



DAVIS CUP®

by Rakuten

QUALIFIERS 2022



OFFICIAL
PROGRAM



THE WORLD CUP OF TENNIS

AUSTRALIA
VS
HUNGARY



4-5 MARCH 2022 KEN ROSEWALL ARENA, SYDNEY
#DAVISCUPQUALIFIERS

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!



4-5
MAR | DAVIS CUP
QUALIFIERS

24
TEAMS

12
CITIES

- 🇫🇷 FRA vs ECU 🇪🇨
- 🇺🇸 USA vs COL 🇨🇴
- 🇸🇰 SVK vs ITA 🇮🇹
- 🇸🇪 SWE vs JPN 🇯🇵
- 🇪🇸 ESP vs ROU 🇷🇴
- 🇳🇱 NED vs CAN 🇨🇦
- 🇦🇺 AUS vs HUN 🇭🇺
- 🇦🇷 ARG vs CZE 🇨🇪
- 🇫🇮 FIN vs BEL 🇧🇪
- 🇧🇷 BRA vs GER 🇩🇪
- 🇳🇴 NOR vs KAZ 🇰🇿
- 🇰🇷 KOR vs AUT 🇦🇹

The 12 winning nations will advance to the 2022 Finals.
For more information and exclusive discounts subscribe to our newsletter at davicupfinals.com

14-18
SEP | DAVIS CUP FINALS
GROUP STAGE

16
TEAMS

4
CITIES

- CITY 1 - GROUP A 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
- CITY 2 - GROUP B 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
- CITY 3 - GROUP C 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
- CITY 4 - GROUP D 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

TEAMS ALREADY QUALIFIED
FOR THE GROUP STAGE:

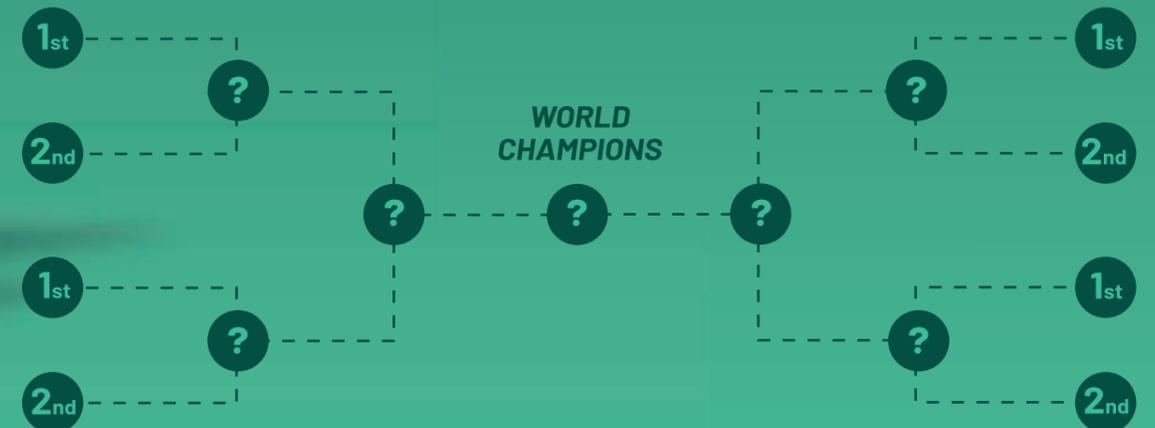
- 2021 FINALISTS**
RTF & Croatia 🇷🇸 🇦🇷
- WILD CARDS**
Serbia & Great Britain 🇷🇸 🇬🇧

*Draw to be celebrated after the Qualifiers ties. Cities to be announced.
The top eight teams from the Group Stage will advance to the Knockout Stage.

23-27
NOV | DAVIS CUP FINALS
KNOCK-OUT STAGE

8
TEAMS

1
CITY



CONTENTS

DAVIS CUP BY RAKUTEN QUALIFIERS 2022 OFFICIAL PROGRAM

FEATURES

- 8 A Proud History**
Australian Davis Cup representatives share a collective passion to add to the nation's proud history in the world team event.
- 10 No Place Like Home**
Alex de Minaur's proven passion for Davis Cup will rise another level as he takes to the court in his home town.
- 14 The Hungarian Challenge**
Davis Cup is a happy hunting ground for Marton Fucsovics, who leads the Hungarian team.
- 18 Team Spirit**
Davis Cup brings out the best in the Australian players who will take on Hungary this week.
- 22 World Champions**
The Russian Tennis Federation was crowned champion after a dominant performance in the 2021 Davis Cup by Rakuten Finals.

ESSENTIALS

- 7 Welcome Messages**
- 23 Honour Roll**
- 24 Acknowledgments**

‘I’M THE 109TH AUSTRALIAN TO REPRESENT AUSTRALIA IN DAVIS CUP ... AN HONOUR I TAKE VERY PROUDLY.’

ALEX DE MINAUR

PUBLISHER
Tennis Australia

EDITOR
Vivienne Christie

DESIGN
Trevor Bridger
Sam Russell

CONTRIBUTORS
Vivienne Christie
Leigh Rogers
Matt Trollope

PHOTOGRAPHY
Getty Images
Tennis Australia

© Copyright Tennis Australia.
All rights reserved. No portion of
this program may be reproduced
electronically, mechanically or
by any other means, including
photocopying, without the written
permission of Tennis Australia.
Please note: players featured may
not necessarily be part of the
final team.

