ST. PETERSBURG LADIES TROPHY – DAY 4

[Q] ALIZÉ CORNET (FRA #61) vs. [6] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #21)

Sakkari leads 2-0
First meeting between the pair since 2017 Wuhan... Cornet is on a three match winning streak for the first time since 2019 Lausanne final run... Sakkari is bidding for first QF appearance of 2020

ALISON VAN UYTVAANCK (BEL #47) vs. [3] PETRA KVITOVA (CZE #11)

First meeting
Van Uytvanck’s 1r win marked first Top 50 victory since defeating No.38 Siniakova last year at Mallorca... Kvitova is a former champion here, lifting the trophy in 2018

[7] DONNA VEKIC (CRO #23) vs. EKATERINA ALEXANDROVA (RUS #28)

Vekic leads 1-0
First meeting since 2017 Budapest... Vekic is making her fourth consecutive appearance in St. Petersburg... Alexandrova is the highest ranked Russian woman in the Top 100

VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (RUS #38) vs. [2] KIKI BERTENS (NED #8)

First meeting
Kudermetova is competing this week on a career-high ranking of No.38... Bertens is returning as defending champion... Kudermetova is bidding for her first Top 10 win of the season
[Q] ALIZÉ CORNET (FRA #61) vs. [6] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #21)

Head to Head: MARIA SAKKARI leads 2-0

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<td>MARIA SAKKARI</td>
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ALIZÉ CORNET

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* Updated through entering 2020 St. Petersburg 2r

ROAD TO THE SECOND ROUND

[Q] ALIZÉ CORNET (FRA #61)

R2-Q: d. VERA ZVONAREVA (RUS #474) 6-3, 6-4 (1h42)
R1-Q: d. VALENTYNA IVAKHNENKO (RUS #233) 6-2, 6-1 (1h02)
R32: d. JELENA OSTAPENKO (LAT #40) 6-1, 6-2 (1h02)

Total games: 15
Won/lost: 12-3
Sets won/lost: 2-0
Total time on court: 1h02
Average time on court: 1h02
Average rank of opponent: 40

[6] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #21)

R32: d. VITALIA DIATCHENKO (RUS #89) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(3) (2h38)

Total games: 32
Won/lost: 16-16
Sets won/lost: 2-1
Total time on court: 2h38
Average time on court: 2h38
Average rank of opponent: 89
CORNET: St. Petersburg

- Ousted Ivakhnenko and Zvonareva in qualifying to advance to fourth consecutive main draw appearance in St. Petersburg
- Has fell at the hands of a Russian opponent each year here, including back-to-back R16 performances in 2017 (l. Vesnina) and 2018 (l. Kasatkina). Fell in 1r to Pavlyuchenkova in 2019
- Defeated No.40 Ostapenko in 1r on Wednesday, winning 86% of her first service points and saving two out of two break points; now owns 111-189 mark vs Top 50 opponents in career
- The win over Ostapenko marked first victory over a former Grand Slam champion since defeating Wozniacki last year at Madrid (via ret.)
- Has now won three rounds at an event (incl. qualifying) for the first time since reaching the Lausanne final last July
- Faces No.21 Sakkari today in their third career meeting, having fallen to the Greek at 2017 Australian Open and Wuhan
- A win today would mark her second best win-by-ranking of the season, having previously defeated No.15 Martic at Auckland
- Has compiled the most 3-set matches played in 2020, with a 100% win-rate (4/4)

Season

- First event since falling to No.20 Vekic in 2r at Australian Open
- Reached R16 at Hobart International (l. No.30 Rybakina)
- Began season with QF performance at Auckland (l. eventual runner-up Pegula)

Career

- Finished 2019 ranked No.60 - had previously enjoyed seven consecutive Top 50 finishes
- 2019 highlight was reaching Lausanne final (l. Ferro as the defending champion) - has reached at least one WTA final in six of last seven seasons
- Part of victorious Fed Cup team for France who defeated Australia in Perth 3-2 to be crown 2019 champions (did not play)
- In 2018, won sixth career title at Gstaad (d. Minella in F), and reached two further QFs at Brisbane and Charleston
- Other five career titles came at 2008 Budapest, 2012 Bad Gastein, 2014 Strasbourg, 2016 Hobart and 2016 Strasbourg; owns 6-7 career record in finals
- Former World No.11 (achieved in February 2009) who broke back into Top 20 at end of 2014 for first time since May 2009; dropped out of Top 20 again after 2015 Dubai
- Owns five wins over Top 3 ranked opponents: No.1 S. Williams (2014 Dubai, 2014 Wimbledon and 2014 Wuhan via ret.), No.3 A.Radwanska (2014 Katowice) and No.2 Halep (2015 Madrid); wins over S.Williams made her the first player to defeat the American in three straight meetings since Henin in 2007
- Qualified for 2013 and 2014 Tournament of Champions in Sofia, Bulgaria
- Three-time doubles champion: 2008 Budapest (w/Husarova), 2010 Strasbourg (w/King), 2015 Hong Kong (w/Shvedova)
Grand Slam History

- 2020 Australian Open marked 53rd consecutive Grand Slam main draw appearance – the longest streak among active players. However, among active players also has the most Grand Slam appearances (56 including 2020 Australian Open) without reaching a quarterfinal.
- Reached R16 on four occasions, at Australian Open in 2009 (l. Safina), Wimbledon in 2014 (l. eventual runner-up Bouchard) and Roland Garros in 2015 (l. Svitolina) and 2017 (l. Garcia).
- Best showing at US Open is 3r (2007-08, 2013-14).

