



MATCH NOTES

WTA FINALS RIYADH PRESENTED BY PIF RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

NOVEMBER 2- NOVEMBER 9, 2024 | \$15,250,000



WTA Website:

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Tournament Website:

www.wtatennis.com/wta-finals | @WTAFinals

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WTA FINALS – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4 – ROUND ROBIN

SINGLES ADVANCEMENT SCENARIOS – PURPLE GROUP

- If Sabalenka and Zheng win their next match, Sabalenka advances as group winner, Rybakina is eliminated (Zheng and Paolini would play for the No.2 spot on Wednesday)
- If Sabalenka wins in straight sets and Rybakina wins in three sets, Sabalenka advances (position to be determined)
- If Paolini and Rybakina win, Paolini advances as group winner, Zheng is eliminated (Rybakina and Sabalenka play for the No.2 spot on Wednesday)
- If Paolini wins in straight sets and Zheng wins in three sets, Paolini advances (position to be determined)
- Any other combination of results will mean advancement comes down to final matches

No.1 Aryna Sabalenka (1-0) vs. No.4 Jasmine Paolini (1-0)

Series tied 2-2 - Most recently Sabalenka won 6-4, 7-6 (4) in the Round of 16 at 2023 Beijing

Sabalenka has won 21 of her past 22 matches and is closing in on her first year-end No.1 ranking. With that opening 6-3, 6-4 defeat of Zheng, Sabalenka is two group wins from securing the year-end No.1. She won three titles -- Cincinnati, the US Open and Wuhan -- in a span of two months, including her opening round robin win over Zheng.

Paolini posted a 7-6 (5), 6-4 victory over Elena Rybakina in her opening round robin win, her third Top 10 win this year. Paolini became the second-oldest player to win her first match at the WTA Finals, following 29-year-old Li Na in 2011.

No.7 Zheng Qinwen (0-1) vs. No.5 Elena Rybakina (0-1)

Rybakina leads series 2-0, including most recently with a straight-set win at 2023 Beijing

Zheng lost her opening match to Sabalenka (now 0-5 vs. Sabalenka). Rybakina is playing her first tournament since withdrawing from the US Open before her second-round match. This year, Rybakina is 23-6 (.793) on hardcourts, a winning percentage surpassed only by Iga Swiatek (.857) and Sabalenka (.848).



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DOUBLES ADVANCEMENT SCENARIOS – GREEN GROUP

- If Melichar-Martinez & Perez and Hsieh & Mertens win, Melichar-Martinez & Perez advance, Kichenok & Ostapenko are eliminated
- If Siniakova & Townsend and Kichenok & Ostapenko win, Siniakova & Townsend advance, Hsieh & Mertens are eliminated
- Any other combination of results will mean advances comes down to final matches.

[6] N. Melichar-Martinez (USA) / E. Perez (AUS) vs [8] K. Siniakova (CZE) / T. Townsend (USA)

This is the first career meeting between the two teams

Melichar-Martinez/Perez (1-0):

- The duo defeated former WTA Doubles No.1s Mertens and Hsieh in the previous stage 16 61 10-6
- Team qualifies for WTA Finals for second straight season after finishing as runners-up last year
- Have been regular partners since April 2022
- Teamed up to win two WTA 500 titles this year (San Diego and Bad Homburg) and also reached finals at Linz and WTA 1000 Dubai
- This is the fourth time Melichar-Martinez will contest matches at the WTA Finals; along with her final last year, she played in 2018 (w/Peschke, lost opening match) and 2021 (made SF w/Schuurs)
- This is their second WTA Finals appearance as a team
- Perez hit a career-high ranking of No.7 earlier this year, and she has won 7 career WTA doubles titles

Siniakova/Townsend (1-0):

- The duo most recently defeated No.1 seeds Ostapenko/Kichenok in the previous stage 36 63 11-9
- Siniakova captured five doubles titles this year, including two Grand Slams - all with different partners
- As a team, Siniakova/Townsend captured the Wimbledon title
- Siniakova's individual doubles record this year is 46-11
- Siniakova enters the WTA Finals as WTA World No.1 in doubles, a distinction she has held for 123 total weeks (as of October 28), good for sixth most in Tour history trailing only Natasha Zvereva (124), Lisa Raymond (137), Cara Black (163), Liezel Huber (199) and Martina Navratilova (237)
- Townsend won a total of three doubles titles in 2024, each with a different partner: Washington DC (w/Muhammad), Wimbledon (w/Siniakova), Adelaide (w/Haddad Maia)
- Townsend is making her WTA Finals debut, while Siniakova is making her 6th consecutive WTA Finals appearance; she previously teamed up with Barbora Krejcikova to compete at the WTA Finals five times: 2018 (R-Up), 2019 (RR), 2021 (Won), 2022 (R-Up) and 2023 (RR)
- Among this year's doubles field, Siniakova is tied with Gabriela Dabrowski and Elise Mertens for most WTA Finals appearances



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[1] L. Kichenok (UKR) / J. Ostapenko (LAT) vs [3] S. Hsieh (TPE) / E. Mertens (BEL)

