



# MATCH NOTES

## Dongfeng Voyah · Wuhan Open

### WUHAN, CHINA



OCT 7-13, 2024 | WTA 1000

**Tournament Information:** [www.wuhanopentennis.com](http://www.wuhanopentennis.com) | @wuhanopen | facebook.com/wuhanopentennis  
**WTA Information:** [www.wtatennis.com](http://www.wtatennis.com) | @WTA | facebook.com/WTA  
**WTA Media Information:** Alex Prior ([aprior@wtatennis.com](mailto:aprior@wtatennis.com))

## MATCH NOTES – DAY 7 - OCTOBER 13, 2024

### [1] Aryna Sabalenka (#2) vs. [5] Qinwen Zheng (CHN #7)

**Sabalenka leads 3-0**

- Rematch of January's Australian Open final and last month's US Open quarterfinal, both won by Sabalenka
- First time two Top 10 players will face off in a WTA final in China since the 2019 WTA Finals in Shenzhen (Barty d. Svitolina)
- First meeting between Sabalenka and Zheng outside of the Grand Slams
- Sabalenka has won all six sets previously contested

#### **Sabalenka:**

- Two-time champion in 2018 and 2019 and holds an undefeated 16-0 record in Wuhan
- Leads Tour in hard court wins this season, with 37
- 14 of her 16 singles titles have come on hard courts, including three this year at the Australian Open, Cincinnati, and US Open
- Bidding to win 17th career WTA title and fourth of the season
- Entering today's final tied with Petra Kvitova for the most wins in Wuhan (16) since the inception of the tournament in 2014
- Playing her 6th WTA final in China, tied with Alison Riske and Jelena Jankovic for the most in the Open Era
- Playing her 4th WTA 1000 final of the season, tied with Iga Swiatek for the most this season
- Having won Cincinnati in August, bidding to win multiple WTA 1000 titles in a season for the first time in her career
- Playing her 7th WTA final of the season, the most of any player (excluding team events & BJK Cup) and the most she has made in a single season eclipsing her previous best of six in 2023
- Across both tours this year, only Jannik Sinner (8) has made more tour-level finals than Sabalenka
- Owns a five-match win streak against Top 10 opponents, the longest streak of her career; a win today would tie her with Iga Swiatek (9) for the most Top 10 wins this season
- Bidding to win an Open Era record 5th WTA title on Chinese soil; currently tied with Agnieszka Radwanska with four: 2018 and 2019 Wuhan, 2019 Zhuhai, 2019 Shenzhen
- Has qualified for the WTA Finals Riyadh for the fourth consecutive year

## **Zheng:**

- Born in Shiyan in Hubei province and moved to Wuhan as a child to go to school and train
- Making her main-draw debut at her home tournament; as a 16-year-old, received a qualifying wild card in 2019 and lost in the first round to Svetlana Kuznetsova
- First Chinese player to reach the final of Wuhan and first to reach the final at a WTA 1000 on Chinese soil
- Second Chinese player to reach the final of a WTA 1000 event after Li Na (2012 Rome, 2012 Montréal, 2012 Cincinnati, and 2014 Miami) and bidding to become the first to win a WTA 1000 title since Li won 2012 Cincinnati
- Bidding to win first WTA 1000 title, fifth career WTA title overall, and third of the season after Palermo and Olympics
- Has won 24 matches since Wimbledon, the most of any player on tour (Sabalenka has won 23)
- Made first WTA 1000 semifinal last week in Beijing (I. Muchova)
- Bidding for second Top 5 win of the season after defeating No.1 Iga Swiatek in the Olympic semifinals
- Became China's first gold medalist in singles at the Paris 2024 Olympics by defeating Croatia's Donna Vekic in the gold medal match
- Leads the tour with 368 aces this season; has served 32 aces en route to the final, the highest tally of the tournament
- Has won her last 10 three-set matches and leads the tour in three-set wins (19-3) and win percentage in deciding sets (86.4%)
- The Top 7 players on the PIF Race to the WTA Finals at the end of the regular season will automatically qualify for the WTA Finals Riyadh. Zheng entered the Asian swing at No.9 on the Race Leaderboard and will rise to No.7 on Monday, overtaking Emma Navarro. She is trying to become the first Chinese player to qualify for the WTA Finals since Li Na in 2013