Personal

- Father is Francis (retired); mother is Patricia; brother is Sébastien (PhD, also her agent).
- Sponsors include BMW, Babolat and Lotto.

SAKKARI:

St. Petersburg

- Making third consecutive appearance at St. Petersbug Ladies Trophy.
- Fell in 1r in back-to-back years, falling to Goerges in both 2018 and 2019.
- Defeated Diatchenko in 1r on Monday, having also defeated the Russian two weeks ago at Adelaide.
- Has now won six of her last eight meetings against Russian opposition since the start of 2019, having defeated Zvonareva and Pavlyuchenkova (both at 2019 Rome), Alexandrova (2019 San Jose), Diatchenko (2020 Adelaide) and Gasparyan (2020 Australian Open). Losses came to Kudermetova (2019 Istanbul) and Pavlyuchenkova (2019 Moscow).
- Faces No.61 Cornet today - defeated the Frenchwoman in their two previous meetings at 2017 Australian Open and Wuhan.
- Her last five losses came to the hands of Top 20 ranked players, including No.8 Kvitova (2020 Australian Open), No.20 Vekic (2020 Adelaide), No.4 Osaka (2020 Brisbane), No.18 Mertens and No.14 Sabalenka (both at 2019 Zhuhai).
- Competing this week on a career-high ranking of No.21 (achieved February 3, 2020). By contrast, was ranked No.38 this time last year.

Season

- Coming off a run to the R16 at Australian Open (l. Kvitova) – her best result at the majors – to become the first Greek woman to reach this stage at a Grand Slam since Eleni Daniilidou at 2004 Wimbledon.
- Defeated No.11 Keys in 3r at Melbourne for her 14th career Top 20 victory (14-29 record).
- Achieved new career high ranking of No.21 following Melbourne.
- Made 2r at Adelaide (l. Vekic) after a 1r exit at Brisbane (l. Osaka).

Career

- Finished 2019 at No.23 – the best year-end finish of her career (up from No.41 in 2018).
- Reached as high as World No.22 on October 21, 2019.
- Season highlight was winning maiden WTA title at Rabat, recovering from a set and break down to defeat Konta in final.
- Made 3r at Australian Open (l. Barty), Wimbledon (l. Svitolina) and US Open (l. Barty). Has now reached 3r - but never further - at the majors seven times.
- Closed out season by qualifying for WTA Elite Trophy Zhuhai for first time in career (fell in RR stage).
- 2018 season highlights included reaching her first tour-level final at San Jose (l. Buzarnescu), scoring first career Top 5 win after defeat of No.5 Ka.Pliskova in Rome as well as reaching SF at Istanbul (l. Hercog) and Seoul (l.Bertens).
• Notched first Top 10 victory of career over No.6 Wozniacki en route to first WTA SF of career at 2017 Wuhan Open
• Since then has posted a further six Top 10 wins, against No.5 Ka.Pliskova (2018 Rome), No.6 Bertens (2019 Charleston), No.5 Kvitova (2019 Rome, via ret.), No.7 Svitolina (2019 San Jose), No.6 Kvitova and No.9 Sabalenka (both at 2019 Cincinnati)
• Broke into Top 50 for first time at No.49 on October 9, 2017
• Reached first career WTA QF at 2016 Istanbul after qualifying to enter main draw (l. Kovinic) – at the time, achieved her then best win-by-ranking defeating No.34 Schmiedlova in 1r
• Made WTA qualifying debut at 2012 Palermo
• Made debut on ITF Circuit in 2010; owns seven ITF Circuit singles titles and five in doubles

**Grand Slam History**

- Contested 17th Grand Slam main draw at 2020 Australian Open, where she recorded her career-best result by reaching R16 to become the first Greek woman to reach this stage at a Grand Slam since Eleni Daniilidou at 2004 Wimbledon
- By reaching 3r at 2017 Australian Open, became first Greek woman to reach this stage at a Slam since Daniilidou at 2005 Wimbledon (l. Pennetta)
- At 2016 Australian Open, by reaching 2r (d. Y.Wang, l. Suárez Navarro) became the first woman from Greece to win a main draw match at a Slam since Daniilidou d. Ka.Pliskova at 2013 Australian Open

