



ATLANTA OPEN – ATP MEDIA NOTES DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY 24 JULY 2024

Atlantic Station | Atlanta, GA, USA | 22-28 July 2024

ATP Tour
ATPTour.com
@ATPTour
#ThisIsTennis

Tournament
atlantaopentennis.com
@ATLOpenTennis
#AtlantaOpen

Media
Interview Queries: alexander.scott@atptour.com (ATP PR)
Facts & Stats Queries: mediainfo@atptour.com
Press Officer: Danielle Piskura (danielle@tonyfaypr.com)

LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: WEDNESDAY SINGLES MATCHES

STADIUM

1R: [SE] Reilly Opelka (USA) vs Aleksandar Kovacevic (USA) **First Meeting**

Reilly Opelka | Age: 26 | World No. 430 | Career-High No. 17 | 2024: 3-1 (Newport SF) | Atlanta: 7-4 (2016, 2019 SF)
> Former Wimbledon junior champion became No. 1 American in June 2021 and achieved career-high No. 17 in February 2022 before undergoing hip surgery later that year.
> Defeated Isner for 4th ATP 250 title on American soil at 2022 Houston after beating him 7-6(7) 7-6(22) en route to 2022 Dallas title, winning longest tiebreak in ATP Tour history (since 1990).
> At 2020 Delray Beach, saved 1 MP vs. Raonic and defeated Nishioka on same day to win 2nd title.
> At 2019 New York, saved 6 MPs and hit 43 aces vs. Isner in SF, then hit 43 more aces vs. Schnur in final to win 1st title.
> Upset No. 3 Tsitsipas at 2021 Toronto for biggest win of career and to reach 1st ATP Masters 1000 final.

NOTE: Opelka has climbed 758 spots in [PIF ATP Rankings](#) after making Newport SF last week (l. to Michelsen) in his first ATP Tour event since 2022 Washington. He captured all 4 ATP Tour titles of his career on home soil (2019 New York, 2020 Delray Beach, 2022 Dallas and 2022 Houston).

Aleksandar Kovacevic | Age: 25 | World No. 82 (Career-High) | 2024: 7-14 (2 times in QF) | Atlanta: 0-0 (Debut)
> Broke into Top 100 at No. 85 in January 2024 after previously peaking at No. 101 in April 2023. He achieved a career-high No. 82 in July 2024.
> Defeated countryman McDonald to reach 2022 Seoul SF in ATP Tour main draw debut as 222nd-ranked LL and No. 13 Norrie for biggest win of career to reach 2nd ATP Tour QF at 2023 Los Cabos.
> Won Challenger titles at Cleveland, Waco, Shenzhen and Temuco in 2023, highlighted by win over Wu Yibing in Cleveland final.
> Made Grand Slam debut at 2023 Roland Garros, playing his idol and eventual champion Djokovic in 1R and defeated Tabilo to earn 1st Grand Slam win at 2024 Australian Open
> Played 5 years of college tennis at University of Illinois, where he was a 2-time All-American and graduated in 2021 with finance degree.
> Born and raised in New York City, where he started playing tennis as a 4-year-old at Central Park with his parents, Milan and Milanka, who are ex-pro table tennis players from former Yugoslavia.

NOTE: Kovacevic earned new career-high No. 82 on Monday after reaching Newport QF last week (l. to Michelsen). He looks for first hard court ATP Tour win since defeating Thompson in Acapulco 1R in February.

2R: [Q] Mattia Bellucci (ITA) vs [2] Adrian Mannarino (FRA) **First Meeting**

Mattia Bellucci | Age: 23 | World No. 146 | Career-High No. 142 | 2024: 1-2 (Atlanta 2R) | Atlanta: 1-0 (2024 2R)
> Italian left-hander started the 2022 season as No. 681 on PIF ATP Rankings, broke into Top 500 in April, Top 200 in October, finished the season as No. 154, then achieved career-high No. 142 in January 2023.
> Qualified to make tour-level debut at 2023 Australian Open, losing to Bonzi in 4 sets, then qualified for his 2nd tour-level event at 2024 Roland Garros.
> Owns 49-52 Challenger record (3-1 in finals), winning titles at 2022 Saint-Tropez as No. 275-ranked Q, 2022 Vilnius in back-to-back weeks and 2023 Cassis.
> Earned Top 100 wins over No. 72 Schwartzman at 2023 Cagliari CH, No. 61 Carballes Baena at 2023 Malaga CH, No. 83 David Goffin in 2024 Wimbledon Q3 and No. 60 Aleksandar Vukic in 2024 Atlanta.

