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ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN – DAY ONE

WANG QIANG (CHN #34) vs. DARIA KASATKINA (RUS #72)

Kasatkina leads 4-1

Kasatkina won they met at Zhuhai in 2018... **Wang** is one of four Chinese players in the main draw... **Kasatkina** has enjoyed success in the Middle East before, finishing runner-up at 2018 Dubai

VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (RUS #46) vs. [10] ANETT KONTAVEIT (EST #23)

Kudermetova leads 2-0

Kudermetova beat defending champion **Kontaveit** at 2018 's-Hertogenbosch... **Kontaveit** has lost to players outside Top 30 at her past three events... **Kudermetova** is one of six Russians in the draw

[9] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #22) vs. ANASTASIA POTAPOVA (RUS #101)

Potapova leads 1-0

Potapova won their sole career meeting, in qualifying at 2017 Miami... **Sakkari** lost to a player outside the Top 100 only once in 2020... **Potapova** finished her 2020 campaign by making three consecutive QFs

ANASTASIA PAVLYUCHENKOVA (RUS #38) vs. [15] ONS JABEUR (TUN #31)

Jabeur leads 1-0

Jabeur triumphed in three sets when the pair met at 2017 Dubai... **Pavlyuchenkova** starting the year inside Top 50 for 12th year in a row... **Jabeur** is most successful Arab woman in WTA history

[16] DONNA VEKIC (CRO #32) vs. BERNARDA PERA (USA #62)

First meeting

Pera three spots off career-high ranking... **Vekic** looking for first win since 2020 US Open... **Vekic** is Croatian No.2, while **Pera** has Croatian heritage and trains in Zagreb

[17] EKATERINA ALEXANDROVA (RUS #33) vs. ZARINA DIYAS (KAZ #80)

First meeting

Alexandrova promoted to No.17 seed following Anisimova's withdrawal... **Diyas's** last Top 50 win came at 2020 Australian Open... **Alexandrova** opened last season with Shenzhen title run

QIANG WANG (CHN #34) VS. DARIA KASATKINA (RUS #72)

Head-to-head: DARIA KASATKINA leads 4-1

2018	ZHUHAI	HARD O	RR	DARIA KASATKINA	6-1 2-6 7-5	115 mins
2018	MADRID	CLAY O	R1	DARIA KASATKINA	7-5 7-6(6)	117 mins
2017	US OPEN	HARD O	R1	DARIA KASATKINA	6-7(7) 6-2 6-3	130 mins
2016	US OPEN	HARD O	R1	QIANG WANG	6-4 2-6 6-2	120 mins
2016	DOHA	HARD O	R1	DARIA KASATKINA	6-1 2-6 6-3	98 mins

WANG		KASATKINA	
Career Prize Money	\$4,608,203	Career Prize Money	\$6,389,451
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Jan. 14, 1992 (28)	Date of Birth (Age)	May 7, 1997 (23)
Singles Titles	2	Singles Titles	2
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 134-106	YTD / Career W-L	0-0 / 103-97
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 48-36	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 30-41
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 25-22	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 24-16
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 86-72	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 84-70
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 12-22	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 7-16
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 25-43	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 17-29
Left-handed (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 3-7	Left-handed (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 10-9
Coach	Pat Cash	Coach	Carlos Martínez

Q. WANG:

- Faces No.72 Kasatkina in the opening match of Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open, which is also the first WTA main draw match of 2021 season – all their four previous meetings on hard court went three sets (Wang trailed 1-3)
- One of four Chinese players who are direct entries in the main draw, along with Zhu Lin, Wang Yafan and Wang Xiyu
- Due to various concerns with the pandemic and waist injury (lumbar disc herniation), did not play again following 1r exit at Doha
- Last Autumn, split with coach Thomas Drouet; now working with Pat Cash on a trial basis
- Ended 2020 ranked at No.34, the third consecutive season finish as Chinese No.1
- Year highlighted by upsetting 23-time Grand Slam champion S.Williams en route to reach R16 for the first time at Australian Open (l. Jabeur)
- Enjoyed a string of career-best results across 2019 season, which included reaching first career Grand Slam QF at US Open with best win-by-ranking by defeating No.2 Barty in R16
- Her US Open run made her just the fifth Chinese woman to reach a Grand Slam QF (after Li Na, Zheng Jie, Peng Shuai and Zhang Shuai)
- Her new career-high ranking of No.12 following New York result made her the second highest ranked Chinese singles player in history (after No.2 Li Na)
- Additionally posted best result at Wimbledon by advancing to 3r and also reached second Premier Mandatory QF at Miami
- Enjoyed breakout 2018 campaign with career-best year-end finish at No.20 and 37 main draw match wins (including four Top 10 victories), her first season of 30 or more wins in career