RELEASE THE
PLAYER
within



**CASUAL
COURT HIRE**

Book online, play today

play.tennis.com.au

International Tennis Federation



► It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Sydney for this 2022 Davis Cup by Rakuten Qualifiers tie between Australia and Hungary, with the prize of a place in the 2022 Davis Cup by Rakuten Finals on offer to the winner.

Davis Cup, the men's world cup of tennis, was founded in 1900 and has grown to become the largest annual international team competition in sport. A record 148 nations have entered Davis Cup this year and will compete across multiple levels of the competition from regional events to the pinnacle of the Davis Cup Finals.

The Finals, hosted together with our partner Kosmos Tennis, are a true celebration of men's team tennis. Congratulations to the Russian Tennis Federation for their dominant performance that led to them being crowned 2021 Davis Cup champions.

This weekend's Qualifiers are the first step on the road to deciding the 2022 world champions. The 12 winners of this weekend's ties will join the Russian Tennis Federation, 2021 runners-up Croatia, and wild cards Serbia and Great Britain, in the Davis Cup Finals.

I would like to give special thanks to the players, the captains and the National Associations who give so much to making the Davis Cup such a special competition. The revenue that the ITF generates from Davis Cup is reinvested into the development of tennis at national level. By competing in Davis Cup, the players contribute to delivering tennis for future generations.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Rakuten, the presenting partner of the Davis Cup. Finally, I would like to thank our partner Kosmos Tennis and all the people who have worked on the organisation of this tie. I wish all of you an enjoyable and successful weekend.

DAVID HAGGERTY
ITF PRESIDENT



Tennis Australia



► It is with enormous pleasure that I welcome the Australian and Hungarian teams, officials and fans to Sydney this weekend for the Davis Cup by Rakuten Qualifier.

We are extremely proud of the players representing Australia at Ken Rosewall Arena this week.

Alex de Minaur returns to his home city after a successful Australian summer that included a career-best performance at the Australian Open, where he reached the fourth round. Thanasi Kokkinakis started his season with a first ATP singles title in Adelaide and by lifting his first Grand Slam trophy in doubles at the Australian Open.

Alexei Popyrin continues to make exceptional progress on tour, while John Peers returns to Ken Rosewall Arena after lifting the Sydney Tennis Classic doubles trophy earlier this year. For Luke Saville, a long-awaited Davis Cup debut is a dream come true.

With an outstanding work ethic and spirit of camaraderie, those players are passionate in their pursuit of new milestones in the world team competition. Australia boasts a long and proud history in Davis Cup, with our nation's 28 titles second only to the 32 that USA has won since 1900.

The support that our players will enjoy in Sydney highlight how events like these inspire competitors of all levels - ranging from social-level participants who simply want to experience the many benefits of tennis, to Australia's next generation of professional players.

Australia is meeting Hungary for a third time in Davis Cup, having first done so in 1995. The nations are tied at one win apiece in those encounters, with Australia the most recent victors in the round-robin stage of the 2021 Davis Cup Finals in Turin, Italy, last November.

As Australia focuses on a return to the Davis Cup by Rakuten Finals, this weekend will see the best of three-set matches played over two days. Two singles matches are played on Friday, with the doubles match followed by two reverse singles matches on Saturday.

We wish both teams the very best of luck. We hope you enjoy every moment of the action in what's bound to be a thrilling two days of tennis.

JAYNE HRDLICKA
CHAIR
TENNIS AUSTRALIA



A PROUD HISTORY

For all their contrasts in style and experience, Australia's Davis Cup team members share one combined objective: the passion to maintain the nation's proud history in the elite competition.

BY VIVIENNE CHRISTIE

With 28 titles across 101 years in the world team competition,

Australia holds a proud Davis Cup history. The nation is fact only second to the USA, a 32-time winner across 106 years, in the all-time list of Davis Cup champions.

Few Australians understand the nation's proud Davis Cup history better than team captain Lleyton Hewitt. Having worn the green and gold throughout 43 ties in his world No.1 career, Hewitt holds the Australian record for most Davis Cup ties contested.

The dual Grand Slam champion is also the Australian leader in Davis Cup singles wins (Hewitt's overall 59-21 match-winning record incorporating a 42-14 success rate in singles).

Perhaps most powerfully, Hewitt featured in the last Australian team to win a Davis Cup title, when the host nation did so against Spain at Melbourne Park in 2003.

Having led the Davis Cup team since 2015, the now 41-year-old is delighted that many of the Australian players who followed learned by the

example he set. "I guess they saw me as a player, they saw me train, they saw how passionate I was about this competition and about playing for Australia," Hewitt commented ahead of the 2017 Davis Cup semifinals against Belgium. "In some ways, that probably rubs off on them."

That's certainly true for the top-ranked member of the Australian team. At age 23, Alex de Minaur is contesting a ninth tie for his nation, having debuted against Germany in 2018. With a fierce fighting spirit to match his potent athleticism, the passionate Sydneysider has drawn many comparisons to Hewitt, who has long been a mentor on tour.

Hewitt is excited to see the world No.30 De Minaur return to Ken Rosewall Arena, where he claimed the first of his five ATP singles titles at the 2019 Sydney International. More recently, the No.1 Australian man claimed confidence-boosting wins over Matteo Berrettini and Ugo Humbert at the 2022 ATP Cup.

