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TORAY PAN PACIFIC OPEN – FINAL (SUNDAY)

Main Arena

[3] NAOMI OSAKA (JPN #7) vs. [4] KAROLINA PLISKOVA (CZE #8)

Series tied 1-1

Osaka beat Pliskova en route to Indian Wells title this spring... Pliskova has spent nearly twice as long on court as Osaka this week... Osaka bidding to become first home champion here since Date in 1995

A LOOK AT THE FINALISTS

PLAYER	RANK	AGE	NAT	TOKYO (MD) W/L*	YTD W/L*	CAREER W/L*	YTD PRIZE MONEY\$^	CAREER PRIZE \$^	CAREER TITLES
[3] Naomi Osaka	7	20	JPN	7-3	38-15	173-114	5,797,826	7,032,734	2
[4] Karolina Pliskova	8	26	CZE	5-4	40-17	466-266	2,259,514	13,094,90	10

*Includes current tournament / ^Does not include current tournament

FINAL RECORDS

PLAYER	BEST 2018 RESULT	BEST TOKYO RESULT	LAST FINAL REACHED (final result)	CAREER F W/L*
[3] Naomi Osaka	WON (2): US Open, Indian Wells	Final (1): 2018; R-Up (1): 2016	2018 US Open (WON)	2-1
[4] Karolina Pliskova	WON (1): Stuttgart	Final (1): 2018	2018 Stuttgart (WON)	10-10

*W/L records do not include walkovers

BY THE NUMBERS

419

Karolina Pliskova has spent 419 minutes on court en route to the final. Naomi Osaka's passage has been significantly quicker, taking only 221

25

Both finalists have struck 25 aces en route to the final

21

Pliskova is contesting her 21st career final. Osaka is playing her fourth

14

Pliskova has won 14 three-set matches in 2018 – only three players have posted more

10

Osaka is on a 10-match winning streak

6

Osaka will rise to a career-high ranking of No.6 by winning the title

2

Pliskova saved two match points against Alison Riske in the quarterfinals

1

Osaka has lost serve only once this week

0

Osaka is yet to drop a set. The last player to win the Tokyo title without conceding a set was Agnieszka Radwanska in 2015



MATCH NOTES

TOKYO - JAPAN | Sep 17 - Sep 23, 2018 | \$799,000 | PREMIER

[3] NAOMI OSAKA (JPN #7) vs. [4] KAROLINA PLISKOVA (CZE #8)

Head to Head: Series tied 1-1

2018	INDIAN WELLS	HARD O	QF	NAOMI OSAKA	6-2	6-3	78 mins
2017	TORONTO	HARD O	R16	KAROLINA PLISKOVA	6-2	6-7(4)	1-0 ret. (abdominal Injury) 107 mins

NAOMI OSAKA	WTA RANKING	KAROLINA PLISKOVA
7		8
4	PORSCHE RACE TO SINGAPORE LEADERBOARD	9
16-10-1997 (20)	DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)	21-03-1992 (26)
\$5,797,826	YTD PRIZE MONEY	\$2,259,514
\$7,032,734	CAREER PRIZE MONEY	\$13,094,905
2 / 2	SINGLES TITLES (YTD / CAREER)	1 / 10
0 / 0	DOUBLES TITLES (YTD / CAREER)	0 / 5
7-3	TOKYO W-L (MD) *	5-4
36-15 / 76-54	YTD / CAREER W-L (MD) *	40-17 / 248-136
3-1 / 14-13	YTD / CAREER 3-SET W-L (MD) *	14-3 / 79-42
4-4 / 13-15	YTD / CAREER TIE-BREAK W-L (MD) *	12-6 / 54-54
25-8 / 57-36	YTD / CAREER HARD W-L (MD) *	23-10 / 175-88
1-1 / 3-4	YTD / CAREER Left Hander W-L (MD) *	6-3 / 21-19
2-4 / 3-6	YTD / CAREER TOP 5 W-L (MD & Q) *	2-1 / 10-16
2-5 / 4-14	YTD / CAREER TOP 10 W-L (MD & Q) *	3-4 / 23-33
8-9 / 15-23	YTD / CAREER TOP 20 W-L (MD & Q) *	6-8 / 47-62

* Updated entering Tokyo F

ROAD TO THE FINAL

[3] NAOMI OSAKA (JPN #7)

SF: d. CAMILA GIORGI (ITA #37) 6-2,6-3 (1h11)

QF: d. [8] BARBORA STRYCOVA (CZE #25) 6-3,6-4 (1h31)

R16: d. DOMINIKA CIBULKOVA (SVK #30) 6-2,6-1 (0h59)

