



# MATCH NOTES

## DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

### DUBAI, UAE



February 15-21, 2026 | WTA 1000 | \$4,088,211

WTA Information: [www.wtatennis.com](http://www.wtatennis.com) | @WTA | facebook.com/WTA

Tournament Information: [www.dubaidutyfreetennischampionships.com](http://www.dubaidutyfreetennischampionships.com) | @DDFTennis | facebook.com/ddftennis

WTA Media Information: [wtastats@wtatennis.com](mailto:wtastats@wtatennis.com)

## DAY 4 – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

**[WC] Janice Tjen (INA #46) vs. [2] Amanda Anisimova (USA #6)**

**First meeting**

### ***Tjen:***

- Making tournament debut
- Seeking first career Top 10 win; faces a Top 10 opponent for second consecutive week having lost to No.2 Iga Swiatek last week in Doha
- This time last year was ranked No.391

### ***Anisimova:***

- Making fifth tournament appearance; this is first time reaching the R16 (after 1r bye, advanced via walkover after Krjecikova withdrew)
- Making 45th WTA 1000 appearance; previously has reached the quarterfinal stage of a WTA 1000 five time
- One of three Americans ranked in WTA Top 10 along with No.4 Coco Gauff and No.5 Jessica Pegula

**[5] Mirra Andreeva (#7) vs. Jacqueline Crsitian (ROU #39)**

**First meeting**

### ***Andreeva:***

- Making her 3rd appearance at this tournament, where she returns as the defending champion (d. Tauson in last year's final)
- Last year in Dubai at age 17, she became the youngest player to win a WTA 1000 singles title since the WTA 1000 tournament tier started in 2009
- Won back-to-back WTA 1000 titles last year, following her Dubai crown with the Indian Wells title (d. World No.1 Sabalenka in final)
- Contesting the 20th WTA 1000 main draw of her career
- Won her 4th career WTA singles title earlier this year at Adelaide (d. Mboko in final)
- One of two teenagers currently in the Top 10 – the first time since July 2009 the Top 10 has featured two teenagers

### ***Cristian:***

- Making 16th WTA 1000 appearance and is through to the R16 for the first time at this level after recording wins over Petra Marcinko and Ella Seidel
- Seeking second career Top 10 win having previously defeated No.10 Barbora Krejckova at 2024 Beijing
- With a win would become the seventh Romanian to reach the QF at a WTA 1000
- This time last year was ranked No.85



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#### [1] Elena Rybakina (KAZ #3) vs. Antonia Ruzic (CRO #47)

First Meeting

##### **Rybakina:**

- Currently leads the WTA in aces served this season (100 in 11 matches)
- Has a chance to move to No.2 this week; would need to reach the final
- Making 43rd career appearance at a WTA 1000 event with 2 titles - both in 2023 (Indian Wells, Rome)
- Could claim 15th consecutive victory against opponent ranked outside Top 20, with last defeat coming at Beijing last September (I. Lys)
- Bidding to reach her 19th career QF at a WTA 1000 event and fourth at Dubai (2020, 2024, 2025)
- Owns the most match wins on Tour since the end of Wimbledon last year (41) and has won 23 of her last 25 matches - only losing to Muchova in the QFs at Brisbane

##### **Ruzic:**

- Faces No.3 Elena Rybakina in 3r today; seeking first career Top 20 win (previously 0-4 vs Top 20); this is her first meeting against a Top 10 opponent
- This is her 6th WTA 1000 appearance and first time reaching the R16 at this level
- Seeking first career Top 20 win (previously 0-4 vs Top 20); this is her first meeting against a Top 10 opponent
- So far this season, reached SF at Hobart (l. eventual Champion Cocciaretto), 1r at Australian Open (l. Osaka), and 1r at Cluj-Napoca (l. Yuan)
- Winner will face No.9 seed Belinda Bencic or No.7 seed Elina Svitolina

#### [3] Coco Gauff (USA #4) vs. Elise Mertens (BEL#22)

Gauff leads 4-0

##### **Gauff:**

- Making 6th appearance at tournament; her best tournament finish is SF in 2023 (l. eventual R-Up Swiatek)
- Contesting her 48th career WTA 1000 main draw; she is a 3-time WTA 1000 champion at 2023 Cincinnati (d. Muchova in F), 2024 Beijing (d. Muchova in F) and 2025 Wuhan (d. Pegula in F)
- Owns 5-0 career record against players from Belgium
- 9 of her 11 career WTA singles titles have come on hard court, most recently WTA 1000 Wuhan last year
- Has the fourth-most wins (99, level with Jessica Pegula) at WTA 1000 events by an American player since the format's introduction in 2009 - S. Williams (148), V. Williams (112), Keys (107)
- Winner today will face Sorana Cirstea or Alexandra Eala in QF

##### **Mertens:**

- Making 9th appearance at Dubai; best result was reaching SF run in 2021 (l. eventual Champion Muguruza)
- Owns 12 wins in career over Top 10 players, most recently No.4 Jessica Pegula at Rome 2025
- 7 of her 10 career WTA singles titles have come on hard court; her most recent hard-court title is 2025 Singapore (d. Li in F)
- Last time a player from Belgium reached 3r at Dubai was 2021
- So far this season, has reached R16 at Australian Open (l. eventual Champion Rybakina), 2r at Doha (l. Kasatkina) and went 3-1 in singles for Team Belgium at 2026 United Cup
- Mertens is currently the PIF WTA Doubles World No.1



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#### **Sorana Cirstea (ROU#32) vs. Alexandra Eala (PHL#47)**

**Cirstea leads 1-0**

##### ***Cirstea:***

- Making 10th appearance at Dubai, where her best result was reaching SF in 2024 (l. eventual Champion Paolini); also made QF run in 2014 (l. Wozniacki) and 2025 (l. Muchova)
- Won their only previous meeting at 2024 Madrid in three sets
- 3 of her 4 career WTA singles titles have come on hard-court at Cluj-Napoca in 2026; Cleveland in 2025; Tashkent in 2008
- Best result by Romania at Dubai was Champion run by Simona Halep in 2020 & 2015
- So far this season, claimed the title at Cluj-Napoca (d. Raducanu in F), reached R16 at Brisbane (l. eventual Champion Sabalenka), and 2r at Australian Open (l. Osaka)

##### ***Eala:***

- Making tournament debut
- Contesting her 11th career WTA 1000 main draw; career-best WTA 1000 result is SF at 2025 Miami as wild card ranked No.140 (l. eventual R-Up Pegula)
- Looking to reach the second QF at a WTA 1000 event (after 2025 Miami)
- Owns 9 wins in career over Top 50 players, most recently No.8 Jasmine Paolini at Dubai 2026
- Best result so far this season is SF run at Auckland (l. eventual R-Up Wang Xinyu)
- First player from Philippines to contest the main draw at this tournament



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**O**  
WIN

**FIRST  
MEETING**

**O**  
WIN



**46** **JANICE  
TJEN [WC]**  
INDONESIA

**AMANDA  
(2) ANISIMOVA** **6**  
UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA

|   |                                      |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2002-05-06  | <b>Date of Birth</b>                 | 2001-08-31                                 |
|   | <b>Residence</b>                     | Miami Beach, FL, USA                       |
| Right-Handed  | <b>Plays</b>                         | Right-handed                               |
| 5' 6" (1.71m)   | <b>Height</b>                        | 5' 11" (1.80m)                             |
| 46  | <b>Career-High Ranking</b>           | 3  |
| \$584,563   | <b>Career Prize Money</b>            | \$12,918,510                               |
| \$229,942   | <b>Season Prize Money</b>            | \$531,474                                  |
| 0 / 1   | <b>Singles Titles YTD / Career</b>   | 0 / 4                                      |
| 2-2 (Round of 64: 2026 AUSTRALIAN OPEN; 2025 US OPEN) | <b>Grand Slam W-L (best)</b>         | 48-24 (Runner-Up: 2025 US OPEN, WIMBLEDON) |
| 2-0 / 2-0 (Round of 16: 2026)                         | <b>YTD / Career DUBAI W-L (best)</b> | 0-0 / 2-4 (Round of 32: 2023, 2021, 2020)  |
| 5-5 / 15-8  | <b>YTD / Career W-L</b>              | 5-3 / 161-95                               |
| 1-1 / 4-2   | <b>YTD / Career 3-Set W-L</b>        | 0-1 / 43-41                                |
| 4-0 / 7-1   | <b>YTD / Career TB W-L</b>           | 1-2 / 30-24                                |
| 0-1 / 0-1   | <b>YTD / Career TOP 10 W-L</b>       | 0-1 / 18-29                                |
| Round of 16: ABU DHABI, DUBAI                         | <b>YTD Best Result</b>               | Quarter-Finalist: AUSTRALIAN OPEN          |



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**JANICE  
TJEN [WC]**

**AMANDA  
ANISIMOVA**

## HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

| YEAR | TOURNAMENT | SURFACE | ROUND | WINNER | SCORE/ RESULT | TIME |
|------|------------|---------|-------|--------|---------------|------|
|------|------------|---------|-------|--------|---------------|------|

First career meeting

## RANKING HISTORY

| TOP RANK | YEAR-END | YEAR | TOP RANK | YEAR-END |
|----------|----------|------|----------|----------|
| 46       | -        | 2026 | 3        | -        |
| 53       | 53       | 2025 | 4        | 4        |
| 570      | 578      | 2024 | 36       | 36       |
| 960      | -        | 2023 | 23       | 359      |
| 966      | 966      | 2022 | 22       | 23       |
| -        | -        | 2021 | 30       | 78       |
| -        | -        | 2020 | 22       | 30       |
| -        | -        | 2019 | 21       | 24       |
| -        | -        | 2018 | 92       | 95       |
| -        | -        | 2017 | 182      | 192      |



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ANISIMOVA**

## TOURNAMENT HISTORY

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

1r: d. D. YASTREMSKA (#44) 6-4 6-1 (1h 18m)  
2r: d. L. FERNANDEZ (#29) 7-6 6-4 (1h 43m)

*Total time on court: 3h 1m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making tournament main draw debut
- Has defeated Dayana Yastremska and Leylah Fernandez so far this week
- Faces No.6 Amanda Anisimova in 3r today; seeking first career Top 10 win (previously 0-1 with only lsos coming to No.2 Iga Swiatek at 2026 Doha)
- Owns 0-1 career record against players from United States
- Owns 6-3 career record against seeds (1-3 in 2026)
- Won first career hardcourt title at 2025 Chennai
- Only player from Indonesia to reach 3r
- Best result by wildcard at Dubai was Champion run by Venus Williams in 2014
- Is currently ranked No.46; this time last year was ranked No.391

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

2r: d. B. KREJCIKOVA (#53) 0-0 (0m)

