



## 2022 AUSTRALIAN OPEN JUNIOR SINGLES FINAL NOTES Saturday 29 January

### Girls' Singles Final

No. 1 Petra Marcinko (CRO) v No. 8 Sofia Costoulas (BEL)

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### Boys' Singles Semifinals

No. 1 Bruno Kuzuhara (USA) v No. 4 Jakub Mensik (CZE)

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### On court today...

- In this afternoon's girls' singles final, world No. 1 Petra Marcinko will bid for her first Grand Slam triumph when she takes on Belgium's Sofia Costoulas in the opening match on Rod Laver Arena. Marcinko will become the 4th Croatian player to win the girls' singles title here (and the first since Ana Konjuh in 2013) if she manages to record a win today. Should Costoulas emerge victorious this afternoon, she will become the 2nd Belgian player to win a junior singles title at the Australian Open, after 2011 girls' singles champion An-Sophie Mestach. Both Marcinko and Costoulas are bidding to continue excellent recent form, with the Marcinko having won the title at JA Plantation (also known as the Orange Bowl) last month and Costoulas having won the title at J1 Traralgon last week – so something will have to give today.
- The boys' singles final is the 2nd match on RLA, with USA's Bruno Kuzuhara up against Czech Republic's Jakub Mensik. Kuzuhara has already got his hands on a trophy at the Australian Open this year, having won the boys' doubles title alongside Coleman Wong on Friday – and should he win again today, he will become the first player to win both boys' singles and boys' doubles titles here since Jiri Vesely in 2011. Vesely is also the only Czech player to have won the Australian Open boys' singles title, and Mensik will aim to become the 2nd Czech boy (and 4th Czech player, boy or girl) to win a junior singles title here this afternoon. Mensik won the pair's only previous meeting in the 2nd round of the boys' singles at the US Open last year – and he will hope to record another win with silverware on the line today.

# NO. 1 PETRA MARCINKO (CRO) v NO. 8 SOFIA COSTOULAS (BEL)

## Head-to-head: first meeting

### Road to the final

MARCINKO	Time		Time	COSTOULAS
d. Alexis Blokhina 36 63 63	1:53	1st round	1:07	d. Aruzhan Sagandikova 61 62
d. Kayla Cross 62 62	1:00	2nd round	1:01	d. Meshkatolzahra Safi 60 62
d. Denislava Glushkova 63 61	1:02	3rd round	2:00	d. No. 9 Celine Naef 76(3) 76(5)
d. Lola Radivojevic 75 62	1:09	Quarterfinals	2:14	d. No. 2 Diana Shnaider 63 57 64
d. No. 13 Liv Hovde 64 46 64	1:42	Semifinals	1:14	d. Charlotte Kempenaers-Pocz 64 61
total time on court	6:46	(Infosys time)	7:36	total time on court

### MARCINKO

v

### COSTOULAS

16	Age	16
1	ITF Junior Ranking	10
913	WTA Ranking	1167
9-3	Grand Slam Record (Junior)	9-5
5-0	Australian Open Record (Junior)	5-1
97-22	Career Record (Junior)	104-42
5-0	2022 Record (Junior)	11-0

