2018 US OPEN – SEMIFINALS

[14] MADISON KEYS (USA #14) vs. [20] NAOMI OSAKA (JPN #19)

Keys leads 3-0
Today's match marks the youngest US Open semifinal meeting since 2009 (Wickmayer v. Wozniacki – both 19 yrs old)...Keys has now made the semifinals or better at three of her last five Slam appearances – the best active strike-rate on tour over that span...Osaka has become the youngest Japanese woman and third overall in the Open Era to reach the semifinals of a major

[17] SERENA WILLIAMS (USA #26) vs. [19] ANASTASIJA SEVASTOVA (LAT #18)

First career meeting
Today's match marks Serena's ninth-consecutive US Open semifinal; she is aiming to advance to her 31st career Grand Slam final...Sevastova has never advanced to the finals of a hardcourt tournament in her career...She owns a 3-7 record vs. Grand Slam champions at the majors

THE FINAL FOUR

PLAYER	RANK	AGE	NAT	US OPEN (MD) W/L*	YTD W/L*	CAREER W/L*	YTD PRIZE $^	CAREER PRIZE $^	CAREER TITLES
[14] Madison Keys	14	23	USA	19-6	26-11	176-103	1,373,428	8,907,253	3
[17] Serena Williams	26	36	USA	94-11	17-5	791-131	1,920,170	86,383,301	72
[19] Anastasija Sevastova	18	28	LAT	15-5	35-16	139-109	757,281	4,048,810	3
[20] Naomi Osaka	19	20	JPN	9-2	31-15	71-54	1,997,826	3,232,734	1

*Includes current tournament / ^ Does not include current tournament

CAREER GRAND SLAM RECORDS – BY ROUND REACHED

PLAYER	R128	R64	R32	R16	QF	SF*	F	W	TOTAL*
[14] Madison Keys	3	6	5	5	2	3	1	-	25
[17] Serena Williams	1	2	8	9	13	6	7	23	69
[19] Anastasija Sevastova	11	6	2	1	2	1	-	-	23
[20] Naomi Osaka	1	1	7	1	-	1	-	-	11

*Includes 2018 US Open

CAREER SEMIFINAL RECORDS – GRAND SLAMS

PLAYER	SF W-L	FINALS W-L
[14] Madison Keys	1-2	0-1
[17] Serena Williams	30-5	23-7
[19] Anastasija Sevastova	-	-
[20] Naomi Osaka	-	-

2018 US OPEN – WOMEN'S MATCH NOTES

NEW YORK, NY, USA – AUGUST 27-SEPTEMBER 9, 2018 – GRAND SLAM TOURNAMENT

THE LAST FOUR

This year's US Open semifinals will feature **[14] Madison Keys**, **[17] Serena Williams**, **[19] Anastasija Sevastova** and **[20] Naomi Osaka**.

Both **Sevastova** and **Osaka** will be making their Grand Slam semifinal debut.

The final four lineup at five of the past six US Opens has featured at least one woman making her Grand Slam semifinal debut (exception was 2017).

Sevastova is one of just two women (Karolina Pliskova) to have reached the quarterfinals – or better – at Flushing Meadows in each of the past three years.

Madison Keys is making her second-consecutive showing in the last four in New York, while **Serena** is into her 36th semifinal appearance here.

Should there be an All-American final for the second-consecutive year, **Serena** owns the head-to-head edge 3-0, having defeated Keys twice in Grand Slam play in 2015 (Australian Open and US Open). **Osaka** defeated the 23-time major champion earlier in the season at Miami, on the heels of her first career title at Indian Wells. **Sevastova** tied the career series 1-1 vs. **Osaka** following a routine straight sets victory in Doha this season. Should **Keys** face off against **Sevastova** in the final, this would be their first career meeting.

WELCOME TO THE SHOW

23-time Grand Slam champion, **[17] Serena Williams** brings her best tennis to the world's biggest stages. Since 2008, Serena has proven to produce some of her best tennis at the Grand Slams:

SERENA BY THE NUMBERS – SINCE 2008

	Grand Slams	WTA Events
Matches	206	270
Ace/Match	8.22	6.72
1st Serve Pct	61.5	59.1
Serve Pts Won	66.8	63.3
Ret Pts Won	47.3	47.6
Serve Gm Won	84.8	79.3
Ret Gm Won	43.6	44.2
3-set W/L	31-9	46-18

UNCHARTED TERRITORY

Following her quarterfinal victory over Lesia Tsurenko, **[20] Naomi Osaka** became the youngest Japanese woman and just the third overall in the Open Era to reach the semifinals at a Grand Slam.

She has also become the youngest US Open semifinalist since 2010 (Wozniacki, SF, at 20 yrs, 63 days)

Alongside **Kei Nishikori's** quarterfinal victory over Marin Cilic, this marks the first time ever that both a Japanese male **AND** female have reached the last four at a Grand Slam.

With her quarterfinal upset over defending champion [3] Sloane Stephens, **[19] Anastasija Sevastova** became the first Latvian woman to advance to the semifinals at the US Open.

STREAKING AT THE OPEN

[17] Serena Williams advanced to her ninth consecutive US Open semifinal, and 12th at Flushing Meadows overall. These nine semifinals are her best streak at the Slams – her next best streak of reaching consecutive semifinals or better is Wimbledon (2002-04, 2008-2010 and 2015-18 – withdrew from 2017 Wimbledon) and Australian Open (2015-17)

SEMIFINAL SUCCESS RATE

US Open	66.6% (12/18)
Wimbledon	61.1% (11/18)
Australian Open	47% (8/17)
Roland Garros	31.25% (5/16)
Hard Court Slams	**57.1% (20/35)**
Total	**52.2% (36/69)**

SPREADING THE LOVE

Through the first three Slams of 2018, there have been three different champions: **Caroline Wozniacki** (Australian Open), **Simona Halep** (Roland Garros) and **Angelique Kerber** (Wimbledon). With all three now eliminated from this year's championship, this means there will be four different Grand Slam champions in the same season for the second year in a row.

This marks the first time in 80 years, since the 1937-38 seasons, that there will be four different major champions in back-to-back seasons.