*Total time on court: 0m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making 5th appearance at Dubai; has advanced to the R16 for the first time at the tournament
- Advanced to R16 via walkover following withdrawal of Barbora Krejckova
- Making 45th WTA 1000 appearance; has previously reached the quarterfinals at a WTA 1000 five times winning 2 titles (2025 Beijing, 2025 Doha), finishing as runner-up at 2024 Toronto and reaching QF twice in 2022 (Rome, Madrid)
- Faces No.46 Janice Tjen in 3r today
- Owns 19-2 career record against wildcards (1-0 in 2026)
- A 3-time hardcourt champion winning at Beijing and Doha in 2025 as well as Melbourne 250 #2 in 2022
- One of 4 players from United States of America to reach 3r
- Best result by United States of America at Dubai was Champion run by Venus Williams (2014, 2010, 2009), Lindsay Davenport (2005)
- Is currently ranked No.6; this time last year was ranked No.18



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**AMANDA  
ANISIMOVA**

## RECENT TOURNAMENT HISTORY

- Making her tournament debut in Main Draw Singles

| 2025 | Result | Rank: 18         | Seed: - |
|------|--------|------------------|---------|
| 1r   | L      | M. KESSLER (#53) | 6-2 6-3 |

  

| 2023 | Result | Rank: 35            | Seed: -        |
|------|--------|---------------------|----------------|
| 2r   | L      | V. AZARENKA (#14)   | 4-6 6-4 7-6(5) |
| 1r   | W      | V. ZVONAREVA (#436) | 6-3 6-2        |

  

| 2021 | Result | Rank: 32          | Seed: - |
|------|--------|-------------------|---------|
| 2r   | L      | G. MUGURUZA (#16) | 6-4 6-2 |
| 1r   | W      | A. KONJUH (#401)  | 6-2 6-2 |

  

| 2020 | Result | Rank: 29          | Seed: -        |
|------|--------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1r   | L      | B. STRYCOVA (#35) | 7-6(3) 2-6 6-4 |



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**AMANDA  
ANISIMOVA**

## SEASON 2026 HISTORY

- Made 2r at Doha (as WC, l. Swiatek)
- Played 2r at Abu Dhabi (l. Samsonova)
- Made 2r at Australian Open (l. Pliskova)
- Fell in 1r at Hobart (l. to eventual R-Up Jovic)
- Played 1r at Auckland (l. Kartal)

- Made 2r at Doha (l. Pliskova, retired)
- Reached QF at Australian Open (l. Pegula)
- Opened 2026 with a 3r at Brisbane (l. eventual R-Up Kostyuk)

| VALUE | WTA RANK | MATCH STATS                             | VALUE | WTA RANK |
|-------|----------|---|-------|----------|
| 40    | 20       | <b>Aces</b>                             | 27    | 32       |
| 56.8% | 111      | <b>First serve %</b>                    | 63.5% | 56       |
| 66.7% | 37       | <b>First Serve points won %</b>         | 70.3% | 16       |
| 48.6% | 30       | <b>Second serve points won %</b>        | 47.4% | 39       |
| 58.8% | 38       | <b>Overall service points won %</b>     | 61.9% | 19       |
| 69.5% | 41       | <b>Service games won %</b>              | 77.5% | 14       |
| 58.6% | 33       | <b>Break points saved %</b>             | 65.4% | 7        |
| 30.7% | 104      | <b>First serve return points won %</b>  | 34.1% | 79       |
| 50.8% | 98       | <b>Second serve return points won %</b> | 58.0% | 29       |
| 41.1% | 90       | <b>Break points converted %</b>         | 42.2% | 79       |
| 23.2% | 105      | <b>Return games won %</b>               | 35.1% | 55       |
| 38.1% | 106      | <b>Return points won %</b>              | 42.8% | 61       |

Best win by ranking: No.23 vs Fernandez in AUSTRALIAN OPEN 1r  
 Longest match: 2h 23m vs Kartal in AUCKLAND 1r  
 Shortest match: 57m vs Jovic in HOBART 1r  
 Match points saved:  
 Most aces in a match: 8 vs Joint in ABU DHABI 1r

Best win by ranking: No.45 vs Siniakova in AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2r  
 Longest match: 2h 22m vs Pliskova in DOHA 2r  
 Shortest match: 1h 0m vs WALTERT in AUSTRALIAN OPEN 1r  
 Match points saved:  
 Most aces in a match: 4 vs Pliskova in DOHA 2r  
 4 vs Birrell in BRISBANE 2r



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**AMANDA  
ANISIMOVA**

## TITLES & GRAND SLAMS

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (1)  
2025 - CHENNAI  
Runner-Up (1)  
2025 - SAO PAULO

### DOUBLES FINALS

Champion (3)  
2026 - HOBART (w/Piter)  
2025 - CHENNAI (w/Sutjiadi), GUANGZHOU  
(w/Piter)

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (4)  
2025 - BEIJING, DOHA  
2022 - MELBOURNE 250 #2  
2019 - BOGOTA

Runner-Up (5)  
2025 - US OPEN, WIMBLEDON, QUEENS  
2024 - TORONTO  
2018 - HIROSHIMA

| AUSTRALIAN OPEN | ROLAND GARROS | WIMBLEDON | US OPEN | 2026 | AUSTRALIAN OPEN | ROLAND GARROS | WIMBLEDON | US OPEN |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|
| 2r              |               |           |         | 2026 | QF              |               |           |         |
|                 |               | 2r        |         | 2025 | 2r              | 4r            | RUP       | RUP     |
|                 |               |           |         | 2024 | 4r              | 2r            |           | 1r      |
|                 |               |           |         | 2023 | 1r              |               |           |         |
|                 |               |           |         | 2022 | 4r              | 4r            | QF        | 1r      |
|                 |               |           |         | 2021 |                 | 1r            | 1r        | 2r      |
|                 |               |           |         | 2020 | 1r              | 3r            |           | 3r      |
|                 |               |           |         | 2019 | 4r              | SF            | 2r        |         |
|                 |               |           |         | 2018 |                 |               |           | 1r      |
|                 |               |           |         | 2017 |                 | 1r            |           |         |



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**JANICE  
TJEN [WC]**

**AMANDA  
ANISIMOVA**

## CAREER MILESTONES

- In a breakthrough 2025, made first WTA Tour final at Sao Paulo (in her 2nd career Tour main draw; l. Rakotomanga Rajaonah in final), then won first Tour title at Chennai (4th career Tour main draw; d. Birrell in final), becoming the first Indonesian to win a Tour singles title since Angelique Widjaja at 2002 Pattaya City. Skyrocketed from No.411 to a career-high No.53 during the season
- Also in 2025, won her first two doubles titles at Guangzhou (w/Piter) and Chennai (w/Sutjiadi); made Tour-level and Grand Slam main draw debut at US Open (as qualifier, d. No.24 seed V. Kudermetova in 1r, l. Raducanu in 2r); won WTA 125 Jinan title and claimed six ITF singles titles in the first half of the year
- In 2024, won her first of 7 ITF singles and 2 ITF doubles titles that year at W15 Monastir; has a W-L record of 39-3 that year, twice winning 15 matches consecutively
- Also in 2024, ended her collegiate career ranked No.1 in doubles and No.35 in singles in the ITA rankings
- In 2019, dominated the Indonesian junior circuit, earning nine titles; also in 2019 made ITF circuit debut as a wildcard at W25 Jakarta, fell in first round

Won gold in singles (and silver in doubles) at the 2019 ASEAN School Games in Semarang

- In 2025, won first two WTA 1000 titles of her career at Doha (d. Ostapenko in final) and Beijing (d. Noskova in final), and reached her first two Grand Slam finals at Wimbledon (l. Swiatek) and US Open (l. Sabalenka)
- Made Top 20, Top 10 and Top 5 debuts during 2025, finishing the season at a career-high No.4 ranking
- In 2024 made first WTA 1000 final of career at Toronto, finishing R-Up to Pegula (defeated No.3 Sabalenka en route). Also enjoyed run to R16 at Australian Open, her third time reaching that stage in Melbourne
- Played a small number of tournaments in 2023 before taking a break away from the sport after Madrid in April
- Lifted second career title at Melbourne Summer Set 2 (d. Sasnovich in F) in January 2022. Also in 2022, made SF at Charleston (l. Jabeur) and five further QFs, including at Wimbledon (l. Halep)
- Ended 2021 season with 3r run at Indian Wells to secure her fourth consecutive Top-100 finish. Best results were QF runs at Parma and Bad Homburg
- Opened 2020 with SF showing at Auckland, going on to reach 3r at US Open, Roland Garros and Doha; during Doha run, earned third career Top 10 win over No.7 Svitolina (l. Kuznetsova in 3r due to walkover)
- Posted career best Grand Slam result with SF run at 2019 Roland Garros - first player (man or woman) born in 2000s to advance to this stage of a major. Scored maiden win over a Top 5 player during 2019 Roland Garros, upsetting No.3 and defending champion Halep in QF
- Won maiden title at 2019 Bogota (d. Sharma in F); at 17y 222d was the youngest American to win a title since S. Williams at 1999 Indian Wells (17y 169d)
- Made Top 100 debut at No.95 on September 17, 2018, after reaching first WTA final at Hiroshima (as qualifier, l. Hsieh)
- Also in 2018, upset No.9 Kvitova to become the joint-youngest player to reach R16 at Indian Wells, along with Majoli, who made SF in 1994 (both aged 16 years, 199 days)
- Played only two ITF tournaments before making WTA main draw debut at 2017 Miami (l. Townsend in 3s), with Grand Slam bow coming at 2017 Roland Garros (l. Nara in 1r)
- In juniors, won US Open girls' singles in 2017 (d. Gauff in F) and was R-Up at 2016 Roland Garros; reached No.2 in junior world rankings

- Made professional debut at 2016 US Open qualifying (l. Hozumi in 2r)

## OTHER INFORMATION

- Coached by Chris Bint

- Coached by Rob Brandsma and Rick Vleeshouwers
- Mother is Olga, who was born and raised in Moscow; sister is Maria Anisimova-Egee and lives in New York. Speaks English and Russian
- Born in New Jersey but moved to Miami at age 3. Started playing tennis after going to her sister's practices every day and eventually developed a passion for the sport
- Tennis idols growing up were Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova
- Off the court enjoys music, running, writing, jet skiing and going to the beach. Has one dog named Miley



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**7** **MIRRA  
ANDREEVA (5)**

