



2023 AUSTRALIAN OPEN BOYS' SINGLES SEMIFINAL NOTES Friday 27 January

No. 3 Alexander Blockx (BEL) v No. 11 Zhou Yi (CHN)
Tomasz Berkietka (POL) v Learner Tien (USA)

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On court today...

- Belgium's Alexander Blockx is the highest-ranked player remaining in the boys' singles draw here – and he will aim to become the first Belgian player to reach the Australian Open boys' singles final when he takes on Zhou Yi today. Victory for Blockx would also ensure Belgian representation in the boys' singles final for the 3rd time in the last 4 Grand Slam events, after Gilles Arnaud Bailly reached the boys' final at both Roland Garros and the US Open last year. History also beckons for Zhou today – if he wins today he will become the first Chinese player, boy or girl, to reach a junior singles final here. Zhou was in impressive form in a victory over No. 1 seed Killian Feldbausch in the quarterfinals and will be keen to continue to record another victory against a Top 10 junior player today.
- The other boys' singles semifinal is a clash between 2 unseeded players, with Poland's Tomasz Berkietka up against USA's Learner Tien. Berkietka will become the first Polish player to reach an Australian Open junior singles final if he wins today – and also just the 3rd Polish player to reach a Grand Slam boys' singles final, after Marcin Gawron and Jerzy Janowicz. For Tien, who made his Grand Slam men's singles debut at the US Open last year and took a set off No. 32 seed Miomir Kecmanovic, a title-victory at Melbourne Park this week will see him emulate compatriot Bruno Kuzuhara's achievement from 2022. The lefthanded would become the 12th American player to reach the boys' singles final if he defeats Berkietka this afternoon.

NO. 3 ALEXANDER BLOCKX (BEL) v NO. 11 ZHOU YI (CHN)

Head-to-head: first meeting

Road to the semifinals

BLOCKX	Time		Time	ZHOU
d. Federico Bondioli 60 63	1:07	1st round	2:06	d. (Q) Felipe Virgini Berini 61 67(7) 62
d. Atakan Karahan 64 64	1:10	2nd round	1:59	d. Manas Dhamne 75 36 5-2 ret.
d. No. 15 Adriano Dzhenev 62 62	1:07	3rd round	0:55	d. No. 8 Cooper Williams 61 64
d. No. 10 Joao Fonseca 67(7) 76(5) 63	2:11	Quarterfinals	2:29	d. No. 1 Killian Feldbausch 75 57 64
total time on court	5:35	(Infosys time)	7:29	total time on court

Possible final head-to-heads

	Berkieta	Tien
Blockx	0-0	0-0
Zhou	0-1	0-0

BLOCKX	v	ZHOU
17	Age	17
10	ITF Junior Ranking	15
1306	ATP Ranking	-
10-3	Grand Slam Record (Junior)	4-0
4-0	Australian Open Record (Junior)	4-0
71-35	Career Record (Junior)	59-19
5-1	2023 Record (Junior)	4-1

