



Stirring Pitchford comeback sets up Ovtcharov tie

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Liam Pitchford earned a quarter-final crack at top seed Dimitrij Ovtcharov with a 4-3 victory over Zhang Yudong at the Czech Open.

The English No 1 had to do it the hard way against a tricky opponent, coming from 3-1 down to the Chinese to win 4-3.

[Click here to watch the match](#)

It was a good start for Pitchford as he took the first 11-7, but it started to look a more difficult prospect when Zhang came from 8-2 down to win the second 12-10.

Pitchford led the third 10-8 but lost it 14-12 and Zhang followed up with the fourth to leave his opponent needing to win the next three.

That he did with increasing authority, Zhang's shoulders noticeably slumping when Pitchford went 8-2 up in the decider. Four points later, it was all over.

Pitchford will now take on top seed Ovtcharov at 10.40am UK time on Saturday – the German beat Park Ganghyeon of South Korea 4-1 to take his place in the last eight.

The quarter-final will be shown live on the ITTF website and is on Table 1.

Result

Men's Singles

Round of 16

Liam Pitchford bt Zhang Yudong (CHN) 4-3 (11-7, 10-12, 12-14, 7-11, 11-6, 11-6, 11-3)

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