R32: BYE

Total games: 51

Won/lost: 36-15

Sets won/lost: 6-0

Total time on court: 3h41

Average time on court: 1h14

Average rank of opponent: 31

[4] KAROLINA PLISKOVA (CZE #8)

SF: d. DONNA VEKIC (CRO #45) 6-2,4-6,6-3 (2h04)

QF: d. ALISON RISKE (USA #75) 6-1,6-7(5),7-6(4) (2h34)

R16: d. DARIA GAVRILOVA (AUS #33) 4-6,6-4,6-4 (2h21)

R32: BYE

Total games: 90

Won/lost: 51-39

Sets won/lost: 6-3

Total time on court: 6h59

Average time on court: 2h20

Average rank of opponent: 51

vs.



MATCH NOTES

TOKYO - JAPAN | Sep 17 - Sep 23, 2018 | \$799,000 | PREMIER

TOKYO Tournament History

"-Q" Qualifying match

NAOMI OSAKA

2017			
R1	L - ANGELIQUE KERBER (GER #14)	6-3	6-4
2016			
F	L - CAROLINE WOZNIACKI (DEN #28)	7-5	6-3
2015			
R1	L - BARBORA STRYCOVA (CZE #40)	7-5	6-2
2014			
R1-Q	L - SHUKO AOYAMA (JPN #274)	6-4	6-4
2013			
R1-Q	L - SILVIA SOLER-ESPINOSA (ESP #93)	6-3	6-4

KAROLINA PLISKOVA

2017			
QF	L - ANGELIQUE KERBER (GER #14)	7-6(5)	7-5
2016			
R16	L - ALIAKSANDRA SASNOVICH (BLR #107)	6-4	6-2
2015			
QF	L - AGNIESZKA RADWANSKA (POL #13)	7-5	6-2
2011			
R1	L - IRINA-CAMELIA BEGU (ROU #38)	1-6	6-3 6-4

OSAKA:

Tokyo

- Making fourth main draw appearance at Toray Pan Pacific Open (sixth overall), where she is through to the final for a second time
- Reached first career WTA final here in 2016; upset Svitolina and Cibulkova en route before losing to Wozniacki
- As No.3 seed this week – her joint-highest seeding at a WTA event, also 2018 Nottingham and 2018 Washington DC – received 1r bye for the first time in her career
- Struck 25 winners and nine unforced errors during 2r win over Cibulkova on Wednesday – her first match since historic win over S.Williams in US Open final
- Hit another 26 winners, including seven aces, during straight-set win over Czech No.3 Strycova in QF
- Struck nine aces and won 34 of 42 points on serve to see off unseeded Giorgi in SF – has now won all five career matches against Italians
- Including Giorgi match, has struck a tournament-leading 25 aces this week (Ka.Pliskova also has 25) – season total now stands at 236, the sixth most on tour
- Has now won 10 straight matches; the previous longest run of her career (at all levels) was eight wins in a row this spring (Indian Wells, 7, Miami, 1). Has won 20 of her last 21 sets. Broken just six times during that stretch, and just once this week in Tokyo
- Is the first maiden Slam champion to make the final of her next event since Azarenka won Australian Open and then Doha in 2012
- Faces No.8 Pliskova today in fourth final of career, having also reached this stage at 2016 Tokyo (R-Up), 2018 Indian Wells (WON) and 2018 US Open (WON)
- Owns four career Top 10 wins, over No.6 Kerber (2017 US Open), No.5 V.Williams (at 2017 Hong Kong) and No.5 Ka.Pliskova and No.1 Halep (both at 2018 Indian Wells)

- Including win over Strycova this week, has won last five matches against Czech players, tasting defeat most recently against Ka.Pliskova at 2017 Toronto (ret. w/abdominal injury)
- Bidding to become first player to win Tokyo title without dropping a set since A.Radwanska in 2015
- Ranked at career-high No.7; by contrast, this time last year was No.44
- Could rise to No.6 by lifting the title this week
- Only Japanese player to win Pan Pacific Open title was Date in 1995 (d. Davenport in F)
- At 20, is the youngest player in the starting field. Bidding to be the youngest champion here since 20-year-old Wozniacki in 2010
- Currently sits at No.4 on the Race To Singapore Leaderboard – bidding to be first Japanese player to contest season-ending showpiece since Sugiyama in 2003
- Landed in Japan last Thursday to a hero's welcome at Haneda airport (despite 5am arrival), and held two press conferences in the city center later that day, one of which saw her announced as an Ambassador for Nissan
- Osaka's pre-tournament press conference on Monday was attended by around 200 media

