



## MIAMI OPEN PRESENTED BY ITAU - ATP MEDIA NOTES DAY 2 – THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2024

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## MIAMI OPEN PRESENTED BY ITAU TALKING POINTS

- The opening match on **Stadium** court features a first **Lexus ATP Head2Head** meeting between **Felix-Auger Aliassime** and qualifier **Adam Walton**. The Canadian achieved his first ATP Masters 1000 semi-final at the **Miami Open presented by Itau** in 2019. On the other side, the Australian is making his ATP Masters 1000 debut and is seeking biggest win of his career.
- Monfils enters his first match with a 2-0 lead in the **Lexus ATP Head2Head** against **Dusan Lajovic**, winning both matches in straight sets. The Frenchman, who is making his 12th Miami appearance, owns a perfect 18-0 record against Serbian players other than **Novak Djokovic** (0-15) since 2010.
- Former finalist **Kei Nishikori** (2016) will step on the **Grandstand** court for the first time since 2021. The Japanese, who owns a 107-65 record at ATP Masters 1000 level, is playing in his first ATP Tour event since 2023 Atlanta and first at this level since 2021 ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells when it was held in October.
- In a rematch of last year's second-round encounter, **Daniel Evans** aims to avenge his three-set loss to **Lorenzo Sonego** in the second match on Grandstand. The Brit is on a 4-match losing streak at the event having defeated **Malek Jaziri** in 1R for his lone win at the event.
- In a battle of qualifiers, **Emilio Nava** squares off against **Roberto Bautista Agut**. The American is making his 4th appearance at the event, highlighted by his biggest win of career against Isner in last year's edition. On the other side, Bautista Agut came through qualifying for the 10th time in his career, marking his first entry as a qualifier since 2013 Beijing and third at ATP Masters 1000 level (2012 Miami, 2012 Paris).

## LEXUS ATP HEAD2HEAD: THURSDAY FIRST-ROUND SINGLES MATCHES

### STADIUM

#### Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN) vs [Q] Adam Walton (AUS)

#### First Meeting

**Felix Auger-Aliassime** | Age: 23 | World No. 36 | Career-High No. 6 | 2024: 7-7 (Montpellier SF) | Miami: 7-4 (2019 SF)  
> Achieved career-high No. 6 and earned personal-best 60 wins during breakout 2022 season, including career-long 16-match win streak with 3 titles in as many weeks at Florence, Antwerp and Basel.  
> Also in 2022, won Rotterdam title to snap 0-8 start to career in singles finals, advanced to 3rd straight Grand Slam QF at Australian Open, and swept team titles at ATP Cup, Laver Cup and Davis Cup.  
> Led ATP Tour with 45 hard-court and 31 indoor wins in 2022, highlighted by victories over No. 1 Alcaraz and former No. 1s Djokovic, Murray and Nadal.  
> At 2021 US Open, became 1st Canadian men's singles semi-finalist in tournament history (since 1881).  
> As an 18-year-old in 2019, became youngest Top-25 player since Hewitt, 18, in 1999, youngest ATP 500 finalist in series history at Rio de Janeiro (since 2009), and youngest semi-finalist in Miami tournament history (since 1985).

**NOTE:** Auger-Aliassime has won only 2 matches at the event since reaching his 1st ATP Masters 1000 SF in 2019 as a qualifier (l. to Isner). The Canadian won his last 5 matches against players ranked outside the Top 100 with a last loss to No. 119 Mmoh at 2023 Wimbledon.

**Adam Walton** | Age: 24 | World No. 134 (Career-High) | 2024: 0-2 (Adelaide, Aus. Open 1R) | Miami: 0-0 (Debut)  
> Broke into Top 200 after winning 1st Challenger title at 2023 Cary, then achieved career-high No. 174 in October 2023.  
> Made his ATP Tour debut at 2024 Adelaide as a qualifier (l. to Lehecka) and his Grand Slam debut at 2024 Australian Open (l. to Arnaldi).

- > Owns a 29-26 Challenger record (1-1 in finals), highlighted by 1st title at 2023 Cary.
- > Earned biggest win of career over No. 72 Cachin at 2024 Adelaide Q en route to ATP Tour debut.
- > Peaked at a career-high ITF world junior ranking of No. 60 in January 2017.
- > Started playing tennis at the age of five; favorite tennis players are Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

**NOTE:** Walton is making his ATP Masters 1000 debut and is seeking first ATP Tour win (0-2). He is 0-2 vs. Top 50 players and is looking for biggest win of career against No. 36 Auger-Aliassime.