- Posted an impressive 23-6 win-loss record on home soil in 2018: Nanchang (WON), Guangzhou (WON), Wuhan (SF), Beijing (SF), Hong Kong (R-UP) and Zhuhai (R-UP)
- Dropped just 18 games en route to second career title at Guangzhou – the fewest games lost in winning a WTA singles title in 2018 – becoming the fourth Chinese woman to win the title in the tournament's 15-year history, joining Li (2004), Yan (2005) and Zhang (2013 and 2017)
- Lifted first tour-level title in July at Nanchang (d. Zheng Saisai in F following ret. w/fatigue)
- Achieved first Top 50 year-end finish in 2017, finishing as China's No.3. Ascended 25 spots from No.70 in 2016 to No.45 in 2017, marking third Top 100 season in four years
- Advanced to first WTA SF at 2017 Hong Kong (l. Pavlyuchenkova) and captured WTA 125K Series title in Zhengzhou
- Registered first Top 10 win of career over No.10 Wozniacki in 1r at 2013 Kuala Lumpur
- First broke into Top 100 on November 3, 2014 and Top 50 on May 22, 2017
- On ITF Circuit, owns 13 singles and one doubles title
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2007 Beijing and main draw debut at 2012 Baku
- Played first events of career on ITF Circuit in China
- Gold medalist at 2018 Asian Games
- Represented China at Rio Olympics and member of Chinese Billie Jean King Cup Team, 2012-2016, 2020

KASATKINA:

- Faces No.34 Wang Qiang in today's 1r; held a 1-10 mark vs. Top 50 opponents last year, with sole win coming against No.19 Rybakina at Ostrava
- One of six Russian players in the main draw this week, along with Alexandrova, Kudermetova, Pavlyuchenkova, Potapova and Zvonareva
- Highlight of truncated 2020 season was SF showing at Lyon (l. Friedsam) – her first run to the last four at a WTA event since lifting title at 2018 Moscow [Kremlin Cup]
- Won consecutive matches only twice in difficult 2019 campaign, with best result a QF run at Premier Mandatory China Open (l. Wozniacki)
- Ended 2018 season by lifting her second WTA singles title at Moscow [Kremlin Cup]. Recovered from a set and 6-2 4-1 down to defeat Jabeur in final; broke into Top 10 following the tournament, on October 22, 2018
- Knocked out No.2 seed Wozniacki en route to her first Grand Slam QF, at 2018 Roland Garros
- Reached biggest final of career at 2018 Indian Wells (l. Osaka), having upset No.2 Wozniacki, No.10 Kerber and No.8 V.Williams along the way
- Made Top 20 debut on February 26, 2018, following R-Up finish at Dubai (d. No.3 Muguruza, l. Svitolina)
- Upset No.1 Wozniacki during SF run at 2018 St. Petersburg; having also beaten Kerber at 2017 Sydney, is one of six players in WTA history to have multiple wins over World No.1s before their 21st birthday, also V.Williams (9), S. Williams (8), Sharapova (4) Kenin (2) and Kuznetsova (2)
- Captured maiden WTA singles title in debut final at 2017 Charleston, defeating fellow teenager Ostapenko in F – the first all-teenage final on tour since 2009 Linz (Wickmayer d. Kvitova)

MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN

ABU DHABI, UAE | JANUARY 6-13, 2021 | USD \$565,530 WTA 500

- Ended 2016 as the highest-ranked teenager on tour, at No.27, after a campaign in which she reached a second career WTA SF, at St. Petersburg and made QF stage at Indian Wells, Charleston, Montréal, Rio Olympics and Moscow
- Made Top 50 debut on February 15, 2016, following St. Petersburg run
- Upset No.7 V.Williams in opening match of 2016 season at Auckland to register the first Top 10 win of her career
- Made Billie Jean King Cup debut in World Group quarter-final defeat to Netherlands in 2016. Has also represented Russia in the competition in 2017 and 2019 and at 2016 Olympics
- Reached first WTA SF at 2015 Moscow (as qualifier, l. Pavlyuchenkova, having recorded first Top 20 win over No.14 Suárez Navarro in QF); following the tournament made Top 100 debut at No.73 (October 26, 2015)
- Reached 3r at 2015 US Open (as LL, l. Mladenovic) on Grand Slam debut (main draw and qualifying). Earlier in summer of 2015, won back-to-back matches for first time at a WTA tournament during QF run at Bad Gastein (as qualifier, l. Errani)
- Also in 2015, won maiden WTA doubles title at 2015 Moscow (w/Vesnina), lifted five singles titles on ITF Circuit and was nominated for WTA Newcomer of the Year in 2015
- Fell 1r on WTA main draw debut at 2014 Moscow (as WC, l. Riske)
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2013 Moscow

VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (RUS #46) VS. [10] ANETT KONTAVEIT (EST #23)

Head-to-head: VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA leads 2-0

2018	'S-HERTOGENBOSCH	GRASS O	R1	VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA	6-4 7-6(4)	100 mins
2015	ITF/MOSCOW	HARD I	R1	VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA	6-3 6-2	N/A

KUDERMETOVA		KONTAVEIT	
Career Prize Money	\$1,676,537	Career Prize Money	\$4,876,713
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Apr. 24, 1997 (23)	Date of Birth (Age)	Dec. 24, 1995 (25)
Singles Titles	0	Singles Titles	1
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 45-40	YTD / Career W-L	0-0 / 124-99
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 24-14	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 43-34
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 17-11	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 32-31
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 26-25	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 77-64
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 4-3	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 11-20
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 5-8	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 18-33
Left-handed (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 8-3	Left-handed (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 12-10
Coach	Sergey Demkhin	Coach	Nigel Sears

KUDERMETOVA:

- Faces Kontaveit in 1r today; won their previous encounter, at 2018 's-Hertogenbosch, where the Estonian was defending champion
- During last year's Middle East swing, made 2r at both Doha and Dubai
- One of six Russians – the joint-most in the draw with USA – in the draw (also Alexandrova, Kasatkina, Pavlyuchenkova, Potapova and Zvonareva)
- Began 2020 season with qualifying exit at Brisbane and then SF run at Hobart
- Scored first win over a Top-3 ranked opponent by upsetting No.3 Ka.Pliskova at 2020 Western & Southern Open. Other highlights in 2020 included aforementioned Hobart SF and closing out season with back-to-back QFs at Ostrava and Linz
- Won 27 main-draw matches during 2019 – had previously won six across entire career – to rise over sixty places in the WTA rankings, making Top 100 debut on February 4 and Top 50 debut on September 9
- Singles highlights in 2019 included reaching maiden WTA SF at 's-Hertogenbosch (l. eventual champion Riske), 3r at Roland Garros (d. No.13 Wozniacki in 1r – her maiden Grand Slam main draw win and also first over a Top 20 opponent – l. Kanepi) and winning WTA 125K Series title at Guadalajara (d. Bouzkova in F)
- Posted first two Top 10 wins of career in final weeks of 2019, over No.10 Bencic at Wuhan and No.4 Svitolina at Moscow
- Fell 1r on Grand Slam main draw debut at 2019 Australian Open (as qualifier, l. Kenin)
- Won career first WTA doubles title at 2019 Wuhan with Duan (d. Mertens/Sabalenka in F); also in 2019 was R-Up at Charleston (w/Khromacheva) and Lugano (w/Voskoboeva)
- Posted maiden career WTA QF runs in 2018, first at 's-Hertogenbosch (l. eventual champion Krunić) and then Gstaad (l. Bouchard)
- Reached 2r on WTA main draw debut at 2018 Stuttgart (d. No.25 Suárez Navarro, l. eventual champion Ka.Pliskova)

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- WTA qualifying debut came at 2014 Moscow
- Made Billie Jean King Cup debut in 2014 vs. Australia (l. Stosur – her first Tour-level match)
- On ITF Circuit, owns four singles – most recently at 2018 \$25K Keito-JPN – and 16 doubles titles
- Made professional debut at \$50K ITF/Kazan-RUS in 2014

KONTAVEIT:

- Faces No.46 Kudermetova in 1r today; lost five times to players outside Top 30 last season, including in her past three tournaments
- Last year in the Middle East, made QF at Dubai and 2r at Doha
- Opened 2020 season with early exits at Brisbane and Adelaide before going on to reach QF at Australian Open
- During an interrupted 2020, reached sixth final of career at Palermo (l. Ferro) and posted 21 match wins across the season (joint-fifth most, level with Jabeur)
- Made Grand Slam breakthrough by reaching maiden major QF at Australian Open (l. Halep), becoming the first Estonian to make the last eight at Australian Open, also the first Estonian to reach a Grand Slam QF since Kanepi at 2017 US Open
- Finished 2019 ranked No.26 despite missing final two months of the season w/viral illness
- Reached her fifth career final in 2019 at Stuttgart (l. Kvitova). Also in 2019, advanced to her first Premier Mandatory SF at Miami (l. eventual champion Barty), which propelled her to a career high ranking of No.14 (April 1, 2019)
- In 2018, season highlighted by fourth WTA singles final at Wuhan (l. Sabalenka); posted 33 main draw wins – the first time she had registered 30 or more wins in a season
- Breakthrough season came in 2017, winning first career singles title at 2017 's-Hertogenbosch (d. Vikhlyantseva in F). Also reached finals at Biel/Benne (l. Vondrousova) and Gstaad (l. Bertens)
- Broke into Top 30 for first time at No.27 following run at Gstaad (July 24, 2017)
- Posted her first career win over a reigning No.1 with defeat of Kerber at 2017 Rome
- In 2016, played main draw at all four Grand Slams for first time, but dropped out of Top 100
- Made Top 100 debut on September 14, 2015 at No.96, up from No.152. One of five teenagers in 2015 year-end Top 100
- Scored first Top 20 win of career over No.17 Errani at 2016 Monterrey (2r)
- Made WTA main draw debut at 2013 Miami as WC (l. McHale, 1r)
- Played first events of career on ITF Circuit in 2010; owns 11 singles titles and five doubles titles on ITF Circuit
- Junior highlights included winning 2011 Orange Bowl, defeating Bouchard and Putintseva en route

[9] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #22) VS. ANASTASIA POTAPOVA (RUS #101)

Head-to-head: ANASTASIA POTAPOVA leads 1-0 (first main draw meeting)

2017 MIAMI HARD O R1-Q ANASTASIA POTAPOVA 6-4 0-6 7-6(2)

SAKKARI		POTAPOVA	
Career Prize Money	\$3,540,619	Career Prize Money	\$842,869
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	July 25, 1995 (25)	Date of Birth (Age)	March 30, 2001 (19)
Singles Titles	1	Singles Titles	0
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 92-86	YTD / Career W-L	0-0 / 29-26
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 30-36	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 15-11
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 29-17	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-4
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 55-56	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 17-18
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-13	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 1-3
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-33	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-7
Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-7	Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 5-4
Coach	Tom Hill	Coach	Iain Hughes

SAKKARI:

- Faces No.102 Potapova in 1r of Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open as the sole representative this week from Greece
- Last loss to a player outside the Top 100 came in 3r of 2020 Roland Garros at the hands of No.159 Trevisan – before that, had not lost to a player outside of the Top 100 since 2019 Indian Wells (l. No.140 Mchale in 1r)
- Secured best year-end ranking of No.22 in 2020; broke into Top 20 on February 24 for first time at No.20
- Scored third and fourth Top 5 wins of her career last season, over No.5 Svitolina at Ostrava and No.5 Bencic at St. Petersburg. Previous wins came over No.5 Ka.Pliskova (2018 Rome) and No.5 Kvitova (2019 Rome, via ret.)
- Upset No.10 seed Keys to reach the R16 for the first time at one of the four Slams, at 2020 Australian Open (l. Kvitova) – would later tie result by reaching R16 at US Open (l. S.Williams)
- Qualified for WTA Elite Trophy Zhuhai in 2019 for first time in career (fell in RR stage). That season won maiden WTA title at Rabat, recovering from a set and break down to defeat Konta in final
- Highlights of 2018 were reaching her first tour-level final at San Jose (l. Buzarnescu) and scoring maiden Top 5 win over No.5 Ka.Pliskova in 2r at Rome
- Notched first Top 10 victory of career over No.6 Wozniacki en route to first WTA SF of career at 2017 Wuhan Open
- Broke into Top 50 for first time at No.49 on October 9, 2017
- 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
- Reached first career WTA QF at 2016 Istanbul (as qualifier, l. Kovinic)
- Fell 1r on WTA main draw debut at 2015 US Open (as qualifier, l. Q.Wang)
- WTA qualifying debut came at 2012 Palermo
- Made debut on ITF Circuit in 2010; owns seven ITF Circuit singles titles and five in doubles

