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## SEMIFINALS – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

**[6] HSIEH SU-WEI (TPE #8) / JELENA OSTAPENKO (LAT #6)**

**vs.**

**[7] TIMEA BABOS (HUN #15) / LUISA STEFANI (BRA #16)**

### FIRST MEETING

#### ***Hsieh/Ostapenko:***

- Hsieh and Ostapenko went undefeated in the Martina Navratilova Group to secure their position at the top of the group, defeating Kudermetova/Mertens, No.1 seeds Errani/Paolini and Muhammad/Schuurs
- Hsieh is making her fifth WTA Finals appearance and has reached the final on all four previous appearances, including winning the title in 2013 with Peng Shuai. Her runner-up runs were in 2021 (w/Mertens), 2020 (w/Strycova) and 2014 (w/Peng)
- Ostapenko is making her third appearance after 2024 and 2022. Both her previous appearances were with Lyudmyla Kichenok and their best result was reaching the semifinals in 2022 (l. Krejčíková/Siniakova)
- The pair teamed up at the start of the 2025 season and reached the final at 2025 Australian Open (l. Siniakova/Townsend in final) at just their second tournament together
- Hsieh/Ostapenko achieved further finals at Wimbledon (l. Kudermetova/Mertens) and WTA 1000 Dubai (l. Siniakova/Townsend) this year
- They also reached the semifinals at two WTA 1000 events this year: Madrid and Beijing
- They have reached at least the QF stage in 5 of the 9 tournaments they have played together this year
- Hsieh is a 9-time doubles Grand Slam champion, winning seven women's doubles titles (Wimbledon 2013, 2019, 2021, 2023; Roland Garros 2014, 2023; Australian Open 2024) and 2 mixed doubles titles (Australian Open and Wimbledon 2024)
- Hsieh has spent a total of 59 weeks in her career as World No.1 in doubles, most recently from March 18, 2024 to June 9, 2024
- Hsieh has a total of 35 career doubles titles and looking for her first this season
- In 2024, Ostapenko won the 2024 US Open women's doubles title with Lyudmyla Kichenok, and is a four-time Grand Slam doubles finalist (Women's doubles - Australian Open 2025, 2024 and Wimbledon 2025; Mixed doubles - Wimbledon 2019, w/Lindstedt)
- Ostapenko has won 11 doubles titles in her career including two this season, Abu Dhabi (w/Perez) and Charleston (w/Routliffe)

#### ***Babos/Stefani:***

- Babos/Stefani defeated defending champions Dabrowski/Routliffe to clinch second place in the Liezel Huber Group with a 2-1 record (also d. Andreeva/Shnaider; l. Siniakova/Townsend)
- Babos dominated the WTA Finals between 2017 and 2019, winning three straight titles (w/Hlaváčková in 2017, and w/Mladenovic in 2018 and 2019) – this is her first qualification since her 2019 title

- Overall, this is Babos's sixth appearance at the WTA Finals, having also qualified in 2015 (w/Mladenovic) and 2016 (w/Shvedova)
- By contrast, Stefani is making her WTA Finals debut this year
- This year, Babos and Stefani teamed up for the very first time in their careers at WTA 500 Linz – and promptly won the title
- They won four team titles in 2025, additionally triumphing at WTA 500 Strasbourg, WTA 500 Tokyo and WTA 250 Sao Paulo (Stefani's birthplace)
- Also were runners-up at WTA 500 Ningbo, during the week where they sealed qualification for the WTA Finals
- The duo ended the Grand Slam season strongly with quarterfinal finishes at both Wimbledon (l. defending champions Siniakova/Townsend) and the US Open (l. eventual champions Dabrowski/Routliffe)
- Stefani also reached the mixed doubles final this year at Wimbledon (w/Salisbury, l. Siniakova/Verbeek)
- Babos is a former WTA Doubles World No.1. She reached that peak for the first time on July 16, 2018, and spent a total of 13 weeks at the top ranking
- Babos is also a 4-time Grand Slam champion in women's doubles, winning all of those titles with Mladenovic (2018 and 2020 Australian Open; 2019 and 2020 Roland Garros)
- Stefani has won one Grand Slam title, claiming the 2023 Australian Open mixed doubles title with her compatriot Rafael Matos