Season

- Coming off lifting maiden Grand Slam title at US Open (d. Keys in SF and S.Williams in F); was first Japanese woman to reach Grand Slam final and the youngest US Open champion since Sharapova in 2006
- From her efforts in New York, passed USD \$5 million in prize money for the season – No.2 (behind Halep) on the 2018 list of top earners
- Started North American hard court season with 2r showing at Washington DC (l. Linette), followed by 1r exits at Montréal (l. Suárez Navarro) and Cincinnati (l. Sakkari)
- For fifth consecutive major made 3r at Wimbledon (l. eventual champion Kerber)
- Opened grass season with SF run at Nottingham (l. eventual champion Barty) before making 2r at Birmingham (ret. vs. Jakupovic w/abdominal injury). Withdrew from Eastbourne with same injury
- Advanced to 3r at Roland Garros (l. Keys)
- Also on clay, reached 2r at Rome (l. Halep) and made 1r exit at Madrid (l. Zhang) following R16 showing at Charleston (l. eventual R-Up Goerges)
- Made 2r exit at Miami Open (l. No.4 seed Svitolina). Defeated eight-time Miami Open champion, S.Williams in 1r, becoming just the seventh woman to defeat Williams in Key Biscayne and first to do so before the R16
- Prior to Miami 2r loss to Svitolina, was on eight-match winning streak after claiming first WTA title at Indian Wells
- En route to the Indian Wells title, defeated five-time major champion Sharapova, and Grand Slam finalists A.Radwanska, Ka.Pliskova and Halep without dropping a set. Only set dropped all week was against Sakkari in R16
- That eight-match win streak included victories over four players who have held the No.1 ranking (S. Williams, Ka. Pliskova, Sharapova and current No.1, Halep) as well as a former No.2 (A.Radwanska), along with emerging talents Sakkari and Kasatkina
- Owns a 1-3 record against reigning No.1s (defeated Halep at 2018 Indian Wells and lost to Ka.Pliskova at 2017 Toronto and Halep at 2018 Australian Open and 2018 Rome)

- Made 2r in Doha (as qualifier, l. Sevastova) and QF in Dubai (l. eventual champion Svitolina)
- Reached R16 at a Slam for the first time at Australian Open – d. Kucova and seeds No.16 Vesnina and No.18 Barty en route before falling to eventual runner-up and World No.1 Halep
- Opened 2018 season with 1r exit at Hobart (l. Putintseva); also played at Hopman Cup (went 1-1 in singles)

Career

- Produced second Top 100 season in 2017, finishing at No.68 as the Japanese No.1
- Book-ended the season with QF showings at Auckland and Hong Kong; other highlights included 3r runs at Wimbledon and US Open
- Scored first Top 5 win when she upset No.5 V.Williams at 2017 Hong Kong. Upset win over defending champion and No.6-ranked Kerber at 2017 US Open marked first career Top 10 win
- Overall owns three wins over Top 5 players: No.5 Ka.Pliskova and No.1 Halep (both at 2018 Indian Wells) and No.5 V.Williams (at 2017 Hong Kong)
- Finished 2016 at then career-high ranking of No.40, which was her first Top 200 finish; voted 2016 WTA Newcomer of the Year
- Highlight of 2016 was career-first WTA final at Tokyo [PPO] (l. Wozniacki). Also reached three QFs, at Acapulco, Florianopolis and Tianjin, and 3r at 2016 Australian Open, Roland Garros and US Open. Received direct entry into 2016 Wimbledon but withdrew w/right knee injury
- Won 2015 WTA Rising Stars Invitational in Singapore (d. Garcia in F, saving match points)
- Ranked No.406, made WTA main draw debut at 2014 Stanford. As an alternate, won through qualifying (achieving first WTA qualifying wins in the process), and came from match point down to shock No.19 Stosur in 1r of main draw, before losing to No.18 Petkovic in 2r
- Made WTA qualifying debut at Québec City in 2013 (l. Dabrowski)

Grand Slam History

- Defeated six-time champion S.Williams in final of 2018 US Open to become first Japanese player to win a Grand Slam title
- In reaching R16 at 2018 Australian Open, became youngest Japanese player to reach R16 at a Grand Slam since Sugiyama at 1995 Roland Garros (19 yrs, 342 days) and the youngest player from Japan to reach the fourth round at Australian Open since Date in 1990 (19 yrs, 122 days)
- Has also made 3r at the other two majors: 2016 Roland Garros (l. Halep) and 2018 Roland Garros (l. Keys), 2017 Wimbledon (l. V.Williams) and 2018 Wimbledon (l. Kerber)