**39** **JAQUELINE  
CRISTIAN**  
ROMANIA

|   |                                      |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2007-04-29                                | <b>Date of Birth</b>                 | 1998-06-05   |
|   | <b>Residence</b>                     |  |
| Right-handed (two-handed backhand)        | <b>Plays</b>                         | Right-Handed   |
| 5' 9" (1.75m)                             | <b>Height</b>                        | 5' 11" (1.82m)   |
| 5   | <b>Career-High Ranking</b>           | 35   |
| \$8,136,098                               | <b>Career Prize Money</b>            | \$3,101,190  |
| \$590,966                                 | <b>Season Prize Money</b>            | \$181,531  |
| 1 / 4                                     | <b>Singles Titles YTD / Career</b>   | 0 / 0  |
| 31-12 (Semi-Finalist: 2024 ROLAND GARROS) | <b>Grand Slam W-L (best)</b>         | 8-13 (Round of 32: 2025 US OPEN, ROLAND GARROS, AUSTRALIAN OPEN) |
| 0-0 / 6-1 (Champion: 2025)                | <b>YTD / Career DUBAI W-L (best)</b> | 2-0 / 2-0 (Round of 16: 2026)                                    |
| 10-3 / 98-44                              | <b>YTD / Career W-L</b>              | 5-5 / 77-78  |



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**MIRRA  
ANDREEVA**

**JAQUELINE  
CRISTIAN**

## HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

| YEAR | TOURNAMENT | SURFACE | ROUND | WINNER | SCORE/ RESULT | TIME |
|------|------------|---------|-------|--------|---------------|------|
|------|------------|---------|-------|--------|---------------|------|

First career meeting

## RANKING HISTORY

| TOP RANK | YEAR-END | YEAR | TOP RANK | YEAR-END |
|----------|----------|------|----------|----------|
| 7        | -        | 2026 | 35       | -        |
| 5        | 9        | 2025 | 39       | 39       |
| 16       | 16       | 2024 | 57       | 73       |
| 46       | 46       | 2023 | 97       | 98       |
| 405      | 405      | 2022 | 58       | 148      |
| -        | -        | 2021 | 71       | 71       |
| -        | -        | 2020 | 162      | 167      |
| -        | -        | 2019 | 201      | 205      |
| -        | -        | 2018 | 201      | 284      |
| -        | -        | 2017 | 254      | 254      |



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**MIRRA  
ANDREEVA**

**JAQUELINE  
CRISTIAN**

## TOURNAMENT HISTORY

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

2r: d. D. KASATKINA (#61) - WALKOVER

*Total time on court: 0m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making 3rd appearance at Dubai; returns to Dubai as the defending champion
- Justine Henin (2003-04 & 2006-07), Venus Williams (2009-10) and Elina Svitolina (2017-18) have each won back-to-back editions at the tournament
- Making 20th WTA 1000 appearance having won two titles - 2025 Dubai and 2025 Indian Wells
- Advanced in opening round via walkover after Daria Kasatkina withdrew prior to the match
- Faces No.39 Jaqueline Cristian in 3r today
- Owns 2-0 career record against players from Romania, with record in 2026 standing at 1-0
- A 3-time hardcourt champion winning at Adelaided 2026, Indian Wells 2025 and Dubai 2025
- Is currently ranked No.7; this time last year was ranked No.14

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

1r: d. P. MARCINKO (#69) 6-1 6-1 (1h 4m)  
2r: d. E. SEIDEL (#95) 6-0 (35m)

*Total time on court: 1h 39m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making main draw debut at Dubai
- Making 16th WTA 1000 appearance; through to R16 at WTA 1000 level for first time (previously was 0-9 in R32 matches at WTA 1000)
- Defeated Petra Marcinko and Ella Seidel so far this week
- Faces No.7 Mirra Andreeva in 3r today; owns 1 wins in career over Top 10 players, defeating No.10 Barbora Krejckova at Beijing 2024
- With a win would be the 7th Romanian player to reach the QF at a WTA 1000 joining Irina-Camelia Begu, ALEXandra Dulgheru, Monica Niculescu, Patricia Maria Tig, Simona Halep and Sorana Cirstea
- Owns 20-44 career record against seeds, with a record in 2026 standing at 1-2
- One-time hardcourt finalist finishing as Runner-Up at 2021 Linz
- Only player from Romania to reach 3r
- Best result by Romania at Dubai was Champion run by Simona Halep in 2020, Simona Halep in 2015
- Is currently ranked No.39; this time last year was ranked No.85



# MATCH NOTES

DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS -  
DUBAI, UAE

2026-02-15 - 2026-02-21 | \$ 4,088,211

**MIRRA  
ANDREEVA**

**JAQUELINE  
CRISTIAN**

## RECENT TOURNAMENT HISTORY

| 2025 | Result | Rank: 14                     | Seed: 12 |
|------|--------|------------------------------|----------|
| F    | W      | C. TAUSON (#38) 7-6(1) 6-1   |          |
| SF   | W      | E. RYBAKINA (#7) 6-4 4-6 6-3 |          |
| QF   | W      | I. SWIATEK (#2) 6-3 6-3      |          |
| 3r   | W      | P. STEARNS (#46) 6-1 6-1     |          |
| 2r   | W      | M. VONDROUSOVA (#39) 7-5 6-0 |          |
| 1r   | W      | E. AVANESYAN (#44) 6-2 6-1   |          |
| 2024 | Result | Rank: 38                     | Seed: -  |
| 1r   | L      | P. STEARNS (#65) 6-2 2-6 6-1 |          |

- Making her tournament debut in Main Draw Singles



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ANDREEVA**

**JAQUELINE  
CRISTIAN**

## SEASON 2026 HISTORY

- Made 3r at Doha (l. eventual R-Up Mboko)
- Reached 4r at Australian Open (l. M.Andreeva)
- Claimed Adelaide title (d. R-Up Mboko in F)
- Opened 2026 season at Brisbane with QF (l. eventual R-Up Kostyuk)

- Played 1r at Doha (l. eventual champion Muchova)
- Made 2r at Cluj-Napoca (l. Snigur)
- Fell in 1r at Australian Open (l. Muchova)
- Reached QF at Adelaide (as qualifier, l. Birrell)
- Played 1r at Brisbane (l. Bouzkova)

| VALUE | WTA RANK | MATCH STATS                             | VALUE | WTA RANK |
|-------|----------|---|-------|----------|
| 32    | 27       | <b>Aces</b>                             | 21    | 46       |
| 66.7% | 24       | <b>First serve %</b>                    | 61.4% | 70       |
| 69.6% | 19       | <b>First Serve points won %</b>         | 61.2% | 80       |
| 48.1% | 32       | <b>Second serve points won %</b>        | 42.5% | 79       |
| 62.5% | 15       | <b>Overall service points won %</b>     | 54.0% | 89       |
| 78.1% | 13       | <b>Service games won %</b>              | 58.7% | 91       |
| 64.3% | 10       | <b>Break points saved %</b>             | 54.2% | 62       |
| 42.2% | 7        | <b>First serve return points won %</b>  | 39.8% | 25       |
| 56.5% | 43       | <b>Second serve return points won %</b> | 55.8% | 51       |
| 48.3% | 42       | <b>Break points converted %</b>         | 46.9% | 52       |
| 42.9% | 20       | <b>Return games won %</b>               | 40.9% | 25       |
| 47.3% | 12       | <b>Return points won %</b>              | 45.1% | 34       |



# MATCH NOTES

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**MIRRA  
ANDREEVA**

**JAQUELINE  
CRISTIAN**

## TITLES & GRAND SLAMS

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (4)  
2026 - ADELAIDE  
2025 - INDIAN WELLS, DUBAI  
2024 - IASI 250  
Runner-Up (1)  
2024 - NINGBO

### DOUBLES FINALS

Champion (2)  
2025 - MIAMI (w/Shnaider), BRISBANE  
(w/Shnaider)  
Runner-Up (1)  
2024 - OLYMPICS (w/Shnaider)

### SINGLES FINALS

Runner-Up (2)  
2025 - RABAT  
2021 - LINZ

### DOUBLES FINALS

Runner-Up (2)  
2025 - CLUJ-NAPOCA (w/Moratelli)  
2019 - BUCHAREST (w/Ruse)

| AUSTRALIAN OPEN | ROLAND GARROS | WIMBLEDON | US OPEN |             | AUSTRALIAN OPEN | ROLAND GARROS | WIMBLEDON | US OPEN |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|
| 4r              |               |           |         | <b>2026</b> | 1r              |               |           |         |
| 4r              | QF            | QF        | 3r      | <b>2025</b> | 3r              | 3r            | 1r        | 3r      |
| 4r              | SF            | 1r        | 2r      | <b>2024</b> | 1r              | 1r            | 1r        | 1r      |
|                 | 3r            | 4r        | 2r      | <b>2023</b> | 1r              |               | 2r        |         |
|                 |               |           |         | <b>2022</b> | 2r              |               |           | 1r      |



# MATCH NOTES

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**MIRRA  
ANDREEVA**

**JAQUELINE  
CRISTIAN**

## CAREER MILESTONES

- In 2025 won two WTA 1000 titles back-to-back at Dubai and Indian Wells - becoming the youngest WTA 1000 champion since the tournament tier began in 2009 at 17-years-old. Made her Top 10 debut in February before breaking into the Top 5 for the first time in July
- Won maiden WTA doubles title in 2025 with Diana Shnaider at Brisbane, followed by a second title at Miami and finished the 2025 season making her WTA Finals debut in doubles with Shnaider
- Reached first two WTA finals of career in 2024 winning the title at Iasi and finishing runner-up at Ningbo
- Made first Grand Slam semifinal at 2024 Roland Garros beating World No.2 Aryna Sabalenka in the quarterfinals
- Made Top 20 debut on October 8, 2024 finishing the year at World No.16; also won 2024 Paris Olympic silver medal in women's doubles with Diana Shnaider
- Opened 2023 season in April by winning 13 matches straight to claim back-to-back ITF titles in Switzerland; as WC, advanced to R16 at Madrid with wins over Fernandez, Haddad Maia and Linette (l. Sabalenka); subsequently made debut at Roland Garros (as qualifier, l. Gauff in 3r), Wimbledon (as qualifier, l. Keys in R16) and US Open (l. eventual champion Gauff in 2r)
- Also in 2023 reached R16 at Beijing (l. Rybakina), leading to Top 50 debut (started season just inside Top 300); voted WTA Newcomer of the Year
- In 2022, posted 39-9 win-loss record on ITF Circuit, winning first four titles at this level
- Fell in 1r on WTA main draw debut at 2022 Monastir (as WC, l. Potapova)
- Made professional debut at W15 ITF Circuit event at Sharm El-Sheikh in February 2022
- Owns six ITF Circuit singles titles
- As a junior, finished R-Up at 2023 Australian Open (l. Korneeva)
- Best result of 2025 was reaching second career Tour final at Rabat (l. Joint in F); also achieved her best Grand Slam results with 3r at Australian Open, Roland Garros and US Open. Won her first WTA 125 title at Puerto Vallarta and ended the season at a career high ranking of No.39
- A strong 2024 season began with semifinal at Cluj-Napoca followed by a further three quarterfinals at Charleston, Palermo and Iasi taking her ranking to a career high of No.57 in July
- In 2023 reached semifinal at Prague (l. Hibino) and also WTA 125 semifinals at Bucharest and Rouen
- Suffered knee injury in 2r match at Doha 2022 against Kasatkina and took the next six months off
- Ended 2021 campaign in fine form, reaching SF at Nur-Sultan (l. eventual champion Van Uytvanck), QF at Cluj-Napoca (l. Halep) before finishing R-Up at Linz (l. Riske)
- Broke into Top 100 on November 8, 2021
- Advanced to maiden WTA QF at 2021 St. Petersburg (l. Kuznetsova)
- Season highlight in 2020 was 2r run at Lyon (as qualifier, l. Kenin)
- In 2019, posted 2r showing at Bucharest (l. Rybakina), also fell 1r at Nanchang (as qualifier, l. Golubic)
- Reached 2r on WTA main draw debut at 2017 Bucharest (d. Kozlova. l. eventual champion Begu)
- In 2016, compiled a 46-18 win-loss record, lifting five titles on ITF Circuit and rising 400 places in rankings
- Contested maiden WTA qualifying at 2015 Bucharest
- Made professional debut on ITF Circuit in Europe in 2012

