



# MATCH NOTES

Australian Open  
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA



JANUARY 18 – FEBRUARY 1, 2026 | GRAND SLAM | \$111,500,000 AUD

Tournament Information: [www.ausopen.com](http://www.ausopen.com) | @AustralianOpen | facebook.com/AustralianOpen

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

WTA Media Information: [wtastats@wtatennis.com](mailto:wtastats@wtatennis.com), Catherine Sneddon ([CSneddon@wtatennis.com](mailto:CSneddon@wtatennis.com))

## DOUBLES FINAL - SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

**[7] ANNA DANILINA (KAZ) / ALEKSANDRA KRUNIC (SRB)**

**VS.**

**[4] ELISE MERTENS (BEL) / ZHANG SHUAI (CHN)**

### First meeting

This will be the first meeting between these two pairings – although Zhang (partnering Katerina Siniakova) defeated Danilina/Krunic in the Adelaide semifinals two weeks ago, en route to the title

**PIF WTA Ranking Watch:** Currently ranked World No.6, Elise Mertens will return to the WTA Doubles World No.1 ranking after the Australian Open, regardless of the final result. Next week will be Mertens' 40th week at World No.1 in her career.

- If Danilina and Krunic win the title, No.14 Danilina is projected to reach a new career-high of No.7
- If Danilina and Krunic win the title, No.17 Krunic is projected to make her Top 10 debut
- If Mertens and Zhang win the title, No.15 Zhang is projected to return to the Top 10

### Danilina/Krunic Quick Hits

#### **2025 Roland Garros runners-up**

#### **Team W-L in doubles: 32-12**

- Danilina and Krunic are into their second Grand Slam final as a team, having finished as runners-up at 2025 Roland Garros (l. Errani/Paolini in final)
- This fortnight in Melbourne, they ousted the No.1 seeds and defending champions Siniakova/Townsend in QF, then beat No.5 seeds Dabrowski/Stefani in SF
- They are seeking their second title as a team, with their prior title coming last year at WTA 250 Cleveland
- Danilina and Krunic paired up for the first time on Tour in 2022, playing two events together that season and finishing as runners-up at Cleveland (l. Melichar-Martinez/Perez in final)
- They did not team up again until 2025 Roland Garros – at that event, in just their third tournament playing together, they made the final of the clay-court Grand Slam, defeating three seeded teams en route
- They re-teamed at 2025 Montreal and have been regular partners since, winning the title at 2025 Cleveland and reaching additional finals at Tokyo and WTA 1000 Wuhan
- Their strong year-end finish led them to become doubles alternates at 2025 WTA Finals Riyadh, although they did not play any matches there
- The duo opened the 2026 season with back-to-back semifinal finishes at Brisbane (l. Bucsa/Perez) and Adelaide (l. eventual champions Siniakova/Zhang); they are currently 8-2 on the year

## **Danilina:**

- Currently ranked World No.14 in women's doubles; she reached her career-high doubles ranking of No.8 on June 30, 2025
- This is her 3rd career women's doubles Grand Slam final – along with her 2025 Roland Garros R-Up with Krunic, she was also the 2022 Australian Open R-Up with Beatriz Haddad Maia (l. Krejčíková/Siniakova)
- She has won one Grand Slam title in mixed doubles, pairing with Harri Heliövaara to win that event at the 2023 US Open (d. Pegula/Krajiček in final)
- Has won 11 WTA Tour doubles titles in her career, including two last year – alongside her Cleveland title with Krunic, Danilina prevailed at Eastbourne with Marie Bouzková

## **Krunic:**

- Currently at her career-high doubles ranking of No.17, which she reached for the first time on October 27, 2025
  - Is contesting her 2nd career Grand Slam final, after 2025 Roland Garros R-Up with Danilina last year
  - Has won eight WTA Tour doubles titles in her career, including two last year – alongside her Cleveland title with Danilina, Krunic triumphed at Rouen with Sabrina Santamaria
  - Krunic has also been as high as No.39 in the singles rankings, winning one WTA Tour singles title (2018 's-Hertogenbosch) and reaching R16 as a qualifier at 2014 US Open (l. the previous year's finalist Azarenka)
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## **Mertens/Zhang Quick Hits**

### **2022 Wimbledon runners-up**

#### **Team W-L in doubles: 17-5**

- Mertens and Zhang are into their second Grand Slam final as a team, having finished as runners-up at 2022 Wimbledon (l. Krejčíková/Siniakova in final)
- In this fortnight's 2nd round, they saved 3 match points and outlasted teens Iva Jović and Victoria Mboko via a 12-10 third-set tiebreak
- They moved on to the semifinals of this event, where they bested the unseeded team of Ena Shibahara and 41-year-old Vera Zvonareva
- This would be their first title as a pairing, following runner-up finishes on grass in 2022 at both Wimbledon and Birmingham
- This is only their 7th event together as a team – they paired up for the first time at 2019 Mallorca, and then waited three years to team up again at the previously mentioned 2022 grass-court events
- Their 2022 Wimbledon R-Up performance occurred in just their third tournament playing together
- They teamed up at three more events in 2024-25 (reaching no semifinals at those tournaments), and made their 2026 team debut here in Melbourne – where they have made another Grand Slam final



