



2023 AUSTRALIAN OPEN MEN'S WHEELCHAIR SINGLES FINAL NOTES

Saturday 28 January

NO. 1 ALFIE HEWETT (GBR) v NO. 3 TOKITO ODA (JPN)

Head-to-head: Hewett leads 4-1

A 6th meeting for Hewett and Oda – and their first at a Grand Slam. The pair met for the first time in the quarterfinals at Rotterdam last year.

It is the pair's 3rd meeting in a final. Oda recorded his first victory against Hewett in the final at the 2022 Wheelchair Singles Masters, before Hewett won their most-recent meeting, in the final at the Melbourne Wheelchair Open last week.

The winner of today's match will become the 9th player to win the Australian Open men's wheelchair singles title since the event was introduced in 2002. Across all wheelchair events, 20 players had won a singles title here prior to 2023 – Niels Vink the only other player in the wheelchair singles finals here this year who could win his first Australian Open title.

Road to the final

HEWETT	Time		Time	ODA
d. Daisuke Arai 60 61	1:22	1st round	1:23	d. Casey Ratzlaff 61 75
d. Gordon Reid 62 64	1:07	Quarterfinals	1:18	d. Takashi Sanada 63 64
d. Takuya Miki 61 61	0:59	Semifinals	2:07	d. No. 2 Gustavo Fernandez 62 46 75
total time on court	3:28	(Infosys time)	4:48	total time on court

HEWETT	v	ODA
25	Age	16
1	Ranking	3
6	Grand Slam Singles Titles	0
51	Singles Titles	16
39-18	Grand Slam Record	6-3
8-6	Australian Open Record	3-0
428-140	Career Record	124-29
8-1	2023 Record	8-2

- **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 **7th Grand Slam title**. He has won 3 titles at Roland Garros – in 2017 (d. Gustavo Fernandez), 2020 (d. Joachim Gerard) and 2021 (d. Shingo Kunieda) – and 3 titles at the US Open – in 2018 (d. Kunieda), 2019 (d. Stephane Houdet) and 2022 (d. Kunieda).
- Hewett is through to his **13th Grand Slam final**. In addition to his 6 title victories, he also reached the final at the US Open in 2017 (l. Houdet), 2020 (l. Kunieda) and 2021 (l. Kunieda), at the Australian Open in 2021 (l. Gerard) and 2022 (l. Kunieda), and at 2022 Wimbledon (l. Kunieda).

- Hewett is making his **6th appearance at the Australian Open** and is contesting his 25th 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. Houdet, I. Kunieda).
- **Elsewhere at the Grand Slams in 2022**, Hewett reached the semifinals at Roland Garros (l. Fernandez).
- In addition to his title at the US Open, Hewett's **best results in 2022** were winning the titles at the Melbourne Wheelchair Open (d. Kunieda), Rotterdam (d. Gustavo Fernandez), the Cajun Classic (d. Fernandez) and the Sardinia Open (d. Fernandez). He also finished runner-up at the Australian Open, Wimbledon and the Wheelchair Singles Masters (l. Oda).
- **Prior to the Australian Open**, Hewett won the title at the Melbourne Wheelchair Open (d. Oda). He also competed at the Victorian Wheelchair Open, where he reached the quarterfinals (l. Ruben Spaargaren).
- 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 51 singles titles**. His tally of 5 titles in 2022 was his joint-highest number of professional titles in a season, having also won 5 titles in 2021.
- Hewett has also **won 67 doubles titles** – including 16 Grand Slam doubles titles. Hewett and Reid won the men's wheelchair doubles title at 10 consecutive Grand Slam events from the 2019 US Open through to 2022 Roland Garros, before finishing runner-up at both Wimbledon and the US Open last year. They won their 4th consecutive Australian Open doubles title on Friday, defeating Mikael Scheffers/Spaargaren 61 62 in the final.
- Hewett reached the **world No. 1 ranking** for the first time in January 2018. 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 returned to the No. 1 ranking this week for the first time since October last year following Kunieda's retirement on Sunday.
- Hewett is coached by Craig Allen and Ben Collingwood.
- **ODA** is bidding to become the 2nd Japanese man to win a Grand Slam wheelchair singles title – after 28-time Grand Slam wheelchair singles champion Shingo Kunieda.
- Oda is also bidding to become the **4th Japanese player win a Grand Slam wheelchair singles title** – after Kunieda (28 Grand Slam singles titles), Yui Kamiji (8) and Mie Yaosa (one). Kunieda, Kamiji and Yaosa have all won at least one Australian Open singles title. (NB Kamiji is bidding to win her 9th Grand Slam title in the women's wheelchair singles final today).
- At 16 years 265 days, Oda is bidding to become the **youngest player to win a Grand Slam singles title (in any discipline excluding juniors) since the 1997 Australian Open**, when Martina Hingis won the women's singles title aged 16 years 118 days. He would also become the youngest man in history to win a Grand Slam singles title in any discipline.
- By reaching the final here, Oda has recorded his **best Grand Slam performance**. His previous best performance at the Grand Slams was reaching the semifinals on his Grand Slam debut at Roland Garros last year (l. Kunieda).
- Oda is making his **Australian Open debut this year**. He is making his 4th Grand Slam appearance overall – in addition to his semifinal finish at Roland Garros last year, he also reached the quarterfinals at the US Open (l. Nicolas Peifer) but fell in the 1st round as a wild card at Wimbledon (l. Joachim Gerard).
- Oda's **best results in 2022** were winning the titles at the Swiss Open (d. Gustavo Fernandez) and the Wheelchair Singles Masters (d. Hewett). He also finished runner-up at the Japan Open (l. Kunieda).

- **Prior to the Australian Open**, Oda finished runner-up at the Melbourne Wheelchair Open (I. Hewett) and reached the semifinals at the Victorian Wheelchair Open (I. Gerard).
- Oda has **won 16 singles titles**, with his victory at the 2022 Wheelchair Singles Masters representing his biggest title-victory to date.
- Oda has also **won 6 doubles titles**. He competed in doubles here with Ben Bartram, but the pair fell to Daisuke Arai/Takashi Sanada 67(8) 76(5) [10-8] in the 1st round.
- Oda broke the Top 10 for the first time in December 2021 and has remained inside the Top 10 since then. He rose to a **new career-high ranking** of No. 3 on Monday.
- Oda is coached by Norihiro Maeda.