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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEAM CANADA TAKES 2-0 LEAD OVER FRANCE AFTER DAY ONE OF DAVIS CUP QUALIFIERS 2ND ROUND

Saturday's doubles match is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. ET, with the singles matches to follow

[QUEBEC CITY, QC] September 18, 2026 – After the opening day of the Davis Cup Qualifiers 2nd Round, Team Canada presented by IGA is up 2-0 against France after victories by Félix Auger-Aliassime (Montreal, QC) and Liam Draxl (Newmarket, ON). The tie, being contested on the indoor hard courts at Centre Vidéotron in Quebec City, features a best-of-five format and will conclude tomorrow.

"It's amazing. Liam played a great match today and showed the level he can play at, and Félix played great as well," said Dancevic. "We're really happy to be up 2-0, but it's Davis Cup, and anything can happen. We have to be ready to play tomorrow and come out with the same energy and focus."

In the opening match, Draxl faced France's No. 1 player, Arthur Rinderknech (world No. 32), with the two meeting for the first time. Draxl, the world No. 205, entered the tie with a 5-1 Davis Cup record after winning both of his singles matches in Vancouver in the team's previous tie. In his first-ever match against a Top 50 opponent, Draxl got off to a fast start, taking the opening set 6-2. The Canadian continued to apply pressure in the second set and held his composure in the closing stages to complete the 6-2, 7-5 victory and give Canada the first point of the tie.

"I mean, I don't think it's fully sunk in yet, but I'm just so happy and so grateful to get a win on the board for Canada," said Draxl. "I feel like I really thrive in team environments. I feel like it's what I'm meant to do – play for teams, play for your country. It just comes very naturally to me, feeding off the energy. It brings some of my best tennis out. So happy to set the tone and put Canada on the board."

In the second match, world No. 5 Auger-Aliassime made his long-awaited Davis Cup home debut, defeating world No. 49 Quentin Halys 7-6(5), 4-6, 6-3 to put Canada up 2-0 in the tie. The 26-year-old Quebecer extended his Davis Cup winning streak to 13 matches with the victory. Auger-Aliassime hit 12 aces, won 77 per cent of his first-serve points and faced just one break point. He improved to 4-0 in his career head-to-head record against Halys.

"Great relief and some really beautiful emotions," said Auger-Aliassime post-match. "Ultimately, there had been a lot of anticipation around this tie since our victory over Brazil at the beginning of the year. It's a really great way to start, but it's only the beginning, not the end goal. A step forward, but there is still plenty of tennis ahead."

Action continues Saturday with a doubles match featuring Canada's Auger-Aliassime and Duncan Chan (Markham, ON) against France's Benjamin Bonzi and Pierre-Hugues Herbert. The doubles rubber will be followed by a singles match between the two nations' top-ranked players, Auger-Aliassime and Rinderknech. If needed, a fifth and final match will see Draxl face Halys.

The tie is broadcast nationally live by [TVA Sports](#) in French and [TSN Premium](#) in English, while [beIN France](#) will provide international coverage of the event.



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MEDIA NOTES

- Canada (No. 12) advanced to the Qualifiers 2nd Round following a 3-2 victory over Brazil in February at UBC's Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre in Vancouver.
- France (No. 6) qualified by defeating Slovakia 3-1 in the Qualifiers 1st Round.
- France leads the head-to-head with Canada 3-0.
- The Canadian team was crowned world champions in 2022, defeating Australia 2-0 in the final.
- France last won the Davis Cup in 2017, claiming its 10th world title.
- This week's winner will advance to the 2026 Davis Cup Final 8 in November, while the losing nation will compete in the 2027 Davis Cup Qualifiers 1st Round.
- Canada have won 11 of their last 13 home Davis Cup ties.

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.