

WTT CONTENDER MUSCAT 2022 MEDIA NOTES DAY 1

CITY: Muscat, OMAN
SITE: Sultan Qaboos Sport Complex
DATE: 5–10 September 2022
TABLE BRAND: STAG
BALL BRAND: DHS
FLOOR BRAND: STAG
MEDIA CONTACT: Press@WorldTableTennis.com

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World Table Tennis (WTT) returns to Oman as WTT Contender Muscat 2022 welcomes table tennis stars from across the world from 5-10 September 2022.

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KEY MATCHES OF DAY 1

Sofia Polcanova (AUT) vs Choi Hyojoo (KOR) – Women's Singles Round of 32 | Table 1 | 14:00 (GMT+4)

Crowned European champion for the first time in her career last month in Munich, Austria's Sofia Polcanova, ranked 10th in the world, heads to Muscat with renewed vigour as she looks to replicate her recent continental success on the WTT circuit. The top seed's Women's Singles campaign begins in opposition to Korea Republic's Choi Hyojoo. Despite being separated by 81 positions in the ITTF Table Tennis World Rankings, the two players hold an even 1:1 record from their previous encounters. Polcanova held a 4-3 edge in their one and only senior clash at the 2019 ITTF World Tour Austrian Open, while Choi landed a 3-2 win at Under-21 level at the 2015 ITTF World Tour in the Czech Republic.

Darko Jorgic (SLO) vs Felix Lebrun (FRA) – Men's Singles Round of 32 | Table 1 | 14:30 (GMT+4)

The Men's Singles top seed also makes an appearance on Day One as Darko Jorgic looks to make a positive early impression in Muscat. The 24-year-old Slovenian ace has enjoyed a stellar year at continental level, lifting the Europe Top 16 Cup and earning a silver medal at the recent European Championships. Still searching for his first WTT singles title, Jorgic will be made to work hard right from the off with rising star Felix Lebrun awaiting at the first hurdle. Can the 15-year-old French sensation cause an upset and dispatch Jorgic in their first-ever meeting?

Chuang Chih-Yuan (TPE) vs Zhou Qihao (CHN) – Men’s Singles Round of 32 | Table 4 | 18:30 (GMT+4)

Later in the day we’ll see one man who’s enjoying somewhat of a renaissance on the world stage as Chinese Taipei stalwart Chuang Chih-Yuan opens his Men’s Singles account. The 41-year-old, ranked 16th in the world, has jumped nine World Ranking positions in 2022, reaching his best standing since November 2018. Ending a six-year title draught with his successful outing at WTT Feeder Westchester 2022 in May, Chuang is looking to add to his collection in Muscat. However, his first opponent at Sultan Qaboos Sport Complex is China’s Zhou Qihao, who holds a 2:0 advantage over Chuang in the head-to-head record following 4-2 and 4-3 victories at ITTF World Tour events in Stockholm (2018) and Doha (2019) respectively.

Day Schedule

7 SEPTEMBER		DAY ONE			
	SESSION 1				
	Table 1	Table 2	Table 3	Table 4	
Starting At: 10:00	Men’s & Women’s Doubles – ROUND OF 16				
followed by	Men’s & Women’s Doubles – ROUND OF 16				
followed by	Men’s & Women’s Doubles – ROUND OF 16				
followed by	Men’s & Women’s Doubles – ROUND OF 16				
	SESSION 2				
Starting At: 14:00	Men’s & Women’s Singles – ROUND OF 32				
followed by	Men’s & Women’s Singles – ROUND OF 32				
followed by	Men’s & Women’s Singles – ROUND OF 32				
followed by	Men’s & Women’s Singles – ROUND OF 32				
followed by	Mixed Doubles – ROUND OF 16				
	SESSION 3				
Starting At: 18:00	Men’s & Women’s Singles – ROUND OF 32				
followed by	Men’s & Women’s Singles – ROUND OF 32				
followed by	Men’s & Women’s Singles – ROUND OF 32				
followed by	Men’s & Women’s Singles – ROUND OF 32				
followed by	Mixed Doubles – ROUND OF 16				
	End of Day				

Players Information
Men’s Singles (Main Draw)

PLAYER	AGE	PLAYING HAND	GRIP	Playing Style	Year to Date Win %
Darko JORGIC	24	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	70
Patrick FRANZISKA	30	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	68
CHUANG Chih-Yuan	41	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	66
LIM Jonghoon	25	Left-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	69

LEE Sangsu	32	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	63
Simon GAUZY	27	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	65
JANG Woojin	26	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	74
Alexis LEBRUN	19	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	70
Ruwen FILUS	34	Right-handed	Shakehand	Defense	67
Kanak JHA	22	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	66
Benedikt DUDA	28	Left-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	66
Robert GARDOS	43	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	58
Yang WANG	27	Right-handed	Shakehand	Defense	64
Jon PERSSON	35	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	62
AN Jaehyun	22	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	74
ZHOU Qihao	25	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	84
Alvaro ROBLES	31	Left-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	58
Jonathan GROTH	29	Left-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	61
Tiago APOLONIA	36	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	63
Koki NIWA	27	Left-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	66
Brian AFANADOR	25	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	64
Felix LEBRUN	15	Right-handed	Penhold	Attacker	77
Ricardo WALTHER	30	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	69
Alexandre CASSIN	23	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	70

* Accurate as of 6 September 2022

Women's Singles (Main Draw)

PLAYER	AGE	PLAYING HAND	GRIP	Matches played	Year to Date Win %
Sofia POLCANOVA	28	Left-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	67
Xiaoxin YANG	34	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	75
Nina MITTELHAM	25	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	70
CHEN Szu-Yu	29	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	62
SHIN Yubin	18	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	67
CHEN Xingtong	25	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	82
Elizabeta SAMARA	33	Left-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	67
Lily ZHANG	26	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	69
Margaryta PESOTSKA	31	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	61
Manika BATRA	27	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	64
Barbora BALAZOVA	30	Left-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	62
QIAN Tianyi	22	Left-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	83
ZENG Jian	25	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	64
LEE Zion	26	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	62
Sreeja AKULA	24	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	62
Archana Girish KAMATH	22	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	67
Natalia BAJOR	25	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	63
CHOI Hyojoo	24	Left-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	68
Ayhika MUKHERJEE	25	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	64

GOI Rui Xuan	21	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	51
ZHOU Jingyi	17	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	59
XU Yi	17	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	81
WONG Xin Ru	20	Right-handed	Shakehand	Attacker	32

* Accurate as of 6 September 2022



WTT Contender Muscat 2022
Qualification: 5–6 September
Main Draw: 7–10 September
USD 75,000