

THE BASELINE

DAILY NEWSLETTER



THE FINAL *SHOWDOWN*

Just two contenders remain, yet sole possession of the title awaits either Jasmine Paolini or Anna Kalinskaya as they collide for the chance to become a first-time Dubai champion.

Day 7 | 24 February 2024

TWO DEBUT FINALISTS

After an action-packed week at this year’s Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships, just two remain in the tournament. Qualifier Anna Kalinskaya and World No26 Jasmine Paolini will both play their first WTA 1000 final on Centre Court today. Kalinskaya booked her place in today’s championship match after upsetting World No1 Iga Swiatek in the semifinals, winning in convincing fashion against the four-time Grand Slam winner in straight sets 6-4, 6-4 to become the first qualifier in history to reach the Dubai final. The World No40’s road has also featured victories over US Open champion Coco Gauff and former Dubai champion Jelena Ostapenko.

Her opponent today, Paolini, defeated Sorana Cirstea in the other semifinal yesterday to become

just the fourth Italian to reach a WTA 1000 final. Cirstea, who completed the comeback of the tournament against the reigning Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova in the quarterfinals, attempted what would have been another resounding turnaround against the Italian yesterday. A set down and Paolini breakpoint away from a 4-1 deficit in the second, the World No22 fought to level the second set at six games a piece, but was outlasted in the tiebreak.

The two finalists have met just twice before, with a head-to-head record of one a piece. Their third encounter is for all the marbles here in Dubai.



WHAT’S ON TODAY?

Catch both the singles and doubles finals on Centre Court today, starting from 5pm, while fun family activities can be found throughout the day in the Tennis Village. And don’t forget to be on Centre Court later today at 6:45pm for the pre-match ceremony taking place before the singles final.



*I enjoy everything. I enjoy practicing. I enjoy competing. I love the moments when it’s a difficult score. It’s a challenge. You become stronger as a player. Maybe in the past I wouldn’t face the tough moments so much, but now I feel like I actually enjoy them. I’m looking forward to this challenge in the final. I’m proud to be positive every single day. I’m proud that I actually enjoy playing,” said Qualifier **Anna Kalinskaya** after defeating World No1 Iga Swiatek in yesterday’s semifinal.*