**3**  
WIN

**3**  
MATCHES  
PLAYED

**0**  
WIN



**2** **ARYNA**  
**SABALENKA (1)**

**QINWEN**  
**(5) ZHENG** **7**  
CHINA

1998-05-05	<b>Date of Birth</b>	2002-10-08
	<b>Residence</b>	Barcelona, Spain
Right-handed (two-handed backhand)	<b>Plays</b>	Right-handed (two-handed backhand)
5' 11" (1.82m)	<b>Height</b>	5' 10" (1.78m)
1	<b>Career-High Ranking</b>	7
\$28,546,708	<b>Career Prize Money</b>	\$5,555,297
\$8,169,145	<b>Season Prize Money</b>	\$2,803,275
3 / 16	<b>Singles Titles YTD / Career</b>	2 / 4
77-23 (Champion: 2024 US OPEN, AUSTRALIAN OPEN; 2023 AUSTRALIAN OPEN)	<b>Grand Slam W-L (best)</b>	26-12 (Runner-Up: 2024 AUSTRALIAN OPEN)
4-0 / 16-0 (Champion: 2019, 2018)	<b>YTD / Career WUHAN W-L (best)</b>	4-0 / 4-0 (Runner-Up: 2024)
53-12 / 302-122	<b>YTD / Career W-L</b>	43-15 / 101-54
37-7 / 209-78	<b>YTD / Career Hard W-L</b>	25-9 / 65-34
12-8 / 89-64	<b>YTD / Career 3-Set W-L</b>	19-3 / 44-18
8-4 / 63-43	<b>YTD / Career TB W-L</b>	4-6 / 20-17
4-3 / 18-19	<b>YTD / Career TOP 5 W-L</b>	1-5 / 4-12
8-4 / 37-32	<b>YTD / Career TOP 10 W-L</b>	3-5 / 8-14
Champion: US OPEN, CINCINNATI, AUSTRALIAN OPEN	<b>YTD Best Result</b>	Champion: OLYMPICS, PALERMO



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2024-10-07 - 2024-10-13 | \$ 3,221,715



**ARYNA  
SABALENKA**

**QINWEN  
ZHENG**

## HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

YEAR	TOURNAMENT	SURFACE	ROUND	WINNER	SCORE/ RESULT	TIME
2024	US OPEN	HARD	QF	Aryna Sabalenka	6-1 6-2	1h 13m
2024	AUSTRALIAN OPEN	HARD	F	Aryna Sabalenka	6-3 6-2	1h 16m
2023	US OPEN	HARD	QF	Aryna Sabalenka	6-1 6-4	1h 13m

## RANKING HISTORY

TOP RANK	YEAR-END	YEAR	TOP RANK	YEAR-END
2	-	2024	7	-
1	2	2023	15	15
2	5	2022	25	25
2	2	2021	143	143
10	10	2020	324	324
9	11	2019	633	649
11	11	2018	933	933
76	78	2017	-	-
154	159	2016	-	-
539	548	2015	-	-



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## TOURNAMENT HISTORY

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

2r: d. K. SINIAKOVA (#37) 6-4 6-4 (1h 34m)  
3r: d. Y. PUTINTSEVA (#35) 1-6 6-4 6-0 (2h 1m)  
QF: d. M. FRECH (#27) 6-2 6-2 (1h 23m)  
SF: d. C. GAUFF (#4) 1-6 6-4 6-4 (2h 26m)