## OTHER INFORMATION

- Coached by Conchita Martinez
- Sister Erika is also a professional player
- Coached by Javier Marti
- Favorite surface is clay
- Started playing tennis aged five

- Originally from Krasnoyarsk and began playing aged six, but moved to Sochi and then Cannes, France, with sister to set up training base with coaches Jean-Rene Lisnard and Jean-Christophe Faurel
- Favorite surface is clay
- Represented by IMG





# MATCH NOTES

DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS -  
DUBAI, UAE

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**O**  
WIN

**FIRST  
MEETING**

**O**  
WIN



**3** **ELENA  
RYBAKINA (1)**  
KAZAKHSTAN

**ANTONIA  
RUZIC 67**  
CROATIA

|  |                                      |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1999-06-17   | <b>Date of Birth</b>                 | 2003-01-20   |
|  | <b>Residence</b>                     |  |
| Right-handed (two-handed backhand)                     | <b>Plays</b>                         | Right-Handed   |
| 6' 0" (1.84m)  | <b>Height</b>                        | 5' 6" (1.66m)  |
| 3  | <b>Career-High Ranking</b>           | 65   |
| \$27,261,649   | <b>Career Prize Money</b>            | \$804,563  |
| \$2,822,932  | <b>Season Prize Money</b>            | \$137,667  |
| 1 / 12   | <b>Singles Titles YTD / Career</b>   | 0 / 0  |
| 66-22 (Champion: 2026 AUSTRALIAN OPEN; 2022 WIMBLEDON) | <b>Grand Slam W-L (best)</b>         | 0-2 (Round of 128: 2026 AUSTRALIAN OPEN; 2025 US OPEN) |
| 1-0 / 13-3 (Runner-Up: 2020)                           | <b>YTD / Career DUBAI W-L (best)</b> | 2-0 / 2-0 (Round of 16: 2026)                          |
| 12-2 / 279-112   | <b>YTD / Career W-L</b>              | 5-3 / 16-15  |



# MATCH NOTES

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**ELENA  
RYBAKINA**

**ANTONIA  
RUZIC**

## HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

| YEAR                 | TOURNAMENT | SURFACE | ROUND | WINNER | SCORE/ RESULT | TIME |
|----------------------|------------|---------|-------|--------|---------------|------|
| First career meeting |            |         |       |        |               |      |

## RANKING HISTORY

| TOP RANK | YEAR-END | YEAR | TOP RANK | YEAR-END |
|----------|----------|------|----------|----------|
| 3        | -        | 2026 | 65       | -        |
| 5        | 5        | 2025 | 69       | 75       |
| 3        | 6        | 2024 | 145      | 145      |
| 3        | 4        | 2023 | 206      | 268      |
| 12       | 22       | 2022 | 184      | 268      |
| 14       | 14       | 2021 | 350      | 350      |
| 17       | 19       | 2020 | 1123     | 1158     |
| 37       | 37       | 2019 | -        | -        |
| 182      | 191      | 2018 | -        | -        |
| 420      | 425      | 2017 | -        | -        |



# MATCH NOTES

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**ELENA  
RYBAKINA**

**ANTONIA  
RUZIC**

## TOURNAMENT HISTORY

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

2r: d. K. BIRRELL (#94) 6-1 6-2 (1h 0m)

*Total time on court: 1h 0m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making 6th appearance at Dubai; finished as runner-up in 2020; has also reached SF in 2025 and QF in 2024
- Making 43rd career appearance at a WTA 1000 event with 2 titles to her credit - both in 2023 (Indian Wells, Rome)
- Could claim 15th consecutive victory against opponent ranked outside Top 20, with last defeat coming at Beijing last September (l. Lys)
- Bidding to reach her 19th career QF at a WTA 1000 event and fourth at Dubai (2020, 2024, 2025)
- Defeated Kimberly Birrell so far this week
- Faces No.67 Antonia Ruzic in 3r today
- 7 of her 12 career singles titles have come on hardcourt, most recently at the 2026 Australian Open (d. Sabalenka in F)
- Is No. 1 seed this week; has been top seed at 3 tournaments previously in her career
- Owns the most match wins on Tour since the end of Wimbledon last year (41) and has won 23 of her last 25 matches - only losing to Muchova in the QFs at Brisbane
- Currently leads the WTA in aces served (100)
- Is currently ranked No.3; this time last year was ranked No.7

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

1r: d. E. RADUCANU (#25) 6-1 5-7 6-2 (2h 19m)  
2r: d. A. ZAKHAROVA (#104) 6-1 6-7 6-1 (2h 11m)

*Total time on court: 4h 30m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making tournament debut
- This is her 6th WTA 1000 appearance and first time reaching the R16 at this level
- Has beaten Emma Raducanu and Anastasia Zakharova so far this week
- Faces No.3 Elena Rybakina in 3r today; seeking first career Top 20 win (previously 0-4 vs Top 20); this is her first meeting against a Top 10 opponent
- Owns 3-7 career record against seeds
- Best career result on hard-court is semifinal run at 2026 Hobart (l. eventual Champion Cocciaretto)
- Is currently ranked No.67; this time last year was ranked No.147
- So far this season, reached SF at Hobart (l. eventual Champion Cocciaretto), 1r at Australian Open (l. Osaka), and 1r at Cluj-Napoca (l. Yuan)
- Winner will face No.9 seed Belinda Bencic or No.7 seed Elina Svitolina



# MATCH NOTES

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ELENA  
RYBAKINA

ANTONIA  
RUZIC

## RECENT TOURNAMENT HISTORY

| 2025 | Result | Rank: 7            | Seed: 6           |
|------|--------|--------------------|-------------------|
| SF   | L      | M. ANDREEVA (#14)  | 6-4 4-6 6-3       |
| QF   | W      | S. KENIN (#56)     | 6-2 7-6(2)        |
| 3r   | W      | P. BADOSA (#10)    | 4-6 7-6(8) 7-6(2) |
| 2r   | W      | M. UCHIJIMA (#62)  | 6-3 6-2           |
| 2024 | Result | Rank: 4            | Seed: 4           |
| 3r   | W      | M. FRECH (#53)     | 7-6(5) 3-6 6-4    |
| 2r   | W      | V. AZARENKA (#27)  | 4-6 6-2           |
| 2023 | Result | Rank: 10           | Seed: 9           |
| 2r   | W      | M. BOUZKOVA (#26)  | 7-5 6-2           |
| 1r   | W      | B. ANDREESCU (#36) | 6-3 6-4           |
| 2021 | Result | Rank: 23           | Seed: 14          |
| 2r   | L      | O. JABEUR (#31)    | 7-6(6) 4-6 6-2    |
| 1r   | W      | S. ZHENG (#48)     | 6-0 6-4           |
| 2020 | Result | Rank: 19           | Seed: -           |
| F    | L      | S. HALEP (#2)      | 3-6 6-3 7-6(5)    |
| SF   | W      | P. MARTIC (#15)    | 7-6(5) 7-6(2)     |
| QF   | W      | K. PLISKOVA (#3)   | 7-6(1) 6-3        |
| 2r   | W      | K. SINIAKOVA (#58) | 6-3 6-3           |
| 1r   | W      | S. KENIN (#7)      | 6-7(2) 6-3 6-3    |

- Making her tournament debut in Main Draw Singles



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**ELENA  
RYBAKINA**

**ANTONIA  
RUZIC**

## SEASON 2026 HISTORY

- Reached QF at Doha (l. eventual R-Up Mboko)
- Champion finish at Australian Open (d. R-Up Sabalenka in F)
- Made QF at Brisbane (l. Muchova)

- Played 1r at Cluj-Napoca (l. Yuan)
- Fell in 1r at Australian Open (l. Osaka)
- Opened 2026 season with a SF run at Hobart (l. eventual champion Cocciaretto)

| VALUE | WTA RANK | MATCH STATS                      | VALUE | WTA RANK |
|-------|----------|----------------------------------|-------|----------|
| 100   | 1        | Aces                             | 17    | 59       |
| 58.0% | 100      | First serve %                    | 65.2% | 37       |
| 74.1% | 6        | First Serve points won %         | 62.1% | 72       |
| 52.7% | 9        | Second serve points won %        | 43.7% | 66       |
| 65.1% | 3        | Overall service points won %     | 55.7% | 69       |
| 83.7% | 4        | Service games won %              | 67.4% | 55       |
| 68.4% | 4        | Break points saved %             | 65.2% | 9        |
| 34.1% | 82       | First serve return points won %  | 39.1% | 28       |
| 59.6% | 15       | Second serve return points won % | 59.4% | 17       |
| 53.9% | 16       | Break points converted %         | 57.4% | 9        |
| 37.2% | 41       | Return games won %               | 43.3% | 16       |
| 44.0% | 48       | Return points won %              | 46.5% | 23       |



# MATCH NOTES

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**ELENA  
RYBAKINA**

**ANTONIA  
RUZIC**

## TITLES & GRAND SLAMS

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (12)

2026 - AUSTRALIAN OPEN  
2025 - WTA FINALS, NINGBO, STRASBOURG  
2024 - STUTTGART, ABU DHABI, BRISBANE  
2023 - ROME, INDIAN WELLS  
2022 - WIMBLEDON  
2020 - HOBART  
2019 - BUCHAREST

Runner-Up (11)

2024 - MIAMI, DOHA  
2023 - MIAMI, AUSTRALIAN OPEN  
2022 - PORTOROZ, ADELAIDE 500  
2020 - STRASBOURG, DUBAI, ST. PETERSBURG,  
SHENZHEN  
2019 - NANCHANG

### DOUBLES FINALS

Runner-Up (2)

