

DAVIS CUP BY RAKUTEN FINALS 2022

23 NOVEMBER – QUARTER-FINAL PREVIEW NOTES

Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena, Malaga, Spain

1600 CET/1500 GMT

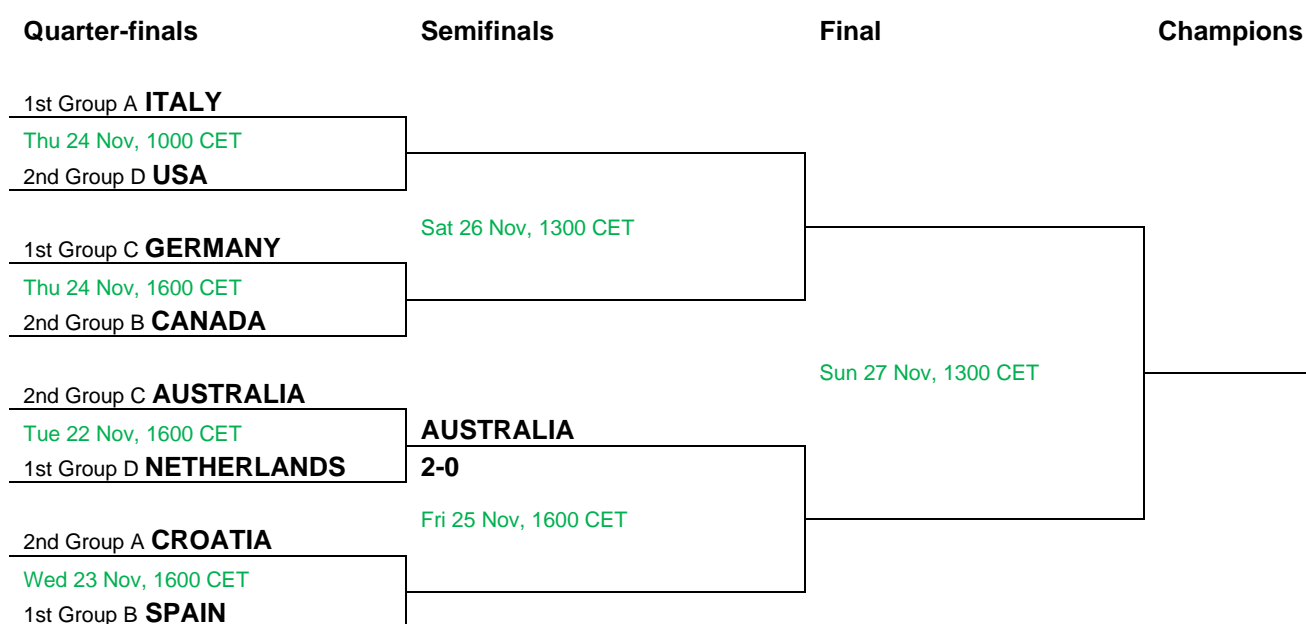
Croatia v Spain

Pages 2-7

On court today:

- 2021 runners-up Croatia bid to record their first Davis Cup victory against Spain today, having lost all 3 of the nations' previous meetings in the competition – most recently a 3-0 walloping at the 2019 Finals, in which they did not win a set. The team bounced back from defeat to Italy in their opening group stage tie in September, with victories over Sweden and Argentina securing 2nd place in Group A, and a quarter-final berth. The Croatians are also boosted by the return of Marin Cilic, who was absent in September, and was instrumental in guiding the team to their second Davis Cup triumph in 2018. With Borna Coric back to full fitness and the formidable doubles team of Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic ready should the tie go the distance, the Croatians will be optimistic of advancing to the semi-finals this evening.
- Spanish fans were disappointed after their team's group stage exit in Madrid last year – but the team made amends by winning Group B in Valencia in September to advance to the quarter-finals. While Sergi Bruguera – and everyone involved in Spanish tennis – will be disappointed that world No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz is not available this week, having ended his season early due to injury, he still has elite-level singles players to choose from, with Pablo Carreno Busta and Roberto Bautista Agut both in the squad. Marcel Granollers and Pedro Martinez proved themselves a solid doubles option, having won 2 of the 3 matches they played in Valencia, and Bruguera will be confident that his team can secure a semi-final place for the 3rd time in the last 4 Davis Cup seasons.
- There are 6 players who have won the Davis Cup title during their careers at the Final 8 knockout stage in Malaga this week – and all of them feature in the tie between Croatia and Spain today. Cilic, Coric and Pavic were members of the Croatian team which won the title in 2018, while Bautista Agut, Carreno Busta and Granollers were members of the victorious Spanish squad in 2019.