*Total time on court: 7h 24m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Two-time defending champion sporting an undefeated 16-0 record in Wuhan; won the title in both 2018 (d. Kontaveit in F) and 2019 (d. Riske-Amritraj in F)
- Her 16 wins tied Petra Kvitova for the most main-draw wins at Wuhan since the tournament's inception in 2014
- Has beaten Katerina Siniakova, Yulia Putintseva, Magdalena Frech and Coco Gauff so far this week to reach her first final since winning US Open last month
- 1st player in tournament history to make 3 finals
- Has now won 19 of last 20 matches with title runs at Cincinnati and US Open and QF performance at Beijing
- Faces No.7 Qinwen Zheng for 3rd time and 2nd time this year; has won all 6 sets previously played; first meeting outside the Slams
- Bidding for 2nd Top 10 win of the week after beating No.4 Coco Gauff in SF; owns 37 career wins over Top 10 players, including last 6
- Owns 17-2 career record against players from China, with record in 2024 standing at 4-0
- Bidding to win 17th WTA title and 4th of 2024; record in WTA finals stands at 16-14
- Has won 14 of her 16 WTA titles on hard court, including 3 this season: US Open, Cincinnati, Australian Open
- Is No.1 seed this week; has been top seed at 19 tournaments in her career, winning the title onlytwice at 2019 Shenzhen and 2020 Linz
- Is currently No.2 on PIF WTA Rankings; this time last year was ranked No.1
- During last year's Asia swing reached QF at Beijing
- Has won 53 matches so far in 2024; she is ranked No.1 on tour for match wins
- Tour leader in hard-court wins in 2024 with 37

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

2r: d. J. CRISTIAN (#75) 6-2 6-4 (1h 42m)  
3r: d. L. FERNANDEZ (#28) 5-7 6-3 6-0 (2h 29m)  
QF: d. J. PAOLINI (#6) 6-2 3-6 6-3 (2h 14m)  
SF: d. X. WANG (#51) 6-3 6-4 (1h 39m)

*Total time on court: 8h 4m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making 1st appearance at home tournament; born in Shiyan in Hubei province
- Has beaten Jaqueline Cristian, Leylah Fernandez, Jasmine Paolini and Xinyu Wang so far this week to reach her first final since winning gold at Paris 2024 Olympics
- 1st Chinese player to make Wuhan final; bested Wang in first all-Chinese WTA 1000 semifinal on Saturday
- 2nd Chinese player to reach a WTA 1000 final after Li Na (Rome 2012, Montréal 2012, Cincinnati 2012 and Miami 2014)
- Trying to become 1st Chinese player to win a WTA 1000 title since Li Na at Cincinnati 2012
- Has won 24 of last 27 matches since Wimbledon, with losses coming to Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (Cincinnati R16), Aryna Sabalenka (US Open QF) and Karolina Muchova (Beijing SF)
- Faces No.2 Aryna Sabalenka in a final for 2nd time this year (also Australian Open); bidding for 2nd Top 5 win of 2024 after beating No.1 Iga Swiatek at Olympics SF
- Owns 8 career wins over Top 10 players; bidding for 2nd Top 10 win of the week after defeating No.6 Jasmine Paolini in QF
- Record in WTA finals stands at 4-2; last loss came to Aryna Sabalenka at 2024 Australian Open
- Bidding to win second career hard-court title after Zhengzhou 2023; 3 of 4 tour-level titles have come on clay
- Previous best result by China at Wuhan was SF run by Qiang Wang in 2018
- Is currently No.7 on PIF WTA Rankings; this time last year was ranked No.24
- Entered the week at No.8 on PIF Race to the WTA Finals; will overtake Emma Navarro and rise to No.7 on Monday
- During last year's Asian swing reached RUP at Zhuhai, Won at Zhengzhou, 1r at Beijing; also won gold for China at Asian Games



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## RECENT TOURNAMENT HISTORY

2019	Result	Rank: 14	Seed: 9
F	W	A. RISKE-AMRITRAJ (#35) 6-3 3-6 6-1	
SF	W	A. BARTY (#1) 7-5 6-4	
QF	W	E. RYBAKINA (#50) 6-3 1-6 6-1	
3r	W	K. BERTENS (#8) 6-1 7-6(9)	
2r	W	D. COLLINS (#33) 6-1 6-0	
1r	W	A. SASNOVICH (#51) 6-1 6-2	
2018	Result	Rank: 20	Seed: -
F	W	A. KONTAVEIT (#27) 6-3 6-3	
SF	W	A. BARTY (#17) 7-6(2) 6-4	
QF	W	D. CIBULKOVA (#31) 7-5 6-3	
3r	W	S. KENIN (#62) 6-3 6-3	
2r	W	E. SVITOLINA (#6) 6-4 2-6 6-1	
1r	W	C. SUÁREZ NAVARRO (#22) 7-6(2) 2-6 6-2	

