TUESDAY, JANUARY 17 – FIRST ROUND

TAMARA ZIDANSEK (SLO #98)	Head-to-Head **1-1**	[2] ONS JABEUR (TUN #2)

Zidansek prevailed last time they met in qualifying at 2019 Rome… *Jabeur* missed last year's Australian Open due to a back injury… *Zidansek* owns 1-7 career record against Top-10 players… *Jabeur* reached maiden major QF at Melbourne Park in 2020

[Q] KATHERINE SEBOV (CAN #190)	Head-to-Head **0-0**	CAROLINE GARCIA (FRA #4)

Garcia lost to qualifier Baptiste in opening round at 2022 Australian Open… *Sebov* facing Top-10 opposition for the first time in her career… Since June 2022 *Garcia* has won 37 Tour-level matches … *Sebov* making Grand Slam main-draw debut… *Garcia* began last season ranked No.74

[5] ARYNA SABALENKA (#5)	Head-to-Head **0-0**	TEREZA MARTINCOVA (CZE #74)

Sabalenka opened campaign with title run at Adelaide 1… *Martincova* fell at the first hurdle at three of the four majors in 2022… *Sabalenka* has won past nine first-round matches at the Slams… *Martincova* is one of 11 Czechs in the draw this fortnight

[8] DARIA KASATKINA (#8)	Head-to-Head **1-0**	VARVARA GRACHEVA (#97)

Kasatkina beat Gracheva en route to title at 2021 Gippsland Trophy in Melbourne… *Gracheva* has lost two career encounters with Top-10 players… *Kasatkina* coming off run to final at Adelaide 2… *Gracheva* making 10th main-draw appearance at a major

MARYNA ZANEVSKA (BEL #80)	Head-to-Head **0-2**	[9] VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (#9)

Kudermetova won in straight sets when they met at 2022 US Open… *Zanevska* owns 2-7 record in Grand Slam first-round matches… *Kudermetova* contesting her first major as a Top-10 player… *Zanevska* bidding for first Top-10 win of her career

VIKTORIYA TOMOVA (BUL #91)	Head-to-Head **0-1**	[12] BELINDA BENCIC (SUI #10)

Bencic beat the Bulgarian at an ITF Circuit event 10 years ago… *Tomova* lost both previous Grand Slam meetings with Top-20 opposition… On Saturday *Bencic* lifted her seventh career title at Adelaide 2… *Tomova* opened season by representing Bulgaria at the United Cup

[16] ANETT KONTAVEIT (EST #19)	Head-to-Head **1-0**	JULIA GRABHER (AUT #85)

Kontaveit dropped three games when they played three years ago in the Billie Jean King Cup… *Grabher* is one of 10 Grand Slam debutantes in the starting field… *Kontaveit's* only Grand Slam QF came at 2020 Australian Open… *Grabher* has risen 100 ranking spots in the past year

JASMINE PAOLINI (ITA #66)	Head-to-Head **0-1**	[18] LIUDMILA SAMSONOVA (#20)

Samsonova came from a set down to beat the Italian in qualifying at 2019 St. Petersburg… *Paolini* owns 3-10 career record against Top-20 players… *Samsonova* won three hard-court titles in 2022… *Paolini* fell at first hurdle on three previous visits to Melbourne Park

GARBIÑE MUGURUZA (ESP #73)	Head-to-Head **2-0**	[26] ELISE MERTENS (BEL #32)

Muguruza defeated the Belgian during title run at 2021 Dubai… *Mertens* made Australian Open singles SF in 2018 and was crowned doubles champion in 2021… *Muguruza* was runner-up at Melbourne Park in 2020… *Mertens* is 19-4 in Grand Slam first-round matches

WANG XIYU (CHN #53)	**Head-to-Head** **0-0**	[30] KAROLINA PLISKOVA (CZE #31)

Pliskova withdrew from last year's tournament with right hand injury… Twelve months ago *Wang* was ranked No.139 and needed a WC to enter main draw here… *Pliskova's* only first-round exit at Australian Open came against Daniilidou on debut in 2013… *Wang* is one of six Chinese women in the draw

[31] KAIA KANEPI (EST #29)	**Head-to-Head** **1-0**	[WC] KIMBERLY BIRRELL (AUS #167)

Kanepi came out on top when they faced off in qualifying at 2018 Brisbane… *Birrell* is one of five Australian wildcards in the draw… *Kanepi* advanced to QF here last year… *Birrell's* best performance at her home Slam was a third-round run in 2019… *Kanepi* is the oldest woman in the draw

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TAMARA ZIDANSEK (SLO #98) VS. [2] ONS JABEUR (TUN #2)

Head-to-head: First Tour level meeting; series tied 1-1on all levels

| 2019 | ROME | CLAY (O) | Q-2R | TAMARA ZIDANSEK | 6-3 7-6(4) |
| 2016 | ITF 50K/TUNIS | CLAY (O) | R32 | ONS JABEUR | 6-4 7-6(2) |

ZIDANSEK		JABEUR
Right-handed	**Plays**	Right-handed
Dec. 26, 1997 (25)	**Date of birth (age)**	Aug. 28, 1994 (28)
5'5'' (1.68m)	**Height**	5'6'' (1.67m)
No.22 (Feb. 28, 2022)	**Career-high ranking**	No.2 (June 27, 2022)
$2,705,149	**Career prize money**	$9,228,066
1	**Singles Titles**	3
4-4 (3r; 2022)	**Australian Open W-L**	6-5 (QF; 2020)
12-15 (SF: 2021 Roland Garros)	**Grand Slam W-L**	38-22 (R-Up: 2022 US Open, Wimbledon)
0-2 / 64-72	**YTD / Career W-L (MD)**	2-1 / 157-109
0-1 / 26-27	**3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-1 / 51-45
1-0 / 21-14	**Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)**	2-0 / 33-33
5-0 / 27-40	**Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)**	2-1 / 90-80
0-0 / 1-6	**Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 11-20
Carl Maes	**Coach**	Issam Jellali

ZIDANSEK:

Australian Open

- Making fifth main draw appearance at Australian Open; best result is 3r run in 2022 (l. Cornet); also reached 2r in 2019 (l. Osaka) and 2020 (l. S.Williams), fell 1r in 2021 (l. Diyas) and contested qualifying in 2017 and 2018

- Across all Slams, best result was SF run at 2021 Roland Garros where she defeated No.7 Bianca Andreescu en route (l. Pavlyuchenkova); win over Andreescu remains only Top 10 win in career

- Faces No.2 Ons Jabeur in 1r; has lost last two Grand Slam opening matches at 2022 Wimbledon (l. Udvardy) and 2022 US Open (l. Mandlik)

- Career record in Grand Slam 1r matches is 7-8

- One of two players from Slovenia in the draw, also Kaja Juvan

- So far in 2023, fell 1r at Auckland (l. Davis) and Hobart (as qualifier, l. Bonaventure)

Career Milestones

- Reached career high ranking of No.22 on February 28, 2022

- Last year's highlights include SF at Adelaide 250 (withdrew prior to match), QF at Monastir (l. Cornet) and 3r at Australian Open (l. Cornet) and Roland Garros (l. Pegula)

- Ended 2021 campaign inside the Top 50 for the first time after compiling a career-best 24 main-draw match victories

- Last season, lifted maiden title at Lausanne (d. Burel in F), finished R-Up at Bogotá (l. Osorio) and enjoyed her Grand Slam breakthrough at Roland Garros, where she advanced to SF (l. Pavlyuchenkova)

- Broke into Top 50 following Roland Garros run, rising from No.85 to No.47 (June 14, 2021)

- Best singles result in 2020 was reaching QF at Acapulco (l. Zarazua)

- Earned a career high doubles ranking of No.57on November 16, 2020 after winning third career Tour-level doubles title at Ostrava (w/Rus). Also lifted the doubles title at Palermo (w/Rus)

- Highlights of 2019 were reaching first WTA singles final, at Nurnberg (l. Putintseva in F), as well as defending WTA 125 Series title at Bol (d. Sorribes Tormo in F) and reaching SF at Hua Hin (l. Tomljanovic)

- Contested all the Slam main draws in 2019 for the first time - reached 2r twice, at 2019 Australian Open (l. Osaka) and 2019 Wimbledon (l. Wang Qiang)

- Highlights in 2018 included SF run at Moscow [River Cup] and title run at Bol WTA 125K Series event

- Broke into Top 100 (at No.95) following Bol title on June 11, 2018 - became the ninth Slovenian player in history to crack the Top 100

- In 2018, posted seven tour-level main draw wins and 40 on ITF Circuit; reached SF in just third WTA main draw, at Moscow [River Cup] (d. No.13 Kasatkina in 2r, l. Potapova)

- Made 2r on WTA main draw debut at Rabat in2018 (as qualifier, d. Linette, l. Hsieh)

- WTA qualifying debut came at 2018 Brisbane

- Spent three months off tour with left knee injury in 2018

- Slovene Fed Cup Team, 2017-18, 2020

- Won first ITF Circuit title of career aged 16 at $10k Velenje in 2014 - has won 16 more singles titles at this level

JABEUR:

Australian Open

- Making sixth main draw appearance at Australian Open reaching maiden Grand Slam QF in 2020 (l. eventual champion Kenin); also reached 3r in 2021 (l. Osaka), fell 1r in 2015 (as qualifier, l. Zvonareva), 2018 (l. Vesnina) and 2019 (l. Babos) and contested qualifying in 2017

