-time to calculate shot type, shot quality, situation, phase of play and tactic for every shot. Insights explained at <https://www.atptour.com/en/news/news-filter-results/insights>

Insights from their 52-week averages:

Player	In Attack	Conversion Score	Steal Score	Serve Quality	Return Quality	Forehand Quality	Backhand Quality
Munar	21%	71%	36%	7.9	6.6	7.7	7.5
Faria	28%	65%	33%	8.4	6.1	6.6	6.5
<i>Tour Average</i>	24%	67%	33%	7.9	6.4	7.3	7.0

Jaume Munar | Age: 29 | World No. 64 | Career-High No. 33 | 2026: 13-15 (3 QFs) | Tokyo: 2-2 (2022, 2026 2R)
 > Former World No. 3 junior advanced to 2018 Next Gen ATP Finals SF and reached No. 52 in 2019, before breaking into Top 50 in July 2025 and achieving career-high No. 33 in December 2025.
 > Defeated countryman Alcaraz before falling to countryman Carreno Busta in 1st ATP Tour final at 2021 Marbella.
 > Recorded personal-best 31 wins in 2025, advanced to Wimbledon 3R (d. No. 31 Bublik in 1R) and 2025 US Open 4R after 0-11 start to career in Grand Slam 2Rs.
 > Earned 2 Top-5 wins over No. 3 Zverev at 2019 Marrakech 2R and No. 3 Ruud at 2022 Tokyo 1R.
 > Owns 144-74 Challenger record (10-8 in finals), including most recent clay-court title at 2024 Bad Waltersdorf.
 > Reached 2014 Roland Garros boys' singles final and won boys' doubles title in 2015 with countryman Lopez San Martin.

NOTE: Munar is looking for his 4th ATP Tour QF in 2026 after Adelaide (l. to Machac), Rotterdam (l. to Bublik), and Geneva (l. to Navone). 29-year-old is undefeated (6-0) on hard courts this season (including Tokyo qualifying) vs. players ranked outside the Top 50.

Jaime Faria | Age: 23 | World No. 61 (Career-High) | 2026: 16-11 (Rio de Janeiro, Estoril QFs) | Tokyo: 1-0 (2026 2R)
 > Achieved new career-high ranking 24 times in 2024, breaking into Top 400 in January and Top 200 in May before peaking at No. 61 in September 2026 soon after defeating No. 6 Shelton en route to ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati 4R.
 > Advanced to 1st ATP Tour QFs of career at 2025 Rio de Janeiro as LL and Santiago in back-to-back weeks and returned to Rio de Janeiro QF the following season, again as a lucky loser.
 > Defeated Kotov in 2025 Australian Open 1R for 1st tour-level win to become the youngest Portuguese man to play and win a match in Grand Slam main draw since Marques at 1991 US Open.
 > Became third Portuguese man in history to win main draw matches at all 4 Grand Slam events, joining J. Sousa and Borges, highlighted by run to 2026 Roland Garros 3R, before squandering 2 sets to 0 lead to No. 22 Tiafoe.
 > He is 58-43 on ATP Challenger Tour (2-3 in finals), winning titles at Oeiras-4 and Curitiba in 2024.
 > Went on a 20-match winning streak on ITF World Tennis Tour from February to March 2024, claiming 4 titles in a row at M25 Vila Real de Santo Antonio, M25 Faro, M25 Quinta do Lobo, and M25 Vale de Lobo.

NOTE: Faria aims to reach his fifth ATP Tour QF (0-4), first on hard courts, to become the second lucky loser in tournament history to reach Tokyo QF after Lacko in 2013 (l. to Raonic). He bids to become the 2nd Portuguese man to reach this stage at the event after J. Sousa in 2016 (l. to Goffin) and 1st Portuguese man to reach 3 ATP 500 QFs*.
 * since the series began in 2009

Portuguese ATP 500 Quarter-Finalists (since 2009*):

Player	Tournament
Joao Sousa	2014 Rio de Janeiro
Joao Sousa	2016 Tokyo
Jaime Faria	2025-26 Rio de Janeiro

* ATP 500 category was introduced in 2009

[8] Valentin Vacherot (MON) vs [Q] Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE)

First Meeting

Insights from their 52-week averages:

