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ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN – QUARTERFINALS

[4] ARYNA SABALENKA (BLR #10) vs. [6] ELENA RYBAKINA (KAZ #19)

Sabalenka leads 1-0

Neither player has dropped a set through first three rounds... **Rybakina** looking for fifth career Top 10 win... **Sabalenka** on a career-best 12-match winning streak... Last year, the two players were tied at 29 for second most match wins on tour

[1] SOFIA KENIN (USA #4) vs. [9] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #22)

Kenin leads 2-0

While losing both matches, **Sakkari** has taken a set off the American in each meeting... **Kenin** owns a career 11-2 record in WTA QF matches... A victory today would mark **Sakkari's** fifth career Top 5 win... The two have already faced each other this week in doubles

MARTA KOSTYUK (UKR #99) vs. SARA SORRIBES TORMO (ESP #66)

Sorribes Tormo leads 1-0

Kostyuk playing in only her second career WTA quarterfinal match... **Sorribes Tormo** seeking to reach first WTA semifinal since 2017... Both players won a title on the ITF Circuit in 2020

VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (RUS #46) vs. [2] ELINA SVITOLINA (UKR #5)

Kudermetova leads 1-0

Kudermetova hoping to book first career WTA 500 semifinal... **Svitolina** saved two match points in 3r against another Russian, Alexandrova... A win today would mark **Kudermetova's** fifth career victory over Top 10 player

RANKING PROJECTIONS

*The points from Abu Dhabi will be added to the rankings on Monday, January 18.

- After Abu Dhabi, Ashleigh Barty and Simona Halep will stay at No.1 and No.2, respectively.
- **Sofia Kenin** can reach a new career high of No.3 by advancing to the SF, where she would overtake Naomi Osaka (the highest she can climb after Abu Dhabi). If Kenin falls in the QF, she will have the same ranking points total as Osaka, however, Osaka would own the tie-breaker, keeping Osaka at No.3 and Kenin at No.4
- **Elina Svitolina** will stay at No.5
- **Aryna Sabalenka** can move to No.9 (from No.10) if she wins the title
- **Elena Rybakina** can improve on her current ranking of No.19 by advancing to the final. She can move to No.18 as a finalist and No.15 by winning the title
- **Maria Sakkari** can improve on her ranking by reaching the final. She can move to No.21 as finalist. She can move to No.18 or No.19 by winning the title (depending on Rybakina).
- **Veronika Kudermetova, Sara Sorribes Tormo and Marta Kostyuk** will all improve on their career-best rankings by reaching QF and can climb the rankings even higher by going farther here in Abu Dhabi.

Kudermetova

QF = 1495 (No.44)

SF = 1560 (No.41)

F = 1680 (No.36)

W = 1845 (No.33)

Sorribes Tormo

QF = 1130 (No.61)

SF = 1195 (No.58)

F = 1315 (No.52)

W = 1480 (No.45)

Kostyuk

QF = 869 (No.87)

SF = 934 (No.78)

F = 1054 (No.67)

W = 1219 (No.57)

[4] ARYNA SABALENKA (BLR #10) VS. [6] ELENA RYBAKINA (KAZ #19)

Head-to-head: SABALENKA leads 1-0

2019 WUHAN HARD O QF ARYNA SABALENKA 6-3 1-6 6-1

SABALENKA		RYBAKINA	
Career Prize Money	\$6,804,310	Career Prize Money	\$1,466,978
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	May 5, 1998 (22)	Date of Birth (Age)	Jun. 17, 1999 (21)
Singles Titles	8	Singles Titles	2
Tournament W-L (MD)	3-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	3-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	3-0 / 129-62	YTD / Career W-L (MD)	3-0 / 58-23
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 44-23	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 17-9
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 28-26	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-10
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	3-0 / 104-40	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	3-0 / 39-15
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 12-13	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 4-4
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 25-18	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 6-6
Coach	Anton Dubrov	Coach	Stefano Vukov

SABALENKA:

- Entered this week on a nine match win streak having captured titles at last two events of 2020: Ostrava and Linz – win-streak now at 12 with victories here in Abu Dhabi
- 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
- Edged No.68 Tomljanovic in a tight 2r match 7-5 6-4, trailing by a break three times in the second set
- Continued run of form, not dropping a set against No.31 Jabeur to set up QF clash with No.19 Rybakina today
- Went 4-3 against fellow Top 20 players last year falling only players in that echelon when they were ranked above her: No.8 Bertens (Billie Jean King Cup), No.2 Halep (Dubai) and No.5 Svitolina (Strasbourg)
- One of three quarterfinalists to have not dropped a set through first three rounds (also today's opponent Rybakina and Sakkari)
- Posted a 4-1 mark in hardcourt QF matches in 2020 (lone loss to Yastremska in Adelaide); reached QF in half (5 of 10) hardcourt events played in 2020
- Win over Jabeur was revenge for the tough loss at last year's Roland Garros, which is also her last defeat in singles—since then has posted a perfect record, riding a career-best 12-match winning streak into today's QF clash
- Has enjoyed success in the first week of the season before, having captured the title in Shenzhen in 2019. However, failed to defend this title in 2020, falling 2r – as No.2 seed – at Shenzhen
- In her last event in the Middle East, won the third Premier 5 title of career at Doha last year (d. Kvitova in F)
- 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/Siniakova 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
- 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) and Top 20 on August 27 of same year (after New Haven)
- 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. Witthoef)
- 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
- Made debut on ITF Circuit in Minsk in 2012. 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

RYBAKINA:

- Entered this week two shy of her career high ranking of No.17
- Won 17 of 18 service games across the opening two rounds, enjoying straight set wins over No.394 Stefanini in 1r and No.123 Wang Xiyu in 2r
- Put an end to Kasatkina's run with routine straight sets victory to set up QF matchup vs. No.10 Sabalenka
- Today marks first hardcourt QF match since last year's runner-up finish in Dubai (l. Halep in 3s)
- A win today would mark fifth career Top 10 victory; has recorded wins over No.7 Garcia (2018 St. Petersburg), No.6 Halep (2019 Wuhan) and No.7 Kenin and No.3 Ka.Pliskova (both at 2020 Dubai)
- Led the tour last year in aces (193) and was tied for second on tour in match wins with today's opponent Sabalenka (29) – only Mertens (34) had more match wins in 2020
- One of four Kazakhstani players to begin 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) – her total of five finals reached in 2020 was more than any other player last year
- 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)

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

- Also in 2019, went on to make Top 50 debut on September 16, 2019, after reaching second career final at Nanchang (I. Peterson), produced SF appearances at Luxembourg and 's-Hertogenbosch, and made Grand Slam main draw debut at 2019 Roland Garros, falling 1r (as qualifier, I. 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 (I. 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, I. Begu in 1r)
- Professional debut came at \$10k ITF/Antalya-TUR in 2014

[1] SOFIA KENIN (USA #4) VS. [9] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #22)

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

2018	WIMBLEDON	GRASS O	R1	SOFIA KENIN	6-4, 1-6, 6-1
2019	US OPEN	HARD O	R2	SOFIA KENIN	4-6, 6-1, 6-4

KENIN		SAKKARI	
Career Prize Money	\$7,221,702	Career Prize Money	\$3,540,619
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Nov. 14, 1998 (22)	Date of Birth (Age)	July 25, 1995 (25)
Singles Titles	5	Singles Titles	1
Tournament W-L (MD)	3-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	3-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	3-0 / 96-53	YTD / Career W-L (MD)	3-0 / 95-86
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 37-19	3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 30-36
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	2-0 / 27-17	Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 29-17
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	3-0 / 74-37	Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	3-0 / 58-56
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 8-14	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 10-13
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-25	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 18-34
Coach	Alexander Kenin	Coach	Tom Hill

KENIN:

- Competing in the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open at her career high ranking of No.4 and as the only remaining American out of sic to start the main draw
- 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
- Trained 5-7 5-4 in 2r when opponent Flipkens was forced to retire with a left ankle injury—dropped final 12 points to lose the topsy-turvy first set that saw each player broke serve five times
- In the third round, saved a match point in the second set against No.28 Putintseva before taking the match 3-6, 7-6(5), 6-4
- Faces No. 22 Sakkari today for a spot in SF, has beaten the Greek player in their two previous meetings, however has given up a set in both outings
- Owns an impressive 11-2 record in QF matches only falling at 2018 Auckland (l. eventual R-Up Wozniacki) and 2019 Zhengzhou (l. eventual champion Ka.Pliskova)
- A win today would mark 75th career win on hardcourts
- Making just fourth appearance in the Middle East: reached 3r at 2019 Dubai (l. Kuzmova), while losing her opening matches at 2020 Dubai (l. Rybakina) and 2020 Doha (after 1r bye, l. Yastremska)
- Also played doubles this week with Tomljanovic; the pair beat Vekic/Sakkari in 1r (came back from 4-6 1-5 down) and No.7 seeds Xu/Yang in 2r, will face Rus/Zidansek in QF later today
- 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
- 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

