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ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN – QUICK FACTS

Main draw dates:	January 6-13, 2021
Singles Final:	Wednesday, January 13, 12:00 noon
Doubles Final:	Wednesday, January 13, after singles final
Venue:	Zayed Sports City International Tennis Centre
Status:	WTA 500
Staging:	Tournament's first year
Draw sizes:	64 singles / 28 doubles teams / 32 singles qualifying
Surface:	Laykold / Outdoors
Total prize money:	USD \$565,530
Tennis Ball:	Dunlop Fort All Court

SINGLES	USD \$	RANK POINTS
Winner	68,570	470
Runner-Up	50,130	305
Semifinalist	26,745	185
Quarterfinalist	12,675	120
Round of 16	6,480	55
Round of 32	4,100	30
Round of 64	2,500	1

DOUBLES	USD \$	RANK POINTS
Winner	7,258	470
Runner-Up	4,032	305
Semifinalist	2,606	185
Quarterfinalist	1,598	100
Round of 16	1,226	55
Round of 32	2,020	1

MAIN DRAW QUICK-HITS

Seeds: Sofia Kenin, Elina Svitolina, Karolina Pliskova, Aryna Sabalenka, Garbiñe Muguruza, Elena Rybakina, Elise Mertens, Marketa Vondrousova

Most career WTA singles titles: Karolina Pliskova (16)

Prize money leader: Garbiñe Muguruza (\$21,159,801)

Youngest singles player: Coco Gauff, 16 years old (March 13, 2004)

Oldest singles player: Vera Zvonareva, 36 years old (September 7, 1984)

TOURNAMENT TALKING POINTS

- This opening tournament of 2021 season takes place at the Zayed Sports City International Tennis Centre, previously home to the Mubadala World Tennis Championship exhibition event.
- Four of the Top 10 players in the world are in the draw, including reigning Australian Open champion, **Sofia Kenin**, who opens her season against a qualifier.
- No.4 seed **Aryna Sabalenka** ended 2020 in a rich vein of form, winning her final nine matches to capture back-to-back titles, at Ostrava and Linz, and ensuring she ended the year inside the Top 10 for the first time. Monday's draw paired the Belarusian with **Polona Hercog** in the first round.

- **Sabalenka**, who also lifted the Doha title last year, is one of several players in the draw to have tasted success previously in the Middle East. **Elise Mertens** (2019 Doha), **Karolina Pliskova** (2017 Doha), **Elina Svitolina** (2017-18 Dubai) and **Vera Zvonareva** (2011 Doha) are the others to have hoisted silverware during the WTA's traditional February tour of this part of the world.
- Five teenagers gained direct entrance into the draw: **Coco Gauff** (16), **Leylah Fernandez** (18), **Marta Kostyuk** (18), **Anastasia Potapova** (19) and **Wang Xiyu** (19).
- **Yaroslava Shvedova** is also in the draw, continuing her comeback from ankle surgery in 2017 and then maternity leave after giving birth to twins in October 2018.
- The draw contains the WTA's three most successful players in terms of hard court wins last year: **Elise Mertens** (25-9), **Sabalenka** (23-7) and **Elena Rybakina** (22-7).
- *One to Watch* – **Ons Jabeur**. At last January's Australian Open, Jabeur became the first Arab woman to reach the quarterfinals at a major. The Tunisian built on this success by reaching the last eight at a further four tournaments in 2020, rising to a career-high ranking of No.31 after the Western & Southern Open at the end of the summer.

COUNTRY AND REGION BREAKDOWN

Excluding qualifiers, a total of 26 countries and regions are represented in the main draw, led by Russia and the USA with six players:

Argentina (1)	Nadia Podoroska
Australia (1)	Ajla Tomljanovic
Belgium (2)	Kirsten Flipkens, Elise Mertens
Belarus (2)	Aryna Sabalenka, Aliaksandra Sasnovich
Canada (1)	Leylah Fernandez
China (4)	Wang Qiang, Wang Xiyu, Wang Yafan, Zhu Lin
Chinese Taipei (1)	Hsieh Su-Wei
Croatia (1)	Donna Vekic
Czech Republic (4)	Barbora Krejickova, Karolina Muchova, Karolina Pliskova, Marketa Vondrousova
Estonia (1)	Anett Kontaveit
France (3)	Alizé Cornet, Fiona Ferro, Kristina Mladenovic
Germany (2)	Mona Barthel, Laura Siegemund
Great Britain (1)	Heather Watson
Italy (2)	Jasmine Paolini, Martina Trevisan
Kazakhstan (4)	Zarina Diyas, Yulia Putintseva, Elena Rybakina, Yaroslava Shvedova
Latvia (1)	Anastasija Sevastova
Montenegro (1)	Danka Kovinic
Netherlands (1)	Arantxa Rus
Norway (1)	Ulrikke Elkeri
Romania (1)	Sorana Cirstea
Russia (6)	Ekaterina Alexandrova, Daria Kasatkina, Veronika Kudermetova, Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Anastasia Potapova, Vera Zvonareva
Slovenia (3)	Polona Hercog, Kaja Juvan, Tamara Zidansek
Spain (3)	Paula Badosa, Garbiñe Muguruza, Sara Sorribes Tormo
Tunisia (1)	Ons Jabeur
Ukraine (2)	Marta Kostyuk, Elina Svitolina
United States (6)	Jennifer Brady, Coco Gauff, Jamie Loeb, Sofia Kenin, Jessica Pegula, Bernarda Pera

LAST SEASON'S WTA TOUR FINALS

Week of	Level	Tournament	Singles Final	Doubles Final
January 6	Premier Int. Int.	Brisbane, AUS Shenzhen, CHN Auckland, NZL	[2] Pliskova d. [8] Keys 64 46 75 [5] Alexandrova d. [7] Rybakina 62 64 [1] Williams d. Pegula 63 64	Hsieh/Strycova d. Barty/Bertens 36 76(7) 108 Krejčíková/Siniakova d. Duan/Zheng 62 36 104 Muhammad/Townsend d. Williams/Wozniacki 64 64
January 13	Premier Int.	Adelaide, AUS Hobart, AUS	[1] Barty d. Yastremska 62 75 [3] Rybakina d. [4] Zhang 76(7) 63	Melichar/Xu d. Dabrowski/Jurak 26 75 105 Kichenok/Mirza d. Peng/Zhang 64 64
January 20	GS	Melbourne, AUS	[14] Kenin d. Muguruza 46 62 62	Babos/Mladenovic d. Hsieh/Strycova 62 61
February 10	Premier Int.	St. P'burg, RUS Hua Hin, THA	[2] Bertens d. [8] Rybakina 61 63 [5] Linette d. [Q] Kung 63 62	Aoyama/Shibahara d. Christian/Guarachi 46 60 103 Rodionova/Sanders d. Haas/Perez 63 63
February 17	Premier	Dubai, UAE	[1] Halep d. Rybakina 36 63 76(5)	Hsieh/Strycova d. Krejčíková/Zheng 76 36 105
February 24	Premier Int.	Doha, QAT Acapulco, MEX	[9] Sabalenka d. [8] Kvitova 63 63 [7] Watson d. [Q] Fernandez 64 67(8) 61	Hsieh/Strycova d. Dabrowski/Ostapenko 62 57 102 Krawczyk/Olmos d. Bondarenko/Fichman 63 76(5)
March 2	Int. Int.	Lyon, FRA [1] Kenin d. Friedsam 62 46 64 Monterrey, MEX [1] Svitolina d. [9] Bouzkova 75 46 64	Paar/Wachaczyk d. Pattinama Kerkh./Schoofs 75 64 Bondarenko/Fichman d. Kato/Wang 46 63 107	
August 3	Int.	Palermo, ITA	Ferro d. [4] Kontaveit 62 75	Rus/Zidansek d. Cocciaretto/Trevisan 75 75
August 10	Int. Int.	Prague, CZE Lexington, USA	[1] Halep d. [3] Mertens 62 75 Brady d. Teichmann 63 64	Hradecka/Pliskova d. Niculescu/Olaru 62 62 Carter/Stefani/Bouzkova/Teichmann 61 75
August 17	Premier 5	New York, USA	Azarenka d. [4/WC] Osaka w/o	Peschke/Schuurs d. Melichar/Xu 64 46 104
August 31	GS	New York, USA	[4] Osaka d. Azarenka 16 63 63	Zvonareva/Siegemund d. Melichar/Xu 64 64
September 6	Int.	Istanbul, TUR	Tig d. [Q] Bouchard 26 61 76(4)	Guarachi/Krawczyk d. Perez/Sanders 61 63
September 14	Premier 5	Rome, ITA	[1] Halep d. [2] Ka.Pliskova 60 21 ret.	Hsieh/Strycova d. Friedsam d. Olaru 62 62
September 21	Int.	Strasbourg, FRA	[2] Svitolina d. [5] Rybakina 64 16 62	Melichar/Schuurs d. Carter/Stefani 64 63
September 27	GS	Roland Garros	Swiatek d. [4] Kenin 64 61	Babos/Mladenovic d. Guarachi/Krawczyk 64 75
October 19	Premier	Ostrava, CZE	[3] Sabalenka d. [4] Azarenka 62 62	Mertens/Sabalenka d. Dabrowski/Stefani 61 63
October 26	Int.	Linz, AUT	[1] Sabalenka d. [2] Mertens 75 62	Rus/Zidansek d. Hradecka/Siniakova 63 64

A SNAPSHOT OF LAST SEASON

- **Top 10 Debut (1):** 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:** Patricia Maria Tig (No.88, Istanbul)
- **Most titles (3):** Simona Halep: 3 (Dubai - W; Prague - W; Rome - W); Aryna Sabalenka: 3 (Doha - W; Ostrava - W; Linz - W)
- **Maiden titles (4):** Ekaterina Alexandrova (Shenzhen), Jennifer Brady (Lexington), Patricia Maria Tig (Istanbul), Iga Swiatek (Roland Garros)
- **Youngest title winner:** Iga Swiatek, Roland Garros (19y 132d)
- **Oldest title winner:** Serena Williams, Auckland (38y 108d)
- **Aces leaders:** Elena Rybakina – 193, Serena Williams – 178, Aryna Sabalenka – 165
- **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:** Elise Mertens – 34, Elena Rybakina – 29, Aryna Sabalenka – 29, Sofia Kenin – 24
- **Most three-set wins (11):** Aryna Sabalenka (11-5 record)
- **Most doubles titles (4):** Barbora Strycova / Hsieh Su-Wei (Brisbane, Dubai, Doha, Rome)
- **Best result by a qualifier (R-Up):** Kung (Hua Hin), Fernandez (Acapulco), Bouchard (Istanbul)
- **Longest match:** 3h 33m – Heather Watson d. Elise Mertens 6-7(5) 6-4 7-5 (Hobart, QF)
- **Shortest (completed) match:** 39m – Ekaterina Alexandrova d. Storm Sanders 6-1 6-0 (Strasbourg, 1r)
- **Most Top 10 wins (3):** Garbiñe Muguruza (No.3 Simona Halep, No.5 Elina Svitolina and No.10 Kiki Bertens – all at Australian Open); Jelena Ostapenko (No.7 Sofia Kenin in Fed Cup, No.8 Kiki Bertens at Strasbourg, No.4 Karolina Pliskova at Roland Garros); Maria Sakkari (No.5 Belinda Bencic at St. Petersburg, No.9 Serena Williams at Western & Southern Open, No.5 Elina Svitolina at Ostrava)

LAST SEASON & CAREER PRIZE MONEY LEADERS

PLAYER	2020 TOTAL
Sofia Kenin (USA)	\$4,302,970
Naomi Osaka (JPN)	\$3,352,755
Iga Swiatek (POL)	\$2,261,213
Victoria Azarenka (BLR)	\$1,991,783
Garbiñe Muguruza (ESP)	\$1,942,072
Simona Halep (ROU)	\$1,937,890
Petra Kvitova (CZE)	\$1,505,967
Jennifer Brady (USA)	\$1,319,956
Aryna Sabalenka (BLR)	\$1,239,684
Elise Mertens (BEL)	\$1,123,558

PLAYER	CAREER TOTAL
Serena Williams (USA)	\$93,634,967
Venus Williams (USA)	\$41,958,284
Maria Sharapova (RUS)	\$38,777,962
Simona Halep (ROU)	\$37,045,910
Caroline Wozniacki (DEN)	\$35,233,415
Petra Kvitova (CZE)	\$32,572,604
Victoria Azarenka (BLR)	\$32,347,228
Angelique Kerber (GER)	\$29,853,978
Agnieszka Radwanska (POL)	\$27,683,807
Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUS)	\$25,483,600

ALPHABETIC PLAYER LIST

MAIN DRAW SINGLES

2021 Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open - Abu Dhabi, Un

PLAYER NAME	RANK SEED			CAREER @ TRN			YEAR-TO-DATE			CAREER		CAREER HGH		TITLES	
	12/28/2020	NAT	AGE	PRIZE	W / L		PRIZE	W / L		PRIZE	W / L	RANK	DATE	YTD	CAR
ALEXANDROVA, EKATERINA	33	17	RUS	26	0 / 0		0 / 0			2,352,603	299 / 176	25	2/17/2020	1	
BADOSA, PAULA	70		ESP	23	0 / 0		0 / 0			869,558	231 / 133	69	10/12/2020	0	
BARTHEL, MONA	228		GER	30	0 / 0		0 / 0			3,732,609	370 / 275	23	3/18/2013	4	
BRADY, JENNIFER	24	11	USA	25	0 / 0		0 / 0			3,329,416	226 / 155	24	10/26/2020	1	
CIRSTEA, SORANA	71		ROU	30	0 / 0		0 / 0			5,828,599	453 / 340	21	8/12/2013	1	
CORNET, ALIZÉ	53		FRA	30	0 / 0		0 / 0			7,691,170	455 / 364	11	2/16/2009	6	
DIYAS, ZARINA	80		KAZ	27	0 / 0		0 / 0			3,055,671	316 / 220	31	1/12/2015	1	
EIKERI, ULRIKKE	260		NOR	28	0 / 0		0 / 0			251,793	365 / 224	206	4/16/2018	0	
FERNANDEZ, LEYLAH	88		CAN	18	0 / 0		0 / 0			413,017	81 / 48	88	10/26/2020	0	
FERRO, FIONA	42		FRA	23	0 / 0		0 / 0			1,239,176	211 / 170	42	10/12/2020	2	
FLIPKENS, KIRSTEN	86		BEL	34	0 / 0		0 / 0			5,487,193	522 / 383	13	8/5/2013	1	
GAUFF, CORI	48		USA	16	0 / 0		0 / 0			1,061,874	50 / 27	47	10/26/2020	1	
HERCOG, POLONA	49		SLO	29	0 / 0		0 / 0			3,817,370	420 / 283	35	9/12/2011	3	
HSIEH, SU-WEI	67		TPE	35	0 / 0		0 / 0			8,675,742	505 / 321	23	2/25/2013	3	
JABEUR, ONS	31	15	TUN	26	0 / 0		0 / 0			2,565,796	297 / 179	31	8/31/2020	0	
KASATKINA, DARIA	72		RUS	23	0 / 0		0 / 0			6,389,451	226 / 128	10	10/22/2018	2	
KENIN, SOFIA	4	1	USA	22	0 / 0		0 / 0			7,221,702	214 / 120	4	3/9/2020	5	
KONTAVEIT, ANETT	23	10	EST	25	0 / 0		0 / 0			4,876,713	309 / 163	14	4/1/2019	1	
KOSTYUK, MARTA	99		UKR	18	0 / 0		0 / 0			640,502	103 / 49	97	11/2/2020	0	
KOVINIC, DANKA	77		MNE	26	0 / 0		0 / 0			1,787,074	313 / 239	46	2/22/2016	0	
KREJCIKOVA, BARBORA	65		CZE	25	0 / 0		0 / 0			2,970,249	270 / 155	65	11/16/2020	0	
KUDERMETOVA, VERONIKA	46		RUS	23	0 / 0		0 / 0			1,676,537	238 / 160	38	2/3/2020	0	
LOEB, JAMIE	255		USA	25	0 / 0		0 / 0			496,064	197 / 157	132	2/5/2018	0	
MERTENS, ELISE	20	7	BEL	25	0 / 0		0 / 0			7,080,203	324 / 172	12	11/26/2018	5	
MLADENOVIC, KRISTINA	50		FRA	27	0 / 0		0 / 0			11,790,915	339 / 295	10	10/23/2017	1	
MUCHOVA, KAROLINA	27	12	CZE	24	0 / 0		0 / 0			1,908,869	211 / 103	21	11/4/2019	1	
MUGURUZA, GARBIÑE	15	5	ESP	27	0 / 0		0 / 0			21,159,801	395 / 200	1	9/11/2017	7	
PAOLINI, JASMINE	96		ITA	25	0 / 0		0 / 0			668,940	240 / 174	93	3/2/2020	0	
PAVLYUCHENKOVA, ANASTASIA	38		RUS	29	0 / 0		0 / 0			10,350,533	430 / 293	13	7/4/2011	12	
PEGULA, JESSICA	63		USA	26	0 / 0		0 / 0			1,364,219	255 / 174	55	8/5/2019	1	
PERA, BERNARDA	62		USA	26	0 / 0		0 / 0			1,543,703	293 / 169	59	3/2/2020	0	
PLISKOVA, KAROLINA	6	3	CZE	28	0 / 0		0 / 0			20,401,433	541 / 297	1	7/17/2017	16	
PODOROSKA, NADIA	47		ARG	23	0 / 0		0 / 0			777,563	277 / 146	47	11/16/2020	0	
POTAPOVA, ANASTASIA	101		RUS	19	0 / 0		0 / 0			842,869	104 / 65	64	7/22/2019	0	
PUTINTSEVA, YULIA	28	13	KAZ	25	0 / 0		0 / 0			4,756,428	300 / 232	27	2/6/2017	1	
RUS, ARANTXA	74		NED	30	0 / 0		0 / 0			1,760,511	522 / 320	61	8/13/2012	0	
RYBAKINA, ELENA	19	6	KAZ	21	0 / 0		0 / 0			1,466,978	170 / 74	17	2/24/2020	2	
SABALENKA, ARYNA	10	4	BLR	22	0 / 0		0 / 0			6,804,310	235 / 121	9	2/4/2019	8	
SAKKARI, MARIA	22	9	GRE	25	0 / 0		0 / 0			3,540,619	327 / 220	20	2/24/2020	1	
SASNOVICH, ALIAKSANDRA	90		BLR	26	0 / 0		0 / 0			3,317,829	304 / 196	30	9/10/2018	0	
SEVASTOVA, ANASTASIJA	54		LAT	30	0 / 0		0 / 0			7,535,114	418 / 242	11	10/15/2018	4	
SHVEDOVA, YAROSLAVA	999		KAZ	33	0 / 0		0 / 0			6,451,455	350 / 265	25	10/29/2012	1	
SIEGEMUND, LAURA	51		GER	32	0 / 0		0 / 0			3,176,660	491 / 322	27	8/29/2016	2	
SORRIBES TORMO, SARA	66		ESP	24	0 / 0		0 / 0			1,780,814	295 / 196	64	6/10/2019	0	

