



MATCH NOTES

bett1

bett1open

BERLIN

JUNE 14 – 20, 2021

FINAL MATCH-UP

**LIUDMILA
SAMSONOVA [Q]**

0-0
HEAD-TO-HEAD RECORD

**BELINDA
BENCIC 5**

Samsonova is appearing in her maiden WTA final, while Bencic is into her 12th... Bencic has lost five times to players ranked outside Top 50 this season... Samsonova is the fifth qualifier to reach a WTA final this season... Bencic owns one title on grass and was Wimbledon girls' singles champion in 2013... Samsonova will break into Top 100 for the first time in next week's rankings

A LOOK AT THE FINALISTS

PLAYER	GRASS W/L	YTD W/L	CAREER W/L	YTD PRIZE \$	CAREER PRIZE \$	YTD TITLES	TITLES
[5] Belinda Bencic (SUI)	36-15	16-11	163-123	487,057	8,654,869	0	4
[Q] Liudmila Samsonova (RUS)	4-1	9-8	14-21	168,145	629,704	0	0

BY THE NUMBERS

PLAYER	Aces	DF	Service Pts Won	Service Games Won	Return Points Won	Return Games won
[5] Belinda Bencic (SUI)	26	20	65.5%	85.7%	38.9%	22%
[Q] Liudmila Samsonova (RUS)	29	17	68.5%	89.1%	37.5%	20%

A SNAPSHOT OF 2021 SEASON

- Top 10 Debut (1): Iga Swiatek (at No.9 on May 17)
- Fewest games dropped en route to a title: Paula Badosa (20, Belgrade)
- Lowest-ranked player to triumph: María Camila Osorio Serrano (No.180, Bogotá)
- Youngest title winner: Coco Gauff, Parma (17y 70d)
- Oldest title winner: Sorana Cirstea, Istanbul (31y 18d)
- Aces leaders: Ashleigh Barty – 209, Veronika Kudermetova – 187, Karolina Pliskova – 171, Ons Jabeur – 170,
- Most aces in a match (21): Karolina Pliskova (d. Ostapenko 6-7(9) 6-4 6-3 – Stuttgart, 2r)
- Singles titles (3): Ashleigh Barty (Yarra Valley Classic, Miami, Stuttgart)
- Doubles titles (3): Shuko Aoyama / Ena Shibahara (Abu Dhabi, Yarra Valley, Miami), Alexa Guarachi (Adelaide, Dubai, Strasbourg)
- Most Top 10 wins (6): Ashleigh Barty (No.8 Sabalenka, No.5 Svitolina and No.9 Andreescu at Miami, No.9 Ka.Pliskova, No.5 Svitolina and No.7 Sabalenka at Stuttgart)
- Longest Match: 3h 51m – Sara Sorribes Tormo d. Camila Giorgi 7-6(4), 6-7(7), 7-5 (Rome 1r)



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WIN



WIN

**106**

**LIUDMILA
SAMSONOVA**
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**BELINDA
(5) BENCIC** **12**
SWITZERLAND

1998-11-11	Date of Birth	1997-03-10
Rome, Italy	Residence	Wollerau, Switzerland
Right-Handed	Plays	Right-handed (two-handed backhand)
5' 11"	Height	5' 9" (1.75 m)
105	Career-High Ranking	4
\$629,704	Career Prize Money	\$8,654,869
\$168,145	Season Prize Money	\$487,057
0 / 0	Singles Titles YTD / Career	0 / 4
1-5 (Round of 64: 2021 Australian Open)	Grand Slam W-L (best)	39-23 (Semi-Finalist: 2019 US Open)
4-0 / 4-0	YTD / Career BERLIN W-L (best)	4-0 / 4-0
9-8 / 15-20	YTD / Career W-L	16-11 / 163-123
4-0 / 4-1	YTD / Career Grass W-L	4-0 / 36-15
2-3 / 7-7	YTD / Career 3-Set W-L	7-3 / 66-42
5-3 / 7-5	YTD / Career TB W-L	5-1 / 49-26
2-1 / 2-3	YTD / Career TOP 20 W-L	0-4 / 29-44
Final: Berlin	YTD Best Result	Runner-Up: Adelaide



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SAMSONOVA**

**BELINDA
BENCIC**

HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

YEAR	TOURNAMENT	SURFACE	ROUND	WINNER	SCORE/ RESULT	TIME
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First career meeting

