ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN’S TENNIS OPEN – DAY THREE

[Q] KATERYNA BONDARENKO (UKR #285) vs. [15] ONS JABEUR (TUN #31)

First career meeting

Jabuer playing at career-high ranking... Bondarenko looking for best by-ranking win since 2018 Australian Open... Jabeur reached 3r or better in six of the last seven tournaments of 2020

[1] SOFIA KENIN (USA #4) vs. KIRSTEN FLIPKENS (BEL #86)

Kenin leads 2-0

Kenin won title at only other tournament where she was No.1 seed... Flipkens looking for third career Top 5 win however has not taken a set off the American in two previous meetings

[4] ARYNA SABALENKA (BLR #10) vs. AJLA TOMLJANOVIC (AUS #68)

Sabalenka leads 2-1

Tomljanovic snapped six-game losing streak which ended her 2020 season... Sabalenka won her tenth straight victory in 1r following back-to-back titles to end 2020... Tomljanovic won the last meeting between the two at 2019 Miami

BERNARDA PERA (USA #62) vs. SARA SORRIBES TORMO (ESP #66)

First career meeting

Sorribes Tormo one of three Spaniards to start the main draw, all of whom reached 2r... Pera snapped five match loss streak against Top 50 opponents with upset over No.16 seed Vekic... Sorribes Tormo owns three career match wins over left-handed players

ALIZÉ CORNET (FRA #53) vs. PAULA BADOSA (ESP #70)

Cornet leads 1-0

Cornet one of five 30-somethings to reach the second round... Badosa hoping to reach R16 at a WTA 500 event for the first time... The two have met only once at 2016 Madrid
[Q] KATERYNA BONDARENKO (UKR #285) VS. [15] ONS JABEUR (TUN #31)

Head-to-head: First meeting

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**BONDARENKO:**

- One of three qualifiers to reach the second round of the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open
- Earned tough 3 set 1r victory over Wang Yafan after being down a break in the third set
- Faces No.31 Jabeur today – would be best by-ranking win since defeating No.18 Pavlyuchenkova at 2018 Australian Open
- Began 2020 season by making QF at Shenzhen (l. Kr.Pliskova) for first final eight appearance since title run at 2017 Tashkent
- Also in 2020 won fourth career doubles title at Monterrey w/Fichman (d. Kato/Wang) and finished R-Up at Acapulco w/Fichman (l. Olmos/Krawczyk)
- Returned from second maternity leave in September 2019, falling 1r at Tashkent and Tianjin
- Finished 2018 down at No.132 in a campaign highlighted by 3r showing at Australian Open
- Finished 2017 at No.95, marking her seventh non-consecutive Top 100 finish; season highlighted by winning her second career WTA title at Tashkent (d. Babos in F), having also triumphed at 2008 Birmingham (d. Wickmayer in F)
- Posted one win over a Top 10 opponent in 2017 (No.7 Muguruza at Dubai via ret.)
- Runner-up in doubles at 2016 New Haven (w/Chuang) – was first tour-level final of any kind since 2011 Hobart
- Season highlights in 2015 included reaching two QFs – at Istanbul, upsetting V.Williams in 1r (as qualifier, l. eventual champion Tsurenko) and Tokyo (Japan Open) (l. eventual champion Wickmayer)
- Nominated for WTA Comeback Player Award in 2015 (media vote; won by V.Williams)
- Made return to tour after maternity leave in April 2014 (fell in qualifying at Katowice)
- Achieved career-high rank of No.29 in October 2009
- Won maiden WTA title at 2008 Birmingham (d. Wickmayer in F)
- Winner of four doubles titles, w/A.Bondarenko – 2008 Australian Open, 2008 Paris [Indoors] and 2009 Prague – and w/Fichman at 2020 Monterrey
• Ukrainian Fed Cup Team, 2005-2012, 2016 and 2018. Was a member of the team that helped secure promotion to World Group for first time in 2010
• Gave birth to her daughters, Karin, in 2013, and Eva in 2019

JABEUR:
• Enters the Abu Dhabi WTA Women’s Tennis Open on a career-high ranking of No.31
• In opening round, defeated No.38 Pavlyuchenkova saving two set points in first set
• Faces qualifier No.285 Bondarenko in first meeting with the Ukrainian player – last lost to a player outside the Top 200 at 2018 Quebec City (l. No.227 Pegula)
• Made 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
• 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
• 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)
MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN’S TENNIS OPEN
ABU DHABI, UAE  | JANUARY 6-13, 2021  | USD $565,530 WTA 500