ALPHABETIC PLAYER LIST

MAIN DRAW SINGLES

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	12/28/2020	NAT	AGE	PRIZE	W / L	PRIZE	W / L	PRIZE	W / L	RANK	DATE	YTD	CAR
SVITOLINA, ELINA	5	2	UKR	26	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	19,860,259	387 / 200	3	9/11/2017	15	
TOMLJANOVIC, AJLA	68		AUS	27	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	3,212,658	305 / 229	39	4/1/2019	0	
TREVISAN, MARTINA	85		ITA	27	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	726,766	214 / 116	83	10/12/2020	0	
VEKIC, DONNA	32	16	CRO	24	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	4,498,280	268 / 202	19	11/4/2019	2	
VONDROUSOVA, MARKETA	21	8	CZE	21	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	3,478,362	165 / 66	14	7/1/2019	1	
WANG, QIANG	34		CHN	28	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	4,608,203	397 / 255	12	9/9/2019	2	
WANG, XIYU	123		CHN	19	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	327,566	97 / 59	106	3/2/2020	0	
WANG, YAFAN	95		CHN	26	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1,939,544	240 / 168	47	10/7/2019	1	
WATSON, HEATHER	58		GBR	28	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	3,909,405	317 / 251	38	1/19/2015	4	
ZHU, LIN	91		CHN	26	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1,192,424	322 / 208	69	2/17/2020	0	
ZIDANSEK, TAMARA	87		SLO	23	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1,014,196	230 / 98	56	7/22/2019	0	
ZVONAREVA, VERA	164		RUS	36	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	14,621,665	551 / 281	2	10/25/2010	12	

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ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN – DAY ONE

WANG QIANG (CHN #34) vs. DARIA KASATKINA (RUS #72)

Kasatkina leads 4-1

Kasatkina won they met at Zhuhai in 2018... **Wang** is one of four Chinese players in the main draw... **Kasatkina** has enjoyed success in the Middle East before, finishing runner-up at 2018 Dubai

VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (RUS #46) vs. [10] ANETT KONTAVEIT (EST #23)

Kudermetova leads 2-0

Kudermetova beat defending champion **Kontaveit** at 2018 's-Hertogenbosch... **Kontaveit** has lost to players outside Top 30 at her past three events... **Kudermetova** is one of six Russians in the draw

[9] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #22) vs. ANASTASIA POTAPOVA (RUS #101)

Potapova leads 1-0

Potapova won their sole career meeting, in qualifying at 2017 Miami... **Sakkari** lost to a player outside the Top 100 only once in 2020... **Potapova** finished her 2020 campaign by making three consecutive QFs

ANASTASIA PAVLYUCHENKOVA (RUS #38) vs. [15] ONS JABEUR (TUN #31)

Jabeur leads 1-0

Jabeur triumphed in three sets when the pair met at 2017 Dubai... **Pavlyuchenkova** starting the year inside Top 50 for 12th year in a row... **Jabeur** is most successful Arab woman in WTA history

[16] DONNA VEKIC (CRO #32) vs. BERNARDA PERA (USA #62)

First meeting

Pera three spots off career-high ranking... **Vekic** looking for first win since 2020 US Open... **Vekic** is Croatian No.2, while **Pera** has Croatian heritage and trains in Zagreb

[17] EKATERINA ALEXANDROVA (RUS #33) vs. ZARINA DIYAS (KAZ #80)

First meeting

Alexandrova promoted to No.17 seed following Anisimova's withdrawal... **Diyas's** last Top 50 win came at 2020 Australian Open... **Alexandrova** opened last season with Shenzhen title run

QIANG WANG (CHN #34) VS. DARIA KASATKINA (RUS #72)

Head-to-head: DARIA KASATKINA leads 4-1

2018	ZHUHAI	HARD O	RR	DARIA KASATKINA	6-1 2-6 7-5	115 mins
2018	MADRID	CLAY O	R1	DARIA KASATKINA	7-5 7-6(6)	117 mins
2017	US OPEN	HARD O	R1	DARIA KASATKINA	6-7(7) 6-2 6-3	130 mins
2016	US OPEN	HARD O	R1	QIANG WANG	6-4 2-6 6-2	120 mins
2016	DOHA	HARD O	R1	DARIA KASATKINA	6-1 2-6 6-3	98 mins

WANG		KASATKINA	
Career Prize Money	\$4,608,203	Career Prize Money	\$6,389,451
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Jan. 14, 1992 (28)	Date of Birth (Age)	May 7, 1997 (23)
Singles Titles	2	Singles Titles	2
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 134-106	YTD / Career W-L	0-0 / 103-97
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 48-36	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 30-41
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 25-22	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 24-16
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 86-72	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 84-70
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 12-22	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 7-16
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 25-43	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 17-29
Left-handed (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 3-7	Left-handed (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 10-9
Coach	Pat Cash	Coach	Carlos Martínez

Q. WANG:

- Faces No.72 Kasatkina in the opening match of Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open, which is also the first WTA main draw match of 2021 season – all their four previous meetings on hard court went three sets (Wang trailed 1-3)
- One of four Chinese players who are direct entries in the main draw, along with Zhu Lin, Wang Yafan and Wang Xiyu
- Due to various concerns with the pandemic and waist injury (lumbar disc herniation), did not play again following 1r exit at Doha
- Last Autumn, split with coach Thomas Drouet; now working with Pat Cash on a trial basis
- Ended 2020 ranked at No.34, the third consecutive season finish as Chinese No.1
- Year highlighted by upsetting 23-time Grand Slam champion S.Williams en route to reach R16 for the first time at Australian Open (l. Jabeur)
- Enjoyed a string of career-best results across 2019 season, which included reaching first career Grand Slam QF at US Open with best win-by-ranking by defeating No.2 Barty in R16
- Her US Open run made her just the fifth Chinese woman to reach a Grand Slam QF (after Li Na, Zheng Jie, Peng Shuai and Zhang Shuai)
- Her new career-high ranking of No.12 following New York result made her the second highest ranked Chinese singles player in history (after No.2 Li Na)
- Additionally posted best result at Wimbledon by advancing to 3r and also reached second Premier Mandatory QF at Miami
- Enjoyed breakout 2018 campaign with career-best year-end finish at No.20 and 37 main draw match wins (including four Top 10 victories), her first season of 30 or more wins in career

- Posted an impressive 23-6 win-loss record on home soil in 2018: Nanchang (WON), Guangzhou (WON), Wuhan (SF), Beijing (SF), Hong Kong (R-UP) and Zhuhai (R-UP)
- Dropped just 18 games en route to second career title at Guangzhou – the fewest games lost in winning a WTA singles title in 2018 – becoming the fourth Chinese woman to win the title in the tournament's 15-year history, joining Li (2004), Yan (2005) and Zhang (2013 and 2017)
- Lifted first tour-level title in July at Nanchang (d. Zheng Saisai in F following ret. w/fatigue)
- Achieved first Top 50 year-end finish in 2017, finishing as China's No.3. Ascended 25 spots from No.70 in 2016 to No.45 in 2017, marking third Top 100 season in four years
- Advanced to first WTA SF at 2017 Hong Kong (l. Pavlyuchenkova) and captured WTA 125K Series title in Zhengzhou
- Registered first Top 10 win of career over No.10 Wozniacki in 1r at 2013 Kuala Lumpur
- First broke into Top 100 on November 3, 2014 and Top 50 on May 22, 2017
- On ITF Circuit, owns 13 singles and one doubles title
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2007 Beijing and main draw debut at 2012 Baku
- Played first events of career on ITF Circuit in China
- Gold medalist at 2018 Asian Games
- Represented China at Rio Olympics and member of Chinese Billie Jean King Cup Team, 2012-2016, 2020

KASATKINA:

- Faces No.34 Wang Qiang in today's 1r; held a 1-10 mark vs. Top 50 opponents last year, with sole win coming against No.19 Rybakina at Ostrava
- One of six Russian players in the main draw this week, along with Alexandrova, Kudermetova, Pavlyuchenkova, Potapova and Zvonareva
- Highlight of truncated 2020 season was SF showing at Lyon (l. Friedsam) – her first run to the last four at a WTA event since lifting title at 2018 Moscow [Kremlin Cup]
- Won consecutive matches only twice in difficult 2019 campaign, with best result a QF run at Premier Mandatory China Open (l. Wozniacki)
- Ended 2018 season by lifting her second WTA singles title at Moscow [Kremlin Cup]. Recovered from a set and 6-2 4-1 down to defeat Jabeur in final; broke into Top 10 following the tournament, on October 22, 2018
- Knocked out No.2 seed Wozniacki en route to her first Grand Slam QF, at 2018 Roland Garros
- Reached biggest final of career at 2018 Indian Wells (l. Osaka), having upset No.2 Wozniacki, No.10 Kerber and No.8 V.Williams along the way
- Made Top 20 debut on February 26, 2018, following R-Up finish at Dubai (d. No.3 Muguruza, l. Svitolina)
- Upset No.1 Wozniacki during SF run at 2018 St. Petersburg; having also beaten Kerber at 2017 Sydney, is one of six players in WTA history to have multiple wins over World No.1s before their 21st birthday, also V.Williams (9), S. Williams (8), Sharapova (4) Kenin (2) and Kuznetsova (2)
- Captured maiden WTA singles title in debut final at 2017 Charleston, defeating fellow teenager Ostapenko in F – the first all-teenage final on tour since 2009 Linz (Wickmayer d. Kvitova)

MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN

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

- Ended 2016 as the highest-ranked teenager on tour, at No.27, after a campaign in which she reached a second career WTA SF, at St. Petersburg and made QF stage at Indian Wells, Charleston, Montréal, Rio Olympics and Moscow
- Made Top 50 debut on February 15, 2016, following St. Petersburg run
- Upset No.7 V.Williams in opening match of 2016 season at Auckland to register the first Top 10 win of her career
- Made Billie Jean King Cup debut in World Group quarter-final defeat to Netherlands in 2016. Has also represented Russia in the competition in 2017 and 2019 and at 2016 Olympics
- Reached first WTA SF at 2015 Moscow (as qualifier, I. Pavlyuchenkova, having recorded first Top 20 win over No.14 Suárez Navarro in QF); following the tournament made Top 100 debut at No.73 (October 26, 2015)
- Reached 3r at 2015 US Open (as LL, I. Mladenovic) on Grand Slam debut (main draw and qualifying). Earlier in summer of 2015, won back-to-back matches for first time at a WTA tournament during QF run at Bad Gastein (as qualifier, I. Errani)
- Also in 2015, won maiden WTA doubles title at 2015 Moscow (w/Vesnina), lifted five singles titles on ITF Circuit and was nominated for WTA Newcomer of the Year in 2015
- Fell 1r on WTA main draw debut at 2014 Moscow (as WC, I. Riske)
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2013 Moscow

VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (RUS #46) VS. [10] ANETT KONTAVEIT (EST #23)

Head-to-head: VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA leads 2-0

2018	'S-HERTOGENBOSCH	GRASS O	R1	VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA	6-4 7-6(4)	100 mins
2015	ITF/MOSCOW	HARD I	R1	VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA	6-3 6-2	N/A

KUDERMETOVA		KONTAVEIT	
Career Prize Money	\$1,676,537	Career Prize Money	\$4,876,713
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Apr. 24, 1997 (23)	Date of Birth (Age)	Dec. 24, 1995 (25)
Singles Titles	0	Singles Titles	1
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 45-40	YTD / Career W-L	0-0 / 124-99
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 24-14	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 43-34
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 17-11	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 32-31
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 26-25	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 77-64
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 4-3	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 11-20
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 5-8	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 18-33
Left-handed (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 8-3	Left-handed (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 12-10
Coach	Sergey Demkhin	Coach	Nigel Sears

KUDERMETOVA:

- Faces Kontaveit in 1r today; won their previous encounter, at 2018 's-Hertogenbosch, where the Estonian was defending champion
- During last year's Middle East swing, made 2r at both Doha and Dubai
- One of six Russians – the joint-most in the draw with USA – in the draw (also Alexandrova, Kasatkina, Pavlyuchenkova, Potapova and Zvonareva)
- 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 Krunić) 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)

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- 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

KONTAVEIT:

- Faces No.46 Kudermetova in 1r today; lost five times to players outside Top 30 last season, including in her past three tournaments
- Last year in the Middle East, made QF at Dubai and 2r at Doha
- Opened 2020 season with early exits at Brisbane and Adelaide before going on to reach QF at Australian Open
- During an interrupted 2020, reached sixth final of career at Palermo (l. Ferro) and posted 21 match wins across the season (joint-fifth most, level with Jabeur)
- Made Grand Slam breakthrough by reaching maiden major QF at Australian Open (l. Halep), becoming the first Estonian to make the last eight at Australian Open, also the first Estonian to reach a Grand Slam QF since Kanepi at 2017 US Open
- Finished 2019 ranked No.26 despite missing final two months of the season w/viral illness
- Reached her fifth career final in 2019 at Stuttgart (l. Kvitova). Also in 2019, advanced to her first Premier Mandatory SF at Miami (l. eventual champion Barty), which propelled her to a career high ranking of No.14 (April 1, 2019)
- In 2018, season highlighted by fourth WTA singles final at Wuhan (l. Sabalenka); posted 33 main draw wins – the first time she had registered 30 or more wins in a season
- Breakthrough season came in 2017, winning first career singles title at 2017 's-Hertogenbosch (d. Vikhlyantseva in F). Also reached finals at Biel/Benne (l. Vondrousova) and Gstaad (l. Bertens)
- Broke into Top 30 for first time at No.27 following run at Gstaad (July 24, 2017)
- Posted her first career win over a reigning No.1 with defeat of Kerber at 2017 Rome
- In 2016, played main draw at all four Grand Slams for first time, but dropped out of Top 100
- Made Top 100 debut on September 14, 2015 at No.96, up from No.152. One of five teenagers in 2015 year-end Top 100
- Scored first Top 20 win of career over No.17 Errani at 2016 Monterrey (2r)
- Made WTA main draw debut at 2013 Miami as WC (l. McHale, 1r)
- Played first events of career on ITF Circuit in 2010; owns 11 singles titles and five doubles titles on ITF Circuit
- Junior highlights included winning 2011 Orange Bowl, defeating Bouchard and Putintseva en route

[9] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #22) VS. ANASTASIA POTAPOVA (RUS #101)