NOTE: Bellucci recorded his 1st ATP Tour win in 1R by defeating No. 60 Vukic via RET to earn biggest win of career by ranking. He bids to become the 1st Italian man to reach Atlanta QF in tournament history.

Adrian Mannarino | Age: 36 | World No. 32 | Career High No. 17 | 2024: 8-18 (Dallas SF) | Atlanta: 3-3 (2022 QF)
 > Ended 11 straight years in Top 75 of PIF ATP Rankings (2013-23), before breaking into Top 20 at the age of 35, achieving career-high No. 17 in January 2024.
 > Captured 1st ATP Tour title in 7th final of career at 2019 's-Hertogenbosch, 2nd title in 11th final of career at 2022 Winston-Salem.
 > Posted personal-best 43 wins in 2023, highlighted by ATP Tour titles in Newport, Astana and Sofia.
 > Earned first Top 5 win over No. 5 Cilic to reach biggest final of career at 2017 Tokyo and biggest win of career over No. 3 Medvedev at 2023 's-Hertogenbosch.
 > Reached Australian Open 4R in 2022 and 2024 and Wimbledon 4R in 2013, 2017 and 2018, but owns 0-22 record vs. Top-10 players at Grand Slams.

NOTE: Mannarino earned 7 of his 8 wins this season on hard courts and aims to break his 5-match losing streak (1-11 in last 12 matches) and reach 62nd tour-level quarter-final of his career, first outdoors since 2023 ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati in August last year.

2R: Aslan Karatsev vs [3] Frances Tiafoe (USA)

23 Roland Garros (France)	Clay	R64	Frances Tiafoe
23 Washington (U.S.A.)	Hard	R32	Frances Tiafoe
23 Tokyo (Japan)	Hard	R32	Aslan Karatsev

Tiafoe Leads 2-1

3-6 6-3 7-5 6-2
7-6(5) 7-6(5)
6-3 7-6(4)

Aslan Karatsev | Age: 30 | World No. 107 | Career-High No. 14 | 2024: 2-6 (2 times in 2R) | Atlanta: 1-0 (2024 2R)
 > Broke into Top 20 after winning 2nd ATP Tour title at 2021 Moscow, then achieved career-high No. 14 following 3rd title at 2022 Sydney.
 > Ended 23-match ATP 500 win streak of countryman Rublev en route to 1st ATP Tour title at 2021 Dubai.
 > Qualified to reach 1st ATP Masters 1000 SF at 2023 Madrid as World No. 121, losing to LL Struff in SF after beating him in qualifying.
 > Reached 2021 Australian Open SF as World No. 114, becoming 1st men's semi-finalist making Grand Slam debut in Open Era, 1st men's qualifier to reach Grand Slam SF since Voltchkov at 2000 Wimbledon, and lowest-ranked Grand Slam men's semi-finalist since No. 125 Ivanisevic at 2001 Wimbledon.
 > Upset No. 1 Djokovic in Belgrade-1 SF and No. 2 Medvedev in Rome 2R over course of 19 days in spring 2021.
 > In mixed doubles w/Vesnina, finished as 2021 Roland Garros runner-up and 2020 Tokyo Olympics silver medallist in All-ROC final (held in 2021).

NOTE: Karatsev aims to record consecutive wins for the first time this season after missing over three months due to knee injury (d. Harris in 1R). He seeks 14th tour-level quarter-final (9-4), first since reaching Tokyo final last October.

Frances Tiafoe | Age: 26 | World No. 29 | Career-High No. 10 | 2024: 15-15 (Houston Final) | Atlanta: 3-5 (2022 SF)

> Former World No. 2 junior achieved career-high No. 10 in June 2023 after capturing 3rd ATP Tour title at Stuttgart on grass, saving 1 MP vs. Struff in the final to earn a tour-level title on all three surfaces.
 > Joined Fritz in Top 10 amid 2023 season to mark the 1st time since 2012 two Americans were ranked in Top 10.
 > 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.
 > 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.
 > Won 1st ATP Tour title as 20-year-old at 2018 Delray Beach and remains youngest American champion since Roddick, 19, at 2002 Houston and 2nd ATP Tour title at 2023 Houston.
 > 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 entered US hard court summer last year with 30 wins, compared to 15 this year. He aims to win his 4th ATP Tour title this week, 1st on hard courts since he captured 2018 Delray Beach title as a 20-year-old.

