

What to Look for in Today's Matches

by Matt Lombardi



J.P. Morgan
TOURNAMENT
OF CHAMPIONS

Noon: Mathieu Castagnet (France, age 32, rank 27) vs. George Parker (England, age 22, rank 34). Parker is an imposing physical presence on court with a sometimes fiery disposition. A run of strong play at the end of 2018 has him looking like a potential rising star, but his patience may be tested by the veteran Frenchman Castagnet, a brilliant retriever who reached #6 in the world in 2016. Over the past two years he's contended with a persistent calf injury that could factor into today's play.

12:45: Joel Makin (Wales, age 24, rank 23) vs. Joshua Masters (England, age 23, rank 52). The long and lanky Masters prefers a high-risk, attacking style, while Makin is a hard-headed, persistent battler. They met twice in PSA competition in 2018, with Makin winning in straight games both times.

1:30: Raphael Kandra (Germany, age 28, rank 15) vs. Gregoire Marche (France, age 28, rank 32). Kandra had a breakthrough performance at last year's British Open, reaching the semifinals and defeating three-time world champion Nick Matthew along the way. He'll try to apply steady pressure against the acrobatic, mercurial Marche, who's prone to run hot and cold.

3:30: Cameron Pilley (Australia, age 36, rank 29) vs. Nathan Lake (England, age 26, rank 50). Longtime fans are likely to be familiar with Pilley—the affable, hard-hitting Aussie has been playing in the ToC for over a decade. Look for sharp, quick rallies with the lefty Lake, who's making his first appearance in Grand Central.

4:15: Nicolas Mueller (Switzerland, age 29, rank 18) vs. Mazen Hesham (Egypt, age 24, rank 37). Hesham's career has been hampered by injury, but he's still managed to make his mark as one of squash's most entertaining players, capable of spectacular winners at the least likely moments. Mueller is more orthodox but similarly aggressive. Expect them to produce some highlight-reel rallies.

6:30: Omar Mosaad (Egypt, age 30, rank 17) vs. Christopher Hanson (U.S., age 28, rank 63). Alternatively nicknamed the Hammer of Thor and the Gentle Giant, Mosaad makes the glass court rattle with his thundering drives, but he plays a nuanced tactical game that isn't strictly built on power. Greenwich-based Hanson will be hoping for the home crowd to help him build on his strong play in 2018, when he won three PSA titles and the U.S. National Championship.

7:15: Youssef Soliman (Egypt, age 22, rank 35) vs. Timmy Brownell (U.S., age 21, rank 288). Brownell, a Harvard junior, earned a ToC wildcard position by winning a playoff over four other young American talents. Any big-match nerves may be tempered by the fact that Soliman is a familiar player from junior competition who's also making his ToC debut.

8:00: Ysz Fung Yip (Hong Kong, age 25, rank 22) vs. Todd Harrity (U.S., age 28, rank 48). Yip's superhero-like leg muscles are testament to a rock-solid game that he's used to climb methodically up the rankings. Harrity is the most experienced of the three Americans on stage tonight, making his seventh appearance in the ToC's main draw. He's looking to notch his first win in Grand Central.



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Team USA trio Chris Hanson, Timmy Brownell and Todd Harrity take center stage on the ToC's first-ever 'Wild Wednesday'

**TODAY'S MATCHES
PRESENTED BY**

J.P.Morgan

**WELCOME TO THE TOC
Bard College
StreetSquash
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NOON SESSION

Mathieu Castagnet (FRA) vs. George Parker (ENG)
Joel Makin (WAL) vs. Joshua Masters (ENG)
Raphael Kandra (GER) vs. Gregoire Marche (FRA)

3:30 PM SESSION

Cameron Pilley (AUS) vs. Nathan Lake (ENG)
Nicolas Mueller (SUI) vs. Mazen Hesham (EGY)

6:30 PM SESSION

Omar Mosaad (EGY) vs. Chris Hanson (USA)
Youssef Soliman (EGY) vs. Timmy Brownell (USA)
Ysz Fung Yip (HKG) vs. Todd Harrity (USA)

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