Head-to-head: ANASTASIA POTAPOVA leads 1-0 (first main draw meeting)

2017 MIAMI HARD O R1-Q ANASTASIA POTAPOVA 6-4 0-6 7-6(2)

SAKKARI		POTAPOVA	
Career Prize Money	\$3,540,619	Career Prize Money	\$842,869
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	July 25, 1995 (25)	Date of Birth (Age)	March 30, 2001 (19)
Singles Titles	1	Singles Titles	0
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 92-86	YTD / Career W-L	0-0 / 29-26
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 30-36	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 15-11
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 29-17	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-4
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 55-56	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 17-18
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-13	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 1-3
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-33	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-7
Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-7	Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 5-4
Coach	Tom Hill	Coach	Iain Hughes

SAKKARI:

- Faces No.102 Potapova in 1r of Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open as the sole representative this week from Greece
- Last loss to a player outside the Top 100 came in 3r of 2020 Roland Garros at the hands of No.159 Trevisan – before that, had not lost to a player outside of the Top 100 since 2019 Indian Wells (l. No.140 Mchale in 1r)
- 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

POTAPOVA:

- Faces No.22 Sakkari in today's 1r as one of a tournament leading six (tied with USA) Russians in the main draw
- Defeated the Greek player in their only meeting in 2017 Miami qualifying
- Last defeated a Top 50 player at 2019 Roland Garros taking out No.5 Kerber in 1r for best by-ranking win of career
- Owns 2-9 record against players in the Top 25 with only other win coming over No.13 Sevastova at 2019 Prague
- Posted three straight QFs in 2020 at St. Petersburg (as qualifier, l. eventual champion Bertens), Acapulco (l. R-Up Fernandez) and Monterrey (l. Konta); did not play after the tour's resumption in August
- Finished 2019 season ranked No.93 after a season highlighted by SF at Budapest (l. Vondrousova) and Jurmala (l. Sevastova). Posted career-high ranking of No.64 on July 22, 2019
- Scored first Top 10 win over No.5 Kerber in 1r at 2019 Roland Garros
- In doubles, won titles at 2018 Moscow [River Cup] (w/Zvonareva) and 2019 Lausanne (w/Sizikova)
- Highlights of 2018 season were R-Up finishes at Tashkent (as qualifier, l. Gasparyan) and at Moscow [River Cup] (l. Danilovic)
- Run to final at Moscow [River Cup] marked first QF appearance at a WTA500 event
- Made Billie Jean King Cup debut during 2018's defeat to Slovakia in February (l. Kuzmova)
- Reached 2r at St. Petersburg in February 2018 (l. Wozniacki). Win over Maria in 1r was first at tour level
- On ITF Circuit owns one singles and two doubles titles
- Fell 1r on Grand Slam main draw debut at 2017 Wimbledon (as qualifier, l. Maria); at 16 years and three months, became youngest player to successfully navigate Slam qualifying since Ana Konjuh, who had just turned 16 when she did it at 2014 Australian Open
- Captured 2016 Wimbledon girls junior title, having to win final point three separate times after two challenge overrules – title lifted her to Junior World No.1. In junior doubles, posted two runner-up finishes at 2015 US Open and 2016 Roland Garros

ANASTASIA PAVLYUCHENKOVA (RUS #38) VS. [15] ONS JABEUR (TUN #31)

Head-to-head: ONS JABEUR leads 1-0

2017 DUBAI

HARD O

R64

ONS JABEUR

7-6(6) 2-6 6-4

PAVLYUCHENKOVA		JABEUR	
Career Prize Money	\$10,350,533	Career Prize Money	\$2,565,796
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	July 3, 1991 (29)	Date of Birth (Age)	Aug. 28, 1994 (26)
Singles Titles	12	Singles Titles	0
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 349-263	YTD / Career W-L	0-0 / 60-72
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 116-93	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 19-30
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 87-73	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 17-24
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 259-175	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 44-54
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 34-67	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 4-8
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 65-116	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 10-16
Left Handers (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 30-32	Left Handers (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 6-4
Coach	Giovani Samaha	Coach	Issam Jellali/Karim Kammoun

PAVLYUCHENKOVA:

- Faces World No.31 and No.15 seed Jabeur in 1r of Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open
- A win today would be best-by-ranking since ousting No.4 Bencic during the opening round at 2020 Dubai (I. Kontaveit)
- One of six Russians – the joint-most in the draw with America – in the draw (also Potapova, Kasatkina, Kudermetova, Alexandrova and Zvonareva)
- At 2020 Roland Garros, made 50th main draw appearance at a major – one of 10 active players to reach this milestone
- Upset No.2 Ka.Pliskova and former champion Kerber en route to QF at 2020 Australian Open
- Advanced to two finals in 2019 – both at Premier-level – at Osaka (I. Osaka in F) and Moscow (I. Bencic in F). Also made QF in Melbourne in 2019 to match best Grand Slam result (I. Collins), upsetting No.9 Bertens and No.5 Stephens en route
- Notched only win over a reigning World No.1 against Kerber during run to fourth Monterrey title in 2017
- Represented Russia at 2016 Rio Olympics, losing to eventual gold medalist Puig in 2r
- In doubles, owns 12 titles and has reached QF of all four majors – most recently at 2018 US Open w/Sevastova. Career-high doubles ranking is No.21 (September 16, 2013)
- In 2011, won 39 main draw matches, one title and reached first two Grand Slam QFs to end the year inside Top 20 for the first time
- Made Top 20 debut at No.20 on September 13, 2010, after R16 showing at US Open
- Won the first title of her career at Monterrey in 2010 (d. Hantuchova in F); has gone on to lift this title three more times (2011, 2013 and 2017)
- Advanced to maiden WTA SF at 2009 Indian Wells, scoring first Top 10 wins of her career en route, over No.3 Jankovic and No.10 A.Radwanska
- Broke into Top 100 in singles on July 7, 2008 – following run through qualifying to 3r at Wimbledon – and entered Top 50 on November 3 of the same year

- Reached first two WTA QFs in 2008, first on clay at Palermo and then on hard at Tokyo [Japan Open]
- Made Grand Slam debut at 2007 Wimbledon as a WC, losing 6-0 6-1 to No.10 seed Hantuchova
- Played first WTA main draw as a wildcard at 2006 Moscow
- Named 2006 ITF Junior World Champion, having won girls' singles titles at Australian Open (2006-07) and US Open (2006)

JABEUR:

- Enters the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open on a career-high ranking of No.31
- In today's opening round, faces No.38 Pavlyuchenkova. Leads head-to-head at 1-0 with sole win coming after a 3s battle at 2017 Dubai
- Reached maiden Grand Slam QF at 2020 Australian Open to become the first Arab woman to reach that stage at a major (l. eventual champion Kenin); made Top 50 debut at No.45 after breakthrough performance in Melbourne
- Made further QFs in 2020 at Doha (d. No.3 Ka.Pliskova, l. Kvitova), Lexington (l. Gauff), Western & Southern Open (l. eventual champion Azarenka) and Ostrava (l. Sakkari); posted career-high ranking of No.31 on August 31, 2020
- Season highlights in 2019 were matching best result at the Slams with 3r run at US Open (matching 2017 Roland Garros and now 2020 Australian Open) and SF appearances at Eastbourne (l. eventual R-Up Kerber) and Tianjin (l. eventual champion Peterson)
- In 2018, defeated No.3 seed Stephens, No.8 seed Kontaveit and No.5 seed Sevastova en route to her first WTA final at 2018 Moscow, where she fell in three sets to No.6 seed Kasatkina. Was first Tunisian woman to advance beyond QF at a WTA tournament (Sfar was the only other Tunisian to reach a QF at this level)
- Prior to 2018 Moscow, best tour-level results were QF runs at 2013 Baku, 2017 Taipei City and 2018 Bucharest
- Owns four Top 10 victories, over No.7 Cibulkova (2017 Roland Garros), No.1 Halep (2018 Beijing), No.8 Stephens (2018 Moscow) and No.3 Ka.Pliskova (2020 Doha)
- Member of Tunisian Olympic Team in 2012 and 2016
- Contested first two WTA main draws in 2012, at Doha (as WC) and Olympics
- On ITF Circuit, has 11 singles and one doubles title
- Played first event of career at 2008 ITF/EI Menzah-TUN
- Became first North African woman to win a junior Slam at 2011 Roland Garros (d. Puig in F), having also reached the final in 2010 (l. Svitolina in F)

[16] DONNA VEKIC (CRO #32) VS. BERNARDA PERA (USA #62)

Head-to-head: First meeting

VEKIC		PERA	
Career Prize Money	\$4,498,280	Career Prize Money	\$1,543,703
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Left-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	June 28, 1996 (24)	Date of Birth (Age)	Dec. 3, 1994 (26)
Singles Titles	2	Singles Titles	0
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 132-137	YTD / Career W-L	0-0 / 33-40
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 36-46	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 11-18
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 30-38	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-16
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 91-98	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-26
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 7-21	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 1-4
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 10-40	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-11
Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-10	Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 1-3
Coach	Sam Sumyk	Coach	Velimir Zovko

VEKIC:

- Faces No.62 Pera in 1r of Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open as the sole representative this week from Croatia; although her opponent today, Pera, was born in Zadar, Croatia and now trains in Zagreb
- Lost to a player outside the Top 50 on five occasions last year
- Ended 2020 ranked No.32 for third consecutive year inside the Top 30 highlighted by QF at Adelaide (I. Yastremska) and 3r at Australian Open (I. Swiatek) and US Open (I. Pironkova)
- Contested the first match of the WTA Tour's resumption following the 2020 hiatus, defeating Rus in the 1r at 2020 Palermo
- Ended 2019 ranked No.19 for career-best year-end finish (up from No.34 in 2018), having cracked the Top 20 for the first time on October 21, 2019
- Produced career best Grand Slam result at 2019 US Open, where she reached QF (I. Bencic)
- Also in 2019, reached biggest final of career at Premier-level St. Petersburg (I. Bertens); en route to final, posted best win of career by ranking – and third over a Top 5 opponent – with defeat of No.2 Kvitova in QF, bettering victories over No.4 Stephens at 2018 Wimbledon and No.4 Garcia at 2018 Tokyo [PPO]
- Also made final at Nottingham (I. Garcia in third set tie-break) and ended 2019 by qualifying for WTA Elite Trophy Zhuhai (fell RR)
- Ended 2018 at then-career-high ranking of No.34, after registering 31 tour-level wins. Campaign highlighted by R-Up finish at Washington, DC (I. Kuznetsova after holding 4mp) – her first finals appearance since winning 2017 Nottingham – and made SF showings at Nottingham and Tokyo [PPO], and reached Grand Slam R16 for first time at Wimbledon (I. Goerges)
- Enjoyed a resurgent year in 2017, breaking the Top 50 on July 24 and finishing campaign ranked No.54. Grass court season saw her lift a second WTA singles title of career, at Nottingham (d. No.8 Konta in final) – prior to this run had not posted back-to-back main draw wins since September 2015 (R-Up at Tashkent)
- Posted just four tour-level wins across 2016, but closed the campaign by reaching two ITF finals, winning her fifth and most recent title at this level at \$100k ITF/Sharm El Sheikh-EGY
- Highlights in 2015 included reaching final at Tashkent (I. Hibino) and QF at Baku

- Ranked No.95, lifted maiden WTA singles title at 2014 Kuala Lumpur (d. No.10 Cibulkova in final); aged 17y 10 m, became youngest player to win a WTA singles title since 2006 Bangkok (Vania King)
- Reached first WTA career final at 2012 Tashkent (l. Begu) on her WTA main draw debut, and in doing so became youngest WTA finalist since 15-year-old Paszek won Portoroz in 2005. Also finished runner-up on grass at 2013 Birmingham (l. Hantuchova) and 2015 Tashkent (l. Hibino)
- Broke into Top 100 (at No.93) on January 28, 2013
- Has won five ITF Circuit singles and one doubles title
- Member of Croatian Fed Cup Team, 2012-15, 2017, 2019

PERA:

- Faces No.32 Vekic in today's 1r – last defeated a player in the Top 50 at 2020 Doha (d. No.47 Garcia in 1r)
- Best by-ranking win of career was over No.10 Konta at 2018 Australian Open
- Achieved career-best year-end ranking of No.61 in 2020, reaching 2r five times, including at US Open and Roland Garros
- Posted new career-high ranking of No.59 on March 2, 2020
- Scored her second career Top 20 victory in 2019 against No.16 Q.Wang at Prague
- Reached a then-career-high ranking of No.63 on July 29, 2019 after back-to-back SF runs at Lausanne (l. Ferro) and Jurmala (l. Kawa)
- Captured her ninth ITF Circuit singles title in 2019 at \$100K ITF/Trnava 3-SVK (d. Blinkova in F)
- Reached first Tour-level QF of career at 2018 Charleston (l. eventual R-Up and No.14 Keys in 3s)
- Nominated for WTA's Breakthrough Player of the Month in April 2018 following Charleston run, which was eventually won by Bogdan (fan vote)
- As lucky loser, scored career first main draw win at the 2018 Australian Open (d. Blinkova 1r), first Top 100 win and Top 10 win (over No.10 Konta 2r) at the Australian Open (l. Strycova in 3r). Became first lucky loser to reach 3r of Australian Open since 1997 (Kleinova)
- Rose nearly 200 ranking places in 2017, ending season at No.127 after posting 54-20 record (all levels)
- Made WTA main draw debut at 2017 Guangzhou (l. Cornet) and contested qualifying at US Open, Wuhan, Linz and Moscow. That year, also made 1r exit at WTA 125K Series event at Limoges (l. Alexandrova)
- In 2015 won first titles on ITF Circuit at \$10k ITF/Alkmaar-NED, \$10k ITF/Breda-NED and \$10k ITF/Rotterdam-NED. Also fell in qualifying at Québec City. Improved ranking from No.646 to No.361
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2014 Québec City
- On ITF Circuit has won nine titles in singles and eight in doubles
- Made debut on ITF Circuit in 2011 at \$10k ITF/Landisville, PA-USA

[17] EKATERINA ALEXANDROVA (RUS #33) VS. ZARINA DIYAS (KAZ #80)

Head-to-head: First meeting

ALEXANDROVA		DIYAS	
Career Prize Money	\$2,352,603	Career Prize Money	\$3,055,671
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Nov. 15, 1994 (26)	Date of Birth (Age)	Oct. 18, 1993 (27)
Singles Titles	1	Singles Titles	1
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 68-64	YTD / Career W-L	0-0 / 86-111
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 23-25	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 29-35
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 14-22	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 22-28
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 51-36	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 61-75
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-11	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-21
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 5-16	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 5-35
Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-4	Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 4-12
Coach	Evgeny Alexandrov	Coach	Ernest Zurabyan

ALEXANDROVA:

- Faces No.80 Diyas today at the inaugural Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open in their career first meeting
- One of six Russians – the joint-most in the draw along with USA – competing in the main draw this week (also Kasatkina, Kudermetova, Pavlyuchenkova, Potapova and Zvonareva)
- Posted 13-4 record vs. players ranked outside the Top 50 in 2020, falling to players ranked lower than today's opponent on three occasions – I. No.139 Tsurenko (Prague), No.90 McHale (Western & Southern Open) and No.124 McNally (US Open)
- Opened 2020 season by lifting her maiden WTA singles title, at Shenzhen (d. Rybakina in F)
- Won both singles rubbers on Billie Jean King Cup debut in 3-2 win over Romania in February 2020
- In terms of ranking, best career win came over No.5 Halep at 2019 Beijing
- Made Top 50 debut on June 17, 2019 after QF run at 's-Hertogenbosch
- Registered 30 Tour-level match wins during 2019, in which she reached SF at Budapest, Seoul and Linz and made QF at St. Petersburg, 's-Hertogenbosch, Eastbourne and Moscow. Also advanced to 3r at a major for the first time, at Roland Garros
- Won sole WTA doubles title at 2019 Budapest (w/Zvonareva)
- Came through qualifying to make maiden WTA final appearance at 2018 Linz (I. Giorgi)
- Advanced to first WTA QF at 2018 Seoul, scoring maiden Top 10 win of her career en route, over No.10 Ostapenko
- Made Top 100 debut at No.93 on March 20, 2017 after winning title at \$60K ITF/Shenzhen-CHN
- At 2016 Wimbledon, ranked No.223, won her way through qualifying on her maiden Slam appearance, going on to reach 2r (upset No.23 seed Ivanovic in 1r)
- Won WTA 125K Series title at Limoges in 2016, 2018-19
- Reached 2r on WTA main draw debut at 2016 Katowice (as qualifier, I. eventual R-Up Giorgi)
- Contested qualifying for the first time at a WTA-level tournament at 2014 Bad Gastein
- Played first professional events of career on ITF Circuit in Europe in 2011

DIYAS:

- Faces No.33 Alexandrova today in their career first meeting
- Bidding for her best win-by-ranking since defeating No.24 Anisimova at 2020 Australian Open. Her career best win came over No.7 Jankovic at 2010 Moscow
- One of four players representing Kazakhstan in the draw this week – also Putintseva, Rybakina and Shvedova
- Highlights of 2020 included reaching QF at Shenzhen (I. Muguruza) and 3r at Australian Open (I. Bertens)
- Best results of 2019 were QF at Washington DC (I. Giorgi) and reaching four ITF Circuit finals, lifting two titles
- In 2018 highlights include R16 showing at Miami and three QF runs at Shenzhen, Strasbourg and Hiroshima
- Won maiden WTA title at 2017 Tokyo [Japan Open] (as qualifier, d. Kato in F – title run took in eight matches)
- Following 1r loss at 2016 Wimbledon, underwent wrist surgery, sidelining her until February 2017, and spent much of last season playing ITF events
- Started 2015 season strongly with back-to-back QF appearances at Shenzhen (I. Zheng) and Hobart (I. Riske). Other highlights in first half of 2015 included reaching 3r at Indian Wells (I. S. Williams)
- Maiden WTA final was R-Up finish at 2014 Osaka (I. Stosur in F)
- Made Top 100 debut on March 31, 2014 (No.91) and Top 50 debut on August 18, 2020 (No.46)
- Owns two career Top 10 wins, over No.7 Jankovic (2010 Moscow) and No.10 Petkovic (2015 Dubai)
- Nominated for WTA Newcomer of the Year in 2014, as voted on by international media (won by Bencic); participated in 2014 Rising Stars Invitational at WTA Finals in Singapore
- Member of Kazakhstan Billie Jean King Cup Team, 2009-11, 2015-16, 2018-20
- Reached first WTA QF at Prague in 2009, where she made her WTA qualifying debut the year prior
- Made professional debut at \$100k ITF/Bratislava-SVK in 2007; on ITF Circuit has won nine singles titles

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ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN – DAY TWO

[Q] LUCREZIA STEFANINI (ITA #394) vs. [6] ELENA RYBAKINA (KAZ #19)

Rybakina leads 1-0

Rybakina won when they met on ITF Circuit in 2018... **Stefanini** saved three match points in the final round of qualifying... **Rybakina** opened 2020 by reaching final at four of first five tournaments

[4] ARYNA SABALENKA (BLR #10) vs. POLONA HERCOG (SLO #49)

Series tied 1-1

Hercog beat **Sabalenka** during run to 2018 Istanbul final... **Sabalenka** finished 2020 on a nine-match winning streak... **Hercog** owns two Top 10 wins in her career

[1] SOFIA KENIN (USA #4) vs. [Q] YANG ZHAOXUAN (CHN #788)

Kenin leads 1-0

Kenin triumphed in under an hour when they met at 2018 Wuhan... **Yang** is one of 12 players ranked outside Top 200 in the draw... **Kenin** has won her past eight matches against qualifiers

KRISTINA MLADENOVIC (FRA #50) vs. [5] GARBIÑE MUGURUZA (ESP #15)

Mladenovic leads 2-1

Muguruza won most recent encounter, en route to 2019 Monterrey title... **Mladenovic** bidding for first Top 20 win since late 2019... **Muguruza** opened last season by posting 11-2 record in January

SORANA CIRSTEAN (ROU #71) vs. [3] KAROLINA PLISKOVA (CZE #6)

Series tied 1-1

Cirstea's win over **Pliskova** at 2017 Beijing was her most recent Top 10 triumph... **Pliskova** did not lose to a player outside Top 50 last season... **Cirstea** ended 2020 by lifting ITF Circuit title in Dubai

JESSICA PEGULA (USA #63) vs. ELINA SVITOLINA (UKR #5)

First meeting

Svitolina owns excellent record in Middle East, having won Dubai twice... **Pegula** bidding for first win over a Top 10 opponent... **Svitolina** lost her opening match four times in 2020

[Q] LUCREZIA STEFANINI (ITA #394) VS. [6] ELENA RYBAKINA (KAZ #19)

Head-to-head: ELENA RYBAKINA leads 1-0

2018 ITF/ROME CLAY O R2 ELENA RYBAKINA 3-6 6-1 6-4 102 mins

STEFANINI		RYBAKINA	
Career Prize Money	\$58,850	Career Prize Money	\$1,466,978
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	May 15, 1998 (22)	Date of Birth (Age)	Jun. 17, 1999 (21)
Singles Titles	0	Singles Titles	2
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 0-0	YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 55-23
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-0	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 17-9
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-0	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-10
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-0	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 36-15
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-0	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 4-4
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-0	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 6-6
Coach	Ferdinando Bonuccelli	Coach	Stefano Vukov

STEFANINI:

- In second round of qualifying on Wednesday, recovered from 5-3 down in the final set and saved 2MP to beat No.309 Fetecau 1-6 6-2 7-6(3) in 2h 30m
- Faces No.19 Rybakina in 1r today – her man draw debut at a WTA tournament
- Lost only previous meetings with Top-100 ranked opponents, No.70 Zidansek (7-5 6-3 at 2019 Rome qualifying) and No.98 Maria (6-4 6-4 at 2019 \$80K ITF/Poitiers-FRA)
- One of four Italian players in the main draw, along with Paolini, Trevisan and Turati
- Twelve months ago, opened season with early exits at two \$25K ITF Circuit events in Perth, Australia
- Last season, only outing at a WTA event was exit in qualifying at Hua Hin, while best result on ITF Circuit was QF run at \$25K ITF/Figueira de Foz-POR in September
- Won second – and most recent – career ITF Circuit title at \$15K ITF/Monastir-TUN at the end of 2019
- Rose to career-high ranking of No.381 on July 1, 2019
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2019 Rome
- Posted 45-27 win-loss record in 2018, reaching two ITF Circuit finals and ending campaign ranked No.407 – her first year-end finish inside Top 500
- Opened 2016 season by lifting first ITF Circuit title at \$25K ITF/Hammamet-TUN
- Also owns two doubles titles on ITF Circuit
- Played first matches of career on ITF Circuit in Italy in 2014

RYBAKINA:

- Faces qualifier Stefanini in today's 1r; in her final match of 2020, lost to qualifier Kasatkina at Ostrava – won other six matches against qualifiers last season
- 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)

MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN

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

- Made first final appearance at a Premier-level tournament with R-Up finish at St. Petersburg (I. 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 (I. 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 (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

[4] ARYNA SABALENKA (BLR #10) VS. POLONA HERCOG (SLO #49)

Head-to-head: Series tied 1-1

2018	ISTANBUL	CLAY O	R1	POLONA HERCOG	6-2 7-5	85 mins
2018	LUGANO	CLAY O	R2	ARYNA SABALENKA	6-3 6-1	64 mins

SABALENKA		HERCOG	
Career Prize Money	\$6,804,310	Career Prize Money	\$3,817,370
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	May 5, 1998 (22)	Date of Birth (Age)	Jan. 20, 1991 (29)
Singles Titles	8	Singles Titles	3
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 126-62	YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 160-199
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 44-23	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 48-68
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 27-26	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 33-53
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 101-40	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 56-111
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 12-13	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-31
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 25-18	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 10-50
Coach	Anton Dubrov	Coach	Zeljko Krajan

SABALENKA:

- Faces Hercog in 1r today – beat the Slovene en route to her second career final, at 2018 Lugano
- Started last season by falling 2r – as No.2 seed – at Shenzhen
- Beginning a season inside the Top 10 for the first time, having finished 2020 at No.10 courtesy of a nine-match win streak and back-to-back titles – at Ostrava (d. Azarenka in F) and Linz (d. Mertens in F)
- After also taking home the silverware at Doha (d. Kvitova in F), was one of two players (also Halep) to lift three singles titles during disrupted 2020 season
- At Ostrava completed the sweep of titles by teaming up with Mertens to win the doubles
- Ended as World No.11 for the second straight year in 2019 after capturing three WTA singles titles at Shenzhen (d. Riske in F), Wuhan (d. Riske in F) and Zhuhai (d. Bertens in F)
- Having also won Wuhan in 2018 (d. Kontaveit in F), became first player to successfully defend Wuhan title
- Made Top 10 debut on January 28, 2019 following 3r run at 2019 Australian Open
- Ended 2019 at No.2 in WTA doubles rankings after capturing first Grand Slam doubles trophy at US Open (w/Mertens, d. Azarenka/Barty in F). Earlier in the season, the pair claimed the 'Sunshine Double' by winning back-to-back titles at Indian Wells (d. Krejickova/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 run, and Top 20 on August 27 of the same year, following New Haven title
- Broke into Top 100 at No.76 on October 16, 2017 after reaching first tour-level final at Tianjin (l. Sharapova). Also in 2017 made SF run at Tashkent (l. Babos) and lifting WTA 125k Series title at Mumbai (d. Jakupovic)
- Made Grand Slam main draw debut 2017 Wimbledon, falling in 2r (as qualifier, d. Khromacheva, l. Wittthoeft)

- Fell 1r on main draw debut at 2017 Dubai (as qualifier, I. Ka.Bondarenko)
- Member of Belarus Fed Cup team that lost to USA in 2017 final – scored first Top 20 win of career with defeat of No.13 Stephens during 2017 Fed Cup final in Minsk
- WTA qualifying debut came at 2016 Rabat
- Lifted first three ITF Circuit titles in 2015, including a 13-match win streak towards the year's end, bringing back-to-back trophies in Antalya, Turkey
- Made debut on ITF Circuit in Minsk in 2012

HERCOG:

- Faces No.10 Sabalenka in 1r today; owns two Top 10 wins in her career, both coming on clay, over No.7 Bartoli at 2012 Charleston and No.8 Bertens at 2020 Rome
- Highest ranked of two Slovene women in Top 100 – also No.87 Zidansek, who faces No.11 seed Brady in 1r here
- Ended last season by enjoying success in the Middle East, reaching SF at \$100K ITF/Dubai-UAE
- Finished inside the Top 50 for the second straight year in 2020, at No.49 – the first time doing so in consecutive years since 2010-11 – with best results a QF at Istanbul and 3r showing at Rome
- During Rome run, scored second Top 10 win of her career, over No.8 Bertens
- In 2019, ended a near-seven-year wait for a WTA title, winning Lugano (d. Swiatek)
- Other highlights in 2019 were 3r runs at Roland Garros (I. Stephens), Wimbledon (I. Gauff), Eastbourne (I. Halep) and Beijing (I. Bertens)
- Best result of 2018 was R-Up showing at Istanbul (I. Parmentier). Also made SF at Bucharest and QF at Auckland
- Began comeback in 2017 at Roland Garros qualifying, winning \$60k ITF/Brescia-ITA in her second tournament back
- Suffered three injuring following 2016 US Open (I. Kerber in 1r via ret.) including a scapular stress fracture, left knee injury and right wrist injury
- Season highlights in 2016 included a R-Up finish at WTA 125 event at Bol (I. Minella in F) and QF run at Bucharest (I. Siegemund)
- Singles highlights during 2015 were SF at Bucharest (I. Schmiedlova) and QF at Bad Gastein (I. Knapp)
- First career Top 10 win came over No.7 Bartoli at 2012 Charleston
- Breakthrough season in 2011, highlighted by first singles final at Bastad, and successfully defended her title in 2012
- Broke into Top 100 on July 6, 2009 (at No.89) and Top 50 on June 7, 2010 (at No.48)
- Represented Slovenia at the Olympics in 2012 at London, falling in 1r in singles (I. Martinez Sanchez) and 2016 at Rio, losing in 1r in singles (I. eventual gold medalist Puig)
- Slovenian Fed Cup Team, 2007-08, 2010-12, 2015
- Played first WTA main draw at Portoroz, falling 1r (as WC)
- Played first WTA event (in qualifying, as a WC) at 2006 Portoroz

SOFIA KENIN (USA #4) VS. [Q] YANG ZHAOXUAN (CHN #789)

Head-to-head: SOFIA KENIN leads 1-0

2018 WUHAN HARD O Q1 SOFIA KENIN 6-1 6-2 49 mins

KENIN		YANG	
Career Prize Money	\$7,221,702	Career Prize Money	\$989,779
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Nov. 14, 1998 (22)	Date of Birth (Age)	Feb. 11, 1995 (25)
Singles Titles	5	Singles Titles	0
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 93-53	YTD / Career W-L	0-0 / 2-6
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 36-19	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 1-1
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 25-17	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-0
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 71-37	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-6
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 8-14	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-0
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-25	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-0
Coach	Alexander Kenin	Coach	Feng He

KENIN:

- Faces qualifier Yang Zhaoxuan in her opening match at the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open; has won her past eight matches on tour with qualifiers, last tasting defeat against Stosur at 2019 Eastbourne
- A loss today would be her worst since 2016 when she fell to unranked Dolehide at \$25K ITF/Naples-FL, USA
- One of six US players who are direct entries in the main draw, along with Brady, Gauff, Loeb, Pegula and Pera
- Twelve months ago, opened season with 2r exits at Brisbane and Adelaide before going on to lift maiden major title, at Australian Open
- Ended 2020 campaign at career high of No.4 which she first hit on March 9, 2020 and came away with the 2020 WTA Player of the Year Award
- In last tournament of season, finished R-Up at Roland Garros (I. 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 (I. eventual champion Andreescu) and Cincinnati (I. 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, I. 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

YANG ZHAOXUAN:

- Faces No.4 Kenin in 1r of Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open – the highest-ranked opponent faced so far in career was No.39 Peng Shuai at WTA 125K Series in Anning in 2018 (lost in 3s)
- Owns three Top 100 wins: No.95 Kurumi Nara (2017 \$100K ITF/Anning), No.63 Zheng Saisai (2016 Kuala Lumpur) and No.63 Puig (2014 Wuhan qualifying)
- In qualifying, knocked off two seeds to make WTA main draw for the first time since 2019 Tianjin, beating No.282 Danilina (saved a MP en route) and No.278 Papamichail – at No.789, is the second lowest-ranked player in the main draw after unranked Shvedova
- One of five Chinese players in action this week, along with Wang Qiang (l. Kasatkina in 1r), Zhu Lin (l. Tomljanovic in 1r), Wang Yafan and Wang Xiyu
- Contested only in doubles last season, reaching SF at Brisbane (w/L.Kichenok)
- Posted third consecutive Top 50 finish in doubles in 2019. Won fourth WTA doubles title at Shenzhen (w/Peng) and was R-Up at Zhuhai (w/Duan); also captured WTA 125K Series title in Anning (w/Peng)
- In 2018, lifted biggest trophy of career at Dubai and recorded best Grand Slam result with SF run at Roland Garros alongside H. Chan
- Peaked at No.20 in doubles rankings on Aug.13, 2018
- Enjoyed a successful 2017 season in doubles, winning one title at Tokyo [Japan Open] (w/Aoyama) while reaching two other finals at Wuhan (w/Aoyama) and Hobart (w/Dabrowski)
- Claimed maiden WTA doubles title at Kuala Lumpur in 2016 (w/Wongteanchai); also finished as R-Ups at Zhuhai (w/You), Nottingham (w/Dabrowski) and Tokyo [PPO] (w/Liang)
- Singles career-high ranking is No.151 (achieved on Sep.14, 2015)
- Best singles results at tour level are 2r appearances at 2016 Kuala Lumpur (as qualifier, d. Zheng Saisai, l. Broady) and 2015 Baku, where she made WTA singles main draw debut (as qualifier, d. Beygelzimer [via ret.], l. Gasparyan)
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2013 Guangzhou
- On ITF Circuit, winner of 3 singles titles and 12 doubles titles
- Played first event of career on ITF Circuit in 2009
- Gold medalist in women's doubles at 2018 Asian Games (w/Xu)
- Chinese Billie Jean King Cup Team, 2017-19

KRISTINA MLADENOVIC (FRA #50) VS. [5] GARBINE MUGURUZA (ESP #15)

Head-to-head: KRISTINA MLADENOVIC leads 2-1

2019	MONTERREY	HARD O	Q	MUGURUZA, GARBIÑE	6-1 7-6(5)	117 mins
2017	ROLAND GARROS	CLAY O	R16	MLADENOVIC, KRISTINA	6-1 3-6 6-3	121 mins
2015	MARRAKECH	CLAY O	R16	MLADENOVIC, KRISTINA	7-6(4) 7-6(6)	130 mins

MLADENOVIC		MUGURUZA	
Career Prize Money	\$11,790,915	Career Prize Money	\$21,159,801
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	May 14, 1993 (27)	Date of Birth (Age)	Oct. 8, 1993 (27)
Singles Titles	1	Singles Titles	7
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 201-207	YTD / Career W-L	0-0 / 259-144
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 68-62	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 82-62
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 51-56	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 42-50
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 115-134	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 174-98
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 17-28	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 35-34
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 34-57	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 61-60
Coach	Luka Mladenovic	Coach	Conchita Martinez