**Personal**

- Born and grew up in Athens, Greece, before moving to Barcelona aged 18 – has trained there for two years
- Mother, Angeliki Kanellopoulou, was tennis player too, however didn’t start because of her – just liked the sport.
- Tried karate and gymnastics but was thrown out of class for laughing too much
- Currently coached by Tom Hill
ALISON VAN UYTVAACK (BEL #47) vs. [3] PETRA KVITOVA (CZE #11)

Head to Head: 0-0

ALISON VAN UYTVAACK

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WTA RANKING

PORSCHE RACE TO SHENZHEN LEADERBOARD

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
08-03-1990 (29)

YTD PRIZE MONEY
$445,326

CAREER PRIZE MONEY
$31,511,963

SINGLES TITLES (YTD / CAREER)
0 / 27

DOUBLES TITLES (YTD / CAREER)
0 / 0

ST. PETERSBURG W-L (MD) *
7-2 / 442-207

YTD / CAREER W-L (MD) *
2-1 / 130-88

YTD / CAREER 3-SET W-L (MD) *
0-2 / 87-65

YTD / CAREER TIE-BREAK W-L (MD) *
7-2 / 296-146

YTD / CAREER HARD W-L (MD) *
0-0 / 45-14

YTD / CAREER Left Hander W-L (MD) *
0-1 / 25-35

YTD / CAREER TOP 5 W-L (MD & Q) *
0-1 / 55-57

YTD / CAREER TOP 10 W-L (MD & Q) *
0-2 / 108-95

YTD / CAREER TOP 20 W-L (MD & Q) *

* Updated entering 2020 St. Petersburg 2r

PETRA KVITOVA

11

5

2-1 / 130-88

6-1

7-2 / 296-146

2-1 / 108-95

ROAD TO THE SECOND ROUND

ALISON VAN UYTVAACK (BEL #47)

R32: d. KRISTINA MLADENOVIC (FRA #37) 6-4, 6-1 (1h18)

Total games: 17
Won/lost: 12-5
Sets won/lost: 2-0
Total time on court: 1h18
Average time on court: 1h18
Average rank of opponent: 37

[3] PETRA KVITOVA (CZE #11)

R32: BYE

Total games: 0
Won/lost: 0-0
Sets won/lost: 0-0
Total time on court: 0h00
Average time on court: 0h00
Average rank of opponent: 0
VAN UYTVAENCK:

St Petersburg

- Making second consecutive appearance in St. Petersburg this week
- Fell in 2r here last year to Sabalenka
- Upset No.37 and former champion Mladenovic for the third time in her career in 1r on Tuesday, having won both previous meetings, at 2015 Roland Garros and in Wuhan qualifying in 2014
- 1r win marked first Top 50 victory since defeating No.38 Siniakova last year at Mallorca
- Faces No.11 Kvitova in 2r today for their first encounter; owns a 2-2 mark vs Top 20 opponents, with wins coming against No.3 Muguruza (2018 Wimbledon) and No.12 Ivanovic (2015 Luxembourg)
- Is the only Belgian women contesting this week's draw

Season

- Coming off opening round exit at Australian Open (l. Ferro)
- Began 2020 season at Hobart International, falling in 1r in three sets to Cornet

Career

- Turned in one of best years of career in 2019, capturing two WTA titles, bringing career total to four, after hoisting trophies at Hungary and Tashkent
- Finished 2018 at No.50, her second Top 50 season. Career-best finish came in 2015, at No.42
- 2018 highlight was claiming her second tour-level title at Budapest, dropping only one set in the final (d. Cibulkova in F)
- Also enjoyed SF run at Linz (l. Giorgi) and posted best result at Wimbledon to date with R16 showing (l. Kasatkina)
- In 2018, represented Belgium in 3-2 Fed Cup World Group I defeat against France and play-off win over Italy (posted 2-0 record across both ties, d. Parmentier and Errani)
- 2017 season was highlighted by lifting first WTA singles title at Québec City (d. Babos in F)
- Reached two ITF singles finals in 2017, at $100k ITF/Illkley-GBR (l. Rybarikova in F) and $100k ITF/Poitiers-FRA (l. Buzarnescu in F)
- Won 10th and 11th ITF singles titles in 2016, at $50k ITF/Stockton-USA (d. Pivovarova in F) and $50k ITF/Las Vegas-USA (d. Kenin in F)
- Advanced to one tour-level QF in 2016 at Québec City (l. eventual champion Dodin)
- Also in 2015, reached three tour-level SFs, at Katowice (l. Schmiedlova), Seoul (l. Begu) and Luxembourg (l. Doi)
- Won WTA 125k event in Chinese Taipei in 2013
- Career-high ranking is No.37 (August 13, 2018)
- Owns 11 ITF singles titles and two ITF doubles titles
- Contested first WTA qualifying event at 2011 Brussels, reaching 2r (l. Wickmayer)