Knockout Stages



CROATIA v SPAIN

MALAGA – 1600 CET/1500 GMT

Head-to-head: Spain leads 3-0

2003	World Group quarter-finals	Hard (I)	Valencia (ESP)	Spain d. Croatia 5-0
2017	World Group first round	Clay (O)	Osijek (CRO)	Spain d. Croatia 3-2
2019	Finals Group B	Hard (I)	Madrid (ESP)	Spain d. Croatia 3-0

A 4th Davis Cup meeting for the Croatia and Spain – with Spain bidding to continue their perfect record against Croatia. The teams' first meeting came in a quarter-final tie in 2003, with Spain romping to a 5-0 victory en route to a runners-up finish that year. Their most-recent meeting came in the group stage at the 2019 Finals, when Spain once again won the tie without losing a match.

CROATIA	v	SPAIN
1	Davis Cup Nations Ranking	2
Champions 2005, 2018	Best Davis Cup Result	Champions 6 times
1993*	First Year Played	1921
29*	Seasons Played	86
71	Ties Played	217
44-27	Ties Win-Loss	138-79

*Prior to 1993, players from Croatia represented Yugoslavia

Route to the quarter-finals

CROATIA	Round	SPAIN
As 2021 Davis Cup runners-up, Croatia qualified automatically for the 2022 Finals.	Qualifiers	Spain defeated Romania 3-1 Bautista Agut (ESP) d. Boitan (ROU) 6-3 6-1 Alcaraz (ESP) d. Copil (ROU) 6-4 6-3 Copil/Tecau (ROU) d. Davidovich Fokina/Martinez (ESP) 7-6(2) 6-4 Bautista Agut (ESP) d. Copil (ROU) 6-2 6-3 <i>Alcaraz (ESP) v Boitan (ROU) – not played</i>
Italy defeated Croatia 3-0 Musetti (ITA) d. Gojo (CRO) 6-4 6-2 Berrettini (ITA) d. Coric (CRO) 6-7(4) 6-2 6-1 Bolelli/Fognini (ITA) d. Mektic/Pavic (CRO) 3-6 7-5 7-6(3)	Group Stage	Spain defeated Serbia 3-0 Ramos-Vinolas (ESP) d. Djere (SRB) 2-6 7-6(5) 7-5 Bautista Agut (ESP) d. Kecmanovic (SRB) 7-6(5) 7-6(5) Granollers/ Martinez (ESP) d. Cacic/Lajovic (SRB) 6-7(5) 6-2 6-2
Croatia defeated Sweden 2-1 E Ymer (SWE) d. Gojo (CRO) 6-2 7-6(2) Coric (CRO) d. M Ymer (SWE) 6-4 3-6 6-3 Mektic/Pavic (CRO) d. E Ymer/M Ymer (SWE) 7-5 6-3		Canada defeated Spain 2-1 Bautista Agut (ESP) d. Pospisil (CAN) 3-6 6-3 6-3 Auger-Aliassime (CAN) d. Alcaraz (ESP) 6-7(3) 6-4 6-2 Auger-Aliassime/Pospisil (CAN) d. Granollers/Martinez (ESP) 4-6 6-4 7-5
Croatia defeated Argentina 3-0 Gojo (CRO) d. Baez (ARG) 6-1 3-6 6-3 Coric (CRO) d. Cerundolo (ARG) 6-4 7-6(6) Mektic/Pavic (CRO) d. Gonzalez/Zeballos (ARG) 6-2 7-5		Spain defeated Korea, Republic 3-0 Bautista Agut (ESP) d. Hong (KOR) 6-1 6-3 Alcaraz (ESP) d. Kwon (KOR) 6-4 7-6(1) Granollers/Martinez (ESP) d. Nam/Song (KOR) 7-5 3-6 6-1