MLADENOVIC:

- Faces No.15 Muguruza in 1r today – a win would be best-by-ranking since defeating World No.1 Barty during the 2019 Fed Cup Final
- Has defeated the Spaniard on two previous occasions, each en route to the QFs, at 2015 Marrakech and 2017 Roland Garros
- Also contesting doubles here in Abu Dhabi with partner Flipkens as the No.4 seed; advancing to the second round following a 1r bye, will face either Kalashnikova/Santamaria or Rus/Zidansek
- Won fourth and fifth Grand Slam doubles titles in 2020, w/Babos at Australian Open (d. Hsieh/Strycova in F) and Roland Garros (d. Guarachi/Krawczyk in F)
- Ended 2019 season strongly with SF appearances in Moscow (l. eventual champion Bencic) and Zhengzhou (l. Martic) and QF in Linz (l. Alexandrova)
- Notched five Top 10 wins in 2019 with two wins vs. reigning World No.1 (d. Osaka in Dubai; Barty in Fed Cup Final); win over World No.1 Barty helped France take home their first Fed Cup title since 2003
- Enjoyed another strong doubles year in 2019, with titles at Istanbul and Roland Garros (both w/Babos) boosting her to World No.1 for the first time in career
- Also w/Babos, defended title at year-end WTA Finals and finished R-Up at Australian Open to end the year at No.2
- Won second Grand Slam doubles title at 2018 Australian Open (w/Babos, d. Makarova/Vesnina in F), third at 2019 Roland Garros (w/Babos, d. Duan/S.Zheng in F) and fourth at 2020 Australian Open (w/ Babos, d. Hsieh/Strycova in F)
- Won only career singles title to date at 2017 St. Petersburg (d. Putintseva) in eight final appearances – made final in 2018 as defending champion (l. Kvitova)
- Reached biggest final of career at Premier Mandatory level Madrid in 2017 (l. Halep)
- Finished 2017 season at No.11 for highest year-end ranking and first inside Top 20. Broke into Top 10 on October 23, 2017

- In doubles, won first Grand Slam title at 2016 Roland Garros (w/compatriot Garcia, d. Makarova/Vesnina in F) – were first French pair to win the doubles title at Roland Garros since Gail Chanfreau and Francoise Durr in 1971
- Career best singles result at Grand Slam is QF at 2015 US Open (l. Vinci) and 2017 Roland Garros (l. Bacsinszky)
- Won mixed doubles at 2013 Wimbledon and 2014 Australian Open, and finished R-Up at 2013 Roland Garros and 2015 Australian Open (all w/Nestor)
- Broke into Top 100 on September 17, 2012 and Top 50 on March 18, 2013
- Played first WTA main draw matches in 2009 and first WTA qualifying event as wildcard at 2008 Paris [Indoors]

MUGURUZA:

- Enters the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open as the No.4 seed
- Kicking off her campaign against No.50 Mladenovic; defeated the Frenchwoman in their most recent encounter during QFs at 2019 Monterrey, en route to her seventh career WTA trophy
- 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.
- 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

SORANA CIRSTEIA (ROU #71) VS. [3] KAROLINA PLISKOVA (CZE #6)

Head-to-head: Series tied 1-1

2017	BEIJING	HARD O	R16	SORANA CIRSTEIA	6-1 7-5	85 mins
2014	PATTAYA CITY	HARD O	QF	KAROLINA PLISKOVA	1-6 7-6(3) 6-0	N/A

CIRSTEIA		PLISKOVA	
Career Prize Money	\$5,828,599	Career Prize Money	\$20,401,433
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Apr. 7, 1990 (30)	Date of Birth (Age)	Mar. 21, 1992 (28)
Singles Titles	1	Singles Titles	16
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 228-243	YTD / Career W-L	0-0 / 323-167
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 88-74	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 102-56
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 55-48	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 64-71
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 131-142	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 228-112
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 14-39	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 32-39
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 32-72	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 62-72
Coach	Adrian Cruciat	Coach	Sascha Bajin

CIRSTEIA:

- Faces No.6 Ka.Pliskova today in their third career meeting, most recently defeating the Czech (then-ranked No.4) at 2017 Beijing – her last Top 10 victory
- Her last encounter vs. Top 10 opponent came at 2018 Indian Wells (l. No.8 V.Williams)
- Sole Romanian represented in the draw this week
- During last year's Middle East swing, fell 1r at Doha (l. Rybakina)
- Ended 2020 on a high, winning singles title at ITF/\$100k Dubai-UAE in December (d. Siniakova in F)
- Also in 2020, reached 3r at US Open (l. Muchova) and advanced to 2r at Australian Open in January (l. Gauff)
- Advanced to fourth career singles final in 2019 at Tashkent (l. Van Uytvanck in F) as a former champion in 2008
- Captured fifth career doubles title at 2019 Lugano (w/Mitu, d. Kudermetova/Voskoboeva in F)
- Other season highlights in 2019 were SF run at Nürnberg (l. eventual champion Putintseva); previous appearance in last four at a WTA-level event came at the same tournament two years earlier
- Also reached 3r at 2019 US Open (l. Townsend)
- Ended 2018 season at No.86, after a year highlighted by clay court QF runs at Nürnberg and Bucharest
- Highlights of 2017 season were SF showing at Nürnberg and QF runs at Istanbul, Madrid, Seoul, Beijing and Linz
- Also reached R16 at 2017 Australian Open – first time advancing to that stage at a Slam since 2009 Roland Garros (QF, l. Stosur), her best Slam singles result
- In 2016 played a mix of WTA and ITF events, improving ranking by 163 ranking places to No.81 in 2016 on comeback from shoulder injury, with highlights being a SF run at Rio de Janeiro (l. Rogers) and making QF at Premier Mandatory Madrid (as wildcard, l. eventual R-Up Cibulkova) and Mallorca (as qualifier, l. Jankovic)
- Reached biggest singles final of career at 2013 Toronto – posted three Top 10 wins en route to final (No.10 Wozniacki, No.7 Kvitova and No.5 Li) before falling to No.1 S.Williams
- Following Tororo run, posted career-high ranking of No.21 on August 21, 2013
- Won only WTA singles title at 2008 Tashkent (d. Lisicki in F) having previously been R-Up at 2007 Budapest (l. Dulko)

- Owns four Top 5 victories: No.5 Jankovic (2009 Roland Garros), No.5 Stosur (2012 Australian Open), No.5 Li Na (2013 Toronto) and No.4 Ka.Pliskova (2017 Beijing)
- Member of Romania's Fed Cup team 2006, 2008-09, 2013-14 and 2017-18; also part of Romanian Olympic Team 2008 and 2012
- Fell 1r on Grand Slam main draw debut at 2008 Australian Open (l. No.4 seed Ivanovic)
- Made WTA main draw debut at 2006 Stockholm (l. Kanepi in 1r)
- On ITF Circuit owns eight singles and nine doubles titles
- Played first events of career on ITF Circuit in 2004

PLISKOVA:

- Opens her 2021 Abu Dhabi campaign against No.71 Cirstea in their third career meeting; has not fallen to a player ranked outside the Top 50 since 2019 Beijing (l. No.73 Ostapenko)
- One of four Czech players in the draw (also Krejcirova, Muchova and Vondrousova)
- 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 (l. Barty), 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 Kvitova 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

JESSICA PEGULA (USA #63) VS. [2] ELINA SVITOLINA (UKR #5)

Head-to-head: First meeting

PEGULA		SVITOLINA	
Career Prize Money	\$1,364,219	Career Prize Money	\$19,860,259
Plays	Right-Handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Feb. 24, 1994 (26)	Date of Birth (Age)	Sep. 12, 1994 (26)
Singles Titles	1	Singles Titles	15
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 32-34	YTD / Career W-L (MD)	0-0 / 284-155
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 14-11	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 84-50
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 15-10	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 61-46
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 24-19	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 205-106
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-4	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 33-38
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 3-8	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 61-69
Coach	David Witt	Coach	Andrew Bettles

PEGULA:

- Faces No.5 Svitolina in 1r of Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open – has lost all four career meetings with Top 10 opponents in straight sets: No.4 A.Radwanska (2016 US Open), No.8 Barty (2019 Roland Garros), No.4 Osaka (2019 Beijing) and No.10 S.Williams (2020 Auckland)
- In terms of ranking, best career win came over No.11 Sabalenka at 2020 Western & Southern Open
- One of six Americans – the second-most behind Russia (seven) – in the draw (also Brady, Gauff, Loeb, Kenin and Pera)
- Began 2020 season with runner-up finish at Auckland (l. S.Williams)
- Other standout results last season were a QF at Western & Southern Open (as qualifier, l. Mertens) and a 3r showing at US Open (l. Kvitova)
- On the doubles court in 2020, reached QFs of Roland Garros (w/Muhammad) and Cincinnati (w/Rogers)
- Won her first WTA title at 2019 Washington DC (d. Giorgi in F) to reach a career high ranking of No.55 (August 5, 2019)
- Also in 2019, fell 1r on main draw debut at Roland Garros (l. eventual champion Barty) and Wimbledon (l. Buzarnescu) and Miami (as a qualifier, l. Konta)
- Broke into Top 100 for the first time on February 4, 2019 following back-to-back R-Up finishes at WTA 125K Series event at Newport Beach and \$100K ITF/Midland-MI, USA
- Highlights of 2018 included finishing runner-up as a qualifier at Quebec City (l. Parmentier in F), recording SF finish at Houston WTA 125K (l. S.Peng) and reaching QF or better at 10 ITF events
- Won doubles title w/Manasse at 2018 Houston 125K (d. Krawczyk/Olmos in F)
- Did not play between January and August 2017 after undergoing hip surgery. Primarily played at ITF events for the rest of the year, winning two doubles titles with Townsend
- Played a mixture of WTA and ITF Circuit events in 2016 with highlight coming at Washington DC, where she defeated No.14 Stosur for first Top 20 win of career on her way to a SF finish (l. Davis)
- Reached 2r on Grand Slam main draw debut at 2015 US Open (as qualifier, d. Van Uytvanck, l. Cibulkova)
- Sidelined from tennis for a year and a half between 2013 and 2015 due to a right knee injury
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2009 Ponte Vedra Beach and WTA main draw debut at 2012 Indian Wells

SVITOLINA:

- Faces No.63 Pegula in today's 1r; lost three times to players outside the Top 50 last season – No.84 Hibino (Hua Hin), No.52 Brady (Dubai) and No.131 Podoroska (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)
- 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
- 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)

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ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN – DAY THREE

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

First career meeting

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

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

Kenin leads 2-0

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

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

Sabalenka leads 2-1

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

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

First career meeting

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

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

Cornet leads 1-0

Cornet one of five 30-somethings to reach the second round... **Badosa** hoping to reach R16 at a WTA 500 event for the first time... The two have met only once at 2016 Madrid

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

Head-to-head: First meeting

BONDARENKO		JABEUR	
Career Prize Money	\$4,110,706	Career Prize Money	\$2,565,796
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Aug. 8, 1986 (34)	Date of Birth (Age)	Aug. 28, 1994 (26)
Singles Titles	2	Singles Titles	0
Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	1-0 / 139-191	YTD / Career W-L	1-0 / 61-72
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 54-62	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 19-30
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 39-54	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 18-24
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 85-114	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 45-54
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 8-25	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 4-8
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 20-62	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 10-16
Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 12-14	Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 6-4
Coach	Denys Volodka	Coach	Issam Jellali/Karim Kammoun

BONDARENKO:

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

- Ukrainian Fed Cup Team, 2005-2012, 2016 and 2018. Was a member of the team that helped secure promotion to World Group for first time in 2010
- Gave birth to her daughters, Karin, in 2013, and Eva in 2019

JABEUR:

- Enters the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open on a career-high ranking of No.31
- In opening round, defeated No.38 Pavlyuchenkova saving two set points in first set
- Faces qualifier No.285 Bondarenko in first meeting with the Ukrainian player – last lost to a player outside the Top 200 at 2018 Quebec City (l. No.227 Pegula)
- Made QFs in 2020 at Doha (d. No.3 Ka.Pliskova, l. Kvitova), Lexington (l. Gauff), Western & Southern Open (l. eventual champion Azarenka) and Ostrava (l. Sakkari); posted career-high ranking of No.31 on August 31, 2020
- Reached maiden Grand Slam QF at 2020 Australian Open to become the first Arab woman to reach that stage at a major (l. eventual champion Kenin); made Top 50 debut at No.45 after breakthrough performance in Melbourne
- Season highlights in 2019 were matching best result at the Slams with 3r run at US Open (matching 2017 Roland Garros and now 2020 Australian Open) and SF appearances at Eastbourne (l. eventual R-Up Kerber) and Tianjin (l. eventual champion Peterson)
- In 2018, defeated No.3 seed Stephens, No.8 seed Kontaveit and No.5 seed Sevastova en route to her first WTA final at 2018 Moscow, where she fell in three sets to No.6 seed Kasatkina. Was first Tunisian woman to advance beyond QF at a WTA tournament (Sfar was the only other Tunisian to reach a QF at this level)
- Prior to 2018 Moscow, best tour-level results were QF runs at 2013 Baku, 2017 Taipei City and 2018 Bucharest
- Owns four Top 10 victories, over No.7 Cibulkova (2017 Roland Garros), No.1 Halep (2018 Beijing), No.8 Stephens (2018 Moscow) and No.3 Ka.Pliskova (2020 Doha)
- Member of Tunisian Olympic Team in 2012 and 2016
- Contested first two WTA main draws in 2012, at Doha (as WC) and Olympics
- On ITF Circuit, has 11 singles and one doubles title
- Played first event of career at 2008 ITF/EI Menzah-TUN
- Became first North African woman to win a junior Slam at 2011 Roland Garros (d. Puig in F), having also reached the final in 2010 (l. Svitolina in F)

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

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

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

KENIN		FLIPKENS	
Career Prize Money	\$7,221,702	Career Prize Money	\$5,487,193
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Nov. 14, 1998 (22)	Date of Birth (Age)	Jan. 10, 1986 (34)
Singles Titles	5	Singles Titles	1
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	1-0 / 94-53	YTD / Career W-L	1-0 / 523-383
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 36-19	3-Set (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 73-63
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 26-17	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 59-48
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 72-37	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 132-139
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 8-14	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 5-28
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-25	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 12-63
Coach	Alexander Kenin	Coach	

KENIN:

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

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

FLIPKENS:

- Emerged victorious upon debut outing in Abu Dhabi with 3-set victory over No.51 and 2020 Roland Garros quarterfinalist Siegemund
- Aiming to notch first win over top seed and reigning Australian Open champion Kenin in today's matchup (0-2)
- A win today would mark just her third career victory over a Top 5 ranked player, having defeated No.2 Muguruza (2016) and No.5 Stosur (2012)
- Looking to reach third round of WTA level event for first time since 2019 Kremlin Cup (l. QF)
- Last time the Belgian defeated a No.1 seed at a WTA level event was upset over No.1 seed Muguruza at 2016 Mallorca (0-3 in such attempts since then)
- One of two Belgians contesting this week's field (also Mertens)
- Posted 2-8 record at Tour-level events in 2020, with wins coming at Western & Southern Open (d. Siniakova, l. Konta) and US Open (d. Peterson, l. Pegula)
- Reached SF three times in doubles in 2020, including in back-to-back weeks at Auckland and Hobart (both w/Van Uytvanck), as well as at Ostrava (w/Schuurs)
- Best result of 2019 was winning first WTA 125K Series title at Houston and reached five QFs. Won one WTA doubles title in 2019 at Mallorca (w/Larsson) and earned her career high doubles ranking of No.23 on July 1, 2019
- Highlights from 2018 season include an R-Up performance at 's-Hertogenbosch (l. Krunić) and SF run at Nurnberg (l. Riske). Also lifted third, fourth and fifth career doubles titles at Lugano w/ Mertens and Nurnberg and Linz w/ Larsson

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MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN

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

- Highlights of 2017 season in singles included QF runs at Acapulco (l. Mladenovic) and New Haven (l. Gavrilova)
- Posted 24 main draw match wins in 2016, the most since 2013 when she won 32 matches; reached QF at 2016 New Haven (as LL, l. eventual champion A.Radwanska) – marked first QF at Premier level in two years, since her run to same stage at 2014 New Haven
- Represented Belgium at Rio Olympics in 2016, advancing to R16 in singles (l. Siegemund) – upset No.6 V.Williams in 1r – and reaching 2r in doubles (w/Wickmayer, l. Muguruza/Suárez Navarro)
- Won first WTA doubles title of career at 2016 Seoul (w/Larsson); currently owns five WTA doubles titles
- Enjoyed best Grand Slam year in 2013, when she reached R16 at Australian Open (l. No.2 Sharapova) and SF at Wimbledon (l. eventual champion Bartoli)
- Made her Top 50 debut on January 14, 2013 (No.43) and Top 20 debut on June 10, 2013 (No.20), climbing as high as No.13 on August 5, 2013
- Sole career singles title came at 2012 Québec City (d. Hradecka in F)
- Underwent surgery on right wrist on October 25, 2010. Battled injuries in first half of 2012, including blood clots in calf discovered in April; off tour for two months causing ranking to drop as low as No.262 in June that year
- Broke into the Top 100 on September 11, 2006 (No.98)
- Owns two Top 5 career wins, against No.2 Muguruza at 2016 Mallorca and No.5 Stosur at 2012 's-Hertogenbosch
- Member of the Belgian Fed Cup team that reached the competition's final in 2006. Also played 2003-13, 2015-20
- In 2003, played first two WTA main draws (both as WC), falling 1r at Antwerp and Luxembourg
- Played first WTA qualifying events at Antwerp and Brussels in 2002
- On ITF Circuit won 13 singles and two doubles titles; played first events of career on ITF Circuit in 2001
- Named 2003 ITF Junior World Champion, having won girls' singles titles at Wimbledon (d. Chakvetadze in F) and US Open (d. Krajicek in F)

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

Head-to-head: Sabalenka leads 2-1

2019	MIAMI	HARD O	R64	AJLA TOMLJANOVIC	6-3 6-4	77 mins
2019	INDIAN WELLS	HARD O	R64	ARYNA SABALENKA	6-3 4-6 6-0	101 mins
2018	'S-HERTOGENBOSH	GRASS O	R16	ARYNA SABALENKA	3-6 7-6(5) 6-0	114 mins

SABALENKA		TOMLJANOVIC	
Career Prize Money	\$6,804,310	Career Prize Money	\$3,212,658
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	May 5, 1998 (22)	Date of Birth (Age)	May 7, 1993 (27)
Singles Titles	8	Singles Titles	0
Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut	Tournament W-L (MD)	Making debut
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	1-0 / 127-62	YTD / Career W-L	1-0 / 104-128
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 44-23	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 44-52
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 28-26	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 36-36
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 102-40	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 67-79
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 12-13	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 3-13
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 25-18	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 8-36
Left Handers (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-8	Left Handers (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 5-12
Coach	Anton Dubrov	Coach	Vladimir Valchkov

SABALENKA:

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

TOMLJANOVIC:

- Sole Australian playing the main draw here in Abu Dhabi
- Defeated No.91 L.Zhu in 1r on Wednesday, snapping a six-match losing streak including 1r exits at 2020 Lexington (l. Putintseva), Western & Southern Open (l. Kudermetova), US Open (l. Kerber), Rome (l. Bouzkova), Strasbourg (l. S.Zhang) and Roland Garros (l. Sakkari)
- Her last victory came in the Middle East at 2020 Doha (d. Hon in 1r, l. Muguruza in 2r)
- Faces No.10 Sabalenka today in their third career meeting, having defeated the Belarusian in their last encounter at 2019 Miami in straight sets
- Owns three career Top 10 wins, including two in 2019 – d. No.10 Sabalenka (Miami) and No.8 Bertens (Zhengzhou). Also holds one Top 5 victory in her career over No.3 A.Radwanska at 2014 Roland Garros
- Also playing doubles later today w/Kenin in 1r taking on team of Sakkari/Vekic
- Equaled best result at home Slam by advancing to 2r at 2020 Australian Open (l. Muguruza)
- Ended 2019 season by representing Australia in Perth final of Billie Jean King Cup vs. France – went 1-1 in singles (d. Parmentier, l. Mladenovic) as visitors prevailed 3-2
- Posted career-high ranking of No.39 on April 1, 2019 (following 3r run at Miami 3r)
- Four-time WTA singles finalist, most recently finishing runner-up at 2019 Hua Hin (l. Yastremska). Earlier finals came at 2015 Pattaya City (l. Hantuchova), 2018 Rabat (l. Mertens) and 2018 Seoul (l. Bertens)
- Posted two Top 10 wins in 2019, her first for almost five years, defeating No.10 Sabalenka (Miami) and No.8 Bertens (Zhengzhou). Other Top 10 defeat, and best win of career, came over No.3 A.Radwanska at 2014 Roland Garros
- Reached first Premier-level SF of career at 2019 Zhengzhou (l. eventual champion Ka.Pliskova)

MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN

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

- Underwent shoulder surgery in February 2016 and was sidelined for rest of season; returned at 2017 Acapulco, more than 12 months later
- Made Top 50 debut in 2015, rising as high as No.47 (week of February 23)
- Best Grand Slam result to date is R16 run at 2014 Roland Garros (d. No.32 seed Vesnina in 2r and No.3 seed A.Radwanska in 3r, l. Suárez Navarro)
- Announced in 2014 she would switch nationalities and start representing Australia (first did so at 2014 US Open)
- On ITF Circuit, winner of four singles titles and three doubles titles
- Made pro debut on ITF Circuit in Croatia in 2007 and WTA main draw debut at 2009 Indian Wells (as WC, l. 1r)
- As a junior, achieved career-high ranking of No.4, won Australian Open junior doubles title in 2009 (w/McHale), and was a member of Croatia's victorious junior Fed Cup team in 2009

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

Head-to-head: First meeting

PERA		SORRIBES TORMO	
Career Prize Money	\$1,543,703	Career Prize Money	\$1,780,814
Plays	Left-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Dec. 3, 1994 (26)	Date of Birth (Age)	Oct. 8, 1996 (24)
Singles Titles	0	Singles Titles	0
Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0
YTD / Career W-L	1-0 / 34-40	YTD / Career W-L	1-0 / 51-75
3-Set (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 12-18	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 20-20
Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 10-16	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-9
Hard Court (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 17-26	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 22-37
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 1-4	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 1-6
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-11	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-16
Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 1-3	Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-7
Coach	Velimir Zovko	Coach	Silvia Soler Espinosa

PERA:

- One of six Americans to start the main draw and three to advance the second round of the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open
- In 1r on Wednesday, saved three set points in the first set and came back from 1-4 down in the 3rd to upset No.32 Vekic 7-6(10) 2-6 6-4
- The win over the Croat also ended six-match losing streak against Top 50 opponents
- Faces No.66 Tormo in 2r, bidding to win back-to-back WTA main draw matches for the first time since 2019 Bronx (d. Kudermetova and Strycova, l. Siniakova in QF)
- Lost to a player ranked lower than her on five occasions during last season
- Achieved career-best year-end ranking of No.61 in 2020, reaching 2r five times, including at US Open and Roland Garros
- Posted new career-high ranking of No.59 on March 2, 2020
- Scored her second career Top 20 victory in 2019 against No.16 Q.Wang at Prague
- Reached a then-career-high ranking of No.63 on July 29, 2019 after back-to-back SF runs at Lausanne (l. Ferro) and Jurmala (l. Kawa)
- Captured her ninth ITF Circuit singles title in 2019 at \$100K ITF/Trnava 3-SVK (d. Blinkova in F)
- Reached first Tour-level QF of career at 2018 Charleston (l. eventual R-Up and No.14 Keys in 3s)
- Nominated for WTA's Breakthrough Player of the Month in April 2018 following Charleston run, which was eventually won by Bogdan (fan vote)
- As lucky loser, scored career first main draw win at the 2018 Australian Open (d. Blinkova 1r), first Top 100 win and Top 10 win (over No.10 Konta 2r) at the Australian Open (l. Strycova in 3r). Became first lucky loser to reach 3r of Australian Open since 1997 (Kleinova)
- Rose nearly 200 ranking places in 2017, ending season at No.127 after posting 54-20 record (all levels)
- Made WTA main draw debut at 2017 Guangzhou (l. Cornet) and contested qualifying at US Open, Wuhan, Linz and Moscow. That year, also made 1r exit at WTA 125K Series event at Limoges (l. Alexandrova)

- In 2015 won first titles on ITF Circuit at \$10k ITF/Alkmaar-NED, \$10k ITF/Breda-NED and \$10k ITF/Rotterdam-NED. Also fell in qualifying at Québec City. Improved ranking from No.646 to No.361
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2014 Québec City
- On ITF Circuit has won nine titles in singles and eight in doubles
- Made debut on ITF Circuit in 2011 at \$10k ITF/Landisville, PA-USA

SORRIBES TORMO:

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

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

Head-to-head: ALIZÉ CORNET leads 1-0

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

CORNET		BADOSA	
Career Prize Money	\$7,691,170	Career Prize Money	\$869,558
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Jan. 22, 1990 (30)	Date of Birth (Age)	Nov. 15, 1997 (23)
Singles Titles	6	Singles Titles	0
Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	1-0 / 317-301	YTD / Career W-L	1-0 / 19-22
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 104-97	3-Set (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 7-3
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 69-64	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-5
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 85-114	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 45-54
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 20-48	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-3
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 43-103	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-5
Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 29-17	Left Hander (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-3
Coach	Sandra Zaniewska	Coach	Javier Marti

CORNET:

- One of five players in their 30s to make the 2r out of ten who started the main draw of the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open
- Defeated lucky loser Grammatikopoulou in comfortable 6-2 6-2 victory
- Faces No.70 Badosa today having defeated the Spaniard in their only meeting at 2016 Madrid
- Best results in 2020 were QF at Auckland (l. Pegula) and R16 run at US Open (d. No.14 Keys, l. Pironkova)
- Also in 2020, made 3r at Western & Southern Open (l. eventual champion Azarenka). Defeated No.4 Kenin in 2r – first Top 5 win since No.4 Kerber at 2018 Montréal
- Highlight of 2019 was reaching Lausanne final (l. Ferro as the defending champion) – has reached at least one WTA final in six of last seven seasons
- Part of victorious Fed Cup squad for France who defeated Australia in Perth 3-2 to be crowned 2019 champions (did not play)
- In 2018, won sixth career title at Gstaad (d. Minella in F), and reached two further QFs at Brisbane and Charleston
- Former World No.11 (achieved in February 16, 2009) who broke back into Top 20 at end of 2014 for first time since May 2009; dropped out of Top 20 again after 2015 Dubai
- Owns five wins over Top 3 ranked opponents: No.1 S. Williams (2014 Dubai, 2014 Wimbledon and 2014 Wuhan via ret.), No.3 A.Radwanska (2014 Katowice) and No.2 Halep (2015 Madrid); wins over S.Williams made her the first player to defeat the American in three straight meetings since Henin in 2007
- Qualified for 2013 and 2014 Tournament of Champions in Sofia, Bulgaria
- Grand Slam breakthrough came with R16 run at Australian Open in 2009 (l. Safina)
- Excelled on clay in 2008, winning her maiden WTA title at Budapest (d. Klepac in F), reaching maiden final at Acapulco (l. Pennetta) and finishing R-Up at Rome (d. No.5 Kuznetsova and No.8 Chakvetadze, l. Jankovic)

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

BADOSA:

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

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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] GARBIÑE 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 Kovic 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

MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN

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

- 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 K. Plisková 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. García 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. Rybáriková). Was the first Czech woman to achieve the No.1 ranking since the computer rankings were introduced in 1975 (Martina Navrátilová 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/Stryčková). At 2013 Linz, with sister Kristýna, 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 Šafářová)
- 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. Diyas)
- 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

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- 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 (I. 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 (I. Brady) and Doha (I. World No.1 Barty)
- Reached fourth Grand Slam singles final of career at 2020 Australian Open (I. 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 (I. 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, I. 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, I. 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 Handers (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-7	Left Handers (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

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WTA Communications: Alex Prior (aprior@wtatennis.com)

ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN – DAY FIVE

[4] ARYNA SABALENKA (BLR #10) vs. [15] ONS JABEUR (TUN #31)

Jabeur leads 1-0

Jabeur won when they met at Roland Garros last year... **Sabalenka** on a career-best 11-match winning streak... **Jabeur** came from a set down to beat Bondarenko in last round

DARIA KASATKINA (RUS #72) vs. [6] ELENA RYBAKINA (KAZ #19)

Kasatkina leads 1-0

Kasatkina won when they met at Ostrava in late 2020... **Rybakina** opened 2020 by making final at four of first five events... **Kasatkina** bidding to appear in just second QF since start of last season

[9] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #22) vs. [5] GARBIÑE MUGURUZA (ESP #15)

First meeting

Both players are yet to drop a set this week... **Muguruza** opened 2020 campaign by posting 11-2 record in January... **Sakkari** notched up four Top 20 wins last season

[1] SOFIA KENIN (USA #4) vs. [13] YULIA PUTINTSEVA (KAZ #28)

First meeting

Putintseva has posted back-to-back tour-level wins in a season-opening tournament for the first time... **Kenin** is the last US player left in the draw... **Putintseva** is bidding for fifth career Top 5 win

[17] EKATERINA ALEXANDROVA (RUS #33) vs. [2] ELINA SVITOLINA (UKR #5)

Svitolina leads 1-0

Svitolina won when they met at 2020 Roland Garros... **Alexandrova** came through in three tough sets on Saturday... **Svitolina** has excellent record in Middle East, having won Dubai twice

[4] ARYNA SABALENKA (BLR #10) VS. [15] ONS JABEUR (TUN #31)

Head-to-head: JABEUR leads 1-0

2020 ROLAND GARROS CLAY O R32 ONS JABEUR 7-6(7) 2-6 6-3 121 mins

SABALENKA		JABEUR	
Career Prize Money	\$6,804,310	Career Prize Money	\$2,565,796
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	May 5, 1998 (22)	Date of Birth (Age)	Aug. 28, 1994 (26)
Singles Titles	8	Singles Titles	0
Tournament W-L (MD)	2-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	2-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	2-0 / 128-62	YTD / Career W-L	2-0 / 62-72
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 44-23	3-Set (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 20-30
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 28-26	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 18-24
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	2-0 / 103-40	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	2-0 / 46-54
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 12-13	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 4-8
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 25-18	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 10-16
Coach	Anton Dubrov	Coach	Issam Jellali/Karim Kammoun

SABALENKA:

- In the 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 third times in the second set
- Faces No.31 Jabeur for a spot in QF, seeking 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 11-match winning streak into today's 3r 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, winning 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. Krejckova/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 (I. Mertens) and Eastbourne (I. 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 (I. Sharapova). Also in 2017 made SF run at Tashkent (I. 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, I. Witthoeft)
- Fell 1r on main draw debut at 2017 Dubai (as qualifier, I. 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

JABEUR:

- Enters the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open on a career-high ranking of No.31
- In opening round, defeated No.38 Pavlyuchenkova saving two set points in first set
- Came back from a set down to defeat qualifier No.285 Bondarenko in 2r, firing 11 aces to avoid an upset
- First time won back-to-back main draw matches at the season's opener on tour level; previously, best result was reaching 2r at Shenzhen in 2017 and 2019
- Faces No.10 Sabalenka in 3r, having defeated the Belarusian in the same round at Roland Garros last year to become the first Arab woman to reach the second week on the *terre battue*
- Owns four Top 10 victories, over No.7 Cibulkova (2017 Roland Garros), No.1 Halep (2018 Beijing), No.8 Stephens (2018 Moscow) and No.3 Ka.Pliskova (2020 Doha)
- Made QFs in 2020 at Doha (I. Kvitova), Lexington (I. Gauff), Western & Southern Open (I. eventual champion Azarenka) and Ostrava (I. Sakkari); posted career-high ranking of No.31 on August 31, 2020
- Reached maiden Slam QF at 2020 Australian Open to become the first Arab woman to reach that stage at a major (I. eventual champion Kenin); made Top 50 debut at No.45 after breakthrough performance in Melbourne
- Season highlights in 2019 were matching best result at the Slams with 3r run at US Open (matching 2017 Roland Garros and now 2020 Australian Open) and SF appearances at Eastbourne (I. eventual R-Up Kerber) and Tianjin (I. eventual champion Peterson)
- In 2018, defeated No.3 seed Stephens, No.8 seed Kontaveit and No.5 seed Sevastova en route to her first WTA final at 2018 Moscow, where she fell in three sets to No.6 seed Kasatkina. Was first Tunisian woman to advance beyond QF at a WTA tournament (Sfar was the only other Tunisian to reach a QF at this level)
- Prior to 2018 Moscow, best tour-level results were QF runs at 2013 Baku, 2017 Taipei City and 2018 Bucharest
- Member of Tunisian Olympic Team in 2012 and 2016
- Contested first two WTA main draws in 2012, at Doha (as WC) and Olympics
- On ITF Circuit, has 11 singles and one doubles title
- Played first event of career at 2008 ITF/EI Menzah-TUN
- Became first North African woman to win a junior Slam at 2011 Roland Garros (d. Puig in F), having also reached the final in 2010 (I. Svitolina in F)

