



# MATCH NOTES

## INTERNAZIONALI BNL D'ITALIA

### ROME, ITALY



May 7-19, 2024 | WTA 1000 | €3,572,618

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## MATCH NOTES – DAY 7 – MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024

### **Naomi Osaka (JPN #173) vs. [7] Qinwen Zheng (CHN #7)**

**Osaka leads 1-0**

Osaka is making fifth appearance at Rome, where her best result was QF run in 2019 (l. Bertens)... Osaka is a two-time WTA 1000 champion - 2018 Indian Wells and 2019 Beijing... Osaka is bidding for her first Top 10 win since 2020 Brisbane (defeating No.9 Kiki Bertens)... Osaka's best career result on clay is SF run at 2019 Stuttgart... Zheng is making second appearance at Rome, having reached the QF in 2023 (l. Kudernetova), which is also her best result at WTA 1000 events, along with QF run at Toronto 2022 (l. Ka. Pliskova)... Zheng's career maiden singles title came on clay at 2023 Palermo... Zheng is currently ranked at a career-high No.7 (first achieved in Jan 2024); this time last year was ranked No.21

### **[1] Iga Swiatek (POL #1) vs. Angelique Kerber (GER #331)**

**Swiatek leads 2-0**

This is the third match-up, with Swiatek winning the previous match-ups including at 2024 United Cup... During Rome, Swiatek will be spending her 102nd and 103rd atop the WTA Rankings; she holds a 3,412 point advantage over No.2 ranked Aryna Sabalenka... Swiatek has won the previous three meetings, all in straight-sets... Swiatek won her 20th career singles title (9th at WTA 1000 level) last week in Madrid; the last time a player won Rome and Madrid in the same year was 2013 (Serena Williams)... Kerber is 1-15 vs. reigning WTA World No.1s with her lone win coming over Serena Williams at 2016 Australian Open... Kerber is playing in her 91st WTA 1000 tournament, finishing as runner-up five times... Of 21 players who have made four or more finals appearances at WTA 1000 tournaments, Kerber is the only one yet to win a WTA 1000 title... At No.331, Kerber is the lowest ranked player to reach R16 at Rome; she is the lowest ranked player to reach the R16 at a WTA 1000 on clay... Only two players ranked outside the WTA Top 300 have reached a WTA 1000 quarterfinal – No.747 Naomi Osaka (2024 Doha) and No.934 Sloane Stephens (2017 Toronto)

### **[16] Elina Svitolina (UKR #19) vs. [2] Aryna Sabalenka (#2)**

**Sabalenka leads 2-1**

Svitolina is making her 10th appearance at Rome, where she won back-to-back titles in 2017 and 2018... Svitolina is a four-time WTA 1000 titlist, also taking the trophy at both Dubai and Toronto in 2017... Six of Svitolina's 17 WTA singles titles have come on clay... Sabalenka has won 7 of her last 8 matches after reaching her third career Madrid final last week... Two of Sabalenka's 14 career titles have come on clay, both in Madrid in 2021 and 2023

### **[3] Coco Gauff (USA #3) vs. Paula Badosa (ESP #126)**

**Badosa leads 3-1**

Badosa won three of the four previous meetings against Gauff (Indian Wells 2021, San Jose 2022 and Madrid 2023) - Gauff only won in Doha 2022... Gauff is the fourth American to register 10+ wins at the Italian Open before turning 21 in the Open Era along with Chris Evert, Serena Williams and Venus Williams... Gauff (59 wins) is looking to equal Caroline Wozniacki (60) for the most wins in WTA-1000 events before turning 21 since the format was introduced in 2009... Gauff has reached the quarterfinal at WTA 1000 13 times, the most at the level among players before turning 21... Badosa is seeking her first Top 10 win of 2024 (0-2 vs. Top 10 this year); her last Top 10 win came at 2023 Rome defeating No.7 Jabeur... Badosa has career record of 11-17 against top-10 opponents, including 5-7 on clay... With a win today, Badosa would become the first Spanish player to make consecutive quarterfinals in Rome since Garbine Muguruza (2016-17)... The last time a quarterfinalist in Rome was ranked outside the Top 100 was in 2006 (No.133 Romina Oprandi, QF)



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### [5] Maria Sakkari (GRE #8) vs. [24] Victoria Azarenka (#24)

**Azarenka leads 2-0**

Sakkari (62) is four victories away from equaling her mother Angeliki Kanellopoulou (66) for the most WTA match-wins on clay of any Greek player in the Open Era... Sakkari reached the semifinals at 2019 Rome as a qualifier (l. eventual champion Karolina Pliskova)... Sakkari has won one WTA 1000 title, at 2023 Guadalajara, and has reached three more WTA 1000 finals, all on hard court... Since 2009 when the WTA 1000 level was introduced, Azarenka (202) has won more matches than any other player (next most is Halep, 186)... Azarenka is now the player with the second most WTA 1000 wins on clay (47), only Simona Halep with 51 has more... Azarenka is 2-5 against Top 10 opponents in 2024... Azarenka is seeking her first Top 10 win on clay since 2020 Rome, defeating No.5 Sofia Kenin... With a win, Azarenka would advance to her 38th WTA 1000 quarterfinal; only Agnieszka Radwanska (42) and Simona Halep (39) have reached more WTA 1000 quarterfinals; Caroline Wozniacki has also reached 37... Sakkari could reach her 13th WTA-1000 quarterfinal since the start of the 2020 season. Currently, only four players have reached more than Sakkari (12) over that span - Iga Swiatek (16), Aryna Sabalenka (15) and Jessica Pegula (15)