

Seamaster 2017 ITTF World Tour Grand Finals

14-17 December 2017, Astana, Kazakhstan

Flash Quotes

17 December 2017

FAN Zhendong (CHN) after defeating Dimitrij OVTCHAROV (GER) 4-0 to win the Men's Singles title:

"I'm very happy with my victory, having played well in the final against Ovtcharov. I lost the last time we played at the German Open, so I'm really happy to win against him this time round."

"The first few games was tight but I was bold at the crucial moments."

CHEN Meng (CHN) after defeating ZHU Yuling (CHN) 4-0 to win the Women's Singles title:

"Actually I was prepared to play the full seven games against Yuling. We have faced each other previously this year, and even though I won that match too, it wasn't an easy win, so today I came fully prepared, but maybe there's also some luck involved here."

Masataka MORIZONO (JPN) / Yuya OSHIMA (JPN) after defeating HO Kwan Kit (HKG) / WONG Chun Ting (HKG) 4-3 to be the Men's Doubles Champion:

Masataka Morizono

"We think this match is very difficult, because we were 1-2 behind, but after that we changed tactics and we come back. Now we are unbelievably happy!"

Yuya Oshma:

"Now we will celebrate with a big party."

Wong Chun Ting:

"We were too eager to win and weren't careful at crucial moments and that gave them the chance to attack."

CHEN Meng (CHN) / ZHU Yuling (CHN) after defeating Hina HAYATA (JPN) / Mima ITO (JPN) 4-0 to win the Women's Doubles Champion:

ZHU Yuling:

"Our performance was normal in this match, we did a lot preparations prior and I think we could have played even better."

CHEN Meng about the Singles Final in the afternoon where they will be playing against each other:

“We will bring an intense and exciting for everyone.”

16 December 2017

Dimitrij OVTCHAROV (GER) after defeating LIN Gaoyuan (CHN) 4-3 in the Men's Singles Semifinals:

“I think right now I'm just on a wave up, everything is coming together, confidence, luck, it's also important sometimes in sports. Lin Gaoyuan played so strong in the beginning, I had no chance at all.”

“But I played one point at a time and was always looking for my chance. I learnt from my friend Timo that you should never give up and he showed me how he's done.”

“10-8 in the decider, he served twice long and the first one was a pity, but the second one I thought it was my point but it was out, I was actually very disappointed. I thought I had to put the faith in my own hands. I gave it all and success was on my side.”

“I'm excited for the final match against Fan Zhendong, I think he's the favourite, but I shot him the last time in Germany and I will get into tomorrow's match with fun and confidence and I will enjoy it.”

ZHU Yuling (CHN) after defeating CHEN Xingtong (CHN) 4-1 in the Women's Singles Semifinals:

“I really enjoyed tonight's match. I felt good on court and I will go back to my my post match review.”

About facing Chen Meng in the final:

“I'm very happy to be facing her in the final, I believe it's going to be a very exciting match. Our last encounter was very intense and I hope we will play till the seventh game again tomorrow.”

FAN Zhendong (CHN) after defeating Timo BOLL (GER) 4-2 in the Men's Singles Semifinals:

“Boll is a very experienced player, and we have met several times before. He is in very good form this year, and today I put myself in a lower position to challenge him in the match. I think I was able to play well at the start in the first two games. But towards the latter part, he was able to use his experience & change in rhythm to create some challenges for me.”

"It's always tough against him, we both tried to take control & restrict each other, we both made some errors in the match but I was able to play better in the sixth game."

CHEN Meng (CHN) after defeating GU Yuting (CHN) 4-0 in the Women's Singles Semifinal:

"I think this match does not seem exciting, because we are teammates so we know each other very well. We know more about how to restrict each other's play so there aren't many rallies in the match."

About becoming the world number one in Jan 2018:

"Of course I'm very happy to be able to be top of the world ranking. I actually have no idea about it prior to the match, and only knew about it. I hope after this I will continue to work hard for future competitions and play well in every event."

