



MATCH NOTES



US OPEN
AUGUST 31 – SEPTEMBER 13, 2020



WOMEN'S TENNIS ASSOCIATION MATCH NOTES



FLUSHING MEADOWS, NEW YORK | AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 13, 2020 | \$21,656,000 GRAND SLAM TOURNAMENT

wtatennis.com | facebook.com/WTA | twitter.com/WTA | youtube.com/WTA
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US OPEN - QUARTERFINALS (BOTTOM HALF)

TSVETANA PIRONKOVA (BUL #0) vs. SERENA WILLIAMS (USA #8)

S.Williams leads 4-0

Pironkova is into her first Grand Slam QF since 2016 Roland Garros.. S.Williams now has 105 wins in New York, the most in the Open era... S.Williams has 13 major titles on hard - the most of any player in the Open era

VICTORIA AZARENKA (BLR #27) vs. ELISE MERTENS (BEL #18)

First Meeting

Azarenka is bidding for first Grand Slam SF appearance since R-Up finish here in 2013... Mertens is yet to drop a set this week.... Azarenka is one of three mothers to reach QF stage at Flushing Meadows

A LOOK AT THE QUARTERFINALISTS (BOTTOM HALF)

PLAYER	US OPEN W/L (MD)	YTD W/L	CAREER W/L	YTD PRIZE \$	CAREER PRIZE \$	YTD TITLES	CAREER TITLES
[8] Serena Williams	105-13	15-4	832-142	198,306	92,742,122	1	73
[18] Elise Mertens	11-4	23-8	139-80	417,264	6,373,909	0	5
[27] Victoria Azarenka	38-12	9-2	460-180	294,530	30,650,035	1	21
Tsvetana Pironkova	12-11	4-0	166-218		4,497,095	0	1

CAREER QUARTERFINAL RECORDS - GRAND SLAMS

PLAYER	QF W/L	SF W/L	FINALS W/L
[8] Serena Williams	38-14	33-5	23-10
[18] Elise Mertens	1-1	0-1	0-0
[27] Victoria Azarenka	7-9	4-3	2-2
Tsvetana Pironkova	1-2	0-1	0-0



WOMEN'S TENNIS ASSOCIATION MATCH NOTES

A SNAPSHOT OF 2020 – THE YEAR SO FAR

One Top 10 Debut: Sofia Kenin (at No.7 on February 3)

Fewest games dropped en route to a title: Jennifer Brady (24, Lexington)

Lowest-ranked player to triumph: Heather Watson (No.69, Acapulco)

Multiple finals: Elena Rybakina: 4 (Shenzhen, R-Up, Hobart, W, St. Petersburg, R-Up, Dubai, R-Up); Sofia Kenin: 2 (Australian Open, W, Lyon, W); Simona Halep (Dubai, W, Prague, W)

Maiden titles (2): Ekaterina Alexandrova (Shenzhen), Jennifer Brady (Lexington)

Youngest title winner: Elena Rybakina, Hobart (20y 7m 1d)

Oldest title winner: Serena Williams, Auckland (38y 3m 17d)

Aces leaders: Elena Rybakina – 155, Garbiñe Muguruza – 128, Kristyna Pliskova – 125

Most aces in a match (22): Alison Van Uytvanck (l. vs. Sofia Kenin 7-6(5) 6-7(2) 7-6(2) – Lyon, SF)

Match win leaders: Mertens – 23, Rybakina – 22, Kontaveit – 19

Most doubles titles (3): Barbora Strycova / Hsieh Su-Wei (Brisbane, Dubai, Doha)

Best result by a qualifier (R-Up): Leonie Kung (Hua Hin), Leylah Fernandez (Acapulco)

Longest match: 3h 33m – Heather Watson d. Elise Mertens 6-7(5) 6-4 7-5 (Hobart)

Shortest (completed) match: 44m – Serena Williams d. Amanda Anisimova 6-1 6-1 (Auckland)

Most Top 10 wins (3): Garbiñe Muguruza (No.3 Simona Halep, No.5 Elina Svitolina and No.10 Kiki Bertens) – all at Australian Open

WTA4LOVE – SUPPORTING THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY



- As part of the ongoing humanitarian campaign, WTA4Love, more than **100 community initiatives** have been undertaken by WTA players and partners since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March.

- Many players are stepping up again to raise awareness by wearing **WTA4Love patches** during competition in support of the ongoing campaign as we return to play.

- WTA4Love initiatives have provided COVID-19 support ranging from donations of medical equipment to hospitals, including **30,000 masks** donated to medical professionals through the efforts of the players and WTA Charities.

- Food insecurity has also been addressed by providing **24,000 meals** to families and frontline workers and through fundraisers for local foodbanks. WTA Charities will continue to support the ongoing

needs of communities with upcoming donations of **100,000 meals** in partnership with Lilly Pulitzer.

- “WTA4Love” is a global campaign with activities and donations by players and WTA Charities in **14 of the countries** which are home to WTA tournaments and most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including China, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States, among others.

- In addition to the urgent focus on the COVID-19 pandemic, WTA Charities has continued to support a wide range of nonprofit organizations including **live video chats** teaching leadership and character development to youth and **offering support and positive messaging** to Special Olympics participants.

- For more information on each player’s specific activities, please contact WTA Communications Manager, Teyva Sammet TSammet@wtatennis.com



WOMEN'S TENNIS ASSOCIATION MATCH NOTES

ON THIS DAY...

September 9, 1972: 29-year-old Billie Jean King successfully defends her title, beating Kerry Melville Reid of Australia 6-3, 7-5 to win the Women's Singles US Open title

RANKING PROJECTIONS

Brady entered the US Open ranked No.41. The American will move to No.30 (or No.31 if Pironkova wins the title) by reaching the quarterfinals. She could climb to No.25 by reaching the semifinals and as high as No.17 by reaching the final or No.13 by winning the title.