[1] SOFIA KENIN (USA #4) VS. KIRSTEN FLIPKENS (BEL #86)

Head-to-head: SOFIA KENIN leads 2-0

| 2019 | HOBART | HARD O | QF | SOFIA KENIN | 7-5 7-5 |
| 2019 | MALLORCA | GRASS O | R32 | SOFIA KENIN | 6-2 6-3 |

KENIN:  
- Defeated qualifier Yang Zhaoxuan in her opening match at the Abu Dhabi WTA Women’s Tennis Open; has now won her past nine matches on tour against qualifiers  
- Takes on No.86 Flipkens having captured the pairs first two meetings in straight sets in 2019  
- A loss today would mark worst defeat since falling to then-ranked No.132 Samantha Stosur at 2019 Eastbourne  
- Owns a 5-1 strike rate vs. Belgian opposition dating back to beginning of 2019 season (l. Mertens 2020 USO)  
- Competing as No.1 seed for only second time in career: won title on only other occasion at 2020 Lyon (d. Friedsam in F)  
- One of six US players who are direct entries in the main draw, along with Brady, Gauff, Loeb, Pegula and Pera  
- Twelve months ago, opened season with 2r exits at Brisbane and Adelaide before going on to lift maiden major title, at Australian Open  
- Ended 2020 campaign at career high of No.4 which she first hit on March 9, 2020 and came away with the 2020 WTA Player of the Year Award  
- In last tournament of season, finished R-Up at Roland Garros (l. Swiatek) for her first final appearance on clay  
- Reached R16 at US Open and was one of only two players (also Kvitova) to reach second week of all three Slams in 2020  
- Lifted fifth WTA singles title at Lyon (d. Friedsam in F) becoming the first player in 2020 to win a second title  
- Won maiden major at 2020 Australian Open (d. Muguruza in F) to become the youngest champion (21y, 80d) in Melbourne since Sharapova (20y, 283d) in 2008. Defeated No.1 Barty and home favorite in SF for third career win over a reigning World No.1  
- Australian Open run helped her break into the Top 10 for the first time at No.7 on February 3, 2020

Follow WTA on Twitter: www.twitter.com/WTA   Facebook: www.facebook.com/WTA   YouTube: www.youtube.com/WTA
- Won 2019 WTA Most Improved Player of the Year award after winning three WTA titles at Hobart (d. Schmiedlova in F), Mallorca (d. Bencic in F) and Guangzhou (d. Stosur in F)
- Finished 2019 at No.14 as US No.2 (behind No.9 S. Williams) and leader in hard court wins (38-tied w/Barty)
- Registered back-to-back SF runs at Toronto (l. eventual champion Andreescu) and Cincinnati (l. eventual champion Keys), subsequently leading to Top 20 debut at No.20 on August 19, 2019
- During this run, defeated No.1 Barty (Toronto) and No.1 Osaka (Cincinnati) to become first player since October 2001 to defeat World No.1s in consecutive weeks (Davenport); also became youngest American to defeat reigning No.1 in eight years (after McHale)
- Advanced to R16 at 2019 Roland Garros (d. S. Williams, l. eventual champion Barty) – became first American to defeat Serena at the majors since Stephens at 2013 Australian Open QF
- Also won maiden doubles titles in 2019 at Auckland (w/Bouchard) and Beijing (w/Mattek-Sands)
- Broke into the Top 100 on March 19, 2018 and Top 50 on October 8, 2018
- Member of US Billie Jean King Cup team from 2018-20
- Made WTA main draw debut at 2015 US Open as a wildcard (l. Duque-Mariño in 1r)
- Owns four ITF singles titles and two doubles titles
- Played first matches of career on ITF Circuit in 2013, climbing to No.2 in ITF World Junior Rankings
- Represented the USA at the 2014 Youth Olympic Games and competed at the 2016 ITF Junior Masters, both held in China

