



Volvo
Car
Open

MATCH NOTES: VOLVO CAR OPEN
CHARLESTON, SC, USA | APRIL 5-11, 2021 | USD \$565,530 | WTA 500

Tournament Information:
WTA Website:
WTA Communications:

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VOLVO CAR OPEN – FINAL

[15] VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (RUS #38) vs. DANKA KOVINIC (MNE #91)

Kudermetova leads 1-0

Kudermetova beat Kovinic in two tight sets in Shenzhen qualifying two years ago... Winner will lift their maiden WTA title... Kovinic appearing in biggest final of her career... Kudermetova has struck 25 aces this week... Kovinic has beaten three seeds en route to the final... Kudermetova bidding to be the first woman since 2012 to win Charleston title without dropping a set

A LOOK AT THE FINALISTS

PLAYER	RANK	AGE	NAT	CHARLESTON (MD) W/L*	SEASON (MD) W/L*	CAREER (MD) W/L*	CAREER PRIZE \$^	CAREER TITLES
[15] Veronika Kudermetova	38	23	RUS	5-1	16-8	61-48	1,987,017	0
Danka Kovinic	91	26	MNE	8-3	7-5	61-85	1,888,461	0

*Includes current tournament / ^ Does not include current tournament

FINAL RECORDS

PLAYER	BEST CHARLESTON RESULT	LAST FINAL REACHED (final result)	CAREER F W/L
[15] Veronika Kudermetova	Final (1): 2021 1r (1): 2019	2021 Abu Dhabi (R-UP)	0-1
Danka Kovinic	Final (1): 2021 QF (1): 2015	2016 Istanbul (R-UP)	0-2

CHARLESTON 10-YEAR FINAL HISTORY

YEAR	CHAMPION	RUNNER-UP	SCORE
2020	Tournament not played		
2019	[8] Madison Keys (USA #18)	[5] Caroline Wozniacki (DEN #13)	7-6(5) 6-3
2018	[12] Kiki Bertens (NED #27)	[5] Julia Goerges (GER #13)	6-2 6-1
2017	Daria Kasatkina (RUS #42)	Jelena Ostapenko (LAT #66)	6-3 6-1
2016	[7] Sloane Stephens (USA #25)	[Q] Elena Vesnina (RUS #85)	7-6(4) 6-2
2015	[5] Angelique Kerber (GER #16)	[7] Madison Keys (USA #20)	6-2 4-6 7-5
2014	[14] Andrea Petkovic (GER #40)	Jana Cepelova (SVK #78)	7-5 6-2
2013	[1] Serena Williams (USA #1)	[9] Jelena Jankovic (SRB #18)	3-6 6-0 6-2
2012	[5] Serena Williams (USA #10)	[9] Lucie Safarova (CZE #26)	6-0 6-1
2011	[1] Caroline Wozniacki (DEN #1)	Elena Vesnina (RUS #56)	6-2 6-3

FINAL QUICK-HITS

- Either No.15 seed **Veronika Kudermetova** or **Danka Kovinic** will lift their maiden WTA title, when they meet in Sunday's Volvo Car Open final
- The winner will be the fifth first-time title winner on Tour this season, following on from Clara Tauson (Lyon), Sara Sorribes Tormo (Guadalajara), Leylah Fernandez (Monterrey) and María Camila Osorio Serrano/Tamara Zidasek (play today in Bogotá final)
- **Kovinic** is the first unseeded player to reach the final since teenagers Daria Kastkina and Jelena Ostapenko met in 2017, and the lowest-ranked since an unranked Jennifer Capriati finished runner-up in 1990 (down the coast at the tournament's previous home in Hilton Head)
- **Kudermetova** has not dropped a set in her five matches. The last woman to lift the title here without conceding one was Serena Williams in 2012
- In contrast, **Kovinic's** passage to the final has been less straightforward. She was taken the distance against Leylah Fernandez in the second round and came within two points of defeat during her upset of No.11 seed Yulia Putintseva in the quarterfinals

ROAD TO THE FINAL

KUDERMETOVA			KOVINIC	
[Q] Desirae Krawczyk (USA #NR)	6-1 6-2	First round	[Q] Gabriela Talaba (ROU #214)	7-6(2) 6-4
[WC] Emma Navarro (USA #481)	6-4 6-4	Second round	Leylah Fernandez (CAN #105)	6-4 3-6 6-3
[Q] Kurumi Nara (JPN #162)	6-0 6-3	Third round	[3] Petra Kvitova (CZE #11)	6-4 6-1
Sloane Stephens (USA #57)	6-3 6-4	Quarterfinals	[11] Yulia Putintseva (KAZ #31)	6-7(2) 7-5 6-1
Paula Badosa (ESP #71)	6-3 6-3	Semifinals	[12] Ons Jabeur (TUN #28)	6-3 6-2

