



2024 AUSTRALIAN OPEN JUNIOR SINGLES SEMIFINAL NOTES Friday 26 January

Boys' Singles Semifinals

No. 2 Nicolai Budkov Kjaer (NOR) v No. 4 Rei Sakamoto (JPN) Page 2

Mees Rottgering (NED) v Jan Kumstat (CZE) Page 4

Girls' Singles Semifinals*

No. 1 Renata Jamrichova (SVK) v No. 10 Ena Koike (JPN) Page 6

*The 2nd girls' singles semifinal will be contested once the remaining quarterfinals have concluded. An updated version of these notes will be published as soon as possible after the quarterfinals.

On court today...

- Norway's Nicolai Budkov Kjaer will play Rei Sakamoto on Court 5 today in a re-match of last week's final at J300 Traralgon, which Sakamoto won in straight sets. Sakamoto is one of three Japanese players remaining in the junior singles draws here this, all of whom are bidding to become the first player from their nation to reach an Australian Open junior singles final. Budkov Kjaer, meanwhile, is looking to become the first Norwegian player in history to reach a Grand Slam junior singles final. The pair have met once already here this week, with Sakamoto and Federico Cina defeating Budkov Kjaer and Jan Kumstat in the boys' doubles quarterfinals on Wednesday.
- The other boys' singles semifinal today is a match-up of 2 unseeded players – Netherlands' Mees Rottgering and Czechia's Jan Kumstat face off on Court 3. Rottgering is aiming to become the first Dutch player to reach the Australian Open boys' singles final, and just the 2nd Dutch player to reach a junior final here after 2008 girls' singles champion Arantxa Rus. Kumstat is looking to become the 3rd Czech player to reach the boys' singles final in Melbourne, following in the footsteps of 2011 champion Jiri Vesely and 2022 runner-up Jakub Mensik. At No. 25 and No. 42 respectively, Rottgering and Kumstat are the lowest-ranked players to reach the semifinals here this year across both boys' and girls' singles draws.
- The first semifinal of the girls' singles event here takes place on Court 6, with top seed Renata Jamrichova up against Ena Koike. For Jamrichova, this is familiar territory, having reached the semifinals at both Wimbledon and the US Open last year – but she lost in the last 4 at both of those events, and is bidding to break through to her first Grand Slam final today. Should she do so, she will become the 3rd Slovakian player to reach a junior singles final here and the 10th Slovakian player to reach a Grand Slam singles final. Like Sakamoto, Koike is bidding to ensure that Japan has representation in an Australian Open junior singles final for the first time. Jamrichova has won both of the pair's 2 previous meetings in straight sets.

NO. 2 NICOLAI BUDKOV KJAER (NOR) v NO. 4 REI SAKAMOTO (JPN)

Head-to-head: Sakamoto 1-0

2024 J300 Traralgon (AUS) Hard (O) FR Sakamoto 64 61

A 2nd meeting for Budkov Kjaer and Sakamoto. Their previous meeting came earlier this month in the final at J300 Traralgon, with Sakamoto winning in straight sets.

Budkov Kjaer and Sakamoto faced each other in the boys' doubles quarterfinals here on Wednesday. Sakamoto and Federico Cina defeated Budkov Kjaer and Jan Kumstat 63 62.

Road to the semifinals

BUDKOV KJAER	Time		Time	SAKAMOTO
d. Matthew Forbes 67(4) 64 61	2:23	1st round	1:26	d. Alexander Vasilev 76(3) 63
d. (Q) William Rejchtman Vinciguerra 75 61	1:08	2nd round	1:07	d. Lorenzo Angelini 64 62
d. (Q) Anas Mazdrashki 61 36 63	1:40	3rd round	1:33	d. No. 13 Pavle Marinkov 46 60 61
d. No. 5 Kaylan Bigun 36 76(2) 62	2:14	Quarterfinals	1:20	d. Cooper Woestendick 75 63
total time on court	7:25	(Infosys time)	5:26	total time on court

Possible final head-to-heads

	Rottgering	Kumstat
Budkov Kjaer	0-1	0-0
Sakamoto	1-0	0-0

BUDKOV KJAER	v	SAKAMOTO
17	Age	17
6	ITF Junior Ranking	7
-	ATP Ranking	949
7-2	Grand Slam Record (Junior)	11-4
4-0	Australian Open Record (Junior)	6-1
68-28	Career Record (Junior)	81-29
9-1	2023 Record (Junior)	10-0