## **[5] JESSICA PEGULA (USA #5) vs. [6] ELENA RYBAKINA (KAZ #6)**

### **PEGULA LEADS 3-2**

Rybakina d. Pegula 6-4, 6-1 in 2025 Billie Jean King Cup Finals QF

[5] Pegula d. [4] Rybakina 7-5, 6-2 in 2023 WTA Finals RR

[10] Rybakina d. [3] Pegula 7-6(3), 6-4 in 2023 Miami SF

[3] Pegula d. Rybakina 2-6, 6-3, 7-6(8) in 2022 Guadalajara R32

[16] Pegula d. [17] Rybakina 6-3, 6-4 in 2022 Miami R32

#### ***Pegula:***

- Finished in second place in the Stefanie Graf Group with a 2-1 record (d. defending champion Gauff and Paolini; l. Sabalenka)
- Making her 4th straight appearance at the WTA Finals
- Career-best showing at the WTA Finals was a runner-up performance in 2023 (l. Swiatek in final)
- Seeking the 21st WTA singles final of her career
- Won three singles titles in 2025 across three different surfaces; she is joint-second with Swiatek for most titles won this year after Aryna Sabalenka (4)
- Reached six finals this year, including two at WTA 1000 events; she is second for most finals reached this season after Aryna Sabalenka (8)
- Has posted 26 Top 10 wins in her career, including over No.3 Gauff and No.8 Paolini this week in Riyadh
- Trying to claim three WTA Top 10 wins at a single event for just the second time in her career; the first time was at the 2023 WTA Finals, where she collected four Top 10 wins
- Holds an 8-4 career tour-level record against players from Kazakhstan
- The United States has won the WTA Finals singles title on 21 occasions, most recently Gauff last year

- Six of her 9 career WTA singles titles have come on hard court; her most recent hard-court title is 2025 Austin
- Currently ranked No.5; this time last year was ranked No.6. Reached career-high ranking of No.3 for the first time in October 2022
- 31-year-old Pegula is the oldest player to reach the semifinals of the WTA Finals since 37-year-old Venus Williams in 2017

***Rybakina:***

- Making her 3rd consecutive WTA Finals appearance
- Emerged as the Serena Williams Group winner and advanced beyond the round robin stage for the first time; in each of the last two years, she went 1-2 in round robin
- Went an undefeated 3-0 in round robin play (d. Anisimova, Swiatek and Alexandrova), marking the 27th time a player has gone 3-0 in that portion of the WTA Finals (the next day, Sabalenka matched that feat)
- Seeking the 22nd WTA singles final of her career
- Picked up two WTA singles titles this year, at WTA 500 events in Strasbourg and Ningbo
- By reaching the Tokyo semifinals two weeks ago, she clinched the final singles qualification spot in Riyadh
- Has posted 54 Tour-level match wins in 2025, the third-highest total on Tour this year (trailing only Swiatek and Sabalenka)
- Has notched 29 Top 10 wins in her career, including all three of her wins here this week
- Has gone 3-6 vs. Top 5 players this year
- Is 11-2 against players from the United States in Tour matches this season – the two losses were to eventual champion Keys at Australian Open and Krueger at Miami
- Five of her 10 career WTA titles have come on hard court, including Ningbo this year
- Currently ranked No.6; this time last year was ranked No.5; reached a career-high ranking of No.3 in June 2023
- This year's Tour leader in total aces (488)
- First player from Kazakhstan to make it to the semifinals of the WTA Finals

**[1] ARYNA SABALENKA (#1) vs. [4] AMANDA ANISIMOVA (USA #4)**

**ANISIMOVA LEADS 6-4**

- [1] Sabalenka d. [8] Anisimova 6-3, 7-6(3) in 2025 US Open Final
- [13] Anisimova d. [1] Sabalenka 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in 2025 Wimbledon SF
- [1] Sabalenka d. [16] Anisimova 7-5, 6-4 in 2025 Roland Garros R16
- Anisimova d. [2] Sabalenka 6-4, 6-2 in 2024 Toronto QF
- [2] Sabalenka d. Anisimova 6-3, 6-2 in 2024 Australian Open R16
- [3] Sabalenka d. Anisimova 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in 2022 Rome QF
- Anisimova d. [3] Sabalenka 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 in 2022 Madrid R64
- [15] Anisimova d. [1] Sabalenka 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 in 2022 Charleston R16
- Anisimova d. [11] Sabalenka 6-4, 6-2 in 2019 Roland Garros R64
- Anisimova d. [11] Sabalenka 6-3, 6-2 in 2019 Australian Open R32