Grand Slam History

Follow WTA on Twitter: www.twitter.com/WTA
Facebook: www.facebook.com/WTA
YouTube: www.youtube.com/WTA
Insights from
2020 Australian Open marked 23rd Grand Slam main draw appearance
Deepest run at a major came in 2015, reaching QF at Roland Garros to become first Belgian to reach this stage in Paris since Henin won the title in 2007
Best result at Wimbledon was R16 showing in 2018 (l. Kasatkina)
Is yet to make it past 1r at Australian Open

Personal
- Mother is Krista Laemers; father is René Van Uytvanck; older brother is Sean, twin brother is Brett
- Began playing at age five
- Baseline whose favorite shot is serve

KVITOVA:

St. Petersburg
- Making third consecutive appearance at St. Petersburg this week
- Defeated three consecutive Top 20 players en route to title here in 2018 (d. No.6 Ostapenko, No.12 Goerges and No.10 Mladenovic in F). Fell at QF stage last year to Vekic
- After 1r bye, faces No.47 Van Utyvanck today in their first career meeting
- Among active players, owns the most wins in indoor hardcourt events (76)
- One of three Czech women in the starting field this week (also Siniakova and Vondrousova)

Season
- Opened season at Brisbane, reaching SF (l. R-Up Keys) before withdrawing from Adelaide w/fatigue
- Fell to No.1 Barty in QF at Australian Open

Career
- Ended 2019 ranked No.7 for second consecutive year ending in Top 10 and seventh time in her career
- Captured 26th and 27th career titles in 2019 at Sydney (d. Barty) and Stuttgart (d. Kontaveit)
- Made final at 2019 Australian Open for third career Grand Slam final appearance - result boosted her to World No.2 matching her career high ranking
- Qualified for WTA Finals in Shenzhen for seventh time (went 0-3 in group play)
- Won a WTA-leading five titles in 2018, at St Peters burg (d. Mladenovic in F), Doha (d. Muguruza in F), Prague (d. Buzarnescu in F), Madrid (d. Bertens in F) and Birmingham (d. Rybarikova in F). Ended the year ranked No.7 – sixth career Top 10 finish, and first since 2015 (up fro No.29 in 2017)
- Titles in 2018 came on all three surfaces – first player to win a title on three difference surfaces in a season since S.Williams in 2015
- Including 2019, has won at least one title every year dating back to 2011
- Began 2017 season in May at Roland Garros (2r, l. Mattek-Sands) after a knife attack in her home in Czech Republic on December 20, 2016; required extensive surgery to left hand
- Won title at 2017 Birmingham. Other season highlights included a SF showing at Beijing (l. eventual champion Garcia) and equaled best result at US Open by advancing to QF (l. V. Williams)
- Won two singles titles in 2016, at Wuhan and the WTA Elite Trophy in Zhuhai
- Contested Rio Olympics in August 2016, winning the singles bronze medal (l. Puig in SF, d. Keys in bronze medal play-off)
- Runner-up at 2015 WTA Finals in Singapore (l. A.Radwanska in 3s). Former champion at the season finale, which she won on her event debut in 2011 (d. Azarenka in F)
- At 2012 Sydney was two wins from becoming No.1 (had won Wimbledon and WTA Finals in previous six months)
- Member of Czech Republic's Fed Cup winning team in 2011-12, 2014-16 and 2018
- Made pro debut on ITF Circuit in Czech Republic in 2006

Grand Slam History
- 2020 Australian Open marked 45th Grand Slam main draw appearance
- Winner of two major singles titles: 2011 Wimbledon (d. Sharapova) and 2014 Wimbledon (d. Bouchard)
• Was first player born in 1990s to win a Grand Slam title (since joined by Muguruza, Ostapenko, Stephens, Wozniacki, Halep, Osaka and Barty)
• Best result at Melbourne Park came with runner-up finish in 2019 - the last Czech woman to reach the final at Melbourne Park was Novotna in 1991 (l. Seles); last Czech to win the Australian Open title was Mandlikova in 1987 (d. Navratilova)
• Other Grand Slam highlights are SF at 2012 Australian Open (l. Sharapova) and 2012 Roland Garros (l. eventual champion Sharapova), and QF runs at 2017 US Open (l. V.Williams) and 2015 US Open (l. eventual champion Pennetta)

Personal

• Won the 2019 Karen Krantzcke Sportsmanship Award, as voted by her WTA peers for the eighth time in career
• A global ambassador for Right To Play International, a charity which helps children to learn through sport
• Current coach is Jiri Vanek
• Parents are Jiri and Pavla
[7] DONNA VEKIC (CRO #23) vs. EKATERINA ALEXANDROVA (RUS #28)

Head to Head: DONNA VEKIC leads 1-0

2017 BUDAPEST HARD I R1 DONNA VEKIC 6-3 7-5 93 mins

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SINGLES TITLES (YTD / CAREER) |

