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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEAM CANADA FALLS TO HUNGARY 3-2 IN DAVIS CUP QUALIFIERS 1ST ROUND TIE IN MONTREAL

Canada will now play in World Group I in September with hopes of returning to the 2026 Qualifiers

[MONTREAL, QC] February 2, 2025 – The Davis Cup Qualifiers 1st Round concluded on Sunday as Team Canada presented by IGA fell to Hungary 3-2 at IGA Stadium in Montreal, Quebec. As a result, the Canadian team has been relegated to World Group I and will play in September for a chance to return to the Qualifiers 1st Round in 2026. The three-year streak of reaching the final stage of the competition, the Davis Cup Final 8, is now over.

“It’s part of Davis Cup – you’re going to go up and you’re going to go down,” said team captain Frank Dancevic after the final rubber. “It’s not every year you’re going to win. Davis Cup is something that takes a lot of emotions from you, and it’s a great learning experience for the team. Losing is part of it and it’s part of the journey. We keep our heads up, we move forward, and we’re excited to see who we will be playing in September and hopefully come back to the Qualifiers.”

Kicking off the day was Liam Draxl (Newmarket, ON) and Vasek Pospisil (Vernon, BC) in a doubles match against Hungary’s Mate Valkusz and Peter Fajta. Heading into the contest, Canada trailed Hungary 2-0 after wins from Fabian Marozsan and Marton Fucsovics on Saturday. Despite it being the first match that Draxl and Pospisil played as a team, the Canadian duo looked fantastic throughout the contest. They only conceded five points on their first serves in the entire match, beating the Hungarian pair 7-6(2), 6-4.

Pospisil, who first represented Canada at the Davis Cup in 2008, won his 33rd Davis Cup match, which also happened to be Draxl’s first. In his post-match press conference, the second-most winningest Canadian in Davis Cup history revealed that this would be the last time he would be donning the Maple Leaf at the competition.

“This was definitely my last Davis Cup match – I’m retiring from Davis Cup after this tie,” said Pospisil. “I got my last win with Liam [Draxl], and it felt really good. Honestly, the best memories of my career were playing with the team. Davis Cup means so much to me and these guys mean so much. It had such a huge impact on my career and my life.”

While the win in doubles kept Canada’s hopes alive, they still needed to win the next two matches to clinch the tie. First up in singles was Gabriel Diallo (Montreal, QC) who took on Marozsan, Hungary’s top-ranked player. Unlike yesterday’s three-set, two-hour battle, it took Diallo just over an hour to defeat the 56th-ranked player in the world 6-1, 6-3. The Montrealer saved six of seven break points and converted five of his eight opportunities.

With the tie on the line, Alexis Galarneau (Laval, QC) faced Fucsovics, world No. 96. The two players had met last week at an ATP Challenger in Portugal, where the Canadian won 6-3, 6-4. Today, Fucsovics got his revenge, defeating Galarneau 7-6(8), 6-4 in a thrilling encounter. The first-set tiebreak was a roller-



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coaster affair, with Galarneau having a set point and Fucsovics getting four of his own. In the second set, Galarneau broke his opponent early on, but Fucsovics clawed his way back, clinching the match and the tie for Hungary in the 10th game.

Canada will now be competing in World Group I in September and await the draw to figure out their opponents. Hungary heads to the Qualifiers 2nd Round and will face Austria.

About Tennis Canada

Founded in 1890, Tennis Canada is a non-profit, national sport association with a mission to lead the growth, development and promotion of tennis in Canada and a vision to be 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, it financially supports 15 other professional tournaments in Canada, as well as operating more than 60 events nationally across junior, wheelchair, university and Masters tennis categories. 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 masters tennis national teams. Tennis Canada invests its surplus into tennis development. For more information on Tennis Canada please visit our website at: www.tenniscanada.com and follow us on LinkedIn, X, Facebook and Instagram.

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