WINNING AT A HIGH RATE

Based on results across her career, **[17] Serena Williams** owns the highest rate among active players for tournaments per title won:

TOURNAMENTS PER TITLE WON	
Serena Williams	**3.01**
Maria Sharapova	5.42
Venus Williams	5.80
Petra Kvitova	7.80
Simona Halep	8.89
Caroline Wozniacki	9.00

AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

At 36 years and 349 days, **[17] Serena Williams** would be the third oldest Grand Slam finalist in the Open Era. Should she win the title, Williams would be the oldest Grand Slam singles champion in the Open Era, overtaking her own record set at the 2017 Australian Open:

OPEN ERA: OLDEST GRAND SLAM FINALISTS

PLAYER	AGE	GRAND SLAM	RESULT
Martina Navratilova	37 yrs, 258 d	1994 Wimb	R-Up
Venus Williams	37 yrs, 29 d	2017 Wimb	R-Up
Serena Williams	*36 yrs, 349 d*	*2018 USO*	*???*
Venus Williams	36 yrs, 226 d	2017 AO	R-Up
Serena Williams	35 yrs, 125 d	2017 AO	WON
Martina Navratilova	34 yrs, 325 d	1991 USO	R-Up
Serena Williams	34 yrs, 287 d	2016 Wimb	WON

ON THIS DAY IN TENNIS

SEPTEMBER 6, 1975 – Four years after her debut at the US Open as a 16-year-old, **Chris Evert** wins her first Open title, defeating **Evonne Goolagong** 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 in the women's singles final. The final marked the first year the tournament was played on clay – Evert went on to dominate the Open on the surface, not losing a singles match during the event's three-year-run on clay from 1975-77.

1986 – Martina Navratilova and **Steffi Graf** complete one of the greatest US Open women's semifinal matches ever as Navratilova comes back from three match points down to claim a 1-6, 7-6(3), 7-6(8) semifinal victory over the 17-year-old West German.

RANKINGS WATCH

[14] Madison Keys will drop to No.18 should she end her 2018 US Open campaign in the semifinals. She would be able to maintain her current ranking status (Nos.14-15) by making the finals for the second-consecutive year.

[17] Serena Williams will return to the Top 20 by reaching the semifinal stage.

- Serena will now overtake Venus Williams in the rankings
- She can move as high as No.16 by reaching the final and No.11 by winning the title

[19] Anastasija Sevastova will move to Nos.18-19 with her semifinal appearance, and No.15 with a runner-up finish.

[20] Naomi Osaka is projected to reach No.17 by advancing to the semifinals, and No.12 as a finalist.

Osaka (No.7), **Keys** (No.9) and **Sevastova** (No.9) each have a chance to reach the Top 10 after the US Open but will need to win the title in order to do so.

PROJECTED TOP 10 – FOLLOWING US OPEN

1. Simona Halep
2. Caroline Wozniacki
3. Angelique Kerber
4. **Caroline Garcia**
5. Petra Kvitova
6. Elina Svitolina
7. Karolina Pliskova*****
8. Sloane Stephens*****
9. Jelena Ostapenko*****
10. Julia Goerges*****

Subject to change based on US Open results

For **Caroline Garcia**, rising to No.4 marks the highest ranking held by a Frenchwoman since the week of June 25, 2007 (Mauresmo, No.4).

FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING…
-A recap of what's happened so far-

Following her quarterfinal victory over Lesia Tsurenko, **Naomi Osaka** became the youngest Japanese woman and just the third overall in the Open Era to reach the semifinals at a Grand Slam. She has also become the youngest US Open semifinalist since 2010 (Wozniacki, SF, at 20 yrs, 63 days)

Alongside **Kei Nishikori's** quarterfinal victory over Marin Cilic, this marks the first time ever that both a Japanese male **AND** female have reached the last four at a Grand Slam

After her upset of defending champion Sloane Stephens in the quarterfinals, **Anastasija Sevastova** became the first Latvian woman to reach the semifinals of the US Open

Naomi Osaka became the first Japanese woman to advance to the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam since the 2004 US Open (Asagoe, QF)

Alongside **Kei Nishikori**, this marks the first time that both a Japanese male **AND** female player have reached the quarterfinals of the same major since 1995 Wimbledon (Kimiko Date & Shuzo Matsuoka) – just the second time in the **Open Era**

Lesia Tsurenko became the first Ukrainian woman to advance to the quarterfinals of the US Open since Kateryna Bondarenko did so in 2009

Following her 50-minute double bagel third round victory, **Naomi Osaka** became the first Japanese woman to advance to the fourth round of the US Open since 2004 (Sugiyama, R16 & Asagoe, QF)

Marketa Vondrousova became the first teenager to reach the last 16 at Flushing Meadows since 2016 (Konjuh, QF - 18) and the youngest Czech player to advance to this stage in New York since 2005 (Vaidisova, R16 – 16)

Dominika Cibulkova is the first Slovakian woman to advance to the fourth round in five years, since Hantuchova reached the quarterfinals in 2013 (l. Azarenka)

With **Elina Svitolina** and **Lesia Tsurenko** both reaching the Round of 16, this marked the first time two Ukrainians advanced to the second week of a major in the Open Era

For the first time in the Open Era, **Belarus** had three players advance to the third round of a Grand Slam (**Azarenka**, **Sabalenka** and **Sasnovich**)

Elise Mertens became the first Belgian to advance to the Round of 16 at the US Open since 2010 (Wickmayer & Clijsters)

The 2018 US Open marks the first time since 2013 Roland Garros that no **British** player, male or female, has advanced to the third round of a major

For the first time in the Open Era at the US Open, the No.1 (**Halep**) and No.2 (**Wozniacki**) seeds have been eliminated before the third round

Kaia Kanepi's first round upset over World No.1 **Simona Halep** was the first time the No.1 seed fell in the first round of the US Open in the Open Era

With **Angelique Kerber** (No.4 seed) and **Julia Goerges** (No.9 seed) both seeded in the Top 10, this was the first time in over 20 years that two Germans were seeded in the Top 10 at a Grand Slam since 1997 Roland Garros (Graf, A.Huber)

Caroline Garcia became the first Frenchwoman to be a Top 10 seed at the US Open since 2011 (Bartoli) and the first Frenchwoman to be a Top 10 seed across all four slams in the same season since 2006 (Mauresmo)

Maria Sakkari became the first Greek woman to be seeded at a Grand Slam since 2007 Australian Open (Daniilidou)

[14] MADISON KEYS (USA #14) vs. [20] NAOMI OSAKA (JPN #19)

Head to Head: MADISON KEYS leads 3-0

2018	ROLAND GARROS	CLAY O	R3	MADISON KEYS	6-1 7-6(7)	83 mins
2017	INDIAN WELLS	HARD O	R32	MADISON KEYS	6-1 6-4	58 mins
2016	US OPEN	HARD O	R3	MADISON KEYS	7-5 4-6 7-6(3)	127 mins

MADISON KEYS		NAOMI OSAKA
14	WTA RANKING	19
18	PORSCHE RACE TO SINGAPORE LEADERBOARD	15
17-02-1995 (23)	DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)	16-10-1997 (20)
$1,373,428	YTD PRIZE MONEY	$1,997,826
$8,907,253	CAREER PRIZE MONEY	$3,232,734
0 / 3	SINGLES TITLES (YTD / CAREER)	1 / 1
0 / 0	DOUBLES TITLES (YTD / CAREER)	0 / 0
19-6	US OPEN W-L (MD) *	9-2
26-11 / 176-103	YTD / CAREER W-L (MD) *	31-15 / 71-54
5-5 / 45-42	YTD / CAREER 3-SET W-L (MD) *	3-1 / 14-13
8-5 / 45-40	YTD / CAREER TIE-BREAK W-L (MD) *	4-4 / 13-15
13-6 / 105-68	YTD / CAREER HARD W-L (MD) *	20-8 / 52-36
2-2 / 14-26	YTD / CAREER TOP 10 W-L (MD) *	2-5 / 4-14
3-3 / 29-41	YTD / CAREER TOP 20 W-L (MD) *	7-9 / 14-23
2-1 / 14-16	YTD / CAREER Left Hander W-L (MD) *	1-1 / 3-4