Player	In Attack	Conversion Score	Steal Score	Serve Quality	Return Quality	Forehand Quality	Backhand Quality
Vacherot	26%	66%	33%	8.7	7.0	7.4	7.3
Tsitsipas	29%	73%	33%	8.3	5.8	7.8	6.3
<i>Tour Average</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>7.9</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>7.0</i>

Valentin Vacherot | Age: 27 | World No. 18 | Career-High No. 16 | 2026: 21-15 (Monte-Carlo SF) | Tokyo: 1-0 ('26 2R)
 > Highest-ranked Monegasque in PIF ATP Rankings history achieved career-high No. 16 in May 2026 soon after becoming 1st home player to reach ATP Masters 1000 Monte-Carlo QF and SF in Open Era.
 > Qualified en route to becoming lowest-ranked ATP Masters 1000 champion at 2025 Shanghai as World No. 204, defeating No. 5 Djokovic in SF and his cousin, Rinderknech, in final to be first Monegasque to win an ATP Tour title.
 > In Monte-Carlo, made ATP Tour debut in 2023 as WC and defeated Struff in 2025 for 1st ATP Tour win and advanced to semi-finals in 2026 to be the first home player to reach that stage at the event in Open Era.
 > Qualified at 2024 Roland Garros for Grand Slam main draw debut and became 1st man representing Monaco to reach Grand Slam 3R in Open Era at 2026 Australian Open.
 > Coached by former Monegasque player, his half-brother, Benjamin Balleret and played college tennis for Texas A&M University alongside his cousin, Arthur Rinderknech.

NOTE: Vacherot seeks 7th ATP Tour QF (2-4), all since last October, and 2nd at ATP 500 level after Acapulco in February (l. to Nakashima). He looks to earn back-to-back Top 50 wins (d. No. 28 Blockx in 1R) for the 2nd time this season after defeating No. 5 Musetti and No. 6 de Minaur in ATP Masters 1000 Monte-Carlo 3R and QF.

Stefanos Tsitsipas | Age: 28 | World No. 44 | Career-High No. 3 | 2026: 31-20 (Gstaad Title) | Tokyo: 3-3 (2018 QF)
 > Top-ranked Greek of all time achieved career-high No. 3 in August 2021 and boasts 11 wins vs. Top-3 opponents (2 vs. No. 1, 4 vs. No. 2, 5 vs. No. 3).
 > Six-time Grand Slam semi-finalist, highlighted by runs to 2021 Roland Garros and 2023 Australian Open finals, losing to Djokovic on both occasions.
 > Captured 2018 Next Gen ATP Finals title at age 20 and 2019 Nitto ATP Finals title at age 21, becoming youngest champion of latter since Hewitt, 20, in 2001.
 > Won 13 ATP Tour titles, including 2021, 2022 and 2024 ATP Masters 1000 Monte Carlo and captured 1st ATP 500 title in 12th final at 2025 Dubai.
 > Youngest of 30 players to defeat Djokovic (2018 Toronto 3R), Federer (2019 Australian Open 4R) and Nadal (2019 Madrid SF), sweeping Big 3 before turning 21.

NOTE: Tsitsipas is aiming to reach his 86th tour-level quarter-final, third of the season after Doha (l. to Rublev) and lifting the title in Gstaad (d. Collignon). 28-year-old is 6-8 vs. Top 20 opponents in 2026, highlighted by defeating No. 6 de Minaur in ATP Masters 1000 Miami 2R.

ATP 500 Win Leaders in Series History (since 2009)

Player	Wins	Player	Wins
Alexander Zverev	124-52	Roger Federer	111-11
Rafael Nadal	121-19	Kei Nishikori	104-43
David Ferrer	116-39	Novak Djokovic	103-14
Andrey Rublev	116-50	Stefanos Tsitsipas	102-49

[SE] Kyrian Jacquet (FRA) vs Luciano Darderi (ITA)

First Meeting

Insights from their 52-week averages:

Player	In Attack	Conversion Score	Steal Score	Serve Quality	Return Quality	Forehand Quality	Backhand Quality
Jacquet	26%	68%	35%	7.8	6.0	6.6	6.0
Darderi	24%	66%	33%	7.8	6.9	8.0	6.9
<i>Tour Average</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>7.9</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>7.0</i>

Kyrian Jacquet | Age: 25 | World No. 86 (Career-High) | 2026: 6-8 (Hangzhou SF) | Tokyo: 1-0 (2026 2R)

> Broke inside Top 500 in March 2021, Top 200 in January 2024, and Top 100 in September 2026, achieving career-high No. 86 after reaching first ATP Tour SF in Hangzhou.

