

ARIZONA TENNIS CLASSIC: MARCH 17 MATCH NOTES

Phoenix Country Club | Phoenix, AZ, USA | 11-17 March 2024

Draw: S-32, D-16 | ATP Challenger 175 | Prize Money: \$225,500 | Surface: Outdoor Hard

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BORGES vs. BERRETTINI ON CHAMPIONSHIP SUNDAY

Championship Sunday has arrived at the Arizona Tennis Classic, with reigning champion Nuno Borges set to face 2019 titlist Matteo Berrettini. The winner is guaranteed a second Phoenix title.

SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Nuno Borges (POR) [Rank: 60; Age: 27] – It was one year ago that Borges claimed the biggest title of his career, rallying past Alexander Shevchenko from a set down to lift the trophy. A former standout at Mississippi State University and the 2019 NCAA singles runner-up, he would go on to crack the Top 50 of the PIF ATP Rankings and reached the Round of 16 at the Australian Open in January. Borges is the No. 1 ranked player from Portugal.

Matteo Berrettini (ITA) [Rank: 154; Age: 27] – Berrettini has been made to work this week, rallying from a set down to defeat Hugo Gaston and Arthur Cazaux in his opening matches, before ousting Aleksandar Vukic on Saturday. The 2021 Wimbledon finalist is on the comeback trail after missing the last six months due to a foot injury. Champion at the inaugural Arizona Tennis Classic in 2019, the Italian used the title as a springboard to reach a career-high No. 6 in the world.

PIF ATP Rankings Update – Berrettini will rise to No. 144 in the world with a title, while Borges will move to No. 61 if he lifts the trophy.

Head-to-Head – This is the first meeting between Borges and Berrettini.

Past Finals

Borges: This is Borges' 10th ATP Challenger Tour final, winning five titles. He is bidding to lift a trophy for the fourth consecutive year. In 2023, the Portuguese prevailed in Phoenix, as well as in Monterrey, Mexico and on home soil in Maia.

Berrettini: Berrettini is bidding for his 12th professional title, owning seven ATP Tour titles and four crowns on the ATP Challenger Tour. His most recent victory came on the grass of Queen's Club in London in 2022, an ATP Tour 500 level event. His most recent hard-court title came here in Phoenix in 2019, claiming the inaugural Arizona Tennis Classic trophy.

Stat of the Day – Berrettini and Borges have enjoyed their share of success at the next level, with Berrettini reaching the Wimbledon final in 2021, falling to Novak Djokovic in four sets, and Borges advancing to the Round of 16 at this year's Australian Open. There, he earned his first career Top 20 win, upsetting Grigor Dimitrov from a set down.

DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Sadio Doumbia (FRA)/Fabien Reboul (FRA) vs. Rinky Hijikata (AUS)/Henry Patten (GBR): Top seeds Doumbia and Reboul are bidding for their second title of the year, having prevailed at the ATP Tour event in Montpellier, France. Hijikata and Patten, meanwhile, are teaming for the first time. Individually, Hijikata won the 2023 Australian Open doubles title with countryman Jason Kubler. In 2022, Patten won a single-season record 10 ATP Challenger doubles titles, alongside countryman Julian Cash.

WHAT IS THE ATP CHALLENGER TOUR?

The ATP Challenger Tour is the second-highest level of men's professional tennis in the world. Since its inception in 1978, competition on the tour has been intense, with players fighting for critical PIF ATP Rankings points and prize money. These tournaments (196 events in 46 countries) give fans the excitement of watching world class tennis in a smaller, more intimate setting.

The purpose of the ATP Challenger Tour is to provide opportunities for players to develop their talents and skills from a young age, while gaining valuable experience against strong competition. The circuit has been the first step for the sport's most accomplished stars, including Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. Regardless of talent and potential, every player must work their way up the PIF ATP Rankings, as they strive to reach the Top 100 and compete on the ATP Tour and in Grand Slam