*The teams previously faced at the Australian Open 2024 final, where Hsieh/Mertens won 61 75
Hsieh/Mertens are 2-0 over Kichenok/Ostapenko; the duos most recently faced at Madrid 2024*

Kichenok/Ostapenko (0-1):

- The team is looking for their first win this tournament, following a defeat in the previous round to Siniakova/Townsend
- Making their second appearance together at WTA Finals, having reached the semifinals in 2022.
- The team reached four finals this season winning titles at US Open (which was both players' first Grand Slam title in women's doubles), Brisbane and Eastbourne. Also finished as runners-up at the Australian Open.
- Played 15 tournaments in 2024 winning three titles
- Ostapenko, the 2017 Roland Garros singles champion and 2019 Wimbledon mixed doubles runner-up, has now reached a final at each of the Grand Slams
- The duo first teamed up at 2018 Montreal and has played together in 64 tournaments winning five titles together
- Ostapenko also qualified for the WTA Finals in singles in 2017 (1-2 in round robin stage)

Hsieh/Mertens (0-1):

- The team is looking for their first win this tournament, following a defeat in the previous round to Melichar-Martinez/Perez
- Team of former WTA Doubles No.1s returns to WTA Finals after finishing as runners-up in 2021
- Re-formed pairing in 2024 and won their second Grand Slam title as a team at Australian Open (previous team Grand Slam title came at 2021 Wimbledon)
- Won 3 titles as a team this season (also Birmingham and WTA 1000 Indian Wells)
- Played just two tournaments in the second half of the season, going 0-2 after Wimbledon SF (lost opening matches at Cincinnati and US Open)
- Mertens has qualified for the WTA Finals in doubles every year since 2018 (the WTA Finals were not held in 2020) and won the title in 2022 (w/Kudermetova)
- Mertens has reached at least the semifinals at the WTA Finals every year since 2021, all with different partners – 2021 (R-Up w/Hsieh), 2022 (Won, w/Kudermetova) and 2023 (SF, w/Hunter)
- Hsieh is a former WTA Doubles World No.1 who has won 35 career WTA doubles titles
- This is the fifth year Hsieh has qualified for the WTA Finals, and she won the title in 2013 (w/Peng); Hsieh has never lost before the final in her previous four appearances; she won the 2013 title with Peng and reached the final in 2014 (w/Peng), 2019 (w/Strycova) and 2021 (w/Mertens)
- Mertens is a former WTA Doubles World No.1 who has won 21 career WTA doubles titles



2
WIN

4
MATCHES
PLAYED

2
WIN



1 **ARYNA**
SABALENKA (1)

JASMINE
(4) PAOLINI **4**
ITALY

1998-05-05	Date of Birth	1996-01-04
	Residence	Bagni di Lucca, Italy
Right-handed (two-handed backhand)	Plays	Right-Handed
5' 11" (1.82m)	Height	5' 4" (1.63m)
1	Career-High Ranking	4
\$29,071,823	Career Prize Money	\$7,679,987
\$8,694,260	Season Prize Money	\$5,030,798
4 / 17	Singles Titles YTD / Career	1 / 2
77-23 (Champion: 2024 US OPEN, AUSTRALIAN OPEN; 2023 AUSTRALIAN OPEN)	Grand Slam W-L (best)	22-20 (Runner-Up: 2024 WIMBLEDON, ROLAND GARROS)
1-0 / 7-6 (Runner-Up: 2022)	YTD / Career WTA FINALS W-L (best)	1-0 / 1-0
55-12 / 304-122	YTD / Career W-L	40-18 / 118-105
39-7 / 211-78	YTD / Career Hard W-L	20-11 / 70-60
13-8 / 90-64	YTD / Career 3-Set W-L	10-10 / 47-33
8-4 / 63-43	YTD / Career TB W-L	10-4 / 25-18
4-3 / 18-19	YTD / Career TOP 5 W-L	5-3 / 7-9
Champion: WUHAN, US OPEN, CINCINNATI, AUSTRALIAN OPEN	YTD Best Result	Champion: DUBAI



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**ARYNA
SABALENKA**

**JASMINE
PAOLINI**

HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

YEAR	TOURNAMENT	SURFACE	ROUND	WINNER	SCORE/ RESULT	TIME
2023	BEIJING	HARD	3r	Aryna Sabalenka	6-4 7-6(4)	1h 37m
2022	INDIAN WELLS	HARD	2r	Jasmine Paolini	2-6 6-3 6-3	1h 47m
2020	LINZ	HARD	1r	Aryna Sabalenka	6-4 6-4	1h 26m
2017	ILKLEY	GRASS	1r	Jasmine Paolini	4-6 7-5 7-6(2)	0m

RANKING HISTORY

TOP RANK	YEAR-END	YEAR	TOP RANK	YEAR-END
1	-	2024	4	-
1	2	2023	29	30
2	5	2022	44	59
2	2	2021	51	53
10	10	2020	93	95
9	11	2019	114	117
11	11	2018	130	190
76	78	2017	130	137
154	159	2016	244	245
539	548	2015	309	581



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TOURNAMENT HISTORY

CURRENT TOURNAMENT

GRP: d. Q. ZHENG (#7) 6-3 6-4 (1h 23m)