### Dusan Lajovic (SRB) vs Gael Monfils (FRA)

18 Buenos Aires (Argentina)

Clay R16

Gael Monfils

21 ATP Masters 1000 Cincinnati (U.S.A.)

Hard R64

Gael Monfils

### Monfils Leads 2-0

6-4 6-3

7-6(0) 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/insights-introduction>.

Insight from their 52-wk averages:

Player	In Attack	Conversion Score	Steal Score	Serve Quality	Return Quality	Forehand Quality	Backhand Quality
Dusan Lajovic	<b>24%</b>	<b>69%</b>	35%	7.5	6.6	7.6	7.0
Gael Monfils	21%	68%	<b>38%</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.7</b>
Tour Average	25%	66%	34%	7.9	6.6	7.6	7.2

Lajovic will look to control the In Attack %, but the key question is whether he can convert effectively against Monfils' defense. Monfils holds the advantage in Groundstroke Shot Quality with greater consistency and average speeds. Lajovic has reached the nine's three times on Forehand Shot Quality in 2024, and he'll seek a fourth to turn the match in his favor.

**Dusan Lajovic** | Age: 33 | World No. 52 | Career-High No. 23 | 2024: 7-7 (2 QFs) | Miami: 8-9 ('14, '19, '21, '23 3R)

- > Achieved career-high No. 23 after defeating future World No. 1 Medvedev to reach 1st ATP Tour singles final at 2019 ATP Masters 1000 Monte Carlo.
- > Entered Monte Carlo as World No. 48 and became lowest-ranked finalist at that event since No. 53 Aranzi in 2001.
- > Captured 2nd ATP Tour title at 2023 Banja Luka, defeating World No. 1 Djokovic in QF for biggest win of career and No. 6 Rublev in the final.
- > Won 1st ATP Tour singles title at 2019 Umag, doubles title at 2015 Istanbul w/Albot and team title at 2020 ATP Cup as member of Team Serbia.
- > Advanced to Grand Slam 4R on 2 occasions: 2014 Roland Garros and 2021 Australian Open.
- > Qualified 13 times at ATP Masters 1000 events, including en route to 2018 Madrid QF.

**NOTE:** Lajovic is 5-1 in his opening round matches this year with a sole loss to Zeppieri at the Australian Open. He owns a 23-34 record on hard courts at ATP Masters 1000 events.

**Gael Monfils** | Age: 37 | World No. 47 | Career-High No. 6 | 2024: 8-7 (Doha SF) | Miami: 13-11 (2016 QF)

- > Former World No. 1 junior achieved career-high No. 6 in 2016 and married former WTA No. 3 Elina Svitolina in 2021.
- > Owns 12 ATP Tour titles, including ATP 500s at 2016 Washington, 2019 Rotterdam and 2020 Rotterdam.
- > Reached at least 1 final in 19 straight seasons (2005-23), including ATP Masters 1000s at 2009 Paris, 2010 Paris and 2016 Monte Carlo.
- > Earned 548 career victories, highlighted by biggest wins over No. 1 Nadal at 2009 Doha and No. 1 Medvedev at 2022 Indian Wells, as well as career-long win streaks of 12 matches and 25 sets in 2020.
- > Advanced to 2008 Roland Garros and 2016 US Open SFs after winning junior titles at Australian Open, Roland Garros and Wimbledon in 2004.

**NOTE:** Monfils is making his 12th appearance in Miami, debuting in 2005, and looking for first win since defeating Otte in 2022. He is 18-2 vs. Serbian players other than Djokovic (18-21 overall), with the other 2 losses to Tipsarevic at 2009 ATP Masters 1000 Monte Carlo and 2009 Vienna.

## GRANDSTAND

### Sebastian Ofner (AUT) vs [WC] Kei Nishikori (JPN)

### First Meeting

**Sebastian Ofner** | Age: 27 | World No. 40 | Career-High No. 37 | 2024: 6-8 (Hong Kong SF) | Miami: 0-0 (Debut)  
 > Earned 1st ranking point at age 17 in July 2013, broke into Top 200 in July 2017 and achieved career-high No. 37 in January 2024 after reaching 3rd ATP Tour SF at Hong Kong.  
 > Advanced to 2017 Wimbledon 3R in Grand Slam qualifying debut, highlighted by 5-set win over No. 18 Sock and qualifying to make the 2023 Roland Garros 4R.  
 > Failed to qualify in his next 15 tries at Grand Slams before qualifying at 2022 Roland Garros.  
 > Reached 1st ATP Tour QF and SF on home soil at 2017 Kitzbuhel as WC.  
 > Owns 140-110 Challenger record (4-9 in finals), winning titles at 2018 Astana, 2019 Puerto Vallarta and 2022 Prague-1 and 2023 Salzburg to break 0-5 start in 2023 Challenger finals.