**FLIPKENS:**
- Emerged victorious upon debut outing in Abu Dhabi with 3-set victory over No.51 and 2020 Roland Garros quarterfinalist Siegemund
- Aiming to notch first win over top seed and reigning Australian Open champion Kenin in today’s matchup (0-2)
- A win today would mark just her third career victory over a Top 5 ranked player, having defeated No.2 Muguruza (2016) and No.5 Stosur (2012)
- Looking to reach third round of WTA level event for first time since 2019 Kremlin Cup (l. QF)
- Last time the Belgian defeated a No.1 seed at a WTA level event was upset over No.1 seed Muguruza at 2016 Mallorca (0-3 in such attempts since then)
- One of two Belgians contesting this week’s field (also Mertens)
- Posted 2-8 record at Tour-level events in 2020, with wins coming at Western & Southern Open (d. Siniakova, l. Konta) and US Open (d. Peterson, l. Pegula)
- Reached SF three times in doubles in 2020, including in back-to-back weeks at Auckland and Hobart (both w/Van Uytvanck), as well as at Ostrava (w/Schuurs)
- Best result of 2019 was winning first WTA 125K Series title at Houston and reached five QFs. Won one WTA doubles title in 2019 at Mallorca (w/Larsson) and earned her career high doubles ranking of No.23 on July 1, 2019
- Highlights from 2018 season include an R-Up performance at 's-Hertogenbosch (l. Krunic) and SF run at Nurnberg (l. Riske). Also lifted third, fourth and fifth career doubles titles at Lugano w/ Mertens and Nurnberg and Linz w/ Larsson
• Highlights of 2017 season in singles included QF runs at Acapulco (l. Mladenovic) and New Haven (l. Gavrilova)
• Posted 24 main draw match wins in 2016, the most since 2013 when she won 32 matches; reached QF at 2016 New Haven (as LL, l. eventual champion A.Radwanska) – marked first QF at Premier level in two years, since her run to same stage at 2014 New Haven
• Represented Belgium at Rio Olympics in 2016, advancing to R16 in singles (l. Siegemund) – upset No.6 V.Williams in 1r – and reaching 2r in doubles (w/Wickmayer, l. Muguruza/Suárez Navarro)
• Won first WTA doubles title of career at 2016 Seoul (w/Larsson); currently owns five WTA doubles titles
• Enjoyed best Grand Slam year in 2013, when she reached R16 at Australian Open (l. No.2 Sharapova) and SF at Wimbledon (l. eventual champion Bartoli)
• Made her Top 50 debut on January 14, 2013 (No.43) and Top 20 debut on June 10, 2013 (No.20), climbing as high as No.13 on August 5, 2013
• Sole career singles title came at 2012 Québec City (d. Hradecka in F)
• Underwent surgery on right wrist on October 25, 2010. Battled injuries in first half of 2012, including blood clots in calf discovered in April; off tour for two months causing ranking to drop as low as No.262 in June that year
• Broke into the Top 100 on September 11, 2006 (No.98)
• Owns two Top 5 career wins, against No.2 Muguruza at 2016 Mallorca and No.5 Stosur at 2012 ‘s-Hertogenbosch
• Member of the Belgian Fed Cup team that reached the competition’s final in 2006. Also played 2003-13, 2015-20
• In 2003, played first two WTA main draws (both as WC), falling 1r at Antwerp and Luxembourg
• Played first WTA qualifying events at Antwerp and Brussels in 2002
• On ITF Circuit won 13 singles and two doubles titles; played first events of career on ITF Circuit in 2001
• Named 2003 ITF Junior World Champion, having won girls’ singles titles at Wimbledon (d. Chakvetadze in F) and US Open (d. Krajicek in F)
MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN’S TENNIS OPEN
ABU DHABI, UAE | JANUARY 6-13, 2021 | USD $565,530 WTA 500

[4] ARYNA SABALENKA (BLR #10) VS. AJLA TOMLJANOVIC (AUS #68)

Head-to-head: Sabalenka leads 2-1

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SABALENKA:

- In 1r on Thursday, defeated Hercog. Now owns a 2-1 record over the Slovene, having also defeated her en route to her second career final at 2018 Lugano
- Faces No.68 Tomljanovic today for a spot in the R16. Owns a 2-1 record over the Aussie, winning all six games in the final set at both 2018 's-Hertogenbosch and 2019 Indian Wells
- In 2020, posted 10-2 record following her opening round matches at her final four tournaments contested – Strasbourg (SF), Roland Garros (3r), Ostrava (WON) and Linz (WON)
- Started last season by falling 2r – as No.2 seed – at Shenzhen
- Beginning a season inside the Top 10 for the first time, having finished 2020 at No.10 courtesy of a nine-match win streak and back-to-back titles at Ostrava (d. Azarenka in F) and Linz (d. Mertens in F)
- After also taking home the silverware at Doha (d. Kvitova in F), was one of two players (also Halep) to lift three singles titles during disrupted 2020 season
- At Ostrava completed the sweep of titles by teaming up with Mertens to win the doubles
- Ended as World No.11 for the second straight year in 2019 after capturing three WTA singles titles at Shenzhen (d. Riske in F), Wuhan (d. Riske in F) and Zhuhai (d. Bertens in F)
- Having also won Wuhan in 2018 (d. Kontaveit in F), became first player to successfully defend Wuhan title
- Made Top 10 debut on January 28, 2019 following 3r run at 2019 Australian Open
- Ended 2019 at No.2 in WTA doubles rankings after capturing first Grand Slam doubles trophy at US Open (w/Mertens, d. Azarenka/Barty in F). Earlier in the season, the pair claimed the ‘Sunshine Double’ by winning back-to-back titles at Indian Wells (d. Krejčíková/Siniaková in F) and Miami (d. Stosur/ Zhang in F)
- Qualified for WTA Finals Shenzhen in doubles (w/Mertens), going 1-2 in the round robin stage
MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN’S TENNIS OPEN
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- Enjoyed breakthrough season in 2018, lifting two titles, at New Haven (d. Suárez Navarro in F) and Wuhan (d. Kontaveit in F), winning 46 matches and finishing at No.11 in the rankings
- Also in 2018, was R-Up at Lugano (l. Mertens) and Eastbourne (l. Wozniacki), made SF at Cincinnati, reached five QFs and produced a career-best Grand Slam run to R16 at US Open
- Entered Top 50 on April 16, 2018, after Lugano run, and Top 20 on August 27 of the same year, following New Haven title
- Broke into Top 100 at No.76 on October 16, 2017 after reaching first tour-level final at Tianjin (l. Sharapova). Also in 2017 made SF run at Tashkent (l. Babos) and lifting WTA 125k Series title at Mumbai (d. Jakupovic)
- Made Grand Slam main draw debut 2017 Wimbledon, falling in 2r (as qualifier, d. Khromacheva, l. Witthoeft)
- Fell 1r on main draw debut at 2017 Dubai (as qualifier, l. Ka.Bondarenko)
- Member of Belarus Fed Cup team that lost to USA in 2017 final – scored first Top 20 win of career with defeat of No.13 Stephens during 2017 Fed Cup final in Minsk
- WTA qualifying debut came at 2016 Rabat
- Lifted first three ITF Circuit titles in 2015, including a 13-match win streak towards the year’s end, bringing back-to-back trophies in Antalya, Turkey
- Made debut on ITF Circuit in Minsk in 2012

TOMLJANOVIC:

- Sole Australian playing the main draw here in Abu Dhabi
- Defeated No.91 L.Zhu in 1r on Wednesday, snapping a six-match losing streak including 1r exits at 2020 Lexington (l. Putintesva), Western & Southern Open (l. Kudermetova), US Open (l. Kerber), Rome (l. Bouzkova), Strasbourg (l. S.Zhang) and Roland Garros (l. Sakkari)
- Her last victory came in the Middle East at 2020 Doha (d. Hon in 1r, l. Muguruza in 2r)
- Faces No.10 Sabalenka today in their third career meeting, having defeated the Belarusian in their last encounter at 2019 Miami in straight sets
- Owns three career Top 10 wins, including two in 2019 – d. No.10 Sabalenka (Miami) and No.8 Bertens (Zhengzhou). Also holds one Top 5 victory in her career over No.3 A.Radwanska at 2014 Roland Garros
- Also playing doubles later today w/Kenin in 1r taking on team of Sakkari/Vekic
- Equaled best result at home Slam by advancing to 2r at 2020 Australian Open (l. Muguruza)
- Ended 2019 season by representing Australia in Perth final of Billie Jean King Cup vs. France – went 1-1 in singles (d. Parmentier, l. Mladenovic) as visitors prevailed 3-2
- Posted career-high ranking of No.39 on April 1, 2019 (following 3r run at Miami 3r)
- Four-time WTA singles finalist, most recently finishing runner-up at 2019 Hua Hin (l. Yastremska). Earlier finals came at 2015 Pattaya City (l. Hantuchova), 2018 Rabat (l. Mertens) and 2018 Seoul (l. Bertens)
- Posted two Top 10 wins in 2019, her first for almost five years, defeating No.10 Sabalenka (Miami) and No.8 Bertens (Zhengzhou). Other Top 10 defeat, and best win of career, came over No.3 A.Radwanska at 2014 Roland Garros
- Reached first Premier-level SF of career at 2019 Zhengzhou (l. eventual champion Ka.Pliskova)
• Underwent shoulder surgery in February 2016 and was sidelined for rest of season; returned at 2017 Acapulco, more than 12 months later
• Made Top 50 debut in 2015, rising as high as No.47 (week of February 23)
• Best Grand Slam result to date is R16 run at 2014 Roland Garros (d. No.32 seed Vesnina in 2r and No.3 seed A.Radwanska in 3r, l. Suárez Navarro)
• Announced in 2014 she would switch nationalities and start representing Australia (first did so at 2014 US Open)
• On ITF Circuit, winner of four singles titles and three doubles titles
• Made pro debut on ITF Circuit in Croatia in 2007 and WTA main draw debut at 2009 Indian Wells (as WC, l. 1r)
• As a junior, achieved career-high ranking of No.4, won Australian Open junior doubles title in 2009 (w/McHale), and was a member of Croatia’s victorious junior Fed Cup team in 2009
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BERNARDA PERA (USA #62) VS. SARA SORRIBES TORMO (ESP #66)

