

# BILLIE JEAN KING CUP BY BNP PARIBAS FINALS 2021

1 NOVEMBER – DAY ONE PREVIEW NOTES

## Day Session (1030 CET)

Centre Court	Group A	France v Canada	Pages 3-7
Court One	Group B	Belarus v Belgium	Pages 8-12

## Evening Session (Not before 1700 CET)

Centre Court	Group D	Czech Republic v Germany	Pages 13-17
Court One	Group C	Spain v Slovakia	Pages 18-22

## On court today:

- Defending champions France begin their quest to retain the Billie Jean King Cup title today, with the team facing Canada on Centre Court in the opening tie of Group A. The French overcame the odds to defeat Australia away in Perth 2 years ago and will hope to channel the same spirit again in Prague this week. Canada, meanwhile, go into the Finals with nothing to lose – they were the last of the 12 teams to gain entry, replacing previous host nation Hungary in the draw, having been the highest-ranked nation to win a Play-off tie in April this year. Both France and Canada will be eager to start the tournament with a victory today ahead of challenging encounters with a Russian Tennis Federation (RTF) team comprised entirely of Top 50 players.
- The week's first tie on Court One sees Belarus face Belgium for the first time in the Billie Jean King Cup. Belarus have endured a number of near misses in recent years, having finished runners-up in 2017 and suffering a narrow defeat to Australia in the semi-finals in 2019. Aliaksandra Sasnovich will lead the team in Prague this week and will claim sole ownership of 3rd place on the list for most Billie Jean King Cup singles match-wins by a Belarusian player – ahead of Victoria Azarenka and Olga Barabanschikova – if she wins a singles match today. But Belgium will be confident of victory, with world No. 20 Elise Mertens leading the line for Johan van Herck's team. Victory against Belarus today and Australia on Tuesday would see the Belgians win Group B and reach the semi-finals for the first time since 2011.
- Home fans will get their first glimpse of a new-look Czech team this evening, with the hosts taking on Germany on Centre Court. While players such as Petra Kvitova and Karolina Pliskova – who were both instrumental in winning 6 Billie Jean King Cup titles for the Czechs in the last decade – are absent this year, captain Petr Pala has still assembled a squad brimming with talent. Roland Garros champion Barbora Krejckova and Olympic silver medallist Marketa Vondrousova are likely to play important roles for the home team this week. Germany will present a stern challenge for the Czechs, with 3-time Grand Slam winner Angelique Kerber spearheading Rainer Schuettler's team. Both nations will be keen to get off to a winning start today with a strong Switzerland quartet preparing to enter the fray on Tuesday.
- Spain and Slovakia get the action underway in Group C this evening, with the teams contesting their 3rd Billie Jean King Cup clash on Court One. Slovakia have won the nations' previous 2 encounters, including a victory in the 2002 final, when Daniela Hantuchova inspired the Slovaks to their only Billie Jean King Cup triumph to date. But Spain will fancy their chances tonight, with their No. 1 player this week, Sara Sorribes Tormo, aiming to continue the momentum from her last outing in the competition, when she defeated Japan's Naomi Osaka during the 2020 Qualifiers. A winning start will be crucial for both teams this evening, with ties against USA to follow later in the week.

## Group Stages

### Group A Table

Pos.	Nation	Points	Ties win-loss	Matches win-loss	Sets win-loss	Games win-loss
1=	France	0	0-0	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)
1=	RTF	0	0-0	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)
1=	Canada	0	0-0	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)

### Group B Table

Pos.	Nation	Points	Ties win-loss	Matches win-loss	Sets win-loss	Games win-loss
1=	Australia	0	0-0	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)
1=	Belarus	0	0-0	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)
1=	Belgium	0	0-0	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)

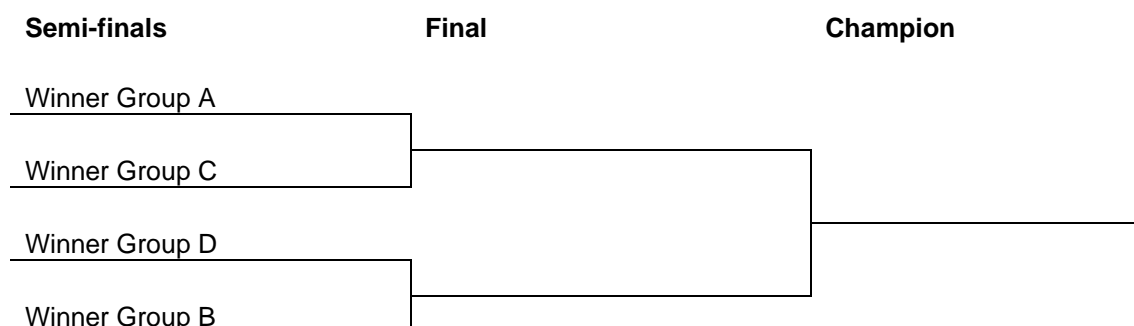
### Group C Table

Pos.	Nation	Points	Ties win-loss	Matches win-loss	Sets win-loss	Games win-loss
1=	USA	0	0-0	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)
1=	Spain	0	0-0	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)
1=	Slovakia	0	0-0	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)

### Group D Table

Pos.	Nation	Points	Ties win-loss	Matches win-loss	Sets win-loss	Games win-loss
1=	Czech Republic	0	0-0	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)
1=	Germany	0	0-0	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)
1=	Switzerland	0	0-0	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)	0-0 (0%)

## Knockout Stages



## GROUP A – FRANCE v CANADA

### CENTRE COURT – 1030 CET

#### Head-to-head: France leads 3-1

1980	Consolation Round	Clay (O)	Berlin (FRG)	Canada d. France 2-0
1981	First Round	Clay (O)	Tokyo (JPN)	France d. Canada 3-0
1982	Consolation Round	Hard (O)	Santa Clara (USA)	France d. Canada 2-1
1993	First Round	Clay (O)	Frankfurt (GER)	France d. Canada 2-1

A 5th meeting for France and Canada – but their first in 28 years. Canada won the first meeting between the 2 nations, in Berlin in 1980, but the French have won the teams' 3 subsequent meetings.

FRANCE	v	CANADA
<b>1</b>	<b>BJK Cup Nations Ranking</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Champions</b>	<b>Best Result</b>	<b>Semi-finals</b>
<b>1997, 2003, 2019</b>	<b>First Year Played</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>1963</b>	<b>Seasons Played</b>	<b>1963</b>
<b>58</b>	<b>Ties Played</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>153</b>	<b>Ties Win-Loss</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>94-59</b>		<b>103-71</b>

#### France – Team Information

- Defending champions **FRANCE** are bidding to win the Billie Jean King Cup title for the 4th time and equal Italy and Russia in 5th place on the list for most Billie Jean King Cup titles.
- France won their **3rd Billie Jean King Cup title in 2019**. The team defeated Belgium and Romania before recording a 3-2 victory against Australia in the final in Perth, with Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic winning the decisive doubles match. As 2019 champions, they qualified automatically for the Finals this year.
- France have **won the Billie Jean King Cup title on 2 other occasions** – in 1997 (d. Netherlands) and 2003 (d. USA). They have also finished runners-up on 3 occasions – in 2004-05, falling to Russia on both occasions, and 2016 (l. Czech Republic).
- France are bidding to extend a **3-tie winning streak**. They have not lost since falling to USA in the 2018 semi-finals, when they fell 3-2 on clay in Aix-en-Provence. Their last defeat on a hard court came against Switzerland in the 2017 World Group first round in Geneva.
- France's victory in the 2019 final saw them rise to No. 1 on the **Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking** and they have remained at the top of the rankings since then. They also held the No. 1 ranking between November 2003 and July 2005.
- Captain Julien Benneteau** continues his spell as French captain and is bidding to maintain his unbeaten record, having guided the team to the title during his first season in charge in 2019. He played 14 Davis Cup ties for France between 2010 and 2018, including the 2014 Davis Cup Final in which France finished runners-up to Switzerland. He had an 11-8 overall Davis Cup win-loss record.