Doubles TITLES (YTD / CAREER) |

ST. PETERSBURG W-L (MD) * |

YTD / CAREER W-L (MD) * |

YTD / CAREER 3-SET W-L (MD) * |

YTD / CAREER Tie-Break W-L (MD) * |

YTD / CAREER HARD W-L (MD) * |

YTD / CAREER Left Hander W-L (MD) * |

YTD / CAREER TOP 5 W-L (MD & Q) * |

YTD / CAREER TOP 10 W-L (MD & Q) * |

YTD / CAREER TOP 20 W-L (MD & Q) * |

* Updated through entering 2020 St. Petersburg 2r

ROAD TO THE SECOND ROUND

[7] DONNA VEKIC (CRO #23)  
R32: d. KRISTIE AHN (USA #97) 6-4,6-1 (1h10)

Total games: 17  
Won/lost: 12-5  
Sets won/lost: 2-0  
Total time on court: 1h10  
Average time on court: 1h10  
Average rank of opponent: 97

EKATERINA ALEXANDROVA (RUS #28)  
R32: d. DARIA KASATKINA (RUS #71) 6-4,3-6,6-4 (1h59)

Total games: 29  
Won/lost: 15-14  
Sets won/lost: 2-1  
Total time on court: 1h59  
Average time on court: 1h59  
Average rank of opponent: 71
VEKIC:

St. Petersburg

- Making fourth consecutive main draw appearance in St. Petersburg this week
- Advanced to the final here last year, falling to Bertens
- Other notable result was R16 performance in 2017 (l. Cibulkova)
- Lone Croatian competing in the main draw at this year’s event
- Ousted No.97 Ahn in 1r on Tuesday, now posting a 2-0 record against the American (career record vs. Americans is 24-22)
- Faces No.28 Alexandrova today in their second career meeting, and first since defeating the Russian at 2017 Budapest
- A win today would mark best second best-by-ranking of 2020, having previously defeated No.23 Sakkari at Adelaide
- Is 4-3 so far this season vs. Top 100 ranked opponents, and 105-122 overall in her career
- Has reached two finals at the same event once - at Nottingham, where she lifted the title in 2017 (d. Konta in F) and finished as R-Up in 2019 (l. Garcia in F)

Season

- Coming off 3r performance at Australian Open, falling to Swiatek in straight sets. Defeated Sharapova in straight sets in 1r
- Produced QF display at Adelaide International, falling to eventual finalist Yastremska
- Began 2020 campaign with 1r loss at Brisbane International to Putintseva

Career

- Ended 2019 ranked No.19 for career-best year-end finish (up from No.34 in 2018)
- Cracked the WTA Top 20 for the first time on October 21, 2019
- Produced career best Grand Slam result at 2019 US Open, where she reached QF (l. Bencic)
- Also in 2019, reached biggest final of career at Premier-level St. Petersburg (l. Bertens)
- Posted best win of career by ranking –and third over a Top 5 opponent –with defeat of No.2 Kvitova en route to St. Petersburg QF, bettering victories over No.4 Stephens at 2018 Wimbledon and No.4 Garcia at 2018 Tokyo [PPO]
- Grass court season saw her reach final at Nottingham (l. Garcia in thirdset tie-break)
- Qualified for WTA Elite Trophy Zhuhai, however fell in RR stage
- Ended 2018 at then-career-high ranking of No.34, after registering 31 tour-level wins
- 2018 season highlighted by R-Up finish at Washington, DC (l. Kuznetsova after holding 4mp) – her first finals appearance since winning 2017 Nottingham
- Also made SF showings at Nottingham and Tokyo [PPO] and reached Grand Slam R16 for first time at Wimbledon (l. Goerges)
- Enjoyed a resurgent year in 2017, cracking the Top 50 in the week of July 24 and finishing campaign ranked No.54
Grass court season highlighted by winning second WTA singles title of career, at Nottingham – d. No.8 Konta. Until this title run, had not posted back-to-back main draw wins since September 2015 (run to final at Tashkent)
Reached two ITF finals at the end of 2016 season, winning the title at $100k ITF/Sharm El Sheikh-EGY
Posted just four main draw wins across 2016, defeating Al Nabhani at Doha, Riske at Kaohsiung, Ivanovic at Cincinnati and Zhang at Tianjin
Highlights in 2015 included reaching final at Tashkent (l.Hibino) and QF at Baku
When she won first career singles title at 2014 Kuala Lumpur, aged 17 yrs 10 mos, became youngest player to win a WTA singles title since 2006 Bangkok (Vania King)
Reached first WTA career final at 2012 Tashkent. In what was her first WTA main draw appearance, became youngest WTA finalist since 15-year-old Paszek won Portoroz in 2005. Also finished runner-up on grass at 2013 Birmingham (l. Hantuchova) and 2015 Tashkent (l. Hibino). Including 2019 St. Petersburg and 2019 Nottingham, owns a 2-6 record in singles finals
Broke into Top 100 (at No.93) on January 28, 2013 Has won five ITF Circuit singles and one doubles title
Member of Croatian Fed Cup Team, 2012-15, 2017, 2019