Dimitrij OVTCHAROV (GER) after defeating Tomokazu HARIMOTO (JPN) 4-3 in the Men's Singles Quarterfinals:

"Well, every match is so tough, lately I feel I'm playing every match to the last game. Everyone is playing great against me, hunting me. Tomokazu is improving, everytime I see him it's crazy."

"I manage to take the lead in the second & fourth game, and I'm very glad to win against such a strong player."

"I played so many seven game matches lately and I'm comfortable since I'm winning so many of them. it's just confidence, once you starting losing some of them maybe you don't feel so good, but I will try to keep the flow."

"(Playing as the new world number one) still feels unreal. I was considering yesterday celebrating with my wife, she's here supporting me, but we stay focused on the event, it's the Grand Finals. I'm through to the semifinals and I will try my best against Lin Gaoyuan."

ZHU Yuling (CHN) after defeating WANG Manyu (CHN) 4-3 in the Women's Singles Quarterfinals:

"We know each other very well, and I came into the match very well prepared.. I think the first six games were normal, but I wasn't expecting to win the seventh game easily."

"I see every match as a chance to train, and being able to play on such a big stage to gain more experience, it's a great experience."

LIN Gaoyuan (CHN) after defeating FANG Bo (CHN) 4-1 in the Men's Singles Quarterfinals:

"I prepared well for the match, and it is against a teammate, so I was mentally prepared for any difficulty. Though I lost the first game, I was able to fight by into the match point by point and take the next four game, so I think my performance was stable in the match."

"Next match against Ovtcharov or Harimoto, I will have to do my best preparation, because I have not played against either of them."

CHEN Xingtong (CHN) after defeating Mima ITO (CHN) 4-1 in the Women's Singles Quarterfinals:

"I did good preparations for the match so it was just about putting my tactics into practice on court."

"It's my first World Tour Grand Finals so I'm happy to be able to make it so far. Next I will be facing my teammate in the semifinal, and I will do my best in the match."

15 December 2017

Timo BOLL (GER) after defeating WONG Chun Ting (HKG) 4-2 in the Men's Singles Quarterfinals

"It was again very close, the fifth game was very important. He came back very good and I had to force myself every ball. Everyone is very tired at this moment, it's the last tournament of the season. For both of us, I think it's a fight against your fight, but also a fight against yourself."

About facing Fan Zhendong next in the semifinals:

"I think I'm the hunter, I'm in the comfortable position but I try to give everything, that's all I can do. I have a lot of self confidence so I will try my best and hope in the end I will win. But he's an outstanding player and it will be very difficult."

GU Yuting (CHN) after defeating Kasumi ISHIKAWA (JPN) 4-2 in the Women's Singles Quarterfinals:

"This is my first World Tour Grand Finals appearance so I'm really happy to be able to make the semifinals this time. I have no worries for the next few matches already, so I can just play my game and do my best."

FAN Zhendong (CHN) after defeating XU Xin (CHN) 4-1 in the Men's Singles Quarterfinals:

“Playing against Xu Xin, actually our levels are very close, so the on court performance is more important. Today, I was able to take the crucial points to win the match, so I’m still very happy.”

“If I was going to face Ovtcharov, that would be in the final. If there’s chance of that, of course I hope to win against him in the final. There’s still a semifinals match tomorrow, regardless who my opponent will be, I will have to get fully prepared to play my best.”

CHEN Meng (CHN) after defeating FENG Tianwei (SGP) 4-0 in the Women’s Singles Quarterfinals:

“I’m feeling pretty calm right now, upcoming matches will get tougher and tougher with stronger opponents, so I will try to play my best here at the tournament.”

Dimitrij OVTCHAROV (GER) after defeating Koki NIWA (JPN) 4-3 in the Men’s Singles Round of 16 to become the new World number one in Jan 2018:

“(World number one) sounds unreal. I have been dreaming about that when I started playing, but I mean we have millions of players around the world working hard, and they can read my name soon on the top of the list makes me proud and I’m very thankful to everyone who have supported me throughout my entire career.”

“It’s usual, it’s the third time we played seven games. I’m stressed three weeks straight, I got so many messages I guess from hundred of people. Yesterday the German media already wrote to me about quotes and what they can publish in case I win. I’m really stressed, my wife asked me few times if I’m with her in one world or in my own world and it was really good to have her with me and I keep my mind clear.”

