



Loh Kean Yew vs Alex Lanier: Singapore's Home Hero Eyes History in KFF Singapore Open 2026 Final

Description

Singapore shuttler Loh Kean Yew stands one win away from the most significant achievement of his home career. The former world champion faces France's Alex Lanier in the **Loh Kean Yew Singapore Open 2026 final** today at the Singapore Indoor Stadium – a match that could rewrite the record books for Singapore badminton.

A Final 24 Years In The Making

Loh's place in today's title match is already historic. He is the first Singaporean man to reach the Singapore Open men's singles final in 24 years – and if he lifts the trophy, he will become the first Singaporean men's singles champion at the home tournament since Wee Choon Seng in 1962. That is not just a record – that is a piece of sporting folklore waiting to be written.

The former world champion – who stunned the badminton world by winning the 2021 World Championships as an unknown 23-year-old – has grown into one of Asia's most consistent performers since. His journey to this final encapsulates everything that makes him such a compelling figure: intensity on court, a never-say-die spirit, and the priceless ability to thrive under pressure when the Singapore crowd is behind him.

In the semifinal on 30 May, Loh showed exactly those qualities against Japan's Koki Watanabe. After losing a tight second game to level the match, he seized control of the decider emphatically, winning 21-15, 15-21, 21-9. When the match was tied 4-4 in the third game, Loh shifted gears completely – taking control of the pace, extending rallies on his terms, and allowing Watanabe almost no way back in. It was a masterclass in composure under home pressure, and it delivered the loudest roar of the tournament from the Singapore Indoor Stadium crowd.



Source: Singapore Badminton Association official website (singaporebadminton.org.sg)

The Challenge: Alex Lanier, World No. 9 And In Career-Best Form

Standing in Loh's way is one of the most dangerous opponents he could face in a major final. Alex Lanier of France, ranked ninth in the world, is not just a solid player – he is a shuttler capable of beating anyone on his best day. The 25-year-old dispatched Indonesia's rising star Alwi Farhan in straight games in the semifinal, winning 21-11, 21-14 in just 47 minutes. That level of controlled aggression, combined with his powerful smash and quick net play, makes him a genuine threat to any player in the world on a fast surface.

Lanier holds a 4-2 head-to-head advantage over Alwi, and his recent win extended a three-match winning streak over the Indonesian. The Frenchman will bring no sentiment to the final: he is here to win his first major BWF Super 750 title, and he knows this is as good a chance as any.

For Loh, the head-to-head record against Lanier will have been studied carefully. The two have met several times on tour, and matches between them have been hard-fought affairs decided by fine margins. Lanier's long reach and flat-trajectory smash can trouble even the most fleet-footed defenders. Loh will need to be sharp with his net game and precise with his drops to prevent Lanier from dictating the shuttle from mid-court.



Source: Singapore Badminton Association official website (singaporebadminton.org.sg)

Loh Kean Yew Singapore Open 2026 Final: Why Today Feels Different

Home advantage in badminton is real â?? and at the Singapore Indoor Stadium, with a roaring home crowd willing every shuttle to land on the right side of the line, it is more real than almost anywhere else. Loh has spoken throughout this week about drawing energy from the crowd, and the atmosphere inside the arena during his matches has been electric.

[His semifinal victory over Watanabe](#) showed he can channel that energy into performance when it matters most. The third game in particular â?? where he dominated from 4-4 to close out the match â?? was the kind of shutting-down performance that finals are won on.

For Singapore badminton, this final represents the culmination of years of investment in the national programme, the fruits of a career that began long before Loh became a household name. [The anticipation heading into this week was enormous](#), and Loh has delivered at every stage. Now comes the biggest match of his home career.

Whether the history is made today, or whether Lanier denies Singapore its perfect ending, one thing is certain: the KFF Singapore Open 2026 has been a tournament to remember. For all the latest Singapore sports coverage and badminton updates, follow [Little Big Red Dot Sports](#).

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