Putintseva entered the US Open ranked No.35. She will climb to No.30 or No.31 (if Pironkova wins the title) and can move to No.25 by reaching the semifinal. She could climb as high as No.17 by reaching the final or No.13 by winning the title.

If Serena Williams wins the title, she can climb to No.4 or No.5 (if she faces Osaka in the final). Otherwise, Serena will be ranked No.9 after the US Open.

Osaka:
QF = No.8 (or No.9 if Serena Williams wins the title)
SF = No.6 (or No.7 if Serena Williams wins the title)
F = No.4 (or No.5 if Serena Williams wins the title)
W = No.3

Mertens:
QF = As high as No.19
SF = As high as No.17
F = As high as No.13
W = As high as No.11

Azarenka:
QF = As high as No.23
SF = As high as No.17
F = As high as No.14
W = As high as No.11

Rogers entered the US Open ranked No.93. By reaching the QF, she is projected to climb to No.54 and could climb to No.40 by reaching the SF. Rogers can climb as high as No.26 by reaching the final and as high as No.17 by winning the title.

Pironkova is projected to climb into the Top 150 by reaching the QF. She could climb into the Top 90 (at No.86) by reaching the SF. As high as No.46 by reaching the final and as high as No.26 by winning the title.

COUNTRY BREAKDOWN

A total of 34 different countries were represented in the main draw this year at the US Open. Players from six different countries advanced to the QF stage.

- Three Americans have reached the QFs: **Jennifer Brady, Shelby Rogers** and **Serena Williams**
- At least one American has advanced to the QFs every year at the US Open since 1993
- The last time three or more Americans reached this stage at Flushing Meadow was 2017, when Keys, Stephens, Vandeweghe and V.Williams made up the SFs
- Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, Japan and Kazakhstan were all represented in the final eight of this year's US Open

YOUTH VS. EXPERIENCE

At 22 years, 332 days, **Naomi Osaka** is the youngest player remaining in the draw while **Serena Williams** (38 years, 352 days) is the oldest.

Youngest Players Remaining:

NAME	AGE (YRS)	AGE (DAYS)
Naomi Osaka	22	331
Elise Mertens	24	300

Oldest Players Remaining:

NAME	AGE (YRS)	AGE (DAYS)
Serena Williams	38	351
Tsvetana Pironkova	32	365

COOKING UP A STORM

This week saw the unveiling of the WTA Cookbook, a new digital publication with more than 70 international recipes contributed by players past, present and future.

The WTA Cookbook is available for download on wtaten-nis.com with all proceeds supporting WTA Charities' global initiatives.

Favorite recipes from WTA legends and superstars Martina Navratilova, Caroline Wozniacki, Bianca Andreescu, Naomi Osaka and current WTA World No.1 Ashleigh Barty, among others, are certain to delight palates from around the world.





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TSVETANA PIRONKOVA (BUL #0) vs. [3] SERENA WILLIAMS (USA #8)

Head to Head: SERENA WILLIAMS leads 4-0

2015	CINCINNATI	HARD O	R2	SERENA WILLIAMS	7-5 6-3	90 mins
2014	BEIJING	HARD O	R2	SERENA WILLIAMS	6-2 6-3	72 mins
2011	EASTBOURNE	GRASS O	R1	SERENA WILLIAMS	1-6 6-3 6-4	124 mins
2007	ROLAND GARROS	CLAY O	R1	SERENA WILLIAMS	5-7 6-1 6-1	

TSVETANA PIRONKOVA

SERENA WILLIAMS

WTA RANKING

8

PORSCHE RACE TO SHENZHEN LEADERBOARD

19

13-09-1987 (32)

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)

26-09-1981 (38)

\$0

YTD PRIZE MONEY

\$198,306

\$4,497,095

CAREER PRIZE MONEY

\$92,742,122

0 / 1

SINGLES TITLES (YTD / CAREER)

1 / 73

0 / 0

DOUBLES TITLES (YTD / CAREER)

0 / 23

12-11

US OPEN W-L (MD) *

105-13

4-0 / 166-218

YTD / CAREER W-L (MD) *

15-4 / 832-142

1-0 / 36-73

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

5-4 / 166-64

0-1 / 51-39

YTD / CAREER TIE-BREAK W-L (MD) *

5-5 / 112-57

4-0 / 84-126

YTD / CAREER HARD W-L (MD) *

15-4 / 521-88

0-0 / 12-36

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

0-0 / 175-72

1-0 / 22-80

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

0-0 / 306-98

0-0 / 10-15

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

2-0 / 70-13

* Updated entering US Open QF

ROAD TO THE QF

TSVETANA PIRONKOVA (BUL #0)

vs. [3] SERENA WILLIAMS (USA #8)

R16: d. ALIZÉ CORNET (FRA #56) 6-4,6-7(5),6-3 (2h49)

R16: d. [15] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #22) 6-3,6-7(6),6-3 (2h28)

R32: d. [18] DONNA VEKIC (CRO #24) 6-4,6-1 (1h0)

R32: d. [26] SLOANE STEPHENS (USA #39) 6-2,6-2 (1h0)

R64: d. [10] GARBIÑE MUGURUZA (ESP #16) 7-5,6-3 (1h24)

R64: d. MARGARITA GASPARYAN (RUS #117) 6-2,6-4 (1h33)

R128: d. LUDMILLA SAMSONOVA (RUS #120) 6-4,6-4 (1h20)

R128: d. KRISTIE AHN (USA #96) 7-5,6-3 (1h21)

