Photos by Cashman Photo



**Thanasi Kokkinakis Defeats Blaz Rola To Win**

**Las Vegas Tennis Open Final**

LAS VEGAS (Oct. 28, 2018) – Never facing a break point the entire match, big serving Australian Thanasi Kokkinakis recorded 13 aces on his way to winning the Las Vegas Tennis Open on Sunday with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Blaz Rola at the Fertitta Tennis Complex at UNLV.

The 22-year-old Kokkinakis earned two important service breaks of his own – one late in the first set and the second to open the final set – to capture the fourth annual LVTO, an ATP $50,000 Men’s Challenger.

“I’m just trying to win matches and stay healthy,” said Kokkinakis, who is hoping for a return to the top 100 in the world having previously reached a career-high of No. 69 as a teenager in 2015. “It sounds simple but that’s what has to happen. When I’m good I’m good, but when I’m bad I’m just average so I have to find that consistency.”

After the match, Kokkinakis gave an assist to famed former Andre Agassi trainer Gil Reyes as he arrived into Las Vegas a week early to train. “I wasn’t sure how it was going to work out because he’s got his own methods,” Kokkinakis said. “But he’s really positive and a really good guy. I worked with him the week before and I won so obviously it helped.”

Asked by on-court announcer Kevin Janison after the match if he was tired of people asking him about his win over Roger Federer in Miami in March, Kokkinakis told the crowd yes, he was. Janison followed up by asking how his life changed after beating the legend. “Not at all,” Kokkinakis said. “It was a stepping stone, and I just proved to myself that I can play at that level. This week and these wins here are just as important.”

Kokkinakis was visibly upset with himself at times during the match. “I thought Blaz was the better player in the first set, and I just happened to get the lucky break and was able to take it,” said Kokkinakis, who served a tournament-high 48 aces in his five matches without dropping a set. “I was able to serve well and play to my strengths this week.”

Rola will focus his attention to the final three ATP Challengers on college campuses. “I’m just happy with the week and I still have three weeks of tournaments left in the States so we’re far from being over for the year,” said Rola, who plans to play ATP Challenger events at Charlottesville, Va., Knoxville, Tenn., and Champaign, Ill. “We stayed calm this week and stayed in our rooms and didn’t go out, but it’s Sunday and we have a later flight so we’ll see.”

In the doubles final, the top-seeded team of Marcelo Arevalo of El Salvador and Roberto Maytin of Venezuela beat the No. 4 American team of Robert Galloway and Nathan Pasha, 6-3, 6-3. Galloway played his college tennis at Wofford College in South Carolina, and Pasha for the University of Georgia.

The tournament sponsors included: The Orleans Hotel & Casino, Andre Agassi Foundation for Education, Marty Hennessy Inspiring Children Foundation, Merrill Lynch, RC Willey, Bank of Nevada, USTA Nevada, Bosch appliances, Vivida Dermatology, Cirque du Soleil, Marquis Aurbach Coffing, Littler, Brain Balance, Performance Steel, Elaine Dowling Law Group, Realty Edge, Renewal by Anderson, Tecnifibre, Las Vegas Color Graphics, Pressed for Juice, McDonald’s, Craig and Katie McCall, Tangerine Creative Agency, and Stoddard Creative.

**RESULTS**
**Men's Singles - Final**
Thanasi Kokkinakis (AUS) d Blaz Rola (SLO), 6-4, 6-4

**Men's Doubles - Final**
[1] Marcelo Arevalo (ESA) / Roberto Maytin (VEN) def. [4] Robert Galloway (USA) / Nathan Pasha (USA), 6-3, 6-3

**About Fertitta Tennis Complex**

Opened in 1993, Frank and Vicki Fertitta Tennis Complex is a beautiful venue that houses the men's and women's intercollegiate tennis programs. With 12 lighted courts, seating for up to 2,000 fans and a sparkling stadium club, the $1.5 million Fertitta Complex has become the center of tennis for Las Vegas and a standard of excellence for college tennis programs. In 1997, record crowds were on hand to see two hometown heroes when the Luxor USTA Men's Challenger debuted at Fertitta Tennis Complex, marking the return of pro tennis to the City of Lights. Las Vegas native and tennis legend Andre Agassi took the court along with 1997 NCAA singles and doubles champion Luke Smith as part of the impressive field competing on Fertitta Tennis Complex's courts. The site is the current home to the Las Vegas Tennis Open, an ATP Men’s $50,000 Challenger event held every October.

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