“It was a tough match and he’s a very tough opponent. Actually it feels this tournament is starting new for me and I need to refresh my mind. I’m talking to myself “Dima, it’s the Grand Finals, you have to play round by round, it’s not the final here in the first round. It’s four more matches to go and you can win the tournament.”. But it’s still hard to change your mindset and I’m glad to make it through.”

Kasumi ISHIKAWA (JPN) after defeating HAN Ying (GER) 4-2 in the Women’s Singles Quarterfinals:

“It’s always a tough match against Han Ying, so I was mentally prepared for any difficulties in the match. Today I played good, especially in the first two & last two games.”

“We have not played since our last encounter at the Olympic Games, & many things have changed, including the ball and my equipment, so today’s match is rather different from our previous encounters.”

“When I was leading 2-0, I was eager to win and she made several changes as well, I wasn’t adapting fast enough and lost the next 2 games.”

HO Kwan Kit (HKG) / WONG Chun Ting (HKG) after defeating Jin UEDA (JPN) / Maharu YOSHIMURA (JPN) 4-3 in the Men’s Doubles Semifinals:

Ho Kwan Kit:

“The handling of crucial points in the third and seven game is definitely vital to us winning the match. In the last game we were better in the crucial points after 8-8 and they didn’t have the chance to attack.”

Wong Chun Ting:

“In the last game, I didn’t receive the service well and lost our 8-6 lead in the game. At that time when I serving at 8-8, I tried not to give them any chance and look for opportunities for us to get an upper hand.”

Masataka MORIZONO (JPN) / Yuya OSHIMA (JPN) after defeating CHEN Chien-An (TPE) / CHIANG Hung-Chieh (TPE) 4-2 in the Men’s Doubles Semifinals:

Masataka Morizono:

“The match started well, we took the first & second game easily, but then they changed their service a little with more spin, we missed that and it became a very difficult match.”

“Tomorrow we have no match, so we will have to prepared well for the finals.”

CHEN Meng (CHN) / ZHU Yuling (CHN) after defeating Honoka HASHIMOTO (JPN) / Hitomi SATO (JPN) 4-0 in the Women’s Doubles Semifinals:

Zhu Yuling:

“I think the results were normal, we came in confident and we came with the goal to take the title. We didn’t play well in the last World Tour event in the doubles, so we are determined to win this time round.”

14 December 2017

FAN Zhendong (CHN) after defeating CHUANG Chih-Yuan (TPE) 4-2 in the Men’s Singles Quarterfinals:

“Chuang indeed played really today. The third game was crucial to me, I didn’t have much advantage in the first four games, but in the last two games, I changed my pace and rhythm and minimised my unforced errors.”

“Japanese table tennis has developed rapidly over the last few years, and actually it’s a good thing for the global development of the sport. Actually we are all familiar with each other’s style already, and the wins and losses is still more dependent on the our performance on court in the end.”

“I think for us Chinese players, each of us wants to take the titles when we compete in competitions, so regardless if our opponent is Japanese or other nationalities, it’s all the same for us.”

Masataka MORIZONO (JPN) / Yuya OSHIMA (JPN) after defeating Tomokazu HARIMOTO (JPN) / Yuto KIZUKURI (JPN) 3-2 in the Men’s Doubles Quarterfinals:

“It’s a very tough match mentally, they are the new generation and have been playing unbelievably on this year on the World Tour. We really want to win, so they were a lot of pressure on us.”

“They managed to beat Fan Zhendong and Xu Xin twice this year, we also face the Chinese pair at the World Championships, and they are simply too strong.”

“Today I think they also had some pressure because it was Japan against Japan, so they weren’t able to perform well.”

CHEN Chien-An (TPE) / CHIANG Hung-Chieh (TPE) after defeating Jonathan GROTH (DEN) / Patrick FRANZISKA (GER) 3-1 in the Men’s Doubles Quarterfinals:

“We played good today, we were well prepared for the match, and were able to implement our strategies well.”

“We have lost against them in the past, so last night we review some past footage to study some tactics based on their strengths and weaknesses.”