RANKING HISTORY

TOP RANK	YEAR-END	YEAR	TOP RANK	YEAR-END
105	-	2021	11	-
114	127	2020	4	12
123	139	2019	7	8
177	180	2018	37	37
520	552	2017	42	165
1076	1078	2016	7	43
837	-	2015	12	14
864	864	2014	33	33
-	-	2013	212	212
-	-	2012	614	626



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TOURNAMENT HISTORY

CURRENT TOURNAMENT

QF: d. M. KEYS (#28) 7-6 2-6 7-6 (2h 24m)
SF: d. V. AZARENKA (#16) 6-4 6-2 (1h 6m)
2r: d. V. KUDERMETOVA (#32) 6-4 6-3 (1h 20m)
1r: d. M. VONDROUSOVA (#41) 6-4 7-6 (1h 41m)

Total time on court: 6h 31m

PLAYER NOTES

- Making debut on German soil this week at the inaugural bett1open
- Came through qualifying last week, beating Akughe Noha and Konjuh; trailed Konjuh 4-1 in the final set
- In the main draw, has beaten Marketa Vondrousova, Veronika Kudermetova, Madison Keys and Victoria Azarenka to reach her maiden WTA final
- Against Azarenka in Saturday's SF, struck an impressive 24 winners - including 11 aces - while committed only six unforced errors
- Previous best result at this level was SF run as a LL at 2019 Palermo
- Faces No.12 Belinda Bencic in today's final; owns two wins in career over Top 20 players, over No.11 Bertens at 2021 Miami and No.16 Azarenka earlier this week
- Record against seeded players this year stands at 2-5
- Bidding to become the ninth first-time title winner on Tour this season, following on from Tauson (Lyon), Sorribes Tormo (Guadalajara), Fernandez (Monterrey), Kudermetova(Charleston), Sharma (Charleston 250), Osorio Serrano (Bogotá), Badosa (Belgrade) and Krejckikova (Strasbourg)
- Is the fifth qualifier to reach a final this year and first to do so at a WTA 500 event
- Prior to this week, only WTA tournament on grass was 1r exit at 2019 Nottingham (I. Golubic)
- Sole Russian remaining from four in the starting field
- Has served well this week, hitting a tournament-leading 29 aces. Has also won 89.1% of her service games (up on her season average of 70.2%)
- Is currently ranked No.106 and will break into the Top 100 for the first time in next week's rankings

CURRENT TOURNAMENT

SF: d. A. CORNET (#63) 7-5 6-4 (1h 47m)
QF: d. E. ALEXANDROVA (#34) 6-4 4-6 7-6 (2h 31m)
2r: d. P. MARTIC (#25) 6-3 6-4 (1h 23m)
1r: d. J. NIEMEIER (#167) 4-6 6-4 7-5 (2h 12m)

Total time on court: 7h 53m

PLAYER NOTES

- Appearing in the inaugural edition of the bett1open; before this week, had never reached a WTA QF on German soil
- Made a slow start to the week, in 1r edging past German qualifier Niemeier in three tight sets, before a more straightforward victory over Martic in 2r on Wednesday
- Was pushed hard by unseeded Alexandrova in QF, winning a 64-minute deciding set on a tie-break; had lost her previous two encounters to the Russian, at 2021 Stuttgart and 2019 Eastbourne
- Hit 29 winners and only 19 unforced errors during SF victory over Cornet
- Faces No.106 Liudmila Samsonova in today's final; has lost five times to players ranked outside Top 50 this year, falling to No.53 Mladenovic (Rome), No.62 Badosa (Madrid), No.71 Badosa (Charleston), No.88 Potapova (Dubai) and No.72 Cirstea (Grampians Trophy)
- Owns 20-16 career record against players from Russia in main draw matches, while is 3-3 in 2021 (d. Kuznetsova at Australian Open, Kudermetova at Dubai and Alexandrova at Berlin; I. Potapova at Dubai, Alexandrova at Stuttgart and Kasatkina at Roland Garros)
- Owns 7-1 record this season against qualifiers and lucky losers, with sole defeat coming to Mladenovic at Rome
- Record in WTA finals stands at 4-7 (1-2 on grass)
- Owns a fine record on grass, winning 2015 Eastbourne, finishing R-Up at 2015 's-Hertogenbosch and 2019 Mallorca. At Wimbledon, has also reached the second week twice and lifted girls' singles title in 2013
- Has hit 26 aces this week (second only to Samsonova on 29), helping her win 85.7% of her service games (up on her season average of 66.7%)
- Only player from Switzerland in the draw