#### France – Historical Information

##### Most Billie Jean King Cup match-wins by a French player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Nathalie Tauziat	33-21
2.	Amelie Mauresmo	32-11
3.	Francoise Durr	31-17
4.	Gail Benedetti	26-25
5.	Kristina Mladenovic	24-10

**Most Billie Jean King Cup singles match-wins by a French player**

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Amelie Mauresmo	30-9
2=	Francoise Durr	16-8
	Mary Pierce	16-10
4=	Gail Benedetti	13-15
	Nathalie Dechy	13-7
	Julie Halard-Decugis	13-10
	Nathalie Tauziat	13-12

**Most Billie Jean King Cup doubles match-wins by a French player**

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Nathalie Tauziat	20-9
2.	Francoise Durr	15-9
3=	Gail Benedetti	13-10
	Kristina Mladenovic	13-2
5=	Isabelle Demongeot	9-5
	Julie Halard-Decugis	9-3
	Janine Lieffrig	9-5

**Most Billie Jean King Cup ties played by a French player**

Rank	Player	Ties played
1.	Nathalie Tauziat	40
2.	Gail Benedetti	33
3.	Francoise Durr	27
4.	Mary Pierce	22
5.	Amelie Mauresmo	21

**France – Player Information**

Player	BJK Cup debut year	BJK Cup seasons played	BJK Cup ties played	BJK Cup singles W-L	BJK Cup doubles W-L
Alize Cornet	2008	11	18	4-14	4-4
Caroline Garcia	2013	5	10	11-6	7-1
Clara Burel	2021	0	0	0-0	0-0
Fiona Ferro	2019	1	1	0-0	0-1

- **ALIZE CORNET**

- **Age:** 31 (born 22 January 1990 in Nice, France)
- **Rankings:** 60 (singles), 279 (doubles)
- **2021 singles highlights:** RU Chicago; SF Berlin, Tenerife; QF Luxembourg
- **2021 doubles highlights:** QF Melbourne 1
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Cornet ended a 4-match losing streak in Billie Jean King Cup singles matches by defeating Elise Mertens in France's 2019 World Group first round victory against Belgium. She had previously not won a singles match in the competition since defeating Timea Bacsinszky in France's 2014 World Group II first round victory against Switzerland. She was nominated for both the semi-final and final in 2019 but did not play in either tie. She was part of the French team which finished runners-up to Poland in the 2005 Junior Billie Jean King Cup.

- **CAROLINE GARCIA**

- **Age:** 28 (born 16 October 1993 in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France)
- **Rankings:** 74 (singles), 171 (doubles)
- **2021 singles highlights:** SF Lausanne; QF Parma
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Garcia teamed with Kristina Mladenovic to win the decisive doubles match in the 2019 final, with the pair defeating Ashleigh Barty/Samantha Stosur to secure the title for France. She has an 11-6 win-loss record in Billie Jean King Cup singles matches, but lost her last singles match in the competition, falling to Barty 6-0 6-0 in the 2nd match of the 2019 final. She will equal Gail Benedetti, Nathalie Dechy, Halard-Decugis and Nathalie Tauziat in 4th place on the list for most Billie Jean King Cup singles match-wins by a French player if she wins 2 singles matches this week.

- **CLARA BUREL**
  - **Age:** 20 (born 24 March 2001 in Rennes, France)
  - **Rankings:** 78 (singles), 268 (doubles)
  - **2021 singles highlights:** RU Lausanne; QF Lyon
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Burel could make her Billie Jean King Cup debut this week, having been nominated for the first time.
- **FIONA FERRO**
  - **Age:** 24 (born 12 March 1997 in Libramont, Belgium)
  - **Rankings:** 101 (singles), 410 (doubles)
  - **2021 singles highlights:** SF Lyon; QF Lausanne, Istanbul
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Ferro could make her first appearance in a live Billie Jean King Cup match this week. She made her debut in the competition during France's 2019 World Group first round victory against Belgium, falling to Ysaline Bonaventure/Kirsten Flipkens alongside Pauline Parmentier in the dead doubles match. She was nominated for both the semi-final and final in 2019 but did not play in either tie.

### Canada – Team Information

- **CANADA** are bidding to win the Billie Jean King Cup title for the first time. They are one of 3 nations – alongside Belarus and Switzerland – competing at the Finals to have never won the Billie Jean King Cup title.
- Canada are competing at the Finals as the **highest-ranked losing nation from the 2021 Play-offs** – replacing former host nation Hungary. Canada fell to Switzerland 3-1 in the 2020 Qualifiers in Biel, but defeated Serbia 4-0 in the 2021 Play-offs in Kraljevo, with Leylah Fernandez and Rebecca Marino both winning singles matches. The victory against Serbia was Canada's first victory in a best-of-5-match away tie since 2013.
- Canada have **won 7 of their last 9 ties on hard courts**. Since 2017, their only defeats on hard courts have come against Romania in the 2018 World Group II first round and against Switzerland in the Qualifiers last year.
- Canada's **best Billie Jean King Cup result** is reaching the semi-finals in 1988, when they fell to Czechoslovakia on neutral ground in Melbourne.
- Canada are ranked No. 10 on the **Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking**. Their highest ranking is No. 8, which they held between April 2014 and February 2015.
- **Former captain Sylvain Bruneau** steps in for the Finals this year, with current captain Heidi el-Tabakh unavailable this event. Bruneau captained the team between 2010 and 2018 before stepping down to coach Bianca Andreescu full-time, earning a 16-9 win-loss record while leading the team.