Possible semi-final head-to-heads

	AUSTRALIA
CROATIA	1-1
SPAIN	1-4

Croatia – Team Information

- CROATIA** are bidding to reach the Davis Cup semi-finals for the 6th time. They reached the last 4 in 2005, 2009, 2016, 2018 and 2021 – going on to win the title in both 2005 and 2018 and finish as runners-up in both 2016 and 2021. They are making their 10th appearance in the Davis Cup quarter-finals this year.
- At the Finals group stage in September**, Croatia fell to Italy 3-0 before defeating Sweden 2-1 and Argentina 3-0. They finished in 2nd place in Group A in Bologna.

- During the 2020-21 Davis Cup season, Croatia **reached the Davis Cup final for the 4th time**. The team defeated India 3-1 in Zagreb in the 2020 Qualifiers to secure their place at the Finals and defeated Australia and Hungary in the group stage to advance to the quarter-finals. They then defeated Italy and Serbia before falling to Russian Tennis Federation in the final. Their runner-up finish secured automatic qualification for the Davis Cup Finals this year.
- In 2018, Croatia defeated France 3-1 in the Davis Cup Final in Lille to win their **2nd Davis Cup title**. The team also won the title in 2005, defeating Slovakia to become the first nation to win the title unseeded, and finished runner-up in both 2016 (l. Argentina) and 2021.
- Croatia are currently ranked No. 1 on the **Davis Cup Nations Rankings**. They returned to the top of the rankings for the first time since September 2006 after their runner-up finish in December 2021. They are one of 8 nations to rank No. 1 since the rankings were introduced in 2001 (alongside Argentina, Australia, Czech Republic, France, Great Britain, Russia and Spain).
- **Captain Vedran Martić** has led the Croatian team since 2021 and has a 7-2 tie win-loss record as captain. He did not compete in Davis Cup as a player.

Croatia – Historical Information

Most Davis Cup match-wins by a Croatian player*

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Marin Cilic	42-21
2.	Ivan Ljubicic	36-19
3.	Goran Ivanisevic**	33-11
4.	Mario Ancic	21-13
5.	Ivo Karlovic	13-14

Most Davis Cup singles match-wins by a Croatian player*

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Marin Cilic	32-15
2.	Ivan Ljubicic	23-13
3.	Goran Ivanisevic**	20-6
4.	Mario Ancic	13-11
5.	Borna Coric	12-9

Most Davis Cup doubles match-wins by a Croatian player*

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1=	Goran Ivanisevic** Ivan Ljubicic	13-5 13-6
3.	Marin Cilic	10-6
4=	Ivan Dodig Nikola Mektic	9-8 9-2

Most Davis Cup ties played by a Croatian player*

Rank	Player	Ties played
1.	Marin Cilic	31
2.	Ivan Ljubicic	22
3=	Mario Ancic Ivan Dodig Goran Ivanisevic**	18 18 18

*records apply only to the Croatian team that has competed since 1993

**Ivanisevic represented Croatia between 1993 and 2003. Prior to this, he represented Yugoslavia in 1988-91. Including his record for Yugoslavia, he has a 48-15 Davis Cup win-loss record (28-9 in singles, 20-6 in doubles) and played 26 ties.

Croatia – Player Information

Player	DC debut year	DC seasons played	DC ties played	DC singles win-loss	DC doubles win-loss
Marin Cilic	2006	13	31	32-15	10-6
Borna Coric	2013	7	16	12-9	0-0
Borna Gojo	2019	3	10	5-5	0-0
Mate Pavic	2013	6	13	0-1	6-7
Nikola Mektic	2011	6	13	1-2	9-2

