



ATLANTA OPEN – ATP MEDIA NOTES DAY 4 – THURSDAY 25 JULY 2024

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LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: THURSDAY SECOND-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

STADIUM

Mackenzie McDonald (USA) vs Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN) Nishioka Leads 4-2

19 Estoril (Portugal)	Clay	R32	Yoshihito Nishioka	6-2 6-4
19 Roland Garros (France)	Clay	R128	Yoshihito Nishioka	6-7(7) 6-0 4-6 6-2 6-3
21 Moscow (Russia)	Hard	R32	Mackenzie McDonald	6-3 6-4
23 Adelaide-1 (Australia)	Hard	R16	Yoshihito Nishioka	6-4 6-3
23 Australian Open (Australia)	Hard	R32	Yoshihito Nishioka	7-6(6) 6-3 6-2
23 Delray Beach (U.S.A.)	Hard	R16	Mackenzie McDonald	6-3 3-6 6-2

Other Meeting

14 Lexington CH Q (U.S.A.)	Hard	Q3	Yoshihito Nishioka	6-3 6-4
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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 weeks 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, I. to Vukic), 22nd of his career, first on hard courts since Zhuhai last September (I. to Khachanov in SF). He is 6-1 vs. lower-ranked players on tour-level this season.

Aslan Karatsev vs [3] Frances Tiafoe (USA) Tiafoe Leads 2-1

23 Roland Garros (France)	Clay	R64	Frances Tiafoe	3-6 6-3 7-5 6-2
23 Washington (U.S.A.)	Hard	R32	Frances Tiafoe	7-6(5) 7-6(5)
23 Tokyo (Japan)	Hard	R32	Aslan Karatsev	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.

[SE] Reilly Opelka (USA) vs [5/WC] Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (ESP) First Meeting

Reilly Opelka | Age: 26 | World No. 430 | Career-High No. 17 | 2024: 4-1 (Newport SF) | Atlanta: 8-4 (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 seeks 20th ATP Tour QF (14-5), 16th on hard courts and first on the surface since 2022 Delray Beach. He rose 61 spots to No. 369 on [PIF ATP Live Rankings](#) with 1R win and could reach No. 327 by advancing to QF.

A. Davidovich Fokina | Age: 25 | World No. 43 | Career-High No. 21 | 2024: 11-13 (2x QF) | Atlanta: 1-0 (2024 2R)
> Achieved career-high No. 21 in August 2023, later improving year-end ranking for 8th consecutive year in 2023, finishing at No. 26.
> Broke Djokovic 9 times in Monte Carlo 2R win, setting record for most breaks of Djokovic in a best-of-3-set match to defeat then-World No. 1 en route to 1st ATP Tour final of career at 2022 ATP Masters 1000 Monte Carlo.
> Advanced to 1st Grand Slam QF at 2021 Roland Garros and 1st ATP Masters 1000 QF at 2021 Monte Carlo, highlighted by 5-set win over Ruud in Roland Garros 3R.
> Ended junior career as World No. 2 after winning Wimbledon boys' singles title and posting 20-1 record in 2017.
> Owns 2 cats and launched Adoptas.org in 2021, a pet adoption platform that aims to connect anyone looking to adopt or foster a pet with shelters and rescues across Spain.

NOTE: Davidovich Fokina seeks 22nd tour-level quarter-final (5-16), 14th on hard courts and 3rd in 2024 (l. to Humbert in Marseille, l. to Medvedev in Dubai). He looks to become 1st Spaniard to reach Atlanta QF since Verdasco in 2016 (l. to Kyrgios).

[1] Ben Shelton (USA) vs Shang Juncheng (CHN)

23 Atlanta (U.S.A.)
23 Washington (U.S.A.)

Hard	R32	Shang Juncheng
Hard	R32	Shang Juncheng

Shang Leads 2-0

6-4	6-4
6-2	3-6 6-3

Ben Shelton | Age: 21 | World No. 14 (Career-High) | 2024: 23-15 (Houston Title) | Atlanta: 1-2 (2022 2R)
> Broke into Top 200 in August 2022, Top 100 in November 2022 and Top 20 in September 2023, achieving career-high No. 14 in April 2024 after capturing 2nd ATP Tour title in Houston.

- > Defeated compatriots Paul and Tiafoe at 2023 US Open to become the youngest American man to reach US Open semi-finals since Chang, 20, in 1992, then beat No. 4 Sinner to reach 1st ATP Masters QF at 2023 Shanghai.
- > Captured 1st ATP Tour title at 2023 Tokyo, joining father Bryan Shelton as ATP Tour champion (1991-92 Newport).
- > Advanced to 2023 Australian Open QF at age 20 and on his 1st trip outside USA, becoming youngest American man in Aus. Open QF since Giammalva Jr., 19, in 1982, and in Grand Slam QF since Roddick, 20, at 2002 US Open.
- > Upset No. 5 Ruud to reach 2022 Cincinnati 3R in ATP Masters 1000 debut at age 19, becoming youngest American man to earn Top-5 win since Roddick, 18, at 2001 Montreal (d. No. 1 Kuersten).
- > Posted 65-10 singles record in 2 seasons for University of Florida, clinching 2021 NCAA team title and 2022 NCAA singles title while being coached by his father Bryan, a former World No. 55.

NOTE: Shelton made ATP Tour debut at Atlanta in 2022 as No. 281-ranked WC (d. Ramanathan in 1R, l. to Isner in 2R) and is now looking for 10th tour-level quarter-final (5-4), 6th of 2024. He is the No. 1 seed at an ATP Tour event for the fourth time in career (2024 Auckland SF, Houston Title, Mallorca QF).

Shang Juncheng | Age: 19 | World No. 89 (Career-High) | 2024: 12-10 (Hong Kong SF) | Atlanta: 2-1 (2023-24 2R)

- > #NextGen player earned a career-high No. 89 in May 2024, becoming the first Chinese teenager to break inside Top 100 in PIF ATP Rankings history (since 1973).
- > Defeated No. 16 Tiafoe for biggest win of career to reach 1st ATP Tour SF in 2024 Hong Kong.
- > Reached 1st Grand Slam 3R and became the first Chinese man in 3R of Australian Open in Open Era.
- > Made ATP Tour debut at 2022 Rio de Janeiro as a WC, before earning 1st tour-level win at 2023 Australian Open, beating Otte in 1R as Q (l. to Tiafoe in 2R).
- > Owns 37-27 record on ATP Challenger Tour, highlighted by 1st title at 2022 Lexington.
- > Father, Yi, was a professional football player and his mother, Na, was a world champion table tennis player.
- > His nickname is Jerry after the cartoon character of his favorite childhood show.

NOTE: Shang seeks biggest win of career (1-7 vs. Top 20) and 3rd ATP Tour QF, all this year (l. to Rublev in Hong Kong SF, l. to Fritz in Eastbourne). He aims to become the 1st Chinese man to make Atlanta QF in tournament history.

GRANDSTAND

[4] Jordan Thompson (AUS) vs [LL] Harold Mayot (FRA)

First Meeting

David Goffin (BEL) vs [8] Max Purcell (AUS)

First Meeting