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
- Has broken serve nine times across wins over teenagers Potapova in 1r and Gauff in 2r
- Saved 12 out of 13 break points faced in defeat of No.15 Muguruza in 3r for first Top 20 win of the year and 18th of her career
- One of three quarterfinalists to not have dropped a set through three rounds – also Sabalenka and Rybakina
- Faces No.4 Kenin today looking for her eleventh career Top 10 win and fifth over a player in the Top 5 - most recently defeated No.5 Svitolina at Ostrava in October
- Already faced Kenin this week in Abu Dhabi in doubles along with partner Vekic fell to the American and Toljanovic in a tight three set match
- Last season, began her campaign with 1r exit 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

MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN

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- 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

MARTA KOSTYUK (UKR #99) VS. SARA SORRIBES TORMO (ESP #66)

Head-to-head: SORRIBES TORMO leads 1-0

2018 WIMBLEDON GRASS O Q32 SARA SORRIBES TORMO 7-5 7-6(5)

KOSTYUK		SORRIBES TORMO	
Career Prize Money	\$640,502	Career Prize Money	\$1,780,814
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Jun. 27, 2002 (18)	Date of Birth (Age)	Oct. 7, 1996 (24)
Singles Titles	0	Singles Titles	0
Tournament W-L (MD)	3-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	3-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	3-0 / 11-14	YTD / Career W-L (MD)	3-0 / 53-75
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 1-7	3-Set (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 21-20
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-1 / 3-2	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-9
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	3-0 / 7-6	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	3-0 / 24-37
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-3	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 1-6
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-4	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-16
Coach	Talya Beiko	Coach	Silvia Soler Espinosa

KOSTYUK:

- Has only dropped one set this week en route to second career WTA QF appearance, defeating the likes of Hradecka, Hsieh and Zidansek
- Rybakina, Sorribes Tormo and Kostyuk are the lone QF contenders who have yet to encounter a seeded player this week
- The Ukrainian faces off against No.66 Sorribes Tormo for the second time in her career today – marks lone QF matchup between two unseeded Abu Dhabi contenders
- Seeking first career semifinal appearance at WTA level event, having fallen in first and only WTA QF appearance at 2019 Strasbourg (I. Garcia in 3s)
- Produced best year-end finish of career at No.98 in 2020, highlighted by second career 3r at a major in Flushing Meadows
- Achieved career high ranking of No.97 on November 2, 2020
- Returned to tennis at Palermo following shutdown, falling in qualifying. Also made 1r exit at Prague (as qualifier, I. Giorgi)
- Prior to hiatus, last event played was Lyon, falling 1r (as qualifier, I. Bonaventure)
- In February of 2020, picked up third ITF singles title of career, at a \$60k event in Cairo. Also won doubles there, w/Rakhimova
- Opened 2020 season with qualifying losses at Brisbane and Australian Open
- Finished 2019 ranked No.155, down from career-best No.118 in 2018
- Season highlight was reaching first WTA QF, at Strasbourg (I. Garcia)
- In 2018, enjoyed breakout result at Australian Open, reaching 3r (as qualifier, I. Svitolina)
- Also that season, made 2r at Stuttgart (as qualifier, I. Garcia)
- Won first ITF Circuit title of career at \$25k ITF/Dunakeszi-HUN in 2017 (d. Pera in F)
- Played first WTA qualifying at 2017 Mallorca (I. Kalinskaya in 1r)
- Ukrainian Fed Cup Team 2018-20
- Won the ITF Junior Masters event in Chengdu, China in October 2017