**NOTE:** Ofner is playing in his 3rd ATP Masters 1000 event after 2023 Shanghai and 2024 Indian Wells and looking for his 2nd win at this level (d. Varillas in 2023 ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai). He is 9-0 vs. players ranked outside the Top 300 since the start of 2023 across all levels.

**Kei Nishikori** | Age: 34 | World No. 351 | Career-High No. 4 | 2024: 0-0 (Debut) | Miami: 22-10 (2016 Final)  
 > Top Asian men's player in history, achieving career-high No. 4 in 2015.  
 > Earned biggest of 433 career wins over No. 1 Djokovic at 2014 US Open to become 1st Asian Grand Slam men's singles finalist.  
 > Captured 1st of 12 ATP Tour titles at 2008 Delray Beach as 18-year-old Q ranked 244th and remains youngest champion on tour since Hewitt, 16, at 1998 Adelaide.  
 > Six-time ATP 500 champion, four-time ATP Masters 1000 finalist, four-time Nitto ATP Finals qualifier and 2016 Rio Olympics bronze medallist.  
 > Owns highest winning percentage among active players in 5th sets (27-7, .794) and in deciding sets (147-56, .724).

**NOTE:** Nishikori is playing in his first ATP Tour event since 2023 Atlanta (l. to eventual champion Fritz in QF) and first tournament at this level since 2021 ATP Masters 1000 Indian Wells (held in October). He seeks 1st Top 50 win since defeating No. 50 Harris at 2021 Washington.

### Lorenzo Sonego (ITA) vs Daniel Evans (GBR)

### Sonego Leads 3-0

20 Vienna (Austria) Hard SF Lorenzo Sonego  
 23 ATP Masters 1000 Miami (U.S.A.) Hard R64 **Lorenzo Sonego**  
 24 Australian Open (Australia) Hard R128 Lorenzo Sonego

6-3 6-4  
**4-6 6-3 6-2**  
 4-6 7-6(8) 6-2 7-6(4)

Insight from their 2023 ATP Masters 1000 Miami 2R meeting:

Player	In Attack	Conversion Score	Steal Score	Serve Quality	Return Quality	Forehand Quality	Backhand Quality
Lorenzo Sonego	<b>28%</b>	67%	18%	7.4	<b>5.9</b>	6.6	<b>6.2</b>
Daniel Evans	25%	<b>82%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>7.8</b>	5.8	<b>7.8</b>	6.1
Tour Average	25%	66%	34%	7.9	6.6	7.6	7.2

Sonego's serve was below his average of 8.2 due to reduced accuracy on his first serve. In the final set, the Forehand Shot Quality scores were reversed compared to the match average (Sonego 7.7, Evans 6.8) as Sonego gained control.

**Lorenzo Sonego** | Age: 28 | World No. 53 | Career-High No. 21 | 2024: 4-8 (4 times in 2R) | Miami: 6-4 ('21, '23 4R)  
 > Earned personal-best 30 wins and achieved career-high No. 21 in 2021, sweeping Cagliari titles to become 1st Italian champion on home soil in singles since 2006 and in doubles since 2005 (w/Vavassori).  
 > Broke into Top 50 after saving championship point vs. Kecmanovic to win 1st ATP Tour title at 2019 Antalya.  
 > Did not drop a set en route to 3rd singles title of career at 2022 Metz, including wins over former champions Simon and Hurkacz.  
 > Upset No. 1 Djokovic 6-2 6-1 en route to 2020 Vienna final, becoming 1st lucky loser to defeat Djokovic and equaling fewest games ever conceded to Djokovic in a match.  
 > Saved 1 MP vs. Thiem en route to 2021 ATP Masters 1000 Rome SF, becoming 1st Italian semi-finalist at Foro Italico since 2007 and 2nd since 1978.

**NOTE:** Sonogo has a 16-17 record in opening round matches at ATP Masters 1000 events (3-1 in Miami). His best result on hard courts at this level was in Miami, reaching the fourth round twice in 2021 and 2023.

**Daniel Evans** | Age: 33 | World No. 43 | Career-High No. 21 | 2024: 2-6 (2 times in 2R) | Miami: 1-5 ('19, '21-'23 2R)  
> Former Top-10 junior was unranked in April 2018 before becoming No. 1 Brit for 1st time in October 2019 and achieving career-high No. 21 in August 2023 after winning 2nd ATP Tour title at Washington.  
> Did not drop a set en route to 1st ATP Tour title as a 30-year-old at 2021 Melbourne-2.  
> Rallied from 2 sets down and won 5th-set TB vs. Popyrin to reach 2nd Grand Slam 4R of career at 2021 US Open.  
> Reached ATP Masters 1000 SFs at 2021 Monte Carlo (d. No. 1 Djokovic in 3R) and 2022 Montreal.  
> Advanced to ATP Masters 1000 doubles finals at 2021 Miami w/N. Skupski, 2021 Monte Carlo w/N. Skupski and 2022 Montreal w/Peers.

