



Washington DC Open 2026: Fritz, De Minaur and Shelton Lead Quarterfinal Charge in Battle for Washington Glory

Description

The Mubadala DC Open 2026 in Washington reaches its business end on Friday with a quarterfinal line-up that promises to deliver some of the most compelling tennis of the summer hardcourt season. Taylor Fritz, Alex de Minaur, Ben Shelton and Lorenzo Musetti are among those battling for a place in the semi-finals at the Rock Creek Park Tennis Center, ensuring a day of high-quality action for fans in the United States capital.

The Washington tournament, a beloved fixture on the ATP calendar, has established itself as the ideal proving ground as players shape their form ahead of the US Open swing. With its fast outdoor hardcourts and a crowd that brings genuine passion to the stands, the DC Open consistently attracts a high-calibre field and the 2026 edition is no exception.



Shelton gears up for his quarterfinal ?? Credit: Mubadala DC Open

Shelton and Fritz Carry American Hopes

For the Washington crowd, there is always something special about watching American players succeed on home soil, and in Taylor Fritz and Ben Shelton, the hosts have two formidable representatives to cheer on in Friday's quarterfinals.

Fritz, the accomplished hardcourt specialist who has built a reputation as one of the most consistent performers at ATP Masters and 500-level events, comes into the match in strong form. His powerful serve-and-groundstroke combination is well suited to Washington's conditions, and his experience of performing under pressure at major events makes him a dangerous proposition for any opponent

standing between him and a semi-final berth.

Shelton, meanwhile, has continued to establish himself as one of the most exciting players in the game. His booming left-handed serve, aggressive return game, and willingness to go for winners from virtually any position on the court make him compelling viewing â?? and at a tournament where attacking tennis is rewarded, he enters the quarterfinals as a genuine threat to the title.

De Minaurâ??s Momentum Builds



De Minaur and Hewitt after a hard-fought victory â?? Credit: Mubadala DC Open

Australia's Alex de Minaur has been in impressive form throughout the tournament, and Thursday's win was celebrated with a characteristic warm embrace with Australia's Davis Cup captain Lleyton Hewitt who confirmed the world-class level the 25-year-old has reached. The image of the two Australians sharing that moment after a hard-fought victory encapsulated the deep bond between a player and his mentor, and the pride both take in representing their nation at the highest level.

De Minaur's game has evolved considerably in recent seasons. His trademark speed and defensive athleticism remain the foundation, but he has added genuine offensive weapons – a more penetrating forehand, improved serve, and a willingness to take the ball earlier and go for his shots rather than relying purely on retrieval. At Washington, on courts that reward aggressive but disciplined hardcourt tennis, he is a genuine semi-final contender.

Hewitt's presence in Washington underlines the continued close relationship between the Australian veteran and de Minaur. Since retiring from professional play, Hewitt has dedicated himself to the development of Australian tennis, and his influence on de Minaur's tactical evolution has been widely documented. Seeing the two celebrate another significant win together remains one of the more heartwarming storylines on the ATP tour.

Musetti Adds European Class



Musetti in Washington – Credit: Mubadala DC Open

Italy’s Lorenzo Musetti brings a different flavour to the quarterfinal field. Known primarily as a clay court specialist with a richly expressive game – heavy topspin from the forehand, excellent feel on the volley, and a tactical intelligence unusual for his age – Musetti has been steadily expanding his hardcourt credentials, and his presence in the Washington last eight reflects genuine progress on surfaces that once challenged him.

For Musetti, reaching a quarterfinal at a prestigious hardcourt event in the heart of the US Open swing sends an important signal. The Italian has the talent and the temperament to compete with the world’s best on any surface; the question has always been whether he can be as consistent in hardcourt conditions as he is on clay. Washington 2026 is providing an encouraging answer.

A Tournament Worth Watching

The Mubadala DC Open has long served as a launching pad for the US Open season, and the 2026 edition is living up to that billing. With a quarterfinal featuring a compelling blend of American local heroes, a hard-running Australian star and a talented European coming into form on hardcourt, Friday's action at Rock Creek Park promises to be a genuine tennis showcase.

Washington has consistently delivered memorable moments throughout its history as a tournament venue, and the 2026 edition with its competitive, high-quality field and the stakes of a title that carries considerable US Open swing prestige is on course to add more to that proud record. For tennis fans in the region and watching around the world, Friday's quarterfinals are must-watch television.

The semi-finalists and ultimately the champion who emerges from Washington this weekend will carry strong momentum heading into the US Open Series and given the quality on display this week, that title should be fiercely contested right to the very end.

Date Created

31/07/2026

Author

jadeyeo

default watermark