Head-to-head: First meeting

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PERA:

- One of six Americans to start the main draw and three to advance the second round of the Abu Dhabi WTA Women’s Tennis Open
- In 1r on Wednesday, saved three set points in the first set and came back from 1-4 down in the 3rd to upset No.32 Vekic 7-6(10) 2-6 6-4
- The win over the Croat also ended six-match losing streak against Top 50 opponents
- Faces No.66 Tormo in 2r, bidding to win back-to-back WTA main draw matches for the first time since 2019 Bronx (d. Kudermetova and Strycova, l. Siniakova in QF)
- Lost to a player ranked lower than her on five occasions during last season
- 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)
MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN’S TENNIS OPEN
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- 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

SORRIBES TORMO:
- One of three Spaniards in the main draw of the Abu Dhabi WTA Women’s Tennis Open; together with Muguruza and Badosa, all got through the opening round
- Kicked off 2021 campaign with a solid victory over No.47 Podoroska, the 2020 WTA Newcomer of the year; broke the Argentine’s serve six times to win in straight-sets
- Faces No.62 Pera in 2r - has triumphed four times in recent five encounters with opponents ranked above her (from the start of last year, has won nine times overall)
- On tour level, owns two wins over a left hander, defeating No.274 Na Lae Han at 2017 Seoul and No.36 Makarova at 2017 Indian Wells
- Also plays doubles this week with Podoroska (as alternates, take the open position after No.2 seeds Mertens/Sabalenka withdrew)
- Won ITF/$80k title in Cagnes-Sur-Mer-FRA in September 2020; overall owns 10 singles titles and five doubles titles on the ITF Circuit
- Also in 2020, made QFs at Ostrava and Prague, and 2r at Australian Open and US Open – has now reached this stage at all four majors
- Has lifted two career doubles titles – at 2018 Monterrey (w/Broady) and 2019 Rabat (w/Martinez Sanchez); also reached final at 2019 Mallorca (w/Martinez Sanchez). Career-high doubles ranking of No.40 (February 3, 2020)
- Made 2r for the first time at a major in 2018, as a qualifier at Wimbledon (l. compatriot Suarez Navarro)
- Reached first career WTA SFs in 2017, at first Bogotá and then Gstaad
- Fell 1r on Grand Slam main draw debut at 2016 Roland Garros (as qualifier, l. Pavlyuchenkova)
- In 2016, reached maiden tour-level QF at Seoul
- Also in 2016 made QF at WTA 125k Series event at Honolulu (l. eventual champion Bellis) and won two titles on the ITF Circuit at $25K ITF/Sao Paulo-BRA (d. Mitu in F) and $50K ITF/Essex-GER (d. Muchova in F). Finished as R-Up at $100K ITF/Sharm El Sheikh-EGY (l. Vekic in F)
- Scored first WTA main draw win over Pavlyuchenkova (via ret.) at 2015 Charleston
- Has represented Spain in Fed Cup in 2015-17 and 2019-20; best win came over No.10 Osaka (straight sets) in qualifying tie vs. Japan in February 2020
- Played first WTA main draw event at 2015 Rio de Janeiro (as qualifier, l. Ormaechea)
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2012 Barcelona (l. 1r)
- Played first professional event at $10k ITF/Vallduxo-ESP in 2010
### MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN’S TENNIS OPEN

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

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**ALIZÉ CORNET (FRA #53) VS. PAULA BADOSA (ESP #70)**