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## **Mertens:**

- Currently ranked No.6, Mertens will reclaim the WTA Doubles World No.1 ranking after the Australian Open, regardless of the final result
- Mertens reached World No.1 in the doubles rankings for the first time on May 10, 2021, and has held the top spot for a total of 39 weeks in her career
- Is already a 2-time women's doubles champion at the Australian Open, triumphing in 2021 alongside Aryna Sabalenka (d. Krejčíková/Siniakova in final) and 2024 with Hsieh Su-wei (d. L. Kichenok/Ostapenko in final)
- Into her 8th Grand Slam doubles final and seeking her 6th Grand Slam doubles title (won other Slam titles at 2019 US Open w/ Sabalenka; 2021 Wimbledon w/Hsieh; and 2025 Wimbledon with V. Kudermetova)
- Has won 23 WTA Tour doubles titles in her career, including last year's WTA Finals (w/V. Kudermetova)
- Also has reached No.12 in the singles rankings; she has won 10 WTA Tour singles titles, and her best Grand Slam singles performance is her SF run at the 2018 Australian Open (l. eventual champion Wozniacki)

## **Zhang:**

- Currently ranked No.15 in the doubles rankings; she has been as high as No.2, which she reached for the first time on July 11, 2022
- Zhang won her first Grand Slam title at the 2019 Australian Open, partnering Australia's Samantha Stosur to the crown (d. defending champions Babos/Mladenovic in final)
- Zhang and Stosur won a second Grand Slam title together at the 2021 US Open (d. Gauff/McNally in final)
- This is her 5th career Grand Slam doubles final; she was also R-Up at 2022 Wimbledon (w/Mertens; l. Krejčíková/Siniakova) and 2024 US Open (w/Mladenovic, l. L. Kichenok/Ostapenko in final)
- Has won 16 WTA Tour doubles titles in her career, including one already this year at Adelaide (w/Siniakova, d. today's opponents Danilina/Krunić in SF and L. Kichenok/Krawczyk in final)
- Climbed to No.22 in the singles rankings in 2023; she has won 3 WTA Tour singles titles and made Grand Slam QFs at 2016 Australian Open (as a qualifier) and 2019 Wimbledon

## [7] ANNA DANILINA (KAZ) / ALEKSANDRA KRUNIC (SRB)

# ANNA DANILINA



KAZ · 30 yrs · 5'10" (1.78 m)

YTD 2026 CAREER

Current Doubles Rank

14

Doubles Titles

0

Won / Lost

3 / 2

Prize Money

\$25,865

### Career:

Highest Doubles Rank

8

30 Jun 25

Doubles Titles

11

Won / Lost

375 / 217

Prize Money

\$1,747,001

### BIOGRAPHY

PLAYS

Right-Handed

CAREER HIGH

269

HEIGHT

5'10" (1.78 m)

BIRTHDAY

August 20, 1995



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## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

### DOUBLES

Winner (11): 2025 - Cleveland (w/Krunic), Eastbourne (w/Bouzkova)

2024 - Wuhan, Hua Hin #2, Guadalajara 500, Iasi (all w/Khromacheva), Auckland (w/Hruncakova)

2023 - Hamburg (w/Panova)

2022 - Sydney (w/Haddad Maia), Warsaw (w/Friedsam)

2021 - Gdynia (w/Marozava)

Finalist (11): 2025 - Roland Garros, Tokyo, Wuhan (all w/Krunic), Nottingham (w/Shibahara),

Queen's Club (w/Shnaider), Merida (w/Khromacheva)

2024 - Budapest (w/Khromacheva), Rabat (w/Xu)

2022 - Australian Open, Guadalajara 1000 (both w/Haddad Maia), Cleveland (w/Krunic)

### MIXED DOUBLES GRAND SLAM TITLES

Winner (1): 2023 - US Open (w/Heliovaara)

### WTA 125 TITLES AND FINALS

#### DOUBLES

Winner (3): 2024 - Bari, Parma (w/Khromacheva)

2023 - Paris 125 (w/Zvonareva)

Finalist (1): 2023 - Angers (w/A.Panova)

# ALEKSANDRA KRUNIC



SRB · 32 yrs · 5' 4" (1.63 m)