Other Information

- Currently coached by Aleksandar (Sascha) Bajin, former hitting partner of Caroline Wozniacki, Victoria Azarenka and Serena Williams. Formerly coached by David Taylor, long-time coach of Sam Stosur

- Since taking over the reins, Bajin has used his experience to help Naomi climb from No.68 to start the season to No.19 – having reached a career-high ranking of No.17 in July. Under his tutelage, she became the first Japanese woman to win a Premier Mandatory-level title at Indian Wells and now owns a 38-15 record on the season (across all levels)
- Was born in Osaka, Japan, and moved to USA when she was three years old; holds dual citizenship. Currently lives in Fort Lauderdale and trains in Boca Raton
- Prior to this year's US Open, signed on as brand ambassador for Citizen. At end of 2016, signed sponsorship deals with broadcaster WOWOW and food brand Nissin
- Her father, Leonard Max Francois, was born in Haiti and attended college in NYC before moving to Japan where he lived for 13 years
- Her mother, Tamaki, is Japanese. Older sister Mari is also on tour

KA.PLISKOVA:

Tokyo

- Making fifth appearance at Tokyo, where she is through to final for the first time
- Previous best showings were QF runs in 2015 (l. eventual champion A.Radwanska) and 2017 (l. Kerber)
- After 1r bye, defeated her sister's conqueror Gavrilova in 2r in three sets. Battled back from 1-4 down in final set
- Came from a break down twice in the final set and saved two match points to defeat qualifier Riske in QF
- In her first SF since Madrid in May, saw off unseeded Vekic in three sets. Has now prevailed in 14 three-set matches in 2018, only Kvitova (17), Sabalenka (17) and Halep (16) have won more
- For the fifth consecutive season has now registered 40 wins. Only four other players have reached this landmark (also Halep, Kvitova, Mertens and Kerber)
- During three matches, has been on court for 6h 59. By contrast, her final opponent Osaka has spent just 3h 41
- Faces No.7 Osaka in final today in her 21st career final and second of 2018 (also Stuttgart – WON). Has now reached multiple finals every year since 2013
- Appearing in her first final on a hard court since 2017 Doha (d. Wozniacki)
- Is first Czech to reach final at Tokyo since Kvitova won in 2013. Only other Czech to appear in a Tokyo final was Sukova in 1988 (l. Shriver)
- Attempting to become the second consecutive Tokyo champion to save match point en route to title (also Wozniacki vs. Cibulkova in 2017 QF)
- Seeded No.4 this week – only occasion she was not seeded here was on debut as qualifier in 2011
- Will replace final opponent Osaka at No.7 in the rankings by winning the final
- Entering final has struck 324 aces this season (25 this week), the second-most on tour behind Goerges (393)
- Performed strongly in Asia last year, reaching SF at WTA Finals, QF at both Tokyo and Wuhan and R16 at Beijing
- Currently sits at No.9 on Porsche Race to Singapore leaderboard – the Top 8 qualify for the WTA Finals in Singapore

Season

- Returned to form with QF showing at US Open (d. No.17 Barty in R16, l. S.Williams)
- Fell 1r at New Haven (l. Makarova) after back-to-back 2r exits at Montréal (l. Bertens) and Cincinnati (l. Sabalenka)
- Reached R16 for first time at Wimbledon (l. Bertens) and made QF run at Eastbourne (as defending champion, l. Sabalenka – led 4-1 in final set)
- In only other grass court outing, made 1r exit at Birmingham (l. eventual R-Up Rybarikova)
- Reached 3r at Roland Garros, defeating compatriots Krejčíková and Safarova before falling to Sharapova
- Made SF at Madrid (l. eventual champion Kvitová) and fell 2r at Rome (l. Sakkari)
- Won 10th career title at Stuttgart (d. Vandeweghe in final). Now 10-10 record in WTA singles finals
- Went 1-1 in singles (d. Kerber, l. Goerges) to help Czech Republic reach its sixth Fed Cup final in the past eight years with a 4-1 win over Germany. The Czechs will host the USA in November's final
- Posted QF showings at Indian Wells (l. eventual champion Osaka) and Miami (l. Azarenka)
- Reached QF at Dubai (l. Kerber) and made 3r exit at Doha (l. Bellis)
- Nominated for Czech Republic's Fed Cup World Group I QF tie vs. Switzerland – but did not play a singles or doubles match due to illness
- Advanced to QF in first Grand Slam of the year at Australian Open (l. eventual R-Up Halep)
- Began 2018 season in Brisbane; as defending champion, advanced to SF (l. eventual champion Svitolina)