Total time on court: 1h 23m

PLAYER NOTES

- Making 4th appearance at WTA Finals, where her best result was R-Up in 2022 (at Fort Worth, L. Garcia in championship match)
- Has also reached semifinal in 2023 (at Cancun, L. eventual champion Swiatek); made debut appearance at WTA Finals in 2021 (Guadalajara, 1-2 in group stage)
- Has beaten Zheng in first group match, raising her record against Zheng to 5-0
- Faces No.4 Jasmine Paolini in second group match today; bidding for ninth consecutive Top 10 win on hardcourts; owns 39 wins in career over Top 10 players (10-4 in 2024), having won all the previous 7 matches against such opponents; last time Sabalenka lost to an Top 10 opponent was against No.1 Swiatek in championship match at Rome 2024
- Owns 7-3 career record against players from Italy, with record in 2024 standing at 3-0, having defeated Bronzetti at Brisbane and US Open and Cocciaretto at Cincinnati
- 15 out of her 17 singles titles have come on hard court, including the four titles she won in 2024 - Wuhan, US Open, Cincinnati and Australian Open
- Is No. 1 seed this week; has been top seed at 20 tournaments in her career
- Is currently ranked No.1 which she just reclaimed on Oct 21, 2024, overtaking Iga Swiatek in the top spot; this time last year was ranked No.2
- Aryna Sabalenka is the first player to make consecutive appearances at the WTA Finals as world No.1 since Serena Williams (2013-14).
- Has won 55 matches so far in 2024, only Swiatek (57) has more wins

CURRENT TOURNAMENT

GRP: d. E. RYBAKINA (#5) 7-6 6-4 (1h 44m)

Total time on court: 1h 44m

PLAYER NOTES

- Making debut appearance at WTA Finals
- Has beaten Elena Rybakina in group opening match, her first win at WTA Finals; also won opening match in doubles (w/Errani)
- Since the reintroduction of the round robin format in 2003, Jasmine Paolini becomes only the fourth Italian to appear at the WTA Finals after Francesca Schiavone (2010), Sara Errani (2012-13) and Flavia Pennetta (2015)
- Jasmine Paolini (28 years and 303 days) becomes the second-oldest player to make their maiden WTA Finals appearance as a top-five ranked player, after Li Na (29 years and 241 days) in 2011 – since the WTA rankings were first published in 1975.
- Faces No.1 Aryna Sabalenka in second group match today; looking for her first win against world No.1, having failed in all of her previous three attempts against world No.1 - lost Swiatek at Roland Garros 2024 (in championship match) and US Open 2022, lost to today's opponent at Beijing 2023
- Bidding to become first Italian woman to defeat the World No.1 since Roberta Vinci (d. S.Williams, 2015 US Open SF)
- Both of her two career singles titles have come on hard court at Dubai 2024 and Portoroz 2021
- Is currently ranked at career-best No.4, achieved on Oct 28, 2024; this time last year was ranked No.30
- Has won 40 matches so far in 2024; along with Sabalenka, won 18 matches at the Slams in 2024, the most on Tour



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RECENT TOURNAMENT HISTORY

2023	Result	Rank: 1	Seed: 1
SF	L	I. SWIATEK (#2)	6-3 6-2
1r	W	M. SAKKARI (#9)	6-0 6-1
1r	L	J. PEGULA (#5)	6-4 6-3
1r	W	E. RYBAKINA (#4)	6-2 3-6 6-3

2022	Result	Rank: 7	Seed: 7
F	L	C. GARCIA (#6)	7-6(4) 6-4
SF	W	I. SWIATEK (#1)	6-2 2-6 6-1
1r	L	M. SAKKARI (#5)	6-2 6-4
1r	W	J. PEGULA (#3)	6-3 7-5
1r	W	O. JABEUR (#2)	3-6 7-6(5) 7-5

2021	Result	Rank: 2	Seed: 1
1r	L	P. BADOSA (#10)	6-4 6-0
1r	W	I. SWIATEK (#9)	2-6 6-2 7-5
1r	L	M. SAKKARI (#6)	7-6(1) 6-7(6) 6-3

- Making her tournament debut in Main Draw Singles



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SEASON 2024 HISTORY

- Won her third consecutive career singles title at Wuhan Open (d. Qinwen Zheng in F)
- Reached QF at Beijing (l. Muchova)
- Won her third Grand Slam singles title and the first at US Open (d. Pegula in F)
- Claimed second title of the season at Cincinnati (d. Pegula in F)
- Finished QF at Toronto (l. Anisimova)
- Reached SF at Washington DC (l. Bouzkova)
- Withdrew from Wimbledon due to shoulder injury
- Made QF at Berlin (l. Kalinskaya, RET)
- Reached QF at Roland Garros (l. M. Andreeva)
- Reached back-to-back finals at Rome and Madrid, defeated by WTA World No.1 Swiatek on both occasions
- Reached QF at Stuttgart (l. Vondrousova)
- Made 3r at Miami Open (l. Kalinina) and 4r at Indian Wells (l. Navarro)
- Played 2r at Dubai (l. Vekic)
- Defended her Australian Open title and earned second Grand Slam career victory (d. Zheng)
- Achieved R-Up in her 2024 season opener at Brisbane (l. Rybakina)