US OPEN Tournament History

* Qualifying match

TSVETANA PIRONKOVA

SERENA WILLIAMS

2016

R2 L - JOHANNA KONTA (GBR #14) 6-2 5-7 6-2

2019

F L - BIANCA ANDREESCU (CAN #15) 6-3 7-5

2015

R1 L - MONA BARTHEL (GER #53) 5-7 7-6(4) 6-1

2018

F L - NAOMI OSAKA (JPN #19) 6-2 6-4



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2014
R2 L - JELENA JANKOVIC (SRB #10) 7-5 6-4

2013
R1 L - ALISON RISKE (USA #81) 6-3 6-3

2012
R16 L - ANA IVANOVIC (SRB #13) 6-0 6-4

2011
R2 L - SHUAI PENG (CHN #14) 6-2 6-4

2010
R2 L - MANDY MINELLA (LUX #185) 6-4 6-0

2009
R1 L - MARIA SHARAPOVA (RUS #31) 6-3 6-0

2008
R1 L - ANABEL MEDINA GARRIGUES (ESP #26) 6-4 7-5

2007
R2 L - JUSTINE HENIN (BEL #1) 6-4 6-0

2006
R1 L - JAMEA JACKSON (USA #57) 6-2 6-2

2005
R2* L - TIFFANY DAVIS (USA #202) 6-3 4-6 6-2

2016
SF L - KAROLINA PLISKOVA (CZE #11) 6-2 7-6(5)

2015
SF L - ROBERTA VINCI (ITA #43) 2-6 6-4 6-4

2014
F W - CAROLINE WOZNIACKI (DEN #11) 6-3 6-3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**TSVETANA
PIRONKOVA**

VS

**SERENA
WILLIAMS**

US OPEN

- Making 12th main draw appearance at US Open and 13th overall, and first since 2016 having spent over three years away from Tour to give birth and raise her son
- One of nine mothers to begin the singles field this fortnight (also Azarenka, Bondarenko, Clijsters, Govortsova, Maria, Tig, S.Williams and Zvonareva); joins S.Williams and Azarenka as only remaining mothers in QF stage
- Prior to this year's QF run, best result at Flushing Meadows was reaching R16 in 2012 (l. Ivanovic)
- Reached 2r here on five occasions - 2007 (as qualifier, l. eventual champion Henin), 2010 (l. Minella), 2011 (l. S.Peng), 2014 (l. Jankovic) and 2016 (l. Konta)
- Fell 1r in 2006 (l. Jackson), 2008 (l. Medina Garrigues), 2009 (l. Sharapova), 2013 (l. Riske) and 2015 (l. Barthel), and in qualifying on her debut in 2005
- Playing in her first tournament since 2017 Wimbledon (l. Wozniacki in 2r), where she is a former semifinalist - her best result across the majors
- Contesting 48th Grand Slam main draw at 2020 US Open – progression to QF improves her to 47-47 across the Slams
- In her first match in over three years, defeated Samsonova on Tuesday to improve her record in 1r matches at the majors to 29-19
- Caused major upset by defeating No.16 and 2020 Australian Open finalist Muguruza in 2r on Thursday – was her 22nd Top 20 win of career, and first since wins over No.18 Errani and No.2 A.Radwanska en route to 2016 Roland Garros QF
- Ousted No.18 seed Vekic on Saturday to reach her seventh career R16 at the majors, and first since 2016 Roland Garros (l. Stosur in QF)
- Prior to this fortnight, last defeated a seed at a Slam at 2016 Roland Garros (No.2 seed A.Radwanska). Has lost her last six Slam meetings vs. seeded players – No.5 Wozniacki (2017 Wimbledon), No.5 Svitolina (2017 Roland Garros), No.3 A.Radwanska (2017 Australian Open), No.13 Konta (2016 US Open), No.7 Bencic (2016 Wimbledon) and No.21 Stosur (2016 Roland Garros)
- After two hours and 49 minutes, struck 46 winners to upset No.56 Cornet and earn a spot in her fourth career QF at the majors; also reached this stage at 2010 Wimbledon, 2011 Wimbledon and 2016 Roland Garros
- Faces No.8 S.Williams today for a chance to reach SF and match her career-best Grand Slam result, a SF run at 2010 Wimbledon (l. Zvonareva) where she became the first player representing Bulgaria (male or female) to reach final four at a major
- Owns one title in her career, on the hard courts of Sydney in 2014 (as qualifier, d. Kerber in F)