**NOTE:** Evans is looking for his 1st Top 100 win at an ATP Masters 1000 event since defeating No. 50 Nakashima at 2022 ATP Masters 1000 Paris. He aims to avenge last year's Miami 2R loss to Sonogo.

## **[Q] Emilio Nava (USA) vs [Q] Roberto Bautista Agut (ESP) First Meeting**

**Emilio Nava** | Age: 22 | World No. 132 (Career-High) | 2024: 1-3 (Los Cabos 2R) | Miami: 1-3 (2023 2R)  
> Former World No. 5 junior earned 1st ranking point at age 16 in October 2018 and broke into Top 200 in August 2022, reaching career-high No. 132 in March 2024.  
> Qualified at 2021 ATP Masters 1000 Miami and 2022 Winston-Salem, before earning 1st tour-level win at 2022 US Open over Millman.  
> Did not drop a set en route to 1st Challenger SF, final and title at 2022 Shymkent-1 and 2nd at 2023 Modena.  
> Two-time Grand Slam boys' singles runner-up and two-time Grand Slam boys' doubles runner-up, finishing junior career as 2019 US Open boys' singles finalist.  
> Also advanced to 2019 Australian Open boys' singles final, squandering 1 MP vs. Musetti and falling 4-6 6-2 7-6(12).

**NOTE:** Nava is playing in his 4th ATP Masters 1000 tournament, after 2021-2023 Miami and 2023 Madrid. He seeks his 2nd win vs. a Top 100 player on the ATP Tour after earning his biggest win of career over No. 46 Isner at 2023 ATP Masters 1000 Miami.

**R. Bautista Agut** | Age: 35 | World No. 100 | Career-High No. 9 | 2024: 3-5 (Hong Kong QF) | Miami: 14-11 (2021 SF)  
> Captured 10th and 11th ATP Tour titles of career in 2022, earned 300th win of career in 2020 and ended 2019 at career-high No. 9.  
> Reached 1st Grand Slam QF at 2019 Australian Open and 1st Grand Slam SF at 2019 Wimbledon after entering season with 0-9 record in Grand Slam 4R matches.  
> Defeated No. 1 Djokovic in 2016 ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai SF, 2019 Doha SF and 2019 ATP Masters 1000 Miami 4R, as well as No. 1 Medvedev in 2022 Mallorca QF.  
> Went 4-1 at 2022 ATP Cup and 6-0 at 2020 ATP Cup to lead Spain to finals after helping his country win 2019 Davis Cup.  
> Played football for Villarreal C.F. until he was 14 years old.

**NOTE:** Bautista Agut is making his 12th appearance in Miami, after debuting in 2012, and is looking to record his 15th win at the event. This is the first time he is playing as a qualifier since 2013 Beijing (d. Dimitrov in 1R, l. to Isner in 2R).

## **BUTCH BUCHHOLZ**

**[Q] Aleksandar Kovacevic (USA) vs Fabian Marozsan (HUN) First Meeting**

**[WC] Martin Landaluce (ESP) vs Jaume Munar (ESP) First Meeting**

**Roman Safiullin vs [Q] Diego Schwartzman (ARG) First Meeting**

## COURT 1

**Laslo Djere (SRB) vs [Q] Coleman Wong (HKG)**

**First Meeting**

**Alejandro Tabilo (CHI) vs [Q] Brandon Nakashima (USA)**

**First Meeting**

## COURT 7

**Daniel Altmaier (GER) vs [Q] Harold Mayot (FRA)**

**First Meeting**

**Alexei Popyrin (AUS) vs Facundo Diaz Acosta (ARG)**

**First Meeting**

## COURT 5

**Emil Ruusuvuori (FIN) vs Yannick Hanfmann (GER)**

**First Tour-Level Meeting**

**Other Meeting**

19 Augsburg CH (Germany)

Clay F

Yannick Hanfmann

2-6 6-4 7-5

**Daniel Elahi Galan (COL) vs Alexander Shevchenko (KAZ)**

**First Meeting**

## COURT 3

**Alexandre Muller (FRA) vs [PR] Soonwoo Kwon (KOR)**

**First Meeting**

**Aleksandar Vukic (AUS) vs Roberto Carballes Baena (ESP)**

**Vukic Leads 1-0**

23 ATP Masters 1000 Shanghai (China)

Hard

R128

Aleksandar Vukic

6-4 7-6(7)