> Qualified for Grand Slam main draw debut at 2024 US Open and made main draw appearances at Roland Garros in 2025 and 2026 as Q, 2026 Australian Open as WC and 2026 Wimbledon as Q, defeating Gaubas in 1R for 1st win.

> At Roland Garros, qualified for main draw debut in 2025, squandering 2 sets to 0 lead vs. No. 41 Borges in 1R and qualified in 2026 after being sidelined due to elbow surgery for 2 months prior to the tournament.

> Entered 2025 Metz as LL and earned wins over countrymen Van Assche and Added to reach 1st ATP Tour QF.

> Owns 85-61 Challenger record (5-2 in finals), defeating future-Top 10 player Cobolli for 1st title at 2023 Olbia as Q.

> Went on an 11-0 run at Challenger level (20-1 in sets) in February 2025, winning back-to-back titles in Chennai and New Delhi.

NOTE: Jacquet seeks 3rd ATP Tour QF (1-1) after Metz last November (l. to Norrie) and Hangzhou last week (l. to Rublev in SF). He is playing in his 3rd match vs. Top 20, losing to No. 9 Dimitrov at 2024 US Open and No. 11 Bublik at Wimbledon in July. 25-year-old is No. 80 on [PIF ATP Live Rankings](#) and could reach No. 76 with a 2R win.

Luciano Darderi | Age: 24 | World No. 19 | Career-High No. 16 | 2026: 35-22 (Santiago Title) | Tokyo: 2-2 ('25'-26 2R)

> Broke into Top 100 and Top 50 in 2024 before achieving career-high No. 16 in May 2026 after saving 4 MPs for biggest win of career over No. 3 Zverev en route to 1st ATP Masters 1000 QF and SF in Rome.

> Captured his 1st ATP Tour title in Cordoba, defeating Bagnis in 3rd final between two qualifiers since the ATP Tour was established in 1990.

> In 2025, won Bastad and Umag titles in back-to-back weeks in July after Marrakech title in April.

> Owns 95-61 Challenger record (4-3 in finals), winning titles at 2023 Todi, 2023 Lima-2, 2024 Perugia & 2025 Genoa.

> Peaked at No. 8 in junior rankings in February 2020 after earning 3 singles and 3 doubles titles to start the season.

> Born in Argentina, started playing tennis at age 4 with his father Luciano Enrique, a former tennis player and current coach.

NOTE: Darderi is seeking his 21st ATP Tour QF, third on hard courts after Auckland in January (l. to Giron) and ATP Masters 1000 Montreal in August (l. to Nakashima). 24-year-old aims to become the first man to reach 11 tour-level quarter-finals this season.

Italian Quarter-Finalists in Tournament History

Player	Year	End Result
Corrado Barazzutti	1976	Final (l. to Tanner)
Adriano Panatta	1978	Champion (d. Dupre)
Gianni Occhipinti	1982	QF (l. to Arias)
Gianni Occhipinti	1983	QF (l. to Ti. Gullikson)

2026 Tour-Level Quarter-Final Leaders

Player	QFs
Luciano Darderi	10
Ben Shelton	10
Alexander Zverev	10
5 players with	8*
* Auger-Aliassime, Fils, Rublev, Sinner, Tiafoe	

[Q] Arthur Fils (FRA) vs [2] Frances Tiafoe (USA)

25 ATP Masters 1000 Miami (U.S.A.) Hard R32 Arthur Fils
26 ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati (U.S.A.) Hard F Arthur Fils

Fils Leads 2-0

7-6(11) 5-7 6-2
6-3 1-6 6-0

Insights from their 52-week averages:

Player	In Attack	Conversion Score	Steal Score	Serve Quality	Return Quality	Forehand Quality	Backhand Quality
Fils	26%	70%	36%	7.9	6.7	8.3	7.8
Tiafoe	26%	68%	33%	7.9	6.6	7.5	7.1
<i>Tour Average</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>7.9</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>7.0</i>