### Canada – Historical Information

#### Most Billie Jean King Cup match-wins by a Canadian player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Aleksandra Wozniak	40-12
2.	Sonya Jeyaseelan	29-7
3.	Marie-Eve Pelletier	25-15
4.	Sharon Fichman	24-10
5.	Stephanie Dubois	23-10

#### Most Billie Jean King Cup singles match-wins by a Canadian player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Aleksandra Wozniak	32-11
2.	Jana Nejedly	19-5
3=	Eugenie Bouchard	12-4
	Stephanie Dubois	12-8
	Sonya Jeyaseelan	12-5

**Most Billie Jean King Cup doubles match-wins by a Canadian player**

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Sonya Jeyaseelan	17-2
2.	Marie-Eve Pelletier	16-6
3.	Sharon Fichman	15-7
4.	Jill Hetherington	13-15
5.	Stephanie Dubois	11-2

**Most Billie Jean King Cup ties played by a Canadian player**

Rank	Player	Ties played
1.	Aleksandra Wozniak	36
2=	Jill Hetherington	30
	Marie-Eve Pelletier	30
4.	Sharon Fichman	28
5=	Rene Collins	24
	Sonya Jeyaseelan	24

**Canada – Player Information**

Player	BJK Cup debut year	BJK Cup seasons played	BJK Cup ties played	BJK Cup singles W-L	BJK Cup doubles W-L
Rebecca Marino	2011	3	5	3-4	2-1
Carol Zhao	2016	3	3	0-1	2-1
Francoise Abanda	2015	4	6	6-4	0-1
Gabriela Dabrowski	2013	8	14	0-5	7-6

- **REBECCA MARINO**

- **Age:** 30 (born 16 December 1990 in Toronto, Canada)
- **Rankings:** 147 (singles), 177 (doubles)
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Marino made her Billie Jean King Cup debut in 2011, but did not compete again until the 2019 season. She has won 3 of the 5 matches she contested since returning to the team, including a singles triumph during Canada's victory over Serbia in the Play-offs this year – she defeated Nina Stojanovic in straight sets in the 2nd match of the tie.

- **CAROL ZHAO**

- **Age:** 26 (born 20 June 1995 in Chongqing, China, P.R.)
- **Rankings:** 330 (singles), 564 (doubles)
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Zhao made her Billie Jean King Cup debut in 2016 and has been nominated for the 4th time this week. She lost the only singles match she has contested in the competition, falling to Romania's Sorana Cirstea in the 2018 World Group II first round. She was a member of the Canadian team which finished as runners-up at the 2011 Junior Billie Jean King Cup, falling to an Australian team led by Ashleigh Barty.

- **FRANCOISE ABANDA**

- **Age:** 24 (born 5 February 1997 in Montreal, Canada)
- **Rankings:** 333 (singles), 1212= (doubles)
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Abanda is making her first Billie Jean King Cup appearance since the Canada's victory over Netherlands in the 2019 World Group II first round. She is bidding to extend a 4-match winning streak in the competition, having not lost a Billie Jean King Cup match since she fell to Dominika Cibulkova during Canada's 2016 World Group II Play-off defeat to Slovakia. She was a member of the Canadian team which finished as runners-up at the 2011 Junior Billie Jean King Cup, falling to an Australian team led by Ashleigh Barty.

- **GABRIELA DABROWSKI**
  - **Age:** 29 (born 1 April 1992 in Ottawa, Canada)
  - **Rankings:** 716 (singles), 5 (doubles)
  - **2021 doubles highlights:** Won Montreal; RU Madrid, San Jose, Cincinnati; SF Miami, Charleston, US Open
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Dabrowski is bidding to end a 3-match Billie Jean King Cup losing streak, having not won a match in the competition since she and Marino defeated Demi Schuurs/Bibiane Schoofs during Canada's victory over Netherlands in the 2019 World Group II first round. She has lost all 5 singles matches she has contested in the competition – including both matches she played during Canada's defeat to Switzerland in the 2020 Qualifiers – but has a 7-6 win-loss record in doubles, and a 2-1 win-loss record in decisive doubles matches.

## GROUP B – BELARUS v BELGIUM

COURT ONE – 1030 CET

Head-to-head: first meeting

BELARUS	v	BELGIUM
5	<b>BJK Cup Nations Ranking</b>	16
Runners-up 2017	<b>Best Result</b>	<b>Champions 2001</b>
1994	<b>First Year Played</b>	1963
27	<b>Seasons Played</b>	56
103	<b>Ties Played</b>	154
72-31	<b>Ties Win-Loss</b>	81-73

### Belarus – Team Information

- **BELARUS** are bidding to win the Billie Jean King Cup title for the first time. They are one of 3 nations – alongside Canada and Switzerland – competing at the Finals to have never won the Billie Jean King Cup title.
- Belarus **qualified for the Finals** after defeating Netherlands 3-2 in the 2020 Qualifiers in Den Haag, with Aryna Sabalenka/Aliaksandra Sasnovich defeating Kiki Bertens/Demi Schuurs in a decisive doubles match to secure their place at the Finals.
- Belarus have **won 3 of their last 4 ties**. Their only defeat in that time came against Australia in the 2019 semi-finals in Brisbane, while they have recorded victories against Slovakia, Germany and Netherlands.
- Belarus' **best Billie Jean King Cup performance** is reaching the 2017 Final. The team defeated Netherlands 4-1 in the first round and Switzerland 3-2 in the semi-finals, before falling to USA 3-2 in the Final in Minsk with Sabalenka/ Sasnovich losing to Shelby Rogers/CoCo Vandeweghe in the decisive doubles match.
- Belarus are ranked No. 5 on the **Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking**. Their highest-ever ranking is No. 2, which they achieved after defeating Switzerland in the 2017 semi-finals.
- **Captain Tatiana Poutchek** is in her 2nd spell as Belarusian Billie Jean King Cup captain. She captained the team om 2012-15 and returned as captain in April 2018. She has a 13-5 win-loss record as captain overall. She also holds the Belarusian Billie Jean King Cup records for most matches won (37), most doubles matches won (28), most ties played (45) and most years played (15).

### Belarus – Historical Information

#### Most Billie Jean King Cup match-wins by a Belarusian player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Tatiana Poutchek	37-15
2.	Natalia Zvereva*	35-11
3.	Olga Barabanschikova	33-17
4.	Olga Govortsova	26-13
5=	Victoria Azarenka	23-7
	<b>Aliaksandra Sasnovich</b>	<b>23-15</b>

#### Most Billie Jean King Cup singles match-wins by a Belarusian player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Natalia Zvereva*	24-7
2.	Olga Govortsova	20-10
3=	Victoria Azarenka	17-5
	Olga Barabanschikova	17-13
	<b>Aliaksandra Sasnovich</b>	<b>17-11</b>

**Most Billie Jean King Cup doubles match-wins by a Belarusian player**

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Tatiana Poutchek	28-7
2.	Olga Barabanschikova	16-4
3.	Natalia Zvereva*	11-4
4=	Tatiana Ignatieva	8-4
	Darya Kustova	8-1

**Most Billie Jean King Cup ties played by a Belarusian player**

Rank	Player	Ties played
1.	Tatiana Poutchek	45
2.	Olga Barabanschikova	35
3.	Natalia Zvereva*	32
4.	Olga Govortsova	31
5=	Victoria Azarenka	21
	<b>Aliaksandra Sasnovich</b>	<b>21</b>

\*Zvereva represented USSR in 1986-91 and Belarus in 1994-2002. Figures above show her record for Belarus only.

**Belarus – Player Information**

Player	BJK Cup debut year	BJK Cup seasons played	BJK Cup ties played	BJK Cup singles W-L	BJK Cup doubles W-L
Aliaksandra Sasnovich	2012	9	21	17-11	6-3
Yuliya Hatouka	2021	0	0	0-0	0-0
Iryna Shymanovich	2014	1	3	0-0	2-1
Vera Lapko	2015	3	7	0-1	5-1
Lidziya Marozava	2013	3	6	0-1	3-2

- **ALIAKSANDRA SASNOVICH**

- **Age:** 27 (born 22 March 1994 in Minsk, Belarus)
- **Rankings:** 86 (singles), 76 (doubles)
- **2021 singles highlights:** QF Belgrade, Cleveland
- **2021 doubles highlights:** SF Cincinnati
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Sasnovich is bidding to climb the list for most Billie Jean King Cup singles matches won by a Belarusian player this week. She will claim sole ownership of 3rd place on the list – ahead of Victoria Azarenka and Olga Barabanschikova – if she wins a singles match. She won 5 of the 6 Billie Jean King Cup singles matches she contested as Belarus finished runners-up in 2017, and won 2 of the 3 matches she contested during Belarus' victory over Netherlands in the Qualifiers last year, defeating Arantxa Rus in singles and winning the decisive doubles match alongside Aryna Sabalenka, overcoming Kiki Bertens/Demi Schuurs in a final-set tiebreak.

