

WTA STORYLINES - US OPEN

Setting The Scene – 2026 Summer Hard Court Swing Champions

Tournament	Champion	Runner-Up
Prague	Lilli Tagger	Daria Snigur
Memphis	Kristina Liutova	Darja Vidmanova
Washington DC	Alexandra Eala	Jessica Pegula
Toronto	Iga Swiatek	Elena Rybakina
Cincinnati	Coco Gauff	Jessica Pegula
Monterrey	Diane Parry	Elise Mertens

Key Storylines

- The 29th **Billie Jean King Power Hour**, an annual **mentoring and educational** event organized by the WTA, was held onsite here in New York on August 27 and attended by emerging players including **Lilli Tagger**, **Hanne Vandewinkel** and **Emerson Jones**
- **Serena Williams** continues her comeback here in New York, contesting the Mixed Doubles event with **Carlos Alcaraz** and partnering sister **Venus** in the women's doubles. The US Open marks her **fifth event** since coming out of retirement
- **Four players** are in contention to finish the US Open with the WTA World No.1 ranking:
 - **Elena Rybakina** – will become the new No.1 for the first time in her career provided Sabalenka, Pegula and Gauff do not win the US Open. Will secure the top ranking regardless if she reaches the semifinals
 - **Aryna Sabalenka** - must win the title and have Rybakina lose before the semifinals to remain at No.1. She will have spent 99 consecutive weeks at the summit and 107 weeks overall by the end of the tournament
 - **Jessica Pegula** - must win the title and have Rybakina lose before the semifinals
 - **Coco Gauff** - must win the title and have Rybakina lose before the semifinals
- It's 5 years since **Emma Raducanu** won the 2021 US Open title as a qualifier ranked No.150 in the world, becoming the first British woman to capture a Grand Slam title since Virginia Wade triumphed at Wimbledon in 1977
- The doubles team of **Katerina Siniakova** and **Taylor Townsend** became the first players to secure qualification for the **WTA Finals Indian Wells** earlier this month, with the pairing now set to compete on tennis' ultimate stage in the season finale. PIF WTA Doubles World No.1 Siniakova and Chicago native Townsend will make their **third consecutive appearance** as a team at the WTA Finals, with their best result together coming with a **runner-up finish in 2024**

Partnerships and Corporate Communications

- **WTA Ventures** has appointed **IMG** as its broadcast production partner in a multi-year agreement starting at the beginning of the 2027 season. **IMG** will lead the delivery of **coverage** across more than **50 WTA Tour events each season** providing services including **host broadcast production**, world feed production, global distribution, technical operations and **short-form content production**. The partnership is the latest element of the WTA's

strategy to **raise the profile and impact of the women's Tour** through investment in compelling storytelling, innovative coverage and deeper audience engagement

- **WTA Chair Valerie Camillo** and **WTA Ventures CEO Marina Storti** spoke to **Forbes** as part of their [Performance Layer](#) series spotlighting the business architecture behind tennis' massive economic transformation, from **increasing player earnings** off the court to multi-million dollar **stadium renovations**
- The groundbreaking **PIF WTA Maternity Fund Program** has won the **Activation of the Year** category at the **Leaders Sports Awards**. More than just a sponsorship activation, the initiative is a commitment to athlete wellbeing, gender equity and the future of women's sport. [Click here](#) to see the impact of the Maternity Fund on WTA athletes

Legends Milestones

- **Mary Carillo** was inducted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame** alongside ATP great Roger Federer on the eve of the US Open. **Carillo**, who is enshrined in the Contributor Category, has **blazed a trail** for women in sports media and remains a valued member of the WTA family, receiving the 2022 **WTA Georgina Clark Mother Award** for her contributions
- A **media roundtable** is provisionally scheduled for Wednesday, September 2 at 10:30am ET (onsite) to preview to the **2026 Billie Jean King Cup Finals**. The event's Tournament Director and **WTA Legend Conchita Martínez** will be joined by BJK Cup leadership and pending match schedules, players from Team Ukraine and Team Italy who are in pursuit of a historic three-peat. Media contact - Silvia.Keiser@bjkcup.com or heather.bowler@world.tennis
- **10 years** since **Angelique Kerber** won her second Grand Slam title at 2016 US Open, subsequently rising to **WTA World No.1** on September 12, 2016
- **20 years** since **Maria Sharapova** won the 2006 US Open, the second leg in her career Grand Slam
- **25 years** since **Venus Williams** won her second US Open title by defeating Serena in the first all-sister US Open final (on September 8, 2001)
- **35 years** since **Monica Seles** won the first of her back-to-back US Open titles (1991-92)
- **55 years** since **Chris Evert** made her US Open debut (1971) reaching the semifinals

Race to the WTA Finals Update

- Entering the 2026 US Open, **just under 500 points separates the top four positions** on the PIF Race to the WTA Finals Leaderboard, currently **topped by Elena Rybakina** (5492 points) followed by Aryna Sabalenka (5185), Mirra Andreeva (5184) and Jessica Pegula (5045)
- Overall in singles **every player in the top nine** has a chance to move to the top of the Leaderboard at the end of the US Open
- In doubles, **Gabriela Dabrowski & Luisa Stefani** (No.2, 5723) and **Aleksandra Krunic & Anna Danilina** (No.3, 5518) looks well placed to join Katerina Siniakova & Taylor Townsend in also securing qualification

WTA 125 Snapshot

- Two recent first-time WTA 125 champions have received US Open wildcards:
 - **Carol Young Suh Lee (USA)** won Warsaw in early August, having made her WTA Tour main draw debut two weeks previously, qualifying and reaching the second round in Prague
 - **Taylah Preston (AUS)** won Vancouver in late July defeating fellow Australian Madison Inglis in the final. Preston reached her first Tour-level semifinal in Hobart in January (defeating Emma Raducanu in the quarterfinals)
- The WTA 125 tournament held in **Philadelphia** was recently spotlighted in **Forbes** – [click here](#) to read more