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ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN – DAY FOUR

WANG XIYU (CHN #123) vs. [6] ELENA RYBAKINA (KAZ #19)

First career meeting

Wang is aiming for her second career Top 20 victory today, having claimed her first over No.15 Martic at 2020 Hua Hin... **Rybakina** has won her last 10 meetings against Chinese opposition (across all levels) with her last defeat taking place at 2018 \$60K ITF/Liuzhou-CHN (L. X.You)

[Q] ANASTASIA GASANOVA (RUS #292) vs. [3] KAROLINA PLISKOVA (CZE #6)

First career meeting

Gasanova made her WTA main draw debut this week as a qualifier, claiming her first Tour-level victory over Barthel in straight sets... **Pliskova** has not fallen to a player ranked outside the Top 50 since 2019 Beijing, where she fell to No.73 Ostapenko

VERA ZVONAREVA (RUS #164) vs. [2] ELINA SVITOLINA (UKR #5)

First career meeting

Zvonareva is one of five 30-somethings to reach the second round this week out of 10 from the starting field.. **Svitolina** has won two WTA titles in the Middle East, lifting back-to-back trophies at Dubai in 2017 and 2018

ALIAKSANDRA SASNOVICH (BLR #90) vs. [5] GARBINĒ MUGURUZA (ESP #15)

First career meeting

Sasnovich is bidding for her 15th career Top 20 victory today over No.15 ranked Muguruza... Former No.1 **Muguruza** enjoyed success in the Middle East in 2020, reaching back-to-back quarterfinals at Dubai and Doha

[9] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #22) vs. COCO GAUFF (USA #48)

Sakkari leads 1-0

Sakkari faces another teenager today, having defeated 19-year-old Potapova on Wednesday... **Gauff** dropped just one game and saved all six break points during her first round victory over alternate Eikiri on Thursday

WANG XIYU (CHN #123) VS. [6] ELENA RYBAKINA (KAZ #19)

Head-to-head: First meeting

X.WANG		RYBAKINA	
Career Prize Money	\$327,566	Career Prize Money	\$1,466,978
Plays	Left-Handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Mar. 28, 2001 (19)	Date of Birth (Age)	Jun. 17, 1999 (21)
Singles Titles	0	Singles Titles	2
Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	1-0 / 11-14	YTD / Career W-L (MD)	1-0 / 56-23
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 3-3	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 17-9
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 3-3	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-10
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 11-14	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 37-15
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-1	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 4-4
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 1-3	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 6-6
Coach	Nicolas Eduardo	Coach	Stefano Vukov

X. WANG

- Faces No.19 Rybakina in today's 2r match where she looks to record her second career Top 20 win; maiden Top 20 win came against No.15 Martic at 2020 Hua Hin
- Struck seven aces and saved seven of nine break points to defeat Rus in 1r and record her first win on the WTA Tour since advancing to SF at Acapulco in Feb 2020
- Ended 2020 season at No.123, making steady progress from No.143 in 2019
- Enjoyed WTA breakthrough by reached her maiden tour-level SF on debut appearance at Acapulco as qualifier, where she defeated No.2 seed Y.Wang and two-time champion Errani before l. eventual champion Watson; following this week, posted new career-high ranking of No.106 on March 2
- Also reached her maiden WTA QF at Hua Hin earlier that month (l. eventual champion Linette), upsetting No.15 Martic in 1r for first victory over a Top 20 player
- Best result of 2019 at Tour-level was 2r showing at Miami (as WC, l. Bertens). Also fell 1r on Grand Slam main draw debut at 2019 US Open (as LL, l. Flipkens)
- Won third singles title on ITF Circuit at \$60k Internacional de Solgironès in 2019
- Season highlights in 2018 were maiden ITF Singles titles at \$25,000 Nonthaburi and \$25,000 Tsukuba
- Also won three doubles titles in 2018; at \$25k Barcelona (w/Ho), \$25k Madrid (w/Gonzalez), \$25k Nonthaburi (w/X.Wang)
- At Tour-level in 2018 contested Wuhan; fell 2r to Kasatkina in what was her first match vs. Top 20 opponent
- Made WTA singles main draw debut at 2017 Tianjin Open as wildcard, defeating Kovinic in 1r; made WTA qualifying debut at 2018 Miami
- Made professional debut at 2016 \$10k ITF/Anning, CHN
- In Juniors, became first Chinese girl to win a Grand Slam Junior singles title at 2018 US Open; also teamed up with Wang Xinyu to claim Junior doubles title at 2018 Wimbledon
- As a junior, achieved career-high ranking of No.1 in both singles and doubles
- Took bronze in the girls' doubles (w/X.Wang) at 2018 Summer Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires

RYBAKINA:

- In today's 2r action, faces No.123 X.Wang for their first career meeting; hasn't fallen to a player ranked outside of the Top 100 since August 2019 at the Western and Southern Open (l. No.486 Mattek-Sands during qualifying)
- Won 84% of points on her first serve to defeat qualifier Stefanini in 1r
- One of four Kazakhstani players in the draw this week, along with Diyas, Putintseva and Shvedova
- Opened 2020 season by reaching the championship match at four of her first five tournaments, including a title run at Hobart (d. Zhang in F)
- Made first final appearance at a Premier-level tournament with R-Up finish at St. Petersburg (l. Bertens); was rewarded with Top 20 debut at No.19 following run in Russia (February 17, 2020)
- First win over a Top-5 ranked opponent came over No.3 Ka.Pliskova during R-Up finish at 2020 Dubai
- Won back-to-back Slam matches for the first time during 3r showing at 2020 Australian Open (l. Barty)
- Won maiden WTA singles title at 2019 Bucharest (d. Tig in F), breaking into Top 100 for the first time in the following week's rankings at No.65 (July 22, 2019)
- Also in 2019, went on to make Top 50 debut on September 16, 2019, after reaching second career final at Nanchang (l. Peterson), produced SF appearances at Luxembourg and 's-Hertogenbosch, and made Grand Slam main draw debut at 2019 Roland Garros, falling 1r (as qualifier, l. Siniakova)
- Finished 2019 campaign with 57-21 win-loss record (across all levels) to end season at No.37, up from 2018's final ranking of No.191. On the ITF Circuit in 2019, lifted silverware on three occasions: back-to-back at \$25k Moscow-RUS and \$25k Kazan-RUS, and at \$60k ITF/Launceston-AUS
- Highlights of 2018 included reaching maiden WTA QF at St. Petersburg (l. Goerges) and clinching title at \$15k ITF/Kazan-RUS
- First Top 10 win came over No.7 Garcia at 2018 St. Petersburg
- Made WTA qualifying and main draw debut at 2017 Moscow (as qualifier, l. Begu in 1r)
- Professional debut came at \$10k ITF/Antalya-TUR in 2014

[Q] ANASTASIA GASANOVA (RUS #292) VS. [3] KAROLINA PLISKOVA (CZE #6)

Head-to-head: First career meeting

GASANOVA		PLISKOVA	
Career Prize Money	\$89,383	Career Prize Money	\$20,401,433
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	May 15, 1999 (21)	Date of Birth (Age)	Mar. 21, 1992 (28)
Singles Titles	0	Singles Titles	16
Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	1-0 / 1-0	YTD / Career W-L	1-0 / 324-167
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-0	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 102-56
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-0	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 65-71
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 1-0	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 229-112
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-0	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 32-39
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-0	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 62-72
Coach	Alexey Filenkov	Coach	Sascha Bajin

GASANOVA:

- Making WTA main draw debut in Abu Dhabi this week
- Has competed in three previous WTA level events in Moscow, having fallen in qualifying of each
- Other Tour level competition includes appearances at 125K events in Dalian (2016) and Prague (2020)
- Earned first WTA main draw bid this week as a qualifier, having defeated Olmos and Shibahara
- Sealed first career WTA main draw victory over No.124 Barthel in first round
- Squares off today against No.6 ranked Ka.Pliskova for the first time in their careers
- A win today would be best victory of her young career, and the meeting itself marks her first match against a Top 100 opponent
- Her 2020 campaign was highlighted by a semifinal visit at ITF \$15K Sharm El Sheikh 3 and a quarterfinal performance at ITF \$100K Cairo 4
- Produced a successful ITF resume in 2019, having reached three ITF finals at \$25K Kazan, \$25K Incheon and \$25K Nanning
- Has yet to compete in a Grand Slam event
- Captured ITF \$25K Guiyang title, and was a runner-up at \$25K Karshi and \$15K Moscow in 2018
- Hoisted two ITF titles in 2016 at \$10K Nanjing and \$10K Khimki
- Won back-to-back ITF crowns in 2015 at \$10K Telavi 4 and Telavi 5 (Georgia)
- First career ITF title came at \$10K Telavi in 2014
- Owns six career ITF singles titles so far
- Played first ITF event in 2013 at \$10K Astanan 5, Kazakhstan