"He played exceptionally well in the ATP Cup and then it was fantastic that he could make the second week of the Australian Open, going down to (world No.10 Jannik) Sinner in a tight match in the fourth round," said Hewitt of his young charge. "He loves playing in Australia. I think he's really going to enjoy playing another Davis Cup match on home soil."

Alexei Popyrin and Thanasi

Kokkinakis bring a similar passion to the Davis Cup team. The 22-year-old Popyrin first represented Australia in the World Group first round against Bosnia and Herzegovina as a teenager in 2019. He was also a member of the Australian team that competed in the 2021 Finals, facing Borna Gojo in the round-robin stage.

"He got his opportunity to play a big Davis Cup match in the finals last year. We feel

he can really learn from that experience," said Hewitt of the big-serving Popyrin. "He's got a lot of firepower out there, a lot of weapons as well. He's certainly an option if we needed him for singles or doubles."

Kokkinakis has also proven his credentials in both disciplines of the world team event. After lifting a long-awaited first singles title in Adelaide at the start of the season, the South Australian claimed the AO 2022 doubles title with Nick Kyrgios.

"Thanasi had a fantastic Australian summer. Really cemented himself as a top-100 player again and especially by winning his first title in Adelaide in his hometown, where he beat absolute quality players," Hewitt said of Kokkinakis, who after well-documented health challenges, returns to the Davis Cup team for the first time since 2015.

"(Thanasi) then had great success on the doubles court as well, winning the Australian Open doubles title. (Being) a Grand Slam champion, that's going to give him a lot of confidence leading into this tie."

Bringing contrasting levels of experience to the competition, Luke Saville and John Peers complete the Australian team. The 28-year-old Saville is making his Davis Cup debut for Australia, while 32-year-old Peers is competing in his 15th tie.

Hewitt notes that he "couldn't be prouder of (Saville) getting this opportunity and being able to present him with a gold jacket and his number for representing Australia for the first time."

There's equal assurance in the sturdy depth that Peers, who won the Sydney Tennis Classic title alongside Slovakia's Filip Polasek earlier this season, brings to the Australian team. "He's been a regular in the Davis Cup team and squad for a number of years now. He's a top-10 doubles player, he won the Sydney title only a few weeks back as well," said Hewitt. "He's got great memories of playing in Sydney. He played exceptionally well in the ATP Cup as well, where he partnered with Luke Saville."

The Australian captain understands the collective value that the passionate group brings to a massive task in Sydney this week. With victory over Hungary, Australia would return to the Davis Cup Finals for a third consecutive year.

"It's exciting to have a team that we feel can go out there and get the job done for Australia," said Hewitt of the opportunity to challenge for a 29th Davis Cup title.

"All the boys love playing at Ken Rosewall Arena... we're looking forward to getting out there and obviously having big crowd support on our side."

◀ **INSPIRED:** The spirited Alex de Minaur, who draws many comparisons with long-time mentor Lleyton Hewitt (above in 2003), would love to emulate the Australian captain with Davis Cup success.

AUSSIE TEAM



ALEX DE MINAUR

▶ Making his first Davis Cup appearance on home soil since February 2019, De Minaur is equally excited to be contesting his first tie in his home city. The 23-year-old, who started tennis lessons as a three-year-old at Harold Fraser Reserve in Kogarah Bay, elevates his level when playing in front of his many Aussie supporters.



ALEXEI POPYRIN

▶ Davis Cup success is a major ambition for Sydney-born Popyrin. "We've got a special team and I can't wait to see what we've got in store," says the 22-year-old, who made his Davis Cup debut in 2019. Popyrin's career-best 2021 season included a first ATP singles title and a career-high world No.59 ranking in November.



THANASI KOKKINAKIS

▶ Kokkinakis enjoyed a blistering season start, winning a maiden ATP singles title in Adelaide and capturing the Australian Open men's doubles title with Nick Kyrgios. These efforts propelled the 25-year-old back inside the world's top 100 in singles for the first time in six years and to a career-high No.45 in doubles.



JOHN PEERS

▶ The resurgent Peers recently returned to the world's top 10 in doubles, his highest ranking in over three years. The 33-year-old, who was raised in Melbourne and now lives in Perth, has been a staple of Australia's Davis Cup team since his 2016 debut. He owns a 7-7 win-loss record in Davis Cup doubles rubbers.



LUKE SAVILLE

▶ The former world No.1 junior is making his Davis Cup debut at age 28. The South Australian, who peaked at No.23 in the doubles rankings last November, has previously represented Australia at the Olympics and ATP Cup. Saville was also a Junior Davis Cup representative, helping Australia claim the 2009 title.



LLEYTON HEWITT

▶ Hewitt is Australia's most decorated Davis Cup player, contesting a record 43 Davis Cup ties in his stellar career. The former world No.1 played in Australia's last Davis Cup title-winning run in 2003 and has served as captain since October 2015, leading the Australian team to the 2017 semifinals and 2019 quarterfinals.



▶ **FRESH START:** With confidence from his first ATP singles title and AO 2022 doubles success, Thanasi Kokkinakis returns to Australia's Davis Cup team for the first time since 2015.



