

## PREVIEW NOTES

ATX OPEN

AUSTIN, TEXAS, USA

February 27 – March 5, 2023 | WTA 250 | \$259,303



WTA Website: **Tournament Website:** Communications:

www.wtatennis.com | @WTA | facebook.com/wta https://atxopen.com | @atxopen Laura Brown (Ibrown@wtatennis.com)

#### **ATX OPEN – QUICK FACTS**

| Main draw dates:<br>Singles Final:<br>Doubles Final: | Monday, February 27 – Sunday, March 5, 2023<br>Sunday, March 5, 2:00pm<br>Sunday, March 5, 4:00pm |
|--|---|
| Venue:   | Westwood Country Club   |
| Status:  | WTA 250   |
| Staging:   | First Edition   |
| Draw sizes:  | 32 singles / 16 doubles teams / 24 singles qualifying   |
| Surface:   | Hard / Outdoors   |
| Tennis Ball:   | PENN Tour Regular Duty  |

| SINGLES         | \$     | RANK POINTS |
|-----------------|--------|-------------|
| Winner          | 34,228 | 280         |
| Runner-Up       | 20,226 | 180         |
| Semifinalist    | 11,275 | 110         |
| Quarterfinalist | 6,418  | 60          |
| Round of 16     | 3,922  | 30          |
| Round of 32     | 2,804  | 1           |
| Qualified       | -      | 18          |

### **TOURNAMENT TALKING POINTS**

Wildcards: Mirjam Bjorklund, Elizabeth Mandlik, Peyton Stearns Youngest singles player: Robin Montgomery (18) Oldest singles player: Zhang Shuai (34)

- First edition of the tournament and marks the return of WTA Tour to Texas after an 11-year absence. Last Texas tournament was Texas Tennis Open in 2012.
- No.1 seed Magda Linette will look to make up for the surprise guarter-final loss against No.140 Rebecca ٠ Peterson last week at Merida and renew her form from Australian Open where she made her first Grand Slam semi-final and achieved career-high ranking of No.21.
- Other standout names in the main draw include 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens and 2022 Australian . Open runner-up Danielle Collins.
- Along with Sweden's, Mirjam Bjorklund, local talent Peyton Stearns and Floridian Elizabeth Mandlik received main-draw wildcards. Peyton Stearns played for the University of Texas at Austin and became the first Texas player to win the NCAA Division 1 Women's Singles National Championship last year.
- One to watch Peyton Stearns. Made her WTA main draw debut at Cleveland last year. Since the start of this season, has won two ITF tournaments. W25 Orlando and W60 Rome, and finished runner-up at W25 Naples. Stearns turned professional last year after helping University of Texas at Austin win two NCAA team titles and one NCAA singles championship. Last year, she made five ITF Tournament finals and won on three of those occasions. She is climbing the ranking ladder and currently sits at a career-high No.137 (first achieved on February 6, 2023).



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#### **COUNTRY & REGION BREAKDOWN**

A total of nine countries and regions are represented in the main draw led by the United States with sixteen players:

| China (1)          | Zhang Shuai  |  |  |
|--------------------|--|--|--|
| Germany (1)        | Anna-Lena Friedsam   |  |  |
| Great Britain (3)  | Harriet Dart, Katie Boulter, Heather Watson  |  |  |
| Hungary (1)        | Dalma Galfi  |  |  |
| Montenegro (1)     | Danka Kovinic  |  |  |
| Poland (2)         | Magda Linette, Magdalena Frech   |  |  |
| Sweden (1)         | Mirjam Bjorklund   |  |  |
| Ukraine (2)        | Marta Kostyuk, Dayana Yastremska   |  |  |
| United States (16) | Taylor Townsend, Sloan Stephens, Elizabeth Mandlik, Katie Volynets, Alison Riske-Amritraj, |  |  |
|                    | Peyton Stearns, Alycia Parks, Lauren Davis, Caty McNally, Danielle Collins, Madison        |  |  |
|                    | Brengle, Louisa Chirico, Ann Li, Robin Montgomery, Coco Vandeweghe, Ashlyn Krueger         |  |  |