2023 - ADELAIDE #2 (w/Pavlyuchenkova)  
2021 - INDIAN WELLS (w/Kudermetova)

| AUSTRALIAN OPEN | ROLAND GARROS | WIMBLEDON | US OPEN | AUSTRALIAN OPEN | ROLAND GARROS | WIMBLEDON | US OPEN |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|
| WON             |               |           |         | 2026            | 1r            |           |         |
| 4r              | 4r            | 3r        | 4r      | 2025            |               |           | 1r      |
| 2r              | QF            | SF        | 2r      | 2024            |               |           |         |
| RUP             | 3r            | QF        | 3r      | 2023            |               |           |         |
| 2r              | 3r            | WON       | 1r      | 2022            |               |           |         |
| 2r              | QF            | 4r        | 3r      | 2021            |               |           |         |
| 3r              | 2r            |           | 2r      | 2020            |               |           |         |
|                 | 1r            |           | 1r      | 2019            |               |           |         |



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**ELENA  
RYBAKINA**

**ANTONIA  
RUZIC**

## CAREER MILESTONES

- In 2025, won her first WTA Finals title, where she posted a perfect round robin record before topping World No.1 Sabalenka in the final; by going undefeated (5-0) at 2025 WTA Finals Riyadh, she earned \$5.235m, the biggest prize money payout in women's sporting history
- Overall, won three titles in 2025, adding Strasbourg and Ningbo crowns to her Riyadh triumph; finished at No.5 in the rankings and as the year's Tour leader in total aces (516)
- Won three titles from five finals in 2024, tasting success at Brisbane, Abu Dhabi and Stuttgart and finishing R-Up at Doha and Miami. Qualified for her second WTA Finals and defeated WTA World No.1 Sabalenka in the group stage
- Reached second Grand Slam final at 2023 Australian Open (l. Sabalenka in 3s); made Top-10 debut following tournament (January 30, 2023). Also in 2023 won first two WTA 1000 titles at Indian Wells and Rome and finished R-Up at Miami. Qualified for first WTA Finals, going 1-2 in group stage.
- Lifted maiden Grand Slam title at 2022 Wimbledon (d. Jabeur in F); also finished R-Up at Adelaide (l. Barty) and Portoroz (l. Siniakova)
- Best results of 2021 were SFs at Eastbourne, Olympics and Chicago [500], and QFs at Abu Dhabi, Roland Garros, San Jose and Ostrava
- Opened 2020 by reaching the championship match at four of her first five tournaments, including a title run at Hobart (d. Zhang in F), and made Top 20 debut at No.19 on February 17, after reaching St. Petersburg final. First Top-5 win came over No.3 Ka. Pliskova during R-Up finish at 2020 Dubai
- Won maiden WTA singles title at 2019 Bucharest (d. Tig in F), breaking into Top 100 for the first time in the following week's rankings at No.65 (July 22). Went on to make Top 50 debut on September 16 after reaching second career Tour final at Nanchang (l. Peterson)
- Highlights of 2018 included reaching maiden WTA QF at St. Petersburg (l. Goerges) and clinching title at \$15K ITF/Kazan. First Top 10 win came over No.7 Garcia at 2018 St. Petersburg
- Made WTA qualifying and main draw debut at 2017 Moscow (as qualifier, l. Begu in 1r)
- Professional debut came at \$10k ITF/Antalya-TUR in 2014
- In 2025, reached 2nd career WTA Tour QF at Monterrey (first QF at WTA 500-level; l. Bouzkova) and made Grand Slam main draw debut at US Open (l. Townsend in 1r). Made Top 100 debut on June 9 and peaked at career-high No.69 on August 25, finishing season at No.75
- First Top 150 year-end finish in 2024; made WTA main draw debut as a qualifier at Monastir, where she reached her first career WTA Tour QF (l. Bronzetti). Fell in qualifying at three of the four Grand Slams, but reached four finals on ITF Circuit, winning three titles
- Won two ITF Circuit titles from three finals in 2023; also played first Grand Slam qualifying match this season at Roland Garros (l. B.Fruhvirtova)
- Reached three ITF Circuit finals in 2022, winning two titles; also contested WTA qualifying at Portoroz (d. Abduraimova, l. Bucsa)
- In 2021, won first three ITF Circuit titles; also played first WTA qualifying match at Ostrava (l. Sharma)
- Played first professional events on ITF Circuit in 2019

## OTHER INFORMATION

- Trained at Spartak Club in Moscow as a junior; previous coaches included Andrei Cheshnokov (Elena Vesnina's former coach) and Evgenia Kulikovskaya
- Nominated for 2019 WTA Newcomer of the Year Award
- Started playing tennis aged five and favorite surface is hard



# MATCH NOTES

DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS -  
DUBAI, UAE

2026-02-15 - 2026-02-21 | \$ 4,088,211



**4**  
WIN

**4**  
MATCHES  
PLAYED

**0**  
WIN



**4** **COCO GAUFF (3)**  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**ELISE MERTENS** **22**  
BELGIUM

|  |                                      |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2004-03-13   | <b>Date of Birth</b>                 | 1995-11-17                                  |
| Delray Beach, FL. USA                              | <b>Residence</b>                     | Hamont-Achel, Belgium                       |
| Right-handed (two-handed backhand)                 | <b>Plays</b>                         | Right-handed (Two-handed backhand)          |
| 5' 9" (1.75m)                                      | <b>Height</b>                        | 5' 10" (1.79m)                              |
| 2  | <b>Career-High Ranking</b>           | 12  |
| \$30,830,836                                       | <b>Career Prize Money</b>            | \$18,735,563                                |
| \$1,071,715  | <b>Season Prize Money</b>            | \$940,600                                   |
| 0 / 11   | <b>Singles Titles YTD / Career</b>   | 0 / 10                                      |
| 78-24 (Champion: 2025 ROLAND GARROS; 2023 US OPEN) | <b>Grand Slam W-L (best)</b>         | 77-36 (Semi-Finalist: 2018 AUSTRALIAN OPEN) |
| 1-0 / 8-5 (Semi-Finalist: 2023)                    | <b>YTD / Career DUBAI W-L (best)</b> | 2-0 / 9-8 (Semi-Finalist: 2021)             |
| 8-3 / 253-103                                      | <b>YTD / Career W-L</b>              | 9-3 / 300-192                               |



# MATCH NOTES

DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS -  
DUBAI, UAE

2026-02-15 - 2026-02-21 | \$ 4,088,211

**COCO  
GAUFF**

**ELISE  
MERTENS**

## HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

| YEAR | TOURNAMENT    | SURFACE | ROUND | WINNER     | SCORE/ RESULT  | TIME   |
|------|---------------|---------|-------|------------|----------------|--------|
| 2024 | INDIAN WELLS  | HARD    | 4r    | Coco Gauff | 6-0 6-2        | 1h 6m  |
| 2023 | US OPEN       | HARD    | 3r    | Coco Gauff | 3-6 6-3 6-0    | 2h 4m  |
| 2022 | ROLAND GARROS | CLAY    | 4r    | Coco Gauff | 6-4 6-0        | 1h 24m |
| 2021 | EASTBOURNE    | GRASS   | 1r    | Coco Gauff | 0-6 7-6(4) 7-5 | 2h 13m |

## RANKING HISTORY

| TOP RANK | YEAR-END | YEAR | TOP RANK | YEAR-END |
|----------|----------|------|----------|----------|
| 3        | -        | 2026 | 19       | -        |
| 2        | 3        | 2025 | 20       | 20       |
| 2        | 3        | 2024 | 24       | 34       |
| 3        | 3        | 2023 | 26       | 29       |
| 4        | 7        | 2022 | 20       | 29       |
| 19       | 22       | 2021 | 14       | 21       |
| 47       | 48       | 2020 | 17       | 20       |
| 68       | 68       | 2019 | 12       | 17       |
| 874      | 875      | 2018 | 13       | 13       |
| -        | -        | 2017 | 35       | 35       |



# MATCH NOTES

DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS -  
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## TOURNAMENT HISTORY

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

2r: d. A. KALINSKAYA (#23) 6-4 6-4 (1h 32m)

*Total time on court: 1h 32m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making 6th appearance at this tournament; her best tournament finish is SF in 2023 (l. eventual R-Up Swiatek)
- Contesting her 48th career WTA 1000 main draw; she is a 3-time WTA 1000 champion at 2023 Cincinnati (d. Muchova in F), 2024 Beijing (d. Muchova in F) and 2025 Wuhan (d. Pegula in F)
- Has defeated Anna Kalinskaya so far this week to reach her first 3r since QF run at Australian Open 2026 (l. Svitolina)
- Faces No.22 Elise Mertens in 3r today
- Owns 5-0 career record against players from Belgium, with record in 2026 standing at 0-0
- 9 of her 11 career WTA singles titles have come on hard court, most recently WTA 1000 Wuhan last year
- One of 4 players from United States of America to reach 3r
- Best results by United States at this event are title runs by Lindsay Davenport in 2005, and Venus Williams in 2009, 2010 and 2014
- Is currently ranked No.4; this time last year was ranked No.3. Reached career-high ranking of No.2 for the first time in June 2024
- So far this year, went 3-1 in singles at United Cup (Team USA made SF), reached Australian Open QF (l. Svitolina) and lost Doha opener last week (after 1r bye, l. Cocciaretto)

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

1r: d. M. BOUZKOVA (#38) 6-2 6-2 (1h 23m)

2r: d. E. NAVARRO (#19) 6-2 6-2 (1h 15m)

*Total time on court: 2h 38m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making 9th appearance at Dubai, where her best result was reaching SF run in 2021 (l. eventual Champion Muguruza)
- Has defeated Marie Bouzkova and Emma Navarro so far this week
- Faces No.4 Coco Gauff in 3r today; owns 12 wins in career over Top 10 players, most recently No.4 Jessica Pegula at Rome 2025
- Owns 40-34 career record against players from United States of America, with record in 2026 standing at 1-0
- 7 of her 10 career WTA singles titles have come on hard court; her most recent hard court title is 2025 Singapore (d. Li in F)
- Only player from Belgium to reach 3r
- Best result by Belgium at Dubai was Champion run by Justine Henin on four occasions: in 2007, 2006, 2004, 2003
- Last time a player from Belgium reached 3r at Dubai was 2021
- Is currently ranked No.22; this time last year was ranked No.31. Reached career high ranking of No.12 in November 2018
- So far this season, has reached R16 at Australian Open (l. eventual Champion Rybakina), 2r at Doha (l. Kasatkina) and went 3-1 in singles for Team Belgium at 2026 United Cup
- Winner today will face Sorana Cirstea or Alexandra Eala in QF