◀SYDNEY STAR:
Alex de Minaur
claimed the first of
five ATP singles titles
at Sydney in 2019.

NO PLACE LIKE

HOME

HOME

**‘THAT COURT
GIVES ME AMAZING
MEMORIES. IT’S
DEFINITELY MY
FAVOURITE COURT
TO PLAY ON’**
ALEX DE MINAUR

Alex de Minaur’s proven passion for Davis Cup will rise another level as he takes to the court in his home town.

BY MATT TROLLOPE





BRINGING OUT THE BEST

Ken Rosewall Arena provides many happy memories for Sydney-born Alex de Minaur

► The always-determined Alex de Minaur undoubtedly sensed an opportunity as he took to Ken Rosewall Arena at the 2019 Sydney International.

Ranked world No.29 at the time, the 19-year-old De Minaur was runner-up to Daniil Medvedev at the previous year's tournament. He went on to reach a second final in Washington – saving four match points against Andrey Rublev in the semifinals – and was named ATP Newcomer of the Year for the 2018 season.

Those milestones added undoubtable confidence as De Minaur progressed to a third final at Sydney in 2019. Thriving with the home support, the teenager hadn't lost a set for the entire tournament, and he was flawless again as he overcame Andreas Seppi in the decider to seize his long-awaited title breakthrough.

"I couldn't think of a better place to get my first win," said De Minaur, who became the youngest player to win the title since Lleyton Hewitt, who was

also age 19 when claimed the 2001 Sydney International.

"To finally be able to take that step further and get my first win, it's something that's really special in front of friends and family and in the courts I grew up (on). That's definitely memories that are going to last forever."

De Minaur has since lifted ATP trophies on four different continents, with further highs in Sydney occurring at the ATP Cup in 2020 and earlier this season. There'll be more happy memories should De Minaur lead Australia to Davis Cup victory this week against Hungary.



In 2021, Davis Cup proved the revitalising tonic Alex de Minaur needed to extricate himself from a disappointing slump.

De Minaur arrived at the Davis Cup Finals in November having lost 11 of his previous 15 matches but felt his characteristic fight and athletic all-court game returning in Turin as Australia battled Croatia and Hungary.

He pushed the in-form Marin Cilic to three tight sets and overcame Marton Fucsovics in a final-set tiebreak. De Minaur subsequently revealed that being back within the Australian team environment had been the perfect conclusion to the season.

"(A) nice little confi-booster. Time to build from that," the 22-year-old said after outlasting Fucsovics in a three-hour-plus match.

"I just love being part of the team, part of the boys. For me the end of this year has been very long, haven't been getting results, haven't been playing the way I

want. (But) after the first day of just being around these boys, I mean, my whole morale just changed. These boys brought me up. I enjoyed myself. We were training hard.

"This is exactly what I needed to finish the year well. Definitely thrived off this experience."

De Minaur carried that momentum and mindset shift into the new season.

He won two of his three matches at the ATP Cup in Sydney before reaching the fourth round of the Australian Open, a career-best result at Melbourne Park.

Having built a 5-2 record in January, De Minaur returned to world No.33 after slipping outside the top 40 on the eve of the Australian Open - his lowest ranking since August 2018.

There were further highs as De Minaur progressed to the quarterfinals of the Rotterdam Open, marking the first time in eight months he'd

▲ **PASSION PAYS:** The team-spirited Alex de Minaur is a winner of five of his past six Davis Cup matches.

“I JUST LOVE BEING PART OF THE TEAM... THESE BOYS BROUGHT ME UP.”
ALEX DE MINAUR

progressed to that stage of an ATP tournament.

This all marks encouraging progress ahead of Australia's Davis Cup Qualifiers tie against Hungary at Sydney's Ken Rosewall Arena, where victory would see Australia return to the finals in 2022.

What's more, De Minaur has a history of thriving on both home soil and within the Australian team environment, which should make him a potent force when the host nation tackles Hungary this weekend.

And he's at his brilliant best in Sydney, his home city.

"(This is) not only just the tennis I want to play, I want to bring it to these top guys, just really own the court. But playing in front of a home crowd, I mean, (this was) an amazing atmosphere," De Minaur said of beating world No.7 Matteo Berrettini at Ken Rosewall Arena in January's ATP Cup.

"There is no place like playing at home, and that court gives me amazing memories. It's

definitely my favourite court to play on, for sure."

Since the beginning of 2017, when he first appeared in the main draws at tour-level events during the Aussie summer, De Minaur has compiled a 29-14 win-loss record in Australian tournaments in January.

And in an impressive Australian representative career in the ATP Cup, De Minaur has a 4-5 record in singles - 2-3 against the top 10 - despite being the lower-ranked player in seven of those nine matches.

He is even stronger in the Davis Cup arena; after losing tight matches in 2018 against Alexander Zverev and Dominic Thiem early in his Australian team career, De Minaur has since won five of his last six Davis Cup singles matches, going an unblemished 4-0 in 2019.

So proud is he to represent Australia in the competition that he even has the number "109" tattooed on his left pectoral.

"I'm the 109th Australian to be able to represent Australia in

▲ **TOP CREDENTIALS:** The 23-year-old De Minaur, with Australian Davis Cup captain Lleyton Hewitt above, peaked at No.15 in the world rankings last year.

Davis Cup, so that's an honour that I take very proudly and something I've dreamt of since I was a little kid," De Minaur explained during AO 2022.