- Made QF at Wuhan (l. Qinwen Zheng)
- Reached 3r at Beijing (l. Linette)
- Made her first 4r at US Open (l. Muchova)
- Reached 3r at Cincinnati (l. M. Andreeva)
- Made 2r at Paris Olympics (l. Schmiedlova) and won women's doubles gold medal for Italy (w/Errani)
- Reached back-to-back final at Grand Slams of 2024 season, finished R-Up at Wimbledon (l. Krejčíková in F)
- Notched first career grass-court main draw match win at Eastbourne en route to SF (l. eventual champion Kasatkina)
- Reached first career Grand Slam final with wins over Bianca Andreescu, Elena Rybakina and Mirra Andreeva (R-Up, l. Swiatek in F); after Roland Garros made Top 10 debut, becoming fifth Italian to crack WTA Top 10
- After 1r bye, fell in 2r to Sherif at Rome; won her fourth career doubles title, w/Errani
- Made 4r at Madrid (l. M. Andreeva)
- Reached QF at Stuttgart (l. eventual champion Rybakina)
- Contested 3r at Miami (l. Navarro)
- Reached R16 at Indian Wells (l. Potapova)
- Won her second WTA singles career title after defeating Kalinskaya at Dubai; subsequently made her Top 20 debut at No.14
- Fell in opening round at Doha (l. Navarro)
- Contested 1r at Linz (l. Boulter)
- Reached R16 at Australian Open (l. Kalinskaya)
- Played 1r at Adelaide (l. Bucsa)
- Started the 2024 season representing Italy at the 2024 United Cup, going 1-1 in singles play (d. Kerber) (l. Garcia)



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SEASON 2024 STATS

VALUE	WTA RANK	MATCH STATS	VALUE	WTA RANK
298	3	Aces	89	58
62.7%	41	First serve %	67.9%	11
70.4%	9	First Serve points won %	63.3%	50
50.8%	4	Second serve points won %	48.4%	12
63.1%	3	Overall service points won %	58.5%	32
79.4%	3	Service games won %	68.9%	34
62.4%	6	Break points saved %	54.4%	58
36.3%	55	First serve return points won %	40.2%	10
59.1%	5	Second serve return points won %	55.8%	32
47.0%	29	Break points converted %	48.1%	17
39.2%	21	Return games won %	40.1%	16
45.4%	23	Return points won %	45.7%	17

Best win by ranking: No.1 vs Swiatek in CINCINNATI SF
Longest match: 3h 11m vs Swiatek in MADRID F
Shortest match: 34m vs Kalinskaya in BERLIN QF
Match points saved: 3 vs Svitolina in ROME 4r
4 vs Stearns in INDIAN WELLS 2r
Most aces in a match: 13 vs Rakhimova in WASHINGTON DC 2r

Best win by ranking: No.4 vs Rybakina in ROLAND GARROS QF
Longest match: 2h 51m vs Vekic in WIMBLEDON SF
Shortest match: 33m vs Mertens in EASTBOURNE 2r
Match points saved: 1 vs Cirstea in DUBAI SF
Most aces in a match: 4 vs Boulter in EASTBOURNE QF

**ARYNA
SABALENKA**

**JASMINE
PAOLINI**

TITLES & GRAND SLAMS

SINGLES FINALS

Champion (17)
2024 - WUHAN, US OPEN, CINCINNATI, AUSTRALIAN OPEN
2023 - MADRID, AUSTRALIAN OPEN, ADELAIDE #1
2021 - MADRID, ABU DHABI
2020 - LINZ, OSTRAVA, DOHA
2019 - ZHUHAI, WUHAN, SHENZHEN
2018 - WUHAN, NEW HAVEN
Runner-Up (14)
2024 - ROME, MADRID, BRISBANE
2023 - US OPEN, STUTTGART, INDIAN WELLS
2022 - WTA FINALS, 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH, STUTTGART
2021 - STUTTGART
2019 - SAN JOSE
2018 - EASTBOURNE, LUGANO
2017 - TIANJIN

DOUBLES FINALS

Champion (6)
2021 - BERLIN (w/Azarenka), AUSTRALIAN OPEN (w/Mertens)
2020 - OSTRAVA (w/Mertens)
2019 - US OPEN (w/Mertens), MIAMI (w/Mertens), INDIAN WELLS (w/Mertens)
Runner-Up (2)
2019 - WUHAN (w/Mertens)
2018 - LUGANO (w/Lapko)

SINGLES FINALS

Champion (2)
2024 - DUBAI
2021 - PORTOROZ
Runner-Up (5)
2024 - WIMBLEDON, ROLAND GARROS
2023 - MONASTIR, PALERMO
2022 - CLUJ-NAPOCA

DOUBLES FINALS

Champion (6)
2024 - BEIJING (w/Errani), OLYMPICS (w/Errani), ROME (w/Errani), LINZ (w/Errani)
2023 - MONASTIR (w/Errani)
2021 - HAMBURG (w/Teichmann)
Runner-Up (2)
2024 - ROLAND GARROS (w/Errani)
2022 - MELBOURNE 250 #1 (w/Errani)