* Updated entering 2018 US Open SF

ROAD TO THE SEMIFINALS

[14] MADISON KEYS (USA #14)

R128: d. PAULINE PARMENTIER (FRA #71) 6-4,6-4 (1h35)
R64: d. BERNARDA PERA (USA #92) 6-4,6-1 (1h12)
R32: d. ALEKSANDRA KRUNIC (SRB #49) 4-6,6-1,6-2 (1h43)
R16: d. [29] DOMINIKA CIBULKOVA (SVK #35) 6-1,6-3 (1h16)
QF: d. [30] CARLA SUÁREZ NAVARRO (ESP #24) 6-4,6-3 (1h24)

Total games: 97
Won/lost: 64-33
Sets won/lost: 10-1
Total time on court: 7h10
Average time on court: 1h26
Average rank of opponent: 54

vs.

[20] NAOMI OSAKA (JPN #19)

R128: d. LAURA SIEGEMUND (GER #146) 6-3,6-2 (1h18)
R64: d. [Q] JULIA GLUSHKO (ISR #162) 6-2,6-0 (0h50)
R32: d. ALIAKSANDRA SASNOVICH (BLR #33) 6-0,6-0 (0h50)
R16: d. [26] ARYNA SABALENKA (BLR #20) 6-3,2-6,6-4 (2h01)
QF: d. LESIA TSURENKO (UKR #36) 6-1,6-1 (0h59)

Total games: 84
Won/lost: 62-22
Sets won/lost: 10-1
Total time on court: 5h58
Average time on court: 1h12
Average rank of opponent: 79

US OPEN Tournament History

* Qualifying match

MADISON KEYS

2017			
F	L - SLOANE STEPHENS (USA #83)	6-3 6-0	

2016			
R16	L - CAROLINE WOZNIACKI (DEN #74)	6-3 6-4	

NAOMI OSAKA

2017			
R3	L - KAIA KANEPI (EST #418)	6-3 2-6 7-5	

2016			
R3	L - MADISON KEYS (USA #9)	7-5 4-6 7-6(3)	

2015			
R16	L - SERENA WILLIAMS (USA #1)	6-3 6-3	

2014			
R2	L - ALEKSANDRA KRUNIC (SRB #145)	7-6(4) 2-6 7-5	

2013			
R1	L - JELENA JANKOVIC (SRB #12)	6-3 6-4	

2012			
R2*	L - PAULA ORMAECHEA (ARG #120)	6-4 6-2	

2011			
R2	L - LUCIE SAFAROVA (CZE #26)	3-6 7-5 6-4	

2010			
R1*	L - MARIA ELENA CAMERIN (ITA #130)	3-6 6-4 6-3	

2015		
R2*	L - JOHANNA KONTA (GBR #97)	6-4 6-4

KEYS:

US Open

- Making seventh main draw appearance at US Open (and ninth appearance overall), and is through to her second-consecutive SF in New York, having finished R-Up here last year

- Was defeated by fellow American Stephens 12 months ago in the first all-American US Open final since 2002 (Serena d. Venus)

- Other key results here are posting back-to-back R16 finishes in 2015 (l. S.Williams) and 2016 (l. Wozniacki)

- Made 2r in 2011 (Grand Slam main draw debut, l. Safarova) and 2014 (l. Krunic), and lost 1r in 2013 (l. Jankovic). Fell in 2010 and 2012

- No.14 seed this fortnight – her 14th consecutive major as a seeded player

- One of just two players to reach the SFs or better at two of the four Slams in 2018 (also Kerber – SF Australian Open, Won Wimbledon)

- Has now made the SFs or better at three of her last five Slam appearances (2017 US Open final, 2018 Roland Garros SF, 2018 US Open SF) – the best active strike-rate on tour over that span

- One of a tournament-leading 23 American women in starting field at 2018 US Open, and one of two to reach SF (also S.Williams)

- Progression to US Open SF makes this Keys' happiest major hunting ground, owning a 19-6 record here (overtaking her 15-6 record at the Australian Open)

- Began 2018 US Open campaign by extending winning streak against French players to nine in a row, including three wins at the Slam level, after dispatching Parmentier in straight sets

- Improved career record vs. fellow Americans at Grand Slams to 10-4 after 2r win over No.92 Pera

- Defeated No.49 Krunic in 3r to earn her sixth R16 birth of the 2018 season – also, Australian Open, Charleston, Rome, Roland Garros and Cincinnati. Dropped only set of tournament so far to Krunic

- Defeated No.29 seed Cibulkova in R16 and No.30 Suárez Navarro in QF, and is now 8-2 against seeded players

at Slams since the start of 2017, only losses came against No.21 seed Kerber (2018 Australian Open QF) and No.10 seed Stephens (2018 Roland Garros SF)

- Her QF meeting against Suárez Navarro marked the first meeting between a Spanish and American woman in a Grand Slam QF since 2017 Australian Open (Vandeweghe d. Muguruza), and first at US Open since 2013 (S.Williams d. Suárez Navarro)
- Takes on No.19 Osaka in today's SF matchup – owns 3-0 head-to-head edge, including two wins at the Slam level (2018 Roland Garros and 2016 US Open)
- Seeking to be first player to reach back-to-back US Open finals since S.Williams in 2013-14
- A win today would mark 20th US Open victory and 30th career win over Top 20 opponent
- Is the first finalist from the previous year's tournament to make it back to the SF the following year since Serena did so in 2015 (l. Vinci)
- Including last year's All-American final four lineup, this is just the third time having at least two Americans in the US Open SFs since 2004 – the last time there were at least two Americans in SFs in back-to-back years was 2003-04 (Davenport and Capriati both times)
- Finishing her 2018 US Open campaign at SF stage would see her ranking drop to No. 18. Reaching the final again would help her maintain her current ranking (Nos.14-15), while capturing her first career Grand Slam title would bring her back into the Top 10 (No.9)