US OPEN

- Making 20th appearance at US Open where she is a six-time champion: 1999 (d. Hingis in F), 2002 (d. V.Williams in F), 2008 (d. Jankovic in F), 2012 (d. Azarenka in F), 2013 (d. Azarenka in F) and 2014 (d. Wozniacki in F). Tied with Chris Evert for most US Open titles in the Open Era
- Also R-Up four times, in 2001 (l. V.Williams), 2011 (l. Stosur), 2018 (l. Osaka) and 2019 (l. Andreescu)
- By reaching 2019 final, established the largest gap between first and most recent Slam final appearance at 19y 362d (d. Hingis in 1999 US Open) - previously held by V.Williams at 19 yrs, 312 days (l. Hingis in 1997 US Open, l. Muguruza in 2017 Wimbledon)
- Her 20 appearances at US Open is second among players in 2020 starting field, behind V.Williams (22)
- Doubles champion here in 1999 (w/V.Williams d. Rubin/Testud in F) and 2009 (w/V.Williams d. Black/Huber). Also won mixed doubles (w/Mirnyi) in 1998
- Bidding this fortnight to tie Australia's Margaret Court on 24 Grand Slam singles titles, the all-time record. Her record in Grand Slam finals stands at 23-10
- Winner of 13 major titles on hard – most of any player in Open Era; across all WTA events, has won 47 hard court titles, more than any other active player
- Contesting her 75th Slam main draw – in Open Era, trails only V.Williams (86, including 2020 US Open)
- Seeded No.3 this fortnight; has been seeded on all but two of her appearances in New York (exceptions were debut in 1998 and 2006)
- Win-loss record across the Grand Slams is 355-50 (includes all wins this week), the most wins in Open Era, ahead of Martina Navratilova (306-49)
- Began 2020 US Open campaign with 1r win over Ahn – moves to a perfect 20-0 in opening round matches here in New York
- Victory over Ahn was first straight sets win since the restart – all five other matches had gone the distance
- Defeated Gasparyan in 2r, improving her record against Russians at the US Open to 12-0
- In her 20th career US Open 3r match (also 20th US Open overall), defeated Stephens in their first meeting since 2015 Roland Garros; improves to 6-1 against her compatriot
- Avenged Western & Southern Open loss to No.22 Sakkari in a hard-fought 3s battle in R16 to record 100th win on Arthur Ashe stadium
- Faces unranked Pironkova today for their fifth career meeting. Owns 4-0 lead over the Bulgarian with most recent win coming during her 2015 Cincinnati title run
- Improves to 105-13 at US Open, now ahead of Evert (101-12) for most wins in the Open Era, and ahead of Navratilova (89-17) - fourth player to ever reach 100+ wins at one single major, in addition to Evert also Navratilova (120 wins at Wimbledon) and Federer (101 wins at Wimbledon)



**TSVETANA
PIRONKOVA**

VS

**SERENA
WILLIAMS**

US OPEN CONT.

- Currently without a ranking. Reached as high as No.31 on September 13, 2010

GRAND SLAM HISTORY

- Had not missed a major between making her debut at 2006 Australian through 2017 Wimbledon
- Became first player representing Bulgaria (male or female) to reach a Grand Slam SF when she advanced to last four at 2010 Wimbledon
- Defeated No.13 Bartoli and No.2 V.Williams en route to SFs at 2010 Wimbledon (I. Zvonareva)
- At the other majors, best result at Roland Garros is a QF run in 2016 (d. No.2 A.Radwanska en route, I. Stosur); became first Bulgarian woman to reach the last eight in Paris since Sesil Karatantcheva in 2005. At US Open, made R16 in 2012 (I. Ivanovic) but is yet to pass 2r at Australian Open

SEASON

- US Open marks first tournament since 2017 Wimbledon having spent over three years away from tennis after giving birth to son Alexander in April 2018

US OPEN CONT.

- One of three 30-somethings to reach the QF this fortnight - also Pironkova and Azarenka

GRAND SLAM HISTORY

- A 23-time Grand Slam singles winner, ahead of Stefanie Graf (22) on Open Era leaderboard, and behind only Margaret Court (24) all time
- Her titles were won at Australian Open: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009-10, 2015, 2017; Roland Garros: 2002, 2013, 2015; Wimbledon: 2002-03, 2009-10, 2012, 2015-16; US Open: 1999, 2002, 2008, 2012-14
- Owns a 23-10 record in Slam finals, with losses coming at 2001 US Open (I. V.Williams), 2004 Wimbledon (I. Sharapova), 2008 Wimbledon (I. V.Williams), 2011 US Open (I. Stosur), 2016 Australian Open (I. Kerber), 2016 Roland Garros (I. Muguruza), 2018 Wimbledon (I. Kerber), 2018 US Open (I. Osaka), 2019 Wimbledon (I. Halep) and 2019 US Open (I. Andreescu)
- Aged 35y 125d at the end of 2017 Australian Open, is the oldest player to win a major in the Open Era
- Boasts the longest span of Grand Slam singles glory all-time. Pre-Open Era, Helen Wills Moody won her majors over the course of 15y 9.5m. Serena won her first Slam at 1999 US Open, 17y 6.5m before her 2017 Australian title. WTA legends Evert, Navratilova and Graf all won their Slams over a 12 year span

SEASON

- Made 3r exit at Western & Southern Open (I. Sakkarin - led 7-5 5-3); 2h48m 2r win over Rus was her longest match since I. Razzano at 2012 Roland Garros
- Returned to action at Lexington earlier this month, reaching the QF (I. Rogers)
- Faced sister Venus in 2r in what was their 31st meeting – now leads their head-to-head 19-12 (13-9 on hard courts and 8-5 on US soil)
- With a combined age of 79 years, 19 days, S.Williams vs. V.Williams represented the highest combined age in a match since 2004 Charleston when Martina Navratilova (47) faced Amy Frazier (31), with a combined age of 79 years, 28 days
- Loss to No.116 Rogers was 14th to a player ranked outside the Top 50, and most recent since 2017 Auckland to No.72 Brengle, while last to a player outside the Top 100 came against No.111 Razzano at 2012 Roland Garros
- In last tournament before tour's hiatus, fell 3r at Australian Open (I. Q.Wang) before participating in Fed Cup action going 1-1 in singles as USA defeated



**TSVETANA
PIRONKOVA**

VS

**SERENA
WILLIAMS**

CAREER MILESTONES

- Finished 2017 ranked No.162. Of her 16 year-end rankings, has ended the year outside the Top 100 only on five occasions
- Season highlights of 2017 were reaching QF at Nottingham (l. Safarova) and R16 at Eastbourne (l. Halep)
- Also in 2017, reached 2r at Roland Garros (l. Svitolna) and Wimbledon (l. Wozniacki)
- Ended 2016 at No.66 for 11th non-consecutive Top 100 finish. Career-best finish was No.35 in 2010 (rose as high as No.31 the week of September 13 that year)
- Highlight of 2016 was first Grand Slam QF in five years, at Roland Garros (l. Stosur). Was only the sixth major where she has achieved back-to-back wins during her career (after 2010 Wimbledon, 2011 Wimbledon, 2012 US Open, 2013 Wimbledon and 2015 Roland Garros)
- Other notable result was reaching QF at Birmingham (as qualifier, l. Strycova)
- Represented Bulgaria at the Rio Olympics, making 1r exit in singles (l. Siegemund)
- Owns one career singles title at 2014 Sydney (as qualifier, achieved three Top 10 wins: vs. No.7 Errani in QF, No.6 Kvitova in SF and No.9 Kerber in F). Ranked No.107 at time, was the lowest-ranked player to win a title in 2014
- Competed in front of home fans at Tournament of Champions-Sofia in 2012 (SF) and 2014 (RR)
- Bulgarian Fed Cup Team, 2003-13, 2015-16; Bulgarian Olympic Team, 2008, 2012, 2016

SEASON CONT.