DARIA KASATKINA (RUS #72) VS. [6] ELENA RYBAKINA (KAZ #19)

Head-to-head: DARIA KASATKINA leads 1-0

2020 OSTRAVA HARD I R1 DARIA KASATKINA 6-2 3-6 6-3 114 mins

KASATKINA		RYBAKINA	
Career Prize Money	\$6,389,451	Career Prize Money	\$1,466,978
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	May 7, 1997 (23)	Date of Birth (Age)	Jun. 17, 1999 (21)
Singles Titles	2	Singles Titles	2
Tournament W-L (MD)	1-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	2-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	1-0 / 135-106	YTD / Career W-L (MD)	2-0 / 57-23
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 48-36	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 17-9
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-0	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-10
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 87-72	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	2-0 / 38-15
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 12-22	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 4-4
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 24-41	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 6-6
Coach	Carlos Martínez	Coach	Stefano Vukov

KASATKINA:

- Recovered from 2-0 down in the final set to upset No.34 Wang Qiang in 1r; held a 1-10 mark vs. Top 50 opponents last year, with sole win coming against today's opponent No.19 Rybakina at Ostrava
- Advanced to 3r when Muchova withdrew
- One of six Russian players in the main draw this week, along with Alexandrova, Kudermetova, Pavlyuchenkova, Potapova and Zvonareva
- Highlight of truncated 2020 season was SF showing at Lyon (I. Friedsam) – her first run to the last four at a WTA event since lifting title at 2018 Moscow [Kremlin Cup]
- Won consecutive matches only twice in difficult 2019 campaign, with best result a QF run at Premier Mandatory China Open (I. Wozniacki)
- Ended 2018 season by lifting her second WTA singles title at Moscow [Kremlin Cup]. Recovered from a set and 6-2 4-1 down to defeat Jabeur in final; broke into Top 10 following the tournament, on October 22, 2018
- Knocked out No.2 seed Wozniacki en route to her first Grand Slam QF, at 2018 Roland Garros
- Reached biggest final of career at 2018 Indian Wells (I. Osaka), having upset No.2 Wozniacki, No.10 Kerber and No.8 V.Williams along the way
- Made Top 20 debut on February 26, 2018, following R-Up finish at Dubai (d. No.3 Muguruza, I. Svitolina)
- Upset No.1 Wozniacki during SF run at 2018 St. Petersburg; having also beaten Kerber at 2017 Sydney, is one of six players in WTA history to have multiple wins over World No.1s before their 21st birthday, also V.Williams (9), S. Williams (8), Sharapova (4) Kenin (2) and Kuznetsova (2)
- Captured maiden WTA singles title in debut final at 2017 Charleston, defeating fellow teenager Ostapenko in F – the first all-teenage final on tour since 2009 Linz (Wickmayer d. Kvitova)
- Ended 2016 as the highest-ranked teenager on tour, at No.27, after a campaign in which she reached a second career WTA SF, at St. Petersburg and made QF stage at Indian Wells, Charleston, Montréal, Rio Olympics and Moscow
- Made Top 50 debut on February 15, 2016, following St. Petersburg run

- Upset No.7 V.Williams in opening match of 2016 season at Auckland to register the first Top 10 win of her career
- Made Billie Jean King Cup debut in World Group quarter-final defeat to Netherlands in 2016. Has also represented Russia in the competition in 2017 and 2019 and at 2016 Olympics
- Reached first WTA SF at 2015 Moscow (as qualifier, I. Pavlyuchenkova, having recorded first Top 20 win over No.14 Suárez Navarro in QF); following the tournament made Top 100 debut at No.73 (October 26, 2015)
- Reached 3r at 2015 US Open (as LL, I. Mladenovic) on Grand Slam debut (main draw and qualifying). Earlier in summer of 2015, won back-to-back matches for first time at a WTA tournament during QF run at Bad Gastein (as qualifier, I. Errani)
- Also in 2015, won maiden WTA doubles title at 2015 Moscow (w/Vesnina), lifted five singles titles on ITF Circuit and was nominated for WTA Newcomer of the Year in 2015
- Fell 1r on WTA main draw debut at 2014 Moscow (as WC, I. Riske)
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2013 Moscow

RYBAKINA:

- Has 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
- Faces Kasatkina in today's 3r; in her final match of 2020, lost to the Russian at Ostrava – one of two defeats to players outside Top 50 last season (also No.93 Rogers at US Open)
- 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 (I. 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 (I. 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 (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

[9] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #22) VS. [5] GARBINÉ MUGURUZA (ESP #15)

Head-to-head: First meeting

SAKKARI		MUGURUZA	
Career Prize Money	\$3,540,619	Career Prize Money	\$21,159,801
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	July 25, 1995 (25)	Date of Birth (Age)	Oct. 8, 1993 (27)
Singles Titles	1	Singles Titles	7
Tournament W-L (MD)	2-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	2-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	2-0 / 94-86	YTD / Career W-L	2-0 / 261-144
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 30-36	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 82-62
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 29-17	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 42-50
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	2-0 / 57-56	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	2-0 / 176-98
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 9-13	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 35-34
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-33	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 61-60
Coach	Tom Hill	Coach	Conchita Martinez

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
- Faces No.15 Muguruza in 3r today; last year posted four Top 20 wins, most recently No.5 Svitolina at Ostrava in October
- Last season, began her campaign with 1r exit at Brisbane (I. 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 (I. Kvitova) – would later tie result by reaching R16 at US Open (I. 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 (I. 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, I. 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, I. Kovinic)
- Fell 1r on WTA main draw debut at 2015 US Open (as qualifier, I. 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

MUGURUZA:

- Enters the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open as the No.4 seed
- Opened her season with straight set win over Mladenovic; also defeated the Frenchwoman en route to her seventh, and most recent, career title at 2019 Monterrey
- Broke serve seven times during 2r win over Sasnovich
- Faces No.22 Sakkari in 3r today; bidding to reach seventh QF in her past nine tournaments
- Competing in doubles this week w/Brady. The pair defeated Gauff/Pegula in 1r and Sizikova/Alexandrova in 2r; face Siegemund/Zvonareva in QF
- 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.
- 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

[1] SOFIA KENIN (USA #4) VS. [13] YULIA PUTINTSEVA (KAZ #28)

Head-to-head: First meeting

KENIN		PUTINTSEVA	
Career Prize Money	\$7,221,702	Career Prize Money	\$4,756,428
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Nov. 14, 1998 (22)	Date of Birth (Age)	Jan. 7, 1995 (26)
Singles Titles	5	Singles Titles	1
Tournament W-L (MD)	2-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	2-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	2-0 / 95-53	YTD / Career W-L	2-0 / 135-146
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 36-19	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 44-44
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 26-17	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 35-37
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	2-0 / 73-37	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	2-0 / 83-99
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 8-14	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 8-29
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 16-25	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 20-49
Coach	Alexander Kenin	Coach	Roman Kislianskii

KENIN:

- Defeated qualifier Yang Zhaoxuan in her opening match at the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open; has now won her past nine matches on tour against qualifiers
- 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
- Faces No.28 Putintseva today for a spot in QF; holds a 1-1 record against Kazakhstani players on tour level (I. Rybakina at 2020 Dubai, d. Diyas at 2019 Cincinnati)
- Making just fourth appearance in the Middle East: reached 3r at 2019 Dubai (I. Kuzmova), while lost the opening match at Dubai (I. Rybakina) and Doha (after 1r bye, I. Yastremska) in 2020
- 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/Zidensek in QF
- One of six US players who are direct entries in the main draw, along with Brady, Gauff, Loeb, Pegula and Pera
- Twelve months ago, opened season with 2r exits at Brisbane and Adelaide before going on to lift maiden major title, at Australian Open
- Ended 2020 campaign at career high of No.4 which she first hit on March 9, 2020 and came away with the 2020 WTA Player of the Year Award
- In last tournament of season, finished R-Up at Roland Garros (I. 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

PUTINTSEVA:

- Enters the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open at No.28, just one spot shy of her career-high ranking of No.27; also the first time kicks off a new season ranked inside Top 30
- Opened 2021 campaign with a solid 6-3 6-3 win over No.85 Trevisan in 1r, saving all five break points faced in the match
- Battled past No.65 Krejčíková 6-4 7-5 in 2r, coming back from 0-3 down in the second set
- Faces No.4 Kenin for the first time in her career today; record against Top 5 players stands at 4-16, having defeated No.2 Osaka at 2019 Wimbledon, No.1 Osaka at 2019 Birmingham, No.5 Stephens at 2019 Sydney and No.5 Cibulková at 2017 St.Petersburg
- One of four Kazakhstani players in the draw this week, along with Rybakina, Diyas and Shvedova
- Bidding to reach a tour-level QF in her opening tournament of the season for the first time; previous best result in a season curtain raiser was 2r showing last year at Brisbane (as qualifier, d. No.20 Vekić, l. No.27 Collins)
- Recorded 300th career win (at all levels) with 1r triumph over Flipkens at 2020 Roland Garros
- Standout results of 2020 were QF runs at US Open (l. Brady) – first Kazakh woman to reach last eight in New York – and Rome (l. Halep)
- Owns one win over a reigning World No.1, upsetting Osaka on grass at 2019 Birmingham
- Won first career title at 2019 Nürnberg (d. Zidanšek in F); afterwards rose to No.28 in rankings – one spot off career best No.27 (achieved February 6, 2017)
- Best result of 2018 was QF run at Roland Garros (l. Keys)
- Reached maiden WTA final in 2017 at St Petersburg (l. Mladenovic) after notching two Top 10 wins over No.8 Kuznetsova and No.5 Cibulková – first over a Top 5 player – (l. Mladenovic in F); first woman from Kazakhstan to reach a WTA final since Shvedova at 2015 Bogotá (l. Pereira)
- Rose to new career-high ranking of No.27 on February 6, 2017 following St Petersburg

MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN

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

- In 2016 became first Kazakh to reach the quarterfinals at Roland Garros – or at any major – since Shvedova in 2012, eventually losing to S.Williams in 3s
- Defeated No.14 V.Williams en route to first Premier-level quarterfinal of career at 2016 Charleston
- First Top 10 win came over No.10 Petkovic at 2015 Nürnberg (via ret.)
- Progressed to maiden WTA SF at 2015 Bastad (l. eventual champion Larsson)
- In 2014, reached first two WTA QFs, first on clay at Bastad (as qualifier, l. Cepelova) and then on hard at Osaka (l. eventual champion Stosur). Between these two results, scored first Top 20 win – over No.14 Pennetta – during run through qualifying to 2r at Montréal
- Made it through to 2r on Grand Slam main draw debut at 2013 Australian Open (d. McHale, l. Suárez Navarro)
- Advanced to 2r on WTA main draw debut at 2012 Copenhagen (as WC, d. Barbat, l. Jankovic)
- On ITF Circuit, winner of six singles titles and six doubles titles
- Kazakhstan Billie Jean King Cup Team, 2014-20

[17] EKATERINA ALEXANDROVA (RUS #33) VS. [2] ELINA SVITOLINA (UKR #5)

Head-to-head: ELINA SVITOLINA leads 1-0

2020 ROLAND GARROS CLAY O R3 ELINA SVITOLINA 6-5 7-5 102 mins

ALEXANDROVA		SVITOLINA	
Career Prize Money	\$2,352,603	Career Prize Money	\$19,860,259
Plays	Right-Handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Nov. 15, 1994 (26)	Date of Birth (Age)	Sep. 12, 1994 (26)
Singles Titles	1	Singles Titles	15
Tournament W-L (MD)	2-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	2-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	2-0 / 70-64	YTD / Career W-L (MD)	2-0 / 286-155
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 24-25	3-Set (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 84-50
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-1 / 14-23	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 61-46
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	2-0 / 53-36	Hard Court (YTD / Career)	2-0 / 207-106
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 2-11	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 33-38
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 5-16	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 61-69
Coach	Evgeny Alexandrov	Coach	Andrew Bettles

ALEXANDROVA:

- Has posted impressive serving numbers across opening two rounds at Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open, winning all 10 games on her own delivery to see off Diyas in 1r, then firing 17 aces in 2h 32m victory over Watson in 2r
- Faces No.5 Svitolina in 3r today – owns two career wins over Top 10 players, No.10 Ostapenko at 2018 Seoul and No.5 Halep at 2019 Beijing and
- One of a tournament-leading six Russians competing in the main draw (also Gasanova, Kasatkina, Kudermetova, Pavlyuchenkova, Potapova and Zvonareva)
- Opened 2020 season by lifting her maiden WTA singles title, at Shenzhen (d. Rybakina in F)
- Won both singles rubbers on Billie Jean King Cup debut in 3-2 win over Romania in February 2020
- In terms of ranking, best career win came over No.5 Halep at 2019 Beijing
- Made Top 50 debut on June 17, 2019 after QF run at 's-Hertogenbosch
- Registered 30 Tour-level match wins during 2019, in which she reached SF at Budapest, Seoul and Linz and made QF at St. Petersburg, 's-Hertogenbosch, Eastbourne and Moscow. Also advanced to 3r at a major for the first time, at Roland Garros
- Won sole WTA doubles title at 2019 Budapest (w/Zvonareva)
- Came through qualifying to make maiden WTA final appearance at 2018 Linz (l. Giorgi)
- Advanced to first WTA QF at 2018 Seoul, scoring maiden Top 10 win of her career en route, over No.10 Ostapenko
- Made Top 100 debut at No.93 on March 20, 2017 after winning title at \$60K ITF/Shenzhen-CHN
- At 2016 Wimbledon, ranked No.223, won her way through qualifying on her maiden Slam appearance, going on to reach 2r (upset No.23 seed Ivanovic in 1r)
- Won WTA 125K Series title at Limoges in 2016, 2018-19
- Reached 2r on WTA main draw debut at 2016 Katowice (as qualifier, l. eventual R-Up Giorgi)
- Contested qualifying for the first time at a WTA-level tournament at 2014 Bad Gastein
- Played first professional events of career on ITF Circuit in Europe in 2011

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
- Has won 16 of 17 service games across straight-set wins over Pegula in 1r and Zvonareva in 2r
- Faces Alexandrova in 3r today; in their only previous meeting, broke at the end of each set to edge out the Russian in 3r at 2020 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)
- 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
- 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

Round of 16

KENIN, SOFIA vs PUTINTSEVA, YULIA

There are no head to heads

SAKKARI, MARIA vs MUGURUZA, GARBINĒ

There are no head to heads

KOSTYUK, MARTA vs ZIDANSEK, TAMARA

There are no head to heads

SORRIBES TORMO, SARA vs GASANOVA, ANASTASIA

There are no head to heads

ALEXANDROVA, EKATERINA vs SVITOLINA, ELINA

Year	Tournament Name	Surface	I-O	Round	Winner
2020	ROLAND GARROS	CLAY	O	R32	SVITOLINA, ELINA

SVITOLINA, ELINA 1 - 0

rank _ seed	rank _ seed	Scores
5 3	31 27	6-4 7-5

SABALENKA, ARYNA vs JABEUR, ONS

Year	Tournament Name	Surface	I-O	Round	Winner
2020	ROLAND GARROS	CLAY	O	R32	JABEUR, ONS

JABEUR, ONS 1 - 0

rank _ seed	rank _ seed	Scores
35 30	12 8	7-6(7) 2-6 6-3

BADOSA, PAULA vs KUDERMETOVA, VERONIKA

Year	Tournament Name	Surface	I-O	Round	Winner
2019	INDIAN WELLS	HARD	O Q	R64	KUDERMETOVA, VERONIKA

KUDERMETOVA, VERONIKA 1 - 0

rank _ seed	rank _ seed	Scores
100 13	129 *	6-3 6-2

KASATKINA, DARIA vs RYBAKINA, ELENA

Year	Tournament Name	Surface	I-O	Round	Winner
2020	Ostrava	HARD	I	R32	KASATKINA, DARIA

KASATKINA, DARIA 1 - 0

rank _ seed	rank _ seed	Scores
75 *	19 6	6-2 3-6 6-3

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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. Witthoeft)
- Fell 1r on main draw debut at 2017 Dubai (as qualifier, l. Ka.Bondarenko)
- Member of Belarus Fed Cup team that lost to USA in 2017 final – scored first Top 20 win of career with defeat of No.13 Stephens during 2017 Fed Cup final in Minsk
- WTA qualifying debut came at 2016 Rabat
- 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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- 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

[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 math
- 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

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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	Talyna 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 Talya Beiko; one of the reasons Marta started tennis was so she could spend more time with her mother
- Has two sisters, Zoviyana 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/Broadly) 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