Grand Slam History

- 2018 US Open marks 25th Grand Slam main draw appearance
- Best result at a major was 2017 US Open R-Up finish to Stephens. Best result prior to that was breakthrough SF run at Australian Open in 2015 when she defeated No.18 V.Williams and No.4 Kvitova en route (l. eventual champion S.Williams)
- Before Melbourne Park run, had never previously passed 3r at a major. Became just the third American teenager since 1995 to reach SF at the Australian Open – also Chanda Rubin (1996, SF) and Sloane Stephens (2013, SF)
- Achieved best result at Roland Garros to date with SF run in 2018 (l. Stephens) – means she has now reached at least QF at all four majors
- At Wimbledon, best result so far is QF in 2015 (l. A.Radwanska)
- In 2016 was one of only four players to reach at least R16 across the Slams (also A.Radwanska, Suárez Navarro and S.Williams)
- Made Grand Slam main draw debut at 2011 US Open, advancing to 2r (was first 16-year-old to compete at Flushing Meadows since Kristie Ahn in 2008)

Season

- Reached QF at Cincinnati (l. Sabalenka) in only summer hard court tournament; withdrew from San Jose and Montréal w/right wrist injury
- During Cincinnati run, upset No.4 Kerber to score sixth Top 5 victory of her career, having earlier beaten No.5 Li (2013 Madrid), No.4 Kvitova (2015 Australian Open), No.4 Muguruza (2016 Rome and 2017 Stanford) and No.4 Svitolina (2017 US Open)
- Fell in 3r of Wimbledon to qualifier Rodina in 3s
- Wimbledon marked her only grass court event of 2018 after withdrawing from Birmingham w/abdominal injury
- Clay season highlighted by run to SF at Roland Garros (l. Stephens), which followed Rome withdrawal before R16 meeting with No.1 Halep due to a rib injury
- Made back-to-back 1r exits at Stuttgart (l. Pavlyuchenkova) and Madrid (l. Sorribes Tormo)
- Secured Fed Cup final return for reigning champions USA with victory over France's Parmentier in fourth rubber
- Advanced to SF stage in Charleston (l. eventual champion Bertens after holding 1mp)
- Suffered early 2r exits Doha (l. Bellis), Indian Wells (l. Collins) and Miami (l. Azarenka via ret. w/left thigh injury)
- Reached fourth Grand Slam QF of career at Australian Open (d. No.8 Garcia in R16, l. Kerber)
- At Australian Open, was one of just two players to reach last eight who also reached quarters at the previous major, 2017 US Open (also Ka.Pliskova)
- Started 2018 campaign in Brisbane where she made 1r exit (l. Konta)

Career

- Posted third successive Top 20 season in 2017, finishing at No.19 despite delayed start having undergone left wrist surgery in November 2016 (first event played was Indian Wells, where she reached R16)
- 2017 season highlighted by reaching maiden Grand Slam final in New York, losing out to Stephens in 10th all-American US Open final in the Open Era. At 22, became the youngest Flushing Meadows finalist since 19-year-old Wozniacki lost to Clijsters in 2009
- Also in 2017, won third career tour-level singles title, and first on hard courts, at Stanford (d. Vandeweghe in F). Previous two titles were won on grass, at 2014 Eastbourne (d. Kerber in F; second youngest title winner of season) and 2016 Birmingham (d. Strycova in F); also a runner-up on four occasions
- Enjoyed first Top 10 year-end finish in 2016 (at No.8), as youngest player in the year-end Top 25
- Broke into Top 10 on June 20, 2016, becoming 118th player to reach the elite bracket since computer rankings were introduced. Became first American to make Top 10 debut since S.Williams in 1999
- Reached a career-high singles ranking of No.7 on October 10, 2016
- Made WTA Finals debut at Singapore in 2016, going 1-2 in round robin play
- Represented USA at 2016 Rio Olympics, reaching SF (lost Bronze medal match against Kvitova)
- Owns six career Top 5 victories: No.5 Li (2013 Madrid), No.4 Kvitova (2015 Australian Open), No.4 Muguruza (2016 Rome and 2017 Stanford), No.4 Svitolina (2017 US Open) and No.4 Kerber (2018 Cincinnati)
- Qualified for WTA Elite Trophy Zhuhai in 2015 (went 1-1 in round robin stage)

- Cracked Top 20 on February 2, 2015
- Was second-youngest player to win a WTA title in 2014, at Eastbourne (after Vekic at Kuala Lumpur) and became youngest American to win a singles title since Vania King in October 2006 (17 years, 254 days, Bangkok)
- Nominated for WTA Newcomer of the Year in 2013
- On ITF Circuit won three singles titles and one doubles title
- Made tour-level debut at 2009 Ponte Vedra Beach at 14 years old (as WC, d. Kudryavtseva); was seventh youngest player to win a WTA main draw match at 14 years, 48 days, and youngest since Hingis in 1994

Other Information
- Currently without a full-time coach; fitness coach is Rodney Marshall
- Previously coached by Jesse Levine, Thomas Hogstedt, Dieter Kindlmann, Lindsay Davenport and David Taylor
- Unveiled as Evian's first American ambassador in 2017
- Prior to 2016 US Open was unveiled as ambassador for FearlesslyGIRL, an organization dedicated to empowering young women and their communities

OSAKA:

US Open
- Making third main draw appearance at Flushing Meadows. Advanced to 3r on both previous visits in 2016 (l. today's opponent Keys in 3s, having led 5-1 in decider) and 2017 (l. Kanepi)
- Upset defending US Open champion and No.6 Kerber in 1r last year, marking first career Top 10 win (previously 0-9)
- Seeded No.20 – her third consecutive major among the seeds (also No.21 at 2018 Roland Garros and No.18 at 2018 Wimbledon). By contrast, this time last year was ranked No.45
- Swept aside Siegemund and Glushko in opening two rounds to register back-to-back wins for first time since Wimbledon
- Win over Glushko saw her reach 3r at a sixth consecutive major – currently the longest active streak on tour
- In 3r against Sasnovich, scored the third 6-0 6-0 win in women's draw this year (also Gavrilova d. Sorribes Tormo and Puig d. Voegele). This is first time there have been three 6-0 6-0 victories at a Slam since 2015 Wimbledon and the first time at the US Open since 2013 when there were four
- Recovered from a break down in the third set to defeat fellow 20-year-old Sabalenka in R16 – her first Top 20 win since Indian Wells title run in March
- Has won 60% (24/40) of her return games this fortnight; by contrast, season average heading into US Open was 36.1%
- Has served impressively thus far, hitting 25 aces and dropping serve only four times. Also hit the joint-fourth fastest serve of the tournament, 119mph
- Following her Round of 16 win, became the first Japanese woman to advance to the QFs of a major since Asagoe, QF at 2004 US Open (l. Davenport). Fellow countryman Kei Nishikori also advanced to the QF stage, marking the first

time that both a Japanese male AND female player have reached the quarterfinals of the same major since 1995 Wimbledon (Kimiko Date & Shuzo Matsuoka) – just the second time in the Open Era

