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ALEXANDER ZVEREV SET FOR RETURN TO NITTO ATP FINALS

SASCHA CULIFIES

LONDON – Alexander Zverev, one of the most exciting young players on the ATP World Tour, is set to return to the Nitto ATP Finals, to be held 11-18 November at The O2 in London. The 21year-old German has qualified for the second successive year and joins Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Juan Martin del Potro and Roger Federer in the 2018 field.

"It's great to finally officially make it and again be a part of the best eight, which is an elite group," said Zverev. "It is a goal for everyone at the

beginning of the season. I'm very pleased to be in London again and get another opportunity to play there for the second year in a row. I'm looking forward to the tournament.

"I put it close to equal as a Grand Slam, actually. It's probably one of the most prestigious events that we have, because to get there, you have to be one of the best eight players in the world... Just being a part of it, just playing there is already an honour itself. It's close to, or it's maybe equal to winning a Grand Slam, and I think other players will tell you the same thing, because just to be there, you obviously play well throughout the whole year."

Zverev, who secured his place by beating Kyle Edmund to reach the semi-finals of the Rolex Shanghai Masters on Friday, is the first German to clinch a berth in successive years at the season finale since three-time former champion Boris Becker (1985-92, 1994-96). In 2017, Zverev became the youngest player to compete at the season-ending tournament since 20-year-old Del Potro in 2008 and was the first German singles qualifier since Rainer Schuettler in 2003.

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With a 49-15 match record this year, Zverev has compiled the most tour-level victories in 2018, breaking a tie with Dominic Thiem (48), who is also in the running to take one of the three remaining singles berths with one month to go until the start of the Nitto ATP Finals.

Zverev picked up his third ATP World Tour Masters 1000 crown in May at the Mutua Madrid Open (d. Thiem), becoming the first player to win a clay-court title without being broken since the ATP started keeping stats in 1991. He also successfully retained titles at both the BMW Open by FWU in Munich (d. Kohlschreiber) and the Citi Open in Washington, D.C. (d. de Minaur). Additionally, he finished runner-up in two Masters 1000 finals, the Miami Open presented by Itau (I. to Isner) and the Internazionali BNL d'Italia in Rome (I. to Nadal).

Croatia's Marin Cilic is next in line to qualify for the Nitto ATP Finals for the fourth time, followed by Kevin Anderson of South Africa and Austria's Thiem, who all feature in the Top 8 in the ATP Race To London. Oliver Marach and Mate Pavic, Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah, and Jamie Murray and Bruno Soares are the only doubles teams to have clinched a place at London in November.

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The Nitto ATP Finals welcomes more than 250,000 fans to The O2 arena annually, as well as generating global viewership figures reaching an average of 95 million viewers each year, as the ATP's best eight singles players and doubles teams compete over eight days at the biggest indoor tennis tournament in the world.

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About the Nitto ATP Finals

The Nitto ATP Finals is the year-end climax to the men's professional tennis season, featuring only the world's best eight qualified singles players and doubles teams as they battle it out for the last title of the season. Players compete for ATP Rankings points throughout the season in a bid to earn one of the eight coveted berths and a chance to win the biggest indoor tennis tournament in the world. Played using a round-robin format, each player plays three matches as they compete for a berth in the knockout semi-finals and beyond. The prestigious tournament has been contested in major cities around the world with a rich history dating back to the birth of The Masters in 1970 in Tokyo. Since 2000 the event has taken place in cities such as Lisbon, Sydney, and Shanghai. In 2009 the tournament was moved to London, where it will be played through 2020. For more information, please visit www.NittoATPFinals.com







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