- Latvia 3-2 (d. Ostapenko, l. Sevastova)
- Began 2020 with 73rd career title at Auckland (d. Pegula in F) for first championship since giving birth to her daughter in 2017– also finished R-Up in doubles w/Wozniacki (l. Townsend/Muhammed); overall record in finals stands at 73-25
- At 44m, 6-1 6-1 SF defeat of Anisimova in Auckland is currently shortest completed match of the year

CAREER MILESTONES

- Highlights of 2019 season were her 32nd and 33rd Grand Slam finals, at Wimbledon (l. Halep) and US Open (l. Andreescu)
- Reached one further final last year at Toronto (ret. vs. Andreescu w/back injury)
- With 73 career singles titles, ranks fifth on the Open Era list of most titles, after Martina Navratilova (167), Chris Evert (154), Steffi Graf (107) and Margaret Court (92)
- All three finals in 2019 – Wimbledon, Toronto and US Open – came in consecutive tournaments
- Ended 2019 ranked No.10, her first year-end finish inside the elite ranking bracket since 2016 (at No.2)
- Other highlights last season were reaching QF at Australian Open and partnering with Andy Murray to contest Mixed Doubles at Wimbledon (reaching 3r)
- Defeated World No.1 Halep in R16 at Australian Open – at 37 years, is oldest player to defeat the reigning World No.1
- Reached two Grand Slam finals in 2018, at Wimbledon (l. Kerber) and US Open (l. Osaka). Made return to Tour following birth of daughter Olympia at 2018 Indian Wells
- Ended 2017 ranked No.22, despite playing only two events all season, and both in January. Broke streak of 10 consecutive Top 20 finishes. Overall, has 16 Top 10 finishes to her name (most recently in 2019) – third-most behind Navratilova (20) and Evert (19) – including five as the year-end No.1
- Holds distinction of being the oldest No.1 in WTA history – set record when most recent streak began on February 18, 2013. Spent her 319th week at No.1 in May 2017. Third on all-time list after Graf's 377 and Navratilova's 332
- Held the top ranking for 186 consecutive weeks (through 2016 US Open) which equaled the record held by Graf (186 weeks, August 17, 1986 through March 10, 1991)
- Has registered 17 career wins over (eight different) No.1 ranked players, second-most behind Navratilova (18)
- Singles gold medalist at London 2012 Olympics
- Along w/sister Venus held all four Grand Slam titles



**TSVETANA
PIRONKOVA**

VS

**SERENA
WILLIAMS**

PERSONAL

- Gave birth to her son in March 2018
- Married husband Mihail Mirchez in July 2016
- Coached Kiril Enchev Pironkov (father)

CAREER CONT.

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

- Spent eight weeks as co-No.1 in doubles (w/V. Williams); one of six players to hold No.1 in singles and doubles simultaneously (also Navratilova, Hingis, Sánchez Vicario, Davenport and Clijsters)
- Holds single-season prize money record of \$12,385,572, achieved in 2013

PERSONAL

- Coached by father Richard Williams and mother Oracene Price; coaching consultant is Patrick Mouratoglou; hitting partner is Jarmere Jenkins
- Gave birth to daughter Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr. on September 1, 2017
- Married Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian in November 2017 in New Orleans
- Launched her own clothing line, 'Serena', in late 2018





MATCH NOTES

US OPEN - UNITED STATES, NY | Aug 31 - Sep 13, 2020 | \$21,656,000 | GRAND SLAM

VICTORIA AZARENKA (BLR #27) vs. [16] ELISE MERTENS (BEL #18)

Head to Head: 0-0

VICTORIA AZARENKA	WTA RANKING	ELISE MERTENS
27		18
12	PORSCHE RACE TO SHENZHEN LEADERBOARD	9
31-07-1989 (31)	DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)	17-11-1995 (24)
\$294,530	YTD PRIZE MONEY	\$417,264
\$30,650,035	CAREER PRIZE MONEY	\$6,373,909
1 / 21	SINGLES TITLES (YTD / CAREER)	0 / 5
0 / 8	DOUBLES TITLES (YTD / CAREER)	0 / 9
38-12	US OPEN W-L (MD) *	11-4
9-2 / 460-180	YTD / CAREER W-L (MD) *	23-8 / 139-80
2-0 / 87-62	YTD / CAREER 3-SET W-L (MD) *	5-3 / 40-29
2-0 / 68-44	YTD / CAREER TIE-BREAK W-L (MD) *	3-3 / 26-31
9-2 / 318-108	YTD / CAREER HARD W-L (MD) *	19-6 / 87-50
0-0 / 67-72	YTD / CAREER TOP 10 W-L (MD) *	1-3 / 7-18
2-0 / 122-100	YTD / CAREER TOP 20 W-L (MD) *	0-4 / 13-38
0-0 / 46-14	YTD / CAREER Left Hander W-L (MD) *	2-0 / 14-3