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SAMSONOVA**

**BELINDA
BENCIC**

SEASON 2021 HISTORY

- Following Roland Garros, made QF at \$25k ITF/Grado-ITA and 2r in WTA 125K Series event in Bol
- Reached 2r at Parma (as qualifier, l. Martic). Also contested qualifying at Rome and Roland Garros
- In Charleston, made 2r at Volvo Car Open (l. Gauff) then exited in 1r at MUSC Health Women's Open (l. Tauson)
- Enjoyed 3r run at Miami (as qualifier, l. Sakkari); upset No.11 Bertens in 2r for first career Top 20
- Fell 1r at Phillip Island Trophy (l. Sorribes Tormo) and Adelaide (as qualifier, l. Martic)
- Reached 2r at Australian Open (as qualifier, l. Muguruza); win over Badosa in 1r was first in main draw at a major
- Reached 2r at Australian Open (as qualifier, l. Muguruza); win over Badosa in 1r was first in main draw at a major
- Suffered 1r exit at Yarra Valley Classic (l. Pironkova)
- Defeated Tsurenko in final round of Australian Open qualifying event in Dubai
- Suffered 2r exit at Roland Garros (l. Kasatkina)
- Advanced to QF at Madrid (l. Badosa), then fell 1r at Rome (l. Mladenovic)
- Fell 2r at Charleston (after 1r bye, l. Badosa) and Stuttgart (l. Alexandrova)
- Before that, made 3r showings at Miami (l. Vondrousova in 3s) and Dubai (l. Potapova), as well as suffering a 1r exit at Doha (l. Keys)
- Finished R-Up at Adelaide (l. Swiatek); record in WTA finals is now 4-7
- Made 3r run at the Australian Open (l. Mertens) – beat Davis in 1r and Kuznetsova in 2r to register back-to-back wins for the first time since QF run at 2020 Doha
- Opened 2021 season with 2r exit at the Grampians Trophy (after 1r bye, l. Cirstea) in what was her first match since last September at Rome (after 1r bye, l. Kovinic)

VALUE	WTA RANK	MATCH STATS	VALUE	WTA RANK
102	13	Aces	108	12
57%	196	First serve %	58%	184
69%	19	First Serve points won %	68%	23
46%	64	Second serve points won %	46%	74
59%	21	Overall service points won %	59%	23
70%	29	Service games won %	66%	52
56%	51	Break points saved %	56%	50
30%	210	First serve return points won %	32%	192
50%	188	Second serve return points won %	54%	122
43%	144	Break points converted %	44%	129
25%	182	Return games won %	27%	168
38%	205	Return points won %	41%	163

- Best win by ranking: No.16 vs Azarenka in BERLIN SF
- Longest match: 3h 8m vs Sorribes Tormo in MELBOURNE 250 1r
- Best win by ranking: No.37 vs Kuznetsova in AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2r
- Longest match: 2h 45m vs Gauff in ADELAIDE 500 SF

- Shortest match: 1h 2m vs Mertens in AUSTRALIAN OPEN 3r



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TITLES & GRAND SLAMS

SINGLES FINALS

Champion (4)

2019-MOSCOW,DUBAI
2015 - TORONTO, EASTBOURNE

Runner-Up (7)

2021 - ADELAIDE 500
2019 - MALLORCA
2018 - LUXEMBOURG
2016 - ST. PETERSBURG
2015 - TOKYO, 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH
2014 - TIANJIN

DOUBLES FINALS

Champion (2)

2015 - WASHINGTON DC (w/Mladenovic), PRAGUE
(w/Siniakova)

AUSTRALIAN OPEN	ROLAND GARROS	WIMBLEDON	US OPEN		AUSTRALIAN OPEN	ROLAND GARROS	WIMBLEDON	US OPEN
2r				2021	3r	2r		
1r	1r		1r	2020	3r			
	1r			2019	3r	3r	3r	SF
				2018	2r	2r	4r	1r
				2017	1r			
				2016	4r		2r	3r
				2015	1r	2r	4r	3r
				2014	2r	1r	3r	QF



