



PREVIEW NOTES: AKRON WTA FINALS

GUADALAJARA, MEXICO | NOVEMBER 10-17, 2021 | USD \$5,000,000

MATCH SCHEDULE

SESSION	DAY	TIME	MATCHES
Session 1	Wednesday, November 10	2pm	Singles RR (1), Doubles RR (1)
Session 2	Wednesday, November 10	7pm	Singles RR (1), Doubles RR (1)
Session 3	Thursday, November 11	2pm	Singles RR (1), Doubles RR (1)
Session 4	Thursday, November 11	7:30pm	Singles RR (1), Doubles RR (1)
Session 5	Friday, November 12	2pm	Singles RR (1), Doubles RR (1)
Session 6	Friday, November 12	7:30pm	Singles RR (1), Doubles RR (1)
Session 7	Saturday, November 13	2pm	Singles RR (1), Doubles RR (1)
Session 8	Saturday, November 13	7:30pm	Singles RR (1), Doubles RR (1)
Session 9	Sunday, November 14	2pm	Singles RR (1), Doubles RR (1)
Session 10	Sunday, November 14	7:30pm	Singles RR (1), Doubles RR (1)
Session 11	Monday, November 15	2pm	Singles RR (1), Doubles RR (1)
Session 12	Monday, November 15	7:30pm	Singles RR (1), Doubles RR (1)
Session 13	Tuesday, November 16	2pm	Singles SF (1), Doubles SF (1)
Session 14	Tuesday, November 16	7:30pm	Singles SF (1), Doubles SF (1)
Session 15	Wednesday, November 17	5pm	Singles Final (1), Doubles Final (1)

Subject to change RR = Round Robin

WTA FINALS – A BRIEF HISTORY

- This is the 50th staging of the event (which began in 1972). This year marks the first time the city of Guadalajara will host the WTA Finals. Prior to Guadalajara, the event was staged in Shenzhen (where it will return in 2022) and Singapore from 2014-2018. Guadalajara is the 11th different city to host the year-end event
- This year the names for each group are in honor of four ancient Mexican and Colombian settlements that have a huge cultural and architectural importance for the region: Chichen Itza and Teotihuacán (singles), and Tenochtitlán and El Tajin (doubles)
- The singles event features 8 players and begins as a round robin event, with 4 players in each group. Over the first 6 days of competition, each player meets the other 3 players in her group, with the top 2 in each pool moving on to the semifinals. Each of the group winners meets the runner-up in the other group in the semifinals. The winners of each semifinal meet in the championship match
- The current round robin format was re-introduced in 2003 for the first time since 1982
- Eleven players have advanced to the final on their WTA Finals debut; only Serena Williams (2001), Maria Sharapova (2004), Petra Kvitova (2011), Dominika Cibulkova (2016) and Ashleigh Barty (2019) won the title on their debut. Those other players who reached the final on their debut are: Tracy Austin (1979 R-Up), Andrea Jaeger (1981 R-Up), Lindsay Davenport (1994 R-Up), Martina Hingis (1996 R-Up), Simona Halep (2014 R-Up) and Sloane Stephens (2018 R-Up)



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- **Darija Jurak & Andreja Klepac** – despite not teaming up until the clay court season, they quickly found their groove, reaching finals on all three surfaces and collecting titles at Bad Homburg and San Jose to help secure one of the last spots in Guadalajara
- **Sharon Fichman & Giuliana Olmos** – the season began with a Slam breakthrough for both at the Australian Open, where they made the quarterfinals. However, the highlight came on clay, leaving a trail of seeds in their wake to lift the trophy in Rome

2021 WTA FINALS AMASSADORS: THE LEGENDS, THE LEGACY

Between them, they won 12 of the first 16 editions of the WTA Finals. Hall of Famers, rivals and friends, two of the sport's great icons – **Chris Evert** and **Martina Navratilova** – are in Guadalajara to share their passion for tennis with fans and sponsors from the local community and around the world.