### ***Sabalenka:***

- Finished round robin play as the Stefanie Graf Group winner with a 3-0 record (d. Paolini, Pegula and defending champion Gauff), advancing to the semifinals for the fourth straight year
- Her undefeated round robin record marked the 28th time a player has gone 3-0 in that portion of the WTA Finals (Rybakina had made it 27 times the previous day)
- Making her 5th consecutive appearance at the WTA Finals, and is the No.1 seed at the event for the fourth time (2021, 2023-2025)
- Her career-best performance at the WTA Finals is a runner-up finish in 2022 (l. Garcia in final); also reached the SF in 2023 and 2024
- Seeking the 40th WTA singles final of her career
- Has notched 62 tour-level wins in 2025, currently tied with Iga Swiatek for the most tour-level wins this year
- Her opening victory this week over Paolini was her 500th career match at Tour-level events
- Winner of a tour-leading four WTA singles titles this season, including her fourth career Grand Slam title at the US Open, as well as WTA 1000 Miami, WTA 1000 Madrid and WTA 500 Brisbane
- Owns 54 career Top 10 wins, including all three of her victories this week
- Sabalenka is 14-4 vs. the Top 10 this year, and 7-1 vs. the Top 5 this year (her one Top 5 loss this year was to No.2 Gauff in the Roland Garros final)
- Holds a 14-4 record vs. American players this season
- Boasts a 38-6 record on hard courts this year
- 18 of her 21 career WTA singles titles have come on hard court, most recently the 2025 US Open (all four of her Grand Slam titles have been on hard court)
- Is currently ranked No.1; this time last year was ranked No.1
- Has already secured the PIF WTA Rankings Year-End No.1 Ranking for the second straight year
- Reached World No.1 for the first time on September 11, 2023; she has spent a total of 63 weeks ranked World No.1 during her career
- Sabalenka becomes only the fifth player to reach the semifinals at all four Grand Slam events and the WTA Finals in the same calendar year two or more times (2023, 2025); she joins Chris Evert (1974, 1984), Martina Navratilova (1984, 1985), Stefanie Graf (1988, 1989, 1990, 1993) and Justine Henin (2003, 2006)

### ***Anisimova:***

- Finished in second place in the Serena Williams Group with a 2-1 record (d. Keys and Swiatek; l. Rybakina)
- Making her WTA Finals debut this year
- Attempting to make it two straight years where a WTA Finals first-time participant reaches the final (Zheng Qinwen finished runner-up on debut last year); the last debutante to win this title was Ashleigh Barty in 2019
- Seeking her 10th career WTA singles final
- Claimed two titles this year -- her first two WTA 1000 titles: Doha in February and Beijing in October
- Became the first and youngest player from USA to claim multiple WTA 1000 titles in a season since Serena Williams, who was the last to achieve those respective feats in 2015 and 2002
- Also reached first two Grand Slam finals at Wimbledon (l. Swiatek in final) and US Open (l. Sabalenka in final)
- Owns 18 Top 10 wins in her career, including over No.2 Swiatek and No.7 Keys here this week
- Holds a 1-3 career record vs. players ranked World No.1 at the time of their meeting; her one win over a reigning World No.1 came over Sabalenka in this year's Wimbledon semifinals
- The United States has won the WTA Finals singles title on 21 occasions, most recently Coco Gauff last year

- Three of her 4 career WTA singles titles have come on hard court: both of her titles this year, as well as 2022 Melbourne 250 #2
- Currently ranked at a career-high No.4; this time last year was ranked No.36
- Made her Top 20, Top 10 and Top 5 debuts during this year; prior to 2025, her career-high ranking was No.21
- Among players who were ranked outside the Top 20 on 6 January 2025, only Ekaterina Alexandrova (47) has registered more wins than Anisimova (45) in WTA main draw matches this season

**[4] VERONIKA KUDERMETOVA (#10) / ELISE MERTENS (BEL #7)**  
**vs.**  
**[2] KATERINA SINIAKOVA (CZE #1) / TAYLOR TOWNSEND (USA #2)**