Grand Slam History

- Played 26th Grand Slam main draw at 2020 Australian Open
- At 2019 US Open, posted her best Slam result, reaching the QF (l. Bencic)
- Has reached R16 at 2018 Wimbledon (l. Goerges) and 2019 Roland Garros (l. Konta)
- At Australian Open, best result was this year’s 3r run (l. Swiatek)

Personal

- Both parents played professional sports: mother, Brankica (track hurdler) and father, Igor (soccer goalkeeper)
- Currently coached by Torben Beltz. Dario Novak is also part of coaching team
- Favorite surface is hard
- Speaks Croatian, English and Italian
- Self-described as strong-willed, determined and extremely competitive

ALEXANDROVA:

St Petersburg

- Making second main draw appearance at St Petersburg, having advanced to QF in 2019 on a ranking of No.78 (as qualifier, l. Sabalenka)
- Fell in qualifying in 2017 and 2018
- Made Top 30 debut (at No.26) after capturing Shenzhen title in first week of this season and is now the highest-ranked Russian of seven women in this week’s Top 100 (week of February 12, 2020)
- Currently sits in eighth place on the Porsche Race to Shenzhen
- In 1r on Monday, defeated Kasatkina in three-sets. Is 5-0 in three-set matches this season (including Tour-level and Fed Cup)
- Fired 10 aces (the 14th match of her career with 10+ aces at a Tour-level event) and converted five and out six break points in 1r victory over her compatriot
- Faces No.23 Vekic today for a spot in her second straight St. Petersburg QF. A win today would mark her best-by-ranking of 2020 and best overall since ousting No.5 Halep at 2019 Beijing

Season

- Opened 2020 season by winning first tour-level WTA singles title at Shenzhen (d. Rybakina in F, having dispatched seeds Wang (QF) and Muguruza (SF) along the way
- Maintained win streak to seven by advancing to 3r at Australian Open – defeated Teichmann and Krejickova before falling to Kvitova
- Enjoyed first Grand Slam seeding in Melbourne – No.25
• Improved win-loss record for season to 9-1 by going 2-0 in last week’s Fed Cup qualifiers vs Romania – posted wins over Bogdan and Ruse

Career

• Posted first Top 40 season finish in 2019, at No.35 (up from No.93 the year prior)
• Registered 30 tour-level match wins during 2019, in which she reached SF at Budapest, Seoul and Linz and made QF at St.Petersburg, ‘s-Hertogenbosch, Eastbourne and Moscow
• Made Top 50 debut after QF run at ‘s-Hertogenbosch (June 17, 2019)
• Other highlights in 2019 included upset of No.5 Halep en route to R16 at Beijing – the first win of her career over a Top 5 player – and 3r showing at Roland Garros
• Won first WTA doubles title at 2019 Budapest (w/Zvonareva)
• Reached maiden WTA final at 2018 Linz (l. Giorgi). Other notable results in 2018 were QF run at Seoul (d. No.10 Ostapenko en route for her first career Top 10 win) and lifted WTA 125K Series title at Limoges for second time
• Made Top 100 debut at No.93 after winning title at $60K ITF/Shenzhen-CHN (March 20, 2017)
• Won WTA 125K Series title at Limoges in 2016 (d. Garcia in F). Also in 2016 reached 2r at Wimbledon (won her way through qualifying, on first attempt to qualify at any Slam, upsetting No.23 seed Ivanovic in 1r)
• Reached 2r on WTA main draw debut at 2016 Katowice (as qualifier, l. eventual R-Up Giorgi)
• Contested qualifying for the first time at a WTA-level tournament at 2014 Bad Gastein
• Played first professional events of career on ITF Circuit in 2011

Grand Slam History

• 2020 Australian Open marked 14th Grand Slam main draw appearance; matched best Grand Slam result to date by reaching 3r (l. Kvitova)
• Also reached 3r at 2019 Roland Garros, defeating No.30 seed Mihaela Buzarnescu and former finalist Sam Stosur en route (l. Bolsova)
• Made Grand Slam debut at 2016 Wimbledon – defeated No.23 seed Ivanovic before falling to Friedsam in 2r
• Competed in all four majors for the first time in career in 2017, falling in 1r at Australian Open (l. compatriot Makarova) and Wimbledon (l. eventual champion Muguruza) and advancing to 2r at Roland Garros (l. Ka.Pliskova) and US Open (l. Garcia)

Personal

• Coached by her father, Evgeny Alexandrova and Petr Kralert, who both travel with her
• Born in Chelyabinsk, Russia, and began playing tennis at age six; remembers playing on holiday at Spain. Now trains in Prague, Czech Republic
• Prefers hardcourts; admires Serena Williams
VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (RUS #38) vs. [2] KIKI BERTENS (NED #8)

