

## ATLANTA OPEN – ATP MEDIA NOTES DAY 5 – FRIDAY 26 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: SINGLES QUARTER-FINALS

### **STADIUM**

## [4] Jordan Thompson (AUS) vs [5/WC] Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (ESP) Series Tied 1-1

19 Roland Garros (France) Clay R128 Jordan Thompson 6-3 6-2 7-6(3) 21 Antwerp (Belgium) Hard R32 Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-3 6-3

**Jordan Thompson** | Age: 30 | World No. 41 | Career-High No. 32 | 2024: 21-16 (Los Cabos Title) | Atlanta: 3-4 ('21, '24 QF) > Achieved career-high No. 32 in February 2024 after winning 1st ATP Tour title at age 29 in Los Cabos, becoming the 1st player to win singles and doubles title at same event since compatriot Kyrgios at 2022 Washington.

- > Earned personal-best 26 tour-level wins and broke into Top 50 in 2019, highlighted by ending 4-match losing streak in ATP Tour QFs by reaching 1st SF and final in 2019 's-Hertogenbosch.
- > Reached Grand Slam 4R for 1st time at 2020 US Open and ATP Masters 1000 4R for 1st time at 2019 Miami.
- > Upset World No. 1 and 5-time champion Murray at 2017 London/Queen's Club as LL, earning 1st tour-level win over Murray in 21 tries by an Aussie and No. 3 Tsitsipas at 2023 ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells.
- > In 2018, went 1-11 on ATP Tour and 52-17 on ATP Challenger Tour (3-5 in finals), earning 2nd-most Challenger wins in a single season behind Berlocq's 57 wins in 2010.

**NOTE:** Thompson seeks 8th ATP Tour SF (3-4), 4th in 2024 (Brisbane SF, Los Cabos Title, Queen's SF). He aims to ensure Australian presence in Atlanta SF for 5 of last 6 editions and is 5-9 against players in the Top 50 this season.

- **A. Davidovich Fokina** | Age: 25 | World No. 43 | Career-High No. 21 | 2024: 12-13 (3 QFs) | Atlanta: 2-0 (2024 QF) > 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 6th ATP Tour SF (1-4) and first since ATP Masters 1000 Canada in August 2023 (I. to de Minaur). He is 1-9 in his last 10 ATP Tour QFs and aims to become 1st Spaniard to reach Atlanta SF.

## [Q] Shang Juncheng (CHN) vs [8] Max Purcell (AUS)

**First Meeting** 

**Shang Juncheng** | Age: 19 | World No. 89 (Career-High) | 2024: 13-10 (Hong Kong SF) | Atlanta: 3-1 (2024 QF) > #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 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 (I. 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 earned biggest win of career against No. 14 Shelton in 2R and now aims to reach 2nd ATP Tour SF (2024 Hong Kong, I. to Rublev). The 19-year-old looks to become third youngest man to reach Atlanta SF after R. Harrison, 19, in 2011 and Opelka, 18, in 2016.

Max Purcell | Age: 26 | World No. 66 | Career-High No. 40 | 2024: 12-16 (Eastbourne Final) | Atlanta: 2-1 (2024 QF)



# Atlanta Open Day 5 – Friday 26 July 2024 Page 2 of 3

#### www.ATPTour.com

- > Broke into singles Top 200 in 2021 and Top 100 in March 2023, reaching career-high No. 40 in October 2023.
- > Reached 1st ATP Tour singles SF at 2021 Eastbourne as LL, then beat No. 7 Ruud for biggest win of career en route to 1st ATP Masters 1000 QF at 2023 Cincinnati (I. to No. 1 Alcaraz).
- > Replaced 2-time Olympic gold medallist Murray in 2020 Tokyo Olympics draw and defeated No. 15 Auger-Aliassime in 1R (held in 2021).
- > Compiled a 34-7 record on the ATP Challenger Tour in 2023 (3-3 in finals), going on an 18-match winning streak and capturing three titles in as many weeks in Chennai, Bengaluru and Pune.
- > Reached 2020 and 2022 Australian Open finals and captured 2022 Wimbledon title w/Ebden, becoming first All-Aussie men's doubles Wimbledon champions since Woodbridge/Woodforde in 2000. Achieved career-high No. 19 in doubles after reaching 2024 Wimbledon final w/Thompson.