- **YULIYA HATOUKA**

- **Age:** 21 (born 24 April 2000)
- **Rankings:** 228 (singles), 494 (doubles)
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Hatouka could make her Billie Jean King Cup debut this week, having been nominated for the first time.

- **IRYNA SHYMANOVICH**

- **Age:** 24 (born 30 June 1997)
- **Rankings:** 267 (singles), 308 (doubles)
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Shymanovich could make her first Billie Jean King Cup appearance since 2014 this week. She made her only previous appearances in the competition at the 2014 Europe/Africa Group I event, winning 2 of the 3 doubles matches she contested.

- **VERA LAPKO**
  - **Age:** 23 (born 29 September 1998 in Minsk, Belarus)
  - **Rankings:** 356 (singles), 241 (doubles)
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Lapko could make her first Billie Jean King Cup appearance this week since 2018, when she and Marozava won a decisive doubles match during Belarus' World Group Play-off victory over Slovakia. She has won 5 of the 6 doubles matches she has contested in the competition, but lost the only singles match she has played, falling to Tatjana Maria during Belarus' 2018 World Group first round defeat to Germany.
- **LIDZIYA MAROZAVA**
  - **Age:** 29 (born 8 October 1992 in Minsk, Belarus)
  - **Rankings:** unranked (singles), 87 (doubles)
  - **2021 doubles highlights:** Won Gdynia; SF Lyon
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Marozava played Billie Jean King Cup for Belarus on 3 occasions in 2018-19, having previously only appeared in the competition at the 2013 Europe/Africa Group I event. She won 2 of her 3 Billie Jean King Cup matches in 2018-19, including a victory in the decisive doubles match of Belarus' 2018 World Group play-off victory against Slovakia, when she and Lapko defeated Kuzmova/Anna Karolina Schmiedlova. She was nominated for both Belarus' defeat to Australia in the 2019 semi-finals and the victory over Netherlands in the 2020 Qualifiers but did not play in either tie.

### Belgium – Team Information

- **BELGIUM** are bidding to win the Billie Jean King Cup title for the 2nd time and become the 9th nation to win the title on multiple occasions.
- Belgium **qualified for the Finals** after defeating Kazakhstan 3-1 in the 2020 Qualifiers in Kortrijk, with Kirsten Flipkens defeating Zarina Diyas in the 4th match to secure Belgium's place at the Finals. It was the team's first victory in a home Billie Jean King Cup tie since 2011, when they defeated USA in the World Group first round in Antwerp, and ended a 5-tie losing streak at home.
- Belgium have **won just one of their last 4 ties on hard courts**. Their victory against Kazakhstan in the 2020 Qualifiers ended a 3-tie losing streak on hard courts, with the team having lost hard court ties to France in both 2018 and 2019 and Spain in 2019.
- Belgium were crowned **Billie Jean King Cup champions in 2001**, defeating Russia 2-1 in the final after comprehensive singles wins for Justine Henin and Kim Clijsters. They finished runner-up in their only other appearance in the final in 2006, falling to Italy 3-2 in the decisive doubles match.
- Belgium are ranked No. 16 on the **Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking**. They reached their highest ranking of No. 2 in July 2003.
- **Captain Johan van Herck** took over as captain at the beginning of the 2018 season, losing his first 2 ties in charge of the team before earning his first victory in the 2020 Qualifiers against Kazakhstan. He has also been Belgium's Davis Cup captain since 2011 and under his captaincy the team has reached 2 Davis Cup finals, falling to Great Britain in 2015 and to France in 2017. He has a 15-9 win-loss record as Davis Cup captain.

### Belgium – Historical Information

#### Most Billie Jean King Cup match-wins by a Belgian player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Sabine Appelmans	32-22
2=	Els Callens Yanina Wickmayer	26-13 26-13
4=	Kim Clijsters Michele Gurdal	24-4 24-25

**Most Billie Jean King Cup singles match-wins by a Belgian player**

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Sabine Appelmans	25-13
2.	Yanina Wickmayer	23-9
3.	Kim Clijsters	21-3
4.	Dominique Monami	17-7
5.	Justine Henin	15-2

**Most Billie Jean King Cup doubles match-wins by a Belgian player**

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Els Callens	17-6
2.	Monique van Haver	12-10
3=	Laurence Courtois Michele Gurdal	11-7 11-10
5.	Nancy Feber	9-1

**Most Billie Jean King Cup ties played by a Belgian player**

Rank	Player	Ties played
1.	Sabine Appelmans	33
2.	Monique van Haver	30
<b>3.</b>	<b>Kirsten Flipkens</b>	<b>29</b>
4=	Els Callens Michele Gurdal	28 28

**Belgium – Player Information**

Player	BJK Cup debut year	BJK Cup seasons played	BJK Cup ties played	BJK Cup singles W-L	BJK Cup doubles W-L
Elise Mertens	2017	4	6	8-3	2-1
Greet Minnen	2021	0	0	0-0	0-0
Ysaline Bonaventure	2012	6	12	5-1	4-5
Kirsten Flipkens	2003	17	29	14-20	3-11

- **ELISE MERTENS**

- **Age:** 25 (born 17 November 1995 in Leuven, Belgium)
- **Rankings:** 20 (singles), 2 (doubles)
- **2021 singles highlights:** Won Melbourne 1; RU Istanbul; SF Dubai, San Jose; QF Madrid, Luxembourg; R16 Australian Open, US Open
- **2021 doubles highlights:** Won Australian Open, Istanbul, Wimbledon, Indian Wells; SF Birmingham; QF US Open
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Mertens won both matches she contested during Belgium's victory over Kazakhstan in the 2020 Qualifiers, defeating both Zarina Diyas and Yulia Putintseva – rebounding from her defeats to Alize Cornet and Caroline Garcia in Belgium's 2019 World Group first round defeat to France. She has an 8-3 win-loss record in Billie Jean King Cup singles matches overall.

- **GREET MINNEN**

- **Age:** 24 (born 14 August 1997 in Turnhout, Belgium)
- **Rankings:** 69 (singles), 78 (doubles)
- **2021 singles highlights:** SF Prague; QF Lyon
- **2021 doubles highlights:** Won Luxembourg; RU Belgrade
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Minnen could make her Billie Jean King Cup debut this week. She was nominated for the first time for the Qualifiers last year but did not play a match.

- **YSALINE BONAVENTURE**

- **Age:** 27 (born 29 August 1994 in Rocourt, Belgium)
- **Rankings:** 142 (singles), 392 (doubles)
- **2021 singles highlights:** QF Hamburg
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Bonaventure lost her perfect record in Billie Jean King Cup singles matches during Belgium's victory over Kazakhstan in the 2020 Qualifiers, falling to Yulia Putintseva in the 2nd match of the tie. She has won the other 5 singles matches she has contested in the competition, including a victory over former world No. 1 Garbine Muguruza in Belgium's defeat to Spain in the 2019 World Group play-offs.

