



## **DAVIS CUP FINALS: CANADA BEATS GERMANY AND REACHES THE SEMIFINALS**

***Team Canada defeated the Germans 2-1 in their opening tie in Malaga***

**Malaga, Spain, November 24, 2022** — Canada successfully overcame the quarter-final hurdle of the Davis Cup Finals by Rakuten with a 2-1 victory over Germany. The win advances Team Canada presented by Sobeys to the semifinals against Italy, who defeated the United States 2-1 on Thursday morning.

Canadian Denis Shapovalov (no. 18), had the task of kicking off the quarter-final tie against the formidable Jan-Lennard Struff (no. 152). Unfortunately, Struff continues to be a thorn in Shapovalov's side as he suffered his sixth loss in nine matches against the former world no. 29. This time, the 23-year-old fell 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(2). After conceding the first set to his rival, Shapovalov recovered and managed to tie the match, thanks in part to a superb serving display (7 aces, 94% success rate on his first serve). In the deciding set, while trailing 2-5, he also showed resilience to close the gap and force a tiebreak. However, he was unable to complete the comeback against a tough opponent.

“It was a tough singles match”, said Shapovalov after the match. “Struff is an opponent that I have struggled with in the past. He plays big for big matches. I was struggling a little bit with the timing, with my serve in the match. However, I think in general, it was a good fight for me and the level was pretty high a lot of moments in the match.”

However, world no. 6 Félix Auger-Aliassime of Montreal helped Canada level the tie by winning the second match 7-6(1), 6-4 over Germany's no. 1 Oscar Otte. Auger-Aliassime, who has now won both of his meetings with Otte, once again proved to be a dominant player, relying on his serve (15 aces compared to 5 for the German) and his devastating forehand (21 winners to 7). During the contest, the Canadian was never really put under pressure, facing only one break point which he easily erased en route to the fourth Davis Cup singles victory of his career.

In his press conference, Auger-Aliassime had nothing but good things to say about his rival, whom he faced a few weeks ago in Valencia:

“We played not long ago in similar conditions, where I won two good sets and lost one tiebreak. I did expect that he [could] serve well and anybody's kind of dangerous when they are serving well. I had to be careful and I had to stay sharp. But in the end, when the ball was in play, I was winning more rallies than he did, and it allowed me to come out with the win.”

The outcome of the tie was finally sealed in the decisive doubles match which pitted the Canadian pair of Denis Shapovalov and Vasek Pospisil against the German duo of Tim Puetz and Kevin Krawietz. The Canadians found themselves in trouble early on after dropping the first set 6-2, but quickly recovered in the second frame. Galvanized by a noisy Canadian crowd, the two players managed to turn the tide by winning three consecutive games in the second set to take a 4-1 lead. Pospisil and Shapovalov took advantage of the turnaround and kept the momentum going to win the match 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.

“Winning is always an incredible feeling. Today was a perfect example of Davis Cup at its finest: it was a very tough task for us and we were tested in many ways”, said Team Canada captain Frank Dancevic after the tie. “However, these guys, they have great energy. When they find the energy in the matches, I feel so confident they can beat any team in the world. It was amazing to watch. They showed so much heart going in the match, and once they found the rhythm, they played lights out and [really] took control of the match.”



Another big test awaits Canada on Saturday when they face Italy in the semifinals. The tie will be played at 7:00 a.m. (EST) at the Palacio de Deportes José María Martín Carpena and will be broadcast live on Sportsnet (English) and TVA Sports (French). The official lineup will be announced one hour before the start of play.

For more information on the Davis Cup Finals by Rakuten, please click [here](#).

#### **About Davis Cup**

Founded in 1900, Davis Cup by Rakuten is the men's world cup of tennis and the largest annual team competition in sport. 148 nations entered in 2022 and will compete across multiple levels of the competition from regional events to the pinnacle of the Davis Cup by Rakuten Finals. In 2022, the Finals will see 16 nations compete for a chance to be crowned world champions.

#### **About Tennis Canada**

Founded in 1890, Tennis Canada is a non-profit, national sport association with a mission to lead the growth of tennis in Canada and a vision to become a world-leading tennis nation. We value teamwork, passion, integrity, innovation and excellence. Tennis Canada owns and operates the premier National Bank Open presented by Rogers WTA and ATP Tour events, four professional ATP and ITF sanctioned events and financially supports four other professional tournaments in Canada. Tennis Canada operates junior national training centres/programs in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary. Tennis Canada is a proud member of the International Tennis Federation, the Canadian Olympic Committee and the Canadian Paralympic Committee, and serves to administer, sponsor and select the teams for Davis Cup, Billie Jean King Cup, the Olympic and Paralympic Games and all wheelchair, junior and senior national teams. Tennis Canada invests its surplus into tennis development. For more information on Tennis Canada please visit our Web site at: [www.tenniscanada.com](http://www.tenniscanada.com) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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