2R: Mackenzie McDonald (USA) vs Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN)

19 Estoril (Portugal)	Clay	R32	Yoshihito Nishioka
19 Roland Garros (France)	Clay	R128	Yoshihito Nishioka
21 Moscow (Russia)	Hard	R32	Mackenzie McDonald
23 Adelaide-1 (Australia)	Hard	R16	Yoshihito Nishioka
23 Australian Open (Australia)	Hard	R32	Yoshihito Nishioka
23 Delray Beach (U.S.A.)	Hard	R16	Mackenzie McDonald

Nishioka Leads 4-2

6-2 6-4
6-7(7) 6-0 4-6 6-2 6-3
6-3 6-4
6-4 6-3
7-6(6) 6-3 6-2
6-3 3-6 6-2

Other Meeting

14 Lexington CH Q (U.S.A.)	Hard	Q3	Yoshihito Nishioka	6-3 6-4
----------------------------	------	----	--------------------	---------

Mackenzie McDonald | Age: 29 | World No. 97 | Career-High No. 37 | 2024: 4-9 (Newport QF) | Atlanta: 2-2 (2022, 2024 2R)
 > Broke into Top 50 in February 2022 and achieved career-high No. 37 in October 2023 after undergoing right hamstring surgery in 2019 and falling out of Top 250 in 2020.
 > Defeated former champions Kyrgios and Nishikori en route to 1st ATP Tour final at 2021 Washington, then won 1st ATP Tour title in doubles at 2022 Tokyo w/Melo.
 > Upset defending champion and World No. 2 Nadal in 2023 Australian Open 2R for biggest win of career and No. 7 Rublev en route to 1st ATP Masters 1000 QF at 2023 Toronto.
 > Advanced to 2018 Wimbledon 4R as No. 103 and 2021 Australian Open 4R as No. 192, becoming lowest-ranked player in Australian Open 4R since No. 248 Canas in 2004.
 > Qualified for 2013 ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati at age 18 by defeating USC legend Johnson, then went on to win 2016 NCAA singles and doubles titles for UCLA.

NOTE: McDonald seeks 18th ATP Tour QF of his career (5-12), 13th on hard courts. He aims to reach quarter-finals in back-to-back week for the third time in career after reaching the stage in Newport last week (also 2019 Delray Beach-Acapulco & 2022 Florence-Naples).

Yoshihito Nishioka | Age: 28 | World No. 86 | Career-High No. 24 | 2024: 11-11 (Eastbourne QF) | Atlanta: 4-2 (2016 SF)
 > Japanese left-hander achieved career-high No. 24 in June 2023 after advancing to Grand Slam 4R at 2023 Australian Open and Roland Garros for the 1st time in career.
 > Earned biggest win of career over No. 2 Ruud en route to 2nd ATP Tour title at 2022 Seoul.
 > Saved 2 MPs vs. Shapovalov en route to 1st title at 2018 Shenzhen as 171st-ranked Q.
 > Rallied from a set down 3 times en route to 2020 Delray Beach final and saved 1 MP vs. de Minaur en route to 2022 Washington final.
 > Defeated countryman and World No. 5 Nishikori en route to 2019 ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati QF as Q.

NOTE: Nishioka seeks 2nd ATP Tour QF this season (Eastbourne, l. to Vukic), 22nd of his career, first on hard courts since Zhuhai last September (l. to Khachanov in SF). He is 6-1 vs. lower-ranked players on tour-level this season.

GRANDSTAND

1R: Christopher O'Connell (AUS) vs [8] Max Purcell (AUS)	O'Connell Leads 1-0
23 US Open (U.S.A.)	Hard R128 Christopher O'Connell 6-4 6-3 3-6 7-6(5)
Other Meeting	
16 Australia F10 (Australia)	Hard F Christopher O'Connell 6-2 6-2

1R: [WC] Andres Martin (USA) vs [Q] Shang Juncheng (CHN)	First Meeting
---	----------------------

2R: [LL] Adam Walton (AUS) vs Arthur Rinderknech (FRA)	Rinderknech Leads 1-0
24 Roland Garros (France)	Clay R128 Arthur Rinderknech 6-2 6-4 7-5