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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, l. 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 (I. Riske), 2019 Hiroshima (I. Doi), 2019 Tianjin (I. Watson) and 2020 Hobart (reached SF by walkover, I. Zhang)
- Only one of her three QF match wins have come over a player ranked higher than her (d. No.23 Yastremska 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 (I. 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 – I. 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, I. 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

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- 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, VERONIKA	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, SARA	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

WTA Website: www.wtatennis.com | @WTA | facebook.com/wta

 WTA Communications: Alex Prior (aprior@wtatennis.com)

ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN – SEMIFINALS

[9] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #22) vs. [4] ARYNA SABALENKA (BLR #10)

Sabalenka leads 3-1

Sabalenka prevailed over **Sakkari** at both Dubai and Doha in 2020... **Sakkari** has hit 20 aces combined in her past two matches... **Sabalenka** bidding for 14th consecutive win

MARTA KOSTYUK (UKR #99) vs. VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (RUS #46)

First meeting

Kudermetova was two points from defeat during upset over Svitolina on Monday... **Kostyuk** produced 41 winners during her QF victory... **Kudermetova** appearing in biggest SF of her career

SEMIFINAL RECORDS

PLAYER	LAST FINAL REACHED (final result)	CAREER SF W/L	CAREER F W/L
[4] Aryna Sabalenka	2020 Linz (WON)	12-6	8-4
[9] Maria Sakkari	2019 Rabat (WON)	2-7	1-1
Veronika Kudermetova	-	0-4	-
Marta Kostyuk	-	-	-

POTENTIAL FINAL HEAD-TO-HEADS

	KOSTYUK	KUDERMETOVA
SAKKARI	First meeting	Kudermetova leads 1-0
SABALENKA	First meeting	Sabalenka leads 1-0

RANKING PROJECTIONS

- After Abu Dhabi*, there will be no changes among the WTA's Top 5
- **Aryna Sabalenka** could rise to No.7 (from No.10) if she wins the title
- **Maria Sakkari** is projected to rise to No.21 by reaching the final and back into the Top 20 by lifting the title
- **Veronika Kudermetova** and **Marta Kostyuk** are guaranteed to improve their career-best rankings by reaching semifinals:

Kudermetova

SF = No.41, F = No.36, W = No.33

Kostyuk

SF = No.78, F = No.67, W = No.57

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

[9] MARIA SAKKARI (GRE #22) VS. [4] ARYNA SABALENKA (BLR #10)

Head-to-head: SABALENKA leads 3-1

2020	DOHA	HARD O	R16	ARYNA SABALENKA	6-3 6-0
2020	DUBAI	HARD O	R32	ARYNA SABALENKA	6-2 4-6 6-1
2019	ZHUHAI	HARD O	RR	ARYNA SABALENKA	6-3 6-4
2019	CINCINNATI	HARD O	R16	MARIA SAKKARI	6-7(4) 6-4 6-4

SAKKARI		SABALENKA	
Career Prize Money	\$3,540,619	Career Prize Money	\$6,804,310
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	July 25, 1995 (25)	Date of Birth (Age)	May 5, 1998 (22)
Singles Titles	1	Singles Titles	8
Tournament W-L (MD)	4-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	4-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	4-0 / 96-86	YTD / Career W-L (MD)	4-0 / 130-62
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 30-36	3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 45-23
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 30-17	Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 28-26
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	4-0 / 59-56	Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	4-0 / 105-40
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 11-13	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 12-13
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	2-0 / 19-34	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 26-18
Coach	Tom Hill	Coach	Anton Dubrov

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 spots shy of her career high of No.20; can break back into Top 20 by reaching the final
- Broke serve nine times across wins over teenagers Potapova in 1r and Gauff in 2r, then fired 11 aces in victory over No.15 Muguruza in 3r
- Reeled off the final 10 games to defeat No.4 Kenin in the QFs, her fifth career victory over Top 5 ranked player – previously beat No.5 Svitolina (2020 Ostrava), No.5 Bencic (2020 St. Petersburg), No.5 Kvitova (2019 Rome, via ret.) and No.5 Ka.Pliskova (2018 Rome)
- Also faced Kenin this week in Abu Dhabi in doubles along with partner Vekic, falling to the American and Toljanovic in a tight three-set match
- The last time she won four matches in a row was during her SF run at 2019 Rome (as qualifier, l. Ka.Pliskova)
- Reached the final four on two occasions in 2020: at St. Petersburg (l. Rybakina in SF) and Ostrava (l. Azarenka in SF)
- Faces No.10 Sabalenka today in their fifth career meeting. Recovered from 7-6 4-1 down to win the first of these encounters at 2019 Cincinnati
- 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
- 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

SABALENKA:

- Has posted wins over Herczeg, Tomljanovic, Jabeur and Rybakina here in Abu Dhabi
- Win over Jabeur was revenge for a three-set loss at last year's Roland Garros, which was also her last defeat in singles – since then has posted a perfect record, riding a career-best 13-match winning streak into today's SF clash, having captured titles at last two events of 2020: Ostrava and Linz
- Won 13 of 15 service games to see off No.19 Rybakina on Sunday; went 4-3 against fellow Top 20 players last year, falling only to the Top 10 trio of No.8 Bertens (Billie Jean King Cup), No.2 Halep (Dubai) and No.5 Svitolina (Strasbourg)
- Faces No.22 Sakkari in today's SF, their fifth meeting in past 17 months; also beat the Greek in back-to-back weeks last February, at Dubai and then during Doha title run, as well as en route to the trophy at Zhuhai in the final event of 2019
- Posted 3-2 record in SF matches in 2020, including Adelaide (SF), Doha (WON), Strasbourg (SF), Ostrava (WON) and Linz (WON)
- 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)
- 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

MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN

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

- 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. Witthoeft)
- Fell 1r on main draw debut at 2017 Dubai (as qualifier, l. Ka.Bondarenko)
- Member of Belarus Fed Cup team that lost to USA in 2017 final – scored first Top 20 win of career with defeat of No.13 Stephens during 2017 Fed Cup final in Minsk
- WTA qualifying debut came at 2016 Rabat
- 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

MARTA KOSTYUK (UKR #99) VS. VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (RUS #46)

Head-to-head: First meeting

KOSTYUK		KUDERMETOVA	
Career Prize Money	\$640,502	Career Prize Money	\$1,676,537
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Jun. 27, 2002 (18)	Date of Birth (Age)	March 24, 1997 (23)
Singles Titles	0	Singles Titles	0
Tournament W-L (MD)	4-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	4-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	4-0 / 12-14	YTD / Career W-L (MD)	4-0 / 49-40
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	2-0 / 2-7	3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	2-0 / 20-13
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	0-1 / 3-2	Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 18-11
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	4-0 / 8-6	Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	4-0 / 30-25
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-3	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 5-3
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 0-4	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 6-8
Coach	Talyna Beiko	Coach	Sergey Demekhine

KOSTYUK:

- Recovered from losing a 25-minute opening set to beat Sorribes Tormo in QF
- Earlier in the tournament, saw off Top 100 players Hsieh and Zidansek in straight sets – yet to face a seed
- Prior to this week, deepest run at a WTA tournament was QF showing at 2019 Strasbourg
- Faces No.46 Kudermetova in today's SF; owns five career Top 50 wins, most recently upsetting No.45 Sevastova en route to 3r at 2020 US Open
- One of five teenagers in the Abu Dhabi draw (also Fernandez, Gauff, Potapova and Wang Xiyu) and only one to make it beyond 2r
- By reaching SF is guaranteed to break into Top 80 for the first time
- Broke into Top 100 at No.97 on November 2, 2020, after reaching back-to-back finals on ITF Circuit in US
- Made 3r at 2020 US Open (l. eventual champion Osaka in 3s)
- In February 2020, picked up third ITF singles title of career, at a \$60k event in Cairo
- Season highlight in 2019 was reaching first WTA QF, at Strasbourg (l. Garcia)
- 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 also youngest player to reach the 3r at a major since 1997 US Open when Mirjana Lucic-Baroni (15 years, 182 days) reached this stage
- Scored two Top 50 wins in 2018, over No.27 Peng (Australian Open), No.26 Gavrilova (Fed Cup)
- 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 (l. Kalinskaya in 1r)
- Ukrainian Fed Cup Team 2018-20
- Won 2017 Australian Open girls' singles title (d. Masarova in F) and ITF Junior Masters event in Chengdu, China in October 2017; also won 2017 US Open girls' doubles (w/Daniilovic) and 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)

KUDERMETOVA:

- Has advanced to fifth – and most prestigious – WTA SF of her career at the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open
- Recovered from a set and break down to upset World No.5 Svitolina in QF. Came within two points of defeat in the final set before bouncing back to complete third Top 5 win of her career, having previously beaten No.5 Svitolina at 2019 Moscow and No.3 Ka.Pliskova at the 2020 Western and Southern Open
- Also upset No.10 seed Kontaveit in 1r and saw off qualifier Turati in 2r and Badosa in 3r
- Sole Russian remaining from a tournament-leading seven started the main draw here in Abu Dhabi
- Faces 18-year-old Kostyuk in today's SF; posted 1-1 record against teenagers in 2020, beating Yastremska (Dubai) and losing to Swiatek (US Open)
- Owns 0-4 career record in SF matches advancing to the final four at 2019 's-Hertogenbosch (l. Riske), 2019 Hiroshima (l. Doi), 2019 Tianjin (l. Watson) and 2020 Hobart (l. Zhang)
- 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 Krunić) 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

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

Head-to-Heads

Semi Finals

SAKKARI, MARIA vs SABALENKA, ARYNA

SABALENKA, ARYNA 3 - 1

Year	Tournament Name	Surface	I-O	Round	Winner	rank _ seed		rank _ seed		Scores
2019	CINCINNATI	HARD	O	R16	SAKKARI, MARIA	33	*	9	9	6-7(4) 6-4 6-4
2019	ZHUHAI	HARD	O	R1	SABALENKA, ARYNA	14	4	22	9	6-3 6-4
2020	DUBAI	HARD	O	R32	SABALENKA, ARYNA	13	7	21	*	6-2 4-6 6-1
2020	DOHA	HARD	O	R16	SABALENKA, ARYNA	13	9	20	15	6-3 6-0

KOSTYUK, MARTA vs KUDERMETOVA, VERONIKA

There are no head to heads

Head-to-Heads

SAKKARI, MARIA vs KOSTYUK, MARTA

There are no head to heads

SABALENKA, ARYNA vs KOSTYUK, MARTA

There are no head to heads

SAKKARI, MARIA vs KUDERMETOVA, VERONIKA

KUDERMETOVA, VERONIKA 1 - 0

Year	Tournament Name	Surface	I-O	Round	Winner	rank _ seed		rank _ seed		Scores
2019	ISTANBUL	CLAY	O	R32	KUDERMETOVA, VERONI	76	*	43	8	6-3 6-4

SABALENKA, ARYNA vs KUDERMETOVA, VERONIKA

SABALENKA, ARYNA 1 - 0

Year	Tournament Name	Surface	I-O	Round	Winner	rank _ seed		rank _ seed		Scores
2015	ANTALYA 12	HARD	O	R32	SABALENKA, ARYNA	1215	*	341	1	6-3 6-3

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WTA Communications: Alex Prior (aprior@wtatennis.com)

ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN – FINAL

[4] ARYNA SABALENKA (BLR #10) vs. VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (RUS #46)

Sabalenka leads 1-0

Sabalenka won previous meeting on the ITF Challenger Circuit in 2015 ... **Kudermetova** appearing in first-ever WTA singles final of her career ... **Sabalenka** bidding for 15th consecutive win and third straight title... **Kudermetova** just two points from defeat during upset over Svitolina on Monday

FINAL RECORDS

PLAYER	LAST FINAL REACHED (final result)	CAREER F W/L
[4] Aryna Sabalenka	2020 Linz (WON)	8-4
Veronika Kudermetova	-	-

RANKING PROJECTIONS

- After Abu Dhabi*, there will be no changes among the WTA's Top 5
- **Aryna Sabalenka** could rise to No.7 (from No.10) if she wins the title
- **Veronika Kudermetova** is guaranteed to improve her career-best ranking to No.36 by appearing in today's final and could jump to No.33 if she wins the title

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

[4] ARYNA SABALENKA (BLR #10) VS. VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (RUS #46)

Head-to-head: SABALENKA leads 1-0

2015 ANTALYA 12 HARD O R32 ARYNA SABALENKA 6-3 6-3

SABALENKA		KUDERMETOVA	
Career Prize Money	\$6,804,310	Career Prize Money	\$1,676,537
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	May 5, 1998 (22)	Date of Birth (Age)	March 24, 1997 (23)
Singles Titles	8	Singles Titles	0
Tournament W-L (MD)	5-0	Tournament W-L (MD)	5-0
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	5-0 / 131-62	YTD / Career W-L (MD)	5-0 / 50-40
3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 45-23	3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)	2-0 / 20-13
Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 28-26	Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)	2-0 / 19-11
Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	5-0 / 106-40	Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)	5-0 / 31-25
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-0 / 12-13	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 5-3
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 26-18	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	1-0 / 6-8
Coach	Anton Dubrov	Coach	Sergey Demekhhine

SABALENKA:

- Has posted wins over Hercog, Tomljanovic, Jabeur, Rybakina and Sakkari here in Abu Dhabi
- Win over Jabeur was revenge for a three-set loss at last year's Roland Garros, which was also her last defeat in singles – since then has posted a perfect record, riding a career-best 14-match winning streak into today's final
- Won 13 of 15 service games to see off No.19 Rybakina on Sunday; went 4-3 against fellow Top 20 players last year, falling only to the Top 10 trio of No.8 Bertens (Billie Jean King Cup), No.2 Halep (Dubai) and No.5 Svitolina (Strasbourg)
- Cruised past No.22 Sakkari in SF with a dominating performance, blasting 22 winners (including 8 aces) to just 8 unforced errors during their fifth meeting in past 17 months; also beat the Greek in back-to-back weeks last February, at Dubai and then during Doha title run, as well as en route to the trophy at Zhuhai in the final event of 2019
- Faces No.46 Kudermetova in today's championship match for a chance to lift her third straight title (ninth overall), having won last two events of 2020: Ostrava and Linz
- Owns 8-4 record in tour-level singles finals, 8-1 after losing the first three (2017 Tianjin, 2018 Lugano and Eastbourne); now has won five consecutive finals, with last loss at this stage coming at 2019 San Jose (l. S.Zheng)
- All eight titles have been won on hardcourts (2018 New Haven and Wuhan, 2019 Shenzhen, Wuhan and Zhuhai, 2020 Doha, Ostrava and Linz)
- Will rise to a new career high ranking of No.7 with the title, surpassing Andreescu, Kvitova and Bertens; current career high ranking stands at No.9 (first achieved on Feb.4, 2019)
- 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)
- In her last event in the Middle East, won the third Premier 5 title of her 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. Witthoeft)
- Fell 1r on main draw debut at 2017 Dubai (as qualifier, l. Ka.Bondarenko)
- Member of Belarus Fed Cup team that lost to USA in 2017 final – scored first Top 20 win of career with defeat of No.13 Stephens during 2017 Fed Cup final in Minsk
- WTA qualifying debut came at 2016 Rabat
- 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

KUDERMETOVA:

- Upset No.10 seed Kontaveit in 1r and saw off qualifier Turati in 2r and Badosa in 3r, becoming the sole Russian in the last eight after a tournament leading seven started the main draw here in Abu Dhabi
- Recovered from a set and break down to upset World No.5 Svitolina in QF. Came within two points of defeat in the final set before bouncing back to complete third Top 5 win of her career, having previously beaten No.5 Svitolina at 2019 Moscow and No.3 Ka.Pliskova at the 2020 Western and Southern Open
- Before this week, owned 0-4 career record in SF matches, advancing to the final four at 2019 's-Hertogenbosch (l. Riske), 2019 Hiroshima (l. Doi), 2019 Tianjin (l. Watson) and 2020 Hobart (l. Zhang)
- In the fifth – and most prestigious – WTA SF of her career, edged 18-year-old Kostyuk in two close sets (saved a set point in 1st set tie-break) to reach the championship match for the first time; it also marks her 50th MD win on tour

MATCH NOTES: ABU DHABI WTA WOMEN'S TENNIS OPEN

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

- Takes on No.10 Sabalenka in today's final for maiden WTA singles title, having lost the pair's only previous meeting on the ITF Challenger Circuit in 2015
- Owns five Top 10 wins in career (all on hard court); now also has a chance to beat two such opponents in one tournament for the first time
- Previously, won her biggest singles title to date at WTA 125K Series event in Guadalajara in 2019 (d. Bouzkova in F)
- By reaching the final, is guaranteed to improve her career-best ranking, at least to No.36; will rise to No.33 and surpass Alexandrova to become Russian No.1 if she wins the title
- 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 Krunić) 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