POTAPOVA:

- Faces No.22 Sakkari in today's 1r as one of a tournament leading six (tied with USA) Russians in the main draw
- Defeated the Greek player in their only meeting in 2017 Miami qualifying
- Last defeated a Top 50 player at 2019 Roland Garros taking out No.5 Kerber in 1r for best by-ranking win of career
- Owns 2-9 record against players in the Top 25 with only other win coming over No.13 Sevastova at 2019 Prague
- Posted three straight QFs in 2020 at St. Petersburg (as qualifier, l. eventual champion Bertens), Acapulco (l. R-Up Fernandez) and Monterrey (l. Konta); did not play after the tour's resumption in August
- Finished 2019 season ranked No.93 after a season highlighted by SF at Budapest (l. Vondrousova) and Jurmala (l. Sevastova). Posted career-high ranking of No.64 on July 22, 2019
- Scored first Top 10 win over No.5 Kerber in 1r at 2019 Roland Garros
- In doubles, won titles at 2018 Moscow [River Cup] (w/Zvonareva) and 2019 Lausanne (w/Sizikova)
- Highlights of 2018 season were R-Up finishes at Tashkent (as qualifier, l. Gasparyan) and at Moscow [River Cup] (l. Danilovic)
- Run to final at Moscow [River Cup] marked first QF appearance at a WTA500 event
- Made Billie Jean King Cup debut during 2018's defeat to Slovakia in February (l. Kuzmova)
- Reached 2r at St. Petersburg in February 2018 (l. Wozniacki). Win over Maria in 1r was first at tour level
- On ITF Circuit owns one singles and two doubles titles
- Fell 1r on Grand Slam main draw debut at 2017 Wimbledon (as qualifier, l. Maria); at 16 years and three months, became youngest player to successfully navigate Slam qualifying since Ana Konjuh, who had just turned 16 when she did it at 2014 Australian Open
- Captured 2016 Wimbledon girls junior title, having to win final point three separate times after two challenge overrules – title lifted her to Junior World No.1. In junior doubles, posted two runner-up finishes at 2015 US Open and 2016 Roland Garros

ANASTASIA PAVLYUCHENKOVA (RUS #38) VS. [15] ONS JABEUR (TUN #31)

Head-to-head: ONS JABEUR leads 1-0

2017 DUBAI

HARD O

R64

ONS JABEUR

7-6(6) 2-6 6-4

PAVLYUCHENKOVA		JABEUR	
Career Prize Money	\$10,350,533	Career Prize Money	\$2,565,796
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	July 3, 1991 (29)	Date of Birth (Age)	Aug. 28, 1994 (26)
Singles Titles	12	Singles Titles	0
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 349-263	YTD / Career W-L	0-0 / 60-72
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 116-93	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 19-30
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 87-73	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 17-24
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 259-175	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 44-54
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 34-67	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 4-8
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 65-116	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 10-16
Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 30-32	Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 6-4
Coach	Giovani Samaha	Coach	Issam Jellali/Karim Kammoun

PAVLYUCHENKOVA:

- Faces World No.31 and No.15 seed Jabeur in 1r of Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open
- A win today would be best-by-ranking since ousting No.4 Bencic during the opening round at 2020 Dubai (I. Kontaveit)
- One of six Russians – the joint-most in the draw with America – in the draw (also Potapova, Kasatkina, Kudermetova, Alexandrova and Zvonareva)
- At 2020 Roland Garros, made 50th main draw appearance at a major – one of 10 active players to reach this milestone
- Upset No.2 Ka.Pliskova and former champion Kerber en route to QF at 2020 Australian Open
- Advanced to two finals in 2019 – both at Premier-level – at Osaka (I. Osaka in F) and Moscow (I. Bencic in F). Also made QF in Melbourne in 2019 to match best Grand Slam result (I. Collins), upsetting No.9 Bertens and No.5 Stephens en route
- Notched only win over a reigning World No.1 against Kerber during run to fourth Monterrey title in 2017
- Represented Russia at 2016 Rio Olympics, losing to eventual gold medalist Puig in 2r
- In doubles, owns 12 titles and has reached QF of all four majors – most recently at 2018 US Open w/Sevastova. Career-high doubles ranking is No.21 (September 16, 2013)
- In 2011, won 39 main draw matches, one title and reached first two Grand Slam QFs to end the year inside Top 20 for the first time
- Made Top 20 debut at No.20 on September 13, 2010, after R16 showing at US Open
- Won the first title of her career at Monterrey in 2010 (d. Hantuchova in F); has gone on to lift this title three more times (2011, 2013 and 2017)
- Advanced to maiden WTA SF at 2009 Indian Wells, scoring first Top 10 wins of her career en route, over No.3 Jankovic and No.10 A.Radwanska
- Broke into Top 100 in singles on July 7, 2008 – following run through qualifying to 3r at Wimbledon – and entered Top 50 on November 3 of the same year