- Dropped just two games in her swift QF victory over No.36 Tsurenko
- Has won five matches en route to semifinal showing, with three of those five matches lasting less than an hour
- Became the youngest Japanese woman and just the third overall in the Open era to reach the last four at a Grand Slam – the last time a Japanese woman advanced to a Slam semifinal was 1996 Wimbledon (Kimiko Date)
- She has also become the youngest US Open semifinalist since 2010 (Wozniacki, SF, at 20 yrs, 63 days)
- Alongside Kei Nishikori's quarterfinal victory over Marin Cilic, this marks the first time ever that both a Japanese male AND female have reached the semifinals at the same major
- Squares off against No.14 Keys in her first-ever Slam semifinal today – seeking first career win over the American
- A win today would make her the youngest US Open finalist since Wozniacki in 2009 – 19 years old
- Today's match marks youngest US Open semifinal meeting since 2009 – battle between 19-year-olds Wickmayer and Wozniacki
- From a rankings point perspective, Osaka has earned a combined 1,780 points from Indian Wells and this year's US Open, while earning 1,017 points from other 14 tournaments played
- Having advanced to SF stage, is projected to rise to No.17, No.12 as a runner-up and would breach the Top 10 for the first time in her career with the title (at No.7)
- From her efforts this week, will pass USD $2 million in prize money for the season – stood at No.10 on 2018 prize money list heading into US Open

Grand Slam History

- 2018 US Open marks 11th main draw appearance at a Grand Slam
- 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 QF at 2018 US Open (plays Tsurenko today) and 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)

Season

- Started North American hardcourt 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)

Other Information

- Currently coached by Aleksandar (Sascha) Bajin, former hitting partner of Caroline Wozniacki 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 33-15 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

[17] SERENA WILLIAMS (USA #26) vs. [19] ANASTASIJA SEVASTOVA (LAT #18)

Head to Head: First meeting

SERENA WILLIAMS		ANASTASIJA SEVASTOVA
26	WTA RANKING	18
21	PORSCHE RACE TO SINGAPORE LEADERBOARD	20
26-09-1981 (36)	DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)	13-04-1990 (28)
$1,920,170	YTD PRIZE MONEY	$757,281
$86,383,301	CAREER PRIZE MONEY	$4,048,810
0 / 72	SINGLES TITLES (YTD / CAREER)	1 / 3
0 / 23	DOUBLES TITLES (YTD / CAREER)	0 / 0
94-11	US OPEN W-L (MD) *	15-5
17-5 / 791-131	YTD / CAREER W-L (MD) *	35-16 / 139-109
3-1 / 154-59	YTD / CAREER 3-SET W-L (MD) *	14-5 / 44-33
3-0 / 107-52	YTD / CAREER TIE-BREAK W-L (MD) *	5-7 / 29-30
8-4 / 489-79	YTD / CAREER HARD W-L (MD) *	17-9 / 72-63
1-3 / 172-70	YTD / CAREER TOP 10 W-L (MD) *	3-4 / 8-17
5-3 / 299-93	YTD / CAREER TOP 20 W-L (MD) *	5-7 / 16-35
2-2 / 67-13	YTD / CAREER Left Hander W-L (MD) *	3-1 / 7-8

* Updated entering 2018 US Open SF

ROAD TO THE SEMIFINALS

[17] SERENA WILLIAMS (USA #26)

R128: d. MAGDA LINETTE (POL #68) 6-4,6-0 (1h10)
R64: d. CARINA WITTHOEFT (GER #101) 6-2,6-2 (1h07)
R32: d. [16] VENUS WILLIAMS (USA #16) 6-1,6-2 (1h11)
R16: d. KAIA KANEPI (EST #44) 6-0,4-6,6-3 (1h37)
QF: d. [8] KAROLINA PLISKOVA (CZE #8) 6-4,6-3 (1h26)

Total games: 91
Won/lost: 64-27
Sets won/lost: 10-1
Total time on court: 6h31
Average time on court: 1h18
Average rank of opponent: 47

vs.

[19] ANASTASIJA SEVASTOVA (LAT #18)

R128: d. DONNA VEKIC (CRO #41) 6-2,2-6,6-3 (1h52)
R64: d. [WC] CLAIRE LIU (USA #158) 6-3,6-1 (1h03)
R16: d. [7] ELINA SVITOLINA (UKR #7) 6-3,1-6,6-0 (1h21)
QF: d. [3] SLOANE STEPHENS (USA #3) 6-2,6-3 (1h25)

Total games: 105
Won/lost: 67-38
Sets won/lost: 10-3
Total time on court: 7h44
Average time on court: 1h33
Average rank of opponent: 42

US OPEN Tournament History

* Qualifying match

SERENA WILLIAMS

2016			
SF	L - KAROLINA PLISKOVA (CZE #11)	6-2	7-6(5)
2015			
SF	L - ROBERTA VINCI (ITA #43)	2-6 6-4	6-4
2014			
F	W - CAROLINE WOZNIACKI (DEN #11)	6-3	6-3

ANASTASIJA SEVASTOVA

2017			
QF	L - SLOANE STEPHENS (USA #83)	6-3 3-6	7-6(4)
2016			
QF	L - CAROLINE WOZNIACKI (DEN #74)	6-0	6-2
2015			
R1*	L - MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #207)	6-2	7-6(2)

2013			
F	W - VICTORIA AZARENKA (BLR #2)	7-5 6-7(6) 6-1	

2012			
F	W - VICTORIA AZARENKA (BLR #1)	6-2 2-6 7-5	

2011			
F	L - SAMANTHA STOSUR (AUS #10)	6-2 6-3	

2009			
SF	L - KIM CLIJSTERS (BEL #9,999)	6-4 7-5	

2008			
F	W - JELENA JANKOVIC (SRB #2)	6-4 7-5	

2007			
QF	L - JUSTINE HENIN (BEL #1)	7-6(3) 6-1	

2006			
R16	L - AMÉLIE MAURESMO (FRA #1)	6-4 0-6 6-2	

2005			
R16	L - VENUS WILLIAMS (USA #10)	7-6(5) 6-2	

2004			
QF	L - JENNIFER CAPRIATI (USA #8)	2-6 6-4 6-4	

2002			
F	W - VENUS WILLIAMS (USA #2)	6-4 6-3	

2001			
F	L - VENUS WILLIAMS (USA #4)	6-2 6-4	

2000			
QF	L - LINDSAY DAVENPORT (USA #2)	6-4 6-2	

1999			
F	W - MARTINA HINGIS (SUI #1)	6-3 7-6(4)	

1998			
R3	L - IRINA SPIRLEA (ROM #8)	6-3 0-6 7-5	

2012			
R3*	L - MAGDALENA RYBARIKOVA (SVK #66)	6-7(8) 7-5 6-2	

2011			
R1	L - VERA DUSHEVINA (RUS #72)	6-3 6-4	

2010			
R2	L - SVETLANA KUZNETSOVA (RUS #13)	6-2 6-3	

2009			
R2	L - SVETLANA KUZNETSOVA (RUS #6)	6-4 6-2	

S.WILLIAMS:

US Open

- Making 18th appearance at US Open and is through to her 12th SF here at Flushing Meadows. Bidding today to reach her 31st Grand Slam singles final

- Today's SF match is her ninth US Open SF in a row, a run that began in 2008 (withdrew from 2010 US Open w/right foot injury)

- The only six occasions out of 18 that she's failed to reach this stage in New York were on debut in 1998 (l. Spirlea in 3r), R16 exits in 2005 (l. V.Williams) and 2006 (l. Mauresmo), and QF exits in 2000 (l. Davenport), 2004 (l. Capriati) and 2007 (l. Henin)

- Overall is a six-time champion at US Open: 1999 (d. Hingis in F), 2002 (d. V.Williams in F), 2008 (d. Jankovic in F), 2012 (d. Azarenka in F), 2013 (d. Azarenka in F) and 2014 (d. Wozniacki in F). Tied with Chris Evert for most US Open titles in the Open Era

- Is also a two-time runner-up, in 2001 (l. V.Williams) and 2011 (l. Stosur)

- Her record in Grand Slam SFs stands at 30-5 – her most recent three losses have come here at US Open, in 2009 (l. eventual champion Clijsters), 2015 (l. eventual R-Up Vinci) and 2016 (l. eventual R-Up Ka.Pliskova). In addition, lost in SF at 2000 Wimbledon (l. eventual champion V.Williams) and 2003 Roland Garros (l. eventual champion Henin)
- Having lost her previous two SFs here at US Open (2015-16), should she lose today, would be first woman since Davenport to lose three US Open SFs in a row – 2002 (l. S.Williams), 2003 (l. Clijsters) and 2004 (l. Kuznetsova)
- At 36 years and 349 days*, Williams would be the third oldest Grand Slam finalist in the Open Era. Should she win the title, Williams would be the oldest Grand Slam singles champion in the Open Era, overtaking her own record set at 2017 Australian Open:

OPEN ERA: OLDEST GRAND SLAM FINALISTS

PLAYER	AGE*	GRAND SLAM	RESULT
Martina Navratilova	37 years, 258 days	1994 Wimbledon	R-Up
Venus Williams	37 years, 29 days	2017 Wimbledon	R-Up
Serena Williams	*36 years, 349 days*	*2018 US Open*	*???*
Venus Williams	36 years, 226 days	2017 Australian Open	R-Up
Serena Williams	35 years, 125 days	2017 Australian Open	WON
Martina Navratilova	34 years, 325 days	1991 US Open	R-Up
Serena Williams	34 years, 287 days	2016 Wimbledon	WON

based on age at end of tournament

- One of eight players in the Open Era to win Wimbledon and the US Open in the same year (2002, 2012)
- Her 18 appearances at the US Open is second most among players in starting field, two behind her sister, Venus, who made her 20th appearance
- Doubles champion here in 1999 (w/V.Williams d. Rubin/Testud in F) and 2009 (w/V.Williams d. Black/Huber). Also won mixed doubles (w/Mirnyi) in 1998
- Missed entire summer US swing in 2017 due to pregnancy
- US Open marks seventh event – and third major – following birth of daughter Alexis Olympia in September 2017
- 2018 US Open represents her 69th Grand Slam main draw appearance – among active players trails only her sister Venus (80, including 2018 US Open) and Schiavone (70)
- Seeded No. 17 this fortnight, nine spots higher than her current ranking of No.26
- Progress to US Open SF has seen her defeat Linette, Witthoeft, V.Williams, Kanepi and Ka.Pliskova, dropping only one set
- Her five wins this fortnight take her record at US Open to 94-11 - most wins among active players, and second-most in the Open Era behind Chris Evert (101-12) and ahead of Martina Navratilova (89-17)
- US Open is now her most successful Slam in terms of match wins, now ahead of Wimbledon (92-11), Australian Open (81-10) and Roland Garros (63-12)
- Record across the Grand Slams stands at 330-44, the most wins in Open Era, ahead of Martina Navratilova (306)

- Defeat of sister Venus in 3r was their 30th career meeting, Serena leading the head to head 18-12
- Today's match vs. Sevastova is her ninth US Open SF in a row, and 12th SF at Flushing Meadows overall. These nine SFs are her best streak at the Slams – the next best streak of her reaching consecutive SF or better stands at three – Wimbledon (2002-04, 2008-10 and 2015-18 – withdrew from 2017 Wimbledon) and Australian Open (2015-17)
- Overall Serena has reached the SF stage of a Grand Slam 36 times, out of the 69 she has contested

Serena's Slam Success Rate for Reaching SF	
US Open	**66.6% (12/18)**
Wimbledon	61.1 (11/18)
Australian Open	47% (8/17)
Roland Garros	31.25% (5/16)
Hard Court Slams	**57.1% (20/35)**
Total	**52.2% (36/69)**

- Defeated No.8 Ka.Pliskova in QF for first Top 10 win of season, and is now 1-3 vs. the elite bracket – losses have come to No.8 V.Williams (Indian Wells), No.10 Kerber (Wimbledon) and No.6 Kvitova (Cincinnati). Prior to defeat of Pliskova, last win vs. Top 10 player came over No.9 Konta at 2017 Australian Open
- Pliskova win was also her 173rd career Top 10 win – the first of which came over No.7 Pierce at 1997 Chicago
- Record at US Open vs. Top 10 players now stands at 21-8, most recent loss coming against No.10 Stosur in the 2011 Final
- Faces Sevastova today – first time facing a Latvian in Grand Slam singles play. In doubles, w/V.Williams defeated Ostapenko and partner Putintseva at 2016 Roland Garros
- A loss to No.18 Sevastova would be worst at Slam level since losing to No.43 Vinci here in 2015 US Open SF
- 13 of her Slams have been won on hard courts – most of any player in Open Era; overall has won 46 hard court titles, also most among active players
- At 36, is the oldest remaining player in the draw (Schnyder – 39, l. in 1r, Venus – 38, l. in 3r), among 22 thirtysomethings to begin the draw
- By reaching the SF, Serena (currently No.26) has a chance to return to the Top 20:

Ranking Projections	
Semifinals	As high as No.16*
Final	As high as No.16*
Champion	As high as No.11*

Depending on other results

- Based on results across her career, Serena wins one out of every three tournaments played – the highest rate among active players:

Tournaments Per Title Won	
Serena Williams	**3.01**
Maria Sharapova	5.42
Venus Williams	5.80
Petra Kvitova	7.80
Simona Halep	8.89
Caroline Wozniacki	9.00