- **BUDKOV KJAER** is bidding to become the first Norwegian player to reach a Grand Slam junior singles final.
- By reaching the semifinals here, Budkov Kjaer has recorded his **best Grand Slam performance**. His previous best performance at the Grand Slams was reaching the 3rd round at 2023 Wimbledon (l. Iliyan Radulov).
- Budkov Kjaer is making his **3rd junior Grand Slam appearance**. In addition to his 3rd round finish at Wimbledon last year, he reached the 2nd round at the US Open (l. Alexander Frusina).
- Budkov Kjaer's **best junior result in 2023** was winning the title at J300 Santa Croce Sull'Arno (ITA) (d. Volodymyr Iakubenko). He also won the title at J200 Salsomaggiore (ITA) (d. Gabriele Vulpitta), finished runner-up at J200 Prato (ITA) (l. Carlo Alberto Caniato) and J500 Osaka (JPN) (l. Joel Schwaurzler), and reached the semifinals at J300 Charleroi-Marcinelle (BEL) (l. Mees Rottgering) and J500 Merida (MEX) (l. Max Schoenhaus).
- **Prior to the Australian Open**, Budkov Kjaer reached the final at J300 Traralgon (AUS) (l. Sakamoto).
- Budkov Kjaer **made his Tour-level debut in September 2023** during Norway's 4-1 defeat to Peru in their 2023 Davis Cup World Group I tie. He lost both singles matches he contested, to Juan Pablo Varillas and Ignacio Buse.
- Budkov Kjaer reached a **career-high junior ranking** of No. 6 earlier this month and plays here at the same ranking. He does not currently have an ATP Ranking.

- Budkov Kjaer entered the **boys' doubles here** with Jan Kumstat. As No. 8 seeds, the pair defeated wild cards Rohan Hazratwala/Jarrold Joyce and direct acceptances Thomas Faurel/Theo Papamalamis in the opening 2 rounds before falling to No. 1 seeds Federico Cina/Sakamoto in the quarterfinals.
- **SAKAMOTO** is bidding to become the first Japanese player to reach an Australian Open junior singles final. (NB fellow Japanese players Ena Koike and Sara Saito are bidding to reach the girls' singles final here today)
- Sakamoto is bidding to become the **4th Japanese player to reach a Grand Slam junior singles final** – after Yuka Yoshida (1993 US Open girls' singles runner-up), Sachie Ishizu (2010 Wimbledon girls' singles runner-up) and Shintaro Mochizuki (2019 Wimbledon boys' singles champion).
- By reaching the semifinals here, Sakamoto has recorded his **best Grand Slam performance**. His previous best performances at the Grand Slams were reaching the 3rd round on 3 occasions, including at the Australian Open last year. He is making his 6th appearance at a junior Grand Slam event.
- **Last year here**, on his only previous appearance in the boys' singles at the Australian Open, Sakamoto reached the 3rd round (l. Joao Fonseca).
- **Elsewhere at the Grand Slams in 2023**, the 3rd round at Wimbledon (l. Fonseca) and the US Open (l. Zhou Yi) and the 2nd round at Roland Garros (l. Jan Hrazdil).
- Sakamoto's **best junior results in 2023** were reaching the semifinals at J500 Criciuma (BRA) (l. Fonseca), J300 Beaulieu-sur-Mer (FRA) (l. Oliver Ojakaar) and J500 Osaka (JPN) (l. Schwaerzler). He also reached the quarterfinals at J300 Traralgon (AUS) (l. Kyle Kang) and J300 College Park (USA) (l. Alexander Razeghi).
- **Prior to the Australian Open**, Sakamoto won the title at J300 Traralgon (AUS) (d. Budkov Kjaer).
- Sakamoto **made his professional debut** at 2022 M15 Antalya (TUR) and has contested 13 events on the ITF World Tennis Tour and 2 events at Challenger-level – as a wild card at the 2023 Yokohama Challenger (JPN) (l. Li Tu) and at the 2023 Yokkaichi Challenger, where he reached the 2nd round (d. Jurij Rodionov, l. Coleman Wong).
- Sakamoto reached a **new career-high junior ranking** of No. 7 this week. He also reached a career-high ATP ranking of No. 939 in December last year and is currently ranked at No. 949.
- Sakamoto entered the **boys' doubles here** as No. 1 seed with Federico Cina. The pair face Maxwell Exsted/Cooper Woestendick in the semifinals later today.

