



**2022 AUSTRALIAN OPEN
MEN'S WHEELCHAIR SINGLES FINAL NOTES**
Thursday 27 January

NO. 1 SHINGO KUNIEDA (JPN) v NO. 2 ALFIE HEWETT (GBR)



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Head-to-head: Kunieda leads 13-12

Kunieda and Hewett meet for the 2nd consecutive Grand Slam final, with Kunieda having defeating Hewett 61 64 in the title match at the US Open. That victory, however, is Kunieda's only win over Hewett in their last 5 meetings.

This is the pair's 10th Grand Slam meeting. While he trails in the overall head-to-head, Hewett leads the pair's head-to-head at the Grand Slams 6-3. They are tied 2-2 in Grand Slam finals, with Hewett winning at the 2018 US Open and 2021 Roland Garros, and Kunieda winning at the US Open in both 2020 and 2021.

This is Kunieda and Hewett's 4th meeting at the Australian Open. Kunieda won the pair's first 2 meetings here – in the 1st round in 2019 and in the semifinals in 2020, but Hewett won their semifinal match here last year.

Hewett also won the pair's most-recent meeting, in the final at the Melbourne Wheelchair Open earlier this month, with Kunieda retiring with the score level at 4-4 in the opening set.

Kunieda and Hewett have already contested one match here this year – Hewett and Gordon Reid defeated Kunieda and Gustavo Fernandez 62 46 [10-7] in the men's wheelchair doubles final here on Wednesday.

Road to the final

KUNIEDA	Time		Time	HEWETT
d. Joachim Gerard 64 62	1:33	1st round	1:19	d. Gustavo Fernandez 61 76(2)
d. Tom Egberink 57 63 64	2:54	Semifinals	0:58	d. Stephane Houdet 61 61
total time on court	4:27	(Infosys time)	2:17	total time on court

KUNIEDA

v

HEWETT

37	Age	24
1	Ranking	2
25	Grand Slam Singles Titles	5
113	Singles Titles	46
81-19	Grand Slam Record	29-15
26-3	Australian Open Record	5-5
668-101	Career Record	388-132
9-1	2022 Record	6-0

- **KUNIEDA** is bidding to win his 11th Australian Open singles title. He won the title here in 2007-11, 2013-15, 2018 and 2020.
- Kunieda is bidding to win his **26th Grand Slam singles title**. He has won 10 singles titles at the Australian Open, 7 singles titles at Roland Garros and 8 singles titles at the US Open.
- Kunieda is bidding to win his 47th Grand Slam title, in singles and doubles, and extend his **records for most Grand Slam wheelchair singles titles and most total Grand Slam wheelchair titles**. He claimed sole ownership of the record for most singles titles, ahead of Esther Vergeer, by winning his 22nd Grand Slam singles title at 2018 Roland Garros (d. Gustavo Fernandez), and claimed sole ownership of the record for most total Grand Slam titles, also ahead of Vergeer, by winning his 43rd Grand Slam title at the 2020 US Open, where he won the singles final (d. Hewett).
- Kunieda is making his **14th Australian Open appearance** and is contesting his 45th Grand Slam overall. He has missed the Australian Open on just 2 occasions since the event began in 2007 – missing out due to injury in 2012 and 2017.
- **Last year here**, Kunieda reached the semifinals (d. Ben Weekes, I. Hewett). It was just his 3rd defeat at the Australian Open – his 2 other defeats came when he fell in the 1st round in 2016 (I. Gordon Reid) and in a semifinal finish in 2019 (d. Hewett, I. Stefan Olsson).