* Updated entering US Open QF

ROAD TO THE QF

VICTORIA AZARENKA (BLR #27)

R16: d. [20] KAROLINA MUCHOVA (CZE #26) 5-7,6-1,6-4 (2h29)

R32: d. IGA SWIATEK (POL #53) 6-4,6-2 (1h38)

R64: d. [5] ARYNA SABALENKA (BLR #11) 6-1,6-3 (1h7)

R128: d. BARBARA HAAS (AUT #139) 6-1,6-2 (0h59)

vs. [16] ELISE MERTENS (BEL #18)

R16: d. [2] SOFIA KENIN (USA #4) 6-3,6-3 (1h14)

R32: d. CATHERINE MCNALLY (USA #124) 7-5,6-1 (1h24)

R64: d. SARA SORRIBES TORMO (ESP #82) 6-3,7-5 (1h0)

R128: d. LAURA SIEGEMUND (GER #64) 6-2,6-2 (1h27)

US OPEN Tournament History

VICTORIA AZARENKA

2019
R1 L - ARYNA SABALENKA (BLR #13) 3-6 6-3 6-4

2018
R3 L - SLOANE STEPHENS (USA #3) 6-3 6-4

2015
QF L - SIMONA HALEP (ROU #2) 6-3 4-6 6-4

ELISE MERTENS

2019
QF L - BIANCA ANDREESCU (CAN #15) 3-6 6-2 6-3

2018
R16 L - SLOANE STEPHENS (USA #3) 6-3 6-3

2017
R1 L - MADISON KEYS (USA #16) 6-3 7-6(6)



MATCH NOTES

US OPEN - UNITED STATES, NY | Aug 31 - Sep 13, 2020 | \$21,656,000 | GRAND SLAM

2014

QF L - EKATERINA MAKAROVA (RUS #18) 6-4 6-2

2013

F L - SERENA WILLIAMS (USA #1) 7-5 6-7(6) 6-1

2012

F L - SERENA WILLIAMS (USA #4) 6-2 2-6 7-5

2011

R3 L - SERENA WILLIAMS (USA #27) 6-1 7-6(5)

2010

R2 L - GISELA DULKO (ARG #41) 5-1

2009

R3 L - FRANCESCA SCHIAVONE (ITA #28) 4-6 6-2 6-2

2008

R3 L - CAROLINE WOZNIACKI (DEN #18) 6-4 6-4

2007

R16 L - SVETLANA KUZNETSOVA (RUS #4) 6-2 6-3

2006

R3 L - ANNA CHAKVETADZE (RUS #29) 6-4 6-3

2016

R1 L - GARBIÑE MUGURUZA (ESP #3) 2-6 6-0 6-3

2015

R1* L - NASTASSJA BURNETT (ITA #428) 6-3 3-6 6-4

**VICTORIA
AZARENKA**

VS

**ELISE
MERTENS**

US OPEN

- Making 13th main draw appearance at US Open, where she is a two-time R-Up, in 2012 (l. S.Williams) and 2013 (l. S.Williams)
- Also a two-time quarterfinalist in New York, in 2014 (l. Makarova) and 2015 (l. Halep)
- R-Up in doubles here in 2019 (w/Barty, l. Mertens/Sabalenka); seeded No.7 this year w/Kenin (fell to Zvonareva/Siegemund in R16 on Friday)
- Contesting landmark 50th major this fortnight - one of nine active players to reach this milestone . Progression to QF this week improves her record to 131-46 across the Slams, and is now 38-12 at US Open (third among active players - level with Clijsters)
- One of eight players who've held the WTA World No.1 singles ranking to begin this year's draw
- Currently ranked No.27 – her highest ranking since returning to the Tour from maternity leave in 2017
- Was one of nine mothers in this year's US Open field – also Bondarenko, Clijsters, Govortsova, Maria, Pironkova, Tig, S.Williams and Zvonareva. S.Williams and Pironkova have joined her in the QF - making history by becoming the first trio of mothers to reach the quarterfinals of the same Grand Slam
- Has dropped just one set en route to QF – her most effective run to reach this stage of a Slam since 2016 Australian Open, when she dropped only 11 games across the first four matches
- Has reached the second week at a Slam for the first time since 2017 Wimbledon (l. Halep in R16), and today bidding for first Slam SF since R-Up finish here in 2013 (l. S. Williams)
- Is currently on a 9-match winning streak (five wins across Western & Southern Open, four wins in New York) – her best since 2016, winning 14 Tour-level matches in a row (six wins at Indian Wells, six at Miami and two at Madrid)
- Opened 2020 US Open campaign by committing just seven unforced errors during 59-minute win over Haas on Tuesday
- In an all-Belarusian showdown, defeated No.11 Sabalenka in 2r to score her 122nd Top 20 win of her career and second of 2020 following a win over No.15 Konta during last week's title run at Western & Southern Open
- Had lost to Sabalenka in 1r last year at US Open
- Overcame No.53 Swiatek in 3r on Saturday to reach first R16 at US Open since 2015
- Rallied from a set down to dismiss Czech Republic's Muchova in R16 – improving record over Czech opposition at US Open to 5-0 (also d. Zakopalova in 2008, Strycova in 2009, and Hradecka in 2015)
- Is through to first Grand Slam QF since becoming a mother in 2016