- Forced to withdraw from 2022 edition of the tournament due to a back injury

- Across all Slams, has reached two career major finals at 2022 Wimbledon (l. Rybakina) and 2022 US Open (l. Swiatek)

- Faces No.98 Tamara Zidansek in 1r; has not lost a Grand Slam main draw match to a player outside the Top 80 since 2015 Australian Open losing to No.203 Vera Zvonareva (Jabeur was ranked No.140 at the time)

- Has won 10 of her last 11 opening round matches at majors; only loss in this time frame came to No.52 Magda Linette at 2022 Roland Garros then reached the final of each Slam after that

- Opened season with SF run at Adelaide 1 (as No.1 seed, l. Noskova)

Career Milestones

- In 2022, created history by becoming first African and Arab woman in Open Era to reach a Grand Slam final, finishing R-Up at first Wimbledon (l. Rybakina) and then US Open (l. Swiatek)

- Lifted biggest career title at WTA 1000 Madrid during 2022 clay-court season (d. Pegula in F), also won title at Berlin

- Broke into Top 10 on October 18, 2021, following SF run at Indian Wells (l. eventual champion Badosa)

- At 2021 Birmingham, became first Arab woman to win a WTA title (d. Kasatkina in F). Followed this with QF at Wimbledon (l. Sabalenka)

- In 2021, also finished R-Up at Charleston [250] (l. Sharma) and Chicago [500] (l. Muguruza)

- 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 3r run at US 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)

- Scored first Top-10 win over No.7 Cibulkova at2017 Roland Garros

- Reached maiden WTA QF at 2013 Baku. Also advanced to that stage at 2017 Taipei City and2018 Bucharest
- Three-time member of Tunisian Olympic Team, first doing so at London games in 2012
- 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 f rst event of career at 2008 ITF/El 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)

[Q] KATHERINE SEBOV (CAN #190) VS. [4] CAROLINE GARCIA (FRA #4)

Head-to-head: First meeting

SEBOV		GARCIA
Right-handed	**Plays**	Right-handed
Jan. 5, 1999 (24)	**Date of birth (age)**	Oct. 16, 1993 (29)
5' 8'' (1.73m)	**Height**	5'10'' (1.77m)
No.190 (Jan. 16, 2023)	**Career-high ranking**	No.4 (Sep. 10, 2018)
$191,236	**Career prize money**	$15,371,676
0	**Singles Titles**	11
0-0	**Australian Open W-L**	12-11 (R16 2018)
0-0	**Grand Slam W-L**	53-42 (SF 2022 US Open)
0-0 / 1-3	**YTD / Career W-L (MD)**	3-1 / 281-219
0-0 / 1-1	**3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)**	1-1 / 100-74
0-0 / 0-0	**Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)**	1-0 / 76-71
0-0 / 1-3	**Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)**	3-1 / 163-145
0-0 / 0-0	**Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 25-48
Oksana Petrovska	**Coach**	Juan Pablo Guzman

SEBOV:

Australian Open

- Making Grand Slam main-draw debut – one of 10 debutantes in draw this fortnight
- Upset No.2 seed Noskova in first round of qualifying last week, followed up with straight-sets wins over Hon and Waltert
- Previously Grand Slam experience comprised of qualifying outings at Australian Open and US Open in 2019
- Faces No.4 Garcia in 1r today; both previous matches against Top-50 players ended in defeat to No.37 Begu (2018 Billie Jean King Cup) and No.46 Putintseva (2022 Toronto)
- In terms of ranking, best of her five Top-100 career wins was over No.56 Noskova in qualifying last week
- Only previous Tour-level match win was over Wang Xinyu during 2r showing at 2022 Granby
- One of four Canadians in the draw (also Andreescu, Fernandez and Marino)
- Currently sitting at career-high ranking of No.190; by contrast, this time last year was No.349
- Opened 2023 season by falling at first hurdle of Auckland qualifying

Career Milestones

- Ended 2022 just outside Top 200 after winning 13 of last 15 matches, including a title run at W25 ITF Circuit tournament in Tauranga and QF at WTA125 Midland
- Last season, made 2r at Granby (as WC, l. Saville) and fell 1r at Toronto (as WC, l. Putintseva)
- Best result in 2021 was QF run at W25 ITF Circuit event in Boca Raton, FL
- Fell 1r on WTA main-draw debut at 2021 Chicago [250] (as WC, l. Kostyuk)
- Rose to career-high No.190 on January 16, 2022
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2015 Toronto
- Owns one title in singles and one in doubles on ITF Circuit

GARCIA:

Australian Open

- Making 12th appearance at Australian Open
- Reached R16 on her debut in 2018 (l. Keys)
- Also made doubles SF at Melbourne Park in 2017 (w/Mladenovic)
- Best Grand Slam singles result of her career was last year's SF run at US Open. Also made QF at 2017 Roland Garros
- Faces No.190 Sebov in 1r today; owns 28-14 win-loss record in Grand Slam 1r matches, with most recent defeat coming at hands of qualifier and No.165 Baptiste in 2022
- Also lost to qualifier Kudryavtseva in 1r at Melbourne Park in 2014
- One of six French women in the draw – only USA (18) and Czech Republic (11) are better represented
- Since last June, has won 37 WTA-level main-draw matches from, at least 12 more than any other player on Tour
- Struck 80 aces in Grand Slams last season; the only player to hit more was Q.Zheng (86)
- Opened 2023 campaign by winning all three matches in singles and mixed doubles at inaugural United Cup, although was unable to help France progress beyond group. Last week, made QF at Adelaide 2 (l. eventual champion Bencic)

Career Milestones

- Return to form in second half of 2022, winning four tournaments, including a run through qualifying to Cincinnati title (d. Kvitova in F) and victory at WTA Finals in Fort Worth (d. Sabalenka in F)

- Only player to win titles on all three surfaces in 2022, having also triumphed on grass at Bad Homburg (d. Andreescu in F) and on clay at Warsaw (d. Bogdan in F). Summer form saw her return to Top 10 on September 12, following US Open SF

- Best win of her career came over No.1 Swiatek in QF at 2022 Warsaw

- At 2022 Roland-Garros, won first doubles title in almost six years (w/Mladenovic, d. Gauff/Pegula in F)

- Highlights in 2021 came on clay, with SF at Lausanne and QF at Parma

- Best results in 2020 were at Slams, reaching R16 at Roland-Garros (l. Svitolina) and 3r at US Open (l. Brady); defeated No.3 Ka.Pliskova in 2r at Flushing Meadows to record her first Top-10 win since late 2018

- Highlights of 2019 campaign include capturing her seventh career WTA singles title at Nottingham (d. Vekic in F) and finishing R-Up at Strasbourg (l. Yastremska)

- Member of French Billie Jean King Cup team that won the 2019 competition final vs. Australia, teaming up with Mladenovic to win the decisive doubles runner against Barty/Stosur. Also took part in the team that advanced to final vs. Czech Republic in 2016

- Fell out of the Top 20 on March 18, 2019 after holding her position there since August 14, 2017

- In 2018, won sixth career title at Tianjin; also made SF at Stuttgart and Madrid

- Broke into the Top 5 on August 13, 2018 and reached a career-high of No.4 on September 10, 2018

- Became first player to win Wuhan and Beijing back-to-back in 2017. As a result, qualified for WTA Finals. Was ranked No.30 on the Race to Singapore leaderboard in May 2017

- Made Top-10 debut on October 9, 2017, following completion of Wuhan-Beijing title double

- Won a career-best 48 main draw matches in 2017 (48-22 record, two titles), including reaching maiden major QF at Roland-Garros (l. Ka.Pliskova)

- Qualifying for WTA Finals in 2017, became the first Frenchwoman to compete at WTA Finals in singles since Mauresmo in 2006 (l. Henin in F)

- At 2016 Roland Garros w/Mladenovic, won first major doubles title. They were the first French pair to win in Paris since 1971, when Gail Chanfreau and Francoise Durr triumphed

- Represented France at 2016 Rio Olympics in singles and doubles

- Played 2015 WTA Finals Rising Stars Invitational in Singapore (l. Osaka in F)

- Made professional debut at 13 on ITF Circuit in France in 2007

- In juniors, singles runner-up at 2011 US Open (l. Min) and reached SF at the other three Slams

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[5] ARYNA SABALENKA (#5) VS. TEREZA MARTINCOVA (CZE #74)

Head-to-head: First career meeting

SABALENKA		MARTINCOVA
Right-handed	**Plays**	Right-handed
May 5, 1998 (24)	**Date of birth (age)**	Oct. 24, 1994 (28)
5'11'' (1.82m)	**Height**	5'9½ '' (1.77m)
No.2 (Aug. 23, 2021)	**Career-high ranking**	No.40 (Feb. 14, 2022)
$12,302,010	**Career prize money**	$1,938,914
11	**Singles Titles**	0
8-5 (R16; 2021, 2022)	**Australian Open W-L**	1-1 (2r; 2022)
36-19 (SF: 2022 US Open; 2021 US Open, Wimbledon)	**Grand Slam W-L**	4-11 (3r: 2021 Wimbledon)
4-0 / 198-96	**YTD / Career W-L (MD)**	0-2 / 63-87
0-0 / 67-50	**3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-2 / 27-26
3-0 / 68-50	**Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 22-26
4-0 / 141-62	**Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-2 / 41-56
0-0 / 21-23	**Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 1-9
Anton Dubrov	**Coach**	Pavel Zadrapa