- The WTA's year-end World No.1 on five occasions, Chris Evert can lay claim to a number of historic firsts – including champion at the inaugural WTA Finals in 1972 (the first of her four wins at season finale), and first No.1 when computer rankings were introduced in 1975. In a career defined by remarkable focus and consistency and a double-handed backhand that inspired millions, Evert amassed 157 singles titles, including 18 Grand Slam trophies – indeed, her feat of winning at least one major a season for 13 years running (1974-1986) is unmatched across men's and women's tennis and she still owns the best win-loss percentage of the Open Era (.900, winning 1,309 matches). Chrissie's seven victories at the French Open remains the record among women, and she still owns the longest win streak on a single surface, having won 125 matches in a row on clay between August 1973 and May 1979.
- Crowned champion at the WTA Finals eight times in singles and 13 times in doubles – the record in both disciplines – Martina Navratilova won more singles titles (167), doubles titles (177) and career matches (1,442) than any player in WTA history. Having accumulated 59 Grand Slam titles (18 singles, 31 women's doubles, 10 mixed) during her illustrious career, she announced her final retirement from women's tennis in 2006, just before her 50th birthday. Revolutionizing tennis with her athletic serve-and-volley style and disciplined approach to health and fitness, Navratilova spent 332 weeks as World No.1 in singles (second only to Stefanie Graf's 377 weeks) and 237 weeks as the top-ranked doubles player. Together with Evert she forged one of the greatest rivalries in the history of any sport and in the end held the edge, 43-37. The WTA Finals Doubles Trophy is named in her honor.

ABOUT THE ROUND ROBIN FORMAT

- In 2003 the current round robin format feeding into a four-player single-elimination draw returned to the WTA Finals for the first time since 1982
- The Top 2 finishers in each group will advance to the semifinals where the top player in each group, will play against the other group's runner-up
- There have been 22 instances where a player has posted a perfect 3-0 record in round robin play, most recently 2019 finalist Elina Svitolina
- Only eight times though has a player posted a 3-0 record and gone on to win the title, including in four of the last nine Finals (Kvitova in 2011, S.Williams in 2012 and 2013 and Svitolina in 2018)
- Meanwhile only six times has a player posted a 3-0 round robin record and failed to reach the final, most recently in 2015 (both Sharapova and Muguruza)

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Players with 3-0 Round Robin Record

YEAR	PLAYER	RESULT
2003	Kim Clijsters	Won Title (d. Mauresmo in F)
2004	Amelie Mauresmo	SF (l. S.Williams)
2005	Mary Pierce	R-Up (l. Mauresmo)
2006	Maria Sharapova	SF (l. Henin)
2007	Justine Henin	Won Title (d. Sharapova in F)
2007	Maria Sharapova	R-Up (l. Henin)
2008	Vera Zvonareva	R-Up (l. V.Williams)
2008	Venus Williams	Won Title (d. Zvonareva in F)
2009	Serena Williams	Won Title (d. V.Williams in F)
2010	Vera Zvonareva	SF (l. Wozniacki)
2011	Petra Kvitova	Won Title (d. Azarenka in F)
2012	Serena Williams	Won Title (d. Sharapova in F)
2012	Maria Sharapova	R-Up (l. S.Williams)
2013	Serena Williams	Won Title (d. Li)
2013	Li Na	R-Up (l. S.Williams in F)
2014	Caroline Wozniacki	SF (l. S.Williams)
2015	Maria Sharapova	SF (l. Kvitova)
2015	Garbiñe Muguruza	SF (l. A.Radwanska)
2016	Angelique Kerber	R-Up (l. Cibulkova)
2018	Elina Svitolina	Won title (d. Stephens)
2018	Sloane Stephens	R-Up (l. Svitolina)
2019	Elina Svitolina	R-Up (l. Barty)

- On nine occasions has a player lost a match in the round robin stage and gone on to win the WTA Finals title:

YEAR	PLAYER	ROUND ROBIN W-L	SINGLE-ELIINATION RESULTS
2004	Maria Sharapova	2-1, 2 nd in group	d. Mauresmo in SF, d. S.Williams in F
2005	Amelie Mauresmo	2-1, 2 nd in group	d. Sharapova in SF, d. Pierce in F
2006	Justine Henin	2-1, 2 nd in group	d. Sharapova in SF, d. Mauresmo in F
2010	Kim Clijsters	2-1, 2 nd in group	d. Stosur in SF, d. Wozniacki in F
2014	Serena Williams	2-1, 2 nd in group	d. Wozniacki in SF, d. Halep in F
2015	Agnieszka Radwanska	1-2, 2 nd in group	d. Muguruza in SF, d. Kvitova in F
2016	Dominika Cibulkova	1-2, 2 nd in group	d. Kuznetsova in SF, d. Kerber in F
2017	Caroline Wozniacki	2-1, 2 nd in group	d. Ka.Pliskova in SF, d. V.Williams in F
2019	Ashleigh Barty	2-1, 1 st in group	d. Ka.Pliskova in SF, d. Svitolina in F