Total time on court: 6h 41m

Total time on court: 9h 28m

A SNAPSHOT OF 2021 SO FAR

- **Top 20 Debut (1):** Jennifer Brady (at No.13 on February 22)
- **Fewest games dropped en route to a title:** Iga Swiatek (22, Adelaide)
- **Lowest-ranked player to triumph:** Clara Tauson (No.139, Lyon)
- **Youngest title winner:** Clara Tauson, Lyon (18y 76d)
- **Oldest title winner:** Petra Kvitova, Doha (30y 363d)
- **Aces leaders:** Ashleigh Barty – 127, Veronika Kudermetova – 124, Ons Jabeur – 103
- **Most aces in a match (17):** Ekaterina Alexandrova (d. Watson 7-5 6-7(7) 6-3 – Abu Dhabi, 2r)
- **Match win leaders:** Garbiñe Muguruza – 21, Ashleigh Barty – 16, Veronika Kudermetova – 16, Daria Kasatkina – 15, Sara Sorribes Tormo – 15
- **Most singles titles (2):** Daria Kasatkina (Phillip Island Trophy, St. Petersburg), Ashleigh Barty (Yarra Valley Classic, Miami)
- **Most doubles titles (3):** Shuko Aoyama / Ena Shibahara (Abu Dhabi, Yarra Valley Classic, Miami)
- **Most Top 10 wins (4):** Jessica Pegula (No.5 Svitolina at Australian Open, No.6 Ka.Pliskova at Doha, Dubai and Miami)
- **Longest match:** 3h 33m – Irina-Camelia Begu d. Johanna Konta 4-6, 7-6(10), 7-6(4) (Gippsland Trophy, 3r)

[15] VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (RUS #38) VS. DANKA KOVINIC (MNE #91)

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

2019 SHENZHEN HARD O QUAL. VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA 6-4 7-5

KUDERMETOVA		KOVINIC	
Career Prize Money	\$1,987,017	Career Prize Money	\$1,888,461
Plays	Right-handed	Plays	Right-handed
Date of Birth (Age)	Apr. 24, 1997 (23)	Date of Birth (Age)	Nov. 18, 1994 (26)
Singles Titles	0	Singles Titles	0
Charleston W-L (MD)	5-1	Charleston W-L (MD)	8-3
YTD / Career W-L (MD)	16-8 / 61-48	YTD / Career W-L	7-5 / 61-85
3-Set (YTD / Career)	4-2 / 24-15	3-Set (YTD / Career)	3-1 / 29-30
Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	5-3 / 23-12	Tie-Break (YTD / Career)	1-1 / 10-22
Clay Court (YTD / Career)	5-0 / 18-11	Clay Court (YTD / Career)	5-0 / 37-31
Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	1-3 / 5-6	Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)	0-1 / 2-6
Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	1-4 / 6-12	Top 20 W-L (YTD / Career)	1-1 / 3-16
Coach	Sergey Demkhine	Coach	Nemanja Plavsic

KUDERMETOVA:
Charleston

- Making second appearance at Charleston, having fallen 1r on debut in 2019 (I. Kanepi)
- Is yet to drop a set this year, beating qualifier Krawczyk in 1r, local WC Navarro in 2r, another qualifier Nara in 3r, former champion Stephens in QF and unseeded Badosa in SF, winning 38 of 43 service games (88.4% - up on season average of 63.3%)
- Prior to win over Stephens on Friday night, had been defeated in all four WTA clay court QFs in her career, at 2018 Gstaad (I. Bouchard), 2019 Lugano (I. Hercog), 2019 Istanbul (I. Gasparyan) and 2019 Nürnberg (I. Zidansek)
- Has struck 25 aces this week, taking her season total to 124 – second on Tour, behind Barty (127)
- Defeated Badosa in SF; also beat the Spaniard en route to maiden WTA final, at Abu Dhabi this January
- Faces No.91 Kovinic in today's final; owns 12-3 record against players ranked outside Top 50 this season, with defeats coming to No.99 Li (Grampians Trophy), No.53 Rogers (Adelaide) and No.61 Kasatkina (St. Petersburg)
- Only previous WTA final ended in a straight sets defeat to Sabalenka at Abu Dhabi this January; biggest title of her career came on hard courts at the WTA 125K Series event in Guadalajara in 2019
- Bidding to be the third Russian to win Charleston, following in the footsteps of Petrova (2006) and Kasatkina (2017)
- Prior to this week, only back-to-back wins on US soil came during 3r showing at 2020 Western & Southern Open (d. Tomljanovic and Ka.Pliskova, I. Mertens)
- Seeded No.2 in doubles here w/Babos but forced to withdraw prior to QF match against Bouzkova/Hradecka (Babos: illness)
- Results here in Charleston will take her total career prize money past \$2 million
- Coming off 3r showing at Miami (I. Sabalenka)
- Advanced to QF at St. Petersburg (I. Kasatkina) where she was one of seven Russians to reach the last eight
- Made 2r exit at Dubai (I. Bencic) and 1r exit at Doha (I. Muguruza)
- Suffered 1r exit at Adelaide (I. Rogers) after a career-best 3r run at Australian Open (I. Halep)
- Also this season, made 2r at Grampians Trophy (I. Li) after opening her campaign by reaching maiden WTA final, at Abu Dhabi (I. Sabalenka)