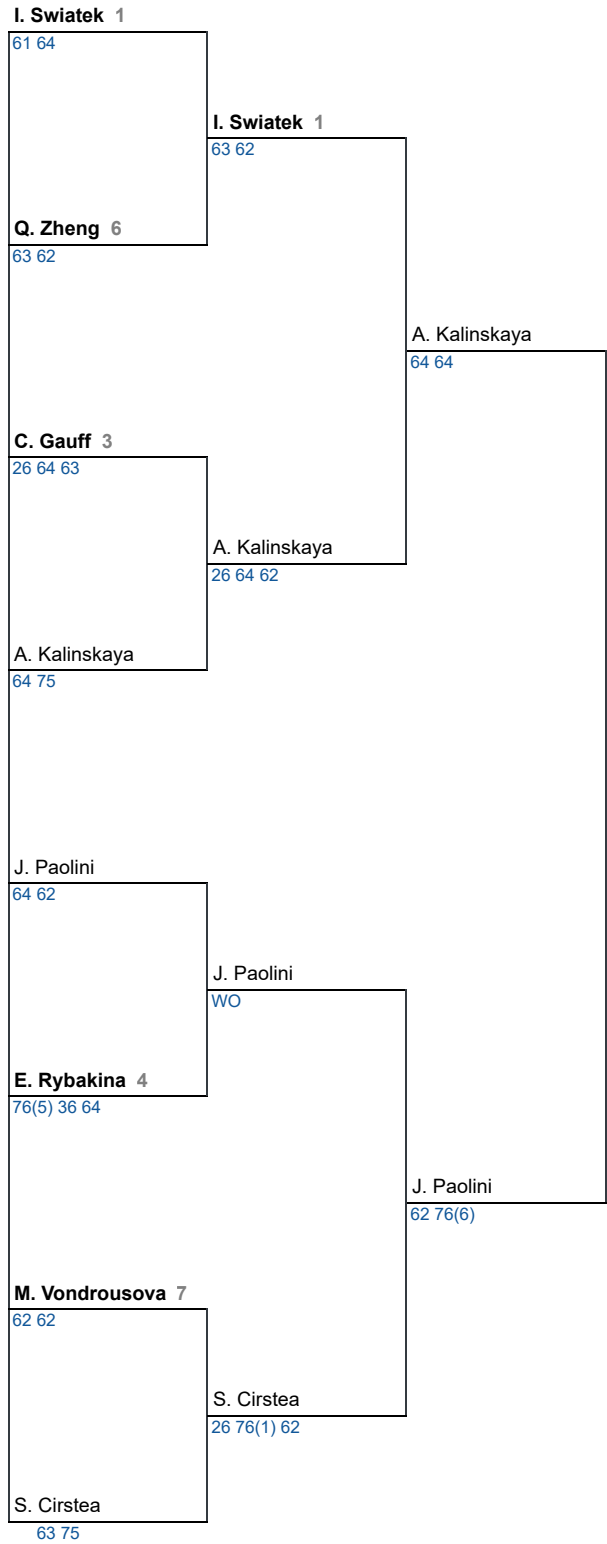


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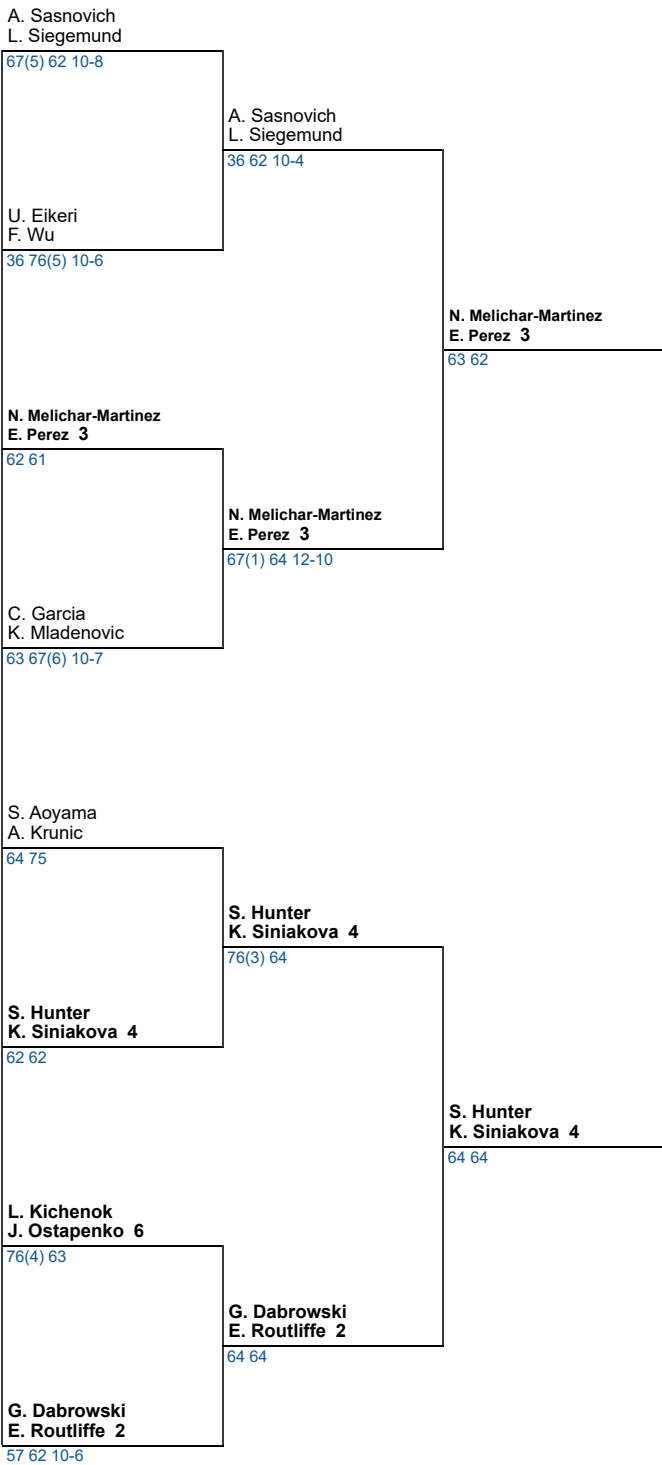
- Who was the last Italian to reach the singles final here in Dubai?
- How many top 10 seeds has Anna Kalinskaya defeated on her road to the finals in this year’s tournament?
- Qualifier Kalinskaya was active in the semifinals yesterday. How many qualifiers had previously reached the final four here in the past?
- Kalinskaya and Paolini met in the Australian Open Round of 16 earlier this year - who won?



SINGLES MAIN DRAW



DOUBLES MAIN DRAW



ORDER OF PLAY

CENTRE COURT

Starting at 5:00 PM

F

[3] Nicole Melichar-Martinez USA
Ellen Perez AUS
vs
[4] Storm Hunter AUS
Katerina Siniakova CZE

Not before 7:00 PM

F

[Q] Anna Kalinskaya
vs
Jasmine Paolini ITA

THE WEEK IN PICTURES



TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Sara Errani (2016) | 2. 3 (Ostapenko, Gauff, and Swiatek) | 3. 3 | 4. Kalinskaya



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