- **KIRSTEN FLIPKENS**

- **Age:** 35 (born 10 January 1986 in Geel, Belgium)
- **Rankings:** 154 (singles), 148 (doubles)
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Flipkens will become the 3rd Belgian player to contest 30 or more ties if she plays at least one tie this week. Sabine Appelmans (33 Billie Jean King Cup ties) and Monique van Haver (30) the only Belgian players to have contested more ties in the competition than Flipkens. She has a 14-20 win-loss record in Billie Jean King Cup singles matches, but has won her 2 most-recent singles matches in the competition – defeating Muguruza during Belgium's defeat to Spain in the 2019 World Group play-offs and Diyas in the victory over Kazakhstan in the 2020 Qualifiers to secure Belgium's place in the Finals.

## GROUP D – CZECH REPUBLIC v GERMANY

### CENTRE COURT – NOT BEFORE 1700 CET

#### Head-to-head: Czech Republic leads 8-1

1975	Quarter-final	Clay (O)	Aix-en-Provence (FRA)	Czechoslovakia d. F.R. Germany 2-1
1983	Final	Clay (O)	Zurich (SUI)	Czechoslovakia d. F.R. Germany 2-1
1987	Semi-final	Hard (O)	Vancouver (CAN)	F.R. Germany d. Czechoslovakia 2-1
1989	Quarter-final	Hard (O)	Tokyo (JPN)	Czechoslovakia d. F.R. Germany 2-1
1997	WG First Round	Hard (I)	Mannheim (GER)	Czech Republic d. Germany 3-2
2010	WG First Round	Hard (I)	Brno (CZE)	Czech Republic d. Germany 3-2
2012	WG First Round	Clay (I)	Stuttgart (GER)	Czech Republic d. Germany 4-1
2014	Final	Hard (I)	Prague (CZE)	Czech Republic d. Germany 3-1
2018	Semi-final	Clay (I)	Stuttgart (GER)	Czech Republic d. Germany 4-1

A 10th meeting between Czech Republic and Germany, with the Czechs bidding to maintain their dominant record against the Germans. Germany's only victory against the Czechs came in 1987, when Steffi Graf inspired the team to a semi-final victory en route to the team's first title. Czech Republic have won all 6 of the nations' meetings since then, including the 2014 final (played at Prague's O2 Arena) and a semi-final triumph in their most-recent meeting in 2018.

#### CZECH REPUBLIC

v

#### GERMANY

**4**  
Champions  
11 times  
1963\*  
50\*  
145  
107-38

**BJK Cup Nations Ranking**  
Best Result  
First Year Played  
Seasons Played  
Ties Played  
Ties Win-Loss

**6**  
Champions  
1987, 1992  
1963\*\*  
56\*\*  
153  
96-55

\*Czech players represented Czechoslovakia until 1992  
\*\*German players represented F.R. Germany until 1990

#### Czech Republic – Team Information

- **CZECH REPUBLIC** are bidding to win the Billie Jean King Cup title for the 12th time. They are 2nd on the all-time list for most titles won, behind USA (18 titles).
- Czech Republic are **contesting their first Billie Jean King Cup ties since the 2019 season**, when they fell to Romania in the World Group first round before defeating Canada in the World Group play-offs. They were awarded a wild card for the 2021 Finals.
- Czech Republic have **won 6 Billie Jean King Cup titles since 2011** – in 2011 (d. Russia), 2012 (d. Serbia), 2014 (d. Germany), 2015 (d. Russia), 2016 (d. France) and 2018 (d. USA). As Czechoslovakia, the team won the title in 1975, 1983-85 and 1988.
- Czech Republic have **won 14 of the last 16 Billie Jean King Cup ties they have contested**. Their only defeats during that time came against USA in the 2017 semi-finals and against Romania in the 2019 World Group first round.
- Czech Republic have **won all 5 Billie Jean King Cup ties they have contested at the O2 Arena in Prague** – the finals in 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2018, as well as a World Group first round tie against Switzerland in 2018.
- Czech Republic are ranked at No. 4 on the **Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking** – their lowest ranking since April 2011. They first reached the No. 1 ranking in April 2012 and held the top ranking for more than 5 years, from April 2014 to November 2019.
- **Captain Petr Pala** is the most successful captain in the history of the competition, having guided the Czech Republic team to 6 titles since taking the role ahead of the 2008 season. The team has won 25 of the 30 ties that they have contested during that time. He is the longest-serving captain of the 12 teams at the Finals this year.

## Czech Republic – Historical Information

### Most Billie Jean King Cup match-wins by a Czech player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Helena Sukova	57-16
2.	Hana Mandlikova	49-12
3.	Jana Novotna	33-12
4.	Petra Kvitova	30-11
5.	Barbora Strycova	22-11

### Most Billie Jean King Cup singles match-wins by a Czech player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Helena Sukova	45-11
2.	Hana Mandlikova	34-6
3.	Petra Kvitova	30-10
4.	Jana Novotna	22-7
5.	Lucie Safarova	13-11

### Most Billie Jean King Cup doubles match-wins by a Czech player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Hana Mandlikova	15-6
2.	Helena Sukova	12-5
3=	Jana Novotna	11-5
	Barbora Strycova	11-4
5.	Kveta Peschke	10-7

### Most Billie Jean King Cup ties played by a Czech player

Rank	Player	Ties played
1.	Helena Sukova	54
2.	Hana Mandlikova	45
3.	Jana Novotna	33
4=	Petra Kvitova	22
	Lucie Safarova	22

## Czech Republic – Player Information

Player	BJK Cup debut year	BJK Cup seasons played	BJK Cup ties played	BJK Cup singles W-L	BJK Cup doubles W-L
Barbora Krejcikova	2019	1	2	0-0	1-1
Marketa Vondrousova	2017	2	2	3-1	0-0
Tereza Martincova	2021	0	0	0-0	0-0
Katerina Siniakova	2017	3	5	4-2	1-3
Lucie Hradecka	2010	7	9	1-3	6-2

- **[BARBORA KREJCIKOVA](#)**

- **Age:** 25 (born 18 December 1995 in Brno, Czech Republic)
- **Rankings:** 4 (singles), 4 (doubles)
- **2021 singles highlights:** Won Strasbourg, Roland Garros, Prague; RU Dubai; QF Melbourne 3, Cincinnati, US Open; R16 Wimbledon
- **2021 doubles highlights:** Won Melbourne 1, Madrid, Roland Garros, Tokyo Olympics; RU Australian Open; SF Doha, Cincinnati; QF Wimbledon
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Krejcikova became a Billie Jean King Cup champion before making her debut in the competition, after being nominated for the 2018 final but not playing a match. She could make her singles debut this week, with her only appearances in the competition to date coming in doubles matches during the 2019 season – including one live doubles match during Czech Republic's World Group first round defeat to Romania, in which she and Siniakova fell to Irina-Camelia Begu/Monica Niculescu in 3 sets.