- Reached first two WTA QFs in 2008, first on clay at Palermo and then on hard at Tokyo [Japan Open]
- Made Grand Slam debut at 2007 Wimbledon as a WC, losing 6-0 6-1 to No.10 seed Hantuchova
- Played first WTA main draw as a wildcard at 2006 Moscow
- Named 2006 ITF Junior World Champion, having won girls' singles titles at Australian Open (2006-07) and US Open (2006)

JABEUR:

- Enters the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open on a career-high ranking of No.31
- In today's opening round, faces No.38 Pavlyuchenkova. Leads head-to-head at 1-0 with sole win coming after a 3s battle at 2017 Dubai
- Reached maiden Grand Slam QF at 2020 Australian Open to become the first Arab woman to reach that stage at a major (l. eventual champion Kenin); made Top 50 debut at No.45 after breakthrough performance in Melbourne
- Made further QFs in 2020 at Doha (d. No.3 Ka.Pliskova, l. Kvitova), Lexington (l. Gauff), Western & Southern Open (l. eventual champion Azarenka) and Ostrava (l. Sakkari); posted career-high ranking of No.31 on August 31, 2020
- Season highlights in 2019 were matching best result at the Slams with 3r run at US Open (matching 2017 Roland Garros and now 2020 Australian Open) and SF appearances at Eastbourne (l. eventual R-Up Kerber) and Tianjin (l. eventual champion Peterson)
- In 2018, defeated No.3 seed Stephens, No.8 seed Kontaveit and No.5 seed Sevastova en route to her first WTA final at 2018 Moscow, where she fell in three sets to No.6 seed Kasatkina. Was first Tunisian woman to advance beyond QF at a WTA tournament (Sfar was the only other Tunisian to reach a QF at this level)
- Prior to 2018 Moscow, best tour-level results were QF runs at 2013 Baku, 2017 Taipei City and 2018 Bucharest
- Owns four Top 10 victories, over No.7 Cibulkova (2017 Roland Garros), No.1 Halep (2018 Beijing), No.8 Stephens (2018 Moscow) and No.3 Ka.Pliskova (2020 Doha)
- Member of Tunisian Olympic Team in 2012 and 2016
- Contested first two WTA main draws in 2012, at Doha (as WC) and Olympics
- On ITF Circuit, has 11 singles and one doubles title
- Played first event of career at 2008 ITF/EI Menzah-TUN
- Became first North African woman to win a junior Slam at 2011 Roland Garros (d. Puig in F), having also reached the final in 2010 (l. Svitolina in F)

[16] DONNA VEKIC (CRO #32) VS. BERNARDA PERA (USA #62)

Head-to-head: First meeting

VEKIC		PERA	
Career Prize Money	\$4,498,280	Career Prize Money	\$1,543,703
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Left-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	June 28, 1996 (24)	Date of Birth (Age)	Dec. 3, 1994 (26)
Singles Titles	2	Singles Titles	0
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 132-137	YTD / Career W-L	0-0 / 33-40
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 36-46	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 11-18
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 30-38	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-16
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 91-98	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-26
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 7-21	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 1-4
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 10-40	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-11
Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-10	Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 1-3
Coach	Sam Sumyk	Coach	Velimir Zovko

VEKIC:

- Faces No.62 Pera in 1r of Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open as the sole representative this week from Croatia; although her opponent today, Pera, was born in Zadar, Croatia and now trains in Zagreb
- Lost to a player outside the Top 50 on five occasions last year
- Ended 2020 ranked No.32 for third consecutive year inside the Top 30 highlighted by QF at Adelaide (I. Yastremska) and 3r at Australian Open (I. Swiatek) and US Open (I. Pironkova)
- Contested the first match of the WTA Tour's resumption following the 2020 hiatus, defeating Rus in the 1r at 2020 Palermo
- Ended 2019 ranked No.19 for career-best year-end finish (up from No.34 in 2018), having cracked the Top 20 for the first time on October 21, 2019
- Produced career best Grand Slam result at 2019 US Open, where she reached QF (I. Bencic)
- Also in 2019, reached biggest final of career at Premier-level St. Petersburg (I. Bertens); en route to final, posted best win of career by ranking – and third over a Top 5 opponent – with defeat of No.2 Kvitova in QF, bettering victories over No.4 Stephens at 2018 Wimbledon and No.4 Garcia at 2018 Tokyo [PPO]
- Also made final at Nottingham (I. Garcia in third set tie-break) and ended 2019 by qualifying for WTA Elite Trophy Zhuhai (fell RR)
- Ended 2018 at then-career-high ranking of No.34, after registering 31 tour-level wins. Campaign highlighted by R-Up finish at Washington, DC (I. Kuznetsova after holding 4mp) – her first finals appearance since winning 2017 Nottingham – and made SF showings at Nottingham and Tokyo [PPO], and reached Grand Slam R16 for first time at Wimbledon (I. Goerges)
- Enjoyed a resurgent year in 2017, breaking the Top 50 on July 24 and finishing campaign ranked No.54. Grass court season saw her lift a second WTA singles title of career, at Nottingham (d. No.8 Konta in final) – prior to this run had not posted back-to-back main draw wins since September 2015 (R-Up at Tashkent)
- Posted just four tour-level wins across 2016, but closed the campaign by reaching two ITF finals, winning her fifth and most recent title at this level at \$100k ITF/Sharm El Sheikh-EGY
- Highlights in 2015 included reaching final at Tashkent (I. Hibino) and QF at Baku

- Ranked No.95, lifted maiden WTA singles title at 2014 Kuala Lumpur (d. No.10 Cibulkova in final); aged 17y 10 m, became youngest player to win a WTA singles title since 2006 Bangkok (Vania King)
- Reached first WTA career final at 2012 Tashkent (l. Begu) on her WTA main draw debut, and in doing so 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)
- 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

PERA:

- Faces No.32 Vekic in today's 1r – last defeated a player in the Top 50 at 2020 Doha (d. No.47 Garcia in 1r)
- Best by-ranking win of career was over No.10 Konta at 2018 Australian Open
- Achieved career-best year-end ranking of No.61 in 2020, reaching 2r five times, including at US Open and Roland Garros
- Posted new career-high ranking of No.59 on March 2, 2020
- Scored her second career Top 20 victory in 2019 against No.16 Q.Wang at Prague
- Reached a then-career-high ranking of No.63 on July 29, 2019 after back-to-back SF runs at Lausanne (l. Ferro) and Jurmala (l. Kawa)
- Captured her ninth ITF Circuit singles title in 2019 at \$100K ITF/Trnava 3-SVK (d. Blinkova in F)
- Reached first Tour-level QF of career at 2018 Charleston (l. eventual R-Up and No.14 Keys in 3s)
- Nominated for WTA's Breakthrough Player of the Month in April 2018 following Charleston run, which was eventually won by Bogdan (fan vote)
- As lucky loser, scored career first main draw win at the 2018 Australian Open (d. Blinkova 1r), first Top 100 win and Top 10 win (over No.10 Konta 2r) at the Australian Open (l. Strycova in 3r). Became first lucky loser to reach 3r of Australian Open since 1997 (Kleinova)
- Rose nearly 200 ranking places in 2017, ending season at No.127 after posting 54-20 record (all levels)
- Made WTA main draw debut at 2017 Guangzhou (l. Cornet) and contested qualifying at US Open, Wuhan, Linz and Moscow. That year, also made 1r exit at WTA 125K Series event at Limoges (l. Alexandrova)
- In 2015 won first titles on ITF Circuit at \$10k ITF/Alkmaar-NED, \$10k ITF/Breda-NED and \$10k ITF/Rotterdam-NED. Also fell in qualifying at Québec City. Improved ranking from No.646 to No.361
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2014 Québec City
- On ITF Circuit has won nine titles in singles and eight in doubles
- Made debut on ITF Circuit in 2011 at \$10k ITF/Landisville, PA-USA

[17] EKATERINA ALEXANDROVA (RUS #33) VS. ZARINA DIYAS (KAZ #80)