Grand Slam History

- A 23-time Grand Slam singles winner, ahead of Stefanie Graf (22) on Open Era leaderboard, and behind only Margaret Court (24) all time
- Her titles were won at Australian Open: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009-10, 2015, 2017; Roland Garros: 2002, 2013, 2015; Wimbledon: 2002-03, 2009-10, 2012, 2015-16; US Open: 1999, 2002, 2008, 2012-14
- Owns a 23-7 record in Grand Slam finals, with losses coming at 2001 US Open (l. V.Williams), 2004 Wimbledon (l. Sharapova), 2008 Wimbledon (l. V.Williams), 2011 US Open (l. Stosur), 2016 Australian Open (l. Kerber), 2016 Roland Garros (l. Muguruza) and 2018 Wimbledon (l. Kerber)
- Aged 35y 125d at the conclusion of 2017 Australian Open, is the oldest player to win a Grand Slam title in the Open Era. Has now won 10 Grand Slam titles as a 30-something
- Boasts the longest span of Grand Slam singles glory all-time. Pre-Open Era, Helen Wills Moody won her majors over the course of 15y 9.5m. Serena won her first Slam at 1999 US Open, some 17y 6.5m before her 2017 Australian title. WTA legends Evert, Navratilova and Graf all won their Slams over a 12 year span
- The 2017 Australian Open final saw Serena and Venus have the oldest combined age of any Grand Slam final match-up in the Open Era (71 years, 351 days), beating the previous record set by Flavia Pennetta and Roberta Vinci (66 years, 19 days) at the 2015 US Open. Prior to that all-Italian final the record was held for nearly four decades by Virginia Wade and Betty Stove – who had a combined age of just over 63 years, 11 months at 1977 Wimbledon
- In the Open Era, Williams' 11-year gap between Roland Garros titles in 2002 and 2013 (without winning another Roland Garros title during that time) is the longest gap for a woman at any Grand Slam
- In 2015, came within two match wins of completing the calendar year Grand Slam, having won the Australian Open (d. Sharapova in F), Roland Garros (d. Safarova in F) and Wimbledon (d. Muguruza in F); l. Vinci in SF at US Open. Was bidding to become third woman in Open Era to achieve the feat, after Court (1970) and Graf (1988)
- Has twice been in possession of all four majors for a "Serena Slam" (2002 Roland Garros to 2003 Australian Open and 2014 US Open to 2015 Wimbledon)
- Has won 14 Grand Slam doubles titles, all with sister Venus – most recently at 2016 Wimbledon (d. Babos/Shvedova in F). Also won mixed doubles titles at 1998 Wimbledon and 1998 US Open (both w/Mirnyi)

- The sisters held all four Grand Slam titles at same time, from 2009 Wimbledon through 2010 Roland Garros – third pair to do so (also Navratilova/Shriver and Fernandez/Zvereva). Also teamed with Venus to win three Olympic gold medals: 2000 Sydney, 2008 Beijing and 2012 London

Season

- Entered US Open off the back of 2r exit at Cincinnati (d. Gavrilova, l. No.6 Kvitova in 3s)
- Withdrew from Rogers Cup in Montréal
- Lost 6-1 6-0 to Konta in 1r at San Jose – the heaviest defeat of her career (only occasion she has failed to win more than one game in a match) and first time losing a set-to-love since 2014 WTA Finals (l. 6-0 6-2 to Halep)
- Earlier this summer reached Wimbledon final (l. Kerber) – her 30th Grand Slam singles final, and was bidding for eighth Wimbledon crown
- Was making 18th main draw appearance at All England Club - among active players, only Venus has played Wimbledon more often (21)
- Advanced to R16 at Roland Garros (withdrew prior to match against Sharapova w/right pectoral muscle tear). In Paris, posted first Top 20 wins since her return to tour, over No.17 Barty and No.11 Goerges
- With sister Venus, won two doubles matches in Paris to advance to R16 (l. Klepac/Martínez Sánchez)
- Roland Garros was first event contested since Miami (l. Osaka in 1r)
- Made her return to tour as a mother at Indian Wells, falling to sister V.Williams in 3r, having defeated Diyas and Bertens in straight sets
- Prior to Indian Wells, played Tie Break Tens event in Madison Square Garden in New York – defeated Marion Bartoli in opening match before falling to Zhang Shuai in SF
- In December 2017 appeared at Mubadala World Tennis Championships in Abu Dhabi (l. Ostapenko 6-2, 3-6, 10-5)
- In February partnered w/V.Williams in doubles rubber during Team USA's Fed Cup win over the Netherlands (l. Kerkhove/Schuurs)

Career

- Ended 2017 ranked No.22, despite playing only two events all season, and both in January. Broke streak of 10 consecutive Top 20 finishes. Overall, has 15 Top 10 finishes to her name – third-most behind Navratilova (20) and Evert (19) – including five as the year-end No.1
- Won 23rd Grand Slam singles title at 2017 Australian Open (d. V.Williams in F)
- Qualified first for the 2016 BNP Paribas WTA Finals Singapore presented by SC Global but withdrew due to right shoulder injury – did not play after US Open
- Was the only player to reach SF or better at all four Grand Slams in 2016 (R-Up at Australian Open (l. Kerber), R-Up at Roland Garros (l. Muguruza), champion at Wimbledon (d. Kerber in F), SF at US Open (l. Ka.Pliskova)
- With 72 career singles titles, ranks fifth on the Open Era list of most titles, after Martina Navratilova (167), Chris Evert (154), Steffi Graf (107) and Margaret Court (92). Also a 21-time singles runner-up

- Holds distinction of being the oldest No.1 in WTA history – set record when most recent streak began on February 18, 2013. Spent her 319th week at No.1 in May 2017. Third on all-time list after Graf's 377 and Navratilova's 332

- Held the top ranking for 186 consecutive weeks (through 2016 US Open) which equaled the record held by Graf (186 weeks, August 17, 1986 through March 10, 1991)

- Five-time champion at WTA Finals (2001, 2009, 2012-14)

- Has registered 16 career wins over (seven different) No.1 ranked players, second-most behind Navratilova (18)

- Among active players, owns the most titles on clay (13), hard (46) and grass (8)

- Singles gold medalist at London 2012 Olympics, and doubles gold medalist at 2000 Sydney, 2008 Beijing and 2012 London (all w/V.Williams)

- Spent eight weeks as co-No.1 in doubles (w/V. Williams); one of six players to hold No.1 in singles and doubles simultaneously (also Navratilova, Hingis, Sánchez Vicario, Davenport and Clijsters)

- Holds single-season prize money record of $12,385,572, achieved in 2013

- At 2014 US Open, received $4 million prize money pay out (including Emirates Airline US Open Series bonus); the largest payout in tennis – men's or women's

Other Information

- Coached by father Richard Williams and mother Oracene Price; coaching consultant is Patrick Mouratoglou; hitting partner is Jarmere Jenkins

- Gave birth to daughter Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr. on September 1, 2017

- Married Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian in November 2017 in New Orleans

- Recently launched her own clothing line, 'Serena'

SEVASTOVA:

US Open

- Making sixth main draw appearance at US Open (and eighth overall)

- Is one of two Grand Slam SF debutantes this fortnight (also Osaka); the final four line-up at five of the past six US Opens has featured at least one woman making her Grand Slam SF debut (exception was 2017)

- Previous best showings here – and across all majors – were QF runs in 2016 (l. Wozniacki) and 2017 (l. eventual champion Stephens)

- Is one of two women to have reached QF – or better – at Flushing Meadows in each of the past three years (also Ka.Pliskova)

- Enters today's SF match with a 15-5 career record in New York, her best record among the four Grand Slam tournaments

- Currently ranked No.18, after making her Top 20 debut last year on May 15, 2017. Has been ranked inside the Top 20 every week, but four, since then

- Is projected to rise to Nos.18-19 by reaching the SF, No.15 as a finalist and can break into Top 10 by winning title (at No.9)
- Began 2018 US Open campaign with defeat of Vekic in 1r before dispatching WC Liu in 2r – her first back-to-back Grand Slam wins this season
- Won 12 of the last 14 games to see off Makarova in 3r – had lost previous three meetings against the Russian
- Upset No.7 Svitolina in R16, dropping only six points in 22-minute final set (6-0)
- Broke serve five times to see off No.3 Stephens on Tuesday in rematch of last year's QF. Result equaled career best win-by-ranking (previously beat then-No.3s Muguruza at 2016 US Open and Ka.Pliskova at 2017 Madrid)
- Has now broken serve a tournament-leading 28 times en route to SF
- Wins over Svitolina and Stephens were second and third Top 10 wins of 2018 (also No.7 Goerges at Montréal)
- Takes on 23-time Grand Slam champion S.Williams today. Record against Grand Slam winners across the four majors stands at 3-7: d. Muguruza (2016 US Open), Sharapova (2017 US Open) and Stephens (2018 US Open); l. Kuznetsova (2009 US Open and 2010 US Open), Henin (2010 Wimbledon), Ivanovic (2016 Australian Open), Schiavone (2016 Wimbledon), Muguruza (2017 Australian Open) and Sharapova (2018 Australian Open)
- Including wins over Stephens and Liu this fortnight, now owns 4-1 record against US players at Grand Slam level
- Has become the first Latvian woman to reach a US Open SF. Across all majors, the only other Latvian woman to reach this stage is Ostapenko (2017 Roland Garros – WON; 2018 Wimbledon – SF)
- Appearing in fifth hard court SF of career, having advanced to that stage – but never further – at 2010 Monterrey, 2017 Dubai, 2017 Zhuhai and 2018 Brisbane
- In doubles w/Pavlyuchenkova this fortnight, fell in QF (l. Stosur/Zhang on Wednesday)

Grand Slam History

- 2018 US Open marks 23rd main draw appearance at a Grand Slam
- Fell at QF stage on two occasions, at US Open in 2016 (l. Wozniacki) and 2017 (l. Stephens)
- In 2016, became first Latvian woman to reach a Grand Slam QF since Savchenko at 1994 Wimbledon (since joined by Ostapenko)
- Best result elsewhere is reaching R16 at 2011 Australian Open (l. Wozniacki), before her two-year absence from the game
- Made 3r at 2017 Roland Garros; this was the first time a Latvian woman reached 3r in the Open Era (also eventual champion Ostapenko). Latvian-born Larisa Savchenko advanced to 3r in 1984 and 1989 whilst representing the USSR
- Has won just one match in five visits to Wimbledon, reaching 2r in 2017

Season

- Enters the US Open after being upset in the 1r of Cincinnati (l. Giorgi)
- Enjoyed a QF run in Montréal (l. eventual R-Up Stephens), eclipsing the $4 million career prize money mark in the process
- Withdrew w/left thigh injury prior to QF vs. Sasnovich at Moscow [River Cup]
- Captured first title of the season and third of her career on clay in Bucharest (d. Martic in F); now 3-3 in singles finals
- Fell in R16 in Eastbourne (l. Kasatkina) prior to being ousted in 1r at Wimbledon by eventual quarterfinalist Giorgi
- Finished R-Up at Mallorca (l. Maria) in first grass event of the season
- Made 1r exit at Roland Garros (l. Duque-Mariño)
- Advanced to R16 in Rome (l. No.2 Wozniacki) and fell in 2r in Madrid (l. eventual R-Up Bertens)
- Enjoyed a SF result in Charleston in her first clay event of 2018
- Fell in 3r in Miami (l. Azarenka); 2r defeat of Cornet was first main draw match win at Miami
- Had R16 run at Indian Wells (d. No.12 Goerges in 3r, l. V.Williams) – her best result at the tournament
- During Middle Eastern swing, made R16 at Doha (l. Halep) and fell 1r at Dubai (l. Makarova)
- In first Fed Cup appearances since 2010, represented Latvia in February in Europe/Africa Group Competition, before going 1-1 in April's World Group II play-off victory over Russia
- Reached 2r at Australian Open (l. Sharapova)
- Opened 2018 season by reaching SF at Brisbane (l. Sasnovich) followed by 1r exit at Sydney (l. Cibulkova)

Career

- Posted first Top 20 season in 2017, finishing at No.16 and earning career highs in wins (37) and winning percentage (.607) besting her previous records set back in 2010
- Captured second career singles title and first in seven years at 2017 Mallorca (d. Goerges in F)
- Earned nearly half of career prize money in 2017 after reaching US Open QF for second consecutive year and advancing to SF of WTA Elite Trophy Zhuhai (l. eventual champion Goerges)
- In 2016, played first full season since 2012, reaching two singles finals at Mallorca (l. Garcia) and Bucharest (l. Halep), as well as first Grand Slam QF of career at US Open
- Retired from professional tennis in May 2013 due to various injuries – mostly muscular and back-related – but returned to competition at ITF level in January 2015 after body had fully healed
- During break from tennis studied leisure management
- Prior to break from tennis, won first singles title at 2010 Oeiras – becoming first Latvian to win a WTA title in 17 years (since Savchenko at Schenectady in 1993)
- Made Top 100 debut on July 13, 2009, Top 50 debut on October 11, 2010 and Top 20 debut on May 15, 2017
- Played first WTA event at 2007 Istanbul; made Grand Slam main draw debut as a qualifier at 2009 Roland Garros
- On ITF Circuit, has won 13 singles and four doubles titles

- Member of Latvian Fed Cup Team 2005-06, 2008-10, 2018
- Currently the Latvian No.2, behind Ostapenko; no other Latvians feature in Top 300 (August 27, 2018)

Other Information

- Mother is Diana Golovanova (English teacher)
- Started playing at age six, introduced to the sport by her grandmother, played for fun until she was 15
- Speaks Latvian, English, Russian, German
- Trains and resides in Liepaja, Latvia and coached by Ronald Schmidt
- Other sports interests are soccer and jet skiing