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

**ARYNA
SABALENKA**

**JASMINE
PAOLINI**

CAREER MILESTONES

- Outstanding 2023 saw her win debut Grand Slam title at Australian Open (d. Rybakina in F), reach second Major final at US Open (l. Gauff in F) and become the WTA World No.1 player for the first time in career (after US Open). In addition won titles at Adelaide and Madrid.
- Highlight of 2022 season was R-Up finish at WTA Finals in Fort Worth (l. Garcia in F); upset No.1 Swiatek, No.2 Jabeur and No.3 Pegula en route to final - only the fourth woman in history to beat the No.1, No.2 and No.3 at the same tournament
- Lifted two titles during 2021 campaign, at Abu Dhabi and Madrid, while was R-Up at Stuttgart. Also reached a further three SFs, including at Wimbledon and US Open
- Rose to career-high No.2 in rankings on August 23, 2021
- In doubles, lifted second major at 2021 Australian Open (w/Mertens, d. Krejčíková/Siniakova in F)
- Won final nine matches of 2020 to end the year with back-to-back titles - at Ostrava (d. Azarenka in F) and Linz (d. Mertens in F) - and ranked at No.10
- Having also taken home the silverware at Doha (d. Kvitová in F), was one of two players (also Halep) to lift three singles titles during disrupted 2020 season
- Ended as World No.11 for the second straight year in 2019 after capturing three WTA singles titles at Shenzhen (d. Riske in F), Wuhan (d. Riske in F) and Zhuhai (d. Bertens in F)
- Made Top-10 debut on January 28, 2019 following 3r run at 2019 Australian Open
- Ended 2019 at No.2 in WTA doubles rankings after capturing first Grand Slam doubles trophy at US Open (w/Mertens, d. Azarenka/Barty in F). Earlier in the season, the pair claimed the 'Sunshine Double' by winning back-to-back titles at Indian Wells (d. Krejčíková/Siniakova in F) and Miami (d. Stosur/ Zhang in F)
- Qualified for WTA Finals Shenzhen in doubles (w/Mertens), going 1-2 in the round-robin stage
- Enjoyed breakthrough season in 2018, lifting two titles, at New Haven (d. Suárez Navarro in F) and Wuhan (d. Kontaveit in F), winning 46 matches and finishing at No.11 in the rankings
- Also in 2018, was R-Up at Lugano (l. Mertens) and Eastbourne (l. Wozniacki), made SF at Cincinnati, reached five QFs and produced a career-best Grand Slam run to R16 at US Open
- Entered Top 50 on April 16, 2018, after Lugano run, and Top 20 on August 27 of the same year,
- Finished 2023 by breaking into Top 30 for first time, achieving No. 29 on Oct 23, 2023 after becoming runner-up at Monastir (l. Mertens). Also achieved runner-up at Palermo and SF at Zhengzhou (l. Zheng both times) as well as QFs at Lyon (l. Garcia) and Cincinnati as a qualifier (l. eventual champion Gauff). Enjoyed two Top 10 wins (No.10 Garcia and No.4 Rybakina).
- In 2022, finished R-Up at Cluj-Napoca (l. Blinkova), while made back-to-back SF at Palermo (l. Bronzetti) and Warsaw (l. eventual champion Garcia)
- Also reached QF at Lyon (l. Yastremska), Portoroz (l. eventual champion Siniakova) and Parma (l. Kovinic)
- Broke into Top 50 on January 31, 2021
- Posted near-Top 50 season finish in 2021 after capturing first WTA singles title of career at Portoroz (d. Riske in F)
- Strong season finish also brought SF run at Courmayeur (l. eventual champion Vekic) and QF effort at Linz (l. Halep); posted best win of season over No.18 Mertens en route to 3r at Indian Wells (l. Pegula)
- Also in 2021 won the WTA 125K event in Bol, Croatia (d. Rus in F) and was R-Up at the same level in Saint Malo (l. Golubic) Captured first WTA doubles title in 2021, at Hamburg (w/Teichmann)
- In 2021, for first time in career, contested the full suite of all four Grand Slam events; reached 2r at Roland Garros and USOpen, equalling best previous Slam result
- In 2020, reached 2r four times at WTA tournaments, including Roland Garros (l. Kvitová)
- Highlights of 2019 included QF showings at Guangzhou and Palermo, a SF run at the WTA 125K Series event at Karlsruhe, lifting seventh, eighth and ninth ITF Circuit titles of her career, at \$60KBrescia-ITA, \$25K ITF/Curtiba-BRA and \$100K ITF/Tokyo-JPN, and qualifying for maiden Grand Slam main draw at Roland Garros (l. Kasatkina in 1r)
- Ended 2018 ranked No.180, with season highlight a maiden WTA singles QF at Prague (d. No.15 Kasatkina, l. Zhang)
- Made WTA main draw debut at 2017 Bastad (l. Suarez Navarro in 1r) and also fell 1r at Guangzhou and in qualifying a further three times
- Part of Italy's Billie Jean King Cup team 2017-19
- Made WTA qualifying debut at 2015 Rome