MEES ROTTGERING (NED) v JAN KUMSTAT (CZE)

Head-to-head: first meeting

Road to the semifinals

ROTTGERING	Time		Time	KUMSTAT
d. (WC) Hugh Winter 62 76(4)	1:21	1st round	1:09	d. No. 12 Zhang Tianhui 64 63
d. No. 7 Maxim Mrva 61 63	0:57	2nd round	2:12	d. Charlie Robertson 67(4) 76(1) 63
d. No. 10 Roy Horovitz 64 64	1:37	3rd round	1:19	d. No. 6 Alexander Razeghi 76(4) 62
d. Amir Omarkhanov 62 60	1:02	Quarterfinals	2:39	d. No. 16 Hayden Jones 67(2) 63 75
total time on court	4:57	(Infosys time)	7:19	total time on court

Possible final head-to-heads

	Budkov Kjaer	Sakamoto
Rottgering	1-0	0-1
Kumstat	0-0	0-0

ROTTGERING	v	KUMSTAT
16	Age	17
25	ITF Junior Ranking	42
1049	ATP Ranking	-
5-2	Grand Slam Record (Junior)	4-0
4-0	Australian Open Record (Junior)	4-0
43-20	Career Record (Junior)	44-25
8-1	2023 Record (Junior)	5-1

- Lefthander **ROTTGERING** is bidding to become the first Dutch player to reach the Australian Open boys' singles final.
- Rottgering is also bidding to become the **2nd Dutch player to reach an Australian Open junior singles final** – after 2008 girls' singles champion Arantxa Rus.
- Rottgering is bidding to become the **6th Dutch player to reach a Grand Slam boys' singles final** – after Eric Wilborts (1980 US Open boys' singles runner-up), Sjeng Schalken (1994 US Open boys' singles champion), Antal Van Der Duim (2005 Roland Garros boys' singles runner-up), Robin Haase (2005 Wimbledon boys' singles runner-up), and Thiemo de Bakker (2006 Wimbledon boys' singles champion).
- Rottgering is bidding to become the **9th Dutch player to reach a Grand Slam junior singles final**. In addition to the 5 Dutch players to have reached boys' singles finals at the Grand Slams, 3 Dutch players have reached Grand Slam girls' singles finals – Brenda Schultz-McCarthy (1988 Wimbledon girls' singles champion), Michaella Krajicek (2003 US Open girls' singles runner-up and 2004 US Open girls' singles champion) and Rus (2008 Australian Open girls' singles champion).
- By reaching the semifinals here, Rottgering has recorded his **best Grand Slam performance**. His previous best performance at the Grand Slams was reaching the 2nd round at 2023 Wimbledon (d. Federico Cina, l. Rodrigo Pacheco Mendez).
- Rottgering is making his **3rd junior Grand Slam appearance**. In addition to his 2nd round finish at Wimbledon last year, he lost in the 1st round at the US Open (l. Joao Fonseca).
- Rottgering's **best junior result in 2023** was winning the title at J300 Charleroi-Marcinelle (BEL) (d. Lasse Poertner). He also finished as runner-up at J300 Barranquilla (COL) (l. Oliver Bonding) and reached the quarterfinals at J200 Benicarlo (ESP) (l. Sergio Planella Hernandez).
- **Prior to the Australian Open**, Rottgering reached the semifinals at J300 Traralgon (AUS) (l. Rei Sakamoto).
- Rottgering **made his professional debut in August 2022**, as a wild card in the qualifying draw at the M15 Eindhoven (NED). He fell to Adrien Gobat in the 2nd round of qualifying.

