



2023 AUSTRALIAN OPEN MEN'S DOUBLES FINAL NOTES Saturday 28 January

(WC) RINKY HIJIKATA (AUS)/JASON KUBLER (AUS)
v
HUGO NYS (MON)/JAN ZIELINSKI (POL)

Head-to-head: first meeting

A first meeting for the 2 teams – with all 4 players bidding to win their first Grand Slam titles. None of the 4 players has ever contested a doubles match against one another.

The winners of today's match will become the 5th unseeded team to win the Australian Open men's doubles title in the Open Era – after Stefan Edberg/Petr Korda (1996), Leander Paes/Radek Stepanek (2012), Simone Bolelli/Fabio Fognini (2015) and Thanasi Kokkinakis/Nick Kyrgios (2022).

Both teams saved a match point en route to the final. Hijikata/Kubler saved a match point in the 2nd set of their 3rd round victory against Tomislav Brkic/Gonzalo Escobar. Nys/Zielinski saved a match point in the 2nd set of their 3rd round victory against No. 2 seed Rajeev Ram/Joe Salisbury.

Road to the final

HIJIKATA/KUBLER	Time		Time	NYS/ZIELINSKI
d. Hach Verdugo/Isner 76(6) 64	1:29	1st round	2:11	d. No. 13 Matos/Vega Hernandez 67(4) 64 64
d. No. 6 Glasspool/Heliovaara 36 75 62	1:51	2nd round	2:23	d. Purcell/Thompson 46 64 76(7)
d. Brkic/Escobar 16 76(8) 64	2:17	3rd round	2:30	d. No. 2 Ram/Salisbury 67(4) 76(6) 62
d. No. 1 Koolhof/Skupski 63 61	1:06	Quarterfinals	1:08	d. Bondi/Rinderknech 61 64
d. No. 8 Granollers/Zeballos 64 62	1:22	Semifinals	1:48	d. Chardy/Martin 63 57 62
total time on court	8:05	(Infosys time)	10:00	total time on court

- Wild cards **HIJIKATA/KUBLER** are bidding to win their first Grand Slam title in their first event as a team.
- Hijikata/Kubler are bidding to become the **2nd all-Australian men's doubles champions here in consecutive years** – and the 14th all-Australian team to win the men's doubles here in the Open Era. At the 2022 Australian Open, Thanasi Kokkinakis/Nick Kyrgios won the title to become the first all-Australian men's doubles champions here since Todd Woodbridge/Mark Woodforde won their 2nd Australian Open title in 1997.
- Hijikata/Kubler are bidding to become the **3rd all-Australian team to win a men's doubles title in the last 5 Grand Slam events** – after Kokkinakis/Kyrgios here last year and Matthew Ebden/Max Purcell at Wimbledon last year.
- Hijikata/Kubler are bidding to become the **16th all-Australian team to win a Grand Slam men's doubles title in the Open Era**. Kokkinakis/Kyrgios and Ebden/Purcell are the only all-Australian teams to win Grand Slam men's doubles titles since Woodbridge/Woodforde won their 11th major title as a team at 2000 Wimbledon.