• MARIN CILIC

- **Age:** 34 (born 28 September 1988 in Medjugorje, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- **Rankings:** 17 (singles), unranked (doubles)
- **2022 singles highlights:** RU Tel Aviv; SF Adelaide I, Adelaide II, Roland Garros, Queen's; QF Doha; R16 Australian Open, US Open
- **Davis Cup:** Cilic made a successful return to the Croatian team in the 2020 Qualifiers, having missed the 2019 Finals due to a knee injury. He defeated both Ramkumar Ramanathan and Sumit Nagal in Croatia's victory over India in the Qualifiers, but then won just one of the 5 matches he contested as Croatia finished runners-up at the 2021 Finals. He also defeated Australia's Alex de Minaur in the first match he contested but fell to Hungary's Zsombor Piros, Italy's Jannik Sinner, Serbia's Novak Djokovic and Russian Tennis Federation's Daniil Medvedev. He won 5 of the 6 Davis Cup singles matches he contested during Croatia's title-winning season in 2018 and holds the records for most total Davis Cup match-wins by a Croatian player, most Davis Cup singles match-wins by a Croatian player and most Davis Cup ties played by a Croatian player.

• BORNA CORIC

- **Age:** 26 (born 14 November 1996 in Zagreb, Croatia)
- **Rankings:** 26 (singles), unranked (doubles)
- **2022 singles highlights:** Won Cincinnati; QF Hamburg, Tokyo
- **Davis Cup:** Coric has made his first Davis Cup appearances since the 2019 Finals (when he fell to Russia's Karen Khachanov in the only match he contested) in September, falling to Italy's Matteo Berrettini before defeating both Sweden's Mikael Ymer and Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo. He won 5 of the 6 Davis Cup matches he contested during Croatia's most-recent title-winning season in 2018, including a straight sets victory over France's Jeremy Chardy in the final.

• BORNA GOJO

- **Age:** 24 (born 27 February 1998 in Split, Croatia)
- **Rankings:** 145 (singles), 1265 (doubles)
- **Davis Cup:** Gojo made his Davis Cup debut at the 2019 Davis Cup Finals, losing both matches he contested in straight sets. He recorded his first victory in the competition in the 2020 Qualifiers, defeating India's Prajnesh Gunneswaran in 3 sets, before winning 3 of the 4 matches he contested at the 2021 Finals – defeating Australia's Alexei Popyrin, Italy's Lorenzo Sonego and Serbia's Dusan Lajovic before falling to Russian Tennis Federation's Andrey Rublev in the final. He won one of the 3 matches he contested at the group stage in September – falling to Italy's Lorenzo Musetti and Sweden's Elias Ymer before defeating Argentina's Sebastian Baez.

• MATE PAVIC

- **Age:** 29 (born 4 July 1993 in Split, Croatia)
- **Rankings:** unranked (singles), 5 (doubles)
- **2022 doubles highlights:** Won Rome, Geneva, Stuttgart, Queen's, Eastbourne; RU Dubai, Belgrade, Wimbledon, Astana, ATP Finals; QF US Open
- **Davis Cup:** Pavic recorded his first Davis Cup match-win at the 2021 Finals, having previously lost the first 7 matches he contested in the competition. He and Mektic won all 4 matches they contested together at last year's Finals in straight sets. The pair fell to Italy's Simone Bolelli/Fabio Fognini before defeating Sweden's Elias Ymer/Mikael Ymer and Argentina's Maximo Gonzalez/Horacio Zeballos at the group stage in September.

• **NIKOLA MEKTIC**

- **Age:** 33 (born 24 December 1988 in Zagreb, Croatia)
- **Rankings:** unranked (singles), 8 (doubles)
- **2022 doubles highlights:** Won Rome, Geneva, Queen's, Eastbourne; RU Dubai, Belgrade, Wimbledon, Astana, ATP Finals; QF US Open
- **Davis Cup:** Mektic has won 9 of the 11 Davis Cup doubles matches he has contested, with his only defeats coming alongside Ivan Dodig against Russia's Khachanov/Rublev at the 2019 Finals and alongside Pavic against Italy's Bolelli/Fognini in the group stage in September. He and Pavic won all 4 matches they contested together at the 2021 Finals in straight sets. He and Pavic won 2 of the 3 matches they contested in September – falling to Italy's Bolelli/Fognini before defeating Sweden's Ymer/Ymer and Argentina's Gonzalez/Zeballos. He will become the 4th Croatian player to win 10 Davis Cup doubles matches – after Goran Ivanisevic, Ivan Ljubicic and Cilic – if he wins one doubles match this week.

