

July 24, 2018

THREE TOP 100 PLAYERS, TEN IN TOP 150 ON ODLUM BROWN VANOPEN MEN'S MAIN DRAW LIST

West Vancouver, BC – The Odlum Brown VanOpen is pleased to announce the men's field which will compete in the \$100,000 ATP Challenger Tour event August 11 - 19 at Hollyburn Country Club.

The field is among the strongest in the tournament's 16-year history. The players on the list are in addition to 17-year-old Canadian rising star **Felix Auger-Aliassime**, who was announced as committed to playing at the tournament earlier this week.

"We are thrilled this year to have another strong field of players in our men's event. We have players with victories over Nadal and Federer, and our number 1 seed **Pierre-Hugues Herbert** has won multiple Grand Slam doubles titles, including at this year's French Open. The caliber of player we've attracted is world class and we are honored that they have chosen to participate in our award-winning event," said Odlum Brown VanOpen Tournament Director Rik de Voest.

Overall, 11 of the men's participants competed in the main draw at Wimbledon last month. The list also includes three players who were most recently ranked within the World Top 100.

France's **Herbert** is currently World No. 79, **Gilles Muller** of Luxembourg is ranked No. 92, and Aussie **Jordan Thompson** is 98th overall.

Herbert's career high singles ranking is No. 63, but in doubles he's been ranked as high as No. 2, which came July 2016. The 27-year-old is a three-time Grand Slam Doubles champion, winning crowns at the 2015 US Open, 2016 Wimbledon, and earlier this year at Roland Garos. He and partner Richard Gasquet won the doubles match vs. Belgium to help France win the Davis Cup last year.

Muller, who is a two-time Grand Slam quarterfinalist, returns to the Odlum Brown VanOpen for the first time since 2010. The 35-year-old reached a career high singles ranking of No. 21 last July and has 12 career wins over top-10 ranked players. Of those dozen wins, three came against players who have been ranked World No. 1 (Andre Agassi, Rafael Nadal, Andy Roddick).

Thompson was the runner-up at last year's Odlum Brown VanOpen. The 24-year-old knocked off former World No. 1 Andy Murray in the first round of last year's Aegon Championships, making him the first Australian player to beat Murray in an ATP-level singles match. Thompson also reached the third round in men's doubles at both the French Open and US Open last year.

Other notables include Australia's **Jason Kubler**, who's ranked World No. 108, **Thomas Fabbiano** of Italy at World No. 110, Swede **Elias Ymer** at No. 111, World No. 123 **Yannick Maden** of Germany, No. 128 **Ilya Ivashka** of Belarus, Canadian **Peter Polansky**, who's ranked No. 134, and World No. 138 **Stephane Robert** of France.

ODLUM BROWN VANOPEN

AUGUST 11-19, 2018 • VANCOUVER, BC



In 2009, **Kubler** became just the second player in history to go undefeated through the World Youth Cup and Junior Davis Cup. The 25-year-old has battled knee injuries throughout his career and is on a comeback that has seen him win two ATP Challenger Tour events this year, including earlier this month in Winnipeg.

Fabbiano, 29, reached the third round at Wimbledon last month, beating former World No. 3 Stanislas Wawrinka along the way. He also reached the third round at last year's US Open. The Italian has 16 career ATP Challenger and ITF Futures singles titles since 2007 and reached a career high of World No. 70 last September.

Coached by former World No. 4 Robin Soderling, the 22-year-old **Ymer** jumped more than 150 spots to end 2017 at No. 142. He reached a career high of No. 105 last month and competed in the main draw of both the Australian Open and French Open this year. Ymer has a 9-1 career record in ATP Challenger and ITF Futures singles finals.

Germany's **Maden** has a 12-7 ATP Challenger Tour record this year, highlighted by semifinal run at Lille, France. The 28-year-old made his Grand Slam main draw debut at Wimbledon last month, falling to semifinalist John Isner. Maden played college tennis at Clemson University from 2010-13.

Ivashka was inspired to play tennis at age 5 after watching his father play. He's a two-time Grand Slam participant, playing in the 2016 US Open and 2018 French Open main draws. The 24-year-old owns three ITF Futures titles and two wins on the ATP Challenger Tour, including the Pingshan Open in China earlier this spring.

Polansky, who's from Toronto, was forced to withdraw from last year's Odlum Brown VanOpen due to a wrist injury. The 30-year-old has 29 career ATP Challenger Tour and ITF Futures singles titles. He is an eight-time Grand Slam main draw participant, including the Australian Open, Roland Garros, and Wimbledon so far this year.

Robert won the \$75,000 Burnie International earlier this year to become the second-oldest champion in ATP Challenger Tour history. The 38-year-old is a former World No. 50 who reached the fourth round of the Aussie Open in 2014. The Frenchman has 23 career singles titles on the ATP Challenger Tour and ITF Men's Circuit.

In all, 12 different countries are represented on the initial men's main draw list, continuing the Odlum Brown VanOpen's tradition of drawing top international players.

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About the Odlum Brown VanOpen:

The Odlum Brown VanOpen is the 2017 ATP Challenger Tournament of the Year and Western Canada's largest and most celebrated tennis event. It offers an equal balance of \$200,000 USD in prize money for men and women and provides players the opportunity to gain valuable world-ranking points on both the ATP and WTA Tours. It annually also attracts 140 international and professional players from over 45 countries. Eugenie Bouchard, Milos Raonic, Maria Sharapova, Johanna Konta, Andy Murray, Marion Bartoli, Vasek Pospisil, and Karolina Pliskova are among today's top stars who began their careers at the Odlum Brown VanOpen.