- Rose as high as No.3 in junior rankings in June 2017
- Played first professional event at \$10k ITF/Kharkhiv-UKR in August 2016 (fell in 1r)
- Made Grand Slam main draw debut at 2018 Australian Open and reached 3r, having received a WC into the qualifying event by virtue of winning the junior title there in 2017 (d. Masarova in F). Was first player born in 2002 to play in a Grand Slam main draw
- Was youngest player to reach the 3r at a major since 1997 US Open when Mirjana Lucic-Baroni (15 years, 182 days) reached this stage
- Became the youngest player to win a Slam main draw match since CiCi Bellis defeated Cibulkova at the 2014 US Open when she was 15 years 4 months old
- In between 2018 Australian Open and 2020 US Open, fell in Roland Garros and US Open qualifying in 2018, then again lost in qualifying at Australian Open, Paris and Wimbledon across 2019, and last year also fell before main draw at Australian Open
- Aside from 2017 Australian Open girls' singles title, won junior doubles at 2017 US Open (w/Danilovic)
- Born and resides in Kiev, Ukraine. Also trains in Monaco
- Began playing tennis at age five; hails from a tennis family
- Father is Oleg Kostyuk; mother is Talyna Beiko; one of the reasons Marta started tennis was so she could spend more time with her mother
- Has two sisters, Zovyana and Mariya
- Father was technical director of the Antey Cup junior tournament in Kiev; mother achieved a WTA ranking in the 400s in the 1990s and won a \$10k ITF title in Kiev in 1994 – now coaches Marta
- One of Marta's first coaches was her uncle Taras Beyko, a respected player for the USSR and Ukraine in the late 1980s and early 1990s
- Formerly worked also with Glenn Schaap and Luka Kutanjac

SORRIBES TORMO:

- Lone Spaniard remaining, of three to begin main draw of the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open (Muguruza and Badosa)
- 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
- Backed up her 1r performance with back-to-back wins over No.62 Pera and No.292 Gasanova to propel her into today's QF matchup against No.99 Kostyuk
- Seeking first WTA level semifinal since 2017 Gstaad (l. SF to Bertens); 0-8 in QF appearances since then
- 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/Brody) 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

MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN

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- Fell 1r on Grand Slam main draw debut at 2016 Roland Garros (as qualifier, I. 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/Essen-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, I. Ormaechea)
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2012 Barcelona (l. 1r)
- Played first professional event at \$10k ITF/Vallduxo-ESP in 2010

VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (RUS #46) VS. [2] ELINA SVITOLINA (UKR #5)

Head-to-head: VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA leads 1-0

2019 MOSCOW HARD I R16 VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA 6-2, 1-6, 7-5

KUDERMETOVA		SVITOLINA	
Career Prize Money	\$1,676,537	Career Prize Money	\$19,860,259
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	March 24, 1997 (23)	Date of Birth (Age)	Sep. 12, 1994 (26)
Singles Titles	0	Singles Titles	15
Tournament W-L (MD)	3-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	3-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	3-0 / 48-40	YTD / Career W-L (MD)	3-0 / 287-155
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 19-13	3-Set (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 85-50
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 17-11	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	1-1 / 62-47
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	3-0 / 29-25	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	3-0 / 208-106
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 4-3	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 33-38
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 5-8	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 61-69
Coach	Sergey Demekhine	Coach	Andrew Bettles

KUDERMETOVA:

- Sole Russian remaining after a tournament leading seven started the main draw here in Abu Dhabi
- Defeated No.23 Kontaveit in 1r for ninth career win over a player ranked in the Top 25
- Saved the only break point faced in her second round 6-2, 6-1 win over qualifier Turati
- Dropped her first set of the year in third round victory over Badosa on Sunday, would go on to win 6-4, 4-6, 6-1
- Faces No.5 Svitolina today hoping to book first SF at a WTA 500 event or higher
- Has earned four Top 10 wins already in her career with two wins over Top 5 opponents including over No.5 Svitolina at 2019 Moscow as well as over No.3 Ka.Pliskova at the 2020 Western and Southern Open
- Owns 3-13 record in QF matches advancing to the final four at 2019 's-Hertogenbosch (l. Riske), 2019 Hiroshima (l. Doi), 2019 Tianjin (l. Watson) and 2020 Hobart (reached SF by walkover, l. Zhang)
- Only one of her three QF match wins have come over a player ranked higher than her (d. No.23 Yastremaska at 2019 Tianjin)
- During last year's Middle East swing, made 2r at both Doha and Dubai
- Began 2020 season with qualifying exit at Brisbane and then SF run at Hobart
- Scored first win over a Top-3 ranked opponent by upsetting No.3 Ka.Pliskova at 2020 Western & Southern Open. Other highlights in 2020 included aforementioned Hobart SF and closing out season with back-to-back QFs at Ostrava and Linz
- Won 27 main-draw matches during 2019 – had previously won six across entire career – to rise over sixty places in the WTA rankings, making Top 100 debut on February 4 and Top 50 debut on September 9
- Singles highlights in 2019 included reaching maiden WTA SF at 's-Hertogenbosch (l. eventual champion Riske), 3r at Roland Garros (d. No.13 Wozniacki in 1r – her maiden Grand Slam main draw win and also first over a Top 20 opponent – l. Kanepi) and winning WTA 125K Series title at Guadalajara (d. Bouzkova in F)
- Posted first two Top 10 wins of career in final weeks of 2019, over No.10 Bencic at Wuhan and No.4 Svitolina at Moscow
- Fell 1r on Grand Slam main draw debut at 2019 Australian Open (as qualifier, l. Kenin)