Spain – Team Information

- **SPAIN** are bidding to reach the semi-finals for the 3rd time in the last 4 seasons. The team reached back-to-back semi-finals in 2018-19 before failing to advance beyond the group stage in 2021.
- **At the Finals group stage in September**, Spain defeated Serbia 3-0 and Korea, Republic 3-0 but fell to Canada 2-1. They finished in 1st place in Group B in Valencia.
- **In the Qualifiers in March**, Spain defeated Romania 3-1 in Marbella to secure their place at the Finals. Roberto Bautista Agut winning 2 singles matches and Carlos Alcaraz winning his first Davis Cup match.
- **During the 2020-21 Davis Cup season**, Spain finished in 2nd place in Group A after defeating Ecuador 3-0 but falling to Russian Tennis Federation 2-1. They failed to reach the quarter-finals as one of the 2 best group runners-up.
- In 2019, Spain won their **6th Davis Cup title**, defeating Canada 2-0 in the final, with Bautista Agut and Rafael Nadal recording victories over Felix Auger-Aliassime and Denis Shapovalov, respectively.
- Spain are bidding to win their 7th Davis Cup title this season and equal Sweden in 5th place on the **all-time list for most Davis Cup titles won**. In addition to their title in 2019, they also won the title in 2000 (d. Australia), 2004 (d. USA), 2008 (d. Argentina), 2009 (d. Czech Republic) and 2011 (d. Argentina). They also finished runners-up in 1965 (l. Australia), 1967 (l. Australia), 2003 (l. Australia) and 2012 (l. Czech Republic).
- Spain are currently ranked No. 2 on the **Davis Cup Nations Ranking**. They are one of 8 nations to rank No. 1 since the rankings were introduced in 2001, having been ranked No. 1 between September 2004 and September 2005 and again between July 2009 and February 2013.
- **Captain Sergi Bruguera** has led the Spanish team since 2018 and has an 11-3 tie win-loss record as captain. As a player, he represented Spain in Davis Cup between 1990 and 1995 and had a 12-11 overall match win-loss record.

Spain – Historical Information

Most Davis Cup match-wins by a Spanish player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Manuel Santana	92-28
2.	Manuel Orantes	60-27
3.	Juan Gisbert	45-24
4.	Rafael Nadal	37-5
5.	Emilio Sanchez	32-23

Most Davis Cup singles match-wins by a Spanish player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Manuel Santana	69-17
2.	Manuel Orantes	39-19
3.	Rafael Nadal	29-1
4.	David Ferrer	28-5
5.	Juan Gisbert	27-20

Most Davis Cup doubles match-wins by a Spanish player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Manuel Santana	23-11
2.	Manuel Orantes	21-8
3.	Sergio Casal	19-9
4.	Juan Gisbert	18-4
5.	Jose-Luis Arilla	17-13

Most Davis Cup ties played by a Spanish player

Rank	Player	Ties played
1.	Manuel Santana	46
2.	Manuel Orantes	38
3.	Juan Gisbert	37
4.	Feliciano Lopez	31
5.	Emilio Sanchez	30

Spain – Player Information

Player	DC debut year	DC seasons played	DC ties played	DC singles win-loss	DC doubles win-loss
Pablo Carreno Busta	2016	5	8	3-5	2-1
Roberto Bautista Agut	2014	7	14	13-6	0-0
Albert Ramos-Vinolas	2013	4	6	6-2	0-0
Pedro Martinez	2022	1	4	0-0	2-2
Marcel Granollers	2010	7	16	2-1	9-7

• [PABLO CARRENO BUSTA](#)

- **Age:** 31 (born 12 July 1991 in Gijon, Spain)
- **Rankings:** 13 (singles), 323 (doubles)
- **2022 singles highlights:** Won Montreal; RU Barcelona; SF Bastad; QF Halle, Gijon, Naples, Basel; R16 Australian Open, US Open
- **Davis Cup:** Carreno Busta won 2 of the 3 matches he contested at the 2021 Finals, defeating Emilio Gomez in singles and partnering Granollers to victory against Gonzalo Escobar/Diego Hidalgo, but falling to Russian Tennis Federation's Daniil Medvedev in singles. He made his Davis Cup debut in 2016 and has won just 3 of the 8 singles matches he has contested in the competition. He was a member of the Spanish team which won the title in 2019 but lost the only match he contested at the Finals that year, falling to Argentina's Guido Pella in the quarter-finals.