"Thanks to Lleyton, the Davis Cup captain, he got me under the Davis Cup umbrella, I was able to make my debut and it's my favourite time of the year, Davis Cup."

The Sydneysider will be feeling perhaps even more motivation to wear the green-and-gold given his unfortunately-timed positive COVID diagnosis shortly before making his Olympics debut at the Tokyo Games.

In great form after winning the grass-court title in Eastbourne just a few weeks earlier, De Minaur underwent a mandatory PCR test in mid-July prior to departing for the Games, which returned a positive result.

He was forced to withdraw from

the Australian team, an outcome which left him devastated.

"We are very disappointed for Alex and he is shattered at not being able to come," said Ian Chesterman, the Australian Olympic Team's Chef de Mission. "It has been his dream to represent Australia at the Olympic Games since he was a child, but he sent his best wishes for the team."

When De Minaur eventually returned to competition, at the Washington DC tournament in August, he lost six of his next seven matches as part of that aforementioned lean period.

"It's no secret that last year I had a little bit of a slump after COVID. Didn't have the results I wanted. Confidence-wise I was a bit low," he reflected in January.

"I felt as soon as I was able to kind of put that year behind me, even (at) Davis Cup, I was able to really turn a corner both mentality-wise and kind of confidence-wise... I was able to bring out a part of me that I had forgotten about for a while.

"After that we were able to get

straight back onto the practice court, have a very tough pre-season. It's just great to see the hard work paying off."

That experience has helped shape the young Australian's mentality as the season continues to unfold.

Beginning 2022 with multiple match wins is certainly going to help that mindset.

But De Minaur understands better than ever that even when the wins flow less freely, all is not lost - a mentality shift that makes him an all-the-more-dangerous prospect for the Hungarian squad in Sydney.

"It's a bit like life. You're going to have highs, you're going to have lows. It's about how you deal with them, how you get back up towards the highs," he said.

"A lot of work mentally has to be done for you to stay on top of that. You got to stay positive. That's the mindset. Only positive vibes going into 2022.

"I'm putting myself out there in the best possible position to perform. Whatever happens will happen."

‘I’M VERY HAPPY TO COMPETE AGAINST THESE GUYS ... I CAN BEAT THE TOP-10 PLAYERS, I CAN BEAT THE NEXT SUPERSTARS OF TENNIS.’

MARTON FUCSOVICS



LEADING THE CHARGE: Hungarian No.1 Marton Fucsovics.

The HUNGARIAN CHALLENGE

With Davis Cup already a happy hunting ground for Marton Fucsovics, the top-40 ranked Hungarian poses an immense threat to the Australian team.

BY MATT TROLLOPE

The bulk of fans' attention at Ken Rosewall Arena will inevitably be directed toward the Australian players as they attempt to secure their return to the Davis Cup Finals.

But that could mean a potential thorn in the side of the host nation's chances gets overlooked.

Marton Fucsovics spearheads the Hungarian team facing Australia this week in Sydney. And while his teammates are all inexperienced players ranked outside the top 250, Fucsovics is a top-40 force who shapes as a threatening prospect for the Australian team, given he's returning to a country that brings out some of his best tennis, in a competition in which he thrives.

He very nearly overcame Alex de Minaur in his most recent Davis Cup singles match at the 2021 Finals, pushing the Aussie No.1 to a third-set tiebreak in a match lasting more than three hours - a result from which he should draw confidence when they likely clash again in Sydney.

Prior to that, Fucsovics had won 14 of his past 18 Davis Cup singles matches.

In further proof of his ability to rise to the occasion in the Davis Cup arena, Fucsovics has built a 21-10 win-loss record in singles matches since first representing Hungary in 2010.

The 30-year-old takes pride in this record as he seeks to set a good example to his young countryman - 22-year-olds Zsombor Piros and Fabian Marozsan, 23-year-old Mate Valkusz and teenager Peter Fajta - who have since joined him in the Hungarian squad.

"I'm trying to teach these guys

how to behave on the court, how to think on the court," said Fucsovics, who peaked at world No.31 in March 2019.

"Back home we practise a lot together, so we know each other very well. They're 300, 400 on the ranking. They have a long way to go to the top hundred. There is no guarantee they can make (it).

"I always tell them they have to work hard day by day."

Hard work and persistence have defined Fucsovics' professional tennis journey.

The talented teenager won the Wimbledon junior singles title in 2010, but it took another seven years for him to eventually crack the ATP top 100.

It was even longer before he won a Grand Slam main-draw match; Fucsovics had fallen in the qualifying rounds at 14 major tournaments before finally qualifying for the main draw of the 2016 US Open. But he fell in the first round there, and also at the same stage of Wimbledon and the US Open in 2017.

Everything changed for him at Australian Open 2018, when he beat Radu Albot in the first round, then upset No.13 seed Sam Querrey, before progressing to the fourth round, where eventual champion Roger Federer stopped him.

That run unlocked something in the Hungarian, who has gone on to build an impressive Grand Slam resume and establish himself as a consistent top-50 presence.

He returned to the second week at AO 2020, and reached the last 16 at Roland Garros that same year. He went one better at Wimbledon in 2021, advancing to his first major quarterfinal.



DAVIS CUP RETURN: Mate Valkusz debuted in 2018.