- Won career first WTA doubles title at 2019 Wuhan with Duan (d. Mertens/Sabalenka in F); also in 2019 was R-Up at Charleston (w/Khromacheva) and Lugano (w/Voskoboeva)
- Posted maiden career WTA QF runs in 2018, first at 's-Hertogenbosch (l. eventual champion Krunic) and then Gstaad (l. Bouchard)
- Reached 2r on WTA main draw debut at 2018 Stuttgart (d. No.25 Suárez Navarro, l. eventual champion Ka.Pliskova)
- WTA qualifying debut came at 2014 Moscow
- Made Billie Jean King Cup debut in 2014 vs. Australia (l. Stosur – her first Tour-level match)
- On ITF Circuit, owns four singles – most recently at 2018 \$25K Keito-JPN – and 16 doubles titles
- Made professional debut at \$50K ITF/Kazan-RUS in 2014

SVITOLINA:

- Enters Abu Dhabi as the No.2 seed joining No.4 Kenin as one of two Top 5 ranked players in the field
- Has won 16 of 17 service games across straight-set wins over Pegula in 1r and Zvonareva in 2r
- Saved two match points in a third set tiebreak against Alexandrova in 3r on Sunday after dropping the second set in another tiebreak
- Faces another Russian, No.46 Kudermetova, today hoping to book a spot in SF
- Owns 34-22 career record in QF matches – 17 of the 22 QF losses have come to players ranked lower than her and five to players outside the Top 40
- Last year, advanced to the final four twice and would go on to win title each of those times (Monterrey and Strasbourg)
- Suffered just three losses last year to players outside the Top 40: No.84 Hibino (QF, Hua Hin), No.52 Brady (1r, Dubai) and No.131 Podoroska (QF, Roland Garros)
- 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) – was one of just four players in 2020 to win more than one title: also Halep (3), Sabalenka (3) and Kenin (2)
- 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

MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN

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

- 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
- 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)

Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open - Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Head-to-Heads

Quarter Finals

KUDERMETOVA, VERONIKA vs SVITOLINA, ELINA

KUDERMETOVA, VERONIKA 1 - 0

Year	Tournament Name	Surface	I-O	Round	Winner	rank _ seed	rank _ seed	Scores
2019	MOSCOW	HARD	I	R16	KUDERMETOVA, VERONI	42 *	4 1	6-2 1-6 7-5

KENIN, SOFIA vs SAKKARI, MARIA

KENIN, SOFIA 2 - 0

Year	Tournament Name	Surface	I-O	Round	Winner	rank _ seed	rank _ seed	Scores
2018	WIMBLEDON	GRASS	O	R128	KENIN, SOFIA	76 *	37 *	6-4 1-6 6-1
2018	US OPEN	HARD	O	R64	KENIN, SOFIA	65 *	30 32	4-6 6-1 6-4

KOSTYUK, MARTA vs SORRIBES TORMO, SARA

SORRIBES TORMO, SARA 1 - 0

Year	Tournament Name	Surface	I-O	Round	Winner	rank _ seed	rank _ seed	Scores
2018	WIMBLEDON	GRASS	O	Q R32	SORRIBES TORMO, SAR/	102 3	134 23	7-5 7-6(5)

SABALENKA, ARYNA vs RYBAKINA, ELENA

SABALENKA, ARYNA 1 - 0

Year	Tournament Name	Surface	I-O	Round	Winner	rank _ seed	rank _ seed	Scores
2019	WUHAN	HARD	O	Q	SABALENKA, ARYNA	14 9	50 *	6-3 1-6 6-1