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**FINAL – SUNDAY, MARCH 1****Cristina Bucsa (ESP #63) vs. Magdalena Frech (POL #57)****Frech leads 2-1*****Bucsa:***

- Making her Merida Open tournament debut
- Achieved the first Top 10 win of her career over No.7 Jasmine Paolini in the semifinal here this week
- Entered Merida on a 5-match losing streak, before posting four straight wins to reach the final
- This is the second Tour-level final of her career after finishing runner-up at Hong Kong last November (l. Mboko in final)
- This is now the best WTA 500 result of career after previously reaching QF at 2024 Abu Dhabi (l. eventual champion Rybakina)
- Has become the first Spanish player to reach the Merida Open final (previous best results by Spanish players at Merida were quarterfinals by Paula Badosa in 2025 and Sara Sorribes Tormo in 2024)
- She is also in today's Merida Open doubles final (w/Jiang Xinyu)

***Frech:***

- Making her second appearance at Merida, having lost in the first round last year to Avanesyan
- This is her first career meeting with Bucsa at Tour level after their three previous encounters at ITF level
- This is the third Tour level final of her career and looking for her second title after 2024 Guadalajara (achieved R-Up at Prague 2024)
- Her 2024 Guadalajara title is also her best WTA 500 career result
- Has become the first Polish player to make the Merida Open final (the previous best finish by a Polish player at Merida was Linette's quarterfinal run in 2023)
- Holds a 4-1 record this year in Tour-level matches vs. players ranked outside the Top 50 with only loss to No.58 Stearns at Dubai



# MATCH NOTES

MÉRIDA OPEN - MÉRIDA, MEX  
2026-02-23 - 2026-03-01 | \$ 1,206,446



1  
WIN

3  
MATCHES  
PLAYED

2  
WIN



63

**CRISTINA  
BUCSA**  
SPAIN

**MAGDALENA  
FRECH**  
POLAND

57

1998-01-01	<b>Date of Birth</b>	1997-12-15
Cantabria, Spain	<b>Residence</b>	Lodz, Poland
Right-Handed	<b>Plays</b>	Right-handed
5' 9" (1.76m)	<b>Height</b>	5' 7" (1.71m)
50	<b>Career-High Ranking</b>	22
\$4,355,337	<b>Career Prize Money</b>	\$4,338,120
\$250,024	<b>Season Prize Money</b>	\$207,989
0 / 0	<b>Singles Titles YTD / Career</b>	0 / 1
12-17 (Round of 16: 2025 US OPEN)	<b>Grand Slam W-L (best)</b>	14-19 (Round of 16: 2024 AUSTRALIAN OPEN)
4-0 / 4-0 (Runner-Up: 2026)	<b>YTD / Career MÉRIDA W-L (best)</b>	4-0 / 4-1 (Runner-Up: 2026)
5-5 / 50-80	<b>YTD / Career W-L</b>	8-4 / 83-121



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FRECH**

## HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

YEAR	TOURNAMENT	SURFACE	ROUND	WINNER	SCORE/ RESULT	TIME
2021	LANDISVILLE	HARD	1r	Magdalena Frech	6-2 6-3	0m
2020	SAINT-MALO	CLAY	SF	Cristina Bucsa	7-6(5) 3-6 6-4	0m
2017	OBIDOS 3	CARPET	1r	Magdalena Frech	6-3 6-1	0m

## RANKING HISTORY

TOP RANK	YEAR-END	YEAR	TOP RANK	YEAR-END
50	-	2026	55	-
54	54	2025	24	59
56	71	2024	22	25
65	83	2023	63	63
104	107	2022	82	116
149	159	2021	99	102
154	161	2020	155	156
164	164	2019	149	198
331	346	2018	115	151
398	415	2017	165	166



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## TOURNAMENT HISTORY

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

1r: d. D. VEKIC (#100) 6-3 6-2 (1h 24m)  
2r: d. M. STAKUSIC (#142) 7-6 6-3 (1h 41m)  
QF: d. Z. SONMEZ (#81) 6-3 6-4 (1h 37m)  
SF: d. J. PAOLINI (#7) 7-5 6-4 (1h 32m)

*Total time on court: 6h 14m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making Merida Open tournament debut
- Entered Merida on 5-match losing streak but snapped that with wins over Donna Vekic, wild card Marina Stakusic, 2024 Merida champion Zeynep Sonmez before posting her first career Top 10 win over No.7 Paolini
- This is the second Tour level final of her career after a R-Up finish at Hong Kong last November (l. Mboko in F)
- Faces No.57 Magdalena Frech in F today
- This is the best WTA 500 result of her career after previously reaching QF at 2024 Abu Dhabi (l. eventual champion Rybakina)
- Looking for first Tour level win over a player from Poland after previously defeating Frech at ITF W60 Saint Malo in 2020
- Record in WTA F matches stands at 0-1 (Hong Kong 2025)
- Best career Tour-level result on hard court is R-Up finish at 2025 Hong Kong
- One of 2 players from Spain in this week's main draw (Bouzas Maneiro lost in 2r)
- Has become the first Spanish player to reach the Merida Open final (previous best results by Spain at Merida were QFs by Paula Badosa in 2025 and Sara Sorribes Tormo in 2024)
- Is currently ranked No.63; this time last year was ranked No.99. Reached a career-high ranking of No.50 in January this year and is projected to reach a new career high following her Merida results