- **MARCINKO** is bidding to become the first Croatian player to win a junior Grand Slam title since the 2013 US Open, when Borna Coric won the boys' singles title and Ana Konjuh won the girls' singles title.
- Marcinko is also bidding to become the **4th Croatian player to win an Australian Open junior title** – after Mirjana Lucic (1997 girls' singles champion), Jelena Kostanic (1998 girls' singles champion) and Konjuh (2013 girls' singles champion).
- By reaching the final here, Marcinko has become the **first Croatian player, boy or girl, to reach a junior Grand Slam final** since Jana Fett finished runner-up at the 2014 Australian Open.
- By reaching the final here, Marcinko has recorded her **best Grand Slam performance**. Her previous best performance at the Grand Slams was reaching the quarterfinals at the US Open last year (l. Kristina Dmitruk). This is her first appearance at the Australian Open and her 4th junior Grand Slam event overall.
- **Elsewhere at the Grand Slams in 2021**, Marcinko reached the 2nd round at Wimbledon (d. Johanne Christine Svendsen, l. Linda Fruhvirtova) but fell in the 1st round at Roland Garros (l. Clervie Ngounoue).
- Marcinko's **best results in 2021** were winning her first titles at Grade A-level – at JA Cape Town (RSA) (d. Ngounoue) and JA Plantation (USA) (d. Diana Shnaider). She also won the title at J1 Lambare (PAR) (d. Solana Sierra) and reached the semifinals at JA Merida (MEX) (l. Linda Fruhvirtova).
- Marcinko is **contesting her first event of the 2022 season here**. She has not played at either a professional or junior event prior to competing here.
- Marcinko has **won the last 13 singles matches she has contested**. Her last defeat came against Linda Fruhvirtova in the semifinals at JA Merida in November. Since then, she won 2 matches at J1 Bradenton (USA) before giving a walkover to Eviolina Laskevich in the 3rd round before winning 6 matches en route to the title at JA Plantation in December and her first 5 matches here this year.
- Marcinko made her **professional debut in May 2021**, reaching the 2nd round as a wild card at W60 Zagreb (CRO) (d. Kurumi Nara, l. Jule Niemeier). She has a 12-6 win-loss record at ITF World Tennis Tour Women's events and has reached 2 semifinals at W15-level.
- Marcinko **reached the semifinals of the girls' doubles here**. She competed alongside Svendsen as No. 2 seeds. The pair fell to Kayla Cross/Victoria Mboko 76(6) 26 [10-7] in the last 4.

- Marcinko became **junior world No. 1** for the first time in December last year and plays here at the same ranking. She was named as 2021 ITF World Junior Champion.
- Marcinko is coached by her father, Vjekoslav Marcinko.
- **COSTOULAS** is bidding to become the 2nd Belgian player, boy or girl, to win an Australian Open junior singles title – after An-Sophie Mestach, who won the girls' singles title here in 2011.
- Costoulas is also bidding to become the **8th Belgian player to win a junior Grand Slam title** – after Geniveve Domken (who won the title at 1947 Wimbledon), Christiane Marcelis (1949 Wimbledon), Nancy Feber (1993 Wimbledon), Justine Henin (1997 Roland Garros), Kirsten Flipkens (2003 Wimbledon; 2003 US Open), Mestach (2011 Australian Open) and Kimmer Coppejans (2012 Roland Garros).
- By reaching the final here, Costoulas has become the **first Belgian player, boy or girl, to reach a junior Grand Slam final** since Coppejans, who won the boys' singles title at 2012 Roland Garros. Since Flipkens won back-to-back girls' singles titles at Wimbledon and the US Open in 2003, Mestach and Coppejans are the only other Belgian players to reach a junior Grand Slam final.
- By reaching the final here, Costoulas has recorded her **best Grand Slam performance**. Her previous best performance at the Grand Slams was reaching the 3rd round at the US Open last where she defeated Sabina Zeynalova and Madison Sieg before falling to Sebastianna Scilipoti. This is her 6th junior Grand Slam event overall.
- **Elsewhere at the Grand Slams in 2021**, Costoulas reached the 2nd round at both Roland Garros (d. Julia Middendorf, l. Michaela Laki) and Wimbledon (d. Erika Matsuda, l. Alicia Dudeney).
- Costoulas is making her **2nd Australian Open appearance**. On her only previous appearance here, in 2020, she fell to Robin Montgomery in the 1st round.
- Costoulas' **best result in 2021** was reaching the final at J1 Plovdiv (BUL) (l. Laki). She also reached the quarterfinals at J1 Ricany (CZE) (l. Sara Bejlek), JA Milan (ITA) (l. Alexandra Eala) and J1 Charleroi-Marcinelle (BEL) (l. Celine Naef).
- Prior to the Australian Open, Costoulas **won the title at J1 Traralgon (AUS)**, defeating Kayla Cross in the final. The last player to win the title at both J1 Traralgon and the Australian Open was Clara Tauson in 2019.
- Costoulas is bidding to extend an **11-match winning streak** at junior-level. She has not lost a match at junior-level since falling to Naef in the quarterfinals at J1 Charleroi-Marcinelle. Since then, she has won 6 matches en route to the title at J1 Traralgon and her first 5 matches here this year.
- Costoulas made her **professional debut in October 2020**, reaching the quarterfinals at W15 Pazardzhik (BUL), defeating Julia Stamatova and Vlada Ekshibarova before falling to Erika Andreeva. She has a 15-12 win-loss record at ITF World Tennis Tour Women's events.
- Costoulas has **reached 3 professional finals** – at W15 Sharm El Sheikh in February 2021 (l. Magali Kempen) and at 2 W15 Monastir events in December 2021, falling to Eudice Chong in the final at the first event and to Akvile Parazinskaite in the final at the 2nd event.
- Costoulas **fell in the 1st round of the girls' doubles here**. She competed alongside Lucija Ciric Bagaric as No. 5 seeds but the pair lost their opening match to Cross/Victoria Mboko 76(3) 63.
- Costoulas reached a **career-high junior ranking** of No. 10 this week.
- Costoulas is coached by her father, Sotireos Costoulas, and Rick Vleeschouwers.