SABALENKA:

Australian Open

- Making sixth main draw appearance at Australian Open; best result is R16 in 2021 (l. S.Williams) and 2022 (l. Kanepi); also reached 3r in 2019 (l. Anisimova)

- Faces No.74 Tereza Martincova in 1r; has lost 1r at Australian Open twice in 2018 (l. Barty) and 2020 (l. Suarez Navarro)

- Career record in Grand Slam 1r matches is 14-5; has won her last nine opening round matches at majors, last falling here in 2020

- Coming off winning her 11th career title at Adelaide 1 where she did not drop a set; holds 10 career titles on hardcourts, tied for 7th amongst active players

- Has won 18 of her past 20 matches against players outside the Top 50 at Grand Slams; only losses came to No.73 Leylah Fernandez in 2021 US Open SF and to No.115 Kanepi in R16 here in Melbourne in 2022

- Holds 14-8 record against Czech players including two wins last week en route to Adelaide 1 title; holds 4-1 record at Grand Slams only falling to Karolina Pliskova in SF at 2021 Wimbledon

Career Milestones

- Highlight of last season was R-Up finish at WTA Finals in Fort Worth (l. Garcia in F); upset No.1 Swiatek, No.2 Jabeur and No.3 Pegula en route to final - only the fourth woman in history to beat the No.1, No.2 and No.3 at the same tournament

- Lifted two titles during 2021 campaign, at Abu Dhabi and Madrid, while was R-Up at Stuttgart. Also reached a further three SFs, including at Wimbledon and US Open

- Rose to career-high No.2 in rankings on August 23, 2021

- In doubles, lifted second major at 2021 Australian Open (w/Mertens, d. Krejcikova/Siniakova in F)

- Won final nine matches of 2020 to end the year with back-to-back titles - at Ostrava (d. Azarenka in F) and Linz (d. Mertens in F) – and ranked at No.10

- Having also taken 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

- 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)

- Made Top-10 debut on January 28, 2019following 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. Krejcikova/Siniakova in F)and Miami (d. Stosur/ Zhang in F)

- 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, 2017after reaching first Tour-level final at Tianjin (l. Sharapova). Also in 2017 made SF 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 qualifi er, l. Ka.Bondarenko)

- Member of Belarus Billie Jean King Cup team that lost to USA in 2017 final - scored first Top-20 win of career with defeat of No.13 Stephens during 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

MARTINCOVA:

Australian Open

- Making second main draw appearance at Australian Open reaching 2r on debut last year (d. Davis, l. Giorgi); also contested qualifying in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2019, 2020 and 2021

- Across all Slams, best career result was 3r showing as qualifier at 2021 Wimbledon (l. Ka.Pliskova); has only gone beyond 1r at a major three times, including here last year and also 2021 Roland Garros (l. Pegula)

- Faces No.5 Aryna Sabalenka in 1r looking to reach 2r at a major for just the fourth time

- Best win in a completed match was over No.11 Bertens at 2021 Dubai; also beat No.3 Kontaveit via ret. At 2022 Ostrava

- One of 11 players from the Czech Republic in the draw; best result by a Czech player is Hana Mandlikova's title runs in 1980 and 1987

- So far in 2023, fell 1r at Auckland (l. Grabher) and Hobart (as qualifier, l. Siegemund)

Career Milestones

- Posted career-high ranking of No.40 on Feb. 13, 2022; season highlights included SF at Nottingham (l. Haddad Maia via ret.), QF at St. Petersburg (l. Begu) and Ostrava (l. Alexandrova)

- Earned first career Top 10 win over No.3 Anett Kontaveit at 2022 Ostrava

- Reached maiden WTA final at 2021 Prague (l.Krejcikova)

- Produced impressive grass court campaign in 2021, advancing to QF at Nottingham (l. Stojanovic) and Birmingham (l. Kasatkina), then 3r showing at Wimbledon (l. Ka.Pliskova)

- Scored first Grand Slam main draw win during 2r showing at Roland Garros (d. Jorovic, l. Pegula)

- Broke into Top 100 at No.98 on April 5, 2021, following 2r showing at Miami

- Highlight of 2020 campaign was SF run at 2020 Istanbul (l. eventual champion Tig)

- In 2019, season highlight was fourth ITF Circuit title of career at $25k Essen-GER

- Advanced to first tour-level SF at 2017 Gstaad, earning career first Top 20 win over then-No.20 Garcia

- Earned a then career-high singles ranking of No.114 following 2r run at 2017 Nanchang (l. Peng)

- Win-loss record at tour-level in 2017 was 5-7, including three wins at Gstaad and 2r runs at Monterrey (d. McHale, l. Boserup) and Nanchang (d. Kudryavtseva, l. Peng)

- Advanced to maiden WTA SF at Québec City in2016 (l. Davis)

- In 2015, reached first WTA QF at Florianopolis (l. Mattek-Sands)

- Made WTA qualifying and main draw debut at 2013 Nurnberg (l. Cabeza Candela in 1r)

- Owns four singles titles on the ITF Circuit at 2014 $10k ITF/Heraklion-GRE, 2015 $25kITF/Lenzerheide-SUI, 2018 $25k ITF/Obidos and 2019 $25k Essen-GER

- Professional debut came on ITF Circuit in Germany in 2010 (as qualifier, l. 1r)

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[8] DARIA KASATKINA (#8) VS. VARVARA GRACHEVA (#97)

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

2021	PHILLIP ISLAND TROPHY	HARD	(O)	R2	DARIA KASATKINA	6-4 6-3

KASATKINA		GRACHEVA
Right-handed	**Plays**	Right-handed
May 7, 1997 (25)	**Date of birth (age)**	Aug. 2, 2000 (22)
5'7'' (1.70m)	**Height**	5'10'' (1.78m)
No.8 (Oct. 24, 2022)	**Career-high ranking**	No.59 (Jul. 18, 2022)
$9,155,945	**Career prize money**	$1,518,830
6	**Singles Titles**	0
6-7 (3r 2016, 2022)	**Australian Open W-L**	1-2 (2r 2021)
39-27 (SF 2022 Roland Garros)	**Grand Slam W-L**	9-9 (3r Roland Garros 2021-22; US Open 2020-21)
2-2 / 211-148	**YTD / Career W-L (MD)**	0-0 / 27-46
0-1 / 80-50	**3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 13-12
2-0 / 33-32	**Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 7-8
2-2 / 137-100	**Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 21-28
0-0 / 19-35	**Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 0-2
Carlos Martínez	**Coach**	Gerard Solves

KASATKINA:

Australian Open

- Making eighth consecutive main-draw appearance at Australian Open

- Best results at Melbourne Park are 3r showings on debut in 2016 (l. S.Williams) and 2022 (l. Swiatek)

- Deepest run at any of the majors was to SF at 2022 Roland Garros (l. Swiatek). Also made QF at Roland Garros and Wimbledon in 2018

- Faces Gracheva in 1r today; beat her en route to title at 2021 Gippsland Trophy (staged at Melbourne Park)

- Career record in Grand Slam 1r matches is 19-8, losing most recently to Dart at 2022 US Open

- Opened 2023 season with 1r exit at Adelaide 1 (l. Noskova) and R-Up finish at Adelaide 2 (l. Bencic)

Career Milestones

- In 2022, reached maiden Grand Slam SF at Roland-Garros (l. eventual champion Swiatek) and won titles at San Jose (d. Rogers in F) and Granby (d. Saville in F); returned to Top 10 on August 8, after San Jose run

- Broke back into Top 50 in early 2021, after lifting first titles since 2018, at the Phillip Island Trophy in Melbourne (d. Bouzkova in F) and then St. Petersburg (d. Gasparyan in F)

- Reached two additional finals in 2021, at Birmingham (l. Jabeur) and San Jose (l. Collins)

- Helped Russia win their fifth Billie Jean King Cup and first since 2008 with her singles win over Teichmann in the 2021 final against Switzerland

- 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 [500]

- Won consecutive matches only twice in difficult 2019 campaign, with best result a QF run at Beijing (l. Wozniacki)

- Ended 2018 season by lifting her second WTA singles title at Moscow [500], recovering 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 en route

- 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)

- 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, 2019 and 2021, and at 2016 Olympics

- Reached first WTA SF at 2015 Moscow (as qualifier, l. 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, l. 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, l. 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, l. Riske)
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2013 Moscow

GRACHEVA:

Australian Open

- Making third main-draw appearance at Australian Open (fourth overall)
- Made 2r in 2021 (l. Kudermetova) and fell 1r in 2020 (l. Bronzetti). Also contested qualifying in 2020
- Best Grand Slam singles results of her career are 3r runs at Roland Garros 2021-22 and US Open in 2020-21
- Faces No.8 Kasatkina in 1r today; lost two previous matches against Top-10 players, falling to No.5 Svitolina at 2020 Roland Garros and No.10 Jabeur at 2022 Madrid
- In terms of ranking, best career win was over No.26 Badosa at 2021 US Open
- Owns 5-4 win-loss record in Grand Slam 1r matches
- Opened 2023 season with qualifying exits at Auckland and Hobart