US OPEN

- Making fifth consecutive main draw appearance at US Open (and sixth appearance overall)
- Has matched previous best result here by reaching QFs, fell at this stage last year (l. eventual champion Andreescu in 3s)
- Reached R16 in 2018 (l. Stephens) and fell 1r in 2016 (l. Muguruza) and 2017 (l. Keys). Fell in qualifying in 2015
- 2016 appearance was Grand Slam main draw debut
- 2020 US Open is her 14th Grand Slam main draw appearance, and progression to QF this week improves her to 33-13 across the Slams
- Has reached her fourth consecutive R16 at a Slam, after 2019 Wimbledon (R16, l. Strycova), 2019 US Open (QF, l. Andreescu) and 2020 Australian Open (R16, l. Halep)
- US Open is now her happiest Slam hunting ground, owning 11 wins here - ahead of Australian Open (10-3)
- Seeded No.16 this fortnight, her ninth consecutive seeding at a Slam – highest seeding was No.12 at 2019 Australian Open
- Opened her 2020 US Open campaign with a straight sets victory over Siegemund. Has now won her last 10 Grand Slam 1r matches. Last 1r loss at the majors was at 2017 US Open (l. eventual R-Up Keys)
- Outlasted Sorribes Tormo in 2r after a rain delay caused their match to be played between Thursday and Friday, firing 33 winners against the Spaniard
- Defeat McNally on Saturday to record her 22nd win of 2020 – joint-highest with Rybakina
- Reached 22 match wins last season across 17 events – this season, has done it in 10 events
- Dismissed No.2 seed Kenin in an hour and 15 minutes during R16 showing on Monday – the highest seed she has knocked out at a Slam (previously No.4 Svitolina at 2018 Australian Open)
- Is now 5-0 vs. Americans in 2020, having also defeated McHale (Hobart), Bellis (Australian Open) and Pegula (Western & Southern Open)
- Defeat of No.4 Kenin was best win of season (previously No.28 Q.Wang at Dubai and Doha) and second-best of career, after defeat of No.3 Halep in 2019 Doha final and No.3 Stephens at 2018 Cincinnati
- Yet to drop a set en route to her second Slam QF, dropping 22 games – second most efficient run to this stage of a Slam, after 2019 US Open (16 games)
- Faces No.27 Azarenka for the first time in QF today; bidding for first SF appearance at a Slam since 2018 Australian Open (l. eventual Champion Wozniacki)
- During last year's summer hard court season fell 2r at San Jose (after 1r bye, l. Ahn), Toronto (l. S.Williams) and Cincinnati (l. Svitolina) before bouncing back to reach US Open QF for the first time (l. even-



**VICTORIA
AZARENKA**

VS

**ELISE
MERTENS**

US OPEN CONT.

- Faces No.18 Mertens today for the pairs first career meeting; owns a 7-9 record in Slam QF matches and has 2-2 record at this stage in New York
- By reaching the QF, she is projected to climb as high as No.23 and could climb as high as No.17 by reaching the SF
- In addition to 1r exit here, last summer reached 2r at San Jose, Toronto and Cincinnati
- Twenty of 21 career titles have come on hardcourts (equal fifth among active players), with nine of these coming in the US
- Celebrated 31st birthday a few weeks ago; there are 26 thirtysomethings in the field at start of tournament and three to reach QF - also Pironkova and S.Williams

GRAND SLAM HISTORY

- Two-time major champion, winning Australian Open in 2012 (d. Sharapova in F) and 2013 (d. Li in F)
- Also a two-time runner-up, at 2012 and 2013 US Open (losing to S.Williams in 3s on both occasions)
- Advanced to Wimbledon SF in 2011 and 2012, while best result at Roland Garros is also SF run in 2013
- Four-time Grand Slam doubles finalist, at 2008 Australian Open (w/Peer), 2009 Roland Garros (w/Vesnina), 2011 Australian Open (w/Kirilenko) and 2019 US Open (w/Barty)
- Two-time Grand Slam mixed doubles champion, at 2007 US Open (w/ Mirnyi) and 2008 Roland Garros (w/B.Bryan). Most recently finished as mixed doubles R-Up at 2018 Wimbledon (w/J.Murray)
- Won girls' singles titles at the Australian Open and US Open in 2005

SEASON

- Lifted 21st career title at last week's Western & Southern Open when final opponent Osaka withdrew w/left hamstring injury; now 21-17 in singles finals
- Suffered 1r exit at Lexington (l. V.Williams) in her second WTA event of 2020
- Opened 2020 season with 1r exit at Monterrey (l. Zidansek), having not contested any events in Australia due to personal reasons

US OPEN CONT.

- tual champion Andreescu); also won maiden major doubles title at US Open w/Sabalenka (d. Azarenka/Barty in F)
- Seeded No.2 w/Sabalenka in doubles this fortnight. The pair fell to Zvonareva/Siegemund in QF

GRAND SLAM HISTORY

- Advanced to first Grand Slam SF of career at 2018 Australian Open (l. eventual champion Wozniacki),
- In 2020, reached QF at 2020 US Open (l. eventual champion Andreescu in 3s) and R16 at Wimbledon (l. Strycova, having led 6-4 5-2) – the deepest run of her career at both tournaments
- Has also reached R16 at Roland Garros in 2018 (l. eventual champion Halep)
- Won maiden major doubles title at US Open w/Sabalenka (d. Azarenka/Barty in F)

SEASON

- Coming off SF run at Western & Southern Open last week (l. Osaka); was seeded No.1 in doubles w/ Sabalenka – withdrew prior to QF against Hradecka/Klepac w/left leg injury
- Fell 1r in the first week of the tour's return at Palermo (l. Sasnovich)
- Bounced back the following week at Prague, where she finished R-Up (l. Halep). Is now 5-2 in WTA singles finals
- Began the season with QF runs at Shenzhen (l. Rybakina) and Hobart (l. Watson – 3h 33m match is the longest so far in 2020) and R16 showing at Australian Open (l. Halep)
- In February made 2r exit in defense of Doha title (l. Putintseva) and also fell at this stage the previous week at Dubai (l. Sabalenka)