PLISKOVA:

- Opened 2021 Abu Dhabi campaign defeating LL Papamichail in straight sets after her original opponent No.71 Cirstea was forced to withdraw with an abdominal injury
- Takes the court against No.292 qualifier Gasanova for the first time in her career today

- Last fell to a qualifier in October 2020 at Ostrava R16 (l. No.47 Kudermetova); compiled a 4-1 mark vs qualifiers last season
- Has not fallen to a player ranked outside the Top 50 since 2019 Beijing (l. No.73 Ostapenko)
- A win today would mark career win No.230 on hardcourts
- One of four Czech players in the draw (also Krejcičová, Muchová and Vondroušová)
- During last year's Middle East swing, reached QF at Dubai (l. Rybakina) and R16 at Doha (l. Jabeur)
- Reached two finals across 2020, at Brisbane (d. Keys) and Rome (l. Halep via ret.). Has won at least one title every year from 2013 to 2020
- Lifted a WTA-leading four titles across the 2019 season (tied with Barty) – triumphed at Brisbane, Rome, Eastbourne and Zhengzhou. Dropped 19 games across five matches during Eastbourne title win (d. Kerber in F) – most economic title run in 2019
- Also reached first Premier Mandatory final at Miami, losing to Barty in straight sets, and produced best Australian Open performance of career, reaching SF (l. eventual champion Osaka in 3s); saved four match points to beat S.Williams in QF
- Lost to twin sister Kr.Pliskova in 2r at Birmingham, in what was their first career main draw encounter
- Made fourth straight appearance at the WTA Finals in 2019, reaching SF for the third year in a row
- Won two titles in 2018 from three finals contested, triumphing at Stuttgart (d. Vandeweghe in F) and Tokyo [PPO] (d. Osaka in F). Posted R-Up finish in Tianjin (l. Garcia in F)
- Won Billie Jean King Cup for Czech Republic in 2015-16 and 2018
- Claimed No.1 ranking on July 17, 2017 despite making 2r exit at Wimbledon (l. Rybarikova). Was the first Czech woman to achieve the No.1 ranking since the computer rankings were introduced in 1975 (Martina Navratilova became No.1 on July 10, 1978 while representing USA)
- Won three titles in 2017, at Brisbane (d. Cornet in F), Doha (d. Wozniacki in F) and Eastbourne (d. Wozniacki in F)
- Is a Grand Slam finalist, reaching the title match at 2016 US Open (l. Kerber)
- Captured fifth WTA doubles title of career at 2016 Birmingham (w/Strycova). At 2013 Linz, with sister Kristyna, became first set of twins to ever win a tour-level doubles title
- Made Top 10 debut after 2015 Stanford R-Up finish; was first time in WTA history that three Czech women ranked inside Top 10 at the same time (also Kvitová and Safarova)
- Scored first Top 20 win of her career over No.16 Petrova in 1r at 2013 Wimbledon
- Won first career WTA title at 2013 Kuala Lumpur (d. Mattek-Sands) and followed it up with two more in 2014 Seoul (d. Lepchenko) and 2014 Linz (d. Giorgi)
- Reached first WTA QF as WC at 2008 Prague (l. Azarenka)
- Made professional debut on ITF Circuit in 2006

VERA ZVONAREVA (RUS #164) VS. [2] ELINA SVITOLINA (UKR #5)

ZVONAREVA		SVITOLINA	
Career Prize Money	\$14, 621,665	Career Prize Money	\$19,860,259
Plays	Right-Handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Sep. 7, 1984 (36)	Date of Birth (Age)	Sep. 12, 1994 (26)
Singles Titles	12	Singles Titles	15
Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	1-0 / 451-241	YTD / Career W-L (MD)	1-0 / 285-155
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 117-82	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 84-50
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 75-70	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 61-46
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 298-159	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 206-106
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 32-81	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 33-38
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 76-118	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 61-69
Coach	Stephane Robert	Coach	Andrew Bettles

ZVONAREVA:

- Faces World No.5 and No.2 seed Svitolina today in first meeting
- One of five players in their 30s to make the 2r out of 10 who started the main draw of the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open
- Highlight of 2020 was reaching the R16 at the Western & Southern Open, as a qualifier (l. Konta)
- Returned to tour after eight-month break due to wrist injury in February 2020 with 2r showing at \$25k ITF/Trnava-SVK. Went on to make SF showing at WTA 125K Series event at Indian Wells in early March and then R16 at Western & Southern Open in August (l. Konta)
- Ended 2019 ranked No.141 after a promising start to season was ended prematurely by wrist injury – during time away from court commentated for Russian TV
- Highlights in 2019 were SF runs at Shenzhen (l. Riske via ret. w/left hip injury) and St. Petersburg (d. No.16 Goerges and No.12 Kasatkina, l. Vekic). Also won ninth career WTA doubles title, at Budapest (w/Alexandrova) – now owns 9-6 career record in doubles finals
- Broke back into Top 100 after Shenzhen (January 7, 2019), making it as high as No.76 following St. Petersburg run (February 4, 2019)
- At 2018 Wimbledon, overcame three rounds of qualifying to enter her first Grand Slam main draw in over three years, falling to eventual champion Kerber in 1r. Previous main draw appearance at a major was 2015 Australian Open (l. eventual champion S.Williams in 2r)
- Enjoyed doubles success in 2018, winning seventh and eighth career titles, at St. Petersburg (w/Bacsinszky) and Moscow [River Cup] (w/Potapova)
- Returned to the tour in 2017 following a two-year hiatus, finishing with a year-end ranking of No.204
- Comeback season was highlighted by title at \$15k ITF/Sharm El Sheikh-EGY, runner-up finish at WTA 125K Series event at Dalian (l. Kozlova) and a SF run at Tashkent (l. eventual champion K.Bondarenko)
- Prior to her return to tour, last played in 2015 – highlighted by QF appearances at Shenzhen and Pattaya City
- A 2013 shoulder injury sidelined her for a year and a half prior to returning for another injury-stricken season in 2014 - best result was 3r finish at 2014 Wimbledon (l. Dijas)
- Has won 12 career WTA singles titles (most recent 2011 Baku); biggest title to date is 2009 Indian Wells

- Reached back-to-back Grand Slam finals in 2010 as runner-up at both Wimbledon (l. S.Williams) and US Open (l. Clijsters)
- Finished ranked in Top 10 four consecutive years (2008-2011), including a year-end No.2 ranking in 2010 – became fifth Russian to rank in Top 2 in October 2010 and held No.2 for 14 weeks (Oct. 25, 2010 to Jan. 30, 2011)
- Has four wins vs. World No.1s: Maria Sharapova (2007 Indian Wells), Jelena Jankovic (2008 WTA Championships) and Caroline Wozniacki, twice (2011 Doha and WTA Championships)
- Participated at WTA Championships six times in career (2004, 2008-11; includes 2009 as alternate); reached final in 2009 (l. V.Williams)
- Has won ten doubles titles, including three Grand Slams (2020 US Open, 2012 Australian Open, and 2006 US Open) and 2009 Indian Wells (w/Azarenka), completing singles-doubles sweep
- Missed second half of 2005 season with left ankle injury; missed four months of 2007 with left wrist injury; also missed two months in 2009 due to a right ankle injury; had surgery to remove scar tissue in November 2009
- Represented Russia in Olympics twice: 2008 Beijing (replaced Sharapova, won singles bronze) and 2012 London

SVITOLINA:

- Enters Abu Dhabi as the No.2 seed and joins No.4 Kenin as one of two Top 5 ranked players in the field
- Defeated Pegula in comfortable 6-4 6-3 1r victory on Thursday
- Faces No.164 Zvonareva in today's R32. Fell to a player ranked outside the Top 100 once in 2020, falling to No.131 Podoroska at Roland Garros QF
- Owns excellent record in the Middle East, winning Dubai in 2017 and 2018, and making SF at Doha in 2019
- Opened last season with 1r loss at Brisbane to Collins – one of four opening match losses in 2020
- Won her 14th and 15th titles in 2020, firstly at Monterrey (d. Bouzkova in F) and then Strasbourg (d. Rybakina in F)
- Contested her 30th consecutive major at 2020 Australian Open (streak broke by skipping 2020 US Open). Is a two-time semifinalist at Grand Slam level, at 2019 Wimbledon (l. eventual champion Halep) and 2019 US Open (l. S.Williams) . Became the first woman from Ukraine to reach a major SF; on the men's, Medvedev made that stage at Roland Garros in 1993 (SF) and 1999 (R-Up)
- Highlight of 2019 was reaching the title match as defending champion at the Shiseido WTA Finals (l. Barty)
- In 2018, won 13th – and most prestigious – career title at 2018 WTA Finals (d. Stephens in F), after going 3-0 during round robin stage. Ended year ranked No.4. Also won titles at Rome (as defending champion, d. No.1 Halep in F), Dubai (as defending champion, d. Kasatkina in F) and Brisbane (d. Sasnovich in F)
- Enjoyed stand-out 2017, finishing year at No.6, winning a tour-leading five titles and posting second-most wins (53, behind Wozniacki with 60) Season culminated by qualifying for WTA Finals in Singapore, becoming first Ukrainian woman to qualify for the season-ending tournament in singles (fell at round robin stage with 1-2 record)
- In 2017, became first player to win three Premier 5 titles in a single season (Dubai, Rome, Toronto), since such tournaments were introduced in 2009
- One of five players to make Top 10 debut in 2017, after winning Dubai in February (also Ostapenko, Garcia, Mladenovic and Vandeweghe). Peaked in rankings at No.3 on September 11, 2017

MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN

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

- On four occasions could have reached World No.1 – at 2017 US Open, then needed to win 2017 Beijing (fell QF), then needed to triumph at 2017 WTA Finals (fell in group stage), or reach final at 2018 Australian Open (fell in QF)
- End to 2016 season also saw her reach first SF at Premier Mandatory level at Beijing (l. A.Radwanska) Qualified for 2016 WTA Elite Trophy Zhuhai for the second time (l. Kvitova in F)
- Reached three finals in 2016, winning Kuala Lumpur (d. Bouchard in F) and R-Up at New Haven (l. A.Radwanska) and Zhuhai (l. Kvitova)
- Other 2016 season highlight was QF at Rio Olympics
- Owns two career doubles titles: 2014 Istanbul (w/Doi) and 2015 Istanbul (w/Gavrilova)
- Made WTA main draw debut at 2012 Baku (lost in 1r but went on to win title there in both 2013 and 2014)
- Ukrainian Fed Cup Team, 2012-15, 2017, 2020
- Played first ITF Circuit events of career in 2008
- Junior highlights include winning 2010 Roland Garros girls' title at age 15 (d. Jabeur in F)

ALIAKSANDRA SASNOVICH (BLR #90) VS. [5] GARBINE MUGURUZA (ESP #15)

Head-to-head: First meeting

SASNOVICH		MUGURUZA	
Career Prize Money	\$3,317,829	Career Prize Money	\$21,159,801
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Mar. 22, 1994 (26)	Date of Birth (Age)	Oct. 8, 1993 (27)
Singles Titles	0	Singles Titles	7
Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	1-0 / 87-90	YTD / Career W-L	1-0 / 260-144
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 34-31	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 82-62
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 20-18	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 42-50
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 64-58	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 175-98
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 5-13	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 35-34
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 14-26	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 61-60
Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 11-4	Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 19-14
Coach	Nikolai Fidirko	Coach	Conchita Martinez

SASNOVICH:

- Defeated qualifier Anna Bondar in 1r on Thursday without dropping her serve and saving all four break points
- Faces No.15 Muguruza today in their career first meeting. Bidding for her 15th career Top 20 victory, with her most win over such players coming over No.19 Vondrousova at 2020 US Open (14-26 overall)
- Has not faced a Spanish opponent in main draw play since 2016 Bastad (I. Arruabarrena in 1r)
- In 2020, won back-to-back main draw matches on four occasions – Palermo (QF, I. Martic), US Open (3r, I. Putintseva), Istanbul (QF, I. Martincova) and Linz (QF, I. Krejčíková)
- Reached first WTA QF in 18 months at 2020 Palermo (as qualifier, I. Martic); also advanced to this stage at Istanbul (I. Martincova) and Linz (I. Krejčíková)
- Made 3r at 2020 US Open—defeating No.19 Vondrousova in 2r was her first Top 20 win since overcoming No.15 Kontaveit at 2019 Madrid
- Represented Belarus in 2020 Billie Jean King Cup play-off victory vs. the Netherlands. Teamed up with Sabalenka in doubles to seal the victory (d. Bertens/Schuurs on a third-set tie-break)
- Recorded 20th Grand Slam main draw win after defeating Friedsam in the 1r at 2020 Roland Garros
- Made strong start to 2019 season by recording maiden Top 5 victory over No.4 Svitolina en route to a QF finish at Brisbane (I. Vekic) followed by an SF appearance at Sydney (as qualifier, I. eventual champion Kvitová) and 3r run at Australian Open (I. Pavlyuchenkova)
- Also in 2019, finished R-Up at WTA 125K Series event at Limoges (I. Alexandrova)
- Reached first Grand Slam SF in doubles at 2019 US Open (w/Kuzmova, I. Azarenka/Barty)
- Has had five Top 10 wins in her career - No.6 Ka.Pliskova at 2016 Tokyo, No.7 Kvitová at 2018 Wimbledon, No.10 Bertens at 2018 Moscow, No.4 Svitolina at 2019 Brisbane and No.10 Kasatkina at 2019 Sydney
- In 2018, reached second career WTA final and first at a Premier tournament at Brisbane, as a qualifier – defeated No.11 Mladenovic and No.16 Sevastova en route to final (I. No.6 Svitolina)
- Also in 2018 made SF at Moscow [River Cup] and first Grand Slam R16 at Wimbledon
- First broke into Top 50 on January 29

- Played all three ties during Belarus' run to its first Fed Cup final in 2017 – posted 5-1 record, including win over No.13 Stephens in final
- Highlight of 2016 was QF run at Tokyo [PPO] – won three rounds of qualifying before defeating Wickmayer in 1r and No.6 Ka.Pliskova in 2r; lost to eventual finalist Osaka
- Reached maiden WTA final at 2015 Seoul (as qualifier, I. Begu)
- Made Top 100 debut on September 8, 2015 (after US Open; rose from No.120 to No.97)
- In 2014 season won 11th and most recent singles title on ITF Circuit. Also owns seven ITF Circuit doubles titles
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2013 Brussels; made WTA main draw debut at 2014 US Open
- Belarusian Fed Cup Team, 2012-20
- Played first event of career at 2009 ITF/Minsk 2-BLR

MUGURUZA:

- Enters the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open as the No.4 seed
- Kicked off her campaign against No.50 Mladenovic, leveling their career head-to-head to 2-2; Also defeated the Frenchwoman en route to her seventh career WTA trophy at 2019 Monterrey
- Faces No.90 Sasnovich today for a spot in the R16. Aside from falling to unranked Pironkova at 2020 US Open, today would mark her worst loss-by-ranking since 2019 Wimbledon (l. No.121 Haddad Maia)
- Competing in doubles this week w/Brady. The pair defeated Gauff/Pegula in 1r and Sizikova/Alexandrova in 2r; will face the winner of Siegemund/Zvonareva vs. Sorribes Tormo/Podoroska in the QFs
- Last year in the Middle East, made back-to-back QFs at Dubai (l. Brady) and Doha (l. World No.1 Barty)
- Reached fourth Grand Slam singles final of career at 2020 Australian Open (l. Kenin in 3s). Was first Spaniard to reach the final at Melbourne Park since Conchita Martinez in 1998
- In 2019, successfully defended her title in Monterrey for seventh career WTA trophy (d. Azarenka in F)
- Is a two-time Grand-Slam champion winning titles at 2016 Roland Garros (d. S.Williams in F) and 2017 Wimbledon (d. V.Williams in F). Dropped only one set in Roland Garros title run
- Is only player to ever beat both Williams sisters in a Grand Slam final and one of 29 women in the Open Era to win multiple Grand Slam titles. One of just eight players all-time to defeat Serena in a Grand Slam final
- Also finished R-Up at 2015 Wimbledon (l. S.Williams) to make Top 10 debut. Is one of two players to meet both Williams sisters in the final of the same Grand Slam – also Hingis at US Open (1997, d. V.Williams; 1999, l. S.Williams)
- First Spaniard to reach Wimbledon final since Sánchez Vicario in 1996 and first to reach any Slam final since Conchita Martínez at 2000 Roland Garros
- Rose to World No.1 on September 11, 2017 to become the 24th woman in history to hold the top spot and second from Spain (after Sánchez Vicario in 1995). Also named ITF World Champion for 2017
- Reached R16 at Rio Olympics in 2016
- In 2015, became first Spanish player to compete at the WTA Finals in singles since 2001 (Sánchez Vicario) and reached doubles final (w/Suárez Navarro, l. Hingis/Mirza). Overall, has qualified three times for the season-ending championships (2015-17)
- Owns five WTA doubles titles, most recently at 2015 Tokyo [PPO] (w/Suarez Navarro), and reached SF at 2014 Roland Garros (w/Suarez Navarro); rose to No.10 in WTA doubles rankings on February 23, 2015.



MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN

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

- Advanced to R16 on WTA main draw debut at 2012 Miami (l. eventual champion A.Radwanska), defeating No.9 Zvonareva en route for first Top 10 win

[9] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #22) VS. COCO GAUFF (USA #48)

Head-to-head: MARIA SAKKARI leads 1-0

2020 CINCINNATI / NEW YORK HARD O R1 MARIA SAKKARI 6-1,6-3

SAKKARI		GAUFF	
Career Prize Money	\$3,540,619	Career Prize Money	\$1,061,874
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	July 25, 1995 (25)	Date of Birth (Age)	March 13, 2004 (16)
Singles Titles	1	Singles Titles	1
Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	1-0 / 93-86	YTD / Career W-L	1-0 / 22-13
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 30-36	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-6
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 29-17	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 6-2
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 56-56	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 17-10
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-13	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-2
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-33	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 3-3
Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-7	Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-1
Coach	Tom Hill	Coach	Corey Gauff

SAKKARI:

- Along with lucky losers Grammatikopoulou and Papamichail, was one of three Greek players to start the main draw of Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open
- Competing this week at No.22, just two shy of her career high of No.20
- Saved all four break points faced in defeat of 19-year-old No.102 Potapova in 1r
- Faces another teenager Gauff in 2r who she defeated last year in 1r of Western and Southern Open
- Owns 29-14 record in career 2r matches and reached the R16 in seven of 11 tournaments played last year
- By reaching 2r here, has already improved on last year's season opener where she fell 1r at Brisbane (l. Osaka)
- 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

GAUFF:

- At 16-years-old, is youngest of five teenagers to begin main draw at Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open
- Saved all six break points faced in impressive 6-0,6-1 win over alternate Eikeri in 1r
- Faces No.22 Sakkari today after falling to the Greek player in 1r of the Western and Southern Open last year
- Owns 4-7 record against players in the Top 25 and 5-5 record in career 2r matches at WTA tournaments
- Hoping to improve on last year's season opener where she reached 2r at Auckland (l. Siegemund)
- Ended 2020 season at No.48, just one shy of her career high which she reached on Oct. 26, 2020
- First cracked the Top 50 earlier in the season on Feb. 24, 2020 at No.49 following a R16 appearance at Australian Open to tie her career best Grand Slam result – during performance, defeated V.Williams in 1r and her first Top 5 opponent in No.4 Osaka in 3r (l. eventual champion Kenin in 3s)
- Enjoyed breakout season in 2019, finishing the year ranked No.68, having started the year ranked No.685
- Season highlighted by maiden WTA singles title at Linz (as lucky loser, d. Ostapenko in F) - earned her first Top 10 win en route to title over No.8 Bertens in QF
- At 15y214d, her title run in Linz made her youngest to win a WTA tour-level title since Vaidisova (15y177d) won Tashkent in 2004
- Also claimed maiden WTA doubles titles at Washington, DC (w/McNally, d. Sanchez/Stollar in F) and Luxembourg (w/McNally, d. Christian/Guarachi in F)
- By winning the doubles title at Washington, DC at 15 yrs, 144 days, became the youngest player to win a doubles title since May 1995 (Martina Hingis won Hamburg at 14 yrs, 219 days)
- Reached R16 at 2019 Wimbledon on Grand Slam main draw debut defeating V.Williams in 1r (l. eventual champion Halep) - followed with 3r showing at US Open (as WC, l. Osaka)
- Made WTA main draw debut as a wildcard at 2019 Miami where she earned her first WTA main draw win over good friend McNally (l. Kasatkina in 2r)
- Made professional debut in May 2018 as a qualifier into the \$25K ITF/Osprey, FL-USA
- Member of US Billie Jean King Cup team in 2020
- Former Junior World No.1 (July 2018)
- Won 2018 Roland Garros girls' title (d. McNally in F) and 2018 US Open doubles title (w/McNally)
- Finished R-Up at 2017 US Open girls' event (l. Anisimova) becoming the youngest girls' singles finalist in US Open History at 13-years-old