Career Milestones

- Best results last season were runs to QF at Chennai (l. eventual champion Fruhvirtova) and 3r at Roland Garros (l. Mertens). Also reached 2r on four occasions
- Second Top 100 season in 2021 finishing the year at No.79, in a season highlighted by making her WTA SF debut at Chicago 250 and posting a career-best 14 main draw match wins
- Highlight of 2020 campaign was 3r showing at US Open (l. Martic); in 2r recovered from 6-1 5-1 down, saving 4MP to upset No.44 Mladenovic
- Ended 2019 at No.105, nearly 300 places up from her 2018 finish after a campaign in which she posted a 70-26 win-loss record, lifting five titles on the ITF Circuit, including at $60K Valencia and $60K Saint-Malo
- Recorded first WTA victory during 2r run at 2019 Washington DC (as qualifier, d. Blinkova, l. Hsieh)
- Fell 1r on WTA debut (main draw and qualifying) at 2019 Lausanne (as qualifier, l. X.Han), while made Grand Slam qualifying debut at US Open later that summer
- During 2018 season, won second ITF Circuit title of career at $15k/Antalya-TUR and reached three other QFs at this level
- On ITF Circuit, winner of seven singles titles
- Played first professional events of career on ITF Circuit in Egypt in 2016
- Contested Roland Garros, Wimbledon and US Open as a junior, with best result a 3r run at 2016 Wimbledon

MARYNA ZANEVSKA (BEL #80) VS. [9] VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (#9)

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

2022	US OPEN	HARD	(O)	R2	KUDERMETOVA	6-2 6-3
2016	ITF BIARRITZ	CLAY	(O)	R2	KUDERMETOVA	4-6 6-4 6-2

ZANEVSKA		KUDERMETOVA
Right-handed	**Plays**	Right-handed
Aug 24, 1993 (29)	**Date of birth (age)**	Apr. 24, 1997 (24)
5'9'' (1.75m)	**Height**	5'8'' (1.75m)
No.62 (May. 23, 2022)	**Career-high ranking**	No.9 (Oct. 24, 2022)
$1,570,821	**Career prize money**	$4,984,761
1	**Singles Titles**	1
1-2 (2r 2022)	**Australian Open W-L**	4-4 (3r 2021-22)
2-9 (2r 2022 Australian Open, 2022 US Open)	**Grand Slam W-L**	16-14 (QF 2022 Roland-Garros)
1-1 / 25-40	**YTD / Career W-L (MD)**	4-1 / 121-82
0-0 / 6-10	**3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)**	2-0 / 46-28
0-0 / 9-6	**Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)**	2-0 / 35-29
1-1 / 5-16	**Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)**	4-1 / 75-54
0-0 / 0-4	**Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 10-14
-	**Coach**	Sergey Demekhine, Vladimir Platenik

ZANEVSKA:

Australian Open

- Making 4th main draw appearance at Australian Open. Has reached the 2r here once, on most recent outing in 2022. Fell 1r in 2016 and 2017

- Overall this is her 11th Grand Slam main draw appearance. In addition to 2r here in 2022, has made 2r at US Open, also last season

- Owns a 2-9 record across all the Slams, and is 2-7 in Slam 1r matches

- Played all four Slams in a calendar year for the first time in 2022

- Faces No.9 Kudermetova today in opening match – is 0-4 vs. Top 10 players in career, most recently falling to No.7 Sakkari at 2022 Parma

- Best win of career came over No.27 Mertens last week at 2023 Hobart

- One of four players from Belgium in the singles main draw (also Van Uytvanck, Bonaventure and Mertens)

- Opened 2023 season at Hobart, coming through qualifying to reach the 2r (l. Kenin)

Career Milestones

- Best singles result last season were SF at Hamburg (l. eventual champion Pera) and QFs at Strasbourg (l. Ka.Pliskova) and Parma (l. Sakkari)

- Also won WTA 125 title at Rouen in October 2022

- Broke into Top 100 on November 1, 2021, after lifting title at W80 ITF Circuit event at Les Franqueses del Vallès, Spain - her 19th career title at this level

- In July 2021, reached SF at Lausanne (l. eventual champion Zidansek) and then the following week won maiden WTA title at Gynia (d. Kucova in F); prior to these tournaments, had never won back-to-back matches at a Tour-level event

- Highlight of 2020 campaign were a couple of final appearances on ITF Circuit

- Most recent WTA-level appearance before this season was 2r showing at 2018 Bucharest

- Has finished R-Up at four WTA doubles tournaments, most recently 2018 Bucharest (w/Kovinic)

- Rose to career-high ranking of No.105 on August 21, 2017

- Lifted biggest ITF Circuit title in August 217, at $100k Vancouver-CAN

- In first two Grand Slam main draw appearancesof career, fell 1r at 2014 Roland Garros (l.Bacsinszky) and 2014 US Open (l. Rogers)

- Fell 1r on WTA main draw debut at 2013 Palermo

- Won five ITF Circuit singles titles in 2012

KUDERMETOVA:

Australian Open

- Making fifth appearance at Australian Open

- Has improved her results here year on year, losing 1r in 2019 and 2020 before making 3r in both 2021 and 2022

- Enjoying her highest seeding at a Slam at No.9, and this is her first Slam as a Top 10 player

- Overall this is her 15th Grand Slam main draw appearance, with best return at the Slams coming at Roland-Garros with QF run in 2022. Has also made R16 at US Open (2022)

- Is a Grand Slam finalist in doubles, reaching the title match at 2021 Wimbledon (w/Vesnina)

- Faces Zanevska in 1r – owns a 8-6 record in Slam 1r match, with most recent loss coming at 2021 US Open

- Opened 2023 season contesting both Adelaide events, reaching QF in week 1 (l. Begu) and SF in week 2 (conceded walkover to Bencic due to left hip injury)

Career Milestones

- Made Top-10 debut on October 24, 2022, following QF run at Guadalajara

- Singles highlights in 2022 were R-Up finishes at Melbourne Summer Set 1 (l. Halep), Dubai (l. Ostapenko) and Istanbul (l. Potapova), while reached maiden Slam QF at Roland-Garros (l. Kasatkina)

- Appeared in maiden WTA final at Abu Dhabi in opening event of 2021 (l. Sabalenka) before securing first title at Charleston (d. Kovinic)

- In doubles made two biggest finals of career, at Wimbledon (w/Vesnina, l. Hsieh/Mertens) and Indian Wells (w/Rybakina, l. Hsieh/Mertens)

- 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 SF run at Hobart 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 60 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 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

Tournament Information: www.ausopen.com | @AustralianOpen | facebook.com/AustralianOpen
WTA Information: www.wtatennis.com | @WTA | facebook.com/WTA
WTA Information : kfischer@wtatennis.com, cwhitmore@wtatennis.com

VIKTORIYA TOMOVA (BUL #91) VS. [12] BELINDA BENCIC (SUI #10)

Head-to-head: BELINDA BENCIC leads 1-0

| 2013 | ITF DOTHAN | CLAY | (O) | QUAL. | BENCIC | 6-0 6-3 |

TOMOVA		BENCIC
Right-handed	**Plays**	Right-handed
Feb 25, 1995 (27)	**Date of birth (age)**	Mar 10, 1997 (25)
5'6'' (1.70m)	**Height**	5'9'' (1.75m)
No.89 (Oct. 31, 2022)	**Career-high ranking**	No.4 (Feb. 17, 2000)
$1,268,991	**Career prize money**	$10,891,079
0	**Singles Titles**	7
0-2	**Australian Open W-L**	12-9 (R16 2016)
2-7 (2r Wimbledon 2018, 2022)	**Grand Slam W-L**	48-29 (US Open SF 2019)
0-1 / 18-38	**YTD / Career W-L (MD)**	5-1 / 224-150
0-0 / 10-11	**3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)**	1-0 / 86-52
0-0 / 4-4	**Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)**	1-1 / 56-36
0-1 / 6-16	**Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)**	5-1 / 143-99
0-0 / 0-5	**Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)**	2-1 / 33-27
Konstantin Tomov	**Coach**	Dmitry Tursunov

TOMOVA:

Australian Open

- Making 3rd main draw appearance at the Australian Open, and bidding to win first main draw match today, having fallen 1r in 2018 and 2022

- Made Grand Slam main draw debut here in 2018

- Overall this is her eighth Grand Slam main draw appearance and has reached the 2r twice, both times coming at Wimbledon (2018 and 2022)

- Faces No.10 Bencic in opening match today – is 0-8 vs. Top-20 opponents in career

- Best wins of career have come over No.37 Rogers (2022 Eastbourne) and No.40 Goerges (2017 Bastad)

- Bulgaria's sole representative in the women's singles draw

- Today's winner will face Liu or Brengle

- Opened 2023 season at the United Cup in Perth, going 0-1 (l. Sakkari)

Career Milestones

- Best result last season was QF run at Eastbourne (as LL, l. Giorgi). Also finished R-Up at WTA 125 in Budapest and at W80 ITF Circuit tournament in Oeiras

- Broke into Top 100 for first time on August 8, 2022, following SF run at W80 ITF Circuit event in Grodzisk Mazowiecki, Poland

- Advanced to maiden WTA SFs during 2021 season, first at Bogota (l. Zidansek) and then at Belgrade (as LL, l. eventual champion Badosa)

- On Tour's return in 2020, fell 1r at US Open and Istanbul before reaching SF at $80k ITF/Cagnes sur Mer-FRA

- In final event before the tour's hiatus, made 2r at Lyon (l. Van Uytvanck)

- Started 2020 with a productive spell on ITF Circuit in Great Britain, finishing R-Up at $25K Glasgow before winning 16th title at this level at $25K Sunderland (d. Raducanu in F)

- Made four Tour-level appearances in 2019, highlighted by 2r showing at Osaka (as qualifier, d. Cornet, l. Osaka), while won title at $80K ITF/Biarritz-FRA (d. Kovinic in F)

- Highlights of 2018 were Grand Slam main-draw debut at Australian Open (l. Gibbs in 1r) and first ever Grand Slam main-draw victory at Wimbledon (as qualifier, d. Smitkova, l. S.Williams). Also made 2r at Istanbul and Hong Kong

- In 2017, reached 2r at Bastad (as qualifier, l. Krunic) and Linz (as qualifier, l. Golubic). Also fell 1r at Gstaad - making her WTA main draw debut - and in qualifying on 12 occasions (including all four majors)

- Maiden Top-50 upset came over No.40 Goerges in 1r at 2017 Bastad (via ret.)