FOLLOW ME



YTD 2026 CAREER



Current Doubles Rank

17

Doubles Titles

0

Won / Lost

3 / 2

Prize Money

\$30,265

## Career:

Highest Doubles Rank

17

27 Oct 26

Doubles Titles

8

Won / Lost

264 / 206

Prize Money

\$4,286,455

## BIOGRAPHY

- Coached by Robi Cokan
- Parents are Bratislav and Ivana (both work for an electrical appliances company); younger sister is Anastasia
- Started playing at age 3; favorite shot is drop shot; favorite surface is clay
- Tennis idols growing up were Kim Clijsters and Mary Pierce
- Other interests include psychology and criminology; other hobbies include bowling, shopping and driving her car
- Favorite tournament is Baku; favorite Grand Slam is Australian Open

PLAYS

Right-Handed

CAREER HIGH

39

HEIGHT

5' 4" (1.63 m)

BIRTHDAY

March 15, 1993



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## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

### SINGLES

Winner (1): 2018 - 's-Hertogenbosch

Finalist (2): 2022 - Budapest

2017 - Guangzhou

### DOUBLES

Winner (8): 2025 - Cleveland (w/Danilina), Rouen (w/Santamaria)

2022 - Eastbourne (w/Linette)

2021 - Belgrade (w/Stojanovic)

2019 - Sydney (w/Siniakova), 's-Hertogenbosch (w/Aoyama)

2016 - Rabat (w/Knoll)

2014 - Tashkent (w/Siniakova)

Finalist (9): 2025 - Roland Garros, Tokyo, Wuhan (all w/Danilina), Auckland (w/Santamaria)

2022 - Cleveland (w/Danilina)

2021 - Portoroz, Cluj-Napoca (both w/Pattinama Kerkhove)

2016 - 's-Hertogenbosch (w/Knoll)

2013 - Baku (w/Daniilidou)

### WTA 125 TITLES AND FINALS

#### SINGLES

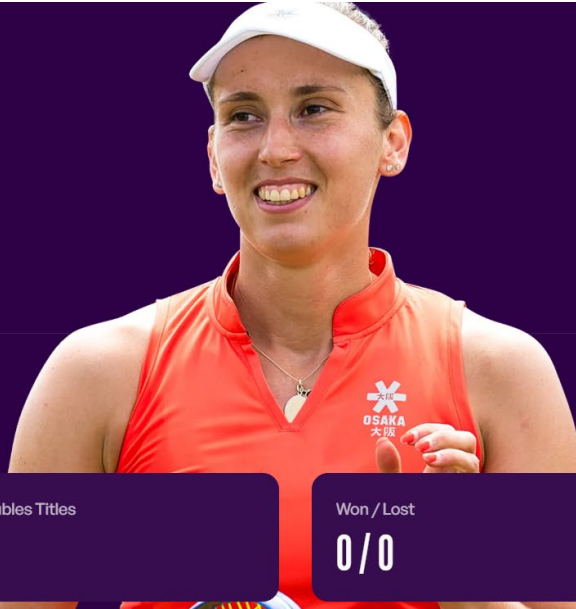
Winner (1): 2017 - Bol

#### DOUBLES

Finalist (1): 2022 - Makarska (w/Danilovic)

## [4] ELISE MERTENS (BEL) / ZHANG SHUAI (CHN)

# ELISE MERTENS



BEL · 30 yrs · 5' 10" (1.79m)

FOLLOW ME

YTD 2026 CAREER

Current Doubles Rank  
**6**

Doubles Titles  
**0**

Won / Lost  
**0 / 0**

Prize Money  
**\$312,500**

### Career:

Highest Doubles Rank  
**1** 10 May 21

Doubles Titles  
**23**

Won / Lost  
**408 / 171**

Prize Money  
**\$18,107,463**

### BIOGRAPHY

- 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.

PLAYS <b>Right-Handed</b>	CAREER HIGH <b>12</b>	HEIGHT <b>5' 10" (1.79m)</b>
BIRTHDAY <b>November 17, 1995</b>	BIRTHPLACE <b>Leuven, Belgium</b>	

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

### SINGLES

Winner (10): 2025 - 's-Hertogenbosch, Singapore

2023 - Monastir

2022 - Monastir

2021 - Gippsland Trophy

2019 - Doha

2018 - Hobart, Lugano, Rabat

2017 - Hobart

Finalist (6): 2025 - Hobart

2024 - Hobart

2021 - Istanbul

2020 - Prague, Linz

2017 - Istanbul

### DOUBLES

Winner (23): 2025 - WTA Finals, Wimbledon (both w/V.Kudermetova)

2024 - Australian Open, Indian Wells, Birmingham (all w/Hsieh)

2023 - Guadalajara, Rome (both w/Hunter)

2022 - Dubai, WTA Finals Fort Worth (both w/Kudermetova)

