

BUBLIK'S BEST SEASON GETS BRIGHTER IN HANGZHOU

It was a warm, quiet night in Hangzhou when the Kazakh star Alexander Bublik battled past French qualifier Valentin Royer 7-6(4) 7-6(4) at the Olympic Sports Center to claim his fourth title of the year. The match was tight from start to finish, with no breaks of serve, but when the key points came, Bublik stayed calm and struck with precision. The victory gave him his eighth career trophy and his first on outdoor hard courts, which is turning out to be the best season of his life.

"I always say that wins don't make me go through the roof and losses don't put me to the ground," Bublik said after the final. "I try to stay stable. I enjoy what I do. I'm happy that I'm able to travel, play tournaments, stay healthy and the wins are coming. That's beautiful."

It wasn't an easy week. In the semifinals, the Kazakh had to face the local favourite Wu Yibing, who had stunned Daniil Medvedev in the quarters. The crowd was fully behind Wu, but Bublik kept his focus and won 6-3, 6-3.

"He played unbelievable, and I wasn't expecting that," Bublik admitted of his opponent. "I really had to serve and do my best in order to win. I hit some amazing shots, and in the end, it was just a few points that made the difference."

With this victory, Bublik moves to a career high No. 16 in the ATP rankings and joins World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz as the only players to win four or more titles in 2025. His triumph also carries special meaning for Asian tennis. A player from Kazakhstan, lifting a trophy in China, in front of a packed crowd cheering every serve. It was a reminder that the sport's heartbeat is now truly global.

As the Asian Swing moves toward the Shanghai Masters, Bublik's win in Hangzhou feels bigger than just another title. It's a personal milestone for him, and also a reminder of how strong tennis in this region has become. A night when Asia's brightest racquet lit up the centre court.