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

1r: d. M. TIMOFEEVA (#155) 6-4 7-6 (2h 15m)  
2r: d. J. BOUZAS MANEIRO (#48) 6-0 6-3 (1h 15m)  
QF: d. M. BOUZKOVA (#34) 6-3 4-6 6-3 (2h 58m)  
SF: d. S. ZHANG (#86) 6-2 6-7 6-3 (2h 34m)

*Total time on court: 9h 2m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making 2nd appearance at Merida; she lost in last year's 1r to Avanesyan
- Defeated qualifier Maria Timofeeva, No.7 seed Jessica Bouzas Maneiro, No.4 seed Marie Bouzkova and qualifier Zhang Shuai so far this week
- This is the third Tour level final of her career and looking for her second title after 2024 Guadalajara (achieved R-Up at Prague 2024)
- Best WTA 500 result was the 2024 Guadalajara title (d. Gadecki in F)
- Faces No.63 Cristina Bucsa in F today
- Is 1-0 against players from Spain so far this season, defeating Bouzas Maneiro here this week
- Record in WTA F matches stands at 1-1
- Best career result on hard court is her 2024 Guadalajara title
- One of 2 players from Poland in this week's main draw (No.8 seed Linette lost in 2r)
- Has become the first Polish player to reach the Merida final (previous best finish by a Polish player at Merida was Linette's QF run in 2023)
- Is currently ranked No.57; this time last year was ranked No.31. Reached career-high ranking of No.22 in October 2024



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BUCSA**

**MAGDALENA  
FRECH**

## RECENT TOURNAMENT HISTORY

- Making her tournament debut in Main Draw Singles

2025	Result	Rank: 31	Seed: 7
1r	L	E. AVANESYAN (#45) 4-6 6-3 6-3	



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## SEASON 2026 HISTORY

- Played 1r at Dubai (l. Seidel)
- Fell in 1r at Doha (l. Yastremska)
- Played 1r at Abu Dhabi (l. Kartal)
- Fell in 1r at Australian Open (l. Svitolina)
- Made 2r at Brisbane (l. eventual champion Sabalenka)

- Fell in 1r at Dubai (as LL, l. Stearns)
- Played 2r at Doha (as LL, l. Li)
- Made 2r at Australian Open (l. Paolini)
- Reached 2r at Hobart (withdrew through injury prior to her match vs. Raducanu)
- Made 2r at Brisbane (l. Noskova)

VALUE	WTA RANK	MATCH STATS	VALUE	WTA RANK
8	102	<b>Aces</b>	31	31
65.5%	38	<b>First serve %</b>	62.5%	67
60.5%	91	<b>First Serve points won %</b>	64.9%	54
38.8%	112	<b>Second serve points won %</b>	47.2%	41
53.0%	97	<b>Overall service points won %</b>	58.3%	45
56.7%	101	<b>Service games won %</b>	68.8%	46
44.4%	119	<b>Break points saved %</b>	60.9%	19
41.0%	13	<b>First serve return points won %</b>	38.4%	33
52.2%	94	<b>Second serve return points won %</b>	57.0%	39
48.8%	43	<b>Break points converted %</b>	46.2%	66
40.0%	25	<b>Return games won %</b>	38.8%	34
45.7%	27	<b>Return points won %</b>	45.6%	28



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## TITLES & GRAND SLAMS

### SINGLES FINALS

Runner-Up (1)  
2025 - HONG KONG

### DOUBLES FINALS

Champion (8)  
2025 - MONTERREY (w/Melichar-martinez),  
BOGOTA (w/Sorribes Tormo)  
2024 - CLEVELAND (w/Xu), STRASBOURG (w/  
Niculescu), MADRID  
(w/Sorribes Tormo), BOGOTA (w/Rakhimova)  
2023 - LYON (w/Schoofs)

Runner-Up (4)  
2026 - BRISBANE (w/Perez)  
2025 - MIAMI (w/Kato)  
2024 - OSAKA (w/Niculescu)  
2022 - PORTOROZ (w/Mihalikova)

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (1)  
2024 - GUADALAJARA 500

Runner-Up (1)  
2024 - PRAGUE

AUSTRALIAN OPEN	ROLAND GARROS	WIMBLEDON	US OPEN		AUSTRALIAN OPEN	ROLAND GARROS	WIMBLEDON	US OPEN
1r				<b>2026</b>	2r			
2r	1r	3r	4r	<b>2025</b>	3r	2r	1r	3r
1r	2r	2r	1r	<b>2024</b>	4r	1r	1r	1r
3r	1r	2r	1r	<b>2023</b>		2r	1r	2r
1r	1r		2r	<b>2022</b>	1r	1r	3r	1r
			1r	<b>2021</b>				
				<b>2020</b>				
				<b>2019</b>				1r
				<b>2018</b>	1r	2r		

