

What to look for in Today's Matches



Noon: Nicolas Müller (Switzerland, age 30, rank 29) vs. Youssef Soliman (Egypt, age 22, rank 37)

The Swiss veteran has played some of the best squash of his career in Grand Central, including a 2018 quarterfinal run and five straight second round appearances. Soliman's agility could cause him problems, however, as indicated in their only previous PSA encounter—a narrow fifty-minute Müller victory in Hong Kong last September.

12:45: Lucas Serme (France, age 27, rank 35) vs. Abdullah Al Tamimi (Qatar, age 25, rank 39)

The pacy and skillful Al Tamimi played the best squash of his career during November's PSA World Championship in his native Qatar where he reached the third round, and he will hope to continue that form. This will be his first career match up against the industrious Frenchman, who reached the ToC second round for the first time last year.

2:30: Arturo Salazar (Mexico, age 32, rank 43) vs. Mathieu Castagnet (France, age 33, rank 25)

Castagnet, a top-ten player in 2016, won his only previous encounter against the Salazar twin, but it took him more than an hour. Expect power and pace from both players in what could be one of the day's most entertaining and attritional match ups.

3:15: Campbell Grayson (New Zealand, age 33, rank 28) vs. Edmon Lopez (Spain, age 23, rank 53)

Lopez, who was a late addition to the tournament due to withdrawals, will make his ToC debut in his first career match up against the Boston-based Kiwi. Grayson, ten years his senior, will need to rely on his wealth of PSA experience to hold off the youngster.

4:00: Ramit Tandon (India, age 27, rank 46) vs. Mostafa Asal (Egypt, age 18, rank 21)

Asal, the youngest player in the ToC men's draw at just eighteen years old, has been dubbed as a potential future world No. 1. The two-time world junior champion has an imposing presence on court and controlled his only previous match against Tandon during October's U.S. Open. Tandon, a former Columbia University star, will hope to avenge that loss in front of his New York City fan club.

7:00: Cesar Salazar (Mexico, age 32, rank 23) vs. Chris Hanson (USA, age 29, rank 67)

Hanson, a Dartmouth graduate, defeated Cesar's brother Arturo for the first time last summer at the Pan American Games, but lost in three against Cesar in their only previous PSA encounter. Cesar will enter the match as the favorite and aim to secure his first career ToC victory against the American.

7:45: Leo Au (Hong Kong, age 29, rank 22) vs. Todd Harrity (USA, age 29, rank 59)

Harrity won his first career match on the glass court in Grand Central last year against Hong Kong's Yip Tsz Fung, and will hope to do the same against Yip's teammate, Leo Au. Hong Kong's No. 1 will be favored against the Princeton graduate, reinforced by his 3-0 win over Harrity in the 2019 PSA World Championship.

8:30: Ryan Cuskelly (Australia, age 32, rank 24) vs. Chris Gordon (USA, age 33, rank 91)

The Greenwich, Connecticut-based Aussie had one of the best results of his career in Grand Central—a five-game upset against Mohamed ElShorbagy on his way to the 2018 quarterfinals—and would set up a rematch with the world No. 2 with a win. Gordon, raised in Manhattan and based in Queens, will hope to give the home crowd something to cheer for in his first match on the glass court since 2009.



Thursday
January 9, 2020



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Welcome to the twenty-third J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions held in Grand Central Terminal's picturesque Vanderbilt Hall. The opening day of match play also celebrates the inaugural 'Thundering Thursday', where squash fans can watch the world's best players for tickets as low as \$10. Three Americans will harness the energy of the sold out crowd Thursday night in search of glory on squash's grandest stage.

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Today's Matches Presented by



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Lucas Serme (FRA) vs. Abdulla Mohd Al Tamimi (QAT)

2:30 PM SESSION

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Ryan Cuskelly (AUS) vs. [WC] Chris Gordon (USA)

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