**SINIAKOVA/TOWNSEND LEAD 1-0**

[1] Siniakova/Townsend d. [4] Kudermetova/Mertens 6-3, 7-6(3) at US Open 2025 SF

***Kudermetova/Mertens:***

- Kudermetova and Mertens finished second in the Martina Navratilova Group with a record of 2-1 (defeated Muhammad/Schuurs and Errani/Paolini; lost to Hsieh/Ostapenko)
- Kudermetova and Mertens won the WTA Finals title together in 2022
- Kudermetova is through to the semifinals at the WTA Finals for a third time after also reaching SF last year with Chan Hao-ching (l. Siniakova/Townsend)
- Mertens has reached semifinals at the WTA Finals for a fourth time; as well as winning the 2022 title with Kudermetova, she made SF in 2023 with Hunter (l. Siegemund/Zvonareva) and was runner-up with Hsieh in 2021 (l. Krejickova/Siniakova)
- During 2021 and 2022, Kudermetova and Mertens won three titles as a pair (2021 Istanbul, 2022 Dubai and 2022 WTA Finals) and reached three other finals (2022 Doha, 2022 Miami and 2022 's-Hertogenbosch)
- After a hiatus of over two years (since their 2022 WTA Finals title), Mertens and Kudermetova re-teamed in April of 2025
- In their first two events as a duo this year, they reached WTA 1000 finals at both Madrid and Rome
- In their fifth tournament back together, they captured the Wimbledon title – Kudermetova's first career Grand Slam doubles title, and Mertens' fifth
- At this year's other Grand Slam events, the pair made Roland Garros QF and US Open SF
- Mertens is appearing at the WTA Finals for the seventh consecutive edition – and she has qualified for this event with five different partners overall, also playing the opening round in 2018 (w/Schuurs), and group-stage finishes in 2019 (w/Sabalenka) and 2024 (w/Hsieh)
- Mertens reached the WTA Doubles World No.1 ranking for the first time on May 10, 2021. She has spent a total of 39 weeks ranked Doubles World No.1

## ***Siniakova/Townsend:***

- Siniakova and Townsend topped the Liezel Huber Group with a record of 3-0, defeating Babos/Stefani, Dabrowski/Routliffe and Andreeva/Shnaider
- The pair were last year's WTA Finals runners-up (I. Dabrowski/Routliffe in final)
- Siniakova is appearing at the WTA Finals for a seventh time and is through to the semifinals for a fifth time
- The 2021 WTA Finals champion, Siniakova previously teamed up with Barbora Krejčíková to compete at the WTA Finals five times: 2018 (R-Up), 2019 (RR), 2021 (Won title), 2022 (R-Up) and 2023 (RR)
- Townsend made her WTA Finals debut here last year, reaching the final with Siniakova
- Siniakova and Townsend started the 2025 season by winning their second Grand Slam event together at the Australian Open (d. Hsieh/Ostapenko in final)
- With their triumph in Australia, Siniakova now has 10 Grand Slam titles in women's doubles, while Townsend has two
- The duo then claimed their second title of the year at WTA 1000 Dubai, beating Hsieh/Ostapenko in the final again
- Siniakova/Townsend started the year by winning their first 12 matches as a pair, finally having their team's undefeated start to the season snapped by eventual champions Muhammad/Schuurs in the Indian Wells semifinals
- At the remaining Grand Slam events this season, the duo reached Roland Garros QF (I. Danilina/Krunic), Wimbledon SF (I. Hsieh/Ostapenko) and US Open final (I. Dabrowski/Routliffe)
- Siniakova added two more doubles titles at the end of the season, picking up the Seoul title with her long-time former partner Barbora Krejčíková, and earning the Wuhan title with another former partner, Storm Hunter
- Townsend also garnered two additional doubles titles this year, capturing the Washington DC title alongside Zhang Shuai and the Osaka title with Kristina Mladenovic
- Siniakova also claimed her first Grand Slam title in mixed doubles this year, partnering Sem Verbeek to the Wimbledon crown
- Siniakova has already secured the year-end World No.1 doubles ranking for 2025; this is her fifth year-end No.1 finish, tying Martina Navratilova for the most year-end No.1 finishes in WTA history
- Townsend made her first appearance at WTA Doubles World No.1 on July 28, eclipsing Siniakova. However, Siniakova reclaimed the top ranking from Townsend on September 22
- Siniakova reached the WTA Doubles World No.1 ranking for the first time on October 22, 2018; next week marks her 169th week at No.1, third behind only Martina Navratilova (237) and Liezel Huber (199)