

# Davis Cup Finals

Thursday, 15 September 2022

## Team USA

## Tommy Paul

### Press Conference

T. PAUL/M. Kukushkin

6-1, 6-4

USA - 1

Kazakhstan - 0

THE MODERATOR: Talk us through that match.

TOMMY PAUL: I felt pretty comfortable, even though the games were close. The first set I felt like I was in full control. He wasn't putting too much pressure on me, so I felt like I could dictate everything in the first set. The second set got tricky.

THE MODERATOR: Questions.

**Q. How hard was it to back up how you played yesterday? How are you feeling physically?**

TOMMY PAUL: Amazing. Not hard at all.

**Q. You have a day's grace before you start thinking about the Dutch. Do you have any idea who you might be up against there?**

TOMMY PAUL: No. Do you know?

**Q. You have two options: Tallon Griekspoor or Tim van Rijthoven.**

TOMMY PAUL: I know both of them. I actually lost to Griekspoor this year. Tim, I don't think I've ever played him. I remember him from juniors. We played a lot of the same junior tournaments. Actually met him when we were 14, so we go back a while.

I've seen him play quite a bit. He beat Taylor in 's-Hertogenbosch, and then he beat Reilly in Wimbledon. I've seen him beat two of my friends.

**Q. Off the subject of Davis Cup, I hope you've heard the big news today, Roger Federer is calling it a career.**



**I wonder what he meant to you as a player, icon in the sport?**

TOMMY PAUL: Yeah, he is an icon. He is like the most-liked tennis player of all time. Really nice guy. Sad to see him go. Kind of wanted to play him before he left. Definitely wanted to get a W over him at some point. That would have been nice to have on the résumé.

I don't know. I'm not sure if he's playing Laver Cup. He said he's playing, so... Maybe if I get put in, I could play him. That would be pretty cool.

But, yeah, it's tough to see him go. He hasn't been on the tour in a while. The level on tour is really high right now. The tour is in good hands, but obviously we're going to miss him.

**Q. Did you ever have any interactions with him over the years?**

TOMMY PAUL: Yeah, definitely. Practiced with him quite a bit. He, like, rented a house in Indian Wells back in 2016 or something. I went over to his house, practiced at the court there. The chef was, like, cooking us up food. They were living lavish, you know?

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