- **BLOCKX** is bidding to become the first Belgian player to reach the Australian Open boys' singles final. He would become the 3rd Belgian player to reach a junior singles final here – after 2011 girls' singles champion An-Sophie Mestach and 2022 girls' singles runner-up Sofia Costoulas.
- Blockx is bidding to become the **6th Belgian player to reach a Grand Slam boys' singles final** – after Jacques Brichant (1947 Roland Garros champion, 1948 Roland Garros runner-up), Gino Mezzi (1951 Roland Garros runner-up), F. Andries (1953 Roland Garros runner-up), Kimmer Coppejans (2012 Roland Garros champion) and Gilles Arnaud Bailly (2022 Roland Garros runner-up, 2022 US Open runner-up).
- Blockx is also bidding to the **14th Belgian player to reach a Grand Slam junior singles final** – but just the 3rd since Coppejans won title at 2012 Roland Garros, after Costoulas reached the girls' singles final here last year and Bailly reached the boys' singles finals at Roland Garros and the US Open last year.
- By reaching the semifinals here, Blockx has recorded his **best Grand Slam performance**. His previous best performance at the Grand Slams was reaching the quarterfinals at the 2022 US Open (l. Martin Landaluce).
- Blockx is making his **4th junior Grand Slam appearance**. In addition to his quarterfinal finish at the US Open last year, he reached the 2nd round at Roland Garros (l. Dino Prizmic) and the 3rd round at Wimbledon (l. Killian Feldbausch).
- Blockx's **best junior result in 2022** was winning the title at J1 Repentigny (CAN) (d. Mihai Alexandru Coman). He also finished runner-up at J1 Villena (ESP) (l. Bailly).
- **Prior to the Australian Open**, Blockx reached the 2nd round at J300 Traralgon (AUS) (d. Manas Dhamne, l. Kyle Kang).
- Blockx **made his professional debut in August 2021** and has contested 8 events as a professional. He has recorded a total of 4 professional match-wins to date.
- Blockx reached a **career-high junior ranking** of No. 10 earlier this month and plays here at the same ranking. He is also currently at a career-high ATP ranking of No. 1306.

- Blockx entered the **boys' doubles here** with Joao Fonseca. The pair Cooper Errey/Markus Schoeman in the semifinals on Thursday evening. (NB written prior to their semifinal match)
- Blockx is coached by Tom Devries
- **ZHOU** is bidding to become the first Chinese player to reach an Australian Open junior singles final.
- Zhou is bidding to become the **4th Chinese player to reach a Grand Slam junior singles final** – after Wu Yibing (2017 US Open boys' singles champion), Wang Xiyu (2018 US Open girls' singles champion) and Shang Juncheng (2021 US Open boys' singles runner-up).
- Zhou is making his **Grand Slam boys' singles debut** at the Australian Open this year.
- Zhou's **best junior result in 2022** was winning the title at J1 Sarawak (MAS) (d. Kevin Edengren). He also won the title at J2 Nagoya (JPN) (d. Abel Forger).
- **Prior to the Australian Open**, Zhou competed at J300 Traralgon (AUS) but fell to Charlie Camus in the 1st round.
- Zhou has **contested one professional event** – at 2022 M15 Sharm El Sheikh (EGY), where he reached the 2nd round of qualifying (d. Anurag Agurwal, I. Tsai Chang-Lin).
- Zhou reached a **career-high junior ranking** of No. 22 last week. He plays here 3 places lower at No. 25. He does not currently have an ATP ranking.
- Zhou entered the boys' doubles here with Forger. The pair fell to Volodymyr Iakchenko/Oliver Ojakaar in the 1st round.
- Zhou is coached by Jacques Hevret.

TOMASZ BERKIETA (POL) v LEARNER TIEN (USA)

Head-to-head: first meeting

Road to the semifinals

BERKIETA	Time		Time	TIEN
d. Charlie Camus 64 64	1:05	1st round	0:58	d. No. 7 Hayato Matsuoka 60 63
d. No. 5 Mihai Alexandru Coman 76(4) 61	1:20	2nd round	1:36	d. Federico Cina 26 62 64
d. (Q) Ruslan Tikuaev 76(3) 64	1:21	3rd round	0:49	d. Jakub Filip 60 62
d. No. 4 Arthur Gea 36 62 76(8)	2:00	Quarterfinals	0:40	d. No. 2 Iliyan Radulov 60 60
total time on court	5:46	(Infosys time)	4:03	total time on court

Possible final head-to-heads

	Blockx	Zhou
Berkieta	0-0	1-0
Tien	0-0	0-0

BERKIETA	v	TIEN
16	Age	17
36	ITF Junior Ranking	27
1644	ATP Ranking	770
4-0	Grand Slam Record (Junior)	7-2
4-0	Australian Open Record (Junior)	4-0
48-20	Career Record (Junior)	35-13
4-1	2023 Record (Junior)	8-1