Head-to-head: ALIZÉ CORNET leads 1-0

2016 MADRID CLAY O R64 CORNET, ALIZÉ 2-6, 6-2, 2-2 ret. 106 mins

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<td><strong>Left Hander (YTD / Career)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coach</strong></td>
<td>Sandra Zaniewska</td>
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<td><strong>Coach</strong></td>
<td>Javier Marti</td>
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**CORNET:**

- One of five players in their 30s to make the 2r out of ten who started the main draw of the Abu Dhabi WTA Women’s Tennis Open
- Defeated lucky loser Grammatikopoulou in comfortable 6-2 6-2 victory
- Faces No.70 Badosa today having defeated the Spaniard in their only meeting at 2016 Madrid
- Best results in 2020 were QF at Auckland (l. Pegula) and R16 run at US Open (d. No.14 Keys, l. Pironkova)
- Also in 2020, made 3r at Western & Southern Open (l. eventual champion Azarenka). Defeated No.4 Kenin in 2r – first Top 5 win since No.4 Kerber at 2018 Montréal
- Highlight of 2019 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 squad for France who defeated Australia in Perth 3-2 to be crowned 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
- Former World No.11 (achieved in February 16, 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
- Grand Slam breakthrough came with with R16 run at Australian Open in 2009 (l. Safina)
- Excelled on clay in 2008, winning her maiden WTA title at Budapest (d. Klepac in F), reaching maiden final at Acapulco (l. Pennetta) and finishing R-Up at Rome (d. No.5 Kuznetsova and No.8 Chakvetadze, l. Jankovic)

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MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN’S TENNIS OPEN
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• In 2007, rose over 120 places in the rankings, reaching first two WTA QFs, at first Acapulco and then Fes, as well as reaching 3r at US Open (d. Stosur and Wozniacki, l. No.3 Jankovic)
• Made Grand Slam debut at Roland Garros as 15-year-old wildcard in 2005, reaching 2r (d. Jidkova, l. Mauresmo)
• Member of French Fed Cup Team, 2008-17, 2019; French Olympic Team, 2008, 2012, 2016
• Won 2007 Roland Garros junior title (d. Duque-Marín in F)

BADOSA:
• Enters the Abu Dhabi WTA Women’s Tennis Open at No.70, one shy of career-high ranking
• Took three sets to defeat Sevastova in 1r after winning the first 6-2 before dropping the second set 5-7
• Faces No.53 Cornet today – owns 2-2 record against French opposition
• At 2020 Roland Garros, upset former finalist Stephens and 2017 champion Ostapenko en route to reaching R16 for the first time at a major; posted career-high singles ranking of No.69 (October 12, 2020) following Paris run
• Also in 2020, reached SF at Istanbul (l. Bouchard)
• Campaign in 2019 highlighted by SF run at Palermo (l. Bertens) and QF run in Seoul (l. Y.Wang); also made Grand Slam main draw debut at Australian Open (l. 1r)
• Finished 2018 inside Top 200 for the first time (at No.143); picked up three ITF titles at $25k ITF/Glasgow-UK, ITF/$25k Les Franqueses del Valles – FRA and ITF/$60k Valencia-ESP
• Fell in qualifying at 2018 Wimbledon, Madrid and US Open
• Claimed third title on ITF Circuit in 2017 at ITF/$25k El Espinar; Fell 1r at Miami and in qualifying at Madrid
• In 2016, fell 1r at Miami, Madrid and Mallorca and in qualifying at Rio de Janeiro
• As wildcard, made breakthrough on WTA Tour with 3r run at 2015 Miami Open (l. Ka.Pliskova)
• Came through qualifying at 2015 Madrid, fell 1r to Errani via ret. w/left leg injury
• Continued at ITF Circuit level during 2013-2014 before playing second WTA qualifying draw at 2015 Antwerp, where she advanced to 2r (l. Bodarenko)
• Made WTA qualifying debut at 2013 Palermo, winning one match via retirement before falling in 2r (l.Gatto-Monticone)
• Won first title on ITF Circuit at $10k ITF/Sant Jordi-ESP in 2012; now owns seven singles titles at this level
• Played first pro tournament of career at $10k ITF/Gexto-ESP in 2012 (l. in 1r)
• Won girls’ Singles title at 2015 Roland Garros (d. Kaliskaya in F) and reached QF at 2014 Roland Garros and Wimbledon; finished 2015 as No.8 in ITF World Junior rankings