# MATCH NOTES

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**ELISE  
MERTENS**

## RECENT TOURNAMENT HISTORY

| 2025 | Result | Rank: 3                                | Seed: 3 |
|------|--------|--|---------|
| 2r   | L      | M. KESSLER (#53) 6-4 7-5               |         |
| 2024 | Result | Rank: 3                                | Seed: 3 |
| QF   | L      | A. KALINSKAYA (#40) 2-6 6-4 6-2        |         |
| 3r   | W      | K. PLISKOVA (#36) 2-6 6-4 6-3          |         |
| 2r   | W      | E. COCCIARETTO (#58) 6-1 7-5           |         |
| 2023 | Result | Rank: 6                                | Seed: 5 |
| SF   | L      | I. SWIATEK (#1) 6-4 6-2                |         |
| QF   | W      | M. KEYS (#23) 6-2 7-5                  |         |
| 2r   | W      | A. SASNOVICH (#43) 6-0 6-4             |         |
| 2022 | Result | Rank: 20                               | Seed: - |
| 1r   | L      | J. PEGULA (#14) 6-4 6-4                |         |
| 2021 | Result | Rank: 40                               | Seed: - |
| QF   | L      | J. TEICHMANN (#54) 6-3 6-3             |         |
| 3r   | W      | T. MARTINCOVA (#125) 6-4 6-2           |         |
| 2r   | W      | M. VONDROUSOVA (#20) 3-6 6-0 6-4       |         |
| 1r   | W      | E. ALEXANDROVA (#33) 7-6(3) 2-6 7-6(8) |         |

| 2025 | Result | Rank: 31                            | Seed: -  |
|------|--------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 2r   | L      | P. BADOSA (#10) 6-2 6-1             |          |
| 1r   | W      | L. FERNANDEZ (#30) 6-2 6-2          |          |
| 2024 | Result | Rank: 25                            | Seed: -  |
| 1r   | L      | E. COCCIARETTO (#58) 1-6 6-3 7-6(3) |          |
| 2022 | Result | Rank: 22                            | Seed: -  |
| 1r   | L      | J. TEICHMANN (#35) 6-2 6-4          |          |
| 2021 | Result | Rank: 18                            | Seed: 10 |
| SF   | L      | G. MUGURUZA (#16) 6-4 7-6(5)        |          |
| QF   | W      | J. PEGULA (#36) 5-7 7-5 6-0         |          |
| 3r   | W      | C. GARCIA (#47) 6-4 6-2             |          |
| 2r   | W      | S. ROGERS (#49) 6-3 6-3             |          |
| 1r   | W      | V. TOMOVA (#140) 4-6 6-2 6-4        |          |
| 2020 | Result | Rank: 22                            | Seed: -  |
| 2r   | L      | A. SABALENKA (#13) 6-4 6-3          |          |
| 1r   | W      | Q. WANG (#28) 6-3 6-0               |          |



# MATCH NOTES

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**ELISE  
MERTENS**

## SEASON 2026 HISTORY

- Played 2r at Doha (l. Cocciaretto)
- Reached QF at Australian Open (l. Svitolina)
- Went 3-1 in singles during Team USA's run to the 2026 United Cup SF

- Made 2r at Doha (l. Kasatkina)
- Reached 4r at Australian Open (l. eventual champion Rybakina)
- Opened 2026 with Team Belgium at United Cup reaching SF (went 3-1 in singles)

| VALUE | WTA RANK | MATCH STATS                      | VALUE | WTA RANK |
|-------|----------|----------------------------------|-------|----------|
| 15    | 69       | Aces                             | 56    | 9        |
| 65.1% | 43       | First serve %                    | 57.0% | 109      |
| 68.8% | 26       | First Serve points won %         | 75.4% | 3        |
| 39.8% | 97       | Second serve points won %        | 49.5% | 25       |
| 58.7% | 41       | Overall service points won %     | 64.3% | 6        |
| 67.9% | 50       | Service games won %              | 79.5% | 8        |
| 52.1% | 75       | Break points saved %             | 50.0% | 88       |
| 42.4% | 5        | First serve return points won %  | 37.8% | 36       |
| 56.3% | 46       | Second serve return points won % | 58.3% | 25       |
| 46.0% | 60       | Break points converted %         | 53.9% | 15       |
| 44.7% | 11       | Return games won %               | 40.7% | 26       |
| 47.4% | 11       | Return points won %              | 46.2% | 24       |



# MATCH NOTES

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**ELISE  
MERTENS**

## TITLES & GRAND SLAMS

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (11)

2025 - WUHAN, ROLAND GARROS  
2024 - WTA FINALS, BEIJING, AUCKLAND  
2023 - US OPEN, CINCINNATI, WASHINGTON DC,  
AUCKLAND  
2021 - PARMA  
2019 - LINZ

Runner-Up (4)

2025 - ROME, MADRID,  
2022 - ROLAND GARROS

### DOUBLES FINALS

Champion (10)

2025 - MONTREAL (w/Kessler)  
2024 - ROLAND GARROS (w/Siniakova)  
2023 - MIAMI (w/Pegula), DOHA (w/Pegula)  
2022 - SAN DIEGO (w/Pegula), TORONTO  
(w/Pegula), DOHA (w/Pegula)  
2021 - PARMA (w/Mcnally)  
2019 - LUXEMBOURG (w/Mcnally), WASHINGTON  
DC (w/Mcnally)

Runner-Up (6)

2024 - ROME (w/Routliffe)  
2023 - ROME (w/Pegula), MADRID (w/Pegula)  
2022 - ROLAND GARROS (w/Pegula), STUTTGART  
(w/Zhang)  
2021 - US OPEN (w/Mcnally)

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (10)

2025 - 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH, SINGAPORE  
2023 - MONASTIR  
2022 - MONASTIR  
2021 - MELBOURNE 500 GIPPSLAND TROPHY  
2019 - DOHA  
2018 - RABAT, LUGANO, HOBART  
2017 - HOBART

Runner-Up (6)

2025 - HOBART  
2024 - HOBART  
2021 - ISTANBUL  
2020 - LINZ, PRAGUE  
2017 - ISTANBUL

### DOUBLES FINALS

Champion (24)

2026 - AUSTRALIAN OPEN (w/Zhang)  
2025 - WTA FINALS (w/Kudermetova),  
WIMBLEDON (w/Kudermetova)  
2024 - BIRMINGHAM (w/Hsieh), INDIAN WELLS  
(w/Hsieh), AUSTRALIAN OPEN (w/Hsieh)  
2023 - GUADALAJARA (w/Hunter), ROME  
(w/Hunter)  
2022 - WTA FINALS (w/Kudermetova), DUBAI  
(w/Kudermetova)  
2021 - INDIAN WELLS (w/Hsieh), WIMBLEDON  
(w/Hsieh), ISTANBUL (w/Kudermetova),  
AUSTRALIAN OPEN (w/Sabalenka)  
2020 - OSTRAVA (w/Sabalenka)  
2019 - US OPEN (w/Sabalenka), MIAMI  
(w/Sabalenka), INDIAN WELLS (w/Sabalenka)  
2018 - WUHAN (w/Schuurs), 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH  
(w/Schuurs), LUGANO (w/Flipkens), HOBART  
(w/Schuurs)  
2017 - GUANGZHOU (w/Schuurs)  
2016 - AUCKLAND (w/Mestach)

Runner-Up (14)

2025 - ROME (w/Kudermetova), MADRID  
(w/Kudermetova)  
2023 - WIMBLEDON (w/Hunter)  
2022 - WIMBLEDON (w/Zhang), BIRMINGHAM  
(w/Zhang), 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH (w/Kudermetova),  
MIAMI (w/Kudermetova), DOHA (w/Kudermetova)  
2021 - WTA FINALS (w/Hsieh)  
2019 - WUHAN (w/Sabalenka)



# MATCH NOTES

## DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS - DUBAI, UAE

QF 2026-02-15 - 2026-02-21 | \$4,088,211

QF 1r 4r 2025 2r 1r 4r 3r

SF SF 4r 4r 2024 2r 3r 2r 4r

**COCO GAUFF**

QF 1r WON 2023

RUP 3r QF 2022

2r QF 4r 2r 2021

**ELISE MERTENS**

4r 2r 1r 2020 4r 3r

### CAREER MILESTONES

4r 3r 2019 3r 4r QF

2018 SF 4r 3r 4r

- In 2025, won her second Grand Slam title of career at Roland Garros (d. Sabalenka in final) and her third career WTA 1000 title at Wuhan; also made WTA 1000 finals at Madrid and Rome, becoming the first American to reach three WTA 1000 finals in a calendar year since Serena Williams in 2014
- Went three for three in finals in 2024, winning Auckland, Beijing and a historic first WTA Finals Riyadh title. Success in Saudi Arabia saw her win a record \$4.8m in prize money, the most ever awarded in women's professional sports, and defeat the World No.1 and No.2 at the same event. Posted a new career-high of No.2 in the same event. Posted a new career-high of No.2 in the same event.
- Won debut Grand Slam singles crown in 2023 lifting title on home soil at US Open (d. Sabalenka in F). Picked up another three titles in 2023, marking first WTA 1000 title at Cincinnati and debut WTA 500 title at Washington DC, in addition to WTA 250 Auckland. In doubles was co-ranked No.1 with Pegula after US Open.
- In 2022, reached maiden Grand Slam final at Roland-Garros (l. Swiatek); was the youngest major finalist since Sharapova won 2004 Wimbledon
- Made Top 10 debut on September 12, 2022, following QF run at US Open (l. Garcia)
- Highlight of 2021 campaign was completing singles-doubles title sweep at Parma; defeated Wang Qiang in singles final and teamed up w/McNally to win doubles
- In 2021 also reached SF at Adelaide and Rome, while at the Slams made QF at Roland-Garros and R16 at Wimbledon. Finished R-Up in doubles at 2021 US Open (w/McNally, l. Stosur/Zhang)
- First cracked the Top 50 on February 24, 2020 at No.49, following a R16 appearance at Australian Open to tie her career best Grand Slam result - during run, defeated V.Williams in 1r and her first Top-5 opponent in No.4 Osaka in 3r (l. eventual champion Kenin in 3s)
- Enjoyed breakout season in 2019, highlighted by maiden WTA singles title at Linz (as lucky loser, d. Ostapenko in F) - earned her first Top-10 win en route to title over No.8 Bertens in QF. At 15y 214d, her title run in Linz made her youngest to win a Tour-level title since Vaidisova (15y 177d) won Tashkent in 2004
- Also claimed maiden WTA doubles titles at Washington, DC (w/McNally, d. Sanchez/Stollar in F) and Luxembourg (w/McNally, d. Christian/Guarachi in F). By winning the doubles

2018 - CINCINNATI (w/Schuurs), BIRMINGHAM (w/Schuurs)  
2017 - BUCHAREST (w/Schuurs), ISTANBUL