- following New Haven title
- Broke into Top 100 at No.76 on October 16, 2017 after reaching first Tour-level final at Tianjin (l. Sharapova). Also in 2017 made SF at Tashkent (l. Babos) and lifting WTA 125k Series title at Mumbai (d. Jakupovic)
 - Made Grand Slam main draw debut 2017 Wimbledon, falling in 2r (as qualifier, d. Khromacheva, l. Witthoeft)
 - Fell 1r on main draw debut at 2017 Dubai (as qualifier, l. Ka.Bondarenko)
 - Member of Belarus Billie Jean King Cup team that lost to USA in 2017 final - scored first Top-20 win of career with defeat of No.13 Stephens during final in Minsk
 - WTA qualifying debut came at 2016 Rabat
 - Lifted first three ITF Circuit titles in 2015, including a 13-match win streak towards the year's end, bringing back-to-back trophies in Antalya, Turkey
 - Made debut on ITF Circuit in Minsk in 2012

- Owns nine singles and one doubles title on ITF Circuit
- Made professional debut on ITF Circuit in Italy in 2011

OTHER INFORMATION

- Coached by Anton Dubrov;
- Previously coached by Dmitry Tursunov and Didi Kindlmann
- Started playing tennis when she was 6 by an accident when her father Sergey drove by the tennis courts and decided to give it a try
- Has a sweet tooth and considers something sweet as a perfect present; loves her grandmother's cooking, and looks forward to her pancakes when she is away from home
- Has a tiger tattoo on her left arm, which earned her the nickname "The Tiger"
- She spends her time off with family, catching up with friends, or reading; her favorite book is "The Count of Monte Cristo"

- Currently coached by Renzo Furlan
- Resides in Bagni di Lucca and trains in Forte dei Marmi, Italy
- Father is Ugo Paolini, mother is Jacqueline Gardiner and brother is William Paolini. Grandmother lives in Lodz, Poland. Mother is of Ghanaian/Polish descent
- Idolizes Roger Federer
- Favorite shot is her forehand and favorite surface is clay
- Speaks Italian, English and Polish



2
WIN

2
MATCHES
PLAYED

0
WIN



5 **ELENA RYBAKINA (5)**
KAZAKHSTAN

QINWEN (7) ZHENG 7
CHINA

1999-06-17	Date of Birth	2002-10-08
	Residence	Barcelona, Spain
Right-handed (two-handed backhand)	Plays	Right-handed (two-handed backhand)
6' 0" (1.84m)	Height	5' 10" (1.78m)
3	Career-High Ranking	7
\$15,049,990	Career Prize Money	\$6,006,577
\$3,191,915	Season Prize Money	\$3,254,555
3 / 8	Singles Titles YTD / Career	3 / 5
48-18 (Champion: 2022 WIMBLEDON)	Grand Slam W-L (best)	26-12 (Runner-Up: 2024 AUSTRALIAN OPEN)
0-1 / 1-3 (Round of 16: 2023)	YTD / Career WTA FINALS W-L (best)	0-1 / 0-1
41-10 / 210-90	YTD / Career W-L	47-17 / 105-56
23-6 / 132-61	YTD / Career Hard W-L	29-11 / 69-36
14-5 / 59-44	YTD / Career 3-Set W-L	20-4 / 45-19
6-8 / 55-46	YTD / Career TB W-L	6-6 / 22-17
2-3 / 11-14	YTD / Career TOP 5 W-L	6-7 / 9-14
3-3 / 19-20	YTD / Career TOP 10 W-L	8-7 / 13-16
Champion: STUTTGART, ABU DHABI, BRISBANE	YTD Best Result	Champion: TOKYO, OLYMPICS, PALERMO



MATCH NOTES

WTA FINALS RIYADH
2024-11-02 - 2024-11-09 | \$ 15,250,000



**ELENA
RYBAKINA**

**QINWEN
ZHENG**

HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

YEAR	TOURNAMENT	SURFACE	ROUND	WINNER	SCORE/ RESULT	TIME
2023	BEIJING	HARD	1r	Elena Rybakina	6-1 6-2	1h 0m
2022	WIMBLEDON	GRASS	3r	Elena Rybakina	7-6(4) 7-5	1h 50m

RANKING HISTORY

TOP RANK	YEAR-END	YEAR	TOP RANK	YEAR-END
3	-	2024	7	-
3	4	2023	15	15
12	22	2022	25	25
14	14	2021	143	143
17	19	2020	324	324
37	37	2019	633	649
182	191	2018	933	933
420	425	2017	-	-
612	616	2016	-	-



MATCH NOTES



WTA FINALS RIYADH
2024-11-02 - 2024-11-09 | \$ 15,250,000

**ELENA
RYBAKINA**

**QINWEN
ZHENG**

TOURNAMENT HISTORY

CURRENT TOURNAMENT

Total time on court: 0m

PLAYER NOTES

- Making 2nd appearance at WTA Finals, having qualified for Cancun 2023 and played group stage (1-2)
- Lost to Jasmine Paolini in group opening match 7-6(5) 6-4
- Faces No.7 Qinwen Zheng in second group match today; owns 19 wins in career over Top 10 players (3-3 in 2024), most recently No.1 Iga Swiatek at Stuttgart 2024
- First time two players representing Asia at WTA since the event's format change to round robin in 2003
- Owns 13-1 career record against players from China, with record in 2024 standing at 1-0 (d. Lin Zhu at Doha 2024); having played today's opponent Zheng twice and won both times at Beijing 2023 and Wimbledon 2022
- Owns 55-44 career record against seeded opponents (14-5 in 2024)
- Owns four singles titles on hard court - Abu Dhabi, Brisbane in 2024; Indian Wells in 2023; Hobart in 2020
- Is currently ranked No.5; this time last year was ranked No.4
- Has won 41 matches so far in 2024; she is ranked No.6 on tour for match wins
- Owns 79.3% (23-6) match win percentage on hardcourt; third best in 2024 behind only Swiatek (85.7%) and Sabalenka (84.8%)