**CRISTINA  
BUCSA****MAGDALENA  
FRECH****CAREER MILESTONES**

- Posted singles breakthroughs in 2025, reaching first WTA Tour final at Hong Kong (l. Mboko in final), making first Grand Slam R16 at US Open (l. eventual champion Sabalenka) and ending season at new career-high ranking of No.54; also won two doubles titles at Bogota (w/Sorribes Tormo) and Monterrey (w/Melichar-Martinez)
- Began 2024 at a career-high ranking of No.56 in January and posted her best singles results of the year in the first half of the season with quarterfinals at Abu Dhabi and Bogota. Achieved longest winning streak of the year at Beijing with three wins to reach R16 (l. Muchova)
- Her 2024 doubles results included a bronze medal at Paris Olympics (w/Sorribes Tormo), as well as four WTA Tour titles at Bogota (w/Rakhimova), Madrid (w/Sorribes Tormo), Strasbourg (w/Niculescu) and Cleveland (w/Xu)
- In 2023, made first Grand Slam 3r at Australian Open as qualifier (l. Swiatek); also notched first Top 20 victory (d. Bencic at Cincinnati) and won first WTA 125 title at Limoges (d. Jacquemot in final)
- Appeared in main draw at a Grand Slam for the first time at 2021 US Open, falling 1r (as qualifier, l. Teichmann)
- Scored first Tour-level win in 2r showing at 2021 Belgrade (d. Kovinic, l. Sasnovich)
- Fell 1r on WTA main-draw debut at 2021 Bogota (l. Parrizas Diaz)
- Made Tour-level qualifying debut at 2019 Wimbledon
- Won first ITF Circuit title in 2017, at W15 event in Santarem, Portugal
- Owns four titles in singles and nine in doubles on ITF Circuit
- Best results in 2025 were QF runs at Washington DC (l. Rybakina) and Guadalajara (l. Bartunkova). Registered second Top 10 win of her career over No.6 Mirra Andreeva at Berlin (after No.8 Navarro at Wuhan 2024)
- In 2024 reached a career-high ranking of No.22 by reaching her career-first final at Prague (l. Linette in final) followed by her first-ever title win at Guadalajara (d. Gadecki in final); also made QF at Wuhan (l. eventual champion Sabalenka) and at Nottingham (l. eventual champion Boulter) and achieved her best result to date at a Grand Slam (R16 at the Australian Open; l. Gauff)
- In 2023 reached back-to-back QF on grass at Nottingham (l. Burrage) and Birmingham (l. eventual champion Ostapenko); advanced to 3r at Miami (l. Gracheva) and posted 2r efforts at Indian Wells, Madrid, Rome, Guadalajara and Hong Kong; at the Slams, best results were 2r at Roland Garros (l. Rakhimova) and US Open (l. Muchova); ended season on career-high ranking of No.63 after winning a 100k ITF event in Spain (d. Errani in F)
- Highlight of 2022 season was 3r run at Wimbledon - best career result at a major. Also made 2r on nine occasions
- Broke into Top 100 on October 18, 2021, following run through qualifying to 2r at Indian Wells
- Advanced to 2r three more times last season and won titles at WTA 125K Series event in Concord and W60 Prague ITF Circuit event
- Campaign in 2020 was highlighted by maiden WTA QF, at Prague (as LL, l. eventual champion Halep) - first back-to-back main draw wins at a WTA event
- Only other WTA main draw appearance in 2020 was 1r exit at Lyon (as qualifier, l. Tomova); also won her fourth career singles title on ITF Circuit, at \$25K Bendigo-AUS and contested qualifying at Australian Open, Dubai and Doha
- Appeared in six WTA main draws in 2019, falling in 1r at Dubai (l. Kasatkina), Charleston (l.Buzarnescu), Lugano (l. Peterson), Nottingham (l. Mladenovic), US Open (l. Siegemund) and Guangzhou (l. Stojanovic)
- In 2018, made 2r at Roland Garros (as qualifier, l.Stephens), Rabat (l. Fett), Nottingham (l.Jakupovic) and San Jose (l.Tomljanovic). Also fell in 1r at six other tour-level events, including qualifying for Grand Slam debut at Australian Open

- Achieved career high singles ranking of No.115 after 2018 Roland Garros run (July 2, 2018)
- Won two of her four ITF singles titles in 2017, at \$25k ITF/Leipzig-GER and \$25k ITF/Braunschweig-GER - both on clay
- Played first WTA qualifying event at home tournament in Katowice in 2013, falling to Olaru. Made WTA main draw debut at Katowice the following year (as wildcard, l. Meusburger in 1r)

## OTHER INFORMATION

- Currently coached by Ion Bucsa (father)
- Trains and lives in Cantabria, Spain
- Hobbies include reading books and enjoying walks through nature
- Idolizes Serena Williams and Kim Clijsters
- Favorite surface is grass

- Coached by Andrzej Kobierski
- Started playing tennis aged six