• [ROBERTO BAUTISTA AGUT](#)

- **Age:** 34 (born 14 April 1988 in Castellon de la Plana, Spain)
- **Rankings:** 21 (singles), unranked (doubles)
- **2022 singles highlights:** Won Doha, Kitzbuhel; RU Mallorca; SF Basel; QF Montpellier, Halle, Astana
- **Davis Cup:** Bautista Agut missed the 2021 Davis Cup Finals due to injury but returned to the team for the Qualifiers tie against Romania this year, recording straight sets victories against both Gabi Adrian Boitan and Copil. He won all 3 matches he contested at the group stage in September, defeating Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic, Canada's Vasek Pospisil and Korea Republic's Hong Seong Chan. He defeated Auger-Aliassime in straight sets in the opening match of the 2019 Davis Cup final as Spain won the title for the 6th time.

- **ALBERT RAMOS-VINOLAS**

- **Age:** 34 (born 17 January 1988 in Barcelona, Spain)
- **Rankings:** 39 (singles), 325 (doubles)
- **2022 singles highlights:** Won Cordoba; QF Santiago, Estoril, Gstaad, Kitzbuhel
- **Davis Cup:** Ramos-Vinolas made his Davis Cup debut in 2013, competing in Spain's World Group play-off defeat to Canada, and contested 3 further ties in 2017-18. He has won 6 of the 8 matches he has played in the competition – including his victory against Serbia's Laslo Djere at the group stage in September. He was a member of the Spanish team at the 2021 Finals but did not contest a match.

- **PEDRO MARTINEZ**

- **Age:** 24 (born 26 April 1997 in Alzira, Spain)
- **Rankings:** 62 (singles), 78 (doubles)
- **2022 singles highlights:** Won Santiago; QF Gstaad, Kitzbuhel, Tokyo
- **2022 doubles highlights:** Won Kitzbuhel
- **Davis Cup:** Martinez made his Davis Cup debut in this year's Qualifiers – he and Alejandro Davidovich Fokina fell to Romania's Copil/Tecau in the doubles match. He won 2 of the 3 matches he contested at the group stage in September, partnering Granollers to victories against Serbia's Nikola Cacic/Dusan Lajovic and Korea Republic's Nam Ji Sung/Song Min-kyu but falling to Canada's Auger-Aliassime/Pospisil. He was also selected for the 2021 Finals as a late replacement for Carlos Alcaraz, but did not contest a match at the Finals. He was a member of the Spanish team which won the Junior Davis Cup title in 2013.

- **MARCEL GRANOLLERS**

- **Age:** 36 (born 12 April 1986 in Barcelona, Spain)
- **Rankings:** unranked (singles), 17 (doubles)
- **2022 doubles highlights:** Won Halle; SF Australian Open, Rio de Janeiro, Roland Garros, Hamburg, Astana
- **Davis Cup:** Granollers made his Davis Cup debut in 2010 and has played in 14 ties since then. He was a member of both the Spanish team which finished runners-up to Czech Republic in 2012, and of the Spanish team which won the nation's 6th Davis Cup title in 2019, winning all 3 matches he contested at the 2019 Finals. He won one of the 2 matches he contested at the 2021 Finals, partnering Carreno Busta to victory against Ecuador's Escobar/Hidalgo but falling alongside Feliciano Lopez to Russian Tennis Federation's Aslan Karatsev/Andrey Rublev. He and Martinez won 2 of the 3 matches they have contested at the group stage in September, defeating Serbia's Cacic/Lajovic and Korea Republic's Nam/Song but falling to Canada's Auger-Aliassime/Pospisil.