OPPORTUNITY: Fabian Marozsan is making a third appearance for Hungary.

Playing, and beating, some of the sport's best players on the biggest stages has become somewhat commonplace for Fucsovics.

"I'm playing some of my best tennis this year. I'm in the top 100 since three years, three-and-a-half years. I'm very happy to compete against these guys. Finally I can show that I can beat them, I can beat the top-10 players, I can beat the next superstars of tennis," Fucsovics said in 2020, after upsetting world No.5 Daniil Medvedev on his way to the fourth round of Roland Garros.

"This gives me a lot of confidence. Now I believe that I can also make it to the top 10. I want to make it in the next years."

Fucsovics' defeat of Querrey at AO 2018 was the first of seven top-20 wins he has now notched at the Grand Slams.

Another came in a five-set thriller over Stan Wawrinka at AO 2021, a result contributing to Fucsovics' 9-5 record at Melbourne Park - his best of the four majors and evidence of his comfort level playing in the

heat and on the hard courts of Australia.

Five-set victories have developed into a trademark of the Hungarian, who prioritises physical health and fitness and has been rewarded with a 35-26 win-loss record in matches using a five-set format.

"I worked very hard for it. I wasn't born like this. I was working every day to get this physique," Fucsovics said after beating seventh-ranked Andrey Rublev to reach last year's Wimbledon quarters.

Although the five-set format is no longer used in Davis Cup, his physical fitness could again prove invaluable. Fucsovics is likely to play two singles matches, and potentially the doubles rubber, across the two days of competition when Hungary battles Australia in Sydney.

Just maybe, given his Davis Cup prowess, on-court presence and ability to thrive in Australian conditions, Fucsovics might wrest back some of the fans' attention when the Hungarians and Aussies go head-to-head.

TEAM HUNGARY



MARTON FUCSOVICS

► With a career-best world No.31 ranking in 2019, Fucsovics became Hungary's highest-ranked male player since Balaz Taroczy in 1983. A former world No.1 junior, the current world No.36 loves to represent his nation. The 30-year-old Fucsovics has contested 21 Davis Cup ties and holds a 29-17 win-loss record across singles and doubles.



ZSOMBOR PIROS

► While he currently sits outside the top 200 in the world rankings, Davis Cup can bring out the best in Piros. With upsets over Marin Cilic and John Millman, the 22-year-old was unbeaten in the 2021 Davis Cup Finals. Piros will relish the challenge in Sydney, with hard court listed as his favourite surface and the Australian Open his favourite tournament.



FABIAN MAROZSAN

► Marozsan is chasing his first Davis Cup wins in both singles and doubles, following two appearances for Hungary. The Budapest-born 22-year-old has mostly competed at ITF level and was a semifinalist at the ATP Challenger tournament in Bergamo, Italy, last year. Marozsan is currently ranked No.363 in singles and No.583 in doubles.



MATE VALKUSZ

► The 23-year-old returns to the Hungarian Davis Cup team for the first time since 2018, when he challenged Lukas Rosol and Jiri Vesely in the World Group Play-Off against the Czech Republic. The right-handed Valkusz has thrived in ITF tournaments, winning titles in Kottlingbrunn, Austria and Bratislava, Slovakia, last season.

PETER FAJTA

► At age 19, Fajta will make his first Davis Cup appearance for Hungary. The Budapest native has so far competed entirely at ITF level, claiming a title last year in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. He has a career-high singles ranking of world No.563 and No.765 in doubles.

ZOLTAN NAGY

► The 46-year-old Nagy, who held a top-300 ranking in his own playing career in the 1990s, is leading the Hungarian Davis Cup team for the first time. He is currently coach to Marton Fucsovics. Hungary was previously captained by Gabor Kovacs, who contested 16 Davis Cup ties between 1988 and 2001.



LEARN TENNIS FOR LIFE

play.tennis.com.au

RELEASE THE
PLAYER
within

TEAM SPIRIT

Davis Cup brings out the best in the Australian players who will take on Hungary this week.

► **FAN FAVOURITE:** John Peers thanked the fans who supported Australia at the 2017 semifinals in Belgium.



► **TEAM DREAM:** Alex de Minaur dreams of featuring in a 29th Davis Cup victory for Australia.



► **INSPIRED:** Young fans love seeing stars represent their nation.



► **WORDS OF WISDOM:** Lleyton Hewitt is an experienced advisor to Alexei Popyrin.



► **HAPPY RETURN:** Thanasi Kokkinakis is delighted to return to the Davis Cup setting.

► **STAR SETTING:** Thanasi Kokkinakis' last Davis Cup rubber was against Andy Murray in 2015.



► **FOCUS:** Davis Cup is always a priority for Australia's No.1 male player.



► **WORLD STAGE:** De Minaur led Australia in the 2021 Finals in Italy.



► **DOUBLING UP:** De Minaur, with John Peers, competed in both singles and doubles at the 2021 Davis Cup finals.



► **MULTI-TALENTED:** Lleyton Hewitt was both captain and player when Australia faced USA in the 2016 first round at Kooyong.



► **NEXT STEPS:** Alexei Popyrin is contesting a third Davis Cup tie for Australia.



► **WELL SUITED:** Doubles star Peers, with Hewitt at the 2019 Finals, is a veteran of 14 ties for Australia.