Varvara Gracheva, Anna Kalinskaya, Anna Blinkova, Anastasia Potapova

#### A SNAPSHOT OF 2023 SO FAR

- Top-10 debuts (1): Elena Rybakina (January 30)
- Match wins leaders: Belinda Bencic (15-3), Aryna Sabalenka (13-1), Jessica Pegula (13-4), Iga Swiatek (12-3)
- Aces leaders: Elena Rybakina (116), Caroline Garcia (103), Aryna Sabalenka (102), Zheng Qinwen (93)
- Most singles titles (2): Aryna Sabalenka (Adelaide 1, Australian Open), Belinda Bencic (Adelaide 2, Abu Dhabi)
- Fewest games dropped en route to a title (5): Iga Swiatek (Doha)
- Lowest-ranked title winner (No.84): Lauren Davis (Hobart)
- Youngest title winner (18): Coco Gauff (Auckland)
- Oldest title winner (31): Camila Giorgi (Merida)
- Longest Match (3h 30m): Sorana Cirstea d. Beatriz Haddad Maia 4-6 7-6(7) 7-5 (Dubai)

# 2023 WTA TOUR FINALS

| Week of     | Level    | Tournament      | Singles Final                                 | Doubles Final   |
|-------------|----------|-----------------|---|---|
| January 2   | WTA 500  | Adelaide Int 1  | [2] A. Sabalenka d. [Q] L. Noskova 63 76(4)   | [6] Townsend/Muhammed d. [1] Hunter/Siniakova 6-2 7-6(2)    |
|             | WTA 250  | ASB Classic     | [1] C. Gauff d. [Q] R. Masarova 61 61         | [3] Kato/Sutjiadi d. [WC] Fernandez/Mattek-Sands 16 75 10-4 |
| January 9   | WTA 500  | Adelaide Int. 2 | [8] B. Bencic d. [5] D. Kasatkina 60 62       | Stefani/Townsend d. Pavlyuchenkova/Rybakina 75 76(3)        |
|             | WTA 250  | Hobart          | [Q] L. Davis d. E. Cocciaretto 76(0) 62       | [1] Flipkens/Siegemund d. Golubic/Udvardy 64 75             |
| January 16  | GS       | Australian Open | [5] A. Sabalenka d. [22] E. Rybakina 46 63 64 | [1] Krejcikova/Siniakova d. Aoyama/Shibahara 64 63          |
| January 30  | WTA 250  | Hua Hin         | L. Zhu d. L. Tsurenko 64 64                   | H.Chan/Wu d. Xin.Wang/Zhu 61 76(6)                          |
|             | WTA 250  | Lyon            | A. Parks d. [1] C. Garcia 76(7) 75            | Bucsa/Schoofs d. Danilovic/Panova 76(5) 63                  |
| February 6  | WTA 500  | Abu Dhabi       | [2] B. Bencic d. [8] L. Samsonova 16 76(8) 64 | Stefani/Zhang d. Aoyama/H.Chan 36 62 10-8                   |
|             | WTA 250  | Linz            | [8] A. Potapova d. [6] P. Martic 63 61        | Dzalamidze/Kuzmova d. Friedsam/N.Kichenok 46 75 12-10       |
| February 13 | WTA 500  | Doha            | [1] I. Swiatek d. [2] J. Pegula 63 60         | [1] Gauff/Pegula d. [2] Ostapenko/L.Kichenok 64 26 10-7     |
| February 20 | WTA 1000 | Dubai           | B. Krejcikova d. [1] I. Swiatek 64 62         | Kudermetova/Samsonova d. H. Chan/L. Chan 64 67(4) 10-1      |
|             | WTA 250  | Merida          | C. Giorgi d. [Q] R. Peterson 76(3) 16 62      | McNally/Parry d. Wang/Wu 60 75                              |