- **MARKETA VONDROUSOVA**
  - **Age:** 22 (born 28 June 1999 in Sokolov, Czech Republic)
  - **Rankings:** 35 (singles), 64 (doubles)
  - **2021 singles highlights:** RU Tokyo Olympics; SF Melbourne 2, Luxembourg, Chicago, Moscow; QF Chicago; R16 Australian Open, Roland Garros
  - **2021 doubles highlights:** RU Rome; SF Berlin, Chicago
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Vondrousova has won 3 of the 4 Billie Jean King Cup matches she has contested, with her only defeat coming on her debut, when she fell to CoCo Vandeweghe during Czech Republic's defeat to USA in the 2017 semi-finals. She won both matches she played during Czech Republic's victory over Canada in the 2019 World Group Play-offs, defeating both Rebecca Marino and Leylah Fernandez. She was also a member of the Czech team which finished as runners-up to USA at the 2015 Junior Billie Jean King Cup Finals.
  
- **TEREZA MARTINCOVA**
  - **Age:** 27 (born 24 October 1994 in Prague, Czech Republic)
  - **Rankings:** 51 (singles), 191 (doubles)
  - **2021 singles highlights:** RU Prague; QF Nottingham, Birmingham, Chicago, Ostrava
  - **2021 doubles highlights:** SF Chicago
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Martincova could make her Billie Jean King Cup debut this week, having been nominated for the first time.
  
- **KATERINA SINIAKOVA**
  - **Age:** 25 (born 10 May 1996 in Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic)
  - **Rankings:** 52 (singles), 3 (doubles)
  - **2021 singles highlights:** RU Bad Homburg; SF Parma; QF Istanbul, Prague, Cleveland
  - **2021 doubles highlights:** Won Melbourne 1, Madrid, Roland Garros, Moscow; RU Australian Open; SF Doha, Cincinnati; QF Wimbledon
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Siniakova has won 4 of the 6 Billie Jean King Cup singles matches she has contested – including both matches she played during the 2018 final, when she defeated Alison Riske and Sofia Kenin to secure the title for Czech Republic. She has lost both decisive doubles matches she has played – falling to Bethanie Mattek-Sands/CoCo Vandeweghe during Czech Republic's defeat to USA in the 2017 semi-finals alongside Kristyna Pliskova and falling to Begu/Niculescu during Czech Republic's defeat to Romania in the 2019 World Group first round alongside Krejckikova.
  
- **LUCIE HRADECKA**
  - **Age:** 36 (born 21 May 1985 in Prague, Czech Republic)
  - **Rankings:** 562 (singles), 32 (doubles)
  - **2021 doubles highlights:** Won Birmingham, Prague; RU Charleston; SF Moscow; QF Wimbledon, US Open
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** 4-time champion Hradecka could make her first Billie Jean King Cup appearance since the 2016 semi-finals, when she and Karolina Pliskova defeated Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic/Martina Hingis to secure progress to the semi-finals. Hradecka won the decisive doubles match alongside Kveta Peschke in the 2011 final, defeating Russia's Maria Kirilenko/Elena Vesnina to win the first of Czech Republic's 6 titles during the 2010s. She was also nominated for the finals in 2012, 2014 and 2016, all of which were won by Czech Republic – her only appearance in those finals came in 2014, when she and Andrea Hlavackova fell to Julia Goerges/Sabine Lisicki in a dead doubles match.

### Germany – Team Information

- **GERMANY** are bidding to win the Billie Jean King Cup title for the 3rd time and equal France in 7th place on the list for most Billie Jean King Cup titles won.
- Germany **qualified for the Finals** after defeating Brazil 4-0 in the 2020 Qualifiers in Florianopolis. It was their 3rd consecutive victory in an away tie.
- Germany are bidding to **win 3 consecutive ties for the first time since 2013-14**, when the team won 4 straight ties to win promotion to the World Group in 2013 before reaching the final in 2014. The team defeated Latvia in the World Group Play-offs in 2019 before their victory against Brazil in the Qualifiers last year.

- Germany are **2-time Billie Jean King Cup champions**, having won the title in both 1987 (d. USA) and 1992 (d. Spain). Their best performance since winning the title in 1992 is reaching the final in 2014, when they fell to Czech Republic 3-1 in Prague.
- Germany are ranked No. 6 on the **Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking**. Their highest ranking is No. 3, which they reached for the first time in February 2015.
- **Captain Rainer Schuettler** made his debut as German captain in the Qualifiers last year, steering the team to a 4-0 victory over Brazil. He represented Germany in 11 Davis Cup ties between 1999 and 2009, compiling a 9-9 overall win-loss record.

### Germany – Historical Information

#### Most Billie Jean King Cup match-wins by a German player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Helga Masthoff	38-18
2.	Anke Huber	29-16
3.	Steffi Graf	28-4
	Claudia Kohde-Kilsch	28-12
5.	Bettina Bunge	27-9

#### Most Billie Jean King Cup singles match-wins by a German player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Anke Huber	24-9
2.	Helga Masthoff	23-10
3.	Steffi Graf	20-2
4.	Claudia Kohde-Kilsch	17-8
5.	Bettina Bunge	16-3

#### Most Billie Jean King Cup doubles match-wins by a German player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Helga Masthoff	15-8
2=	Bettina Bunge	11-6
	Claudia Kohde-Kilsch	11-4
4.	Barbara Rittner	10-13
5=	Katja Ebbinghaus	9-5
	Anna-Lena Groenefeld	9-11

#### Most Billie Jean King Cup ties played by a German player

Rank	Player	Ties played
1.	Helga Masthoff	33
2.	Barbara Rittner	29
3.	Anke Huber	26
4.	Claudia Kohde-Kilsch	25
5.	Bettina Bunge	23
	Anna-Lena Groenefeld	23

### Germany – Player Information

Player	BJK Cup debut year	BJK Cup seasons played	BJK Cup ties played	BJK Cup singles W-L	BJK Cup doubles W-L
Angelique Kerber	2007	9	14	13-12	0-0
Andrea Petkovic	2007	9	16	13-9	2-4
Jule Niemeier	2021	0	0	0-0	0-0
Anna-Lena Friedsam	2020	1	1	0-0	1-0
Nastasja Schunk	2021	0	0	0-0	0-0