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CAREER MILESTONES

- Ended 2020 with R-Up finish at \$25k ITF/Reims-FRA
- Last season also reached 2r at Brisbane (as qualifier, d. No.24 Stephens, l. No.7 Kvitova) and Palermo (as qualifier, l. Martic), and fell 1r four times (including Australian Open, US Open and Roland Garros); posted career-high ranking of No.114 after Australian Open (February 3, 2020)
- Finished 2019 at No.139 – her best season-ending finish after ending the year with a 32-28 record
- Appeared in the first six WTA main draws of her career in 2019, highlighted by SF run at Palermo (l. eventual champion Teichmann), 2r showing at Lausanne (l. Han) and falling 1r on Grand Slam main draw debut at Roland Garros (as qualifier, l. Vekic)
- Contested qualifying at a WTA event for the first time at 2019 St. Petersburg, while fell 1r on her main draw bow at Roland Garros that year
- Owns four singles titles on the ITF Circuit, most recently at \$60K Saint-Malo-FRA in 2018
- Made professional debut at \$10K ITF/Gonesse-FRA in 2013
- Across a disrupted 2020 reached three QFs, at Adelaide, St. Petersburg and Doha
- Enjoyed a stellar season in 2019, in which she lifted two titles – at Dubai (d. Kvitova in F) and Moscow (d. Pavlyuchenkova in F) and posted a career-best 49 Tour-level match wins in 2019 – only Ka.Pliskova (52), Barty (54) and Bertens (55) scored more. By contrast, posted a combined total of 37 wins at this level across 2016-18
- Victory in Moscow ensured she became first Swiss player to compete in singles at the WTA Finals since Hingis in 2006, going on to reach SF at the season-ending showpiece in Shenzhen
- Equaled her career-high ranking of No.7 following Moscow title run (October 21, 2019)
- Also in 2019, marked 20th Grand Slam main draw by reaching her maiden major SF at US Open (l. eventual champion Andreescu) and finished R-Up at Mallorca (l. Kenin after holding 3mp at 5-4 in second set)
- Was voted WTA Comeback Player of the Year in 2019
- Led the WTA with six victories over Top 5 players in 2019, including upsets over No.1 Osaka at Indian Wells, Madrid and US Open
- Standout result in 2018 was R-Up finish at Luxembourg (as qualifier, l. Goerges)
- In first round at 2018 Australian Open, defeated No.5 V.Williams. Having also upset then-No.1 S.Williams in SF at 2015 Toronto is one of seven women to defeat both Williams sisters before their 21st birthday (also Hingis, Sharapova, Clijsters, Henin, Chakvetadze and Osaka)
- Underwent left wrist surgery in spring 2017, missing five months – ranking fell outside Top 300
- Run to 2016 St. Petersburg final saw her break into Top 10 (at No.9) for the first time in her career; became 116th player to break into the Top 10 since computerized rankings were introduced in 1975. In the last 20 years, 11 players have made their Top 10 debut before their 19th birthday
- At 2015 Eastbourne, at 18y 109d, became second youngest player to win a WTA Premier level final (Wozniacki won 2008 New Haven aged 18y 43d)
- With 2015 Toronto triumph, became first teenager to win an event at Premier 5 level or higher since Azarenka at 2009 Miami
- Qualified for 2015 WTA Elite Trophy in Zhuhai however withdrew due to hand injury
- Won second WTA doubles title of career in 2015 at Washington, DC (w/Mladenovic), the first

coming earlier in the year at Prague (w/Siniakova)

- Voted 2014 WTA Newcomer of the Year after a campaign highlighted by R-Up finish at Tianjin (l. Riske) and QF run at 2014 US Open (defeated No.7 Kerber in 3r, No.10 Jankovic in R16); at 17 years of age, was youngest player through to last eight at Flushing Meadows since 1997 when Hingis won the title
- Played first WTA qualifying event at Luxembourg in October 2011, and first WTA main draw 12 months later at same event as WC (l. V.Williams, 1r); only 15 years, 7 months at the time
- Won junior singles titles at Roland Garros and Wimbledon in 2013; was named ITF Junior World Champion for 2013

OTHER INFORMATION

- Currently trains in Rome with Alessandro Dumitrache, formerly worked with Alessandro Piccari
- Parents are Dmitry Samsonov and Svetlana Samsonova
- Hobbies include listening to and playing music, attending concerts and watching films
- Idolizes Maria Sharapova
- Favorite shot is her forehand and favorite surface to play on is hard court

- Currently working with Sebastian Sachs
- Father, Ivan, sometimes serves as her tennis coach, and Martin Hromkovic as her fitness coach. Mother is Dana; younger brother is Brian who also plays and coaches tennis; father emigrated to Switzerland from then-Czechoslovakia in 1968
- Started playing at Melanie Molitor's (mother of Martina Hingis) tennis school at age 3 until age 19 (started daily training with her from age 6 for eight years)
- Also visit the Nick Bollettieri and Evert Tennis Academy as a Junior
- Enjoys watching movies, reading, playing with dogs, baking, painting, and seeing friends