- Won two singles titles in 2025 at Singapore and 's-Hertogenbosch; also reached the final at Hobart for second consecutive year and finished the 2025 season ranked inside the singles Top 20 for a fifth year (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021) and inside the doubles Top 5
- Lifted a fifth Grand Slam doubles trophy in 2025 at Wimbledon with Veronika Kudermetova; the pair then went on to win the year-end WTA Finals title for a second time together after 2022
- Kicked off 2024 season with R-Up finish at Hobart (l. Navarro) which marked her 13th WTA singles final. In doubles won Australian Open, Indian Wells and Birmingham all w/ Hsieh Su-Wei and qualified for WTA Finals for sixth consecutive time
- Ended 2023 as only Top 100 player to finish year exactly where she started, at No.29. Strongest singles results came at Monastir, successfully defending her title (d. Paolini), and SF at Monterrey (l. Garcia). Achieved a year-end doubles ranking of No.2 after lifting two titles at Guadalajara and Rome (w/Hunter) and SF at WTA Finals Cancun (l. eventual champions Siegemund/Zvonareva).
- 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
- Lifted seventh WTA title, at 2022 Monastir (d. Cornet in F), while in doubles alongside partner V.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. Krejčíková/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 3 sets)
- Enjoyed standout season in doubles in 2019 - won maiden major doubles title at US Open w/Sabalenka (d. Azarenka/Barty in F). Also

- title at Washington, DC at 15y 144d, became the youngest player to win a doubles title since May 1995 (Hingis won Hamburg at 14y 219d)
- Reached R16 at 2019 Wimbledon on Grand Slam main draw debut defeating V.Williams in 1r (l. eventual champion Halep) - followed with 3r showing at US Open (as WC, l. Osaka)
  - Made WTA main draw debut as a wildcard at 2019 Miami where she earned her first WTA main draw win over good friend McNally (l. Kasatkina in 2r)
  - Made professional debut in May 2018 as a qualifier into the \$25K ITF/Osprey, FL-USA
  - Former Junior World No.1 (July 2018); won 2018 Roland-Garros girls' title (d. McNally in F) and 2018 US Open doubles title (w/McNally), while finished R-Up at 2017 US Open girls' event (l. Anisimova) becoming the youngest girls' singles finalist in tournament history at 13-years-old

- Completed 'Sunshine Double' in doubles (w/Sabalenka), lifting the back-to-back titles at Indian Wells (d. Krejčíková/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 Kvitová (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 Cibulková 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

## OTHER INFORMATION

- Coached by Jean Christophe Faurel
- Father, Corey, played basketball at Georgia State; mother, Candi, excelled in gymnastics before competing in track and field at Florida State University
- Previously worked with Diego Moyano
- Started playing tennis at six
- Favorite surface is hard, describes her playing style as aggressive as possible with a big serve; depends on her quickness and athleticism to keep her in any point - describes herself as a "fighter"
- Tennis idols growing up were the Williams sisters whose tenacity and fearlessness made her want to become a professional tennis player
- Enjoys hanging out with her brother and family, watching superhero movies and making TikTok videos
- Does not have any pets but has been trying to convince her mom to get a dog
- Favorite city is Paris because of the history, food and architecture. Favorite celebrity is Beyoncé because she is an incredible performer

- Currently working with Christopher Heyman
- Formerly worked with Alexander Kneepkens, Robbie Ceyskens, Dieter Kindlmann, Daniel Goffin and Philippe Dehaes
- Previously trained under Belgian Federation until early teens, also spent a year at the Mouratoglou Academy in Paris
- Mother is Liliane Barbe (teaches languages and history); father is Guido Mertens (makes furniture for churches). Began playing tennis at age 4, introduced to game by older sister Lauren, an airline pilot with KLM
- First tennis memory is watching Kim Clijsters playing live
- Was home schooled, enjoyed studying languages; speaks English, Dutch/Flemish and French
- Loves animals and has lots of pets at home
- In 2021, launched a charitable initiative to support the Virunga National Park's efforts to save the gorilla population in the Democratic Republic of Congo



# MATCH NOTES

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DUBAI, UAE

2026-02-15 - 2026-02-21 | \$ 4,088,211



**1**  
WIN

**0**  
WIN

**1**  
MATCHES  
PLAYED



**32**

**SORANA  
CIRSTEA**  
ROMANIA

**ALEXANDRA  
EALA**  
PHILIPPINES

**47**

|  |                                      |                                   |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1990-04-07   | <b>Date of Birth</b>                 | 2005-05-23                        |
| Targoviste, Romania                                      | <b>Residence</b>                     |                                   |
| Right-handed (two-handed backhand)                       | <b>Plays</b>                         | Left-handed (two-handed backhand) |
| 5' 9" (1.76m)  | <b>Height</b>                        | 5' 9" (1.75m)                     |
| 21   | <b>Career-High Ranking</b>           | 40                                |
| \$11,050,739   | <b>Career Prize Money</b>            | \$1,557,177                       |
| \$225,811  | <b>Season Prize Money</b>            | \$205,823                         |
| 1 / 4  | <b>Singles Titles YTD / Career</b>   | 0 / 0                             |
| 67-66 (Quarter-Finalist: 2023 US OPEN; 2009 FRENCH OPEN) | <b>Grand Slam W-L (best)</b>         | 1-4 (Round of 64: 2025 US OPEN)   |
| 2-0 / 14-9 (Semi-Finalist: 2024)                         | <b>YTD / Career DUBAI W-L (best)</b> | 2-0 / 2-0 (Round of 16: 2026)     |
| 10-2 / 347-337   | <b>YTD / Career W-L</b>              | 7-4 / 22-31                       |



# MATCH NOTES

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**SORANA  
CIRSTEA**

**ALEXANDRA  
EALA**

## HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

| YEAR | TOURNAMENT | SURFACE | ROUND | WINNER         | SCORE/ RESULT  | TIME   |
|------|------------|---------|-------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| 2024 | MADRID     | CLAY    | 2r    | Sorana Cirstea | 6-3 6-7(6) 6-4 | 2h 17m |

## RANKING HISTORY

| TOP RANK | YEAR-END | YEAR | TOP RANK | YEAR-END |
|----------|----------|------|----------|----------|
| 31       | -        | 2026 | 40       | -        |
| 44       | 44       | 2025 | 50       | 50       |
| 22       | 70       | 2024 | 143      | 158      |
| 25       | 26       | 2023 | 189      | 205      |
| 24       | 38       | 2022 | 214      | 219      |
| 37       | 38       | 2021 | 505      | 529      |
| 69       | 86       | 2020 | -        | -        |
| 72       | 72       | 2019 | -        | -        |
| 33       | 86       | 2018 | -        | -        |
| 37       | 37       | 2017 | -        | -        |



# MATCH NOTES

DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS -  
DUBAI, UAE

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**SORANA  
CIRSTEA**

**ALEXANDRA  
EALA**

## TOURNAMENT HISTORY

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

1r: d. A. SASNOVICH (#113) 6-3 7-6 3-4 (1h 47m)  
2r: d. L. NOSKOVA (#14) 6-1 6-4 (1h 10m)

*Total time on court: 2h 57m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making 10th appearance at Dubai, where her best result was reaching SF in 2024 (l. eventual Champion Paolini); also made QF run in 2014 (l. Wozniacki) and 2025 (l. Muchova)
- Has defeated Aliaksandra Sasnovich and Linda Noskova so far this week to reach her first 3r since lifting the title at at Cluj-Napoca 2026 (d. Raducanu in F)
- Faces No.47 Alexandra Eala in 3r today; owns 123 wins in career over Top 50 players, most recently No.14 Linda Noskova at Dubai 2026
- Owns 1-0 career record against players from Philippines, with record in 2026 standing at 0-0
- 3 of her 4 career WTA singles titles have come on hard-court at Cluj-Napoca in 2026; Cleveland in 2025; Tashkent in 2008
- One of 2 players from Romania to reach 3r
- Best result by Romania at Dubai was Champion run by Simona Halep in 2020 & 2015
- Last time 2 players from Romania reached 3r at Dubai was 2022
- Is currently ranked No.32; this time last year was ranked No.89
- So far this season, claimed the title at Cluj-Napoca (d. Raducanu in F), reached R16 at Brisbane (l. eventual Champion Sabalenka), and 2r at Australian Open (l. Osaka)

### CURRENT TOURNAMENT

1r: d. H. BAPTISTE (#45) 6-4 0-1 (57m)  
2r: d. J. PAOLINI (#8) 6-1 7-6 (1h 40m)

*Total time on court: 2h 37m*

### PLAYER NOTES

- Making tournament debut
- Contesting her 11th career WTA 1000 main draw; career-best WTA 1000 result is SF at 2025 Miami as wild card ranked No.140 (l. eventual R-Up Pegula)
- Looking to reach the second QF at a WTA 1000 event (after 2025 Miami)
- Has defeated Hailey Baptiste (via retirement) and Jasmine Paolini so far this week to reach her first 3r since QF run at Abu Dhabi 2026
- Faces No.32 Sorana Cirstea in 3r today; owns 9 wins in career over Top 50 players, most recently No.8 Jasmine Paolini at Dubai 2026
- Owns 0-2 career record against players from Romania, with record in 2026 standing at 0-0
- Best career result on hard court is SF which she has reached twice: 2025 Miami (l. eventual R-Up Pegula) and 2026 Auckland (l. eventual R-Up Wang Xinyu)
- Only player from Philippines to reach 3r
- First player from Philippines to contest the main draw at this tournament
- Is currently ranked No.47 (first player from Philippines to reach Top 100 of WTA Rankings); this time last year was ranked No.139
- Best result so far this season is SF run at Auckland (l. eventual R-Up Wang Xinyu)



# MATCH NOTES

DUBAI DUTY FREE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS -  
DUBAI, UAE

2026-02-15 - 2026-02-21 | \$ 4,088,211

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CIRSTEA**

**ALEXANDRA  
EALA**

## RECENT TOURNAMENT HISTORY

| 2025 | Result | Rank: 89                       | Seed: - |
|------|--------|--------------------------------|---------|
| QF   | L      | K. MUCHOVA (#17) 6-2 7-5       |         |
| 3r   | W      | E. NAVARRO (#9) 7-6(5) 3-6 7-5 |         |
| 2r   | W      | A. PARKS (#74) 3-6 6-4 6-1     |         |
| 1r   | W      | D. KASATKINA (#11) 6-1 6-4     |         |

  

| 2024 | Result | Rank: 22                           | Seed: - |
|------|--------|------------------------------------|---------|
| SF   | L      | J. PAOLINI (#26) 6-2 7-6(6)        |         |
| QF   | W      | M. VONDROUSOVA (#8) 2-6 7-6(1) 6-2 |         |
| 3r   | W      | D. VEKIC (#31) 3-6 6-3 7-5         |         |
| 2r   | W      | V. KUDERMETOVA (#19) 6-1 6-4       |         |
| 1r   | W      | S. KENIN (#55) 6-3 7-6(2)          |         |

  

| 2023 | Result | Rank: 70                            | Seed: - |
|------|--------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| 2r   | L      | K. MUCHOVA (#112) 6-4 7-6(4)        |         |
| 1r   | W      | B. HADDAD MAIA (#12) 4-6 7-6(7) 7-5 |         |