- Making her tournament debut in Main Draw Singles



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## SEASON 2024 HISTORY

- Reached QF at Beijing (l. Muchova)
- Won her third Grand Slam singles title and the first at US Open (d. Pegula in F)
- Claimed second title of the season at Cincinnati (d. Pegula in F)
- Finished QF at Toronto (l. Anisimova)
- Reached SF at Washington DC (l. Bouzkova)
- Withdrew from Wimbledon due to shoulder injury
- Made QF at Berlin (l. Kalinskaya, RET)
- Reached QF at Roland Garros (l. M. Andreeva)
- Reached back-to-back finals at Rome and Madrid, defeated by WTA World No.1 Swiatek on both occasions
- Reached QF at Stuttgart (l. Vondrousova)
- Made 3r at Miami Open (l. Kalinina) and 4r at Indian Wells (l. Navarro)
- Played 2r at Dubai (l. Vekic)
- Defended her Australian Open title and earned second Grand Slam career victory (d. Zheng)
- Achieved R-Up in her 2024 season opener at Brisbane (l. Rybakina)

- Made QF at Beijing (l. Muchova)
- Reached consecutive QF at US Open (l. eventual champion Sabalenka)
- Made 3r at Cincinnati (l. Pavlyuchenkova)
- Won gold medal in women's singles at Paris Olympics, becoming the first tennis player from China to win a singles medal at Olympics (d. Vekic in F)
- Successfully defended title at Palermo (d. Muchova in F)
- Suffered 1r exit at Wimbledon (l. Sun)
- Reached 2r at Berlin (l. Siniakova)
- Made 3r at Roland Garros (l. Avanesyan)
- Reached QF at Rome for the second consecutive season (l. Gauff)
- Retired during 2r match at Madrid due to injury (l. Putintseva)
- Reached R16 at Stuttgart (l. eventual R-Up, Kostyuk)
- Contested 3r at Miami (l. Azarenka)
- After 1r bye, fell in 2r at Indian Wells (l. Yuan)
- Made QF at Dubai (l. Swiatek)
- Contested R16 at Doha (l. Fernandez)
- Reached her first Grand Slam final at the Australian Open (l. Sabalenka)
- Started the 2024 season representing China in the 2024 United Cup, reaching the QF and going 2-1 in singles play (d. Vondrousova) (d. Danilovic) (l. Swiatek)

VALUE	WTA RANK	MATCH STATS	VALUE	WTA RANK
288	3	<b>Aces</b>	368	1
62.6%	42	<b>First serve %</b>	52.4%	86
70.4%	9	<b>First Serve points won %</b>	75.5%	1
50.8%	3	<b>Second serve points won %</b>	47.0%	27
63.0%	3	<b>Overall service points won %</b>	61.9%	5
79.4%	3	<b>Service games won %</b>	77.5%	5
62.4%	5	<b>Break points saved %</b>	57.5%	33
36.6%	43	<b>First serve return points won %</b>	38.1%	21
59.1%	5	<b>Second serve return points won %</b>	56.1%	29
46.8%	31	<b>Break points converted %</b>	48.1%	15
39.2%	21	<b>Return games won %</b>	37.3%	30

45.5%

20

Return points won %

44.8%

27



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## TITLES & GRAND SLAMS

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (16)

2024 - US OPEN, CINCINNATI, AUSTRALIAN OPEN  
2023 - MADRID, AUSTRALIAN OPEN, ADELAIDE #1  
2021 - MADRID, ABU DHABI  
2020 - LINZ, OSTRAVA, DOHA  
2019 - ZHUHAI, WUHAN, SHENZHEN  
2018 - WUHAN, NEW HAVEN

Runner-Up (14)

2024 - ROME, MADRID, BRISBANE  
2023 - US OPEN, STUTTGART, INDIAN WELLS  
2022 - WTA FINALS, 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH,  
STUTTGART  
2021 - STUTTGART  
2019 - SAN JOSE  
2018 - EASTBOURNE, LUGANO  
2017 - TIANJIN

### DOUBLES FINALS

Champion (6)

2021 - BERLIN (w/Azarenka), AUSTRALIAN OPEN  
(w/Mertens)  
2020 - OSTRAVA (w/Mertens)  
2019 - US OPEN (w/Mertens), MIAMI (w/Mertens),  
INDIAN WELLS (w/Mertens)