CAREER MILESTONES

- Ended 2019 ranked No.17 for second consecutive Top 20 finish
- Singles highlight was winning biggest title of career at Doha (d. No.3 Halep in final). Also beat No.8 Bertens and No.6 Kerber in Doha, doubling career total of Top 10 wins to six
- Advanced to QF at US Open for the first time (l. eventual champion Andreescu in 3s) and R16 at Wimbledon for the first time (l. Strycova, having led 6-4 5-2). Reached QF during defense of Rabat title (l. eventual champion Sakkari)
- Enjoyed standout season in doubles in 2020 - won maiden major doubles title at US Open w/Sabalenka (d. Azarenka/Barty in F). Also Completed 'Sunshine



**VICTORIA
AZARENKA**

VS

**ELISE
MERTENS**

CAREER MILESTONES

- Last tournament of 2019 was the US Open, where she fell to Sabalenka in 1r; also reached the doubles final w/Barty (l. Mertens/Sabalenka)
- Highlight of 2019 was 37th singles final at Monterrey (d. No.5 Kerber in SF, l. Muguruza in F via ret. w/leg injury). Also made QFs at Acapulco (l. Kenin), Stuttgart (l. Kontaveit via ret.) and Rome (l. Ka.Pliskova)
- On February 2, 2019 returned to Top 50 for first time following the birth of her child, Leo
- Highlights of 2018 season included SF at Miami (l. Stephens) and QF at San Jose and Tokyo
- Made return to tennis in June 2017 following birth of first child in December 2016
- Comeback tournament was Mallorca, reaching 2r (d. Ozaki, l. Konjuh). Prior to 2017 Mallorca, last tournament contested was 2016 Roland Garros (1r)
- Followed this with R16 at Wimbledon (l. Halep). Did not play after Wimbledon due to personal reasons
- Ended 2016 ranked No.13, despite missing second half of season after going on maternity leave (announced pregnancy mid-July). Lifted three titles, at Brisbane and 'Sunshine Double' of Indian Wells and Miami – third woman to achieve feat after Graf in 1994 and 1996 and Clijsters in 2005
- Posted 26-3 record for first six months of 2016 with losses coming at the Australian Open (QF, l. Kerber), Rome (2r, l. Begu) and Roland Garros (ret. vs. Knapp w/right knee injury)
- Limited to total of 23 events over 2014-15 seasons due to variety of injuries
- Posted five consecutive Top 10 finishes between 2009 and 2013, qualifying for the WTA Finals on each occasion (l. Kvitova in 2011 final in Istanbul)
- Ascended to World No.1 after 2012 Australian Open and held top spot for a total of 51 weeks
- Began 2012 with 26-match win streak – best start since Hingis went 37-0 in 1997. Went on to win tour-leading 69 matches in 2012, season highlighted by six titles, finishing as WTA's year-end No.1
- Won two medals for Belarus at 2012 Olympics bronze in singles and mixed doubles gold (w/Mirnyi)
- Made WTA main draw debut at 2005 Kolkata
- ITF Junior World Champion for 2005 – reached first tour-level semifinal at Guangzhou the same year

PERSONAL

- Currently coached by Dorian Descloix. Formerly coached by Wim Fissette, Sam Sumyk and Michael Joyce
- Gave birth to son Leo in December 2016
- Introduced to tennis at age 7 by mother Alla; father's name is Fedor and older brother is Max

CAREER CONT.

- Double' in doubles (w/Sabalenka), lifting the back-to-back titles at Indian Wells (d. Krejckova/Siniakova) and Miami (d. Stosur/Zhang)
- Team qualified for Shiseido WTA Finals Shenzhen (went 1-2 in RR)
- Won three singles titles in 2018 (Hobart, Rabat and Lugano), one of six players on tour with three or more titles to their name that year - also Kvitova (5), Svitolina (4), Bertens (3), Halep (3) and Wozniacki (3)
- Also in 2018, advanced to first Grand Slam SF of career at 2018 Australian Open (l. eventual champion Wozniacki), going on to post 46 main draw match wins across the campaign – only Ka.Pliskova (49) and Kvitova (47) registered more. By contrast, prior to 2018 season owned only 36 wins at this level across entire career
- In doubles in 2018, won four titles and reached QF at WTA Finals (w/Schuurs)
- Finished 2017 season at No.35, up from No.120 in 2016 – first Top 50 and Top 100 year-end finish
- 2017 season highlighted by first career singles title at Hobart (as a qualifier, d. Niculescu in F)
- Registered first Top 10 win of career over No.10 Cibulkova in 1r at 2017 Beijing
- Made WTA singles main draw debut at 2016 's-Hertogenbosch – made QF (as qualifier, l. Mladenovic)
- Won first WTA title of any kind in doubles at 2016 Auckland (w/Mestach). Now has nine doubles titles – also 2017 Guangzhou (w/Schuurs), 2018 Hobart (w/Schuurs), 2018 Lugano (w/Flipkens), 2018 's-Hertogenbosch (w/Schuurs), 2018 Wuhan (w/Schuurs), 2019 Indian Wells-Miami double (w/Sabalenka) and 2019 US Open (w/Sabalenka)
- Played first tour-level event of career at 2015 Antwerp (fell in qualifying)
- Has 11 singles and 14 doubles titles on ITF Circuit
- Played first events of career on ITF Circuit in Belgium in 2010

PERSONAL

- Working once again with former coach Robbe Ceysens having recently worked with both David Taylor and Dieter Kindlmann
- Earlier coaching history includes Belgian federation until early teens, as well as a year at the Mouratoglou Academy
- Mother is Liliane Barbe (teaches languages and history); father is Guido Mertens (makes furniture for churches). Was home schooled, enjoyed studying languages
- Loves animals and has lots of pets at home, four dogs and a variety of birds (pheasants, peacocks, chickens)

