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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEAM CANADA LEADS 2-0 AGAINST ISRAEL AT DAVIS CUP WORLD GROUP I TIE IN HALIFAX

Diallo defeats Cukierman 6-1, 6-2, while Draxl edges Kimhi 7-6(5), 6-4

[HALIFAX, NS] September 12, 2025 – Team Canada is on the verge of securing its spot in the 2026 Davis Cup Qualifiers 1st Round following wins from Gabriel Diallo (Montreal, QC) and Liam Draxl (Newmarket, ON) on Friday. The World Group I tie between Canada and Israel, played as a best-of-five series, is being held at the Scotiabank Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and will conclude tomorrow.

“I’m really happy that Gabriel got the ball rolling for us – it’s never easy, no matter who you’re playing in Davis Cup, but he came out with a lot of confidence, playing a really aggressive game style, and really dominated throughout the match,” said Team Canada captain Frank Dancevic. “It was also Liam’s first ever Davis Cup singles match, so it was normal for him to be a bit nervous out there. But really proud of him to get through it. That’s a big moment in his career to win his first Davis Cup singles match.”

In the opening match, the Canadian team’s top player, Diallo, faced world No. 1178 Daniel Cukierman in what was their first encounter. Diallo, world No. 35, converted four of eight break points on Cukierman’s serve to win convincingly 6-1, 6-2. The Montreal native also dominated in his service games, keeping 85 per cent of his first serves in play and winning 80 per cent of those points. He hit seven aces and did not face a single break point. With the win, Diallo improves to 4-1 in Davis Cup play on home soil.

“I’m happy that I stayed composed, relied on my serve, and played well behind my serve,” said Diallo. “I think also I had confidence knowing that I was in a lot of his service games on my returns, which allowed me to loosen up on my serves throughout the match.”

In the second match of the day, Draxl faced Team Israel’s top player, world No. 787 Orel Kimhi. In their only previous meeting, at an ITF M15 event in Cancun in 2022, the Canadian took the match in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3. Today’s match saw its first set last one hour and 19 minutes as the world No. 117 Draxl clinched it 7-6(5) in a tiebreak. The Newmarket native carried his momentum into the second set, breaking Kimhi’s serve in the third and fifth game en route to a 7-6(5), 6-4 victory.

“I definitely started out a little nervous, I went down two breaks and was trailing 4-1,” said Draxl. “I accepted it and tried to compete super hard – it was really that simple. I made the rallies pretty physical and played my type of tennis. I’m really happy with the way I played after getting those nerves out of the way at the start of the match.”

Canada now needs one more win to book their ticket into the 2026 Davis Cup Qualifiers 1st Round. Should Israel win all three matches on Saturday, Canada will be relegated to the World Group I Play-offs.

SATURDAY’S MATCH SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 13, 2025

Liam Draxl / Cleeve Harper vs. Ofek Shimanov / Jordan Hasson at 1 p.m. ADT



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Followed by Gabriel Diallo vs. Orel Kimhi
Followed by Liam Draxl vs. Daniel Cukierman*

**If the tie is decided following the doubles rubber, the last singles rubber may not be contested.*

The tie is operating in a closed venue, broadcast-only format, without fans in attendance. The matches are being shown on TVA Sports and via CBC Sports' livestream on CBC Gem, [cbcsports.ca](https://www.cbcsports.ca), and the CBC Sports YouTube channel.

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.