Career Milestones

- Began last 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.
- Closed out 2020 season with back-to-back QFs at Ostrava (as qualifier, I. Brady) and Linz (I. Mertens)
- 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 (I. eventual champion Krunic) and then Gstaad (I. Bouchard)
- Reached 2r on WTA main draw debut at 2018 Stuttgart (d. No.25 Suárez Navarro, I. eventual champion Ka.Pliskova)
- WTA qualifying debut came at 2014 Moscow
- Made Billie Jean King Cup debut in 2014 vs. Australia (I. 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

KOVINIC:

Charleston

- Making fourth main draw appearance at Charleston (fifth overall)
- Advanced to QF here in 2015 (as qualifier, I. Petkovic)
- Also made 2r in 2016 (I. eventual champion Stephens) and fell 1r in 2017 (I. eventual champion Kasatkina)
- In 1r this year edged past qualifier Talaba before breaking serve seven times to beat teenager Fernandez in 2r
- Upset No.11 Kvitova in 3r, having come within two points of beating the Czech in third set of both their previous matches, at Indian Wells and Roland Garros in 2016
- Now has three Top 20 wins – previously upset No.8 Vinci at 2016 Madrid and No.10 Bencic at 2020 Rome
- Required 2h53m to see off No.31 Putintseva in QF – came within two points of defeat at 5-4 down in the second set – in the longest match of the tournament (one minute longer than Cornet vs. Pera in 1r)
- Won eight of her nine service games to upset No.28 Jabeur in SF; this is the first time she has beaten three Top-50 players at the same tournament (prior to this week, had only won two of her past 22 matches against Top-50 opposition)
- Faces another in the shape of No.38 Kudermetova in today's final; previous career WTA finals ended in defeats to A.Radwanska at 2015 Tianjin and Buyukakcay at 2016 Istanbul



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- On the ITF Circuit, her biggest titles came at the \$100k events at Trnava-SVK in 2015, Marseille-FRA in 2016 and Szekesfehervar-HUN in 2019 (all on clay)
- Has spent 9h 28m on court this week – nearly three hours more than Kudermetova
- Prior to this week, had never reached a SF above WTA 250 level
- By reaching final is projected to return to Top 70 for the first time since February 2017
- Prior to this week, most recent back-to-back Tour level wins came during 3r run at 2020 Rome
- In most recent outing on Tour, reached 2r at Guadalajara (l. Davis)
- Fell 1r at both Australian Open (l. Barty 6-0 6-0) and then Phillip Island Trophy (l. Bouzkova)
- Made 2r at Gippsland Trophy (d. Zidansek, l. Ostapenko)
- Opened season with 1r exit at Abu Dhabi (l. Muchova)

Career Milestones

- Season highlights in 2020 include reaching QF at Istanbul (l. Bouchard) before advancing to 3r at Rome (as qualifier, l. Mertens)
- Highlights from 2019 were R-Up appearance at 125K event in Bastad, Sweden (l. Doi in F) and QF run at Tashkent Open (l. Cirstea)
- Additionally in 2019, lifted titles at \$100K ITF/Szekesfehervar-HUN, \$25K ITF/Campinas-BRA and \$25K ITF/Ystad-SWE. Now owns 11 singles and four doubles titles on the ITF Circuit
- Spent majority of 2018 competing on the ITF Circuit, though advanced through qualifying at WTA International tournaments Lugano and Istanbul where she reached 2r
- In 2016, advanced to second career singles final at Istanbul (l. Buyukakcay)
- Set career-high ranking of No.46 on February 22, 2016, following QF run at Rio de Janeiro
- Made Top 100 debut on May 4, 2015 at No.95
- First WTA final appearance came in shape of R-Up finish at 2015 Tianjin (l. A.Radwanska)
- At 2015 Roland Garros became first player – man or woman – from Montenegro to advance to 2r of a Grand Slam (already set the national record for first player to appear in 1r at major at 2014 Roland Garros)
- Montenegrin Fed Cup Team, 2011-13, 2016, 2018; Montenegrin Olympic Team, 2016
- Reached QF at 2013 Budapest, which was her WTA main draw debut
- Played first events of her career on the ITF Circuit in 2009