Head-to-head: First meeting

ALEXANDROVA		DIYAS	
Career Prize Money	\$2,352,603	Career Prize Money	\$3,055,671
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Nov. 15, 1994 (26)	Date of Birth (Age)	Oct. 18, 1993 (27)
Singles Titles	1	Singles Titles	1
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 68-64	YTD / Career W-L	0-0 / 86-111
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 23-25	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 29-35
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 14-22	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 22-28
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 51-36	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 61-75
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-11	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-21
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 5-16	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 5-35
Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-4	Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 4-12
Coach	Evgeny Alexandrov	Coach	Ernest Zurabyan

ALEXANDROVA:

- Faces No.80 Diyas today at the inaugural Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open in their career first meeting
- One of six Russians – the joint-most in the draw along with USA – competing in the main draw this week (also Kasatkina, Kudermetova, Pavlyuchenkova, Potapova and Zvonareva)
- Posted 13-4 record vs. players ranked outside the Top 50 in 2020, falling to players ranked lower than today's opponent on three occasions – I. No.139 Tsurenko (Prague), No.90 McHale (Western & Southern Open) and No.124 McNally (US Open)
- Opened 2020 season by lifting her maiden WTA singles title, at Shenzhen (d. Rybakina in F)
- Won both singles rubbers on Billie Jean King Cup debut in 3-2 win over Romania in February 2020
- In terms of ranking, best career win came over No.5 Halep at 2019 Beijing
- Made Top 50 debut on June 17, 2019 after QF run at 's-Hertogenbosch
- 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. Also advanced to 3r at a major for the first time, at Roland Garros
- Won sole WTA doubles title at 2019 Budapest (w/Zvonareva)
- Came through qualifying to make maiden WTA final appearance at 2018 Linz (I. Giorgi)
- Advanced to first WTA QF at 2018 Seoul, scoring maiden Top 10 win of her career en route, over No.10 Ostapenko
- Made Top 100 debut at No.93 on March 20, 2017 after winning title at \$60K ITF/Shenzhen-CHN
- At 2016 Wimbledon, ranked No.223, won her way through qualifying on her maiden Slam appearance, going on to reach 2r (upset No.23 seed Ivanovic in 1r)
- Won WTA 125K Series title at Limoges in 2016, 2018-19
- Reached 2r on WTA main draw debut at 2016 Katowice (as qualifier, I. 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 Europe in 2011

DIYAS:

- Faces No.33 Alexandrova today in their career first meeting
- Bidding for her best win-by-ranking since defeating No.24 Anisimova at 2020 Australian Open. Her career best win came over No.7 Jankovic at 2010 Moscow
- One of four players representing Kazakhstan in the draw this week – also Putintseva, Rybakina and Shvedova
- Highlights of 2020 included reaching QF at Shenzhen (l. Muguruza) and 3r at Australian Open (l. Bertens)
- Best results of 2019 were QF at Washington DC (l. Giorgi) and reaching four ITF Circuit finals, lifting two titles
- In 2018 highlights include R16 showing at Miami and three QF runs at Shenzhen, Strasbourg and Hiroshima
- Won maiden WTA title at 2017 Tokyo [Japan Open] (as qualifier, d. Kato in F – title run took in eight matches)
- Following 1r loss at 2016 Wimbledon, underwent wrist surgery, sidelining her until February 2017, and spent much of last season playing ITF events
- Started 2015 season strongly with back-to-back QF appearances at Shenzhen (l. Zheng) and Hobart (l. Riske). Other highlights in first half of 2015 included reaching 3r at Indian Wells (l. S.Williams)
- Maiden WTA final was R-Up finish at 2014 Osaka (l. Stosur in F)
- Made Top 100 debut on March 31, 2014 (No.91) and Top 50 debut on August 18, 2020 (No.46)
- Owns two career Top 10 wins, over No.7 Jankovic (2010 Moscow) and No.10 Petkovic (2015 Dubai)
- Nominated for WTA Newcomer of the Year in 2014, as voted on by international media (won by Bencic); participated in 2014 Rising Stars Invitational at WTA Finals in Singapore
- Member of Kazakhstan Billie Jean King Cup Team, 2009-11, 2015-16, 2018-20
- Reached first WTA QF at Prague in 2009, where she made her WTA qualifying debut the year prior
- Made professional debut at \$100k ITF/Bratislava-SVK in 2007; on ITF Circuit has won nine singles titles