2021 - Australian Open (w/Sabalenka), Istanbul (w/Kudermetova), Wimbledon, Indian Wells (both w/Hsieh)

2020 - Ostrava (w/Sabalenka)

2019 - Indian Wells, Miami, US Open (all w/Sabalenka)

2018 - Hobart, 's-Hertogenbosch, Wuhan (all w/Schuurs), Lugano (w/Flipkens)

2017 - Guangzhou (w/Schuurs)

2016 - Auckland (w/Mestach)

Finalist (14): 2025 - Rome, Madrid (both w/Kudermetova)

2023 - Wimbledon (w/Hunter)

2022 - Doha, Miami, 's-Hertogenbosch (all w/Kudermetova), Birmingham, Wimbledon (both w/Zhang)

2021 - WTA Finals (w/Hsieh)

2019 - Wuhan (w/Sabalenka)

2018 - Birmingham, Cincinnati (both w/Schuurs)

2017 - Bucharest (w/Schuurs), Istanbul (w/Melichar)

### WTA 125 TITLES AND FINALS

#### DOUBLES

Winner (1): 2016 - Limoges (w/Minella)

Finalist (1): 2015 - Taipei (w/Melnikova)

## SHUAI ZHANG

CHN · 37 yrs · 5' 10" (1.77m)

YTD 2026
CAREER

Current Doubles Rank

### 15

Doubles Titles

### 1

Won / Lost

### 4 / 1

Prize Money

### \$54,200

### Career:

Highest Doubles Rank

### 2

11 Jul 22

Doubles Titles

### 16

Won / Lost

### 403 / 310

Prize Money

### \$11,957,866

## BIOGRAPHY

- Coached by Liu Shuo
- Father, Zhang Zhi Qiang, was a soccer player; mother, Wang Feng Qin, was a basketball player. Started playing tennis aged five when parents took her to local club
- Started working with Chinese Tennis Association at age 12
- Idolized Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal
- Best tennis memory was playing mixed doubles with Pete Sampras in 2011, winning Australian Open doubles championship in 2019 with best friend Sam Stosur, and quarterfinals at 2016 Australian Open and 2019 Wimbledon
- Relaxes by listening to music, taking photos and exploring the places she travels to

<b>PLAYS</b>	<b>CAREER HIGH</b>	<b>HEIGHT</b>
<b>Right-Handed</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5' 10" (1.77m)</b>
<b>BIRTHDAY</b>	<b>BIRTHPLACE</b>	
<b>January 21, 1989</b>	<b>Tianjin, China</b>	



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## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

### SINGLES

Winner (3): 2022 - Lyon  
2017 - Guangzhou  
2013 - Guangzhou

Finalist (3): 2022 - Birmingham  
2021 - Nottingham  
2020 - Hobart

### DOUBLES

Winner (16): 2026 - Adelaide (w/Siniakova)  
2025 - Washington DC (w/Townsend)  
2024 - Guangzhou (w/Siniakova)  
2023 - Abu Dhabi (w/Stefani)  
2022 - Nottingham (w/Haddad Maia)  
2021 - US Open, Cincinnati (both w/Stosur), Ostrava (w/Mirza)  
2019 - Australian Open (w/Stosur)  
2018 - Istanbul (w/Liang), Hiroshima (w/Hozumi), Hong Kong (w/Stosur)  
2014 - Pattaya City (w/Peng)  
2012 - Estoril (w/Chuang), Guangzhou (w/Tanasugarn)  
2011 - Osaka (w/Date)

Finalist (20): 2025 - Montreal (w/Townsend), Stuttgart (w/Alexandrova), Austin (w/Kessler), Abu Dhabi (w/Mladenovic)  
2024 - US Open (w/Mladenovic), Seoul, Birmingham (both w/Kato)  
2022 - Wimbledon, Birmingham (both w/Mertens), Stuttgart (w/Gauff)  
2021 - Courmayeur (w/Hozumi)  
2020 - Hobart (w/Peng)  
2019 - Miami (w/Stosur), Nanchang (w/Peng)  
2017 - Birmingham (w/H. Chan), Zhuhai (w/Lu)  
2014 - Hobart (w/Raymond)  
2013 - Kuala Lumpur (w/Husarova), Osaka (w/Stosur)  
2012 - Monterrey (w/Date)

### WTA 125 TITLES AND FINALS

#### SINGLES

Winner (2): 2017 - Honolulu  
2013 - Nanjing

Finalist (4): 2021 - Angers  
2019 - Anning  
2016 - Honolulu  
2013 - Ningbo

#### DOUBLES

Winner (3): 2025 - Limoges (w/Bucsa)  
2022 - Angers (w/Parks)  
2013 - Ningbo (w/Y.Chan)

Finalist (2): 2024 - Contrexeville (w/Wu)  
2013 - Nanjing (w/Shvedova)