- There have also been seven occasions where a player has lost two matches in the group stage and progressed to the semifinals or better:

YEAR	PLAYER	ROUND ROBIN W-L	SINGLE-ELIINATION RESULTS
2009	Venus Williams	1-2, 2 nd in group	d. Jankovic in SF, l. S.Williams in F
2011	Vera Zvonareva	1-2, 2 nd in group	l. Azarenka in SF
2013	Jelena Jankovic	1-2, 2 nd in group	l. S.Williams in SF
2014	Agnieszka Radwanska	1-2, 2 nd in group	l. Halep in SF
2015	Agnieszka Radwanska	1-2, 2 nd in group	d. Muguruza in SF, d. Kvitova in F
2015	Petra Kvitova	1-2, 2 nd in group	d. Sharapova in SF, l. A.Radwanska in F
2016	Dominika Cibulkova	1-2, 2 nd in group	d. Kuznetsova in SF, d. Kerber in F



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RANKING POINTS & PRIZE MONEY BREAKDOWN

	<u>Matches Played</u>	<u>Wins</u>	<u>Losses</u>	<u>Singles Points (Bonus)</u>	<u>Singles Prize Money</u> \$4,000,000	<u>Doubles Points (Best 11 Results)</u>	<u>Doubles Prize Money</u> \$1,000,000
Winner				1500*	\$1,680,000*	1500	\$360,000
Finalist				1080*	\$860,000*	1080	\$190,000
Semifinalist				750*	\$470,000^	750	\$110,000
Round Robin	3	3	0	750	\$440,000	750	\$110,000
Round Robin	3	2	1	625	\$330,000	625	\$90,000
Round Robin	2	2	0	500	\$310,000	500	\$80,000
Round Robin	3	1	2	500	\$220,000	500	\$70,000
Round Robin	2	1	1	375	\$200,000	375	\$60,000
Round Robin	1	1	0	250	\$180,000	250	\$50,000
Round Robin	3	0	3	375	\$110,000	375	\$50,000
Round Robin	2	0	2	250	\$90,000	250	\$40,000
Round Robin	1	0	1	125	\$70,000	125	\$30,000

*If undefeated: 375 (125 per match) points and \$110,000 for participation + 125 points and \$110,000 for each round robin win + 330 points and \$420,000 for semifinal win +420 points and \$820,000 for final win
 ^Losing semifinalists earn an additional \$30,000

Singles participation and Alternate fees are prorated as follows:

Matches Played	Singles Participation Fees	Singles Alternate Fees
3	\$110,000	
2	\$90,000	\$80,000
1	\$70,000	\$60,000
0		\$40,000



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2021 – A SNAPSHOT OF THE WTA YEAR