  

| 2021 | Result | Rank: 67                   | Seed: - |
|------|--------|----------------------------|---------|
| 2r   | L      | A. KONTAVEIT (#24) 6-4 7-5 |         |
| 1r   | W      | L. TSURENKO (#142) 6-4 6-4 |         |

  

| 2020 | Result | Rank: 70                   | Seed: - |
|------|--------|----------------------------|---------|
| 1r   | L      | A. KONTAVEIT (#24) 6-1 6-3 |         |

- Making her tournament debut in Main Draw Singles



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## SEASON 2026 HISTORY

- Became Champion at Cluj-Napoca (d. R-Up Raducanu in F)
- Made 2r at Australian Open (l. Osaka)
- Reached 3r at Brisbane (l. eventual champion Sabalenka)

- Played 1r at Doha (l. Valentova)
- Made QF at Abu Dhabi (l. eventual R-Up Alexandrova)
- Fell in 1r at Australian Open (l. Parks)
- Reached SF at Auckland (l. eventual R-Up, X.Wang)

| VALUE | WTA RANK | MATCH STATS                             | VALUE | WTA RANK |
|-------|----------|---|-------|----------|
| 69    | 6        | <b>Aces</b>                             | 10    | 88       |
| 57.3% | 108      | <b>First serve %</b>                    | 65.6% | 34       |
| 71.2% | 15       | <b>First Serve points won %</b>         | 62.1% | 71       |
| 54.1% | 6        | <b>Second serve points won %</b>        | 44.5% | 58       |
| 63.9% | 7        | <b>Overall service points won %</b>     | 56.1% | 66       |
| 80.3% | 6        | <b>Service games won %</b>              | 65.0% | 60       |
| 63.5% | 13       | <b>Break points saved %</b>             | 52.3% | 73       |
| 39.3% | 26       | <b>First serve return points won %</b>  | 38.7% | 30       |
| 59.7% | 14       | <b>Second serve return points won %</b> | 60.1% | 11       |
| 49.0% | 39       | <b>Break points converted %</b>         | 38.4% | 101      |
| 41.9% | 22       | <b>Return games won %</b>               | 41.0% | 24       |
| 47.1% | 15       | <b>Return points won %</b>              | 46.6% | 19       |



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## TITLES

### SINGLES FINALS

Champion (4)  
2026 - CLUJ-NAPOCA  
2025 - CLEVELAND  
2021 - ISTANBUL  
2008 - TASHKENT  
Runner-Up (4)  
2021 - STRASBOURG  
2019 - TASHKENT  
2013 - TORONTO  
2007 - BUDAPEST

### DOUBLES FINALS

Champion (6)  
2025 - MADRID (w/Kalinskaya)  
2019 - LUGANO (w/Mitu)  
2011 - DALLAS (w/Brianti)  
2010 - ESTORIL (w/Medina Garrigues)  
2008 - LUXEMBOURG (w/Erakovic), FES  
(w/Pavlyuchenkova)  
Runner-Up (5)  
2014 - TIANJIN (w/Klepac)  
2010 - BUDAPEST (w/Medina Garrigues)  
2009 - FES (w/Kirilenko), BARCELONA (w/Klepac)  
2008 - NEW HAVEN (w/Niculescu)

### SINGLES FINALS

Runner-Up (1)  
2025 - EASTBOURNE



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## GRAND SLAMS

| AUSTRALIAN OPEN | ROLAND GARROS | WIMBLEDON | US OPEN |             | AUSTRALIAN OPEN | ROLAND GARROS | WIMBLEDON | US OPEN |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|
| 2r              |               |           |         | <b>2026</b> | 1r              |               |           |         |
| 1r              |               | 1r        | 2r      | <b>2025</b> |                 | 1r            | 1r        | 2r      |
| 1r              | 1r            | 1r        |         | <b>2024</b> |                 |               |           |         |
| 1r              | 1r            | 3r        | QF      | <b>2023</b> |                 |               |           |         |
| 4r              | 2r            | 2r        | 2r      | <b>2022</b> |                 |               |           |         |
| 3r              | 4r            | 3r        | 2r      | <b>2021</b> |                 |               |           |         |
| 2r              | 1r            |           | 3r      | <b>2020</b> |                 |               |           |         |
| 1r              | 2r            | 1r        | 3r      | <b>2019</b> |                 |               |           |         |
| 2r              | 1r            | 2r        | 2r      | <b>2018</b> |                 |               |           |         |
| 4r              | 2r            | 3r        | 2r      | <b>2017</b> |                 |               |           |         |
|                 | 1r            | 1r        | 1r      | <b>2016</b> |                 |               |           |         |
| 1r              |               |           |         | <b>2015</b> |                 |               |           |         |
| 1r              | 3r            | 1r        | 2r      | <b>2014</b> |                 |               |           |         |
| 3r              | 3r            | 2r        | 2r      | <b>2013</b> |                 |               |           |         |
| 3r              | 1r            | 3r        | 2r      | <b>2012</b> |                 |               |           |         |
| 2r              | 3r            | 1r        | 1r      | <b>2011</b> |                 |               |           |         |
| 2r              | 1r            | 1r        | 1r      | <b>2010</b> |                 |               |           |         |
| 1r              | QF            | 3r        | 3r      | <b>2009</b> |                 |               |           |         |
| 1r              | 2r            | 2r        | 2r      | <b>2008</b> |                 |               |           |         |



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## CAREER MILESTONES

- In 2025, won Cleveland title as qualifier (first WTA Tour singles final since 2021; d. Li in final) en route to tenth straight Top 100 year-end finish in singles; also won her biggest career doubles title at WTA 1000 Madrid (w/Kalinskaya)
- Highlights of 2024 came in the Middle East, making QF at Abu Dhabi and saving six match points in her Dubai QF match against Vondrousova to reach SF (l. eventual champion Paolini). Ended her 2024 season after Wimbledon to undergo foot surgery
- 2023 saw her best results achieved in the USA: advanced to Indian Wells QF for first time (l. Swiatek), then made SF at Miami (l. eventual champion Kvitova) and QF at US Open (l. Muchova)
- In 2022, reached SF on all three surfaces: hard court at Lyon (l. Yastremska), clay at Istanbul (l. Kudermetova), and grass at Birmingham (l. Zhang). Also enjoyed success at the Australian Open, where she fell in R16 (l. Swiatek)
- Highlight of 2021 was ending near-13-year wait for 2nd WTA Tour singles title, triumphing at Istanbul (d. Mertens in F). Also finished R-Up at Strasbourg (l. Krejckikova), reached QF at Grampians Trophy and Portoroz, and R16 at Roland Garros
- Ended 2020 by winning singles title at ITF/\$100K Dubai-UAE in December (d. Siniakova in F). Also in 2020, reached 3r at US Open and advanced to 2r at Australian Open
- In 2019, advanced to fourth career Tour singles final at Tashkent (l. Van Uytvanck); also captured fifth career Tour doubles title at 2019 Lugano (w/Mitu, d. Kudermetova/Voskoboeva in F)
- Reached R16 at 2017 Australian Open - first time advancing to that stage at a Slam since she made 2009 Roland Garros QF (l. Stosur)
- In 2016, played a mix of WTA and ITF events, improving ranking by 163 ranking places to No.81 on comeback from shoulder injury, with highlights being a SF run at Rio de Janeiro (l. Rogers) and making QF at Madrid (as wildcard, l. eventual R-Up Cibulkova) and Mallorca (as qualifier, l. Jankovic)
- Reached biggest singles final of career at 2013 Toronto - posted three Top 10 wins en route to final (No.10 Wozniacki, No.7 Kvitova and No.5 Li) before falling to No.1 S. Williams. Following Toronto run, posted career-high ranking of No.21 on August 21, 2013
- Breakout 2025 season saw her break into the Top 100 after SF run at WTA 1000 Miami; as a wild card she registered back-to-back Top 10 wins over No.5 Keys and No.2 Swiatek. Went on to reach maiden Tour final at Eastbourne and then won her first WTA 125 title Guadalajara. Her year-end ranking was a career high No.50
- Following her Miami 2025 result, she made history by becoming the first player from the Philippines to reach a WTA 1000 semifinal and the first to enter the WTA World Top 100 ranking
- In 2024 made 2r at WTA 1000 Madrid (l. Cirstea) as well as playing main draw at Abu Dhabi, Guadalajara, Wuhan, Guangzhou and Jiujiang. Earned fourth ITF career title at W100 Vitoria-Gasteiz and reached a career high ranking of No.143 in July
- Entered first Grand Slam in 2023 at Australian Open qualifying (l. Doi in Q1). As a qualifier reached main draw at Hua Hin (l. Maria), Osaka (l. Sakatsume), Guangzhou (l. Maria) and Monastir (l. Mertens) taking her ranking into Top 200 for first time
- Claimed first ITF title in 2022 at Chiang Rai \$25K and also played WTA Miami opening main draw match (l. Brengle) and qualifying at Madrid (l. Bondar).
- In 2021 played first Tour level match at Miami qualifying (l. Kuzmova) and reached 2r at Cluj Napoca on clay (l. Sherif).
- Best result of 2021 was reaching QF at Grenoble \$25K
- Began on the ITF circuit in 2020 at the age of 14

- Won first WTA singles title at 2008 Tashkent (d. Lisicki in F)
- Fell 1r on Grand Slam main draw debut at 2008 Australian Open (l. No.4 seed Ivanovic)
- Made first WTA singles final at 2007 Budapest (l. Dulko)
- Made WTA main draw debut at 2006 Stockholm (l. Kanepi in 1r)
- Played first events of career on ITF Circuit in 2004

## OTHER INFORMATION

- Working with Adrian Cruciat
- Introduced to tennis at age 4 by mother, Liliana; father's name is Mihai; younger brother's name is Mihnea; full name is Sorana Mihaela Cirstea
- Speaks Romanian, English and Spanish and is studying French
- Likes all surfaces; favorite shot is forehand; most admires Steffi Graf
- Enjoys playing all ball sports, going shopping, watching movies, reading and doing crosswords
- Favorite cities are New York and London ("big cities with lots to do")
- Self-described as ambitious, stubborn and happy

- Coached by Joan Bosch
- Started playing tennis aged four
- Competed in the WTA Future Stars event in 2016 and 2017 in Singapore (first time at age 11 and won the Li Na Inspiration Award)
- Made WTA Tour debut at 2021 Miami in qualifying
- Trains at the Rafael Nadal Academy in Mallorca
- Preferred surface is hard
- Parents are Mike and Rizza (who was a professional swimmer who competed at the 1985 Southeast Asian Games); brother is also a budding tennis player
- Enjoys upbeat Spanish music and watching comedy and horror movies
- Loves ice cream, rice and milk tea