Head to Head: 0-0

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VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA

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KIKI BERTENS

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ROAD TO THE SECOND ROUND

VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (RUS #38)

R32: d. YULIA PUTINTSEVA (KAZ #34) 7-6(4),1-6,7-5 (2h34)

Total games: 32
Won/lost: 15-17
Sets won/lost: 2-1
Total time on court: 2h34
Average time on court: 2h34
Average rank of opponent: 34

[2] KIKI BERTENS (NED #8)

R32: BYE

Total games: 0
Won/lost: 0-0
Sets won/lost: 0-0
Total time on court: 0h00
Average time on court: 0h00
Average rank of opponent: 0

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KUDERMETOVA:

St. Petersburg
- Making fourth appearance at St. Petersburg
- Fell 2r here last year (l. Vekic) and fell in qualifying in 2016 and 2017
- Enters St. Petersburg on a career-high ranking of No.38 (achieved February 3rd, 2020). In contrast, was ranked No.108 this time last year
- Defeated No.34 Putintseva last round in 3s to begin campaign here
- One of three Russians (of seven to begin event) remaining (also Alexandrova and Potapova)
- Takes on No.8 Bertens for a spot in the QFs
- Seeking 11th overall WTA QF appearance, having advanced to that stage eight times in 2019
- Owns a 14-11 record vs. Top 50 players
- Went 2-0 vs Top 10 opponents in 2019, defeating No.4 Svitolina (Moscow) and No.10 Bencic (Wuhan) in 3s

Season
- Fell 1r to Spain' Sara Sorribes Tormo at Australian Open
- Posted SF run at Hobart (l. S.Zhang)
- Opened 2020 season by reaching final round of qualifying at Brisbane (l. Bouzkova)

Career Milestones
- Ended 2019 ranked No.41 for career-best year-end ranking, rising from No.115 at the end of 2018
- Played main draw at all four majors for first time in 2019, posting a career-best Grand Slam run to the 3r at Roland Garros, upsetting Wozniacki in 1r (l. Kanepi in 3r)
- Other 2019 highlights included SF finishes at 's-Hertogenbosch (l. eventual champion Riske), Hiroshima (l. Doi) and Tianjin (l. Watson) and picked up the biggest title of career at WTA 125K Series event at Guadalajara (d. Bouzkova in F)
- Posted first two Top 10 wins of career in final weeks of 2019, defeating No.10 Bencic at Wuhan and No.4 Svitolina at Moscow
- Won career first WTA doubles title at 2019 Wuhan with Duan (d. Mertens/Sabalenka in F); also R-Up at Charleston (w/Khromacheva) and Lugano (w/Voskoboeva) in 2019
- Won biggest singles title of career at WTA 125K Series event at 2019 Guadalajara (d. Bouzkova in F)
- Made Top 100 debut at No.98 following 2019 St Peters burg, where she reached 2r as LL (week of February 4, 2019)
- Made WTA main draw debut at 2018 Stuttgart, reaching 2r (d. No.25 Suarez Navarro, l. eventual champion Ka.Pliskova)
- Posted two QF runs in 2018, at 's-Hertogenbosch (l. eventual champion Krunic) and Gstaad (l. Bouchard)
Won two doubles titles in 2018 at WTA 125k Series events, at Mumbai (w/Dzalamidze) and Limoges (w/Voskoboeva). Also has titles at this level from Taipei in 2016 (w/Dzalamidze) and 2017 (w/Sabalenka)  
Made WTA qualifying debut at 2014 Moscow  
Contested first Tour-level match representing Russia in Fed Cup action in 2014 vs. Australia (I. Stosur)  
On ITF Circuit, owns four singles titles and 16 doubles titles

**Grand Slam History**
- 2020 Australian Open marked fifth Grand Slam main draw appearance  
- Contested the main draw at all four majors for the first time in 2019  
- Best result so far at the Slams came with 3r run at Roland Garros (d. Wozniacki in 1r, l. Kanepi)  
- Made 2r at 2019 US Open and fell 1r at 2019-20 Australian Open and 2019 US Open

**Personal**
- Coached by husband Sergey Demekhin, former coach of Vera Zvonareva  
- Teenage sister, Polina, is on the junior circuit and contested Australian Open girls’ singles last January  
- Born in Kazan, Russia. Based in Moscow and trains at CSKA club  
- Off the court, has a passion for cooking and her specialty is roasted chicken with potatoes and garlic

**BERTENS:**

**St. Petersburg**
- Making fourth consecutive visit to St. Petersburg this week, returning as defending champion (d. Vekic last year in F)  
- Fell in 1r in two previous trips, losing to Beck in 2017 and Zvonareva in 2018  
- Lone Dutch representative competing in this week’s singles draw  
- Faces off against No.38 Kudermetova for the first time in todays’ 2r  
- The Dutchwoman compiled a 9-4 strike rate last season when coming off a bye  
- Leads the WTA Tour in 2020 in first serve points won % (76.4)  
- Two wins shy of career main draw victory No.100 on hardcourts  
- Aiming to defend a title for just the second time in her career (Nurnberg, 2016-17)

