

Pre-Match Scouting Table

Area	Observation	Notes (Think like a Coach)
Court Conditions	How is the court speed, wind, sun position?	A fast court will require early racquet preparation, shorter backswings and favors an attacking style of play. Windy conditions require last minute footwork adjustments and a positive attitude (it's happening to both players). Wind in your face: hit a little harder and aim a little higher, it will be hard to overpower the opponent – be consistent! Also slice and drop shots may work well. Wind at your back: add more topspin to help keep the ball from going long, stand a little closer to the baseline to cover short balls. Sun in your eyes: adjust the toss to the side and hit more spin on the serve, let lobs bounce before hitting an overhead.
Opponent	Body Type	Tall players may have trouble with low and short balls and may not move well on the court but will often have strong serves and overheads. Short players may have trouble with high bouncing balls and it may be easier to lob over their heads.
Opponent	Lefty or Righty	Note how your strengths will match up against a lefty or righty, will you need to make adjustments? Be prepared for a lefty spin when returning serve especially on the ad side.
Forehands	Spin, Grips, Weapon	Does the opponent favor the forehand: hit balls down the center or even a little to the backhand side to see if the opponent uses a forehand to make the returns? During the match a wide forehand may then expose a weaker backhand. Is their forehand more of a topspin shot or flat? A lot of topspin usually means a semi-western or western grip and that opponent may have trouble with low balls and moving to the net to volley.
Backhands	One or two-handed	A two-handed player may have problems with low and wide balls. Also hit some high balls to the backhand side, do they move back or hit them on the rise? If they move back you can escape trouble during a point by hitting them a high backhand. A player with a one-handed slice only backhand may not over power you or hit good passing shots.
Serves	Spin, Speed and Placement	Can they hit different types of serves? How is their placement? The grip they use for serving will also provide some clues, for example if they use a forehand grip they will not be able to hit a lot of spin.
Volleys	Comfort Level	Do they seem comfortable at the net, how much time do they take at the net in the warm-up? What type of grip are they using? Are they comfortable hitting overheads? If they are not comfortable at the net hit short balls to bring them in during the match.
Other	Movement, Conditioning, etc.	Do they move well up and back and side to side? Are they out of breath after a long rally?