



Ones to Watch: WIMBLEDON 2023 - Men's...



Two big-price, early-bird picks for Wimbledon...

An exclusive *Ones to Watch* report

By

Oliver Upstone

May 2023

The early bird gets the worm. And I've got two big-price players for you to get in the book for this summer's trip to the hallowed turf of SW19...

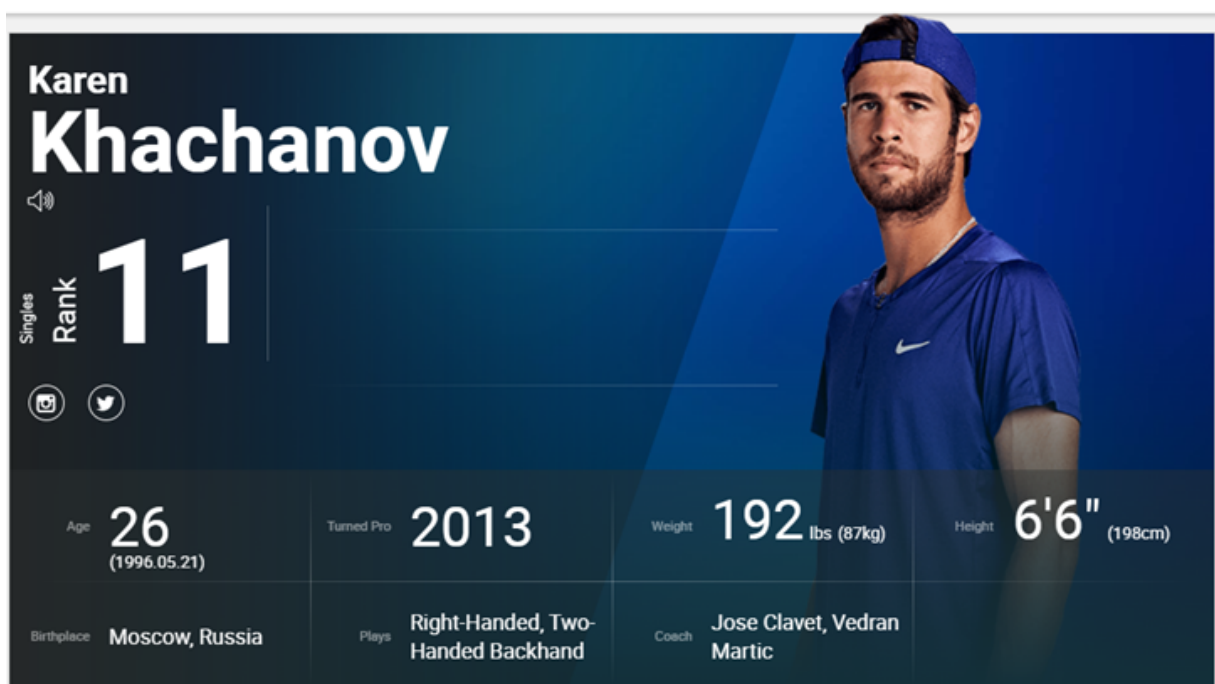
With 10-time Wimbledon champion Roger Federer now retired... two-time winner Rafael Nadal out injured for the summer... and fellow two-time champ Andy Murray also approaching the end of his career...

While four-time reigning Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic is now 36 years of age, and aiming to stay fit in order to catch Federer on eight career titles...

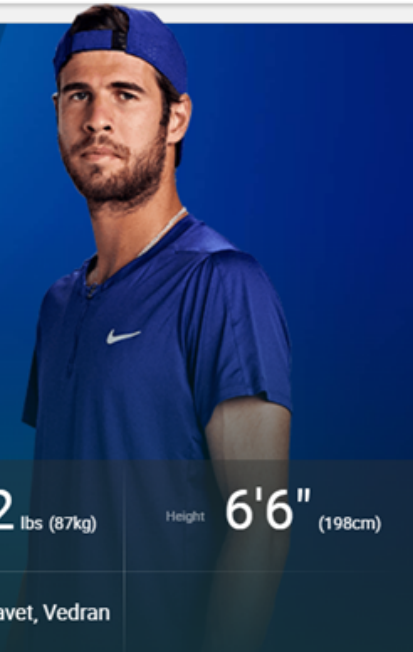
The stage could be set for an outsider to make a move on the big stage this summer – and put a new name on the trophy...

Here are two men that catch my eye in the ante-post betting for Wimbledon 2023:

KAREN KHACHANOV @ 80/1



A player profile card for Karen Khachanov. The card features a blue background with a photo of Khachanov on the right. On the left, his name 'Karen Khachanov' is displayed in white. Below the name is a small bell icon. The 'Singles Rank' is prominently shown as '11'. There are icons for Instagram and Twitter. A grid of statistics follows: Age 26 (1996.05.21), Turned Pro 2013, Weight 192 lbs (87kg), Height 6'6" (198cm), Birthplace Moscow, Russia, Plays Right-Handed, Two-Handed Backhand, and Coach Jose Clavet, Vedran Martic.

Karen Khachanov			
Singles Rank 11			
Age 26 (1996.05.21)		Turned Pro 2013	Weight 192 lbs (87kg)
Birthplace Moscow, Russia		Plays Right-Handed, Two-Handed Backhand	Height 6'6" (198cm)
		Coach Jose Clavet, Vedran Martic	

The ban on Russian players has been lifted this year. And that gives the green light for **Karen Khachanov** to return to a Grand Slam event where he's shown promise before...

The right profile...

Khachanov can present a big threat on the famous grass courts of SW19 this summer. With a big serve and heavy groundstrokes, both of which can do damage on fast surfaces. Alongside an improved tennis IQ as his career has developed...