CURRENT TOURNAMENT

Total time on court: 0m

PLAYER NOTES

- Making debut appearance at WTA Finals
- Since the event's inauguration in 1972, Zheng becomes only the second player from China to compete in singles at the WTA Finals after Li Na (2011-13)
- Faces No.5 Elena Rybakina in GRP today; owns 8 wins in career over Top 10 players, most recently No.6 Jasmine Paolini at Wuhan 2024
- Owns 0-4 career record against players from Kazakhstan, with record in 2024 standing at 0-1
- Owns two singles titles on hard court at Tokyo 2024 and Zhengzhou 2023
- Best result by China at WTA Finals was Runner-Up run by Na Li in 2013 (l. S. Williams in F)
- Is currently ranked No.7; this time last year was ranked No.15
- Strong performance during Asian Swing this year, winning 12 of her 14 matches - won Tokyo (d. Kenin in F), finished R-Up at Wuhan (l. Sabalenka in F) and reached SF at Beijing (l. Muchova)
- Has won 47 matches so far in 2024; she is ranked No.4 on tour for match wins, behind Swiatek (57), Sabalenka (54) and Gauff (50)
- Looking to become the first woman from China to win 50 matches in a season
- Has won a Tour-leading 28 matches since Wimbledon; next most is Sabalenka (25)



MATCH NOTES

WTA FINALS RIYADH
2024-11-02 - 2024-11-09 | \$ 15,250,000



**ELENA
RYBAKINA**

**QINWEN
ZHENG**

RECENT TOURNAMENT HISTORY

2023	Result	Rank: 4	Seed: 4
1r	L	J. PEGULA (#5)	7-5 6-2
1r	L	A. SABALENKA (#1)	6-2 3-6 6-3
1r	W	M. SAKKARI (#9)	6-0 6-7(4) 7-6(2)

- Making her tournament debut in Main Draw Singles

**ELENA
RYBAKINA**

**QINWEN
ZHENG**

SEASON 2024 HISTORY

- Withdrew prior to her 2r match against Ponchet at US Open, due to low back injury
- After 1r bye, fell to Fernandez in 2r at Cincinnati
- Reached SF at Wimbledon (l. eventual champion Krejčíková)
- Made QF at Berlin (l. Azarenka, RET)
- Reached QF at Roland Garros (l. Paolini)
- Withdrew from Rome due to illness before her 1r match
- Reached SF at Madrid (l. Sabalenka)
- Won her third title of the 2024 season at Stuttgart (d. Kostyuk in F)
- Reached her fourth final of 2024 at Miami (l. Collins)
- Reached QF at Dubai, withdrawing prior to the match against Paolini through illness
- Finished Runner-Up at Doha (l. Swiatek in F)
- Won her second title of 2024 and her seventh title overall at Abu Dhabi, defeating Kasatkina in the final
- Played 2r at Australian Open (l. Blinkova)
- Made QF at Adelaide (l. Alexandrova)
- Won the title in her 2024 season opener at Brisbane defeating No.1 seed Sabalenka in the final

- Won at Tokyo (d. Kenin in final)
- Reached finals at Wuhan (l. eventual champion Sabalenka)
- Made SF at Beijing (l. Muchova)
- Reached consecutive QF at US Open (l. eventual champion Sabalenka)
- Made 3r at Cincinnati (l. Pavlyuchenkova)
- Won gold medal in women's singles at Paris Olympics, becoming the first tennis player from China to win a singles medal at Olympics (d. Vekic in F)
- Successfully defended title at Palermo (d. Muchova in F)
- Suffered 1r exit at Wimbledon (l. Sun)
- Reached 2r at Berlin (l. Siniakova)
- Made 3r at Roland Garros (l. Avanesyan)
- Reached QF at Rome for the second consecutive season (l. Gauff)
- Retired during 2r match at Madrid due to injury (l. Putintseva)
- Reached R16 at Stuttgart (l. eventual R-Up, Kostyuk)
- Contested 3r at Miami (l. Azarenka)
- After 1r bye, fell in 2r at Indian Wells (l. Yuan)
- Made QF at Dubai (l. Swiatek)
- Contested R16 at Doha (l. Fernandez)
- Reached her first Grand Slam final at the Australian Open (l. Sabalenka)
- Started the 2024 season representing China in the 2024 United Cup, reaching the QF and going 2-1 in singles play (d. Vondrousova) (d. Danilovic) (l. Swiatek)