- **Elsewhere in Grand Slam play in 2021**, Kunieda won the title at the US Open (d. Hewett) and finished runner-up at Roland Garros (l. Hewett), but fell in the 1st round at Wimbledon (l. Reid).
- Kunieda won his **3rd Paralympic singles gold medal** at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Tennis Event last year, defeating Tom Egberink in the final. He also won gold in singles at both the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Tennis Event (d. Robin Ammerlaan) and the London 2012 Paralympic Tennis Event (d. Houdet). He won gold in doubles alongside Satoshi Saida at Athens 2004 and a bronze in doubles alongside Saida at both Beijing 2008 and Rio 2016.
- **Also in 2021**, Kunieda won the title at the Victorian Wheelchair Open (d. Hewett) and finished runner-up at the Open des Hauts-de-France (l. Fernandez) and the British Open (l. Hewett).
- **Prior to the Australian Open**, Kunieda won the title at Victorian Wheelchair Open (d. Reid) and finished runner-up at the Melbourne Wheelchair Open, retiring retiring in opening set of the final against Hewett.
- Kunieda has **won 113 singles titles**. The highest number of titles he has won in one year is 12 – in 2014, when he also won all 3 Grand Slam wheelchair singles events.
- Kunieda has **won 83 doubles titles** – including 21 Grand Slam doubles titles. He has won 8 doubles titles here, most recently alongside Houdet in 2015, and won his most-recent Grand Slam doubles title alongside Fernandez at 2019 Roland Garros. He and Fernandez fell to Hewett/Reid 62 46 [10-7] in the doubles final here on Wednesday.
- Kunieda has been **ranked at No. 1 since January 2020** – and has been inside the Top 2 since January 2018. He first reached the No. 1 ranking in October 2006.
- Kunieda is coached by Tasuku Iwami.
- **HEWETT** is bidding to win his first Australian Open title and become the 2nd British player to win the men's wheelchair singles title – after Gordon Reid, who won the title here in 2016.
- Hewett is bidding to win his **6th Grand Slam title**. He has won 3 titles at Roland Garros – in 2017 (d. Gustavo Fernandez), 2020 (d. Joachim Gerard) and 2021 (d. Kunieda). He also won back-to-back titles at the US Open in 2018 (d. Kunieda) and 2019 (d. Stephane Houdet).
- Hewett is through to his **10th Grand Slam final**. In addition to his 5 title victories, he also reached the final at the US Open in 2017 (l. Houdet), 2020 (l. Kunieda) and 2021 (l. Kunieda), and at the 2021 Australian Open (l. Gerard).
- Hewett is making his **5th appearance at the Australian Open** and is contesting his 21st Grand Slam overall. He lost in the 1st round on his first 3 appearances here before recording his first Australian Open match-win in a semifinal finish in 2020 (d. Stephane Houdet, l. Kunieda).
- In addition to his title at Roland Garros, Hewett's **best results in 2021** were winning the titles at Rotterdam (d. Reid), the French Riviera Open (d. Gustavo Fernandez), the British Open (d. Kunieda) and the Wheelchair Singles Masters (d. Fernandez).
- **Prior to the Australian Open** Hewett won the title at the Melbourne Wheelchair Open with Kunieda retiring in the opening set of the final.
- Hewett is a **3-time Paralympic silver medallist**. He won silver medals at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Tennis Event – falling to Reid in the men's singles gold medal match, and partnering Reid in defeat to Houdet/Nicolas Peifer in the men's doubles gold medal match. Hewett and Reid also fell to Houdet/Peifer in the men's doubles gold medal match at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Tennis Event last year. In singles at Tokyo 2020, Hewett finished in 4th place, falling to Tom Egberink in the semifinals and to Reid in the bronze medal match.
- Hewett has **won 46 singles titles**. His tally of 5 titles in 2021 was his highest-number of professional titles in a season.

- Hewett has also **won 62 doubles titles** – including 14 Grand Slam doubles titles. Hewett and Reid have won the men's wheelchair doubles title at the last 9 Grand Slam events, including winning their 3rd Australian Open doubles title here this year, defeating Fernandez/Kunieda 62 46 [10-7] in the final on Wednesday.
- Hewett reached the **world No. 1 ranking** in January 2018 and remained at No. 1 until June that year. He is the youngest player in history to hold the men's No. 1 ranking. He has been ranked inside the Top 10 since September 2016 and plays here at No. 2.
- Hewett is coached by Donna Andrews and Ben Collingwood.