- **ANGELIQUE KERBER**
  - **Age:** 33 (born 18 January 1988 in Bremen, Germany)
  - **Rankings:** 12 (singles), 380 (doubles)
  - **2021 singles highlights:** Won Bad Homburg; SF Wimbledon, Cincinnati; QF Melbourne 3, Indian Wells; R16 US Open
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Kerber returns to the German Billie Jean King Cup team for the first time since the 2018 semi-finals, when she fell to Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova and Petra Kvitova. She was a key member of the German team which reached the final in 2014, winning all 4 matches she contested in victories over Slovakia and Australia before losing to both Lucie Safarova and Kvitova as the team fell to Czech Republic in the final.
- **ANDREA PETKOVIC**
  - **Age:** 34 (born 9 September 1987 in Tuzla, Yugoslavia)
  - **Rankings:** 75 (singles), 136 (doubles)
  - **2021 singles highlights:** Won Cluj-Napoca; RU Hamburg
  - **2021 doubles highlights:** Won Chicago
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Petkovic ended a 3-match Billie Jean King Cup singles losing streak in her last appearance in the competition, defeating Jelena Ostapenko as Germany recorded a World Group Play-off victory over Latvia in 2019. She had previously not recorded a singles match-win in the competition since defeating Monica Niculescu during Germany's 2016 World Group Play-off victory against Romania. Like Kerber, she was also an important member of the Germany team which reached the final in 2014, recording singles victories against Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova and Australia's Samantha Stosur before falling to Czech Republic's Kvitova in the final.
- **JULE NIEMEIER**
  - **Age:** 22 (born 12 August 1999 in Dortmund, Germany)
  - **Rankings:** 131 (singles), unranked (doubles)
  - **2021 singles highlights:** SF Strasbourg, Hamburg
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Niemeier could make her Billie Jean King Cup debut this weekend, having been nominated for the first time.
- **ANNA-LENA FRIEDSAM**
  - **Age:** 27 (born 1 February 1994 in Neuwied, Germany)
  - **Rankings:** 137 (singles), 92 (doubles)
  - **2021 doubles highlights:** Won Nur-Sultan; RU Bogota
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Friedsam made her Billie Jean King Cup debut during Germany's victory over Brazil in the 2020 Qualifiers. She and Antonia Lottner defeated Laura Pigossi/Luisa Stefani in the dead doubles match.
- **NASTASJA SCHUNK**
  - **Age:** 18 (born 17 August 2003 in Mainz, Germany)
  - **Rankings:** 297 (singles), 1313 (doubles)
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Schunk, who reached the Wimbledon girls' singles final this year, could make her Billie Jean King Cup debut this weekend, having been nominated for the first time.

## GROUP C – SPAIN v SLOVAKIA

### COURT ONE – NOT BEFORE 1700 CET

#### Head-to-head: Slovakia leads 2-0

2002	Final	Hard (I)	Gran Canaria (ESP)	Slovakia d. Spain 3-1
2012	WG Play-offs	Clay (O)	Marbella (ESP)	Slovakia d. Spain 3-2

A 3rd meeting for Spain and Slovakia, with the Slovaks bidding to maintain their perfect record against Spain. The nations met for the first time in the 2002 final, with Daniela Hantuchova winning both her singles matches before Janette Husarova defeated Arantxa Sanchez Vicario to win the title. Slovakia also won the nations' most-recent meeting, a World Group Play-off in 2012.

SPAIN	v	SLOVAKIA
<b>9</b>	<b>BJK Cup Nations Ranking</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Champions 5 times</b>	<b>Best Result</b>	<b>Champions 2002</b>
<b>1972</b>	<b>First Year Played</b>	<b>1994</b>
<b>57</b>	<b>Seasons Played</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>135</b>	<b>Ties Played</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>82-53</b>	<b>Ties Win-Loss</b>	<b>37-26</b>

#### Spain – Team Information

- [SPAIN](#) are bidding to win the Billie Jean King Cup title for the 6th time. The team won the title in 1991, 1993-1995 and 1998 and are 4th on the list for most Billie Jean King Cup titles – behind USA (18), Czech Republic (10) and Australia (7).
- Spain **qualified for the Finals** after defeating Japan 3-1 in the 2020 Qualifiers in Cartagena, with Sara Sorribes Tormo defeating Naomi Osaka before Carla Suarez Navarro won both her singles matches to secure Spain's place at the Finals.
- Spain are bidding to extend a **4-tie winning streak**. The team have not lost a Billie Jean King Cup tie since falling to Italy in the 2018 World Group II first round in Chieti, and have recorded victories over Paraguay in 2018, Japan in both 2019 and 2020, and Belgium in 2019.
- Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez, who combined to lead Spain to 10 finals, head the **all-time Billie Jean King Cup lists for total wins and total singles wins** as well as recording the most wins as a doubles pair. Sanchez Vicario recorded 72 total wins and 50 singles wins, while Martinez recorded 68 total wins and 47 singles wins. The pair won 18 Billie Jean King Cup doubles matches together.
- Spain are ranked No. 9 on the **Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking**. Their highest position is No. 2 which they held from November 2002 to April 2003 and again in July 2004.

#### Spain – Historical Information

##### Most Billie Jean King Cup match-wins by a Spanish player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Arantxa Sanchez Vicario	72-28
2.	Conchita Martinez	68-23
3.	Carmen Perea-Alcala	19-24
<b>4=</b>	Anabel Medina Garrigues	18-16
	<b>Carla Suarez Navarro</b>	<b>18-11</b>

**Most Billie Jean King Cup singles match-wins by a Spanish player**

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Arantxa Sanchez Vicario	50-22
2.	Conchita Martinez	47-18
<b>3.</b>	<b>Carla Suarez Navarro</b>	<b>17-8</b>
4.	Carmen Perea-Alcala	13-16
5.	Anabel Medina Garrigues	10-13

**Most Billie Jean King Cup doubles match-wins by a Spanish player**

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Arantxa Sanchez Vicario	22-6
2.	Conchita Martinez	21-5
3.	Virginia Ruano Pascual	15-13
4=	Nuria Llagostera Vives	8-4
	Anabel Medina Garrigues	8-3

**Most Billie Jean King Cup ties played by a Spanish player**

Rank	Player	Ties played
1.	Arantxa Sanchez Vicario	58
2.	Conchita Martinez	53
3=	Carmen Perea-Alcala	29
	Virginia Ruano Pascual	29
5.	Anabel Medina Garrigues	21

**Spain – Player Information**

Player	BJK Cup debut year	BJK Cup seasons played	BJK Cup ties played	BJK Cup singles W-L	BJK Cup doubles W-L
Sara Sorribes Tormo	2015	5	6	2-3	2-0
Nuria Parrizas-Diaz	2021	0	0	0-0	0-0
Rebeka Masarova	2021	0	0	0-0	0-0
Aliona Bolsova	2015	1	1	0-0	1-1
Carla Suarez Navarro	2008	11	16	17-8	1-3

- **[SARA SORRIBES TORMO](#)**

- **Age:** 25 (born 8 October 1996 in Castellon, Spain)
- **Rankings:** 37 (singles), 67 (doubles)
- **2021 singles highlights:** Won Guadalajara; SF Monterrey, Bad Homburg, Cleveland; QF Abu Dhabi, Miami, Montreal
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Sorribes Tormo recorded her 2nd Billie Jean King Cup singles victory by defeating Naomi Osaka during Spain's win against Japan in the 2020 Qualifiers. Her only other singles match-win in the competition came on her Billie Jean King Cup debut, when she defeated Paula Ormaechea in Spain's 2015 World Group II play-off victory over Argentina.

- **[NURIA PARRIZAS-DIAZ](#)**

- **Age:** 30 (born 15 July 1991 in Granada, Spain)
- **Rankings:** 66 (singles), 360 (doubles)
- **2021 singles highlights:** QF Bogota, Gdynia
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Parrizas-Diaz could make her Billie Jean King Cup debut this week, having been nominated for the first time.

- **[REBEKA MASAROVA](#)**

- **Age:** 22 (born 6 August 1999 in Basel, Switzerland)
- **Rankings:** 168 (singles), 273 (doubles)
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Masarova could make her Billie Jean King Cup debut this week, having been nominated for the first time. She represented Switzerland as a junior before switching her nationality to Spain in 2018.