Career

- Enjoyed another stellar campaign in 2017, posting career-best year-end finish at No.4 for second Top 10 finish. Year-end ranking has improved continuously for 12-straight seasons
- Claimed No.1 ranking on July 17, 2017 despite making 2r exit at Wimbledon (l. Rybarikova). Is the first Czech woman to achieve the No.1 ranking since the computer rankings were introduced in 1975 (Martina Navratilova became No.1 on July 10, 1978 while representing USA)
- Won three titles in 2017, at Brisbane (d. Cornet in F), Doha (d. Wozniacki in F) and Eastbourne (d. Wozniacki in F)
- Qualified for WTA Finals for second year-in-a-row, reaching SF stage (l. eventual champion Wozniacki)
- In Grand Slam play, reached SF at Roland Garros (l. eventual R-Up Halep), QF at both Australian Open (l. Lucic Baroni) and US Open (l. Vandeweghe), and posted 2r result at Wimbledon (l. Rybarikova)
- Advanced to SF stage at Indian Wells (l. Kuznetsova), Miami (l. Wozniacki) and Cincinnati (l. eventual champion Muguruza)
- Led the WTA in 2017 for aces served – 452 from 68 matches. Also posted joint-second most match wins – 53 (level with Svitolina, behind Wozniacki – 60)

- Holds a 10-10 record in singles finals, having won having titles on clay (2015 Prague, 2018 Stuttgart), grass (2016 Nottingham, 2017 Eastbourne) and hard (2013 Kuala Lumpur, 2014 Linz, 2014 Seoul, 2016 Cincinnati, 2017 Brisbane, 2017 Doha)
- Career wins over Top 10 opponents stands at 23-33, most recent wins coming over No.9 Stephens and No.1 Halep at 2018 Madrid
- Enjoyed a break-out year in 2016, ending the year at No.6 (up from No.11 in 2015)
- Qualified for season-ending 2016 WTA Finals in Singapore, going 1-2 in the group stage and failing to progress. Also contested the doubles competition (w/Goerges), losing opening match to top seeds Garcia/Mladenovic
- Helped Czech Republic defend Fed Cup title in November 2016, going 1-1 in singles (d. Mladenovic, I. Garcia) before teaming w/Strycova to defeat Garcia/Mladenovic in decisive doubles match. Czech Republic have won the Cup in five out of the last seven
- Captured fifth career doubles title of career at 2016 Birmingham (w/Strycova). Is now 5-2 in doubles finals. At 2013 Linz, with sister Kristyna, became first set of twins to ever win a tour-level doubles title
- Made Top 10 debut after 2015 Stanford R-Up finish, meaning that for the first time in WTA history, three Czech women ranked inside Top 10 at the same time (along with Kvitova and Safarova)
- Became eighth Czech woman to crack singles Top 10 since computer rankings were introduced in November 1975, after Navratilova, Mandlikova, Sukova, Novotna, Vaidisova, Kvitova and Safarova

Grand Slam History

- Made debut at 2012 Roland Garros (l. Bartoli in 1r)
- Advanced to career first Grand Slam final at 2016 US Open (l. Kerber), simultaneously making debut in R16, QF, SF and title match at the majors. Became first Czech to reach US Open final since Helena Sukova in 1993 (l. Graf in F)
- Defeat of No.1 S.Williams in 2016 US Open SF was career-best victory, and ended the American's 186-week reign at the top of the rankings. Became first Czech to defeat a World No.1 since Kvitova at 2015 Madrid (d. S.Williams). Furthermore, defeat of V.Williams (R16) made her the eighth player to defeat the sisters at the same tournament
- Is one of 10 players born in 1990s to reach major final (also Bouchard, Halep, Keys, Kvitova, Muguruza, Osaka, Ostapenko, Stephens and Wozniacki)
- At Australian Open, best results came with QF run in 2017 (l. Lucic-Baroni) and 2018 (l. Halep), while she also posted deepest run at Roland Garros that year, advancing to SF (l. Halep)
- Reached R16 at Wimbledon in 2018 (l. Bertens), after 2r exits in each of previous five years
- Australian Open girls singles champion in 2010 – d. Robson in F

Other Information

- Nominated for 2017 WTA Player of the Year; also nominated for the same award in 2016, in addition to WTA Most Improved Player in 2014
- Born in Louny, north of Prague, but now trains at Sparta Praha tennis club

- Currently coached by Rennae Stubbs; worked with former Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez at US Open, and previously coached by Tomas Krupa and David Kotyza
- Married Michal Hrdlicka in Monaco after 2018 Wimbledon