VALUE	WTA RANK	MATCH STATS	VALUE	WTA RANK
344	2	Aces	414	1
61.4%	55	First serve %	52.3%	90
72.7%	3	First Serve points won %	76.0%	1
47.6%	19	Second serve points won %	46.8%	35
63.0%	4	Overall service points won %	62.0%	5
79.7%	2	Service games won %	77.3%	5
62.8%	4	Break points saved %	57.0%	37
37.0%	40	First serve return points won %	37.9%	26
57.7%	12	Second serve return points won %	55.7%	36
43.7%	64	Break points converted %	47.6%	21



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MATCH NOTES

WTA FINALS RIYADH

2024-11-02 - 2024-11-09 | \$ 15,250,000



**ELENA
RYBAKINA**

**QINWEN
ZHENG**

TITLES & GRAND SLAMS

SINGLES FINALS

Champion (8)

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)

SINGLES FINALS

Champion (5)

2024 - TOKYO, OLYMPICS, PALERMO

2023 - ZHENGZHOU, PALERMO

Runner-Up (4)

2024 - WUHAN, AUSTRALIAN OPEN

2023 - ZHUHAI

2022 - TOKYO

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



MATCH NOTES



WTA FINALS RIYADH

2024-11-02 - 2024-11-09 | \$ 15,250,000

**ELENA
RYBAKINA**

**QINWEN
ZHENG**

CAREER MILESTONES

- 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 title at Indian Wells and Rome and finished R-Up at Miami. Qualified for first WTA Finals, going 1-2 in Group Stage.
- Lifted maiden major at 2022 Wimbledon (d. Jabeur in F)
- In 2022 also finished R-Up at Adelaide (l. Barty) and Portoroz (l. Siniakova)
- Best result of 2021 were SFs at Eastbourne, Olympics and Chicago [500], and QFs at Abu Dhabi, Roland Garros, San Jose and Ostrava
- Opened 2020 season by reaching the championship match at four of her first five tournaments, including a title run at Hobart (d. Zhang in F)
- Made first final appearance at a Premier-level tournament with R-Up finish at St. Petersburg (l. Bertens); was rewarded with Top 20 debut at No.19 following run in Russia (February 17, 2020)
- First win over a Top-5 ranked opponent came over No.3 Ka.Pliskova during R-Up finish at 2020 Dubai
- Won back-to-back Slam matches for the first time during 3r showing at 2020 Australian Open (l. Barty)
- 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, 2019)
- Also in 2019, went on to make Top 50 debut on September 16, 2019, after reaching second career final at Nanchang (l. Peterson), produced SF appearances at Luxembourg and 's-Hertogenbosch, and made Grand Slam main draw debut at 2019 Roland Garros, falling 1r (as qualifier, l. Siniakova)
- Finished 2019 campaign with 57-21 win-loss record (across all levels) to end season at No.37, up from 2018's final ranking of No.191. On the ITF Circuit in 2019, lifted silverware on three occasions: back-to-back at \$25k Moscow-RUS and \$25k Kazan-RUS, and at \$60k ITF/Launceston-AUS
- Highlights of 2018 included reaching maiden WTA QF at St. Petersburg (l. Goerges) and clinching title at \$15k ITF/Kazan-RUS
- 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)
- Earned 2023 WTA Most Improved Player of year ending the season at No.15 and inside the Top 20 for the first time
- Won maiden WTA titles in 2023 at Palermo (d. Paolini in F) and Zhengzhou (d. Krejckova in F); also reached final at WTA Elite Trophy Zhuhai (l. Haddad Maia), SF at Abu Dhabi and first career Grand Slam QF at US Open (l. Sabalenka)
- Broke into Top 20 for the first time on May 22, 2023
- Won WTA Newcomer of the Year in 2022; reached first WTA final at Tokyo (l. Samsonova) and also made SF at Melbourne Summer Set 1, as qualifier), QF at Toronto and R16 at Roland Garros
- Broke into Top 50 at No.46 after run to fourth round in Paris that year
- Scored first Top 20 win over No.19 Simona Halep at 2022 Roland Garros then earned two Top 10 wins over No.5 Ons Jabeur at Toronto and No.4 Paula Badosa at Tokyo
- Broke into Top 100 on January 31, 2022, following run through qualifying to 2r at Australian Open
- Also won title at WTA 125K event in Valencia in June 2022
- Ended 2021 at No.143, her first Top 150 finish
- Reached 2r on WTA main draw debut in 2021 at Palermo (as qualifier, l. Cristian)
- Made further main draw appearances in 2021 at Moscow (as qualifier, l. Tsurenko in 1r) and Courmayeur (as qualifier, l. Vekic in 1r); also contested qualifying in Strasbourg
- Made WTA debut in 2019, appearing in qualifying at Miami, Tianjin and Wuhan
- Made ITF debut in 2018; gone on to amass nine ITF singles titles with 9-0 record in finals

- Professional debut came at \$10k ITF/Antalya-TUR in 2014

OTHER INFORMATION

- Coached by Goran Ivanisevic
- 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

- Coached by Pere Riba;
- Trains in Barcelona
- Parents encouraged her to play multiple sports in her childhood, including table tennis
- Tennis idol is Roger Federer