- **ALIONA BOLSOVA**
  - **Age:** 23 (born 6 November 1997 in Chisinau, Moldova)
  - **Rankings:** 175 (singles), 89 (doubles)
  - **2021 doubles highlights:** RU Budapest; SF Guadalajara, Bogota
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Bolsova could contest her first live Billie Jean King Cup match this week. Her only previous appearances in the competition came in dead doubles matches – a victory alongside current captain Medina Garrigues in Spain’s 2015 World Group II play-off victory over Argentina, and a defeat alongside Lara Arruabarrena during Spain’s victory over Japan in the Qualifiers last year.
- **CARLA SUAREZ NAVARRO**
  - **Age:** 33 (born 3 September 1988 in Las Palmas, Spain)
  - **Rankings:** 335 (singles), 1105 (doubles)
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Suarez Navarro is bidding to climb the list for most Billie Jean King Cup match-wins by a Spanish player this week. She will equal Carmen Perea-Alcala in 3rd place on the list if she wins one match and claim sole ownership of 3rd place if she wins 2 or more matches. She has won 7 of her last 8 singles matches in the competition, with her only defeat in that time coming against Sara Errani in Spain’s 2018 World Group II first round defeat to Italy. Suarez Navarro has announced that 2021 will be her final season as a professional and she will retire after this event.

### Slovakia – Team Information

- **SLOVAKIA** are bidding to win the Billie Jean King Cup title for the 2nd time and become the 9th nation to win the title on multiple occasions.
- Slovakia **qualified for the Finals** after defeating Great Britain 3-1 in the 2020 Qualifiers in Bratislava, with Anna Karolina Schmiedlova defeating Harriet Dart in the 4th match of the tie to secure Slovakia’s place at the Finals.
- Slovakia have **won just one of their last 6 ties played away from home**. Their only victory in a tie played outside Slovakia in that time came in the 2017 World Group II first round, when they defeated Italy in Forli.
- Slovakia were **crowned Billie Jean King Cup champions in 2002**, defeating Spain 3-1 in the Final in Gran Canaria.
- **Prior to 1994**, Slovakian players represented Czechoslovakia.
- Slovakia are ranked No. 11 on the **Billie Jean King Cup Nations Ranking**. They were ranked No. 1 when the rankings were first introduced in November 2002 through to July 2003.

### Slovakia – Historical Information

#### Most Billie Jean King Cup match-wins by a Slovakian player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Daniel Hantuchova	38-20
2.	Karina Habsudova	26-14
3.	Dominika Cibulkova	23-19
4.	Henrieta Nagyova	18-6
5.	Janette Husarova	17-12

#### Most Billie Jean King Cup singles match-wins by a Slovakian player

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Daniela Hantuchova	32-14
2.	Dominika Cibulkova	22-11
3.	Karina Habsudova	18-9
4.	Henrieta Nagyova	15-5
5.	Magdalena Rybarikova	8-7

**Most Billie Jean King Cup doubles match-wins by a Slovakian player**

Rank	Player	Win-loss
1.	Janette Husarova	11-6
2.	Karina Habsudova	8-5
3.	Magdalena Rybarikova	7-4
4.	Daniela Hantuchova	6-6
5=	Jana Cepelova	4-3
	Radomira Zrubakova	4-2

**Most Billie Jean King Cup ties played by a Slovakian player**

Rank	Player	Ties played
1.	Daniela Hantuchova	32
2=	Dominika Cibulkova	22
	Janette Husarova	22
4.	Karina Habsudova	20
5.	Magdalena Rybarikova	18

**Slovakia – Player Information**

Player	BJK Cup debut year	BJK Cup seasons played	BJK Cup ties played	BJK Cup singles W-L	BJK Cup doubles W-L
Anna Karolina Schmiedlova	2012	8	11	7-5	3-4
Kristina Kucova	2008	5	5	1-3	0-2
Rebecca Sramkova	2017	3	5	2-4	1-2
Viktorina Kuzmova	2018	2	3	4-1	0-2
Tereza Mihalikova	2016	2	2	0-0	0-2

- **[ANNA KAROLINA SCHMIEDLOVA](#)**

- **Age:** 27 (born 13 September 1994 in Kosice, Slovakia)
- **Rankings:** 82 (singles), 620 (doubles)
- **2021 singles highlights:** QF Guadalajara, Monterrey, Cluj-Napoca, Tenerife
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Schmiedlova ended a 4-match Billie Jean King Cup losing streak during Slovakia's victory over Great Britain in the 2020 Qualifiers, when she defeated both Heather Watson and Harriet Dart to secure Slovakia's place at the Finals. She had previously not recorded a victory in the competition since partnering Jana Cepelova to defeat Russia's Anna Kalinskaya/Veronika Kudermetova in a dead doubles match in the 2018 World Group II first round. She will equal Magdalena Rybarikova in 5th place on the list for most Billie Jean King Cup singles match-wins by a Slovakian player if she wins a singles match this week.

- **[KRISTINA KUCOVA](#)**

- **Age:** 31 (born 23 March 1990 in Bratislava, Slovakia)
- **Rankings:** 108 (singles), unranked (doubles)
- **2021 singles highlights:** RU Gdynia; QF Cluj-Napoca
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Kucova returns to the Slovakian Billie Jean King Cup for the first time since 2017, when she fell to Richel Hogenkamp during the team's World Group Play-off defeat to Netherlands. She won her first match in the competition – a victory over Uzbekistan's Vlada Ekshibarova in the 2008 World Group II Play-offs – but has lost all 5 Billie Jean King Cup matches she has played since then.

- **[REBECCA SRAMKOVA](#)**

- **Age:** 25 (born 19 October 1996 in Bratislava, Slovakia)
- **Rankings:** 176 (singles), 469 (doubles)
- **Billie Jean King Cup:** Sramkova is bidding to record her first Billie Jean King Cup singles match-wins since she defeated both Sara Errani and Francesca Schiavone as Slovakia overcame Italy 3-2 in the 2017 World Group II first round – the tie was also Sramkova's debut in the competition. She has lost all 3 Billie Jean King Cup singles matches she has contested since then – including a defeat against Watson during Slovakia's victory over Great Britain in the 2020 Qualifiers.

- **VIKTORIA KUZMOVA**
  - **Age:** 23 (born 11 May 1998 in Kosice, Slovakia)
  - **Rankings:** 177 (singles), 59 (doubles)
  - **2021 singles highlights:** QF Monterrey, Prague
  - **2021 doubles highlights:** Won Lyon; RU Melbourn 2, Prague
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Kuzmova has won 5 of the 6 singles matches she has contested, with her only singles defeat in the competition coming on her debut, when she fell to Natalia Vikhlyantseva during Slovakia's 2018 World Group II first round victory over Russia. She was a member of the Slovakian team which finished as runners-up to USA at the 2014 Junior Billie Jean King Cup Finals.
- **TEREZA MIHALIKOVA**
  - **Age:** 23 (born 2 June 1998 in Topolcany, Slovakia)
  - **Rankings:** 608 (singles), 109 (doubles)
  - **2021 doubles highlights:** Won Portoroz
  - **Billie Jean King Cup:** Mihalikova could contest her first live Billie Jean King Cup match this week, having competed in 2 dead doubles matches but losing on both occasions. She was a member of the Slovakian team which finished as runners-up to USA at the 2014 Junior Billie Jean King Cup Finals.