▲ **DOMINANT:** Daniil Medvedev led Russia to the 2021 title, winning all five of his matches in the Finals.

WORLD CHAMPIONS

The Russian Tennis Federation was crowned champion after a dominant performance in the 2021 Davis Cup by Rakuten Finals.

Boasting four players in the world's top 30 singles rankings – and two of them in the top-10 – the Russian Tennis Federation (RTF) was a clear favourite among the 16 teams who competed in the 2021 Davis Cup by Rakuten Finals.

Led by world No.2 Daniil Medvedev and superbly supported by Andrey Rublev (then ranked No.7 in singles), Aslan Karatsev (No.22), Karen Khachanov (No.26) and Evgeny Donskoy (No.205), RTF team members delivered on that promise in emphatic style.

With the loss of just one live match over the event's 10 days, the RTF lifted the Davis Cup trophy for a third time. It was RTF's first title since 2006.

It also completed a clean sweep of national team competitions in 2021, after Russian women claimed the Billie Jean King Cup (formerly Fed Cup) Finals in Prague, Czech Republic, the previous month. Russia joined Australia, USA and the Czech Republic as one of only four nations to achieve the historic double.

Medvedev was the star of the men's triumph in Madrid, Spain, with the top-ranked Russian winning all five matches he played in the competition in straight sets. He was backed by countryman Rublev, a winner of four singles matches throughout the event.

Rublev provided the Russians with a winning start in the final against Croatia, overcoming

Borna Gojo 6-4 7-6(5) in the opening match. Adding to an incredible season in which he also claimed his breakthrough Grand Slam at the US Open, Medvedev clinched the winning point with a 7-6(7) 6-2 victory over Marin Cilic.

"It feels amazing", Medvedev commented, "But I'm more happy for the team than for myself. We have an amazing team, amazing atmosphere. I'm happy to be part of it and bring the points we need. It's never easy to come here at the end of the season but they were some of the best weeks of my career."

Croatia was contesting a third final from the past five years, with a goal to claim the nation's third Davis Cup title. Germany and Serbia also progressed to the semifinals.

As 2021 finalists, the Russian Tennis Federation and Croatia have already earned entry to the 2022 Davis Cup by Rakuten finals, alongside wildcards Serbia and Great Britain.

The nations who qualify for the round-robin group stage of the Davis Cup this weekend will then compete in one of four cities on 14-18 September.

The knock-out stage of the 2022 Davis Cup Finals will take place in one yet-to-be determined venue on 23-27 November.

2021 DAVIS CUP BY RAKUTEN FINALS

FINAL
Russia d Croatia 2-0
Andrey Rublev (RUS) d Borna Gojo (CRO) 6-4 7-6(5)
Daniil Medvedev (RUS) d Marin Cilic (CRO) 7-6(7) 6-2

SEMIFINALS
Russia d Germany 2-1
Croatia d Serbia 2-1

QUARTERFINALS
Croatia d Italy 2-1
Germany d Great Britain 2-1
Serbia d Kazakhstan 2-1
Russian Tennis Federation d Sweden 2-0



▲ **THIRD TIME A CHARM:** The Russian Tennis Federation celebrated a third Davis Cup victory.

CHAMPIONS

There have been 16 nations crowned Davis Cup champions since 1900.

CHALLENGE ROUND

- 1900**
USA d British Isles 3-0
- 1902**
USA d British Isles 3-2
- 1903**
British Isles d USA 4-1
- 1904**
British Isles d Belgium 5-0
- 1905**
British Isles d USA 5-0
- 1906**
British Isles d USA 5-0
- 1907**
Australasia d British Isles 3-2
- 1908**
Australasia d USA 3-2
- 1909**
Australasia d USA 5-0
- 1911**
Australasia d USA 5-0
- 1912**
British Isles d Australasia 3-2
- 1913**
USA d Great Britain 3-2
- 1914**
Australasia d USA 3-2
- 1919**
Australasia d Great Britain 4-1
- 1920**
USA d Australasia 5-0
- 1921**
USA d Japan 5-0
- 1922**
USA d Australasia 4-1
- 1923**
USA d Australia 4-1
- 1924**
USA d Australia 5-0
- 1925**
USA d France 5-0
- 1926**
USA d France 4-1
- 1927**
France d USA 3-2
- 1928**
France d USA 4-1

- 1929**
France d USA 3-2
- 1930**
France d USA 4-1
- 1931**
France d Great Britain 3-2
- 1932**
France d USA 3-2
- 1933**
Great Britain d France 3-2
- 1934**
Great Britain d USA 4-1
- 1935**
Great Britain d USA 5-0
- 1936**
Great Britain d Australia 3-2
- 1937**
USA d Great Britain 4-1
- 1938**
USA d Australia 3-2
- 1939**
Australia d USA 3-2
- 1946**
USA d Australia 5-0
- 1947**
USA d Australia 4-1
- 1948**
USA d Australia 5-0
- 1949**
USA d Australia 4-1
- 1950**
Australia d USA 4-1
- 1951**
Australia d USA 3-2
- 1952**
Australia d USA 4-1
- 1953**
Australia d USA 3-2
- 1954**
USA d Australia 3-2
- 1955**
Australia d USA 5-0
- 1956**
Australia d USA 5-0
- 1957**
Australia d USA 3-2
- 1958**
USA d Australia 3-2
- 1959**
Australia d USA 3-2