**Season**
- Coming off thrilling Fed Cup tie against Belarus that saw the latter win 10-8 in third set tiebreak of deciding doubles rubber; scored wins in both singles matches (def. Sasnovich and Sabalenka), fell in doubles w/partner Schuurs)  
- Advanced to R16 at Melbourne, falling to eventual finalist Muguruza in straight sets  
- Opened up 2020 campaign at Brisbane International with QF performance (d. Yastremska and Kontaveit, l. Osaka)

**Career Milestones**
- Ended 2019 ranked No.9, her joint-best finish of career (also No.9 in 2018)  
- Reached a career high ranking of World No.4 in 2019 following her first Premier Mandatory title at Madrid (defeated four Grand Slam champion en route - Ostapenko, Kvitova, Stephens and Halep in F).  
- Also became first woman to win Madrid title without dropping a set  
- Other season highlights included lifting the trophy at St. Petersburg (d. Vekic in F) and final runs at Palermo (I. Teichmann), Zhuhai (I. Sabalenka), and on home soil in ‘s-Hertogenbosch (could not convert five championship points in loss to Riske)  
- Also in 2019 became the third alternate to win a match at the WTA Finals since the round robin format was introduced in 2003 - also Bartoli (2007, 2011) and A.Radwanska (2008-09). Defeated No.1 Barty in Shenzhen to record her first win over the Australian and second win over a reigning World No.1, having also defeated Halep in 2018 Cincinnati final  
- Won 55 matches in 2019 – the second most of the season, behind Barty (56)  
- Struck 457 aces in 2019 - the second most on Tour behind Ka.Pliskova with 488
Won the WTA Jerry Diamond ACES Award in 2019, granted to the player who consistently goes above and beyond in promoting the sport of women’s tennis to fans, media and local communities by performing off-court promotional and charitable initiatives

Enjoyed a break-out year in 2018, reaching a career-best four singles finals across the season and breaking into the Top 10 (October 8, 2018) – first Dutch woman to be ranked in the Top 10 since Brenda Schultz-McCarthy in 1996

Won the WTA’s Most Improved Player Award in 2018

Lifted three titles in 2018, at Charleston (d. Goerges in F), Cincinnati (d. World No.1 Halep in F – saved 1mp) and Seoul (d. Tomljanovic in F). Reached one further final, at Premier Mandatory Madrid (l. Kvitova)

Scored WTA-leading 12 Top 10 wins in 2018. Prior to 2018, only had three Top 10 wins in her career

Also reached SF on WTA Finals debut in 2018 (l. Svitolina)

Season highlights in 2017 were titles at Nürnberg and Gstaad, and posted first Premier Mandatory QF at Madrid

Finished 2016 ranked No.22 in singles – big jump from her season-ending ranking of No.101 in 2015

Played on Netherlands Olympic team at 2016 Rio Olympics – fell in 1r (l. Errani)

Won maiden career singles title at 2012 Fès as a qualifier in just her second main draw appearance; currently owns 9-5 career record in singles finals

Owner of 10 WTA doubles titles, most recently at 2018 Brisbane (w/Schuurs)

Made WTA main draw debut as a wildcard at 2011 's-Hertogenbosch (l. 1r)

Played first event of career on ITF Circuit in the Netherlands in 2006; has won seven singles titles and 11 doubles titles at this level

Netherlands Fed Cup Team, 2011-2012, 2014-2020

Grand Slam History

Contested 31st Grand Slam main draw appearance at 2020 Australian Open

Deepest run across the Slams came with SF showing at 2016 Roland Garros (l. eventual R-Up S.Williams)

Enjoyed her best result at Wimbledon in 2018 by reaching her second career Grand Slam QF (l. Goerges). Became first Dutch woman to reach QF at Wimbledon since Krajicek in 2007

In 2018 reached 3r for first time at both Australian Open (l. eventual champion Wozniacki) and US Open (l. Vondrousova)

Is a two-time Grand Slam quarterfinalist in doubles, at 2015 Australian Open (w/Larsson, l. Goerges/Groenefeld) and 2016 Roland Garros (w/Larsson, l. eventual champions Garcia/Mladenovic)

Personal

Coached by former WTA player Elise Tamaela. Formerly coached by Raemon Sluiter (announced the end of their four-year partnership in November)

In November 2019, married her husband Remko de Rijke, who has been involved as part of her team as a physio and fitness coach. The two announced their engagement in November 2018

Won the 2019 WTA Jerry Diamond ACES Award and the 2018 WTA Most Improved Player of the Year Award

Fan-voted as May 2019 WTA Player of the Month

Parents are Rob and Doré; sisters are Joyce and Daisy

Started playing at age 6. Tennis idol growing up was Kim Clijsters