

ASIAN TENNIS FEDERATION (MARCH 2017)



ASIAN "ATP TOP 100" CLUB



Kei Nishikori — ATP 5

Kei Nishikori (JPN) the Number 1 Asian Men's player in the top 100 of ATP World Rankings started playing tennis at the age of five.

Born on 29th Dec 1989; Kei is currently ranked number 5 in the World ATP Rankings; and has the distinction of being the only Japanese Men's player, ever to be ranked inside the top 10 players in the world.

Nishikori turned professional at Japan Open in October 2007 & his first win on the ATP Tour came in 2008 at the International Championships held at Delray Beach.

By Feb 2010, Kei had won several events on the ATP Challenger Circuit and entered the top 100 ATP ranking by the end of 2010.

Till date Kei has won 11 Singles titles and was the Finalist at the 2014 US Open giving him the distinction of being the first male player representing an Asian country to reach a Grand Slam Singles Final.

In 2016 once again, he had a fine run at the US Open when he reached the Semi-Finals. Kei further holds the record of being the first man from Asia to qualify for the ATP World Tour Finals where he reached the Semi Finals in 2014 and 2016.

He represented Japan at the Rio 2016 Olympics, where he lost to Andy Murray in the Semi Final

and faced Rafael Nadal for the Bronze medal match which he won in 3 tight sets giving Japan its first tennis medal in 96 years.

-X-

The Number 2 Asian Men's player in the top 100 of the ATP World Rankings is **Yen-Hsun Lu (TPE)**.

Yen-Hsun Lu, also called by his nick name Rendy, is currently placed at the 61st spot of the ATP World Rankings.

Rendy had reached the highest ATP ranking of 33 in Nov 2010. He became the first player from Taiwan to reach the top 100, way back in 2004 when he started to actively play the ATP Tour Circuit.

Rendy's stellar achievement came at 2008 Beijing Olympics, when he beat Andy Murray in the first round, who was then ranked at number 6 in the world.

Having three ATP titles under his belt, Rendy has the distinction of



Yen-Hsun Lu — ATP 61

ASIAN TENNIS FEDERATION (MARCH 2017)



ASIAN "ATP TOP 100" CLUB

being the only Taiwanese player to have reached the Quarter Finals of the Wimbledon in 2010 where he lost to Novak Djokovic who was at that time positioned on the 3rd spot of the Men's World Rankings.

Rendy pulled out all stops when he reached the finals of the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon; Korea, where he lost to another Top 100 Asian Men's Club member Yoshihito Nishioka of Japan in two tough tie breaker sets.

Currently being coached by Danai Udomchoke of Thailand, himself an ex top 100 player on the ATP Circuit, we wish Rendy all the best for the times to come. Hope he continues his top form and moves closer to the top 10 mark in the world.

-x-

The Number 3 Asian Men's player in the top 100 of the ATP World Rankings, is **Denis Istomin (UZB)**, who will always take pride in achieving the biggest upset of



Denis Istomin—ATP 68

his career when he beat World No. 2 Novak Djokovic in the second round of 2017 Australian Open.

Then ranked 117 in the world, his fine run at the first Grand Slam of 2017, making to the fourth round, catapulted Denis Istomin to the top 100 group.

He is currently placed on 68th spot and has the reputation of being only one of the few ATP Professional players, to be playing with glasses. A few of the other players playing with

glasses are Janko Tipsarevic of Serbia and Hyeon Chung of Korea.

- x -

On the 4th Spot of the Asian Men's Top 100 club is **Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN)**, who has steadily made inroads into the top hundred ATP World Rankings.

Born on 27th Sept 1995, at just 1.70 mts in height, Yoshihito is perhaps the perfect example of pure hard work and grit. The left hander has won four ATP Challenger Titles till now and is placed at the 86th spot.

As a junior, he competed at the top level of the gamefinishing his juniors career at the 12th spot.

At a young age of 19, Yoshihito had achieved the distinction of qualifying for the Main Draw of the US Open (2014 edition) however an illness forced him to retire in the first round encounter .



Yoshihito Nishioka —ATP 86

ASIAN TENNIS FEDERATION (MARCH 2017)



ASIAN "ATP TOP 100" CLUB

Later in the year 2014; he won the Gold Medal for Japan at the Asian Game held in Incheon, Korea, by winning the singles title, defeating Yen Hsun Lu for the top spot.

Yoshihito has appeared in all the four Grand Slams Main Draws, however he is yet to make a significant breakthrough, which is sure to catapult him into the next league of big boys of the game.

Interesting to note that he is the second Japanese to have maintained his spot in the top 100 international Men's rankings in recent times.

-x-

On the 5th spot of the Asian Men's Top 100 club is **Mikhail Kukushkin (KAZ)** at 87 ATP.

Mikhail, turned professional in 2006 & had earlier been a part of the top 50 league, when he touched his career high ranking of 46 in October 2015.



Mikhail Kukushkin—ATP 87

Noticeable achievements of his career have been his qualification to Main Draw of the ATP 100 Master Series Tournament in 2009, and his stunning win over Stanislas Wawrinka during the 2010 Davis Cup Play Off tie against Switzerland.

He has appeared in all the four Grand Slams every year since 2011, his only non appearance being in the French Open and the Wimbledon in 2013, which was due to a

serious hip injury he suffered at the fag end of 2012. -x-

And last but not the least, on the 6th spot of the Asian Men's Top 100 Club is **Hyeon Chung (KOR)** at 90 ATP.

We had covered Hyeon Chung on our website journals in December 2016 when he was placed on 104 ATP and was ready to make his presence felt in the top 100 group.

In 2015 at 19 years of age, Hyeon Chung had achieved what very few teenagers in Asia have been able to get to, at such an early stage in their careers.

He touched a career high of 51, belting a string of achievements, which included several ATP Challenger titles & Main Draw appearances in Australian Open, US Open and the Wimbledon.

He received the "Most Improved Player of 2015" award by the ATP, for having improved almost 120 spaces, to reach his career best of 51, from 171 ATP at the beginning of the year.



Hyeon Chung — ATP 90