- Hijikata/Kubler are bidding to become the **33rd and 34th Australian men in the Open Era to win a Grand Slam men's doubles title**. They would become the 6th and 7th active Australian male players to win a Grand Slam men's doubles title – after Ebden, Kokkinakis, Kyrgios, Purcell and John Peers (who won the doubles title here in 2017 alongside Finland's Henri Kontinen).
- Hijikata/Kubler are bidding to become the **2nd wild card team to win the Australian Open men's doubles title in the Open Era** – after Kokkinakis/Kyrgios last year. They are the 3rd wild card team to have reached the men's doubles finals here in the Open Era – after Kokkinakis/Kyrgios last year and 2020 runners-up Max Purcell/Luke Saville.
- Hijikata is making his **2nd appearance in the men's doubles at a Grand Slam**. On his only previous appearance in the men's doubles at a Grand Slam, as a wild card alongside Tristan Schoolkate here last year, he reached the 2nd round (d. Matt Reid/Jordan Thompson, l. John Peers/Filip Polasek).
- Kubler is making his **3rd appearance in the men's doubles at a Grand Slam**. He reached the 3rd round as a wild card alongside Christopher O'Connell here last year, with the pair giving a walkover to Tim Puetz/Michael Venus, and fell in the 1st round as a wild card alongside Sam Groth here in 2010 (l. Daniel Nestor/Nenad Zimonjic).
- Hijikata is contesting his **3rd Tour-level doubles event**. Other than his 2nd round finish here last year, his only other Tour-level doubles appearance prior to this year's Australian Open came at 2022 Melbourne, when he and O'Connell fell to Altug Celikbilek/Yannick Maden in the 1st round.
- Kubler is contesting his **3rd Tour-level doubles final**. He finished runner-up in doubles at 2 events in 2022 – alongside Peers at Atlanta (l. Kokkinakis/Kyrgios) and alongside Saville at San Deigo (l. Nathaniel Lammons/Jackson Withrow). He is contesting his 7th Tour-level doubles event overall.
- **In the singles event here this year**, Hijikata and Kubler both entered as wild cards and both reached the 2nd round after recording their first Australian Open match-wins. Hijikata recovered from 0-2 down to defeat qualifier Yannick Hanfmann in 5 sets in the 1st round before falling to No. 3 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas in the 2nd round. Kubler defeated Sebastian Baez in the 1st round before falling to No. 18 seed Karen Khachanov in the 2nd round.
- Kubler's **best Grand Slam singles result** is reaching the round of 16 as a qualifier at Wimbledon last year. He defeated Daniel Evans, Dennis Novak and Jack Sock before falling to Taylor Fritz. Hijikata's only Grand Slam singles appearance prior to this year's Australian Open came as a wild card at the US Open last year, where he fell to Rafael Nadal in the 1st round.
- Hijikata and Kubler both **competed in mixed doubles here**. Hijikata reached the 2nd round alongside Kimberly Birrell, falling to Olivia Gadecki/Marc Polmans, while Kubler reached the quarterfinals alongside Madison Inglis, also falling to Gadecki/Polmans.
- Hijikata broke the Top 200 in singles for the first time in August 2022 and reached a **career-high singles ranking** of No. 159 in October. He played here at No. 169. He is currently ranked at No. 277 in doubles.
- Kubler reached a **career-high singles ranking** of No. 84 last week. He is currently ranked at No. 163 in doubles.
- Hijikata **played college tennis**. He represented the University of North Carolina in 2020-21, earning All-American honours as a sophomore.
- Hijikata was a **good junior**. He reached the quarterfinals of the boys' singles as a wild card here in 2018 (l. Aidan McHugh) and reached a career-high junior ranking of No. 9 in December 2018.
- Kubler was also a **successful junior**. He became junior world No. 1 in May 2010 and was a member of the Australian team which defeated Great Britain to win the 2009 Junior Davis Cup. He also reached the semifinals of the boys' singles at 2011 Wimbledon (l. Liam Broady). His best result in the boys' singles here was a 3rd round finish in 2010 (l. Sean Berman).
- Kubler has a **hereditary knee condition** that results in a weakened meniscus around the joints. He underwent multiple surgeries in his early teens. He played almost exclusively on clay between September 2012 and June 2015 to strengthen his knee.