Karen is 27 years old – the same age that Nick Kyrgios was when he finally fulfilled some of his long-talked-about potential by reaching the final at Wimbledon last year. I'm not saying Khachanov has the same level of born-talent as Kyrgios, but there's certainly something in the case for a player to kick-on at this age and at this stage of their career. You start to realise you might not have too many visits left at these big annual tournaments...

Khachanov hasn't won a tournament since taking the biggest title of his career, the Paris Masters indoors, in 2018 (as a 40/1 shot). But the signs of improvement have been there in recent times:

- In 2022, Khachanov reached a **first Grand Slam semi final**, at the US Open
- Karen started 2023 well, reaching the **semi finals** at the Australian Open, before also making the final four at the prestigious ATP Masters 1000 event in Miami

That means the current world **no.11** (as of May 2023) has now made the **semis** in the **last two Grand Slams**, having also reached the final four at the US Open last September.

The big-hitting Russian will have his sights on achieving more at the Majors this season...

- **Khachanov** has reached the **quarter finals or better** at **all 4 Grand Slams** during his career
- Currently ranked **no.11**, but has been as high as **no.8** – and is good enough to be challenging regularly for the Top 10 if he can keep up the consistency (and fitness) shown since the end of last summer, when he reached a maiden Grand Slam semi final in New York...
- **Big server** = dangerous on grass...

Khachanov at Wimbledon:

- Got to Week 2 (eg. **Last 16 or better**) in **2** of his **last 3** visits to the All England Club...

2022 – Did Not Play (Russian ban)

2021 – Quarter Final

2020 – Did Not Play (Wimbledon cancelled – pandemic)

2019 – 3rd Round

2018 – Last 16

I'd say that Karen can improve on his CV at SW19. Starting from this July...

Wimbledon 2023 – Men's

Outright Winner – Each Way (1/2 odds 1-2 places):

- **Karen Khachanov @ 80/1 Each Way** with Bet365, Skybet, Paddy Power, Betfair Sportsbook, BetVictor, Ladbrokes, Coral, Unibet, Betway

Prices correct as of 23rd May 2023

TAYLOR FRITZ @ 40/1



A player profile card for Taylor Fritz. The background features a large American flag. On the left, the name 'Taylor Fritz' is written in white. Below it, 'Singles Rank' is shown with a large '9' and a small American flag icon. Social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are visible. The bottom section contains a table of statistics:

Age	25 (1997.10.28)	Turned Pro	2015	Weight	190 lbs (86kg)	Height	6'5" (196cm)
Birthplace	Rancho Santa Fe, CA, USA	Plays	Right-Handed, Two-Handed Backhand	Coach	Michael Russell, Paul Annacone		

Taylor Fritz has achieved a new **career-high ranking** this season, starting March at **no.5** in the world (currently ranked **no.9**). He's the first American male player for some time to threaten the very top of the rankings in this way...

The 25-year-old has started 2023 in good form, yet I feel he's still flying under the radar somewhat. Granted, Taylor's recent participation in Netflix's *Break Point* series has raised his public profile and no doubt brought him (and his girlfriend) and a stack of new social media followers. But while he's very much respected in the sport, I get the feeling that not many people are really talking-up Taylor's chances for the Majors...

The rise of Taylor Fritz...

We've been tracking **Fritz** as a *Ones to Watch* player since he was a teenager, and he delivered for us big-time in 2022... last year's 100/1 Indian Wells win was no flash in the pan. Winning a first ATP Masters 1000 title was a logical and aimed-for next step in his progress towards the two ultimate goals for any top-level professional: the no.1 ranking, and a **Grand Slam** trophy...

Fritz is looking good in 2023. At the time of writing, he's made the quarter finals or better in seven of the 10 tournaments that he's competed in. Including a title win on hard courts at ATP Delray Beach, and four semi finals – with his first ever semi at a clay-court Masters (Monte Carlo). The ambitious young American will go into the grass-court season with his sights set high...

Four of Taylor's five career titles have come since the start of 2022. And two of his trophy wins have come on **grass** – winning ATP Eastbourne in England in both 2019 and 2022.

Let's get **Taylor Fritz** in the book at big prices for **Wimbledon** this summer. At odds of 40/1 & 33/1, in my opinion he's the early-bird outsider value in the men's event...

Last summer, Wimbledon really was a case of what could've been for Taylor, who was edged out in the quarter finals in a five-set classic by Rafael Nadal... only for the Spanish star to then pull out injured and not play the semis, handing Nick Kyrgios a pass through to the Wimbledon final...

The hard-working American has all the tools to go one or two better this summer...

Fritz has the serve and weapons to deliver on grass, and if he stays fit, then this year might be his best chance yet at Wimbledon...

Wimbledon 2023 – Men's

Outright Winner – Each Way (1/2 odds 1-2 places):

- **Taylor Fritz @ 40/1 Each Way** with William Hill, BetVictor, Betfred, BoyleSports, 35/1 Paddy Power, Betfair Sportsbook, 33/1 Bet365, Skybet

Prices correct as of 23rd May 2023

More to come this season...

Wimbledon takes place from **3rd – 16th July**.

The two *Ones to Watch* picks in this report are just the start of our work for the biggest tournament of the season...

Stay tuned for **free email updates** from me in your *Ones to Watch EXTRA* emails. Where I'll also be alerting you to young & up-and-coming players for the weekly ATP and WTA Tours. As well as the other Grand Slams on the calendar: the French Open, US Open, and Australian Open...

I'll be in touch again very soon...

Enjoy the tennis...

Oliver

Oliver Upstone

Ones to Watch

www.OnesToWatch.co.uk

© Oxfordshire Press 2023