- Berkieta has recorded **9 professional match-wins**, all at M15 level on the ITF World Tennis Tour. He has contested a total of 7 main draw events as a professional.
- Rottgering reached a **new career-high junior ranking** of No. 25 this week. He reached a career-high ATP ranking of No. 1042 in December last year and is currently ranked at No. 1049.
- Rottgering entered the **boys' doubles here** with Oliver Bonding. As No. 7 seeds, the pair fell to Timofei Derepasko/Daniil Sarkisan in the 1st round.
- **KUMSTAT** is bidding to become the 3rd Czech player to reach the Australian Open boys' singles final – after Jiri Vesely, who won the title here in 2011, and Jakub Mensik, who finished runner-up here in 2022.
- Kumstat is also bidding to become the **7th Czech player to reach an Australian Open junior singles final**. In addition to Vesely and Mensik's appearances in the boys' singles final here, 4 Czech players have reached the girls' singles final here – Barbora Strycova (who won back-to-back girls' singles titles here in 2002-03), Nicole Vaidisova (2004 girls' singles runner-up), Karolina Pliskova (2010 girls' singles champion) and Katerina Siniakova (2013 girls' singles runner-up).
- Kumstat is making his **Grand Slam boys' singles debut** at the Australian Open this year.
- Kumstat's **best junior results in 2023** were runner-up finishes at J200 Piestany (SVK) (l. Jan Hrazdil) and J200 Rakovnik (CZE) (l. Adrien Berrut). He also reached the semifinals at J200 Bratislava (SVK) (l. Petr Brunclik), J200 Siauliai (LTU) (l. Thijs Boogaard), and J300 Beijing (CHN) (l. Benjamin Gusic Wan), and the quarterfinals at J300 Prague (CZE) (l. Jakub Filip).
- **Prior to the Australian Open**, Kumstat reached the 2nd round at J300 Traralgon (AUS) (d. Jagger Leach, l. Pavle Marinkov).
- Kumstat made his **professional debut in May 2022**, in the qualifying draw at the Prostejov Challenger (CZE). He fell to Louis Wessels in the 1st round of qualifying. He also entered M15 Prostejov (CZE) as a wild card, losing to Tomas Jirousek in the 1st round, lost in the 1st round of qualifying as a wild card at the 2022 Bratislava Challenger (l. Hamad Medjedovic) and the 2023 Prostejov Challenger (l. Mate Valkusz).
- Kumstat reached a **career-high junior ranking** of No. 37 earlier this month. He plays here 5 places lower at No. 42. He does not currently have an ATP ranking.
- Kumstat was part of the **Czech team that won the 2023 Junior Davis Cup**. In singles, he defeated Mark Ceban in Czechia's 2-0 win over Great Britain in the quarterfinals, but fell to Andres Santamarta Roig in Czechia's 2-1 win over Spain in the semifinals and Andrea de Marchi in Czechia's 2-1 win over Italy in the final. He partnered Maxim Mrva to win the deciding doubles in both the semifinals against Spain and the final against Italy.
- Kumstat entered the **boys' doubles here** with Nicolai Budkov Kjaer. As No. 8 seeds, the pair defeated wild cards Rohan Hazratwala/Jarrold Joyce and direct acceptances Thomas Faurel/Theo Papamalamis in the opening 2 rounds before falling to No. 1 seeds Federico Cina/Rei Sakamoto in the quarterfinals.

NO. 1 RENATA JAMRICOVA (SVK) v NO. 10 ENA KOIKE (JPN)

Head-to-head: Jamrichova leads 2-0

2022	J1 Salinas (ECU)	Hard (O)	R32	Jamrichova	63 61
2023	ITF World Tennis Tour Junior Finals (CHN)	Hard (I)	5/8 PO	Jamrichova	63 64

Road to the semifinals

JAMRICOVA	Time		Time	KOIKE
d. Francesca Gandolfi 60 62	0:54	1st round	1:06	d. (WC) Renee Alame 62 64
d. Yoana Konstantinova 62 61	0:59	2nd round	1:06	d. Rose Marie Nijkamp 63 62
d. Maya Joint 64 63	1:21	3rd round	1:07	d. Vendula Valdmannova 63 62
d. (WC) Ksenia Efremova 62 61	0:51	Quarterfinals	1:42	d. No. 15 Vlada Mincheva 76(6) 60
total time on court	4:05	(Infosys time)	5:01	total time on court

Possible final head-to-heads

	Saito	Jones	Xu	Ivanova
Jamrichova	0-2	0-0	1-0	0-0
Koike	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0

JAMRICOVA

v

KOIKE

16	Age	17
3	ITF Junior Ranking	13
783	WTA Ranking	575
17-6	Grand Slam Record (Junior)	13-4
7-1	Australian Open Record (Junior)	6-1
69-27	Career Record (Junior)	74-27
4-0	2023 Record (Junior)	4-0