- Made successful comeback from injury in 2016, winning 64 matches and four titles, rising over 300 places in the rankings. Since return has stopped playing doubles to protect injury

- In 2015, missed five months with a leg muscle strain - ended season at No.474

- Member of Bulgarian Billie Jean King Cup Team, 2014-15, 2017-19, 2021-22

- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2010 Miami

- On ITF Circuit owns 16 singles titles and 12 doubles titles

- Played first events of career on ITF Circuit in Bulgaria in 2009

BENCIC:

Australian Open

- Making here 10th consecutive main draw appearance at the Australian Open, with best result here coming with R16 run in 2016

- Contesting 30th Grand Slam main draw appearance, and she owns a 48-29 record across the Slams

- Best result at the majors came with SF run a 2019 US Open. In Paris has made the 3r twice and at Wimbledon the R16 twice also

- One of three Swiss women in the singles draw, along with Golubic and Teichmann

- Faces Tomova in 1r today – owns a 23-6 record in Slam 1r matches, with most recent loss coming at 2022 Wimbledon. Has not lost a 1r match here in Melbourne since 2017

- Faces No.91 Tomova today; in terms of ranking, defeat today would be worst since losing to No.140 Wang Qiang in 1r at 2022 Wimbledon

- Opened 2023 season representing Switzerland at the United Cup in Brisbane and then contested the second Adelaide event, winning the seventh title of her career (d. Kasatkina in F)

Career Milestones

- Won sixth career title last season, triumphing at Charleston, while finished R-Up at Berlin and helped Switzerland lift Billie Jean King Cup Finals in Glasgow

- Captured gold medal at Tokyo Olympics (d. Vondrousova in F); also claimed silver in doubles (w/Golubic)

- Other 2021 highlights included R-Up finish at Adelaide (l. Swiatek) and Berlin (l. Samsonova), and six further QFs (including US Open)

- Across a disrupted 2020 reached three QFs, at Adelaide, St. Petersburg and Doha

- Enjoyed a stellar season in 2019, in which she lifted two titles - at Dubai (d. Kvitova in F) and Moscow (d. Pavlyuchenkova in F) and posted a career-best 49 Tour-level match wins in 2019 - only Ka.Pliskova (52), Barty (54) and Bertens (55) scored more. By contrast, posted a combined total of 37 wins at this level across 2016-18

- Victory in Moscow ensured she became first Swiss player to compete in singles at the WTA Finals since Hingis in 2006, going on to reach SF at the season-ending showpiece in Shenzhen

- Equaled her career-high ranking of No.7 following Moscow title run (October 21, 2019)

- Also in 2019, marked 20th Grand Slam main draw by reaching her maiden major SF at US Open (l. eventual champion Andreescu) and finished R-Up at Mallorca (l. Kenin after holding 3mp at 5-4 in second set)

- Was voted WTA Comeback Player of the Year in 2019

- Led the WTA with six victories over Top 5 players in 2019, including upsets over No.1 Osaka at Indian Wells, Madrid and US Open

- Standout result in 2018 was R-Up finish at Luxembourg (as qualifier, l. Goerges)

- In first round at 2018 Australian Open, defeated No.5 V.Williams. Having also upset then-No.1 S.Williams in SF at 2015 Toronto is one of seven women to defeat both Williams sisters before their 21st birthday (also Hingis, Sharapova, Clijsters, Henin, Chakvetadze and Osaka)

- Underwent left wrist surgery in spring 2017, missing five months - ranking fell outside Top 300

- Run to 2016 St. Petersburg final saw her break into Top 10 (at No.9) for the first time in her career; became 116th player to break into the Top 10 since computerized rankings were introduced in 1975. In the last 20 years, 11 players have made their Top 10 debut before their 19th birthday

- At 2015 Eastbourne, at 18y 109d, became second youngest player to win a WTA Premier level final (Wozniacki won 2008 New Haven aged 18y 43d)

- With 2015 Toronto triumph, became first teenager to win an event at Premier 5 level or higher since Azarenka at 2009 Miami

- Qualified for 2015 WTA Elite Trophy in Zhuhai however withdrew due to hand injury

- Won second WTA doubles title of career in 2015 at Washington, DC (w/Mladenovic), the first coming earlier in the year at Prague (w/Siniakova)

- Voted 2014 WTA Newcomer of the Year after a campaign highlighted by R-Up finish at Tianjin (l. Riske) and QF run at 2014 US Open (defeated No.7 Kerber in 3r, No.10 Jankovic in R16); at 17 years of age, was youngest player through to last eight at Flushing Meadows since 1997 when Hingis won the title

- Played first WTA qualifying event at Luxembourg in October 2011, and first WTA main draw 12 months later at same event as WC (l. V.Williams, 1r); only 15 years, 7 months at the time

- Won junior singles titles at Roland Garros and Wimbledon in 2013; was named ITF Junior World Champion for 2013

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WTA Information : kfischer@wtatennis.com, cwhitmore@wtatennis.com

[16] ANETT KONTAVEIT (EST #19) VS. JULIA GRABHER (AUT #85)

Head-to-head: ANETT KONTAVEIT leads 1-0

2020	BJK CUP	HARD	(I)		RR	ANETT KONTAVEIT	6-1 6-2

KONTAVEIT		GRABHER
Right-handed	**Plays**	Right-handed
Dec 24, 1995 (27)	**Date of birth (age)**	Jul. 2, 1996 (26)
5'9'' (1.74m)	**Height**	5'7'' (1.70m)
No.2 (Jun. 6, 2022)	**Career-high ranking**	No.82 (Dec. 26, 2022)
$7,819,025	**Career prize money**	$492,850
6	**Singles Titles**	0
11-7 (QF 2020)	**Australian Open W-L (MD)**	0-0
36-29 (QF 2020 Australian Open)	**Grand Slam W-L (MD)**	0-0
0-2 / 199-132	**YTD / Career W-L (MD)**	1-1 / 4-8
0-1 / 61-48	**3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)**	1-0 / 1-2
0-0 / 40-30	**Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 0-2
0-1 / 41-37	**Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)**	1-1 / 1-4
0-0 / 21-31	**Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 0-0
Torben Beltz	**Coach**	Gunter Bresnik

KONTAVEIT:

Australian Open

- Making 8th consecutive main-draw appearance at Australian Open
- Fell 1r on Australian Open main-draw debut here in 2016 (l. Muguruza)
- Best results here are QF run in 2020 (l. Halep), also her deepest run at all the majors
- Faces No.85 Grabher in 1r today; won their only previous meeting on Billie Jean King Cup duty in 2020
- Career record in Grand Slam 1r matches is 17-13
- One of the two players representing Estonia in singles draw this week (also Kanepi)
- Is currently ranked No.17; this time last year was No.7
- Best result in Australia was reaching final at 2021 Grampians Trophy (title shared with Li). Also began last season with SF at Sydney
- Opened this campaign with 1r exits at Adelaide 1(l. Zheng Qinwen) and Adelaide 2 (l. Badosa)

Career Milestones

- Last season, won St. Petersburg title (d. Sakkari in F) and finished R-Up at Doha (l. Swiatek), Hamburg (l. Pera) and Tallin (l. Krejcikova)

- Captured four WTA titles in 2021 - the second-most on Tour - and posted a joint Tour-leading 48 match wins across the season (level with Jabeur)

- Lifted the trophies at Cleveland (d. Begu in F), Ostrava (d. Sakkari in F) and back-to-back titles at Moscow (d. Alexandrova in F) and Cluj-Napoca (d. Halep in F)

- Qualified for the AKRON WTA Finals Guadalajara for the first time in 2021, becoming the first Estonian to compete at the year-end event, where she reached the championship match

- Made her Top-10 debut on November 1, 2021 and climbed to No.7 to become the highest ranked Estonian woman in WTA history

- Nominated for 2021 WTA Most Improved Player of the Year (won by Krejcikova), as voted on by members of the media

- 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

GRABHER:

Australian Open

- Making Grand Slam main draw debut – one of 10 debutantes in the draw
- Faces No.19 Kontaveit in 1r today; owns two wins in her career over Top-50 players, beating No.37 Teichmann at 2022 Istanbul and No.27 Zidansek in last year's Billie Jean King Cup
- The only player from Austria in the singles main draw
- Opened 2023 season by reaching 2r at Auckland (l. Fernandez), then fell in qualifying at Hobart