- Kubler made his **Davis Cup debut for Australia** at the Davis Cup Finals Group Stage in Hamburg last September, winning one of the 2 matches he contested. He was not nominated for the Final 8 Knockout Stage in Malaga in November, where Australia finished as runners-up to Canada. Hijikata is yet to make his Davis Cup debut. As runners-up in 2022, Australia have qualified automatically for the 2023 Finals Group Stage.
- Hijikata is coached by Mark Draper. Kubler is coached by Jarrad Bunt and Stephen Huss.
- **NYS/ZIELINSKI** are bidding to win their first Grand Slam title in their 3rd Grand Slam event as a team.
- Nys is bidding to become the **first Monegasque player to win a Grand Slam title in any discipline**. By reaching the final here, he has become the first player representing Monaco to reach a Grand Slam final.
- Zielinski is bidding to become the **3rd Polish player, man or woman, to win a Grand Slam doubles title** – after Wojtek Fibak (who won the men's doubles title at the 1978 Australian Open) and Lukasz Kubot (who won the men's doubles titles at the 2014 Australian Open and at 2017 Wimbledon).
- By reaching the final here, Zielinski has become the **5th Polish man to reach a Grand Slam men's doubles final** – after Fibak (who also finished runner-up at 1977 Roland Garros), Kubot (who also finished runner-up at the 2018 US Open), and Mariusz Fyrstenberg and Marcin Matkowski, who finished as runners-up at the 2011 US Open.
- By reaching the final here, Nys/Zielinski have recorded their **best Grand Slam result – either as a team or as individuals**. Their previous best results at the Grand Slams have been quarterfinal finishes. Nys reached the quarterfinals at the Grand Slams on 2 previous occasions – alongside Tim Puetz at 2021 Roland Garros (l. Alexander Bublik/Andrey Golubev) and alongside Zielinski at the US Open last year (l. Rajeev Ram/Joe Salisbury). Zielinski's only previous Grand Slam quarterfinal finish came alongside Nys at the US Open last year.
- Nys is contesting his **21st Grand Slam doubles event with his 12th different partner**. This is his 6th Australian Open appearance with his 4th different partner.
- Zielinski is contesting his **5th Grand Slam doubles event with his 3rd different partner**. He made his Grand Slam debut here last year.
- **Last year here**, Nys and Zielinski both fell in the 1st round. Nys played alongside Adrian Mannarino and fell to Ivan Dodig/Marcelo Melo. Zielinski played alongside Bublik and fell to Marcos Giron/Soonwoo Kwon.
- Nys/Zielinski are contesting their **19th event as a team**, at any level. They played their first event together at the Roseto Degli Abruzzi Challenger (ITA) in March 2022, when they defeated Roman Jebavy/Philipp Oswald to win the title.
- Nys/Zielinski's **best Tour-level result as a team** is winning their first title together at 2022 Metz (d. Lloyd Glasspool/Harri Heliövaara). They also finished as runners-up at 2022 Winston-Salem (l. Matthew Ebden/Jamie Murray).
- **Prior to the Australian Open**, Nys/Zielinski competed at both Adelaide I and Adelaide II. They reached the quarterfinals at Adelaide I (after receiving a bye through the 1st round) (d. Karen Khachanov/Andrey Rublev, l. Mackenzie McDonald/Melo) and reached the 2nd round at Adelaide II (d. Golubev/Aleksandr Nedovyesov, l. Wesley Koolhof/Neal Skupski).
- Nys is bidding to win his **5th Tour-level doubles title**. In addition to his title victory alongside Zielinski at Metz last year, he also won the title at 2019 Los Cabos alongside Romain Arneodo and the titles at both 2021 Estoril and 2021 Lyon alongside Puetz.
- Zielinski is bidding to win his **3rd Tour-level doubles title**. In addition to his title victory alongside Nys at Metz last year, he also won the title at Metz in 2021 alongside Hubert Hurkacz.
- Nys and Zielinski both **fell in the 1st round of the mixed doubles here**. Nys and Latisha Chan fell to No. 1 seeds Giuliana Olmos/Marcelo Arevalo, while Zielinski and Yang Zhaoxuan fell to No. 8 seeds Gabriela Dabrowski/Max Purcell.

- Nys plays here at **career-high doubles ranking** of No. 49. He reached a career-high singles ranking of No. 327 in July 2019 but is currently unranked.
- Zielinski reached a **career-high doubles ranking** of No. 36 in November last year and plays here 2 places lower at No. 34. He reached a career-high singles ranking of No. 769 in September 2021 but is currently unranked.
- Nys has **played Davis Cup for Monaco** since 2019 and has won all 7 matches he has contested in the competition. Monaco play at home against Dominican Republic in the 2023 World Group II Play-offs next week.
- Zielinski has **played Davis Cup for Poland** since 2020 and has a 3-1 win-loss record in the competition. Poland play away against Japan in the 2023 World Group I Play-offs next week.
- Nys is coached by Guillaume Couillard and Kevin Blandy. Zielinski is coached by Mariusz Fyrstenberg.