# NO. 1 BRUNO KUZUHARA (USA) v NO. 4 JAKUB MENSİK (CZE)

## Head-to-head: Mensik leads 1-0

2021 US Open Hard (O) R32 Mensik 63 46 63

A 2nd meeting for Kuzuhara and Mensik. Their only previous meeting came in the 2nd round at the US Open last year, with Mensik winning in 3 sets.

### Road to the final

KUZUHARA	Time		Time	MENSİK
d. Daniele Minihini 62 62	1:03	1st round	1:14	d. Jan Kobierski 62 64
d. (WC) Edward Winter 75 61	1:18	2nd round	2:14	d. Aidan Kim 36 63 64
d. No. 16 Lautaro Midon 64 61	1:16	3rd round	1:07	d. (WC) Hayden Jones 62 64
d. No. 7 Edas Butvilas 36 76(3) 64	2:22	Quarterfinals	0:53	d. Yaroslav Demin 60 61
d. No. 3 Adolfo Daniel Vallejo 76(2) 63	1:47	Semifinals	2:00	d. No. 11 Kilian Feldbausch 61 46 62
total time on court	7:46	(Infosys time)	7:28	total time on court

### KUZUHARA

v

### MENSİK

17

Age

16

3

ITF Junior Ranking

6

1131

ATP Ranking

-

10-4

Grand Slam Record (Junior)

7-1

5-0

Australian Open Record (Junior)

5-0

110-39

Career Record (Junior)