Career Milestones

- Won biggest career title in 2022, at WTA 125K Series event in Bari; made Top-100 debut after the tournament (September 12, 2022)
- Reached maiden WTA QF at Istanbul (as qualifier, l. Cirstea)
- Last year, also won three ITF Circuit titles at W25 Porto, W60 San Bartolomé de Tirajana and W60 San Sebastián, ending campaign with 55-32 win-loss record
- In 2021, won biggest ITF Circuit title of her career, at W60 event in Bellinzona, Switzerland In 2021, won biggest ITF Circuit title of her career, at W60 event in Bellinzona, Switzerland
- Fell 1r at Budapest (as qualifier, l. Pera), Palermo (l. Diatchenko) and Linz (as WC, l. Cornet), and in qualifying on five occasions (including all four majors)
- Fell 1r on WTA main-draw debut at 2019 Linz (as WC, l. Kuzmova)
- Posted 44-22 record in 2017, reaching five ITF Circuit titles, winning two titles
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2014 Bad Gastein
- Owns nine singles titles and eight doubles titles on ITF Circuit
- Made professional debut at W10 ITF Circuit event in Innsbruck, Austria in 2011

JASMINE PAOLINI (ITA #66) VS. [18] LIUDMILA SAMSONOVA (#20)

Head-to-head: BENCIC leads 1-0

2019	ST PETERSBURG	HARD	(I)	QUAL.	SAMSONOVA	6-7(4) 6-0 6-1

PAOLINI		SAMSONOVA
Right-handed	**Plays**	Right-handed
Jan 4, 1996 (27)	**Date of birth (age)**	Nov 11, 1998 (24)
5'4'' (1.63m)	**Height**	5'11'' (1.82m)
No.44 (Feb. 21, 2022)	**Career-high ranking**	No.19 (Oct. 24, 2022)
$1,814,189	**Career prize money**	$2,148,542
1	**Singles Titles**	4
0-3	**Australian Open W-L**	2-3 (2r 2021-22)
3-12 (2r Roland-Garros 2020-21 and US Open 2021)	**Grand Slam W-L**	9-10 (R16 2021-22 Wimbledon)
1-1 / 55-64	**YTD / Career W-L (MD)**	1-2 / 58-47
0-1 / 26-17	**3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)**	1-0 / 14-15
0-2 / 9-10	**Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-1 / 17-15
1-2 / 33-33	**Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)**	1-2 / 39-29
0-0 / 1-5	**Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-1 / 3-4
Renzo Furlan	**Coach**	Alessandro Dumitrache

PAOLINI:

Australian Open

- Making 4th main draw appearance at the Australian Open, and bidding to win first main draw match today, having fallen 1r in 2020, 2021 and 2022

- Overall this is her 13th Grand Slam main draw appearance, and owns a 3-12 record across the majors

- Those three wins came at 2020 (d. Bolsova) and 2021 (d. Voegele) Roland-Garros and 2021 US Open (d. Shvedova)

- Made Grand Slam main draw debut at 2019 Roland-Garros (as qualifier, l. Kasatkina)

- One of six Italians in the main draw (also Cocciaretto – who lost 1r - Stefanini, Bronzetti, Trevisan and Giorgi)

- Faces No.20 Samsonova in opening match today – is 3-10 vs. Top-20 opponents in career, with wins coming over No.15 Kasatkina (2018 Prague), No.18 Mertens (2021 Indian Wells) and No.3 Sabalenka (2022 Indian Wells)

- Opened 2023 season by falling in qualifying at Adelaide and then made 2r in Hobart

Career Milestones

- Reached second WTA singles final in 2022, finishing R-Up at Cluj-Napoca. Also posted career-high ranking of No.44 last season (February 21, 2022)
- In 2021 captured first WTA singles title of career at Portoroz (d. Riske in F)
- Strong season finish also brought SF run at Courmayeur(l. eventual champion Vekic) and QF effort at Linz (l. Halep); posted best win of season over No.18 Mertens en route to 3r at Indian Wells (l. Pegula)
- Also in 2021 won the WTA 125K event in Bol, Croatia (d. Rus in F) and was R-Up at the same level in Saint Malo (l. Golubic) Captured first WTA doubles title in 2021, at Hamburg(w/Teichmann)
- In 2021, for first time in career, contested the full suite of all four Grand Slam events; reached 2r at Roland Garros and US Open, equaling best previous Slam result
- In 2020, reached 2r four times at WTA tournaments, including Roland Garros (l. Kvitova)
- Highlights of 2019 included QF showings at Guangzhou and Palermo, a SF run at the WTA 125K Series event at Karlsruhe, lifting seventh, eighth and ninth ITF Circuit titles of her career, at $60KBrescia-ITA, $25K ITF/Curtiba-BRA and $100K ITF/Tokyo-JPN, and qualifying for maiden Grand Slam main draw at Roland Garros (l. Kasatkina in 1r)
- Ended 2018 ranked No.180, with season highlight a maiden WTA singles QF at Prague (d. No.15 Kasatkina, l. Zhang)
- Made WTA main draw debut at 2017 Bastad (l. Suarez Navarro in 1r) and also fell 1r at Guangzhou and in qualifying a further three times
- Part of Italy's Billie Jean King Cup team 2017-19
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2015 Rome
- Owns nine singles and one doubles title on ITF Circuit
- Made professional debut on ITF Circuit in Italy in 2011

SAMSONOVA:

Australian Open

- Making here 4th main draw appearance the Australian Open, and has reached the 2r here twice, in 2021 and 2022

- Contesting her 11th Grand Slam main draw appearance, and she owns a 9-10 record across the Slams

- Best result at the majors came with R16 runs at 2021 Wimbledon and 2022 US Open. In Paris has suffered three 1r exits (2019, 2020, 2022)

- Enjoying her highest seeding at a Slam at No.18, up from No.25 at 2022 Roland Garros

- Faces Paolini in 1r today – first time facing an Italian on Tour since defeating Monticone and 2021 Parma

- Opened season by contesting both Adelaide events, making 2r in week 1 (lost Sabalenka) and falling 1r in week 2 (l. Anisimova)

Career Milestones

- Lifted three titles in 2022, at Washington DC (d. Kanepi in F), Cleveland (d. Sasnovich in F) and Tokyo (d. Q.Zheng in F)

- Last year, also made SF at Stuttgart, QF at Adelaide, R16 at US Open and made Top-20 debut on October 24

- Highlight of 2021 was coming through qualifying to lift maiden WTA title on grass at Berlin (d. Bencic in F)

- Reached two further SFs in 2021, at Luxembourg and Courmayeur, and helped Russia win Billie Jean King Cup Finals

- In 2020 reached 2r at Brisbane (as qualifier, d. No.24 Stephens, l. No.7 Kvitova) and Palermo (as qualifier, l. Martic), and fell 1r four times (including Australian Open, US Open and Roland Garros)

- Finished 2019 at No.139 - her best season-ending finish after ending the year with a 32-28 record

- Appeared in the first six WTA main draws of her career in 2019, highlighted by SF run at Palermo (l. eventual champion Teichmann), 2r showing at Lausanne (l. Han) and falling 1r on Grand Slam main draw debut at Roland Garros (as qualifier, l. Vekic)

- Contested qualifying at a WTA event for the first time at 2019 St. Petersburg, while fell 1r on her main draw bow at Roland Garros that year

- Owns four singles titles on the ITF Circuit, most recently at $60K Saint-Malo-FRA in 2018

- Made professional debut at $10K ITF/Gonesse-FRA in 2013

GARBIÑE MUGURUZA (ESP #73) VS. [26] ELISE MERTENS (BEL #32)

Head-to-head: GARBIÑE MUGURUZA leads 2-0

| 2021 | DUBAI | HARD | (O) | SF | GARBIÑE MUGURUZA | 6-4 7-6(5) |
| 2016 | US OPEN | HARD | (O) | R1 | GARBIÑE MUGURUZA | 2-6 6-0 6-3 |

MUGURUZA		MERTENS
Right-handed	**Plays**	Right-handed
07-Oct-1993 (29)	**Date of birth (age)**	17-Nov-1995 (27)
6'0" (1.82m)	**Height**	5'10" (1.79m)
No.1 (10-Sep-2017)	**Career-high ranking**	No.12 (26-Nov-2018)
$24,736,391	**Career prize money**	$11,042,643
10	**Singles Titles**	7
27-10	**Australian Open W-L**	16-5
86-37	**Grand Slam W-L**	53-23
0-2 / 308-178	**YTD / Career W-L (MD)**	1-2 / 211-128
0-1 / 91-77	**3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)**	1-0 / 58-45
0-1 / 53-59	**Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 38-43
0-2 / 213-120	**Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)**	1-2 / 135-81
0-0 / 42-43	**Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-1 / 9-26
Conchita Martinez	**Coach**	Philippe Dehaes

MUGURUZA:

Australian Open

- Making 11th consecutive main draw appearance at Australian Open

- A 2020 runner-up, has also reached the QF (2017) an R16 (2014, 2015, 2019, 2021)

- Has reached the final at three of the four Slams with the US Open being the exception (best result is R16 twice – 2017 and 2021)

- This is her 40th Grand Slam main draw appearance

- Faces No.32 Mertens in 1r today; has lost last seven matches against Top-50 players, most recently beating No.31 Kanepi at 2022 Toronto