Runner-Up (2)

2019 - WUHAN (w/Mertens)  
2018 - LUGANO (w/Lapko)

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (4)

2024 - OLYMPICS, PALERMO  
2023 - ZHENGZHOU, PALERMO

Runner-Up (3)

2024 - AUSTRALIAN OPEN  
2023 - ZHUHAI  
2022 - TOKYO

AUSTRALIAN OPEN	ROLAND GARROS	WIMBLEDON	US OPEN		AUSTRALIAN OPEN	ROLAND GARROS	WIMBLEDON	US OPEN
WON	QF		WON	2024	RUP	3r	1r	QF
WON	SF	SF	RUP	2023	2r	2r	1r	QF
4r	3r		SF	2022	2r	4r	3r	3r
4r	3r	SF	SF	2021				
1r	3r		2r	2020				
3r	2r	1r	2r	2019				
1r	1r	1r	4r	2018				
		2r		2017				





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## CAREER MILESTONES

- Outstanding 2023 saw her win debut Grand Slam title at Australian Open (d. Rybakina in F), reach second Major final at US Open (l. Gauff in F) and become the WTA World No.1 player for the first time in career (after US Open). In addition won titles at Adelaide and Madrid.
- Highlight of 2022 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. Krejčíková/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. Kvitová 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, 2019 following 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. Krejčíková/Siniakova in F) and Miami (d. Stosur/ Zhang in F)
- Qualified for WTA Finals Shenzhen in doubles (w/Mertens), going 1-2 in the round-robin stage
- 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,
- Earned 2023 WTA Most Improved Player of year ending the season at No.15 and inside the Top 20 for the first time
- Won maiden WTA titles in 2023 at Palermo (d. Paolini in F) and Zhengzhou (d. Krejčíková in F); also reached final at WTA Elite Trophy Zhuhai (l. Haddad Maia), SF at Abu Dhabi and first career Grand Slam QF at US Open (l. Sabalenka)
- Broke into Top 20 for the first time on May 22, 2023
- Won WTA Newcomer of the Year in 2022; reached first WTA final at Tokyo (l. Samsonova) and also made SF at Melbourne Summer Set 1, as qualifier), QF at Toronto and R16 at Roland Garros
- Broke into Top 50 at No.46 after run to fourth round in Paris that year
- Scored first Top 20 win over No.19 Simona Halep at 2022 Roland Garros then earned two Top 10 wins over No.5 Ons Jabeur at Toronto and No.4 Paula Badosa at Tokyo
- Broke into Top 100 on January 31, 2022, following run through qualifying to 2r at Australian Open
- Also won title at WTA 125K event in Valencia in June 2022
- Ended 2021 at No.143, her first Top 150 finish
- Reached 2r on WTA main draw debut in 2021 at Palermo (as qualifier, l. Cristian)
- Made further main draw appearances in 2021 at Moscow (as qualifier, l. Tsurenko in 1r) and Courmayeur (as qualifier, l. Vekic in 1r); also contested qualifying in Strasbourg
- Made WTA debut in 2019, appearing in qualifying at Miami, Tianjin and Wuhan
- Made ITF debut in 2018; gone on to amass nine ITF singles titles with 9-0 record in finals

following New Haven title

- Broke into Top 100 at No.76 on October 16, 2017 after 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. Witthoef)
- Fell 1r on main draw debut at 2017 Dubai (as qualifier, 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

## OTHER INFORMATION

- Coached by Anton Dubrov;
- Previously coached by Dmitry Tursunov and Didi Kindlmann
- Started playing tennis when she was 6 by an accident when her father Sergey drove by the tennis courts and decided to give it a try
- Has a sweet tooth and considers something sweet as a perfect present; loves her grandmother's cooking, and looks forward to her pancakes when she is away from home
- Has a tiger tattoo on her left arm, which earned her the nickname "The Tiger"
- She spends her time off with family, catching up with friends, or reading; her favorite book is "The Count of Monte Cristo"

- Coached by Pere Riba;
- Trains in Barcelona
- Parents encouraged her to play multiple sports in her childhood, including table tennis
- Tennis idol is Roger Federer