- 1960**
Australia d Italy 4-1
- 1961**
Australia d Italy 5-0
- 1962**
Australia d Mexico 5-0
- 1963**
USA d Australia 3-2
- 1964**
Australia d USA 3-2
- 1965**
Australia d Spain 4-1
- 1966**
Australia d India 4-1
- 1967**
Australia d Spain 4-1
- 1968**
USA d Australia 4-1
- 1969**
USA d Romania 5-0
- 1970**
USA d Germany 5-0
- 1971**
USA d Romania 3-2
- 1972**
USA d Romania 3-2
- 1973**
Australia d USA 5-0
- 1974**
South Africa d India Walkover
- 1975**
Sweden d Czechoslovakia 3-2
- 1976**
Italy d Chile 4-1
- 1977**
Australia d Italy 3-1
- 1978**
USA d Great Britain 4-1
- 1979**
USA d Italy 5-0
- 1980**
Czechoslovakia d Italy 4-1

WORLD GROUP FINAL

- 1981**
USA d Argentina 3-1
- 1982**
USA d France 4-1
- 1983**
Australia d Sweden 3-2
- 1984**
Sweden d USA 4-1
- 1985**
Sweden d Germany 3-2
- 1986**
Australia d Sweden 3-2
- 1987**
Sweden d India 5-0
- 1988**
Germany d Sweden 4-1
- 1989**
Germany d Sweden 3-2
- 1990**
USA d Australia 3-2
- 1991**
France d USA 3-1
- 1992**
USA d Switzerland 3-1
- 1993**
Germany d Australia 4-1
- 1994**
Sweden d Russia 4-1
- 1995**
USA d Russia 3-2
- 1996**
France d Sweden 3-2
- 1997**
Sweden d USA 5-0
- 1998**
Sweden d Italy 4-1
- 1999**
Australia d France 3-2
- 2000**
Spain d Australia 3-1
- 2001**
France d Australia 3-2
- 2002**
Russia d France 3-2
- 2003**
Australia d Spain 3-1
- 2004**
Spain d USA 3-2

- 2005**
Croatia d Slovakia 3-2
- 2006**
Russia d Argentina 3-2
- 2007**
USA d Russia 4-1
- 2008**
Spain d Argentina 3-1
- 2009**
Spain d Czech Republic 5-0
- 2010**
Serbia d France 3-2
- 2011**
Spain d Argentina 3-1
- 2012**
Czech Republic d Spain 3-2
- 2013**
Czech Republic d Serbia 3-2
- 2014**
Switzerland d France 3-1
- 2015**
Great Britain d Belgium 3-1
- 2016**
Argentina d Croatia 3-2
- 2017**
France d Belgium 3-2
- 2018**
Croatia d France 3-1
- 2019**
Spain d Canada 2-0
- 2020**
Finals not played
- 2021**
RTF d Croatia 2-0

FINAL ROUND

- 1972**
USA d Romania 3-2
- 1973**
Australia d USA 5-0
- 1974**
South Africa d India Walkover
- 1975**
Sweden d Czechoslovakia 3-2
- 1976**
Italy d Chile 4-1
- 1977**
Australia d Italy 3-1
- 1978**
USA d Great Britain 4-1
- 1979**
USA d Italy 5-0
- 1980**
Czechoslovakia d Italy 4-1

KEY:
Year
Champion
Finalist
Score

NB: No competition held in 1901, 1910, 1915-1918 and 1940-1945. Finals not played in 2020.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Tennis Australia would like to thank the following personnel for their assistance in staging this Davis Cup by Rakuten qualifier.

EVENT DIRECTOR

Julia Tranter

EVENT OPERATIONS

Leanne Mascall

Zoe Beath

AUSTRALIAN TEAM MANAGER

Katheryn Oyeniyi

TICKETING

Sharyn Richie

MARKETING

Clare Serafini

BROADCAST

Josh Lee

Mathew Zahra

Amy Rockman

Tony Bogovic

Mark Carlin

Graeme Daisley

Simon McIntyre

Jason Lewis

Paul Adams

Rohan Schmidt

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Renata Capela

PRODUCTION

John O'Neil

Ade Barnard

MEDIA

Harriet Rendle

Fiona Somerville

CONTENT

Jonathan Hoevenaars

Kelly Borholm

ITF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scott Powick

HOSPITALITY AND FUNCTIONS

Annika Hyem

Kate Davis

VIP GUEST MANAGEMENT

Folpmer Houwert

Olivia Kinane

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Ryan Higgins

COURT SERVICES

Todd Woodbridge

SITE OPERATIONS

Anthony Dagata

CHIEF UMPIRE

Mark Crawley

ITF OFFICIALS

Alison Hughes

Nitin Kannamwar

Rafael Maia

Abhishek Mukherjee

Miwa Tsujimura

Tennis Australia would like to thank all volunteers for their significant support and contribution towards the event.

The Australian Davis Cup Tennis Foundation seeks your support

By joining with more than 1600 existing members, you will directly assist Tennis Australia to advance its Player Development Programs.



Davis Cup Special

Pay only \$70 to join for 12 months membership.
 Apply by phone: (03) 9499 6228
 email: info@adctf.org.au
 or web: www.daviscupaustralia.com.au



Todd Woodbridge OAM

Todd Woodbridge