- Owns 31-8 record in Grand Slam 1r matches; five of these defeats have come in past 13 Slams, including at Roland Garros (Kanepi) and Wimbledon (Minnen) last year

- This is only the second time in the past 34 Slams Muguruza has been unseeded; in that stretch, only other time was 2020 Australian Open

Career Milestones

- Has finished in the year-end Top 10 four times, including at No.2 in 2017, her best year-end ranking

- Last season marked first year finishing outside the Top 50 (at No.55) since 2013; the 2022 season marked the first year without a final appearance since making her main draw debut in 2015; a three-time quarterfinalist in 2022 with best results coming at Sydney, Doha and Tokyo - all on hardcourts

- 2021 season brought third Top-5 finish of career (and first since 2017) following victory at the WTA Finals in Guadalajara (d. Kontaveit in F to become first Spaniard to win the season finale)

- In addition to capturing 10th career title at Guadalajara, reached a further four finals in 2021, winning titles at Dubai (d. Krejcikova in F) and Chicago 500 (d. Jabeur in F), and finishing R-Up at the Yarra Valley Classic in Melbourne (l. Barty) and Doha (l. Kvitova)

- 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. evantual champion A.Radwanska), defeating No.9 Zvonareva en route for first Top 10 win

MERTENS:

Australian Open

- Making 24th Grand Slam main draw appearance and 6th at the Australian Open
- Has reached the second week in four of first five appearances at the Australian Open, going as far as the SF in 2018 and R16 three times (2022, 2021, 2020)
- Her semifinal appearance in Melbourne in 2018 is her best Slam result in singles
- Faces Muguruza in 1r today; has won all five first first-round matches at Australian Open in straight sets
- Fell at the first hurdle three times in her first four Grand Slam main-draw appearances, however, following this she won 18 straight matches at this stage before run ended at 2022 US Open (l. Begu
- Also the 2021 Australian Open doubles champion (w/Sabalenka) – one of three Grand Slam doubles titles – also 2019 US Open (w/Sabalenka) and 2021 Wimbledon (w/Hsieh); seeded No.4 w/Hunter this fortnight (face former partner Kudermetova and Samsonova in 1r)

Career Milestones

- Finished 2022 ranked No.29 in singles, her sixth consecutive Top 50 finish; also finished No.5 in doubles for her fourth consecutive Top 10 finish in doubles and second consecutive Top 5 finish
- Former doubles No.1, having first climbed to the top on May 10, 2021; has spent 23 weeks atop the WTA Doubles Rankings
- Last season lifted seventh WTA title, at 2022 Monastir (d. Cornet in F), while in doubles alongside partner Kudermetova won Dubai and WTA Finals, as well as finished R-Up at Wimbledon
- Enjoyed a productive start to 2021 season in Melbourne, triumphing at the Gippsland Trophy (d. Kanepi in F) to lift sixth WTA singles title, then teamed up w/Sabalenka at Australian Open to claim second Grand Slam doubles title (d. Krejcikova/Siniakova in F). Later in the year, won third career Grand Slam doubles title, at Wimbledon w/Hsieh
- Won the most matches on Tour in 2020, going 34-13 across the season and finishing as R-Up at both Prague (l. Halep) and Linz (l. Sabalenka)
- Earned her milestone 200th career main draw win with victory over Kalinina in 1r at 2020 Linz
- Singles highlights in 2019 were winning biggest title of career at Doha (d. No.3 Halep in final) and advancing to QF at US Open for the first time (l. eventual champion Andreescu in 3s)
- Enjoyed standout season in doubles in 2019 - won maiden major doubles title at US Open w/Sabalenka (d. Azarenka/Barty in F). Also Completed 'Sunshine Double' in doubles (w/Sabalenka), lifting the back-to-back titles at Indian Wells (d. Krejcikova/Siniakova) and Miami (d. Stosur/Zhang), and qualified for Shiseido WTA Finals Shenzhen (went 1-2 in RR)
- Advanced to first Grand Slam SF of career at 2018 Australian Open (l. eventual champion Wozniacki)

- During 2018, lifted titles at Hobart, Rabat and Lugano, finishing with 46 main-draw match wins across the campaign - only Ka.Pliskova (49) and Kvitova (47) registered more. By contrast, prior to 2018 season owned only 36 wins at this level across entire career

- In doubles in 2018, won four titles and reached QF at WTA Finals (w/Schuurs)

- Finished 2017 season at No.35, up from No.120 in 2016 - first Top 50 and Top 100 year-end finish. Season highlighted by first career singles title at Hobart (as a qualifier, d. Niculescu in F)

- Registered first Top-10 win of career over No.10 Cibulkova in 1r at 2017 Beijing

- Made WTA singles main draw debut at 2016 's-Hertogenbosch - made QF (as qualifier, l. Mladenovic)

- Won first WTA title of any kind in doubles at 2016 Auckland (w/Mestach)

- Played first Tour-level event of career at 2015 Antwerp (fell in qualifying)

- Played first events of career on ITF Circuit in Belgium in 2010; owns 11 singles and 14 doubles titles on ITF Circuit

WANG XIYU (CHN #53) VS. [30] KAROLINA PLISKOVA (CZE #31)

Head-to-head: First meeting

WANG		PLISKOVA
Left-handed	**Plays**	Right-handed
Mar. 28, 2001 (21)	**Date of birth (age)**	Mar. 21, 1992 (30)
5'11'' (1.82m)	**Height**	6'1'' (1.86m)
No.49 (Jan. 9, 2023)	**Career-high ranking**	No.1 (Jul. 17, 2017)
$692,570	**Career prize money**	$24,308,845
0	**Singles Titles**	16
(2r 2022) 1-1	**Australian Open W-L**	22-9 (SF 2019)
(3r 2022 US Open) 3-5	**Grand Slam W-L**	82-40 (R-Up 2016 US Open; 2021 Wimbledon)
0-1 / 25-32	**YTD / Career W-L (MD)**	0-2 / 370-202
0-0 / 8-11	**3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 127-66
0-0 / 14-8	**Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 77-83
0-1 / 22-25	**Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 253-130
0-0 / 2-1	**Left-Hand W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 32-24
0-0 / 1-3	**Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 37-44
Mico Ratkovic	**Coach**	Sascha Bajin

WANG:

Australian Open

- Making second Australian Open main-draw appearance

- Reached 2r last year (as WC, l. Krejcikova). Also contested qualifying in 2019-20

- Best Grand Slam result is 3r run at 2022 US Open (l. Riske-Amritraj)

- Faces No.31 Pliskova in 1r today; owns four Top-50 wins in her career, with two on hard, over No.15 Martic (2020 Hua Hin) and No.3 Sakkari (2022 US Open)

- Record in Grand Slam 1r matches is 2-3

- One of six Chinese women in the draw

- Currently sitting just outside Top 50; by contrast, this time last year was ranked No.139

- Opened 2023 season with 1r exit at Auckland (l. Muchova via ret. w/sickness)

Career Milestones

- Highlights last season were SF at Washington DC (as LL, l. eventual champion Samsonova) and Cluj Napoca (l. Paolini)

- Elsewhere in 2022, made QF at Budapest (l. Krunic) and Granby (l. Saville), while finished R-Up at WTA 125 event in Valencia and reached three further finals on ITF Circuit

- Made Top-50 debut on November 7, 2022

- In 2021 made 2r at Abu Dhabi (l. Rybakina) and Nottingham (l. Riske). Also finished R-Up at W25 ITF Circuit event in Florence, SC, USA

- 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 Kovinic 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

PLISKOVA:

Australian Open

- Making 10th appearance at Australian Open, having missed last year's tournament w/right hand injury
- Best result at Melbourne Park was SF run in 2019 (l. eventual champion Osaka); defeated Muguruza and S.Williams en route. Also made QF in 2017-18
- Two-time Grand Slam finalist, finishing R-Up at 2016 US Open (l. Kerber) and 2021 Wimbledon (l. Barty)
- Faces Wang Xiyu in 1r today in 1r today; owns 25-4 career record against Chinese players (4-0 at Grand Slams)
- Went 2-2 against left-handed opponents in 2022, beating Kvitova (Stuttgart) and Pera (Strasbourg), while losing to Teichmann (Rome) and Haddad Maia (Toronto); has won past five matches against lefties at majors
- Across her career is 33-7 in Grand Slam 1r matches, last losing to Rogers at 2016 Roland Garros; only opening match exit at Australian Open came on debut in 2013 (l. Daniilidou)
- One of 11 Czech women in the draw – only USA (18) is better represented
- Opened 2023 campaign with 1r exits at Adelaide 1 (l. Ostapenko) and Adelaide 2 (as qualifier, l. Collins)

Career Milestones

- Best results last season were SF runs at Strasbourg (l. Juvan) and Toronto (l. Haddad Maia) and QF showings at Berlin (l. Gauff) and US Open (l. Sabalenka). Was first time she failed to reach a Tour-level final since 2012
- Reached three finals across 2021, at Rome (l. Swiatek), her second Slam final at Wimbledon (l. Barty) and Montreal (l. Giorgi)
- Ended 2021 season by qualifying for WTA Finals for the fifth consecutive year - only four active players have qualified more than her
- Made Olympic debut, reaching R16 at Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (l. Giorgi)
- 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 2019 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 Kr.Pliskova in 2r at Birmingham, in what was their first career main-draw encounter
- Helped the Czech Republic lift Billie Jean King Cup 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)

