

WTA STORYLINES

INDIAN WELLS, MIAMI AND CHARLESTON / MARCH 2026

Setting The Scene

Tournament	Champion	Runner-Up
Qatar TotalEnergies Open (Doha)	Karolina Muchova (CZE)	Victoria Mboko (CAN)
Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships	Jessica Pegula (USA)	Elina Svitolina (UKR)
Merida Open	Cristina Bucsa (ESP)	Magdalena Frech (POL)
ATX Open (Austin)	Peyton Stearns (USA)	Taylor Townsend (USA)

Off-Court Storylines

- **March 6th** marks the one year anniversary of the [PIF Maternity Fund](#), the **groundbreaking initiative** that provides eligible WTA players with the financial support and comprehensive resources to start or expand their **families**
- **March 8th** is **International Women’s Day** and the WTA will once again spotlight its leading efforts in the maternal health space by debuting *Rally For Her*, a new anthem film from the WTA Foundation. To receive a preview of this video please email Jwalton@wtatennis.com
- In a tradition inspired by the PGA Masters Dinner, Indian Wells’ reigning champion **Mirra Andreeva** will be celebrated at the **Champions' Luncheon**, and has selected **Syrniki** as her dish (fluffy and sweet pancakes from Eastern Europe served with lemon zest and berry compote)
- During Indian Wells **20+ rookie players** from over **15 countries** will take part in various workshops to fully embrace life on Tour as part of the WTA’s annual **New Member Orientation**. This includes learning about the resources available to them for financial planning, opportunities for further education with partner universities, how tournaments operate day-to-day, how to engage effectively with media, and the ways the WTA promotes individual players in the context of the Tour’s overarching *Rally the World* brand campaign
- Also during the BNP Paribas Open almost **80 players** will take part in the WTA’s bi-annual **photoshoot**, with photography and video assets being captured for broadcast, digital, social and marketing purposes
- **Charleston** has once again shown its commitment to the WTA Tour Driven by Mercedes-Benz by **voluntarily doubling** the prize money on offer for the 2026 edition. The tournament will offer a total financial package of **\$2.5m** funded by sponsor Credit One Bank, consisting of a record \$2.3m going towards players' on-site prize money in addition to \$200k being contributed towards **WTA player benefit programs**. **Venus Williams** hailed the decision as "a **powerful message** for the future of tennis"

On-Court Storylines (for statistical queries, please contact WTAstats@wtatennis.com)

- The stage has been set for an exciting **Sunshine Swing** across Indian Wells and Miami, with **12 different singles title** winners through the first two months of the 2026 season
- Only **four** players have won Indian Wells and Miami back-to-back - Stefanie Graf (1994, 1996), Kim Clijsters (2005), Victoria Azarenka (2016) and most recently Iga Swiatek (2022)

- **Aryna Sabalenka** returns to action at Indian Wells for first time since finishing as runner-up at the Australian Open. She advanced to the final of both WTA 1000 events in the Sunshine Swing last year finishing as runner-up at Indian Wells and winning the title at Miami and is defending 1650 points
- **Sabalenka** enters the swing atop the PIF WTA Rankings and will extend her stay at No.1 after the Sunshine Swing. The week of March 30 (after Miami) will mark Sabalenka's 84th week at No.1 and 76th consecutive week at No.1
- With the Tour shifting to the United States, there are currently **six Americans in the Top 20**, including three in the Top 10 - No.4 Coco **Gauff**, No.5 Jessica **Pegula** and No.6 Amanda **Anisimova**
- Other notable players contesting their first event since Melbourne include **Naomi Osaka** (2018 Indian Wells Champion and 2022 Miami runner-up) and **Madison Keys** (2019 Charleston Champion)
- In doubles, **Gabriela Dabrowski** moved up to a new career-high of **No.2** in the PIF WTA Rankings on February 23 having won the Dubai title (partnering Luisa Stefani)

WTA 125 Snapshot

- February has seen **five WTA 125 tournaments completed** so far, across **India, France, Portugal and the United States**
- Key title winners included Thailand's Mananchaya Sawangkaew triumphing at Mumbai, the Ukraine's Daria Snigur winning Oeiras and Dominika Salkova of the Czech Republic being crowned champion at Les Sables d'Olonne
- The second week of Indian Wells sees the **Austin 125** tournament take place which currently has a strong field including former Top 10 player **Beatriz Haddad Maia**

PIF Race to the WTA Finals

- **Jessica Pegula** moved up to No.2 on the **PIF Race to the WTA Finals Leaderboard** following the Middle East swing having added 1000 points courtesy her success in Dubai
- WTA Finals reigning champion **Elena Rybakina** still remains in the top spot and added further points following a quarterfinal run in Doha and a R16 appearance at Dubai
- Rybakina **dramatically qualified** at the last possible moment during 2025's PIF Race to the WTA Finals and went on to win a **record-breaking \$5.235m** as the champion
- In doubles, the team of **Anna Danilina & Aleksandra Krunic** are in pole position – as they have been for much of 2026 - with over 3000 points having enjoyed a hugely successful Middle East swing, winning Doha then making the semifinals at Dubai