Arthur Fils | Age: 22 | World No. 9 (Career-High) | 2026: 33-11 (Barcelona, Cincinnati Titles) | Tokyo: 6-0 (2024 Title)

- > In 2023, broke into Top 200 in January, Top 100 in May and Top 50 in July, before breaking into Top 10 at No. 9 in September 2026 soon after winning Cincinnati title, becoming the youngest French ATP Masters 1000 champion.
- > Posted 17-4 record at ATP 500 level in 2024, including win over No. 4 Zverev for Hamburg title and saved a championship point to defeat Humbert in all-French final in Tokyo.
- > At 18 years and 11 months, became youngest Frenchman to win an ATP Tour title since Monfils at 2005 Sopot, defeating F. Cerundolo to lift 2023 Lyon title as No. 112-ranked WC.
- > In February 2023, became youngest Frenchman to reach an ATP Tour SF since Gasquet in 2004 at 2023 Montpellier (l. to Sinner) and advanced to 2nd ATP Tour SF at 2023 Marseille (l. to Bonzi).
- > Defeated former Top-20 player Tomic in Grand Slam qualifying debut at 2021 Roland Garros as 16-year-old ranked 1,035th, advanced to boys' singles final (l. to countryman Van Assche) and won the boys' doubles title w/Mpetshi Perricard, achieving career-high No. 3 in junior rankings during 2021 season.

NOTE: Fils is playing in his tenth hard-court event of the season, aiming to reach at least the quarter-finals in 7th event played on this surface in 2026. 22-year-old is on an 8-match winning streak vs. Americans on tour-level and looks for his 5th Top 10 win of the year (4-5) to be the 3rd man to earn 5 Top 10 wins in 2026 (Sinner - 10, Tiafoe - 5).

First Tournament as Top 10 Players (Top 10 Debutants in 2026)

Player	Top 10 Debut	Tournament	Result
Alexander Bublik	12 January	Australian Open	4R (l. to de Minaur)
Flavio Cobolli	8 June	Halle	1R (l. to Tiafoe)
Arthur Fils	28 September	Tokyo	2R+ (plays Tiafoe)

Frances Tiafoe | Age: 28 | World No. 8 (Career-High) | 2026: 43-17 (Halle Title) | Tokyo: 6-5 (2022 Final)

- > Former World No. 2 junior achieved career-high No. 8 in September 2026 after reaching third US Open SF earlier this month.
- > Joined Fritz in Top 10 to be 1st American duo in Top 10 of PIF ATP Rankings since Fish and Isner in May 2012.
- > Lifted 3rd title in 2023 Stuttgart, saving 1 MP vs. Struff in the final to own ATP Tour titles on all three surfaces.
- > Defeated 4-time champion Nadal en route to 2022 US Open SF, becoming that event's 1st American men's semi-finalist since Roddick in 2006 and returned to US Open SF in 2024, losing to Fritz in all-American match.
- > Led Team World to 2022 Laver Cup title, teaming w/Sock to defeat Federer/Nadal in Swiss' final match before clinching cup with win over Tsitsipas.
- > Advanced to both ATP Masters 1000 finals in Cincinnati, saving 2 MPs vs. Rune to reach 2024 final before posting wins over countrymen Tien and Nakashima en route to 2026 final.
- > Won 1st ATP Tour title as 20-year-old at 2018 Delray Beach, did not drop a set en route to 2nd title at 2023 Houston and earned 3 Top 10 wins to capture biggest title of career at 2026 Halle.
- > Parents emigrated from Sierra Leone in 1996 and father was Head of Maintenance at Junior Tennis Champions Center in Maryland, where Frances and his twin brother Franklin trained as kids.

NOTE: Tiafoe is 12-3 since August, highlighted by reaching ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati final (l. to Fils) and US Open SF (l. to Shelton). 28-year-old seeks 9th tour-level quarter-final this season (5-3), 6th on hard courts (3-2), and 3rd at ATP 500 level (Acapulco Final, Halle Title). He is 18-44 vs. Top 10 opponents, 5-4 this season.

Men's Tour-Level Win Leaders This Season

Player	W-L
Alexander Zverev	57-14
Jannik Sinner	44-3
Frances Tiafoe	43-17
Tommy Paul	39-18
Ben Shelton	39-16