



PREVIEW NOTES

MERIDA OPEN AKRON
MERIDA, YUCATAN, MEXICO

February 20 - February 26, 2023 | WTA 250 | USD \$259,303



WTA Website: www.wtatennis.com | @WTA | facebook.com/wta
Tournament Website: <https://meridaopen.com> | @wtameridaopen
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MERIDA OPEN AKRON – QUICK FACTS

Main draw dates:	Monday, February 20 – Sunday, February 26, 2023
Singles Final:	Sunday, February 26, 7:00pm
Doubles Final:	Sunday, February 26, 4:30pm
Venue:	Yucatan Country Club
Status:	WTA 250
Staging:	1 st in Merida (previously held in Guadalajara)
Draw sizes:	32 singles / 16 doubles teams / 24 singles qualifying
Surface:	Hard (Solflex) / Outdoors
Tennis Ball:	Wilson US Open Regular Duty
2022 Singles Final:	[6] Sloane Stephens (USA) d. Marie Bouzkova (CZE) 75 16 62
2022 Doubles Final:	[2] Kaitlyn Christian (USA) / Lidziya Marozava d. Wang Xinyu (CHN) / Zhu Lin (CHN) 75 63

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

TOURNAMENT TALKING POINTS

Wildcards: Fernanda Contreras Gomez, Katie Volynets, Simona Waltert

Youngest singles player: Elina Avanesyan (20)

Oldest singles player: Tatjana Maria (35)

- First edition of the tournament in Merida - two previous editions were held in Guadalajara as Abierto Akron Zapopan.
- **Sloane Stephens** returns as the No.2 seed to defend her title after winning the event last year taking out Marie Bouzkova in the final.
- No.1 seed **Magda Linette** will look to carry her form from Australian Open where she made her first Grand Slam semi-final and achieved career-high ranking of No.21 last week.
- Along with Mexico's top ranked player, **Fernanda Contreras Gomez**, American **Katie Volynets** and Switzerland's **Simona Waltert** received main draw wildcards.
- Last year's doubles champions, **Kaitlyn Christian** and **Lidziya Marozava**, are back in the tournament with different partners. Christian has teamed up with **Sabrina Santamaria** and Marozava is with **Han Xinyun**.
- *One to watch* - **Elisabetta Cocciaretto**. The Italian had a strong start to the season with a runner-up performance at Hobart that helped her break into Top 50 for the first time in her career. The 22-year-old won the WTA 125 Tampico late last year beating current tournament seeds **Magda Linette** and **Lin Zhu** in the process. She is playing her first WTA tournament as a seed.



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TOP 4 SEEDS' TOURNAMENT HISTORY*

PLAYER	TOURNAMENT HISTORY	W/L	WIN %
[1] Magda Linette (POL)	Tournament debut	0-0	-
[2] Sloane Stephens (USA)	WON: 2022 (d. Bouzkova)	5-0	1.000
[3] Zhu Lin (CHN)	1r: 2022 (l. Dolehide)	0-1	.000
[4] Katerina Siniakova (CZE)	Tournament debut	-	-

**Main draw matches only*

COUNTRY & REGION BREAKDOWN

A total of 19 countries and regions are represented in the main draw led by the United States with five players:

Argentina (1)	Nadia Podoroska
Australia (1)	Kimberly Birrell
Belgium (1)	Ysaline Bonaventure
China (3)	Zhu Lin, Wang Xiyu, Wang Xinyu
Colombia (1)	Camila Osorio
Croatia (1)	Ana Konjuh
Czech Republic (1)	Katerina Siniakova
Egypt (1)	Mayar Sharif
France (1)	Leolia Jeanjean
Germany (2)	Jule Niemeier, Tatjana Maria
Hungary (2)	Panna Udvardy, Anna Bondar
Italy (3)	Elisabetta Cocciaretto, Lucia Bronzetti, Camila Giorgi
Mexico (1)	Fernanda Contreras Gomez
Poland (1)	Magda Linette
Spain (1)	Nuria Parrizas Diaz
Sweden (1)	Rebecca Peterson
Switzerland (2)	Viktorija Golubic, Simona Waltert
Ukraine (2)	Kateryna Baindl, Lesia Tsurenko
USA (5)	Sloane Stephens, Alycia Parks, Alison Riske-Amritraj, Caty McNally, Katie Volynets
	Elina Avanesyan



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A SNAPSHOT OF 2023 SO FAR

- **Top-10 debuts (1):** Elena Rybakina (January 30)
- **Match wins leaders:** Belinda Bencic (14-2), Aryna Sabalenka (11-0), Jessica Pegula (11-3), Maria Sakkari (11-4), Caroline Garcia (11-5)
- **Aces leaders:** Elena Rybakina (104), Caroline Garcia (103), Zheng Qinwen (87), Aryna Sabalenka (81)
- **Most aces in a match (20):** Veronika Kudermetova (d. Victoria Azarenka at Adelaide 2)
- **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 (29):** Lauren Davis (Hobart)
- **Longest Match (3h 14m):** Martina Trevisan d. Maria Sakkari 6-3 6-7(4) 7-5 (United Cup)

2023 WTA TOUR FINALS

Week of	Level	Tournament	Singles Final	Doubles Final
January 2	WTA 500 WTA 250	Adelaide Int 1 ASB Classic	[2] A. Sabalenka d. [Q] L. Noskova 63 76(4) [1] C. Gauff d. [Q] R. Masarova 61 61	[6] Townsend/Muhammed d. [1] Hunter/Siniakova 6-2 7-6(2) [3] Kato/Sutjiadi d. [WC] Fernandez/Mattek-Sands 16 75 10-4
January 9	WTA 500 WTA 250	Adelaide Int. 2 Hobart	[8] B. Bencic d. [5] D. Kasatkina 60 62 [Q] L. Davis d. E. Cocciaretto 76(0) 62	Stefani/Townsend d. Pavlyuchenkova/Rybakina 75 76(3) [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 WTA 250	Hua Hin Lyon	L. Zhu d. L. Tsurenko 64 64 A. Parks d. [1] C. Garcia 76(7) 75	H.Chan/Wu d. Xin.Wang/Zhu 61 76(6) Bucsa/Schoofs d. Danilovic/Panova 76(5) 63
February 6	WTA 500 WTA 250	Abu Dhabi Linz	[2] B. Bencic d. [8] L. Samsonova 16 76(8) 64 [8] A. Potapova d. [6] P. Martic 63 61	Stefani/Zhang d. Aoyama/H.Chan 36 62 10-8 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