- **BERKIETA** is bidding to become the first Polish player to reach the Australian Open boys' singles final. He would also become the 3rd Polish player to reach a junior singles final here – after 1996 girls' singles champion Magdalena Gryzbowska and 2020 girls' singles runner-up Weronika Baszak.
- Berkieta is bidding to become the **3rd Polish player to reach a Grand Slam boys' singles final** – after Marcin Gawron (who finished as boys' singles runner-up at 1996 Wimbledon) and Jerzy Janowicz (who finished as boys' singles runner-up at both the 2007 US Open and 2008 Roland Garros).
- Berkieta is making his **Grand Slam boys' singles debut** at the Australian Open this year.
- Berkieta's **best junior result in 2022** was winning the title at J2 Cairo (EGY) (d. Oliver Ojakaar). He also reached the semifinals at J1 Bytom (POL) (l. Daniel Vallejo) and the quarterfinals at JA Merida (MEX) (l. Juan Carlos Prado Angelo).
- **Prior to the Australian Open**, Berkieta competed at J300 Traralgon (AUS) but fell to Hayden Jones in the 1st round.
- Berkieta **made his professional debut in June 2022**, as a wild card in the qualifying draw at the Poznan Challenger (POL). He fell to Juan Bautista Torres in the 1st round of qualifying.
- Berkieta has recorded **one professional match-win** – in a 2nd round finish as a wild card at M25 Poznan (POL) in August last year (d. Omar Brigada, l. Olaf Pieczkowski). He has contested a total of 3 events as a professional.
- Berkieta reached a **career-high junior ranking** of No. 36 this week. He reached a career-high ATP ranking of No. 1605 in September last year and is currently ranked at No. 1644.
- Berkieta entered the **boys' doubles here** with Joel Schwaerzler. The pair fell to Volodymyr Iakubenko/Ojakaar in the 2nd round.
- Berkieta is coached by Kimi Tilikainen, Tomasz Moczek and his mother, Magdalena Sewicka.

- Lefthander **TIEN** is bidding to become the 12th American player to reach the Australian Open boys' singles final – and the 5th in the last decade, after Stefan Kozlov (2014), Sebastian Korda (2018), Emilio Nava (2019) and Bruno Kuzuhara (2022).
- If he wins the title here, Tien will become the **7th American player to win the Australian Open boys' singles title** – after Gerry Moss (1955), Butch Buchholz (1959), Andy Roddick (2000), Donald Young (2005), Korda (2018) and Kuzuhara (2022).
- By reaching the semifinals here, Tien has recorded his **best Grand Slam performance**. His previous best performance at the Grand Slams was reaching the quarterfinals at 2022 Wimbledon (l. Martin Landaluce).
- Tien is making his **3rd junior Grand Slam appearance**. In addition to his quarterfinal finish at Wimbledon last year, he also fell in the 1st round at the US Open (l. Lautaro Midon).
- Tien's **best junior results in 2022** were winning the titles at J1 San Diego (USA) (d. Kyle Kang) and at the USTA Boys National Championships (d. Ethan Quinn). His title-victory at the USTA Boys National Championships earned him a wild card for the US Open men's singles draw. He also reached the quarterfinals at JA Milan (ITA) (l. Daniel Vallejo).
- **Prior to the Australian Open**, Tien reached the semifinals at J300 Traralgon (AUS) (l. Kang).
- Tien made his **Grand Slam men's singles debut** as a wild card at the 2022 US Open, falling to No. 32 seed Miomir Kecmanovic in 4 sets in the 1st round.
- Tien made his **professional debut in April 2022** and has contested 12 events as a professional. His best results are reaching the final at 2022 M15 Fayetteville (USA) (l. Toby Samuel) and the semifinals at 2023 M25 Malibu (USA) (l. Arthur Fery).
- Tien reached a **career-high junior ranking** of No. 27 earlier this month and plays here at the same ranking. He is also currently at a career-high ATP ranking of No. 770.
- Tien entered the **boys' doubles here** with Cooper Williams. The pair play Federico Bondioli/Matic Kriznik in the semifinals on Thursday evening. (NB written prior to their semifinal match)
- Tien is coached by Eric Diaz and Khuong Tien.