- Is a Grand Slam finalist, reaching the title match at 2016 US Open (l. Kerber) and also 2021 Wimbledon (l. Barty)

- 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 in F)

- At 2013 Linz, with sister Kristyna, became first set of twins to ever win a tour-level doubles title

- Reached first WTA QF as WC at 2008 Prague (l. Azarenka)

- Made professional debut on ITF Circuit in 2006

[31] KAIA KANEPI (EST #29) VS. [WC] KIMBERLY BIRRELL (AUS #167)

Head-to-head: KAIA KANEPI leads 1-0

2018	BRISBANE	HARD (O)	Q1	KAIA KANEPI	6-1 6-3

KANEPI		BIRRELL
Right-handed	**Plays**	Right-handed
Jun. 10, 1985 (37)	**Date of birth (age)**	Apr. 29, 1998 (24)
5'11'' (1.81m)	**Height**	5'7'' (1.70m)
No.15 (Aug. 20, 2012)	**Career-high ranking**	No.154 (May. 6, 2019)
$7,991,939	**Career prize money**	$526,851
4	**Singles Titles**	0
(QF 2022) 14-13	**Australian Open W-L**	2-3 (3r 2019)
(QF 2022 Australian Open; 2008, 2012 Roland Garros; 2010, 2013 Wimbledon; 2010, 2017 US Open) 69-56	**Grand Slam W-L**	2-3 (3r 2019 Australian Open)
2-2 / 258-222	**YTD / Career W-L (MD)**	0-0 / 7-8
1-0 / 85-82	**3-Set W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 4-0
0-0 / 62-54	**Tie-Break W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 1-1
2-2 / 153-127	**Hard Court W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 7-8
0-0 / 15-45	**Top 10 W-L (YTD / Career)**	0-0 / 1-1
Indrek Tustit	**Coach**	Brett Hunter

KANEPI:

Australian Open

- Making 14th main-draw appearance at Australian Open

- Best result was QF run in 2022 (l. Swiatek)

- Also enjoyed QF runs at US Open 2017 (l. Sabalenka), Wimbledon 2013 (l. Liscki), Roland-Garros 2012(l. eventual champion Sharapova), US Open 2010 (l. Zvonareva), Wimbledon 2010 (l. Kvitova) and Roland-Garros 2008 (l. Kuznetsova)

- Faces No.167 Birrell in 1r today, having won their only previous meeting at Brisbane 2018

- Record in Slam 1r matches stands at 35-21

- One of two Estonians in the draw (the other one is Kontaveit)

- Is ranked No.29; by contrast, this time last year was No.73

- Opened 2023 season by making 2r at Adelaide 1(l. Vondrousova) and Adelaide 2 (as qualifier, l. Badosa)

Career Milestones

- Best result in 2022 was R-Up finish at Washington DC (l. Samsonova)

- Last year was also a semifinalist at Tallinn, an event staged in her hometown, where she lost to fellow Estonian Kontaveit; reached the QF at 2022 Australian Open, her best Grand Slam finish since 2017 US Open QF)

- Opened 2021 by reaching first final in nearly eight years, at Gippsland Trophy (l. Mertens)

- Ended 2020 in fine form on ITF Circuit, winning 15 of 16 matches and lifting the 11th 12th and 13th titles of her career at this level

- Best results at Tour-level in 2020 were 2r showings at US Open (l. Jabeur) and Roland Garros (l. Mertens)

- Best results of 2019 were R16 runs at Roland Garros (l. Martic) and Charleston (l. Collins)

- Highlights of 2018 were R16 run at US Open (d. No.1 Halep, l. S.Williams) and equaling best career result at Australian Open by reaching 3r (l. Suárez Navarro). Also lifted 14th ITF Circuit title at $60k ITF/Brescia-ITA

- Melbourne run took total career prize money past USD $5million

- Battled through yet another injury-plagued season, finishing 2017 at No.107. Season highlight was advancing to QF stage of 2017 US Open (l. eventual R-Up Keys) - first qualifier to reach this stage at US Open since Barbara Gerken did so in 1981

- Holds many firsts for Estonia - first Estonian to reach a WTA final (2006 Hasselt), a Grand Slam QF (2008 French Open), to crack Top 20 (February 2009), to win a WTA title (2010 Palermo) and to beat a reigning No.1 (Wozniacki at 2011 Tokyo [PPO])

- Owns 11 career wins over Top 10 opponents, most recently over No.1 Halep at 2018 US Open

- Endured a career-low year-end 2016 ranking of No.302 due to being hampered by the Epstein-Barr virus and plantar fasciitis in both feet

- Advanced to QF stage four times in 2014 (Brisbane, Acapulco, Bastad and Seoul) and posted R16 finish at 2014 US Open (l. S.Williams)

- Battled injuries in 2013 missing first three months due to right Achilles injury and sidelined after Wimbledon until US Open due to a low back injury

- Broke into Top 20 at No.16 on June 11, 2012, following QF run at Roland Garros (d. No.9 Wozniacki, l. eventual champion Sharapova); later that year, rose to career-high No.15 (August 20, 2012)

- Made Grand Slam breakthrough with QF showing at 2008 Roland Garros (l. Kuznetsova); upset No.6 Chakvetadze in 2r to register first victory over a a Top 10 player of her career

- Made Top 100 debut on December 19, 2005 and broke into Top 50 on April 2, 2007

- Advanced to first WTA final at 2006 Hasselt (l. Clijsters); scored maiden Top 20 win over No.15 Schiavone in QF

- Reached maiden WTA SF at 2005 Kolkata (l. Myskina)
- Won first Tour-level match in 2r showing at 2002 Porto (d. Sassi, l. Montolio)
- In only her fourth senior tournament, fell 1r on WTA main draw debut at 2001 Vienna (as qualifier, l. Huber)
- Finished R-Up at $10k ITF/Tallin-EST on professional debut in 1999
- In doubles last season made SF at US Open and QF at Australian Open (both w/Dolehide). Also won Adelaide (w/Barty), Berlin (w/Siniakova) and Guadalajara (w/Stefani)
- Reached maiden WTA singles QFs in 2021, at Adelaide (l. Bencic) and Prague (l. Minnen)
- Enjoyed productive campaign in doubles in 2021, finishing R-Up at Charleston (w/Perez) and Nottingham (w/Dolehide) and making SF at Wimbledon (w/Dolehide) and QF at US Open (w/Dolehide); ended year at career-high No.30
- Last year, made 2r at Hua Hin, fell 1r at Prague and Strasbourg and in qualifying at Australian Open and Brisbane
- In February 2020 lifted WTA doubles title at Hua Hin w/Ar.Rodionova without dropping a set
- Owns one other WTA title, triumphing at 2017 Nottingham w/Adamczak. She has also finished R-Up three times, most recently w/Perez at Istanbul in September 2020 - rose to career-high No.62 in doubles rankings on September 14, 2020
- Won second of two career singles titles on ITF Circuit at $60K ITF/Playford-AUS in November 2019
- Fell 1r at Australian Open singles in 2014-17, while has contested qualifying at Roland Garros and US Open
- Posted career-high singles ranking of No.202 on February 10, 2014
- Won first ITF Circuit singles title at $25k ITF/Launceston-AUS in February 2013
- Owns 12 doubles titles on ITF Circuit
- Made professional debut at $25k ITF/Esperance-AUS in 2009

BIRRELL:

Australian Open

- Making fourth main-draw appearances at Australian Open
- Best result at home Slam was 3r appearance in 2019 (l. Kerber); has never made main draw at other majors – playing qualifying at US Open 2022
- Faces No.29 Kanepi in 1r today; owns three top 50 wins in her career, most recently in 2019 over No.29 Vekic at Australian Open
- Has 1-2 win-loss record in Grand Slam 1r matches
- One of five Australian women in the draw
- Opened 2023 season by playing qualifying at Adelaide 1

Career Milestones

- Posted 41-25 win-loss record in 2022, rising over 500 places in the rankings

- Reached three ITF Circuit finals, winning title at W60 event in Playford, Australia

- Missed the second half of 2019 and entire 2020 season to undergo elbow surgery

- In only her second career Grand Slam main draw appearance, reached 3r at 2019 Australian Open upsetting No.29 Vekic in 2r (as WC, l. Kerber)

- Followed up Melbourne run by reaching a career-high ranking of No.154 on May 6, 2019

- Opened 2019 season with 2r showing at Brisbane (as WC, d. No.10 Kasatkina, l. eventual R-Up Tsurenko)

- Win over Kasatkina remains her best by-ranking win of her career and only victory over a Top 20 player

- Posted career-best year-end finish of No.285 in 2018 (up from No.356 in 2017). During 2018 season, fell in qualifying at Brisbane, Hobart, Australian Open, Istanbul and Eastbourne

- Also won biggest ITF Circuit title of career in 2018, at $60k/Darwin-AUS

- Posted a then career-high ranking of No.259 in week of October 1, 2018

- Reached 2r on WTA main draw debut as wildcard at 2016 Hobart (l. Cibulkova)

- Also at 2016 Hobart, finished R-Up in doubles w/Wolfe (l. Han/Mchale)

- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2014 Hobart

- On ITF Circuit, winner of three singles titles and one doubles title

- Played first professional events of career on ITF Circuit in Australia in 2012