74-22

9-1

2022 Record (Junior)

7-1

- **KUZUHARA** is bidding will become the 6th American player to win the Australian Open boys' singles title – after Gerry Moss (1955), Butch Buchholz (1959), Andy Roddick (2000), Donald Young (2005) and Sebastian Korda (2018).
- Kuzuhara is bidding to become the **first player to win the boys' singles and boys' doubles at the Australian Open** since 2011, when Jiri Vesely won both boys' titles here, partnering Filip Horansky in doubles. Kuzuhara and Coleman Wong defeated Alex Michelsen/Adolfo Daniel Vallejo 63 76(3) in the doubles final on Friday.
- By reaching the final here, Kuzuhara has become the **11th American player to reach the Australian Open boys' singles final** – and the 4th in the last decade, after Stefan Kozlov (2014), Korda (2018) and Emilio Nava (2019).
- By reaching the final here, Kuzuhara has recorded his **best Grand Slam performance**. His previous best performance at the Grand Slams was reaching the quarterfinals at Wimbledon last year (l. Sascha Gueymard Wayenburg). This is his first appearance at the Australian Open and his 5th junior Grand Slam event overall.
- **Elsewhere at the Grand Slams in 2021**, Kuzuhara reached the 3rd round at Roland Garros (l. Arthur Fils) but lost in the 2nd round at the US Open after receiving a bye through the 1st round (l. Jakub Mensik).
- Kuzuhara's **best result in 2021** was winning the title at J1 Lambare (PAR) (d. Pedro Boscardin Dias). He also reached the final at J1 Salinas (ECU) (l. Shang Juncheng), J1 Porto Alegre (BRA) (l. Leo Borg) and JA Plantation (USA) (l. Vallejo).
- **Prior to the Australian Open**, Kuzuhara reached the semifinals at J1 Traralgon (AUS) (l. Edas Butvilas).
- Kuzuhara made his **professional debut in April 2021**, falling in the 1st round of qualifying at the Tallahassee Challenger (USA) (l. Orlando Luz). He recorded his first professional match-wins by reaching the quarterfinals at M15 Helsinki (FIN) in June, defeating Anton Matusевич and Yannik Steinegger before falling to Lilian Marmousez. He has a 9-13 win-loss record at all levels as a professional.
- Kuzuhara reached a **career-high junior ranking** of No. 2 earlier this month. He plays here one place lower at No. 3.

- Kuzuhara is coached by former world No. 52 Brian Baker, who reached the 2nd round of the men's singles here in 2013.
- **MENSIK** is bidding to become the 2nd Czech player to win the Australian Open boys' singles title – after Jiri Vesely, who won the boys' title here in 2011.
- Mensik is also bidding to become the **4th Czech player, boy or girl, to win a junior singles title here** – after Barbora Strycova (who won back-to-back girls' singles titles here in 2002-03), Karolina Pliskova (2010 girls' singles champion) and Vesely.
- Mensik is also bidding to become **6th Czech player to win a Grand Slam boys' singles title** – after Ivan Lendl (who won the boys' titles at 1978 Roland Garros and 1978 Wimbledon), David Skoch (1992 Wimbledon), Dusan Lojda (2006 US Open), Vesely (2011 Australian Open) and Jonas Forejtek (2019 US Open).
- By reaching the final here, Mensik has become the **first Czech player, boy or girl, to reach a junior singles final here** since Katerina Siniakova finished runner-up in the girls' singles in 2013. He is 2nd Czech player to reach the boys' singles final here after Vesely in 2011.
- By reaching the final here, Mensik has recorded his **best Grand Slam performance**. On his only previous Grand Slam appearance, as a qualifier at the US Open last year, he reached the 3rd round, defeating Mans Dahlberg and Kuzuhara before falling to Petr Nesterov.
- Mensik's **best result in 2021** was winning the title at JA Cape Town (RSA) (d. Leo Borg). He also reached the final at JA Milan (ITA) (l. Gonzalo Bueno) and the semifinals at J1 Kazan (RUS) (l. Sebastian Dominko).
- **Prior to the Australian Open**, Mensik reached the 3rd round at J1 Traralgon (AUS) (l. Alex Michelsen).
- Mensik made his **professional debut in May 2021**, falling in the 1st round of qualifying at M25 Prague (CZE) (l. Franco Agamenone). He has recorded just one victory as a professional – by reaching the 2nd round of qualifying at M25 Jablonec nad Nisou (CZE) last year, where he defeated Noah Thurner before falling to Robin Stanek. He has a 1-4 win-loss record at all levels as a professional.
- Mensik **reached the 2nd round of the boys' doubles here**. He competed alongside Hynek Barton as No. 7 seeds but the pair fell to Michelsen/Adolfo Daniel Vallejo 63 36 [10-6].
- Mensik reached a **career-high junior ranking** of No. 6 earlier this month and plays here at the same ranking.
- Mensik is coached by Robert Rumler.