**NOTE:** Purcell seeks 3rd ATP Tour SF and 1st on hard courts (I. to Sonego at 2021 Eastbourne, I. to Fritz in 2024 Eastbourne final). He recorded consecutive ATP Tour hard court wins for the first time since reaching Winston-Salem QF last August and owns a 1-6 record vs. left-handers on tour-level.

#### Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN) vs [3] Frances Tiafoe (USA) Tiafoe Leads 3-0 19 Estoril (Portugal) Frances Tiafoe Clay R16 2-6 6-3 7-6(5) 21 ATP Masters 1000 Canada (Canada) Hard R64 Frances Tiafoe 6-4 6-3 23 Acapulco (Mexico) R32 Frances Tiafoe 7-6(6) 6-4 Hard Other Meeting 16 Winnetka CH (U.S.A.) Hard F Yoshihito Nishioka 6-3 6-2

Yoshihito Nishioka | Age: 28 | World No. 86 | Career-High No. 24 | 2024: 12-11 (2 QFs) | Atlanta: 5-2 (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 looks for 1st ATP Tour SF this season, 7th of career (5-2), all on hard courts. He is 0-4 vs. Top 30 players in 2024 (2-14 since start of 2023), seeking 1st win since defeating No. 23 Struff in Zhuhai QF last September.

Frances Tiafoe | Age: 26 | World No. 29 | Career-High No. 10 | 2024: 16-15 (Houston Final) | Atlanta: 4-5 (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 looks for 16th tour-level semi-final (8-7) and 11th on hard courts. He is the only American remaining in the draw and aims to ensure American presence in Atlanta SF in all 14 tournament editions. After going 14-1 vs. left-handers in 2022-23, the American No. 5 is 1-6 vs. left-handed players this season.

## Arthur Rinderknech (FRA) vs [Q] Mattia Bellucci (ITA)

## First Meeting

**Arthur Rinderknech** | Age: 29 | World No. 64 | Career High No. 42 | 2024: 11-12 (3 QFs) | Atlanta: 2-0 (2024 QF) > Broke into Top 50 in January 2022 after reaching 1st ATP Tour final at Adelaide-2, then became No. 1 Frenchman and achieved career-high No. 42 in October 2022.

- > Playing on indoor hard courts in fall 2022, saved 1 MP vs. No. 17 Schwartzman in Tel Aviv 2R, 9 MPs vs. No. 15 Carreno Busta in Gijon QF and 2 MPs vs. No. 16 Cilic in Basel 1R.
- > In 2021, advanced to Kitzbuhel SF, reached 6 other ATP Tour QFs, and earned 1st 18 tour-level wins of career.
- > Captured Challenger titles at 2020 Rennes, 2020 Calgary, 2021 Istanbul as Q, 2022 Poznan, 2023 Zug and 2024 Lille.



Atlanta Open
Day 5 – Friday 26 July 2024
Page 3 of 3

#### www.ATPTour.com

> Five-time All-American at Texas A&M University (3 singles, 2 doubles), where he graduated from Mays Business School in 2018.

**NOTE**: Rinderknech seeks 5th ATP Tour SF (1-3), first since 2022 Gijon (I. to Korda). He aims to break 5-match losing streak in ATP Tour QFs to be the second Frenchman in Atlanta SF after Humbert last year (I. to Vukic).

**Mattia Bellucci** | Age: 23 | World No. 146 | Career-High No. 142 | 2024: 2-2 (Atlanta QF) | Atlanta: 2-0 (2024 QF) > Italian left-hander started 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 and 2022 Vilnius in back-to-back weeks and 2023 Cassis.
- > Earned biggest win of career over No. 32 Mannarino to reach 1st ATP Tour QF at 2024 Atlanta.

**NOTE:** Bellucci earned biggest win of career in 2R by defeating No. 32 Mannarino to reach 1st ATP Tour QF. He bids to become the lowest-ranked Atlanta semi-finalist since No. 837 Opelka in 2016 (I. to Isner).