- Thirty-eight different players have won a WTA singles title this year
- **Ashleigh Barty** leads the way in terms of singles titles won, with five to her name (Yarra Valley Classic, Miami, Stuttgart, Wimbledon, Cincinnati), followed by **Anett Kontaveit** on four (Cleveland, Ostrava, Moscow, Cluj-Napoca) and **Barbora Krejčíková** on three (Strasbourg, Roland-Garros, Prague)
- Seven other players have two titles each: **Daria Kasatkina** (Phillip Island Trophy, St. Petersburg), **Aryna Sabalenka** (Abu Dhabi, Madrid), **Iga Świątek** (Adelaide, Rome), **Danielle Collins** (Palermo, San Jose), **Garbiñe Muguruza** (Dubai, Chicago 500), **Clara Tauson** (Lyon, Luxembourg), **Paula Badosa** (Belgrade, Indian Wells)
- The WTA has crowned 17 maiden title winners in 2021: **Clara Tauson** (Lyon), **Sara Sorribes Tormo** (Guadalajara), **Leylah Fernandez** (Monterrey), **Veronika Kudermetova** (Charleston 500), **Camila Osorio** (Bogotá), **Astra Sharma** (Charleston 250), **Paula Badosa** (Belgrade), **Barbora Krejčíková** (Strasbourg), **Liudmila Samsonova** (Berlin), **Ons Jabeur** (Birmingham), **Elena-Gabriela Ruse** (Hamburg), **Tamara Zidansek** (Lausanne), **Danielle Collins** (Palermo), **Maryna Zanevska** (Gdynia), **Emma Raducanu** (US Open), **Jasmine Paolini** (Portoroz), **Ann Li** (Tenerife)
- **Paula Badosa** has produced the most efficient title run, dropping 20 games at Belgrade
- Three players in 2021 have completed a singles-doubles title sweep at the same event – **Ashleigh Barty** at Stuttgart (partnering Jennifer Brady), **Coco Gauff** at Parma (partnering Catherine McNally) and **Barbora Krejčíková** at Roland-Garros (partnering Katerina Siniakova)
- The youngest title winner this season is **Coco Gauff** at Parma (17 years, 2 months, 10 days) and the oldest is **Andrea Petkovic** at Cluj-Napoca (33 years, 10 months, 30 days)
- At No.198 **Elena-Gabriela Ruse** is the lowest-ranked title winner in 2021 having won Hamburg
- Four qualifiers have won a WTA title this season, **Clara Tauson** (Lyon), **Liudmila Samsonova** (Berlin), **Elena-Gabriela Ruse** (Hamburg) and **Emma Raducanu** (US Open)
- The top seed has prevailed at 10 events in 2021, while 18 unseeded players have won a title
- In the longest match in terms of time spent on court, **Kristina Kučová** took 3 hours and 55 minutes to defeat Ekaterine Gorgodze in the quarterfinals at Gdynia
- Sixteen singles championship matches have been decided in three-sets
- The team of **Shuko Aoyama / Ena Shibahara** are tied with **Katerina Siniakova** for the most doubles titles this year with five
- **Barbora Krejčíková** owns the longest unbeaten streak in 2021, winning 15 matches on the spin from May to July. This included title runs at Strasbourg (5) and Roland-Garros (7), followed by a fourth-round showing at Wimbledon
- Entering the WTA Finals, **Ashleigh Barty**, **Jessica Pegula** and **Maria Sakkari** own the most Top-10 wins with seven
- **Ons Jabeur** leads the Tour for most match wins this season, with 48, followed by **Anett Kontaveit** on 45. Kontaveit also owns a tour-leading 36 victories on hard courts
- Six players have made their Top-10 debuts in 2021: **Iga Świątek**, **Barbora Krejčíková**, **Maria Sakkari**, **Ons Jabeur**, **Paula Badosa** and **Anett Kontaveit**
- **Karolina Plisková** has hit the most aces this year – 364 – followed by **Aryna Sabalenka** – 338 (totals do not include Olympic tennis tournament)



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ACEING CANCER

WTA Charities Continues ACEing Cancer Campaign at AKRON WTA Finals

The WTA and WTA Charities launched the third annual ACEing Cancer campaign at the beginning of October to support women’s health and wellness with proceeds raised and donated to the fight against women’s cancers. Continuing the campaign, the WTA and WTA Charities will be adding an additional \$100 per ace hit at the AKRON WTA Finals by both singles players and doubles teams.

The ACEing Cancer initiative began in 2019 and the first research grant was dedicated in memory of former WTA player Elena Baltacha, who lost her fight to liver cancer in 2014 at the age of 30. The 2021-22 campaign will be dedicated to the memory of WTA Legend and Hall of Famer, **Jana Novotna**, who died from cervical cancer in 2017 at the age of 49. Novotna won the WTA Finals in doubles in 1995 with Arantxa Sánchez Vicario and in 1997 took home both the singles and doubles titles with Lindsay Davenport.

WTA athletes including Carla Suárez Navarro, a former Top-10 player who recently underwent treatment for Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, and Barbora Krejčíková, who was coached and mentored by Jana Novotna, supported ACEing Cancer by sharing personal stories which can be read at wtatennis.com/charities.

With the money raised in 2019 and 2020, ACEing Cancer and Cancer Research Racquet funded a research project at Duke University Medical Center, through the American Cancer Society that examines how to treat dormant tumor cells in breast cancer survivors. According to the research proposal, the goal of the project is that the “findings will directly lead to better treatment strategies that use the immune system to find and kill any remaining dormant tumor cells, resulting in longer lives for breast cancer survivors.”



The WTA will select this year’s research grant recipient following the conclusion of the fundraising campaign at the end of the year. To learn more or to make a donation, visit wtatennis.com/aceingcancer.

WTA Finals lead sponsor AKRON has also joined the campaign, with a \$150 donation made for every ace served this week in singles and doubles. Donations will go to Cruz Rosa in Guadalajara, a charity that supports underserved (low income) women diagnosed with cancer and their families, and also to help fund research focused on women’s cancer in honor of the late WTA legend and Hall of Famer Jana Novotna.