- Lefthander **JAMRICOVA** is bidding to become the 3rd Slovakian player to reach an Australian Open junior singles final – after Katarina Basternakova (1999 girls' singles runner-up) and Tereza Mihalikova (2015 girls' singles champion and 2016 runner-up).
- Jamrichova is bidding to become the **10th Slovakian player to reach a junior Grand Slam singles final** – and the first since Viktoria Kuzmova finished runner-up in the girls' singles at the 2016 US Open.
- By reaching the semifinals here, Jamrichova has recorded her **best Australian Open performance**. She reached the quarterfinals in her only previous appearance here last year (l. Mirra Andreeva).
- By reaching the semifinals here, Jamrichova has equalled her **best Grand Slam performance**. She reached the semifinals at both of the last 2 junior Grand Slam singles event – at 2023 Wimbledon (l. Clervie Ngounoue) and the 2023 US Open (l. Tereza Valentova). This is her 7th appearance at the junior Grand Slam events.
- Jamrichova's **best junior result in 2023** was winning the title at J300 Roehampton (GBR) (d. Valentova). She also finished runner-up at J500 Milan (ITA) (l. Kailin Quevedo) and J300 Santa Croc Sull'Arno (ITA) (l. Tyra Caterina Grant). In addition to her semifinal finishes at Wimbledon and the US Open, she recorded a semifinal finish at J300 Traralgon (AUS) (l. Andreeva)
- Jamrichova made **her professional debut in October 2022**. As a wild card into the qualifying draw at W60 Trnava (SVK), she came through both round of qualifying and reached the quarterfinals of the main draw (d. Radka Zelnickova and Rebeccas Sramkova, l. Wang Xinyu). She has since reached the semifinals at W60 Bratislava (SVK) twice as a wild card - in 2022 (l. Ana Konjuh) and 2023 (l. Sofya Lansere).
- Jamrichova made her **Tour-level debut in November 2023**, defeating Nadia Podoroska in Slovakia's 3-1 win over Argentina in the Billie Jean King Cup Play-offs.
- Jamrichova is **contesting her first event of the 2024 season here** – she did not contest a tournament at either junior- or professional-level prior to the Australian Open this year.

- Jamrichova reached a **career-high junior ranking** of No. 3 in July 2023, and she plays here at the same ranking. She also reached a career-high WTA ranking of No. 604 in April 2023 and is currently ranked at No. 783.
- Jamrichova entered the **girls' doubles here** with Isabelle Lacy. The pair lost to No. 6 seeds Maya Joint/Kristian Sidorova in the 2nd round.
- **KOIKE** is bidding to become the first Japanese player to reach an Australian Open junior singles final. (NB fellow Japanese player Sara Saito will complete her quarterfinal match here on Friday morning, while compatriot Rei Sakamoto is bidding to become the reach the boys' singles final here today)
- Koike is bidding to become the **4th Japanese player to reach a Grand Slam junior singles final** – after Yuka Yoshida (1993 US Open girls' singles runner-up), Sachie Ishizu (2010 Wimbledon girls' singles runner-up) and Shintaro Mochizuki (2019 Wimbledon boys' singles champion).
- By reaching the semifinals here, Koike has recorded her **best Grand Slam performance**. Her previous best performance at the Grand Slams was reaching the quarterfinals on 2 occasions – at 2023 Wimbledon (l. Alina Korneeva) and at the 2023 US Open (l. Katherine Hui). This is her 5th appearance at the junior Grand Slam events.
- **Last year here**, on her junior Grand Slam debut, Koike reached the 3rd round (l. Weronika Ewald).
- Koike's **best junior result in 2023** was reaching the semifinals at J300 Roehampton (GBR) (l. Tereza Valentova). She also reached the quarterfinals at J500 Milan (ITA) (l. Clervie Ngounoue).
- Koike **made her professional debut in August 2022** in the qualifying draw at W15 Cancun (MEX), when she lost in the 1st round of qualifying. She has contested the main draw in a total of 14 events as a professional. Her best results as a professional are reaching the quarterfinals at 2 W100 Takasaki events in November 2023. She also reached the quarterfinals as a qualifier at W15 Cancun in September 2022.
- Jamrichova is **contesting her first event of the 2024 season here** – she did not contest a tournament at either junior- or professional-level prior to the Australian Open this year.
- Koike reached a **career-high junior ranking** of No. 9 in July 2023. She plays here 4 places lower at No. 13. She also reached a new career-high WTA ranking of No. 575 last week.
- Koike entered the **girls' doubles here** with Saito. As No. 1 seeds, the pair face No. 3 seeds Tyra Caterina Grant/Iva Jovic in the semifinals later today.